

**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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Bovill Historic Commercial District

Other names/site number: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 100 – 207 Main Street

City or town: Bovill State: Idaho County: Latah

Not For Publication:

Vicinity:

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 ___ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___ B ___ C ___ D

<p>_____ Signature of certifying official/Title: <u>Idaho State Historic Preservation Office</u> State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	<p>_____ Date</p>
<p>In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p>_____ Signature of commenting official:</p>	<p>_____ Date</p>
<p>_____ Title:</p>	<p>_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
County and State

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

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

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>10</u>	<u>3</u>	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>10</u>	<u>3</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register NA

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Commerce/Trade: Specialty Store
Commerce/Trade: Restaurant

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Commerce/Trade: Specialty Store

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: No style

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick

DRAFT

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
County and State

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Bovill Historic Commercial District is located within the boundaries of the City of Bovill, Latah County, Idaho. The 1.5-acre district contains 10 contributing resources and three noncontributing resources, comprising the primary commercial businesses within the townsite. Exceptions (buildings outside the boundary) are the Bovill Hotel, which is individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places (#94000629) and is about a block north of the center of the district; and the Bovill Opera House, which is also individually listed in the National Register (#09001280) and is located about a block to the south on the east side. The historic district is made up of two half blocks, the northern portion of Blocks 4 and 5, and is oriented east-west within the small, grid-iron town. Most of the buildings are one- and two-part, brick masonry, party wall structures that were built ca 1914, after a fire destroyed the earlier wood buildings. The vernacular buildings are, except for the corner gas station and machine shop, located in the back of the sidewalk. They typically occupy one or two lots of the original, 1907 town plat.

The Bovill Historic Commercial District is easily discernable from other business buildings in the town by location, building placement, form, use, and materials. Businesses to the west of the historic district are located along the north-south Railroad Avenue and are industrial in character. Additional buildings, aside from the single-family residences, are individually placed and include the Bovill City Hall and the Bovill Public Library, which was previously St. Joseph's Catholic Church and is individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places (#82000351).

The district retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. Cladding materials have been added on top of the original brick construction on three buildings and two of the non-contributing buildings do not have their original windows, altering the design of the building in these cases, but the overriding characteristics of the buildings, which include their form and relationship to neighboring buildings, remain. The condition of several of the buildings has degraded over time, but the overall integrity of the district is good.

Narrative Description

Location and setting

Bovill, Idaho is located in north Idaho on the west side of the state in Latah County, about 34 miles east of the county seat at Moscow. The town of Bovill is centrally located on the far east border of Latah County at the intersection of Hwy. 8, which runs from Moscow to Bovill, at the point where Hwy. 6 (from the north) and Hwy. 3 (from the south) intersect with Hwy. 8. Hwy. 3 turns into 1st Avenue as it travels south into Bovill, passing through the center of the historic

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
County and State

district, before it terminates at Hwy. 8. First Avenue is on the west side of Bovill, one block east of Railroad Avenue and the open fields to the west. Main Street, which forms the north border of the two-block historic district, extends from Railroad Avenue on the west and through 1st Avenue before curving around to intersect with Pine Street, before extending south as 2nd Avenue, which is parallel to 1st Avenue. These two blocks of Main Street represent Bovill's commercial district, both today and historically. It is across from Village Park, which was donated to the city by the Potlatch Corporation in 1994.¹ The rest of Bovill, which has a population of approximately 300 people (2020), is comprised of mostly single-family houses.

Architectural character and integrity

The core buildings in the district are one- and two-part commercial blocks that date from 1914, when Bovill's business district was rebuilt after a fire, to ca 1930, the date of an outbuilding on one of the properties. Most of the properties, however, date from 1914 to 1925, giving the district a great deal of consistency. The buildings are one and two stories. All but two are brick masonry construction; the remaining buildings are cast stone and/or concrete block. The most common change to the buildings is the addition of new cladding on parts of the building that covers the original brick. All buildings retain the strong horizontal line above the transom windows that unite the district, with the exceptions of the Conoco Gas Station, the Bovill Telegraph Office, and the Conoco Car Machine Shop, which are all one story in height and all of which did not have this design feature to begin with. All are essentially vernacular buildings, although a few sport decorative details that affiliate them with their respective periods.

As a whole, the district retains good integrity, with all nine of the primary commercial buildings within its boundary retaining integrity. (The district also contains four outbuildings; one of which is contributing). The historic pattern of party wall buildings can still be discerned in the cluster of buildings at the east end and west end of the district, although the empty lots within the district are visually disruptive. The two-story Elk Saloon at the center of the district is the most distinctive building, due to its size and decorative details that represent its early 20th century era. The district strongly retains the aspects of location and setting. It maintains good integrity of design, materials, and workmanship, although these characteristics have been somewhat altered by the addition of alternative cladding materials on some buildings. Overall, the district retains integrity of feeling and association as it clearly reflects its original function as an early 20th century small-town central business district.

Inventory of properties

The following is an inventory of the properties in the Bovill Historic Commercial District. Each entry features each property's Field Identification number; its address; its historic and current name; its status (contributing or non-contributing); any known architects or builders associated with the building; and a note as to whether it has potential to be individually listed.² This information is followed by a physical description of the building, an analysis of its integrity, and a brief note as to any cultural data identified as part of this nomination.

¹ City of Bovill (website), <https://www.cityofbovill.net/>, accessed May 2025.

² Although creating an individual nomination is beyond the scope of this district nomination, it was felt that noting the potential for an individual nomination is useful. This recommendation is based on the building being a good example of a type and retaining integrity.

Bovill Historic Commercial District
 Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
 County and State

The physical inventory of the properties in Bovill was undertaken in April 2025. This information was augmented by the 2021 survey of Bovill, *Architectural Survey of the Bovill Townsite* (July 1, 2021). Some individual properties had been the subject of surveys conducted prior to 2021, and these were consulted as well.

Buildings that are individually listed in the National Register and are close to but outside the Bovill Historic Commercial District include the Hotel Bovill, the Bovill Opera House, and St. Joseph's Catholic Church (the Bovill Public Library today). These nominations were consulted for additional information that was incorporated in this documentation.

Table 1: Table of Properties

Resource Number	IHSI# ³	Address	Historic/Current Name	Date	Evaluation Status
1	57-14545	100 Main St	E.K. Parker Building	ca 1914	1 contributing commercial block; 1 non-contributing outbuilding
2	57-14546	102 Main St	Commercial Building	ca 1914	1 contributing commercial block
3	57-14061	104 Main St	Bailey's Bar	ca 1914	1 contributing commercial block; 1 non-contributing outbuilding
4	57-1453	114 Main St	First State Bank/Elk Saloon	ca 1914	1 contributing commercial block; 1 non-contributing outbuilding
5	57-14009	200 Main St	Conoco Station	ca 1920	1 contributing building
6	57-14009	200 Main St	Conoco Car Machine Shop	ca 1930	1 contributing building
7	57-14599	202 Main St	Bovill Telegraph Office/Bovill Post Office	ca 1914	1 contributing commercial block; 1 contributing outbuilding
8	57-14549	207 Main St	General Merchandise/Camas Prairie Winery	ca 1914	1 contributing commercial block
9	57-14548	207 Main St	General Storage	ca 1925	1 contributing commercial block

³ Idaho Historic Sites Inventory number (IHSI).

Bovill Historic Commercial District
 Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
 County and State

RESOURCE 1			
Address: 100 Main Street	Historic name: E.K. Parker Building	Common name: E.K. Parker Building	Built, modified: 1914, ca 2015
Style/type: One-part commercial block	Architect: Unknown	Builder: Unknown	Individually eligible: No
Features: 2 (commercial block and outbuilding)			
Classification: Contributing (commercial block); Non-contributing (outbuilding)			

Physical description

The E.K. Parker building at 100 Main Street was constructed ca 1914, after the fire of 1914 destroyed its former wood-frame false front building, which was located farther east along Main Street. The one-story building has a rectangular footprint apart from a small, shed-roof addition with exposed rafter ends and a corrugated metal roof in the southwest (rear) corner. The building occupies two lots of the Bovill city plat. It has a flat roof with a short parapet on the front façade with short piers at each end and faces north overlooking Main Street, as do all the buildings in the business district. The brick masonry building has a metal coping, a built-up roof, and a concrete foundation. Horizontal wood covers over half of the storefront and about two-thirds of the transom windows, which are surmounted by the original steel I-beam. At the east bay of this frontage a wide opening leads to a six-step interior wood stair that parallels but is behind the front façade and accesses an entry door here. The back wall of this opening is also clad in horizontal wood and features two, two-light, vinyl frame windows. Within this opening are remnants of a tin ceiling. A metal overhead garage door and flush metal pedestrian door occupies the west bay of the building.

There are no openings on the west side of the building. On the rear (south) elevation are two openings, one of which is mostly enclosed with plywood and accommodates a stovepipe. The other is partially enclosed with horizontal wood, within which is set a two-part, vinyl frame, sliding window. The east elevation of the building forms a party wall with 102 Main Street.

Changes over time. The storefront of the building exhibits some alterations.⁴ It has been partially enclosed with horizontal wood and reconfigured with two broad openings, one of which contains an overhead metal door. All the display windows have been removed although the bulkheads remain. About two-thirds of the transom windows above the previous storefronts have been removed. The shaped parapet on the front façade has been removed, although the original "E.K. Parker.1914." sign remains. The rear elevation has also been altered, with enclosed openings and possibly the small addition.

⁴ This occurred in ca 2015 according to the 2021 survey.

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
County and State

Integrity

To retain historic integrity, a property will possess several and usually most of the seven aspects of integrity. Ideally it will retain those aspects most relevant to its historic significance.⁵ The following is an analysis of the historic integrity of the E.K. Parker building.

- Location. The building is in its original location.
- Design. The design of the building has been altered through changes to the storefront.
- Setting. The setting of the building is intact.
- Materials. Materials have been added to the building primarily in the form of the wood façade and metal doors.
- Workmanship. Despite the addition of new materials to the storefront, the building overall retains integrity of workmanship as expressed in its original brick construction.
- Feeling. Despite the above-noted alterations, the building retains integrity of feeling.
- Association. The association of the building is intact.

The building retains integrity of location, setting, workmanship, feeling, and association. It does not retain integrity of design or materials. The building therefore retains integrity.

Building in the rear yard. A contemporary building in the rear yard (ca 1980) has the appearance of a single car garage, with a gable roof facing west and a partially open shed roof overhang on the north side. It is a wood-frame building with corrugated metal cladding, a corrugated metal roof, and a wood enclosure on the north side. The garage has a metal overhead garage door. The outbuilding is non-contributing to the district due to age.

Cultural data

Parker started as a miner in the Hoodoo District in the early 1890s. Initially, in 1896, he opened a store in Princeton, Idaho before moving to Bovill, where he opened a grocery and general merchandise store. This was later operated by Frank Mallory and included the post office.⁶ At one point it was used as a fire station. Today it is occupied by a real estate office.

Summary

The E.K. Parker building is significant under Criterion A for its association with the establishment of Bovill as a timber town affiliated with the Potlatch Lumber Company and therefore with the region's timber industry; and for its early attraction for those who traveled to the small town as visitors to enjoy hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities. The building falls within the period of significance and area of significance for the Bovill Historic Commercial District and retains sufficient integrity to convey the reasons for its significance. As a result, it is contributing to the district.

⁵ Patrick W. Andrus, *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*. Washington DC: US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Cultural Resources, 1995.

⁶ John B. Miller, *The Trees Grew Tall*, 1973.

