



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 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 Harrison Commercial Historic District

other names/site number n/a

2. Location

street & number Roughly bounded by N. Lake Ave., W. Harrison St., N. Coeur d'Alene Ave., & Pine St.

city or town Harrison n/a not for publication n/a vicinity

state Idaho code ID county Kootenai code 055 zip code 83833

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 of certifying official

20 Sept 96
Date

John R. 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.

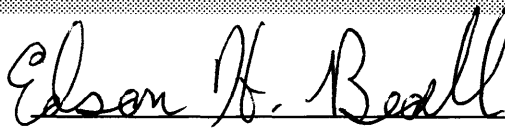
See continuation sheet

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet


determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)



12-20-96


Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

Property Name Harrison Commercial Historic District

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
		contributing	noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>6</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u>1</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>7</u>	<u>2</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: n/a

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

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)

Cat: <u>COMMERCE</u>	Sub: <u>Specialty store</u>
<u>SOCIAL</u>	<u>Meeting hall</u>
<u>RECREATION AND CULTURE</u>	<u>Theater</u>
<u>RECREATION AND CULTURE</u>	<u>Outdoor Recreation</u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)

Cat: <u>COMMERCE</u>	Sub: <u>Specialty store</u>
<u>COMMERCE</u>	<u>Restaurant</u>
<u>SOCIAL</u>	<u>Meeting hall</u>
<u>GOVERNMENT</u>	<u>Post office</u>
<u>RECREATION AND CULTURE</u>	<u>Outdoor Recreation</u>

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: one-part commercial block

OTHER: two-part commercial block

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation CONCRETE; STONE: granite

walls BRICK; METAL: steel; WOOD: plywood

roof ASPHALT; METAL: steel

other CERAMIC TILE

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.) n/a

- 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

COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Period of Significance

1917-1946

Significant Dates

1917, 1918

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Significant Person

n/a

Architect/Builder

unknown

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

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS): n/a
___ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
___ previously listed in the National Register
___ previously determined eligible by the National Register
___ designated a National Historic Landmark
___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:
___ State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Specify repository:
University of Idaho Special Collections

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property c. 2.5

UTM References

1	<u>1/1</u>	<u>5/1/6/2/1/0</u>	<u>5/2/5/5/4/4/0</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

___ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nancy F. Renk, Consulting Historian
organization _____ date May 17, 1995
street & number 8500 Sunnyside Road telephone 208-263-7697
city or town Sandpoint state Idaho zip code 83864

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

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

Property Owner

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

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

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Narrative Description

The Harrison Commercial Historic District rose from the ashes of a devastating fire and, thus, represents the second and somewhat more stable period of town growth. By 1917, Harrison was a thriving lumber town, with mills stretched along the waterfront and frame stores and houses concentrated on the hillside above. When fire broke out in one of the mills in July 1917, it spread rapidly uphill and into the business district where it destroyed several blocks of stores. After the fire, some business owners went out of business while others rebuilt in fire resistant brick buildings. Contributing resources in the historic district, encompassing most of the rebuilt downtown area, includes six brick buildings dating from 1917-1918 and an unrebuilt city block which was developed by the city as a park in 1945. A metal-clad grain elevator built in 1955 constitutes the only non-contributing structure in the district. While some of the buildings have undergone minor alterations, most retain the original massing, fenestration, and building materials, giving the district historic integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The town of Harrison is constrained by its geographical setting: a point of land bounded on three sides by Lake Coeur d'Alene and the mouth of the Coeur d'Alene River and on the fourth side by a steep hill. The Union Pacific Railroad skirts the edge of the lake and continues up the Coeur d'Alene River, while Idaho State Highway 97 (Coeur d'Alene Avenue) runs through downtown. Streets cut terraces up the hillside, and buildings are constructed to accommodate sloping lots. Commercial buildings are concentrated in four blocks of the downtown area, three with historic brick buildings and the other with newer frame, block, and metal buildings. A fifth block was never rebuilt following the fire and is now a city park.

