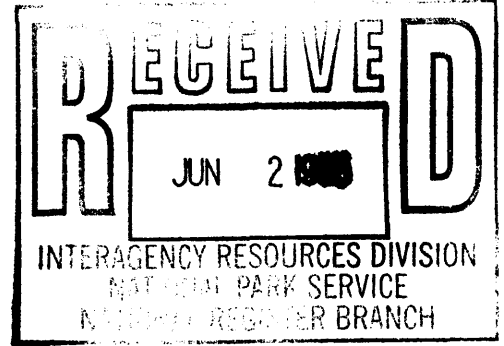


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Rickey Block  
other names/site number Barmans Department Store; Keller's Hardware; WRI 59.4.3.1

### 2. Location

street & number 230 South Main Street not for publication  
city or town Colville vicinity  
state Washington code WA county Stevens code 065 zip code 99114

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mary M. Thompson 5/18/95  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Mary Thompson, State Historic Preservation Officer  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet

determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Edson H. Beall 6/30/95  
Entered in the  
National Register

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

Property Name Rickey Block

County and State Stevens County, WA

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**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
		contributing	noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u>    </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>    </u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a  
multiple property listing.)

n/a

No. of contributing resources previously  
listed in the National Register:

**6. Functions or Use**

Historic Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Commerce/business

Commerce/professional

Social/meeting hall

Government/courthouse

Education/academy

Current Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Commerce/business

WORK IN PROGRESS

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

No style

Materials  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation Stone

walls Brick

roof Composition

other     

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Property Name Rickey Block

County and State Stevens County, WA

**8. Statement of Significance**

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Commerce

Social History

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1892-1906

1903-1944

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1892

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

n/a

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

John Rickey, David Barman

**Architect/Builder**

John Rickey

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Property Name Rickey Block

County and State Stevens County, WA

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property less than 1

UTM References

1	<u>1/1</u>	<u>4/3/3/2/1/0</u>	<u>5/3/7/6/8/4/0</u>	3	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing			
2	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	4	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Madilane A. Perry/cultural resource consultant

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date 4-6-95

street & number 1176 Camp Curlew Road telephone (509) 775-2605

city or town Republic state WA zip code 99166

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

**Property Owner** (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name John and Jeannie Acorn

street & number 230 South Main telephone (509) 684-3337

city or town Colville state WA zip code 99114

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1RICKEY BLOCK  
STEVENS, WASHINGTON

The Rickey Block is a three story, rectangular seventy by eighty-foot red brick business block. It is located on Colville's Main Street in the downtown business district. This is the tallest structure on the block and visually dominates it.

The Rickey Block's Main Street (east) facade is divided into three bays by brick pilasters that extend upward past the third story windows. There are similar pilasters at the building's north and south ends. These end pilasters, together with the third story architrave, form a frame enclosing and uniting the facade. On the first story the pilasters are decorated with horizontal grooves created by omitting the outermost brick in every seventh course. All visible first story brick is stretcher laid.

The two end bays are equal in size and similar in structure. The central bay is approximately half as wide. The first story end bays are occupied by a central door flanked by four panels of display windows. The windows fronting on Main Street consist of one large fixed pane with a smaller pane above it. The windows flanking the doors are narrower panes of the same pattern. They are set at an angle to the larger windows and are separated from them by slender cast iron pilasters decorated with parallel grooves, rosettes, and a single acanthus leaf at the top of each pilaster.

The smaller central bay is occupied by four narrower windows flanking a central door. The innermost windows north of the door are fixed one-over-one panes set at ninety degrees to it. The inner windows south of the door slant in towards it. There are fixed panes over all three doors in the locations of former transoms. Doors are wood and glass and are not original. The original doors are remembered by local residents as being about the same width and consisting of two leaves. All the first floor windows are separated from sidewalk level by plain painted panels and a single course of brick. Barred openings in the sidewalk admit light to two basement windows. A third window is blocked by the more recent sidewalk. The first story windows are topped by a painted strip. This is surmounted in each bay by a rectangular brickwork panel. In these panels alternate header laid bricks are recessed to produce a checkerboard effect for eight courses. The panels terminate immediately below the second story windows in a dentil cornice in which recessed and projecting bricks laid on their sides alternate. This is capped with a course of stretcher brick.

