Listed 12 August 2010
NRHP Ref. #10000546
IHSI #01-1824

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Reclamation Service Boise Project Office

other names/site number Central Snake Project Office / IHSI #01-1824

2. Location

street & number 214 Broadway Avenue ☐ not for publication

city or town Boise ☐ vicinity

state 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national X statewide ___ local

Kenneth C. Reid 28 Jun 2008

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

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

Reclamation Service Boise Project Office
Name of Property

Ada County, Idaho
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- [ ] private
- [ ] public - Local
- [X] public - State
- [ ] public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

- [X] building(s)
- [ ] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		district
		site
		structure
		object
1	0	**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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT/Government Office

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/School

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY
AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE
walls: BRICK
roof: WOOD/Shingle
other: WOOD

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 Reclamation Service Boise Project Office is an early 20th century brick office building. The building is L-shaped in plan with a hipped roof and consists of two stories and a basement. Typical of brick-masonry commercial buildings of the period, the Boise Project Office features segmental-arch window openings, brick string courses, wood double-hung sash windows, and a relatively formal composition of design elements including a symmetrically located front-entry porch. The interior of the building also exhibits expected characteristics of the period, including wainscoting, corniced millwork over door and window openings, and a centrally located, open stairway. Both the interior and exterior of the building retain almost complete architectural integrity.

Narrative Description

The building is located on the east side of Broadway Avenue in the eastern part of Boise about two blocks south of Warm Springs Avenue, a major east-west throughway. The building is set back from the street about 60 feet. There is a small commercial complex on the west side of Broadway, and a small single-family dwelling (now a barber shop) built of river cobble just north of the Boise Project Office. An athletic playing field is east of the building, and a fast-food restaurant is located to the south. This is where the Reclamation depot and associated buildings once stood; no traces of these buildings survive. The south edge of the parking lot is diagonal, nearly parallel to the diagonal wall at the building's main entry. This represents the lot line of the building.

Exterior:

The two-story, L-shaped Boise Project Office is located adjacent to Broadway Avenue, a north-south street in the eastern section of Boise. One stem of the building's "L" is perpendicular to Broadway Avenue and the other is parallel, giving the building a north/south, east/west orientation. The building measures 70 feet along each of its long sides (north and east) and the ends of the building are 30 feet wide. The inner sides of the "L" each measure 29 feet 4 inches from the ends to the point where they meet a diagonal, southwest-facing wall in which the main entry is centrally located. The location of the main entry in this diagonal wall gives the building a front orientation to the southwest. A symmetrical, 8-foot-wide porch serves the front entry.

The building's foundation consists of: concrete perimeter foundation walls for the main building and the porch; brick interior partitions in the northeast corner of the building; wood posts in concrete spot footings at the west and south ends of the building; and a separate reinforced concrete foundation under the interior vault area. The brick partitions exist in those portions of the basement where the building originally had rooms with finished floors.

The structural system for the building consists of brick bearing walls and an interior post and girder structural system. The post and girder system allows an open and flexible office plan. The building's perimeter walls are 13 inches thick and the outer width of brick is laid in running bond. The exterior brick surfaces are articulated by string courses and slightly projecting segmental arches over window openings. On the south and west sides and the end walls of the building, there are corbelled string courses at grade and at the first and second story window sill levels. On the north and east sides, only the second floor string course is present. The first floor window openings have projecting rowlock sills. A rowlock course between the windows and flush with the wall demarks the level.

The building's front porch is located at the inner angle of the "L" and, because of the orientation of the diagonal wall, is basically "U" or three-sided in shape. The porch has a concrete slab floor; four concrete steps lead to each end (west and south)of the porch. Corbelled brick walls capped with concrete extend above the floor to form a closed rail. Four brick columns are situated at the porch corners. The columns and a brick pilaster adjacent to each set of steps support the shed roof over the porch. The columns and pilasters have simple corbelled capitals, reflective of the other brick detailing on the building. Craftsman-style rafter tails support the eaves of the porch roof.

The hipped roof of the Boise Project Office corresponds to the shape of the building. A flagpole originally rose above a flat area at the center of the roof. The roof has four dormers: one each over the south and west ends; one over the main entry; and one along the north side. The dormers are louvered and serve to ventilate the attic space. The main roof and the roofs of the dormers are covered with wood shingles over wood sheathing. The roof was replaced in 2008. The ridges and the hips are covered with metal caps, and there are small metal finials where the hips meet the ridges at the west and south ends. Exposed rafter tails support the eaves. There is a single brick chimney near the east end of the north side of the building.

The primary entry, under the porch, consists of a paneled wood door with a single beveled-glass light and original bronze scroll door handle with thumb piece. The door surround is comprised of a multiple-light transom and symmetrical side lights above paneled bases. At the west end of the porch is a secondary door opening with a paneled, single-light door and a single-light transom. An additional door opening at the east rear of the building with a single-light transom contains a modern replacement door. To the north of this rear door a small window has replaced the original coal chute door.

Except for the east (rear) side, the building exhibits a regular pattern of window openings. The east side of the building has irregular fenestration because the stairs and bathrooms are located against this wall. The north basement windows have three-over-one, double-hung wood sash, and two small windows at the top of the stairs have single, fixed wood sash. All other windows are one-over-one, double-hung wood sash. An exterior stairway-fire escape has been added to the east elevation.

Interior:

The first and second floors of the Boise Project Office served as offices, while the basement housed utility rooms, storage, and a meeting room. The main entry of the building leads into a vestibule, which in turn leads into the main hall. On the southeast side of the hall is the vault and on the northwest side is a counter, which was identified on the original plans as being an information booth. The stairs leading to the second floor and the basement are on the east side of the hall. From the hall, a double-loaded corridor extends to the south. On the west side of the corridor is the vault; on the east side are the bathrooms and an office. More offices are located at the south end of the corridor. As originally constructed, a door just west of the information booth led into a large open area, which encompassed the entire west end of the building, as well as the spaces north of the hall and the stairs. Partitions were subsequently installed to subdivide the area into a conference room and individual offices.

The second floor is arranged similarly to the first, with a hall at the head of the stairs and double-loaded corridors extending to the west and the south. The second floor vault is situated directly over the first floor vault. Individual offices are located along the hall and corridors. The only alteration to the second floor plan is a north-south partition dividing the open drafting room at the south end into two offices.

The basement has corridors which extend west and south from the foot of the stairs. The former coal bin is in the northeast corner of the basement; west of it are the boiler room and the janitor's room. Non-historic partitions have been added throughout much of the basement to provide storage and meeting rooms.

The split flights of stairs run east and west with half-flight landings against the east wall of the building. The landing between the basement and first floor is at grade and accommodates the rear entry. The stairs between the first and second floors are open, with simple newel posts, hand rails, and square balusters.

New floor finishes were installed in much of the building in 1990, leaving original flooring only in the vestibule. Flooring in the vestibule consists of white ceramic tile in a hexagonal pattern surrounded by square black and white border tiles. The hall and stairs retain historic sheet linoleum. The first floor ceiling is the original lath and plaster, while a suspended acoustical tile ceiling was installed in the second floor offices in the 1970s (though not in the hall).

