

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received APR 9 1986

date entered

MAY 8 1986

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Bath Row

and/or common Theodore Bath Historic District

2. Location

street & number See Addendum for Item #2 _____ not for publication

city, town Laramie _____ vicinity of

state Wyoming code 056 county Albany code 001

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name See Addendum for Item #4

street & number n/a

city, town n/a _____ vicinity of state n/a

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Assessor's Office, Albany County Courthouse

street & number Corner of Fifth Street and Grand Avenue

city, town Laramie state Wyoming

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Wyoming Cultural Sites Inventory and Albany

title Co. Survey of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date June 16, 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Cheyenne state Wyoming

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date n/a

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Bath Row is situated four blocks from the University of Wyoming in a quiet, well vegetated neighborhood. It is directly north of the Ivinson Mansion, one of Laramie's most impressive houses. In contrast, Bath Row is quiet and modest, representative of typical Laramie railroad housing of the late 19th century.

Bath Row originally consisted of eight small homes, a caretakers residence, and a large carriage barn structure. The houses were built, identical. Each had three rooms with a potato cellar accessible through a trap door in the back room. Walls were made of stone quarried north of Laramie. The front walls were made of squared-off sandstone blocks of light pink, laid in courses. The side and back walls were constructed of tan and grey colored uncut limestone rubble. All of the windows and doors had arched heads and radiating arches of red brick. The brick was a low-strength, substandard brick manufactured in Laramie in wood-fired furnaces. A central panel front door was flanked by deeply recessed front windows. Other windows were placed for light along the building sides. Each house had two interior brick chimneys and all of the windows lined up so that when curtains were open, a person could look through the entire row.

The houses in this nomination share setback, scale and vegetation patterns. Only four buildings of the original ten are being nominated because the others have been altered to the point of having lost most of their integrity. Surveys indicate that a total of 36 stone buildings remain in Laramie representing this period. Unfortunately most have experienced the same kind of changes as those Bath houses not included in this nomination. The rough irregular masonry of their thick stone walls, simplified form and massing define the character of these structures. The Baths, having arrived early in Laramie's history, set the standard that other builders followed. Although other fine stone buildings still exist in the community, the careful observer can easily pick out Bath construction by paying attention to specific design elements the Bath family used consistently. These qualities are highly visible and wholly intact in Bath Row. Though the Baths limited ornamentation at a time when many other builders were still embracing it they effectively decorated their buildings with simple elements which utilized and complemented the native materials they were using. Their buildings are characterized by thick stone walls, rough textured patterned polychromatic stone, primitive quoining, radiating arches of brick or stone and patterned stone, string or belt courses.

The Bath family combined these elements in a way which provides their structures with a quiet style and grace befitting their function. The Baths used the best shaped and colored stone on the fronts of their buildings and reserved the odd

See Addendum

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1883–1885 **Builder/Architect** Theodore Bath

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Bath Row historic district includes four buildings that retain integrity. (constructed in 1883). These structures were built by the Bath family, important contributors to Laramie's early settlement period. Known for their fine stone buildings and business activities, the Baths were involved in merchandising, hotel ownership, early ranching, and the construction and rental of housing for railroad workers. This, in a town with a population of only 2,000, makes it easy to understand just how much power they wielded. These buildings are excellent examples of a type, period, and method of construction used in Laramie's early settlement period, which was in large part determined by the Baths who set the standards upon which much of the local building traditions were based. Representing the largest concentration of Bath stone buildings remaining in the city, all four retain integrity of setting, design, location, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. Additionally constructed as rental units for railroad workers, the stone structures are representative of the arrival and continuing influence of the transcontinental railroad in Wyoming. The railroad provided a means of shipping beeves to midwestern markets, brought eastern goods to burgeoning western communities and settlers to the high plains. The presence of permanent railroad facilities and workers insured the growth and prosperity of several communities in southern Wyoming and dramatically influenced the broad patterns of Wyoming's political, cultural and economic history. Though nine houses and a barn were initially constructed, only these four retain integrity and serve to provide a clear example of Laramie's early stone buildings. The others along the row (not included within the boundaries) demonstrate the personal tastes and trends which later became popular and the fate suffered by a vast majority of Laramie's remaining stone buildings.

