

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 93000387 Date Listed: 5/14/93

St. James' Episcopal Mission Church Clark ID
Property Name: County: State:

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrus

Signature of the Keeper

6/2/93

Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Technical oversight was clarified through a phone call to the Idaho SHPO. The level of significance of the property is local. In addition, because the property is a church, Criteria Consideration A should be checked. The nomination is officially amended to include this information.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name St. James' Episcopal Mission Church
other names/site number St. Peter's Catholic Mission Church; Heritage Hall

2. Location

street & number Reynolds Street/Old Highway 91 (county road) n/a not for publication
city or town Dubois n/a vicinity
state Idaho code ID county Clark code 033 zip code 83423

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

[Signature] Signature of certifying official 29 Mar 93 Date
John B. Hill, 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 commenting or other official 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:) _____

Patrick W. Andrews 5/14/93

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Property Name St. James' Episcopal Mission Church

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
		contributing	noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

No. of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

N/A

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)

Cat: RELIGION/mission church Sub: RECREATION AND CULTURE/exhibition hall

Current Functions (Enter categories

from instructions.)

Cat: _____ Sub: _____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.)

Materials (Enter categories from instructions.)

Gothic Revival

foundation stone

walls wood

roof shingle

other concrete

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

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8. Statement of Significance

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

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

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

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1904-1905

Significant Dates

1904

1905

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Wayland and Fennell

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

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County and State Clark County, Idaho

The former St. James' Episcopal Mission Church is a single-story Gothic Revival mission church of frame construction. Built on a ground-level foundation of dark, rough-cut field stone in 1905, it was the first church in what is now Clark County. It is situated on three city lots in the original Dubois townsite along Old Highway 91, the original main street of the community. Used as a church by two denominations until 1962, the building stood vacant until 1969 at which time the property was purchased by public donation and donated to the City of Dubois. Renamed "Heritage Hall," it was decided to maintain the building as an outstanding example of a Gothic Revival mission church and an important focus of community life.

Typical of many Episcopal churches found throughout southeastern Idaho during this period, the nominated property is a rectangular, frame building measuring approximately forty-eight feet by twenty feet. The nave has a steeply-pitched gabled roof and features a gabled transept projecting from the southeast side of the building. The transept, which originally served as a vestry, has a separate entry. An articulated, gabled chancel extends from the south end. Both the chancel and transept feature deep soffits that allow for pent roof extensions of the lower portion of the gables.

The nave is preceded by a gabled entry containing six-part paneled, double doors. A square bell tower with a truncated steeple is centered on the main gable above the entry. The belfry portion, mostly enclosed by louvered panels, houses the original bell. A simple, square, brick chimney is located at the northwest corner of the roof, near the entry.

Decorative treatments consist of simple carpentry details. All soffits are open and feature exposed rafter tails, slightly scalloped at the ends. Split shingles are applied to the belfry and as a broad band between the sill plate and window sill, while all upper gables and pent roof extensions are embellished with diamond and fishscale shingle butts. The balance of the exterior is clad in drop siding. The entire building is painted white as it has always been.

The use of Gothic-arched windows is consistent throughout the building: all are six-light windows with a lower left pane operable as a casement. The windows are surrounded by wood casings modestly decorated with applied, square "keystones" containing diamond motifs, and plain, square bosses placed at the spring line of the arches. The only departure from this window scheme is a larger three-part window in the chancel end that consists of a central arched window of identical dimensions, flanked by smaller lancets, and surrounded by an arched casing.

Originally, all of the window panes were textured, double-glazed amber-tinted glass. Only two panes of this glass remain; however, several have been replaced with similar amber-tinted glass. It is the hope of the governing board that all of the panes will be restored to the original color and texture. Research indicates that there were never stained-glass or pictorial windows.

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Exterior details were executed by someone known only as "Moxie," presumably the chief carpenter. While some of the detailing on the bell tower has been lost, the governing board appointed by the city to oversee the building hopes to replace it during a general restoration which will include repair of the louvered panels in the bell tower and replacement of the crosses which topped both the entry and the tower. The original bell remains in the tower and is operated by a rope extending into the interior of the building.

With the exception of the needed restoration indicated above, the exterior of the building is in fairly sound condition. The steep roof does not leak, but some shingle repair is indicated. Power to the building originally entered above the window to the right of the entry, but has been changed to the right rear near the vestry. Other than repair of the original entry holes, no exterior electrical supply work needs to be done. In the early 1970s, the wooden entry steps were removed and a concrete ramp with metal railings and steps on the east side were added. These have been the only exterior alterations. The overall integrity of the building is good.

