

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

02-89 replacement

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name McGrath Café and Hotel (The McGrath)

Other names/site number McGrath Hotel Building, McGrath's (King County Inventory # 1591)

2. Location

street & number 101 W. North Bend Way not for publication

city or town North Bend vicinity

State Washington code WA county King code 033 zip code 98045

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official/Title

1-14-02
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

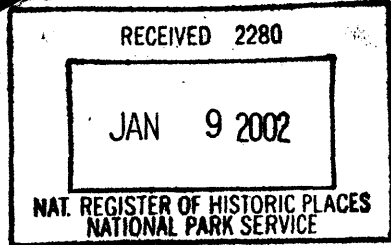
- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other (explain:)

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

2/21/02
Date of Action

89 ~~2-1-02~~

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[Signature] 10-22-01
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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- I, hereby, certify that this property is:
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 See continuation sheet
 - determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet
 - determined not eligible for the National Register.
 - removed from the National Register.
 - other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper *[Signature]* Date of Action 2/21/02

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not incl. previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Non-Contributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE - restaurant

DOMESTIC -hotel

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE - restaurant

COMMERCE/TRADE - professional

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th & 20th C. Revivals: Spanish Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls STUCCO

roof CERAMIC TILE

other CERAMIC TILE/WOOD/GLASS

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMERCE

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

Period of Significance

1922 - 1950

Significant Dates

1922, 1926, 1941

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Stuart (B. Dudley) & Wheatley (Arthur)
[architects]

William Blaisdell / Herb Johnson [builders]

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering
- Record# _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM References on a continuation sheet.)

1	<input type="text" value="10"/> Zone	<input type="text" value="591"/> Easting	<input type="text" value="535"/> Easting	<input type="text" value="526"/> Northing	<input type="text" value="0665"/> Northing	3	<input type="text"/> Zone	<input type="text"/> Easting	<input type="text"/> Easting	<input type="text"/> Northing	<input type="text"/> Northing
2	<input type="text"/> Zone	<input type="text"/> Easting	<input type="text"/> Easting	<input type="text"/> Northing	<input type="text"/> Northing	4	<input type="text"/> Zone	<input type="text"/> Easting	<input type="text"/> Easting	<input type="text"/> Northing	<input type="text"/> Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.) The nominated property is located in NE ¼ of Section 9, Township 23 North, Range 8 East of the Willamette Meridian in King County, Washington and is legally described as Lot 1-2-3, Block 3 of Taylors, W.H. 1st supl plat of Snoqualmie (also identified as Tax Parcel No. 8571900075).

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.) The nominated property constitutes the entire legal limits of the land area directly associated with this historic resource.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cathy Wickwire, Historic Preservation Consultant (prepared for)
organization King County Landmarks & Heritage Program date August 10, 2001
street & number 506 Second Avenue, Room 200 telephone (206) 296-8636
city or town Seattle state WA zip code 98014

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

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

name Susan & Dale Sherman (Rookwood Properties, LLC)
street & number P.O. Box 2025 telephone (425) 888-5775
city or town Snoqualmie state WA zip code 98065

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7. Narrative Description

The McGrath Hotel Building is a distinctive commercial building prominently situated at a major intersection of an important historic thoroughfare within the historic commercial district of North Bend, Washington. It is oriented directly toward North Bend Way, formerly the route of the Sunset Highway (and later the Cross-State Highway), the historic highway route between western and eastern Washington, and the East Coast. The concrete and wood frame building was constructed in two separate stages between 1922 and 1926 and exhibits distinctive architectural features drawn from the Spanish Colonial Revival design mode, a particularly popular style during this era. The two-story structure measures approx. 60' x 75' and includes a concrete foundation and a small basement level furnace room. A small one-story concrete wing (measuring approx. 40' x 32') was added to the east side of the rear elevation c.1950.

Building Site

The City of North Bend is located in eastern King County in the Upper Snoqualmie River Valley, some four miles above Snoqualmie Falls. The historic commercial district of North Bend is about a half-mile north of the current Interstate-90 freeway corridor. More than 100 years after its initial settlement, North Bend remains the easternmost full-service community on the west side of Snoqualmie Pass. When first platted in 1889, the town site was already defined by the long-established trail and pre-railroad era, wagon road route. The east to west railroad right-of-way was situated along the southern margin of the townsite. However, subsequent commercial development was primarily oriented toward the old roadway rather than the railway route.

Although North Bend grew well beyond the initial nine-block plat, the commercial district remained centered on the old trail route and the streets closest to the railroad tracks, until the completion of the Interstate-90 freeway. Today, the McGrath Hotel Building is part of a one and a half block concentration of main street commercial buildings dating from the 1910s through the 1940s. The nearby buildings exhibit varying degrees of integrity of materials and design; however, they reinforce the integrity of the location and setting of the McGrath Hotel Building. The physical organization of historic main street, including the orientation of the McGrath Hotel building at a major intersection of the highway route, underscores the historic role of North Bend as a gateway between Puget Sound and the Cascade Mountains.

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Exterior

The first floor level of the eastern end of the building was initially constructed as a café building in 1922. The café building was subsequently expanded in 1926 to accommodate hotel facilities, with the construction of the two westernmost bays and the addition of the entire second floor level. By 1999, the building was deteriorated and the upper floor level was unusable. A major rehabilitation project was undertaken in 2000-2001, in order to preserve and rehabilitate it. Today, the McGrath Hotel Building houses a restaurant and commercial office space and despite nearly 80 years of use and periodic remodeling efforts, it retains its distinctive historic and architectural character.