SEE ADDENDUM

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Addendum for Item #9

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Laramie, Wyoming

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	<u>1 3</u>	<u>4 5 10 7 4 5</u>	<u>4 15 7 13 4 12 10</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<u>1 3</u>	<u>4 5 10 7 11 15</u>	<u>4 15 7 13 4 12 10</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<u>1 3</u>	<u>4 5 10 7 12 10</u>	<u>4 15 7 13 4 14 10</u>
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D	<u>1 3</u>	<u>4 5 10 7 10 10</u>	<u>4 15 7 13 4 14 10</u>
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E	<u>1 3</u>	<u>4 5 10 7 0 5</u>	<u>4 5 7 3 5 0 0</u>
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F	<u>1 3</u>	<u>4 5 10 7 15 15</u>	<u>4 15 7 13 4 19 10</u>
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G	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
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H	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

See Addendum

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	<u>n/a</u>	code	<u>n/a</u>	county	<u>n/a</u>	code	<u>n/a</u>
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state	<u>n/a</u>	code	<u>n/a</u>	county	<u>n/a</u>	code	<u>n/a</u>
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lynn Ellenberger and Sheila Bricher-Wade (SHPO staff)

organization Department of History

date November 28, 1984

street & number University of Wyoming

telephone (307) 721-2899

city or town Laramie

state Wyoming 82070

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

Robert W. Bush 3/28/86

title Director and State Historic Preservation Officer

date 3-28-86

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for *Allen Lyman*
Keeper of the National Register

date 5/8/86

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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BATH ROW

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ADDENDUM: ITEM 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

155 N. 6th Street
Barbara Wagner
155 N. 6th Street
Laramie, Wyoming 82070 (307) 742-4170

157 N. 6th Street
159 N. 6th Street
David Egolf
159 N. 6th Street
Laramie, Wyoming 82070 (307) 745-9662

611 University Avenue
Fred B. Knadler
158 N. 2nd Street
Laramie, Wyoming 82070 (307) 745-5500

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sized, rougher faced and off colored stone for exterior walls at the back and sides where they would not affect the initial impact of the buildings. Additionally, the Baths used smaller brick shaped stone rather than the larger stone blocks preferred by other builders. This tactic provided their buildings with a more interesting variety of texture and color than is evident in Laramie's other stone buildings. The Bath buildings are individually interesting because of this, and patterns give evidence of some efforts to provide decorative string or belt courses as the size and shape of the stone would allow. Because the Baths quarried their own stone for each project, their buildings demonstrate a uniformity of color, texture, and design while simultaneously lacking the structural continuity which results from the use of standard sized stone block construction preferred by other builders in the area. Bath construction then, is more closely tied to the simple vernacular traditions of Wyoming architecture in Wyoming's territorial period, of the 1880s while other stone construction is representative of the more uniform trends established nearer the turn of the century after statehood had been achieved.

The houses in the row that have been altered no longer reflect these rough characteristics, but the other four clearly do. The Bath Row District represents the best consolidated examples of Bath construction remaining in the city. Retaining a high degree of integrity, one house has lost both chimneys while another house lost only one. Two have small additions on the back; but all convey a strong sense of time and place and integrity of setting, location, design, materials, and workmanship. Additionally their strong visual integrity enhances aspects of feeling and association.

Theodore Bath, a local hotel owner, built the houses to rent to Union Pacific Railroad employees. He then built a two-story frame house at the southern end of the row to house the landlord. East of the frame house he built a fieldstone barn. The exact purpose of this barn is unknown. It may have served as a carriage house, or it might have been an extension of the family's brewery. The building had a carriage opening on the east side, a hay door on the north side, and a barn door on the south side. It is constructed of fieldstone reinforced by "earthquake bolts", long iron rods which reach from wall to wall. The exposed ends of the rods are embellished with iron S-caps. It has a side gable roof with an oculus window in the upper portion of the gable end. Windows have stone slab sills and radiating sandstone arches. These are evenly placed for light around the building, and all are 2/2 double hung with plain surrounds.

Both the landlord's residence and the fieldstone barn were converted into apartment buildings. The landlord's residence was stuccoed to provide insulation. The doors of the barn were filled with stone, but the outline of where they were remain, as do the S-cap embellishments of the earthquake bolts.

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The houses at Sixth and University known as Bath Row, were named after the man who built them, Theodore Bath. The Bath family, including Theodore, many brothers and sisters, and Theodore's wife and sons, came to Laramie on the heels of the Transcontinental Railroad in 1868. Theodore first opened a provision store, and then followed in the footsteps of his brothers, opening the Laramie Hotel. His brother, Fredrick Bath, opened a brewery north of town. Another brother, Henry, who had constructed Laramie's first frame building, the New York Hotel, went into ranching, establishing one of the finest ranches in Albany County.

Theodore Bath began building his row of houses in 1883. It is not certain which brother designed the buildings or who did the actual construction, but it is known the Baths did most of the work themselves. They had already built many other stone buildings in Laramie, including Fredrick's brewery. Materials were purchased by means of a lien filed in March, 1883 with W.H. Holliday. The bricks cost a penny each, and drayage was a quarter a trip. The total cost for the materials was under \$600.00.

