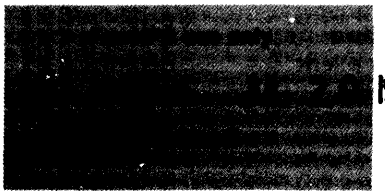
NPS Form 10-900
(7-81)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



1983

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

1. Name

historic Nampa Historic District

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 1200 and 1300 blocks ~~First Street South~~ S. 1st St. N/A **not for publication**

city, town Nampa N/A **vicinity of** ~~congressional district~~

state Idaho **code** 016 **county** Canyon **code** 027

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
X district	___ public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
___ building(s)	X private	___ unoccupied	X commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	N/A in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	N/A being considered	X yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
		___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple ownership (See continuation sheet).

street & number N/A

city, town N/A N/A **vicinity of** **state** N/A

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Canyon County Courthouse

street & number 1115 Albany Street

city, town Caldwell **state** Idaho 83605

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Idaho Historic Sites Survey **has this property been determined eligible?** ___ yes X no

date 1972 ___ federal X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Idaho State Historical Society

city, town Boise **state** Idaho

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
X good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date N/A
X fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Nampa Historic District is a densely-developed commercial area along First Street South between Twelfth and Fourteenth avenues in Nampa, Idaho. The district includes ten buildings, representing a short period of major commercial development in Nampa between 1905 and 1920. The exterior appearance of the district buildings is quite homogeneous. Most of the buildings are two story brick structures with concrete, stone, brick, or pressed galvanized sheet iron used for sills, cornices, and decorative motifs. Those motifs generally are drawn from the Romanesque, Renaissance, and Neo-classical revival styles. The use of decoration is restrained, however, and for the most part the district buildings present a plain streetscape of buff, pink, or red brick facades. Buildings vary from one to three town lots in width, and they generally are a half block in depth. Where original storefronts survive, they are designed of plate glass set even with the facade and slanting back to recessed doorways. Often mezzanine lights are set above the storefronts. The second stories of the district buildings are punctuated with one over one light double hung sash windows set singly or in pairs and spaced regularly across the building's facade. The district buildings are set closely together, some sharing party walls. They maintain a consistent setback from the street behind an approximately eight foot wide sidewalk.

Even before the period represented by the Nampa Historic District, First Street South had a coherent streetscape of brick buildings. A fire on July 3, 1909, destroyed a full block between Twelfth and Thirteenth streets, and therefore the district primarily represents the architectural styles popular between 1909 and 1920, a period of rebuilding and relocation for Nampa merchants. During this period the district buildings were quite uniform at the street level, with plate glass storefronts, recessed doorways, mezzanine lights, and cloth awnings. Later in the period the district acquired sidewalks and the street was paved. Early photographs show wooden benches on the sidewalk and electric lights suspended at the street corners.

All of the district buildings originally had a commercial use, and continue to do so. One building in the district (site 7) has been rehabilitated in the course of an Economic Recovery Tax Act project. Alterations to the buildings have been done primarily at the street level in the form of masked storefronts.

The district is surrounded by similarly dense commercial development, but on all sides it is bounded by buildings that are recent, heavily altered, or masked by modern materials. In the event that major efforts were made to restore buildings on the fringes of the district, the district boundaries could be extended.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion	
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science	
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture	
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian	
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater	
___ 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation	
X 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)	
		___ invention			

Specific dates 1905–1920 **Builder/Architect** Tourtellotte and Hummel (sites 3 and 6)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Nampa Historic District is architecturally significant as a group of buildings representing the local use of architectural styles and materials during the early twentieth century. The district buildings retain their orientation to each other and the street, their architectural design, and their workmanship in original materials. Alterations are present chiefly on the first stories of the buildings. At the second story, district buildings retain original brick, stone, pressed iron, and concrete detailing representing local interpretations of the Romanesque, Renaissance, and Neo-classical revival styles. The district is historically significant for its association with Nampa's commercial development during the period 1905 through 1920, a major period of growth during which Nampa's main street, First Street South, gained a full complement of two-story brick business blocks.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property about three acres

Quadrangle name Nampa **Quadrangle scale** 7.5 minute

UMT References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	11	535700	4824995
B	11	535780	4824900
C	11	535700	4824800
D	11	535605	4824900
E			
F			
G			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

