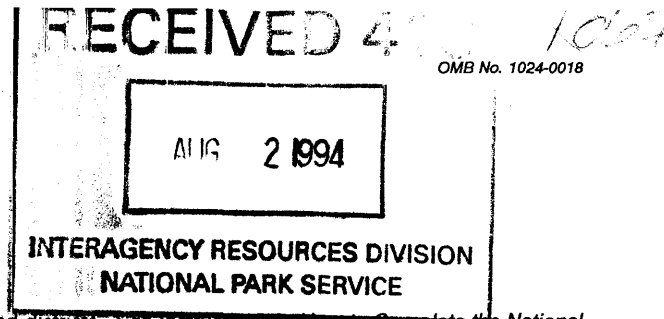


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 an 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 (Form 10-900-a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: J. A. BOOKMAN GENERAL STORE

Other names/site number: _____

2. Location

Street & number: MAIN STREET not for publication

City or town: INGOMAR vicinity

State: MONTANA Code: MT County: ROSEBUD Code: 087 Zip code: 59039

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.)

Maurell Shug MT SHPO 7-25-94
Signature and title of certifying official Date

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

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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:)

for Signature of the Keeper Entered in the National Register Date of Action
Myron Lapsley 9/2/94

J. A. BOOKMAN GENERAL STORE
Name of Property

ROSEBUD COUNTY, MT
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) **Category of Property** (Check only one box)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public - local | <input type="checkbox"/> district |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public - State | <input type="checkbox"/> site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public - Federal | <input type="checkbox"/> structure |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> object |

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
1		sites
_____		structures
_____		objects
1		Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: department store

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Western Commercial

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation CONCRETE
walls BRICK
roof ASPHALT
other _____

Narrative Description

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

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.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or 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
- ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1921-44

Significant Dates

1921

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(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

Name of repository:

J. A. BOOKMAN GENERAL STORE
Name of Property

ROSEBUD COUNTY, MT
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>13</u>	<u>318140</u>	<u>5160750</u>	2	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
3	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____	_____
					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: Ellen Sievert, Ken Seivert, Mark Hufstetler
Organization: Montana Preservation Alliance Date: January 24, 1994
Street & Number: P.O. Box 1872 Telephone: (406) 585-9551
City or Town: Bozeman State: Montana Zip code: 59771

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 SHPO or FPO.)

Name: William T. and Martha Seward
Street & Number: P.O. Box 322 Telephone: (406) 358-2278
City or Town: Ingotmar State: Montana Zip code: 59039

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

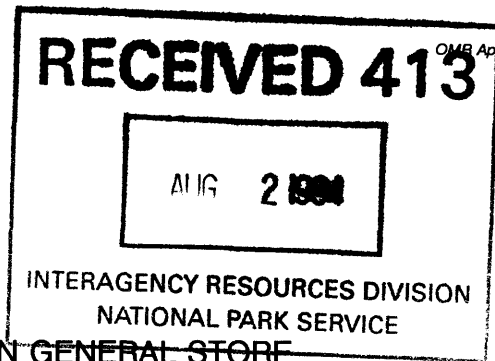
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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J. A. BOOKMAN GENERAL STORE
ROSEBUD COUNTY, MT



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Narrative Description

The J.A. Bookman General Store is a tall-ceilinged one-story commercial brick building, constructed on two 25-foot interior lots facing Main Street in the small townsite of Ingomar. The building occupies a prominent location in Ingomar's small commercial district. The town's only other surviving brick building--the Wiley, Clark & Greening Bank (1914; now the Jersey Lilly Bar & Cafe)--abuts the general store to the south. A scattering of other small commercial buildings--all wood-framed, and all abandoned--rest on other lots in the town's two-block-long business district.

The general store is a masonry structure, rectangular in plan. The building has a nearly flat roof protected by a low height brick parapet. The structure's primary (east) façade is articulated into two single-bay commercial storefronts. Of symmetrical fenestration, the storefronts are each flanked by brick wall segments that continue up into a wide brick upper wall that spans across the width of both openings. A projecting brick rowlock caps the parapet of the façade and the wide brick upper wall is articulated by a nearly full-width string course in the upper part of the field; a repeating pattern of diamond-shaped brick accents stretch full-width across the lower part of the masonry. Each of the brick wall segments at the jambs of the storefronts is highlighted by a single diamond accent at doorhead height to complement the pattern above. The brickwork is polychromatic; the basic field is of dark red/brown coloration and the accents and string course are light red. Sidewalls are red common brick; the parapets along the sides periodically step down to reflect the low slope of the roof.

