Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS* TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

米米 Boise Historic District

AND/OR COMMON 01d Boise

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

NOT FOR PUB			
		CONGRESSIONAL	DISTRICT
Boise	VICINITY OF	First	
I da ho	CODE 16	COUNTY Ada	code 001
		CODE	CODE COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
X_DISTRICT	PUBLIC		AGRICULTUREMUSEUM
BUILDING(S)	PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	XCOMMERCIALPARK
STRUCTURE	Хвотн		EDUCATIONAL X_PRIVATE RESIDENCE
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT X_RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	X_YES: RESTRICTED	XGOVERNMENTSCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIALTRANSPORTATION
		NO	MILITARYOTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Multiple ownership

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN		STATE
5 LOCATIO	N OF LEGAL DESCI	RIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEI	os,etc. Ada County Cou	rthouse
STREET & NUMBER	514 West Jefferson	
CITY, TOWN	Boise	state Idaho
6 REPRESE	NTATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS
' TITLE	daho State Historic Pr	reservation Plan
DATE	.972	FEDERAL XSTATECOUNTYLOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS	Idaho State Historic	al Society
CITY, TOWN	Boise	state I daho



 CONDITION
 CHECK ONE
 CHECK ONE

 __EXCELLENT
 __DETERIORATED
 V_ORIGINAL SITE

 __GOOD
 __RUINS
 __MOVED
 DATE_____

 __FAIR
 __UNEXPOSED
 __MOVED
 __MOVED

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

While the time span for many of the buildings in Boise's Historic District runs from 1879 to ca. 1917, the majority of the buildings date from the turn of the century. The styles are typical of Boise buildings from that period. The primary building material is brick, with local sandstone adding variety both structurally and decoratively. A number of different building functions is represented in the district, including dwellings, commercial buildings, meeting halls, an office building, a public building and a news-paper printing plant.

The district includes Idaho Street from Capitol Boulevard to one-half block east of 5th Street, Main Street from Capitol Boulevard to one-half block east of 5th Street; and 6th Street between Idaho Street and Grove Street.

A brief description of the most important buildings follows:

(1). Adelman Block (Fong's Chinese Restaurant) (1902) 624 West Idaho Street: The two-story building has a tan pressed brick facade on both street sides. A bay window adorns the second floor on both south and west sides, and a round tower with conical roof is set at the corner at the second floor level. Trim is rusticated sandstone. Cornice employs a stepped brick pattern.

330 E

(2). Valencia Restaurant (Same/Les's Stereo Lounge) (Circa 1937) 616 West Idaho Street: The one-and-a-half story brick building is in a moderne style and has an entry at the right corner. It sits on a raised foundation and has seven 2 x 10 windows.

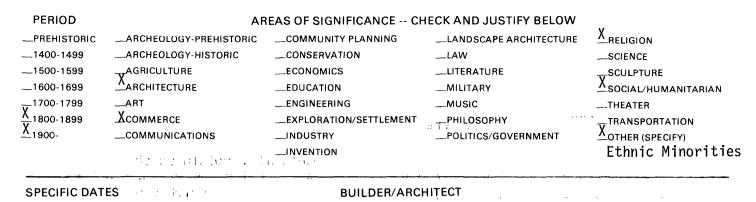
(3). Twentieth Century Bowling Lanes (Capitol Lithograph & Printing Co.) (Circa 1930) 610 West Idaho: The one-story building is of reinforced concrete and is in the moderne style. It is distinguished by its centered entry bay with a stepped tower. It is nine bays wide and originally served as a bowling alley, and later an archery range.

(4). F.O.E. Building (Jones Block) (Eagles Building) 604 West Idaho Street: Rising three stories in height, this red brick building is topped with a flat roof. Windows on second and third floors are double-hung sash, with those on the second floor topped with brick lintels containing stone keystones. The brick cornice has distinctive raised brick pendants that hang down between the windows on the third floor. Curved false gable at front contains F.O.E. initials.

(5). Dwelling (Archery Shop) (ca. 1897) 210 North 6th Street: This two-story brick building has a tall and narrow design, topped with a gable roof and two tall, plain chimneys. Long, narrow double-hung sash windows and doors are topped with brick arches. The main alteration has been the removal of a second story balcony and small front porch, at an unknown date. The building was a residence until 1945 and since that time has housed an archery business.

 $\sqrt(6)$. Fire Department Storage Building (ca. 1900) behind 520 West Idaho Street: A one-story brick building which was originally an electric company sub-station.





STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A number of Boise's interesting and architecturally important early buildings survive in close enough proximity to one another that they lend themselves to historic district designation as a device for preservation and commercial development. These objectives are not only compatible, but they are also probably inseparable in a city growing as Boise is at the present time. Lending encouragement to this view is the fact that the merchants in the area have given the project of a historic district their blessing and have organized their own association. Old Boise is of significance historically because it contains the largest group of early commercial structures extant.

Architecturally, the buildings in the district are interesting because the majority were built about the turn of the century, with most designed by two architectural firms in Boise, Tourtellotte and Hummel (now Hummel, Hummel, Jones and Shawver) and Campbell and Wayland (now Cline, Smull, Hamill and Associates). The original drawings are still on file with these two firms. Exceptionally fine earlier buildings (1885, 1893,1895) also give character reminiscent of the small frontier town that was.

The individual significance of some of the more important buildings follows:

Adelman Block: (1) The Adelman and Wills Block was completed in 1902 at a cost of \$30,000. For a number of years, the Elks made the entire second floor of the building their headquarters.

<u>Eagles Building</u>: (4) Jeremiah D. Jones had this block built about 1917. It was designed by Tourtellotte and Hummel to include a large meeting hall upstairs. The hall was used for a number of years by various organizations, including the Eagles, Knights of Columbus and the Loyal Order of Moose.

<u>Central Fire Station</u>: (7) The fire station was built in 1903 and housed Boise's first professional fire department, complete with horses and quick-drop harness.

Archery Building: (5) William B. LeCompte, a carpenter and tinner, built his home about 1897. It is the only house left in the Historic District, and provides a good example of a modest home of the turn of the century.

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Idaho Statesman, 1880-1910. Boise City Directories, 1899 to present.

10GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Except for the block between Main, Idaho, Sixth, and Capitol (location of the city hall designed to be compatible with the district), this district includes all of the territory from the alley between Main and Grove and the alley between Idaho and Bannock from Fifth to Capitol, along with the west side of Sixth to Grove, the church at 422 Idaho, and the structure at 417 Main.

LIST ALL STATES AND	COUNTIES FOR PROPER	TIES OVERLAPPING	STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDA	ARIES
STATE	CODE	COUNTY		CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY		CODE
11 FORM PREPARED	BY			
Arthur A. Hart, Directo	r, Idaho State His	storical Societ	ty, and Architectural	<u>Historian</u>
Idaho State Historical	Society			
STREET & NUMBER 610 North Julia Davis D	rive		теlерноле 384-2120	
city or town Boise			state Idaho	
12 STATE HISTORIC	PRESERVATIO	N OFFICER	CERTIFICATION	
THE EVAL	UATED SIGNIFICANCE O	F THIS PROPERTY W	/ITHIN THE STATE IS:	
NATIONAL	STA	τε <u>Χ</u>	LOCAL	
As the designated State Historic F hereby nominate this property fo criteria and procedures set forth b	r inclusion in the National	Register and certify		
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION O	FFICER SIGNATURE	Verle Wells	2 8 Jane 17 0	26 Mar 76 '
	c Preservation Off	icer	DATE	
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Description:

- $\sqrt{(7)}$. Central Fire Station (1903) 522 West Idaho Street: Central Fire Station is a two-story brick structure trimmed in local gray sandstone. It originally had a bell tower on the southwest corner, but with the advent of electric alarm systems and the disbanding of the volunteer firemen that it called, it was removed. The three vehicle doors on Sixth Street were originally round-arched in rusticated sandstone. These too have been removed in favor of larger doors, rectangular in shape, to allow passage of large equipment.
- (8). Fire Station Alarm Building (post World War II) 520 West Idaho: The two-story building is of brick and a compatible recent addition. It has terra cotta bandings between the first and second stories and at the roof with cantilevered awnings. It is four bays wide with casement windows.
- (9). Star Rooms (Aguirre Building, The Star Rooming House) (1895) 512 West Idaho Street: This hip-roofed, two-story clapboard rooming house is typical of a small Western frontier town of the 1890's. It has a wide verandah across the front, two stories high, supported by turned wooden posts with band-sawn brackets. A central door and two double-hung sash windows open onto the upper porch, while one double-hung sash window, a central door and a large bay window open onto the lower porch. Small stained glass panes trim the first floor door. The building has been restored recently with accuracy and sensitivity.
- (10). Royal Hotel (Boise Water Corporation)(ca. 1890) 500 Idaho Street: This two-story brick building is in the moderne style. The first story facade has been recently remodeled, with a tile facade, but does not detract from the district, as its second story remains intact.

