

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Main Street Historic Commercial District

Other Name/Site Number:

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2. Location

Street & Number: 165-265 Main Street

Not for Publication: __

City/Town: Point Arena

Vicinity: __

State: CA County: Mendocino

Code: 045

Zip Code: 95468

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3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: District

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
___21	___9 buildings
___	___ sites
___	___ structures
___	___ objects
___21	___9 Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing:

Architectural and Historic Resources of Point Arena, California

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. ___ See continuation sheet.

Steady R. Craig Signature of certifying official 7/24/90 Date

California Office of Historic Preservation State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. ___ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

~~Entered in the~~
National Register

- 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): _____

Alton Byer 7/13/90

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: Commerce/Trade Sub: _____

Current : Commerce/Trade Sub: _____

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

No Style_____

Other Description: _____

Materials: foundation concrete__ roof asphalt__
walls stucco_____ other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance. _X_ See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: locally_____.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A___

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : _____

Areas of Significance: Commerce_____

Period(s) of Significance: 1893-1940 _____

Significant Dates : N/A_ _____

Significant Person(s): N/A_____

Cultural Affiliation: N/A_____

Architect/Builder: Unknown_____

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas of significance noted above. _X_ See continuation sheet.

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The Main Street Historic Commercial District is composed of thirty buildings that line both sides of Main Street for about one block. The street slopes down a hill from north to south. Twenty-one buildings contribute to the historic character of the district; nine do not. The contributors all have one or two stories. Most are sided in stucco, and many have straight horizontal cornice or parapet lines. The predominant use is retailing, and the typical storefront has a recessed entrance with transom flanked by display windows on one or both sides. Although buildings of a distinct architectural style are rare, integrity among the contributors is high. The non-contributors are not obtrusive and include the two oldest buildings in the district (both remodeled), two buildings constructed soon after the historic period but using the predominant architectural motifs of the district, three more recent buildings located at the backs of their lots, and one old building moved into the district after the end of historic period. The boundaries follow contiguous parcel lines and encompass all but one pre-1940 commercial buildings in Point Arena which retain their architectural integrity.

Descriptions of the resources within the district follow below. See the attached map for their locations.

165 Main Street--Contributing Building. The Standard Oil Station (ca. 1938) has one story, a flat roof, and stucco siding. The front elevation has two sections. On the left is an office area enclosed by several large windows. In front of the office is a flat-roofed carport with two narrow porch supports. On the right is an auto service bay with a nine-paned window in the door. The eave extends slightly over this section. The building is surrounded on the front and right by a concrete slab. This building, although vacant and in disrepair, contributes to the character of the historic district. It is the smallest of the three downtown service stations and the most recently constructed contributor to the district. Although the building was probably designed without any artistic pretensions, its functionality is expressed with elements of the International Style. The flat roof, prominent overhanging eave, stucco siding, and lack of ornamentation are manifestations of the style, which had been in limited use by some of the state's most prominent architects since the teens. Its construction in the late 1930s indicates that the owners believed that the impact of the automobile, which had already been felt in Point Arena for over thirty years, would continue to grow. Despite its current run-down condition, the building retains its architectural integrity.

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183 Main Street--Contributing Building. The Oddfellows Building (ca. 1928) is a rectangular two-story stucco structure with storefront at ground level. A red tile sloping parapet conceals a flat roof. Second floor windows are wood framed and double hung 2/4. The letters "IOOF" and four small square medallions are raised in relief above the windows. Band molding separates the upper and lower stories. The ground floor has two entrances. A wood and glass double door with arched transom lies slightly recessed within an arched opening at the south end of the facade and leads upstairs. A storefront with twelve transom lights and commercial entry fills the remainder of the facade. The I.O.O.F. Hall is one of Point Arena's most important buildings. It contributes to the historic district and has individual historical and architectural significance. The building, like many of those constructed after the 1927 fire, has a stucco siding and a recessed front door flanked by display windows. Unlike most of the others, it features a wide variety of design elements, the most unusual of which are medallions beneath the cornice, recessed windows on the second story, and an arched entryway leading to the upper floor. The elements are combined to produce a pleasing small example of the Spanish Colonial Revival. The building is one of two in the district designed in any of the period revival styles that were so popular elsewhere in the 1920s. The "I.O.O.F." in raised letters below the cornice states the building's original and current purpose. The local Oddfellows lodge, which predates the building by over sixty years, was one of the town's two most prestigious fraternal organizations. It had built two previous halls and established a long record of civic involvement before constructing this reinforced concrete building on the site of the burnt-out predecessor. The single-pane display windows constitute the only major alteration.

