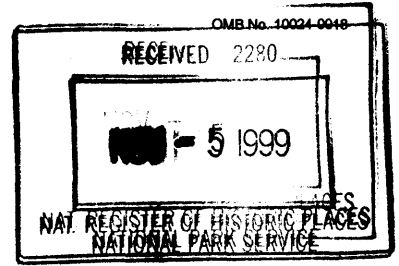


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

1476



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Crane, Silas W. and Elizabeth, House

other names/site number Crane Historical Society Museum, Wendt Funeral Home

2. Location

street & number 201 South Coeur d'Alene Ave. N/A not for publication
city or town Harrison N/A vicinity
state Idaho code ID county Kootenai code 055 zip code 83833

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 statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Susan P. Netzel 10/28/99
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
SUSAN P. NETZEL, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Susan H. Beall 12/9/99

Crane, Silas W. and Elizabeth, House
Name of Property

Harrison, Kootenai, Idaho
City, County, and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	1	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
GOVERNMENT/correctional facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum
VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Mvmts:
Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
walls WOOD: Weatherboard
roof METAL: Steel
other _____

Narrative Description

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

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

Crane, Silas W. and Elizabeth, House
Name of Property

Harrison, Kootenai, 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.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

- Exploration and Settlement
- Community Planning and Development
- _____
- _____
- _____

Period of Significance

1891-1945

Significant Dates

1891, 1903, 1936

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

X 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:
Crane Historical Society, Harrison, Idaho

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

Crane, Silas W. and Elizabeth, House
Name of Property

Harrison, Kootenai, Idaho
City, County, and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of property Less than one

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A 1/1 5/1/6/2/4/0 5/2/5/5/2/3/5
Zone Easting Northing

B / / /
Zone Easting Northing

C / / /

D / / /

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Lots 1 and 2 except right-of-way, Block 8, Town of Harrison See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

These two lots are all the property historically associated with the Crane House. See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nancy Renk, Historian
organization Flume Creek Historical Services date 15 June 1999
street & number 2385 Sunnyside Rd. telephone 208-263-7697
city or town Sandpoint state ID zip code 83864

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- Continuation Sheets
- Maps: A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A Sketch map for historic districts and/or properties having large acreage or numerous resources.
- Photographs: Representative black and white photographs of the property.
- Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

name Crane Historical Society
street & number Box 152 telephone _____
city or town Harrison state ID zip code 83833

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Name of Property Crane, Silas W. and Elizabeth, House

County and State Kootenai, Idaho

NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION

7. Description

Narrative Description:

The Crane House is a modest, one-story frame dwelling. While its original design was Queen Anne, it was altered in the 20th century to reflect the popular Craftsman style. It has walls clad with weatherboard siding, intersecting gable roofs, and a shed-roofed porch spanning the front-facing ell. The house is located on Coeur d'Alene Avenue, the main street of Harrison, at the edge of the commercial district. The lot is terraced, with a slope upward behind the house and a steep bank at the edge of the front yard dropping down to the street level. Access to the house and yard is gained by wooden steps and a path from Coeur d'Alene Avenue or from the short unpaved segment of Harrison Street that ends by the northeast corner of the Crane lot. Large deciduous trees shade the house and yard. The house is in good condition and retains its historic integrity in terms of location, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. In addition, the remodeled design has achieved its own integrity after more than sixty years. The old Harrison city jail, a small frame building, was moved to the northeast corner of the property in recent years. The intrusion of this small building does not adversely affect the integrity of the Crane House.

The Town of Harrison is built on a hillside that faces north and west overlooking Coeur d'Alene Lake. The streets in town curve to conform to the shape of the hill. The commercial district occupies the center of town next to the lake. The Crane House sits on the southeastern edge of this district where the town makes a transition from commercial to residential. Although the commercial core is greatly reduced from its early 20th century heyday, the mix of building types across Coeur d'Alene Avenue from the Crane House approximates what it was in 1901.¹ Today there are houses on the lots behind the Crane House, but its large lot protects the building and its setting from close intrusions.

