

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 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 Relic Hall

other names/site number IHSI #41-440

2. Location

street & number 111 East Main Street N/A not for publication

city or town Franklin N/A vicinity

state Idaho code ID county Franklin code 041 zip code 83237

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

Kenneth C. Reid 27 Nov 2000
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Kenneth C. Reid, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

X entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet.
determined eligible for the National Register.

See continuation sheet.
determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Edson W. Beall 1-11-01

Relic Hall
Name of Property

Franklin, Franklin County, 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	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed
the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/
Museum

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/
Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Rustic

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE
CONCRETE
walls WOOD / Log
roof WOOD / Shingle
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

Relic Hall
Name of Property

Franklin, Franklin County, Idaho
City, County, and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" on all that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1937

Significant Dates

1937

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Gunderson, Chris - Architect

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 ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ 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:

X State Historic Preservation Office

- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

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

Relic Hall
Name of Property

Franklin, Franklin County, Idaho
City, County, and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A 12 4/3/3/7/6/0 4/6/5/1/8/2/0 B 1 11111 11111
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

C 1 11111 11111 D 1 11111 11111

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Commencing at a point five rods east of the southwest corner of Block 16 of the Franklin Town's Plat, which point is five rods east of the northeast intersection of Main and Nelson Streets, and running thence east five rods; thence north five rods; thence west five rods; thence south five rods to the place of beginning.

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the entire parcel of land historically associated with the Relic Hall.

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Milan Kovach & Tricia Canaday - Architectural Historian

organization Idaho State Historical Society date August 18, 2000

street & number 210 Main Street telephone (208) 334-3861

city or town Boise state ID zip code 83702

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 State of Idaho - Idaho State Historical Society

street & number 1109 Main Street Suite 250 telephone (208) 334-2682

city or town Boise state ID zip code 83702-5642

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

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Relic Hall
Franklin, Franklin County, ID

The Relic Hall sits on an 82.5' x 82.5' parcel of land in a park-like setting in the heart of Franklin, Idaho. It faces south on East Main Street in a neighborhood of sparse residential development, next to and across the street from city park lands. Immediately to the west of the Relic Hall sits the 1870 Franklin Cooperative Mercantile Institution store building (NRHP, 1991).

The one-story Relic Hall measures 70 feet wide by 40 feet deep. It is designed in the Rustic style and was constructed in 1937. The rectangular, side-gabled structure has a smaller, perpendicularly projecting gable on the front (south) facade that provides the entry for the building. The Relic Hall sits on a raised, river rock and concrete foundation that is slightly battered and is capped by a cement water table. The main body of the building is constructed of peeled logs with mitered corners. The cedar-shingled roof is low slung and has exposed round log rafter ends.

The front (south) elevation is symmetrical with four sets of paired, double-hung windows - two on each side of the center entrance. The windows are covered with metal bars that were added after the Hall was burglarized several years ago. The entrance gable extends nine feet - two feet beyond the seven foot porch. It is supported at each corner by three, 10-inch log poles standing on slightly flared cobblestone bases. Three concrete steps lead up to a concrete stoop. The building is accessed by a pair of half-log doors capped by two transom windows. A sign reading "Relic Hall 1937" is located in the gable end of the entrance gable.

The east and west elevations are identical, with a pair of centrally placed, double-hung sash windows seated immediately above the water table. Directly above these windows are a smaller pair of fixed-frame windows. Rustic brackets are located under the eaves in the gable ends.

The rear (north) facade is unadorned except for three pairs of double-hung windows.

The interior of the building consists of one large room and is a mastery of rustic design and engineering with a complex truss system. A series of bottom chords span the room north to south. The support system is a series of king post trusses with diagonal X-bracing between the trusses.

The building is in excellent condition and has undergone very few changes. The only significant change concerns the windows. All of the windows on the building were originally six-over-six, double-hung sash, wood windows, or six-light, fixed-frame, wood windows. All windows were replaced in the 1990s with vinyl windows with false, snap-in muntins, replicating the proportions of the original windows. While this change is unfortunate, it does not affect the eligibility of the building, as the size and shape of the original window openings were not altered.

A non-contributing, 10' x 12', concrete block restroom facility is located at the northeast corner of the property.

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Relic Hall
Franklin, Franklin County, ID

The Relic Hall in Franklin, Idaho is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C at the local level as an excellent example of the Rustic style of architecture. The building was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and has all the hallmarks of the style so often incorporated by that organization.