The six brick buildings in the Harrison Commercial Historic District are typical vernacular commercial structures of the period. They are modest in size, scale, and design. Three buildings are just one story in height while the other three are two stories. All front directly onto the sidewalks. The theater and Masonic temple (in Block 1) are freestanding; the I.O.O.F. hall (in Block 3) abuts a neighboring frame building; and the other three buildings (in Block 9) share common walls.

The historic district today looks much as it did during its period of significance. The buildings exhibit some alterations at the street level. Coeur d'Alene Avenue (Highway 97) is now paved and edged with curbs. Trees have grown up to shade the vacant block that became a city park in 1945. The only noncontributing building is the grain elevator that sits on a lower street level and, thus, does not constitute a significant visual intrusion. Five of the six brick buildings remain in good condition, although there has been no restoration or rehabilitation work done. The sixth building,

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the theater (later Armstrong garage), is vacant and neglected but appears to be structurally sound.

Three characteristics set the historic district off from the rest of Harrison. First, the district, with the exception of the city park, is entirely commercial. Second, the primary building material in the district is brick, with six of the seven buildings constructed of brick. The only other major brick structure in Harrison is the 1909 school, located on the northern end of town. Third, the buildings in the district exhibit a significant level of architectural integrity. Other buildings in Harrison, of course, also retain their historic design and materials, but a 1994 survey of the entire town revealed no similar concentration.

The buildings in the Harrison Commercial Historic District are as follows:

1. E. C. Hay and Sons, Inc. Grain Elevator (noncontributing)
107 North Lake Avenue

The large grain elevator and adjoining quonset building, now vacant, are set on the lower end of three lots, with frontage on Lake Street, just above the Union Pacific Railroad tracks. Square in plan, the elevator rises four stories to a gabled roof, with a narrower section continuing another two stories culminating in a hipped roof. The wood crib structure is clad with corrugated metal siding, with the same material used on the roof. A one story shed-roofed section on the west contains the scale. Adjoining the elevator on the north end is an arched building clad in metal siding. This quonset addition is rectangular in plan. According to an assessor's report, the elevator, built in 1955, has a capacity of nearly 59,000 bushels while the quonset addition, built c. 1967, has a capacity of over 89,000 bushels.¹

2. Theater/Armstrong Garage (contributing)
104 North Coeur d'Alene Avenue

The two-story theater building is a two-part commercial block featuring dark red brick on the facade and hollow brick tile on the side walls. The lower facade, altered when the theater was converted into an automobile garage in the 1930s, now has a door and large picture window (both apparently original) in the left half and a sliding wooden garage door in the right half. The upper facade contains two one-over-one double-hung sash windows, with two smaller window openings in the center filled in with bricks. Side walls have double-hung sash windows for the upstairs apartment. The shed roof is hidden by a brick firewall.

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3. Masonic Temple (contributing) 101 North Coeur d'Alene Avenue

This large two-story building is set on a sloping lot so that the random ashlar stone foundation forms a basement story along the south and west sides. The upper stories of the two-part commercial block are brick, with pressed red brick on the facade and common brick on the side walls. The left half of the facade contains a small storefront and large wooden doors providing vehicular access to a rear storage area; the right half contains a larger storefront. Both stores feature recessed doorways and large windows with three rows of small lights above. The second-story facade has five evenly spaced nine-over-one double-hung sash windows. Brick pilasters dividing the first story into two bays have white tiles at the base and top; similar tiles appear in the lintels of the second story windows. White bricks form quoins on the second story, while soldier courses divide the floors. The metal cornice is supported by stepped brick dentils.

