

SEP 11 1986

INVENTORY SHEET FOR GROUP NOMINATIONS: IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, BOISE, IDAHO

NOMINATION: Historic Resources of Potlatch

SITE NAME: Workers' Neighborhood Historic District

SITE NUMBER: 2

LOCATION: Spruce Street, Potlatch, Idaho. See description and map following for specifics.

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Multiple: See attached owners list

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Potlatch, 15 minute

ACREAGE: approx. 3 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The Workers' Neighborhood Historic District includes the described properties and the land on which they sit, lots 3-6, block 17; lots 8-10, block 25; and lots 7 and 8, block 32, all on Spruce Street, Potlatch, Idaho. See attached sketch map.

UTM(S): 11/507950/5196350

DATE OR PERIOD: 1906-1927

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: C. Ferris White

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Industry, architecture, community planning

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: Fair to good, altered, original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Workers' Neighborhood Historic District includes 13 houses and one Catholic church. All of the buildings are wood frame, and all the houses are bungalows. The district also includes the outbuildings located on the alleys behind virtually every house. These originally were combination wood sheds, storage sheds, and outhouses. Most are currently being used as garages. One house (site 2) is the Catholic Church Rectory, built in 1927. The remaining houses were constructed in 1906-1907 as worker housing, and were probably all designed by C. Ferris White. Workers' houses at Potlatch ranged from three to six rooms, with an occasional seven-room house. This district has none of the smaller three- or four-room houses, but contains three five-room houses, eight of six rooms, and one seven-room house.

The district is located on a three block area of Spruce Street. The northern boundary is marked by sites 1 and 12, which sit across Spruce Street from each other in the 700 block. It includes both sides of the street from this point south to Seventh Street (7 properties), then the east side of Spruce Street between Seventh and Sixth streets (5 properties), and is bounded on the south by adjacent sites 13 and 14, which are both on the east side of Spruce south of Sixth Street. This represents the highest concentration of good condition working class housing in Potlatch and all the buildings are preservable. The district is bounded on the north, east, and northwest by houses, on the southwest by apartments (an historic building, formerly the Potlatch grade school) and vacant lots, and on the south by a school and vacant lots. Buildings are considered contributory when they retain sufficient integrity of their original massing, fenestration, and roof plan to represent the types of five-, six-, and seven-room houses built in Potlatch.

## INVENTORY:

1. Spruce Street (Contributory): This one-and-one-half-story six-room house was constructed in 1907 at a cost of \$1,182. It has a gable overhang roof with exposed rafters. The house faces west with a door in the northwest corner and another on the east. There is an open inset porch on the northwest corner with one post. The house has 15 windows, mostly double-hung sash with two over two lights. Alterations include a composition roof and composition siding.
2. Catholic Church Rectory (Contributory): This one-and-one-half-story house was constructed in 1927. It has a concrete foundation and a gable overhang roof with enclosed rafters. The house faces west with a door on the west with three vertical glass panels topped by three lights; a northeast door with one side-light; an east door with two sidelights; and a south door with three lights. There is an open four post porch running the length of the west facade, an enclosed porch on the east, and another, no longer used, enclosed porch on the southeast. It is sided with painted clapboards. The house's numerous windows are mostly double-hung sash, six lights over one. Alterations include a metal roof, a new door on the south, and five glass block windows in the south side foundation. St. Mary's Catholic Church, adjacent to the rectory, was constructed in 1907. During the early years of the church, resident priests rented a house in town. Some time after 1914 a small rectory was constructed by the Potlatch Lumber Company to the back of the church, which served until this rectory was constructed. This was one of the few buildings in Potlatch not constructed and owned by the lumber company.
3. St. Mary's Catholic Church (Contributory): A one-and-one-half-story building with concrete and concrete block foundation and a wood shake gable overhang roof with exposed rafters. The building faces west. Doors are on the south and north sides. The building is sided with painted clapboards. There is a three-story bell tower on the west. Doors formerly entering the church through the bell tower on the west are no longer used. The bell tower has five Gothic arched windows. There are eleven additional Gothic arched windows in the church, as well as five double-hung sash with one over one lights, and two double-hung sash with four over one lights. Alterations include three casement windows in the basement; changing of the main entrance from the west to the north; and new doors on the north. The building was constructed by the lumber company in 1907 at a cost of \$3,942. The congregation used the building rent free. When selling the town in the 1950s, the company donated the church to the congregation. As originally constructed, the church had no bell tower. However, the structure was added by 1910. After 1914 a one-story addition was added to the east, serving as a rectory until 1927.
4. 655 Spruce Street (Contributory): This one-and-one-half-story six-room house was constructed in 1907 at a cost of \$1,676. It has a concrete block foundation, and a hipped roof. The wood shake roof overhangs with exposed rafters. There are hipped dormers on the east and west; shed dormers on the north and south. The house faces west with an off-centered door on the west with diamond lattice glass and another door on the east. An open four-post porch runs the length of the west facade. There is a stoop on the east. The house is sided with painted clapboards on the lower level and painted wood shingles on the upper. Most windows are double-hung sash. There is a diamond lattice window on the south. Alterations include a brick porch planter on the west; and several new casement windows in dormers.

