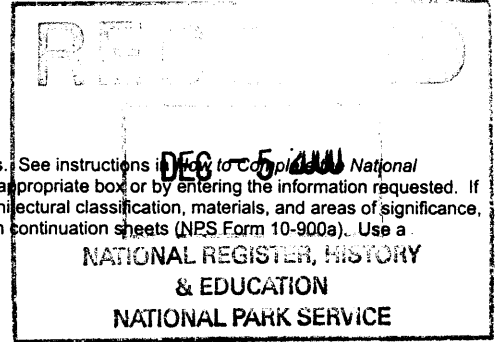


1626

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in **How to Complete National Register of Historic Places Form** (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 Rupert Town Square Historic District
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Roughly bounded by 7th Street, E Street, 5th Street, and F Street N/A not for publication
city or town Rupert N/A vicinity
state Idaho code ID county Minidoka code 067 zip code 83301

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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.)

Kenneth C. Reid 27 NOV 2000
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Kenneth C. Reid, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

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 of the Keeper 1/17/2001
[Signature] 1/17/2001

Rupert Town Square Historic District
Name of Property

Rupert, Minidoka County, Idaho
City, County, and State

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 include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Non-contributing
<u>32</u>	<u>11</u> buildings
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> sites
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>34</u>	<u>11</u> Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
Commerce/Trade: financial institution
Commerce/Trade: restaurant
Commerce/Trade: specialty store
Commerce/Trade: department store
Government: post office

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
Commerce/Trade: financial institution
Commerce/Trade: restaurant
Commerce/Trade: specialty store
Commerce/Trade: business
Government: public works

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 6

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and Early 20th
Century American Movement
Classical Revival
Art Deco

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
walls BRICK
CONCRETE
STONE/Marble
CERAMIC TILE
STUCCO
SYNTHETICS/
Fiberglass
roof ASPHALT
other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

Rupert Town Square Historic District
Name of Property

Rupert, Minidoka County, Idaho
City, County, and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" on one or more lines 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" on all 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Community Planning and
Development
Commerce

Period of Significance

1909-1953

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Paine, Walter T. and
Havell, Thomas C. (designers)

Rupert Town Square Historic District
Name of Property

Rupert, Minidoka County, Idaho
City, County, and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 14.2 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A 1/2 2/8/0/6/8/0 4/7/2/1/7/1/0 B 1/2 2/8/0/6/8/0 4/7/2/1/4/4/0
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

C 1/2 2/8/0/7/8/0 4/7/2/1/4/4/0 D 1/2 2/8/0/8/4/0 4/7/2/1/7/1/0

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dale M. Gray
organization Frontier Historical Consultants date August 15, 2000
street & number HC 85 Box 211 telephone (208) 834-3061
city or town Grand View state ID zip code 83624

Additional Documentation

- Continuation Sheets
- Maps: A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A Sketch map for historic districts and/or 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

name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 11

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Rupert Town Square Historic District
Rupert, Minidoka County, Idaho

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

- Government: public works
- Government: city hall
- Government: fire station
- Recreation: theater
- Domestic: hotel
- Social: meeting hall
- Recreation: music facility
- Recreation: outdoor recreation
- Recreation: sports facility
- Health Care: medical business/office
- Industry: waterworks
- Industry: communications facility
- Landscape: plaza
-
-

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

- Government: city hall
- Recreation: theater
- Social: meeting hall
- Health Care: medical business/office
- Recreation: sports facility
- Landscape: plaza
- Industry: waterworks
-
-
-
-
-

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 7 Page 1

Rupert Town Square Historic District
Rupert, Minidoka County, ID

Architectural Descriptions

The Rupert Town Square Historic District is located in the center of the original Rupert townsite as platted in 1905. The District is centered around the Rupert City Park, which is located between the Union Pacific right-of-way and the Minidoka County Courthouse. The District is surrounded on the north and west by neighborhoods featuring single-family homes, typically bungalows and cottages. To the east and south are commercial and industrial buildings developed along the railroad/highway corridor.

While development of the District began in 1905, brick buildings have replaced all of the early frame structures. The first brick structure on the square housed the First National Bank on the west side (Block 47 Lot 2).¹ The conversion from frame to brick was hastened by two disastrous fires in September of 1910. The north side of the Square, which was destroyed by the September 5, 1910 fire, was rebuilt in brick. These structures date from 1911 to 1920 and are still in place. The other sides of the Square lagged behind the north side with brick construction usually beginning on the more valuable corner lots and infilling as buildings were replaced.

The Rupert Town Square is largely intact, containing a nearly complete set of historic buildings. While the sides of the Square contain the original brick buildings, three of four buildings on the lots diagonal to the corners have been lost. These include the Caledonian Hotel to the southwest, the Rupert Depot to the southeast and the Flat Iron building to the northwest. Only the Wilson Theater, built across Fremont Avenue from the Flat Iron, has survived.

All construction in the post-fire era was in brick. Some buildings, such as the 1917 First National Bank building (Block 47 Lot 1) were built of brick with a veneer of ceramic tile. All but one of the buildings on the north side are two stories, while half of the structures on the west and south sides contained upper floors. The only three-story building is the Masterson House Annex built on the alley in Block 35 Lot 16. The second floors tend to contain apartments and professional offices that originally had double-hung sash windows giving views to the Square. All of the buildings facing the Town Square featured raised front parapets. These false fronts typically contained rectangular signboards. A few buildings were constructed with modest cornices. The majority of one- and two-story buildings were built with clerestory windows above display windows. However, modern awnings and signs have covered all but two of the clerestories (Block 55 Lots 3 and 4).

Because the Rupert Town Square continued to function as a viable business district throughout the historic and modern periods, the buildings have been subject to occasional remodeling and "upgrading" to take advantage of new technology, changing property ownership, and new styles in storefront appearances. These changes include placing fiberglass panels over brick surfaces, encasing the exterior in metal or marble, covering the exterior with stucco; and replacing historic

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Rupert Town Square Historic District
Rupert, Minidoka County, ID

kickplates and display windows with full-height walls of glass. In two cases on the north side, the original storefront has been replaced with brick arches. While not original to these buildings, such arches were used historically on storefronts and can be seen in historic photographs of Block 47 Lot 11 and Block 35 Lots 9 and 10.² For most of the buildings, the changes are viewed as superficial and reversible with the exception of the U.S. Bank building. Most recently there has been a trend in remodeling to restore buildings to a more historic appearance or to add to buildings in a compatible manner (City Hall). Two of the buildings on the Town Square appear unchanged from their historic appearance.

Despite the superficial changes to the buildings, the overall streetscape retains a consistency achieved by the buildings' similar heights (one to two stories), designs, massings, and abutments to the sidewalk. The District continues to convey its role in the development of the city from 1909 to 1953.

Rupert Town Square -- North Side

1. **501 F Street and 6th Street / Block 35 Lots 7 and 8**
Contributing
1911

This building (50 x 80 feet) is a two-story brick commercial building constructed with high-quality brick. The building is in a prominent location on the northwest corner of the Town Square. The building has corner pilasters with brick plinths with a concrete veneer. On the upper portion of the pilasters are vertical brick keystone medallions. The building has a modest brick cornice on the front facade and a flat, asphalt roof. Historic double-hung sash windows have been replaced with thermopane windows on the second story. These windows are footed and have a continuous concrete site; they are capped with brick, arched window hoods. Brick medallions decorate the facade between the windows.

This building is located at the site of the original Rupert Hardware Store built around 1905. This frame structure was destroyed by fire in 1910. The current building was built in 1911 by the Parker Brothers. The Parkers sold out to Roper-Tomlinson in 1914. Ropers continued to occupy the building until the late 1990s. The upstairs was historically occupied by a series of doctor and dentist offices and the first exchange for the Idaho Telephone Company. A frame-constructed bakery was built on the back of the lot around 1917, but had disappeared by 1940. A new cinderblock structure was built on the alley by 1959 when it housed a dentist office.³

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Rupert Town Square Historic District
Rupert, Minidoka County, ID

2. **536 6th Street / Block 35 Lot 9 and 10**
Contributing
1915

This rectangular, two-story commercial building (50 x 110 feet) faces the Town Square to the south. The facade has corner pilasters with decorative corbelled caps. The second floor of the building has brick coursing that forms continuous sills and lintels of the four one-over-one, double-hung sash windows. The facade is topped with a modest brick cornice supported by brick dentils. The building has a flat, asphalt roof.

Two wood structures were built on Lots 9 and 10 in 1905. The first recorded owner of Lot 9 was the Idaho Telephone Company. In 1906, the Idaho Telephone Company sold the property to M. M. Mackay, Rupert's first mayor, for \$500. The wood buildings were destroyed by fire on September 5, 1910. The lot remained empty as two-story commercial buildings were built on either side in 1911. Around 1915 a brick building was erected on lots 9 and 10. In 1931, the lower floor contained the Stag Bar and a "Lunch Room."⁴ At the end of the historic period, the second floor housed the Bagley Hotel. At the beginning of the modern era, the storefront housed the "Anne Shop," Palmer Jewelry, and Artcraft Printers.⁵ The Anne Shop had closed by 1964.⁶ The building is currently occupied by the Heritage House, Town Square Floral, and *Minidoka County News*. The second floor is unoccupied, but was last used by the Bagley Hotel.

3. **530 6th Street / Block 35 Lot 11**
Contributing
1912

This two-story brick commercial structure (25 x 82 feet) faces the Town Square to the south. The front facade was blended with the adjacent building to the east to give the appearance of one structure. The facade has corner pilasters. The inset, south-side shop entrance is flanked by two large plate-glass windows with modern brick kickplates. The second floor has two one-over-one, double-hung sash windows with flat brick arches with decorative brick keystones. A line of yellow brick string coursing runs above the windows. Elongated dentils support string coursing near the top of the parapet. The building has a flat, asphalt roof.

A frame building was built on the lot relatively early, probably in 1905, but was destroyed by fire on September 5, 1910. A two-story, brick commercial building was built on Lots 11 and 12 in 1912 by Charles D. Guyer; the building had a unified exterior appearance, but was two distinct buildings on the interior. The first occupant of the storefront is not known, but the store was occupied by the Disney grocery in 1914 with the upstairs used as the Lincoln Theater/Dancehall. The use as a

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Rupert Town Square Historic District
Rupert, Minidoka County, ID

theater continued until 1920 with the opening of the Wilson Theater. In 1931, Gregory Hardware occupied the building. The commercial building currently is occupied by the Hoggan's store.⁷

4. **526 6th Street / Block 35 Lot 12**
Contributing
1912

This two-story, rectangular, brick commercial structure (25 x 129 feet) faces the Town Square to the south. The front facade was blended with the adjacent building to the west to give the appearance of one structure. The second story is identical to the building immediately to the west except that the original windows have been replaced with single-pane, fixed-frame windows. The first-floor shop entry has been altered from its historic appearance. A modern recessed door is on the west side with two modern fixed-sash, thermopane windows to the side. The windows are set above a brick kickplate that is modern, but in keeping with the historic appearance of the building. The building has no awning or clerestory.

A frame building was built on the lot relatively early in 1905 or 1906, but was destroyed by fire on September 5, 1910. The present building was built in 1912 by Charles D. Guyer. In 1914, the store was occupied by the Disney grocery with the upstairs used as the Lincoln Theater/Dancehall. In 1931, Gregory Hardware occupied the building. At the start of the modern period, the building was occupied by Dick's Tavern on the ground floor and a dance studio on the second floor.⁸ The front of the building was modified in the 1950s/1960s when it housed Dick's Cafe. At some point in the late historic/early modern era, a door was cut to the adjacent Ash building so that the two buildings could be used for banquets. The building was restored to a more historic appearance in the 1980s by John Dockert.

5. **522 6th Street / Block 35 Lots 13 and 14**
Contributing
1912

This two-story, rectangular, brick commercial structure (50 x 103 feet) faces the Town Square to the south. The first floor of the building was remodeled to feature four brick arches. The storefronts are recessed seven feet behind the arcading. The second story of the facade is relatively unchanged from its historic appearance. Brick string coursing provides continuous sills and lintels for the four one-over-one, double-hung sash windows. A decorative brick dentil band appears to support the sills of the windows. Inverted keystone medallions between windows mirror those used on the

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Rupert Town Square Historic District
Rupert, Minidoka County, ID

adjacent building. The cornice of the building has string coursing supported by elongated dentils. While the ground-floor modifications are non-historic, the building's second story remains unchanged and the building retains its original massing and scale, making it a contributing structure in the District.