Walls are lath and plaster. Much of the trim on the first floor has its original stained finish. In the corridors of both floors, but not in the halls, there are continuous bands of transom windows. Interior doors in the building are paneled with single, textured-glass lights for offices and paneled without lights for closets, bathrooms, etc.

Following HAER documentation of the Boise Project Office in 1990, a removable wooden ADA accessible ramp was installed over the west steps leading to the main entry. The mens' restroom was also rehabilitated to meet ADA

standards. In the restroom, all the original plumbing fixtures were replaced, and the hexagonal tile flooring replaced with a hex-tile covering. None of the restroom modifications are visible from the exterior of the building.

Reclamation Service Boise Project Office
Name of Property

Ada County, Idaho
County and State

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.)

- [X] 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.
- [X] 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" 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.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

CONSERVATION
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
1911-1960

Significant Dates
1911

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder
Weymouth, F.E.: Supervising Engineer for BoR
Whiteway-Lee Construction Company - Builders

Period of Significance (justification)
The Period of Significance for the Boise Project office begins with its construction in 1911. Because the building continued to be used by the Bureau of Reclamation and other associated tenants for conservation-related purposes until well into the 2000s, the Period of Significance closes in 1960, 50 years prior to the date of the submission of this nomination.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

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

The Boise Project Office of the United States Reclamation Service (now the Bureau of Reclamation) meets criteria A and C for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The building is historically significant as the area administration headquarters for the numerous federally sponsored reclamation and irrigation projects in southern Idaho and southeastern Oregon. Reclamation Service facilities in the region include several major engineering features, including the Deer Flat Embankments, Deadwood Dam, and Minidoka Dam in Idaho, and Owyhee Dam in Oregon. These impoundments, and the canal systems associated with them, allowed for the irrigation of vast tracts of land in the central Snake River Valley; this, in turn, was a highly significant force in the economic development of the region. The building also has direct associations with the construction of Arrowrock Dam, a major feature on the Boise Project, and the power house construction at the Boise Diversion Dam. The location of the building adjacent to the warehouse facilities of the Boise and Arrowrock Railroad, gave the project engineers easy access to the construction sites and allowed them to closely monitor materials shipments.

The Boise Project Office also possesses architectural significance as an unusual example of early 20th century office building design, with an exceptional level of integrity, both interior and exterior. The building's design details reflect distinctive qualities of the Craftsman building form – an architectural style quite common in period residential construction, but very rarely exploited in public office buildings, which normally utilized more classical detailing. The Craftsman lines of the Boise Project Office reflect a public building style typically utilized in buildings housing natural resource-related agencies. Thus, the building's lines serve as a visual indication of the administrative functions contained within. These design philosophies are continued in the building's interior, which is virtually unaltered from the time of its construction.

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

Historical Background

The Boise Project Office was built during the fall of 1911 and completed in January 1912 to house engineers and administrators for the Boise Irrigation Project of the United States Reclamation Service. It was the first permanent office for the Reclamation Service in Boise. After renting office space in downtown Boise for nearly a decade and weathering a controversy in which boosters in the nearby communities of Nampa and Caldwell tried to lure the permanent Reclamation office to one of those towns, the Reclamation Service decided to build a permanent office on land it had secured for a warehouse and railroad siding. The Boise Project Board of Control – the operating organization made up of the several irrigation districts served by the Boise Project – took over the operation of the Boise Project from the federal government in 1927. The Board of Control has been the principal occupant of the building since that time.

U.S. Reclamation Service and the Boise Project

In the United States, the region west of a line defined approximately by the 100th meridian and east of the Pacific coastal zone receives less than twenty inches of precipitation in most years. Some parts of that large area, such as the Interior Basin, receive less than ten inches annually. Consequently, the area was ignored for settlement by agriculturally based groups other than the Mormons for most of the 19th century. Although some hardy souls tried to establish farms on the arid or semi-arid lands, most failed, and large stretches of the public domain outside of river valleys remained uncultivated.

Under the Homestead Act of 1862, a homesteader was limited to 160 acres of land. Between them, a husband and wife could claim 320 acres. With ample rainfall this amount of land was sufficient to support a family, but in the arid interior West a family would have difficulty earning its livelihood on such limited acreage. After the Civil War, Congress passed a

number of pieces of legislation aimed at encouraging homesteading in drier regions. Each of these helped to increase the amount of public land which was turned over to private farmers and ranchers, but they did little to bring needed supplemental water to arid lands.[1]

The United States government did little to stimulate the development of irrigation in the West until John W. Powell surveyed the region for possible water storage sites and published his findings in the 1878 Report on the Lands of the Arid Region. Powell's report demonstrated that many more acres of land in the West could be irrigated through the use of storage reservoirs. The work by Powell and others aroused growing interest in promoting a concerted effort to increase irrigation in the West. In 1890, the Census Office asked Frederick H. Newell of the United States Geological Survey to conduct a census of irrigated farms. In his report, Newell also described how most irrigation projects were implemented and maintained by individuals or small groups, showing little evidence of comprehensive management of reclamation activities; according to Newell, the result was a haphazard and inefficient system. At about the same time, western railroads began sponsoring Irrigation Congresses, which discussed means and offered solutions by which the United States could take a more comprehensive approach to developing large-scale irrigation projects. The first major result of these efforts was the passage of the Carey Act of 1894.[2]

The Carey Act represented a transition from the 19th century's total reliance on private irrigation development to the 20th century's heavy federal involvement in reclamation projects. Under the Carey Act, the United States offered to transfer up to one million acres to each of the western states. The states were then encouraged to organize large-scale irrigation projects by finding private entrepreneurs to build the necessary dams and canals and by selling land to settlers who would, in turn, buy water from the private developers. Although Idaho used the Carey Act more extensively and successfully than any other state, overall development under the Act was limited. Private investors found western irrigation attractive, but capital could not be attracted in large enough blocks to undertake most projects.[3]

Despite Idaho's utilization of the Carey Act to bring large tracts of land under irrigation, many engineers, conservationists, and western politicians pressured Congress to involve the federal government more directly in the development of reclamation projects. With the support of a new president, Theodore Roosevelt, Congress passed the Reclamation Act of 1902, which created the Reclamation Service as a new branch of the Geological Survey. F. H. Newell, who had been Chief Hydrographer for the Geological Survey, was placed in charge of the Reclamation Service with the title of Chief Engineer. Funded largely by the sale of public lands and staffed largely by engineers, the Reclamation Service began almost immediately to build large dams, reservoirs, and canal systems, and to establish irrigation districts through which farmers utilizing water from the federal projects would manage its use. Farmers would also pay for the water they received, theoretically reimbursing the government for the costs of construction and operation. By 1907, more than twenty-five new projects had been authorized and almost 400,000 acres had received irrigation water from project works. One of the largest of the early federal reclamation projects was the Payette-Boise Project, designed to utilize water from the Boise and Payette rivers to irrigate lands in the area west of Boise.[4]