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
County and State



Front (north) façade, looking south



Front (north) façade, looking southwest

Bovill Historic Commercial District
 Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
 County and State

RESOURCE 2			
Address: 102 Main Street	Historic name: Grocery & Feed Storage	Common name: 102 Main Street	Built, modified: ca 1914, ca 2015
Style/type: One-part commercial block	Architect: Unknown	Builder: Unknown	Individually eligible: No
Features: 1 (commercial block)			
Classification: Contributing			

Physical description

The commercial building at 102 Main Street was constructed ca 1914, after the fire of 1914 destroyed the wood-frame false front building previously located here. This one-story building has a rectangular footprint and occupies one lot of the Bovill city plat. It has a flat roof with a short parapet on the façade and faces north overlooking Main Street. The brick masonry building has metal coping, a built-up roof, and a concrete foundation. Vestiges of an original diagonal brick pattern remain in the upper portion of the façade. The building displays partial storefront windows, its original low bulkhead, and a single metal frame entry door with full-height glass and a transom that is flush with the sidewalk. The transom window and door are flanked by a one-over-one-light, aluminum frame windows above the metal cladding. Contemporary corrugated metal siding covers the original transom windows and the lower portion of the storefront windows.

The building is a party wall structure with the neighboring buildings at 100 and 104 Main Street; as a result, the side elevations are not visible. The rear façade, which appears to be in its original location, displays a contemporary pedestrian door on the west side topped by a vinyl-frame transom window set within an infilled wood shingle opening. On the east side are three large vinyl frame windows in a partially infilled opening clad in wood shingles. A small shed addition with a shed roof is located at the southeast corner of the building that may be attached to the adjacent building at 104 Main Street.

Changes over time. The front entry to the building has been altered to be flush with the front façade. Contemporary corrugated cladding has been added to cover the transom windows and the lower portion of the front display windows (according to the 2021 survey, this occurred ca 2015). The shaped parapet on the front façade has been removed (it previously had a slight peak) and is now a low, straight parapet. The rear elevation has also been altered, as noted above, with infilled openings and new windows. The building, which historically has been occupied by a grocery and feed storage (1916), is currently vacant. It appears to be associated with 104 Main Street, judging by the use of similar cladding materials.

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
County and State

Integrity

To retain historic integrity, a property will possess several and usually most of the seven aspects of integrity. Ideally it will retain those aspects most relevant to its historic significance.⁷ The following is an analysis of the historic integrity of the commercial building at 102 Main Street.

- Location. The building is in its original location.
- Design. The design of the building has been altered through changes to the storefront. Changes have also occurred to the design of the rear elevation.
- Setting. The setting of the building is intact.
- Materials. Materials that have been added to the include contemporary corrugated siding to the front façade and vinyl frame windows on the rear.
- Workmanship. Despite the addition of new materials to the storefront, the building overall retains integrity of workmanship as expressed in its original brick construction.
- Feeling. Despite the above-noted changes, the building retains integrity of feeling as a modest early 20th century commercial building.
- Association. The integrity of association is intact.

The building retains integrity of location, setting, workmanship, feeling, and association. It does not retain integrity of design and materials. The building therefore retains integrity.

Cultural data

This building was identified as a grocery and feed storage building on the 1916 Sanborn Fire Insurance map, when it was owned by M.A. Anderson. The 1928 Sanborn map shows it as a restaurant. Later it served as a pool hall under various owners.⁸ Today the building is vacant, although it appears to be affiliated with 104 Main Street (Bailey's) due to its ownership and materials used in the changes that have occurred.

Summary

The building at 102 Main Street in Bovill is significant under Criterion A for its association with the establishment of Bovill as a timber town affiliated with the Potlatch Lumber Company and therefore with the region's timber industry; and for its early attraction for those who traveled to the small town as visitors to enjoy hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities. The building dates to the period of significance and areas of significance for the Bovill Historic Commercial District and retains sufficient integrity to convey the reasons for its significance. As a result, it is contributing to the district.

⁷ Patrick W. Andrus, *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*. Washington DC: US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Cultural Resources, 1995.

⁸ John B. Miller, *The Trees Grew Tall*, 1973.

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
County and State



Front (north) façade, looking south



Front (north) façade, looking southeast

Bovill Historic Commercial District
 Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
 County and State

RESOURCE 3			
Address: 104 Main Street	Historic name: Restaurant & Tobacco	Common name: Bailey's Tavern	Built, modified: ca 1914, ca 2015
Style/type: Two-part commercial block	Architect: Unknown	Builder: Unknown	Individually eligible: No
Features: 2 (commercial block and outbuilding)			
Classification: Contributing (commercial block); Non-contributing (outbuilding)			

Physical description

The one-bay, two-story commercial building at 104 Main Street was constructed ca 1914, after the fire of 1914 destroyed the wood-frame false front building previously located here. The building has a rectangular footprint and occupies one lot in the Bovill city plat. It has a flat roof with a short parapet on the front façade and faces north overlooking Main Street. The brick masonry building has metal coping, a built-up roof, and a concrete foundation.

The building displays partial storefront display windows; the lower portion being covered with contemporary corrugated metal siding. The bulkhead below the windows is original. A centrally placed recessed entry has canted sidewalls, and a door with a single light in the upper portion, and a covered transom window above. The transom windows above the entry ensemble are infilled with plywood panels or possibly just painted. To the left of the storefront is a door to the second floor of the building. It has a paneled wood door; the transom window above is infilled with a plywood panel. At the second level are paired, one-over-one-light, double-hung replacement windows below a shallow arch. There is a dentil course above these windows and a corbelled brick course at the parapet.

The upper portion of the west elevation of the building reveals three one-over-one-light, double-hung windows with replacement frames toward the rear of this elevation. The rear elevation has an entry on the west side behind a screen, with a transom window. A straight run wood stair extends from the ground to the east side of the second level, where it accesses an ad hoc upper-level deck under a corrugated metal canopy, supported by tall 4" x 4"s. There is a central access door here flanked by one-over-one-light windows. The east elevation has one-over-one-light windows on the upper, rear portion. The front portion of this elevation was historically a party wall with the non-extant Spokane Hotel and has no openings.

Changes over time. Changes to the building include enclosing the transom windows on the front façade (although this may just be paint on the glass; the original frames are in place) and enclosing the lower portion of the display windows with corrugated metal. The transom window above the door on the east side is also enclosed, with a plywood panel. The transom above the main entry door is partially covered. The windows were replaced ca 2015 according to the 2021 survey but appear to be of the same design as the original windows. Changes may have occurred to the back stairs, particularly the corrugated metal roof over the back deck.

Building in the rear yard. According to the 1916 Sanborn Fire Insurance map, a one-story brick masonry garage and electric light plant was located in the rear yard, on the alley, at that time.

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
County and State

Today there is a one car-sized wood frame building clad in corrugated metal with a shallow pitched gable roof and sliding door in its place (no date). This outbuilding is non-contributing.

Integrity

To retain historic integrity, a property will possess several and usually most of the seven aspects of integrity. Ideally it will retain those aspects most relevant to its historic significance.⁹ The following is an analysis of the historic integrity of the commercial building at 104 Main Street.

- Location. The building is in its original location.
- Design. The design of the building has been altered through changes primarily due to covering up portions of windows and doors with alternative cladding. Upper-level double-hung windows have been replaced with vinyl windows ca 2015 (2021 survey). The rear stairs and wood deck appear to be a replacement.
- Setting. The setting of the building is intact, with the exception that the party wall structure to the east, the Spokane Hotel, was removed ca 1980.¹⁰
- Materials. Materials that have been added to the include contemporary corrugated siding to the front façade and vinyl frame windows on the upper level.
- Workmanship. Despite the addition of contemporary materials, including corrugated metal siding and vinyl frame windows, the building retains integrity of workmanship as expressed in its predominantly brick construction.
- Feeling. The feeling or aesthetic of the building has been somewhat altered through the changes noted above. However, the proportions of the building remain, with the exception of the metal panels on the lower portion of the display windows.
- Association. The association of the building is intact.

The building retains integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, feeling, and association. It does not retain integrity of materials. The building retains sufficient integrity to be considered contributing to the historic district.

Cultural data

A restaurant and tobacco shop occupied this building in 1916 according to the Sanborn Fire Insurance map, owned by Bill Clinton at that time.¹¹ It was an "S.D." and billiards hall on the 1928 Sanborns. Today a canted blade sign identifies the ground floor as "Bailey's," a tavern, as do neon signs in the windows advertising beer. According to the 2021 survey of the building, it is currently vacant. The upper floor residence, which has three bedrooms, two bathrooms, a living room, and a kitchen, according to the 2021 survey, is vacant as well. John Dilatush is a contemporary name for the building. John and Patricia Dilatush bought the building in 2012.

⁹ Patrick W. Andrus, *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*. Washington DC: US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Cultural Resources, 1995.

¹⁰ According to the website *Historic Aerials*, the hotel was there in 1958 but removed by 1983.

¹¹ John B. Miller, *The Trees Grew Tall*, 1973.

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
County and State

Summary

The commercial building at 104 Main Street, formerly Bailey's Tavern, is significant under Criterion A for its association with the establishment of Bovill as a timber town affiliated with the Potlatch Lumber Company and therefore with the region's timber industry; and for its early attraction for those who traveled to the small town as visitors to enjoy hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities. The building falls within the period of significance and areas of significance for the Bovill Historic Commercial District and retains sufficient integrity to convey the reasons for its significance. As a result, it is contributing to the Bovill Business Historic District.



Front (north) façade, looking south

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
County and State



Front (north) façade, looking southwest

DRAFT

Bovill Historic Commercial District
 Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
 County and State

RESOURCE 4			
Address: 114 Main Street	Historic name: First State Bank	Common name: Elk Saloon	Built, modified: ca 1914
Style/type: Two-part commercial block	Architect: Unknown	Builder: Unknown	Individually eligible: Yes
Features: 2 (commercial block and outbuilding)			
Classification: Contributing (commercial block); Non-contributing (outbuilding)			

Physical description

The First State Bank at 114 Main Street was constructed ca 1914, after the fire of 1914 destroyed the wood-frame false front buildings along all of Main Street in this location.¹² The two-story building has a largely rectangular footprint apart from a canted entry at the northeast corner. The building occupies one lot of the Bovill city plat at the southwest quadrant of the intersection of Main Street and 1st Avenue, and the main corner entry faces northeast toward this intersection. It has a flat roof and a flat parapet, with the exception of a slight peak marking the corner entry. The parapet descends slightly toward the rear of the building. The brick masonry building has metal coping, a built-up roof, and a concrete foundation. A dentil course in contrasting, light-colored brick is located above the ground floor windows on the front (north) and east side facades. A wide course of two-dimensional patterned brick is located above the second-floor windows. And at the top, close to the parapet, is a frieze of light-colored brick and a dentil course, also on the north and east elevations.

There are five window bays on the east side façade, separated by three doors. The broad windows are wood frame with one light on the bottom surmounted by three lights, with heavy mullions and muntins. The three doors are topped by splayed lintels with a keystone in light colored brick. One door is flush, one is paneled with a light in the upper portion, and one is covered in corrugated metal, which protects it from the stove pipe here that extends through the roofline of the building. Above, at the second level, are seven wood frame, one-over-one-light, double-hung windows with the same brick work in the lintels seen on the doors below.

The north façade has a similar character, with two smaller two-over-one, wood-frame windows and one, one-over-one wood-frame window on the ground floor, and two, one-over-one-light windows of the same design as the windows on the east façade at the second level. The corner entry door is broad, with a transom window under a shallow arch. The entry is covered by a steeply pitched gable with a clay tile roof and Arts and Crafts style detailing, mounted on oversized knee brackets. Mounted at the apex of the porch roof is a vintage blade sign that spells out "Dave's Tavern." Above the entry door, at the second level, is a one-over-one-light, double-hung window of the same design as those seen elsewhere on the building. The corner entry is set off with dog-tooth corners in the brickwork.

There are no openings on the west side of the building, as until about 2016 it formed a party wall with the one-story neighboring building, the Golden Rule Drugstore at 112 Main Street. Today both that and the building at 100 Main Street are gone. In the place of 112 Main Street is

¹² The previous building at this location was a one-story, wood-frame commercial building.

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
County and State

an open air, timber-framed shelter with a gable roof clad in corrugated metal that abuts today's Elk Saloon. This appears to be an open-air bar for the Elk Saloon.

The rear or south elevation of the building has an open metal stair that parallels the rear wall and accesses a second level wood door with a single light above panels on the west side. The stairs are covered in corrugated metal. A window is located to its right that is covered in plywood, and a small window is located between the two. At the lower level, in the center, is a two-light window. There are no other openings on this façade.