The McGrath Hotel Building exhibits a typical commercial building form with a flat roof, a two-part façade composition and six structural bays on its principal north elevation or primary facade. The building is distinguished by several well-preserved and notable Spanish Colonial Revival stylistic features. Nearly the entire exterior is clad with a rough stucco finish, which is painted an earthy yellow hue based on an historic paint color analysis. A stepped parapet feature distinguishes the building corners and includes decorative green diamond-shaped tile details. A highly decorative Spanish revival style pent roof, clad with metal barrel tile-type roofing and supported by heavy wooden brackets, is situated on the north and east elevations. Original wooden, six-over-one, double-hung windows (along with some in-kind replacement sash members) are situated in sets or individually throughout the upper floor level. Sets of windows situated at the building corners include segmental arched headers. Two ornamental wrought iron fire escapes are situated at the second floor level of the east elevation. The west elevation is fairly concealed by adjacent buildings. The south (rear) elevation is very simply detailed with the stucco finish, fenestration and window sash members exhibited on the principle elevations.

Prior to the recent rehabilitation project, exterior alterations had been essentially limited to the storefront openings at the main floor level, while the upper floor level and structural bays remained unaltered. When the old highway route was widened in 1941, the exterior of the McGrath was remodeled "along lines which will be modern to the last degree" according to local newspaper articles. Historic photos show that the modernization principally involved the addition of a corner entry to the café that included glass block accent details, typical of this era. The 1941 corner entry area was subsequently altered and further remodeled throughout the 1980s. Prior to rehabilitation, some damaged portions of glass block remained in place.

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The recent storefront rehabilitation work involved the removal of the corner entry alterations, an obtrusive vinyl tube-type awning and modern white vinyl storefront windows. The new storefront design was based closely on historic photographs (c.1938) of the original façade and included the restoration of the two symmetrically placed entrances, the repair and restoration of transom windows that had been concealed during earlier remodeling efforts and the restoration of two metal entrance canopies. The storefront level is dominated by large, wooden, fixed sash windows that are full bay width and include distinctive original eight-pane transom windows. During both the Sunset and Cross-State Highway eras, the McGrath Hotel Building was known for a variety of dramatic neon signs, however all of the historic neon signage had been removed from the building prior to the rehabilitation project. Two modern neon signs, similar in design to earlier historic signage, were installed at the storefront level as part of the rehabilitation work.

The one-story, wood frame, stucco-clad wing situated to the rear of the hotel building was rehabilitated and adapted to provide office space. A new commercial storefront, oriented to the adjacent side street, was constructed. This rear wing (c.1951) replaced a smaller one-story shed addition, measuring 20 feet by 24 feet. A one-car garage, measuring 12 feet by 18 feet had previously been situated to the rear of the original 1922 café building.

Interior

Several newspaper articles described the original interior features of the McGrath Hotel at the time of its initial construction. According to these accounts, the hotel lobby situated within the westernmost bay of the building, featured a large glass storefront and contained a prominent brick fireplace with inset ornamental tiles of Arizona scenes. Under the beamed lobby ceiling, a built-in registration desk served guests while a corner furnished with wicker and cretonne was available for "the ladies." Art linoleum laid in a large tile effect covered the floor and drapes in tan and gold hues were selected to set off the walls. An archway at the east wall of the lobby (draped in rich brown fabric) connected the lobby to the adjacent café/dining room space. In 1925-26, the café/dining room space was also redecorated to harmonize with the newer part of the building. Decorated booths with gray painted woodwork lined the maple dance floor. A large stairway at the rear of the hotel lobby led upstairs to the 19 guestrooms, which were painted in four different colors with driftwood gray woodwork and ivory enamel doors.

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Various interior-remodeling projects altered the original public lobby, café/dining room and hotel spaces over the years. In November 1938, Jack McGrath opened a new banquet room in time for the Thanksgiving Day trade. This project entailed the enclosure of a large area of dance floor space and created a separate dining area from the café space. This change also provided the hotel with one of the best-equipped saloons in the state. After Cecil and Caroline Thompson purchased the building in 1951, they also made extensive alterations to the interior. The current rear addition appears to have constructed at that time in order to house their new "Patio Room" lounge, while the old lobby space served as a tavern. An accidental kitchen fire on July 25, 1968 damaged much of the main floor and resulted in heavy smoke damage to the upstairs hotel rooms, requiring a \$70,000 renovation. Prior to the rehabilitation project, the extensively altered restaurant/café space was entirely walled off from the old hotel lobby, which was by then in use as a retail shop. The building had long ceased to operate as a hotel and the guestrooms and corridors were by then seriously damaged and deteriorated.

While interior-remodeling projects did alter the original café, dining room and public lobby spaces over the years, several distinctive design features and portions of historic building fabric remain in place. The original beamed lobby ceiling and distinctive brick fireplace with inset ornamental tiles of Arizona scenes are both well preserved within the old hotel lobby space, which is now in use as a wine bar. The old hotel lobby space is further distinguished by a prominent wooden stairway with open rails that leads to the upper floor corridor. Two roof skylights [with multi-pane ceiling re-lights] allow natural light to filter into the upper floor level and down through the stairwell to the old hotel lobby space. During the rehabilitation work, a landscape mural (that depicts what is believed to be a nearby alpine lake) was discovered in the space where the registration desk once was. The seriously damaged mural has been protected and stabilized for future restoration. The original opening connecting the lobby space and dining room (now in use as a high-quality restaurant) was restored and the interior spaces painted warm, earth tone colors. Heavily damaged remnants of stenciled ceiling plaster were discovered during rehabilitation in the old café/dining room, but could not be preserved or restored.