185 Main Street--Contributing Building. The Feed Barn building (ca. 1928) is a utilitarian, shed-like structure clad in corrugated metal. The roof is a single gable facing the street level and the entire building is located back from the street and sidewalk, behind a parking lot. Tall double-doors are centrally positioned, and there are two small, apparently recently added, windows symmetrically placed on either side of the doors. Compared with this structure, the other contributors to the historic district almost seem pretentious. The design of the feed barn is purely functional and was not intended to attract passersby. The structure is removed from Main Street by a large parking lot and may appear once to have been hidden by a more presentable building in front of it. But that is not the case. It was built for Ralph McMillen sometime after the 1927 fire to hold dry goods and has been an integral part of the district ever since. Whatever its lack of aesthetic appeal, the structure retains its original appearance.

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190 Main Street--Non-contributing Building. The Point Arena Hotel (1867) is one of the larger buildings on Main Street. It is two story, rectangular in shape, and sited on the corner of Main and Port Road. The roof is hipped and the cornice is boxed. The Main Street facade seems to be almost completely the result of one or more recent remodelings. The upper floor level is covered with weathered board and batten siding. Four narrow modern windows are spaced rather evenly along this elevation. The ground floor appears to have been in-filled with stucco and smaller modern windows. On the Port Road elevation, there are nine four over four double hung wood framed windows at the upper floor level. At the ground floor level are four double hung windows and two former window openings, now filled in. The current stucco and redwood exterior of this building gives little indication of its importance in Point Arena's past. The Point Arena Hotel is probably the town's oldest commercial building. Built by William Shoemaker in 1867, it has been in continuous operation for more than 120 years. In its first half-century it was one of the town's classier hotels, catering, for example, to travellers on their way to the Point Arena Hot Springs and other local resorts. Its present appearance does offer hints of earlier times. The redwood paneling in front shows the location of a second story balcony, and some four-over-four windows remain from the nineteenth century. The rear of the building, which is fundamentally unaltered, features horizontal board siding and a gable roof with prominent cornice returns. Nevertheless, the Point Arena Hotel, although still of interest, lacks sufficient integrity to be a contributor to the historic district.

195 Main Street--Contributing Building. The Pedretti Building (ca. 1928) is a small scale two-story commercial building of stucco with brick facing at the ground floor facade. A widely angled pointed parapet and two windows with multi-lights over apparently fixed panes are the major features of the second story level. On the ground floor level the original display windows appear to have been replaced and part of their area blocked in with unfinished wood. A commercial entrance with apparently original door is centrally positioned. This building, despite the changes to the storefront, contributes to the historic character of the district. Like other buildings constructed after the 1927 fire, it has a parapet and stucco siding. In this case, the parapet is angled and broken at each side. The words "Pedretti Bldg." beneath the cornice add a historic touch. Modifications to the storefront make a striking contrast with the rest of the building. The brick facing and small display windows with

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boarded transoms detract from the original appearance. The central recessed door appears unchanged, however. This was one of the first buildings to go up after the fire (construction started in September) and was the earliest post-fire building to use reinforced concrete. It was built for Ed Pedretti, who put a bakery on the first floor and apartments upstairs.