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

state	N/A	**code**	N/A	**county**	N/A	**code**	N/A
state	N/A	**code**	N/A	**county**	N/A	**code**	N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jennifer Eastman Attebery, State Architectural Historian

organization Idaho State Historical Society **date** 28 June 1983

street & number 610 North Julia Davis Drive **telephone** (208) 334-3356

city or town Boise **state** Idaho 83702

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state X 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 Merle Wells

title State Historic Preservation Officer **date** 12 July 1983

For NPS use only

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

Keeper of the National Register **date** 8/10/83

Attest: **date**

Chief of Registration

Nampa Historic District Owners:

site 1 The Sportsman Bar 1300 block First Street South	Tereco c/o Harmengo, Ltd. P.O. Box 7172 Boise, Idaho 83707
site 2 Realty Building/Stoddard Hardware Company Building 1300 block First Street South	Fifers Fair, Inc. 1302 First Street South Nampa, Idaho 83651
site 3 Nampa Department Store (1919) 1300 block First Street South	Benton Long 1519 Amity Avenue Nampa, Idaho 83651
site 4 Commercial Building 1309 First Street South	Idaho First National Bank, Trustee 101 South Capital Boulevard Boise, Idaho 83702
site 5 Nampa Department Store (1910) 1307 First Street South	Greenside Associates 760 West Myrtle Boise, Idaho 83707
site 6 Blue Eye Building 1200 block First Street South	Kim L. Fong 319 South Canyon Nampa, Idaho 83651
site 7 1224 First Street Market 1224 First Street South	Eugene Charles Villeneuve 125 Skylark Boise, Idaho 83705
site 8 W. Hardiman Building 1200 block First Street South	Imogene and Maralu S. Jones 814 North Alpine Drive Beverly Hills, California 90210
site 9 C. Meister Building 1200 block First Street South	Walter K. Sterling P.O. Box 890 Parma, Idaho 83660
site 10 Dewey Building 1200 block First Street South	Idaho Concrete Pipe Company, Inc. P.O. Box 87 Nampa, Idaho 83651

INVENTORY:

1. The Sportsman Bar — contributory
   1300 block First Street South
   built circa 1910-1920

The Sportsman Bar building is a one-story concrete-block building with brick veneer and a flat roof. The brick veneer is laid in common bond. A row of vertical stretchers is just above the storefront, which retains its configuration but is masked with diagonal lumber. There is a metal canopy suspended just below the mezzanine lights, which are covered on the interior with a green material.

2. Realty Building/Stoddard Hardware Company Building — contributory
   1300 block First Street South
   Realty built circa 1910-1920/Stoddard built circa 1905-1909

The Realty Building is a two-story brick-masonry building designed with motifs drawn from the Renaissance Revival style. The flat-roofed commercial building has flat arched windows and a corbel table suggesting dentils. It is connected to the Stoddard Building by a one-story building, brick with a simple cornice of two outset courses. The two-story Stoddard Building is brick, with round-arched openings. Windows are one over one light double hung sash. Relieving arches are made of brick stretchers set on end. The building is painted white with green trim.

3. Nampa Department Store — contributory
   1300 block First Street South
   built 1919
   architect: Tourtellotte and Hummel

This is a one-story brick-masonry building with a brick veneer designed with motifs suggestive of Neo-classicism. The flat-roofed building sits on a concrete foundation. Side walls are laid in common bond with a header course every eighth row. The front of the building has dark red brick veneer. Above the mezzanine lights a stepped corbel table forms denticulations and a cornice. Concrete diamonds and squares are set into the facade above this cornice. Headers and stretchers are used decoratively to form paneled areas on the building front. The building's storefront preserves its original configuration below a newer metal canopy. The mezzanine lights are covered with metal strips.

4. Commercial Building contributory
1309 First Street South
built 1907

The two-story Commercial Building is brick with a brick veneer that draws on the Renaissance Revival style for its motifs. The building is flat-roofed, and it has a concrete foundation. The building's side walls are laid in common bond with a header course every seventh row. A tan-colored brick veneer laid in common bond covers the front exposure. The storefront is altered. Above it are one over one light double hung sash windows with segmental relieving arches. Decorative brickwork on the facade forms a corbel table, a toothed course, and cornice-like raised courses.

5. Nampa Department Store contributory
1307 First Street South
built 1910
architect: Tourtellotte and Hummel
builder: G. H. Rush

This two-story brick-masonry building originally had a brick veneer that has been covered on the first story with stucco. However, the building still makes a modest contribution to the historic district. The flat-roofed building has a concrete foundation. Its style is suggestive of the Renaissance Revival. Its brick side walls are laid in common bond with a header course every seventh row. The facade has buff-colored brick veneer laid in common bond with a row of alternating headers and stretchers every sixth row. The dark brown galvanized iron cornice is molded and has a deep overhang. Aluminum-framed windows have been added to the lower story. On the upper story, the original window space is stuccoed to allow for small aluminum-paned windows. Metal canopies are added above the windows. A molded, cut sandstone sill separates the two stories. Parts of sandstone capitals survive on pillars at the building's corners.