The second story windows are paired, one-over-one, double hung sash windows in segmentally arched surrounds. Each pair of windows is surmounted by two curved fixed panes that fill the top of the arch. There are two pairs of windows in each end bay and one pair in the center bay.

The second and third story windows are separated by a brickwork entablature, which consists of a course of slightly projecting stretcher bricks, a course of alternating recessed and projecting vertically laid bricks, and another course of protruding stretcher brick. Beneath each third story window pair is a rectangular brickwork panel six courses high. In these panels the bricks are laid with their long axes at an acute angle to the plane of the wall, this leaves one corner of each brick projecting. The third story windows are similar in structure and placement to the second story windows.

The entablature that tops the facade begins just above the arched surrounds of the third story windows with three projecting courses of brick. Each course projects a little further than the course below. The surface of the uppermost course is flush with the surface of the brick pilasters. This course forms the bottom edge of a plain architrave about eight inches wide. This is topped by a painted sheet metal frieze decorated with a sheet metal rosette above each brick pilaster. A narrow sheet metal cornice overhangs this frieze. This ends in a low parapet wall capped with sheet metal.

The facade has been painted at least once and possibly twice. The paint has been stripped from the first story. Where the stripping is incomplete a coating of light green paint is exposed. The exterior coat is off white with the words "Furniture" and "Floor Coverings" painted on the two inside pilasters.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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RICKEY BLOCK  
STEVENS, WASHINGTON

The roof slopes slightly west towards the alley in back and is covered with a white tar-like material. Access to the roof is by a trap door near the center. The parapet walls along the north and south sides of the roof are "stepped" down from the front of the building to the back. At the western end of each "step" there is a chimney the width of the parapet and projecting two courses of brick above it. These extend into the building's wall below the parapet. The chimneys are in poor condition with many loose or absent bricks. Intact bricks appear to be sand cast. Some chimneys are capped with sheet metal. There are three chimneys in the north wall and four in the south. The lowest step of the parapets is capped with mortar on both sides.

There is a recent chimney of harder brick near the center rear of the roof. There is also a small wooden utility shed near the west edge of the roof. This edge lacks a parapet.

The visible parts of north and south exterior walls are identical structurally except for slight differences in window treatment. None of the south wall is available for close examination due to the proximity of the adjacent building. The first story is completely hidden. All five of the second story windows are bricked up. The arched openings are similar in size and shape to those of the one-over-one double hung sash windows in the third story. The third story also exhibits five windows. All south side windows are flanked by hardware fittings build into the brickwork, probably for shutters.

Roughly twenty feet of the north first story wall near the rear of the building is available for close examination. It is made of soft red brick laid common bond. The foundation is not visible. It was apparently painted at some time with a thick reddish yellow paint starting about fifteen feet from the ground. The brush strokes are still visible. There are recent bolts set into this wall. One bricked up window with an arched surround and shutter hardware is visible. The five bricked up second story windows are similar to those on the south side and also exhibit metal fittings in the adjacent brickwork.

There is more variety in the third story windows. The two nearest Main Street are similar to those in the Main Street facade. They are a pair of one-over-one double hung sash windows with two curved panes above them. The curved panes are surrounded by 41 small leaded panes of colored glass. Only a few are intact. They apparently alternated red and blue. The remaining third story windows are single one-over-one double hung sash windows. The third story windows also exhibit shutter hardware.

The rear (west) of the Rickey Block bears evidence of more alteration than the rest of the building. The first story is entirely hidden by a windowless, rectangular forty foot cinder block addition. The addition, built in 1960, runs the full width of the building. The second story is barely visible over addition's roof. Its five bricked up windows display arched surrounds. There may be another window obscured by utility structures on the roof of the addition.

Three of the six third story windows, the northernmost and two southernmost, are bricked up. The remaining windows are one-over-one double hung sash windows in arched surrounds. There is a similar, central, bricked up surround a little lower than the windows that was probably a door. The bottom half is bricked in and the top half has been replaced with a single glass pane.

