

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED SEP 17 1976

DATE ENTERED JUL 1 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Ellensburg Historic District

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

3rd Ave, Main St, Ruby St, 6th Ave

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Ellensburg

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

4th - Mike McCormack

STATE

Washington

VICINITY OF

CODE
53

COUNTY

Kittitas

CODE

037

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Multiple

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Kittitas County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Ellensburg

STATE
Washington

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

none

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Ellensburg, population 13,700, is located in the Kittitas Valley along the east slope of the Cascade Mountains near the geographic center of Washington State. It is a crossroads community at the junction of Interstate Highways 82 and 90, on U. S. Highway 97 and State Highways 10 and 131. The valley is a prosperous agricultural and stock raising district surrounded on four sides by mountain ranges that diminish to the southeast. Meandering down from the Cascades across the valley floor, the Yakima River is the basin's principal drainage with a system of branching creeks that join it from all directions. The land area immediately surrounding Ellensburg has a rolling or gently sloping topography, but the town site itself is quite flat.

The climate is considered semi-arid, although large scale irrigation of the bottom land produces good yields of hay, alfalfa, wheat, oats, barley, potatoes, peas and apples. Crops such as hay and alfalfa require comparatively little irrigation and the natural grassy ground cover makes the uncultivated acreage most suitable for grazing. Beef cattle are the major agricultural enterprise in the county accounting for roughly 80% of all farm income. Annual precipitation is less than nine inches and the sky is generally clear or partly cloudy from April until October.

Ellensburg encompasses approximately 2,500 acres of land, or nearly four square miles. Forty percent of this land is developed in residential neighborhoods. Street rights-of-way occupy an additional twenty percent. Central Washington State College has a generous 170 acre campus located immediately northeast of the central business district and within the city itself.

Downtown Ellensburg is an area encompassing about 16 square blocks, a major portion of which is the 20 acre historic district. The buildings are predominantly one or two story brick commercial structures with shop fronts and taverns at the street level and rooms or office space above. With few exceptions these buildings were constructed between 1889 and 1917. Slightly less than half of the surviving structures were planned and completed within a single year when Ellensburg hurriedly rebuilt following a fire on July 4, 1889 that consumed 10 blocks of the city's downtown. The remainder were added later over a period of years after nearly a decade of inactivity brought on by a serious economic depression that put an end to plans for further expansion. The recovery began in 1897, although none of the more recent buildings pre-dates 1900.

The primary and secondary historic structures of the district typify modest scale commercial building in the American West between 1889 and 1930. A definite stylistic categorization would be somewhat misleading for most of Ellensburg's buildings in that they represent the work of local carpenter-builders untrained in architecture who have introduced personal variations that do not conform to any particular style. A few buildings like the Cadwell Block, which is also known as the "Horseshoe Block", show remarkable freedom in their unconventional fenestration and cornice work giving a unique "Western" quality to the design. Generally, the earlier structures are Italianate in spirit with hooded arches, complex pilasters, a wide decorative frieze (either 'sheet' metal or corbelled brick) overscaled brackets and a projecting cornice. The cornice is often interrupted by a false gable inscribed with the name of the building and its date of construction.

After the depression, a more anonymous architectural treatment was generally used that might be classified Commercial Style except for the small scale. Structural openings are either flat arched or lintelled, although segmental and semicircular arches persist on some upper stories. The use of decorative brickwork is very restricted with little relief

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED SEP 17 1976

DATE ENTERED JUL 1 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

in the wall plane other than strip pilasters and a simple corbelled cornice. The use of pressed sheet metal is essentially eliminated. Typical examples are the Fitterer Building, Webster Hotel, Odd Fellows Building and Collins Block.

The more interesting buildings from this period include the Zwicker Building in the Second Renaissance Revival style and the adjoining Neo-Classical Farmers Bank Building at the corner of Fifth and Pearl Streets -- completed in 1912 and 1911, respectively. The facade of the Zwicker Building is pressed brick with most of the conservative architectural characteristics noted above except that it is organized in a very simple but effective Renaissance-inspired design. Quoins and second story architraves are executed in exposed brick. The Farmers Bank Building is a full-blown and fairly cosmopolitan example of the style skillfully executed in smooth-dressed Tenino sandstone. Solid stone columns, pilasters, a massive cornice and crowning balustrade are typical of a number of banks and federal buildings found in cities throughout the northwest dating from the same period.