6. Blue Eye Building contributory
1200 block First Street South
built 1909

This two-story building has a flat roof. Its stylistic features, reminiscent of Neo-classicism, include brickwork above the second story windows forming an outset cornice and inset panels. In a central panel is the legend "BLUE EYE" in concrete. Windows are one over one light double hung sash with flat arches. They have concrete capping stones, sills, and lintels. The building's red-brick walls are laid in common bond. The storefront is altered.

7. 1224 First Street Market — contributory
1224 First Street South
built circa 1909-1910

This two-story building has a front wall of buff-colored brick, probably a veneer, laid in common bond. It has a flat roof and simple detailing: a cornice formed of outset brick courses with denticulations, and one over one light double hung sash windows with keystoned flat arches of stone. The storefront has compatible alterations that were part of a recent Economic Recovery Tax Act project.

8. W. Hardiman Building — contributory
1200 block First Street South
built 1909-1910

The W. Hardiman Building is a two-story, flat-roofed brick commercial building with a pink brick veneer laid in common bond. Its one over one double hung sash second-story windows have flat concrete relieving arches with outset keystones. Above these windows, outset courses form a denticulated cornice, and above the cornice, a mock attic bears the legend "W. Hardiman" and the date 1909, in concrete either side of concrete piers. The storefront is altered.

9. C. Meister Building — contributory
1200 block First Street South
built 1909-1910

The C. Meister Building is a two-story commercial block with a flat roof and Renaissance Revival details. Its pink-brick facade, laid in common bond and continuous with the Hardiman building facade, is a veneer over brick masonry. The building's storefront has a new shake canopy below an outset molded metal cornice, but the storefront has its original, or at least an early, configuration. The second story has one over one light double hung sash windows with concrete or stone sills and molded pressed iron window heads with fleurs-de-lis and other floral motifs. The cornice is pressed iron shaped with molding and floral and quasi-heraldic motifs. An upper iron piece reads "C. Meister." Flat-arched windows extend along the side (alley) wall.

10. Dewey Building — contributory
1200 block First Street South
built 1909

This two-story building draws on the Renaissance Revival for its brick, iron, and stone detailing. The building has a flat roof and orange and buff brick walls laid in common bond, probably a veneer. The storefront is altered, and the mezzanine lights are masked. Above them is a pressed-iron cornice with scrolled modillions. The building's second story has one over one light double hung sash windows with stone sills and keystoned flat relieving arches fashioned of stone. Above the windows is a molded pressed-iron cornice with scrolled modillions. Above the cornice is a mock attic area with inset brick panels.

Because most of the district buildings were built during a very brief period around 1910, the district is homogeneous in appearance. Its buildings use similar massing, window placement, arches over window and door openings, brick corbels, cornices, and (when present) storefront design. The setback behind a concrete sidewalk is consistent, preserving a good sense of streetscape from the pedestrian level. The color of brick used for front exposures is generally a homogeneous pink to red color. These details, and the fact that the district has no intrusions, create in this two-block-long district a strong feeling for the historical period during which the buildings were erected. These details are also representative of commercial architecture in the Boise Valley. Similar modest expressions of the Romanesque, Renaissance, and Neo-classical styles commonly were built during this period in the valley's small towns.

The Nampa Historic District is located at the center of Nampa's commercial development during the town's early years. Within a few blocks of the district, and separated from it by intrusions, are the early city hall, the railroad depot, and the town's major bank. At one time the Dewey Palace, a large luxury hotel, stood at one edge of the district. What remains in the Nampa Historic District is a core of period buildings still representing Nampa's early development as a railroad town. Founded in 1885 as a small stop on the Oregon Short Line, Nampa became a regional shipping point in southwest Idaho when the Idaho Central Railway line, backed by Nampa merchants and the Oregon Short Line, built a line from Nampa to nearby Boise City, the territorial capital. Nampa shared in the surrounding region's expansion through Boise Valley irrigation projects during the 1880's through the early twentieth century. Between 1900 and 1910 the valley's population tripled, providing new opportunities for merchants in towns like Nampa, which was located close to the major irrigation project of Lake Lowell.

In addition, many of the Nampa Historic District's buildings were the result of rebuilding and relocation by merchants burnt out of their establishments during a large fire in July, 1909. The fire demolished every building in the block between Twelfth and Thirteenth streets and First and Front streets. Within a year of the devastation, the merchants had rebuilt, creating a full streetscape of fireproof brick buildings.