The building's interior exhibits more alterations than the exterior. The most sweeping of these is the removal of the central stair and the construction of a new one in the southwest corner. This change affects all three floors but the third floor is less affected than the others. It is occupied by two large rooms running the full eighty foot length of the building on the north and south. These are separated on the east end by a small room in the center front overlooking Main Street. Near the building's center the main rooms are slightly wider, separated by a hallway that marks the location of the original stair. The area between the hallway and the west wall is taken up by the freight elevator shaft and storage space.

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 3RICKEY BLOCK  
STEVENS, WASHINGTON

The south room has five windows in its south wall and two in the east wall overlooking Main Street. No other windows are visible. Much of the original beadboard wainscoting remains on the south wall and at the west end of the north wall. North wall wainscoting has no moulding and ends in a saw cut. It is approximately an inch shorter than the intact wainscoting on the south wall. The room is slightly wider in the middle than at either end, due to the presence of the small room in front and the utility area in the rear. Its northwest corner is taken up by the two partitions enclosing the present stairhead.

All the window surrounds in this room feature bullseye corner blocks and decorative grooves. An additional window in the west wall has been enclosed with the stairhead. Two doors in the north wall connect this room with the small front room and the central hallway. Both appear to be recent additions. The lath and plaster of the north wall are exposed around the easternmost door. Access to the roof is through a hatch in the third floor ceiling. This is reached by a ladder fixed to the room's north wall. This also provides access to a four foot crawl space immediately under the roof.

The central pair of one-over-one windows overlooking Main Street, and the curved panes above, light the small front room. The window surround and the door opening into the hallway to the west exhibit bullseye corner blocks and decorative grooves. Old floral wallpaper visible near the recent door in the south wall looks very domestic and may indicate that the room once served as an apartment.

West of the small front room is the central hall that housed the original stairhead. It is the same width as the small room. Since its north wall once served as a barrier along one side of the stair well it does not extend all the way to the east wall. The space immediately west of the small room was originally separated from the stair well by a railing. No traces of it remain. When the stair was removed the stair well was decked over, making the hall floor continuous with the north room's floor. The section of original wall on the north side of the hall is equipped with a one-over-one sash window similar to the other third floor side and rear windows. This once admitted light from the central stairwell. It now connects the hallway and the north room. West of the former stair the hallway widens abruptly into a rectangular room that houses the freight elevator, the sink and a storage space. A door opening in the west wall is bricked up. It lacks the bullseye corner blocks seen in the other third floor surrounds.

The north room runs the full length of the building. Like the south room, it is constricted at the east and west ends by the front room and the utility space. The original beadboard wainscoting is still present on the north and west walls. All windows exhibit bullseye corner blocks and decorative grooves. In this room the northeast window repeats the two curved panes seen in the Main Street windows. It is unique in having the upper panes surrounded by small, colored, leaded panes. Fourteen of these are still in tact. The two larger panes below have been "frosted". Most of the translucent paint remains intact. The south wall, near its east end bears a door-size scar where two by fours between the studs are exposed and the back of the front room's plaster wall is visible. This is the exact shape of the bullseye surrounds of the original doors and may indicate a former door connecting the north and front rooms.

The second floor is presently one large room with storage bins built along the north and west walls and a block containing the elevator at the center rear. There are six wooden pillars arranged in two rows on either side of the former stair. The Main Street windows have recently been uncovered. They are intact but were covered with plasterboard. The surrounds are not exposed. No other windows are visible.

The first floor of the original Rickey Block is one large room with six wooden pillars supporting beams arranged in two rows on either side of the original staircase location. A seventh, slightly smaller, pillar is located under the stair leading to the second floor and is probably more recent. The present stair is just south of the "utility block" containing the elevator. The original rear (west) wall has been pierced north and south of the utility block to permit access to the new addition. The addition also forms a mezzanine level accessed from the present stair landing. Roughly one third of the original brick wall has been removed to provide access to the addition.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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## RICKEY BLOCK STEVENS, WASHINGTON

A restroom has been added under the present stair. The freight elevator is accessed from a corridor passing west from the original building through the addition to a large door on the alley. Approximately twenty feet of the corridor's south wall is the exterior wall of a former boiler or furnace room that was probably added early in the Rickey Block's history. It is roughly ten feet wide and contains a furnace. This appliance and its fitting appear to date to the 1950's or '60's. The boiler room wall is pierced on the west and can be seen in cross section. The brick in this common bond wall is much harder than the original structure's wall bricks.