200 Main Street--Contributing Building. The Bank of America Building (ca. 1912) is a one-story stucco building with small parapet. The most prominent feature of the building is the large combination tri-partite window and door that occupy most of the building's facade. The windows are fixed and wood-framed. The door, a new addition, is fitted into the furthest right of the three window sections. At the time of the survey, some additional minor changes beneath the window were underway. These changes later made way for the installation of an automatic teller machine. This building has housed Point Arena's key financial institution for over seventy-five years. Isolated as it was from any banking center, the town had special need for a local institution to accumulate capital and make it available for large-scale enterprises. To meet this need J. C. Halliday and other community leaders organized the Bank of Point Arena in 1905. The bank moved into its new headquarters a few years later. Although small in scale and modest in design, the building was constructed in reinforced concrete. This material, previously used locally only on the lighthouse, signaled the bankers' progressive character and promised security for the depositors' funds. In the great fire of 1927 the building fulfilled this promise, keeping the interior undamaged and stopping the blaze from moving south to engulf the rest of Main Street. A few years later the Bank of America, in a continuing operation to establish branch banks around the state, bought the Bank of Point Arena. The bank thus passed out of local control, becoming an outpost of one of the country's largest financial institutions. The building, however, continued in its original use. Its integrity remains high, with the "versateller" machine the only important exterior change.

205 Main Street--Contributing Building. The Garcia Center (ca. 1928) is a small scale two-story commercial building, with stucco covering the facade. Horizontal wood siding is visible on the side elevations. The second story is unadorned. Two triple double hung wood frame windows are the major features of this story. The ground floor has two commercial entries, side by side, large display windows and transom lights over doors and windows. This simple two-story building contributes to the character of the historic district. Like so

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many buildings in the district, it was constructed after the 1927 fire and retains much of its original appearance. Its horizontal cornice appears to mark the roof line rather (as is typical of buildings to the north) to top a parapet. The front elevation is stuccoed, but the siding elsewhere is horizontal board. The three-part "Chicago" windows on the second story are similar to those used throughout the state in the 1920s, although the district provides only one other example. The first floor, having a recessed central entrance with two doors, large display windows, and transoms, houses two stores and appears to be in original condition. The building was constructed by Jack Pellascio and his sister Virgie Halkell as an ice cream shop, one of the uses it has today.

207 Main Street--Contributing Building. This one story, false front commercial building (ca. 1928) presents a major expanse of stucco above the ground floor display windows and doors. Display windows appear to be later additions but the building still retains a moderate level of integrity. Although its storefront appears to have been changed considerably, this building contributes to the character of the historic district. The stucco siding and parapet with straight, horizontal cornice are features typical of other buildings in the district. The building originally housed the local office of the telephone company and the residence of the office manager. So the placement of doors and windows may always have been different from that in other downtown buildings.

210 Main Street--Non-contributing Building. The Point Arena Cafe (ca. 1948) is a small, one-story building constructed of concrete block. The blocks are painted and there is a stepped parapet. A large plate glass window and glass entry door with transom take up much of the facade. The entry door is recessed a few feet from the street-side wall. This small building, probably constructed in the late 1940s, is too recent to be considered a contributor to the downtown historic district. Its cinder-block construction is out of sympathy with the materials used in the district's historic buildings. Yet its unobtrusive size, parapet, and transomed doorway detract only little from the overall character of the district. The building apparently did not replace something older; instead it merely filled in an empty space between the bank and the theater. It may become a contributor to the district when it becomes fifty years old.

211 Main Street--Contributing Building. This diminutive one-story building (ca. 1928) has an unadorned stucco false front with a modern graphic painting of rising sun covering the entire space over the storefront. The storefront, with

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display windows, central entry door and transom lights, all appear to be original. This small building contributes to the character of the historic district. It has the stuccoed rectangular parapet of so many buildings constructed directly after the 1927 fire. The rest of the facade--recessed entrance, display windows, and multi-lighted transoms--also appears to date from that period. The building originally housed a shoe store and has had other retail uses since.