Changes over time. Very few changes appear to have taken place to this building. Its setting has changed as a result of the adjacent building at 112 Main Street being removed and replaced by a contemporary open-air structure.

Integrity

To retain historic integrity, a property will possess several and usually most of the seven aspects of integrity. Ideally it will retain those aspects most relevant to its historic significance.¹³ The following is an analysis of the historic integrity of the First State Bank.

- Location. The building is in its original location.
- Design. The design of the building is intact.
- Setting. The setting of the building is intact, with the exception that the adjacent building at 112 Main Street has been removed and replaced with an open-air timber structure.
- Materials. The materials of the building are intact.
- Workmanship. The workmanship of the building is intact.
- Feeling. The feeling or aesthetic of the building is intact, although its conversion to a tavern in the 1940s has changed the nature of its signage.
- Association. The association of the building is intact.

The building retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The building retains integrity and is able to convey the reasons for its significance.

Building in the rear yard. Behind the building is a board-and-batten shed with a shed roof clad in corrugated metal. This building opens to the south with a "barn" style door and a paneled door with a single light on the north side. It is not clear whether this is a temporary or permanent building. It does not have a foundation. The outbuilding is non-contributing due to age.

Cultural data

The First State Bank appears in the 1916 Sanborn Fire Insurance map in the form it is in today, with the exception that there are two individual units within the footprint of the building to the rear of the bank that face onto 1st Avenue. While the map notes that these units are vacant, in *The Trees Grew Tall* it is noted that the first room was a barber shop and the second room was used by E.B. Flasher, who was the Justice of the Peace. The bank itself was owned by Justin A. Harsh of Deary, Idaho. The banker was a Mr. Nelson and Sam Peterson was the cashier. The second floor was used as a hall at this time.¹⁴

¹³ Patrick W. Andrus, *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*. Washington DC: US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Cultural Resources, 1995.

¹⁴ John B. Miller, *The Trees Grew Tall*, 1973.

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
County and State

According to a blog post on the Elk Saloon, the bank became a tavern in the 1940s, likely first as “Dave’s Tavern,” which is what the blade sign at the entry to the building says.¹⁵ It was later the Elk Tavern, then became the Elk Saloon in 2014.¹⁶ The tavern became particularly well known during the heydays of “The Bovill Run,” in the 1970s, when college students made the run from Moscow, Idaho to Bovill and back, partaking of beer offerings along the way.¹⁷

Summary

The First State Bank building is significant under Criterion A for its association with the establishment with Bovill as a timber town associated with the Potlatch Lumber Company and therefore with the region’s timber industry; and for its early attraction for those who traveled to the small town as visitors to enjoy hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities. The building falls within the period of significance and areas of significance for the Bovill Historic Commercial District and is able to convey the reasons for its significance. The building’s condition has been affected by some deterioration to the decorative brickwork on the building, but its integrity is intact.

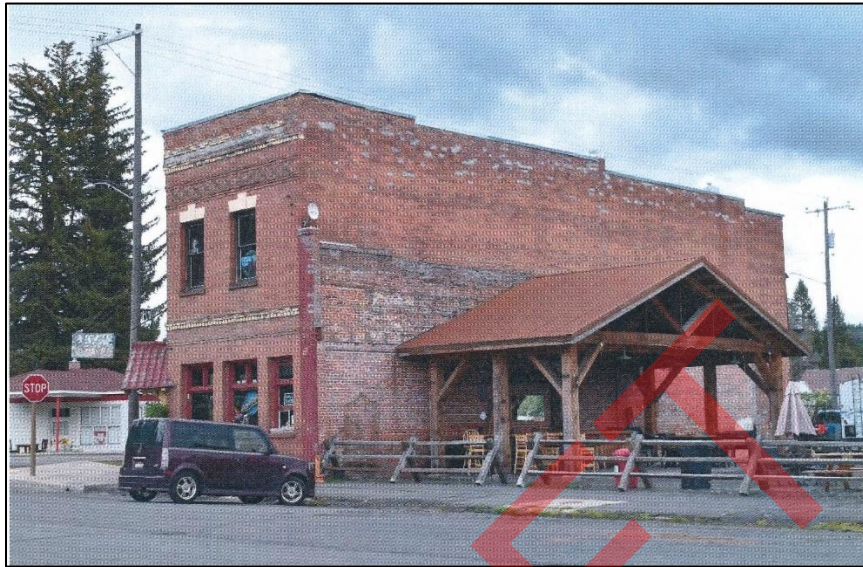


East side and front (north) facades, looking southwest

¹⁵ “Elk Saloon, Bovill, ID,” Rotgut.org Blog, 9/2/2019, <http://www.seattlebars.org/2019/09/3854-elk-saloon-bovill-id-922019.html>, accessed May 2025.

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
County and State



Front (north) and west side facades, looking southeast

DRAFT

Bovill Historic Commercial District
 Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
 County and State

RESOURCE 5			
Address: 200 Main Street	Historic name: Conoco Station	Common name: Conoco Inn	Built, modified: ca 1920
Style/type: Craftsman	Architect: Unknown	Builder: Unknown	Individually eligible: Yes
Features: 1 (commercial building)			
Classification: Contributing			

Physical description

The Conoco gas station building at 200 Main Street was constructed ca 1920. It was not on the 1916 Sanborn Fire Insurance map, when the site was empty but for a 280-gallon underground gasoline tank. The gas station was shown in the 1928 Sanborn map, although the machine shop that is to the rear of the building today was not in place. The building sits on a triangular lot and faces northwest toward the intersection of Main Street and 1st Avenue. The one-story building has a T-shaped footprint with a cross-hip roof with narrow boxed eaves. The portion of the roof that extends northwest toward the intersection of Main Street and 1st Avenue is the canopy that covers what was originally the ‘drive up’ portion of the station, which is supported by two poles on concrete pad. The building is constructed of heavily rusticated cast stone, with a composition shingle roof and a slab concrete foundation. Its overall character is one of a Craftsman-era building.

The front of the building displays a centered wood pedestrian door with three vertical lights over a single panel. The transom over the door also has three lights and is covered (along with the adjacent window) with a concrete lintel. To its left is a “Conoco” sign on the wall. To its right is a large, multi-light window consisting of four fixed lights over three. A similar window is located on the left side of the west elevation. Toward the rear of the west elevation is a small, three-over-one-light window, double-hung window in a wood frame. The rear elevation has a central entry door flanked by two double-hung windows of the same design as seen elsewhere on the building. The east elevation displays three of the same windows toward the front of the building. All windows and doors are covered by plain concrete lintels, and the windows have plain concrete sills.

Changes over time. Changes to the Conoco Station building include removal of the gas pumps and the removal of the cast stone blocks that once encased the poles that support the roof. The use has changed from a gas station to an “inn” or Airbnb, but it retains the same appearance it took on once the gas pumps and hefty columns were removed.

Integrity

To retain historic integrity, a property will possess several and usually most of the seven aspects of integrity. Ideally it will retain those aspects most relevant to its historic significance.¹⁸ The following is an analysis of the historic integrity of the Conoco Building.

- Location. The building is in its original location.

¹⁸ Patrick W. Andrus, *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*. Washington DC: US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Cultural Resources, 1995.

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
County and State

- Design. Despite the removal of the gas pumps and the cast stone cladding around the columns that flank the former location of the gas pumps, the building retains integrity of design.
- Setting. The setting of the building is intact.
- Materials. The building's materials have not been altered.
- Workmanship. The workmanship of the building is intact.
- Feeling. The feeling or aesthetic of the building has been retained.
- Association. The association of the building is intact.

The building retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship feeling, and association. The building therefore retains integrity.

Cultural data

Car ownership exploded in the first decade of the 20th century and new outlets were needed to provide gas for the consumer. "By World War I, the volatile liquid could be conveniently bought along Main Streets, taxpayer strips, and rural crossroads throughout the county; and the curbside pump joined the fire hydrant and mailbox as street furniture on the urban scene."¹⁹ By the 1920s, cities began requiring that stations provide space where consumers could pull their cars out of existing rights-of-way to purchase gas, for safety purposes. The "visible measure" types of pumps, which were seen in the Conoco station in Bovill, were in common use by the by the 1920s. "Pump makers introduced this innovation so as to visually reassure motorists that they got what they paid for."²⁰ During the City Beautiful Movement in the 1920s, more attention was paid to the appearance of even a gas station, and more stations were made of brick, cut stone, and concrete, as Bovill's station is. The corner location, with excellent visibility from the street, was also on trend at this time.²¹ Bovill's Conoco gas station is a good representation of the attractive corporate gas stations being built at this time with an awareness of the buying public and the urban environment.

Summary

The Conoco Station building is significant under Criterion A for its association with the establishment of Bovill as a timber town affiliated with the Potlatch Lumber Company and therefore with the region's timber industry; and for its early attraction for those who traveled to the small town as visitors to enjoy hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities. It is likely that the station was built once there was a perceived need to serve motorists as they began to pass through Bovill in greater numbers. It is also eligible under Criterion C, for its design. The building is a well-designed gas station, with Craftsman design elements. The building retains excellent integrity and is in very good condition.

¹⁹ Chester H. Liebs, *Main Street to Miracle Mile, American Roadside Architecture*. Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1995:95-96.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Op cit., 102.

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
County and State



Front (northwest) and side façades, looking east



East side façade, looking southwest

Bovill Historic Commercial District
 Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
 County and State

RESOURCE 6			
Address: 200 Main Street	Historic name: Conoco Car Machine Shop	Common name: Conoco	Built, modified: ca 1930, ca 1950
Style/type: Utilitarian	Architect: Unknown	Builder: Unknown	Individually eligible: No
Features: 1 commercial building			
Classification: Contributing			

Physical description

The Conoco Car Machine Shop is at 200 Main Street, behind (south of) the Conoco Station at the same address and with which it was affiliated, historically. It faces north onto Main Street. The construction date of the building is estimated to be ca 1930, slightly later than the estimated date of ca 1920 for the gas station, which appears on the 1928 Sanborn Fire Insurance map but not the 1916 map. The one-and-one-half story, front-gabled building has an extension of the gable toward the west, which appears to have been an addition. The building has a rectangular footprint, a corrugated metal roof with exposed rafter tails, corrugated metal siding, and a concrete slab foundation. It occupies the rear (south end) of the triangular lot at Main Street and 1st Avenue and parallels the alley.

The façade of the building has three work bays with double doors and six-light (three-over-three) fixed windows with wood frames, one in each door leaf. To the west, under the extension of the roof, is a five-panel wood pedestrian door and a nine-light, vertically oriented fixed window with wood frames. Above the double doors is a "Conoco" sign in freestanding letters. Two three-light windows cut into what looks like a replacement panel is just underneath the sign. In the gable peak is a two-part sliding window in wood frames, with four lights in each panel.

On the west elevation are two boarded-up windows. On the rear (south) elevation is a boarded-up window on the west side, adjacent to a five-panel wood door. Above this door is a faded wood sign advertising Conoco products. In the gable end is a two-part window that is also boarded up. The east elevation has two, nine-light, wood-frame windows that likely match the windows on the west elevation.

Changes over time. The garage has few apparent changes to the original materials and details of the building. An exception may be the west shed-roof extension appears to have been added between 1947 and 1958 (Historic Aerials), which is over 50 years ago and can be said to have attained significance in itself. The estimated date of the addition is 1950.

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
County and State

Integrity

To retain historic integrity, a property will possess several and usually most of the seven aspects of integrity. Ideally it will retain those aspects most relevant to its historic significance.²² The following is an analysis of the historic integrity of the Conoco Car Machine Shop.

- Location. The building is in its original location.
- Design. The design of the building has been somewhat altered by an apparent addition to the west which nonetheless took place over 50 years ago.
- Setting. The setting of the building is intact.
- Materials. The materials of the building – corrugated metal siding and roof and wood-frame windows – are intact.
- Workmanship. The materials of the building – corrugated metal siding and roof and wood-frame windows – are intact.
- Feeling. The feeling or aesthetic of the building is intact.
- Association. The building retains integrity of association.