5. 645 Spruce Street (Contributory): This one-and-one-half-story six-room house was constructed in 1907 at a cost of \$2,180. It has a stone foundation and a gable overhang roof with exposed rafters. The house faces west with doors on the west and east. There is an open three-post porch and balustrade running the length of the west facade. The house is sided with painted shiplap on the lower level with one over one lights. Alterations include new casement and sash window glazing; a boarded-up main level window on the south; metal roof; and a new chimney on the south.

6. 635 Spruce Street (Contributory): This two-story six-room house was constructed in 1907 at a cost of \$1,829. It has a stone foundation and a hip overhang roof with exposed rafters. There is a gable dormer on the west. The house faces west with doors on the west and east. It has an open three post porch running the length of the west facade, with a new balustrade, and a stoop on the east. Virtually all windows are double-hung sash with one over one lights. Alterations include a composition roof and composition siding, with vertical siding under the porch covering the foundation.

7. 625 Spruce Street (Contributory): This two-story six-room house was constructed in 1907 at a cost of \$1,848, and is a virtual replica of site 6. It has a stone foundation and a hipped overhang roof with exposed rafters. There is a gable dormer on the west. The house faces west with doors on the west and east. An open three-post porch with balustrade runs the length of the west facade. Virtually all windows are double-hung sash with one over one lights. Alterations include a composition roof and composition siding; metal chimney on the south; and a new window on the east.

8. 615 Spruce Street (Contributory): This one-and-one-half-story six-room house was constructed in 1907 at a cost of \$2,007. It has a stone foundation and a hipped overhang roof with enclosed eaves. There is a gable dormer on the west and east. There is an open four post porch on the west running the length of the facade and a stoop on the east. It is sided with painted clapboards. Most windows are double-hung sash with one over one lights. There are three double-hung sash windows with nine over one lights in the west dormer. Alterations include a composition roof; a metal lean-to over the east porch; a new door on the east; and a new window in the east dormer.

9. 710 Spruce Street (Contributory): This one-story five-room house was constructed in 1907 at a cost of \$887, one of the lesser-expensive houses in Potlatch. It has a hipped overhang roof with exposed rafters. The house faces east with doors on the east and west. There is an open four-post porch running the length of the east facade, with a stoop on the west. New single-light glazing in the windows has been added throughout. Other alterations include a composition roof; composition siding; and new doors on the east and west.

10. 720 Spruce Street (Compatible): This one-and-one-half-story six-room house was constructed in 1907 at a cost of \$1,082. It has a gable overhang roof with exposed rafters. The house faces east with doors on the east and west, and a basement door on the south. There is an offset porch on the east, and an offset, enclosed porch with shed roof on the west. All windows are new casement or single sash with the exception of one original double-hung sash, one over one lights, on the west main level. Other alterations include the west porch; composition roof;; composition siding; and a new west door.

11. 730 Spruce Street (Contributory): This one-story five-room house was constructed in 1907 at a cost of \$887. It is a virtual replica of site 9. It has a hipped overhang roof with exposed rafters. The house faces east with doors on the east and north. An open four-post porch with balustrade on the north and south sides runs the length of the east facade. There is a concrete stoop on the north. Virtually all windows are double-hung sash with two over two lights. Alterations include a metal roof; composition siding; and the concrete stoop on the north.

12. Spruce Street (Compatible): This one-and-one-half-story six-room house was constructed in 1907 at the cost of \$899. It has a gable overhang wood shake roof with exposed rafters. The house faces east with doors on the east and west. There is a concrete stoop on the east and an open, offset porch on the west with shed roof. Most windows are double-hung sash with two over two lights. Alterations include the enclosure of the original east porch; and a new door on the east.