The first irrigated farming in the Boise Valley occurred in the 1840s at Fort Boise, a fur trading post of the Hudson's Bay Company at the confluence of the Boise and Snake rivers. Major settlement of the Boise area did not begin, however, until 1862, and the discovery of gold. By the following year, the ensuing gold rush brought almost twenty thousand residents to the Boise Valley, most of whom had to rely on supplies of food brought from outside the region. Farmers and ranchers quickly established local operations to feed the mining camp, and by the time the City of Boise was founded in 1864, fields were already being irrigated in the valley. Irrigation systems quickly grew from small canals dug by individuals to larger supply networks built and operated by private companies. With further discoveries of gold in the area and the arrival of the railroad in the 1880s, irrigated agriculture continued to be profitable. This, in turn, attracted outside capital. Larger companies developed large canal systems, both for farming and delivery water to placer gold mining operations. By the end of the 19th century, about 148,000 local acres were under irrigation, but irrigation in the Boise Valley faced several major problems, including a tangle of legal controversies over water rights and the need for upstream storage to provide reliable water supply late in the growing season. Passage of the Reclamation Act of 1902 offered a solution to the problems since a comprehensive federal project could untangle the legal web and could afford the cost of storage facilities.[5]

With the water rights cases about to be adjudicated, the Boise Project was authorized in 1905. It initially focused on irrigating lands along the Boise River. Major construction projects included the Boise River Diversion Dam; the Main canal (now called the New York Canal); the Deer Flat Embankments, which impounded a large off-stream reservoir known as Lake Lowell; and canals and laterals for various irrigation districts served by the project. Within ten years, the Reclamation

Service had built a hydroelectric generating plant at the Diversion Dam and another major storage facility, Arrowrock Dam, at the juncture of the Boise River's main channel and south fork. After World War I, project planners turned their attention northward to the fertile but arid Payette River Valley. The key facilities of what became the Payette Division of the Boise Project were a diversion dam and a companion hydroelectric plant along the Payette River, in Black Canyon near Emmett.[6]

Early Reclamation Service Offices in Boise

D. W. Ross established the first offices of the Reclamation Service in Boise in 1903, in three rented rooms in the Sonna Building, located in the city's downtown district on the 900 block of Main Street. Reclamation's office needs grew so that the agency rented eleven rooms in 1909, when it moved to the nearby Shaw Block, located on the 100 block of South 8th Street. By the time the Reclamation Service was ready to move into its own new office building early in 1912, it was renting nineteen rooms in the Shaw Block.[7]

Meanwhile, in 1908, F. H. Newell, Director of the Reclamation Service, had instructed W. H. Sanders, Reclamation's Consulting Engineer in Boise, to investigate several locations for the possibility of establishing a warehouse and material storage yards near sites of the construction works on the Boise Project. Newell wanted Reclamation to have its own railroad spur so that materials could readily be shipped to other parts of the country in case of an emergency. To this basic requirement, he added the possibility of securing storage for concrete forms for use elsewhere, building corrals for livestock, and erecting offices for engineers or dwellings for employees.[8]

Sanders' visits to various communities gave the impression to some local community boosters that Reclamation was interested in a new site for permanent offices. Believing that having the Reclamation offices in their respective communities would bring prestige and spur economic development, promoters in Nampa and Caldwell made generous offers of free land at very desirable locations. Based on the size and location of the lot offered in Nampa, Sanders recommended that community as the site for the warehouse. Local newspapers immediately seized upon this decision as an indication that the Reclamation offices would be moving to Nampa, causing a storm of protest from other areas. Letters were sent not only to the Boise and Washington D.C. offices of the Reclamation Service, but also to the Secretary of the Interior and Idaho's Senator Borah as well. The Boise Commercial Club protested that because of transportation connections, especially in the form of interurban lines, Boise was more conveniently situated for the majority of farmers in the project. The Payette-Boise Water Users' Association, recognizing that whatever facilities Reclamation built would eventually be charged to the water users and expecting that the new offices would eventually become offices of the Association when it took over the operation of the project, asked that a decision on the location be delayed until the Association could poll its members. Although the Association was located at the time in Caldwell, its president further requested that Reclamation delay any decision to move its offices so that any unnecessary cause for division among the membership could be eliminated.[9]

F. E. Weymouth, Reclamation's new local supervising engineer, decided to remain in rental offices in Boise for the next couple of years, in part because of advice from Newell, who reminded his engineers in Idaho that Reclamation's basic need was for a siding and warehouse, that the location of the engineer's offices should be selected based on efficiency of operation as opposed to rent or political considerations, and that the office of the Supervising Engineer had to provide him with easy access to the Minidoka Project (some 200 miles to the east). Meanwhile, Reclamation built small warehouses along sidings in both Nampa and Caldwell.[10]

Construction of the Boise Project Office

The year 1910 was one of the busiest years of construction in Boise's history. The city's commercial, governmental and warehouse districts all saw significant growth during the first decade of the 20th century and were clearly defined by 1910. But, it was the congestion brought about by this growth that the Reclamation service sought to avoid in its selection of a building site. Three years earlier during the location controversy, Newell had offered the opinion that "It is not necessary for our purposes to have a lot in the best part of the city, or even in the localities deemed best from the ordinary business standpoint. For our purposes, it is more satisfactory to be a little at one side rather than in the business center."[11]

In 1910, the Reclamation Service obtained a temporary warehouse in Boise at Front Street and 18th, west of the central business district. Although this facility did not have the railroad siding Reclamation desired, it was used until a better location was secured. In 1911, the Secretary of the Interior approved the purchase of a lot along Broadway on Boise's

east end for a warehouse and siding. The Secretary also approved the construction of an office building on that lot to house the offices of the Boise Project and the supervising engineer. The lot was located in an undeveloped area of the city on Broadway two blocks south of Warm Springs Avenue. By the turn of the 20th century, Warm Springs Avenue had developed as a prominent residential street, and several large dwellings stood near the intersection with Broadway Avenue. About a block south of Warm Springs Avenue, the Idaho Valley Canal and the Jacobs Ditch flowed under Broadway. In the three-block area along Broadway between these channels and the Boise Branch of the Oregon Short Line Railroad to the south, no buildings had been erected. This provided the Reclamation Service with an ideal location for its office and storage facilities.[12]

The Broadway site offered the potential of a private railroad spur, a warehouse, and plenty of room for expansion of storage facilities. Ample ground for storage had become especially important as Reclamation made plans to build Arrowrock Dam to impound a major storage reservoir on the Boise River for the Boise Project. To be built as a concrete arch structure, Arrowrock would become the tallest dam in the world. Such a construction project would require great quantities of material to be shipped to Boise by rail and then transported to the dam site some twenty miles up the Boise River. For this task, the government decided to build its own railroad, the Boise and Arrowrock, with freight terminal facilities along the tracks of the Oregon Short Line at Broadway in Boise. The Oregon Short Line would move cars along its tracks three miles from Boise to Barber, from where the government's Boise and Arrowrock locomotives would pull the cars the remaining seventeen miles to the dam. The railroad was designated a common carrier so that it could haul passengers and general freight, as well. Placing its offices next to the Reclamation railroad depot made it convenient for Reclamation engineers to monitor the shipment of materials for construction of the dam as well as to travel to and from the dam construction site as needed.[13]