4. I.O.O.F. Hall (contributing) 200 West Harrison Street

The I.O.O.F. lot slopes so much that the building is a full three stories at the rear but only two stories on the principal facade which faces on to Coeur d'Alene Avenue. The enframed window wall design utilizes walls of fired red brick, with hollow brick tile on the south wall. The main facade features a recessed corner entrance set behind a large square brick pillar which continues as a pilaster on the second story; the base of the pillar contains the corner stone with the linked ring I.O.O.F. symbol, No. 54, and the date of 1917. Pilasters with cast-stone caps frame the facade into just one bay and the side facing Harrison Street into three bays. A soldier course and brick dentils top each bay, and a simple soldier course forms the cornice band. There are three evenly spaced one-over-one double-hung sash windows in the second story of each bay except the rear, which has two. The first-story facade has large plate-glass windows, some of which are now filled in with plywood. A walkway extends along the north side to provide access to the storefronts.

5. Marler and Brass Meat Market/Paulsen Grocery Store Building (contributing) 105-109 South Coeur d'Alene Avenue

The walls of this one-part commercial block are a uniform cream/tan colored brick. Both bays on the lower facade have been modernized. The left contains two small store fronts with large glass windows, glass doors, and plywood; a fixed shed-roofed awning with shakes shelters the sidewalk. The right bay contains the Harrison Grange No. 422. The center door is recessed, flanked on the

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left by multi-light windows and on the right by a blank wall with the grange symbol; plywood covers the lower walls and a shed roof shelters the bay. The unaltered upper facade unifies the building with a soldier course, recessed panels, and tile capping the flat roof line.

6. Corskie Building (contributing)
103 South Coeur d'Alene Avenue

This one-part commercial block has a facade of cream-colored bricks. The lower facade has been remodeled, however, and now features plywood siding and large windows flanking a recessed center door. A metal cornice with dentils separates the lower and upper facade. The stepped roof line rises to a shallow peak, with the firewall capped in metal. A name plate in the upper facade reads, "CORSKIE."

7. Bridgeman Building (contributing)
101 South Coeur d'Alene Avenue

Tan brick is used in the facade of this one-part commercial block. The lower facade features a recessed center door and large plate glass display windows. Bricks are set in a soldier course below the windows. Brick pilasters capped with tiles are set at the sides of the facade, while the upper facade has a soldier course set below a simple brick cornice with dentils. The stepped roof line is capped with tiles. A newer shed-roofed awning with shakes shelters the building front.

8. City Park (non-contributing)
bounded by Harrison Street, Lake Avenue, Garfield Street and Couer d'Alene Avenue

City Park encompasses all of Block 2 in the original town plat. Prior to the 1917 fire this site contained several wood frame commercial structures. Following the fire this block was never rebuilt. Various lots passed to the county for unpaid taxes through the 1920s and 1930s. In 1945 the county deeded the entirety of Block 2 to the city of Harrison for use as a park. It affords a scenic vista of Lake Couer d'Alene from the buildings on the east side of Coeur d'Alene Avenue and is a focus for activity in the commercial district.

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Narrative Statement of Significance

The Harrison Commercial Historic District encompasses most of the downtown area. The district is significant under Criterion A because it developed as a direct result of a devastating fire in 1917 that destroyed most of the town's original commercial core. This second phase of construction occurred in a short time in response to the disaster and resulted in a stable, fire resistant downtown. As such it directly illustrates a significant period in the evolution of the community. The district is also significant under Criterion C as an intact commercial streetscape from the late 1910s and for its representation of local styles and types of architecture from that period.

The initial settlement of Harrison followed the opening of a strip of land along the northern edge of the Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation early in 1891. A survey later that year revealed that the townsite was actually still on the reservation, and it took more than a decade to resolve the associated problems.² Adding to the complications, three brothers - Addison, William, and Edwin Crane - located most of the land on which the town of Harrison developed, leasing lots until they received clear title in 1903, 1906, 1909, and 1910.³

Despite the problems, Harrison grew and thrived. The primary economic base for the town was the lumber industry, which took root in the 1890s and then expanded after the turn of the century. Harrison was an ideal location for a mill town--at the edge of untouched timber reserves with two rivers and a lake to provide transportation and storage for logs. Lumber mills, shingle mills, and box factories operated along the water's edge in Harrison well into the 1920's. In addition to the lumber industry, a local farming area developed on the flat lands to the east of town once the area was cleared of trees. Summer recreation also brought tourists and their dollars into Harrison, first by lake steamer and later by automobile.

