



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 the 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 Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Company building

other names/site number Engineering Services/Valley Times/Integrity Computer Consulting and Repair

IHSI#01-19847

### 2. Location

street & number 815 North Main Street N/A not for publication

city or town Meridian N/A vicinity

state Idaho code ID county Ada code 01 zip code

### 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 30 Aug 08  
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:)

Edson H. Ball 9.17.08  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Company Building  
Name of Property

Meridian, Ada 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	Noncontributing
<u>1</u> buildings	
	_____ sites
	_____ structures
	_____ objects
<u>1</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)

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING:

Communications Facility

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19<sup>th</sup> and Early 20<sup>th</sup>

Century Revivals

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation CONCRETE

walls CONCRETE

roof ASPHALT

other STUCCO

BRICK / CERAMIC TILE

**Narrative Description**

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

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Company Building  
Name of Property

Meridian, Ada 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMUNICATIONS

**Period of Significance**

1928-1955

**Significant Dates**

1928

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Heikes, William – Contractor/Builder

Howry, William – Contractor/Builder

Scholin, Gus, - Contractor/Builder

**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

Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Company Building  
Name of Property

Meridian, Ada, County, Idaho  
City, County, and State

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of property:** less than one acre

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A 1/1 5/4/9/0/0/0 4/8/2/8/7/0/0 B 1 11111 11111  
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

C 1 11111 11111 D 1 11111 11111

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The platted boundaries of Sublots 15-16, Block 3 of the Meridian Original Townsite; Tax Parcel# R5672000460.

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The above description is the legal description of the property's boundaries.

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Madeline Buckendorf, M.A.

organization Madeline Buckendorf Consulting, LLC date 09/16/07

street & number 1805 Everett Street telephone (208)454-3435

city or town Caldwell state ID zip code 83605

## 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/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 Hunter Investments, Inc.

street & number 3955 Vantage Pointe Lane telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Meridian state Idaho zip code 83642

**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.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places

### Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1 Name of Property Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Building

County and State Ada County, Idaho

---

The Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Company building is a one-story, reinforced concrete structure. It is an example of a one-part commercial block, exhibiting elements of the Spanish Revival Style of architecture on a modest scale. The building is located in downtown Meridian, Idaho's second largest city located in the southwestern area of the state. The building faces east. It sits on a concrete foundation with a partial daylight basement; its roof is a flat with parapets. Its exterior is clad with stucco over concrete on the north, west, and south elevations; the street-facing east elevation is clad with a brick veneer. A concrete-masonry garage addition was constructed onto the west elevation in 1948, making the building's present-day dimensions approximately 25' x 51'.

The front (east) façade is typical of an early twentieth-century commercial storefront found in small towns. The bottom portion of the façade includes a recessed entryway between two display windows. A raised stucco foundation rises four feet on the east façade to the bottom of the windows; the rest of the wall surface is covered with a brick veneer set in a stretcher bond. The glazed wood panel door is recessed in the central entryway and is topped with a transom, currently covered with a decorative wood panel. A canvas bubble awning shelters the entryway. The windows are single-pane, plate-glass, framed with simple wood trim. There are transoms above both windows that are presently covered with business signage. Centered above the window and door transom areas is a corbelled brick frieze band. A small tile roof (only three tiles deep) descends from the parapet between two brick pilasters. Its closed eave is of curved white stucco.

The north and south elevations have stepped parapeted walls capped with concrete. Towards the eastern end of both elevations, a wood-frame, daylight basement window with three vertical lights is located below grade. Both elevations have small, rectangular louvered vents near the parapets closest to the east façade. Centered in the main section of the north elevation are two wood-framed, double-hung sash windows with 4-over-1 lights. West of the windows is a single doorway with a one light, 3-cross panel door topped by a single-light transom. Between the windows and the doors, a flush chimney projects above the stepped parapet and is capped in concrete. In the northern elevation of the garage addition, a flush door is located with one sidelight in its west side.

The south elevation has one, wood-framed, square, 6-light casement window and a louvered vent. No doors are located in the south elevations of the main section or the attached garage. The west elevation, which is the attached garage, has no windows or doors located in it; the garage door was removed and the wall filled in 1998.

The interior of the building has been altered on its first floor. The stairway leading to the basement and the basement layout retain their integrity; the basement was where the telephone equipment and the operators were located. No original telephone equipment or other furnishings are still extant in the basement. The building is one of the most intact historic structures still standing within the original platted townsite of Meridian.