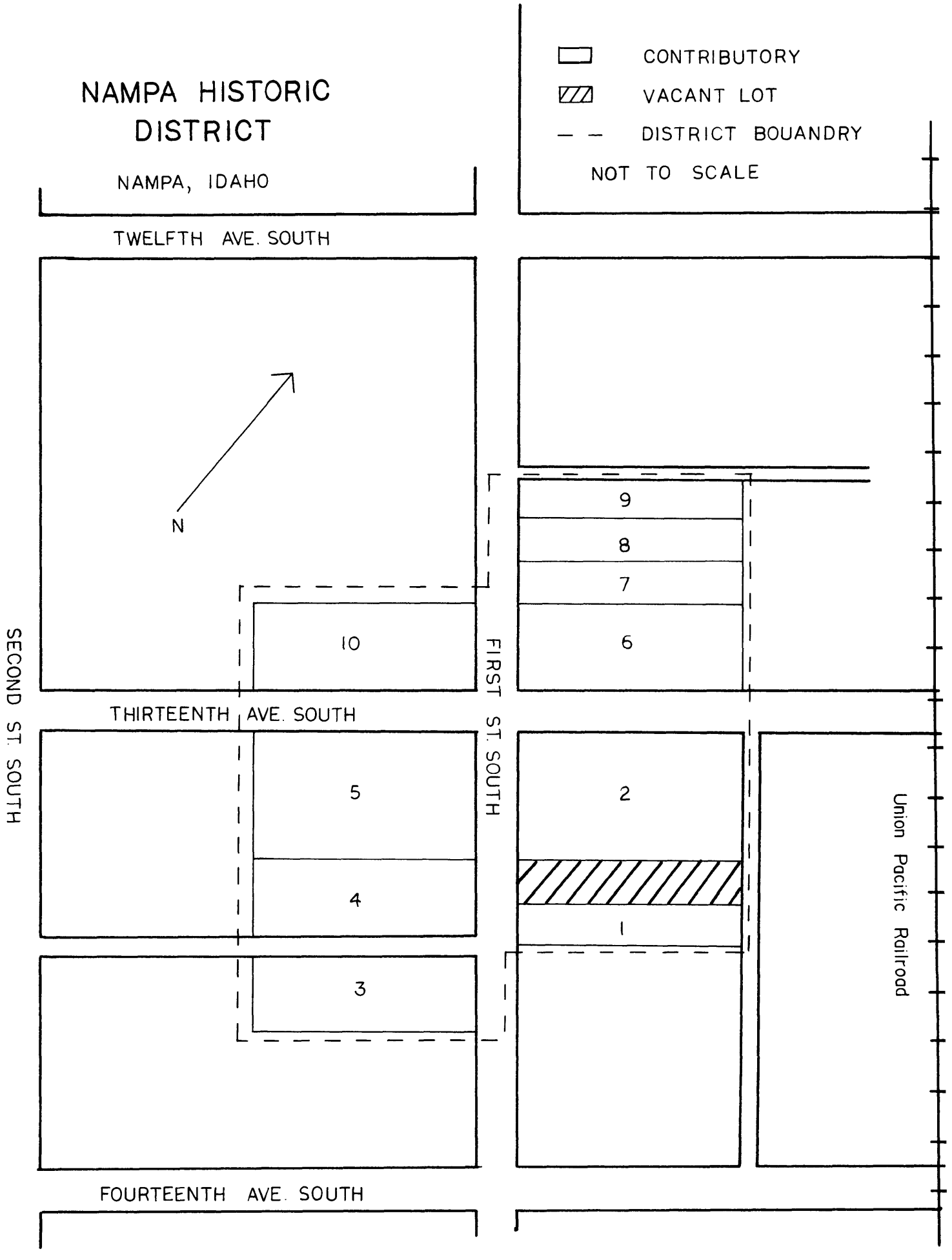
Boundaries of the Nampa Historic District are drawn to include the core of downtown Nampa, which is a remnant of what once existed in this area. Boundaries are drawn to exclude intrusions, and should restoration activities make masked buildings eligible, boundaries could be extended in the future. Around the district the concentration of significant and contributory buildings diminishes rapidly. Many of the old buildings outside of the district have lost their architectural integrity through the application of modern masking materials or through radical and irreversible alterations. An Economic Recovery Tax Act project involving site 7 is the only current preservation activity in the district.

Nampa Leader-Herald, 1899-1925.

