

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 31 1976

DATE ENTERED MAY 12 1976

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

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC *Whe* Boise Capitol Area District

**

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Boise

---NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st & 2nd

STATE

Idaho

--- VICINITY OF
CODE

016

COUNTY

Ada

CODE

001

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

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

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Multiple Ownership

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

--- VICINITY OF

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Ada County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Boise

STATE

Idaho

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Idaho State Historic Sites Inventory

DATE 1972

---FEDERAL STATE ---COUNTY ---LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Idaho State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

610 North Julia Davis Drive, Boise ,

STATE

Idaho

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Description.

The Boise Capitol Area District comprises several architecturally and/or historically significant buildings and a monument. Built between 1904 and 1939, these buildings represent the political hub of Idaho. The district consists of the Idaho State Capitol, the Federal Building, the Ada County Courthouse, the Hotel Boise, the Steunenberg Monument, and Saint Michael's Episcopal Cathedral, the Christian Science Bldg. and the Milton building.

(1). The State Capitol fronts on Jefferson Street, the east-west axis of the district. The center section of this four-story Idaho sandstone structure was built between 1906 and 1912, and the wings were added in 1919 and 1920. The architectural firm of Tourtellotte and Hummel designed the entire structure, with H. E. Quigley serving as an advisory architect for the dome. The Building is highly reminiscent of the National Capitol and is distinguished by its dome, capped with a bronze eagle, and a three-story portico with a pediment supported by four Corinthian columns. The wings have side entrances and are decorated with Ionic columns. At 208 feet, the Capitol is the focus of an excellent view from Capitol Boulevard.

(2). To the east of the Capitol is the Ada County Courthouse, which was constructed in 1939-1939 with the assistance of the WPA. This nine-story building was also designed by Tourtellotte and Hummel, in conjunction with Wayland and Fennell. It is made of Indiana limestone and is in the Moderne or Art Deco style. An extreme setback separates the third and fourth stories, and the fifth to eighth stories form a tower which is capped by an octagonal story. The eighth story has pinnacles which appear to be inspired by Hugh Ferriss drawings.

(3). To the west of the park area is the old Federal Building, which is on the northeast corner of eighth and Bannock streets. The original portion, built in 1904, was designed by the United States Treasury Department while James Knox Taylor was supervising architect. The four-story stone and white brick building is one of the best examples of Beaux Arts architecture in the region. The first floor has round arch windows and a similar doorway with excellent wrought iron decorations in the tympanum. The third story is capped by a cornice supported by dentils, and the fourth story is appreciated in a typical Renaissance manner to form a parapet. In 1930 a substantial addition was built from the northwest corner to form an abbreviated L. This addition is stylistically similar to the original structure.

(4). West of the Federal Building is Hotel Boise. Built in 1930 for W. E. Pierce and Associates, this reinforced concrete, eleven-story edifice was the tallest commercial structure in Boise for a generation. Chief designer was Frank Hummel of the firm of Tourtellotte and Hummel. The hotel is in the Moderne style and has an eleven-story corner tower with four-story wings extending on 8th Street and on Bannock Street. The first floor is predominately plate glass, having originally contained several shops. The body of the building rises from this floor, with a mock setback between the seventh and eighth stories. The eleventh story is set back, with diagonally cut-off corners, and is a penthouse. The tenth floor is capped by Moderne pinnacles, reminiscent of Hugh Ferriss conceptualizations, as are the corners of the wings. Pilasters add to the verticality of the structure, and interesting organically derived ornamentation appears at the seventh and tenth floors of the tower and the fourth floor of the wings.

(5). Across from the Capitol is the Steunenberg Monument, which was erected in 1929 in memory of ex-governor Frank Steunenberg, assassinated in 1905. This standing bronze portrait was designed by Gilbert Riswold of Salt Lake City and was cast in Los Angeles by Guido Nelli. A park area surrounds the statue and relates well to the Capitol.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

Description (continued).