The space that formerly housed the hotel manager's office (including the original bathroom) is situated at the stair landing level. It remains intact and in use for office purposes. The majority of the narrow hotel corridors and several

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original two-panel doors remain in place. The original 19 hotel guestrooms and bathrooms have been reconfigured and adapted for current office and commercial uses.

The original McGrath Café area and the subsequent hotel dining room and café spaces were altered repeatedly over some seventy-five years of commercial operation. No intact historic building fabric remained in place prior to the recent rehabilitation project. The current restaurant dining room and modern kitchen facility were designed and constructed as part of the 2001 rehabilitation project. While designed in character with the adjacent and intact hotel lobby, these spaces do not include any historic features of significance.

8. Statement of Significance

The McGrath Hotel Building is significant for its associations with the history of highway and automotive transportation in Washington State and the development of tourism, recreation and commerce in rural King County. It is a particularly prominent architectural design feature within the historic commercial center of North Bend, Washington and is an exceptional rural example of commercial architecture executed in the Spanish Colonial Revival stylistic design mode.

The history of North Bend is closely tied to its strategic location as a gateway between Puget Sound and the Cascade Mountains. Transportation routes, including early foot trails, wagon roads, railroads, and historic as well as modern highways, have shaped the physical growth and the economy of the community. Downtown North Bend and in particular the McGrath Hotel Building continue to reflect the community's long-time role as a provider of services to the traveler.

Historic Context

In the mid-19th century, the area that would become downtown North Bend was part of a fertile, open prairie near the upper Snoqualmie River. For generations, the native Snoqualmie people are believed to have camped here, near the confluence of the three forks of the river and several miles above Snoqualmie Falls. From this protected place, they could hunt, fish, and forage for berries and root crops. The Snoqualmie people had well-established trade and travel routes linking this territory with other native groups on Puget Sound. They also used trans-mountain travel

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routes, included a foot trail over Snoqualmie Pass and a horse trail over Yakima Pass, which linked them with their kinsmen, the Yakama people, on the eastern side of the Cascade Range.

Prospectors, railroad scouts, and military men were the first non-natives to explore the area around North Bend in the 1850s. By the early 1860s, Euro-American settlers had discovered the prairie and its agricultural potential. Due to its strategic location, the North Bend area continued to serve as a travel crossroads for early settlers, as it had for native inhabitants. The old native footpath over Snoqualmie Pass terminated in what eventually became downtown North Bend and continued west as a wagon road to Fall City and points beyond. A pack trail through the Cedar River Valley provided the most direct connection to the burgeoning community of Seattle. However, due to topography and forested terrain, the North Bend area remained largely inaccessible to commerce until the arrival of the Seattle, Lake Shore & Eastern Railroad in 1889.

In February of that year, the original townsite was platted by early settlers William and Mary Taylor. First known as Snoqualmie and then called Mountain View, the community was finally named North Bend, in reference to a nearby bend in the Snoqualmie River. The McGrath Hotel Building is situated within the original plat and very near the site of the Taylors' cabin. The town plat was laid out in a nine-block grid adjacent to and north of the railroad right-of-way and included four streets parallel to the tracks [First through Fourth], and four perpendicular streets [Sydney, Bendego, Main and Ballarat]. Subsequent plats over the next twenty years increased the town's size and provided real estate for nearby residential development. However, the commercial district remained physically contained within the original town plat and oriented along First Street (now known as North Bend Way) and Bendego Street, the alignment of the old wagon road route.

Rail transportation encouraged the development of industries that utilized nearby and plentiful natural resources. During the late 1890s and through the first decades of the 20th C., mining, timber harvesting, lumber mills and agriculture sustained the local economy. By 1906, the community boasted two hotels, three general stores, two liverys, a sawmill, a Baptist church, and a grade school. In March of 1909, North Bend was incorporated as a fourth class city, according to State statute. However, even by this relatively early date, a surprising number of businesses catered to tourists and outdoor adventurers.

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After the completion of the transcontinental rail lines, train travel became the favored means of transportation over the old winding wagon road that had long connected North Bend to Fall City, and thence to Seattle via two alternate legs. With the advent of gasoline-powered motorized vehicles in the early twentieth century, there was a strong road building impetus throughout the state of Washington. The final segment of State Highway 2, a graded and graveled highway running through North Bend and over Snoqualmie Pass, was dedicated in 1915 after several years of planning. State Highway 2 was a link or segment within the highly celebrated Sunset Highway route to Chicago. As such, North Bend became a crucial stopping place for food, gas, and lodging before or after crossing the Cascade Range. Like the older wagon road, the eastbound route of the Sunset Highway entered town on Fourth Street (along the approximate alignment of today's SR 202) turned south onto Bendego Street, and then turned east onto First Street heading toward the mountain pass. Subsequent improvements to the highway in the 1920s and 1930s straightened and widened the road, into an entirely paved surface from Seattle to Snoqualmie Pass.