Built in 1930 as the National Bank of Ellensburg, the Ellensburg City Hall is an elegant example of Modernistic design. Also faced in sandstone and situated on a corner lot, it is a striking stylistic contrast to the nearby Farmers Bank Building located diagonally across the intersection. The City Hall is elaborately carved with a combination of geometric and curvilinear decorations against a flat background of smooth stone blocks.

In recent years Ellensburg has been subject to many of the same pressures that afflict other small and medium sized cities. Strip development and franchise businesses are gradually drawing retail trade away from the downtown area. In an effort to modernize, most of the shop owners have to some extent remodeled their buildings to the detriment of the historic qualities. These alterations are usually confined to the ground floor with the upper stories left untouched. In some cases the brickwork has been painted, windows are boarded up and signs and fire escapes have been installed, but generally the buildings have received a minimum of destructive alterations above the street level. The store fronts, however, have been extensively re-worked, often with structural modifications that required the complete removal of all original materials. On some larger buildings occupied by several different shops, each of the entrances has received an entirely different treatment. This makes it difficult to distinguish one structure from the next without looking at the second story. In the most extreme cases (of which there are fortunately very few) the entire building has been sheathed in corrugated aluminum or a similar facing material. Fortunately, of the 63 buildings surveyed, less than five have been so extensively modified. A number of shop fronts remain intact and a good photographic record exists as a basis for restoration of missing features. There is a growing awareness of the value of these buildings, and property owners are beginning to consider the desirability of returning to the original design wherever possible.

In spite of its somewhat compromised integrity, the Ellensburg Historic District retains the essential physical characteristics of an early 20th Century Eastern Washington

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	SEP 17 1976
DATE ENTERED	JUL 1 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

cattlemen's town. In this respect it is quite unusual. Other small cities in the area have more extensively redeveloped their older downtown areas to the extent that, although isolated structures do survive, random new construction dominates the streetscape. Ellensburg retains a definite sense of community that is in a large part dependent on its historic buildings.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	SEP 17 1976
DATE ENTERED	JUL 1 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 4

Primary Structures

Cadwell Building	114 East 3rd	1889	#1
Shoudy-Cadwell Block	301-313 North Main	1889	#8
Geiger-Woods Building	315-317 North Main	1889	#9
Masonic Temple	111 West Sixth	1890	#17
Kreidel Block	107 East Third	1889	#21
S. R. Geddis Block	109 West Third	1889	#27
Arcade Building	310-318 North Main	1889	#29
Blumauer-Webb Block	320 North Main	1889	#30
Fitterer Brothers Block	Fourth & Main	1908	#31
Castle Building	Fourth & Main	1890	#32
Elks Lodge	111 West Fifth	1923	#35
Farmers Bank Building	501 North Pearl	1911	#38
Lynch Block	421-423 North Pearl	1888	#39
Davidson Block	401-406 North Pearl	1889	#47
G. R. Stewart Building	408-410 North Pearl	1889	#48
National Bank of Ellensburg	418 North Pearl	1930	#51
Federal Building	208 East Fourth	1916	#60

Secondary Structures

Majestic Hotel	102-104 West Third	1909	#4
T. W. Farrell Block	106 West Third	1908	#5
Moose Lodge	110 West Third	c.1910	#6
New York Cafe	116 West Third	1911	#7
Pearson Building	319-323 North Main	1908	#10
Jim Ramsey Block	405 North Main	c.1910	#12
B. F. Reed Block	407 North Main	1910	#13
Commercial building	411 North Main	c.1910	#15
Butterfield Garage	425 North Main	c.1920	#16
Bungalow	109 West Sixth	c.1915	#18
Greyhound Garage	110 West Sixth	c.1930	#19
Audion Theater	105 East Third	1889 & 1935	#22
Kreidel Block	Third & Pearl	1889	#23
Barbershop	107 Third	c.1910	#26
Commercial building	408-410 North Main	c.1910	#33
Commercial building	505 North Pearl	c.1910	#36
Zwicker Block	503 North Pearl	c.1912	#37
Cadwell Block	413 North Pearl	1889	#41
Boss Bakery	309 North Main	1889	#43
Kleinberg Building	307 North Main	1889	#44
Smithson Building	310 North Main	1906	#45
Wilson Building	412 North Pearl	1889	#49
Ramsay Building	414-416 North Pearl	1901	#50