Bird, Annie Laurie. My Home Town. Caldwell: The Caxton Printers, 1968.

Nampa; A Railroad Center and Hustling Town in Southwestern Idaho. Nampa, Idaho: Chamber of Commerce, [c. 1905].

verbal boundary description: The Nampa Historic District includes the buildings herein inventoried and the property on which they sit, T2 and T4 in block 18, T7, T8, T9, and T10 in block 7, and the south 80 feet of lots 13 and 15 in block 19, all in Nampa Original Townsite; lots 1 and 2 in Given's Resubdivision, Nampa; lots 18 through and including lot 23 in block 8 of the Mock, Snell, and Everett Resubdivision, Nampa; and the southeast 15 feet of tax 3 (Nampa Original Townsite, Young Subdivision, and Mock, Snell, and Everett Resubdivision) and tax 6, block 8 (Nampa Original Townsite and Young Subdivision).


NAMPA HISTORIC DISTRICT
NAMPA, IDAHO
CONTRIBUTORY
VACANT LOT
DISTRICT BOUANDRY
NOT TO SCALE
TWELFTH AVE. SOUTH
N
9
8
7
6
10
FIRST ST. SOUTH
SECOND ST. SOUTH
THIRTEENTH AVE. SOUTH
5
4
3
2
1
Union Pacific Railroad
FOURTEENTH AVE. SOUTH

BAR
The SPORTSMAN
BEER WINE POOL GAMES
BAR
The SPORTSMAN
BEER WINE POOL GAMES
Coors
Budweiser
BUD LIGHT

Nampa Historic District (The Sportsman Bar, site 1)
1300 block First Street South
Nampa, Canyon County, Idaho

Photograph by Jennifer Eastman Attebery
June 1983

Negative on file at the Idaho State Historical Society,
Boise, Idaho

View from west

Photograph one of seven

REALTY
BLDG
SALE
SALE
NO
PARKING

Nampa Historic District (Realty Building/Stoddard Hardware Company Building, site 2)
1300 block First Street South
Nampa, Canyon County, Idaho

Photograph by Jennifer Eastman Attebery
June 1983

Negative on file at the Idaho State Historical Society, Boise, Idaho

View from south

Photograph two of seven

HOWARD
Naffziger
Fine
MEN'S WEAR

Nampa Historic District (Nampa Department Store, Commercial Building, Nampa Department Store, sites 3, 4, 5)
1300 block/1309/1307 First Street South
Nampa, Canyon County, Idaho

Photograph by Jennifer Eastman Attebery
June 1983

Negative on file at the Idaho State Historical Society, Boise, Idaho

View from north

Photograph three of seven

YESTERYEAR
SHOPPE
Bullock
DIAMONDS WATCHES
Bullock JEWELERS
GREEN STAMPS
FABRIC BUTLER
VAN ENGELEN

Nampa Historic District (Nampa Department Store,
Dewey Building, sites 5, 10)
1307/1200 block First Street South
Nampa, Canyon County, Idaho

Photograph by Jennifer Eastman Attebery
June 1983

Negative on file at the Idaho State Historical Society,
Boise, Idaho

View from north

Photograph four of seven

C.MEISTER
19 W.HARDIMAN 09
FULLERS
BARBER
SHOP
Fuller's
BARBER
SHOP
BARBER
Idaho
STOCKMAN
SOFT DRINKS

Nampa Historic District (C. Meister Building,
W. Hardiman Building, 1224 First Street Market,
Blue Eye Building, sites 9, 8, 7, 6)
1200 block First Street South
Nampa, Canyon County, Idaho

Photograph by Jennifer Eastman Attebery
June 1983

Negative on file at the Idaho State Historical Society,
Boise, Idaho

View from west

Photograph five of seven

ONLY
ONLY
SALE
SALE
SALE
SALE
SALE

Nampa Historic District (Realty Building, Stoddard Hardware Company Building, site 2)
1300 block First Street South
Nampa, Canyon County, Idaho

Photograph by Jennifer Eastman Attebery
June 1983

Negative on file at the Idaho State Historical Society, Boise, Idaho

View from west

Photograph six of seven

HOUSE of FONG
CAFE
STEAKS & CHOPS
Chop Suey Noodles
LOANS AND JEWELRY
ONLY
ONLY

Nampa Historic District (Blue Eye Building, site 6)
1200 block First Street South
Nampa, Canyon County, Idaho

Photograph by Jennifer Eastman Attebery
June 1983

Negative on file at the Idaho State Historical Society,
Boise, Idaho

View from south

Photograph seven of seven