The building retains all seven aspects of integrity.

Cultural data

No additional cultural data was found for the building, aside from the fact that an earlier historian from 2008 identified a Greg Hall as a previous owner.

Summary

The Conoco Car Machine Shop building is significant under Criterion A for its association with the establishment of Boville as a timber town affiliated with the Potlatch Lumber Company and therefore with the region's timber industry; and for its early attraction for those who traveled to the small town as visitors to enjoy hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities. The building has very good integrity (the likely change of a shed roof extension to the west occurred over 50 years ago) and is in moderate condition. It is contributing to the Bovill Historic Commercial District.

²² Patrick W. Andrus, *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*. Washington DC: US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Cultural Resources, 1995.

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
County and State



Front (north) and west side facades, looking south



West side and rear (south) facades, looking northeast

Bovill Historic Commercial District
 Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
 County and State

RESOURCE 7			
Address: 202 Main Street	Historic name: Bovill Telegraph Office	Common name: Bovill Post Office	Built, modified: ca 1914, ca 1925
Style/type: One-part commercial block	Architect: Unknown	Builder: Unknown	Individually eligible: No
Features: 2 (commercial block and outbuilding)			
Classification: Contributing (commercial block and outbuilding)			

Physical description

The Bovill Telegraph Office at 102 Main Street was constructed in 1914, after the fire of 1914 destroyed the former wood-frame buildings that were predominate in Bovill up until that time. The building is one story with a rectangular footprint, and a flat roof with a parapet that steps down toward the rear of the building. It occupies one lot of the original Bovill city plat and faces north, overlooking Main Street. The building is constructed of cast stone and concrete masonry units, with some concrete parging, a built-up roof, and concrete foundation. A wood entry door with full height glass and a transom window is located on the right (west) side of the front façade. A large, fixed window with three-over-one-lights and wide wood mullions (the same design as seen on the First State Bank) is located on the left or east side. Above, a wood sign is mounted that says, "1914 Bovill Idaho." Below the windowsill, the building is finished in heavily rusticated cast stone (the same finish as seen on the Conoco Station); above, the parged concrete finish is smooth.

The west elevation of the building is partially finished in cast stone set in a triangular pattern. The remainder of this façade is finished in concrete masonry units (CMU). There are two wood frame, one-over-one-light, double-hung windows toward the rear of this façade. On the rear of the building is a wood-frame porch with a shed roof that is enclosed and modified in an ad hoc manner. It is enclosed with two types of wood cladding as well as corrugated metal cladding. The porch roof is corrugated metal; there is no foundation. A secondary entry on this façade has a wood door with a light in the upper portion, covered by a wood awning with exposed rafter ends. On the east elevation of the building is one small, single light window.

Changes over time. A long concrete block building with a wood porch on the rear façade was in place at this location on the 1916 Sanborn Fire Insurance map, labeled as a shop. By 1928 (Sanborn Fire Insurance map) the building in its present form, as well as the outbuilding at the rear of the lot, was in place. It is not clear whether the post office is a new concrete block building in the same location as the previous building, or that the previous concrete block building was been 'shortened' between 1914 and 1928 to its present configuration. The survey report for Bovill places the construction date for the building in 1925.²³

²³ Christina L. Olson, *Architectural Survey of the Bovill Townsite, Latah County, Idaho*. Boise, ID: Kerros Cultural Resource Management, July 1, 2021.

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
County and State

Integrity

To retain historic integrity, a property will possess several and usually most of the seven aspects of integrity. Ideally it will retain those aspects most relevant to its historic significance.²⁴ The following is an analysis of the historic integrity of the Bovill Telegraph Office building.

- Location. The building is in its original location.
- Design. The design of the building has been slightly altered on the rear façade.
- Setting. The setting of the building appears to be intact.
- Materials. The building's materials appear to be intact.
- Workmanship. The workmanship of the building appears to be intact.
- Feeling. The feeling of the building is intact.
- Association. The association of the building is intact.

The building retains integrity of location, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. If the footprint of the building was shortened between 1914 and 1928, then the design has been altered. But nonetheless the design is the same, according to available information, as it was in 1928 or nearly 100 years ago.

Building in the rear yard. A two-story storage shed with a gable roof is located on the rear property line. This wood-frame building is clad in corrugated metal with a corrugated metal roof with moderate eaves. A pedestrian door of corrugated metal is located on the east façade. A shed roof addition is located on the rear façade with another pedestrian door. This building has been in place since at least 1928 (Sanborn Fire Insurance map). The outbuilding dates to the period of significance and retains integrity. It is therefore contributing to the district.

Cultural data

Bovill's post office was located in the E.K. Parker store in 1913, before the 1914 fire in Bovill destroyed the building. Previously, when Hugh Bovill was the postmaster (the first one), it was located in the Bovill Hotel, which he owned. According to the sign on the present building, it was constructed in 1914, which would place it as part of the rebuilding of Bovill in fireproof building materials after the fire.

The 1916 Sanborn Fire Insurance map shows a longer concrete block building with a rear wood porch in this location at that time. It is labeled as a shop and noted in *The Trees Grow Tall* as owned by Gus Verdon. He also owned the wood-frame tavern that was next door (to the west) at that time (no longer extant). The concrete building was also noted as a meat market and "the early premises of 'Jimmy's Place'," as well as being associated with a J. Gilroy. The building later served as the J.A. Anderson store, according to this same source.²⁵ By the date of the 1928 Sanborn Fire Insurance map, the building at 202 Main Street was in its present form, and the outbuilding at the rear of the lot was in place. The concrete building was labeled "Teleph. Office (C.B.)."²⁶ This is consistent with the estimated construction date of 1925 that was

²⁴ Patrick W. Andrus, *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*. Washington DC: US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Cultural Resources, 1995.

²⁵ Note that the rear of the building appears as though alterations have taken place over time.

²⁶ C.B. means concrete block.

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
County and State

recorded in the 2021 survey report for Bovill, although it is also possible that the building was constructed in 1914 and altered in 1925.

Summary

The Bovill Telegraph Office is significant under Criterion A for its association with the establishment of Bovill as a timber town affiliated with the Potlatch Lumber Company and therefore with the region's timber industry; and for its early attraction for those who traveled to the small town as visitors to enjoy hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities. It retains integrity and is within the period of significance and areas of significance for the Bovill Historic Commercial District and is contributing to the district.



Front (north) and west side facades, looking southeast

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
County and State



***Outbuilding in rear yard, east side and front (north) facades,
looking southwest***

DRAFT

Bovill Historic Commercial District
 Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
 County and State

RESOURCE 8			
Address: 207 Main Street	Historic name: General Store	Common name: Camas Prairie Winery	Built, modified: ca 1914
Style/type: One-part commercial block	Architect: Unknown	Builder: Unknown	Individually eligible: Yes
Features: 1 (commercial block)			
Classification: Contributing			

Physical description

The General Store that is now the Camas Prairie Winery was likely constructed in 1914, after the 1914 fire that destroyed the wood buildings of Bovill's Main Street and property owners were required to rebuild in brick or concrete masonry. The one-story building has a rectangular footprint with a flat roof with a parapet and faces north overlooking Main Street. It occupies one lot of the Bovill city plat. The brick masonry building has a built-up roof and a concrete foundation. The recessed entry to the building is centrally placed, with a wood door with a tall single light topped by a transom window. It is flanked by canted display windows above a low bulkhead. The entry is framed by cast iron columns that spell out, "Union Iron Works Spokane Wash." There are two storefront windows to the right (west) of the entry and three storefront windows to the left. The entire frontage is topped with six transom windows, which are in turn spanned by a steel I-beam. The building parapet is enhanced by a corbelled dentil course.

There is one opening on the west elevation of the building, which until recently was directly adjacent to the wood Cobbler building. There are no other openings on this elevation. The rear of the building was not visible due to vegetation. The east elevation forms a party wall with the adjacent General Store building and as a result is not visible.

Changes over time. According to the owner of the Camas Winery Building the windows have been replaced. They look appropriate to the design of the building, however. No other known changes have taken place.

Integrity

To retain historic integrity, a property will possess several and usually most of the seven aspects of integrity. Ideally it will retain those aspects most relevant to its historic significance.²⁷ The following is an analysis of the historic integrity of the General Merchandise building at 207 Main Street.

- Location. The building is in its original location.
- Design. The design of the building is intact. According to the owner, the windows have been changed out but it appears that this has been done in a way that is appropriate to the original design.
- Setting. Despite the recent removal of the adjacent Cobbler building, the building retains integrity of setting.

²⁷ Patrick W. Andrus, *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*. Washington DC: US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Cultural Resources, 1995.

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
County and State

- Materials. The building materials are intact.
- Workmanship. The workmanship of the building is intact.
- Feeling. The feeling or aesthetic of the building is intact.
- Association. The association of the building is intact.

The building retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. As a result, the building retains integrity.

Cultural data

The General Merchandise building at 207 Main Street building was constructed after the 1914 fire in brick, as were other buildings along Main Street, to minimize the risk of a catastrophic fire in the future. The winery that now occupies the building is the oldest in northern Idaho. It was established in 1983 and has occupied the building in Bovill since 2015-2016.²⁸ Prior to the winery the building served as the Groh Brothers Grocery and Merchandise store. In 1916 the building had a wood storage shed adjacent to it on the east side. In 1928 this was replaced with another brick building that also served as storage. A second small storage building was constructed to the east of this building (no longer extant).

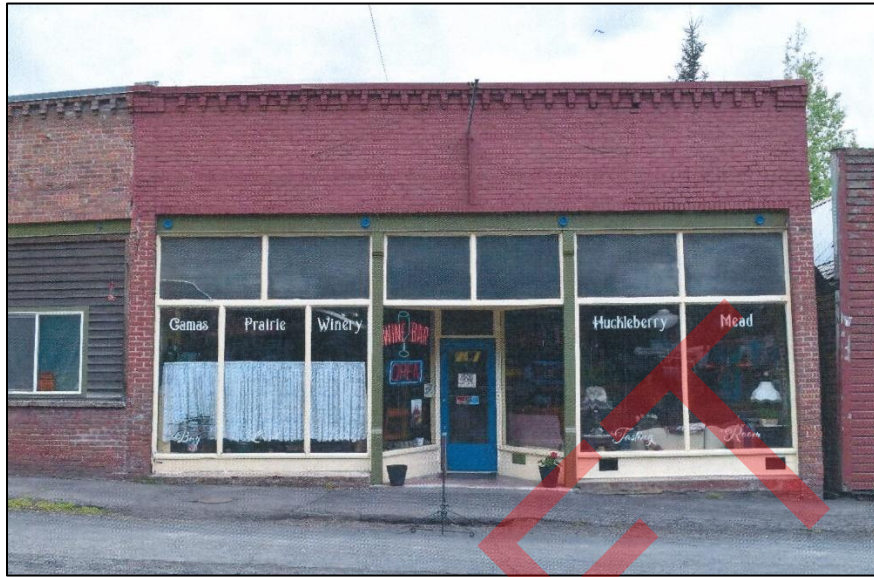
Summary

The former General Store at 207 Main Street is significant under Criterion A for its association with the establishment of Bovill as a timber town associated with the Potlatch Lumber Company and therefore with the region's timber industry; and for its early attraction for those who traveled to the small town as visitors to enjoy hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities. It is an excellent example of a one-part commercial block, here translated into a brick storefront that is over 110 years old, with its component parts intact, as well as its use as an early 20th century commercial building. The building has very good integrity and is in good condition. It is contributing to the Bovill Historic Commercial District.

²⁸ "Our Story," *Camas Prairie Winery*, <https://camasprairiewinery.com/>, accessed May 2025.