(6). St. Michael's Episcopal Cathedral is north of the Capitol on the northeast corner of Eighth and State streets. This structure of Idaho sandstone was designed by Henry M. Cogdon of New York City. Work began on the building in 1899 and was completed in 1902. It is designed in the English Gothic style and is cruciform in plan, with the nave terminating in a semicircular apse that is lighted by slender stained-glass windows. The most prominent external feature of the cathedral is the corner tower, which measures 20' by 20' and rises 135 feet to the peak of the slender spire. Although included in the original plans, the tower was not completed until 1949.

(7). Christian Science Building. 315 North 8th. A charming, small two-story commercial building marked by rich contrasts in texture and color. Brick is deep red and tan. Stone is rusticated tan. The cornice is broken into three steps. The four second-story windows are arched in light brick. Keystones are decorative. Built about 1910.

(8). The Milton Building. 317-19 N. 8th Street. This two-story commercial building was built in 1904. Its streetside facade is light grey brick with a small projecting cornice supported by a series of small, blind brick arches. Upper floor windows are rectangular with flat brick arches and store keystones. First floor storefronts have been remodeled over the years. Second story offices face a rear-opening light well.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Boise was designated permanent territorial capital of Idaho in December 1864, a year and a half after the community was founded. Capitol Square soon became an important feature of the townsite, although the territorial capitol was not actually completed until 1886. As the center of Idaho's governmental complex, the varied buildings represented in this district have an importance and character of great interest. They are pleasingly bound together by some of the city's finest park areas, with large old trees in great variety. Two of these, on the Capitol grounds, were planted by visiting Presidents of the United States: Benjamin Harrison and Theodore Roosevelt.

The greatest value to Idaho of recognizing the Boise Capitol Area District as an architecturally significant complex lies in calling attention to the worth of Moderne structures as well as more traditional Classical revival ones. The district includes the State Capitol; the Federal Building; an important adjoining hotel which served as a major political center during the depression and for many years after that; a park and monument dedicated to Frank Steunenberg, a former governor whose assassination in 1905 led to the internationally famous conspiracy trial of William D. Haywood in 1907; and the Ada County Courthouse, located on the site of the trial. The Haywood Trial, along with some earlier significant labor cases, took place in Ada County's previous courthouse--an earlier structure in which officials of the Coeur d'Alene miners unions decided to organize the Western Federation of Miners (a militant industrial union which provided the primary sponsorship for the Industrial Workers of the World in 1905) in 1893. The present Ada County Courthouse houses a representative collection of Works Projects Administration murals characteristic of the time it was constructed. While not a politically oriented structure, Saint Michael's Cathedral, immediately adjacent to the capitol, forms an important architectural component of this historic district.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY ca 18 acres.

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	1
5	6
4	1
0	0

4	8
2	9
3	4
0	

B

1	1
5	6
5	0
3	0

4	8
2	9
3	0
0	

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

From Sixth and Bannock west to the west end of Hotel Boise; north to the north edge of 319 North 8 Street; east to 8 Street; north to the alley between State and Washington; east to the east edge of Saint Michael's Cathedral; south to State Street; east to 5 Street; south to Jefferson Street; west to Sixth Street; south to Bannock Street.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Arthur A. Hart, Architectural Historian and Director of the Museum

ORGANIZATION

Idaho State Historical Society

DATE

March 26, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

610 North Julia Davis Drive

TELEPHONE

208 384-2120

CITY OR TOWN

Boise, Idaho

STATE

Idaho

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Meredith Wells

March 26, 1976

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting

[Signature]

DATE

5/12/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

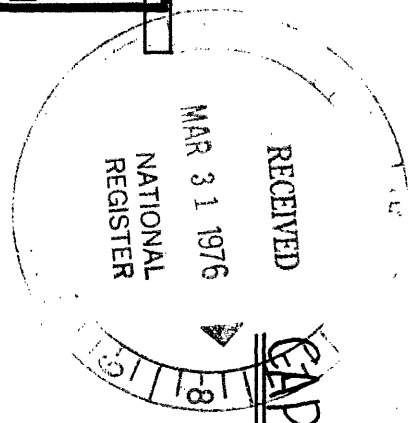
ATTEST:

[Signature]