Due to the slope of the yard, the rear of the house is at ground level while the front sits several feet above the yard. The house rests on concrete piers, with the crawl space skirted with boards and/or lattice panels. A door in the west side provides access to the crawl space under the south wing and another allows access to the area under the front porch.

The massing of the Crane House features two primary wings with a smaller addition. The taller wing faces west and contains the front porch and door. The wing adjoining to the south is approximately the same size but it has a lower roof ridge and eaves. An addition at the south end

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Name of Property Crane, Silas W. and Elizabeth, House

County and State Kootenai, Idaho

contains a dining area and an attached shed/wood shed. The wood-framed walls of the house are sided with clapboards in the rear and two different types of shiplap on the other walls. Vertical boards trim the corners.

The facade of the front-facing ell has a paneled wooden door with a large window. Two pairs of nine-over-one, double hung sash windows are set to the right of the door. Both the door and windows are topped with decorative crown moldings. A pair of identical windows is set in the front of the south ell, while single, nine-over-one windows are set in the north and east walls; all have crown moldings. Most other windows are wood-framed sliders with simple trim. A side door on the north end of the house has an oval window, while the back door has a pair of tall, narrow, round-arched panes above the paneled base.

The front porch spans the west end of the north wing. The shed roof is supported by battered wooden columns, and a low, framed wall sided with shiplap encloses the porch. A flight of wooden steps with a simple handrail provides access to the porch on the north end. The small side porch on the north has a similar design, with a shed roof, battered columns, and low wall.

The cross-gabled roof was originally shingled but now is covered with corrugated metal roofing. Rafter ends are visible along the closely cropped eaves. Two simple brick chimneys protrude through the gable peaks.

The Crane House underwent significant remodeling, probably in the 1930s. An undated photograph shows the house with Queen Anne features including a porch wrapping across the west facade of both wings. The porch had a turned wooden balustrade and spindlework brackets at the tops of the porch posts. Additional spindlework trimmed the front gable peak. The south wing had a door in the center of the front opening onto the porch. This configuration with the wrap porch shows on the firemaps through 1928, suggesting that the alterations were done in the 1930s--likely when the property passed out of Crane family ownership in 1936.² While the exterior of the house has changed little, if any, since then, the interior has been altered with lowered ceilings, carpeting, and paneling on the walls. The building now serves the town as a museum.

The non-contributing jail building, built in 1925-1926, is a small wooden structure with a side gabled roof. The walls were constructed of stacked 2 x 4 lumber which was then sided with clapboards. A small slit window with metal bars is cut into the front, to the right of the door. The jail was moved to the Crane property in recent years, thus making it a non-contributing feature.

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Name of Property Crane, Silas W. and Elizabeth, House

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Endnotes:

¹ Sanborn-Perris Map Company, Harrison, Idaho, September 1901.

² Sanborn Map Company, Harrison, Idaho, July 1918, corrected March 1928.

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County and State Kootenai, Idaho

8. Statement of Significance

Statement of Significance:

The Silas W. and Elizabeth Crane House is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A because it is associated with the settlement, early growth and economic decline of the town of Harrison from the early 1890s to the early 1940s. The house, built in 1891 by members of the town's founding family, is one of very few remaining from that early period that retains historical integrity. The building demonstrates changes over time which reflect the changes experienced by the Harrison community during the early part of the 20th century.

Historical Significance:

The Town of Harrison is located on land that originally was part of the Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation. Tribal representatives signed an agreement in January 1890 to cede the northern part of the reservation to the Federal government. Congress appropriated \$651,000 the following year to pay for these lands as well as others taken at an earlier date. Non-Indians soon began to settle on these ceded lands, believing that all was approved.¹

Among those settlers was the Crane family, including Silas and Elizabeth Crane and sons Addison A., William E., and Edwin S. Their granddaughter later claimed that they came in 1889, while others placed the date as 1891.² The three younger men filed homestead claims on most of the land in the townsite, and by August 1891, Addison Crane began recording 99-year leases with individuals who wanted to build on his homestead land.³ Silas Crane, however, took a lot near the commercial area on land not claimed by his family members. His first home was a log cabin which was replaced with the present frame house built in late 1891.