Once given the authority to construct a new office building, supervising engineer Weymouth had a local architectural firm prepare preliminary plans and specifications for the building (unfortunately, Reclamation records do not identify which firm prepared the plans). His office then revised them to meet particular requirements of the Reclamation Service. Because the project was anticipated to cost in excess of $10,000, Weymouth was required to submit the plans to Newell for approval. Although he found the plans to be generally acceptable, Newell did offer a few suggestions. Because of the planned proximity of the office to the railroad tracks and passing steam locomotives, he suggested that Weymouth specify a more fire-proof roofing than wood shingles and that the extra cost of reinforced concrete floors and columns be explored. Neither idea, however, was incorporated in the plans as completed. He recommended that the vault on each floor – intended for safe storage of cash and valuable documents – have only one entrance for greater fire protection and that the toilets be given greater separation, ideas that were apparently accepted by Weymouth. Newell also suggested that the vault be relocated from its present location to another, perhaps the northeast corner, to make the vault more accessible to the fiscal agent and the bookkeepers. Other arguments he offered in favor of this suggestion were: it would make it possible to make the vault rectangular, thereby reducing cost; should the building burn, the vault would be less enveloped by fire and therefore easier to protect; and "the rather objectionable blank space in the front of the building facing Broadway would be eliminated." Weymouth evidently chose not to accept this proposed design change. Newell also made suggestions pertaining to the wording of the specifications.[14]

On July 27, 1911, the Reclamation Service issued an advertisement for bids to construct the new office building. The agency opened bids on August 15 and on October 16 notified the Whiteway-Lee Construction Company of Boise that its base bid of $12,396 had been accepted. Reclamation set January 17, 1912, as the date for completion. The smaller contracts for plumbing and for the heating system were awarded to the Idaho Hardware and Plumbing Company of Boise.[15]

Whiteway-Lee Construction Company was formed in about 1911, with Joseph Sullivan as president, Augustus S. Whiteway as vice president and general manager, and C. Herbert Lee as secretary and treasurer. The Company only lasted until about 1917, the year that Lee died. Lee arrived in Boise in about 1906, and worked as a draftsman for J. E. Tourtellotte and Company, the most prominent architectural firm in the city. He moved to Lewiston, Idaho, in 1908, but returned to Boise in 1911, to help form the Whiteway-Lee Company. As early as 1905, Whiteway had a contracting partnership with Warren Hicks. From 1906, until he joined forces with Lee and Sullivan, Whiteway worked as an independent general contractor. After the dissolution of Whiteway-Lee, Whiteway returned to his independent business until his death in 1922. Joseph Sullivan was a stone and marble cutter working for the Capital Marble Works in Boise shortly after 1900. In 1904, he became a general contractor, operating independently until he joined Whiteway and Lee as president of their company. After Lee died in 1917, Sullivan apparently left Boise.[16]

Whiteway-Lee completed construction virtually on time so that the Reclamation Service was able to vacate its rooms in the Shaw Block in January 31, 1912. The new building for the Reclamation Service included rooms for the irrigation manager and his staff, the purchasing agent, the chief clerk, and various bookkeepers and secretaries on the first floor; and rooms for the supervising engineer, the project engineer, designing engineers, the examiner, and draftsmen on the second floor. The second floor also included a room to house the equipment and an operator for the Boise Project's telephone system. Total cost of the building, including design, land, base construction contracts, extras, and landscaping, was little more than $21,000.[17]

By the time construction had begun on the new office building, Reclamation had already built a warehouse immediately to the south and the Oregon Short Line had placed a spur along the south side of the new warehouse. In March 1912, the Reclamation Service leased 4.5 acres immediately south of its new office building and warehouse and immediately adjacent to the Oregon Short Line's branch running from Boise to Barber. On this ground, Reclamation built a large storage yard, stables, and additional warehouses.[18]

Early in its occupancy, the Boise Project Office provided space for about thirty Reclamation employees, including project staff and the supervising engineer's staff. Following completion of Arrowrock Dam, both segments of the Reclamation organization continued to occupy the building. When the Boise Project Board of Control came into being in 1927, it took control of the operation and maintenance of the building, although it was still property of the United States Government. The Board of Control occupied the first floor and the Bureau of Reclamation (successor agency to the Reclamation Service) occupied the second. By 1954, the Bureau had reorganized its bureaucratic structure for much of Idaho so that the Boise Project and several other projects were all administered by the Central Snake Projects Office, housed on the second floor. That year, the Central Snake Projects Office moved out of the Boise Project Office and into a building occupied by the Bureau's regional office, next to the old Idaho Water Resources Building (near the old fairgrounds). The Snake River Planning Office of the Bureau then moved into the second floor of the Boise Project Office. When the new Federal Building and U. S. Courthouse was completed on Fort Street in 1973, the Bureau's regional office moved into that building and the Central Snake Project Office moved back into the Boise Project Office. The Board of Control occupied most of the first floor with the New York Irrigation District at the south end, and the Central Snake Projects Office occupied the second floor.[19] In 2006, the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation constructed a new building approximately one-half mile north to house these operations; subsequently, the Boise Project Office was deaccessioned by the federal government through the U. S. General Services Administration, and acquired by the Idaho State Historical Society. Currently, the building is leased to a private school.

Despite these changes in occupancy, few alterations have been made to the building itself. Perhaps the most significant visual change to the building has been the planting of trees and shrubs on the grounds. This landscaping was done by Claude Buckner, who began working for the Bureau of Reclamation as the janitor of the building in 1925. A few years after he took charge of the maintenance of the building, Buckner found a man to donate some elm trees if Buckner would transport them himself (Reclamation was unwilling to pay for the landscaping improvements). Buckner carried three seedlings on the back of his bicycle to plant them where they still thrive today, some 60 years later. He also planted shrubs in front of the porch and at the west and south ends of the building.[20]

Architectural Information

The Boise Project Office exhibits numerous Craftsman architectural details, including exposed rafter tails, and low, hipped dormers. This detailing combines with the building's overall massing, angled plan, and large porch to suggest an air of informality unusual for an urban office building. The Craftsman style was a popular domestic architectural style of the 1900s and 1910s, but its use for public buildings was limited mainly to resource-related agencies such as the United States Forest Service, the National Park Service, and the Reclamation Service. The building's form is, thus, reflective of the era, but it is simultaneously an unusual variant within the broader genre of American architecture when most public buildings were being constructed in more classical styles.

