

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

11/00/2010

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 26 1977

DATE ENTERED MAR 30 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

\*\*

Twin Falls City Park Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

2nd N., 2nd E., and Shoshone Sts. 4th and 6th Aves.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

Second

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Twin Falls

73

16

Twin Falls

083

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

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

OWNERSHIP

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

STATUS

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

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER: professional

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Multiple

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

VICINITY OF

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Twin Falls County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Twin Falls

STATE

Idaho

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Idaho State Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1972

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Idaho State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Boise

STATE

Idaho

# 7 DESCRIPTION

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

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Twin Falls City Park Historic District includes the area which surrounds the city park, with the exception of those locations containing structures erected in the past thirty years. (Most notably the land between the Christian Church (10) and St. Edwards Roman Catholic Church (1), between the Methodist Church (8) and Doctor J. N. Davis' office building (5), and between the Lester T. Wright residence (2) and Fifth Avenue East.

Besides the park with its lava rock bandstand (7) and mature trees, the district includes five churches, two apartments, two professional offices, the county courthouse and judicial building, the public library, the former American Legion hall, and the former high school. This high density of community related structures distinguishes the district from the surrounding residential and commercial areas.

The buildings primarily date between 1909-1920, although several were erected in the late twenties and thirties. None are more than three stories high and most are two, with brick being the predominant building material. United by their scale, age and function, the buildings create a cohesive environment while presenting a diversity of styles typical of the period and region. The Spanish mission, Gothic, bungalow and neo-classical are the major styles represented. The proximity of the park allows for landscaped views, an advantage further capitalized upon by the large lawns surrounding the courthouse (15) and high school (11).

The district is in good condition and with the exception of the judicial building (14) is free from intrusions. Although two churches have been removed for commercial parking purposes, the area still retains much of its original character and function.

### Inventory of buildings:

1. Saint Edwards Catholic Church is one of the best examples of the Renaissance revival style in the state and is distinguished by its twin 75' towers, terra cotta exterior and scagliola ornamented interior. Constructed in 1920-1921, for \$60,000, it was designed by local architect Ernest H. Gates.
2. The Lester T. Wright residence is a brick bungalow with prairie style influences which has been converted into professional offices. Originally built in 1909 for \$7,000, this seven room dwelling was converted into offices for Doctor Lamb in the 1920's. Since World War II it has been used as a law office.
3. The public library is a classically inspired one story brick building which was constructed in 1939.
4. The Reformed Church is the only frame structure in the district, built in the bungalow style. It was constructed in 1909 as the Christian Church, and sold to the Lutherans in 1929.
5. Doctor J. N. Davis' residence and office is a one-story, smooth stucco, Spanish mission style building with fine round arched, beveled glass entries. It dates from 1938.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD                                    | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW |  |   |  |
|---|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC      | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC  | <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)     |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION                     |   |  |

SPECIFIC DATES      1909-1939

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Twin Falls City Park Historic District is architecturally significant for its inclusion of many of the city's (and several of the state's) finest ecclesiastical and public buildings.

The Twin Falls Land and Water Company platted the city in 1904 as a part of their Carey Act Project. Four blocks, including the present sites of the park, high school and county courthouse, were set aside at this time for park purposes. When Twin Falls became a county seat in 1907 the area west of Shoshone Street was employed for the courthouse and high school sites. The area surrounding the park became the prime location for various churches and the vacant lots were tacitly "reserved" for important community structures. By 1925 the Twin Falls Daily Times had proclaimed "Beauty Spot Rapidly Becoming Twin Falls' Community Center" in reference to the city park area. By this time five churches were standing with the Christian and LDS churches planning to build. The courthouse and high school were present, the city already owned the library site, and there was some talk of erecting a Y.M.C.A. building on the corner now occupied by the American Legion and Doctor Davis buildings. This high density of community related structures centering about the park is highly reminiscent of New England town greens, and serves as an example of its adaptation in early twentieth century urban planning.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Title: \_\_\_\_\_

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Twin Falls Times and Twin Falls News - 1909-1939.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 25

UTM REFERENCES

A 

|      |   |         |   |   |   |          |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|------|---|---------|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1    | 1 | 7       | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0        | 0 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| ZONE |   | EASTING |   |   |   | NORTHING |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

B 

|      |   |         |   |   |   |          |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|------|---|---------|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1    | 1 | 7       | 0 | 8 | 3 | 4        | 0 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 0 |
| ZONE |   | EASTING |   |   |   | NORTHING |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

C 

|      |   |         |   |   |   |          |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|------|---|---------|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1    | 1 | 7       | 0 | 8 | 0 | 9        | 0 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 0 |
| ZONE |   | EASTING |   |   |   | NORTHING |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

D 

|      |   |         |   |   |   |          |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|------|---|---------|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1    | 1 | 7       | 0 | 7 | 7 | 7        | 0 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 0 |
| ZONE |   | EASTING |   |   |   | NORTHING |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries for the Twin Falls City Park Historic District are indicated by the dotted line on the enclosed map entitled: "Twin Falls City Park Historic District."

