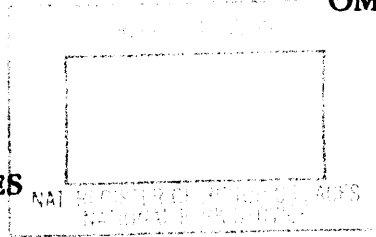


NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**



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**1. Name of Property**

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historic name: Adin Supply Company

other name/site number: Big Valley Co-op Store

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**2. Location**

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street & number: West side of Main Street between Center and McDowell Streets

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Adin

vicinity: N/A

state: CA county: Modoc

code: 049

zip code: 96006

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**3. Classification**

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Ownership of Property: private

Category of Property: building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>  2  </u>	<u>  0  </u> buildings
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u> sites
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u> structures
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u> objects
<u>  2  </u>	<u>  0  </u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. 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.  See continuation sheet.

Ramir Aluyta 12/30/96  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Deputy  
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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. 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): \_\_\_\_\_

Elson A. Beall 2-7-97

be Signature of Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: COMMERCE

Sub: department store

Current: COMMERCE

Sub: department store

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification:

No Style

Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation log roof tin  
walls weatherboard other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance.  See continuation sheet.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: at the local level

Applicable National Register Criteria: A

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: Commerce  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: 1906-1946

Significant Dates: N/A

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.  See continuation sheet.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

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: Owner

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: less than one acre

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing				Zone Easting Northing		
A	<u>10</u>	<u>672445</u>	<u>4562445</u>	B	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
Modoc County Assessor's parcels 018-293-003 and 018-293-005

Boundary Justification: \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
The boundary includes the entire lot that has been associated with the property.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Donald S. Napoli

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: August 13, 1996

Street & Number: 1614 26th Street Telephone: (916) 455-4541

City or Town: Sacramento State: CA ZIP: 95816

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7  
Adin Supply Company

Page # 1  
Modoc Co., CA

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## DESCRIPTION

The Adin Supply Company is a single-story wood-frame building that was probably constructed in early 1906. It has horizontal board siding and a side-facing gable roof with a shed-roofed rear extension. Corrugated metal, which replaced the original shingles in 1939, covers the roof. The building has a rectangular shape and measures about 50 by 80 feet. Stretching across the wide front elevation is a set of display windows punctuated by three recessed entrances. Atop all but the upper panes of the windows is a shed-roofed awning supported by metal poles. The interior of the building contains one large space with wood floors and ceiling, a series of chamfered posts, and original detailing. In the rear is a single-story warehouse, probably constructed at the time of the store, which has a gable roof and vertical board-and-batten siding. The market is located in Adin's small commercial district on the town's main street. Except for changes to the awning, the building has undergone only minor alterations since the end of its period of significance in 1946.

The front elevation is divided into three parts, each with a recessed entrance having a glass-paned double door and single panes in the side walls. Embossed plates frame the door handles. Flanking each entry is a pair of large single-pane display windows. Beneath each window are two recessed panels. Above ground level is a clerestory band that has two wide panes stacked above each window below. The awning now masks the lower of the clerestory panes. The upper panes above the doorways have been replaced with wood panels and vents. Narrow pilasters with decorated bases and capitals separate the window pairs from each other and the entrances. The awning, probably added to the building in 1931, extends across the entire facade. It originally had a flat roof supported by guy wires. The existing configuration with shed roof and metal poles dates from around 1948. Beneath the awning is a wood sidewalk that originally rose about three feet above the adjoining road but now, because of recurrent road resurfacings, is slightly below road level.

The remaining elevations have much less detail. Both gables have shingle siding, rectangular vents, and full cornice returns. Well below the cornice on the south elevation is a half-width addition (ca. 1930) with a shed roof and front-facing door. The rear also has two shed-roofed additions, one (1977) on the north and the other (ca. 1930) in the center, as well as a small window on the north.

The interior of the building retains much original detail. Running the length of the large retail space is a set of chamfered posts that extend from floor to ceiling. Two of the posts are contained in paneled pillars. The narrow floor and ceiling boards have remained uncovered. Below the display windows are window seats with bases

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7  
Adin Supply Company

Page # 2  
Modoc Co., CA

---

containing curved panels. In the rear is a raised platform from which business was once overseen. Although not built in, the store's safe and many of its display cases are also original and help to enhance the overall appearance of a "general store."