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
County and State



Front (north) façade, looking south



Front entry, detail, looking south

Bovill Historic Commercial District
 Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
 County and State

RESOURCE 9			
Address: 207 Main Street	Historic name: General Storage	Common name: 207 Main Street	Built, modified: ca 1925, ca 2015
Style/type: One-part commercial block	Architect: Unknown	Builder: Unknown	Individually eligible: No
Features: 1 commercial block			
Classification: Contributing			

Physical description

The “General Storage” building at 207 Main Street (east of the Camas Prairie Winery) was constructed after 1916 but before 1928, according to Sanborn Fire Insurance maps. After the fire of 1914 burned Bovill’s commercial district, property owners were required to build in brick or concrete masonry for fire protection purposes. The brick masonry General Storage building replaced a small wood “Grocery Storage” building that historically likely served the adjacent General Merchandise store, which is still extant as the winery. The one-story building has a rectangular footprint with a flat roof and a short parapet, a built-up roof, and a concrete foundation. It occupies a large, wedge-shaped lot that also includes the winery and faces northeast.

The building has a contemporary central door with a single light in the upper portion and is flush with the building façade. It is flanked by two, two-part, vinyl frame, sliding windows. Above what would be the transom windows if present is a steel I-beam. Below the I-beam and above the windowsills, the building frontage is clad in weatherboard. The area above the I-beam is brick masonry with a corbelled dentil course at the parapet matching that of the winery building next door. From the windowsills to the sidewalk the original brick masonry of the building is still visible.

The west elevation of the building forms a party wall with the winery building and is therefore not visible. The rear façade of the building is also not visible, due to vegetation. The east elevation has two doors, a single flush pedestrian door and a double wood door with five panels in each leaf, under a shallow arch.

Changes over time. Changes to the façade of the building include the removal of the storefront windows and transoms, removal of the recessed central entry, and the addition of a contemporary entry door and two-light, vinyl-frame, sliding windows, assuming that the building originally had the appearance of the building next door, which is typical of the time period.

Integrity

To retain historic integrity, a property will possess several and usually most of the seven aspects of integrity. Ideally it will retain those aspects most relevant to its historic significance.²⁹

²⁹ Patrick W. Andrus, *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*. Washington DC: US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Cultural Resources, 1995.

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
County and State

The following is an analysis of the historic integrity of the General Storage building at 207 Main Street.

- Location. The building is in its original location.
- Design. The design of the building has been altered through changes to the storefront.
- Setting. The setting of the building is intact.
- Materials. Materials have been added to the building include weatherboard siding and vinyl windows.
- Workmanship. Despite the addition of new materials to the storefront, the building overall retains integrity of workmanship as expressed in its original brick construction.
- Feeling. Despite alterations to the storefront, the building retains the feeling of an early 20th century commercial block.
- Association. The association of the building is intact.

The building retains integrity of location, setting, workmanship, feeling, and association. It does not retain integrity of design and materials. The building accordingly retains sufficient integrity to be contributing to the historic district.

Cultural data

The General Storage building replaced a small wood "Grocery Storage" building that historically served the adjacent Groh General Merchandise store as seen in the 1916 Sanborn Fire Insurance map. When the new brick building was constructed, as seen on the 1928 Sanborn map, it was called a General Storage building.

Summary

The General Storage building is significant under Criterion A for its association with the establishment of Bovill as a timber town affiliated with the Potlatch Lumber Company and therefore with the region's timber industry; and for its early attraction for those who traveled to the small town as visitors to enjoy hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities. Despite storefront alterations, it retains sufficient integrity to convey the reasons for its significance. As a result, it is contributing to the Bovill Historic Commercial District.

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
County and State



Front (north) façade, looking south



East side façade, looking west

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property

Latah, 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.)

- 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" in all the boxes that apply.)

- 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

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Commerce

Period of Significance

1914-1930

Significant Dates

1914 – Fire that destroyed downtown Bovill
1930 – Construction date of last building
constructed in Historic District

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

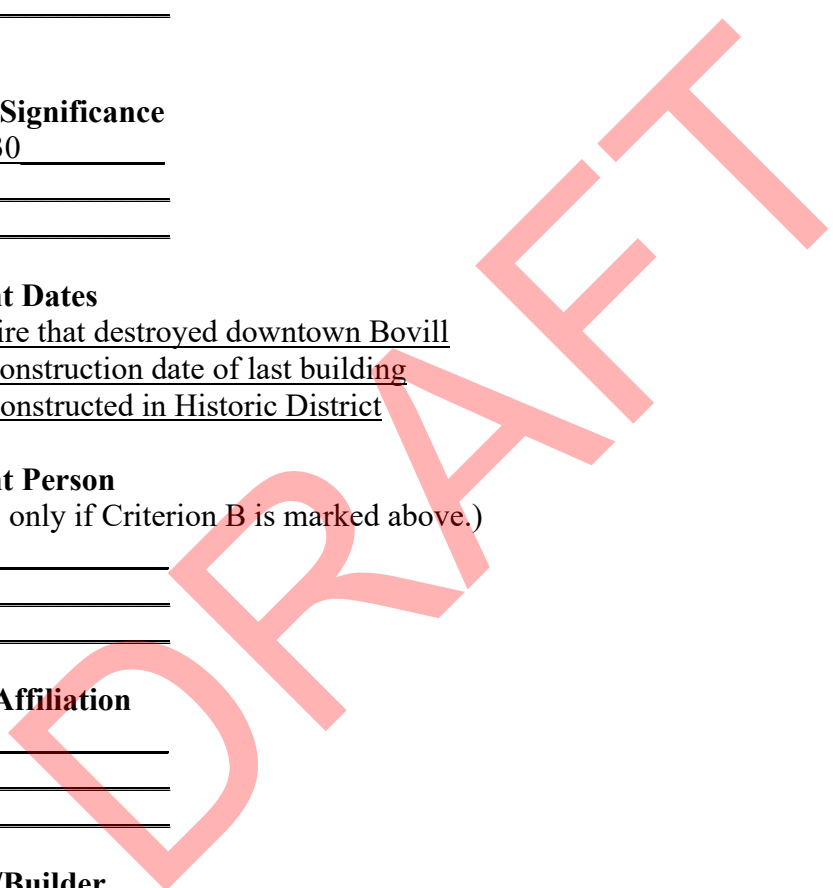
NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

NA



Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Bovill Historic Commercial District comprises the historic business center of the City of Bovill, Latah County, Idaho. It is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for its significance under Criterion A in the area of Commerce. The district includes the commercial buildings within a two-block area that both historically and today comprise the heart of Bovill's commercial area. Because of a disastrous fire in 1914 that burned the entire district in place at that time, most resources date from ca 1914. The buildings consist primarily of brick masonry, one- and two-story, party wall structures, with the exception of the more recent freestanding Conoco Station (ca 1920) and accompanying Conoco Car Machine Shop (ca 1930).³⁰ The period of significance for the district is 1914, the date that most of the commercial buildings were constructed, to 1930, the estimated date of the most recent resource built in the district.

The Bovill Historic Commercial District got its start in 1908, when business owners were constructing wood-frame false front buildings to cater to the townspeople, recreationalists, timber cruisers, lumberman, and railroad men who visited or occupied the town. After the 1914 fire, the businesses were housed in the brick and concrete block masonry buildings that replaced the earlier buildings that were lost. The business district thrived until the prime timber in the area began to be depleted in the 1920s, thus depriving the town of its primary source of revenue. Business slowed further during the Great Depression of the 1930s, never to recover. As a result, Bovill's Historic Commercial District represents a moment in time in Latah County and North Central Idaho in both its characteristic architecture and (historic) businesses, surviving to this day as "a quiet village," in the words of historian Keith Petersen. While a few buildings have been lost, a few exhibit alterations (primarily in cladding over the brick masonry), and a few are vacant, the historic district retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The historic district is significant at the local level.

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bovill Historic Commercial District comprises the historic business center of the City of Bovill, Latah County, Idaho. It is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for its significance under Criterion A in the area of Commerce. The district includes the commercial buildings within a two-block area that both historically and today comprise the heart of Bovill's commercial area. Because of a disastrous fire in 1914 that burned the entire district in place at that time, most resources date from ca 1914. The buildings consist primarily of brick masonry, one- and two-story, party wall structures, with the exception of the more recent freestanding

³⁰ Idaho Historic Sites Inventory Form, Conoco Station (FID 2021-05-005). ICRIS, Idaho Cultural Resource Information System, Idaho State Historical Society, <https://history.idaho.gov/shpo/icris/>, accessed June 2025. The construction date is also seen as 1925 (Olson), although the first inventory form notes 1920 for the gas station.

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
County and State

Conoco Station (ca 1920) and accompanying Conoco Car Machine Shop (ca 1930).³¹ The period of significance for the district is 1914, the date that most of the commercial buildings were constructed, to 1930, the estimated date of the most recent resource built in the district.

The Bovill Historic Commercial District got its start in 1908, when business owners were constructing wood-frame false front buildings to cater to the townspeople, recreationalists, timber cruisers, lumberman, and railroad men who visited or occupied the town. After the 1914 fire, the businesses were housed in the brick and concrete block masonry buildings that replaced the earlier buildings that were lost. The business district thrived until the prime timber in the area began to be depleted in the 1920s, thus depriving the town of its primary source of revenue. Business slowed further during the Great Depression of the 1930s, never to recover. As a result, Bovill's Historic Commercial District represents a moment in time in Latah County and North Central Idaho in both its characteristic architecture and (historic) businesses, surviving to this day as "a quiet village," in the words of historian Keith Petersen. While a few buildings have been lost, a few exhibit alterations (primarily in cladding over the brick masonry), and a few are vacant, the historic district retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The historic district is significant at the local level.

LATAH COUNTY'S EARLY HISTORY³²

The first people to call Latah County home were the Nez Perce, or Nimiipuu (Nee-Mee-Poo), a tribe of the Sahaptian language family. Historically the Nez Perce lived in numerous scattered and independent communities in a wide area of present-day North Central Idaho and parts of southwestern Washington and northeastern Oregon.³³ In what is now Latah County, two ancient Native American north/south trails, the Greater Nez Perce Trail and the Red Wolf Trail, passed through about two miles northeast of present-day Moscow, their primary means of accessing the area.³⁴ The first treaty with the Nez Perce and other Tribes in the region was drawn up by Territorial Governor Isaac I. Stevens in 1855. The second treaty, which reduced the Nez Perce's reservation land by 90%, was negotiated in 1863, after the discovery of gold on the original reservation land.³⁵ The final clash between the Nez Perce and the US Army is now known as the Flight of the Nez Perce and occurred in 1877.

The first visitors of Euro-American descent to arrive in what became Latah County were fur trappers, followed by missionaries in the 1830s. The area that is Latah County today was first mined with placer mines along some watercourses as early as 1862. Gold, silver, mica, and opals were extracted in the area, primarily in the Hoodoo district, which was located in northeast

³¹ Idaho Historic Sites Inventory Form, Conoco Station (FID 2021-05-005). ICRIS, Idaho Cultural Resource Information System, Idaho State Historical Society, <https://history.idaho.gov/shpo/icris/>, accessed June 2025. The construction date is also seen as 1925 (Olson), although the first inventory form notes 1920 for the gas station.

³² Portions of this section were adapted from Diana J. Painter's *National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, Deary Garage*, May 15, 2023.

³³ Robert H. Ruby, John A. Brown, and Cary C. Collins, *A Guide to the Indian Tribes of the Pacific Northwest* (Third Edition). Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 2010:205.

³⁴ Julie R. Monroe, *Latah County*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2006:7.

³⁵ "Nez Perce National Historical Park, ID, MT, OR, WA, *National Park Service*, <https://www.nps.gov/nepe/learn/historyculture/the-treaty-era.htm>, accessed May 2023.

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
County and State

Latah County and southeast Benewah County at the headwaters of the Potlatch and Palouse rivers.

By the 1870s Latah County began to be settled by homesteaders. The county was prized for its balance of rich agricultural land and historically, its stands of timber. The first sawmill was established in 1876, six miles northeast of Moscow. Latah County was carved from Nez Perce County, one of Idaho's original counties. The first attempt to create a separate county occurred on December 22, 1864, but this was resisted by Lewiston, the county seat. Latah County was eventually created by an act of congress and approved by President Cleveland on May 14, 1888.