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED SEP 17 1976
JUL 1 1977
DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 5

Commercial Building	115-117 West Fourth	c.1910	#52
Commercial Building	113 West Fourth	c.1910	#53
Bank Saloon Building	106 West Fourth	c.1889	#54
Fish Block	112-114 East Fourth	1889 & 1930's	#56
Collins Block	118 East Fourth	1910	#57
Odd Fellows Building	305-307 North Pine	1913	#58
Commercial Building	314 North Pine	c.1900	#61
Commercial Building	308-310 North Pine	c.1900	#62

Compatible Structures

McCullough Music	112 East Third		#2
Owl Drug Store	301 North Pearl	1890 & 1950's	#24
Valley Cafe	105 West Third	1910 & 1930's	#25
Lyons Block	111-115 West Third	1889 & 1960's	#28
Commercial Building	412 North Main		#34
Commercial Building	312-314 North Main	1920's	#46
Ben Snipe's Bank Building	108-110 East Fourth	1889 & 1950's	#55
Commercial Building	200 East Fourth	1946	#59
Commercial Building	308 North Pine	1910 & 1960's	#63

Intrusions

Post Office	110 East Third		#3
Daily Record Building	403 North Main	1910 & 1960's	#11
Western Steel Fabricators	409 North Main		#14
Theatre	109 East Third	1890 & 1960's	#20
Commercial Building	419 North Pearl	1924 & 1960's	#40
Geddis Block	311-321 North Pearl	1889 & 1964	#42

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The first permanent settlement in the Kittitas Valley other than a scattering of isolated homesteads, was a trading post established in 1870 by Jack Splawn and Ben Burch near the confluence of Wilson Creek and the Yakima River. This location was chosen by Splawn because cattle drovers often camped there when passing through the area and it was a crossroads for trails to other parts of the territory. There was an existing cabin nearby constructed four years earlier by William "Bud" Wilson (referred to in one source as "Wilson, the renegade") who was then living with the local Indian population. Wilson is said to have died in 1869 while crossing the Snake River with stolen horses. Splawn and Burch purchased a 14 by 18 foot hewn log house and relocated it near what is now the northwest corner of Third and Main Streets in Ellensburg. They stocked the trading post with merchandise hauled on a freight wagon from The Dalles, Oregon, which was the nearest supply center. The building was filled to capacity -- Splawn later wrote that he would have to sell "first the goods nearest the door and gradually work (his) way in". A friend, John Gillispie, volunteered to letter a sign for the store which he nailed in place before Splawn approved the wording. The sign read "Robbers Roost" -- a name that stuck and for a number of years it identified the little community of settlers that gradually began to arrive there. The store was further distinguished, according to an early account, by a large bull's head that hung over the door. In 1871 Splawn sold the business to John A. Shoudy and William Dennis. Shoudy came to the Kittitas Valley across Snoqualmie Pass from Seattle where he operated a draying company. A brother-in-law and former employee of Dexter Horton, Shoudy was at the time working on improvements to the arduous trail over the Cascade Mountains through Snoqualmie Pass. This was then the only practical route direct from Puget Sound to the interior of the territory. Shoudy recognized that the little settlement at Robbers Roost was strategically located along the road at a ford in the Yakima River.

With the trading post, Shoudy acquired 160 acres of land. In 1872 he built a second log structure, 16 x 24 feet, that served as a warehouse. It had two stories and the upper floor served as a church and public meeting room. Later that year a neighboring blacksmith shop was opened by Jacob Becker and a small number of residences were completed. This nucleus of buildings later became the City of Ellensburg.

Shoudy commissioned a civil engineer in 1873 to survey 80 acres of his holdings for the plat of a townsite. Shoudy and his wife Mary Ellen filed the plat July 20, 1875 in Yakima, the county seat (Kittitas County was not separated from Yakima County until nine years later). They named the town "Ellensburg" after Mrs. Shoudy. The final "h" was eventually deleted at the request of the Post Office Department in 1894.