Each storefront has a recessed center door, large display windows to each side, and fixed transom lites span across the top of the door and windows. The splayed sidewalls into the door recesses are also glazed. The transom area above each of the larger display windows is sub-divided into two side-by-side fixed panes of glass, and the large-pane display windows extend down to low height sills to allow the effective display of merchandise. A wide wooden apron infills the space between the display glazing and the floor line below; each apron panel is adorned with a simple raised rectangular moulding. The storefronts are constructed with wooden jambs, sills, and headers and are of narrow sight-line with the exception of the header that is sized to carry the weight of the wall above. The sub-structure is concrete and the building has a full basement.

The building's original interior included clear-span spaces that were finished with smooth plaster walls, hardwood floors, and pressed tin ceilings. A longitudinal wall currently divides the building into two rooms, one for each entrance bay. The ceiling of the south bay has been insulated and lowered; an interior door connects this room to the Jersey Lilly Bar in the building to the south, and the room is used by that business. The interior of the north bay retains a generally higher level

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ROSEBUD COUNTY, MT

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of historic integrity, although its walls have been covered with weathered wood siding and with shelving. The north bay is currently (1994) occupied by "Old School Crafts," a specialty retail store.

The exterior of the building retains an exceptionally high level of integrity. The historic form and massing survives, as does all the historic brickwork. The complete survival of the historic two-bay commercial storefront is particularly noteworthy; the historic fenestration pattern fully survives, and nearly all doors and windows appear to be original or historic. The retention of this historic storefront is uncommon among early twentieth-century commercial buildings in small-town Montana.

The interior of the store has been substantially altered. Ceilings have been lowered and contemporary materials have been introduced on most wall and ceiling surfaces. The newer ceilings and wall surfaces could be reversed; although the condition of the original concealed materials is not known.

The J.A. Bookman General Store exhibits a high level of architectural integrity and its outward appearance is essentially the same as when it was constructed. It conveys the association of a small prairie commercial structure during the historic period of the settlement years and continues to play a significant role along the main street of Ingomar.

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J. A. BOOKMAN GENERAL STORE
ROSEBUD COUNTY, MT

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Narrative Statement of Significance

The J. A. Bookman General Store is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under Criteria "A" and "C." The building is historically significant for its association with early twentieth-century patterns of trade and commerce in Ingomar and Rosebud County. As with most small towns in eastern Montana, Ingomar existed primarily as a retail trade center for farm and ranch settlers in the immediate vicinity. The town's small business district was a focal of retail (and, consequently, social) activity for both the community and the surrounding countryside. The Bookman Store was, in turn, a primary element in Ingomar's business life. For nearly thirty years, J.A. Bookman General Store was the largest mercantile in Ingomar, and a centerpiece of the town's commercial district. The store's importance and prosperity is attested to by the building's relatively large size, substantial construction, and prominent location.

The building is also architecturally significant as an excellent example of early twentieth-century small-town commercial design in Montana. The building's size, configuration, and type and level of architectural detailing are all typical of the building form, and the building exists in 1994 with virtually no non-historic structural alterations. The building's relatively large size and brick construction identify it as a "second generation" retail facility--constructed after the town's frontier period of development--and representing a period of prosperity and of faith in Ingomar's perceived permanence. The building's design, while largely straightforward, typifies basic commercial architecture of the early twentieth century. Some wall detail is provided by simple brickwork variations, but the building's visual character is almost wholly created by its large, windowed commercial storefronts. The inset entry bays and prominent commercial windows--all historic--clearly indicate the building's function. Additionally, the building is a landmark structure in the small townsite of Ingomar.

Historical Narrative

The first substantial Euro-American settlement in the Ingomar region took place in the years following the construction of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad (the "Milwaukee Road") through eastern Montana in 1907 and 1908. The completion of the Milwaukee Road made vast tracts of formerly-isolated Montana land accessible to homesteaders, and thus helped encourage Montana's statewide "homestead boom" of the 1900s and 1910s. In Rosebud County and elsewhere, the Milwaukee encouraged new settlement during the 1910s with an advertising campaign aimed at new homesteaders, and by platting and marketing townsites along its line. Ingomar was one such railroad town, platted in 1912 and already the site of a small but permanent community by that year. The town served as a center of commercial and civic activity for hundreds of farmers and ranchers who homesteaded the arid, treeless

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ROSEBUD COUNTY, MT

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plains of northwestern Rosebud County.¹

Ingomar's small business district developed fairly rapidly after the town's founding. A 1912 city directory showed the town as having two operating mercantiles, a hotel, a lumber yard, a livery barn and a blacksmith shop.² There were over a dozen businesses in 1916, and still more as the decade progressed; by 1920 the town boasted a relatively complete retail district.³

