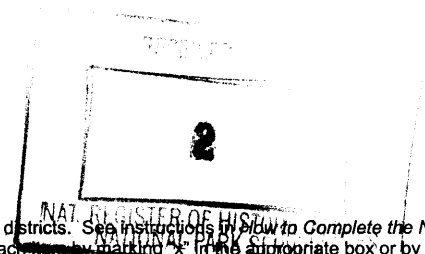


2

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

1. Name of Property

historic name: Sparks, Walter, House

other name/site number: Houk House

2. Location

street & number 408 Roosevelt Street [ ] not for publication

city or town American Falls [ ] vicinity

state IDAHO code ID county Power code 077 zip code 83211

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

*Kenneth C. Reid*

20-12-06

Signature of certifying official/Title  
KENNETH C. REID, PH.D. / DEPUTY SHPO

Date

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 certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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): \_\_\_\_\_

*fore*  
Signature of Keeper Edson H. Beall Date of Action 2-7-07

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Sparks, Walter, House  
Name of Property

Power County, ID  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

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

- private
- public - local
- public - State
- public - Federal

- building
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
_____	0	sites
_____	0	structures
_____	0	objects
2	0	Total

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register** (Enter listed in the National Register)

American Falls, Idaho, Relocated Townsite

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY  
AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Bungalow/Craftsman  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE  
walls WOOD: weatherboard  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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 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)

- POLITICS / GOVERNMENT
- COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

**Period of Significance**

1923-1925

**Significant Dates**

1925

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/builder**

Unknown

**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 Historical Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Sparks, Walter, House  
Name of Property

Power County, ID  
County and State

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### 10. Geographical Data

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**Acreage of Property** Less than one

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet).

1	<u>12</u>	<u>348706</u>	<u>4738036</u>	3	<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>

[ ] See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

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

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### 11. Form Prepared By

---

name/title Dale M. Gray

organization Frontier Historical Consultants date April 30, 2006

street & number 24265 River Road telephone (208) 834-3061

city or town Grand View state Idaho zip code 83624

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### Additional Documentation

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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.)

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### Property Owner

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

name/title Robert Allen

street & number 408 Roosevelt Street telephone (208) 226-7674

city or town American Falls state ID zip code 83530

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**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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1 Name of Property Sparks, Walter, House  
Location Power County, Idaho

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## 7. Description

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### Narrative Description

The Sparks House is located at 408 Roosevelt Street, American Falls, Idaho. The house is set on a corner lot overlooking the southeast corner of the town square. The rectangular (25 x 34 foot), one-and-a-half-story, frame, single-family dwelling was built in the Craftsman Bungalow style. The building has a full-width inset porch (8 x 25 foot) on the front and a gabled porch addition (7.3 x 14 foot) on the rear. The building has a formed concrete basement topped with "Miracle-blocks," and clapboard siding on the first floor and gable ends. The roof has exposed rafter tails. A deep overhang at the east and west is supported by brackets that support verge boards that have been cut in a unique "rakish" angle that is a signature of many of the dwellings that were moved as part of the American Falls relocation. The structure's intersecting gable roof is covered with interlocking asphalt shingles. A gabled dormer extends out of the north (front) slope of the roof. A brick chimney, which rests on a concrete footing, rises along side of the building, through the west-side eaves.

The main entrance of the building is through the inset, full-width front porch that faces Roosevelt Street to the north. The house has a closed-rail porch supported by four square pillars set on brick piers. The porch is accessed by a set of concrete steps with low, brick sidewalls capped with concrete. The west window opening has a modern wood frame that appears to be a temporary repair. The entrance is a screened 8-light, 1-panel wood door that opens to the porch. The doorway is flanked on the west by a triple 15/1, 1/1, 15/1-light, double-hung sash window, and on the east by a triple casement, 27-light windows. Above the porch is a gabled dormer with exposed rafter tails and bracketed "rakish-cut" verge boards. The dormer has a pair of 4/4-light, fixed-sash windows.

The west side of the building, facing Bannock Avenue, has a pair of 1/1 double-hung sash windows and two sets of paired side-hinged windows. The second floor has a single 1/1 double-hung sash window adjacent to the chimney. The block foundation has two basement windows and a "Majestic" coal scuttle. The east side of the house has three casement basement windows, a pair of 30-light casement windows in a bay with a shed roof hood, a 1/1 double-hung sash window and a pair of 1/1 double-hung sash windows. The second-floor gable end has a single 1/1 double-hung sash window. The south side of the house is covered by the porch addition except for a portion of the wall and a 1/1-light, double-hung sash window in the gable end.