213 Main Street--Contributing Building. The Cypress Realty Building (ca. 1928) is a small one-story structure of stucco. A wood and glass entry door is recessed at the left (north) side of the facade. A display window appears to be a later addition. Above the window and door are six small rectangular designs raised in relief. This tiny building contributes to the character of the historic district. It was constructed soon after the 1927 fire, and has apparently always housed commercial activities. A dress shop was the first tenant; later a gift shop moved in. Although the building is the smallest contributor, with a facade less than fifteen feet across, it has the parapet and stucco siding that characterize so many other buildings in the district. It also retains its original recessed entryway. Although the display window appears to date from about 1950, the overall architectural integrity remains high.

214 Main Street--Contributing Building. The Arena Theater (1928) is a three-bay two story stucco building with upper floor projecting over the ground floor and supported on four piers. The three windows on the second story are fixed 4/1 set in arched openings. A row of sixteen small round light fixtures, most with lights missing, stretches above the three windows. At the ground level are display windows and a ticket booth. A small marquee is not original. The theater has served as the town's entertainment center for over sixty years. Built after the fire of 1927, the building replaced a series of halls and opera houses that had provided sites for theatrical performances of various kinds in the previous decades. Point Arenans had long been fond of going to shows (with both imported and home-grown talent), so it was not surprising that they joined the rest of the country during the 1920s in its fascination with the movies. The building gave Point Arenans a small and restrained example of a movie palace, more elaborate examples of which were appearing across the state during the decade. Compared with other structures in the commercial district, however, the theater was large and well designed. It provided one of the few downtown

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buildings constructed in an established style and was (not surprisingly) the only one in the Second Renaissance Revival. Still used for both film and live entertainment, the theater is a strong contributor to the historic district. The present marquee, which replaced a larger version that extended over the sidewalk, is the only major alteration.

215 Main Street--Contributing Building. The Travel Center (1927) is a one story yellow brick building with entry doors at right and left ends of the facade. A display window is centrally positioned between the two doors. Transoms lie above the display window and the two glass doors. A few shallow cement steps lead up to the two doors. A plain, wide frieze above the storefront is banded at the top and bottom by slightly protruding bands of brick. This building, one of many constructed after the 1927 fire, contributes to the character of the historic district. Like many other downtown structures, it has a parapet with a straight horizontal cornice. The building is of medium size and provides a transition between the large mercantile building on the north and smaller structures to the south. The building's construction material is brick and offers a contrast to the stucco exteriors that predominate in the district. The bricks were salvaged from the old mercantile building, which may explain why this building went up so quickly after the fire. Construction was completed on October 29, 1927. The first tenant was the post office, which had also occupied the previous building on the site. The structure has several interesting architectural elements--the frieze with horizontal bands, the recessed windows and entrance ways, and the transoms over both doors--and retains its original appearance.

225 Main Street--Contributing Building. The Point Arena Mercantile Company Building (1928) is one of the larger buildings in the commercial Main Street district. The building is covered in stucco, which masks the reinforced concrete beneath. The ground floor level has three bays with piers separating the major elements. Original display windows and transom lights appear to have been replaced. A wide frieze above the storefront level is decorated with relief concentric rectangular frames and the words "Point Arena Mercantile Co" in large relief letters. This building contributes significantly to the historic character of the commercial district. Like many other buildings constructed directly after the 1927 fire, it has a parapet and stucco siding. But its facade, containing three full bays, is much broader than that of any other building in the district. The inscriptions in the frieze, "Point Arena

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Mercantile Co." and in smaller figures below "1928," clearly display the building's age and original use. The structure virtually announces that it has been the town's largest retail facility for over sixty years. The mercantile company was well established even before it constructed this store, doing business from another building at this location for many years before the fire. That building replaced an earlier general store that was constructed before 1891. Despite the new windows, which may date from the 1960s, the current structure retains its architectural integrity.