 $\sqrt{(11)}$. Catholic Church (Roman Catholic Chancery of Idaho) 422 West Idaho Street: Originally a residence, this building was redesigned in 1918 by Tourtellotte and Hummel as a church for Boise's large Basque community. Distinctive features include a wooden cornice with brackets supporting the graceful mansard roof. A projecting bay at the front contains the round-arched entry and the double doors. The bay window on the west side is trimmed with band-sawn brackets at the top. All other windows are topped with segmental arches, some of which are decorated with rusticated stone.

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Description:

- (12). R. Z. Johnson Law Office (Carey Nixon Law Office) (1885) 112 North 6th Street: This one-story red brick building is a delightful example of very late Greek Revival architecture gone Victorian. The long and narrow structure presents a three-column portico to the street. The delicate wooden columns are carved to imitate the more popular cast iron of the period. The off-center front door and paired windows under the portico are topped by flattened arches and stone ornament. The facade is pressed brick. The original roof was of iron, shipped in sections from Chicago so that it fitted exactly when installed.
- (13). R. Z. Johnson Block (Winery/Nat Adams Architects) (1892) 577 West Idaho Street: This two-story block is Rhenish Romanesque in character, with two octagonal towers and two picturesque dormers set in the half-timbered second story. Raised basement is of rusticated stone while first story is pressed brick with rusticated stone trim. The two first story entrances are set in round-arched openings which are accented by raised brick arches. Second story windows are also round-arched.
- $\sqrt{(14)}$. Gibson Funeral Home (ca. 1935) 507 West Idaho Street: This one-story brick building is in the moderne style and is distinguished by its rounded corner with a block glass window. A cantilevered modern styled roof protects the right of center entry. The building is four bays wide with paned casement windows.
- (15). Goodman Oil Company (Flying A Service Station) (Del's 76 Service Station) 503 West Idaho: The Flying A service station has a science-fiction cylindrical fluted tower over the semi-circular gas pump hood. Others in the Moderne group are numbers 2, 3, 8, 10, 14, 18, 27, 33, and 35. They are not incompatible with the older buildings for the most part. The only conspicuious intrusion is Hawkins' Take-Out Restaurant (36), a Colonel Sanders Chicken franchise.
- $\sqrt{(16)}$. Pioneer Tent Building/Packard Building (Old Boise) (1910) 516 West Main Street: This is a two-story brick commercial building with stone cornice and trim. Windows have rusticated stone lintels. The tall Sixth Street entrance is round-arched with flanking pilasters, topped by a wrought-iron balcony.
- /(17). Jellison Monuments (St. Charles Place) 510 West Main Street: This is a typical small shop or business building of the early 1900s. It is one story, with large windows in the front and an off-center front door with transom. A row of windows runs across the front above main windows and the door. Pairs of double-hung sash windows are set in the east side.



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Description:

- (18). Main and Fifth Market (originally a gas station) (ca. 1930) 500 Main Street: This one-story reinforced concrete building is characterized by flowing lines and a curved entry bay. It has been recently remodeled and a self-service gas pump is to be installed in its front parking area.
- $\sqrt{(19)}$. House of Louie 108 South Capitol Boulevard: Adjoining the Fritchman (Perrault) Building on the south side is the House of Louie, a two-story brick structure with round-arched windows on the second floor. Arches are flattened, emphasized by raised brick arches with dentil pattern.
- (20). Perrault Building (Nanci's, Fritchman's) 625 West Main Street: The building is a simple square stone veneer building two stories in height. The stone is cut in large smooth blocks. Lines are very clean and angular. Above the three rectangular second story windows at the front are three rectangular recessed panels. Store front on the first floor is modern, replacing three arched windows. A wooden balcony extended over the sidewalk on the west side in the past.
- \checkmark (21). Sandwich Factory (ca. 1910) 623 West Main Street: This two-story brick building has had its facade slightly remodeled, and remains a contribution to the district. The first story now has a large plate glass window but the 1930s 8 x 4 paned second story window has been retained.
- $\sqrt{(22)}$. Grid's Buffalo Club. (ca. 1910) 621 Main Street: This two-story brick building has been stuccoed over and a pressed steel awning added. The facade has been fairly well obliterated but is reasonable.
- (23). Empire Theater (Idaho Blueprint) (ca. 1910) 619 Main Street: This two-story brick commercial building has cut stone trim. Its facade was remodeled with tile in the 1920s, although its simple cornice remains unaltered.
- $\sqrt{(24)}$. Masonic Hall (Salvation Army) (1892) 615 West Main Street: This two-story brick building has a remodeled stucco first floor facade covering original cast iron columns and beams, but retains its interesting second floor facade. Double-hung sash windows are set in three groupings. The left and right groups are topped with a band of contrasting stone which forms a continuous lintel. About two feet above are small transoms, adding to the vertical effect of the building. The central bay has three round arches above a recessed panel and two windows with high transoms. The original ornate wooden cornice is now gone.