The 80 acre townsite was divided into 24 blocks with block eight reserved for a future courthouse. Streets that ran east and west were designated First through Seventh; streets oriented north and south were named Water, Main, Pearl, and Pine. They offered lots for sale priced at \$2.00 for each home site and \$10.00 for commercial properties. John Shoudy

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Beardsley, Arthur S. Early Efforts to Locate the Capitol of Washington Territory.
Vol. 32, No. 3. July 1941, pp. 239-287.

Mohler, Samuel. Boom Days in Ellensburg, 1888-1891. Vol. 36, No. 4. October 1945.
pp. 290-308.

continued on attached sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 20 *Thompson Under*

UTM REFERENCES

DA	1,0	6,8,6	3,9,0	5,2,0,7	6,7,0	AB	1,0	6,8,6	7,5,0	5,2,0,7	6,8,0
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING
BC	1,0	6,8,6	7,9,0	5,2,0,7	2,4,0	CB	1,0	6,8,6	4,3,0	5,2,0,7	2,2,0
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Those portions of the original Ellensburg townsite identified in the 1875 plat as Block 2, lots 4 and 5; Block 7 lots 1-7; Block 9, lots 6-10; Block 10, lots 1-10; Block 11, lots 1-5; Block 13, lots 1-5 and 9-10; Block 14, lots 1-10; Block 15, lots 1-10; Block 16, lots 6-10; Block 18, lots 1 and 10; Block 19, lots 1 and 10, and Block 20, lot 1.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Based on information submitted by

Larry Nickel

ORGANIZATION

Kittitas County Historical Society

DATE

July 1976

STREET & NUMBER

114 East Third Avenue

TELEPHONE

925-3778

CITY OR TOWN

Ellensburg

STATE

Washington

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

David Williams

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

September 13, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Robert B. Rettig acting

DATE

7/1/77

ATTEST:

Charles Ober...

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE 6-1-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	SEP 17 1976
DATE ENTERED	JUL 1 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

himself built the town's first frame structure, a two story building on the northwest corner of Third and Main Streets. Additional new development proceeded incrementally at first but by 1879 the settlement had grown to include a saloon and a hotel as well as a second trading post, a general store and a butcher shop. The newer trading post occupied an unused blockhouse built in 1878 as a precaution against Indian hostilities. It became known as the Stockade store.

Ellensburg and the Kittitas Valley experienced a period of more rapid growth in the following years. Transportation to the area improved and the town became an increasingly important supply center for the territory's north central interior. Stock raising to supply the markets in Seattle and Tacoma remained the most significant local industry, but intensified mining activity in the northern hills brought prosperity to Ellensburg's merchants. Hotel and saloons were well patronized by travelers and local residents. Between 1879 and 1880 the town had expanded to include another hotel, a beer hall and two more saloons, two blacksmiths, a washhouse, two wheelwrights, two carpenters, one shoemaker, one barber and a nursery. Outside of town there were four saw mills, a brickyard and brewery.

The year 1883 was one of unusually brisk real estate activity and social progress. The First National Bank of Ellensburg opened and Hook and Ladder Company No. 1 were organized. Ellensburg was incorporated and designated the temporary county seat of Kittitas County, which was separated from Yakima County by the Territorial Legislature that same year. On August 29, a fire thought to have been started by an arsonist destroyed several buildings in the business district but it was quickly brought under control preventing more extensive damage.

The Northern Pacific Railroad selected Ellensburg in 1884 as the location for a terminal and distribution center to serve the Kittitas Valley. A substantial real estate subsidy was granted to the railroad by local property owners as an inducement to construct a depot on an extension of Third Street within a half mile of Main. As anticipated the Northern Pacific's decision created a wave of business and real estate speculation followed closely by intense building activity. With the enthusiastic support of the local newspaper editor, a group of citizens began a determined campaign to have the territorial capital relocated at Ellensburg.

The railroad was completed as far as Ellensburg by 1886, and in the following year it reached Puget Sound. This placed Ellensburg along the route of a direct transcontinental rail connection with access to markets and manufacturing centers in both directions. By then the town's population had nearly doubled to about 1200 residents. In 1887 73 new homes were built, numerous businesses opened, the county constructed a brick courthouse and the railroad completed its round-house and machine shops.