Harrison's location, on the shore of Coeur d'Alene Lake near the mouth of the Coeur d'Alene River, was ideal for a new community. The recently completed Oregon Railway and Navigation Company railroad, later the Union Pacific, ran along the edge of the lake and up the river to the booming mines of the Coeur d'Alene district. Steamboats arrived regularly from the town of Coeur d'Alene and points up both the St. Joe and Coeur d'Alene rivers. In addition, the surrounding country was rich with timber to supply the town's lumber mills. By the summer of 1891, Harrison had experienced a substantial building boom. Thirteen new structures, all using lumber from a local mill, were erected during a two week period in July of that year.⁴

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Name of Property Crane, Silas W. and Elizabeth, House

County and State Kootenai, Idaho

Later that year, however, a government survey spelled trouble for Harrison when it revealed that the new town was actually on reservation land. Settlers, including Addison Crane, blamed this on poor maps used at the time the treaty with the Coeur d'Alene tribe was signed, and all seemed to agree that the intention had been to include this area in the ceded lands. John Shupe, who served on the commission that negotiated the treaty, wrote to Mr. Crane that "the bill called for the mouth of the Coeur d'Alene river [as a boundary], but it was intended and we all understood that the land bought would include all of the river and a large body of land south of the mouth of the river."⁵

There was no easy solution. The problem was turned over to Congress while the townspeople looked for someone to blame. One citizen blasted the Crane family in a letter to the Spokane Review in July 1892, taking exception to an earlier article that had praised the family's generosity. "The only claim to this townsite that the Cranes have," Esler Wheeler wrote, "is that they merely squatted upon supposed government land, which now is proved to be on the reservation, to which now they have no legal right...If we are indebted to any one for our existence here we would as readily thank the Coeur d'Alene Indians as the Crane family."⁶

Addison Crane, a lawyer, worked to clear title to his land and to solve the townsite's problems. By February 1894 he announced that the Coeur d'Alene tribe had signed a new agreement to cede the land in question to the government. While this was welcome news, it took eight more years before the inspector from the Department of the Interior came to appraise the townsite and adjacent lands, a necessary step before homestead claims could be processed.⁷

Within a short time, Harrison's legal difficulties were resolved. Oliver E. Barr, representing the town, received a townsite patent for Government Lot 5 in Section 1 in March 1903, and within days the townsite company was selling lots. Among those purchasing land was Silas Crane who bought the lots where his house stood for \$111. He recorded his deed in early April 1903. Addison and William Crane, who had claimed most of the rest of the townsite, did not patent their homesteads until February 1909, allowing them, finally, to give clear title to lots they sold.⁸

The town's growth paralleled that of the timber industry. Harrison was on the edge of a vast, untapped timber belt in northern Idaho, with easy transportation for logs via rivers and lake and for finished lumber via railroad. At least two lumber mills were in operation by 1891, providing materials for the rapidly growing town. By 1903, there were nine sawmills that together produced approximately five hundred thousand feet of lumber each day. The number dropped to seven mills in 1916, along with a shingle mill and box factory. In addition to the lumber produced, some mills turned out timbers for regional mines.⁹

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Name of Property Crane, Silas W. and Elizabeth, House

County and State Kootenai, Idaho

The town suffered a devastating blow on July 21, 1917 when fire broke out in the drying kiln at the Grant Lumber Co. Sparks spread across the street and flames soon engulfed the business district. By the time the ashes cooled, damage was estimated at \$500,000 and the losses included more than twenty-five houses, two lumber mills, close to thirty businesses, four churches, two meeting halls, the town's water works, utility company, city clerk's office, and a boarding house.¹⁰ The Crane house escaped the disaster that destroyed everything in the blocks immediately to the north.

