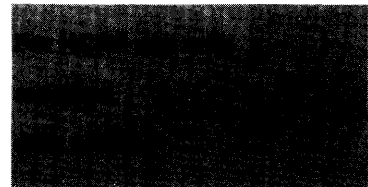


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

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



2

1. Name

historic N/A
and/or common Weston Commercial Historic District

2. Location

street & number East Main Streets, between Water and Broad Streets, N/A not for publication
city, town Weston N/A vicinity of congressional district Second
state Oregon code 41 county Umatilla code 059

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Various, See Inventory
street & number N/A
city, town N/A N/A vicinity of state N/A

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Umatilla County Courthouse
street & number 4th and Court Street
city, town Pendleton state Oregon 97801

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Statewide Inventory of
title Historic Properties has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date 1982 federal state county local
depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office
city, town Salem state Oregon 97310

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" 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 <u>N/A</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ -acre Weston Commercial Historic District is the historic business core of the small agricultural community of Weston in northeastern Oregon. It extends two blocks on both sides of Main Street between Water Street on the west and Broad Street on the east, to include all of the town's brick masonry commercial buildings and a few others ranging in date, essentially, from 1890 to 1900. The center of the district is the intersection of Main and Franklin Streets, and Pine Creek flows in a northerly direction at the westerly end of the district. Of the 13 buildings in the district, the most imposing is the two-story Farmer's Bank of Weston Building with its cast iron front. With a few notable exceptions, ground story shop front remodelings are typical. The buildings are one and two stories in height, and the 10 brick masonry buildings exemplify the simplified Italianate Style typical of small towns throughout the American West in the late 19th century. The oldest of the buildings making up the district is that which is now known as the Weston Mercantile Building. Believed to have been built in the 1870s, it survived the fire of October 17, 1883 which destroyed the entire business portion of the town. Indeed, it may pre-date the first of Weston's devastating fires, that which occurred in July of 1874 and burned nearly all the town north of Main Street except "Saling and Reese's brick store." Because most of the buildings date from the last decade of the 19th century, the typical period of development now represented in the district, there are 10 buildings in the primary category. While the wood framed D and F Cafe dates from the secondary period of development following 1910, and would ordinarily be classified accordingly, it has been remodeled with plate glass and stucco and is now more appropriately placed in the compatible category. The district includes only one secondary building, an Arts and Crafts cottage dating from 1900-1905; one non-historic or intrusive building, the freestanding cement-block Dot Supply and Post Office Building of 1960, and two vacant lots.

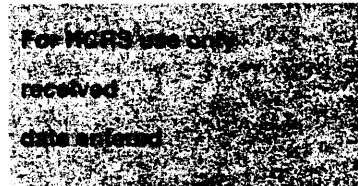
The town of Weston is located approximately 10 miles south of Milton-Freewater, Oregon and 18 miles south of Walla Walla, Washington, in the northeastern corner of Umatilla County. It is approximately 21 miles west/northwest of Pendleton, Oregon, the county seat of Umatilla County and is situated at the base of the Blue Mountains on Pine Creek, approximately three miles east of Oregon Highway 11. Highway 11 runs from Pendleton to Milton-Freewater and northward. Oregon Highway 204, the Tollgate-Elgin Highway, intersects with it north of Weston. From its intersection with Highway 11, Highway 204 runs east over the Blue Mountains to Elgin, LaGrande and the Wallowa Valley on the easterly side of the Blue Mountains.

Old Highway 11, now known as Bannister Road or the Old Athena Highway, runs easterly from Athena, Oregon to the southeast city limits of Weston. There, it becomes Water Street during its traverse through the city of Weston, extending the entire north-south length of the town. It intersects with New Highway 11 approximately three miles north of the Weston city limits. It was in 1963, that the Oregon Highway Department placed New Highway 11 approximately three miles north of town, thus effectively cutting Weston off from the main flow of traffic between Pendleton and Milton-Freewater.

Main Street in Weston runs east and west and, at one time, was part of the old Tollgate-Elgin Highway. That is to say, Old Highway 11 turned east on East Main Street in Weston, and the highway continued up the Blue Mountains through Weston. Therefore, travelers between Pendleton and either Milton-Freewater or Elgin-LaGrande were required

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



Continuation sheet

Item number

7

Page 1

to pass through the Weston Commercial Historic District.

Cement sidewalks extend along Main Street in the commercial district, and parking is allowed on both sides of the street. Street trees have been planted in sidewalk planters at a spacing of 50 to 75 feet. Street trees were typical on Main Street before streets were paved and board sidewalks replaced after 1920.

The epicenter of the district and the town is the intersection of Main and Franklin Streets. In Weston's heyday, the intersection was marked by a water fountain surmounted by a cast iron figure of a boy holding a fish. Traffic along what was earlier the principal route to Elgin had to detour around the fountain. In the 1950s the fountain was removed as an obstruction to traffic.

Traveling circuses, which were popular in eastern Oregon in the early years of the century, pitched their tents at the intersection of Main and Franklin when they came to Weston. In addition, early Umatilla County Pioneer Picnics and other community celebrations, such as the 1918 Armistice Day celebration, were held at this location. The Farmer's Bank of Weston is located on one corner, and, on the opposite side of Franklin Street, where the post office and hardware building now stands, was located the Marshall House, a large brick structure which, in addition to being Weston's finest hotel, housed several doctors and dentists' offices. Clearly, this intersection was the hub of town in the historic period. The sense of a focal point is still conveyed today by the three remaining historic buildings at the corners of the intersection, and particularly by the dominant Farmer's Bank of Weston Building.

Following is the inventory of 14 separately held properties in the district.