The rear porch was constructed in 1925 after the house had been placed on the lot. The addition serves as a rear porch and an inside stairway. The west side of the porch has a double, casement window. The south side has two windows that have been replaced with modern windows: one a 1 x 1 sliding sash window and one a modern, 1/1 light, double-hung sash window. Between the two windows is a 1-light, three-panel, screened door that opens to an open concrete stoop and steps. An external stairway to the basement is adjacent to the porch.

A short sidewalk connects the house to a small, single-car garage (12 x 10 feet) that was also relocated as part of the Sparks House bid package. The garage has a concrete foundation, lap siding, exposed rafter tails, and an asphalt-shingled gable roof. A pair of side-hinged garage doors once hung on the west side, but these have been replaced by modern hanging doors temporarily placed across the garage bay to form a barrier.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1 Name of Property Sparks, Walter, House  
Location Power County, Idaho

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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**Narrative Statement of Significance**

The Walter Sparks House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under the Multiple Property Documentation: American Falls, Idaho, Relocated Townsite. The dwelling and garage were relocated to their current positions on the American Falls town square in October 1925, as part of the Reclamation Service project to relocate the town of American Falls to make way for the waters of American Falls Reservoir. As a moved structure that retains integrity, the property meets the criteria for an individually eligible property listed under the Multiple Property Nomination. The Period of Significance – 1923-1925 – represents the date when the appraisal process began for the relocation of the house and garage, and the date of the final relocation to their new site.

The Sparks House is a good example of an American Falls dwelling that was relocated by the Bureau of Reclamation from the Riverside Addition of the original American Falls to the Reclamation Addition. The dwelling was relocated as part of a large Federal project to relocate the town of American Falls into a designed community as a requirement of building the American Falls dam. The majority of the town of American Falls was built below the designed waterline of the reservoir. Dwellings, sheds, businesses, churches and even large silos were relocated. This served the dual purpose of preserving the Idaho town and minimizing floating debris in the reservoir. The government bought the houses prior to relocation and then offered them back in a "salvage sale" first to their original owners, then to renters and then the general public. Depending on the quality, buildings would then be relocated to one of three neighborhoods on the east, south and west side of the new town square.

The Sparks House was built in 1907, on Block 16, Lots 8 and 9, Riverside Addition of American Falls. The house, garage and a chicken coop, were on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street between Poplar and Pine Avenues, across from the school. The 1920 Census lists Nettie Hauk, her older sister Eveline Sanford, and her two children living in the house. In 1923, the property was appraised by the Bureau of Reclamation as part of the American Falls relocation. The lot was valued at \$1,125 with the house worth \$3,600. The Hauk/Sanford family did not sell to the Bureau of Reclamation; rather, they sold the house privately to Walter Sparks and relocated to Boise, Idaho.

In Reclamation documents, Walter Sparks is shown as the owner of Riverside Addition, Block 16, Lots 7, 10, 11, and 12. Sparks is also listed as having an option for the purchase of Lots 8 and 9, which contained the Hauk/Sanford house. Because his household was listed in the 1920 Census adjacent to the Hauk/Sanford household, Walter Sparks may have owned the lots surrounding the Hauk/Sanford property for several years prior to the relocation. On September 24, 1925, Walter Sparks exercised his option and completed the purchase of the Hauk house in anticipation of its move to the new townsite. The house was moved two weeks later on October 7, 1925, to its new location on the southeast corner of the town square. The October 8, 1925, *Power County Press* reported that the "Nettie Houk residence rests on its foundation across the corner from the southeast corner of the Park." The house was placed in Block 63, Lot 3 of the Reclamation Addition. This location corresponds to the present address of 408 Roosevelt Street, the lot on the southeast corner of Roosevelt Street and Bannock Avenue. The location at one of the corners of the town square was one of the premier lots for sale. Relocated, the house was given a fresh coat of paint, a brick external fireplace chimney built on the west side, and an addition built onto the back of the house to enclose the stairway to the basement. Ivy, which made the move clinging to the side of the house, was replanted and is still growing on the side of the building.