Harrison never fully recovered from this fire. Lack of insurance prevented many people from rebuilding. For others, it represented a time to move on as the lumber industry was in decline. Timber prices rose briefly after World War I but then dropped again by 1920 when the nationwide recession hit resource-based industries particularly hard. There were five mills operating in Harrison in 1923, just four the next year, and only two by 1929.¹¹ Harrison and the surrounding area were further impacted by the onset of the Great Depression in the 1930s. The last remaining lumber mills were closed, never to reopen. Resource dependent local industries had essentially vanished by the outbreak of World War II. As a result, Harrison's economy contracted substantially, relying on local trade and summer recreation and tourism. Early buildings which survived the 1917 fire began to disappear during this time. It was only after World War II with the construction of all-weather roads and the expansion in local tourism that Harrison began to recover some of its economic vitality.

The Crane House is representative of the early period of growth, maturity and decline in Harrison which spans the period between 1891 and 1945. It is one of only a few structures to remain from the founding of the town in 1891. Its frame construction utilized lumber from the local mills, as did most buildings in town. The massing and roofline suggest that it was built in at least two stages, with the taller north wing constructed first and the lower south wing added at a later date. The two primary wings had their present configuration by 1901.¹²

When the Cranes first arrived in the area circa 1890, they lived in a small log cabin with dirt floors along the lake shore. According to family oral tradition they built a frame house farther up the hill, on the edge of the commercial area, in 1891. Silas and Elizabeth Crane were born in Ohio but had lived for some time in Oregon where at least two of their children were born. They were both in their fifties when they settled in Harrison. The 1910 census listed Mr. Crane's occupation as a landlord and noted that he owned his home free and clear of mortgage.¹³

Silas Crane died in 1908, followed by his wife in 1911. Before her death, Elizabeth deeded the house to her bachelor son, William, a jeweler, who operated his business from the house. During part of William's ownership and possibly later, the building also served as the local telephone office.

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William then sold it in 1923 to his brother Edwin, who apparently fell behind on his taxes and had to redeem the property from the county in 1931. Edwin Crane kept the house until 1936 when he sold to F.W. and Constance Wendt. It is likely that the Wendts made the previously discussed alterations to the building in order to accommodate their funeral parlor. They used the building as a funeral home until they sold to Howard and Evelyn Russell in 1945. The Russells retained ownership until 1984 when they gave the building to the Crane Historical Society for a museum.¹⁴

During the first half of this century, the Crane House underwent changes in appearance and use which are indicative of the greater evolution of Harrison. As the local economy began to contract in the 1920s, the house changed from being a purely domestic structure to housing an owner-occupant business and the local telephone exchange. It then was taken for delinquent taxes, further illustrating the hard times which characterized Harrison in the 1920s and 1930s. Finally, the building was converted into a completely commercial use, at a time when many other buildings of its vintage were being demolished as obsolete. As such the Crane House admirably demonstrated the changing history of its community from 1891 through to 1945 and is, therefore, worthy of listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A.

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County and State Kootenai, Idaho

Endnotes

- ¹ "The Treaty Signed," Spokane Falls Review, 9 January 1890, 3:3; "It Has Passed," Spokane Falls Review, 18 February 1891, 1:5.
- ² Helene Crane Kroetch, "The Origin of Harrison," date?, ms. on file at Crane Historical Society, Harrison; John M. Henderson, William S. Shiach, and Harry B. Averill, History of North Idaho (Spokane: Western Historical Publishing, 1903), 799.
- ³ Kootenai County Lease Record, Book A:185 ff.
- ⁴ "On the Lake," Spokane Review, 4 July 1891, 2:5.
- ⁵ "Hard on Harrison," Spokane Review, 27 October 1891, 7:3; "The Boundary Error," Spokane Review, 24 January 1892, 3:1.
- ⁶ "Those Harrison Lots," Spokane Review, 6 July 1892, 5:1-2.
- ⁷ "The Harrison Townsite," Spokane Review, 8 February 1894, 4:3; "Harrison Happenings," Spokesman-Review, 21 June 1902, 4:2
- ⁸ Kootenai County Patent Record, Book 2:533, Book 3:526-527; Deed Record, Book 40: 524.
- ⁹ "On the Lake," Spokane Review, 4 July 1891, 2:5; Lloyd Russell and Dorothy Clanton, "Harrison's Mills," privately printed, 1990; Henderson et al, History of North Idaho, 802; "With Lumbermen of the Inland Empire," Timberman 17 (April 1916), 44-45.
- ¹⁰ "Harrison To Rebuild More Beautiful City," Coeur d'Alene Evening Press, 23 July 1917, 1.
- ¹¹ Russell and Clanton, "Harrison's Mills."
- ¹² Sanborn-Perris Map Company, Harrison, Idaho, September 1901.
- ¹³ Helene Crane Kroetch, "The Origin of Harrison;" U.S. Census of Harrison, Idaho, 1900.