230 Main Street--Non-contributing Building. This small stucco rectangular structure (ca. 1950) is rather plain in appearance. Its flat roof is pierced by two vent pipes. The Main Street side of the building has four small fixed windows in a row, horizontally. Three of the windows are two over two. This last is a single pane that probably replaced a two over two. A door and three small windows are located on the northern end of the building. The structure is set back from the street about the depth of one building, indicating the possible presence of another building in front of this structure at some time in the past. This small, simple building is located at the rear of a parcel that fronts Main Street. It was constructed after 1946 and was at one point connected with the I and F Laundry. The building is too recent to be a contributor to the commercial district and is not close enough to the street to constitute a conspicuous intrusion on the historic character of the area.

235 Main Street--Contributing Building. The Point Arena Market Building (ca. 1928) is a rectangular structure with flat roof and parapet, clad in stucco. On the Main Street facade are a recessed entry door in the center, flanked by display windows. Transoms top display windows and door. Above the doors and windows is a wide, horizontal frame of stucco, with a saw tooth design creating the top horizontal framing band. The words "Point Arena Meat Market" were once raised in relief within this frame. The building is one story in height. It has recently sprouted a shed roof the length of the north side. This building, constructed directly after the 1927 downtown fire, contributes to the character of the historic district. The parapet, stucco siding, wood-framed windows, and recessed entrance with transomed doorway are typical of the period of construction. The sawtoothed band across the cornice is the building's most distinctive remaining design feature. Unfortunately, the raised letters beneath the band, which for over sixty years proclaimed the "Point Arena Meat Market," have recently removed. With their elimination went a clear link to the

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building's original use as a butcher shop. A new shed roof along the north elevation also alters the historic appearance of the building. Despite these recent changes, the building essentially retains its architectural integrity.

240 Main Street--Contributing Building. The Texaco Garage (ca. 1930) is a one-story building with flat roof and parapet, clad in stucco and divided into three main sections at the Main Street facade. The southern section has two large service bay openings; the center section consists of a glass enclosed office with canopy in front; the northern section is enclosed in large plate glass windows that appear to be a more recent addition. The station office and canopy section of the building extends streetward from the main front wall of the structure. This is one of three auto service stations in Point Arena's commercial district and indicates, as do the others, the importance of the automobile to the local economy in the 1920s and 1930s. More than the others, it reflects changing commercial uses during the period, for it replaced a drug store, a vacant former saloon, and other buildings after the 1927 fire. J. Pellacio was the builder and first owner. He used the space on the north wing of the building for his rental and real estate office. The city's water department was also located there. The building's design was not entirely functional and displayed a few fashionable stylistic elements from its period of construction, including a curved board over the canopy and banded windows in the station office and north wing. The building possesses a high level integrity and contributes to the historic character of the commercial district.

245 Main Street--Contributing Building. The Foresters' Hall (1928) is a two-story commercial stucco structure with broadly angled parapet. Two lines of banded molding separate parapet from second story and second story from ground level. Windows at the second story level are wood frame, 6/1, double-hung. The ground floor has two entrances, one leading upstairs and one a commercial entry. Multi-light transoms are over display windows and commercial entry area. "A.O.F" and "1928" are inscribed within the building's parapet. The Foresters' Hall contributes to the historic character of the commercial district. The building, like many constructed directly after the 1927 fire, has a parapet and stucco siding. The parapet, which is broken on both sides and rises to a point in the center, constitutes an important design element and sets the building apart from its plainer neighbors. The stucco masks reinforced concrete, a material intended for permanence.

Wood-framed windows, featuring multi-paned upper sashes, and a

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recessed front entrance provide important visual links to the past. The ground floor housed a bakery and drugstore originally and various other businesses later. The Foresters adopted a scheme typical of fraternal societies across the state and reserved the second floor for their own meetings. Court Arena No. 8518 of the Ancient Order of Foresters was organized around the turn of the century, presumably by men involved in the lumber industry, but apparently did not have a meeting place of its own until it constructed this building. The new Foresters' Hall became one of the district's most substantial buildings and remains one of the most important examples of construction after the 1927 fire.