Lots 13 and 14 were the original location for the Idaho Mercantile store built in 1905. On October 15, 1906, the business and building was sold to the Southern Idaho Mercantile Company for the sum of \$1,000. The building was destroyed by fire on September 5, 1910. In 1912, A. D. Ash erected the present two-story commercial building on the two lots. The upper floors were rented out as the "Ash Rooms." While the original storefront occupants are not known, the building housed an ice cream store and The Owl cafe in 1930. The ice cream store was replaced with a drug store in 1931. At the beginning of the modern era the building was vacant on one side and housed "Rays Sport Shop Tavern" on the other. The Hotel Rupert occupied the upper floor.⁹ During the late historic/early modern period, the structure was used as a restaurant with banquets served on the second floor.

6. **518 6th Street / Block 35 Lot 15**
Contributing
early 1910s

This two-story, rectangular, brick commercial structure (50 x 105 feet) faces the Town Square to the south. The storefront is inset with two canted display windows. The central entry has a wood door with a elliptical fan window in the transom. The storefront is protected by a canvas awning. Above the awning a decorative wrought iron railing/false balcony runs the full width of the signboard. The second floor has brick string coursing providing a continuous sill for the two one-over-one, double-hung sash windows. The windows have brick lintels. Above the windows are seven decorative brick medallions. Extended brick dentils support a modest brick cornice, topped by a brick-capped parapet. The building has a flat, asphalt roof.

On March 30, 1907, Charles S. Roe sold the lot to Marion M. Mackay, Mayor of Rupert, and Llewellyn Zug. Early photographs of the north side of the Rupert Town square show the Land Office and a furniture store on the lot. These buildings were destroyed in the disastrous September 5, 1910 fire. The current two-story brick commercial building was built on the lot in the early 1910s. The first occupant is not known, but a circa 1920 photograph shows a cafe in the storefront. In 1930, the building housed Broadking Electric. At the start of the modern period, the storefront was vacant. During most of the modern period, the building was occupied by the Coast to Coast hardware store.¹⁰ The building is currently occupied by Nancy's Floral.

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Rupert Town Square Historic District
Rupert, Minidoka County, ID

7. **506 6th Street / Block 35 Lot 16**
Non-contributing
early 1910s

This rectangular, two-story, commercial brick structure (25 x 75 feet) faces the Town Square to the south. The first-floor storefront has been altered and consists of a single-span, brick arch extending from corner to corner and rising to the bottom of the clerestory. The clerestory, which is filled with glass bricks in a 1931 photograph, has been covered with a metal, shed awning with a sign that reads, "Condie, Stoker and Associates." The signboard has been covered with modern vertical paneling. The second story has been covered with vertical metal siding and the original windows have been replaced with two one-over-one, double-hung thermopane windows, not of historical dimensions. The original brick cornice has been covered with aluminum.

A frame-constructed law office owned by Calvin Masterson was built on Lot 16 in 1905 or early 1906. The building was destroyed by the disastrous September 5, 1910 fire. The present two-story, brick, commercial structure was constructed in the early 1910s, but no information is available on the early tenants. In 1920, the storefront was occupied by a cigar store. A 1931 photograph of the building shows it occupied by Whitehead Furniture and Rupert House Rooms on the second floor. At the start of the modern period, the storefront was occupied by Motor Parts and Supplies.¹¹ The building currently is occupied by Condie, Stoker and Associates. The front of the building was extensively remodeled in the late 1970s/early 1980s.

7a. The Masterson Hotel addition (25 x 65 feet) has a raised, concrete foundation and red brick walls. The south side of the building is four feet from the Condie, Stoker building. All windows and doors, unless otherwise noted, have arched, brick lintels. The east side of the building has two paneled-in windows in the second and third floors. The north side of the building, which is adjacent to the alley, has a roll-up garage door with a concrete slab lintel and four small clerestory windows. A fifth clerestory window is paneled over. On the second story of the north side is an empty window frame, a paneled-over window and a paneled doorway. The third floor of the north side has two paneled windows and a paneled door with attached wrought-iron fire escape landing. The west side of the building has three paneled windows on both the second and third floors.

While the original portion of the hotel has been significantly altered and is non-contributing, this addition retains its historic integrity, and as it was constructed as a separate building, it can be considered a contributing structure.

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Rupert Town Square Historic District
Rupert, Minidoka County, ID

8. **504 6th Street / Block 35 Lot 17**
Contributing
early 1910s

This two-story, rectangular, brick, commercial structure (25 x 75 feet) faces the Town Square to the south. The storefront has corner pilasters with decorative medallions near the top of the first floor and a decorative keystone motif medallion at the cornice level. The storefront has been remodeled in the modern era with a modern brick kickplate. Above the kickplate are two plate-glass windows and an inset entrance. A second doorway provides access to the upper floor. Brick coursing is located above the signboard. On the second story the two one-over-one, double-hung sash windows have continuous footed brick sills and brick lintels. Raised medallions mirror those found on the adjacent building. A modest cornice has extended dentils supporting red brick coursing with a red brick cap. The building has a flat, asphalt roof.

The first structure on the lot was the frame-constructed Eureka Saloon owned by Leopold Gabardi. This structure was built around 1906 and removed around 1909 when the lot stood empty. The following year, the frame-constructed Golden Rule store and Guyer & Haynes buildings were built on the lot. Both structures were destroyed during the September 5, 1910 fire. In the early 1910s, the current brick, two-story, commercial building was built on the lot. The original occupant is not known, but by 1920, it housed Smith's Meat Market. A 1931 photograph of the building shows it occupied by People Meat Market with an apartment above.¹² For most of the modern era the building held Don and Jim's TV. This rectangular, two-story, commercial building currently is occupied by *Farm Times*.

9. **502 6th Street and E Street / Block 35 Lot 18**
Contributing
early 1910s

This one-story, rectangular, brick, commercial building (25 x 75 feet) faces the Town Square to the south. The painted storefront has been remodeled in the modern era with a diagonal wall leading to a recessed door. A brick planter extends out from the diagonal wall along the original storefront line. A corner column provides a walk through for the corner. The clerestory, originally glass brick, has been covered with wood paneling. The signboard is set out by brick box coursing. A triple square medallion similar to that used in the Ash building is integrated into the raised parapet. The front is topped by a raised, center-parapet false front. The east side of the building, which faces E Street, has a stepped parapet. Seven functional pilasters support the east wall. The side has four windows that originally contained 8 lights. Two have been modified to provide vent outlets and one has been replaced with a modern window. The side has a wood door with a relieving brick arch above. The building has a flat, asphalt roof. Although the storefront has been modified, the rest of

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Rupert Town Square Historic District
Rupert, Minidoka County, ID

the building retains its historic appearance, and its historic massing and scale remain, allowing it to be considered contributing

A frame structure housing a grain and seed store was built on the lot sometime prior to 1909 when the north side of the Rupert Town Square was photographed. This building was destroyed by the September 5, 1910 fire. In the early 1910s, the present one-story, commercial building was built on the lot; there is some evidence that it originally contained the Rupert Post Office.¹³ The building was occupied by Keller Furniture in 1920. A 1931 photograph of the building shows it occupied by Hensons Grocery. In 1959, the building housed offices of the U.S. Farm Home Administration. The building currently is occupied by the Melody Bar. The north-end addition was constructed some time after 1921. In 1959, this building housed the State Liquor Store.¹⁴

Rupert Town Square -- West Side

10. **545 F Street / Block 47 Lot 1**
Contributing
1917

This rectangular, two-story commercial building (25 x 106.5 feet) is located on the corner of F Street and Sixth Avenue, facing the Town Square to the east. The building has a raised-concrete foundation, brick walls with ceramic tile veneer, a continuous sill band under the second floor windows, a dentil band under the cornice, and a parapet wall. The east and north side entrances have Neo-Classical pediments supported by simple Greek pilasters. While the original window openings have been paneled, the original openings are still extant and clearly evident. The main entrance under the Neo-Classical pediment has a one light, one-panel door with paired side-fixed sash windows. On the second story, the east side has two one-over-one double-hung sash windows while the north facade has nine one-over-one, double-hung sash windows. "First National Bank" is carved into the lintel beam above the north entrance. The building has a flat, asphalt roof.

The first building on Lot 1 was the frame-constructed Smith Meat Market built in early 1906. This became the Rupert Meat Market (1909) and the Rosencrans Meat Market (1916). The frame building was removed and the First National Bank building erected in 1917. The brick bank contained professional offices on the second floor. Around 1936, the building was converted into a bar/supper club. At the start of the modern period, the building housed Cousin Roy's Supper Club.¹⁵ The building currently houses the Drift Inn.

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Rupert Town Square Historic District
Rupert, Minidoka County, ID

11. **539 F Street / Block 47 Lot 2**
Contributing
1909

This rectangular, two-story, brick, commercial building (25 x 80 feet) faces the Town Square to the east. It has a storefront in the first floor and vacant living quarters/professional offices in the upper floor. The building has a modest brick cornice supported by brick dentils. The east half of the structure is two story with the west half only one story. The storefront has retained its original shape, with an inset door, though the windows and kickplate have been modernized. A second-floor entry door flanks the store entry. The inset entry for this doorway has a swastika pattern in the floor tiling. Three pilasters rise from concrete plinths at the corners and doorway. The front of the plinths are covered with glazed tiles depicting pastoral scenes. The second story has a pair of one-over-one, double-hung sash windows flanked by one-over-one, double-hung sash windows. The windows have concrete lintels.

The building on Lot 2 is the oldest building in the Rupert Town Square Historic District. Early photographs from around 1906 show a barber shop in a frame building. The frame building was removed in 1909 and the present brick building was constructed. This housed the First National Bank until 1917 when the bank built on the adjacent corner lot. After 1917, the building housed a variety of candy and cigar stores. At the beginning of the modern period, the building housed Lowell's shoes.¹⁶ It now is used as a restaurant, but the original bank vault door remains in place.

12. **533 F Street / Block 47 Lots 3 and 4**
Non-contributing
1913

This two-story, rectangular, concrete and brick commercial (50 x 80 feet) building faces the Town Square to the east. The building facade has been heavily modified by the addition of a 1960s/1970s monolithic entry and a metallic screen to cover the original brick walls. No original surfaces are visible. The first-floor storefront has three large store windows and a corner store display window framed in walls of orange concrete aggregate tile.

Lots 3 and 4 originally held two frame buildings, a restaurant and a drugstore, which date to late 1905 or early 1906. By 1909, the restaurant had been replaced by the C. W. Penney confectionery store and the drugstore began displaying the Rexall brand name. The current brick building was built in 1913 by O. H. Marsh and E. E. Fisher. In 1920, the Lot 3 store displayed the sign J. L. McCury. In the modern period, the building has been occupied by a series of drug stores.¹⁷ Most recently (1995) the building was modified to house a tortilla factory. It is currently empty.

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13. 529 F Street / Block 47 Lot 5
Contributing
1913

This rectangular, one-story, brick, commercial building (25 x 80 feet) faces the Town Square to the east. The dark brick used in the storefront kickplate has been covered with a veneer of lava rock. The entrance is inset with a glass door with a flanking vertical, fixed-sash wing window. The front entrance and plate glass store windows are covered by a modern metal hood. The brick facade parapet has a concrete cap. The building has a flat, asphalt roof. Although the lava rock veneer has been added, the storefront retains its original shape and the second-story facade remains unchanged; therefore, the building can be considered contributing in the District.

Lot 5 is the location of the original Rupert Mercantile, the first business on the Town Square. A small, saddle-roof building was opened for business on May 2, 1905 with W. N. Shilling as proprietor. Rupert's first post office was established in the store on July 17, 1905. The original Rupert Mercantile store, a small, saddle-roof, frame building, was replaced by a false-front frame structure with a gable roof around 1906. This W. N. Shilling replaced with a one-story, brick building in 1913. This is the standing structure. The first tenant appears to be 5 & 10 Kings. At the start of the modern era, the building was occupied by Lloyd's Floral and Haps TV and Radio.¹⁸ The building is currently occupied by Griz Gallery.

14. 525 F Street / Block 47 Lot 6
Non-contributing
1910

This one-story, rectangular, brick, commercial building (25 x 80 feet) faces the Town Square to the east. The facade of the building has been extensively modified with red fiberglass panels covering the original brick storefront. Modern full-height store windows (no kickboard) flank an inset glass door with transom making the storefront a wall of glass.

The first structure on Lot 6 was the frame-constructed Senate Saloon built in late 1905/early 1906. This was replaced by a brick drugstore in 1910. The Whitney Grocery, which is still evidenced by the painted sign on the west wall, dates from 1914. In 1940, the building housed the Westside Market. At the beginning of the modern period, Western Auto hardware store occupied the building.¹⁹ More recently it housed Peterson's Office Products (1988 - 1994), and is currently occupied by Moon's.

