

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational 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 Anduiza Hotelother names/site number Fronton Building; Anduiza Pelota Court

2. Location

street & number 619 Grove Street N/A not for publicationcity or town Boise N/A vicinitystate Idaho code ID county Ada code 001 zip code 83702

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 the 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally X statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Kenneth C. Reid 13 January 03
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:
X 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):

X Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Cliff B. Jones 2/25/03

Boise, Ada County, Idaho
City, County, and State

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

- X building(s)
- __ district
- __ site
- __ structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

N/A

0

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/hotel
RECREATION AND CULTURE/
Sports facility
SOCIAL/clubhouse

COMMERCE/TRADE/business
RECREATION AND CULTURE/
Sports facility

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH
CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/
Commercial Style

foundation CONCRETE
walls BRICK
CONCRETE
roof METAL: Steel
other _____

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

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

Anduiza Hotel
Name of Property

Boise, 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
- ☐ 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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other

Name of repository:

Basque Cultural Center

☒ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

Boise, Ada County, Idaho
City, County, and State

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 Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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The Anduiza Hotel is a single-story, early 20th century Commercial Style building located in downtown Boise, Idaho, in an area known as the Basque Block. The building faces north on Grove Street and sits on the interior of a city block, surrounded by similarly massed buildings. The structure is built out to the property lines and covers .15 acre that includes Lot 8 and the westerly five feet of Lot 9 on Block 23 of the Boise City Original Townsite. Constructed in 1914,¹ the brick-faced building sits on a concrete foundation. Looking straight on at the building from street level, it appears to be a typical one-story commercial building; however, from more distant side or above views, an unusual roof structure (that is actually higher than the front parapet wall) is clearly visible. This structure accommodates the two-story fronton - or pelota (ball) - court located in the basement of the building.

DESCRIPTION

The main facade joins the sidewalk lining Grove Street and has balanced asymmetry. The buildings on the adjacent properties also were built out to the property line and closely frame the Anduiza building along the front elevation. The base exposes the top of the concrete foundation rising above the street grade and includes basement window openings covered with iron bars. The recessed entryway is off-center to the right half of the building. A single, bricked step leads to the glazed door with detached sidelights of glass block on either side. A two-sided, swinging, iron gate guards the recessed entryway.

The original construction as a boarding house included nine bay openings along the front facade. The bays corresponded to individual boarding rooms with a window and door to each of the three rooms to the left of the main entry. Two windows are to the right of the entryway. The five original window openings were double-hung sash, one-over-one with concrete sills. The three former boarding room doors have been in-filled with glass block, concrete sills and brick cladding in common bond down to the top of the foundation. There is no lintel; rather a thick concrete belt course extends across the entire front facade. Above this area are five evenly spaced ventilation windows. The cornice has rows of stepped-out brick courses and evenly spaced decorative corbels. A parapet pediment with low-pitched slopes spans atop the elevation.

The remaining three elevations are more functional with less attention to decorative detail. The west elevation is a single-story, solid brick-clad wall in common bond with a large mural hung on the side. The mural was added in 1998² and depicts scenes from Basque culture. The south elevation is a one-and-a-half story, solid concrete massing with wood and metal bracing the roof above the concrete. The rear facade has both brick in common bond and poured concrete. Two window openings on the brick half of the back wall are one-over-one, double-hung sash, with relieving arches. The chimney extends up along the joint between the brick and the concrete parts of the wall. Two concrete steps lead up to a door

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on the other side of the joint on the concrete half of the wall. The solid wood door has a paneled transom and relieving arch.

The flat roof over the fronton (pelota court) rises above the flat roof that covers the boarding room areas of the building. It slopes down at the rear of the building, stopping abruptly at the back (alley) wall of the building. The front portion of the fronton roof has a shallower pitch and longer slope, and stops at the flat section of roof above the front boarding rooms. The roof is supported by a simple, wood-truss system.

The roof was originally a simple covering with chicken wire running from the roof down to the brick walls of the building on the east and west sides. This kept birds out while providing for light and fresh air to get in. These sides were in-filled with wall and windows during the 1948 remodel³ of the building to accommodate its conversion into offices. In addition, there were six, large, skylights in the original roof that have been removed because of problems with leakage.

