

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received **OCT 12 1983**

date entered **NOV 25 1983**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Downtown Evanston Historic District

and/or common Downtown Evanston Historic District

**2. Location**

*Roughly bounded by Center, 9th, 11th, and Front  
Sts*

street & number Front, Center and Main Streets  not for publication

city, town Evanston  vicinity of N/A

state Wyoming code 056 county Uinta code 041

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Multiple Ownership

street & number N/A

city, town N/A  vicinity of N/A state N/A

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Uinta County Courthouse

street & number 9th Street

city, town Evanston state Wyoming 82930

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title n/a has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town  state

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
n/a moved date n/a

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Evanston, located along Union Pacific railroad tracks in the southwest corner of Wyoming, is approximately 100 miles east of another important transportation center, Salt Lake City. While open space surrounds the depot and library, most of Evanston's historic district lies in a densely knit commercial area that is traversed by heavily traveled streets. The majority of buildings within the district are commercial although a few governmental and residential structures are also included within the boundaries. Evanston is one of Wyoming's older towns and some of its commercial structures such as the Blyth & Fargo and Ferd's Hardware are the finest in the state. Constructed between 1880 and 1930, Evanston's buildings range in height from one to three stories and are architecturally cohesive as they exhibit similar design and craftsmanship qualities. As the town prospered from 1880 to 1930, earlier frame commercial structures were replaced with substantial brick buildings. Although constructed over a period of fifty years, these newer storefronts basically consisted of the same architectural elements such as: large display windows, clerestories, transoms, recessed entries, kickplates and flat roofs. Ornamental detailing such as cast iron facades with pilasters, cornices, and brackets were frequently applied to nineteenth century stores. Today, a few iron fronts, all manufactured in the midwest and brought to Evanston by rail, have survived. During the later construction period, brick changed in color from red to buff and fewer decorative elements were applied. Yet Evanston's twentieth century storefronts were not devoid of ornamentation, brick parapets and corbelled cornices were important components of later commercial designs. Although a few of the earlier storefronts might be categorized as Italianate, for the most part the commercial structures can be described as vernacular in appearance. The governmental buildings in the district have more stylistic characteristics than the commercial structures. Greater attention to ornamental detail and overall design distinguish the post office, town hall, and depot from the other buildings. The two frame residential buildings are typical of the late nineteenth century. Due to Evanston's recent renewed economic prosperity, the condition of the buildings varies from fair to excellent. Less than five new buildings are included within the district's boundaries but they are basically the same scale and design as the older structures. A majority of the sixty buildings within the district have retained their architectural integrity while some of the first stories on commercial structures have been altered. If a building has generally retained its integrity and is at least fifty years old, it was given a contributing designation. In some cases an original storefront had been changed on the first story, yet the second story remained intact; for purposes of the nomination, it was considered to contribute to the district's sense of time and place. Prominent buildings within the Downtown Evanston Historic District include: Blyth & Fargo, Post Office, Ferd's Hardware, Freeman's Hotel, Strand Theatre, Town Hall, depot and library. Streets and alleys in Evanston were utilized for boundary lines. The human scale, location, construction material, architectural design, and integrity all work together as unifying elements to visually describe Evanston's prosperous past.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1880's - 1930 Builder/Architect N/A