Theodore Bath built his row of houses to rent to Union Pacific Railroad employees. The 1897 Laramie City Directory shows most of the inhabitants as Union Pacific workers. The two-story house was intended to serve as a residence for the landlord of the row, although it was soon divided into apartments.

With the Panic of 1893, Theodore Bath apparently fell upon hard times, and the Albany County National Bank took possession of Bath Row. Sayer and Mary Hansen bought the properties in December of 1893. The houses then became known as Hansen Row. The Hansens lived in one of the apartments in the two-story building. They began to sell off one or two of the houses at a time, and by 1907 they no longer owned any of the houses on the row.

Since then most of the houses have had many owners and undergone many changes. Most of the changes consist of additions of rooms and porches and the application of stucco. When the fieldstone barn was converted into living quarters is unknown. The three doors were filled in with brick, but evidence of their existence still remains. The apartment building was stuccoed and shutters added under the ownership of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Marion. Mrs. Marion said that they had to put on the stucco because "the house was so cold." A small brick building was built between the apartment building and the fieldstone barn.

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Beery, Gladys B., "Laramie's Stone Cottages - Bath Row," Laramie Daily Boomerang, May 9, 1982, p. 7

Egolf, David, National Register of Historic Places Inventory - Incomplete Nomination Form, April 30, 1982

Headlee, Rick, Wyoming Cultural Sites Inventory of Bath Row, June 16, 1980

Laramie City Directory, 1897

Sandborn Insurance Map of Laramie, 1912

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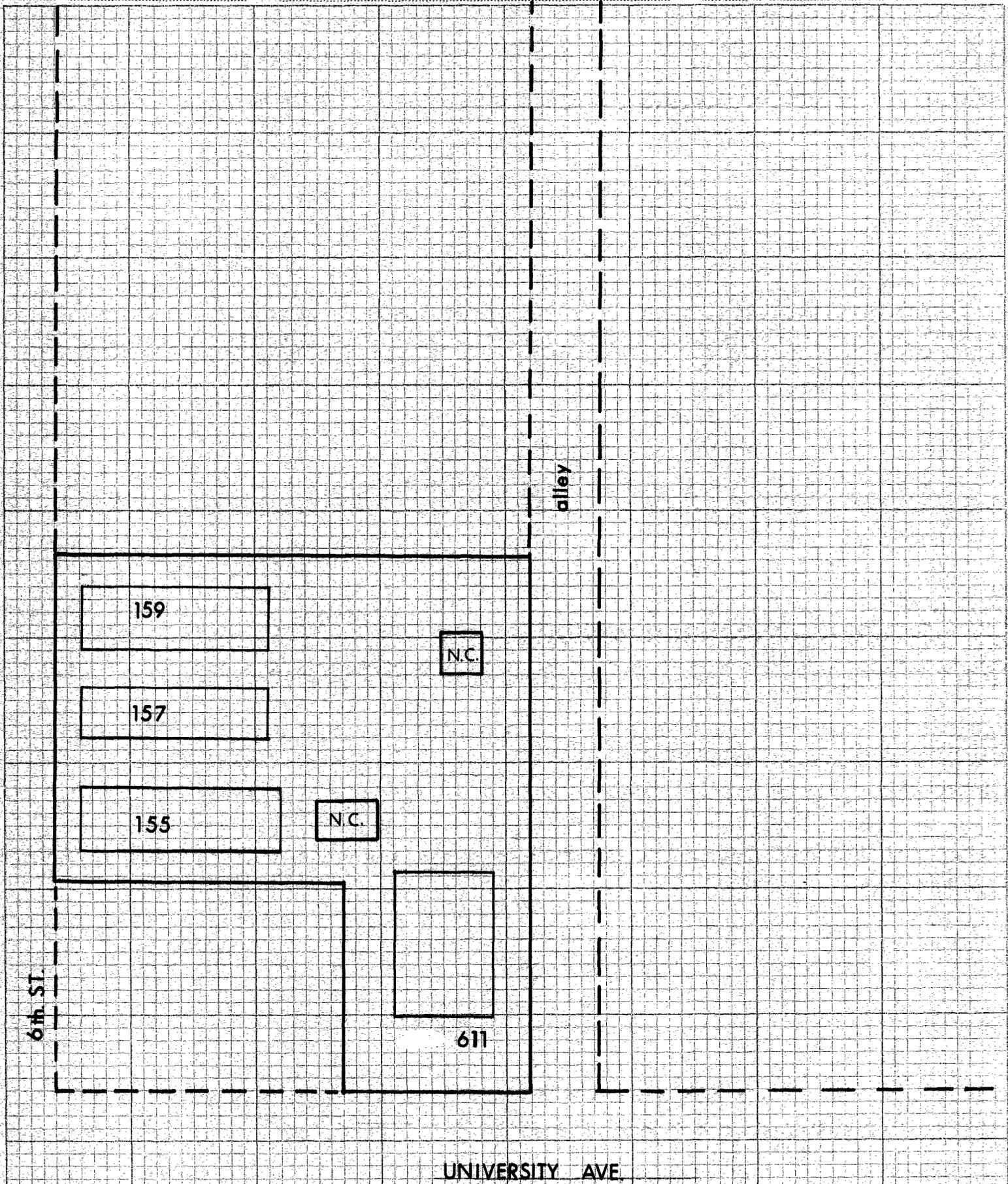
Item number 10