During the 1920s and 1930s auto and tourist-related businesses, including the McGrath Café and Hotel, flourished along North Bend's two principal main streets, First and Bendego. Older business enterprises were adapted to meet the needs of motorists, and new businesses emerged to handle the growing numbers of cross-state travelers. The streets included a significant number of automotive service stations, the great majority of which are no longer extant, as well as numerous lodging and restaurant establishments. New and more substantial masonry and concrete commercial buildings, most with architectural roots in revival styles and the Art Moderne, replaced the earlier small, wood-frame, western falsefront buildings. Painted wall signs, marquee signs, and neon signs began to vie for the passing motorist's attention. Gradually, commerce associated with the Sunset Highway rivaled industries based on natural resource extraction as the mainstay of the local economy. As local logging and milling operations declined in the 1920s and 1930s, highway-related commerce sustained the community through the Depression years of the 1930s and into the post-WWII automobile age.

Jack McGrath – McGrath's Café History

The McGrath Café was one of the more ambitious business enterprises established during the Sunset Highway era. Jack McGrath was born in England on December 1, 1885, and immigrated directly to Seattle with his parents, John

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and Winifred, when he was an infant. After attending Seattle College, now operated separately as Seattle Preparatory School and Seattle University, McGrath entered the hotel business in 1902 and eventually became an experienced operator of cafes and hotels. Between 1905 and 1915, he owned and/or managed several enterprises in California, New Mexico and Arizona before returning to Seattle after which he operated a restaurant in connection with the Skinner & Eddy Shipbuilding Corporation until 1920. McGrath was assisted in that operation by his brother, Harry.

In April of 1920, McGrath and his wife, Merrill, moved to North Bend and established the initial McGrath's Café, which was located at a mid-block site across the street from the subject property. Like many others, McGrath was attracted to North Bend by the increased tourism along the Sunset Highway route. He leased the building and purchased the contents of a prior restaurant business from North Bend Bakery owner, Carl E. Bellinger.

Unfortunately, the café was destroyed by fire in the winter of 1922. Soon after, McGrath decided to build a larger café at a more prominently situated corner site on two lots that he had previously purchased from John Rexton in September of 1921. By this time, the site was apparently vacant. However, an early wood-frame commercial building that housed a bank, jewelry and watch repair shop had been situated there before 1910.

By the spring of 1922, the new one-story McGrath Café building was completed and in operation. It consisted of the four easternmost bays of the first floor of the current building. In addition to serving the traveling public, the McGrath Café quickly became a popular meeting place for local residents, including teenagers and others who danced and enjoyed music there. In 1923, the proprietor regularly advertised its 16-foot-long soda fountain, dining room and dance floor along with its motto, "It's a Pleasure to Serve You." Due to its success and to the continued increase in tourism, McGrath announced plans in September of 1925 to expand the café building into a full service hotel.¹ Two additional bays were built on the adjacent lot to the west to create a ground floor lobby area and a full upper-story guestroom level was added. McGrath had purchased a third lot from Emil J. Siegrist in August of 1923, apparently in anticipation of such an expansion.

¹ "McGrath Will Build Hotel at North Bend," Snoqualmie Valley Record, September 3, 1925, p. 1.

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Architectural Design - Stuart and Wheatley

The notable Seattle architectural firm of Stuart and Wheatley designed the hotel addition to include 19 well-appointed hotel rooms and a two-room manager's apartment, and reconfigured the original café space to include a more formal dining room adjacent to the hotel lobby. The choice of the distinctive Spanish Colonial Revival architectural style for the building appears to be linked to Jack McGrath's knowledge of the southwest, where he had worked for ten years. This style was most commonly built in the southwest, particularly California and Arizona, where Spanish Colonial building precedents existed. The style gained wider popularity after the Panama-California Exposition, held in San Diego in 1915, where elaborate Spanish Colonial Revival prototypes received wide attention. The hotel interior was decorated in earth tones, in character with the exterior design, and several hotel rooms included spectacular views of Mt. Si to the north. Local contractor William Blaisdell, with the assistance of Herb Johnson, constructed the addition and completed the work ahead of schedule.

The firm designed this café and hotel addition early in their seven-year partnership. Bertram Dudley Stuart was born in London, England in 1885 and practiced in the Canadian cities of Edmonton and Vancouver before his arrival in Seattle in 1918. In 1923, Stuart established a partnership with Arthur Wheatley, which lasted until 1930.² The firm was known for high quality residential and commercial projects, including several large apartment buildings and hotels. Seattle projects of particular note included the Biltmore Apartments (1923-24), the Bergonian Hotel (1926, now known as the Mayflower Hotel), the Exeter House Apartments (1927), and the Marlborough Apartments (1926-27). The firm also designed private residences and apartment buildings that are more modest. Stuart and Wheatley primarily employed Gothic and Tudor Revival stylistic features for these projects, making the design of the McGrath Hotel somewhat of a departure from their typical work. These projects typically employed expensive brick masonry veneers and terra cotta detailing in contrast to the simple stucco exterior of the McGrath Hotel. The McGrath Hotel Building is the only project currently known to have been designed by this architectural firm within a rural King County locale.

² "Rites set for B. Dudley Stuart, 92." *Seattle Times*, October 16, 1977, p. D6.

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After the dissolution of the partnership, Stuart practiced on his own during the 1930s before forming a professional association with Robert L. Durham in 1941. During the World War II, the noted Seattle architect Paul Kirk practiced in partnership Stuart and Durham. The ten-year collaboration ended in 1951, and Stuart practiced on his own again until his retirement in the early 1970s due to failing eyesight. B. Dudley Stuart died in Seattle on October 13, 1977 at the age of 92. The full extent of Arthur Wheatley's career after the dissolution of the partnership is not currently known. However, city directories continued to list Wheatley through 1938. During this time, he is known to have completed the design for a least one Works Progress Administration (WPA) project, the Colman Playground Shelter House (1937-38).