1. 103 East Main Street
(NE corner East Main Street and North Water Street)

Map #4N 35 22 AC
Code # 29-08
Tax Lot 2600

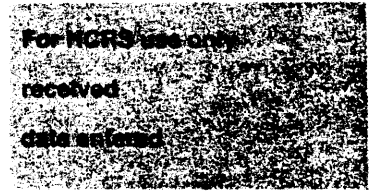
Historic name: Jarman's Department Store
Common name: Corner Market

Current owner: Robert L. and Mae Harman
PO Box 38
Weston, Oregon 97886
The Harmans are contract purchasers from:
Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Booth
Rt. 2 Box 369
Milton-Freewater, Oregon 97862

Date of Construction: c. 1895
Style: Italianate
Significance: Primary

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



Continuation sheet

Item number

7

Page

2

Description: Single story brick masonry building of locally manufactured brick, rectangular in plan. Approximate frontage on Main Street is 58 feet. Facade organized as two separate shop bays divided by continuous brick pilasters from foundation to parapet. Top of wall detailed with denticulated string course and corbeled cornice. Shop fronts remodeled. Originally, shop fronts were traditionally organized with central, recessed entrances between plate glass display windows with wood paneled bulkheads and multi-paned top lights. Rectangular glass panels over entrances were framed by square colored border lights. Later wood frame addition with a depth of two bays on Water Street. Exterior brick wall on Water Street unaltered. Openings in the Water Street facade have segmental arch heads. Door of side entrance appears to be original. East wall, having originally abutted another building, is blind.

2. 105 East Main Street

Map #4N 35 22 AC

Code # 29-08

Tax Lot 2700 (Lot 9 of Block 11, which is the westerly half of the Tax Lot, is vacant)

Common name: Blue Mountain Tavern

Current owner: Warren and Delores Ritcher
c/o Maynard J. and R. C. Iverson
PO Box 297
Weston, Oregon 97886

Date of construction: c. 1895

Style: Italianate

Significance: Primary

Description: Single story brick masonry building of locally manufactured brick, rectangular in plan. Approximate frontage on Main Street is 34 feet. Facade organized as two narrow shop bays on either side of a central entrance bay. Division of the bays and articulation of the upper facade is typical of several buildings along the street, consisting of strip pilasters, stacked plain string courses, and crowning string course with an intermediate course of cut brick laid in sawtooth fashion. The central bay is marked by a rectangular, straight-topped parapet crest. Display windows and entrance are remodeled, but paired segmental arches remain above the west bay. The west wall, having originally abutted another building, is blind. The east wall is a common wall with the adjoining Reynaud Building.

3. 107 East Main Street

Map #4N 35 22 AC

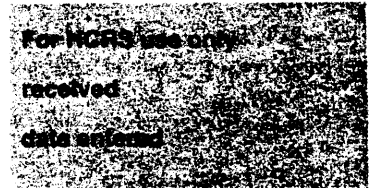
Code #29-08

Tax Lot 2800

Common name: Reynaud Building

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



Continuation sheet

Item number

7

Page 3

Current owner: Willmuth Reynaud
PO Box 323
Weston, Oregon 97886

Date of construction: c. 1895
Style: Italianate
Significance: Primary

Description: Two story brick masonry building of locally manufactured brick, rectangular in plan. Approximate frontage on Main Street is 30 feet. Facade is organized into three bays on the west with a separate, unaltered second story entrance bay on the east which is shared in common with the neighboring Prutsman Building. The six-panel door appears to be original. The ground story fronts of adjoining Reynaud and Prutsman Buildings are among the few in the district to have remained entirely unaltered. This shop front is traditionally organized with display windows with wood paneled bulkheads on either side of a central, recessed entrance. The lintel is carried by two cast iron columns. The upper story has three elongated window openings with segmental arch heads which are fitted with double-hung sash with one over one lights and fixed top lights. The second story opening over the upstairs entrance is identical. Horizontal divisions of the upper wall are articulated by stacked string courses. The west side of the facade and the upstairs entrance bay are set off by beveled pilasters running continuously from foundation to parapet. The same kind of pilasters divide the facade of the adjoining Prutsman Building into three bays. The parapet is distinguished by an inset panel of brick and a corbeled cornice.

4. 109 East Main Street

Map #4N 35 22 AC
Code # 29-08
Tax Lot 2900

Historic name: Masonic Building
Common name: Prutsman Building

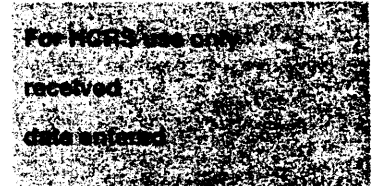
Current owner: Upper Columbia Conference, Seventh Day Adventist Church
c/o Dr. DeWayne Bruske
Route 1, Tollgate-Elgin Highway
Weston, Oregon 97886

Date of construction: c. 1895
Style: Italianate
Significance: Primary

Description: Two story brick masonry building of locally manufactured brick, rectangular in plan. Approximate frontage on Main Street is 25 feet. Facade is organized into three bays divided vertically by beveled brick pilasters rising continuously from foundation to parapet. The lower facade consists of three major

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 4

openings under segmental arches, the two outer bays being shop windows with brick bulkheads, the central bay being an entrance. This pattern is nearly identical to facade of the Old Post Office (Inventory #10). While the door is a later replacement, side lights, top lights and wood bulkheads of the entrance are original. Horizontal divisions of the second story are marked by simple string courses. Window openings are identical to those of the adjoining Reynaud Building on the west. The upper wall is finished with a pair of string courses resembling a cornice. The second story originally housed a Masonic Lodge hall, which remains intact. The ground story interior was gutted by a previous owner.