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Rupert Town Square Historic District
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15. **521 F Street / Block 47 Lot 7**
Non-contributing
1913

The one-story, rectangular, commercial building (25 x 80 feet) faces the Town Square to the east. It has been extensively modified. The facade has been covered with fiberglass panels. The front has an inset store window, corner display and a glass door. Above the awning, the signboard has been covered with modern "zigzag" pattern paneling. This building has a shallow gable roof.

The original frame structure on the lot was a tall, false-front store built in 1906. In an early photograph, dating from 1907, a sign proclaiming "Closing Out" filled the front window. In 1911, the building housed a restaurant. R. W. Jones built the still-extant brick, commercial building in 1913. A 1917 photograph showed the building housing "The Project." In 1922 a cafe was in the building. At the start of the modern era, the building housed the VanEngelenes department store.²⁰ In the 1970s, the structure housed Jane's Apparel, but has since been occupied by Hannah's Jewelry.

16. / 17. **513 F Street / Block 47 Lots 8 and 9**
Non-contributing
1913

This one-story, rectangular, brick, commercial structure (50 x 80 feet) faces the Town Square to the east. It has an extensively remodeled facade. The front walls have been covered with plywood that was then stuccoed. The Monterey Plaza has two store windows and an inset, glass door flanked by vertical, fixed-sash windows.

Lots 8 and 9 originally contained a high-front, frame building and two low-front, frame buildings. In 1911, these buildings contained the F. W. Jones Mercantile, the Palace Market, and a jewelry store respectively.²¹ The current brick building was built in 1913 by Isaac Hilson. In 1919, the building was owned by W. E. Gelling and housed the Palace Cafe and a drugstore. The Palace side was empty in 1921, but in 1922 the Central Meat market opened its doors. At the beginning of the modern period, the building contained Golden Rule, Central Meat, and M. H. King.²² Kings department store gradually expanded to fill the entire building. The structure is currently occupied by CC's Deli and Monterey Plaza. The building was extensively remodeled in the late 1980s/early 1990s.

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- 18. 505 F Street / Block 47 Lot 10**
Non-contributing
early 1910s

This rectangular, one-story, commercial, brick storefront (25 x 80 feet) faces the Town Square to the east. It has an extensively remodeled facade. The remodeling has blended the storefront with the two shops immediately adjacent on the north. The front walls have been covered with plywood that was then stuccoed. The front of the shop has two store windows and an inset, glass door with no transom.

Photographs from 1907 show a low wood structure on the lot. This was probably replaced with a brick building in the early 1910s. The front of the building contained a single brick arch. A 1922 photograph shows a theater in the building. This was probably one of two theaters owned by Daniel Ward Wilson prior to the construction of the Wilson Theater in 1920. These theaters closed in September of 1920 when the Wilson Theater opened. At the start of the modern period, the building was occupied by M. H. King department store.²³ The building is currently occupied by 505 Salon.

- 19. / 20. 501 F Street and 5th Street / Block 47 Lots 11 and 12**
Non-contributing
c. 1910

Lots 11 and 12 contain the radically remodeled First National Bank Building (50 x 140 feet) which faces the Town Square to the east. In 1985, a one-story structure on Lot 11 and the former two-story bank building on Lot 12 were merged and faced with marble. The changes are irreversible. The west wall, facing the alley, may be the only remaining original wall of the structure.

The Rupert State Bank began in a frame structure in 1906. This was replaced with a one-story, brick building in the early 1910s. This building was later replaced with a two-story bank building. The Rupert State Bank was bought out by the First National Bank in the 1930s. The building is currently occupied by U.S. Bank.

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Rupert Town Square -- South Side

21. **501 6th Street and F Street / Block 55 Lots 1 and 2**
Contributing
c. 1930s

This irregular-shaped, one-story, commercial building (50 x 140 feet) is occupied by Workman Pontiac. The structure faces the Town Square to the north and F Street to the east. The otherwise rectangular building was constructed without a northeast corner. Instead, a concave arc connects the north and east walls. Gasoline pumps were originally located in the corner cut, but have since been removed. The building has a high, concrete foundation; brick walls; brick string coursing above store windows; concrete-brick cap stones on the parapet; and a flat, asphalt roof. The storefront is in the northwest arc. A glass door with transom is flanked by two paired, plate-glass windows. Diamond patterned brick medallions are located over the windows and a vertical rectangular brick medallion is positioned over the door. On the north side, facing the Square, are a pair of plate glass store windows. The east side, facing F Street, contains the dealership's service bays: three large, roll-up garage doors; three 24-light, top-hinged sash windows; and one 24-light, top-hinged window that has been converted into a 20-light, top-hinged window with a 9-light, one-panel door. The windows have concrete sashes and lintels. Concrete string coursing is located above the windows and the bays.

Little is known of the early history of the property. In 1921, a frame-constructed office and a frame-constructed shop were located on the lots. In the 1930s, the frame buildings were removed and the Workman auto showroom, garage, and gas station were constructed.²⁴

22. **509 5th Street / Block 55 Lot 3**
Contributing
c. 1921 - 1942

This rectangular, one-story, brick, commercial building (25 x 78 feet) faces the Town Square to the north. The brick structure has retained its original storefront shape, though fiberglass kickplates have been added. The simple building has a seven-light, opaque-glass clerestory; a recessed signboard; corner caps on the facade parapet; and a flat, asphalt roof.

Lot 3 does not appear to have been developed until relatively late in the historic period. The 1921 Sanborn Fire Insurance map of Rupert shows the lot to be vacant. The modest, brick structure's date of construction is not known. The building's style and materials are consistent with pre-World War II construction. At the start of the historic period, the building housed Wolf's Hardware and Wayne's Shoe Service. The building is currently used by The Stockroom.²⁵

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23. **513 5th Street / Block 55 Lot 4**
Contributing
c. 1921 - 1942

This rectangular, one-story, brick, commercial building (25 x 50 feet) faces the Town Square to the north. The front of this simply designed building is little changed from its original appearance. The building has a concrete foundation; brick walls; inset entrance; leaded-glass clerestory; inset signboard; a brick-capped parapet; and a flat, asphalt roof.

Lot 4 does not appear to have been developed until relatively late in the historic period. The 1921 Sanborn Fire Insurance map of Rupert shows the lot to be vacant. The modest brick structure's date of construction is not known. The building's style and materials are consistent with pre-World War II construction. At the start of the historic period, the building housed Clark Electric and City Decorating.²⁶ Most of the modern period, Mode O'Day occupied the building. Finishing Touch is the current occupant.

24. **515 5th Street / Block 55 Lots 5 and 6**
Contributing
pre-1921

This rectangular, one-story, brick, commercial building (51 x 100 feet) faces the Town Square to the north. The building has a concrete foundation; modern brick kickplates; inset entrance; paneled-over clerestory; paired inset signboards; a metal-capped facade parapet; and a flat, asphalt roof. The main entrance, facing the Square, is a single-glass door with transom. It is flanked by two vertical, fixed-sash windows and two perpendicular wing windows that form the sides of displays. A sign, "The Book Store," has been placed over the clerestory.

There is little information on the early development of Lots 5 and 6. By 1917, a false-front frame structure was in place on Lot 6 which housed the *Rupert Democrat*. An unidentified frame building was on Lot 5. By 1921, the two frame buildings had been replaced by the brick building now standing on the lots. At the start of the modern period, the building was occupied by J. C. Penneys.²⁷ It currently houses the Bookstore.

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25. **523 5th Street / Block 55 Lot 7**
Contributing
c. 1917 - 1921

This rectangular, one-story, yellow brick, commercial building (25 x 100 feet) faces the Town Square to the north. The building has a concrete foundation; stucco kickplate; inset entrance; corner pilasters; signboard; concrete string coursing; a modest facade parapet capped with concrete; and a flat, asphalt roof. In each pilaster are eight bricks with sun motifs worked into the end of the bricks. Also set within the pilasters are cross medallions with fish and vine motif. The glass entrance door with transom is flanked by two diagonal wing windows that form the sides of displays. The entrance is flanked by two double, plate-glass, store windows that form the front of the displays.

The first building on the lot, a small, frame building containing "Shepherds Jewelry Shop," dates from the 1910s. By 1921, the frame structure had been replaced by the brick building containing a variety store and a harness shop. At the start of the modern period, the building housed Rambos, Balsells, and Fricke's Fabrics.²⁸ The building currently contains La Michoacena Pandera.

26. **525-541 5th Street / Block 55 Lots 8-11**
Contributing
1917

This square, two-story, concrete and brick, commercial building (100 x 100 feet) faces the Town Square to the north. The east half of the building is divided into two storefronts on the first story, but the second story is and always has been unified. The front of the building has a fiberglass-panel kickplate, and inset entrances flanked by display windows. In the middle, between the two storefronts, is an inset doorway that provides access to the second story. The doorway has small, hexagon tile inlay that is largely intact. On the west side of the doorway is a brick column with raised decorative white bricks. Concrete coursing runs full width of the building immediately above the clerestory and a continuous brick sill connects the four one-over-one, double-hung sash, second-floor windows with yellow brick window hoods. Above the windows are two yellow brick inset signboards. The parapet has a small, brick cornice supported by brick dentils and is capped with concrete. The building has a flat, asphalt roof.

The east half of the building has been altered with the application of green fiberglass panels. While the fiberglass panels obscure the features of the building, historic photographs show the west half of the building to match the east half (Lots 8 and 9), which is still exposed. The inset entrance is a double glass door, with transoms, that is flanked by diagonal wing windows that form the sides of two long displays. The front of the displays on either side of the entrance are triple store windows. While half of the building has been covered with the fiberglass panels, the

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panels were simply applied over the top of the original brick, and that original facade is still completely intact underneath. The original windows are visible on the second-story interior. Because the building was constructed as one building (as evidenced by the second-story facade and unified second floor), and because the original facade is still extant under the applied fiberglass panels, the entire building is considered to be contributing in the District. The owner has indicated that they plan to remove the fiberglass panels in the near future.

The Lot 8 building was built in 1917 by Clarence Bush as the first substantial building on the south side of the Square. The structure was eventually expanded into Lots 9-11. In 1921, the building housed the *Rupert Democrat* and Shepard's Jewelry. The entire second story of the building was open and used as a dance hall. At the start of the modern period, the building housed the *Minidoka County News* and a vacant storefront.²⁹ A variety of businesses occupied the storefronts over the years; currently, the three westernmost storefronts are occupied by the Park View Furniture Store.

27. **547 5th Street / Block 55 Lot 12**
Non-contributing
post-1950

This rectangular, one-story, brick building (25 x 140 feet) on the corner of 5th and F streets faces the Town Square to the north. It was the last building fronting the Rupert Town Square to be converted from wood to brick. In 1950, the frame building was occupied by Rupert Abstract. The 1959 Polk Directory of Rupert lists Minidoka Pharmacy in the building. The conversion from wood to stone probably occurred when the Pharmacy moved to the lot. Materials and building technique are consistent with a late-1950s/early-1960s construction.

Rupert Town Square -- East Side

28. **502 E Street / Block 49 Lot 6**
Contributing
c. 1945 - 1950

The rectangular, one-story, brick commercial building (140.5 x 25 feet) faces the Town Square to the west. The facade has a low, concrete foundation; brick kickboards; brick corner pilasters; four vertical plate-glass shop windows; and a glass door with transom. There is no clerestory. The brick parapet has a concrete cap. A flagpole rises from the flat, asphalt roof near the front of the building. The south side of the building is adjacent to an irregular-shaped parking lot currently used to display used cars. The building's south side has six 12-light, fixed-sash windows that have bars over them and concrete sills.

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Little is known about the first building on the lot. A photograph from 1917 shows a frame structure on the lot that was identified in the 1921 Sanborn Fire Insurance map as a feed store. It is not known when the frame structure was replaced by brick. Materials and construction techniques point toward a post-World War II construction. In 1959, the Rupert Post Office was housed in a brick building on the lot.³⁰ More recently a liquor store operated in the building. The building is currently occupied by the Valley Tech Electronic Services.

- 29. 506 E Street / Block 49 Lots 7 and 8**
Contributing
c. 1917 - 1921

This rectangular, one-story, brick, commercial building (140.5 x 25 feet) faces the Town Square to the west. The structure has fiberglass kickboards supporting two sets of double store windows on either side of the entrance. The building has two inset entrance doors. Both are glass doors with transoms. The storefront is protected by a hanging awning with the sign "Idaho Youth Ranch." There is no clerestory. The signboard features decorative brick patterns, but these are partially obscured by layers of paint. Just under the parapet is a row of brick string coursing. The parapet has a metal cap. The building has a flat, asphalt roof.

