

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Listed 10 August 2011
NRHP Ref. No. 11000524
HHSI No. 57-14033

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Troy Hospital

other names/site number Larson, Oscar House; Dr. Meyers' Hospital

2. Location

street & number 604 S. Main Street

<input type="checkbox"/>	not for publication
<input type="checkbox"/>	vicinity

city or town Troy

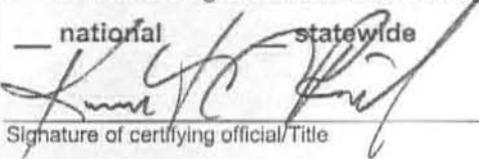
state Idaho code ID county Latah Code 057 zip code 83871

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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local


Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date 28) me 2011
Kenneth C. Reid, Ph. D., Deputy SHPO

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____

Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

Troy Hospital
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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	
2		buildings
		district
		site
	1	structure
		object
2	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
 (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic: single dwelling
 Health Care: clinic, hospital

Current Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Late Victorian: Queen Anne

Materials
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Stone

walls: Asphalt, Shingle

roof: Metal: aluminum

other: _____

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Troy Hospital, garage, and carport is located on 604 South Main Street in Troy, Idaho, a town of about 800 people in Latah County. Troy is located in a wide mountain gulch; Main Street, which incorporates State Highway 8, runs northwest to southeast through that gulch. The lowest section of Main Street holds the business district and residential areas bound it at each end and rise on the hillsides, particularly those to the northeast. The Troy Hospital is located in a very prominent position on the northeast corner of the intersection that marks the southeastern end of the business district. The large house with its matching garage and flat-roofed carport is set against a backdrop of a steeply rising, wooded slopes, where other residences are visible. Houses also occupy the rest of the block to the southeast.

Narrative Description

The two-story Troy Hospital was built as a private residence in 1905 and was converted to a hospital facility in 1926. The main body of the rectangular building measures 36' by 25', with a small entry porch in the front; a narrow extension in the rear was originally used as a woodshed and is now used as a laundry room. The two-story house exhibits a vernacular style which incorporates some elements of the Queen Anne architectural style popular in the late Victorian period of the nineteenth and early twentieth century periods. Elements of the Queen Anne style seen in the Troy Hospital building include cross-gabled roofs, an asymmetric façade, decorative shingles in the gable ends, and multiple window sizes and styles.

The Troy Hospital building faces southwest from the northeast corner of the intersection of South Main Street and 6th Street in Troy. The upper section of the house is covered in shingles, and the lower section has been sided with a compressed asphalt that resembles brick. The house is painted red with white trim and sits on a rock foundation; the roof is covered in standing-seam metal. Cement steps ascend the slight slope of the front yard to the off-center, enclosed entry way, which is topped by a front-gabled roof. The enclosed entry was added to the house in 1936. A window appears on the northwestern side of the entry enclosure. Large rectangular windows appear to each side of the entry; the windows are single pane with leaded-glass detail on the upper third. The cross-gabled roof carries two dormers. A large front-gabled dormer on the south side holds two narrow rectangular windows accented by simple detailing in the gable. A shallow pent roof is below the windows. A smaller hipped-roof dormer on the north holds three smaller windows, which are double paned with leaded detail in the upper panes.

The southeast facing side of the house holds one narrow rectangular window on the west side and a three-part window on the east. Two windows appear over the pent roof in the wide gable, which is highlighted by a diamond-shaped accent. The northwest side carries a similar gabled configuration with a small hipped-roof dormer at the rear of the house holding one window. At the first-floor level, paired, long rectangular windows appear at the southernmost end of the house. A smaller, off-center window is placed high on the wall, and a third window near the northwest end of the wall is nearly symmetrical with the paired windows.

On the rear of the house, another wide gable is partially covered by the roof of the one-story, lean-to woodshed addition. A brick chimney appears to the rear of this gable. One window is in the gable; the slanted roof of the addition carries a cement block chimney. Two small windows appear in the wing to the southeast of the addition. The roof of the carport intersects with the roof of the addition, creating a cover for an entry door on the northwest side.

The interior of the house retains several original features. The wooden kitchen cabinets have slats inside that can be opened and shut and probably were intended to provide ventilation to the cupboards. Decorative wood spindles are at the top of the doorways and pocket doors separate the living room and dining room. The house contains built-in cabinetry throughout. Two bathrooms—one downstairs and one upstairs—have been added to the house.