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Evanston, located along the Union Pacific's tracks in southwest Wyoming, began as an ordinary nineteenth century boom town in 1868 and eventually became the business center for southwest Wyoming. During the late nineteenth and early twentieth century until the twenties, Evanston was the major maintenance facility for the railroad between Green River, Wyoming, and Ogden, Utah. The town continued to grow because coal, a necessary component for the railroad, was discovered north of Evanston in 1868. Within walking distance of the Union Pacific depot, Evanston's commercial enterprises that served local miners and railroaders grew along Front and Main Streets. The downtown became a center for commercial and governmental activities when Evanston became the county seat in 1870. Evanston's commercial area began to take on a more substantial and permanent appearance during the 1880's and 1890's as prosperous merchants constructed stores such as Ferd's Hardware and the Blyth and Fargo. Throughout the 1880's and 1890's Evanston's commercial core continued to change. Although the local coal mines for the Union Pacific began to decline after 1900, oil was soon discovered and a renewed energy boom helped to maintain Evanston's economic base. The Federal government constructed an impressive courthouse-post office in the town. Opera, and then movie houses, located in the commercial area became a significant point for the downtown. In 1915 the town of Evanston constructed a rather large city hall on the edge of the commercial area. Within Evanston's compact downtown, the town hall, post office, library, and county courthouse were all located within a three block area. Agricultural, railroad, timber and energy interests helped the commercial area maintain its continued growth from 1900 to 1930. Yet, national and local economic factors brought a halt to Evanston's prosperity in the late twenties. The Union Pacific closed its maintenance facility and the worldwide depression effectively stopped Evanston's fifty years of building. Due to the stagnation of the local economic base, Evanston's downtown area did not change appreciably from the thirties to the fifties. Renewed energy exploration in southwest Wyoming stimulated rapid growth throughout Evanston and as a result some of the commercial buildings were remodeled. Unfortunately the latest economic boom to Evanston's commercial district caused some loss of original fabric.

Today, the town's evolution from a railroad settlement to a commercial and county seat can, in part, be measured by the buildings within the Downtown Evanston Historic District. As a social, commercial and government center, downtown Evanston made significant contributions to the development of southwest Wyoming. The fine commercial and governmental structures within the district embody distinctive characteristics that are typical of a successful downtown area constructed between 1880 to 1930.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE ADDENDUM

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approximately 17 acres

Quadrangle name Evanston, Wyoming

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

B 

Zone	Easting			Northing					

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Eileen Starr, Michael Gorman

organization Wyoming Recreation Commission date September, 1982

street & number 1920 Thomes Avenue telephone 307-777-6301

city or town Cheyenne state Wyoming 82002

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Alvin J. Bastron

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 9/28/83

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

[Signature]  
Keeper of the National Register

date 1/25/83

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

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949 Main (Evanston Drug/Utah Power and Light/M & M Sales Service) Contributing  
Two story attached commercial structure with flat roof. Brick exterior, first floor altered, new storefront installed. On second story, six windows; double hung, with transoms above. Decorative features include: stone sills, brick arches with radiating voussoirs and a corbelled brick cornice.

937 Main (Main Realty) Contributing  
Two story attached commercial structure with a flat roof. Brick construction with an iron front on the second story, altered first story. Second floor iron front consists of cornice, pilasters, capitals. The windows have been altered.

933 Main (Evanston Main) Non-contributing  
One story attached commercial building. New storefront, older architectural features obscured.

927 Main (Blyth & Fargo) Contributing  
Three story attached commercial structure. Roof is basically flat with crow stepped parapet on sides. Brick construction with first story iron front with traditional storefront with iron pilasters dividing windows and doors. Second and third stories have a six bay front with double hung windows. Brick arches with keystones and radiating voussoirs decorate windows. Large pressed metal

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cornice with paired brackets protrudes from upper stories. Interior was somewhat altered. This building is one of the finest commercial structures in Wyoming.

927 Main (Blyth & Fargo) Contributing

One story attached commercial building with flat roof. Masonry construction with a pristine iron front manufactured by Mesker and Brothers in St. Louis, Missouri. The threshold, pilasters, and cornice are all part of the original iron front. Storefront in traditional arrangement, clerestory windows retained. Exterior door new.

917 Main (Ewer's) Noncontributing

One story attached commercial building. Original facade completely altered.

913 Main (R & G Pharmacy) Contributing

Two story attached commercial structure with flat roof. Brick construction, first story facade altered, second story has stucco. Windows are double hung with stone lintels and sills. Decorative feature includes an iron cornice with brackets.

909 Main Noncontributing

One story attached commercial structure with flat roof. Original construction obscured by new storefront.

901 Main (Hoback Realty) Noncontributing

Recent construction. One story attached commercial structure with flat roof. Masonry construction.

944 Main (Elizabeth Shop) Contributing

Two story attached commercial structure with flat roof. Brick construction, first story altered by addition of new storefront. Second story unaltered. Double hung paired windows with radiating brick arches with keystone. Decorative features include: brick cornice, dentil molding, and belt course.