Little is known about the first buildings on the lots. Frame structures are shown in photographs dating from 1917, but they had been replaced by a brick garage by 1921. A photograph from 1930 shows the Safeway store in the building. The building continued to be occupied by Safeway into the modern period.³¹ The building is currently occupied by the Idaho Youth Ranch Thrift Store.

- 30 / 31 / 32. 522 E Street / Block 49 Lots 9-11**
Contributing
c. 1921 - 1930.

This rectangular, one-story, brick, commercial building (75 x 140 feet) faces the Town Square to the west. The structure was originally three separate buildings, but the common interior walls have been removed and it is now, for all intents and purposes, one building. A new, metal, shed-roof canopy, which covers the clerestory, was erected in 1989. While the historic storefronts have been united in the interior, the external changes are reversible.

The storefronts still retain their tripartite form, with brick piers dividing the three bays. The kickplates have been removed and the two outer bays have display windows flush with the sidewalk. The center bay retains the recessed entry. The three separate parapet walls are visible above the new canopy and make it clear that each was originally a different building. The outer bays have simple corbelling, while the center bay has a more elaborate dentil pattern.

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Little information is available on the early development of the lots. A building was probably on Lot 10 when it sold for \$4,600 in 1906. A 1917 photograph shows the two-story, frame Idaho Hotel on Lot 10, but no buildings on Lots 9 or 11. The 1921 Sanborn map of Rupert shows a brick structure had been built on Lot 9, which contained a small, office-supply store and a barber in the front. Lot 11 housed a framed grocery store. A circa 1930 photograph shows the three lots with brick structures. Lot 9 was occupied by the Rupert Bowling Court and Snyder Furniture. Lot 10 was occupied by Rupert Electric and Seed and Milling. Lot 11 contained the framed East Side Cafe. Sometime prior to the modern period, Lot 11 was converted to brick. At the start of the modern period the three lots contained: Radio and Service/Auto Parts (Lot 9), Rupert Electric/East Side Barber (Lot 10), and Glen and Rita's Cafe (Lot 11).³² The three storefronts are currently occupied by the Showkase store.

33. 528 E Street / Block 49 Lot 12
Contributing
c. 1921 - 1930

This rectangular, one-story, brick, commercial building (65 x 25 feet) faces the Town Square to the west. The structure has a concrete kickplate and plate-glass store windows on either side of the inset entrance. The clerestory has been covered with a plywood sign. Above the clerestory is a double row of string coursing. The rectangular signboard is defined by coursing with square medallions in the corners. The brick parapet has a concrete cap. The building has a flat, asphalt roof.

Little is known of the early history of this lot. A 1917 photograph shows a one-story, false-front framed store on the property, but the lot is vacant in the 1921 Sanborn Fire Insurance map. A circa 1930 photograph of the lot shows Artcraft Printing in a brick building. At the start of the modern period, the building was occupied by Mina's Steak.³³ It is currently occupied by East End Electric and East Side Barber.

34. 530 E Street / Block 49 Lot 13
Contributing
c. 1930 - 1950

This rectangular, one-story, brick, commercial building (65 x 25 feet) faces the Town Square to the west. The structure has a brick kickplate, inset doorway flanked by two store windows. The wing walls of the inset entrance each have small, modern, one-over-one, double-hung sash windows. The entrance is a glass door. The building has no clerestory. The false front of the building is capped with concrete. The east side of the building has a low, cinderblock extension (11.5 x 26 feet) with a facade parapet on the north side. The north wall has two doors and two glass-brick windows. A cellar roof is on the north side of the back addition (24.5 x 17 feet). Though the brick storefront was remodeled some time prior to 1983, the changes were consistent

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with the historic character of the building.

A 1917 photograph shows a small, false-front, frame structure on the lot, which is identified in the 1921 Sanborn map as a cobbler shop. By 1930, the lot had the dubious distinction of being the only frame structure on the east side of the Square. The building at the time housed the Hanford Studio.³⁴ By the start of the modern period, the building had been converted to brick; containing the Tot N Teen store. It is currently occupied by Amen's Cafe.

35 / 36. **534 E Street / Block 49 Lots 14 and 15**
Contributing
c. 1921 - 1930

This rectangular, one-story, brick, commercial building faces the Town Square to the west. Lots 14 and 15 have different construction histories, but they are presented as a single facade with two shops. The facade has corner and center pilasters; a metal, shed awning with faux-wood shingles (1984) that covers the clerestory; two blank, rectangular signboards set out by white brick coursing with white, square, corner medallions; and a brick parapet capped with concrete. The Lot 14 building (25 x 86 feet) has two shop windows with brick kickplates flanking an inset, glass door with wing display windows. The Lot 15 building (25 x 86 feet) was remodeled by the present owner in 1988. The shop front is inset and has a pair of shop windows supported by a brick kickplate. The modern door has no transom.

A photograph dating from 1917 shows a small, one-story, false-front storefront on Lot 14, but Lot 15 is obscured. The 1921 Sanborn map identifies the Lot 14 building as a meat market, while Lot 15 contained a small candy store and an ice cream shop. An ice cream plant was located in back on the alley. By 1931, the frame structures had been replaced by brick. In addition, a two-story apartment had been built where the ice cream plant had stood. Walton's barbershop shared the south side of the building with Masterson's Service. Fago's Market was located in the north half of the building. At the beginning of the modern period, the building was occupied by the same tenants.³⁵ The building is currently occupied by Teens to Tots.

35a. Alley Apartment (30.5 x 22 feet): This unattached structure is 26 feet east of the Lot 15 east wall and immediately adjacent to the alley. It is the only dwelling in the Rupert Town Square Historic District. The two-story, ell-shaped, brick structure has a two-car garage (20 x 22 feet) on the ground floor and apartment on the second floor. A small room (15 x 10.5 feet) is adjacent to the shop on the ground floor. An external, wood stairway provides access to the upper floor. The building has a high, concrete foundation; brick walls; and stepped parapets on the north and south connecting to a false front on the west side. The structure has a flat, asphalt roof. The main ground-floor entrance, a one-panel, wood door with relieving arch, is on the west side. To the south of the door is the bottom of the external stair, which is protected with a shed hood

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and leads to a second-floor landing. The south side of the garage ell has two tip-up garage doors. The doors are between brick piers with high, concrete plinths.

37. 542 E Street / Block 49 Lot 16
Contributing
pre-1917

This rectangular, one-story, brick, commercial building (25 x 100 feet) faces the Town Square to the west. The brick storefront has corner pilasters; a metal, shed awning; plywood covering the clerestory; string coursing between the clerestory and the signboard; and brick dentils supporting a modest, brick cornice capped with brick. The building has a flat, asphalt roof. The shop-front has a glass door with transom and paired store windows. The south side is obscured for half of its length, but the wall near the alley has one one-over-one, double-hung sash windows. The side has an eroding stepped parapet with no cap. The east side of the building has two fixed-sash windows, a paneled-over door with transom, and a panel-covered clerestory.

The building on Lot 16 appears to have been the first brick building on the east side of the Square. A 1917 photograph of the Square shows the one-story, brick building in place. The 1921 Sanborn Fire Insurance map of Rupert shows the building as containing a grocery. This may have been Daly's Cash Grocery, which is painted in white lettering on the bricks of the signboard. In 1931, the building was occupied by the Dee Frock Shop. At the start of the historic period, the building was occupied by Coast to Coast hardware store.³⁶ It is currently occupied by Vanek Shoe Repair.

38. Corner of E Street and 6th Street / Block 49 Lot 17
Contributing
c. 1917 - 1921

This rectangular, one-story, brick, commercial building (140 x 25 feet) faces the Town Square to the west. The structure has corner pilasters; a metal, shed awning covering the clerestory; string coursing between the clerestory and the signboard; and a raised parapet capped with concrete. The corner pilaster rises from the clerestory and is capped with concrete. The building has a flat, asphalt roof. The storefront has been remodeled in the modern era with a modern, brick kickplate under a pair of thermopane store windows. The building appears to have had a corner column with walk through that was converted to a display. The north side of the building, which faces 6th Street, has a stepped, concrete-capped parapet. Below the parapet is a double string course with occasional double, brick, square medallions. Though the storefront was remodeled in 1991 and 1996, the changes were not intrusive and were in keeping with the historic characteristics of the building.

The early development of the lot is not known, but by 1917 a two-story frame structure was.³⁷

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located on the lot. This building was replaced before 1921 when a brick building is shown on the lot on a Sanborn map. In 1931, the building contained the W & R Food Stores. At the beginning of the historic period, the building housed Dolan's Market

Rupert Town Square -- E Street, North of Square

39. **602 E Street and 7th Street / Block 34 Lots 7-11**
Non-contributing
1970s

This rectangular one-story, frame, building (82 x 45 feet) is located diagonally across from the northeast corner of the Town Square. This modern, one-story structure is architecturally distinct from the commercial brick buildings that typify the Rupert Town Square Historic District.

This bank is built on the corner of E and 7th streets on the former location of the Hotel Rupert, built in 1909. The 12-room hotel was built by John Tollefson. The hotel is shown on the 1921 Sanborn map, but burned to the ground in January of 1921. At the start of the modern period, the lots were the site of the Workman Used Car Lot.³⁸ In the mid-1970s, First Security Bank built the present structure on the lots.

40. **628 E Street / Block 34 Lots 12 and 13**
Contributing
1921-1930

The Rupert Fire Hall is composed of a one-story, rectangular, brick building (25 x 78 feet) with a smaller, one-story, rectangular, brick addition (27 x 59 feet) on the south side. The front of the building, which faces E Street to the west, has two brick corner pilasters with brick caps, two roll-up garage doors, a covered clerestory, a white raised-brick design in the signboard, and a raised front parapet. Two sets of bolt ends protrude from the signboard -- providing an anchor for the large garage doors. Under the garage doors is a concrete apron that connects the building to E Street. The north side of the building has a stepped parapet with two chimneys.

The front of the south addition faces E Street to the west. The brick facade has a roll-up garage door and a wood door with a panel-covered transom. The parapet is plain with no clerestory or signboard. The south side of the building is constructed of cinderblock with no openings. The east side of the building is also constructed of cinderblock with two six-light, top-hinged windows and a wood door.

The buildings on Lots 12 and 13 were formerly used as the Rupert Fire Hall, but now house the Parks Department. Because of its appearance, the building may have originally served as a

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storefront. No structures are shown on the lots in the 1921 Sanborn map of Rupert. There are few historic records available on the construction of the structures. However, the brick relieving arch found in the Lot 13 building is similar to that found in the nearby Town Square businesses. Businesses with similar windows were constructed between 1911 and 1930. The building was used as a fire hall until recently. It now serves as a garage for the Parks Department.³⁹

41. **632 E Street / Block 34 Lots 14 and 15**
Contributing
1953

This one-story, rectangular, brick and cinderblock Masonic Hall (36.5 x 80 feet) is half a block north of the Town Square on E Street. It has a high, poured-concrete basement, a brick front facing E Street, and cinderblock sides and rear wall. The facade is an Art Deco portico with a fluted surround and "Masonic Temple" inscribed in the protruding lintel. The double wood doors with glass-brick transom are reached by a seven-foot-high concrete staircase and are protected by a metal, shed hood. An electric lodge sign is located above the doorway. Two raised-brick, vertical signboards flank the entrance. The south side and north side each have four cinderblock buttresses and a concrete-capped stepped parapet.

The Masonic Hall was constructed in 1953 and continues to be used by several fraternal orders. Although the Temple is only 47 years old, it is architecturally compatible with the commercial buildings in the Historic District. In addition, the building houses fraternal orders that date from the founding of Rupert.

42. **Corner E Street and 7th Street / Block 34 Lots 16 and 17**
Non-contributing
1958

This modern, one-story, frame structure is located a block north of the Town Square on E Street. The structure was built in 1958 and is architecturally different from the commercial, brick buildings that typify the Rupert Town Square Historic District.

43. **635 E Street and 7th Street / Block 35 Lots 1 and 2**
Municipal Complex
Contributing
1913

The Rupert Municipal Complex consists of several pieces and structures. These include a gable-roof building (a), with a shed-roof north addition (b), a shed-roof west addition (c), a south-side

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gable-roof ell (d), and a concrete jail (e).