13. 545 Spruce Street (Contributory): This one-and-one-half-story seven-room house was constructed in 1906 at a cost of \$1,966. It has a hipped overhang roof with exposed rafters. There are hipped dormers on the west and east. It is sided with painted clapboards on the lower level and painted wood shingles on the upper. The house faces west with doors on the west and east. The open four-post porch with balustrade runs the length of the west facade. The former east porch has been enclosed. Windows are a combination of single light, single sash, and double-hung sash with one over one lights. There are three single sash with twelve lights each on the west dormer. Alterations include east porch enclosure with new windows; composition roof; new east door; concrete block chimney; and a concrete patio with fiberglass roof on the east.

14. 535 Spruce Street (Contributory): This one-story five-room house was constructed in 1906 at a cost of \$2,034. It has a stone foundation with a hipped overhang wood shake roof with exposed rafters. There is a hipped dormer on the east and a gable dormer on the west. The house faces west with doors on the east and west. It has an open post porch on the west running half the length of the facade, and a pedimented portico on the east with two posts. Most windows are double-hung sash with six-over-one lights. There are also several single sash, two with six lights each in the east dormer. Alterations include composition siding and a new French-style door on the west.

#### SIGNIFICANCE:

The Workers' Neighborhood Historic District comprises the most concentrated, most representative, least altered, and best preserved examples of working class housing in Potlatch. The significance of this neighborhood is that it is representative of working class housing in a Western lumber company town. The district includes 13 houses with associated outbuildings, and one church. With the exception of the Catholic Church Rectory (site 2), all of the buildings in this district were built in 1906-07 during the town's initial construction period. With the exception of the rectory, all were designed by Spokane architect C. Ferris White. Therefore, the district is an example of Potlatch's earliest housing.

While this area represents the best-maintained concentration of working class housing in Potlatch, there is no significant restoration work going on. Most of the structures, however, are well maintained. Some have virtually no alteration

while most have minor alterations. These alterations do not detract from the historic streetscape.

Working class houses in Potlatch ranged in size from three to seven rooms. This district contains examples of five-, six-, and seven-room houses. It is, therefore, with sites 4 and 6 in this multiple resource nomination, representative of the full range of working class house types in the town. Yards are uniform in size, and all houses are set back the same distance from the street. The original deciduous trees planted by the company still line the street. The church and rectory help give this district a true neighborhood flavor. The houses are all quite cohesive, having all been designed from a limited number of basic patterns by the same architect. All of the buildings are of wood frame construction. This contributes to the appearance of a working class neighborhood in a planned community.

The district boundaries were selected with the criteria that houses on the borders have been significantly altered. The district is located on a three-block area of Spruce Street. The northern boundary is marked by sites 1 and 2, which are located across Spruce Street from each other in the 700 block. It includes both sides of the street from this point south to Seventh Street (7 sites), then the east side of Spruce Street between Seventh and Sixth streets (5 sites), and is bounded on the south by adjacent sites 13 and 14, which are both on the east side of Spruce south of Sixth Street. The district also includes the outbuildings located on the alleys behind virtually every house. These originally were combination wood sheds, storage sheds, and outhouses. Most are currently used as garages. The district is bounded on the north, east, and northwest by houses, on the southwest by apartments (formerly the Potlatch grade school), and vacant lots, and on the south by a school and vacant lots.

This district is quite distinct from other neighborhoods in nearby towns. The houses are similar, with some being duplicates of one another. Arrangement of buildings, streets, sidewalks, trees, and yards is precise and orderly. Even upon casual viewing, this is obviously part of a planned community. It is the best-preserved working class district of one of the West's largest lumber company towns.

Historic Resources of Potlatch: Workers' Neighborhood District

ITEM 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY:

WORKERS' NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORIC DISTRICT OWNERS LIST (SITE 2)