America's robber barons accepted the Classical styles (Classical Revival, Neo-Classical Revival, Beaux-Arts) of architecture early in the 1880s for palatial homes, and the styles spread with great popularity among the American public after the 1893 World's Columbian Exhibition at Chicago. A majority of the Exhibition's buildings exhibited Roman details constructed in plaster; the grandeur and order presented by the studied traditionalism of the buildings became fashionable for a majority of America's public buildings for the next forty years.

While the Classical form held sway in most early 20th century public and monumental architecture, a second, widely divergent, architectural movement was dominating much of the nation's domestic building construction. The "Craftsman" movement of the period grew from a growing critical dissatisfaction with what were seen as the excessively formal and ostentatious residential styles of the Victorian era. Rebelling against this perceived pretense and waste, the new Craftsman style emphasized design practicality and efficiency. This pragmatism was combined with careful design themes drawing from naturalistic motifs. At its best, the result was a building that visually harmonized with its landscape while displaying intricate and thoughtful detail.

The Craftsman movement drew inspiration from a variety of sources. Gustav Stickley and his *Craftsman* magazine helped popularize the notion of utilizing Craftsman styles in the construction of small, efficient residences. High-style attention to the Craftsman form came from such sources as Henry and Charles Greene, whose painstakingly designed and constructed houses served as the ultimate representation of the style. While few Craftsman buildings could reflect the tremendous care of a Greene & Greene home, their sense of form, along with the egalitarian designs of Stickley and his peers, combined to produce a visually effective and tremendously popular building style.

The adoption of Craftsman design detailing for the Boise Project Office, then, reflects both architectural adaptation and rebellion. The building's Craftsman lines are highly representative of one aspect of architectural fashion of the day, and the relative informality suggested in the building's form is appropriate for an agency charged with the management of natural resources. Still, such a building is a significant anomaly in the catalogue of largely Classical government buildings erected during the period – especially in urban areas. A few minor suggestions of the more "typical" public design are evident, however, including the regularly spaced fenestration pattern, the segmentally arched lintels, and the large cast plaque mounted at the primary entrance.

The building's exceptionally well-preserved interior is perhaps more typical of office spaces of the day. Still, suggestions of the building's exterior form penetrate the interior spaces. Craftsman details are evident in the entry where the diagonal lines disrupt the ordered, uniform plan of the traditional turn-of-the-20th century office space. The open stairwell with its square newel posts and balusters and the angled information booth defined by wood columns are reflective of the Craftsman period. Although the building's interior spaces are far removed from the open office plan concept of the 1960s, the Boise Project Office plan is beginning to move away from the typical office payout of the day with small fixed rooms lined up along a central corridor. The Craftsman philosophy of opening rooms into one another can be seen in the large, semi-open-plan work areas, divided by low partition walls and defined by stained wood moldings and pilasters.

ENDNOTES:

1. H. H. Caldwell and Merle Wells, "Economic and Ecological History Support Study for a Case Study of Federal Expenditures on Water and Related Land Resource Project, Boise Project, Idaho and Oregon," report prepared for the Idaho Water Resource Board, June 1974, pp. 6-7; Paul W. Gates, History of Public Land Law Development (Washington, D.C.: Zenger Publishing Company, Inc., 1968), pp. 638-643.

2. Gates, Public Land Law, pp. 645-648.

3. Caldwell and Wells, "Economic and Ecological History," p. 7; Golze, Reclamation in the United States, p.19.

4. Golze, Reclamation in the United States, pp. 13, 25-26; Arthur Powell Davis, Irrigation Works Constructed by the United States Government (New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1917), p. 96.

5. Ottis Peterson, "The Story of a Bureau," Journal of the West 7 (January 1968): 87, 90;

6. Caldwell and Wells, "Economic and Ecological History," pp. 21, 31-42; Paul L. Murphy, "Early Irrigation in the Boise Valley," Pacific Northwest Quarterly 44 (October 1953): 177-184; Bureau of Reclamation, Reclamation Project Data (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1948), p. 25.

7. For general historical background on the Boise Project, see "Reclamation Progress in Idaho," Reclamation Era 31 (August 1941): 212-214; "Boise Project," in Project Data, compiled by the U. S. Department of the Interior, Water and Power Resources Service, (Denver: Government Printing Office, 1981), pp. 43-47.

8. Gilbert H. Hogue, "History of the Payette-Boise Project from the Beginning to 1912," 1916, p. 128, unpublished report, copies of which are on file at the Central Snake Projects Office, the Board of Control, the Pacific Northwest Regional Office of the Bureau of Reclamation, all in Boise, and on microfilm at the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

9. Newell to Sanders, 12 December 1908, Weymouth to the Director, 2 March 1909, RG-115, entry 3, box 406, file 699-5, NARA; Hogue, "History of the Payette-Boise Project," p. 130.

10. "Nampa Gets the Reclamation Offices," The Idaho Statesman, 27 August 1908; Lowell to Newell, 28 August 1908, Atkinson to Garfield, 11 September 1908, Sanders to Newell, 10 October and 7 November 1908, Lowell to Davis, 23 November 1908, RG-115, entry 3, box 406, file 699-5, NARA.

11. Newell to Lowell, 12 December 1908, Weymouth to the Director, 2 March 1909, RG-115, entry 3, box 406, file 699-5, NARA; Hogue, "History of the Payette-Boise Project," p. 130.

12. Director to Weymouth, 12 December 1908, RG-115, entry 3, box 386, file 11, NARA.

13. Weymouth to the Director, 8 June 1911, RG-115, entry 3, box 406, file 699-5, NARA; Sanborn Fire Insurance Map for Boise, Idaho, May 1903, Sheet 24; 1912, Sheet 59.

14. A general history of the Boise and Arrowrock Railroad may be found in the chapter titled "The Arrowrock Express" in Jim Wetherell's The Log Trains of Southern Idaho (Denver: Sundance Publications, Ltd., 1989), pp. 25-55.

15. Director to Weymouth, 14 July 1911, RG-115, entry 3, box 386, file 11, NARA.

16. Hogue, "History of the Payette-Boise Project," p. 128; Whiteway-Lee Construction Company to Supervising Engineer, bid dated 15 August 1911, pp. 154-156, RG-115, entry 3, box 386, file 11, and "Miscellaneous Structures Report, 1909-1913," RG-115, entry 10, microfilmed and recorded on M-96, roll 21, NARA.

17. Minutes of the Whiteway-Lee Construction Company, 27 October 1911, RG-115, entry 3, box 386, file 11-B; Farr and Smith's Boise City and Ada County Directory, 1901-02, listing under Sullivan; Polk's Boise City Directory, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906-07, 1908, 1909-10, 1911, 1912-13, 1914, 1915, 1917, 1918-19, listings under: Lee; Sullivan; Whiteway; and Whiteway-Lee Construction Company; The Idaho Statesman, 19 October 1922.

18. Hogue, "History of the Payette-Boise Project," p. 128-129; "Annual Project History of the Boise Project, Vol. 2, 1914-1915," p. 114, unpublished report on file at the Pacific Northwest Regional Office, Boise; Department of the Interior, United States Reclamation Service, "Idaho District and Boise Project Office Building," June 11, Sheet 2 "First Floor Plan," and sheet 3, "Second Floor Plan," drawings on aperture cards at the Pacific Northwest Regional Office, Bureau of Reclamation, Boise.