The following year the population doubled again. Over 225 homes, nine brick business blocks, one cut stone structure and an opera house added to the existing stock of buildings. Franchises were awarded by the City Council for gas, telephone and electric light utilities,

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	SEP 17 1976
DATE ENTERED	JUL 1 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

and the first public fairground was built.

The majority of Ellensburg's buildings were frame construction due, in part, to the relatively high cost of lime which was not available locally until the completion of the railroad. When sufficient lime could be brought in at an affordable price, masonry structures became a possibility. There were soon two brickyards outside of town manufacturing materials for local use.

A fire broke out on July 4, 1889 in a store on the east side of Main Street between Fourth and Fifth. As a local historian later described it, the building "melted like wax" in the intense flames. The fire was spread by a gale force wind until eventually over two hundred homes and 10 entire blocks of the business district were completely destroyed. Ellensburg, however, was in a period of unprecedented prosperity. Earlier in the year an unimproved corner lot was sold to a speculator for \$15,000. Between 1888 and 1891 25 additions to the city were platted. Redevelopment after the fire began almost immediately using "fireproof" brick construction. One year later Ellensburg's total frontage of brick commercial buildings amounted to 3,650 lineal feet. Most of these structures were by then complete and occupied with ninety-two stores and several hundred offices and rooms.

The real estate boom was brief, however, and by the summer of 1890 many of the town's businessmen were over-extended. Several businesses failed, and the local economy sagged. A \$200,000 municipal bond issue was passed for the construction of a water works and sewer system, the city purchased the existing electric utility, and a new public school was built in an effort to counter the downward trend. In 1891 what was thought to be a large iron deposit was "discovered" at a location convenient to the railroad and only 20 miles from Ellensburg. Although various plans to develop mines and a foundry fell through, (the discovery itself later proved to be false), reports in the newspaper helped to revive the town's hopes for an improvement in economic conditions. The depression of 1893 that followed convinced even the most optimistic editorialist that hard times had set in.

One positive development during these years was the establishment of the Washington State Normal School by the first state legislature in 1890. Ellensburg was designated as the school's location and classes were held in September of the following year. Now known as the Central Washington State College, an increasing student enrollment has had a stabilizing effect on many local businesses. There have also been important cultural dividends that have contributed to the quality of life in the surrounding community.

A general recovery from the depression began to take effect throughout the Northwest in 1897. Commercial activity picked up in Ellensburg and a gradual improvement in economic conditions lead to a period of conservative new development in the downtown business district. Several major buildings were constructed between the turn of the century and the First World War including the Ramsay Building, Fitterer Brothers Building, Webster Hotel, Farmers Bank, and a new brick Northern Pacific Depot nearly 170 feet in length.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED SEP 17 1976
DATE ENTERED JUL 1 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 4

Since the armistice, new construction has conformed in most respects to overall national patterns. Outside of the business district, the city has experienced a gradual expansion interrupted only by the Depression of the 1930's and the Second World War. A few scattered commercial buildings have been added within the business district, although most visible changes there amount to inept face liftings or the demolition of older structures without replacing them.

Ellensburg's economy remains remarkably stable at present aided by the expanding State college, with a current student population of 6,500, and a continuing role as the trading center for the surrounding agricultural and stock-raising community. Also, a major interstate freeway passes just outside the city limits. There it connects with other highways that branch in opposite directions maintaining Ellensburg's original status as a crossroads settlement.

The Ellensburg Historic District includes a concentration of predominantly brick commercial buildings that represent two distinct periods of construction activity. The older buildings date from the brief but intense redevelopment of the city's central business district that followed the calamitous fire of 1889. Most of these structures were planned and completed within a single year.

The relatively newer buildings were erected after nearly a decade of economic hardship that curtailed further new construction in the early 1890's.

During the years following the arrival of the Northern Pacific Railroad in 1886, Ellensburg was among the fastest growing cities in the Territory in competition with Seattle, Tacoma, and Spokane. The surviving buildings in the historic district reflect these years of great prosperity and as well as the eventual recovery from a sharp decline in business.