5. 111 East Main Street
(NW corner of East Main Street and North Franklin Street)

Map # 4N 35 22 AC
Code # 29-08
Tax Lot 3000

Common name: Smith Canning Company Building

Current owner: Smith Frozen Foods, Inc.
PO Box 68
Weston, Oregon 97886

Date of construction: c. 1895-1900
Significance: Primary

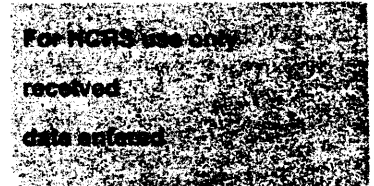
Description: Single story brick masonry building of locally manufactured brick, rectangular in plan. Approximate frontage on Main Street is 52 feet. West wall is shared in common by neighboring Prutsman Building. Rear and Franklin Street facades are brick with assorted openings with segmental arch heads. Service access to this building and its neighbors to the west is provided by a rear alley. An historic view of c. 1915-1920 (Photo No. 1 of 29) shows that the Main Street facade historically has had little or no brick structural elements. A wood lintel finished as a rudimentary classical cornice was supported, apparently, by wood posts, and traditional display windows with wood bulkheads filled the spaces between. The parapet wall appears to have been wood with a plain cornice in the "boom town" tradition, which is the simplest expression of the Italianate Style. The front has been resurfaced with stucco, and all its openings modified. The building is used for storage by the current owner.

6. 201 East Main Street
(NE corner of East Main Street and North Franklin Street)

Map #4N 35 22 AC
Code # 29-08
Tax Lot 3500

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



Continuation sheet

Item number

7

Page

5

Historic name: Saling and Reese Store
Common name: Weston Mercantile

Current owner: Leonard E. and Edith Snider
c/o Lee and Pamela Glasscock
PO Box 406
Weston, Oregon 97886

Date of construction: c. 1874 (?); 1900-1905
Style: Italianate
Significance: Primary; addition compatible

Description: This single story building of locally made brick is understood to be the oldest brick building in Weston, having survived the devastating fires of 1874 and 1883. It is rectangular in plan with an approximate frontage of 40 feet on Main Street. The facade is organized into four bays in which openings are recessed in deep reveals and were, historically, protected by iron shutters. The window treatment in these exceptionally tall reveals has been modified considerably, but the brick piers dividing the bays are intact. Segmental relieving arches articulate the spandrels above the window reveals. The upper wall is articulated with a dentilculated string course and a tall parapet with inset panels of brick and a shallow stepped crest over the two central bays. The Franklin Street facade is similarly detailed in the front six or eight feet. The rest of the wall is unadorned and pierced by three small window openings. Between 1900 and 1905 a single-story frame addition with an approximate frontage of 100 feet on Main Street was constructed on the east side. Because of the extensive alteration of the facade of the single story addition, it is separately classified for tax purposes, as compatible even though it dates from the secondary period of development in the district.

7. 206 East Main Street
(SE corner of East Main Street and North Broad Street)

Map #4N 35 22 AC
Code # 29-08
Tax Lot 6400

Historic name: Weston Opera House
Common name: Weston Memorial Hall

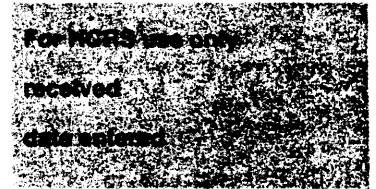
Current owner: Weston Memorial Association
206 E. Main Street
Weston, Oregon 97886
Attn: Jennabelle Vincent

Date of construction: 1895-1900; moved to present site from opposite side of Main Street 1918-1920

Style: Georgian Colonial Revival
Significance: Primary

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 6

Description: Single story wood frame building, rectangular in plan with longitudinal orientation, gable roof, small rear shed addition, shiplap siding, eaveless rear gable, boxed cornices and eaves troughs side elevations, plain corner boards and water skirt. Stylistic character conveyed by tripartite banks of double hung windows with many small panes in facade and side elevations, and by stuccoed false front which is organized with strict bilateral symmetry and detailed with paired and single pilasters with Corinthian capitals, full wood entablature and balustrade, stepped parapet covering gable peak. Central, double leaf doorway sheltered by cantilevered canopy in form of classical entablature. This building originally stood on Tax Lot 3500 on the north side of the Saling and Reese Store. Following Armistice Day in 1918, it was moved to the present site on the south side of Main Street and rededicated as a memorial to townsfolk who had served overseas during the First World War. At the time of the relocation, the building was sited on a concrete foundation and basement. Approximate frontage on Main Street is nearly 40 feet. The building is set back from the street about 25 feet, and the area planted with lawn. The main entrance is approached by concrete steps.

8. 202-204 East Main Street
(SE corner of East Main Street and North Franklin Street)

Map # 4N 35 22 AC
Code # 29-08
Tax Lot 6500

Common name: Dot Supply Building and U.S. Post Office

Current owner: Orlan and Diane Teel
PO Box 403
204 S. Water Street
Weston, Oregon 97886

Date of construction: c. 1960
Significance: Intrusive, or non-historic

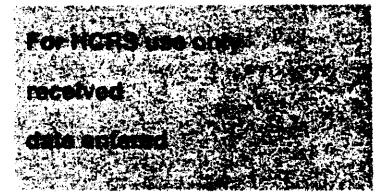
Description: Single story concrete block building, square in plan, measuring approximately 60 feet on a side. Set back from Main Street about 25 feet and surrounded on all sides by asphalt pavement. Easterly portion of building is leased to U.S. Postal Service as postal station. This is the site of the historic Marshall House, Weston's finest hostelry, a two-story brick masonry building in the Italianate Style which was torn down in the Mid-1930s.