247 Main Street--Non-contributing Building. The fire station (ca. 1947) is a two-story concrete block building with flat roof. At the upper floor level are three large plate glass windows. On the ground floor, a small entry door is recessed at the south end of the building. Two large doors for fire trucks, each door with nine glass panels over nine metal panels, take up most of the ground floor facade. This building is too recent to contribute to the historic character of the district. It was constructed after 1946 to house the fire department as well as other city functions, the latter having been displaced from the Masonic Hall at Main and Mill, which burned in 1945. It was apparently the first building ever constructed in Point Arena specifically for government purposes. In its new quarters, the volunteer fire department carried on a tradition begun in 1877 with the founding of the Wide Awake Hook and Ladder Company. Despite its construction after the district's historic period, the building, with its stucco siding and horizontal cornice, blends in well with its neighbors. It may become a contributor when it becomes fifty years old.

255 Main Street--Non-contributing Building. This large frame building (ca. 1890) has an L-plan with intersecting gable roofs. Siding is horizontal wood board. Gable roofed dormers pierce both roofs. Windows on the second floor are double-hung and placed close to the eaves. Those on the first floor are narrower and four-over-four. The front (west) elevation has a gable end on the left. From the center of the gable a hipped roof, two story bay window extends to the ground. To the right a two-story porch begins in the crook of the L and runs the entire width of the joining section of the building. Doors open out onto the porch on both stories. The building is set above street level and is approached by two sets of bannistered stairs. This building was moved into the historic district after 1946 and thus does not contribute to the character of the district. Indeed, its appearance, which seems to feature additions and modifications in materials compatible with those used originally, may give an inaccurate impression of the district's development.

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265 Main Street--Contributing Building. This two-story frame building (ca. 1893) has horizontal wood siding and a front-facing gable roof that is hidden behind a stepped parapet. Beneath the steps is a horizontal band that is intended to mimic a cornice and which is supported by decorative brackets. Windows on the second story are four-over-four and double-hung. Those on the front and north elevations have bracketed hood moldings. Below the front windows is a shallow bracketed wood awning that shelters the centered entrance and the two flanking display windows. The doorway is recessed and has a transom over the recently installed multi-paned french door. On each side is a large fixed window with nine equally sized panes arranged in three rows. On the left of the front elevation is a plain door leading to an enclosed staircase. A decorative hood is high over the doorway. On the south elevation two french doors with fanlighted arches are another obvious recent modification. This building is significant as a contributor to the historic district and for its own historical associations. It is the only building in the district which retains an essentially nineteenth-century appearance. Main Street once had many gable-roofed structures with false fronts and horizontal board siding. Many burned in the 1927 fire; others were razed later. Now only this one remains, and even it is losing some of its historic character due to modifications such as the wood awning in front and the french doors on the side. The building is individually important because of its association with William Hanen, one of the town's most prominent citizens at the turn of the century. After working for several years on newspapers in Ukiah and Mendocino, Hanen bought the Point Arena Record in 1892 and moved to town to become its editor. He continued publishing the paper for twenty years, meanwhile establishing himself Republican politics. In 1900 he was elected to the state assembly, where he successfully promoted legislation to require millowners to provide hour-long lunch breaks for their workers. He also organized the Boys' International Sunshine Club, which grew out of local group founded in 1908 and which eventually had chapters across the nation.

183 Main Street (Rear)--Contributing Building. Constructed ca. 1928, this narrow storage building has a shallow gable roof and corrugated metal siding. On the north elevation are windows with six lights. This building extends from the rear of the Oddfellows Hall almost to the alley (Center Street). It resembles the storage building next door at 183 Main and probably was built soon after the 1927 fire. The building appears unaltered and contributes to the historic character of the district.