The carport has a flat roof that is supported by eight square posts and reaches from the side of the garage to the house. A building date for the carport has not been identified, but its construction suggests it was built after the garage and

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woodshed; because it cannot be dated, it is considered a noncontributing feature. The garage is front gabled and elements of its design indicate it was built to match the house. The garage is sided in wood with shingles in the gables. A modern garage door has been installed on its façade, which faces northwest. A large window appears beside the garage door and a smaller window is in the gable. On the southwest side, the garage carries one window and an entry door under a pediment-style gable. The southeast facing side features three small square, multi-paned windows and a narrow multi-paned window is in the gable. The northeast side has no windows. The roof is covered in wooden shingles. The garage may originally have been a buggy or carriage house; assessment records date it to 1905.

The house, carport, and garage occupy most of the corner lot, which is planted in shrubs, lilacs, and trees.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

HEALTH/MEDICINE

Period of Significance

1905-1942

Significant Dates

1905, 1926

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Period of Significance (justification)

The Period of Significance, 1905 to 1942, recognizes the year of construction, the house as a private residence, and the period from 1926 to 1942 when it was used as a hospital.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Troy Hospital is being nominated at the local level under Criterion A as a property associated with events that have made a significant contribution to our history. Oscar Larson, a prominent businessman, built the house in 1905. It is best known, however, for its service as a hospital operated by Dr. Charles Meyers from 1926 to 1942, providing medical service to residents of Troy and the surrounding area. The building and its matching garage retain good integrity and reflect an important era in the history of Troy.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Troy, Idaho

Troy is one of several small communities in Latah County, Idaho. Latah County was established in 1888 - the only county in the country to be created by an act of Congress. Latah County encompasses an area of widely varying terrain ranging from the rich Palouse soils in the west to the timbered mountains of the east. The community of Troy bridges this diverse environment. Located approximately eleven miles east of Moscow (the county's largest town), Troy developed in a valley bordered by timbered slopes to the east and the Palouse grasslands to the west and south. The earliest non-native settlers called the area Huffs Gulch. Timber, in particular, encouraged the local economy in the 1880s and well into the twentieth century. Railroad development also furthered the growth of the fledgling community by opening up markets for farm and timber products and creating its own market for construction timber. The town site was incorporated in 1892 and named Vollmer for one of its leading businessmen, John P. Vollmer. Businesses in the town developed rapidly, although two fires in the mid-1890s and another in the early 1900s destroyed significant parts of the business district. In 1897, the townspeople voted to change the name of the town from Vollmer to Troy, a move attributed to a resentment of John Vollmer's increasing wealth and perceived lack of support for the community.

By the early 1900s, Troy had a population of five hundred people and from 1905 to 1916 its business economy experienced strong growth. Settlers on the surrounding ridges patronized Troy as a trade center, bringing wood, produce and grain to town to sell and to ship, and shopping for necessities at local businesses. The Troy Lumber and Manufacturing Company, founded in 1904, was a major force in the community, reaching its peak output during World War I. The company operated several sawmills as well as a unit which made sashes and doors. Mercantile companies, banks, and a brick company helped further the town's prosperity. That development began to end in the 1930s, when economic forces and scarcity of timber in the region led to a dramatic decline in timber production in the area. Agriculture became Troy's economic mainstay; Troy served the regional farmers who were shipping their products to market. Over the next decades, automobile and truck transportation and shipping began to replace the railroads; Troy's role as a major shipping point declined and building and growth slowed. Troy's population is now about 800; it continues to serve as a small trade center for residents in the immediate area.¹

Oscar Larson

Oscar Larson, one of Troy's most important early twentieth century businessmen, built the imposing house at the corner of South Main and Sixth in 1905, very near the commercial core of the community. Born in Minnesota in 1860, Larson came

¹Suzanne Julin, "Troy Downtown Historic District," National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, August 30, 2009, Section 8.