9. 108 East Main Street
(SW corner of East Main Street and North Franklin Street)

Map # 4N 35 22 AC
Code # 29-08
Tax Lot 7000

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 7

Historic name: Farmer's Bank of Weston
Common name: City Hall/Weston Museum

Current owner: City of Weston
PO Box 427
Weston, Oregon 97886

Date of construction: 1891
Style: High Victorian Italianate
Significance: Primary

Description: This is the only brick building in the district of genuine high style employing architectural cast iron. Constructed of locally manufactured brick, the two-story building is rectangular in plan and presents a frontage of approximately 62 feet on Main Street, approximately 72 feet on Franklin Street. Openings in the ground story of the Franklin Street facade are segmental arched and are framed with architrave molding. The main entrance, a round-arched portal, is contained in a angled corner bay and is framed with a classical surround of cast iron. The ground story of the Main Street facade is arranged as conventional shop windows with cast iron columns marking off the major divisions. The westerly end of the building contains a separate shop space presently occupied by the Weston Museum. Second story openings are elongated double-hung windows under top lights with segmental arch heads and concrete lintels. The major divisions are marked by rusticated strip pilasters of brick. Inset spandrel panels occupy the spaces below the window sills. The building is exceptionally well preserved except for the loss of what is presumed to have been a galvanized sheet metal cornice from its high parapet. With the angled corner bay originally surmounted by a pedimented crest, the roofline of the Farmers Bank of Weston was the highest in town. Brick flues still stand along the east parapet but are missing their corbeled caps. The building recently housed Weston City Hall but is soon to be leased by the City as a branch of the Milton-Freewater Bank of Commerce.

10. 106 East Main Street

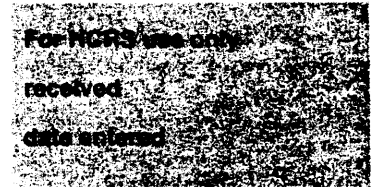
Map # 4N 35 22 AC
Code # 29-08
Tax Lot 7100

Common name: Old Post Office

Current owner: Andrea Mitchell
PO Box 96
Weston, Oregon 97886
Ms. Mitchell is a contract purchaser from:
John and Nancy Daniel
Route 3, Box 167-H
Milton-Freewater, Oregon 97862

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 8

Date of construction: c. 1895
Style: Italianate
Significance: Primary

Description: Single story brick masonry building of locally manufactured brick, rectangular in plan. Approximate frontage on Main Street is 37 feet. Facade is organized, like that of the ground story of the Prutsman Building (Inventory #4), as three major openings under segmental arches, the two outer bays being shop windows with brick bulkheads, the central bay being an entrance. Window sash and door have been replaced. Major vertical divisions are marked by beveled brick pilasters from foundation to parapet, and the upper wall is articulated by corbeled string courses, the topmost of which is denticulated. On the rear, or south wall is a frame shed addition. This building housed the U.S. Post Office in Weston from 1910 to 1960. It is presently used as a residence.

11. 104 East Main Street

Map # 4N 35 22 AC
Code # 29-08
Tax Lot 7200

Common name: Weston Public Library

Current owner: City of Weston
PO Box 427
Weston, Oregon 97886

Date of construction: c. 1900-1905
Style: Arts and Crafts
Significance: Secondary

Description: Single story frame cottage with clipped, shingled, gable roof with overhanging eaves, shiplap siding. Longer axis parallel with Main Street. Facade is symmetrically organized. Casement windows with many small panes on either side of central doorway. Plain kneed door and window framements. Clipped gablet centered above doorway has vergeboards and is supported by triangular brackets. Patterned shingles decorate wall surface of the gablet. Cottage is set back from Main Street about 15-20 feet behind strip of lawn and foundation shrubbery.

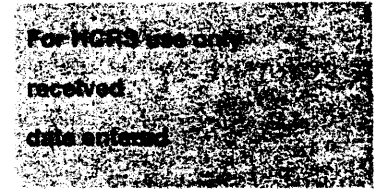
12. 102 East Main Street

Map # 4N 35 22 AC
Code # 29-08
Tax Lot 7300

Common name: D and F Cafe

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



Continuation sheet

Item number

7

Page

9

Current owner: Fairie J. Tartar
PO Box 232
Weston, Oregon 97886

Date of construction: c. 1912
Style: Vernacular, Western False Front
Significance: Compatible

Description: Single story frame building with gable roof oriented longitudinally on lot 21 feet wide. Historic views of ca. 1915-1920 show that siding and false front are shiplap and that false front had the kind of wooden cornice which made this vernacular type the simplest expression of the Italianate Style. The shop front had traditional display windows and wood bulkheads. About 1956 the exterior was comprehensively stuccoed and the cornice removed. A canopy was added to shelter the remodeled storefront in which bulkheads of plate glass windows are veneered with brick. While this property dates from the secondary period of development, it is presently classified for tax purposes as compatible owing to the effect of the 1956 alterations upon the character of the building.

13. Vacant Lot containing Pine Creek channel, East Main Street

Map # 4N 35 22 AC
Code # 29-08
Tax Lot 7400

Current owner: City of Weston
PO Box 427
Weston, Oregon 97886

This undeveloped tax lot, with its frontage of 19 feet on Main Street, contains the north-flowing Pine Creek, which meanders behind the south lot lines of properties fronting Main Street in this block until it changes course in a more northerly direction at this point. A concrete retaining wall contains the channel.

Pine Creek flows north along South Franklin Street to a point behind the south or rear wall of the Farmer's Bank of Weston Building, where it turns and flows west to the above-described city lot. There it turns and flows north again, going under East Main Street through a culvert and reappearing north of the Corner Market.