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

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Don Hibbard, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Idaho State Historical Society

DATE

20 May 1977

STREET & NUMBER

610 North Julia Davis Drive

TELEPHONE

384-2120

CITY OR TOWN

Boise

STATE

Idaho

# 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

*20 May 1977*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

*W. M. Smith*

DATE

*3-30-78*

ATTEST:

*Robert Cole*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

*3-17-78*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Twin Falls City Park Historic District  
Property Owners

Mayor Paul Ostyn  
P.O. Box 309  
Twin Falls

library and city park

Reverend Robert Van Nest  
First Presbyterian Church  
209 Fifth Avenue North  
Twin Falls

First Presbyterian Church

Jake C. Loo  
Reformed Church  
211 Fourth Avenue East  
Twin Falls

Reformed Church

Father Lafey  
St. Edwards Catholic Church  
130 Seventh Avenue East  
Twin Falls

St. Edwards Catholic Church

Reverend Dorrall Campbell  
First Christian Church  
601 Shoshone Street  
Twin Falls

First Christian Church

Reverend Raymond Thompson  
United Methodist Church  
360 Shoshone Street  
Twin Falls

United Methodist Church

Carrie B. Reat  
c/o Howard J. Meiers  
401 Second Street North  
Twin Falls

Justamere Inn

Gerald D. Stadstad  
385 Sunrise boulevard  
Twin Falls

Rex Apartments

Marjorie W. Oldham  
10929 Deanne Drive  
Sun City, Arizona 85351

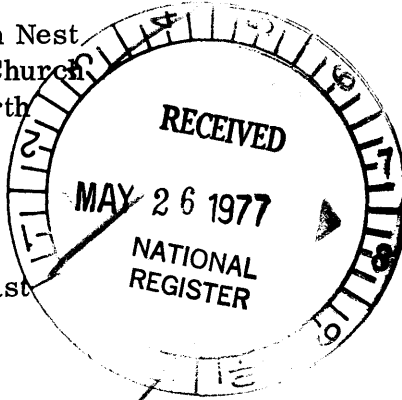
Doctor Davis residence & office

Health Department  
Box HH *P.O. Box 547*  
Twin Falls

American Legion Hall

Rose Gandiaga  
c/o Douglas Kramer and Frederick Plankey  
Box 508  
Twin Falls

Lester T. Wright residence



Superintendent Carl R. Snow  
Twin Falls School Board  
201 Main Avenue West  
Twin Falls

