

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

1983

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

1. Name

historic Nampa Historic District

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 1200 and 1300 blocks ^{S. 1st St.} ~~First Street South~~ N/A not for publication

city, town Nampa N/A vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state Idaho code 016 county Canyon code 027

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple ownership (See continuation sheet).

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. Canyon County Courthouse

street & number 1115 Albany Street

city, town Caldwell state Idaho 83605

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Idaho Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1972 federal state county local

depository for survey records Idaho State Historical Society

city, town Boise state Idaho

7. Description

Condition excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moveddate N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Nampa Historic District is a densely-developed commercial area along First Street South between Twelfth and Fourteenth avenues in Nampa, Idaho. The district includes ten buildings, representing a short period of major commercial development in Nampa between 1905 and 1920. The exterior appearance of the district buildings is quite homogeneous. Most of the buildings are two story brick structures with concrete, stone, brick, or pressed galvanized sheet iron used for sills, cornices, and decorative motifs. Those motifs generally are drawn from the Romanesque, Renaissance, and Neo-classical revival styles. The use of decoration is restrained, however, and for the most part the district buildings present a plain streetscape of buff, pink, or red brick facades. Buildings vary from one to three town lots in width, and they generally are a half block in depth. Where original storefronts survive, they are designed of plate glass set even with the facade and slanting back to recessed doorways. Often mezzanine lights are set above the storefronts. The second stories of the district buildings are punctuated with one over one light double hung sash windows set singly or in pairs and spaced regularly across the building's facade. The district buildings are set closely together, some sharing party walls. They maintain a consistent setback from the street behind an approximately eight foot wide sidewalk.

Even before the period represented by the Nampa Historic District, First Street South had a coherent streetscape of brick buildings. A fire on July 3, 1909, destroyed a full block between Twelfth and Thirteenth streets, and therefore the district primarily represents the architectural styles popular between 1909 and 1920, a period of rebuilding and relocation for Nampa merchants. During this period the district buildings were quite uniform at the street level, with plate glass storefronts, recessed doorways, mezzanine lights, and cloth awnings. Later in the period the district acquired sidewalks and the street was paved. Early photographs show wooden benches on the sidewalk and electric lights suspended at the street corners.

All of the district buildings originally had a commercial use, and continue to do so. One building in the district (site 7) has been rehabilitated in the course of an Economic Recovery Tax Act project. Alterations to the buildings have been done primarily at the street level in the form of masked storefronts.

The district is surrounded by similarly dense commercial development, but on all sides it is bounded by buildings that are recent, heavily altered, or masked by modern materials. In the event that major efforts were made to restore buildings on the fringes of the district, the district boundaries could be extended.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1905-1920 **Builder/Architect** Tourtellotte and Hummel (sites 3 and 6)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Nampa Historic District is architecturally significant as a group of buildings representing the local use of architectural styles and materials during the early twentieth century. The district buildings retain their orientation to each other and the street, their architectural design, and their workmanship in original materials. Alterations are present chiefly on the first stories of the buildings. At the second story, district buildings retain original brick, stone, pressed iron, and concrete detailing representing local interpretations of the Romanesque, Renaissance, and Neo-classical revival styles. The district is historically significant for its association with Nampa's commercial development during the period 1905 through 1920, a major period of growth during which Nampa's main street, First Street South, gained a full complement of two-story brick business blocks.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property about three acres

Quadrangle name Nampa

Quadrangle scale 7.5 minute

UMT References

A	1 1	5 3 5 7 0 0	4 8 2 4 9 9 5
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	1 1	5 3 5 7 8 0	4 8 2 4 9 0 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	1 1	5 3 5 7 0 0	4 8 2 4 8 0 0
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D	1 1	5 3 5 6 0 5	4 8 2 4 9 0 0
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E			
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F			
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G			
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H			
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Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