The Sparks family were prominent local ranchers. On May 8, 1883, Thomas and Alice Sparks arrived in American Falls from Texas and bought the "Muleshoe Ranch." Their oldest son, Walter S. Sparks, took over ranch operations in 1892, with the passing of his father. The Muleshoe Ranch bought and sold cattle throughout the west and northern Mexico. Around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Walter Sparks began gold-dredging operations on the Snake River above Burley. His partners were former Lieutenant Governor L. H. Sweetser, and three brothers - George, Harry and Coleman Burroughs, the brothers of author Edgar Rice Burroughs.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2 Name of Property Sparks, Walter, House  
Location Power County, Idaho

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### 8. Statement of Significance

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#### Narrative Statement of Significance (Continued)

A community leader, Walter Sparks served as president of the American Falls Chamber of Commerce in 1903, and was a trustee for the village of American Falls from 1908-1910. When Power County was created in 1913, Sparks was appointed to the first board of County Commissioners by Idaho Governor John M. Haines. The next year, he was reelected to the position and served as the Chairman until 1919. He would again serve as County Commissioner from 1926 to 1929, and as a Commissioners of Independent Highway District No. 1, of Power County from 1915 to 1919, and from 1922 until his death in 1931. During World War I, Sparks served on the Power County Council of Defense and was a member of the local draft board.

Sparks married Freda Herrera on July 5, 1899. The couple lived in American Falls and on their ranch in Hollister until Freda's death in 1914. Six years after his wife's passing, Walter Sparks married Zulima Clark on June 23, 1920. The courting of his second wife and first years of marriage correspond to a gap in Sparks' community service. However, activities connected with the American Falls Reservoir project and its associated relocation of the American Falls Townsite required the services of all community leaders. From 1922 to 1925, Walter Sparks served on the Board of Appraisal, which worked to acquire right-of-way land for the American Falls Reservoir project. As a prominent leader in the community, it was fitting for Sparks to purchase one of the premier lots on the corner of the town square. He and his wife, Zulima, occupied the house on the square until his death on April 23, 1931.

For most of the modern era, the house was owned by the Roy Mackie family. It was sold several times in the mid-1990s before it was purchased by the current owner, Robert Allen, in 1999.

#### Integrity:

The property has excellent integrity. The building is virtually identical to historic photos showing it being moved, down to ivy clinging to the west side of the structure. The house was moved to its current site in October 1925, as part of the relocation of the town. It retains the relocated structure, the 1925 concrete and "Miracle Block" foundation, and the 1925 rear addition. The only changes to the structure are alterations to the 1925 addition's rear windows, which have modern replacements. The house has also retained its association with a historic garage that was relocated to the site in 1925 as part of the Reclamation Service relocation of the town. The garage is largely intact with only the front door missing. The house is in a neighborhood remarkably unchanged from when it was established in 1925. The house has retained high values of setting, materials, design, association, feeling, and workmanship. Although the building has been moved, its relocation from the flooded townsite to the Reclamation Addition is central to its significance.

#### Summary:

The Walter Sparks House is locally significant under National Register Criterion A in the areas of Politics/Government and Community Planning and Development, under the Multiple Property Documentation: American Falls, Idaho, Relocated Townsite. The church is representative of the major Federal public works project that resulted in the relocation of a substantial portion of the historic community of American Falls during the 1920s in preparation for the construction of the American Falls Dam and Reservoir. The wholesale relocation of structures such as these fundamentally changed the plan, look, and development patterns of the American Falls Community in the period after 1924.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1 Name of Property Sparks, Walter, House  
Location Power County, Idaho

### Bibliography

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Allen, Robert

2005 Conversations with Dale M. Gray on the history of prior owners. March 20, 2006.

*American Falls Press*

1925a "Nettie Hauk House purchased by Walter Sparks. . ." *American Falls Press*. p. 1. September 24, 1925.

1925b "Nettie Hauk residence ... on foundation." *American Falls Press*. p. 1. October 8, 1925.

1931 "Pioneer Idaho Cattle Raiser is Laid to Rest." Obituary. *American Falls Press*. pp. 1, 2 and 4. April 30, 1931.