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Bath Row was originally comprised of seven railroad workers houses facing 6th street, the caretakers house on the corner and a large barn in the alley at University Avenue. To avoid confusion a site plan has been provided along with xerox copy of the County Clerks lot plan. The nomination includes only three of the original row houses and the stone barn. Because a new modern building has been constructed behind the caretakers house on University some arbitrary points are used in the verbal description to exclude this non-contributing structure from the district.

The boundary begins on the west side of the alley between 6th and 7th street at a point located 28 feet 2 inches south of the north 8 feet 3 inches the north-west corner of lot 7 (Point E) and extends straight south along the west side of the alley to the curb of University Avenue (Point A). It then turns west and follows the curb to an arbitrary point located 10 feet west of the stone barn (Point B). It then turns north and extends in a straight line to the point where it meets the property line for 157 N. 6th street (Point C). It then turns west and follows the property line to the curb of north 6th (Point D). It then follows the curb on the east side of north 6th to an arbitrary point directly parallel to the point of beginning (Point E). It then turns east and extends in a straight line to the point of beginning.

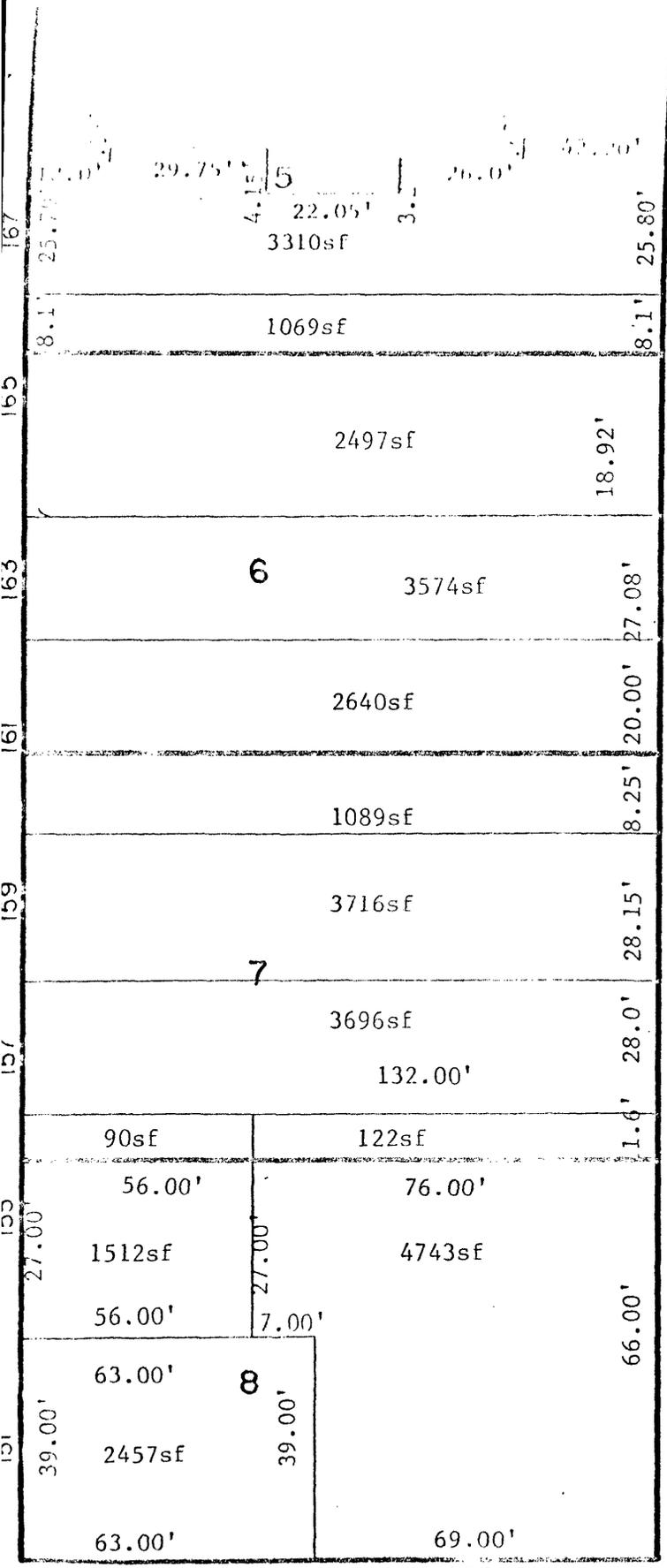
This irregularly shaped boundary defines the historic resources retaining integrity, in an area less than one acre. Because the home at 155 was recently rehabilitated in anticipation of National Register status it should be noted that should the other stone railroad workers houses undergo removal of stucco, siding and recent additions this nomination should be expanded to include structures regaining integrity.