Though very modest in its design, the red tile roof of at the front of the telephone building hints at some elements of the Spanish Revival Style of architecture, popular in the United States from 1915 to 1940.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places

### Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1 Name of Property Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Building

County and State Ada County, Idaho

The Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Company building is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criterion A for its significance in the areas of Communications and Commerce. The property is associated with the expansion of telephone communications services in Meridian, as well as with early twentieth-century commercial development of the town of Meridian, when a significant number of infrastructure improvements and business expansion occurred.

#### CRITERION A

As railroad tracks were laid throughout southwestern Idaho, small communities sprang up along the lines. In 1890, a post office called Hunter was established nine miles west of Boise, Idaho's capitol city. Two years later, the Hunter post office was moved one mile west, and by 1893 the small village there was renamed Meridian. By 1903, the town was incorporated and included a population of 200 people.<sup>i</sup>

Homer Tolleth, one of the town's original incorporators, built the first telephone line to Meridian in 1900. Several independent telephone companies, along with Rocky Mountain Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company of Utah, were already operating in Boise City. By 1906, the Meridian Farmer's Independent Telephone Company was listed in the Polk's Boise City and Ada County Directory, but no address was given for its location. Homer Tolleth managed this independent telephone company under various names until 1927. At that time, his exchange was located in the upstairs of a building located on Broadway and First streets. The Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Company incorporated the Meridian exchange in 1927, absorbed Tolleth's company, and he retired.<sup>ii</sup>

Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Company, incorporated in 1911, was formed from three former companies—Colorado Telephone, Tri-State Telephone and Telegraph, and Rocky Mountain Telephone and Telegraph. The Rocky Mountain company originally provided most of the telephone service throughout southern Idaho, and eventually incorporated the Idaho Independent Telephone Company of Boise into its network. By the 1920s, Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Company had purchased numerous local telephone exchanges in the far west, including Idaho. When the Mountain States company moved into a community it often built new telephone exchange buildings to house its modern equipment. The apex of its construction efforts occurred between 1927 and 1929, when the national economy was booming. Mountain State's new fifteen-story headquarters building in Denver was constructed in 1927, and by 1929 there were 122 major buildings erected by the Bell System throughout the United States.<sup>iii</sup>

After weathering the agricultural depression of the early 1920s, Meridian residents saw improvements to its infrastructure and economy in 1927-1929. Paving of the nearby state highway was occurring, a sewer system was being laid, and there were prospects for a large new creamery plant to be constructed. Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Company also made plans to construct a new telephone exchange building along what was then named East First Street (later renamed Main Street) between Idaho and Pine avenues. John F. Baird, publisher of the *Meridian Times* newspaper, owned the property and leased it to the telephone company. The Meridian building was part of a major half-million dollar investment by Mountain States in improving service throughout southern Idaho.<sup>iv</sup>

Construction of Meridian's Mountain States Telephone Company building began in April 1928. A local firm, consisting of building contractors William Heikes, Gus Scholin, and William Howry, was hired to construct the building from plans provide by the telephone company. At a cost of \$5,000, the one-story building was constructed with reinforced concrete walls and foundation, a precaution against fire damage. The building's street-facing facade was clad with a pressed-brick veneer surrounding plate-glass windows on its front elevation. The operators and main switchboards were housed in the basement, with the main offices located on the first floor. The *Meridian Times* described the building as "handsome and convenient."<sup>v</sup>

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Name of Property Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Building

County and State Ada County, Idaho

---

Mountain States Telephone Company leased the Meridian building until 1955, when its telecommunication services were consolidated into the Boise office. The descendants of John F. Baird sold the property to local resident Voris Botkin, who ran his real estate business in the building for several years. The property remained in the Botkin family until 1981. Hunter Investment Inc., a Meridian Corporation, bought the building and property in 1991. A weekly newspaper, an engineering firm and computer consulting services presently reside in the former telephone company building.<sup>vi</sup>

The Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Building in Meridian is one of the few unaltered historic business buildings still located along Meridian's Main Street and it serves as a visual link to the past, when, for over a quarter of a century, the company provided telephone and telegraph services to the burgeoning southwestern Idaho town.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places

## Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3 Name of Property Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Building

County and State Ada County, Idaho

### END NOTES

<sup>i</sup> Lila Hill and Glenn W. Davidson, *They came to Build a Community* (Meridian, Idaho: Trustees of the First United Methodist Church, 1986), 52-57. See also F. W. Ellis, "The Story of Meridian," *The Idaho Magazine*, March 1904.