J. Abraham "Abe" Bookman was one of the first entrepreneurs to arrive in Ingomar and establish a business. Bookman emigrated from Ireland to the United States in the early 1910s with his wife, Anna, and his brother-in-law, Simon "Si" Sigman. The three had settled in Ingomar by 1912; the city directory for that year shows Bookman as operating the Ingomar Mercantile Company in the town. (Sigman, meanwhile, served as Ingomar's first postmaster.)⁴ The mercantile, located in a small, wood-framed building on Ingomar's Main Street, apparently prospered during its early years; a local reminiscence from the 1910s recalls an instance where:

Mr. Bookman had ordered a shipment of merchandise and was at the railroad depot to meet the train. A number of settlers were also waiting for the train, and they bought all of Mr. Bookman's groceries and clothing right there on the railroad platform before he could carry any of it up town to his store.⁵

With the success of the Ingomar store, Bookman was able to finance Sigman's opening of a general store in nearby Vananda in 1914.⁶

Ingomar's commercial district was relatively stable and mature by 1921. Two general mercantiles continued to operate in the town: one owned by Bookman and one by the Riechers Brothers. (The "Ingomar Mercantile Co." name had disappeared by 1916, as Bookman's store adopted the name of its proprietor.) The character of the town's Main Street changed dramatically in July 1921, however, when a massive fire destroyed most of Ingomar's commercial district. While the newspaper account of the fire does not specifically mention the loss of the Bookman Mercantile, local reminiscences indicate that the mercantile was one of the buildings destroyed.⁷

One after-effect of Ingomar's 1921 fire was the construction of a number of brick commercial buildings in the town. One of these structures was a new mercantile block for Bookman (the present building), which newspaper accounts reported as being under construction in November, 1921.⁸ Bookman presumably occupied his new store soon after; it proved to be among the largest and best-built commercial blocks in town.

As Bookman opened his new store, however, Ingomar's boom period was clearly over. After World War I, the area's unsuitability for intensive agriculture became fully apparent and the region entered a long era of gradual, constant decline. Many of the area's homesteaders had already left by the early 1920s, and the population

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losses had a profound impact on Ingomar's commercial district. Most of the town's businesses reportedly closed during the 1920s and 1930s, but the Bookman store hung on. The store's survival was apparently not without a struggle, however; county deed records indicate that the Bookmans lost their store to a savings & loan company in a 1933 Sheriff's Sale, and were forced to repurchase the store two years later.⁹

Abe Bookman continued to operate the store until his death in 1941. After Abe died, Anna kept the store open for about two more years, selling their house and living in the back of the store. When she closed the store and retired to Seattle, Ingomar's last general store had disappeared for good.¹⁰

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ENDNOTES

1. For a capsule history of Ingomar and its neighboring communities, see Tri-City Reunion Committee, *They Say "It Happened That Way"* ([Ingomar, Montana: the committee, 1976]), iv-vii.
2. R. L. Polk & Company of Montana: *Miles City & Glendive City Directory*, (Helena: R. L. Polk & Company, 1912), 780-781.
3. Ibid. The 1914 and 1916 Miles City directories also contain listings for Ingomar. See also Tri-City Reunion Committee, *They Say "It Happened That Way,"* iv-vii, and "Industrial History of Rosebud County," special edition of *The Forsyth Independent*, February 16, 1956.
4. R. L. Polk & Company of Montana: *Miles City & Glendive City Directory*, (Helena: R. L. Polk & Company, 1912), 780-781; Tri-City Reunion Committee, *They Say "It Happened That Way,"* 10, 89.
5. Tri-City Reunion Committee, *They Say "It Happened That Way,"* 10.
6. Ibid., 89.
7. Ibid., 124.
8. Ibid., 125. The quotation is reproduced from a newspaper article dated November 3, 1921.
9. County deed records maintained by the Rosebud County Clerk & Recorder's Office, Forsyth, Montana.
10. Tri-City Reunion Committee, *They Say "It Happened That Way,"* 10.

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Bibliography:

County deed records maintained by the Rosebud County Clerk & Recorder's Office, Forsyth, Montana.

"Industrial History of Rosebud County," special edition of *The Forsyth Independent*, February 16, 1956.

"Ingomar, Montana," brochure prepared by the Sage Hens Extension Homemakers Club of Ingomar [c.1993].

Interviews with Bill Seward and Janet Mysse, Ingomar, Montana, August 14, 1993.

R. L. Polk & Company of Montana: *Miles City & Glendive City Directory*. Helena: R. L. Polk & Company, 1912, 1914, 1916. [Title and publication information varies.]