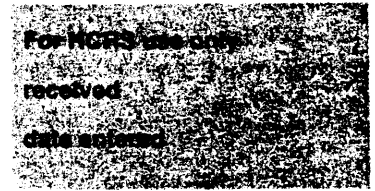
14. 100 East Main Street
(SE corner of East Main Street and North Water Street)

Map # 4N 35 22 AC
Code # 29-08
Tax Lot 7500

Common name: Polly's Antiques

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 10

Current owner: William and Polly Gipson
PO Box 405
Weston, Oregon 97886

Date of construction: c. 1895
Style: Italianate
Significance: Primary

Description: Single story brick masonry building of locally manufactured brick, on basement, rectangular in plan. Approximate frontage on Main Street is 40 feet. Main Street facade originally was identical to that of the Old Post Office (Inventory #10), with three major openings under segmental arches, according to an historic view of ca. 1915-1920. The upper wall and the Franklin Street facade, which is essentially blind, are unaltered and, like the Old Post Office, are divided vertically by beveled brick pilasters and corbeled string courses, the uppermost of which is denticulated. The Main Street storefront was altered with a large display window and angled entrance bay. The upper wall is now supported at the corner by a free standing cast iron column. In 1960 a cement block living quarters addition was added to the rear. This building historically housed a saloon, grocery store and confectionery.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1890-1900 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Weston Commercial Historic District encompasses approximately 3½ acres and is significant as the historic business core of the small agricultural community of Weston situated at the base of the Blue Mountains in northeastern Oregon. The district extends two blocks on both sides of Main Street, between Water Street on the west and Broad Street on the east, to include all of the town's brick masonry commercial buildings and a few others ranging in date, essentially, from 1890 to 1900. While it is a comparatively small area, the district corresponds to the limits of the old business center, and the properties have the visual cohesiveness of opposing rows of one and two-story buildings which are, for the most part, constructed in the Italianate Style of locally manufactured brick. The epicenter of the district is the intersection of Main and Franklin Streets, long the town's ceremonial gathering place and general hub of activity. Among the oldest settlements in Umatilla County, Weston was founded at the junction of stage and toll roads between 1862 and 1865. The town was incorporated in 1878 and in the 1890s reached a peak of prosperity and development which is reflected in the enclave of commercial buildings lining Main Street. The basis of Weston's economy in its heyday was agriculture and local industries such as a planing mill, Weston Steam Flouring Mills, and especially H. B. Nelson's brickyard, which supplied building material for Pendleton--the county seat--as well as Weston. Weston achieved status in educational affairs of the state in 1882 with the founding of Weston Academy, which was operated as a State Normal School officially from 1893 to 1911. The Umatilla County Pioneer Association was formed in Weston in 1893, and thereafter Weston became the scene of an annual Pioneer Picnic. The Great Depression of the 1930s marked the shut-down of the brickyard and end of growth in the downtown. Subsequent revival of local economy followed the introduction of peas--a new staple crop--and development of a modern food processing industry in 1950. In its heyday Weston had a population of 1,000. The current population is 650, and the City Council has identified full occupation and rehabilitation of the historic buildings in the business district as a top priority in the town's overall revitalization effort.

The larger region directly affecting Weston can be divided into two major areas: The Umatilla Plain and the Blue Mountains, located in the northwest and southeast portions of Umatilla County, respectively. The Blue Mountains can be further divided into the Blue Mountain Slope and Highland areas, Weston being located at the junction between the Slope and Plain, a very significant fact directly related to Weston's uniqueness.

The Umatilla Plain appears as a level plain near the Columbia River, changing to a gently rolling landscape to the south and east toward the Blue Mountain Slope where it terminates. It can be subdivided into the Umatilla lowland in the northwestern half, and the Pendleton Plain to the east and south.

The Pendleton Plain (the zone upon which Weston borders) varies in elevation from 1,200 to 2,000 feet. The Plain is more dissected in the higher elevation near Weston, due to the runoff originating in the Blues; the result is a more rugged local

9. Major Bibliographical References

Way Back When, Mildred Searcey (1972).

Initial Planning Investigation, Planning for the City of Weston, Geoffrey T. Grant, Dr. Richard Ragatz, University of Oregon (July, 1974).

Parsons, William, An Illustrated History of Umatilla County. . ., W. H. Lever, 1902. Weston, pgs, 194-196.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 3.23 acres

Quadrangle name Athena, Oregon

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	1	3	8	9	4	4	0	5	0	7	4	1	3	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification The Weston Commercial Historic District is comparatively limited in scope, encompassing the equivalent of two city blocks. The nominated area includes properties on either side of East Main Street between Water Street on the west and Broad Street on the east. Nomination of this limited area as a district is justified because it

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

(continued)

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

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jeff M. Wallace, City Administrator

organization City of Weston

date January 25, 1982

street & number E. Main Street, PO Box 427

telephone 503/566-3313

city or town Weston

state Oregon 97886

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date August 9, 1982

For HCRS use only

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

Linda McClellan
Keeper of the National Register

date 10-5-82

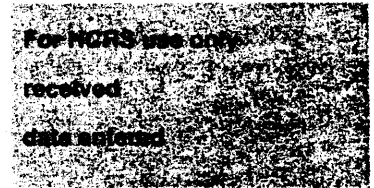
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

topography on its southeast margins in the vicinity of Weston.

The Blue Mountain Slope represents the transition between the Highlands and the Pendleton Plain. It is approximately 12 miles wide east of Weston where it is bounded by the Blues and the Plain. It is characterized by its highly dissected appearance, resulting in numerous canyons, although it cannot boast canyons as steep sided, narrow and dramatic as those in the actual highland area. It is the lower reaches of one of these cracks or canyons which is the setting for Weston.

Prior to settlement in the region, the local economy of the Indians consisted of hunting, fishing, gathering, and grazing horses. The first whites were trappers and hunters allied with the Hudson Bay Company's operation at Fort Walla Walla. Shortly they were followed by missionaries, the most well know of which was Marcus Whitman who arrived in 1836. Initial influences were seen in the change of economics, from a low intensity subsistence economy to one of cattle raising.

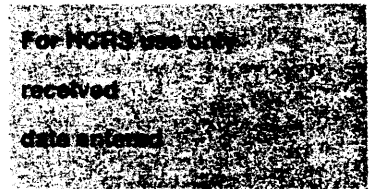
The livestock ranchers and stockmen dominated the area by 1850, in response to markets being opened up in the gold mining areas of Eastern Oregon, Washington and Central Idaho. Through the 1880s, farming was only a marginal activity to the stockmen, usually carried out on the smooth valley floors for home usage. Farming on a cash crop basis occurred only near larger settlements such as Walla Walla, a main transshipment point at this time in the region. Due to poor shipping facilities, market outlets were either lacking or insufficient.