190 Main Street (Rear)--Contributing Building. Constructed ca. 1929, this gable roofed garage has four bays, each with a door that pulls up. The building is sided in horizontal board; the doors are constructed of vertical board. This simple building represents the Point Arena Hotel's adaptation to the automobile era. Its exact age is not known. The building appears unaltered and contributes to the historic character of the district.

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190 Main Street (Far Rear)--Non-contributing Building. Constructed ca. 1965, this two-story building has an L-plan, flat roof, and stucco siding. Rooms on the second floor open on to a balcony. Those on the ground floor are entered directly from the parking area in front. This appears to be the second attempt of the Point Arena Hotel to become part of the automobile age. The building follows the design typical of motels constructed after 1960. It is too recent to contribute to the historic character of the district.

195 Main Street (Rear)--Contributing Building. Constructed ca. 1930, this multi-car garage has a gable roof and vertical board siding. The garage two-paneled garage doors open to the south. One of the three bays has been extended and a replacement door installed. This garage serves the rental units at the rear or on the second floors of the commercial buildings on Main Street. It was probably constructed soon after the 1927 fire. It is essentially unaltered and contributes to the historic character of the district.

205 Main Street (Rear)--Contributing Building. Constructed ca. 1930, this small one-story building has a shed roof sloping toward the alley and corrugated metal siding. Its door opens to the west. The framed window on the north elevation is boarded up. This small, unkempt storage shed gets the nod as the district's least imposing contributing building. Although barely qualifying as funky, the building appears unaltered and to have been in use for approximately sixty years.

207 Main Street (Rear)--Non-contributing Building. Constructed ca. 1985, the gable-roofed garage is sided in unpainted vertical board. Two X-braced doors cover the garage opening and open outward. Windows are aluminum slider. This building was constructed too recently to contribute to the character of the district, but its size, shape, material, and location make it an inconspicuous non-contributor.

240 Main Street (Rear)--Non-contributing Building. Constructed ca. 1970, this large storage building has a gable roof and corrugated metal siding. The building is of too recent construction to contribute to the historic character of the district, but its location at the rear of a parcel on the edge of the district makes it fairly inconspicuous.

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The Main Street Historic Commercial District represents the development of commercial activity in the town from the late nineteenth century to the end of the Great Depression. In particular it illustrates changes in the local economy in the teens and twenties. Although Main Street has been a commercial center since the 1860s, most of the buildings in the district were constructed in 1927 or 1928. That was the time of rebuilding after a calamitous fire on June 25, 1927 had burned most of the town's commercial structures to the ground. The fire forced local business owners to respond to economic changes, most notably the disappearance of workers in nearby mills and ranches and the arrival of tourists and auto related services. That response led to the disappearance of some old uses (hotels formerly frequented by mill workers, a blacksmith shop, a vacant saloon, a few dwellings) and the emergence of new ones (gas stations and a movie theater). Because most construction took place during a short period, the district took on a uniform appearance, with stucco siding and a horizontal cornice or parapet line standard on many buildings. Architectural integrity among contributors is high. Non-contributors are few and unobtrusive. In all, the district contains twenty-one contributing buildings and nine non-contributing buildings. The district meets the registration requirements set forth in the Point Arena multiple property nomination.

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National Park Service

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Major Bibliographical References