19. Weymouth to Mayor and Common Council of Boise, 11 November 1911, and Walker R. Young, "Boise & Arrowrock Railroad Operation and Maintenance Report," March 15, 1916, in RG-115, entry 3, box 406, file 699-9, NARA; "Office Building Is Almost Ready" and "All the Way by Rail from Boise to Arrowrock," The Idaho Statesman, 16 November and 20 December 1911; "History of the Payette-Boise Project," p. 130.

20. "Annual Project History of Boise Project, Vol. 2, 1914-1915," p, 130; Jack Hanson, personal interview by author at the Central Snake Projects Office, 14 June 1990.

21. Claude Buckner, personal interview by author at Buckner's home, 820 East Bannock, Boise.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Primary and Unpublished Sources

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Buckner, Claude. Personal Interview by Frederic L. Quivik, Boise, Idaho, June 15, 1990.

Caldwell, H. H., and Merle Wells. "Economic and Ecological History Support Study for a Case Study of Federal Expenditures on a Water and Related Land Resource Project, Boise Project, Idaho and Oregon." Report prepared for the Idaho Water Resource Board, June 1974.

Community Services Collaborative. "Historic Structures Report for Post Office and Courthouse Building, Boise, Idaho." 1984, Historic Structures Report on file at the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office.

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Hanson, Jack. Personal interview by Frederic L. Quivik, Boise, Idaho, June 14, 1990.

Hart, Arthur A. "Boise Capitol Area District." 1976, National Register nomination on file at the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office.

Hibbard, Don. "South Eighth Street Historic District." 1976, National Register nomination on file at the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office.

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The Idaho Statesman. 27 August 1908, 16 November, 20 and 31 December 1911, 19 October 1922, 20 March 1980, 17 October 1989.

Murphy, Paul L. "Early Irrigation in the Boise Valley." Pacific Northwest Quarterly 44 (October 1953): 177-184.

Peterson, Ottis. "The Story of a Bureau." Journal of the West 7 (January 1968): 87-90.

Polk's Boise City Directory. 1903-1919, available at the Idaho State Historical Society's Public Archives and Research Library, Boise, Idaho.

"Reclamation Progress in Idaho." Reclamation Era 31 (August 1941): 212-214.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Map for Boise, Idaho. 1903 and 1912, available on microfilm and computer at the Idaho State Historical Society's Public Archives and Research Library, Boise, Idaho.

U. S. Department of the Interior, Water and Power Resources Service. Project Data. Denver: Government Printing Office, 1981.

Wetherell, Jim. The Log Trains of Southern Idaho. Denver: Sundance Publications, Ltd., 1989.

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 #_____
X recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # ID-17-C
___ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #_____

Primary location of additional data:

___ State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
X 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.)

Reclamation Service Boise Project Office | Ada County, Idaho
Name of Property | County and State

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	11	565129	4828787	3			
2				4			

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

Lots 4 and 5, Block 2, Davis Third Addition, Boise, Idaho.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary consists of the legal parcel of land originally allocated for construction of the Boise Project Office. It includes the building itself as well as its immediate surroundings, while excluding the unrelated buildings and land to the north and east, and the non-historic gravel parking lot to the south. Broadway marks the western edge of the boundary.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Frederic L. Quivik and Mark A. Hufstetler, Historians *(Updated: Tricia Canaday, Architectural Historian)*
organization Renewable Technologies, Inc. *(Idaho SHPO)* date November 5, 1990 *(January, 2010)*
street & number 511 Metals Bank Building telephone 406-782-0494
city or town Butte state MT zip code 59701
e-mail

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.)

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: Reclamation Service Boise Project Office
City or Vicinity: Boise
County: Ada State: Idaho
Photographer: Frederic L. Quivik
Date Photographed: June, 1990 (original negatives in possession of HAER)

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1 of 11	West elevation from Broadway Ave.	View looking east
2 of 11	Front elevation (west and south sides)	View looking northeast
3 of 11	North elevation	View looking south
4 of 11	South and east elevations	View looking northwest
5 of 11	Front entry porch exterior	View looking southeast
6 of 11	Interior – front entry and information booth	View looking southwest
7 of 11	Interior – Front entry hall	View looking northeast
8 of 11	Offices along north side of 1st floor	View looking west

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Photographer: Tricia Canaday
Date Photographed: June, 2010
Photos taken with a Nikon Coolpix 8800 8 megapixel digital camera using TIFF setting.
Images were printed on Epson Premium Photo Paper (Glossy), using an Epson Stylus Photo R1900 Series printer and Epson UltraChrome Hi-Gloss 2 ink cartridges.
Electronic Image File Archival CD submitted to NPS and flies at the Idaho SHPO

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

9 of 11	Front elevation (west and south sides)	View looking northeast
10 of 11	North and west elevations	View looking southeast
11 of 11	South and east elevations	View looking northwest

Reclamation Service Boise Project Office
Name of Property

Ada County, Idaho
County and State

Property Owner:

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

name Idaho State Historical Society

street & number 2205 Old Penitentiary Road telephone 208-334-2682

city or town Boise state ID zip code 83712

BOISE SOUTH QUAD

RECLAMATION SERVICE BOISE PROJECT OFFICE

ZONE 11 E 565129
N 4828787 NAD 83

BOISE, ADA COUNTY
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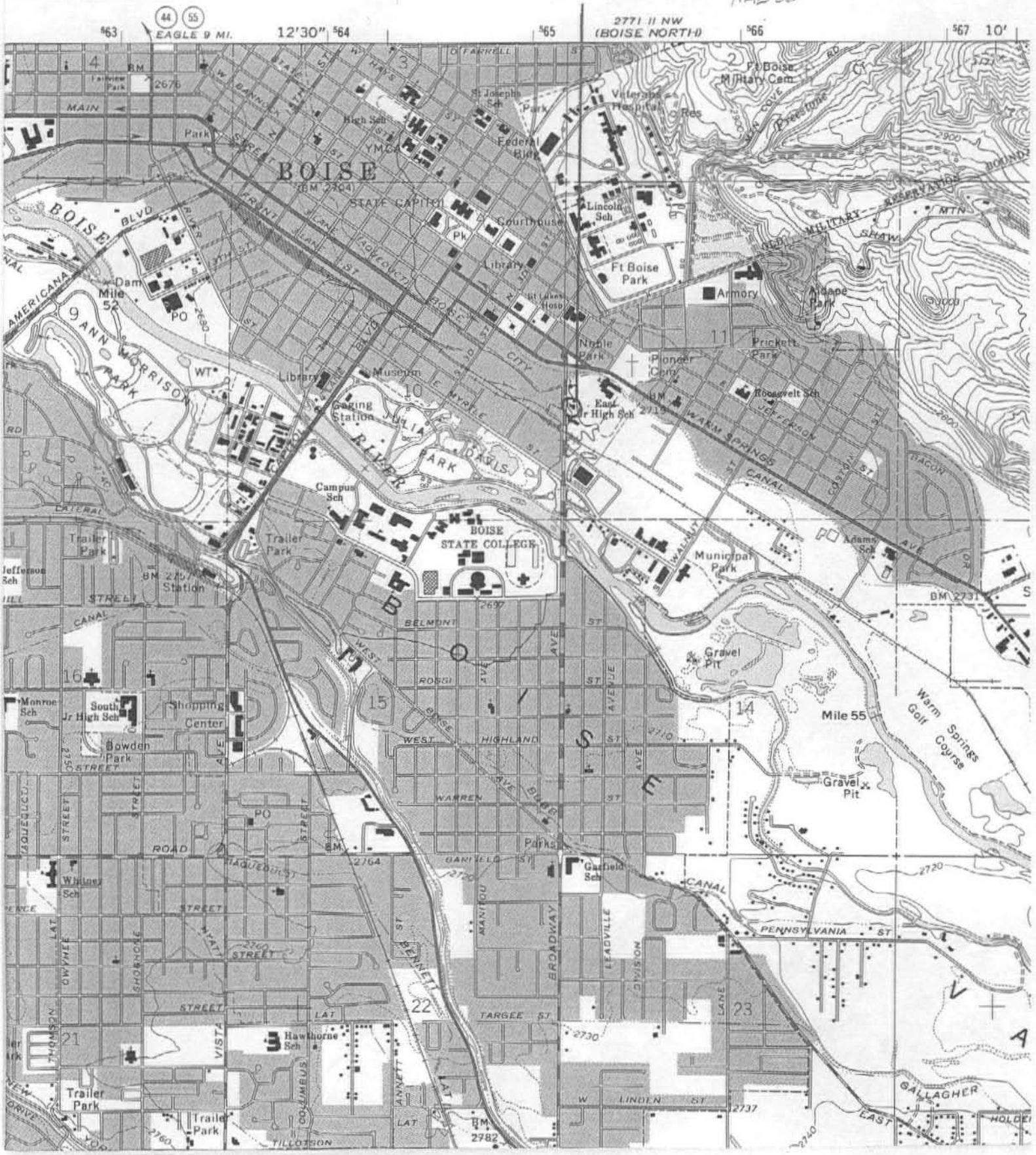

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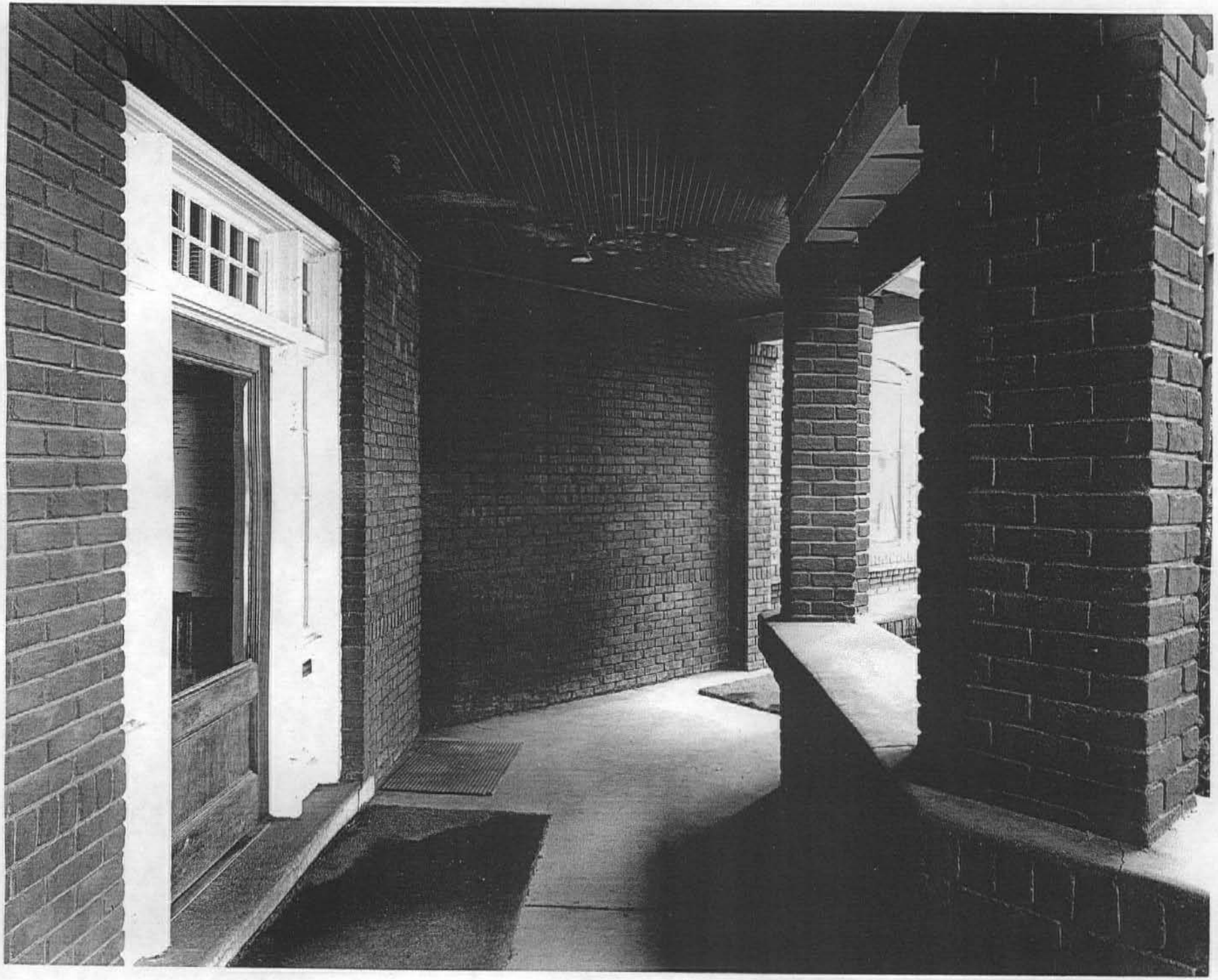