The building sits on the southwest corner of the property quite near the roadway. There is no landscaping at the present time, and it is unclear what was provided originally. An early photograph of the building shows no foundation landscaping. A red-colored crushed rock drive now encircles the building from the roadway and covers a limited parking area to the north (front) of the building. The roadway is surfaced but neither curbed nor guttered, typical of its entire length through the townsite.

The noncontributing building is a single car garage which sits to the rear of the lot on the boundary line of the property to the south. According to city records, permission was given to the original property owners to the south a number of years ago to leave the garage on the church property. Due to its distance from the church, the building does not compromise the historic, visual qualities of the nominated property.

The interior of the church has an open ceiling of narrow boards finished in the natural wood. The gabled ceiling features exposed rafters, scissor trusses, and scroll-like brackets located at the juncture of walls and ceiling. The altar space is delineated from the nave by wide rafters, scalloped and pierced in the manner of bargeboards. The exterior decoration of the window frames is repeated in the interior, where square, applied key stones are affixed to the tops of window arches. All wood elements are made from locally-milled pine and finished in the natural wood. The walls are plastered above the original wood wainscot, but the upper portion has been covered with a pressed-fiber composition board. This was, undoubtedly, to provide insulation and probably was done sometime in the early 1940s. Its neutral color does not detract from the overall appearance of the interior. At about that same time, a wood-burning stove near the entry was replaced with a furnace which is unenclosed.

The altar end of the church blends elements of the Episcopal and Catholic periods. The original, main communion rail, featuring a trefoil band, is intact; however, the interior railing has been removed. The altar, a remnant from the Catholic occupation, stands on a raised platform. Pedestals holding religious

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statuary are on either side of the altar and were also added after 1940. The pedestals, as well as the altar, have been painted white with gilt trim. It is the intention of the governing board to restore the altar and the pedestals to their original natural wood finish and to restore the interior rail. The altar area has also been carpeted in recent years. This will be removed and the floors refinished. Also present in this area are a vintage organ and an original church pew. This portion of the building will continue to be maintained as an example of an early 1900s mission church.

The balance of the building has been converted into a museum and contains several wooden display cases which are compatible in terms of appearance and age. Items on display have been donated by area residents and are so marked, but at present have not been cataloged. The vestry area is also used as display space, but may be converted into a work and/or storage area. The governing board is aware that improvements need to be made in both selection and display.

In addition to the restoration work indicated above, the interior electrical wiring needs attention. Much of it is exposed; and while the original hanging lights are intact, some florescent fixtures have been added which are a distraction.

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The former St. James' Episcopal Mission Church is nominated under Criterion C for architectural values representing the Gothic Revival style, and as a work of the prominent southern Idaho architectural firm of Wayland and Fennel. The church is associated with early missionary efforts by the Episcopal church under the leadership of Bishop James Funsten. One of twenty mission churches built in the state during Funsten's tenure, the building documents the early Episcopal presence in Dubois, and reflects the pioneering determinism of its sponsors -- commercial leaders who helped shape the first settlement of Dubois.

When the railroad first was extended through eastern Idaho to Montana, a rail center was established at Camas. The water wells at Camas, necessary for operation of the engines, went dry in 1892, and the railroad moved their entire operation from Camas to Dry Creek, three miles north of the present location of Dubois. By 1900, the operation was moved back the three miles and the name was changed from Dry Creek to Dubois. The railroad not only moved their depot and roundhouse to Dubois, but also helped move the school, post office, hotel, several business establishments and some houses to the new location.

Two early merchants who moved from Camas, Mr. Pike and Mr. Miller, were instrumental in getting the new city established. They, along with a few other early residents, were of the Episcopal faith and began holding services in their homes. As was typical of the day, women of the parish soon began to work toward building a church and to spearhead a drive for funds which was supported by virtually all city residents and businesses, regardless of religious affiliation. They soon had amassed \$1,500.

Bishop Funsten, third bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of southern Idaho and Wyoming from 1898-1907, is remembered for an ambitious building campaign based on a practical and immediate response to the church's missionary goals. Not surprisingly, the momentum required to promptly establish mission sites allowed little time or expense for architectural expression. The modest, almost standardized character of these Gothic inspired buildings attests to Funsten's building philosophy.

Of the mission churches built in southeastern Idaho during this period, most exhibit similar design qualities, massing and detailing. The basic formula repeated in all of these commissions included a rectangular plan with a steeply pitched gabled, roof; attached gabled entry, symmetrically placed; and a square bell tower capped with a truncated spire located over or just behind. Restrained Gothic styling is evident primarily in the use of arched windows along the nave and flanking the entry. Simple Victorian detailing such as decorative shingles and gable trusses are occasionally present.