By the time of the 1890 census Latah County was the most populous county in Idaho, with 9,176 residents.³⁶ By the turn of the century, it was served by five trains, the Northern Pacific, the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway,³⁷ the Oregon-Washington Railroad & Navigation Company, the Spokane & Inland Empire, and the Washington, Idaho & Montana Railroad. Two trains, the Washington, Idaho & Montana Railroad (WI&M), which was owned by the Potlatch Lumber Company and arrived in Bovill in 1907, and the Chicago, Milwaukee & Puget Sound railway (known as the Milwaukee Road), which arrived in Bovill in 1910, helped drive the development of Bovill.³⁸ The arrival of the WI&M railroad led to Bovill's growth into Latah County's third largest town, after Moscow and Potlatch.³⁹ And the arrival of the CM&PS railroad gave Bovill a transcontinental connection to the wheat warehoused in Palouse.⁴⁰

THE FORCES DRIVING BOVILL'S DEVELOPMENT

Early settlers

Francis Warren. The first Euro-American to settle what would become the town of Bovill was Francis Warren. Born in Sullivan County, Pennsylvania in 1833, Warren moved his family to the area about 1890. The family settled in what would first be called Warren Meadows, building their cabin at what is now the east/northeast corner of Main Street and Park Avenue, about 750' north of today's historic district.⁴¹ Francis Warren passed away in 1899 and upon his death his land passed to his wife, Sylinda, then to his son, Ransom.⁴² It would eventually come into the possession of the Bovill family, for which Bovill is named.

³⁶ "Latah County, Idaho," *Wikipedia*, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latah_County,_Idaho, accessed May 2025.

³⁷ Later the Chicago, Milwaukee & Puget Sound railway. John Caldbick, "Chicago, Milwaukee & Puget Sound Railway inaugurates twice-daily service between Tacoma and Chicago on May 29, 1911," *Historylink*, December 28, 2014. <https://www.historylink.org/File/10999>, accessed June 2025.

³⁸ Judith Nielsen, "Washington, Idaho & Montana Railway Company," (Finding Aid), University of Idaho Manuscript Group 139, August 1982.

³⁹ Keith C. Petersen, *Company Town, Potlatch, Idaho, and the Potlatch Lumber Company*. Pullman, WA: Washington State University Press and Moscow, ID: Latah County Historical Society, 1987:111.

⁴⁰ "Builds Big Warehouses," *The Spokesman-Review* (Spokane, Washington), May 27, 1910:8.

⁴¹ John B. Miller, *The Trees Grew Tall*, 1972:35. John B. Miller, "Warren Meadows," *Latah Legacy*, Vol. 13, No. 1, Summer 1984:8.

⁴² Miller, *The Trees Grew Tall*, 37.

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
County and State

The Bovills. Hugh Bovill (1860-1935), a younger son of Sir William Bovill, an English lawyer and Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, brought his family to the Idaho panhandle about 1900.⁴³ Bovill was married to Charlotte Bovill, who was also of British nobility.⁴⁴ They had two children, Dorothy, who was born in 1895, and Gwen, who was born in 1897 (Figures 8, 9). The Bovills spent their first winter in the Pacific Northwest in Moscow before finalizing their purchase of the Warren property the following year. They bought 580 acres from the Warrens, eventually adding another 240 acres to their total land holdings in the area.⁴⁵

In the beginning, the Bovills took up residence in the Warren cabin while constructing a new cabin for themselves. Bovill relocated the cabin to what would become the site of the Bovill Hotel.⁴⁶ Once construction was complete, Bovill began ranching with stock he had brought from Nebraska. Another one of Bovill's goals became to create a resort. Hugh and Charlotte sought to attract recreationalists by making lodging rooms, supplies and outdoor guides available to visitors to access the exceptional fishing and hunting in the area. The lodgings also accommodated homesteaders, timber cruisers, and lumbermen. Over time the Bovill cabin became the Hotel Bovill, which could accommodate as many as 50 guests each night (Figure 10).⁴⁷ Bovill also provided a store for the area homesteaders and a post office, for which he was the postmaster.⁴⁸

When the Potlatch Lumber Company approached Bovill about purchasing right-of-way for their WI&M Railroad, Bovill realized that the area was "on the verge of being lost to logging."⁴⁹ At the same time, "the Bovills became disillusioned by the destruction of timber, prompted by railroad construction, as well as the rowdy nature of the lumber camps with the proliferation of saloons and bordellos in Bovill."⁵⁰ In 1911 they relocated to Coeur d'Alene. They returned to Bovill briefly in 1931, thinking they might revive the hotel for workers from the Civilian Conservation Corps during the Great Depression, but that effort was not successful, and the Bovills left Bovill again, this time permanently.⁵¹

The Potlatch Lumber Company

About 1900 a group of Midwestern logging men who had moved west seeking new resources formed the Wisconsin Log and Lumber Company and developed plans to begin large scale logging in the Potlatch Basin of Idaho. In March 1903 this company merged with Weyerhaeuser

⁴³ Dates vary from 1899 to 1901.

⁴⁴ Michelle Farah, *National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, Hotel Bovill*, December 14, 1993: Section 8, Page 1.

⁴⁵ Miller, *The Trees Grew Tall*, 44, Miller, "Warren Meadows," 6.

⁴⁶ John B. Miller, "Bovill, Synonymous with Lumber," (newspaper article), 1980.

⁴⁷ City of Bovill (website), <https://www.cityofbovill.net/>, accessed May 2025. Bovill was incorporated on May 23, 1907 with a capitol stock value of \$50,000, which was owned mostly by the Bovill family.

⁴⁸ Miller, *The Trees Grew Tall*, 39.

⁴⁹ Christina L. Olson, *Architectural Survey of the Bovill Townsite, Latah County, Idaho*. Boise, ID: Kerros Cultural Resource Management, July 1, 2021:6, quoting Miller, *The Trees Grew Tall*, 44.

⁵⁰ Suzanne Julin, *National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, Bovill Opera House*, December 8, 2009: Section 8, Page 1. Judith Nielsen, "Washington, Idaho & Montana Railway Company," (Finding Aid), University of Idaho Manuscript Group 139, August 1982:1.

⁵¹ Michael R. Wickline, "Resort Business has its Roots in Early 1900s," *Lewiston Morning Tribune*, May 5, 1990.

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
County and State

to form the Potlatch Lumber Company, with Charles Weyerhaeuser as its first president.⁵² By 1905, the Potlatch Lumber Company had acquired significant timber acreage in Idaho and Washington.⁵³ 'The prize was white pine, the most sought after commercial species, and the North Idaho stand was the largest remaining stand of virgin white pine on the North American Continent at that time.'⁵⁴

In addition to dominating the development of Latah County, the Potlatch Lumber Company had a tremendous influence on the development of the Central North Idaho and the entire Palouse region in general. It was responsible for establishing the town of Potlatch, the company's sawmill in Potlatch, and the WI&M Railroad, which served the company and the towns along its route. The company was directly responsible for the formation of the towns of Potlatch, which became Latah County's second largest town, as well as Deary and Elk River. Other towns along the line for which the railroad and therefore the company was indirectly responsible for developing included Princeton, Harvard, and Bovill (Figure 6).

For timber the company relied on the holdings of the Northland Pine and the Wisconsin Log and Lumber Companies. It soon acquired the mills and timber of Codd Lumber Company of Colfax, Washington, and Palouse River Lumber Company of Palouse, Washington. The Palouse mill was used to cut lumber to build the Potlatch Lumber Company's company town of Potlatch which, in addition to serving as the town for the Potlatch workers, was the location of the Potlatch mill. The Potlatch location was chosen due to its available land area and because of its proximity to the Potlatch River. "It was [became] the largest white pine sawmill in the world, team-powered and belt driven."⁵⁵ Design and construction of the mill commenced in 1905, and it began operating in September 1906.⁵⁶

In March 1905 newspaper ads in the Palouse area began advertising for workers: "500 Men Wanted At Once, The Potlatch Lumber Company needs 500 or more men."⁵⁷ By November 1905 the Potlatch Lumber Company employed nearly 850 men. In August 1906 Potlatch had a population of 1,000 people; by 1907 it had a population of about 1,500 people.⁵⁸

The Washington, Idaho and Montana Railroad

The Potlatch Lumber Company initiated construction of the Washington, Idaho and Montana (WI&M) Railroad to access its timber lands along the route of the railroad between Palouse and Purdue, the provisional terminus of the line just beyond Bovill (Figure 6). The railroad was

⁵² Nielsen, "Washington, Idaho & Montana Railway Company."

⁵³ Thomas E. Burg, Potlatch Lumber Co. The WI&M, and the Milwaukie," 1993. Potlatch Historical Society Collection, accessed June 2025.

⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵ Keith C. Petersen, *National Register of Historic Places Inventory – Nomination Form, Historic Resources of Potlatch*, November 26, 1985: Section 8, Page 1.

⁵⁶ Monroe, *Latah County*, 84.

⁵⁷ Petersen, *Company Town*.

⁵⁸ Petersen, *Historic Resources of Potlatch* . . . Section 8, Page 2. In late 1951 the company announced that it would sell the town and by 1954, most of the buildings were owned by individuals, businesses, and organizations and the town became incorporated. The mill was closed in 1981 and between 1983 and 1985, all buildings apart from an office building constructed in the 1950s, were demolished.

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
County and State

incorporated in March 1905; construction began on May 10, 1905 in Palouse.⁵⁹ The last permanent town along the route was Bovill. Completed in 1907, the railroad facilitated the movement of logs from Latah and Clearwater counties to the mill at Potlatch, as well as shipping lumber from the mill and supplying smaller operations at towns along the way. Timber towns established along the way included Kennedy Ford, Potlatch, Princeton, Harvard, Stanford, Avon, Deary, Cornell, and Bovill (Figure 6).

As recounted in *Company Town*, “After ten years’ operation, nearly 180,000 passengers had ridden the railroad between Palouse and Potlatch. Almost 40,000 more had traveled the whole line between Palouse and Bovill. The railroad also carried mail, supplies, and agricultural products. As the *Palouse Republic* reported, ‘When it is considered that the W.I.&M. practically opened up a new territory, where the settlers were few and far between, the volume of passenger business. . . is rather remarkable. The coming of the road made possible the development of one of the richest sections of the northwest, and where prior to 1906 there was nothing but timber or burned over land, where are now hundreds of productive farms.’⁶⁰

EARLY BOVILL

Bovill’s earliest commercial buildings

The two blocks that make up the Bovill Historic Commercial District today constituted the town’s business district throughout the 20th century and into the 21st century. The founding of the city of Bovill predates its perhaps better-known history as a timber town associated with the Potlatch Lumber Company. As has been seen, the founding Bovill family arrived at the turn of the century, first occupying the cabin of the earliest inhabitants, the Warren family. The Bovills made the 1901 Hotel Bovill, along with the associated store and post office, the historical heart of the town.

The town was platted in 1907 and also in 1907 the WI&M railroad arrived. It was advertised as, “The New Townsite at the Terminus of the Washington, Idaho & Montana Railroad” (Figure 7).⁶¹ Inscribed on the town plat was the message, “A Great Opportunity for Investment or for Locations for a Mercantile Business. . . .” Even before the arrival of the railroad, however, logging had begun at the camps west and north of Bovill. In addition to the men working in the lumber camps were the men working on the railroad crews which together, according to Bovill historian John B. Miller, numbered in the hundreds.⁶² Commercial businesses sprang up to serve the workers.

A historic photograph included in John B. Miller’s, *The Trees Grew Tall*, shows that the construction of the wood-frame buildings along Main Street was just getting underway in 1908. A later photo of Main Street between Railroad Avenue and 1st Avenue shows the wood-frame false front buildings that typified early commercial buildings in the town.⁶³ According to a caption from this latter source, business names at this time (ca 1909) were the Major and Peters Barber

⁵⁹ Nielsen, “Washington, Idaho & Montana Railway Company,” 2.

⁶⁰ Petersen, *Company Town* . . . ,110.

⁶¹ Potlatch Historical Society Collection, University of Idaho Special Collections and Archives, Moscow, Idaho.

⁶² Miller, *The Trees Grew Tall*.

⁶³ The date of this photo is ca 1909 according to University of Idaho Special Collections.