Hotel Building History

The construction of the new hotel in February of 1926 coincided with a period of increasing auto tourism along the Sunset Highway and was completed "in time for the early spring travelers." After the hotel unofficially opened in mid-February, the McGraths held formal opening festivities on March 2, 1926. These included a complimentary evening buffet lunch for the community and music provided by Miss Queen's Orchestra, a live three-piece band. Through a newspaper notice, the McGraths had cordially invited the community to attend the festivities. Some 200 guests accepted the hospitality, toured the hotel and danced on the café's maple dance floor from 8:00 p.m. until midnight. Managed by Mr. and Mrs. McGrath, it was the largest and most modern hotel in North Bend and the vicinity. Mr. McGrath's brother, Harry, is known to have worked as the chef.

Within a week of the formal opening, another event of importance, a meeting of the King County Banker's Association, took place at the building on March 6, 1926. By the late 1920s, the hotel had become the leading place of public entertainment in this rural section of King County. During the 1920s and 1930s, it was also the site of many local and regional meetings, including political sessions held by state legislators and county commissioners that shaped the destiny of the Upper Snoqualmie River Valley. Jack McGrath, a member of the Elks and Eagles fraternal organizations, was also one of the founders of the Commercial Club of North Bend and was considered one of the town's leading citizens and businessmen. By the late 1930s, the storefront level included numerous neon signs, a tavern operated within a portion of the former lobby area and Jack McGrath opened a new banquet room.

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In the early 1940s, the Sunset Highway era ended with the completion of the new Cross-State Highway (also known as U.S. Route 10), the precursor to Interstate Highway-90. Due to related highway improvements, the look of North Bend's downtown commercial district changed rather dramatically. Construction of a four-lane, fully paved express highway from Seattle to Spokane began after the completion of the Lake Washington floating bridge in July 1940. While other neighboring towns were bypassed by the expanded highway corridor, North Bend was able to negotiate an agreement to keep the highway alignment running through the heart of its downtown and retained its status as the last provider of services to the motoring public west of the mountain pass. The new route eliminated the bend at Bendego Street and the use of Fourth Street, and established a straight alignment along First Street (now W. North Bend Way). In order to accommodate the modern roadway, First Street was substantially widened to create an eighty-foot wide arterial to eliminate traffic bottlenecks in downtown North Bend.

As a result, in 1941 buildings on the north side of the street for a distance of some eight blocks were jacked up and moved back thirty feet, courtesy of the State Highway Department. By the summer of 1942, the work was completed and the new highway was opened to great acclaim. The highway widening and building relocations, along with the ever-increasing use of the private automobile, seem to have had the immediate effect of revitalizing downtown North Bend. As highway travel increased in the years after the World War II, North Bend's business district prospered. New buildings were constructed, and older buildings were updated. Over the following three decades, North Bend's cafes and drive-in restaurants, tourist courts and motels, gas stations and garages, spread further and further to the east along the highway route. By night, distinctive neon signage illuminated the busy thoroughfare, which was the only central business district remaining on the cross-state corridor.

The McGrath Hotel, situated on the south side of the expanded highway route did not require major alterations or relocation. However, in response to the highway improvements, Jack McGrath renovated the exterior of his building in 1941 "along lines which will be modern to the last degree" (per the *Snoqualmie Valley Record*). Like many other business owners, McGrath hoped that the "latest in signs" and the "most arresting of exterior finish" would entice the travelling public to stop. The McGrath Hotel was known for its dramatic signage, which became larger and more elaborate over the years. Historic photographic images document numerous elaborate neon signs in place by

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the late 1940s. The most dramatic was a twenty-foot high vertical sign, "North Bend's Famous McGrath's Café," that was prominently mounted near the northeast corner and required a rooftop superstructure for support.

In late May of 1944, the McGraths sold the hotel building to two couples, Gus and Grace Schmitt and C.L. "Les" and Jewell A. Haines. After four months of ownership, the Schmitts transferred their ownership share to the Haines, who continued to own and operate the hotel and restaurant for the next seven years. During this time, the Haines retained the property's original name. On February 22, 1951, a local newspaper article announced that new owners, Cecil "Cec" and Caroline Thompson, would take over the "famous landmark on the Sunset highway." Several months of negotiations resulted in a purchase agreement, which became effective on April 2, 1951. This agreement included the acquisition of the building as well as all furniture, fixtures and equipment associated with the hotel and restaurant business. The business was renamed the Thompson Hotel and Café.

Cecil Thompson was a native of North Bend, born in 1916 into a family of restaurateurs. During the 1930s, his father, Roy, operated Thompson's Café, a successful lunchroom, in the former dining room of the McClellan Hotel, located at the northwest corner of First Street and Bendego Street in downtown North Bend. When his successful café was left a half-block off the new highway alignment, Roy E. Thompson wisely acquired a vacant property at the southeast corner of First and Bendego and had a new building constructed in a spare, streamlined Art Moderne design mode. He opened his new Thompson's Café (later known as the Mar-T Cafe) in 1941 and operated it for three years before selling it to his son in the summer of 1944. Cecil Thompson ran the restaurant for a short time until he was drafted into Army near the end of World War II. During his absence, it was necessary for his wife, Caroline, to take over the business.