former high school

Harold A. Lancaster, county clerk  
Twin Falls County Courthouse  
Twin Falls

Twin Falls County Courthouse  
and Judiciary Building

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 26 1977

DATE ENTERED

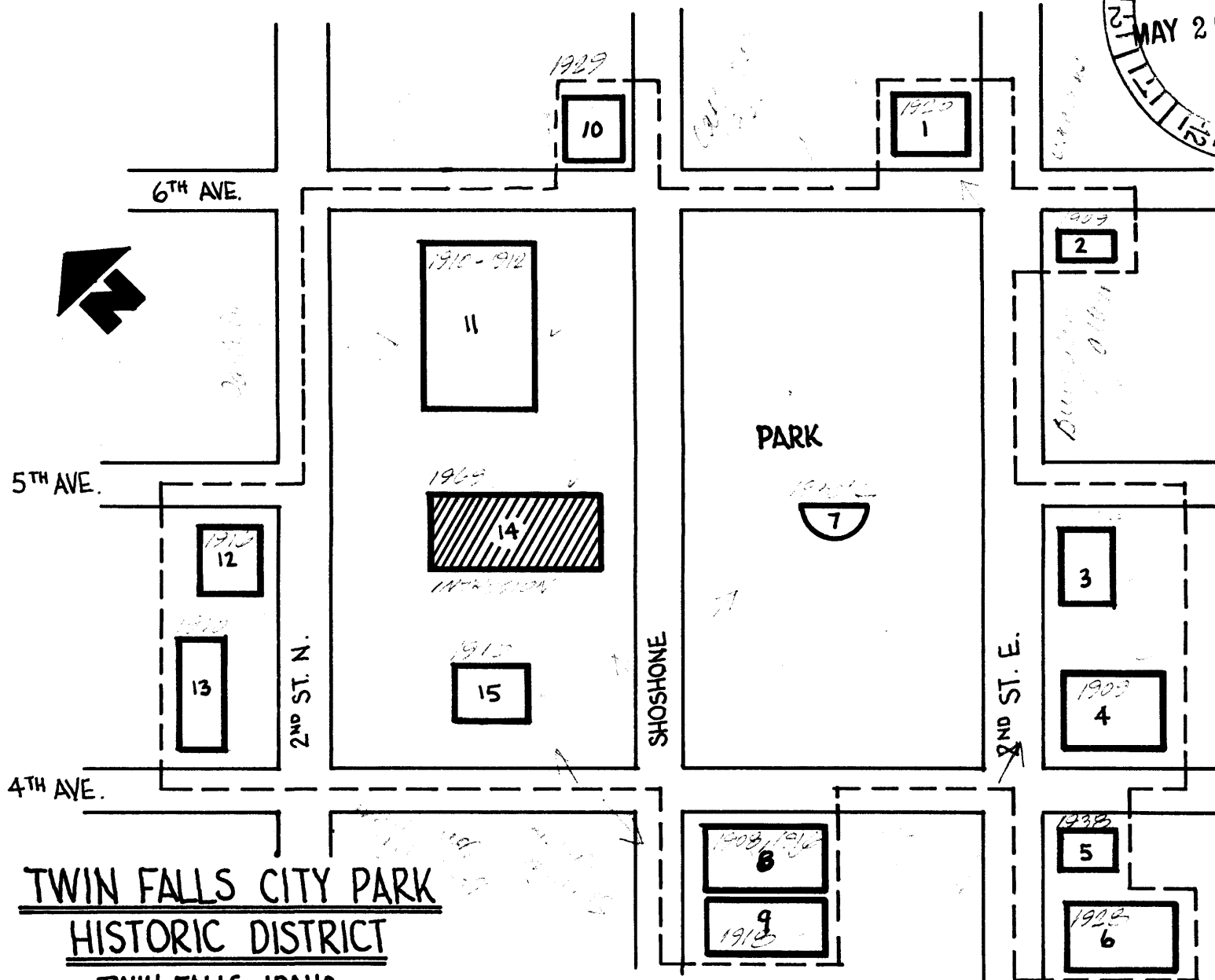
MAR 30 1978

Description

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

6. The American Legion hall is a one-story brick building in the moderne style distinguished by its good brickwork. Besides housing the American Legion, it also served as an armory and community hall. It was constructed in 1928 and is presently owned by the Health Department.
7. The lava rock bandshell in the park was a WPA project of the early 1930's.
8. The Methodist church is a sandstone building in the Gothic style with fine stained glass windows. Originally constructed in 1908 of brick, it assumed its present appearance in a 1916 remodeling. Architect B. Morgan Nesbit was in charge of the remodeling which removed a corner belfry and provided for an auditorium seating 1150. A brick and concrete addition was placed on the south side in recent years.
9. The Rex Apartment block is a three-story brick apartment building in the neo-classical style. Constructed in 1918, this \$45,000 building was designed by Burton E. Morse, Twin Falls' pioneer architect.
10. The First Christian Church is a neo-classical revival style church distinguished by its pedimented portico with Doric columns. It was constructed in 1929 and was designed by Portland architect Taymond W. Hatch, who also designed the First Christian Church in Lewiston.
11. The neo-classical revival high school building cost \$150,000 to construct in 1910-1912. Designed by Wayland and Fennell of Boise, this brick building has sandstone trim and originally terminated with a dome. Its grounds were laid out by Hugh Bryan a Portland landscape architect.
12. The Presbyterian Church is a classically inspired building constructed of Denver "Turkey shade" brick. It cost \$25,000 to build in 1916 and was designed by local architect John Visser.
13. The Justamere Inn is a two-story, Spanish mission style building which was built in 1910. It was originally a hotel, and now serves as low income housing for the elderly. It is in good condition, closely resembling original appearance.
14. The Twin Falls judicial building is the only intrusion in this district. It is a one-story brick building of a utilitarian design and dates from 1969.
15. The Twin Falls county courthouse is a three-story neo-classical revival building constructed of yellow brick with stone columns and cornices. It is distinguished by a round arched entry with a pedimented portico supported by Ionic columns. The original mahogany and oak interior is still intact. It was the tallest building in Twin Falls (constructed in 1909-1910) and boasted the city's first elevator. Local architect C. Harvey Smith designed this building.



TWIN FALLS CITY PARK  
HISTORIC DISTRICT

TWIN FALLS, IDAHO  
NOT TO SCALE

--- DISTRICT BOUNDARY