944 Main (Elizabeth Shop/Turquoise Hut) Contributing

Two story attached commercial structure with flat roof. Masonry construction, first floor altered by new storefront. Second story unaltered. Second story windows are paired and double hung. Decorative features include: stone lintels and sills, iron cornice.

936 Main (Lloyd's Liquor) Contributing

One story attached commercial structure with a flat roof. Brick construction with applied stone infill under windows. Traditional storefront fenestration, clerestory windows intact. Stone lintel and cornice.

932 Main (Sather's Jewelry) Contributing

One story attached commercial structure with flat roof. Masonry construction with

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Art Moderne storefront that consists of terra cotta tile with stone infill. Large, slightly bowed windows above the central door dominates the facade. The tile cornice contrasts with the facade.

- 926 Main (Young Set/Uinta County Herald) Contributing  
One story attached commercial structure with flat roof. Brick construction with traditional storefront. Decorative brick cornice.
- 920 Main (Mountain Fuel & Supply) Noncontributing  
One story attached commercial structure with flat roof. Masonry construction, primary facade altered.
- 916 Main (Evanston Vision Clinic) Noncontributing  
New one story, attached commercial structure. Masonry construction.
- 912 Main (Harry L. Harris, Attorney) Contributing.  
Two story attached commercial structure with flat roof. Masonry construction, first floor altered with new facade. Elegant iron front unaltered on second story that consists of lintels, pilasters, and cornice. Second story windows are paired and double hung with stone sills. 1907 inscribed on cornice.
- 906½ Main (Cobbler) Contributing  
Two story attached commercial structure with flat roof. Masonry construction, first story altered by new storefront. Second story windows are paired and double hung with stone sills. Decorative features include: dentil molding, and corbeled cornice.
- 902 Main (Gambles/Masonic Temple) Contributing  
Two story attached commercial structure with flat roof. Masonry construction with new storefront added to first story. Second story windows infilled with brick, brick lintels are arched with radiating voisoirs. Decorative features include: corbeled cornice, light fixture with Masonic symbol.
- 1101 Main (Old Town Hall) Contributing  
Constructed in 1915. Originally a governmental building now used for commercial purposes. Two and a half story, detached brick building that has rectangular plan with a flat roof. The doors and windows are not original to the structure. A large recessed entrance, originally for fire trucks, now infilled with new glass and door. A small brick tower with a clock is centered in the middle of the primary facade which projects a symmetrical appearance. Numerous decorative elements include: parapet walls that accent roof line, pressed metal cornice, stone sills and watertable, original (?) electric light fixtures, and recessed brick courses, (each fifth course is recessed.)
- 1049 Main (Kallas Automotive Supply) Contributing  
One story attached commercial structure with flat roof. Masonry construction with stucco. Original facade altered so triangular driveway bisects property as is common with garages. An overhang covers the triangular driveway. Decorative features include: dentil molding.

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- 1037 Main (Ward's) Contributing  
One story attached commercial structure with flat roof. Brick building in excellent condition with original storefront that includes original door with beveled glass and clerestory windows with leaded glass. Brick cornice and beltcourse.
- 1033 Main (Susan's Happiness Grows) Contributing  
One story attached commercial structure with flat roof. Brick construction with stone in-fill below storewindows, stone added later. Door and windows altered. Decorative brick cornice.
- 1029 Main (Bill's House of Parts) Noncontributing  
One story attached commercial structure. Original facade totally altered.
- 1025 Main (Deru's Glass Works) Noncontributing  
One story attached commercial structure. Original facade obscured by later construction.
- 1001 Main (First National Bank) Noncontributing  
Brick structure constructed recently.
- 1044 Main (Cornet's) Noncontributing  
One story attached commercial structure of recent construction.
- 1028 Main (Strand) Contributing  
Two story attached building constructed in 1918 as a theatre. Rear portion of building is 3 stories in height to accommodate scenery. Constructed of brick, theatre has brick laid in decorative patterns and stone in-fill below first story windows. Roof is basically flat with crow stepped parapet on sides. Two large glass double doors in the center with fixed windows on first floor. Second story windows have a transom located above fixed windows. Decorative features include: brick pilasters, patterned brickwork, and cornice (probably added at a later date). A large overhanging sign added later dominates the primary facade.
- 1020 Main (Country Jeans/Overthrust Cable TV) Contributing  
One story attached commercial structure with flat roof. Brick structure with masonite in-fill below storefront windows. New windows and door. Decorative brick cornice.
- 1012 Main (J.C. Penney's) Noncontributing  
One story attached commercial structure with flat roof. Storefront altered, original facade obscured.
- 1008, 1006 Main, 131 10th Streets (Scott's, Sutton's Jewelry, City Drug) Noncontributing  
One story attached commercial structure with flat roof. Original facade obscured by new construction.