Ancestry.com

2005 On-line census data on the Hauk, Sanford and Sparks families.

Power County Assessor's Office

2005 Property Records for 408 Roosevelt Street.

Reclamation Bureau

1925 American Falls town relocation assessment records. Miscellaneous records archived by Valerie Hoybjerg, Pocatello, Idaho.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1 Name of Property Sparks, Walter, House  
Location Power County, Idaho

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## 10. Geographical Data

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### Verbal Boundary Description:

The Sparks House is located in American Falls, Idaho, at 408 Roosevelt Street on the southeast corner of Roosevelt Street and Bannock Avenue. Lot 3 of Block 63 is in the NE ¼, NE ¼, SE ¼, Section 29, Township 7 South, Range 31 East.

### Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the dwelling, garage and city lot historically associated with the property.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number      Photos      Page   1   Name of Property Sparks, Walter, House  
Location Power County, Idaho

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### Photographs:

Walter Sparks House

American Falls, Power County, Idaho

Photographer: Dale Gray

April 27, 2005

Photos taken with a Nikon 8800 QuickPix 8 megapixel camera.

Photos were printed on HP Premium Paper Plus, using an HP Photo 8450 Photosmart printer with archival HP Vivera inks (95, 99 and 100 cartridges).

Digital Photos: Electronic Image File CD submitted to NPS and on file at Idaho SHPO

Photo 1 of 5	View looking southwest
Photo 2 of 6	View looking south
Photo 3 of 6	View looking southeast
Photo 4 of 6	View looking northeast
Photo 5 of 6	View looking east
Photo 6 of 6	View looking north-northeast