The three-quarter basement beneath the Rickey Block has been extended to include the space beneath the new addition. The new addition's basement is slightly deeper than the original section. A wide open doorway with a concrete ramp leading up to the original section connects the two.

The original basement walls are built of heavily mortared stone rubble. In some places its arrangement appears random, in others, roughly coursed. In some places, notably the southeast corner, mortar is troweled on so heavily that the rock is totally hidden. The north, east, and west walls correspond to the above-ground brick walls. The south wall is located approximately under the southern row of first floor pillars.

The original basement is one large room with a small wooden enclosure against the west wall housing the freight elevator. The basement's most striking feature is a row of nine square brick pillars running east-west just south of the basement's center line. These are made of the same soft red brick seen in the exterior walls above. The pillars measure seventeen inches to a side, are roughly five feet high and are painted white. The easternmost pillar is attached to the east wall. The corresponding position which may have been occupied by a tenth pillar on the west wall is now occupied by the freight elevator. The brick pillars support unplanned twelve by twelves. Three wooden posts on poured concrete piers are located just south of the brick pillars. A row of composite wooden posts is located in a position corresponding to the brick pillars north of the basement's center line. These consist of four unplanned two by eights resting directly on the floor and supporting similar composite beams. The wooden posts are probably not original. Their color is lighter than that of the solid beams and flooring and the small spaces between the pillars and the beams they support are filled with wood scrap "shim". The same is true of the three posts concrete piers. The spaces between the pillars and along the north wall are occupied by rough wooden shelving, lighter in color and apparently more recent than the original beams.

The southwest corner of the basement is occupied by a square brick chimney with two rectangular openings. It is the same soft red brick as the above ground walls and the pillars. This chimney can be seen on the first floor across the corridor from the freight elevator. Just east of the chimney the west wall is pierced by an old iron pipe that was apparently built in during construction.

Floor material varies in different areas of the basement. There is plank flooring in the southeast corner, thinly poured concrete in several places and hard-packed earth in the rest. There is no ceiling. The first floor joists and subflooring are visible overhead.

The basement is lit by two windows in wells in the east wall. These are visible from the street as barred openings in the sidewalk at the base of the wall. A third window is blocked by the sidewalk. Both unblocked windows appear to be more recent than the structure itself.

There have been three major episodes of remodeling in the Rickey Block's history. The first occurred in 1946 and the second in 1960. The third and ongoing effort began in 1994. Structural alterations in the Main Street facade resulting from these projects have been restricted almost entirely to the first story.

Comparison of newspaper photographs from 1919, when the building appears as it did in a 1905 photograph, and 1946 indicate that paint was the only alteration to the upper stories. The 1946 photograph indicates that the original door and window surrounds, the central door, and the canvas awnings typical of local business buildings before the war were removed. The semi-circular plaque in the center of the parapet was still in place. It was dark colored with the words "RICKEY BLOCK 1892" in lighter print. Its material and means of attachment are unknown.



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RICKEY BLOCK  
STEVENS, WASHINGTON

Photographs taken immediately prior to the current project show later modifications to the first story. The only alterations to the upper stories are the removal of the central plaque and its supporting structures and the addition of wooden flagstaff brackets on the second floor window mullions. The appearance of the first story was extensively altered. These photographs show the brick pilasters completely covered with tile. The panels below the windows are covered with imitation brick veneer that partly obscures the cast iron pilasters. The windows are separated by narrow metal strips. A fixed awning extending from just below the second story windows completely hides the decorative brickwork.

The present project is intended to return the Rickey Block's facade to as near its original appearance as possible. It has been guided by a 1905 photograph, verbal descriptions from local residents who witnessed the 1946 and 1960 remodelings, and from structural evidence uncovered during work. The original first story door and window patterns have been recreated. All modern materials, including paint, have been removed. Most of this work has been done manually to avoid damage to the recessed courses of brick in the pilasters resulted from removal of the mortar used to fill the recesses under the tile.