The warehouse, which is about 130 feet behind the main building, has a front-facing gable roof that is sided in corrugated metal on the west and wood shingles on the east. The metal roofing was added in 1972. The building has a rectangular shape and approximate dimensions of 40 feet by 80 feet. The main entrance is centered on the west elevation and is approached by a crumbling wood stairway that tops a similarly deteriorated loading dock. On each side are smaller double-swinging doors. A shed-roofed addition (ca. 1930) projects from the north quarter of the facade. The east elevation has three small windows beneath the cornice. The south elevation, which faces the main building, has another large doorway. The interior is one large room with visible roof trusses. It retains an original track that once extended out the south door and across an elevated tramway to the main building.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8  
Adin Supply Company

Page # 3  
Modoc Co., CA

---

## SIGNIFICANCE

The Adin Supply Company is significant as the oldest and largest retail facility in the town of Adin. It is the most conspicuous survivor of Adin's turn-of-the-century commercial district, which was once a bustling center of stores, shops, and hotels, but has since virtually disappeared.

Adin was settled in the 1870s as a supply point for newly established farms and ranches in the Big Valley, an area of roughly 800 square miles in northeastern California. At an altitude of over 4,000 feet and without much natural irrigation or easy access to distant markets, the valley had only limited prospects for growth. Adin, however, helped by nearby lumbering and periodic mining activity a few miles to the south, quickly became the most important town between Redding and Alturas. Its population may have reached 500 in the 1890s but probably never exceeded 250 after the turn of the century.

The first decade of the century apparently brought new prosperity to Adin. Perhaps commercial activity increased because of the new gold strike nearby or the expansion of local agriculture as more land was cleared of sage brush. In any case, two new "general stores" opened during the decade, bringing the town's total to four. They joined two hotels, a meat market, a drugstore, two blacksmith shops, and a confectioner's store. Also in the commercial district were flour and planing mills.

The most ambitious new retail enterprise during the decade came after the establishment of the Big Valley Co-operative Association. This organization, which was a joint stock company, opened a general merchandise store. When its first facility burned in 1905, it rebuilt on a larger scale. The new Co-op Store carried a wide range of items. The retail facility, which faced Main Street, offered fresh and packaged foods, clothes, and household goods. The warehouse in the rear, which was nearly the same size, stored bulk foods and other large items. A tramway linked the two buildings. Yet a third structure (perhaps built a few years later and now no longer standing) held agricultural implements. The Co-op Store had become Adin's largest retail facility.

It soon became clear that the town could not easily support so many general merchandise stores. The first to experience trouble was the Co-op Store. In March 1913 the trustees of the association told creditors to present claims; in September they announced that all merchandise, fixtures, and land were up for sale. But before operations could close down, new owners, doing business as the Adin Supply Company, bought out the association and resumed ordinary retail trade. Prospects brightened in 1915 when the store's main rival went out of business and sold off

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8  
Adin Supply Company

Page # 4  
Modoc Co., CA

---

everything. Later one of Adin's periodic fires destroyed another general store building as well as other commercial structures. Retail activity stabilized as demand persisted. When the Masons constructed the town's last important downtown building in 1922, they leased the ground floor to a competing general merchandise store.

The Adin Supply Company, meanwhile, passed into the hands of George J. Harper in 1920. He continued past operations, maintaining a vast inventory of all sorts of merchandise. He later tried to maintain a competitive edge by affiliating with the national Red and White chain. He had little chance to expand business, however. When the railroad had arrived in Big Valley in 1912, it came through far to the west. As a result the town of Bleber, near the rail line, took a larger share of business in the valley. In the 1920s improved roads speeded surface transportation, again damaging trade in Adin. Fewer teamsters and travelers stopped in town on trips between Redding and Alturas, and more potential customers were able drive to Alturas to make major purchases. An increase in absentee ranch owners and a decline in local lumbering also lessened retail trade in town. The size of Harper's customer-base may not actually have declined, however, as other local firms disappeared.

In 1946 Harper sold the business and retired. He had kept the store going for over a quarter-century, surviving the hard times of the Great Depression and a shortage of merchandise in the Second World War. The building's period of significance ends at this point because events related to the store in the past fifty years do not have exceptional significance. In fact, the store's later owners have carried on business in the same manner as Harper and the Co-operative Association before him.

The Adin Co-op Store retains its historical associations. It appears and functions today much as it did at the start and the finish of the historic period. The major change, which has been to its setting, increases the property's importance. As the rest of Adin's commercial district melts away, the Co-op Store increasingly becomes the only reminder of the town's once vibrant commercial past.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9  
Adin Supply Company

Page # 5  
Modoc Co., CA

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**MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

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Pryor, Lewis A. "The Adin Argus, the End of the Hand Press Era of County Weeklies." *Pacific Historian* 17 (Spring 1973): 1-18.