DATE

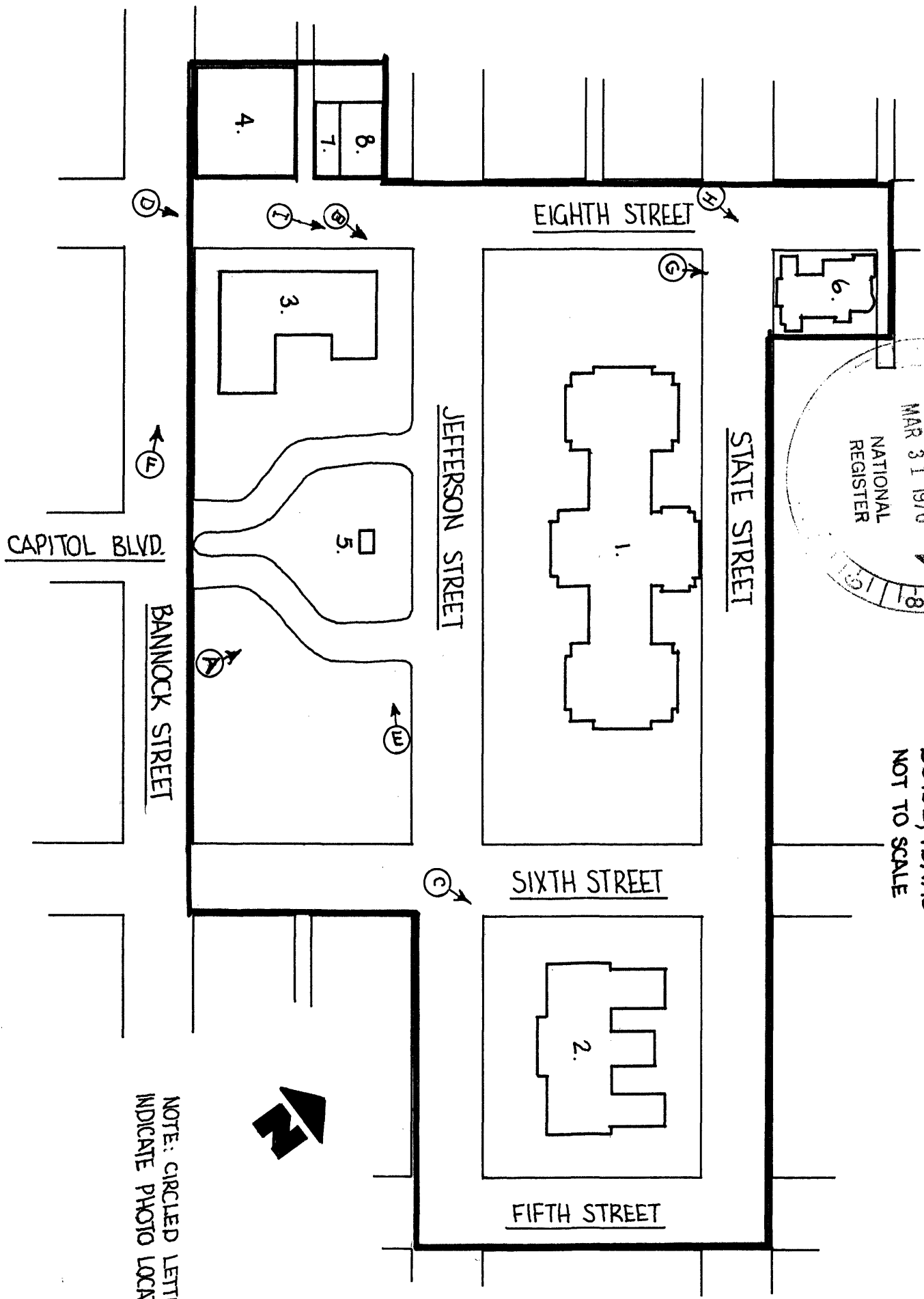
5-11-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



CAPITOL AREA HISTORIC DISTRICT

BOISE, IDAHO
NOT TO SCALE



NOTE: CIRCLED LETTERS
INDICATE PHOTO LOCATIONS