In 1913, the City of Rupert began drilling a deep well one block to the north of the Town Square on Lot 1 (d). A 140-foot-high steel water tower (45) was erected over the well. The water tower entered the news in September of 1987 when vandals blew off an 18-inch section of one of the legs.⁴⁰

a. The main building (50 x 76 feet) of the complex faces E Street to the east. The brick facade of the structure has four pilasters; painted-brick string coursing; and a raised, false-front parapet with a concrete cap. The rectangular, one-story, brick building has two large ventilation cupolas on the gable roof. The wall has two plate-glass windows with paneled transoms; a wood door with paneled transom; a paneled door with a one-light, fixed-sash window in its paneled transom; a glass door with a paneled transom; and two flanking, vertical, fixed-sash windows on the south side of the door. The north, south and west sides of the building are obscured by additions (b, c, and d).

b. The north shed addition (25 x 100 feet) has a false front facing E Street to the east and a stepped parapet on the north side along 7th Street. The parapets have concrete caps. The east side has two roll-up garage doors. The north side has a door and four nine-light, fixed-sash windows with concrete sills.

c. The west shed addition (50 x 24 feet) adjoins the main building (a) on its east side. The one-story, cinderblock and brick, shed-roof structure appears to have a rebuilt west wall. The west wall of the building has a door, a plate-glass window, paired six-light, fixed-sash windows with brick sills, and a roll-up garage door. The shed roof drains to the west where a metal gutter is attached to the eaves.

d. The south-ell addition (47 x 24 feet) is set back from the E Street sidewalk by eight feet. The building has a gable roof with brick chimney and a large pipe running vertically upward to the base of the water tank which is situated directly above this structure. The east side has a paneled window with concrete sills; a double, side-hinged door; a double, side-hinged door with transom, and a drinking fountain. The drinking fountain is no longer available to the public due to the erection of a chain-link fence to secure the base of the water tower (45). Tension rods for the water tank leg structure pass through the roof of the building at several points. The building appears to be the original well house for the well drilled in 1913 to replace the well in the Town Square.

e. The former jail (18 x 24 feet) adjoins the south-ell addition on its north side. The building faces E Street to the east and is on the alley to the south. The structure has poured-concrete walls and appears to have a formed-concrete shed roof as well. The east side has a metal door and a wood false front. The south side has a stepped-concrete parapet and a window that is protected

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by mesh. The north side also has a mesh-covered window. The front of the structure has a sign that reads, "Original City Jail built in 1905/Donated by City of Rupert."

The structure is actually the second Rupert jail built in February of 1913. In the 1970s, the jail served as the first home of the Minidoka Historical Society.

44. **635 E Street** / Block 35, Lots 1 and 2
Well House
Non-contributing
post-1950

The modern well house (14 x 23 feet) is not attached to any other structure, standing 17.5 feet south of the main building (43a) and 24 feet west of the south-ell building (43d). The building has a poured-concrete foundation; cinderblock walls; and a metal-clad, gable roof with enclosed eaves and a large ventilator. The east side has two metal doors that open to a sidewalk that connects the structure to the two alleys. The south side has a fixed-sash window, while the west side has a large, louvered vent. The building is a non-contributing element within the Historic District.

45. **Above 635 E Street** / Block 35 Lots 1 and 2
Water Tower
Contributing
1913

The water tower (35 x 35 x 140 feet high) stands on four legs that straddle the south-ell building (43d). The legs rise sloping slightly inward to the base of the tank. The all-metal legs are constructed of two "C" beams joined by a continuous "7" pattern of straps riveted to the beams. The four legs are joined at two levels by horizontal beams. A third level between the ground and the original first level was retrofitted to the tower. Tension rods run diagonally downward to connect level corners -- forming an "X" pattern between levels. The circular tank has a half-sphere bottom and a conical roof. The tank has a capacity of 42,000 gallons. A catwalk runs around the tank at the junction of the bottom sphere and the cylinder of the main tank. The cone roof extends outward to provide some protection for the catwalk. A large-diameter pipe descends from the bottom of the half-sphere to the gable roof of the south-ell addition (43d) below.

The tank was constructed in 1913 by the Des Moines Iron and Bridge Co. A chain-link fence was erected around the tank after one of the legs was severed by a bomb blast in 1987. The leg has since been repaired and the tank restored to operation.

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Rupert Town Square -- F Street, North of Square

46. **620 F Street and 7th Street / Block 35 Lots 4 - 6**
Rupert City Hall
Contributing
c. 1937

The Rupert City Hall is a multi-story, irregular-shaped, brick and concrete, vernacular municipal building with Art Deco elements. These can be found in the facade of the building, the presentation of the structure, and in details such as the concrete buttresses in the Civic Center. The building is located one block north of the Town Square on F Street. The City Hall consists of the two-story, brick, municipal building (a); Rupert Civic Center (b); three-story stage fly-loft (c); jail (d); south-ell addition (e); north-ell addition (f); and a new, north side, entrance addition (g).

a. The municipal building is a rectangular, two-story, brick and concrete structure (101 x 26 feet). The building faces F Street to the west. It has a high, concrete foundation; brick walls; five concrete strip pilasters with fluted caps; concrete corner pilasters; continuous concrete lintels above windows on both the first and second floors; and a concrete-capped parapet. A siren stand is set on the flat roof. The concrete surfaces have been covered with stucco, which is chipped away on several pilaster plinths. A 41 x 8 foot, concrete platform is centered in front of the building. It is accessed by steps on the north and a 18.25 x 8 foot ramp on the south. The main entrance is a mirrored set of glass doors with transoms and flanking, vertical, fixed-sash windows. The second story has eight new, vertical, fixed-sash windows with false muntins.

The north and south sides of the building both have modern, one-story additions; however, these match the building in size, scale, and materials and do not affect the building's eligibility.

b. The rectangular Rupert Civic Center (78 x 99 foot) adjoins the municipal building on the east side. The building is a barrel-vaulted auditorium/gymnasium supported by eight internal arches with eight concrete buttresses on the outside wall of the building. The buttresses (9.5 x 2 feet) extend diagonally from the ground 9.5 feet out from the foundation to one foot above the level of the brick side walls of the Civic Center. Only five of these buttresses are visible at the ground level, having been enclosed by additions on the north and south sides. A set of concrete steps runs full width between the middle set of buttresses on both the north and south sides. The steps provide access to a double set of doors. The brick walls of the north and south sides have three 12-light, top-hinged sash windows set between the exposed buttresses.

The internal arches were constructed by "weaving" straight beams end to center to form an arch. This architectural construction method is unique for large, barrel-vaulted gymnasiums, but can be found locally in vernacular dairy barns.

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c. The rectangular, three-story, brick fly-loft is located on the east end of the Rupert Civic Center (b). The brick structure (15.5 x 78 feet) provides a visual counter-balance to the municipal building (a) on the west end of the Civic Center. It has a raised, concrete foundation, brick walls, string coursing above window levels on the second and third floors; and a concrete parapet cap. The north and south sides have a metal door with a one-step, concrete stoop (wheel chair ramp on the south side) on the first floor and a nine-light, top-hinged window on the second floor. The windows provide light for internal stairways. The east elevation has irregularly placed fenestration, though all windows have nine lights.

d. The one-story, rectangular, concrete, jail addition is located on the southwest corner of the Civic Center. The rectangular concrete building (13 x 43 feet) encloses three of the Civic Center's buttresses. The poured-concrete walls have been covered with stucco and inscribed to give the appearance of smooth-faced, coursed ashlar. The addition appears to be part of the original structure of the building. The east side of the addition has a concrete-filled doorway that has been blended into the stucco ashlar pattern. The south side has a new door cut and a new one-over-one, sliding-sash window retrofitted into an old doorway. The wall has two additional one-over-one, aluminum, sliding-sash windows. This building served as Rupert's third jail. The building is now used as municipal offices.

The first move to formalize city government occurred in July of 1905 when a group of men met in the offices of M. M. Mackay on the north side of the Town Square to put together a petition for Village status. Rupert was granted Village status by Lincoln County on April 17, 1906. The Village Trustees, with M. M. Mackay as Mayor, thereafter met in the Commercial Club Room on the second floor of the Flat Iron Building. In 1920, after the completion of the Wilson Theater, the city clerk, water, and electric departments moved into the west storefront.⁴¹ In 1937, the City of Rupert purchased Lots 4 - 6 from the Rupert Sales Corporation for \$500 and back taxes. Previously the lots had been occupied by Gem State Lumber. A new City Hall was constructed using a \$29,445 Works Progress Administration (WPA) matching grant, which was released when the City had its funds in hand. The attached gymnasium was to be rented out to the local school.⁴²

47. Corner of F Street and Fremont Avenue / Block 36 Lots 1-4
Wilson Theater
Contributing
1920

The Wilson Theater is a large, triangular, brick, two-story structure with a three-story fly loft (137 (NE/SW) x 121 (NW/SE) x 181 (N/S) feet) constructed on the corner of Fremont Avenue and F Street. The entrance of the building faces the northwest corner of the Town Square. The theater is of vernacular design, but contains a blending of elements of Beaux Arts style and brick commercial block. When originally constructed the building exterior displayed elaborate

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concrete medallions on the tops of pilasters, within the second-floor windows above the entry and rising above the parapet. In addition, the parapet was decorated with a coursing of decorative, concrete tiles. All the doors and windows were decorated by elaborate concrete lintels. The main entry on the southeast corner contained four arched openings. Globe lights were affixed to the medallions in the second-floor windows. All this decorative work crumbled off of the building as it was apparently made from a very porous material. Off-color, industrial building brick has been used to fill the depressions created by the deterioration of the decorations. The front arches have been squared for two sets of double glass doors and a thermopane window. The front entry arch has been filled with brick.

The building has a poured-concrete foundation, brick walls, and a flat, asphalt roof. While decorative details no longer appear on the building, the exterior of the theater is structurally intact. The main entrance to the building, on the southeast corner facing the Town Square, consists of double glass doors on the southwest and east sides. Between the two entries on the curve of the corner is the bricked-in arch and the large thermopane shop window. Above the doorways are two awning marquees, which replaced the original extending "Wilson Theater" sign. Above the four former arches are four windows filled with glass bricks. Decorative medallions, globe lights, and edge work have been removed.

The east side of the building, which is adjacent to F Street, has ten pilasters, each with the decorative, concrete medallion replaced with brickwork near the top. Historically, the side contained two doorways that served as the exits to the theater. These have been modified to contain a four-light thermopane window and a modern, glass door with a flanking two-light, vertical, fixed-sash window. A side door with decorative window lintel has been replaced by an aluminum, sliding, patio door topped with the industrial brick. The doorway has been cut down through the raised foundation and the upper portion of the door infilled with brick to fit the glass door. Because of its position several feet above sidewalk level, this exit probably served as a loading dock for large items to be used on stage. Closer to the entrance, two three-panel, stained-glass windows with transoms are intact. Two smaller horizontal windows may have also contained stained-glass, but are covered with plywood. The second floor of the stage area has three windows with brick sills and lintels that have been covered with plywood. The northeast corner of the building contains the stage entrance. The narrow doorway has been covered with plywood as has its transom. Three concrete steps lead up to the doorway. On the third-floor fly-loft a brick chimney rises above the northeast side.

The southwest side of the Wilson Theater contains five commercial storefronts with upstairs apartments. This side faces Fremont Avenue, which connects the Courthouse to the Town Square. The first floor has six brick columns with concrete plinths that become pilasters in the second story. Two of the columns are narrow, two are broad and two form the corners of the commercial block. Concrete medallions have been removed in the upper portion of the pilasters. On the first floor between the columns are the five storefronts. The shops are currently empty, but have been occupied until recently. Each storefront is slightly different in configuration, but

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all have modern, brick kickplates under the store windows and brick string coursing under the second-floor windows. The second story above each shop contains two windows. These were originally double-hung sash, but are in various states of decay and repair. The southeastern shop is affiliated with the Wilson Theater. It currently contains the ticket booth and refreshment stand.

The Wilson Theater was built in 1920 by Daniel Ward Wilson with Robert Paysee as contractor. Paysee also built the elaborate Caledonian Hotel (no longer extant) one block to the south (Block 56 Lots 1-3). The foundation for the theater was laid on March 25, 1920. Rental apartments and lodging for the owner were constructed on the southwest second floor with four shops below them facing Fremont Avenue. When it opened on August 20, 1920, the 700-seat theater cost \$75,000 to construct.⁴³

In 1925, the bank took control of the theater. Harris and Volmer were put in charge of its operations. In 1929, the operating booth of the Wilson Theater was enlarged in anticipation of the first talking pictures. In 1930, the movie "Sally" was the first talking picture to be shown. Thereafter, the theater gradually came to be used only for movies. Harris and Volmer reportedly bought the theater for \$10 and back taxes in 1938. From 1930 to 1950, the theater showed four movies a week. In 1980, the theater was closed and sold to a local minister. The Wilson Theater was purchased in 1999 by the City of Rupert as part of a renovation project.⁴⁴

48. Rupert Town Square / Block 48

Contributing
1909

The Rupert Town Square is a 300 x 300 foot city block in the heart of Rupert's business district. The Square contains a grassy city park featuring second generation trees. Concrete sidewalks bound the square on four sides and run diagonally through the Square from the corners. At the center of the Square is the original Rupert well. This was last used in 1913 and covered with a bandstand. In recent years, the historic bandstand has been removed and a fountain put in its place. Scattered around the park are a variety of memorials: an "Idaho" shaped rock garden, a new bandstand, picnic tables, and benches.