Tri-City Reunion Committee, *They Say "It Happened That Way."* [Ingomar, Montana: the committee, 1976].

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Section number 10

J. A. BOOKMAN GENERAL STORE

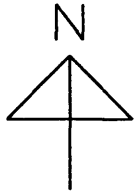
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Verbal Boundary Description:

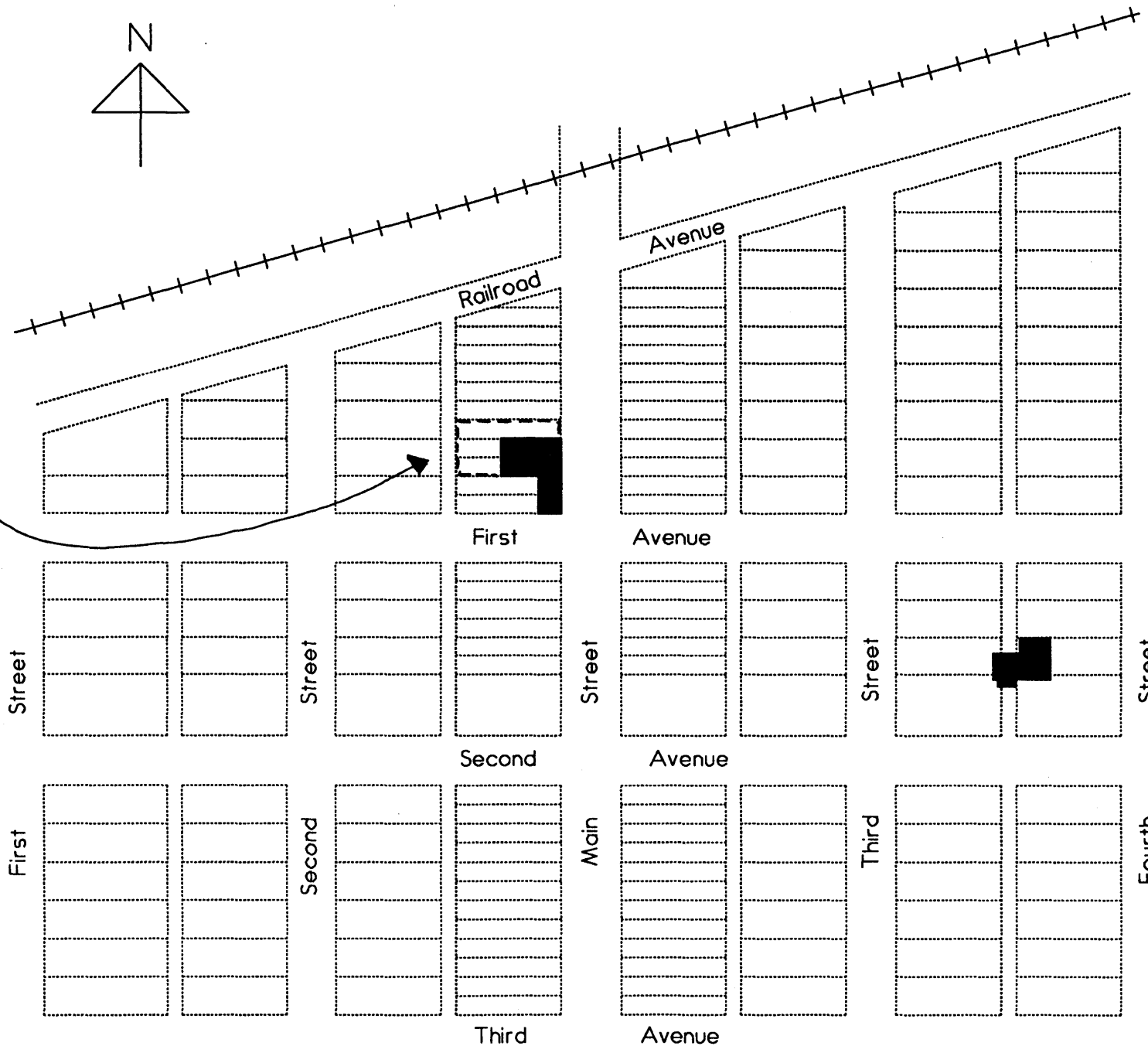
The nominated property consists of Lots 8, 9, and 10, Block 2, Original Town of Ingomar, Montana. Located in the SW¹/₄, SW¹/₄, NW¹/₄ of Section 31, T10N, R35E.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property includes the town lots occupied by the general store building and historically associated with it.



Site boundary -
J.A. BOOKMAN GENERAL STORE



Ingomar, Montana

(not all buildings are shown)