Historical Background:

The small town of Franklin lies in southeast Idaho and was the first permanent settlement within the State of Idaho. It was founded in the spring of 1860 by Mormon pioneers moving north through the Cache Valley. Believing they were still in Utah, 61 families built small cabins next to the Cub River (at the time called the Muddy River) and commenced farming. The mistake was not identified until 1872, when a survey disclosed that Franklin was in Idaho, one mile north of the territorial line.¹

The first pioneers laid out wide streets and drew numbers to distribute town and farm lots. Space was reserved for a central square, which today is the Franklin City Park. From Franklin, settlers fanned out to establish new communities in northern Cache Valley. For the next twenty years, Franklin remained the spiritual and secular center for southeastern Idaho.²

The history of Franklin and the people that settled the northern Cache Valley is rich in its content and its importance to the people of Idaho. In addition to being the first permanent settlement in Idaho, several other important "firsts" happened in Franklin as well: the first railroad in the state came through Franklin; the first major irrigation project was located there; and the first official report of General Custer's defeat by the Sioux on the Little Big Horn was telegraphed from Franklin to Salt Lake City, Utah and then to the rest of the country. In addition, the road to the Montana gold fields ran through Franklin, as did the road to the western entrance of Yellowstone Park, making it an important stop along the way for many years. Primarily through the efforts of one man, Elliot Butterworth, much of that history is preserved in the Relic Hall.

Elliot Butterworth was a storekeeper who lived in Franklin from 1869 until 1912. Early on, he recognized the value of retaining items that represented the history and heritage of the area, and he began to collect items from other local residents. A significant amount of the collection of artifacts in the Relic Hall came from Mr. Butterworth's collection.

In 1923, Franklin residents formed the Idaho Pioneer Association in order to promote a greater understanding and preservation of pioneer life. In that same year, the organization purchased the Franklin Co-operative Mercantile Institution building to open as a museum, of sorts, to display Mr. Butterworth's collection. The display of the Butterworth collection motivated many area residents to donate items and by 1935, the building proved too small for proper display of all of the artifacts.

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Relic Hall
Franklin, Franklin County, ID

The Idaho Pioneer Association subsequently petitioned the State of Idaho to erect a building to house "a large and valuable collection of relics and curios of great historical interest to the public at large." The State Legislature appropriated \$1,500.00 on the condition that a suitable site for such a building be conveyed, free of charge, to the State of Idaho. The 82.5' x 82.5' parcel of land chosen was located immediately to the west of the Mercantile building and was owned by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. The Church subsequently deeded it to the Idaho Pioneer Association, which in turn deeded it over to the State of Idaho.³

With the land in hand, the appropriations were made and construction of the Relic Hall began. The project was a joint project between the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Architect Chris Gunderson produced a rustic log design. The WPA oversaw the project (WPA project #1057), the U.S. Forest Service provided the trees, and the CCC provided the labor. Members of the Board of Governors of the Idaho Pioneer Association directed the initial choosing of materials by supervising the marking, cutting, and hauling of the logs that were cut in North Canyon by the CCC. Slim Schoonover hauled the logs by truck to Logan, Utah where they were sawed and then hauled the logs to Franklin for construction. Rock was hauled from Rocky Bench and mixed with cement to form the foundation.⁴

The building was completed in the spring of 1937 and dedicated in an extravagant, two-day celebration on June 14 and 15. An advance advertisement listed, among other attractions, a merry-go-round, a ferris wheel, the "best array of concessions ever," and "Steven Terry with his famous wire walkers and lions." The day after the ceremonies, the local newspaper bragged proudly, "Everything was free, including ball games, singing, rope twirling, high diving, contortionist, fencing, boxing and wrestling." Speakers included Governor Barzilla Clark and Ann Chadwick Hull, the only living adult pioneer of the 1860 founding of the town.⁵

Although the Idaho Pioneer Association continued to maintain the collections in the Relic Hall, the structure and the land it sits on are actually owned by the State of Idaho and administered by the Idaho State Historical Society, as a result of the unique circumstances of the construction of the building.

The Rustic Style

The Rustic style of architecture emerged out of the resort architecture of the Adirondack region of New York in the late 19th century, where wealthy and elite members of New York society began to build "rustic camps" as retreats from the hustle and bustle of the city. The trend was an outgrowth of the era's romance with natural landscapes and the western frontier. These homes were usually designed by prominent city architects, though they were often built by local woodsmen,⁶ and were quite large and luxurious. The look and feel on the exterior were rustic, but inside were found all the amenities of an urban dwelling. For those with more modest incomes, popular periodicals

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Relic Hall
Franklin, Franklin County, ID

offered plans for smaller cabins that also became extremely popular.

The style is characterized by: the use of indigenous materials (e.g., large peeled logs and stone are commonly used); broad, wood-shingled or seamed-metal roofs; wide overhangs, often with exposed rafters; and simply proportioned door and window openings. Buildings are generally very simple, with little or no ornamentation, and materials are often left in their natural condition.