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Intersection of Front and 11th Street (Maverick Country Store) Noncontributing  
Single detached commercial structure of recent construction.

1043 Front (City Service) Contributing

Formerly Down's Opera House constructed ca. 1885. Two story attached commercial structure with flat roof. Masonry structure with altered first story, second story intact. First story altered by addition of garage door. Second story windows double hung. Decorative details include: brick cornice, stone sills, stone lintels with keystones.

1037 Front (Sears) Contributing

Two story attached commercial structure with flat roof. Brick construction, first floor altered by addition of glass and tile. Second story unaltered with double hung window and brick beltcourse.

1025 Front (Freeman's Hotel) Contributing

Formerly the Hotel Evanston, constructed in 1912. Three story attached commercial structure with flat roof. First story altered by new storefront, second and third stories unaltered. Upper story windows are double hung with plain brick surrounds. Decorative features include: protruding cornice, brick beltcourse.

1023 Front Contributing

One story attached commercial structure with flat roof. Typical storefront placement in small building. Pressed aluminum siding, probably added in the 1940's, located above clerestory windows.

1021 Front (Pink Elephant) Contributing

One story attached commercial structure with flat roof. Brick storefront altered, wood siding used as in-fill in plate glass. Clerestory windows not original. Large overhanging sign dominates facade.

1021 Front (Pink Elephant) Contributing

One story attached commercial structure with flat roof. Masonry structure with remnants of an iron front, the pilasters only remain now. Clerestory windows not original. Decorative cornice.

1005 Front (Gene's Cafe) Noncontributing

One story attached commercial structure. Masonry structure that was altered, original storefront obscured.

1001 Front (B-Bar-B) Noncontributing

One story attached commercial structure. Original construction obscured by later facade alterations.

941 Front (Ferd's Hardware) Contributing

Two story attached commercial structure with flat roof. Dressed stone laid in

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regular courses, stonework vermiculated on 10th street side. Traditional storefront with double door entrance on side of building. Original storefront windows intact with iron pilasters. Cornice is heavy with pediment, brackets and dentil molding. Same dentil molding utilized in second story lintels. Stone sills are vermiculated.

**941 Front (Ferd's Hardware)    Contributing**

Two story attached commercial structure with flat roof. Large brick structure with original storefront. Lintels consist of brick arches with radiating voissiors, and vermiculated stone sills. Heavy iron cornice with brackets. Both of Ferd's Hardware buildings are in good condition and are some of Evanston's finest commercial structures.

**933 Front (New Paris Cafe)    Noncontributing**

Two story attached commercial structure with flat roof. Original storefront obscured by new facade.

**929 Front (Dining Room)    Contributing**

One story attached commercial structure with flat roof. Brick construction with traditional storefront placement but windows and doors are not original.

**925 Front (Denim Den/Big Dad's Pizza)    Contributing**

Two story attached commercial structure with flat roof. Original windows and doors in storefront, tile and wood siding added below plate glass. Second story has double hung windows. Decorative brickwork laid in patterns is part of cornice and upper facade.

**921 Front (Fraternal Order of the Elks)    Contributing**

One story attached commercial structure with flat roof. Masonry building although storefront altered, windows not original. Decorative features include a corbeled cornice.

**919 Front (Warehouse)    Contributing**

Two story attached commercial structure with flat roof. Brick structure with new first story storefront. Decorative features include: string course, brick cornice, vermiculated stone sills with arched brick lintels with radiating voissiors.