When settlement occurred in the Pendleton Plain, stagecoach stations arranged themselves in a linear pattern along fairly level terrain between Pendleton and Walla Walla. Today community distribution reflects this historic pattern. Every community in the northeastern portion of the Plain follows this pattern except two: Weston and Helix. Helix is too far north of this early transportation axis to be considered a part of the system. Weston on the other hand appears to be an anomaly, a unique departure from the rule. It is the only community located "off the main line." The reasons can be attributed to rather definite landscape preferences of the original settlers from the Middle West.

The precursor of Weston was a stage station and livery stable located north of present Weston at the junction of several Indian trails that had become important roads in the area by the 1860s. One of these roads served to connect Walla Walla and points north and west with the interior eastern Oregon. This was known as the Elgin Toll Road and was reputed ". . .to be surpassed by no other road in the country." The other road forming this junction was a stage road from Walla Walla to Cayuse (near present day Pendleton). Also in the vicinity, just about a mile up Pine Creek Canyon from the stage station and livery stable, there lay the beginnings of a modest agricultural settlement. By 1865, these settlers decided to move the station and stage route. In the fall of that year a furrow was plowed from the settlement of Milton south to Blue Mountain Station and present Weston, ending on Wildhorse Creek, demarcating a new stage route, thus placing Weston and its unique canyon location on the major transportation axis of the larger region.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



Continuation sheet

Item number

8

Page 2

During this early period Weston's location was rich in resources relevant to the cattle economy that prevailed. This gave the early residents a slight economic and political advantage which enabled them to distort or alter the transportation network to suit their needs.

As with many attempted settlements in early America, Weston was a gamble; but unlike most it succeeded in becoming a very successful town within a decade. In 1862, Weston consisted of several settler families, notably Thomas and Asbury Lieuallen, and a blacksmith shop. By 1870, Weston was able to boast having a post office, stage station, blacksmith shop, two stores, a hotel, livery stable and school. In 1878, Weston incorporated and the antecedents to present day land use patterns had been established.

The majority of the commercial activity was centered around the two transportation routes that passed through Weston. The majority of the traffic business was located on Main Street between Washington and Broad Streets. Other businesses, not so dependent on a regular traffic flow outside Weston, were located either one block to the north or south of Main on Water Street. These two roads, Main and Water, were the two major routes of the region. Main was a junction where the Walla Walla-Pendleton Road and the Elgin Toll Road came together as one. This was the place where the "out of towners" would necessarily have to pass.

The advent of the railroad, shortly after incorporation, stimulated new land use patterns in its vicinity. The railroad was located north of town almost in the same site the earlier stage station and livery stable had occupied. This site tended to attract industrial functions. At various times this area has played host to a brick yard and kiln, a flour mill, numerous grain storage and shipping facilities and presently food processing.

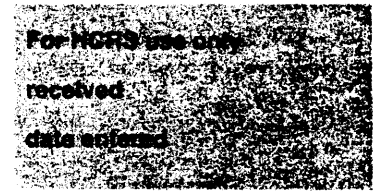
Weston's post office was established in February 1867 with W. H. Abel as acting postmaster. The community had been known as Mitchell's Station, but in 1869, through an error in spelling, the community was established as Weston by postal authorities.

In July of 1874, the town was devastated by fire. Everything north of Main Street was destroyed except the brick building which housed the Saling and Reese Store. The store still stands, a primary feature in the historic district. Its walls are two feet thick, and originally, its openings were protected by heavy iron shutters. Saling and Reese's Store was regarded as a refuge in the event of an Indian attack. This brick building that survived the fire was the topic of conversation. Nature had endowed Weston with local noncalcareous clays for brickmaking, and by 1879, H.B. Nelson's brickyard was in operation, making bricks for Walla Walla as well as Pendleton. The common brick produced in Weston was handmade by the soft mud process, being struck in wooden molds. The natural color of the brick was orangish red.

Churches were organized, and along with religious instruction and worship came formal education. Prior to this time, Mrs. Noah Lieuallen taught pupils in her home, and, in the winter of 1870, William Pruett started a subscription school. The charges were \$6.00 a student for three months' tuition.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 3

As the churches and school progressed, so did the town. In 1878, capital stock was invested to build the Weston Steam Flouring Mills. The Prebstel Brothers began operation with two sets of millstones. A planing mill also was constructed in 1878. The saloons, livery stables, hotels and confectioneries all made a thriving business center.

No town was complete without its own newspaper. The Weston Leader was founded by D. C. Black, and the first edition was printed on December 7, 1878. The paper changed hands many times, but was finally purchased by Clark Wood, who at age thirteen had been hired as a printer's devil. Wood devoted his life to his newspaper and his community.

The business district looked prosperous and the city even had a street sprinkler. A Chinese immigrant tramping back and forth throughout the day, with two square coal-oil cans with holes in the bottom kept the Main Street nicely wet down and free from dust.

Weston is noted in educational annals as the home of the original Eastern Oregon State Normal School, from 1893 to 1911. The school evolved from Weston Academy, a Methodist enterprise established in 1882. One of the Academy's teachers was Walter M. Pierce, Governor of Oregon 1923-1927 and Congressman 1933-1943.

The Normal School was not recognized as a bona fide institution of public instruction until 1893, when it was granted adequate facilities and funds for operation. The school closed in 1911, and eastern Oregon was without a State school of higher education until Eastern Oregon College was established in LaGrande in 1929.