Seven lumber mills were operating in Harrison by 1916, along with a shingle mill and a box factory. In addition to finished lumber for distant markets, some mills also produced mining timbers for use in the nearby Silver Valley.⁴ The regional lumber industry was generally stable during this time, but labor relations were tense as the Industrial Workers of the World agitated for improved camp conditions. The Wobblies led a major strike in the summer of 1917 that paralyzed the entire Pacific Northwest; half of the region's timber workers were off the job by mid-August.⁵ The local population was so polarized by the strike that when fire broke out in the Grant Lumber Co. mill in Harrison, the I.W.W. was immediately blamed. After subsequent investigations, however, Governor Moses Alexander discounted any I.W.W. involvement and noted, "It was not the only fire that ever started in a drying kiln nor the only fire that was ever in Harrison."⁶

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The fire broke out in the drying kiln at the Grant Lumber Co. just before 7 a.m. on July 21, 1917. Sparks landed in the awning of the pool hall on Lakefront Street and soon the entire business district was in flames. Fire fighters were hampered when the canvas hoses burned along with the chemical wagons. By the time the smoke cleared, more than twenty-five dwellings were destroyed, along with two lumber mills, nearly thirty businesses, four churches, two meeting halls, the water works, utility company, city clerk's office, and a boarding house. Damage was estimated at \$500,000.⁷

Harrison never recovered from this devastation. Many people had no insurance and, thus, could not afford to rebuild. There were larger forces at work as well. The lumber boom was over. Prices rose briefly following the end of World War I, but dropped precipitously by 1920. The nation slid into a recession the following year that hit natural resource-based industries especially hard. The market rallied for a while in the mid 1920's but took another downturn in 1927 when demand for lumber dropped by more than 50 percent.⁸ Harrison still had five mills in 1923, with a sixth just a few miles away, but the numbers dropped to four in 1924 and two in 1929.⁹

The commercial core that developed after the fire was considerably smaller than its earlier incarnation. It contained enough variety of businesses, however, to serve the diminishing needs of the town. Chastened by the fire, merchants constructed fire-resistant buildings of brick and hollow tile. Reconstruction began soon after the rubble was cleared, and within a year of the fire, five new brick buildings housed six businesses, a movie theater, a post office, and a lodge hall. A sixth brick building, the Masonic Temple, was not completed until late 1918 or early 1919. One principal site was not rebuilt following the fire. Block 2 remained almost completely vacant, likely as a result of lot owners having no insurance or funds to rebuild. The county first acquired title to a Block 2 lot in 1924 and owned the entire block by 1939. Title to Block 2 was turned over to the city in 1945 for use as a park. Despite its non-contributing status, Harrison City Park now serves as both a focus for the commercial core and as a visible reminder of the changes brought about by the 1917 fire. The Harrison Commercial Historic District directly reflects and represents the efforts of the local business community and citizens to rebuild and improve their town in the face of a devastating disaster.

Because the downtown was rebuilt immediately after the fire, the buildings also reflect the architectural styles of the early 20th century. The designs are typical of small town commercial architecture built throughout the nation during this period. Each building is simple and directly functional, most being one- or two-part commercial blocks. Decoration is kept to a minimum. All of the contributing buildings are constructed of brick or clay tile blocks, an expression of the owners' desire to invest in fireproof buildings. In vernacular design, the brick-front store was the most popular commercial style of the first half of the 20th century. Such buildings varied in height

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from one to three stories, but their plans were quite similar. Two- and three-story structures had ground-level store facilities, with offices, meeting halls, living space, or storage on the upper floors. Single-story buildings offered no space for store owners or renters to live in, and they were not often built alone, but rather as a series of storefronts tied together by cornices or other horizontal elements and common party walls.