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

state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
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state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jennifer Eastman Attebery, State Architectural Historian

organization Idaho State Historical Society date 28 June 1983

street & number 610 North Julia Davis Drive telephone (208) 334-3356

city or town Boise state Idaho 83702

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Merle Wells

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 12 July 1983

For NPS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

J. Melrose Byers
 Keeper of the National Register

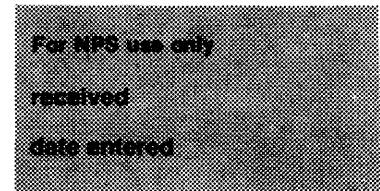
date 8/1/83

Attest: _____ date _____
 Chief of Registration

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Nampa Historic District



Continuation sheet

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Nampa Historic District Owners:

site 1 The Sportsman Bar 1300 block First Street South	Tereco c/o Harmengo, Ltd. P.O. Box 7172 Boise, Idaho 83707
site 2 Realty Building/Stoddard Hardware Company Building 1300 block First Street South	Fifers Fair, Inc. 1302 First Street South Nampa, Idaho 83651
site 3 Nampa Department Store (1919) 1300 block First Street South	Benton Long 1519 Amity Avenue Nampa, Idaho 83651
site 4 Commercial Building 1309 First Street South	Idaho First National Bank, Trustee 101 South Capital Boulevard Boise, Idaho 83702
site 5 Nampa Department Store (1910) 1307 First Street South	Greenside Associates 760 West Myrtle Boise, Idaho 83707
site 6 Blue Eye Building 1200 block First Street South	Kim L. Fong 319 South Canyon Nampa, Idaho 83651
site 7 1224 First Street Market 1224 First Street South	Eugene Charles Villeneuve 125 Skylark Boise, Idaho 83705
site 8 W. Hardiman Building 1200 block First Street South	Imogene and Maralu S. Jones 814 North Alpine Drive Beverly Hills, California 90210
site 9 C. Meister Building 1200 block First Street South	Walter K. Sterling P.O. Box 890 Parma, Idaho 83660
site 10 Dewey Building 1200 block First Street South	Idaho Concrete Pipe Company, Inc. P.O. Box 87 Nampa, Idaho 83651

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INVENTORY:

1. The Sportsman Bar contributory
1300 block First Street South
built circa 1910-1920

The Sportsman Bar building is a one-story concrete-block building with brick veneer and a flat roof. The brick veneer is laid in common bond. A row of vertical stretchers is just above the storefront, which retains its configuration but is masked with diagonal lumber. There is a metal canopy suspended just below the mezzanine lights, which are covered on the interior with a green material.

2. Realty Building/Stoddard Hardware Company Building contributory
1300 block First Street South
Realty built circa 1910-1920/Stoddard built circa 1905-1909

The Realty Building is a two-story brick-masonry building designed with motifs drawn from the Renaissance Revival style. The flat-roofed commercial building has flat arched windows and a corbel table suggesting dentils. It is connected to the Stoddard Building by a one-story building, brick with a simple cornice of two out-set courses. The two-story Stoddard Building is brick, with round-arched openings. Windows are one over one light double hung sash. Relieving arches are made of brick stretchers set on end. The building is painted white with green trim.

3. Nampa Department Store contributory
1300 block First Street South
built 1919
architect: Tourtellotte and Hummel

This is a one-story brick-masonry building with a brick veneer designed with motifs suggestive of Neo-classicism. The flat-roofed building sits on a concrete foundation. Side walls are laid in common bond with a header course every eighth row. The front of the building has dark red brick veneer. Above the mezzanine lights a stepped corbel table forms denticulations and a cornice. Concrete diamonds and squares are set into the facade above this cornice. Headers and stretchers are used decoratively to form paneled areas on the building front. The building's storefront preserves its original configuration below a newer metal canopy. The mezzanine lights are covered with metal strips.