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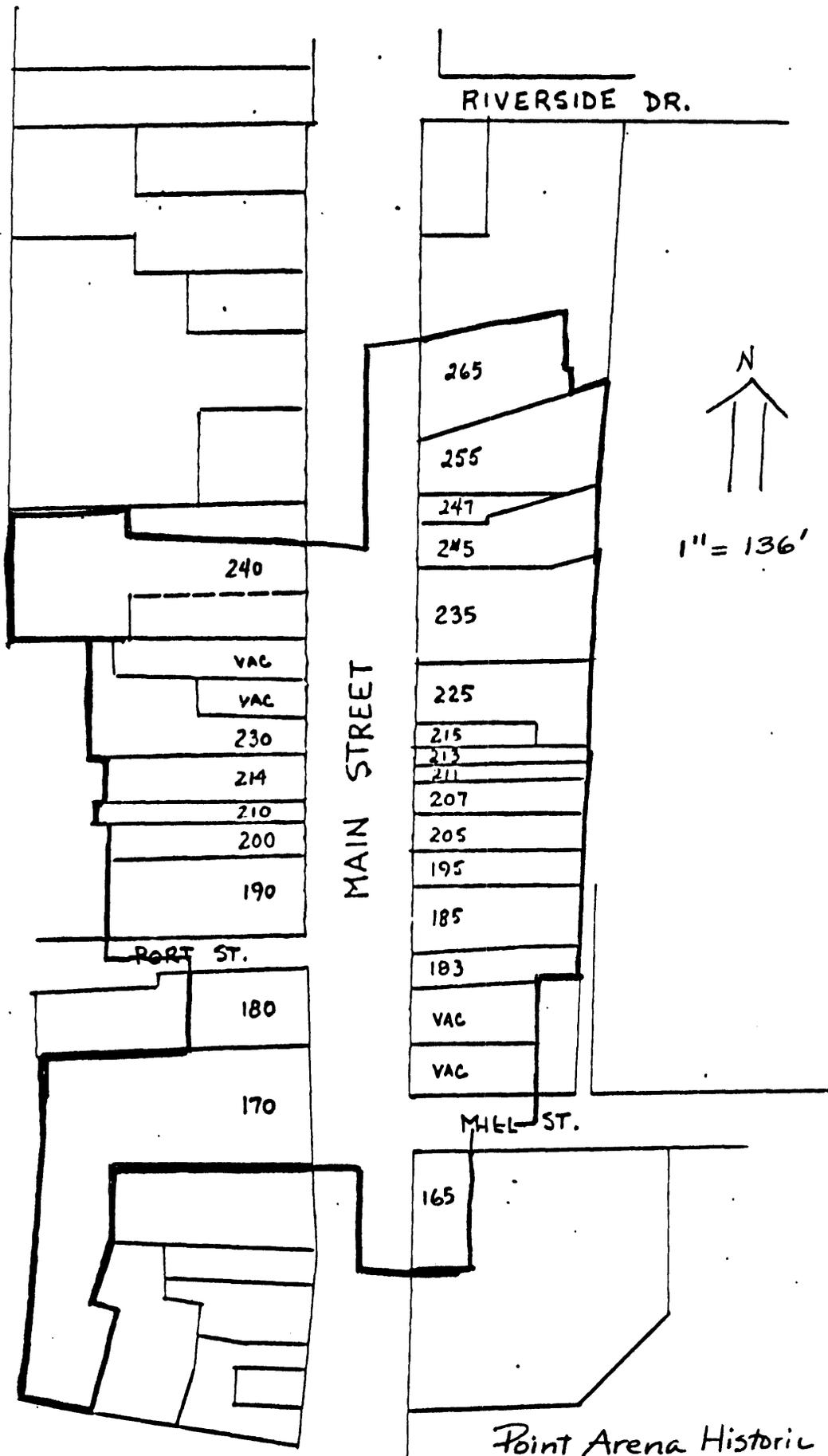
Photo Log

All photos taken March, 1990

Photographer: Don Napoli and Maryln Bourne Lortie

Neg. Location: California Office of Historic Preservation,
Sacramento

1. Streetscape, looking southeast
265 Main is at left
2. Streetscape, looking southeast
183 Main is at right
3. Streetscape, looking northeast
183 Main is at right
4. Streetscape, looking southwest
240 Main is at right
5. Streetscape, looking southwest
214 Main is at right
6. 170, 180, 190 Main Street
Looking northwest
7. On left is 180 Main, then 190 Main, both non-contributors
Looking northwest
8. 265 Main
Looking southeast
9. 214 Main
Looking west
10. 210 Main, non-contributor
Looking west



Point Arena Historic Commer
 District
 Point Arena, Mendocino Co.
 CALIFORNIA