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
County and State

Shop, the Bovill Drug Store, the Spokane Hotel, Anderson and Anderson Barbershop, Idle House Pool Hall (J.I. Brocke), Grant and Giles dry goods, E.K. Parker men's furnishings, the Bovill post office and newsstand, and the Shermann House (then E. Haverland) (Figure 11).⁶⁴ According to Miller, wood-frame saloon buildings were established along Pine Street, south of Main Street, and further south along the railroad tracks were two wood-frame brothels.⁶⁵

Two buildings near the Bovill Commercial Historic District augment Main Street as the commercial core of the community. Both are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.⁶⁶ One is the previously mentioned Hotel Bovill (1901, 1911) and one is the Bovill Opera House (1911). It is worth noting that by 1911, Bovill was powered by a community owned steam plant.⁶⁷

Hotel Bovill. The Hotel Bovill. Bovill's oldest extant building, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1994 (Figure 10).⁶⁸ Historically its significance was as ". . . the sole supply and lodging center in the area for tourists seeking big-game sport, as well as those sizing up the vast timber lands."⁶⁹ The building is composed of several parts including the original ca 1891 Warren cabin. A separate store was constructed ca 1903 adjacent to the hotel and the hotel was enlarged in 1905. In 1911 the two buildings were combined and additional changes were made. About a block away from the historic district, it remains the town's earliest and most significant commercial building. It is vacant today and in poor condition.

Bovill Opera House. The Bovill Opera House at the corner of 2nd Avenue and Pine Street served as a location for live entertainment, dancing, and eventually movies for the Bovill townspeople.⁷⁰ It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2010 and is part of the Multiple Property Document, "Motion Picture Theater Buildings in Idaho (1897-1949)." It is significant as a highly intact theater from the early 20th century that was "an important center of social and recreational life in the community of Bovill." It was in operation until 1955.⁷¹ The two-story, wood-frame, false front building is a reminder of the character of Bovill's main business district before the fire of 1914. The building has excellent integrity and although vacant today, is slowly being restored by Bovill townspeople.

Prohibition

One of the reasons for Bovill's early popularity is that it was not subject to the same laws or practices against serving alcohol as the other towns in the area that were controlled by the

⁶⁴ Miller, *The Trees Grew Tall*.

⁶⁵ Olson, *Architectural Survey of the Bovill Townsite . . .*, 6, quoting Miller, *The Trees Grew Tall*, 45.

⁶⁶ A third building in proximity to the Bovill Historic Commercial District that is listed in the National Register is St. Joseph's Catholic Church at 1st Avenue and Cedar Street (310 1st Avenue). It was purchased by the city in 1996 and restored for use as a library.

⁶⁷ Olson, *Architectural Survey of the Bovill Townsite . . .*, 6, quoting H.C. Schupfer, "The history of the generation and distribution of electrical energy in Latah County," *Latah Legacies*, Vol. 14, No. 2, Summer 1985:2.

⁶⁸ Its formal address is 602 Park Avenue.

⁶⁹ Farah, *Hotel Bovill . . .*, Section 8, Page 2.

⁷⁰ Its formal address is 412 2nd Avenue.

⁷¹ Julin, *National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, Bovill Opera House*: Section 8, Page 1.

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
County and State

Potlatch Lumber Company. The Potlatch Lumber Company prohibited alcohol and prostitution in its towns, as well as banning liquor sales in its 14 lumber camps.⁷²

Alcohol consumption was discouraged in Idaho in general with the passage of a "local option" in 1909, which allowed cities and counties to ban alcoholic beverages if most of their citizens voted for it. An article in the August 27, 1909, *New York Times* noted that Idaho County, Idaho, was the first to vote "dry" under the new local option law. Canyon County also voted out saloons by a majority of 1,850. "These were the first local option elections in the State."⁷³ Nonetheless, after the law went into effect, violations were widespread.

Statewide prohibition would arrive in 1916, four years earlier than the 1920 prohibition laws at the national level. Statewide prohibition forbade the manufacture, possession or sale of alcoholic beverages. Soon afterward however, arrests for breaking the law began to appear regularly in the state's newspapers.

The Potlatch Lumber Company had every incentive to curtail the use of alcohol by its employees. William Deary, the Potlatch Lumber Company's general manager, pressured Latah County to prohibit liquor permits for towns along the WI&M railway line. The company was aided in this effort by a state law prohibiting new saloons within five miles of a railroad.⁷⁴ Since the town of Potlatch was owned by the Potlatch Lumber Company, the company was, to a degree, able to regulate the lives of its inhabitants and businesses. Bovill was not a company town, however, and was known for its saloons, which tended to cluster around Pine Street. In the early years of 1909 to 1920, operators were able to procure their liquor from Washington State or Montana, as these states did not institute prohibition in advance of the national law.

The people of Bovill resisted the implication that Bovill was the center of bootlegging in Latah County. A November 2, 1916 article in Moscow's *Daily Star-Mirror*, noted the following: "That the people of Bovill resent any implication that their little village is a harbor for bootleggers is strongly shown in a communication sent to the *Star-Mirror* this week by thirteen of the representative business and professional men of that place."⁷⁵ In a formal letter to the editor, prominent businessmen and others in the community further stated, "During the past year and a half Bovill has probably been as free from bootlegging as almost any town in the county." They concluded, "We shall appreciate any publicity you may give the fact that Bovill is a decent, quiet town, free from bootlegging."⁷⁶

Prohibition at the national level was voted in with the 18th Amendment to the Constitution, which was ratified in early 1919 and went into effect in 1920. The 18th Amendment was repealed by the 21st Amendment on Dec. 5, 1933. It is the only amendment to the constitution to ever be repealed.

⁷² Petersen, *Company Town* . . . 110.

⁷³ "Idaho Counties Go Dry," *New York Times*, August 27, 1909:1.

⁷⁴ Note, however, that if an establishment operating six months prior to railroad construction even if within the five-mile limit was entitled to a license renewal. Petersen, *Company Town*.

⁷⁵ "Bovill Citizen's [sic] Resent Charges," Moscow, ID: *The Daily Star-Mirror*, November 2, 1916:1.

⁷⁶ Ibid.

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
County and State

The fires

Even more impactful to Bovill's Historic Commercial District was Bovill's history of fires. Fire was a constant in and around Bovill. In addition to the fact that Bovill was sited in a heavily forested area, the use by Bovill's inhabitants of old-fashioned stoves, metal stovepipes, and kerosene lamps made for a high fire risk.⁷⁷ A fire at the Barton Brothers general store and Davis Drug, just east of 1st Avenue on Main Street, occurred in 1910.⁷⁸ In 1912 a fire originating in the Groh grocery store on Main Street, also east of 1st Avenue, spread toward the south and destroyed six buildings.⁷⁹ On July 4, 1914, a fire originating in the Bean boarding house (also seen as Sherman House hotel) burned fifteen business buildings and killed two people.⁸⁰ Miller notes in *The Trees Grew Tall* that the livery stables and saloon buildings facing Pine Street also burned, resulting in an estimated loss in goods and property of \$400,000.⁸¹ The Beal's Butte fire in 1914 about four miles north of Bovill followed on the heels of the 4th of July fire in Bovill.⁸²

After the July 4, 1914 fire (Figure 12) the buildings on Main Street were rebuilt mostly in brick, although at least two were concrete block, specifically east of 1st Avenue, as seen in the Sanborn Fire Insurance maps of the business district (Figures 15, 18). In addition to this practical response, re-building in fire resistant materials was also in response to the fact that the city adopted a covenant stating that all buildings must be constructed of brick (Figures 13, 14).⁸³

Historic Bovill

The buildings that are present in the Bovill Historic Commercial District today are largely those that were rebuilt after the 1914 fire. Information on the district at its height, which took place in the second and third decades of the 20th century, is available from the Sanborn Fire Insurance maps from 1916 and 1928 and historic photographs. Information on alterations to the buildings can also be discerned from observed changes in the buildings themselves, particularly when compared to their appearance in photographs after the rebuilding of the district.

In 1916, the businesses between 1st Avenue and Railroad Avenue consisted of (from west to east) a general merchandise store and the post office that had a paint and oil storage addition in the back; a grocery and feed storage building; and a restaurant and tobacco shop. The Spokane Hotel, which had three storefronts, had a barbershop, the hotel office, and a drug and stationary store (Figure 15). Behind the hotel office was a dining room, a kitchen, and the rooms. To the immediate east was a meat market with a rendering kettle, followed by "G.F.G." At the corner was the First State Bank, still extant as the Elk Saloon. The second business block, from 1st Avenue to the north-south portion of Main Street, was less densely developed. It had a wood-frame restaurant and billiards hall on the west end; followed by a cement block shop (where the

⁷⁷ Lillian W. Otness, "When Bovill Almost Burned," *Latah Legacy*, Vol. 8, No. 4, Fall 1979:2, quoting Miller, *The Trees Grew Tall*, 95-96. Additional fires in the timbered areas outside of town are described in Miller, *The Trees Grew Tall*, 1972:99, 103.

⁷⁸ John B. Miller, "Bovill, Synonymous with Lumber," (newspaper article), 1980.

⁷⁹ Miller, *The Trees Grew Tall*, 99.

⁸⁰ Otness, "When Bovill Almost Burned," 2

⁸¹ Miller, *The Trees Grew Tall*, 102. The specific commercial buildings lost are listed on this page.

⁸² Olson, *Architectural Survey of the Bovill Townsite* . . . 11.

⁸³ *Bovill Record*, 1914. No further citation.

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
County and State

post office is today); and the brick General Merchandise store (the Camas Prairie Winery today). None of the smaller wood buildings surrounding the brick merchandise building appear to be extant today.

In 1928, the date of the next Sanborn Fire Insurance map for Bovill, the west block in the business district is very similar to what it was 12 years earlier, in 1916. The east block (between 1st Avenue and Main Street), had changed slightly though. The Conoco gas station had been added at the corner, although the ca 1930 shop building to the rear that is in place today was not there. The wood building adjacent to the concrete block building was gone. And the concrete block building (the post office today) was in place but 'shorter' than it was previously; as a result, it is not clear whether this is the same building but modified, or not. A second brick building adjacent to today's winery, labeled Merchandise Storage (still extant), had been added. Again, the wood buildings surrounding the party wall brick buildings here are extant today. As described in *Company Town*, Bovill's boom subsided in the 1920s as prime timber was logged from nearby forests. Bovill became a quiet village of a few hundred during the Depression of the 1930s and never recovered its boom-days peak.⁸⁴

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

The Bovill Historic Commercial District is, for the most part, made up of one- and two-part commercial blocks, which is typical of the time in which the district developed. This typology of commercial buildings was developed by architectural historian Richard Longstreth in his *The Buildings of Main Street, A Guide to American Commercial Architecture*, which is widely used to identify these building types and forms.⁸⁵ The buildings can encompass different periods of development and have different architectural treatments, but typically the forms and massing of the buildings follow this typology. The buildings in the Bovill Historic Commercial District, which date to the early 20th century, are very typical of the form.

One- and two-part commercial blocks display the components of what we think of as American Main Street buildings. In a one-story building, there is a storefront at the ground level and a parapet above that has room to display the building name and/or other signage. In the case of two+ story buildings, regularly spaced, vertically aligned, one-over-one-light, double-hung windows or paired, double-hung windows above the ground floor light interior spaces. These are often offices (typical) or residential spaces (historically) or sometimes large open spaces, such as in fraternal halls. The typical components of a storefront include display windows, a recessed entry, and transom windows above.⁸⁶

One-Part Commercial Block. A one-part commercial block is a one-story building, typically with a flat roof and tall parapet on the frontage. The buildings are often located directly in back of the public sidewalk and are usually party wall structures with neighboring buildings. The lower level contains the storefront. Longstreth has noted this type as, "a simple box with a decorated façade and thoroughly urban in its urban overtones."⁸⁷ In the West, this type was first seen in

⁸⁴ Petersen, *Company Town*, . . . 111.

⁸⁵ Richard Longstreth, *The Buildings of Main Street, A Guide to American Commercial Architecture* (Updated Edition). Walnut Creek, CA: Alta Mira Press, 2000.