Although many of the buildings have altered store fronts, and a few have been remodeled beyond recognition, the Ellensburg Historic District is the most convincing physical evidence of the city's former significance as a commercial center. This district also includes many of the best surviving examples of buildings in the relatively sophisticated architectural styles favored by the builders of a booming inland trading center that served the farmers, miners and cattlemen of Washington's central interior.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	SEP 17 1976
DATE ENTERED	JUL 1 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

- Splawn, Andrew Jackson, Kamiakin, Caldwell, Idaho; The Caxton Printers Ltd. 1958.
- Kennedy, G. W., The Pioneer Campfire, Portland, Oregon; Marsh Printing Company, 1913.
- Lyman, W. D., History of the Yakima Valley, Vol. I and II. S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1919.
- Shiach, William Sidney et al. An Illustrated History of Kilickitat, Yakima and Kittitas Counties. Spokane: Interstate Publishing Company, 1904.

Ellensburg, H.D.

Kittitas Co. ^{EAF}
Washington ^{2/17/77}
C/O

④ SCHULTZ & FAUST
R.E. RUDOLPH BOX 300
ELLENSBURG WASH. 98926
E 401 1 1
ELLENS ORIG ALL 6&7 16
T 1&2 L 8

⑤ PONDEROSA PROPERTIES--TO BOYD
OLAFSON & CO.--P.O. BOX 460
ELLENSBURG WN. 98926 1-72
E 401 1 1
ELLENS ORIG
E 50' N½ L 1 S½ L 1 N½ L 2 B 11

⑦ RICHARD KWANG
116 W. 3RD AVE.
ELLENSBURG WA. 1-135
E 401 1 1
ELLENS ORIG T 11 18
1&2

⑥ LOYAL ORDER OF MOOSE 494
110 W. 3RD
ELLENSBURG WASH. 98926
E 401 1 1
ELLENS ORIG T 12 18
1&2

⑤ LOUIS BENDER
RTE. 3 - BOX 53B
ELLENSBURG WASH. 98926
E 401 1 1
ELLENS ORIG T 9 18
9&10

④ WILLIAM R. RICE
21 CHAMITH LANE
ELLENSBURG WN. 98926
E 401 1 1
ELLS ORIG T 7 L 8&9 18
T 10 L 9 T 8 L 9&10

③ R. S. ACHESON
RTE. 1
ELLENSBURG WN. 98926
E 401 1 1
ELLENS ORIG LOTS 1-4 TX 11
LOT 5 BLK. 19

② H. KENNETH MCCULLOUGH
ROUTE 5
ELLENSBURG WA. 98926 1-151
E 401 1 1
ELLENS ORIG W 30 19
L 9&10

① KITTITAS CO. HISTORICAL SOCIETY
% PNBW TRUST 975
YAKIMA WA. 98907 1-150
E 401 1 1
ELLENS ORIG E 90' 19
L 9&10

⑤⑥⑦ City of Ellensburg
Ellensburg School District #401
Ellensburg Telephone Co.
(LAST PAGE)
SUPERINTENDENT

RECEIVED
JAN 21 1977
ARCHAEOLOGY AND
HISTORIC PRESERVATION

EARL H. CLARK, MAYOR

TAX REFORM ACT

FEB 17 1977

EFB 2/2/77

25-26
PAK FUNG YICK HUIE
704 E. 4TH
ELLENSBURG WN. 98926
E 401 1 1
ELLENS ORIG T5 L6&7 15

16 PAUTZKE BAIT CO INC.
PO BOX 36
ELLENSBURG WA. 98926 1-61
E 401 1 1
ELLENS ORIG 10 9

24 DAVID LANCE RODRICK ET AL 3499
301 NO. PEARL
ELLENSBURG WA. 98926 -115
E 401 1 1
ELLENS ORIG T6 L6&7 15

14-15 PAUTZKE BAIT CO. INC. AFF 3208
P.O. BOX 36
ELLENSBURG WA. 98926 1-60
E 401 1 1
ELLENS ORIG 9 9

21, 22, 23
JOHN H. LEE
P.O. BOX 1057
EPHRATA WA. 98823 CARD 101
E 401 1 1
ELLENS ORIG T 7 15 8 14

13 HEINRICH AUTO PARTS INC AFF 1192
405 N MAIN
ELBG WA 98926 1-59
E 401 1 1
ELLENS ORIG 8 9

20 L.J. GEHLEN ESTATE - U/W TRUST DP.
PAC. NT'L BNK. OF WA. P.O. BOX 497
YAKIMA WA. 98907 1-102
E 401 1 1
ELLENS ORIG T9 14