INTERIOR

The interior splits between two types of spaces: smaller office spaces and the large, two-story handball (pelota) court. From the front entryway, there are two passages. The longest one leads from the front to the back and had seven rooms, each having a door and two windows into the passage. The windows allowed for fresh air and natural light to reach each room since there were no windows on the exterior wall. The other passage, from the front to the southeast sidewall, had four doors and no windows, since these rooms had both windows and doors on the Grove Street facade. These passages provided interior access to the boarding rooms (currently offices). The passages originally also functioned as open balconies allowing spectators to watch handball competitions.⁴ The balconies were closed into full walls in 1948 (when the building was converted to offices), with only one large window opening halfway down the front to back passage. The walls enclosing the boarding rooms retain their original plaster, half timbering, and molded trim. Because these passages were originally semi-open to the elements (because of the open roof structure above the fronton), the floor has a slight incline to allow for drainage away from the rooms. The original washroom is located at the end of the passage, at the back of the building.

The original boarding rooms off the front passage were remodeled in 1948 to accommodate a single office space. The three rooms were opened up to make one larger office with a window opening to the third back office. The front two boarding rooms along the northwest wall were also remodeled to open up to accommodate a single business. However, even though interior walls between rooms have been altered, the original door and window openings to the passageway remain, retaining the original patterns and flow of fenestration into the corridor. With all the doors closed, the boarding area of the building looks virtually like it did when originally built.

The pelota court dominates the inside of the structure. A door off of the front passage opens to a wooden

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staircase leading down to the concrete basement floor of the 32.5 meter x 12.5 meter handball court. This space encompasses the largest square footage of the structure. Markings on the wall delineate the court. A wood-framed scoreboard is attached to the top of the front wall opposite the staircase.

The space along the west wall, under the boarding rooms, was originally domestic space and remains largely unaltered. The original family living quarters were located here, as were two bathrooms and the common dining and living room areas for the boarders. The common living area was located behind the back wall of the court and had three windows into the court area so that the residents could watch the games. The downstairs space currently functions as storage with the two small bathrooms for ball players.

At the backside of the court along the southwest side is another wooden staircase leading up to a small balcony. The back exterior door opens off of this balcony. Another small, wooden staircase leads up from the balcony away from the outside door to access the upstairs passage at the rear by the washrooms.

Although the building has been altered, it still retains good integrity overall. The handball court had a facelift in the early 1970s,⁵ and today it is in good condition and has regular use and maintenance. Even though some boarding rooms have been converted for commercial business uses,⁶ the interior still retains the feeling and association of its historic uses. The alterations did not change the overall design and the wall finishing and door and window openings and moldings are original. The setting has had minor changes over the years as the commercial core has evolved, but it remains much the same as it did when the Anduiza Hotel was constructed, with commercial buildings and boarding houses lining the block.

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The Anduiza Hotel, today called the Anduiza Pelota Court or the Fronton Building, is being nominated at the state level under Criteria A and C. The eligible property relates to early Boise and Idaho history and to the Basque presence and community in the region. Under Criterion A, the property exemplifies the European ethnic heritage of the Basque immigrants and the continuing preservation by American generations. Under Criterion C, the property is a unique example of Basque boarding houses and handball courts, or frontons, in Idaho. The "Period of Significance" of 1914 to 1945 refers to the original construction and operation of the boarding house and handball court under the builder, owner and proprietor Juan "Jack" Anduiza until its closing in 1945.⁷

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Basque people originate from the Basque country, an area occupying the Pyrenees at the Bay of Biscay on either side of the border of northern Spain and southern France. Large numbers of Basques emigrated to North, Central and South America due to political unrest with Spain and European wars in 1836, 1876 and 1936.⁸ A secondary reason for the Basque youth to emigrate was the practice of primogeniture, the right of the first-born child, regardless of gender, to inherit the family estate. With limited land in the native Basque country, younger siblings sought out opportunities in foreign lands.⁹