After purchasing the McGrath Hotel Building, the Thompsons immediately went to work on their plans for extensive alterations, which included redecorating the dining room, remodeling the kitchen, and sprucing up the hotel rooms. They converted the famous "McGrath's" sign to read "North Bend's Hotel Thompson Café." They also transferred furniture and equipment from their former business. On April 26, 1951, the Thompson formally opened the renovated Thompson Hotel and Café, which featured the "sparkling new Patio Room." The Thompsons

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continued to operate the hotel and restaurant business until 1962 when they sold the restaurant operation, which then became known as the Homestead Restaurant.

In 1967, Keith Rogers and Keith Williams took over the restaurant and bar operation. Keith Rogers had gained extensive experience working in the North Bend restaurants operated by his parents, Ken and Dori Rogers. The following year on July 25, 1968, an accidental fire started in the kitchen and quickly spread to the restaurant before the fire department was able to bring it under control. The business did not reopen until early October 1968 after a major reconstruction and renovation. It was during this time that Rogers acquired full ownership of the hotel property from the Thompsons.

As early as the 1950s, the sheer volume of cross-state traffic through the town had become a problem for the community and by the mid-1960s, downtown North Bend was an infamous bottleneck with one of Interstate-90's only traffic lights between Seattle and Boston. Plans for a by-pass freeway around North Bend finally became a reality in the late 1960s with a proposed completion date in the mid-1970s. In the early 1970s, in order to attract more of the motoring public and become a regional destination, North Bend merchants selected a Swiss Alpine motif as a way to create a unified theme to downtown architecture. Several businesses completed fairly extensive exterior remodeling projects adding projecting gables, balconies, and Alpine-styled woodwork while others adopted somewhat modest interpretations of the theme. The exterior of the McGrath Hotel Building was not significantly altered, although during this period the hotel ceased to operate and the lobby space (which had been functioning as a bar) was adapted to a retail space.

In 1978, the modern Interstate-90 freeway route was completed a half-mile to the south entirely bypassing the old highway route and the downtown commercial district. Not surprisingly, many of North Bend's gas stations, restaurants, and motels suffered economically or went entirely out of business. The business community struggled through the 1980s at the same time that the regional and local lumber industry suffered a dramatic decline. By the early 1990s, commercial investment and development had shifted to sites adjacent the modern freeway route and the historic commercial district was in serious decline. In 1995, the city of North Bend initiated a local historic preservation program in association with the King County Landmarks and Heritage Program.

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While restaurant and retail businesses remained in operation until the late 1990s, the upper floor guestrooms and corridors of the McGrath Hotel Building had become severely deteriorated. In early 2000, Dale and Susan Sherman purchased the McGrath Hotel Building and undertook a major rehabilitation project in conjunction with numerous other historic preservation projects within the historic commercial district.

Today, the preserved and rehabilitated McGrath Hotel Building is a particularly distinctive feature within the historic commercial district of North Bend, Washington. The concrete and wood frame building, constructed in two separate stages between 1922 and 1926, continues to convey its associations with the history of highway development and automotive transportation in Washington State and the growth of tourism, recreation and commerce in rural King County. It exhibits distinctive architectural features drawn from the Spanish Colonial Revival design mode and is an exceptional example of rural commercial architecture in King County, Washington.

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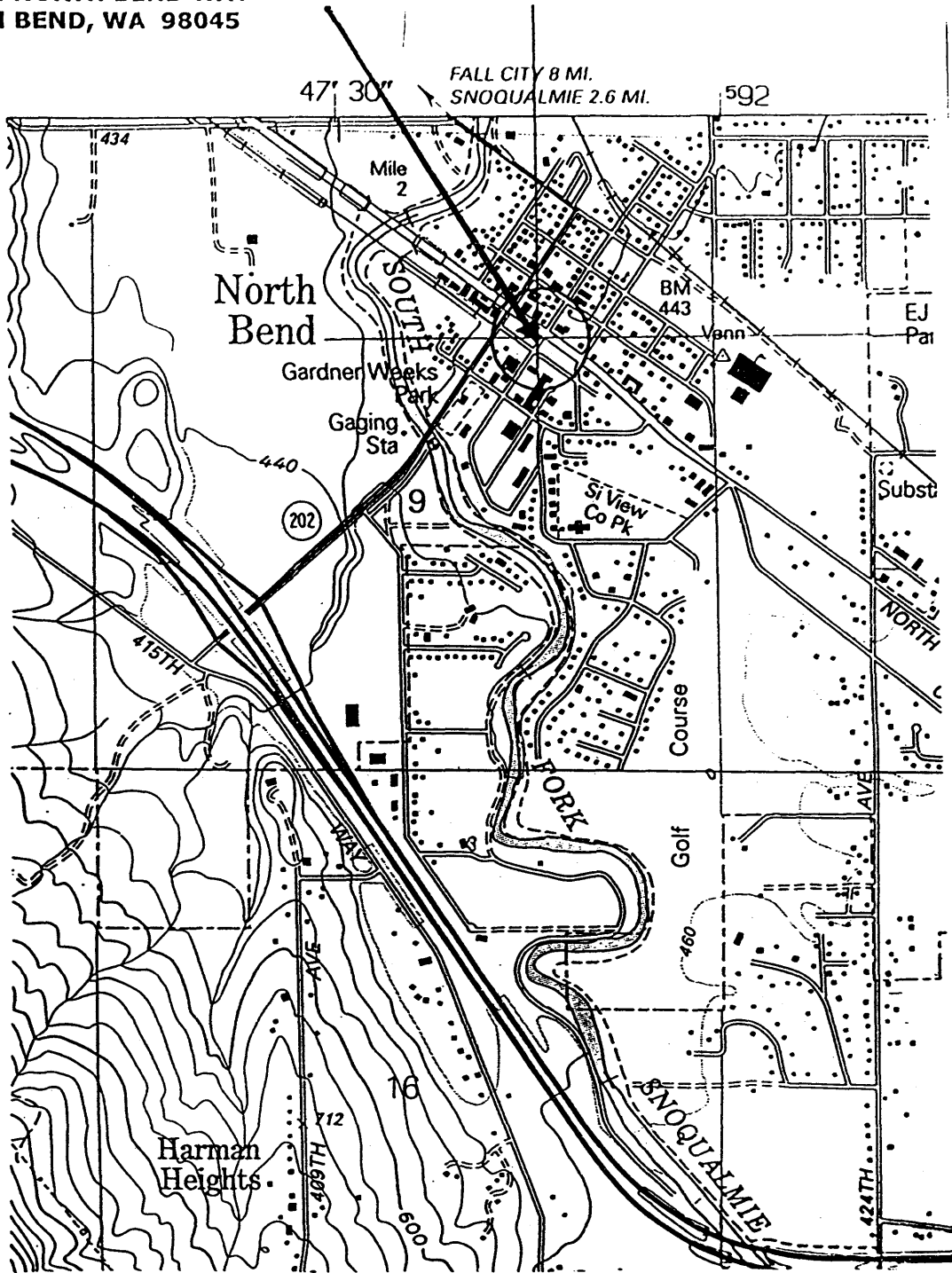
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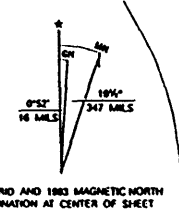
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McGRATH CAFÉ & HOTEL
 101 W. NORTH BEND WAY
 NORTH BEND, WA 98045