Sacramento, California. State Department of Parks and Recreation. Modoc County Historic Resources Inventory, 1988.

*Weekly Adin Argus*, 1906-1947, *passim*.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Additional Documentation  
Adin Supply Company

Page # 6  
Modoc Co., CA

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**PROPERTY OWNER**

Richard and Dorothy Campbell  
P. O. Box 90  
Adin, California 96006

**PHOTOGRAPHS**

The photographs have the following information in common:

3. Donald S. Napoli, photographer
4. June 1996
5. Richard and Dorothy Campbell  
P. O. Box 90  
Adin, California 96006

Photo No. 1  
Store - east (front) and north elevations, from northeast

Photo No. 2  
Store - east (front) and south elevations, from southeast

Photo No. 3  
Store - west elevation, from west

Photo No. 4  
Warehouse - north and east elevations, from northeast

Photo No. 5  
Warehouse - south and west elevations, from southwest

Photo No. 6  
Store and Warehouse, north elevations, from north

Photo No. 7  
Main Street - streetscape looking north, from south

Photo No. 8  
Store - interior

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Additional Documentation  
Adln Supply Company

Page # 7  
Modoc Co., CA

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**PHOTOCOPIES**

Sources and photographers unknown

Photocopy No. 1  
Store - east (front) elevation, from east, ca. 1908

Photocopy No. 2  
Store - east (front) elevation, from northeast, ca. 1918

Photocopy No. 3  
Store - east (front) elevation, from east, ca. 1925

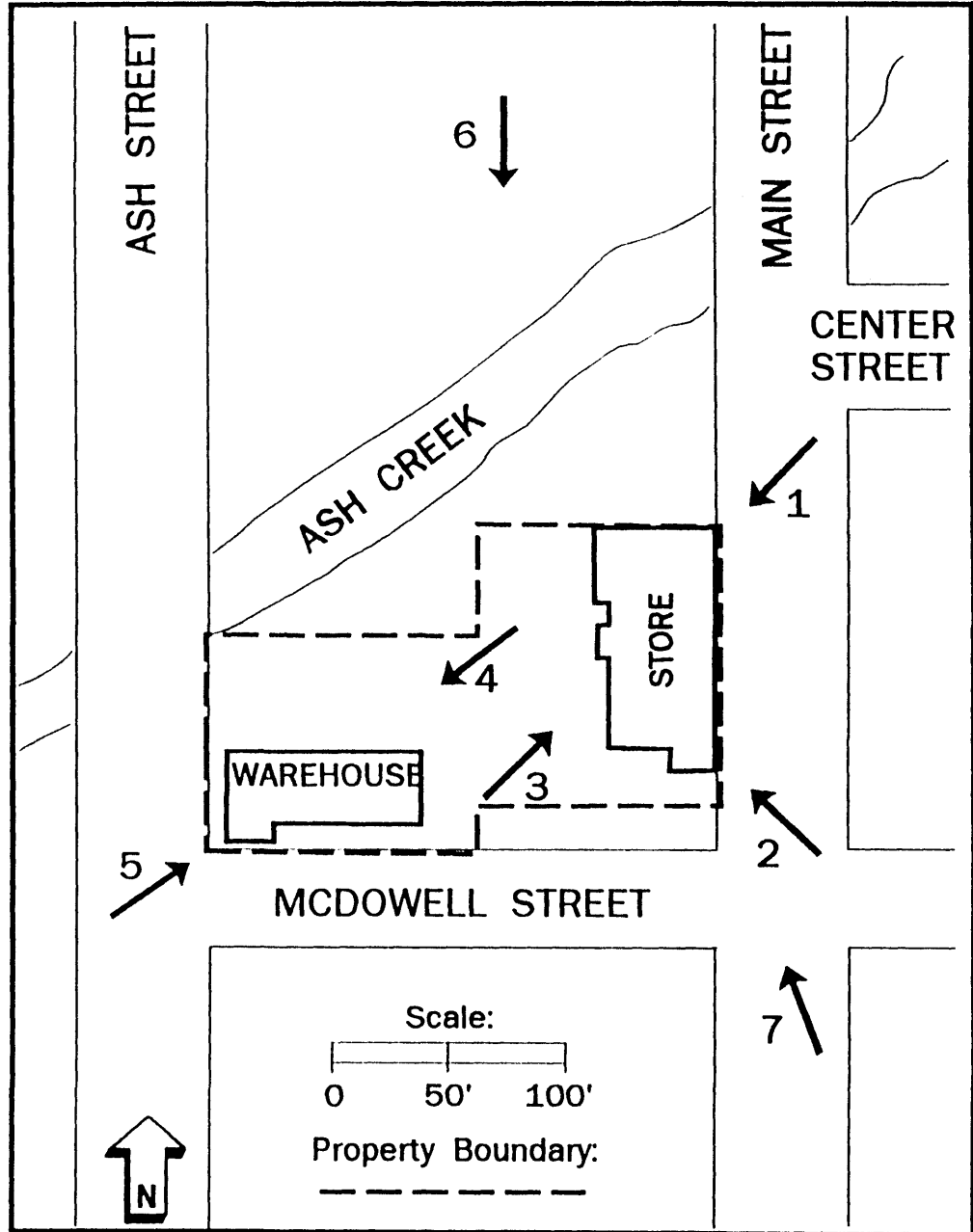
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National Park Service