The Town Square began to form from the first usage of the Reclamation Service well drilled to water teams working on the Minidoka Project. The area around the well provided the space for the wagons coming in from all directions to maneuver and to park. When water was turned onto the land in 1907, farmers were freed from the onus of buying water and carting in their water supplies from the Rupert well. Grass and weeds grew up to the point that enterprising individuals began grazing their livestock on the Square. In 1909, after the first city election, poplar trees were planted around the margins of the Square and a fence erected to keep out livestock. As these trees grew old and died, they were replaced with the trees that now shade the park. In 1910, concrete sidewalks and curbs were added around the Square. In 1913, a bandstand replaced the

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well in the center of the Square. This bandstand stood until the 1960s when it was replaced with the current fountain. A replacement bandstand has since been constructed and placed in the southeast quarter of the Square. The Town Square continues in its historic role as the community center by hosting a variety of community events.

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Inventory:

#	Address	Date	Status
1	501 F Street	1911	C
2	536 6 th Street	1915	C
3	530 6 th Street	1912	C
4	526 6 th Street	1912	C
5	522 6 th Street	1912	C
6	518 6 th Street	c. 1910s	C
7	506 6 th Street	c. 1910s	N/C
7a	506 6 th Street	c. 1920s	C
8	504 6 th Street	c. 1910s	C
9	502 6 th Street	c. 1910s	C
10	545 F Street	1917	C
11	539 F Street	1909	C
12	533 F Street	1913	N/C
13	529 F Street	1913	C
14	525 F Street	1910	N/C
15	521 F Street	1913	N/C
16/17	513 F Street	1913	N/C
18	505 F Street	c. 1910s	N/C
19/20	501 F Street	c. 1910	N/C
21	501 6 th Street	c. 1930s	C
22	509 5 th Street	c. 1921-1942	C
23	513 5 th Street	c. 1921-1942	C
24	515 5 th Street	Pre-1921	C
25	523 5 th Street	c. 1917-1921	C
26	525-541 5 th Street	1917	C
27	547 5 th Street	Post-1950	N/C
28	502 E Street	c. 1945-1950	C
29	506 E Street	c. 1917-1921	C
30-32	522 E Street	c. 1921-1930	C
33	528 E Street	c. 1921-1930	C
34	530 E Street	c. 1930-1950	C
35-36	534 E Street	c. 1921-1930	C
35a	Alley behind 534 E Street	c. 1921-1930	C
37	542 E Street	Pre-1917	C
38	Corner of E & 6 th streets	c. 1917-1921	C
39	602 E Street	1970s	N/C
40	628 E Street	1921-1930	C
41	632 E Street	1953	C
42	Corner E & 7 th streets	1958	N/C
43a-e	635 E Street	1913	C
44	Behind 635 E Street	post-1950	N/C
45	South of 635 E Street	1913	C
46a-d	620 F Street	c. 1937	C
47	Corner F St. & Fremont Ave.	1920	C
48	Town Square	1909	C

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Section 7 - ENDNOTES

1. Properties are primarily identified by Block and Lot, which have remained consistent since 1905. Building occupants and street addresses have changed over time.
2. Display photographs, Minidoka County Historical Museum (MCHM), Rupert, Idaho.
3. Display photographs, MCHM, Rupert, Idaho.
4. MCHM.
5. Polk's Rupert City Directory, Minidoka County, Idaho. (Kansas City, Missouri: R.L. Polk & Co., 1959).
6. Polk. (Kansas City, Missouri: R.L. Polk & Co., 1964).
7. General Lands Office (GLO), Miscellaneous, Vol. 647: 216; Minidoka County Historical Society (MCHS).
8. GLO, Miscellaneous, Vol. 647: 263; MCHS; Polk (1959).
9. Polk (1959).
10. MCHS; Polk (1959).
11. Ibid.
12. GLO, Miscellaneous, Vol. 647: 192; Lincoln County Courthouse (LCC), Book of Deeds, 2: 334; MCHS; Polk (1959).
13. Historic discussions of the Hotel Rupert stated that it was across the street from the post office. The hotel was known to be on the northeast corner of E Street and 6th Street. A photograph of the post office on file at the Minidoka County Historical Museum shows a two-story brick building on the left side and an end of the sidewalk on the right. This configuration matches that of Block 35 Lot 18.
14. Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, Sanborn Map of Rupert, Idaho, 1921; MCHS; Polk (1959).
15. MCHS; Polk (1959).
16. Ibid.
17. GLO, Miscellaneous, Vol. 647: 267; LCC, Book of Deeds, 2: 316; MCHS; Polk (1959).
18. "Some First Facts for Rupert." On file at the Minidoka County Historical Museum, Rupert, Idaho; GLO, Miscellaneous, Vol. 647: 207; MCHS; Polk (1959).
19. MCHS; Polk (1959).
20. Minidoka County Assessor Records; MCHS; Polk (1959).
21. GLO, Miscellaneous, Vol. 647: 227, 219; MCHS/
22. Minidoka County Assessor Records; MCHS; Polk (1959).
23. MCHS; Polk (1959).

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24. Sanborn (1921); MCHS; Polk (1959).
25. Sanborn (1921); Polk (1959).
26. Ibid.
27. Ibid.
28. Sanborn (1921); Polk (1959); Minidoka County Assessor Records.
29. Sanborn (1921); Polk (1959); "The Bush Building," on file at the MCHS.
30. Sanborn (1921); Polk (1959); MCHS.
31. Ibid.
32. Ibid.
33. GLO, Miscellaneous, Vol. 647: 274; Vol. 647: 217; LCC, Book of Deeds, 2: 341; Sanborn (1921); Polk (1959); MCHS.
34. Ibid.
35. Ibid.
36. Ibid.
37. Ibid.
38. "Hotel Burns," Minidoka County News, January 13, 1921; Sanborn (1921); Polk (1959).
39. Sanborn (1921); Polk (1959); Polk (1979).
40. "Bombing of the Water Tower," Times News, September 29, 1987, p.#1; Sanborn (1921); Polk (1959); MCHS.
41. Minidoka County News, The Minidoka Story: The Land and the People in Words and Pictures, (Rupert, Idaho: Minidoka County News, 1963) p.88.
42. Sanborn (1921); "City Building," on file at the MCHS.
43. Minidoka County News, "Rupert to Have Real Play House," December 4, 1919. P.1; "Opera House," August 12, 1920; "New Theatre Makes Big Hit with People," August 26, 1920. Chris Jackson, untitled history of the Wilson Theater, on file at the Rupert Renaissance Initiative, Rupert, Idaho.
44. Jackson, "Wilson Theater;" Nephi Douglas, "Rupert, Site of Minidoka Project, Created by Reclamation Act of 1902," Times News, September 4, 1963. Clipping on file at the Idaho State Historical Library, Boise, Idaho.

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Narrative Statement of Significance

Rupert Town Square Historic District
Rupert, Minidoka County, Idaho

The Rupert Town Square Historic District is locally significant under Criterion A for its association with the growth and development of the local community center of Rupert, Idaho. In late 1904, the Reclamation Bureau drilled an isolated well four miles from the banks of the Snake River along the planned right-of-way of a spur line of the Oregon Short Line Railroad. The Bureau excavated the well to provide water for teams and men digging irrigation canals associated with the Reclamation Service's Minidoka Project. This well proved pivotal in the development of Rupert and the surrounding countryside. Settlers flooded onto the dry land around the well on the promise of irrigated farms. Yet between 1905 and 1907, their only local source of water was the Reclamation well. When engineers from the Reclamation Service platted the town of Rupert in October of 1905, they found a community had sprung up in the desert around their water supply and adjacent to the recently completed Minidoka and Southwestern Railroad branch line of the Oregon Short Line. The engineers expanded on this existing pattern when they platted the town. Once legitimized by the official plat, the pattern was perpetuated in future development. Rupert thereafter expanded outward from the Square instead of in a line along the railroad and highway.

Because of this unique history, Rupert is the only town in southern Idaho built around a central Square. As the sole source of water in the area, each and every household and business in the area had to visit the Square on a regular basis. Such a captive market proved irresistible to businesses. Once the railroad was completed and carloads of building materials began to arrive, the business district of Rupert sprang up with astonishing speed. The buildings that developed around the Square provided retail, financial, entertainment, and municipal services for the surrounding farming community. Early settlers remarked that they hardly remembered a pioneering period because so many of the goods and services of civilization were available from the earliest days. By the time irrigation water was turned onto the land in 1907, the town was firmly established as a local trade center. That same year an Act of Congress allowed business owners to buy the ground under their buildings and shopkeepers began to plan for the future. The first brick building appeared on the Square in 1909. Two disastrous fires hastened the change from wood to brick and concrete in September of 1910. Small frame structures were replaced by substantial one- and two-story commercial buildings that were built to maximize

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their frontage on the Square. In a community with a chronic housing shortage, upper floors served as hotels and professional offices. Over time all the vacant lots around the Square were filled by merchants providing all the goods and services necessary for a western agricultural boomtown. This established a tradition of diversity and self-sufficiency in the businesses around the Town Square that continues to this day. The Rupert Town Square continues to be the community center by hosting a variety of community events.

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE

1909 to 1953

The Rupert Town Square Historic District period of significance stretches from 1909 to 1953. In 1909, the Rupert Town Square was fenced off and formalized as public square for the first time. The period of significance ends in 1953 when the large Masonic Temple was completed. The construction of the Masonic Temple utilizes both traditional red, clay brick and modern cinderblock. After 1953, construction in the District tended toward use of cinderblock and colored concrete bricks.

MINIDOKA PROJECT

Rupert owes its existence to the establishment of the Minidoka Project of the U.S. Reclamation Service. The Project consisted of a dam across the Snake River, a power plant, and an extensive irrigation system. At the time, irrigation was the remedy for the ills of dryland farming. Farmers rushed in to file claims on lands wherever work on new irrigation projects began.

The site for the Minidoka Dam (NRHP 1979) was first surveyed in 1881 by private individuals, but without funding, the project collapsed. In 1890, the Idaho State Reclamation Office surveyed the site. The surveyors were Fred Mills and D. W. Ross. Ross later became the head of the Federal Reclamation Service in Idaho. He is credited with attaching the name Minidoka to the project.¹ However, once again, the project was unfunded and it stalled.

The Reclamation Act, signed into law by President Theodore Roosevelt on June 17, 1902, provided the legal mechanism for money flowing into the government from the sale of public

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lands to be directed into public reclamation projects, by which the land could be made productive. The Minidoka Project was the second project established under the Act. Work on the Minidoka Dam began in late 1903 with the project officially established by order of E. A. Hitchcock, Secretary of the Interior, on April 23, 1904. Desert land, which lay adjacent to the proposed irrigation canals, was opened for settlement in early 1904. Originally, families filed on 160-acre parcels, but these were later reduced to only 40 to 60 acres per person. Work on the diversion dam also began in 1904. Soon thereafter contracts were let for the construction of the main irrigation canals.

Farmers who filed for land on dry sagebrush tracts had no way of raising crops until the Minidoka Project was completed; many of them temporarily hired on with the Reclamation Service, and along with their teams and equipment, helped excavate the extensive Minidoka canal and ditch system for the delivery of irrigation water. Much of the work was done far from the banks of the Snake River - the only local source of water in the area - so the Reclamation Service drilled a well along the planned right-of-way of the Oregon Short Line's Minidoka and Southwestern Branch to provide water for the construction crews. This well was at first known as Wetfirst or Wellfirst, and the small settlement around it became known by this name. When businesses sprang up around the well and a post office was established, the town was renamed Rupert.

The Reclamation Service platted three townsites in the area: Rupert, platted in 1905 by Bureau engineers; Rosston, a construction town named after project engineer D. W. Ross; and Riverton, later changed to Heyburn. While Heyburn still exists, Rosston disappeared soon after the completion of Minidoka Dam.²

The Minidoka Dam was constructed at a cost of \$675,000. The rock and earth structure rises 86 feet from the base of the streambed and is 4,475 feet long. The dam features a concrete spillway that is 2,400 feet long. The 16,000 kh power plant was completed in 1913 at a cost of \$472,000. The plant originally had five turbines, but a sixth turbine was added in 1927 and a seventh in 1940. The power plant was added to provide power to pump water into the Burley canal system.³ Excess power was made available to the public. The Rupert school system was reportedly the first school in America to be heated by electric power.⁴ This beneficial use of power was one example used by Nebraska Senator George Norris in his justification for the creation of the Rural Electric Administration (REA).