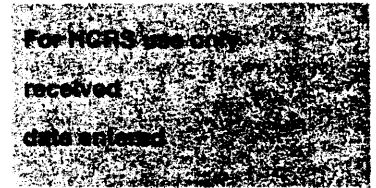
At one time Weston had a whisky distillery. The business was owned by Hezekiah Keyes and the product was known as "Key's Best" which was reportedly a seven year vintage. Weston also had a city fountain at the intersection of Main and Franklin. The fountain, surmounted by a cast iron figure of a boy holding a large fish, was a source of pride. Water was piped from a fresh water spring to the fountain. Clark Wood wrote the following editorial quip after the advent of the new sprinkling system. "With a new sprinkling system cart in operation, a city fountain, three saloons, and a distillery, there is not much fear that Weston will suffer from external or internal aridity."

Near the turn of the century, the people were beginning to look back upon their labors and they were proud to be numbered among the first pioneers of the west. It was then that the Umatilla County Pioneer Association was created in Weston, and the first reunion was held on May 27 and 28, 1893. At the time the association was formed a list of over three hundred names was drawn and included the date the people arrived in the county and by what conveyance. Except for a few years during the Second World War, the Pioneer Picnic has been held annually.

The 1910 census figures showed that Weston had a population of 900. The population was close to 1,000 in 1900. In addition to the Normal School, the town boasted the Farmers Bank of Weston, an 18-member volunteer fire department, the Marshall House-- Weston's finest brick hotel--and several other eating and lodging establishments.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



Continuation sheet

Item number

8

Page

4

During the First World War, a number of Weston citizens served their country overseas. To commemorate their service following the War, the Opera House, a large two-story wooden structure, was moved by teams of horses from Franklin Street to its present location on East Main Street adjacent to the Post Office, and renamed the Memorial Hall. Existing pictures of the Armistice Day Celebration show the streets crowded with celebrants hanging effigies of the Kaiser and listening to a rousing patriotic address.

Following the First World War, Weston's fortunes were largely tied to the agricultural economy. It took large crews of men to harvest the wheat and hay crops which were the main cash crops of the area. Weston's economy appears to have been relatively stable during the early to mid-1920s, with the local brickworks being a major employer. At the end of the decade, however, the Great Depression hit Weston hard, as it did the entire country. The brickworks closed in the early 1930s, and the Farmer's Bank was also a casualty of the banking crisis. The Marshall House as well as several other local brick buildings were torn down by WPA workers after they had been taken over by the County for back taxes. Depressed agricultural prices also made farming a risky operation.

The mid-1930s saw the introduction of wheel tractors and other mechanized farm equipment. Almost overnight, these implements replaced the teams of horses which had been required to harvest local agricultural products. A second crop, green peas, was introduced during the late 1930s into the region, giving local farmers something to raise on wheat ground which previously had lain fallow every other year.

The advent of pea agriculture began to have its economic impact on Weston. A decade after the introduction of this crop, it was realized as a major crop and its necessary support services began to appear on the landscape. In 1950 a new industry developed in Weston, that of food processing. This was the first adjunct to the all but disappearing economic base of the town. Its presence meant that once again Weston was able to occupy a functional role in the economic activity of the region.

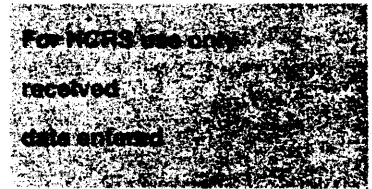
The pea industry expanded from a small pea-canning operation to one of the world's largest frozen pea operations encompassing Pendleton and the Walla Walla Valley.

One factor which had a negative impact on Weston as an economic center was the rapid growth of the automobile as a form of transportation following the Second World War. People could go to the nearby cities of Walla Walla, Milton-Freewater and Pendleton to meet their shopping and recreational needs. This resulted in the drying up of some of Weston's commercial businesses. Another factor was the decision by the Oregon State Highway Department to construct a bypass to the west of Weston in 1963, thereby cutting Weston off the main travel corridor of the region. The bypass replaced Route 11 to its original location on the Cayuse-to-Walla Walla route, thus undoing the re-routing by the founding fathers of Weston. The effect of the bypass was to even further isolate Weston from the major activity of the region.

Through the 1960s, the food processing plants and local farming activity provided Weston with a relatively stable employment base. However, beginning in the late

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



Continuation sheet

Item number

8

Page

5

1960s, the green pea industry entered into a period of increased labor costs, which, when combined with generally decreasing demand, resulted in the closure or consolidation of many area canneries.

In 1973, Weston School District consolidated with nearby Athena to form the Athena-Weston School District, thus ending an athletic rivalry between Weston and Athena of long standing.

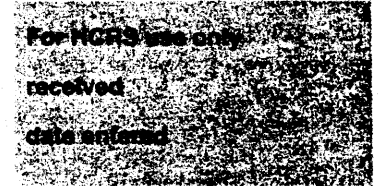
In 1976, the Isham Saling House, a brick structure of 1880 located on North Water Street, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places by a group of concerned citizens who had purchased the property and are in the process of rehabilitating it.

1979 saw the installation of a new Farmers Home Administration Community Water System. This involved the replacement of existing water lines as well as the drilling of a new city well. Following the November 1980 election, the City Council determined to embark upon a revitalization program aimed at the downtown business district containing ten historic brick structures constructed of Weston brick.

Weston today stands at a crossroads. Many of the town's older buildings, especially the brick buildings, have reached the stage where they could become dilapidated beyond repair unless a real effort is made to rehabilitate them soon. This application to have the Weston Commercial Historic District placed on the National Register of Historic Places is the first step toward recapturing the vitality of Weston's historic commercial core.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



Continuation sheet

Item number

10

Page 1

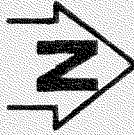
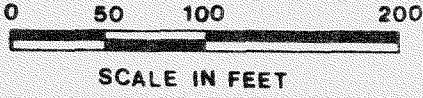
is a discrete enclave and represents the full extent of the historic commercial core of Weston, a small town in northeastern Oregon, the population of which has never exceeded 1,000. The district is more particularly described as follows.