The former St. James Episcopal church represents the contribution of an important Boise firm to early Episcopal church architecture in southern Idaho. Wayland and Fennell's church design departs somewhat from the firm's renown as a major practitioner of Classical and Colonial Revivalism during

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this period, and reflects conformity to the modest Gothic standard that prevailed during Bishop Funsten's administration. In addition to this work, the firm won a number of major commissions for state and municipal projects between 1904-1912, and designed other churches as well as hotels in the new communities of southeastern Idaho. Another prominent Boise firm, Tourtellotte and Company, was awarded commissions for Episcopal churches at Mackay, Shoshone, and St. Anthony in 1902; all of which reflect designs similar to St. James. Just before Funsten's appointment, Hailey architect W. C. W. Van Winkle had also designed several churches for the diocese which foreshadowed the Gothic design approach of the Funsten period.

St. James' Episcopal Mission Church was begun in 1904 and completed in 1905. The congregation was served on a monthly basis by a minister who travelled from Idaho Falls, sixty miles to the south, to Dubois by train. Dubois was an important railhead during this period. Cattle, dry-farm produce, and ore from Birch Creek were shipped via Dubois. In addition, large quantities of sheep and wool were shipped from the Wood Live Stock Company, headquartered at Spencer, thirteen miles to the north.

A series of events led to a slow decline in Dubois' fortunes. First the mines closed, then a prolonged drought in 1919 caused area dry farms to fail and a number of the homesteaders moved away. The railroad moved the roundhouse to Lima, Montana in 1927 and by 1930, the Wood Live Stock Company went bankrupt. As elsewhere in the country, the 1930s were years of deep depression in Clark County and a number of businesses closed. Enough of the members of St. James' Episcopal Church had moved such that regular services were no longer feasible.

On September 28, 1940, the little mission church was sold to the Catholic Diocese of Boise for the sum of \$1,500, its original price, and became the first Catholic church in Clark County. Due to its condition, however, services again reverted to private homes until repairs could be completed. By 1944, the church was reopened and dedicated to St. Peter.

Catholic services were provided from both St. Anthony, Idaho and Idaho Falls during the following years, but the number of active communicants fell to the point that services again ceased in 1962 and the building stood idle for seven years. In 1969, the church was opened for the funeral of Agnes Rasmussen, a ninety-year old pioneer of the county, only to be closed again--permanently.

Once again the church and property were offered for sale, at the same \$1,500 price, with the provision that the building be retained, converted to another use, moved, or torn down. Two community leaders, Mrs. Ruth Dallas and Mrs. Beulah Sill, proceeded to raise the necessary funds to purchase the church in less than three days, and once again the steeple bell rang out to announce to the community that the little mission church had been saved as an important part of the heritage of Clark County and the city of Dubois.

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The building was deeded to the city which appointed the first governing board of five members, including Mrs. Dallas and Mrs. Sill, to oversee its operation. The structure was named "Heritage Hall," and it was decided to use the building to house historical memorabilia of the city and county. The altar end of the interior and the exterior were to be retained as an example of an early mission church and as a tribute to the development of the community.

The building continues to be operated by a five-member governing board, supported by community donations of money, time, labor and artifacts. Preservation of the former St. James' Episcopal Church (Heritage Hall) has been no easy task when one considers that in 1990 the population of Dubois was 420 and Clark County was less than 750, yet the county encompasses nearly 1,800 square miles.

The simplified Gothic style exemplified in St. James' helped create a cohesive architectural identity for Bishop Funsten's church projects in the southern regions of the state. Current preservation efforts will ensure that this legacy is maintained in Dubois.

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Attebery, Jennifer Eastman. Building Idaho: An Architectural History. Moscow, Idaho: University of Idaho Press, 1991.

Hawley, James A. History of Idaho, Vol. 2. Chicago: The S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1920.

Heritage Hall, document collection, Dubois, Idaho.

Lingo, Dorothy, Dubois resident and early member of Catholic congregation, interview conducted October 26, 1992.

McBroom, Gertie, daughter of Agnes Rasmussen, Cottage Grove, Oregon, interview conducted by phone November 11, 1992.

Neil, J. Meredith. Saints & Oddfellows: A Bicentennial Sampler of Idaho Architecture. Boise, Idaho: Boise Gallery of Art Association, Inc., 1976.

Pettite, William Stibal. Memories of Market Lake, Vol. III. (n.a.), 1983. (available at the Idaho State Historical Library.