The discovery of gold in California in 1849 drew the initial Basque immigrants to the American West.¹⁰ From here, some Basques found employment in mines or quarries, but many more herded flocks of sheep and successfully adapted to the demands of the job.¹¹ The growth and movement of the sheepherding industry led to the Basque immigrants' dispersing across the American West into Idaho, Nevada, and parts of Oregon and Utah. California and Idaho had the greatest numbers of Basque colonies. From 1900 to 1920, the number of French and Spanish aliens in Idaho grew from 271 to 1,814.¹²

Basque lore holds that the first Basques arrived in Idaho in 1891.¹³ John Archabal, a prominent Basque figure in Southwest Idaho from the first part of the 20th century, arrived in Boise in 1893.¹⁴ As did many young Basque immigrants, Archabal started out as a herder and worked his way up to being a successful and influential sheepman owning his own land and his own flock.

With the sheepherding lifestyle, the need for boarding houses arose. The herders needed adequate, temporary accommodations when they came back from the outlying lands in the winter months. Many fellow Basques fulfilled this need by building boarding houses in the cities scattered across the American West. These Basque colonies often centered on the Basque boarding houses, allowing them to keep within their own community and continue with practices and traditions from the old country. The common Basque language (a unique and complex language) also helped to keep this community tightly knit.

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The first boarding house in Boise was documented in the Ada County city directories in 1903. By 1920, as many as thirteen Basque boarding houses operated within five blocks of one another in downtown Boise.¹⁵ After World War I, the United States tightened immigration quota restrictions and the growth of the Basque population slowed.¹⁶ In 1937, Idaho's Basque population was estimated to be 7,500; roughly twenty-one percent, or 1,600, of whom lived in the Boise area.¹⁷ The occupations of the Boise area Basques were changing from herders, laborers, and proprietors to tellers, salesmen, engineers, and retirees. The people lived and worked in town, thus decreasing the need for hotel/boarding house accommodations. After World War II, the era of the Basque boarding houses was coming to a close.¹⁸

CRITERION ARGUMENT**Criterion C****ARCHITECTURE**

Juan "Jack" Anduiza, a Basque immigrant, built the Anduiza Hotel in 1914. Local architects Benjamin Nisbet and Frank Paradise designed the building for Anduiza specifically as a Basque boarding house with a fronton (pelota, or ball, court) integrated into the structure. Their design was unique for boarding houses in that Basque boarding houses more typically looked like houses, hotels, or inns. The Anduiza Hotel looked much more like a commercial building in its massing and proportions. This was apparently due to the design requirements of the fronton, which comprises the majority of the building mass.

The design also used new technologies and construction materials of the time for optimal use and enjoyment. The covered, but open-air, pelota court allowed for year-round play, and the wood-truss roof and skylights allowed ample sunlight to shine into the court and reflect up to the balcony.¹⁹ The open balconies with their sloped floors attested to the fact that the hallways were semi-open to the elements. And finally, the covered fronton provides for an unusual roof structure, seen nowhere else in the area, as its design was unique to the building's site and use.

Boarding houses were a common format related to Basque accommodation. The Anduiza Hotel is unique in that a fronton was incorporated into the boarding house, and it was one of only a very few indoor courts built in the American West. In Boise, the additional recreational attraction was critical to keeping up with the boarding house competition for business. Most of the boarding houses are no longer extant, and only one (in Mountain Home, Idaho) has an associated (outdoor) pelota court, making the Anduiza Hotel an important and unique piece of architecture.

Criterion A**ETHNIC HERITAGE: European**

From 1903 to 1910, there was a constant arrival of Basques in the American West. Most of them came

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either to Nevada or to Idaho following kinship ties, a typical result of ethnic immigration.²⁰ The pattern of chain immigration produced pockets of Basque colonies; the boarding houses functioned as the center of these colonies. At one point or another, nearly every Basque immigrant would stay at a boarding house, either while they looked for work in the sheep industry, or after, when they returned to town for the winter months. In addition, the boarding houses provided the first opportunity for single women or entire Basque families to come to America and find gainful employment.

The boarding house acted as a buffer between the New World and the Old World. The proprietors, or *hoteleros*, could usually speak English, which provided a link to the American community and the network of employment. They eased the transition by acting as advisor and interpreter when it came to financial, legal or medical matters.²¹ Within the boarding house, though, the proprietors kept up with Basque traditions and customs, spoke the Basque language and served old world food.²² With a common language and familiar customs, the immigrants felt comfortable in the company of fellow Basques.