**917 Front (VFW Club)    Contributing**

One story attached commercial building with flat roof. Masonry building with altered storefront, windows not original. Clerestory windows altered. Decorative brick cornice.

**909 Front (Dee's Hotel)    Contributing**

Three story attached commercial building. Masonry structure with blue tile added to exterior facade at a later date. Windows, and original storefront altered.

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901 Front (M & Dad's Garage & Motel) Noncontributing  
One story buildings utilized as a motel and garage probably constructed in 1940's.  
Brick structure with curved glass block facades.

10th Street, (Library) Contributing  
One story, single detached building. Construction of brick, exterior is now painted. The hipped roof is metal seamed. Library has full wood cornice with central pediment. The building has a three bay front with arched brick lintels with radiating voisoirs. The sills are stone. Entrance is slightly advanced and has a centrally located non-original double door with glass transom above. Four brick pilasters accent the entrance. The library has a watertable and concrete foundation.

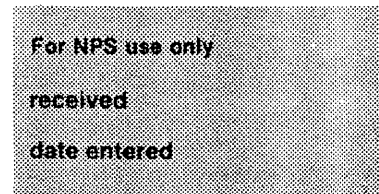
10th Street (Railroad Depot) Contributing  
Constructed in 1900, the depot is an eclectic and highly ornamented structure that differs from the rather plain commercial buildings of Evanston. The depot is a one story, single detached structure with a hipped roof that is intersected by gables on either end. This brick building has a prominent entrance with a crow stepped gable centered in the middle of the facade. A round window with stone surrounds is located in the middle of the gable. A semicircular brick arch with a keystone and radiating voisoirs with contrasting brick colors, accents the double doors. Two twin brick towers, one on each side of the door, also draw attention to the primary facade. The towers have conical roofs, dentil moldings, and a stone watertable. A large overhang with massive wood brackets surrounds the building except for the entrance. Underneath one overhang, each window has brick lintels with voisoirs and stone sills. The depot has a nine bay front and the double hung windows are original, the double doors are not original. The stone watertable is mirrored in the ring on the chimney. At some time, the depot may have been lightly sandblasted.

Intersection 10th & Center Streets (Evanston Post Office) Contributing  
The Evanston Post Office/Federal Courthouse was constructed ca. 1900 and became a landmark in the downtown area. This three story, single detached, governmental building has a flat roof. Constructed of cut stone laid in regular courses, the post office has a massive appearance. The building has a five bay front with double hung windows with semicircular arches above the first story windows. Stone pilasters divide each set of windows into sections, the center pilasters have ionic capitols. The central entrance has double doors with an elegant fan-light above. A carved stone watertable with full entablature and balustrade are some of the building's decorative features. Some of the sandstone is deteriorating and needs attention. The courtroom on the second floor was rarely used and therefore is in excellent condition with some of the original fixtures.

924 Center (Robert Cameron & Associates) Contributing  
This single detached, one story, office building was constructed of brick. With a three bay front, the windows are fixed with a transom above. The original

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wood door also has a transom. The watertable and door surrounds consist of poured concrete.

912 Center    Contributing

One of the two houses within the district, this two story building is a single detached, rectangular shaped structure. The house has a gable roof with stucco applied to the exterior. The windows are original and they are double hung, aluminum awnings were added later.

236 9th Street (Uinta Counseling Service)    Contributing

The house is one of the oldest residential structures in Evanston, and a number of the town's mayors lived in the building. The house has shiplap siding and is 1½ stories with an 'L' plan. The roof is gabled with intersecting gables. Some of the windows are original, some altered. The wood lintels are pediment shaped while the sills are plain. Recessed wood panels between the first and second story ornament the primary facade.

230 9th Street (Uinta County Department of Public Assistance)    Noncontributing

Of recent construction, this single detached brick building is one story.

133 10th Street (Waldemar Bar)    Contributing

Three story attached commercial structure with flat roof. First floor drastically altered by addition of wood siding. Second and third stories covered with stucco, windows have been changed. Belt courses divide each story. Words 'Star 1916' inscribed on the parapet.