In October of 1906, engineers closed the gates of Minidoka Dam to fill the 120,000-acre foot capacity Lake Walcott for the first time. During the three days it took to fill the lake, local

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farmers scoured the muddy riverbed below the dam looking for mussels and river gold. Water was turned into the irrigation canals for the first time in 1907. Some homesteaders had been on their land for three years before they could bring in a crop.⁵

The activation of the system was not without problems. When water was turned into the canals, farmers found that the water tended to cut through the sides, made up of the light air-deposited soil of the area. Stop-gap methods were used to get through the 1907 season, but some farmers would not receive their irrigation water for two more years. In the winter of 1907-1908, farmers hauled sagebrush to the canals and stacked the branches along the sides. Wire net was then unrolled over the sagebrush to hold it in place. In the spring of 1908, clay slurry was poured down the canals to coat the sagebrush and make the canals watertight. Because of delays in funding, the \$5,800,000 Minidoka Canal Project was not completed until 1909.

Because the area was blessed with little salt in the soil, engineers did not think an extensive drainage system was needed. In anticipation of rising water tables, a single drainage ditch was constructed from south of Rupert to the Schodde Ranch. However, after three years of irrigation, water tables had risen to the ground level. Farmers found that getting water off of the land was almost harder than getting it onto the land. The original Schodde drain was expanded into a system of drainage ditches that proved effective in lowering the water table to a manageable level.

EVOLUTION OF THE RUPERT TOWN SQUARE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Settlement of Rupert began early in 1905 when businesses began to set up shop around Wellfirst, ten miles west of the Minidoka Dam project. Located four miles from the Snake River, the well was the region's only source of water at that time. Farmers poured into the area claiming what were promised to one day be irrigated acres. While the men spent their days excavating the new canals and ditches, their wives would drive their wagons each day to the well for the household supply of water. The line of wagons waiting for their turn at the well proved to be a natural magnet for businesses seeking a captive market. The first business to open was the Schilling Store, established on May 2, 1905. It was located in a tar-paper shack to the west of the well, a short distance from the railroad right-of-way. While the railroad was still under construction, Rupert's mail began to be hauled on the construction trains and left with W. S. Schilling. Because there was no postmaster or organized post office, the mail was dumped in an "Arbuckle Coffee" box on the floor in the corner, and people sifted through the box for their mail. Eventually, when regular delivery service was first established, the mail was delivered by a man

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named John Henry Rupert. He delivered mail for only a short time, but his mailbag, which was labeled "Rupert," continued to be used for mail deliveries. Mail to be delivered to the Schilling Store at Wellfirst was directed to the "Rupert" mailbag. When the town received its first official post office in 1905, it retained the designation Rupert,⁶ and this eventually gave the town its permanent name.

The Oregon Short Line (OSL) completed the Minidoka and Southwestern Railroad branch line through Rupert in mid-summer, 1905. The first depot at Rupert was established on September 10, 1905, when a boxcar was placed on the east side of the tracks a short distant southeast of the Town Square. C. H. Burgher was the first agent with Harry W. Morrison as his assistant. Morrison would later rise to national prominence as the head of the Morrison-Knudsen construction company. Another boxcar was used as a freight depot. In the first twenty days it was open, the office saw 90 cars of lumber and construction material, emigrant cars, and freight arrive. A new depot was completed on February 15, 1906. The depot, built at a cost of \$4,500, was touted as the best on the OSL line. When it was completed, Burgher and his family moved into the rooms above the station.⁷

The growth of Rupert did not go unnoticed. The General Land Office directed the formal platting of the townsite on August 21, 1905. From October 2 to 19, 1905, the U.S. Reclamation Service platted the townsite of Rupert, and filed the documentation in the Lincoln County Courthouse in 1907. [Rupert was originally located in Lincoln County; Minidoka County was later carved out of Lincoln County.] However, they were not working with a clean slate. In the time between the August 21 order to plat the town and the October 2 survey, the town had been expanded by the 90 railcars of materials with more arriving with every train. Detailed clerks, Walter Paine and Thomas Havell, platted the townsite to conform with the existing central Square which was already bordered with frame commercial structures. The railroad and a canal were in place to the south. A short street stretching to the northwest away from the Square (Fremont Street) was also lined with businesses. The clerks platted the existing roads and features and extended an orderly north/south grid into the surrounding desert. Two blocks away from the Square to the northeast and northwest, beyond existing development, they were able to set aside blocks of Public Reserve.⁸ These blocks would come to be used for the Minidoka County Courthouse and the 1909 Lincoln School.

Formalizing the land ownership grid proved a mixed blessing for the merchants of Rupert. In the rush to build their businesses, there had been no time or mechanism to obtain title to the land on which their businesses were built. They had built on speculation; if the town folded, they could easily pull up stakes. However, platting the townsite forced the land ownership issue. The General Land Office put forth a plan to sell the lots around the Square to the highest bidder

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without regard to ownership of the buildings sitting on them. The buildings would be appraised and new landowners would have to pay the building owners for the improvement. Not surprisingly, the Rupert merchants objected to the plan as it could cause them to lose their hard-earned businesses. In January, 1906, 42 Rupert merchants banded together and petitioned the U. S. Government for permission to buy the land under their buildings. In response, Congress passed a special Act that sold the lots to the building owners. The corner lots sold for \$750 and interior lots sold for a lesser amount.⁹ The platting of the lots and the legitimizing of the holdings gave Rupert merchants the foundation on which to begin planning larger and more permanent structures from which to do business.

The first brick structure to be built on the Town Square was the First National Bank building on the west side of the Square (Block 47 Lot 2). Photographs dating from 1909 show the building under construction. The two-story commercial building filled the frontage of its lot. However, the conversion of other structures from wood to brick was slow. There was little incentive for merchants to discard the capital invested in frame structures to build an expensive brick building. In the summer of 1910, two major fires swept through the Rupert business district. The first, on August 31, was confined to the destruction of the Ferry Lumber Company. The second, which occurred only five days later on September 5, destroyed all of the businesses on the north side of the Town Square. The buildings that rose from the ashes were built with brick. The worth of this conversion was proved on May 29, 1911 when fire erupted in the new Hardy and Moser store (Block 35 Lot 17 or 18) on the north side. Though the stock of the store was destroyed, the brick walls contained the blaze until the town's new chemical engine could put down the flames.¹⁰ From this point onward, almost all of Rupert's new business buildings had brick or concrete walls.

The built environment of the Rupert Town Square Historic District of today reflects these historic processes. The District was born out of water, its form set by the hands of government and made permanent by disastrous fires. The early wood structures clustered around Wellfirst are long gone, but they set the template for the lots on which today's brick storefronts were built. Though there have been occasional superficial "renovations," the size and form of the historic brick structures built between 1909 and 1953 remain throughout the district.

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RUPERT TOWN SQUARE EVOLUTION

The first civic improvements pre-date the formal formation of a town government. The Town Square began to form from the first usage of the Reclamation Service well. The area around the well served as a busy hub for water wagons. The well provided water to teams of those constructing the Minidoka Project irrigation canals. Since it was the only available water in the area, local residents would hand pump their own water supply into barrels. It was not unusual to see wagons with water barrels lined up to use the pump. The area around the well provided the space for the wagons coming in from all directions to maneuver and to park.

The well at the center of the Square also served to unite Rupert's businesses in the community's first civic improvement. In September of 1905, a group of citizens pooled their money to buy a Fairbanks - Morse gasoline engine to pump the water and erected a 5,000-gallon water tank with hose connections. The Square water tank had a shed-roof structure on the south side to house the engine and pump. To keep up with demand, the pumpman ran the pump all day, until 11:00 p.m. When water was turned onto the land in 1907, farmers were freed from the onus of buying water and carting in their water supplies from the Rupert well. Grass and weeds grew up to the point that enterprising individuals began grazing their livestock on the Square. The water system continued to be used by Rupert residents. One local hotel even ran a water line from the well. The Town Square well continued to be used until 1913 when a new well was drilled a block to the north and a water and sewer system was built.¹¹

In 1909 Rupert held its first municipal election and provided support for the conversion of the area around the well into a park. Jack Misbet was elected to the position of City Marshall. In addition to his duties as street superintendent and dogcatcher, Misbet served as park keeper and pump master. He apparently ended the practice of using the Town Square as a source of free grazing. Young poplar trees were planted along the edges of the park and a wire fence erected to keep livestock out. These poplar trees helped define the Square as a park. As the trees grew old and died, they were replaced with a variety of longer-lived trees that currently shade the park.¹²

In 1910, concrete sidewalks, gutters, and curbs were placed around the Square. In 1913, after the new city well was completed, the 1905 water tank and pump room were removed. In its place, the Rupert Commercial Club constructed a 25-man bandstand. Subscriptions and donations financed construction. The structure was placed in the center of the park where two sidewalks bisecting the park met. For years thereafter, the town band would play through the evening on Saturdays. Merchants around the Square would stay open on Saturdays until

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midnight. When the practice of staying open in the evenings was discontinued, the band moved its playing to Thursday night. The musical group disbanded in the 1950s. The bandstand fell into disrepair and was replaced by a fountain around 1960. A new bandstand has since been built in the southeast quarter of the Square.¹³

The Town Square continues to be the focus of community events. Rupert's Town Square Christmas celebration is renowned throughout the area.

RUPERT CIVIC GROWTH

The town of Rupert was incorporated in April of 1906, with M. M. Mackay as the first mayor by virtue of election as chairman of the Village Trustees. The town's Trustees first met in Mackay's offices on the north side of the Square to put together a petition for Village status. Rupert was granted Village status by Lincoln County on April 17, 1906. The Village Trustees thereafter met in the Commercial Club Room on the second floor of the Flat Iron Building, which was across 6th Street from the First National Bank (Block 47 Lot 1). The first municipal election was held in 1909 when F. N. Victor replaced Mackay and Jack Misbet became City Marshall.

A small wood jail was constructed in the northeast corner of the Town Square in 1905. In February of 1913, this wood structure was removed and a new concrete jail was built adjacent to the new well. This jail would serve the community until 1937 when the City of Rupert built its first City Hall.

In 1920, the city clerk, water, and electric departments moved from the Flat Iron Building across Fremont Avenue to the west storefront of the newly completed Wilson Theater commercial block.¹⁴ The city continued to rent rooms through the 1920s to mid-1930s. In 1937, the City of Rupert purchased Lots 4 - 6 of Block 35 from the Rupert Sales Corporation for \$500 and back taxes. Previously, the lots had been occupied by Gem State Lumber. A \$29,445 Works Progress Administration (WPA) matching grant allowed the city to build a new City Hall on the property in 1937. The building allowed city offices to be united under one roof along with a new jail and a gymnasium/auditorium. The new concrete jail was constructed on the south side of the building. The attached gymnasium, known as the Rupert Civic Center, was built on the east side of City Hall. Because of a lack of athletic facilities, the Civic Center gym was to be rented out to the local school.¹⁵

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GROWTH OF RUPERT

In many ways Rupert typified the frontier boomtown of the 20th century. In May of 1905, there were only two small houses and a tarpaper store near the well. The completion of the railroad in late summer sparked the first building boom. Every train brought new settlers and more building materials and supplies. By early fall, 400 hardy souls had put down roots in the dry soil of Rupert. By November, Rupert had expanded to include 64 businesses, a 100-pupil school, an opera house, a Methodist church, and a dentist. In 1906, Rupert's population passed the 600 mark. The town had all the hallmarks of a booming community, boasting of two newspapers, a telephone exchange, a sugar factory, bottling works, four lumber yards, two hotels, six general merchandise stores, a candy and news store, two hardware stores, a wallpaper and paint store, a drug store, an implement and feed store, a livery stable, two doctors, two dentists, two meat markets, two undertakers, one bakery, six saloons, a harness shop, and "real estate dealers galore." All built around or near the Town Square, the sole source of water.¹⁶

Because the settlers coming to Rupert were families, the need for a school quickly became apparent. At first a storefront was rented for the purpose. When the Rupert School District was organized in October of 1905, the Woodworth and Donaldson building on the Square was pressed into service as a make-shift school for the District's 89 students. The temporary arrangements continued until 1909 when the District built the Lincoln School.¹⁷