The Anduiza Hotel fully functioned within this social network. Juan "Jack" Anduiza was active in both the Basque and American communities. He gave help and advice when it came to financial matters. He founded an organization to aid Basques with insurance matters.²³ He also hosted and played in pelota matches. Juana Anduiza, Juan's wife, helped manage the property, organized the hotel employees and provided the boarders with familiar Basque foods.²⁴

The solitary nature of the shepherd occupation meant that it was not necessary to learn much English. As a result, the Basque community retained much of their traditional culture by retaining their native tongue. Basque speakers interacted primarily with other Basque speakers. When English was necessary, they could go to a hotelero for help with the situation. As a result, many Basque immigrants, especially the herders, did not learn English. They functioned almost entirely within the Basque community, thereby perpetuating and stimulating the retention of this aspect of old-world tradition.

Beyond the practical function of providing a place to stay and hot meals, the boarding houses were new-world Basque communities. Shepherders would have a reminder of their homeland and the younger Americanized generations would have a lesson in heritage.²⁵ Socialization and physical recreation figured prominently within these communities, contributing to the preservation of their heritage. The Anduiza Hotel exemplifies this part of bringing the Basque community together by conjoining the recreational handball court with the domestic spaces and boarding rooms.

The incorporation of the handball court into the design of the boarding house reflects the strong associations with the Basque National Game of pelota. Basques, who were less interested in American games, constructed pelota courts for competition amongst themselves. Pelota is to Basques as what baseball is to Americans. The Basque competitors also played *pala* (played with a paddle) and *jai alai* (played with a basket), variations of the handball game. Pelota courts could frequently be found wherever there was a concentration of Basques in the American West, as the pelota games served as an

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important daily social activity. The Anduiza Hotel reflected this cultural importance by structurally integrating the pelota court with the boarding house. Anduiza himself played in the opening game on the new court on 29 January 1915.²⁶ The event attracted a huge crowd and made headlines in the local *Idaho Statesman* newspaper the next day.

The Anduiza Hotel, built in 1914, is a representative landmark relating to the settlement and Basque emigration in Idaho. Its location on the Basque Block in downtown Boise largely contributes to the overall feeling and association of the strong Basque presence. The exclusive design attained regional distinction integrating living and recreational spaces utilizing the latest materials of the time. The boarding house meets National Register Criterion C in the area of Architecture as an outstanding and unique example in Idaho of a Basque boarding house with an integrated fronton. The property also meets National Register Criterion A in the area of European Ethnic Heritage as a characteristic part of Basque life in the New World contributing to the continuing preservation of Basque traditions and customs. The building's statewide significance is derived from the fact that only two completely intact pelota courts remain in the State of Idaho. Formerly, there were at least four courts in Boise, and as many as five others in other areas of the state, and one just over the Oregon border in Jordan Valley. These ball courts once attested to the presence of a Basque population in a community, but only the indoor court of the Anduiza Hotel, and the two-walled, outdoor, Anchustegui pelota court (NRHP, 11/17/82) in Mountain Home, Idaho remain.

ENDNOTES:

1. Ada County Records Office, Deed record, Instrument numbers 54887 and 55648 (18 October 2001).
2. Patty Miller, interview by author, no notes (Boise, Idaho, November 2001).
3. Ibid.
4. Jeronima Echeverria, Home Off the Range, Basque Hotels in American West (Salt Lake City: University of Utah, 1999), 27-29.
5. Richard W. Etulain and Jeronima Echeverria, eds., Portraits of Basques in the New World (Reno & Las Vegas: University of Nevada Press, 1999), 154.
6. Ibid.
7. Deed Book 112, Page 21 (Boise, Idaho: Ada County Records Office, 1914), current computer system instrument number 54887.
8. Sister Flavia M. McCullough, "The Basques in the Northwest" (Ph.D. diss., University of Portland, 1945), 5.