124 10th Street (Dugout)    Contributing

Two story attached commercial structure with flat roof. Masonry construction with iron front on both stories. Iron front manufactured by Pullis Brothers of St. Louis. Cornice, pilasters, belt course are all part of the iron front. Storefront on first story altered by new windows.

108 10th Street (Joe's Barber Shop)    Noncontributing

An attached commercial structure with three separate storefronts. Original construction obscured by later alterations. Storefront covered with stucco.

Intersection 10th & Main (Brick building connected to First National Bank)    Contributing

Two story attached commercial building with flat roof. This brick structure is now used as an office and is connected to the bank building. Windows on first story have been altered, second story windows are original. Brick archs above windows are flat with radiating voissoirs. The cornice is corbeled.

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Before the arrival of Americans in the early 19th Century, Uinta County, in southwest Wyoming, was occupied by Indians - Shoshone, Ute, and other mountain tribes. While French and Canadian trappers may have visited the area, it was the American Mountain Men who were the first to exploit the region's resources. The first permanent white settler in Uinta County, John Robertson, was a trapper, as was Jim Bridger, who established his famous trading post in the area. Two major trails passed through the vicinity, the Mormon Trail and the California Trail, which served emigrants until the coming of the Union Pacific.

During 1868, Union Pacific track was laid all the way across southern Wyoming to the Utah line. In November, Evanston was located along the railroad right-of-way. Harvey Booth erected the first commercial enterprise, a large tent which served as a saloon, restaurant, and hotel. The first train arrived in Evanston on December 16, 1868, and soon the town had a population of about five hundred. The building of the town was in progress when the railroad decided to make the next town along the route, Wasatch, the permanent end of the division. Almost overnight, Evanston was deserted as its citizens moved to the next division point. Harvey Booth and a saloon keeper named Frank Moore remained in Evanston to cater to the section crews and any chance travelers who happened along. Wasatch's importance was cut short, however, when the railroad, in need of the water from Bear River, moved the division headquarters back to Evanston.

Soon after the meeting of the Union Pacific and Central Pacific at Promantory, Utah, work was begun in Evanston on a substantial roundhouse and machine shop. Construction of these facilities was completed in 1871. Evanston soon became the major maintenance facility for the Union Pacific between Green River, Wyoming and Ogden, Utah.

The importance of the Evanston area was greatly increased in 1868, with the discovery of coal, three miles north of the town, by Thomas Almy, a Union Pacific civil engineer. The Union Pacific Coal Company opened a mine there the next year, and a town named Almy was founded. In 1870, the Central Pacific's Rocky Mountain Coal and Iron Company opened a mine, and a rail spur was built from Almy to Evanston.

The coal mines at Almy helped ensure the growth of Evanston. The town's first school opened in 1870, and four churches were established in 1870-71. Also in 1870, Evanston was made the seat of Uinta County, and, two years later, work was begun on the Uinta County Courthouse (enrolled on the National Register of Historic Places in 1977).

Throughout the next several decades, Evanston's importance as the commercial center of southwest Wyoming continued to grow as merchants established thriving businesses. From its beginnings with Harvey Booth's tent saloon, the Evanston Downtown District has grown into today's center of banking, trade, and government for the city and surrounding area. The Evanston Downtown District retains mainly visual reminders of the town's early growth. Many buildings still have original iron fronts; others have

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modern facades, while the original buildings remain intact behind these coverings.

In 1872, three young men - Thomas Blyth, Charles Pixley, and Griffith Edwards - formed a partnership and opened a mercantile store on Main Street. By 1890, Pixley and Edwards had left the firm, and Lyman Fargo became Blyth's partner. The firm of Blyth and Fargo eventually established a dozen branch stores around the area, centered on the three-story, masonry Main Street store. The Blyth and Fargo building continues to house commercial ventures. Another notable Evanston firm, the Beeman and Cashin Mercantile Company, was founded in 1883. The Beeman and Cashin building, now occupied by Ferd's Hardware, is located on Front Street, opposite the Union Pacific tracks.