NORTH BEND QUADRANGLE
 WASHINGTON-KING CO.
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Produced by the United States Geological Survey
 Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
 Compiled from aerial photographs taken 1952. Revised from serial
 photographs taken 1986 and other sources. Field checked 1990
 Map edited 1993
 1927 North American Datum (NAD 27). Projection and
 10000-foot ticks: Washington Coordinate System, north zone
 (Lambert Conformal Conic)
 Blue 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator ticks, zone 10
 North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed
 corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83
 for 7.5-minute intersections are given in USGS Bulletin 1875
 There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the
 National or State reservations shown on this map
 Travel within the Cedar River Watershed is restricted



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road

Interstate Route
 U. S. Route
 State Route

NORTH BEND, WASH.
 47121-07-TF-024

1993

DMA 1678 IV NE-SERIES V891

COULMERS AVENUE
 10/11/1993

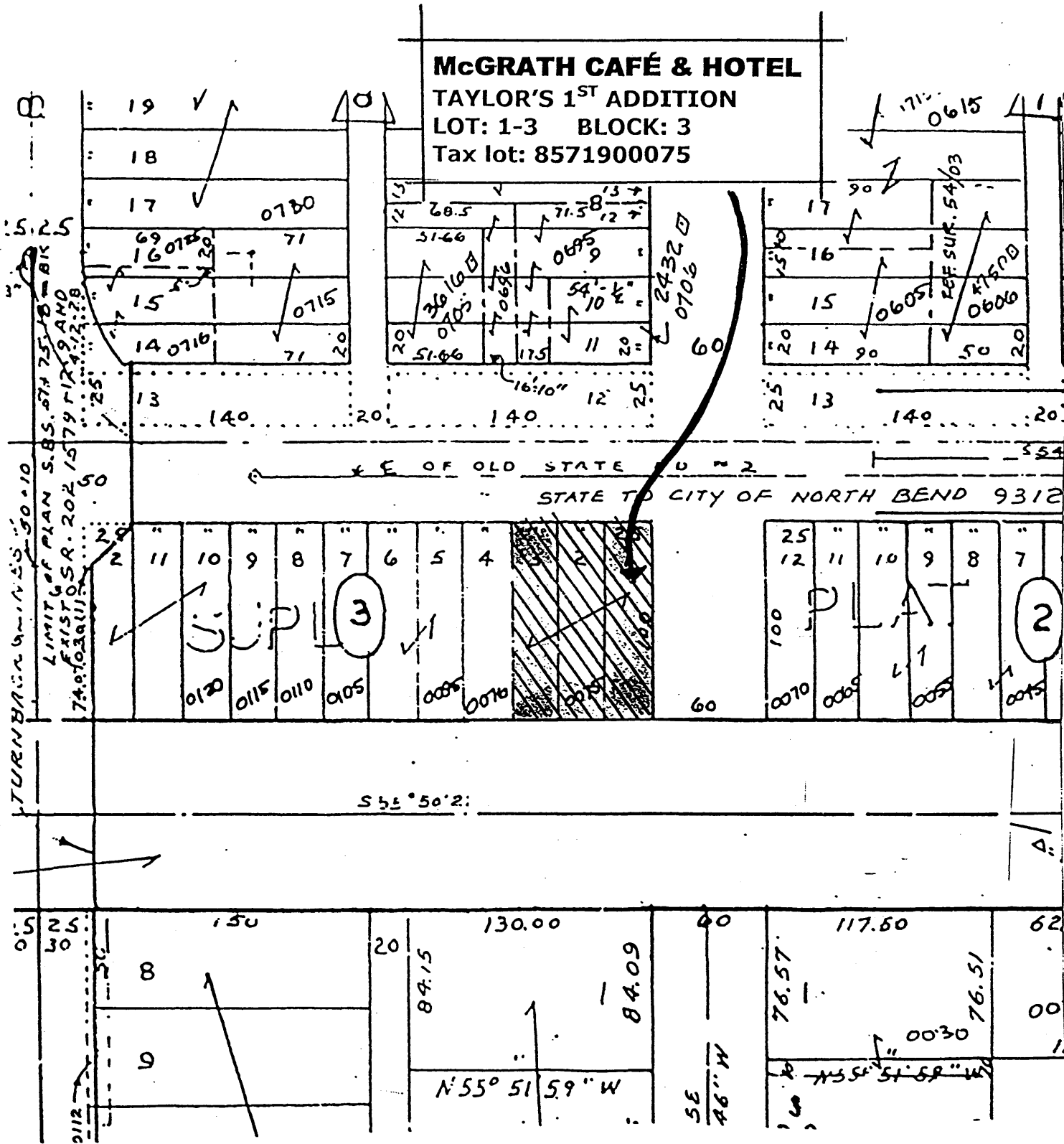
COULMERS AVENUE
 10/11/1993

McGRATH CAFÉ & HOTEL

TAYLOR'S 1ST ADDITION

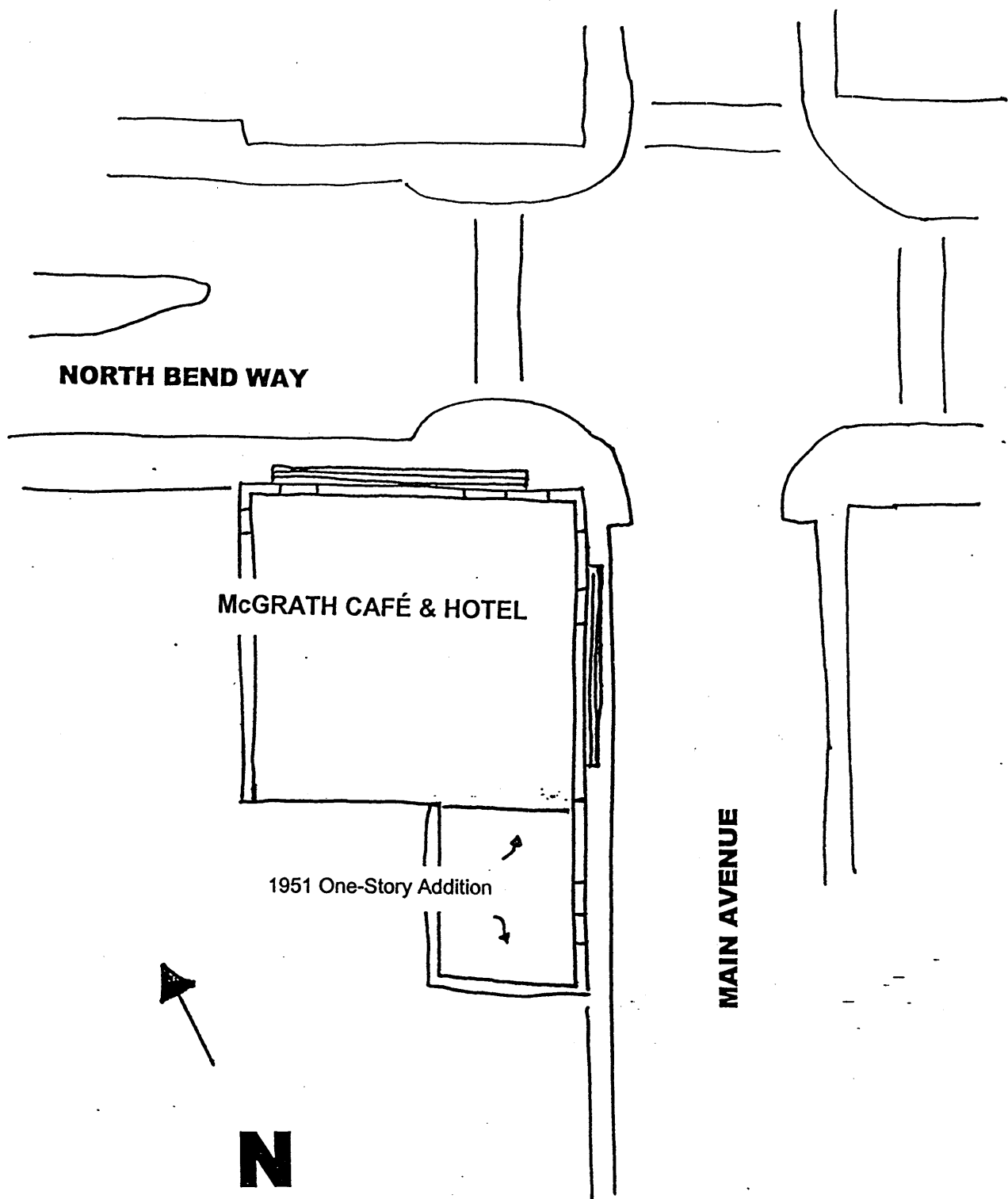
LOT: 1-3 BLOCK: 3

Tax lot: 8571900075



McGRATH CAFÉ & HOTEL
 101 W. NORTH BEND WAY
 NORTH BEND, WA 98045

PLAT MAP
 NOT TO SCALE



NORTH BEND WAY

McGRATH CAFÉ & HOTEL

1951 One-Story Addition

MAIN AVENUE

N

McGRATH CAFÉ & HOTEL
101 W. NORTH BEND WAY
NORTH BEND, WA 98045

SITE PLAN
NOT TO SCALE