The exact character of the original first story door and window surrounds is not clear in early photographs. They have been replaced with plain, painted, dimension lumber. The original two-leaved doors described by long-time residents could not be duplicated. The present doors are modern and the former transoms are occupied by fixed panes. The panels below the windows are slightly wider than their 1905 predecessors and lack the decorative elements or signage seen in the photograph of that date. Retractable canvas awnings have been purchased but are not yet in place.

Visible alterations to the side and rear walls are limited to the window treatments noted above in the description and the concrete block addition in the rear. The windows appear to have been bricked up in two stages. One group, including third story rear window, half the third story door, the five second story north windows, and one second story west window, were closed before the rusty-yellow paint was applied. The remaining windows were filled in following the painting with a red brick harder than the original brick and slightly different in color. Doors in the south wall connecting Barman's first floor hardware department with the building next door were opened in the 1960's and closed in 1986.

The roof has been altered by the removal of at least three skylights. The exact positions of two are unknown. The other lit the central stair. Other roof alterations are the small wooden utility building, the chimney near the center rear, and an adjacent metal ladder. The utility building occupies the approximate position said to be used for a three story outhouse in the early days. A wooden fire escape connecting with the third story door was removed long ago.

The addition on the rear is the most drastic alteration to the Rickey Block's exterior. Built in 1960, it is a windowless, rectangular one-and-one half story concrete block structure attached to the Rickey Block's west wall. It runs the full width of the building and extends forty feet beyond it into the former back yard. Substantial sections of the original brick west wall have been removed to permit access to the addition. The back yard now occupied by the addition was originally the site of a woodshed and possibly an additional outhouse. The original wood storage area is said to have been near the center of the second floor. Wood chopping by some tenants annoyed others and was detrimental to the plaster so the woodshed was soon moved to a more conventional location on the back of the lot.

The most drastic alterations to the Rickey Block's interior are the removal and replacement of the enclosed central stair, installation of the freight elevator in 1945 or '46, and alteration of the rear wall for access to the addition. The original positions of interior walls are not known but scars on the flooring give evidence of several generations of wall movement. Early accounts of activities in the Rickey Block refer to "northeast" and "southeast" rooms and "front rooms" on the upper floors.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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RICKEY BLOCK  
STEVENS, WASHINGTON

Recent alterations have all been directed towards bringing the building back to as near its original appearance as possible. These alterations include stripping the modern fixed awning, mortar, and paint from the facade, stripping the first story floor of accumulated floor coverings to expose the original oiled wood floor, and uncovering the second floor windows. Florescent bar lights on the first floor were replaced with suspended globes from a turn-of-the-century school and ceiling fans were added. All damage to first floor plaster has been repaired. The first floor interior has been painted and a strip of wallpaper just below the ceiling has been added. Since there are no known photographs of most of the original interior these alterations have been based on anecdotal evidence from local residents, photographs of neighboring interiors, and the material evidence uncovered as work progressed.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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 RICKEY BLOCK  
 STEVENS, WASHINGTON

## Statement of Significance:

The historical significance of the Rickey Block lies in its close association with local historic trends and events and with individuals significant in local and regional history. Its construction in 1892 is an example of the rapid transformation of Northeastern Washington's hastily built wooden boom towns into substantial cities with modern amenities. It is the second oldest three story structure in Colville and was for several years the largest building in the city. This building was owned or occupied by several of the area's most influential pioneer merchants. Built as a commercial structure, it has served that function since its construction. It has housed a general store, a bowling alley, a bar and cafe, billiard room, candy store, lodge rooms, court rooms, library, classrooms, apartments, offices, and the area's largest hardware business.

## History and Significance:

The Rickey Block still bears the name of its original builder and owner, John Rickey. Mr. Rickey was widely known as the first white settler on the Columbia River south of the Colville River and owner of the first orchard in Stevens County. Rickey arrived in 1866, while the Hudson's Bay Company was still a presence in the area. He traveled up and down the Columbia as a merchant. Mr. Rickey homesteaded near Kettle Falls in 1872, giving his name to Rickey Rapids and Rickey Creek. He also operated a steamboat that ran between Kettle Falls and Fort Spokane and briefly held a contract to supply hay to the U. S. Army post there. Rickey relocated in Colville after his appointment as County Treasurer in 1887. He was elected to the same post in 1888.