Evanston, by virtue of its location on the Union Pacific main line, participated in the "opera era", drawing opera and drama companies enroute to San Francisco. In 1885, Evanston merchant Peter J. Downs began construction of an opera house. The building's basement had a cement floor for use as a skating rink; 32' long floor timbers eliminated the need for center posts in the basement. Seats on the main floor were movable, to allow dancing; there were boxes on either side of the gallery, and the gallery seats were graduated. Downs' Opera House (now occupied by the City Service Garage), in addition to holding operas and stage plays, was used for dances, church suppers, and political meetings.

The "opera era" in Evanston, epitomized by Downs' Opera House, gave way to the motion picture industry in 1907, when three movie houses were opened. All three houses were owned by Arthur Bowen who, in 1918, built the Strand Theatre on Main Street. The Strand continues to be Evanston's major theatre.

The entertainment provided by Downs' Opera House and the Strand was an important activity for the Town of Evanston in the early years of the 20th Century. In that period, the economic base of the town was undergoing major changes. In 1900, after a series of disastrous fires and labor troubles, the mines at Almy closed and that town was virtually abandoned. But important oil discoveries in the area prevented a major recession from impeding Evanston's growth.

The presence of oil in Uinta County had been well known to early pioneers, but it was not until 1900 that the substance could be profitably marketed. In August of that year, while drilling for water, the Union Pacific Coal Company struck oil near Evanston. Soon, oil speculators and oil field workers flooded the town and surrounding area. Evanston became the center of a great deal of development activity.

The Federal Government recognized Evanston's importance when it decided to construct the stately Federal Building in downtown Evanston. The structure was begun in 1900, and completed in March of the next year at a cost of \$180,000.00. The first floor was occupied by the Post Office, which up to that time had been located in various stores in Evanston, and the land office. A handsome Federal courtroom, located on the second floor, has a ceiling that reaches to the roof. The remainder of the second

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and third floors was taken up by offices and jury rooms. The U.S. Post Office remains in the building, although the courtroom has been used only sparingly.

In response to the influx of new population in the first decades of this century, Joseph Bird and George Spencer, of Randolph, Utah built the Hotel Evanston on Front Street. Located close to the Union Pacific Depot, the Hotel Evanston was an immediate success. The building continues to serve the travelers, as it now houses the Hotel Freeman.

For the first four decades of its existence, the Evanston city government held its offices in various rented rooms around the town. In 1915, the city council authorized the construction of a city hall at the corner of 11th and Main Streets. The 6,000 square foot building, now refurbished, housed the various city offices, the fire department, the town jail, even an upstairs dance hall.

While oil development continued to be an important part of the Evanston economy, drillers were frustrated by the complex operations, but over 500 dry holes in the area attested to the difficulties involved. From the 1920's through the 1960's, agriculture, timbering, and the railroad were of equal or greater importance. Evanston's population remained static at just under 4,000.

In 1973, the Arab oil embargo and the quadrupling of oil prices made further exploration of the Overthrust Belt financially attractive. The price of Wyoming's crude oil tripled; the low-grade coal and natural gas of the Evanston area were now valuable resources. Extensive oil and gas development activities took place around Evanston. As a result of these operations, Evanston's population had boomed to nearly 7,000 in 1980. Uinta County's population had climbed to 13,000. Once again, Evanston had become a boom town.

As the population of Evanston has undergone major changes in the oil boom of the 1970's and 1980's, the need for historical continuity has increased. The Downtown District serves as a vibrant reminder of Evanston's rich past, an affirmation that Evanston, despite the changes wrought by boom town conditions, has not forgotten its beginnings. For these reason, the Evanston Downtown Historic District deserves to be enrolled on the National Register of Historic Places.