Beginning at the NW corner of Lot 12 of Block 11 in the Town of Weston, Umatilla County, Oregon, thence east 58' to the west lot line of Lot 9 of said block, thence north the the NW corner of said Lot 9, thence east along the rear lot lines of Lots 9, 8, 7 and 6 of said block and across Franklin Street approximately 242' to the east boundary of Franklin Street, thence south approximately 16' (to exclude the detached dwelling place on Tax Lot 3500 in Block 12), thence east approximately 100' to the west boundary of Tax Lot 3700 in Block 12, thence south approximately 10', thence east along the south boundary of said Tax Lot 3700 approximately 40', thence south and across East Main Street approximately 160' to the south boundary of East Main Street, thence east approximately 60' to the NE corner of Lot 1 of Block 9, thence south 150' to the SE corner of the northerly 30' of Lot 10 of said block, thence west 100' to the east lot line of Lot 7 of said block, thence south to the SE corner of said lot, thence west and across Franklin Street approximately 160' to the west boundary of Franklin Street and the SE corner of Lot 3 of Block 2, thence north approximately 90' along the said west boundary of Franklin Street, thence west approximately 52.5' to the east lot line of Lot 6 of said Block 2, thence south to the SE corner of said lot, thence west approximately 77.5' to the SE corner of Lot 8 of said block, thence south 10', thence west approximately 120' in a line parallel with the south lot lines of Lots 8, 9 and 10 of Block 2 to the east boundary of Water Street, thence north and across East Main Street along the east boundary of Water Street approximately 256' to the point of beginning, containing in all 3.23 acres, more or less.

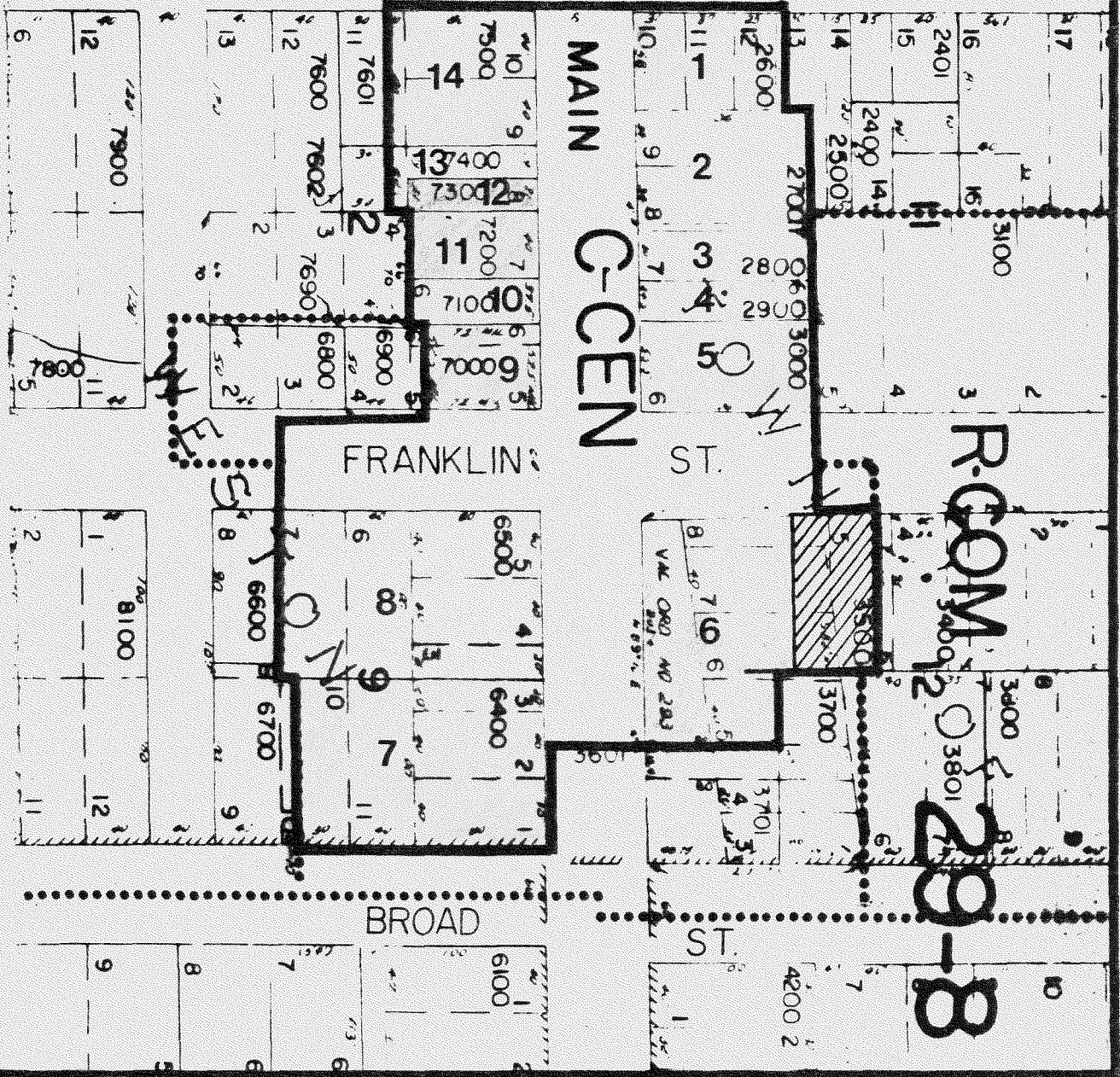
Weston Commercial Historical District

WESTON, UMATILLA COUNTY, OREGON

4N 35 22 AC



OREGON - WASHINGTON (WATER ST) HIGHWAY



Primary Secondary Compatible Non-historic