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Because most of the district buildings were built during a very brief period around 1910, the district is homogeneous in appearance. Its buildings use similar massing, window placement, arches over window and door openings, brick corbels, cornices, and (when present) storefront design. The setback behind a concrete sidewalk is consistent, preserving a good sense of streetscape from the pedestrian level. The color of brick used for front exposures is generally a homogeneous pink to red color. These details, and the fact that the district has no intrusions, create in this two-block-long district a strong feeling for the historical period during which the buildings were erected. These details are also representative of commercial architecture in the Boise Valley. Similar modest expressions of the Romanesque, Renaissance, and Neo-classical styles commonly were built during this period in the valley's small towns.

The Nampa Historic District is located at the center of Nampa's commercial development during the town's early years. Within a few blocks of the district, and separated from it by intrusions, are the early city hall, the railroad depot, and the town's major bank. At one time the Dewey Palace, a large luxury hotel, stood at one edge of the district. What remains in the Nampa Historic District is a core of period buildings still representing Nampa's early development as a railroad town. Founded in 1885 as a small stop on the Oregon Short Line, Nampa became a regional shipping point in southwest Idaho when the Idaho Central Railway line, backed by Nampa merchants and the Oregon Short Line, built a line from Nampa to nearby Boise City, the territorial capital. Nampa shared in the surrounding region's expansion through Boise Valley irrigation projects during the 1880's through the early twentieth century. Between 1900 and 1910 the valley's population tripled, providing new opportunities for merchants in towns like Nampa, which was located close to the major irrigation project of Lake Lowell.

In addition, many of the Nampa Historic District's buildings were the result of rebuilding and relocation by merchants burnt out of their establishments during a large fire in July, 1909. The fire demolished every building in the block between Twelfth and Thirteenth streets and First and Front streets. Within a year of the devastation, the merchants had rebuilt, creating a full streetscape of fireproof brick buildings.

Boundaries of the Nampa Historic District are drawn to include the core of downtown Nampa, which is a remnant of what once existed in this area. Boundaries are drawn to exclude intrusions, and should restoration activities make masked buildings eligible, boundaries could be extended in the future. Around the district the concentration of significant and contributory buildings diminishes rapidly. Many of the old buildings outside of the district have lost their architectural integrity through the application of modern masking materials or through radical and irreversible alterations. An Economic Recovery Tax Act project involving site 7 is the only current preservation activity in the district.

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Nampa Leader-Herald, 1899-1925.

Bird, Annie Laurie. My Home Town. Caldwell: The Caxton Printers,
1968.

Nampa; A Railroad Center and Hustling Town in Southwestern Idaho.
Nampa, Idaho: Chamber of Commerce, [c. 1905].

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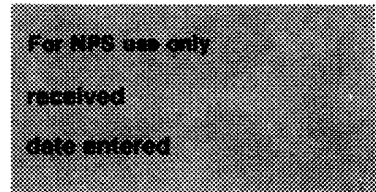
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
Page 1



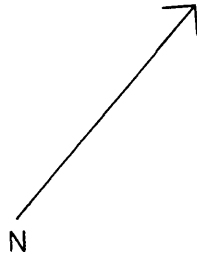
verbal boundary description: The Nampa Historic District includes the buildings herein inventoried and the property on which they sit, T2 and T4 in block 18, T7, T8, T9, and T10 in block 7, and the south 80 feet of lots 13 and 15 in block 19, all in Nampa Original Townsite; lots 1 and 2 in Given's Resubdivision, Nampa; lots 18 through and including lot 23 in block 8 of the Mock, Snell, and Everett Resubdivision, Nampa; and the southeast 15 feet of tax 3 (Nampa Original Townsite, Young Subdivision, and Mock, Snell, and Everett Resubdivision) and tax 6, block 8 (Nampa Original Townsite and Young Subdivision).

NAMPA HISTORIC DISTRICT

NAMPA, IDAHO

-  CONTRIBUTORY
 -  VACANT LOT
 -  DISTRICT BOUANDRY
- NOT TO SCALE

TWELFTH AVE. SOUTH



SECOND ST. SOUTH

FIRST ST. SOUTH

THIRTEENTH AVE. SOUTH

Union Pacific Railroad

FOURTEENTH AVE. SOUTH