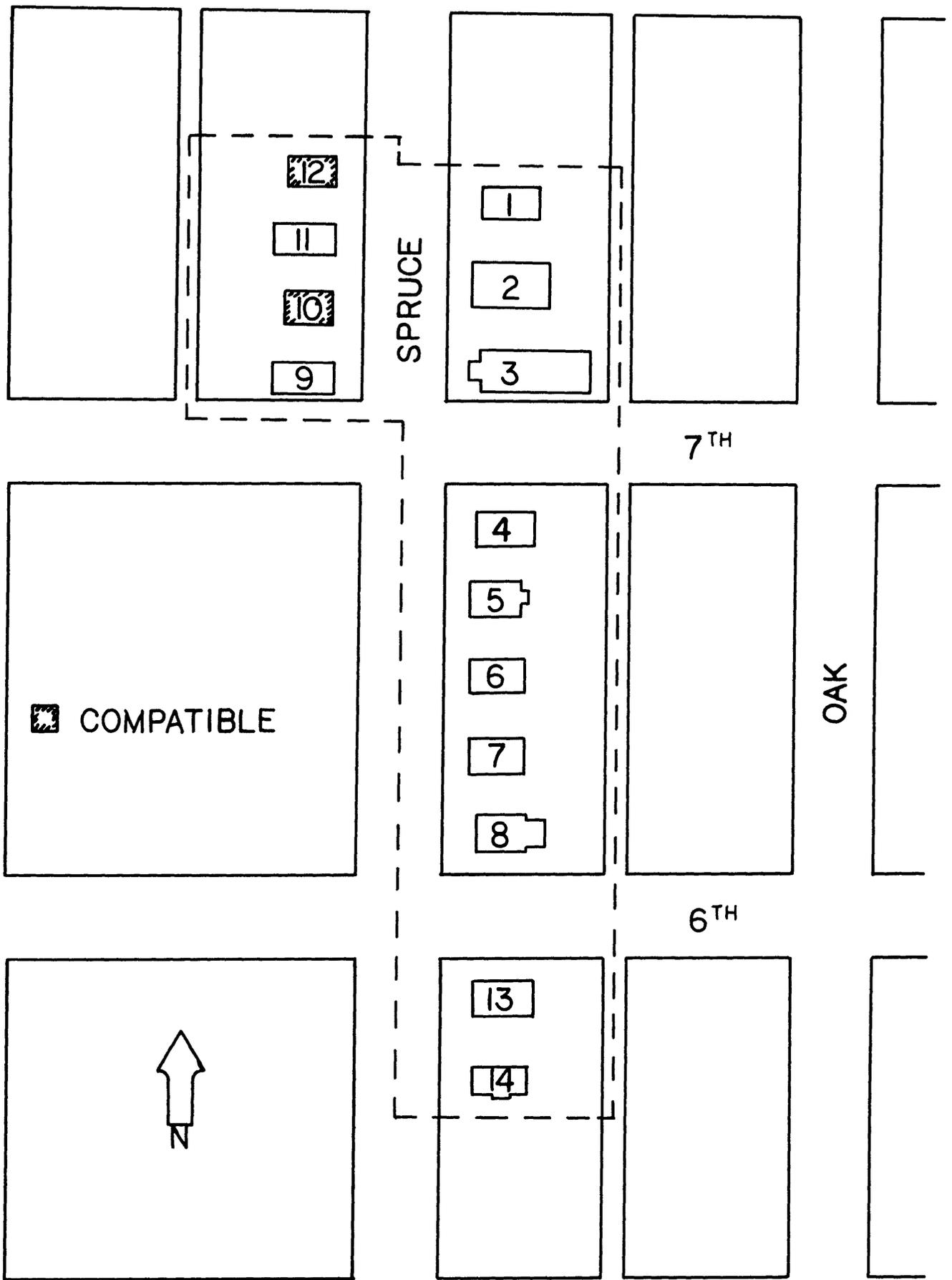
735 Spruce Street (Site 1)	Ellen Elliott Box 278 Potlatch, ID 83855
Catholic Church Rectory (Site 2) 725 Spruce Street	St. Mary's Catholic Church Potlatch, ID 83855
St. Mary's Catholic Church (Site 3) 715 Spruce Street	St. Mary's Catholic Church Potlatch, ID 83855
655 Spruce Street (Site 4)	Richard Dudley Box 314 Potlatch, ID 83855
645 Spruce Street (Site 5)	Jack Waldermarson Box 644 Potlatch, ID 83855
635 Spruce Street (Site 6)	Sandra Flerchinger Gregory Koppang Box 405 Potlatch, ID 83855
625 Spruce Street (Site 7)	Robert McAllister Box 201 Potlatch, ID 83855
615 Spruce Street (Site 8)	Cecil Oliver Box 46 Potlatch, ID 83855
710 Spruce Street (Site 9)	Thomas McWilliams Susan Elias Box 231 Potlatch, ID 83855
720 Spruce Street (Site 10)	Jeffrey Miller Box 87 Potlatch, ID 83855
730 Spruce Street (Site 11)	Donald E. Nagle Rt. 1, Box 119 Potlatch, ID 83855
740 Spruce Street (Site 12)	Harold Chambers Box 295 Potlatch, ID 83855
545 Spruce Street (Site 13)	Elizabeth Andres Box 381 Potlatch, ID 83855

Historic Resources of Potlatch: Workers' Neighborhood District

Workers' Neighborhood Historic District Owners List (continued) (SITE 2):

535 Spruce Street  
(Site 14)

James McGreal  
Box 154  
Potlatch, ID 83855



WORKERS' NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORIC DISTRICT  
 POTLATCH MRA SITE #2