The individual buildings are as follows:

1. E. C. Hay and Sons, Inc. Grain Elevator

The grain elevator, located at the northwestern corner of the district, is labeled noncontributing by reason of age only. Built in 1955, it served the farming area east of Harrison by providing grain storage and shipping on the Union Pacific Railroad. Owners added the quonset building ca. 1967 to increase the storage capacity to more than 148,000 bushels. The structure shows few alterations on the exterior but now stands vacant, facing an uncertain future.¹⁰

2. Theater/Armstrong Garage

The July 1917 fire destroyed the Princess Theater, and the owner, who sustained a \$1,200 loss, evidently decided not to rebuild. By October that year, John Nitkey announced plans to build a \$6,000 brick movie theater with seating for 300. He estimated that construction would be completed by December; it was in operation by July 1918.¹¹ The business may have had a rocky time, however, since the property deeds changed hands numerous times in little more than a decade. Relative George Nitkey retained ownership until 1931.

At some point, perhaps as early as 1932, the theater was converted into an automotive garage. James B. Armstrong, who owned an adjoining lot by 1932 and purchased the theater building in 1941, operated Armstrong Garage in Harrison from at least 1932-1938 and possibly several years more. Later sales of the building, in 1945 and 1964, listed equipment that indicated continued use as a mechanical garage. The building is now vacant.¹²

The theater, of course, was considerably altered with its conversion into a garage. The original interior featured a stage, seating on both the first floor and the balcony, and a projection booth on the upper level. These were removed to accommodate the garage. On the exterior, the entrance doors were replaced with a large garage door on the main facade to provide access for motor vehicles. This alteration dates from at least the early 1940s and perhaps a decade earlier. Thus, the

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building's use as a garage is historic.

3. Masonic Temple

The Masons had been active in Harrison for some years by September 1901 when they had a meeting hall on the second floor of a frame building that housed the post office and drug store. This building was located across the street from the present building, on the north end of Block 10. In January 1911 the fraternal organization acquired title to Lot 5 and the south half of Lot 4 of Block 1 and constructed a two-story brick temple. This building was destroyed in the 1917 fire, however, with a loss of \$25,000. Although the July 1918 fire map shows the building as still in ruins, the Masons completed their cleanup and reconstruction later that year. This second building is similar in design to the first one.¹³

While the Masons maintained a reception and meeting room on the second story for many years, various businesses used the retail space on the first floor. The Export Lumber Co. sold hay, grain, and feed in the basement and groceries, hardware, and clothing on the first floor. Evidently the Masonic Lodge was unable to keep up with taxes during the late 1930s, and the county took over the property in 1942. Three years later, Russell & Pugh Lumber Co. purchased the building.¹⁴

4. I.O.O.F. Hall

Like the Masons, the Odd Fellows Harrison lodge had been well established by September 1901. At this time they met upstairs in a frame building located diagonally across the intersection from their later brick lodge. The Odd Fellows sustained a \$2,500 loss in the July 1917 fire but soon set to work on a fine new brick building. The cornerstone dedication on October 10, 1917 attracted a large crowd, and the newspaper noted that this building represented the first rebuilding "of any consequence" since the fire. The building was probably ready for occupancy within a few months. J. M. Brown financed the new lodge hall and deeded it to Harrison I.O.O.F. Lodge No. 54 in January 1918 for \$24,000. Payments were difficult for the new owners, however, as the county sheriff foreclosed on the property in 1924. The building was sold the following year at a public auction for just over \$18,000. Various businesses have occupied the retail spaces in the building over the years, with the rear space serving as the post office for many years.¹⁵

5. Marler and Brass/Paulsen Building

Despite the architectural unity apparent on the facade, the two halves of this building have had

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separate ownership since its construction. Walter Paulsen, original owner of the south half, purchased the lot in 1911 and operated his grocery store out of a frame building there until the July 1917 fire dealt him a \$5,500 loss. F. E. Marler and his partner, Gustav Brass, ran a meat market at a different location prior to the fire. Brass obtained title to the land under the north half of the building in April 1918. The new building was completed by July of that same year when it housed Paulsen's grocery store and the Marler and Brass meat market and sausage factory.¹⁶