Stoddard, Bonnie, chairman, Clark County Historical Society, interviews conducted November, December, 1992.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property, 120 feet by 150 feet in size, comprises lots 9-10-11 of Block 1, original Dubois townsite, T10N, R36E, Sec. 21, State of Idaho.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary is based on the legally recorded lot lines of the property which is occupied by the building and which has been historically associated with it.

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PHOTOS FOR ST. JAMES' EPISCOPAL MISSION CHURCH (HERITAGE HALL)

The following information is the same for the first 6 photographs:

1. Heritage Hall
2. Dubois, Idaho
3. Joy Myers
4. September 30, 1992
5. Myers, HC-62 Box 41, Dubois, ID 83423

Photo #1:

6. Front view of Heritage Hall, taken facing S

Photo #2:

6. Front and East view of Heritage Hall, taken facing SW

Photo #3:

6. East (side) view of Heritage Hall, taken facing W

Photo #4

6. Back and west view of Heritage Hall, taken facing NE

Photo #5

6. Front view, including bell tower and carpenter detailing, taken facing SSE

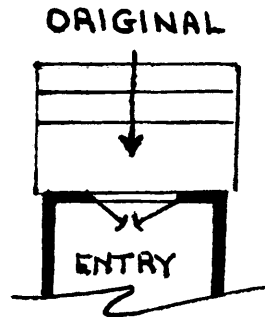
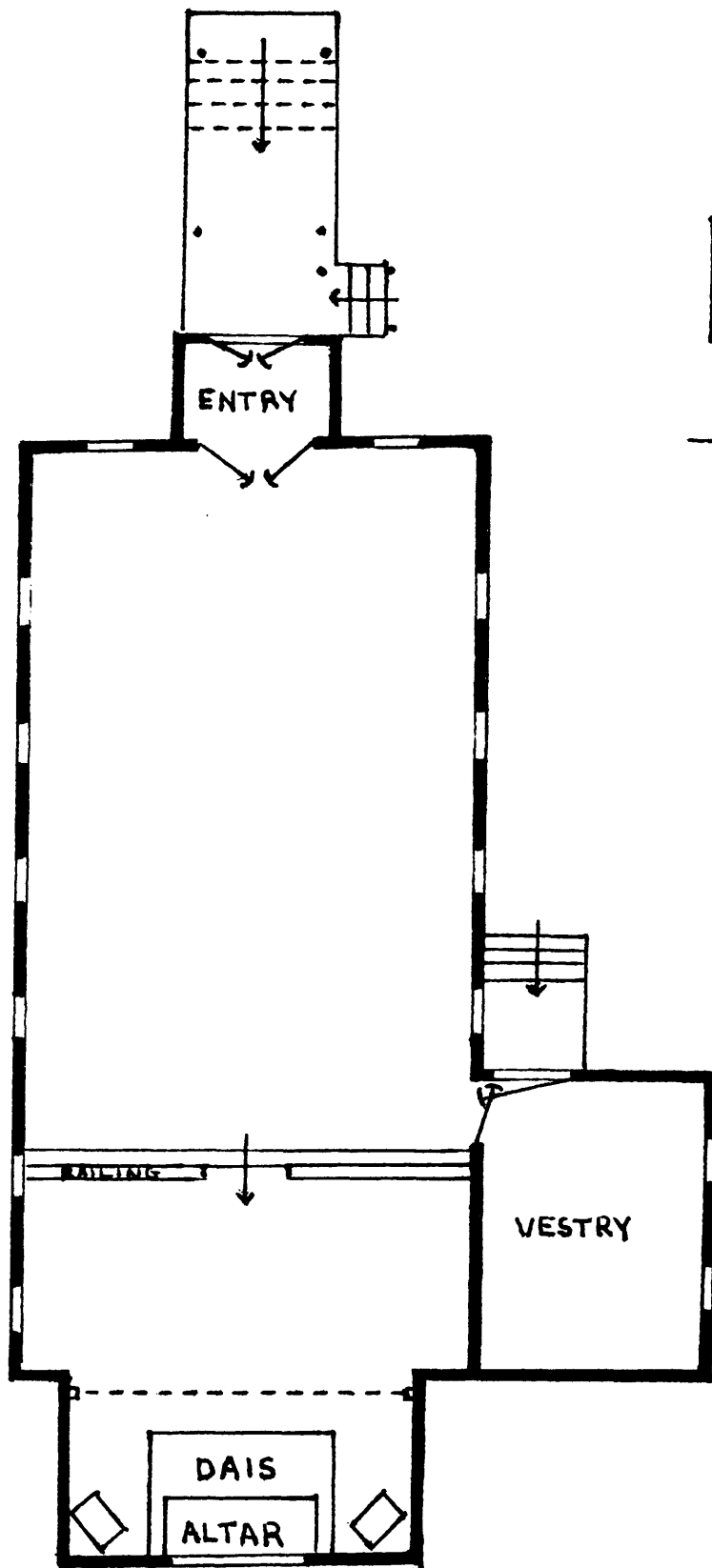
Photo #6

6. Front view, including carpenter shingle and window detailing, taken facing S

Photo #7:

1. Heritage Hall
2. Dubois, Idaho
3. Unknown; donated by Russell Ellis
4. ca. 1920
5. Myers, HC-62 Box 41, Dubois, ID 83423
6. Front and east side, taken facing SW

All photos are indicated on the Site Plan.