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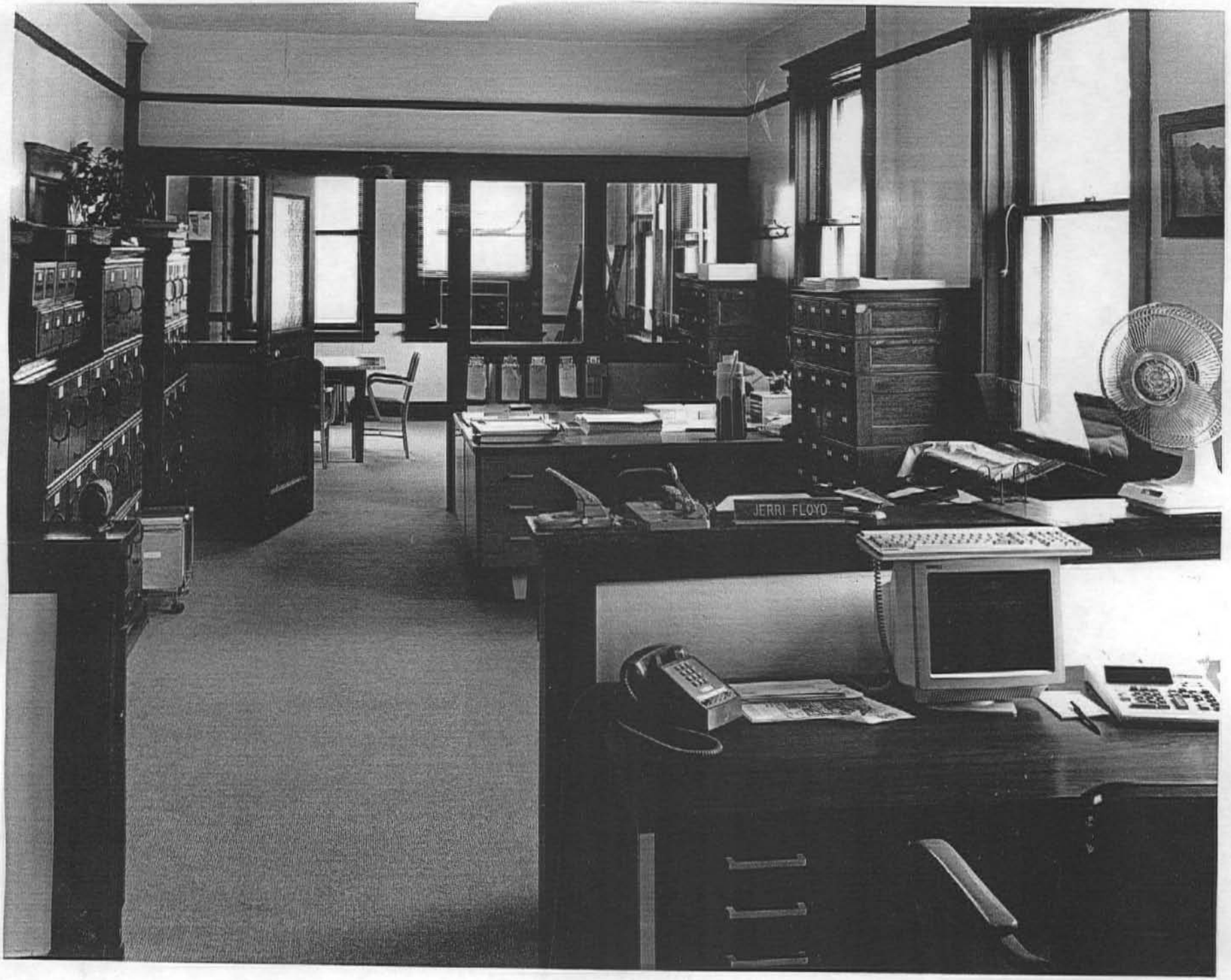

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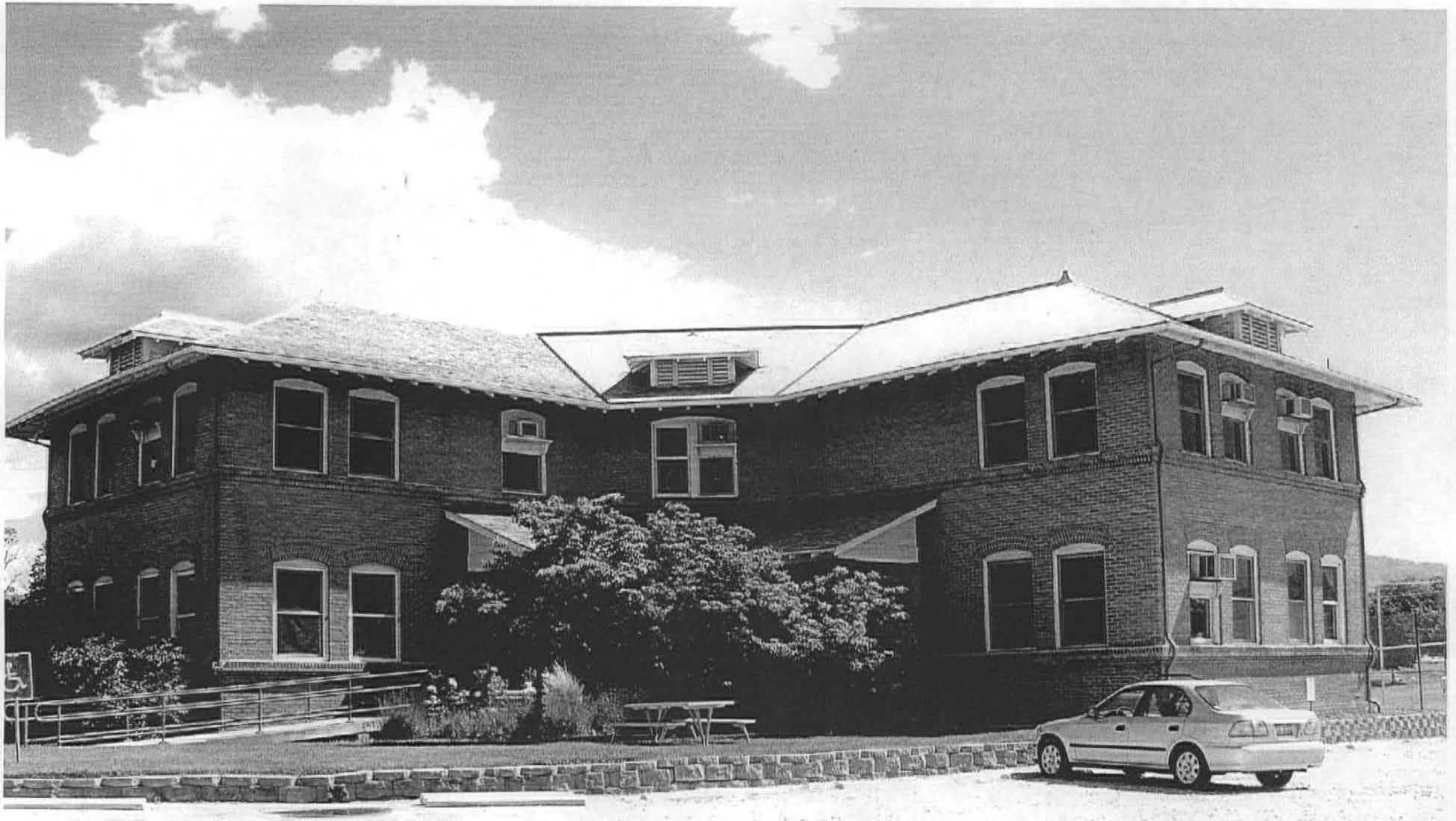

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