Since that time, the northern half of the building has housed a number of different businesses. Harrison Grange #422 purchased the southern half in March 1944 and has met there for more than 50 years. Changing occupants have led to alterations in the lower facade design, but the upper facade retains its architectural integrity, uniting the building as it did in 1918.¹⁷

6. Corskie Building

The Corskie brothers, John A. and J. M., suffered a loss of \$4,500 when the July 1917 fire completely destroyed their drug store. The brothers purchased the north half of Lot 2 in Block 9 in November 1916 and probably conducted their business in an existing frame building there. In November of the following year, after the fire, John Corskie purchased the south twelve and a half feet of the adjoining Lot 1, giving the brothers a larger plot of land. Their new brick store was in operation before July 1918, and it remained a fixture in Harrison through the 1940's.¹⁸

7. Bridgeman Building

There was a frame hardware store on this corner from as early as 1901. It had been operated for many of those years by Wayne S. Bridgeman. After taking an \$8,000 loss in the fire, Bridgeman rebuilt his business in a one-story brick structure that was completed by July 1918. He expanded into the furniture business following the fire. The Bridgeman Hardware and Furniture store continued in business until he sold to H. D. Brownawell in 1938. Brownawell maintained the store for another four years, selling the property in 1942. The store still houses a single business, now a grocery, and remains little altered on the exterior except for the fixed awning.¹⁹

8. City Park

Prior to the 1917 fire, Block 2 of the original Harrison plat contained ten businesses housed in one and two story frame buildings, mostly facing Couer d'Alene Avenue. The businesses present were modest enterprises such as saloons, restaurants, a meat market, a confectionery, a barber, a cobbler, a news stand, and a boarding house. It also featured at least three dwellings built on back lots. All

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of these structures were destroyed in the conflagration. While the block was cleared of debris following the fire no structures were erected on the site during the rebuilding boom of 1917-1919. The site initially remained in private ownership. However, title for individual lots passed to the county for unpaid taxes in 1924 and 1936. By 1939 the county held title to the entire block. In 1945 the county transferred Block 2 to the city which immediately established the site as the Harrison City Park. While improvements have been made to the park since 1946, it retains its open character which dates from, and is a visible reminder of, the 1917 fire which shaped the present downtown district.²⁰

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ENDNOTES

1. Assessor's file for Parcel No. Y-3800-001-001-A; on file, Kootenai County Courthouse, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.
2. "Hard on Harrison," Spokane Review, 27 October 1891, 7:3.
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Specific Repository

North Idaho College Library; Kootenai County Courthouse; Crane Historical Society, Harrison.

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Name of Property Harrison Commercial Historic District

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Harrison Commercial Historic District encompasses all of Block 1; all of Block 2; Lot 1 of Block 3; and Lots 1-3 of Block 9, original townsite of Harrison. Starting at the northwest corner of Block 1, the boundary runs south to the southwest corner of Lot 1 of Block 3; then east along the lot line to the southeast corner of Lot 1 of Block 3, and continuing east to the east side of Coeur d'Alene Avenue; then north to the southwest corner of Lot 3 of Block 9; then east to the southeast corner of Lot 3 of Block 9; then north along the alley to the northeast corner of Lot 1 of Block 9; then west to the northwest corner of Lot 1 of Block 9; then northwest to the southeast corner of Block 1; then north to the northeast corner of Block 1; then west to the point of beginning. See enclosed sketch map.