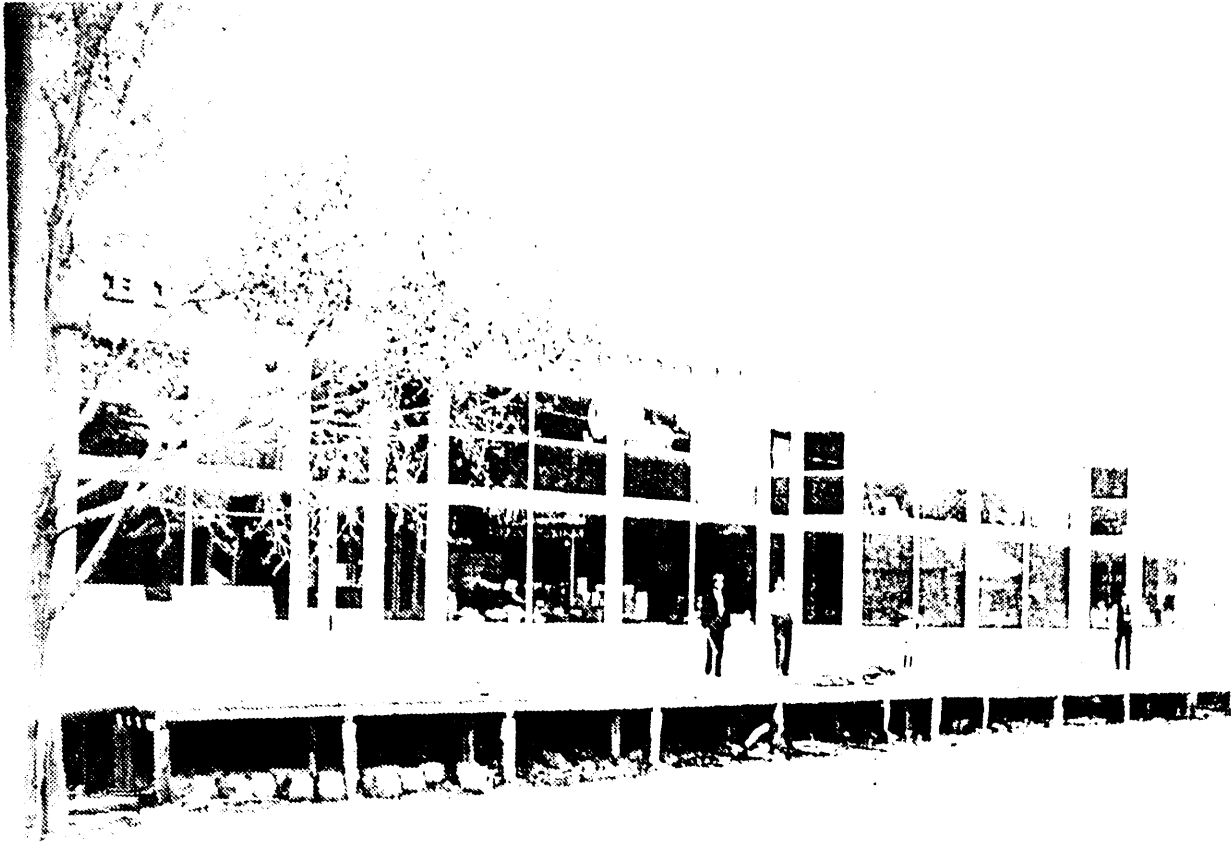
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Additional Documentation  
AdIn Supply Company