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to Moscow, Idaho, in 1887, where he worked as a salesman in a general store. Two years later, he went into business with a partner in Moscow. In 1889, he relocated to Vollmer (later Troy) and founded the Vollmer Milling and Mercantile Company with O. A. Johnson. In 1898, he was elected to county office; the next year, he sold his interest in the business to a partner and moved back to Moscow. He eventually returned to Troy and reentered the mercantile business.ⁱⁱ The Troy newspaper carried many of Larson's ads, simply signed "Oscar Larson." In March of 1905, his ad read: "New Goods, Latest Styles, Largest Stock, Smallest Prices."ⁱⁱⁱ Early in 1906, his ad read, "Have You Been Busy? I have, taking inventory and looking after the interests of my many customers. I am determined to help make Troy . . . the best trading point in Latah County."^{iv} In 1907, his ad stated "There is a Reason Why Troy is the 'Biggest Little Town on Earth.' Also why it pays to trade in Troy, because a dollar goes a little further at my store than in any other store." Larson went on to describe his stock as "large, clean, and strictly up-to-date." Larson added that his years of experience made him a wise buyer of merchandise, he was happy with a "reasonable profit," and he made it a practice to pay farmers the "highest market price" for their produce.^v By the end of that year, however, Larson was advertising a closing-out sale, and a newspaper article early in 1908 noted that although he had been financially successful, he was weary of business and was closing up. The newspaper speculated that Larson would move to Spokane. Instead, he remained in Troy, and in 1911 became president of the First Bank of Troy and one of its major shareholders. He served as bank president until 1914, when he became a vice-president; he later served as cashier and director at American Bank in Spokane. He retired from the board of both banks in 1923 and died in 1924.^{vi} The large house Larson built reflected his position in the community and his prosperity.

In 1926, the residence was converted to a new use. Dr. Charles Meyers arrived in Troy, purchased the nine-room house from the Trout family, who owned it by that time, and established a hospital. His office, a surgery, a two-bed hospital ward, a kitchen, and a bathroom were on the first floor. Another two-bed ward, a single patient room, and a room for the nurse were on the second floor. Initially, his sister, Julia Meyers, was his nurse. Hildure Pearson, Hannah Sundell, and Carrie Shostrum also served as nurses at the hospital. Local women worked in the kitchen, cooking for the patients and nurses and heating water for sterilizing instruments.^{vii}

Meyers made house calls to rural homes, particularly to assist with births, and saw patients in the hospital. Oral tradition recounts that he devoted a particular day to taking out tonsils, and on "Tonsil Tuesday" the smell of ether hung in the town.^{viii} Tuesdays were also referred to as "children's day," and on a Tuesday in mid-August, 1932, Meyers' removed the tonsils of five children.^{ix} The following month, he performed the operation on seven children.^x Some adults also

ⁱⁱStella E. Johnson, *History of Troy* (By author, 1992), 8; Glen Barrett, *The First Bank of Troy, 1905-1971* (Boise, Idaho: Boise State College, 1973), 15.

ⁱⁱⁱ*Troy Weekly News*, March 17, 1905, original copy held by Latah County Historical Society Museum, Moscow, Idaho (LCHS).

^{iv}*Troy Weekly News*, January 26, 1906, LCHS.

^v*Troy Weekly News*, June 28, 1907, LCHS.

^{vi}*Troy Weekly News*, December 20, 1907, January 24, 1908, LCHS; Barrett, *The First Bank of Troy, 1905-1971*, 13-14, 23, 27.

^{vii}Johnson, *History of Troy*, 27; Nydia Lovell, Elaine Peterson, and Jessica Wall, "Dr. Meyers' Hospital," National Register of Historic Places Nomination draft, June 7, 2008, 8/1.

^{viii}Johnson, *History of Troy*, 27; Lovell, Peterson, and Wall, "Dr. Meyers' Hospital," 8/3;

^{ix}*Troy Weekly News*, August 18, 1932, LCHS.

^x*Troy Weekly News*, September 1, 1932, LCHS.

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underwent tonsillectomies; in September of 1933, Pete Pearson and his daughter, Margaret Anderson of Driscoll Ridge, and Elmer Krier all lost their tonsils to Dr. Meyer.^{xi} Other surgeries reported in the paper include a gall bladder operation and an appendectomy. Patients were also hospitalized for other reasons. Some women had their babies in the hospital,^{xii} and one man was hospitalized for ten days for "a severe attack of nervous prostration."^{xiii}

Dr. Meyers built a private home on the lot adjoining the hospital. He married his wife Gunda in Sweden and brought her to her new home. The couple had two sons, Fritz and Jackie.^{xiv} In 1942, Meyers sold the building to J. B. Nelson and announced that the hospital would close on July 12 of that year. Nelson converted the former hospital to a photography studio. In 1942, Dr. and Mrs. Meyers moved to Seattle. The house has had several owners since 1942 and has been used as a business and as a private residence. The current owners have made the house their home. Recognizing its importance to the community of Troy, they asked Troy residents to vote on colors to be used in repainting the home, offering a choice selected from appropriate paint colors for the house style during the time it was constructed.^{xv}

Summary Statement of Significance

The Troy Hospital and accompanying garage retain good integrity and constitute a prominent landmark in the community. The imposing house, built on a highly visible site by businessman and banker Oscar Larson, represents the prosperity of Troy's early decades. Most residents, however, remember it as the hospital where Dr. Meyers attended to residents of Troy and surrounding areas, and from which he made house calls to families in the outlying rural areas. For nearly two decades, the Troy Hospital was the primary source of medical treatment in this small northern Idaho town. Thus, the property is significant to the town's history and represents the early prosperity of the town as well as small-town medical care in the period before World War II.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

^{xi}Troy Weekly News, September 7, 1933.