John Rickey originally planned a two-story building for this site. When these plans became public knowledge he was approached by representatives of two of the fraternal organizations so important in the social life of small western town. Both the Masonic Lodge and the Independent Order of Oddfellows wanted to rent the upper floor for meeting rooms. Several professional men inquired about office space. In view of these demands for space, Rickey added a third story to his building. He lost the new Rickey Block in the financial "panic" of 1893, when it passed to the U. S. Savings and Loan Co.

Shortly after its construction, the Rickey Block was leased to pioneer merchant David Barman, proprietor of the Boss Store, a general merchandise outlet established by a relative of Mr. Barman's named Boss. Barman, a member of one of the many Jewish merchant families involved in commerce on the western frontier, arrived in Colville in 1887. His occupancy of the first floor continued until 1906, when Mr. Barman moved the business to his own newly-constructed building in the next block north. Until the move, the Barman family lived upstairs in the Rickey Block, probably on the third floor. Barman's store was the main mercantile outlet between Spokane and Rossland, B. C.

In 1907, Hunt's Hardware moved into the ground floor. It was purchased the same year by Stanus-Keller Hardware, which remained there through the death of partner Stanus, a name change, thirty-seven years and two world wars. First floor tenants in the brief time between Barman's occupancy and that of the hardware store were varied but there seems to have been a steady population of professional men, organizations and lodgers in the two upper floors. From 1903 through 1944 the third floor housed lodge rooms occupied by the Masonic Lodge, Oddfellows, Knights of Pythias, and Eagles. The northwestern room was used for dances and other social gatherings and in 1909 housed the Colville Valley Grange. For several years the two third floor front rooms housed the Superior Court which, according to the local paper, "held jurisdiction over a goodly share of northeastern Washington". Considering that Stevens County at that time included the present areas of Ferry and Pend Orielle counties, this is hardly an understatement. Among the more sensational cases tried there was the State of Washington vs. Charles H. Cummings. Cummings, County Chairman of the Populist Party, was tried in 1895 for the murder of Joseph Robins during a local election the previous year. The *Examiner* observed that "political prejudice ran high" (*Colville Examiner*, 1925) a situation evidenced by the Republican prosecutor's removal of the Democratic sheriff from the case. In 1898 the prosecutor, Mr. Charles A. Mantz, who kept an office in the Rickey Block, became a Washington state Senator for a four year term.

Colville Town Council meetings were held in the third floor's northeastern rooms and it was here that the town's tax records mysteriously disappeared prior to an investigation early in this century. The third floor was also the scene of unsuccessful attempts to organize a Farmers' Union and housed the area's first venture into higher education. The short-lived Northeastern Academy was a business school founded in 1895. It survived for only one year but emphasized the need for a high school in the area. The first Colville High school was started soon after.

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RICKEY BLOCK  
STEVENS, WASHINGTON

The second floor housed, at various times, the first Colville Public Library (1892), Spanish language classes, apartments, and several offices of attorneys and other professional men. These included the law office of Carey and Johnson, whose junior partner, Lon Johnson, became Lt. Governor of Washington in 1924. Prior to his election he served as attorney for the Colville Indian Tribe. Senior partner Daniel H. Carey served thirty years as a Superior Court Judge and was the first president of the State Association of Superior Court Judges.

The Rickey Block was purchased in 1903 by J. H. (Harry) Young, a pioneer businessman who arrived in Colville in 1885. He had extensive real estate interests, was an enthusiastic 'booster' of railroad development, and the first Vice-president of the First National Bank. Mr. Young also ventured into the newspaper business, buying the Colville Republican and changing both its name and its political orientation. He owned the building for eleven years and maintained an office there until his suicide in his first-floor office in 1914.

Mr. Young's widow, Anna, married hardware merchant Louis G. Keller. Mr. Keller came to Colville in 1907 and purchased the Hunt Hardware Co. with partners William C. Keller (his brother) and Leander Stanus. He was the first president of the Colville Chamber of Commerce, helped organize the Colville Kiwanis club, and served as the city's fire chief. The Kellers are best known as the builders and owners of the Keller House, a National Register property now owned by the Stevens County Historical Society. Mr. Keller's business, Keller's Hardware, occupied the Rickey Block's first floor until 1944.