In the 1910s, the U.S. Forest Service and the newly created National Park Service developed policies that called for the design of new buildings on their lands - whether public or private - to be harmonious with their surroundings; the adoption of the Rustic style was the logical choice. This use of the style in the national forests and parks helped to spread its popularity in the early decades of the 20th century, as automobile and rail travel allowed an increasing number of people to visit these places each year.⁷ In Idaho, where the U.S. Forest Service controls approximately 40% of the land, this resulted in the wide dissemination of the style throughout the state. In addition, most states (including Idaho) utilized the Rustic style for their own park and forest facilities.

For private, residential structures, the heyday of the style lasted until the Depression, when the construction of vacation homes ebbed substantially. However, the style did continue to proliferate during the 1930s and 1940s, primarily through the public work of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and Works Projects/Progress Administration (WPA). Because these groups spent a considerable amount of time on improvements to state and national parks and forests, it was logical that they would build in the Rustic style. Further, the style was nicely suited to both organizations because it typically had lower material costs (as materials were often simply harvested on-site) and called for a very labor intensive method of construction. Significantly, of all the states, Idaho ranked second in number of CCC camps and per capita expenditure by the organization,⁸ ensuring a lasting impact with the widespread use of the Rustic style in the state.

The Relic Hall in Franklin is an excellent example of a CCC-built Rustic style building. The materials were locally harvested by the CCC and the structure has all the hallmarks of the style, including: a stone foundation; peeled log walls; a broad, wood-shingle roof; wide overhangs with exposed rafters; and simple proportions. The building stands as a testament to the spirit of the Franklin pioneers and a legacy to their determination to preserve their heritage.

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Relic Hall
Franklin, Franklin County, ID

ENDNOTES

1. Idaho State Journal (Pocatello), "From Bloodshed and Hardship Idaho's First Town Was Born" 30 April 1976, p. 4.
2. Joel Edward Ricks, ed. The History of a Valley: Cache Valley, Utah-Idaho (Logan, Utah: Cache Valley Centennial Commission, 1956), p. 143.
3. "A Brief History of Franklin: First Permanent Settlement in the State of Idaho" (Franklin, Idaho: Idaho Pioneer Association, 1960), p. 20-21.
4. Ibid., p. 22.
5. Idaho State Historical Society, "The Hatch House and the Relic Hall: Franklin, Idaho" (Boise, Idaho: Idaho State Historical Society, 1995), p.4.
6. Rachel Carley, The Visual Dictionary of American Domestic Architecture (New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1994), p.170-171.
7. Laura Soulliere Harrison, Architecture in the Parks: National Historic Landmark Theme Study (Washington, DC: Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1986).
8. Judith Austin, "The CCC in Idaho," Idaho Yesterdays, 27, Fall 1983, p.14.

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Relic Hall
Franklin, Franklin County, ID

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Attebery, Jennifer Eastman. Building Idaho: An Architectural History. Moscow, Idaho: University of Idaho Press, 1991.

Austin, Judith. "The CCC in Idaho," Idaho Yesterdays 27 (Fall, 1983): 13-17.

Beal, Merrill D. "Cache Valley Pioneers: the Founding of Franklin in 1860." Idaho Yesterdays 4, No. 1 (Spring, 1960), p. 2-7.

"A Brief History of Franklin: First Permanent Settlement in the State of Idaho." Franklin, Idaho: Idaho Pioneer Association, 1960.

Carley, Rachel. The Visual Dictionary of American Domestic Architecture. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1994.

Harrison, Laura Soulliere. Architecture in the Parks: National Historic Landmark Theme Study. Washington, D.C.: Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1986.

Idaho State Historical Society. "The Hatch House and the Relic Hall," Boise, ID: Idaho State Historical Society, 1995.

Idaho State Journal (Pocatello). 30 April 1976. P 4.

Ricks, Joel Edward, ed. The History of a Valley: Cache Valley, Utah-Idaho. Logan, Utah: Cache Valley Centennial Commission, 1956.