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Description:

(25). Telephone Company Annex (ca. 1915): This one-story brick structure is a compatible addition. This narrow buff brick building has an entry and one set of windows, and is dominated by the surrounding structures.

- V(26). Telephone Building (1899) 609 West Main Street: A series of four round arches tops the door and window openings on the ground story. Arches are supported by carved monolithic columns and capitals, which combine with the rusticated sandstone to create a Romanesque effect. Four pairs of rectangular windows mark the second story facade which employs smooth-finished stone.
- (27). Telephone Company Annex (ca. 1930): This small, one-story addition is a compatible structure of recent construction. It contains one set of windows and is dwarfed by the Red Cross and Telephone buildings on either side.
- $\sqrt{(28)}$. Statesman Building (Red Cross Headquarters) (1910) 603 West Main Street: Georgian Revival in design, this building has five large and graceful round-arched windows which span the second story facade. An iron false balcony runs the width of the building below these windows. The central doorway on the ground floor is recessed, with flanking columns in the Tuscan order. A classical cornice tops the pale ivory pressed brick facade.
- $\sqrt{(29)}$. Dwelling (Chinese Houseboat) (ca. 1900) 111 South Sixth: This two-story brick house is distinguished by its front porch with its Tuscan columns. The segmental arched windows are corbelled and the building terminates with a brick cornice. It sits on a raised cut stone foundation.
- (30). Chico Club (Apartments) (ca. 1915) 117 South Sixth: This two-story brick building was remodeled in the 1930's having originally been a one story structure. It has segmental arched windows and a parapet. Both this and the Chinese Houseboat are stylistically consistent with the rest of the district. Tiled shed hoods were added above the second story windows. A similarly styled entry roof was also constructed.
- (31). Boise Turnverein Building (Crescent Building) (1906) 523 Main Street: This two-story brick building has a row of very large round-arched windows on the west side in what used to be a theater. Also on the west is a massive pressed brick Romanesque doorway. Other windows are rectangular, and all windows have wide borders with brick set in dentil pattern to match the simple cornice.

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Significance

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Boise Historic District

Additional information submitted November 3, 1977:

The Boise Historic District has undergone several shifts in use in its more than a century of existence. Starting in 1864 it was the east end of the commercial heart of the city, boasting adobe, frame and brick structures. However, none of these earliest buildings remain within the district today. However, numerous brick stores and dwellings of the 1880s and early 1890s, the products of the prosperity injected into the community by a rejuvenated mining industry, remain intact. The most notable survivors of this boom period are the House of Louie (19), Perrault Building (20), Archery Building (5), Royal Hotel (10), R. Z. Johnson law office and block (12, 13), Masonic Hall (24), Chinese Houseboat (29), and the Knight Grocery (34).

With the turn of the century Idaho and Boise experienced a tremendous in-migration from the midwest. The area immediately to the west of the district became the city's commercial nucleus. Over the next decade retail stores declined in the district as evidenced by its building record: Eagles Lodge (4), Trunverein Society's Hall (31), the Salvation Army's purchasing of the Masonic Hall (24), Central Fire Station (7), telephone Building (26), Statesman's newspaper building (28), Jellison Monuments (17), and the Pioneer Tent and Awning Store (16). With the influx of these new, predominatly service and production oriented establishments residential values declined. Dwellings, including the Archery building (5), Chinese Houseboat (29), and the Catholic Church (11), were now occupied mainly by the Chinese and Basques. Basques who came to Idaho from Spain to herd sheep, made the neighborhood their headquarters. The Star Rooms (9) Royal Hotel (10), Valencia restaurant (2), and the Chico Club (30) all served as boarding houses for sheepherders. The Star Rooms built a fronton, a court used for playing the Basques national game of pelota or jai alai. Unfortunately this court is no longer extant. By 1918 there were enough Basques in the neighborhood to justify conversion of a private mansard style dwelling (11) at 422 West Idaho into a church served by a Spanish Basque priest. This building is now the Roman Catholic chancery of Idaho.