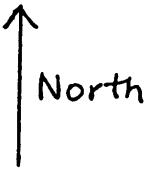
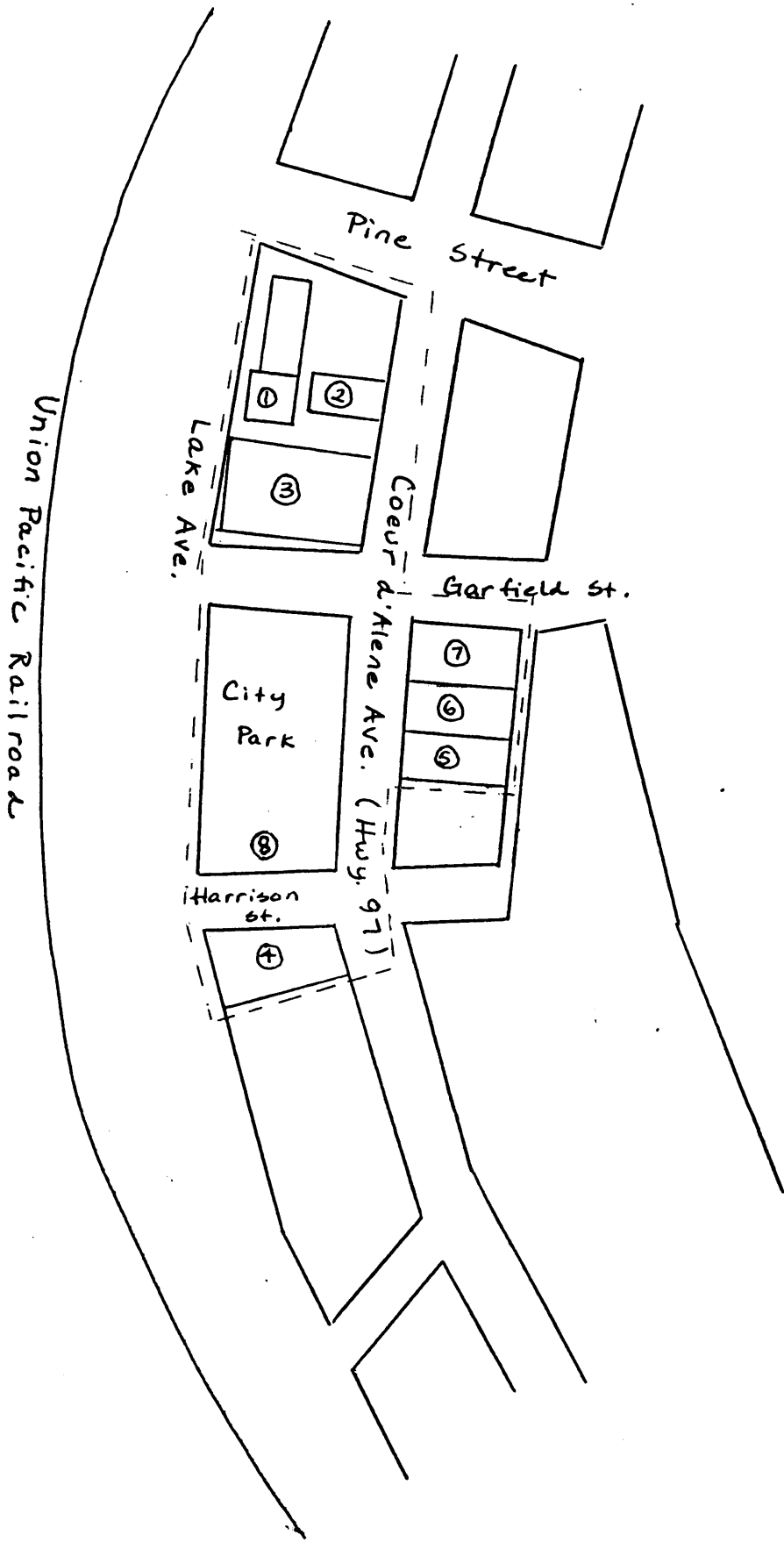
Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the grain elevator and all of the historic brick commercial buildings in downtown Harrison and the city park, but excludes the noncontributing city library on Lot 4 in Block 9, and the noncontributing commercial buildings in Block 3 and Block 10.

Harrison Commercial
Historic District

Harrison, Idaho

May 1995



Not to scale