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Name of Property Crane, Silas W. and Elizabeth, House

County and State Kootenai, Idaho

¹⁴ Alfred E. Shane and Betty J. Shane, compilers, Kootenai County Cemeteries, Vol. II (Coeur d'Alene: privately printed, 1984); Kootenai County Deed Record, Book 47:617, Book 79:170, Book 96:261, Book 110:458, Book 141:14, Book 334:356; Sanborn Map Company, Harrison, Idaho, July 1918.

¹⁵ Personal communication from Doug Rose to Berti Arnzen, 13 June 1999.

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Section number 9 Page 1 Name of Property Crane, Silas W. and Elizabeth, House
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9. Major Bibliographical References

Henderson, John M., William S. Shiach, and Harry B. Averill
Illustrated History of North Idaho. Spokane: Western Historical Publishing, 1903.

Kootenai County
Deed Record, Lease Record, and Patent Record books. On file, Kootenai County Courthouse,
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

Kroetch, Helene Crane.
"The Origin of Harrison." Date? Unpublished ms. on file, Crane Historical Society,
Harrison, Idaho.

Russell, Lloyd, and Dorothy Clanton
"Harrison's Mills." Privately printed, 1990.

Sanborn-Perris Map Co.
Map of Harrison, Idaho. September 1901.

Sanborn Map Co.
Map of Harrison, Idaho. July 1918.
Map of Harrison, Idaho. July 1918, corrected March 1928.

Shane, Alfred E., and Betty J. Shane
Kootenai County Cemeteries, Vol. II. Coeur d'Alene, Idaho: Privately printed, 1984.

U.S. Census
Harrison, Kootenai County, Idaho, 1900.

Articles:

"The Boundary Error." Spokane Review, 24 January 1892, 3:1.

"Hard on Harrison." Spokane Review, 27 October 1891, 7:3.

"Harrison Happenings." Spokesman-Review, 21 June 1902, 4:2.

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"Harrison To Rebuild More Beautiful City." Coeur d'Alene Evening Press, 23 July 1917, 1.

"The Harrison Townsite." Spokane Review, 8 February 1894, 4:3

"It Has Passed." Spokane Falls Review, 18 February 1891, 1:5..

"On the Lake." Spokane Review, 4 July 1891, 2:5.

"Those Harrison Lots." Spokane Review, 6 July 1892, 5:1-2.

"The Treaty Signed." Spokane Falls Review, 9 January 1890, 3:3.

"With Lumbermen of the Inland Empire." Timberman 17 (April 1916), 44-45.



CRANE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

1. Crane, Silas W. and Elizabeth, House
2. Kootenai County, Idaho
3. Nancy F. Renk
4. 4 May 1999
5. Idaho State Historical Society
6. View SE
7. Photo # 2



1. Crane, Silas W. and Elizabeth, House
2. Kootenai County, Idaho
3. Nancy F. Renk
4. 4 May 1999
5. Idaho State Historical Society
6. View SE along front porch
7. Photo # 11

1. Crane, Silas W. and Elizabeth, House
2. Kootenai County, Idaho
3. Nancy F. Renk
4. 4 May 1999
5. Idaho State Historical Society
6. View NE
7. Photo # 14