HERITAGE HALL
 Dubois, Idaho
 SCALE 1/8" = 1'

SITE PLAN

HERITAGE HALL

DUBOIS, IDAHO

SITE:
Township 10 North
Range 36 East
Section 21
Boise Meridian
City of Dubois
Original Townsite
Block 1
Lots 9, 10, 11

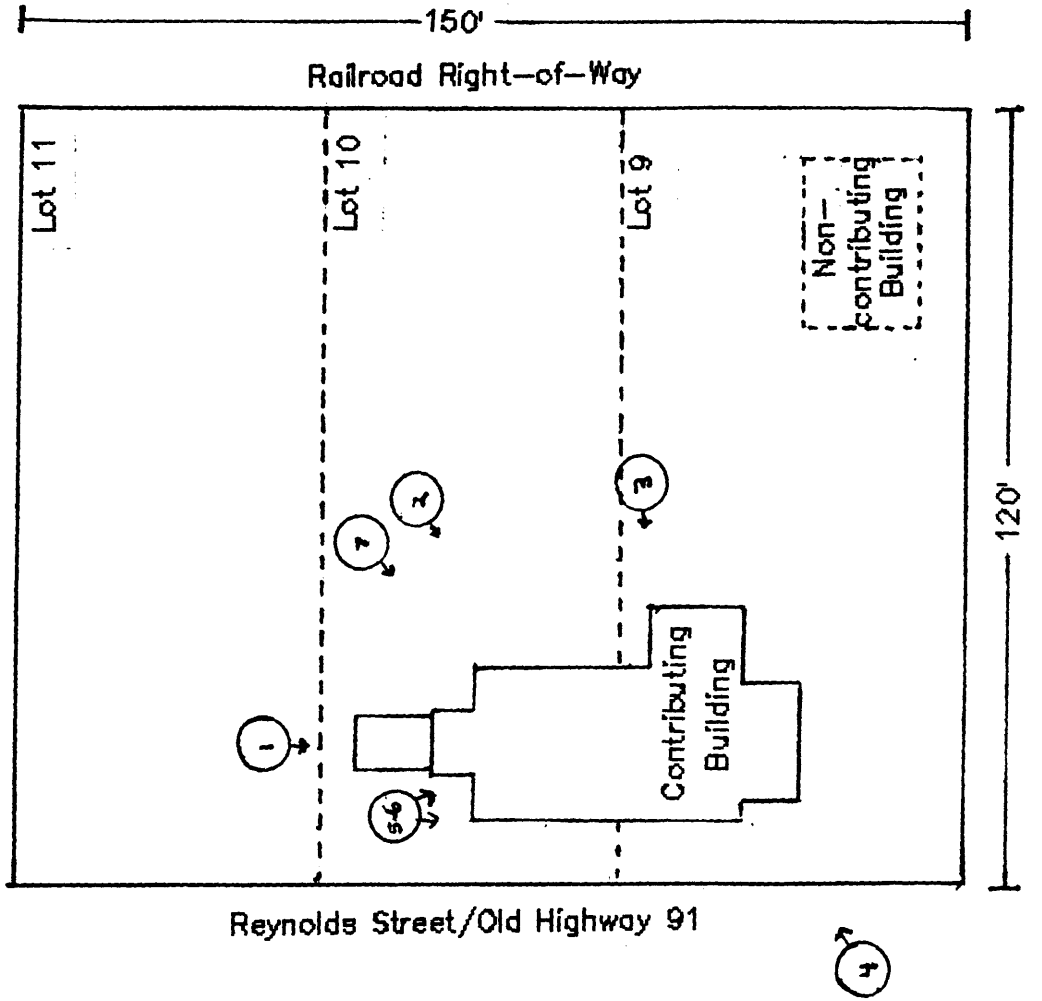
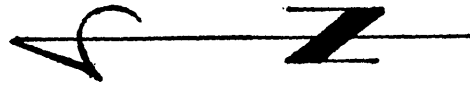


Photo location ○

Scale: 1/4" = 7.5'