The Basque culture pervaded the district until World War II when increasing prosperity allowed the population to disperse itself throughout the community as a whole. At this time many of their dwellings were removed in favor of the moderne style Twentieth Century Lanes (3), Gibson Funeral Home (14), Del's 76 Service Station (15), and the Fifth Street Market (18). The Valencia Restaurant (2) was also remodelled at this time. With the increased popularity of the automobile other dwellings were removed in favor of parking lots,

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Significance:

<u>Star Rooming House</u>: (9) The main significance of the Star is its survival as the last of the old Basque rooming houses which operated as an essential institution during the establishment of the Basques in Idaho around the turn of the century. This was one of the main winter residences of the Basque sheep herders, housing up to thirty at once. The back yard was converted by Jose Uberauga to a handball court or fronton, where the boarders and Basque friends enjoyed the popular game of pelota. Of the five frontons built in Boise, only this and the larger court at the Basque Center remain. Built about 1895, the Star has been occupied by Basques until its recent sale.

<u>Boise Water Corporation</u>: (10) This two-story brick building has been so completely modernized that all of the old character is gone, but the history still remains interesting. The building used to be the Royal Lodging House, one of the largest rooming houses at the turn of the century, with "elegant furnished rooms" advertised in 1896. It also served as a stage stop.

Roman Catholic Chancery of Idaho: (11) On August 20, 1918, Bishop Gorman bought the Finnegan property on the northeast corner of Idaho and Fifth Streets. There were two residences already there. The corner building was redesigned by architects Tourtellotte and Hummel for a church, and the other building became the rectory after a thorough renovation. The church was dedicated under the name of the Good Shepherd on March 2, 1919, and was placed in care of Father Bernardo Arriqui, a Basque priest from Spain. Father Arriqui was put in charge of all the Basques in southern Idaho and in Jordan Valley, Oregon. According to the 1920 United States Census, there were approximately 1400 foreign-born Spanish people in Idaho, nearly all of whom were Basques.

<u>Winery</u>: (13) This is Idaho's sole surviving example of the work of German-born eclectic John C. Paulsen from Helena, Montana. He also designed the Natatorium, City Hall and Columbia Theater, the capital's most impressive buildings of the 1890s, all of which have been destroyed. The R. Z. Johnson Block was originally planned as a series of row houses, but only these two units were completed.

<u>Carey Nixon Law Office</u>: (12) Built in 1885, the Nixon law office is Boise's only surviving example from its period with a Green portico, an unusual feature for an office building. The great restraint shown in ornamentation is also unusual for the 1880s. Richard Z. Johnson built this building for his office when he was Attorney General of Idaho, a position he held from 1885 to 1889. The building continues in use as a law office.

<u>Pioneer Tent Building</u>: (16) Pioneer Tent was established in 1900. It was founded as a family business by the owner of a local hereford ranch in the Ten-Mile area, and the ownership remained in the Rohrer family until its recent sale. The present building was built in 1910.

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Significance:

<u>Belgravia Apartments</u>: (37) The Belgravia Apartments were built in 1904 for a cost of nearly \$80,000. Designed by J. S. Jellison, they were considered one of the most desirable living quarters in Boise, and one of the finest apartment houses in the Northwest. The lighting and ventilation were billed as the most perfect available at the time. This block provides an excellent example of an early 20th century apartment house, with very little alteration over the years.

<u>Stockman's Lounge</u>: (34) Built in the early 1900s, this building housed a grocery store for many years.

Boise Turnverein Building: (31) Completed in 1906, this building was designed by Tourtellotte and Hummel as a gymnasium-theater-clubhouse for the Boise City Turnverein, a German-American club founded in 1870, served as the Turner Theater for several years, and also housed the Seventh Day Adventist church.

<u>Red Cross Building</u>: (28) Built in 1910, this structure was designed to be the most modern and architecturally attractive printing office in the Northwest. Newspaper publishing was carried on in this same building by the city's leading newspaper for more than forty years.

<u>Mountain Bell Telephone Company</u>: (26) The Rocky Mountain Bell Telephone Company building on Main Street was begun in mid-summer of 1899 with a cornerstone laying by its local architect, Walter S. Campbell. The office opened for business on January 1, 1900 and was used by the Telephone company until 1975.

<u>Salvation Army</u>: (24) Originally a Masonic Hall, this building was constructed in 1892 for a cost of \$7000.

Nanci's: (20) Built by Joseph Perrault, the two-story stone structure was completed in 1879. The first business occupant was a hardware and feed store, and upstairs lodgings were listed by 1901. Other stores occupied the first floor until 1926 when the building was purchased by Harry K. Fritchman who used it for many years as an art gallery.

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including one modest adobe house which now stands next to the Idaho State Museum.

In recent years the retail aspects of the area have been revitalized as preservation oriented merchants have begun to conceive the wisdom in rehabilitating and restoring Boise's traditional streetscape.