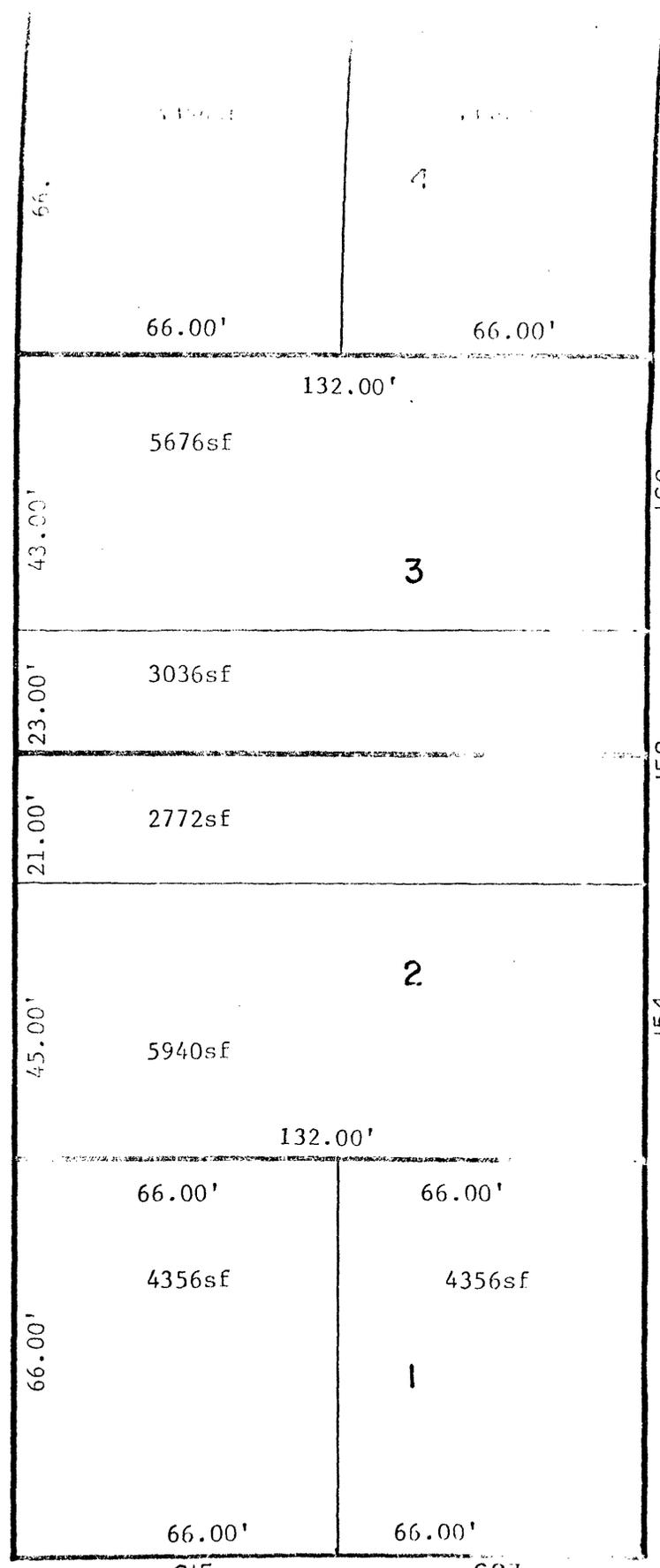
BOUNDARY LINE

BATH ROW HISTORIC DISTRICT

NOT TO SCALE



609-611



615

623

alley

6th St.

UNIVERSITY AVE

7th St.