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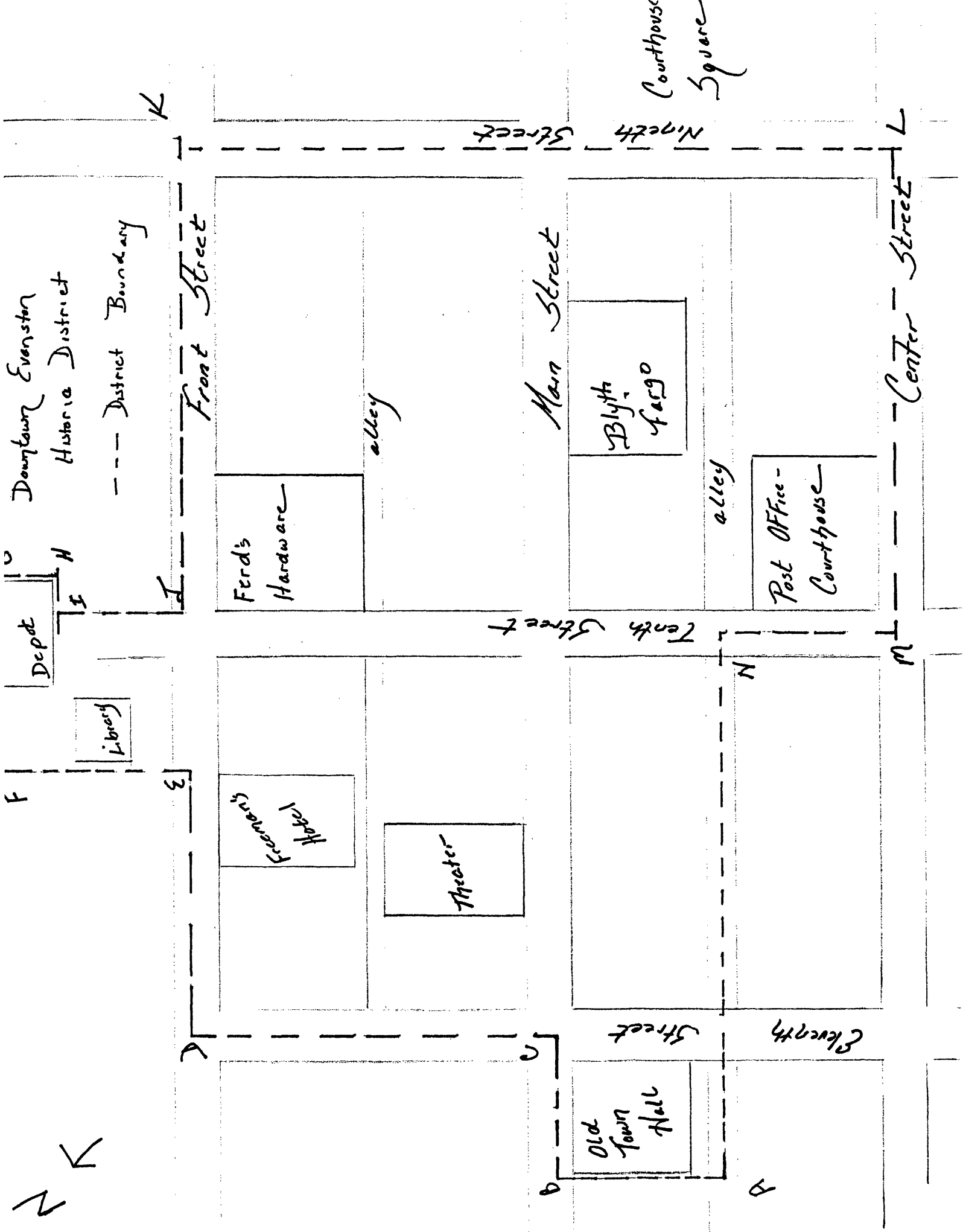
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of the Downtown Evanston Historic District are defined by streets, alleys, and property lines. The southeast boundary of the district is the center line on ninth street between Center and Front. The southwest boundary is the middle line of Center Street to 10th Street then up 10th Street to the alley between Center and Main Streets and along the alley across 11th Street, so that the properties along Main are included in the district. The northwest boundary is 11th Street with the inclusion of the Old Town Hall on the corner of 11th and Main Streets. The northeast boundary is Front Street to 10th Street then east on 10th Street to the end so that the depot and library are included, then west on 10th Street to Front Street to Ninth Street.

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Downtown Evanston  
Historia District

Depot  
Library

--- District Boundary

Front Street

Ferd's  
Hardware

alley

Freeman's  
Hotel

Theater

Tenth Street

Blyth  
Fargo

alley

Post Office -  
Courthouse

I

H

F

K

M

L

Courthouse  
Square

Eleventh Street

Old  
Town  
Hall

Center Street

N