<sup>ii</sup> *Ibid*, 74, 114. See also *Polk's Boise City and Ada County Directories, 1902-1927*; the *Meridian [Idaho] Times*, 16 September 1927, 1.

<sup>iii</sup> Herbert J. Hackenburg, Jr., *Muttering Machines to Laser Beams: A History of Mountain Bell* (Denver, Colorado: Mountain Bell, 1986), 37, 45, 105.

<sup>iv</sup> *The Meridian [Idaho] Times, 1927-1928*.

<sup>v</sup> "Fine New Phone Office," *Meridian Times*, 17 Aug. 1928, 1. The Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Meridian are located at the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office, Boise.

<sup>vi</sup> *Polk's Boise City and Ada County Directories, 1955-1956*; see also deed information collected by Josh Foley in possession of the author. For an overview of historic buildings surveyed at the reconnaissance level, see Emily Peeso, "Meridian Reconnaissance Survey Phase 1," Survey Report #307 (2005), on file at the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office, Boise.



---

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places

### Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

Name of Property Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Building

County and State Ada County, Idaho

---

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Attebery, Jennifer Eastman. *Building Idaho: An Architectural History*. Moscow: University of Idaho Press, 1991.
- Ellis, F. W. "The Story of Meridian," *The Idaho Magazine*, March 1904. On file at Idaho State Historical Society Library, Boise.
- Georgeson, Jody. Telecommunications History Group, Denver, Colorado Personal e-mail correspondence with author, in author's personal files.
- Hackenbarg, Herbert. *Muttering Machines to Laser Beams: A History of Mountain Bell*. Denver, Colorado: Mountain Bell, 1986.
- Haymond, Jay M. "The Telephone in Utah." *Utah History Encyclopedia*, <http://www.media.utah.edu/UHE/t/TELEPHONE.html> (August 2007).
- Hill, Lila, and Glen W. Davidson. *They Came to Build a Community*. Meridian, Idaho: Trustees of the First United Methodist Church, 1986.
- Housley, Norma Jean. "Telephone Service in Idaho Falls, 1899-1991." Museum of Idaho, 1991, <http://www.museumofidaho.org/LocalItems/chap4.php> (August 2007)
- Longstreth, Richard *The Buildings of Main Street: A Guide to American Commercial Architecture* (Walnut Creek, California: Richard Longstreth, 2000).
- McAlester, Virginia and Lee McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred P. Knopf, 1988.
- The *Meridian [Idaho] Times*. On microfilm at the Idaho State Historical Society (ISHS) Library, Boise.
- "Meridian Tells the World." [Boise] *Idaho Evening Statesman*, 27 Oct. 1951. On file at the ISHS Library, Boise.
- Nebraska State Historical Society. "Nebraska National Register Sites in Fillmore County," at <http://www.nebraskahistory.org/histpres/nebraska/fillmore.htm>. Accessed September 2007.
- Polk's Boise City and Ada County Directories, 1902-1956. On file at the ISHS Library, Boise.
- Sanborn Fire Insurance Company. Map of Meridian, Idaho. On microfilm at the ISHS Library, Boise.
- "Mountain States Telephony Company History." The Virtual Museum of Telecommunications-Company Histories, <http://www.telcomhistory.org/vm/historiesMtStates.shtml> (August 2007).

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**

**Continuation Sheet**

Section number Photos Page 1 Name of Property Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Building

County and State Ada County, Idaho

**PHOTOGRAPH IDENTIFICATION LOG**

**PROJECT TITLE: Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Company Building**

**Meridian, Ada County, Idaho**

**PHOTOGRAPHER: Madeline Buckendorf**

**ROLL NUMBER: 1**

<u>Frame #</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Direction</u>
0.				
1.	8/08/07	South Elevation	815 N. Main St., Meridian, ID	NE
2.	"	North Elevation	" " " "	NW
3.	"	West & North Elevations	" " " "	SE
4.	"	West & South Elevations	" " " "	SE
5.	"	East elev.-recessed doorway	" " " "	W
6.	"	East elev.-storefront window	" " " "	W
7.	"	East elev.-shed roof, parapet	" " " "	SW
8.	"	Site Overview	" " " "	W

Mountain States Telephone & Telegraph  
building  
815 N. Main St., Meridian,  
Ada County, Idaho  
Madeline Buckendorf, 8/08/07  
**SITE MAP--NOT TO SCALE**

**KEY:**  
Tree: ⊕  
Addition to Bldg.: - - - - -  
Photo Points: →