RELIC HALL

FRANKLIN, FRANKLIN COUNTY, IDAHO

PHOTOGRAPHER: TRICIA CANADAY

PHOTO TAKEN JUNE 29, 2000

NEGATIVES ON FILE AT IDAHO SHPO

VIEW LOOKING NORTH - FRONT ELEVATION

PHOTO # 1 OF 6



RELIC HALL

FRANKLIN, FRANKLIN COUNTY, IDAHO

PHOTOGRAPHER: TRICIA CANADAY

PHOTO TAKEN JUNE 29, 2000

NEGATIVES ON FILE AT IDAHO SHPO

VIEW LOOKING EAST - SIDE ELEVATION

PHOTO #2 OF 6



RELIC HALL

FRANKLIN, FRANKLIN COUNTY, IDAHO

PHOTOGRAPHER: TRICIA CANADAY

PHOTO TAKEN JUNE 29, 2000

NEGATIVES ON FILE AT IDAHO SHPO

VIEW LOOKING NORTHWEST - CORNER DETAIL
PHOTO # 3 OF 6



RELIC HALL
1937

RELIC HALL

FRANKLIN, FRANKLIN COUNTY, IDAHO

PHOTOGRAPHER: TRICIA CANADAY

PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN JUNE 29, 2000

NEGATIVES ON FILE AT IDAHO SHPO

VIEW LOOKING NORTH - ENTRY GABLE DETAIL

PHOTO #4 OF 6



RELIC HALL

FRANKLIN, FRANKLIN COUNTY, IDAHO

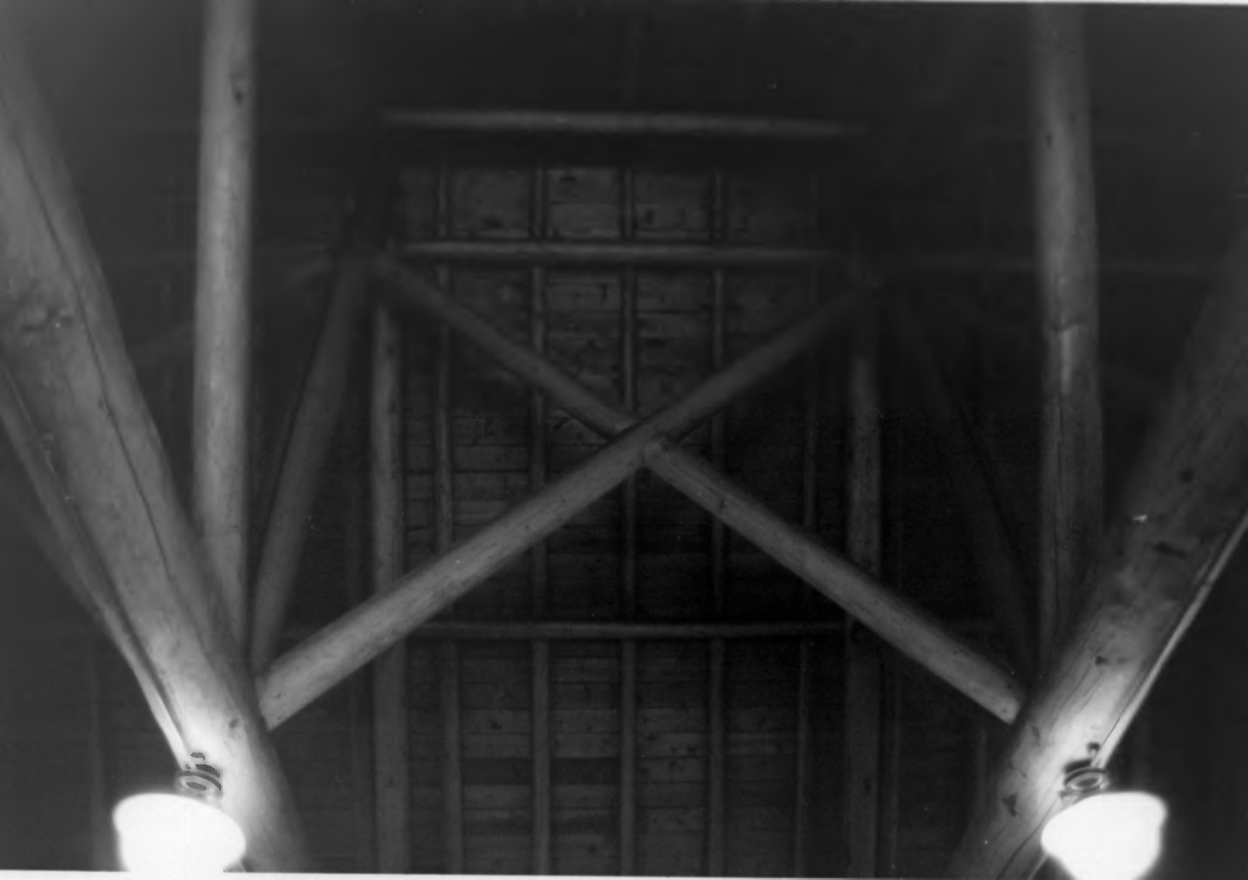
PHOTOGRAPHER: TRICIA CANADAY

PHOTO TAKEN JUNE 29, 2000

NEGATIVES ON FILE AT IDAHO SHPO

INTERIOR ~~R~~ VIEW - LOOKING UP - INTERIOR TRUSSES

PHOTO # 5 OF 6



RELIC HALL

FRANKLIN, FRANKLIN COUNTY, IDAHO

PHOTOGRAPHER: TRICIA CANADAY

PHOTO TAKEN JUNE 29, 2000

NEGATIVES ON FILE AT IDAHO SHPO

INTERIOR VIEW - LOOKING UP - INTERIOR TRUSSES

PHOTO # 6 OF 6