12 HEINRICH AUTO PARTS INC.
405 N. MAIN ST.
ELLENSBURG WA. 1-58
E 401 1 1
ELLENS ORIG 7 9

Theater
109 E. 3rd

11 J. C. KAYNOR
1003 E. 4TH AVE.
ELLENSBURG WASH. 98926 1-57
E 401 1 1
ELLENS ORIG 6 9

19 ELLENSBURG LODGE 1102 B.P.O.E.
5TH & MAIN
ELLENSBURG WASH. 98926 1-47
E 401 1 1
ELLENS ORIG L1 THRU 5 7

10 TED BUGNI ET UX
STAR RTE. 2
CLE ELUM WA. 98922 1-129
E 401 1 1
ELLENS ORIG 10 16

18 KELLEHER MOTOR CO.
ELLENSBURG WN. 98926 1-10
E 401 1 1
ELLENS ORIG 6 & 7 2

9 LYLE D. HEATON AFF 5302
BOX 281
ELLENSBURG WA. 98926 1-128
E 401 1 1
ELLENS ORIG T6 9 16

17 MASONIC LODGE NO. 39F & AM
BOX 394
ELLENSBURG WASH. 98926 1-9
E 401 1 1
ELLENS ORIG T 1&4 L 4&5 2

9 PAUL J. FISCHER AFF 13331
315 N. MAIN
ELLENSBURG WA. 98926 1-127
E 401 1 1
ELLENS ORIG T5 9 16

17 C & W PRIPERTIES AFF 2367
P.O. BOX 162
YAKIMA WA. 98907 1-8
E 401 1 1
ELLS. ORIG S1 L3 2
TX 2 L4
TX 3 L5

5 JAMES HOWELL
313 N. MAIN
ELLENSBURG WASH. 98926
E 401 1 1
ELLENS ORIG T3&4 L8&9 16

(45) WOODS HARDWARE INC.
310 N. PEARL ST.
ELLENSBURG WA. CARD 100
E 401 1 1
ELLENS ORIG T 4 5 6 14

(36-37) KITTITAS COUNTY TITLE CO.
P.O BOX 578
ELLENSBURG WA. 98926 1-50
E 401 1 1
ELLENS ORIG T11 OF 7 7

(44) CHARLTON-KIMBALL CO.
LAST ON BOTTOM
OF PAGE
E 401 1 1
ELLENS ORIG T7 L7 15

(33-34) JOHNSON & CALKINS
410 N. MAIN
ELLENSBURG WN. 98926 1-63
E 401 1 1
ELLENS ORIG ALL OF LOT 3
S $\frac{1}{2}$ 2 BLK 10