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9. Ibid, 12.
10. William A. Douglass and Jon Bilbao, Amerikanuak: Basques in the New World, The Basque Series (Reno, Nevada: University of Nevada Press, 1975), 203.
11. McCullough, "The Basques in the Northwest" 22.
12. Douglass and Bilbao, Amerikanuak: Basques in the New World, 404.
13. Ibid, 242.
14. Janette Guthmann, "Basque People of the Northwest," The National Wool Grower, December 1945, in Sons of the Pyrenees in the Northwest, ed. Sax Bradford.
15. Jeronima Echeverria, Home Away From Home: A History of Basque Boardinghouses, (Reno, Nevada: University of Nevada Press, 1999), 126, 176.
16. Sax Bradford, Sons of the Pyrenees in the Northwest, 21.
17. Ibid, 20.
18. Jacqueline S. Thursby, Mother's Table Father's Chair: Cultural Narratives of Basque American Women (Logan, Utah: Utah State University Press, 1999), 132.
19. Jeronima Echeverria, Home Off the Range: Basque Hotels in the American West, Salt Lake City: University of Utah, 1999), 25.
20. Bradford, Sons of the Pyrenees in the Northwest, 31-32.
21. Douglass and Bilbao, Amerikanuak: Basques in the New World, 337-338.
22. Thursby, Mother's Table Father's Chair: Cultural Narratives of Basque American Women, 53.
23. Etulain and Echeverria, 151.
24. Echeverria, Home Away From Home: A History of Basque Boardinghouses, 129.
25. Douglass and Bilbao, Amerikanuak: Basques in the New World, 380-381.
26. Henry Algeria, 75 Years of Memoirs (Caldwell, Idaho: Caxton, 1981), 78.

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Ada County Recorder's Office, 650 W. Main Street, Boise, Idaho. Deed Book 112, Page 178, cross listed in current computer system under Instrument Number 55648 in present system. 4 July 1914.

Ada County Recorder's Office, 650 W. Main Street, Boise, Idaho. Deed Book 279, Page 196, cross listed in current computer system under Instrument Number 234773 in present system. 13 March 1945.

Ada County Recorder's Office, 650 W. Main Street, Boise, Idaho. Deed Book 313, Page 597, cross listed in current computer system under Instrument Number 272857 in present system. 12 February 1948.

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Name of Property Anduiza Hotel

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Photographic Documentation:

Anduiza Hotel

Ada County, Idaho

Photos taken by Emily Peeso

Fall, 2001

Original negatives on file at the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office

Photo #1 of 7	Main elevation - view looking southwest
Photo #2 of 7	Main elevation - view looking west
Photo #3 of 7	West facade - view looking southeast
Photo #4 of 7	Rear facade - view looking northeast
Photo #5 of 7	East facade - view looking northwest
Photo #6 of 7	Interior corridor with boarding room on right - view looking south
Photo #7 of 7	Interior of fronton - view looking north



ANDUIZA HOTEL

BOISE, ADA COUNTY, IDAHO

PHOTO #1 OF 7

VIEW LOOKING SOUTHWEST



ANDUIZA HOTEL

BOISE, ADA COUNTY, IDAHO

PHOTO # 2 OF 7

VIEW LOOKING WEST

Wall of Remembrance
Dedicated to the
memory of the
victims of the
Holocaust



Wall of Remembrance
Dedicated to the
memory of the
victims of the
Holocaust



ANDUIZA HOTEL
BOISE, ADA COUNTY, IDAHO
PHOTO #3 OF 7
VIEW LOOKING SOUTHEAST

B & A ENGINEERS, INC.



ANDUIZA HOTEL
BOISE, ADA COUNTY, IDAHO

PHOTO # 4 OF 7

VIEW LOOKING NORTHEAST



ANDUIZA HOTEL

BOISE, ADA COUNTY, IDAHO

PHOTO # 5 OF 7

VIEW LOOKING NORTHWEST



ANDUIZA HOTEL
BOISE, ADA COUNTY, IDAHO
PHOTO # 6 OF 7
VIEW LOOKING SOUTH



ANDUIZA HOTEL

BOISE, ADA COUNTY, IDAHO

PHOTO # 7 OF 7

VIEW LOOKING NORTH