In 1944 David Barman's nephew, Louis Strauss, purchased the Rickey Block. He and his partner Larz Dannheiser retained the Barman name because of David Barman's excellent business reputation and the building became known as "Barman's" once again. The business at that time occupied both the Rickey Block and the newer building in the next block north. The following year, at the end of World War Two, the new owners announced a program of extensive remodeling that continued through 1946. This project included the replacement of the central stair located at the front of the building with a stair near the southwest corner and installation of the freight elevator that is still in place. The following year Dannheiser sold his interest in the business and Barman's was operated by Louis Strauss and his son Robert.

The Strauss family finally auctioned the building's contents and sold the building in 1987. It became a second hand furniture store and was acquired by the present owners in 1994.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Rickey Block  
Stevens, Washington

## Colville Chamber of Commerce

1995 Barman's...a new era. Panorama Country.  
Statesman Examiner, Colville.

## Colville Examiner

1914 Untitled article .. Issue 330, February 21.  
P 4, col. 13.

## Colville Mothers' Club

1972 (?) Tale of the Pioneers, New stories added in 1972  
Stevens County Historical Society, Colville.

## Graham, Patrick J.

1989 Colville Collection, Book 1. Statesman-Examiner,  
Colville.

## Harrigan, J. C.

1925 Little Journeys Around the Town. Colville Examiner  
January 3, P 1, col. 3

## Himmelberg, Claudia

1980 Stevens County Cultural Resources Survey Form:  
Rickey Block. Form on file at Stevens County  
Historical Society, Colville

## Spokane Review

1892a Untitled article. Vol. 8, No. 24, June 15.  
P2, col.3. Spokane.

1892b Colville News. October 11. P7. Spokane

## Spokesman-Review

1962 Store with a 75-year history. August 9, P7.  
Spokane

1994 Memories revived with restoration of building.  
December 18, P B1. Spokane.

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Rickey Block  
Stevens, Washington

**Statesman-Examiner**

1989 The People...Who Will Live in Colville  
area History. Statesman-Examiner, Colville

**Walston, Gladys P.**

1982 Interview with Reine Strauss. Stevens County  
Historical Society, Colville.

**Steele, Richard**

1904 Illustrated History of Stevens, Ferry, Okanogan  
and Chelan Counties, State of Washington  
Western Historical Publishing Company, Spokane.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Rickey Block  
Stevens, Washington

**Verbal Boundary Description:**

Lots 3 and 4 and the south 10 feet of Lot 2, Block 1, Chandler addition,  
City of Colville

**Boundary Justification:**

These two-and-one-half lots have constituted a single parcel since at least  
1892.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Rickey Block  
Stevens, Washington

Unless otherwise stated all photographs were taken by property owner  
Jeannie Acorn in early April 1995. Negatives are in Mrs. Acorn's possession.

- 1) Main Street facade viewed from Southeast, circa 1905-1907, photographer unknown. Original photograph and negative made from it are in possession of Stevens County Historical Society, Colville, Washington.
- 2) Main Street facade and South wall viewed from southeast, early April 1995. Watson Photos, Colville, Wa.
- 3) Main Street facade and part of North wall from the Northwest.
- 4) Detail of Main Street Facade.
- 5) Rear (west) wall, 1960 addition between parked cars and original wall. Original third story windows visible.
- 6) Interior, first floor, Northwest corner. First floor and mezzanine openings into addition at upper left below Coca Cola sign.
- 7) Interior, first floor, utility block on West wall viewed from Northeast. Openings to addition at extreme right. door to corridor under "Barman's" sign at left.
- 8) Interior first floor with utility block viewed from Northeast. Door to corridor at center under sign. Stair to second floor at left between post and wall corner.
- 9) Interior first floor, North wall. North bay door visible at right, recently installed lights and fan visible above.
- 10) Interior first floor, view East along corridor to original building's West wall. Door to boiler room on right between tapestry and picture frames.
- 11) Second floor interior, view Northeast from stair showing newly exposed windows, lights similar to those removed from first floor.