(43) FRANK E. ERICKSON AFF. 1727
309 N. PEARL
ELLENSBURG WA. 98926 1-117
E 401 1 1
ELLENS ORIG T8 L8 15

(32) Repeat
PONDEROSA PROPERTIES INC.
1-66
E 401 1 1
ELLENS ORIG T2 10
4&5

(42) (54) BECKWITH HUBBELL
812 E. 6TH AVE.
ELLENSBURG WN. 98926
E 401 1 1
ELLENS ORIG T9 L8 15
ALL 9&10

(31) FITTNER BROTHERS
4TH & MAIN
ELLENSBURG WASH. 98926 1-107
E 401 1 1
ELLENS ORIG 1 15

(41) PAUTZKE BAIT CO INC AFF: 5087
PO BOX 36
ELLENSBURG WA 98926 1-69
E 401 1 1 Repeat
ELLENS ORIG 6 7 8 10

(30) MILO M. MARTENSEN
ROUTE 2
ELLENSBURG WN. 98926 1-108
E 401 1 1
ELLENS ORIG 2 15
TX 13 L 3

(40) DEAN W. HOCKER
417 N. PEARL ST.
ELLENSBURG WA. 98926 1-70
E 401 1 1
ELLENS ORIG 9 10

(39) FRANK ZIFMBA
RT. 5 BOX 299
ELLENSBURG WA. CARD 109
E 401 1 1
ELLENS ORIG.
TX 11 & 12 L 3 TX 10 L 4 15

(39) E.V. LOOSIER SR.
N 10006 DIVISION
SPOKANE WN. 99218 1-71
E 401 1 1
ELLENS ORIG 10 10

(38) WYLENE MORGAN AFF 2548
2101 N ALDER
ELLENSBURG WASH. 98926 1-111
E 401 1 1
ELLENS ORIG T2 L4&5 15
T3 L5

(37) KITTITAS COUNTY TITLE CO.
Repeat 1-49
E 401 1 1
ELLENS ORIG
T13 OF 6 12 OF 7 7

(37) CHARLTON-KIMBALL CO.
500 S. PINE
ELLENSBURG WN. 98926
E 401 1 1
ELLENS ORIG T4 6&7 15

EA 1/12/77

(53) DANO CONE & FRASER
P.O BOX 499
ELLENSBURG WA. 98926 1-152
E 401 1 1
ELLENS ORIG 1&2 20

Ben Snipe's
Bank Bldg
108-1010 E. 4th St.

(55) NATIONAL BANK OF WASH.
COMPTROLLERS DEPT. P.O. BOX 160
SEATTLE WA. 98111 1-97
E 401 1 1
ELLENS ORIG T1 14

(64) ELLENSBURG TELEPHONE CO.
305 N. RUBY
ELLENSBURG WA. 98926 1-91-A
E 401 1 1
ELLS ORIG TAX 4 OF 4
S LOT 4
BLK 13 L01 5

(53) LARRY E. SHARPE ET AL AFF 3980
117 W. 11TH
ELLENSBURG WA. 98926 1-68
E 401 1 1
ELLENS ORIG T4 10
4&5

(62) DONALD F. JONES
308 1/2 N. PINE
ELLENSBURG WA. 98926 -944
E 401 1 1
ELLENS ORIG L3 T1 13

(52) ANDREW J. LIENBACK
117 W. 4TH AVE.
ELLENSBURG WN. 98926 1-67-1
E 401 1 1
ELLS ORIG
PTN. LT.4&5 TX 5 BLK. 10

(61) DONALD F. JONES
308 1/2 N. PINE
ELLENSBURG WA. 98926 1-93
E 401 1 1
ELLENS ORIG ALL 2 T3 L3 13

~~BONDEROSA PROP INC TO BOYD
OLAFSON & CO P O BOX 460
ELLENSBURG WA 98926 TR 1-72-1
E 401 1 1
ELLENS ORIG
ST LOT 2 BLK 11~~

(59) J. H. MC CORMACK M. D.
119 HARVARD EST.
SEATTLE WN. 98102 1-92
E 401 1 1
ELLENS ORIG 1 13

(49) H.R. TRUBSHAW
410 1/2 N. PEARL
ELLENSBURG WASH. 98926 1-73
E 401 1 1
ELLENS ORIG N 1/3 11

(52) I.O.O.F. LODGE
P O BOX 154
ELLENSBURG WASH. 98926 1-103
E 401 1 1
ELLENS ORIG. T10 14

(44) PAUTZKE BAIT CO- INC. Repeat
P.O. BOX 36
ELLENSBURG WN. 98926 1-74
E 401 1 1
ELLENS ORIG N14 11
S 1/3

(57) WILLIS STRANGE-OTTO K. WILLIAMS
504 N. PINE
ELLENSBURG WN. 98926 1-104
E 401 1 1
ELLENS ORIG T12 14

(44) MARCELLA S. CARLSON
885 W. HWY. 36 APT. 303
ST. PAUL MINN. 55113 1-75
E 401 1 1
ELLENS ORIG ALL 5 11
S 1/4

(56) Rasco STORES
P.N.B.W. TRUST DEPT
BOX 158 SATTERWHITE TRUST
ELLENSBURG WA. 98926 1-105
E 401 1 1
ELLENS ORIG T13 14

(46) FRED HANSON JR.
RT. 1
ELLENSBURG WASH. 98926 1-99
E 401 1 1
ELLENS ORIG T3 14

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

Ellensburg Historic District Kittitas County, WASHINGTON

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVAL
(Name change) - to

*Downtown Ellensburg
Historic District*

Keeper

for Melvyn Byer 3/13/91