**American Falls, Idaho**

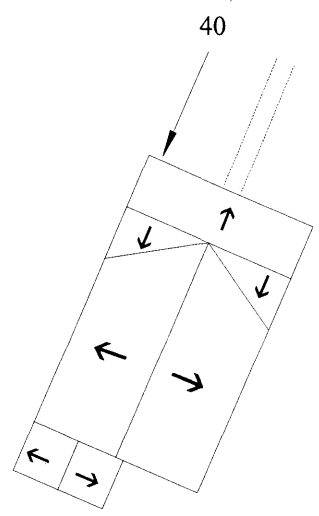
City Park

Roosevelt Street

Bannock Avenue

Sparks House  
408 Roosevelt Street

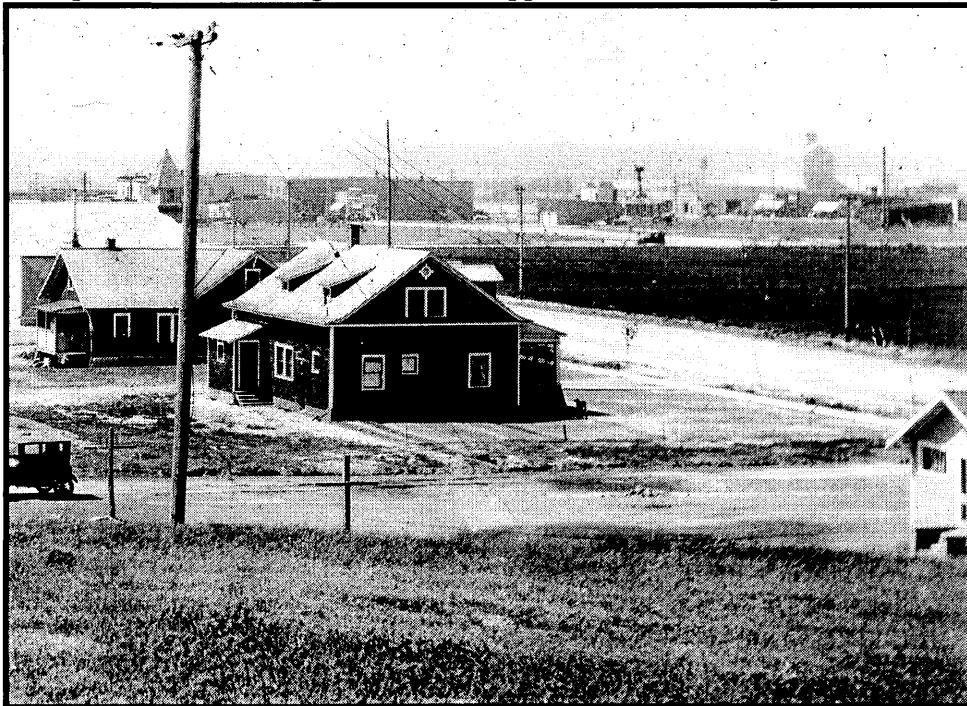
Garage



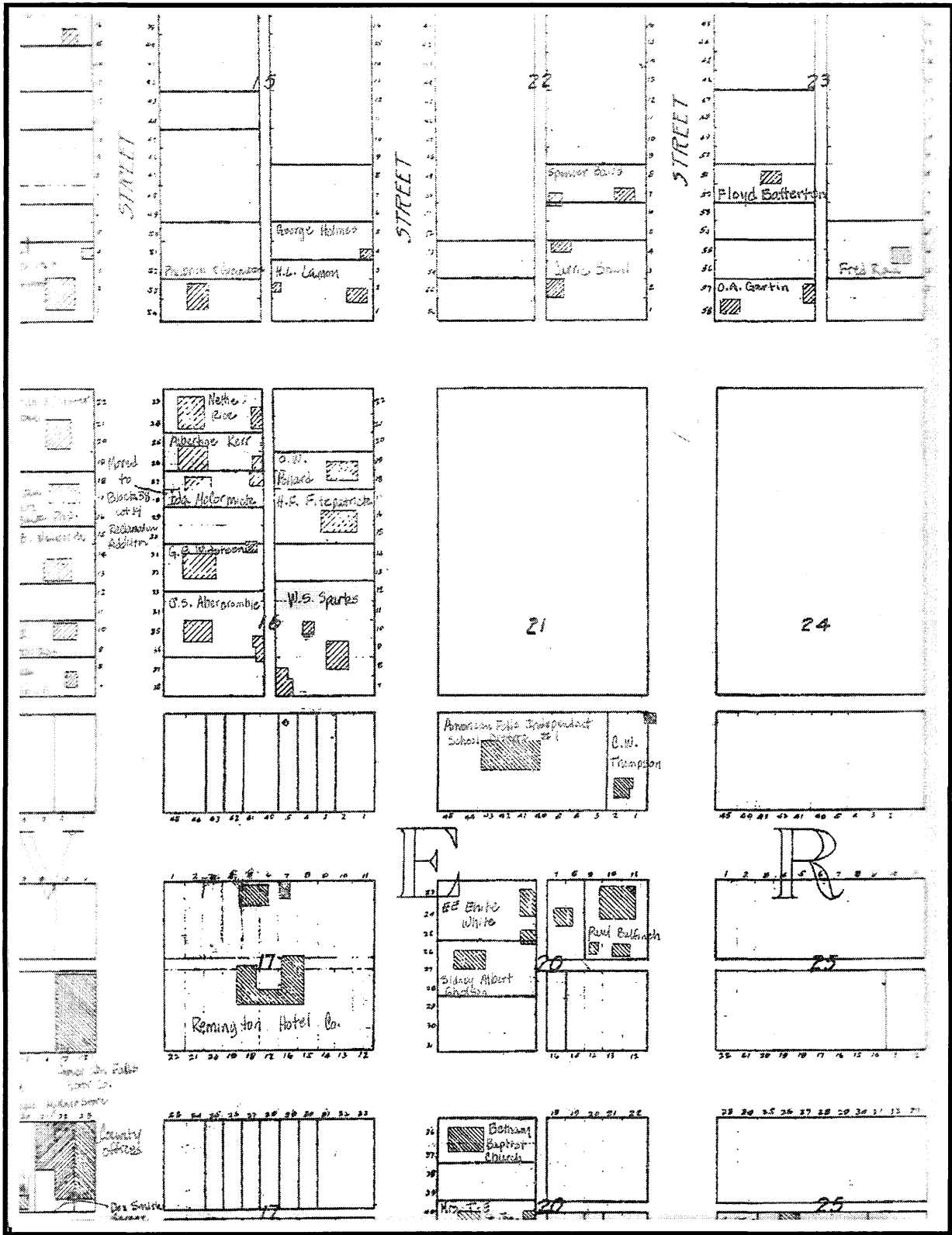
**Sparks House  
408 Roosevelt**



Sparks House in original location opposite School on April 3, 1911.



Late 1925 Photograph showing Sparks rear addition in place on extreme right of photo. View to the north overlooking the town square (Bureau of Reclamation Photograph).



Original location of Walter Sparks House on 1920 Sanborn Map as identified by Valerie Hoybjerg.