While Rupert may have been on the frontier in 1905, it was not long cut off from the rest of the world. As previously discussed, the mail found its way via Rupert's mail bag to the Schilling Store even before the railroad was completed. Following the completion of the railroad and the establishment of the Rupert depot in the late summer of 1905, goods and materials flooded into the town. Rupert opened its first post office. Regular transportation and communication were assured. On November 20, 1905, the town gained direct communications with the world when the Idaho Independent Telephone Company completed a phone line from Heyburn for \$7,000.¹⁸ Nor were the citizens cut off from local and national news. Two small community newspapers were established in September of 1905. The Rupert News sent out its first issue on September 21, 1905 and the Rupert Pioneer issued its first paper the following day. In 1908, the two newspapers consolidated under the name of Pioneer-Record.¹⁹

Even as the town grew physically and connected with the outside world, a microcosm of civilization was being created. Farmers, businessmen, wives, and children began to gain a

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common identity. This was expressed in the culture and social life of the community revolving around churches, fraternal organizations, and school. The Methodist Church was established in September of 1905, the Christian Church in 1906, the LDS church in 1907, and the Baptist Church in 1909. The Culture Club was organized in February, 1906, meeting in the dining room of the Rupert Hotel. The Odd Fellows Lodge was organized on August 30, 1905. The Modern Woodmen of America was organized a month later. Its auxiliary, the Royal Neighbors, was begun in 1906. The Commercial Club, which later built the bandstand in the park, was organized in 1906. The brass band, which would play from the bandstand, was organized in 1906. An expression of the town's new-found identity was its championship baseball team, which beat all challengers in the spring of 1906.²⁰

ENTERTAINMENT

Even as Rupert began to plug into lines of commerce and communications, it also connected with the entertainment industry of the day. The railroad provided access for traveling performers and the booming town of hard-working merchants and irrigation-system construction workers provided the market. By the fall of 1905, an opera house was opened on the north side of the Square. When this building was lost in the September 1910 fire, a new and larger opera house - known as the Lincoln - was opened in the upper floor of the Guyer and Haynes building (Block 35 Lot 12). A second theater was later built on street level on the west side of the Square adjacent to the Rupert National Bank. In the late 1910s, both of these theaters, the Star and the Mutual, came to be operated by Daniel Wilson. In 1917, Clarence Bush built a large commercial block on the south side of the Square. The second floor was used as a meeting, dance, and concert hall.

In 1919, Daniel Ward Wilson conceived the idea of a grand theater to replace Rupert's smaller theaters. Wilson proposed a triangular building that could seat 650 that would be built for \$30,000. Wilson envisioned business rooms on either side of the lobby of the theater. The building would be steam heated with special decorations and lighting in the interior. Robert Paysee, who built the elaborate Caledonian Hotel one block to the south, was awarded the contract in January of 1920. The foundation was laid on March 25, 1920. To increase sales and presumably to recoup the additional cost of the building, Wilson pushed for the right to open on Sundays. The issue came to a vote in July 13, 1920 with Sunday opening winning with a vote of 460 to 345. It was the largest vote ever cast in Rupert up to that time. When finished in August of 1920, the elaborate theater had seating for 700. Four shops with apartments above were constructed on the Fremont Avenue side of the building. By the time it opened its doors on August 20, 1920, the theater had vastly exceeded original cost estimates and actually cost

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\$75,000 to construct.²¹

The over-budget construction of the theater impoverished Wilson. He and his family lived frugally in the upstairs apartment above the entrance and worked tickets, concessions, and projectors. A commercial enterprise, the theater booked vaudeville acts, showed movies, and was used for plays. But the theater was also used as a community meeting place; hosting Latter Day Saints (LDS) Conferences, public meetings, and graduations. Despite his best efforts, Wilson could not make payments on his loan. In 1925, the bank took control of the theater. The bank continued to operate the theater through its agents, Harris and Vollmer. In 1930, the movie "Sally" was the first talking picture to be shown. Thereafter, the theater gradually came to be used only for movies. Harris and Vollmer reportedly bought the theater for \$10 and back taxes in 1938. From 1930 to 1950, the theater showed four movies a week. Sometime during this period, the elaborate decorations on the outside of the building deteriorated and were replaced with industrial brick. In 1980, the theater was closed and sold to a local minister who converted it into a church. The City of Rupert, as part of a project to restore it to its former glory as a theater, purchased it in 1999.²²

CONCLUSION

The Rupert Town Square Historic District, despite alterations to historic structures and some non-historic intrusions, continues to convey its association with the history of commercial, municipal, and community activity in Rupert. The history of the businesses and architecture reflect the rapid "boom" development associated with opening up the country to irrigation, a series of disastrous fires, and a subsequent period of quiet prosperity. Because of its relative isolation from the Interstate and other commercial and social centers, the Town Square remains the focus of community events, local business, and municipal services.

CRITERION CONSIDERATION G:

One contributing structure in the Rupert Town Square Historic District has not yet reached fifty years of age; the Masonic Temple (building #41) is only 47 years old. The construction of the Masonic Temple marks the end of the Period of Significance (1909-1953) for the District as it was the last building in the area to use brick and concrete in its construction. All contributing and historic buildings in the District (including the Masonic Temple) use brick and concrete as primary building materials; subsequent to 1953, new construction in Rupert primarily used

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concrete block and did not typically use brick veneer. The construction of the Masonic Temple, though only 47 years ago, marks a turning point from historic to modern building methods and materials. The Temple is, therefore, considered a contributing element within the Rupert Town Square Historic District.

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¹ "Naming of Town," Minidoka County News, November 15, 1951. Clipping on file at the Minidoka County Historical Museum, Rupert, Idaho.

² Minidoka County News, The Minidoka Story: The Land and the People in Words and Pictures, (Rupert, Idaho: Minidoka County News, 1963), p. 88. While many sources state that the town was platted by Reclamation Service Engineers, the official plat of the town, "Plat of the Townsite of Rupert, Idaho," General Land Office, November 21, 1905, credits the work to two General Land Office Detailed Clerks Walter Paine and Thomas Havell. Their relationship to the Reclamation Service is unknown.

³ "Minidoka Dam and Power Plant," National Register of Historic Places Inventory - Nomination Form. On file at the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office, Boise, Idaho.

⁴ "Rupert, Idaho," Rupert Chamber of Commerce brochure on file at the Idaho State Historical Library and Archives, Boise, Idaho.

⁵ Ibid.; "Rupert, Site of Minidoka Project, Created by Reclamation Act of 1902," Times News, September 4, 1963. On file at the Idaho State Historical Society, Boise, Idaho

⁶ "Naming of Town," Minidoka County News, November 15, 1951.

⁷ Douglass 1963; Minidoka County News, The Minidoka Story: The Land and the People in Words and Pictures, (Rupert, Idaho: Minidoka County News, 1963), pp. 88-90.

⁸ "Plat of the Townsite of Rupert, Idaho," General Land Office, November 21, 1905.

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¹⁵ Sanborn (1921); "City Building," on file at Minidoka County Historical Society.

¹⁶ "Rupert Has Rapid Growth First Year," Minidoka County News, September 25, 1947. On file at the Idaho State Historical Society, Boise, Idaho; "Rupert Has Interesting History, Starting Back in 1905 As A Part of Lincoln County," Minidoka County News, September 25, 1947. On file at the Idaho State Historical Society, Boise, Idaho; Rupert Record, September 21, 1905, as reprinted in the September 25, 1947 issue of the Minidoka County News. On file at the Idaho State Historical Society, Boise, Idaho.

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¹⁸ "Some First and Facts for Rupert;" Lincoln County Book of Deeds, (Lincoln County Courthouse: Shoshone, Idaho). Vol. 2: 328.

¹⁹ Douglass 1963.

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²⁰ Douglass 1963; Minidoka County News, The Minidoka Story: The Land and the People in Words and Pictures, (Rupert, Idaho: Minidoka County News, 1963), pp. 88-90.

²¹ "Rupert to Have Real Play House," Minidoka County News, December 4, 1919. p.1; "Picture Shows Victorious in Hot Election," Minidoka County News, August 26, 1920.; "Opera House," Minidoka County News, August 12, 1920; "New Theatre Makes Big Hit With People," Minidoka County News, August 26, 1920. Chris Jackson, untitled history of the Wilson Theater, on file at the Rupert Renaissance Initiative, Rupert, Idaho.

²² Douglass 1963; Jackson, untitled history.

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Rupert Town Square Historic District
Rupert, Minidoka County, Idaho

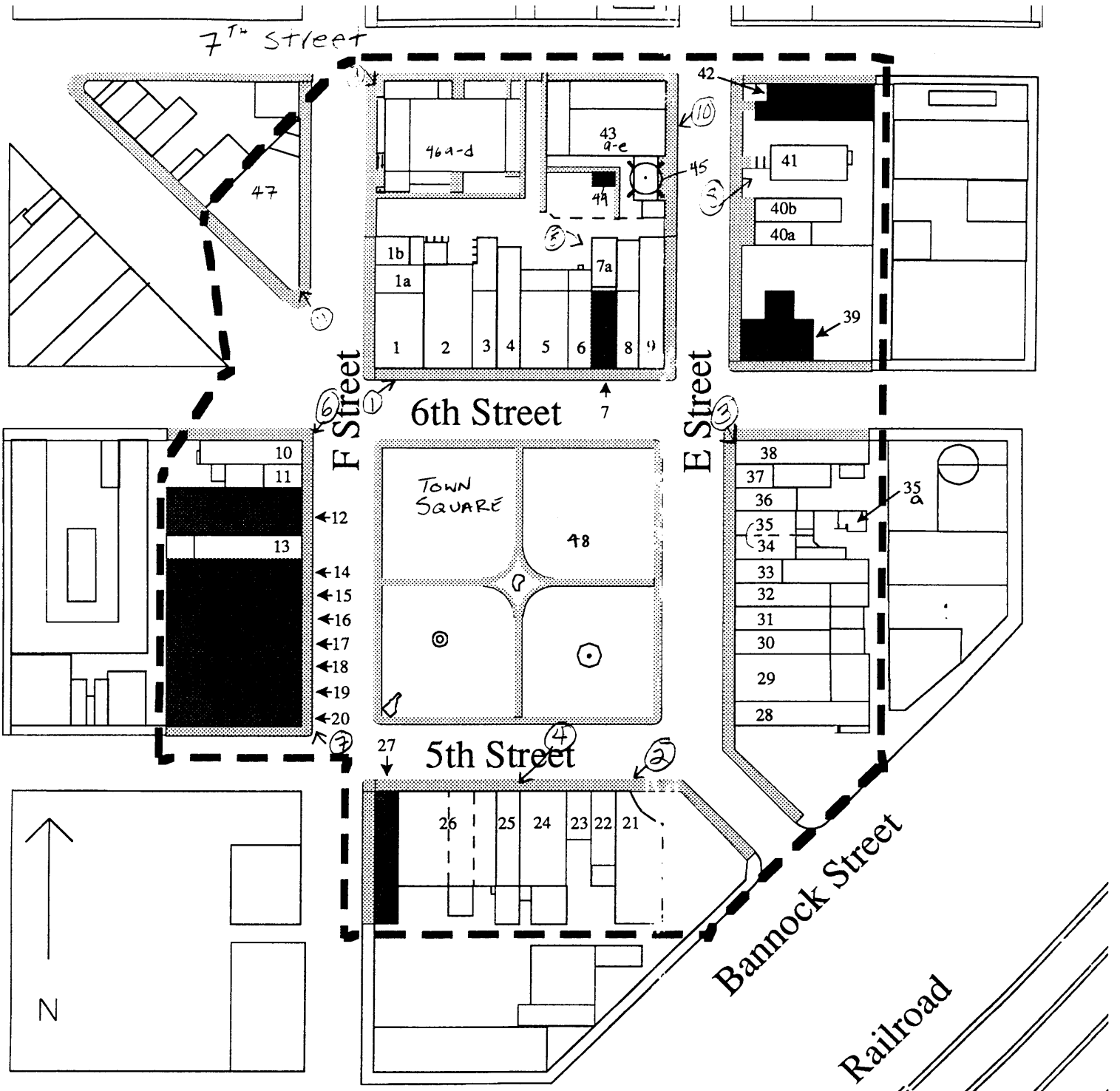
Verbal Boundary Description:

The Rupert Town Square Historic District contains the following properties in the Original Townsite:

- Block 35
- Block 34, west half
- Block 36, Lots 1 - 4
- Block 47, east half
- Block 48 (Town Square)
- Block 49, west half
- Block 55, north half

Boundary Justification:

The Rupert Town Square Historic District boundaries reflect the historic buildings facing into the central park and municipal, fraternal and social buildings immediately north of the Square that functioned as part of the pedestrian mall.



Rupert
Town Square
Historic
District

150 feet

- Contributing
- Non-contributing
- District Boundary

Photo # +
→ ANGLE OF VIEW