^{xii}Troy Weekly News, September 13, 1933.

^{xiii}Troy Weekly News, February 23, 1933.

^{xiv}Johnson, *History of Troy*, 27.

^{xv}Lovell, Peterson, and Wall, "Dr. Meyers' Hospital," 8-3; Shishona Turner to Suzanne Julin, e-mail, June 24, 2010, in possession of preparer.

Troy Hospital
Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Barrett, Glen. *The First Bank of Troy, 1905-1971*. Boise, Idaho: Boise State College, 1973.

Johnson, Stella E. *History of Troy*. By author, 1992.

Julin, Suzanne. "Troy Downtown Historic District." National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. August 30, 2009.

Lovell, Nydia, Elaine Peterson and Jessica Wall. "Dr. Meyers' Hospital." National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, Draft, June 7, 2008.

Turner, Shishona to Suzanne Julin, e-mail, June 24, 2010.

Troy Weekly News. Original copies held by Latah County Historical Society Museum, Moscow, Idaho.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.) NAD 83

1 11 517870 5175650
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
Troy Original Block 12, Lots 13 and 14 and Westerly 6 feet of Lot 15.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)
The boundary encompasses the property traditionally associated with the buildings.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Suzanne Julin
organization Suzanne Julin, Public Historian date July 25, 2010
street & number 1001 E. Broadway-2, PMB 608 Telephone 4065448606
city or town Missoula state MT zip code 59802
e-mail sjulin@earthlink.net

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

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Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Troy Hospital

City or Vicinity: Troy

County: Latah

State: Idaho

Photographer: Suzanne Julin

Date Photographed: May 24, 2010

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

Photo 1 of 6	Troy Hospital	View to northeast
Photo 2 of 6	Troy Hospital	View to east
Photo 3 of 6	Troy Hospital	View to north
Photo 4 of 6	Troy Hospital	View to southwest
Photo 5 of 6	Troy Hospital garage	View to northwest
Photo 6 of 6	Troy Hospital garage and carport	View to southeast

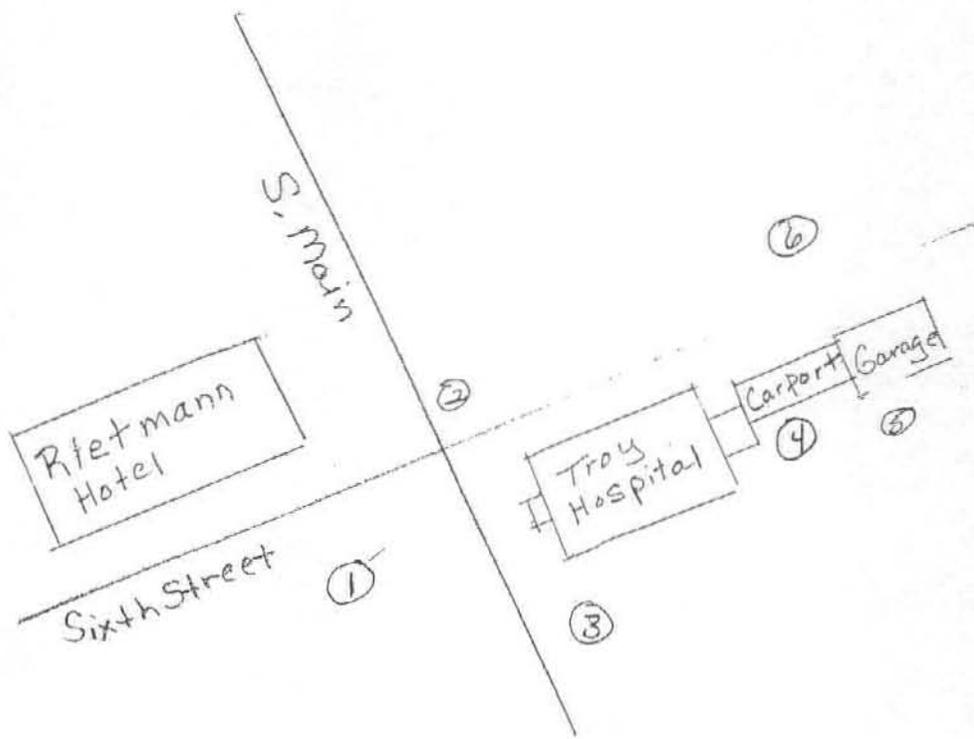
Property Owner:

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

name Shishona and Jacob Turner
street & number 604 S. Main Street telephone 208-885-7984
city or town Troy state ID zip code 83871

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



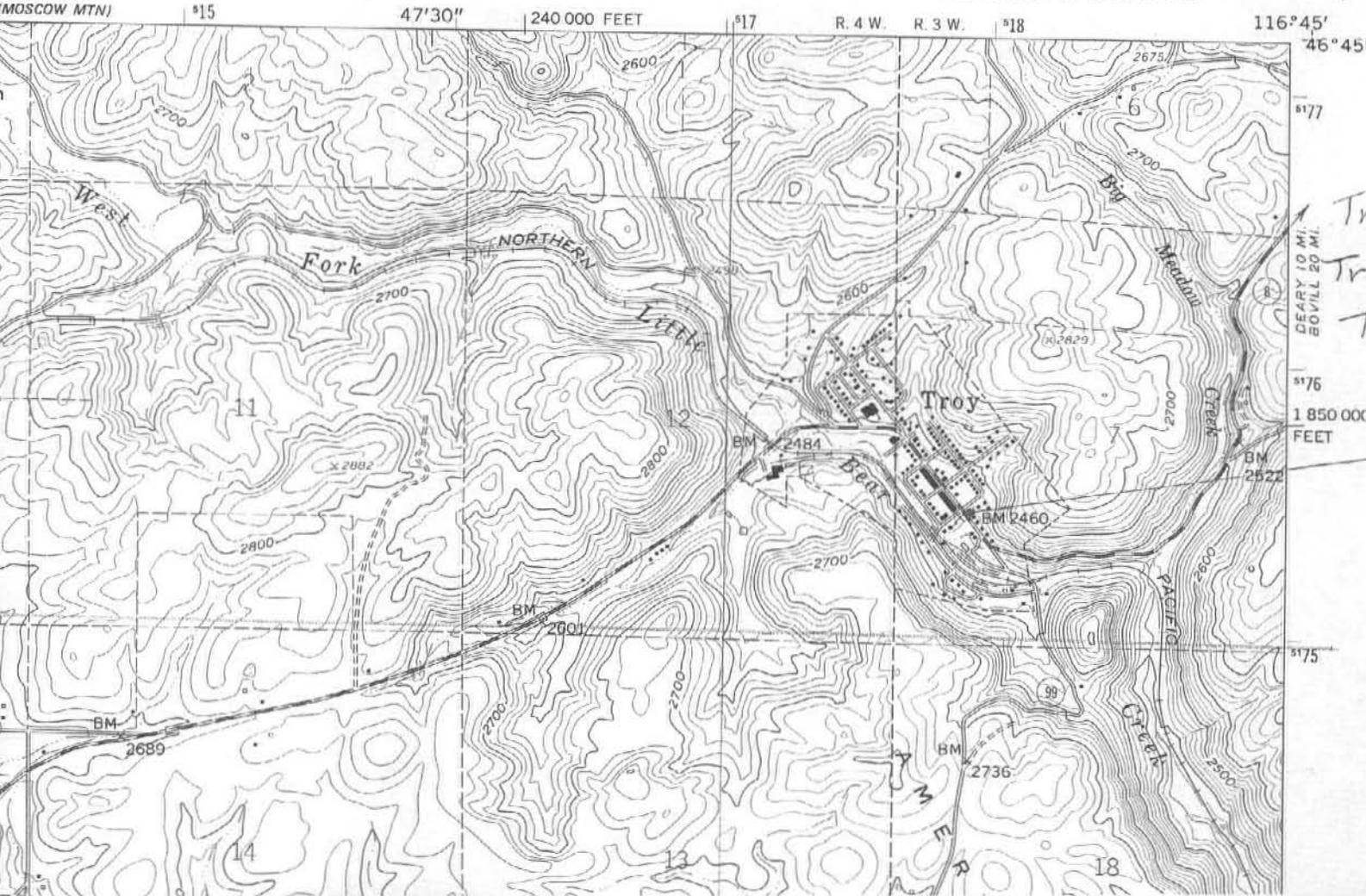
Troy Hospital
Troy, Latah County, Idaho
Not to Scale
Photo Vantage Points ○



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 Troy Quad

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