Page # 8  
Modoc Co., CA

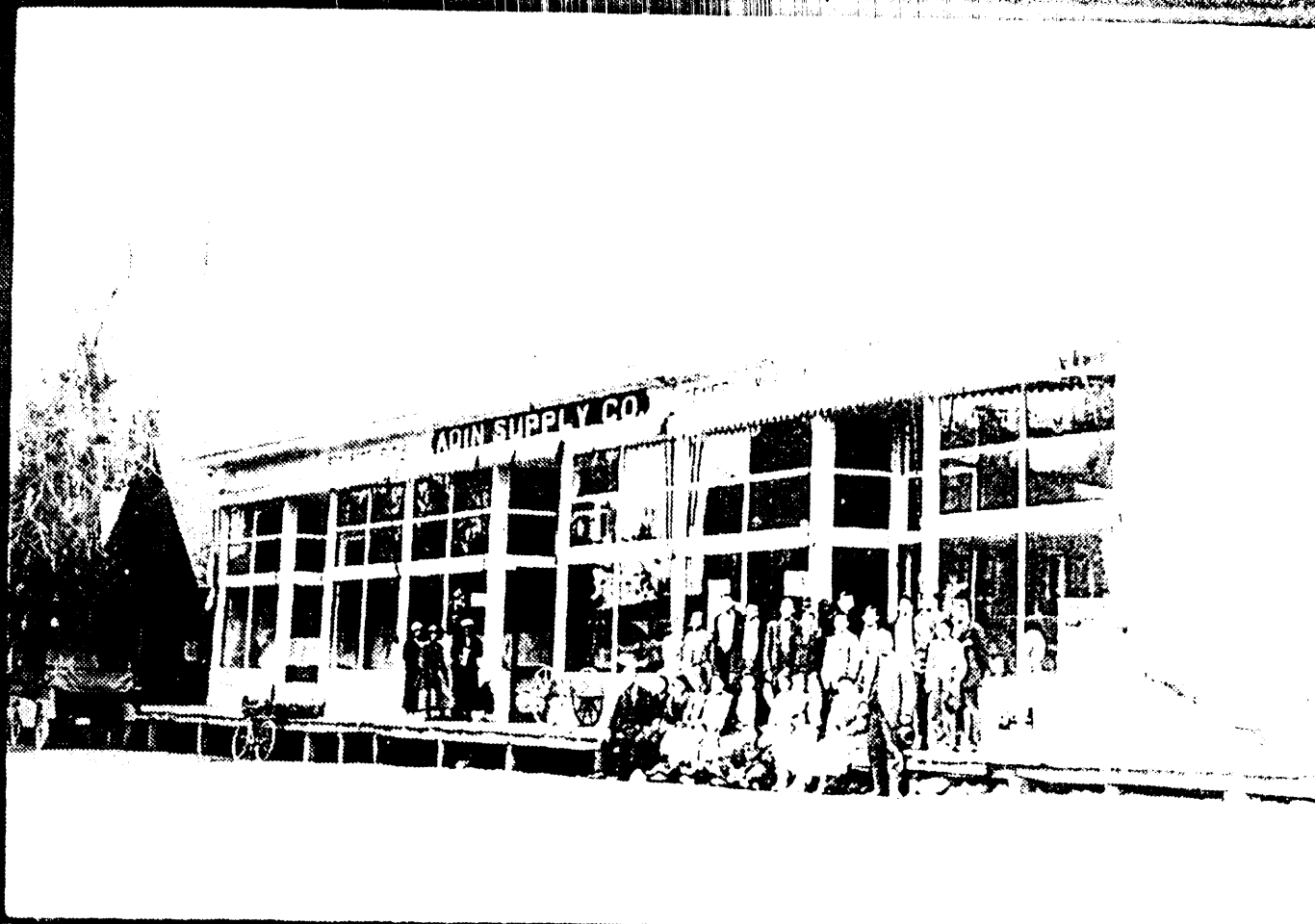
SKETCH MAP  
AND  
PHOTO KEY





Photocopy No. 1  
Store - east (front) elevation, from east, ca. 1908

Admiral Supply Company,  
Hedden County, CA



Photocopy No. 2  
Store - east (front) elevation, from northeast, ca. 1918

Adin Supply Company  
Modoc County, CA



Photocopy No. 3  
Store - east (front) elevation, from east, ca. 1925

Adin Supply Company  
Blodoc County, CA