⁸⁶ Diana J. Painter, *National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, Walla Walla Downtown Historic District*, April 20, 2020:96.

⁸⁷ Longstreth, 2000:54.

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
County and State

wood Western False front buildings, as was the case in Bovill before the wood buildings burned in 1914. This building type continues to be built to this day but are typically brick or concrete masonry construction, as they are in Bovill, for fire prevention purposes. In Bovill, 100 Main Street (the E.K. Parker building); 102 Main Street; 202 Main Street (the Bovill Telegraph Office); 207 Main Street (the General Store); and 207 Main Street (General Storage) are all one-part commercial blocks.

Two-Part Commercial Block. A two-part commercial block is often a two-to-four story building, typically with a flat roof and tall parapet on the front facade. A distinctive cornice is also a characteristic of this type. The buildings are typically located directly in back of the public sidewalk and are often party wall structures with neighboring buildings, although varying heights can change this factor. The lower level contains the storefront, as in the one-part commercial block. The upper stories can be occupied by offices, residences, or hotel uses, or sometimes a large open space, as in the case of fraternal halls. This type is expressed in distinct, horizontal “zones,” with the storefront at ground level and differing window types above, often single or paired double-hung or three-part windows. The windows are typically vertically aligned. Brackets or paired brackets often support an ornate cornice on early examples. According to Longstreth, this building type was prevalent from the 1850s to the 1950s, having emerged as a distinctive type in the late 19th century.⁸⁸ In Bovill, the building at 104 Main Street (Bailey’s Saloon) and 114 Main Street (First State Bank) are two-part commercial blocks.

Storefronts. Historian H. Ward Jandle notes in his writings on rehabilitating historic storefronts that, “The storefront is the most important architectural feature of many historic commercial buildings.”⁸⁹ Storefront design at the first level generally includes the following component parts. Plate glass windows are mounted on bulkheads that are aligned with the back of the sidewalk.⁹⁰ Above the windows are multi-light transom windows, sometimes with small squares of prism glass (Figure 21).⁹¹ The purpose of the transom windows – particularly the prism glass windows – was to throw light into the main portion of the store interior. One-bay storefronts and even storefronts with multiple bays typically have an entry door that is centrally placed but set back from the street, offering shelter from the weather and additional display space. The door or doors are often topped by an operable transom window. The canted display windows have the same proportions as the windows on the building front. The area above the storefront is often occupied by a sign for the business. The parapet often offers space for the building construction date and might be enhanced by a special shape or other decorative feature such as a clock to call attention to the building.⁹² Note that the buildings at 100 and 102 Main Street once had shaped parapets but these have been altered; the building at 100 Main Street, the E.K. Parker building, still retains its original sign however.

⁸⁸ Longstreth, 2000:24.

⁸⁹ H. Ward Jandl, “Preservation Briefs 11, Rehabilitating Historic Storefronts.” Washington DC: US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Heritage Preservation Services, September 1982.

⁹⁰ The bulkhead is called a “lower window panel” on the illustration in this document.

⁹¹ Note that none of the buildings in the Bovill Historic Commercial District have prism glass.

⁹² Richard Longstreth, *The Buildings of Main Street*, Updated Edition. Walnut Creek, CA: AltaMira Press, 2000 (1987).

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
County and State

SUMMARY

The Bovill Historic Commercial District retains the district boundary and architectural types, including building materials, workmanship, and design in the contributing buildings, that have characterized it since it was reconstructed after the devastating fire of 1914. After the fire, the original wood-frame buildings were rebuilt by many of the same business owners, who served the same homesteaders, recreationalists, timber cruisers, lumbermen and railroad men that they did when the district was founded in 1908. Business slowed after the decline of the surrounding timber that fueled the town's primary industry in the 1920s and further slowed during the Great Depression of the 1930s. While the town never regained its former economic status, it continues to represent a moment in time that was central to the development of this area within North Central Idaho and Latah County. It is significant under Criterion A in the area of Commerce, at the local level, and retains sufficient integrity to convey the reasons for its significance.

DRAFT

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Andrus, Patrick W., *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*. Washington DC: US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Cultural Resources, 1995.

"Bovill Citizen's [sic] Resent Charges," Moscow, ID: *The Daily Star-Mirror*, November 2, 1916:1.

"Builds Big Warehouses," *The Spokesman-Review* (Spokane, WA), May 27, 1910:8.

Burg, Thomas E., Potlatch Lumber Co. The WI&M, and the Milwaukee," 1993. Potlatch Historical Society Collection, accessed June 2025.

Caldbeck, John, Chicago, "Milwaukee & Puget Sound Railway inaugurates twice-daily service between Tacoma and Chicago on May 29, 1911," *Historylink*, December 28, 2014. <https://www.historylink.org/File/10999>, accessed June 2025.

Campbell, Renae J., Caroline E. Herritt, Daniel J. Polito, "The Bovill Run: History and Practice of North Central Idaho's Bar Hopping Tradition," *Idaho Archaeologist*, Vol. 41, No. 1, Spring 2018.

City of Bovill (website), <https://www.cityofbovill.net/>, accessed May 2025.

"A Company Town?", 1955. Moscow, ID: Potlatch Historical Society Collection, University of Idaho Library Digital Collections, <https://www.lib.uidaho.edu/digital/phs/items/phs1092.html>, accessed June 2025.

"Construction Timeline," *Shaping a Company Town*, <https://sdryden3.wixsite.com/phscompanytown/timeline>, accessed April 2025.

The Daily Star-Mirror (Moscow, ID)

- "Bovill Citizen's Resent Charges," November 2, 1916:1.
- "Fire Destroys Mountain Home Hotel," May 10, 1912:1.
- "Potlatch Co. Takes Over Big Cedar Plant," August 8, 1923:1.
- "Wanted! – Men," (ad by Potlatch Lumber Company), October 9, 1919:3.
- "Will Vote on Water and Light Bonds," April 19, 1912:1.
- "Woods Product Co. Select Site," April 13, 1912:1.

"Elk Saloon, Bovill, ID," Rotgut.org Blog, 9/2/2019, <http://www.seattlebars.org/2019/09/3854-elk-saloon-bovill-id-922019.html>, accessed May 2025.

Fahey, John, "Big Lumber in the Inland Empire: The Early Years, 1900-1930," *The Pacific Northwest Quarterly*, Vol. 76, No. 3, July 1985.

Farah, Michelle, *Hotel Bovill, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*, December 14, 1993.

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
County and State

Hart, Arthur, "The road to Prohibition in Idaho was a bumpy one," *The Idaho Statesman*, June 20, 2017.

Hawley, James H., *History of Idaho: the gem of the mountains*. Chicago, IL: S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1920.

"Hotel Bovill," *Wikipedia*, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hotel_Bovill, accessed May 2025.

"Hugh Bovill Dies Recently," (obit.), 1935.

"Idaho Counties Go Dry," *New York Times*, August 27, 1909:1.

ICRIS, Idaho Cultural Resource Information System, Idaho State Historical Society, <https://history.idaho.gov/shpo/icris/>, accessed June 2025.

An Illustrated History of North Idaho, Embracing Nez Perces, Idaho, Latah, Kootenai and Shoshone Counties, State of Idaho. Western Historical Publishing Company, 1903.

Jandl, H. Ward, "Preservation Briefs 11, Rehabilitating Historic Storefronts." Washington DC: US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Heritage Preservation Services, September 1982.

"John Miller 'Trees Grew Tall' Photographs, 1898-1943, University of Idaho Library, Special Collections and Archives, accessed June 2025.

Julin, Suzanne, *National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, Bovill Opera House*, December 8, 2009.

"Latah County, Idaho," *Wikipedia*, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latah_County,_Idaho, accessed May 2025.

Latah Legacy (Moscow, ID)

- Boone, Lalia P., "Latah County Post Offices," Vol. 7, No. 4, October 1978:3-29.
- Burg, Thomas E., "John Holland Remembers: Growing Up in the Boville Depot," Vol. 15, No. 4, Winter 1986:20-26.
- Miller, John B., "Warren Meadows," Vol. 13, No. 1, Summer 1984:1-9.
- Otness, Lillian W., "When Bovill Almost Burned," Vol. 8, No. 4, Fall 1979:1-18.
- Peters, Charles A., "The Bovills," Vol. 15, No. 4, Winter 1986:23-26.
- Petersen, Keith C., "Life in a Company Town: Potlatch, Idaho," Vol. 10, No. 2, Spring 1981:1-12.1905.
- Williams, Keith, "The Early Electrification of Latah County, Idaho," Vol. 14, No. 2, Summer 1985:10-19.

Liebs, Chester H., *Main Street to Miracle Mile, American Roadside Architecture*. Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1995 (1985).

Longstreth, Richard, *The Buildings of Main Street*, Updated Edition. Walnut Creek, CA: AltaMira Press, 2000 (1987).

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
County and State

- "Lumberjack Math," *Minnesota Historical Society Web Archive*, June 2021.
<https://mnhs.gitlab.io/archive/lumberjack-math/education.mnhs.org/lumberjackmath/lesson/timber-cruiser.html>, accessed June 2025.
- "Map of Bovill, Latah Co. Idaho," (plat map), 1907. Moscow, ID: Potlatch Historical Society Collection, University of Idaho, accessed June 2025.
- Miller, John B., *The Trees Grow Tall*. Moscow, ID: News Review Publishing Company, 1972.
- "Milwaukee Is Negotiating With Potlatch for Railway," *Spokane Chronicle*, July 21, 1961:6.
- Monroe, Julie R., *Latah County*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2006.
- National Park Service, *National Register Bulletin 16A: How to Complete the National Register Registration Form*. Washington DC: US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Cultural Resources, 1997 (1977).
- "Nez Perce National Historical Park, ID, MT, OR, WA," *National Park Service*,
<https://www.nps.gov/nepe/learn/historyculture/the-treaty-era.htm>, accessed May 2023.
- Nielsen, Judith, "Washington, Idaho & Montana Railway Company," (Finding Aid), University of Idaho Manuscript Group 139, August 1982.
- Olson, Christina L., *Architectural Survey of the Bovill Townsite, Latah County, Idaho*. Boise, ID: Kerros Cultural Resource Management, July 1, 2021.
- "Our Story," *Camas Prairie Winery*, <https://camasprairiewinery.com/>, accessed May 2025.
- Painter, Diana J., PhD, *National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, Deary Garage*, May 15, 2023.
- Painter, Diana J., PhD, *National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, Walla Walla Downtown Historic District*, April 20, 2020.
- Petersen, Keith C., *National Register of Historic Places Inventory – Nomination Form, Historic Resources of Potlatch*, November 26, 1985.
- "Potlatch Historical Society Collection, 1880- 2024," (website), University of Idaho,
<https://www.lib.uidaho.edu/digital/phs/timeline.html>, accessed May 2025.
- R.L Polk & Co., *Latah County Directory*, 1907, 1909-10, 916-1917.
- Ruby, Robert H., John A. Brown, and Cary C. Collins, *A Guide to the Indian Tribes of the Pacific Northwest* (Third Edition). Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 2010 (1986).
- Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, 1916, 1916 updated to 1928.

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
County and State

Strong, Gary E., *Communities and towns in North Latah County*. Potlatch, ID: Potlatch Historical Society, Stronghold Press, 2020.

US Census, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940, 1950.
Washington

Wickline, Michael R., "Resort Business has its Roots in Early 1900s," *Lewiston Morning Tribune*, May 5, 1990.

"W.I.&M.Ry. Co," *The Potlatch Story*, Vol. II, No. III, September 1960.

"Women's History Month 2017: The Bovill Women, Thriving on the Frontier," *Latah County Historical Society* (website), <https://www.latahcountyhistoricalsociety.org/post/women-s-history-month-2017-the-bovill-women-thriving-on-the-frontier>, April 1, 2020 (March 8, 2017), accessed May 2025.

Wright, Patricia, "St. Joseph's Catholic Church," (1980), Tourtellotte and Hummel Architecture National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form," September 22, 1982.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): NA

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 1.50 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| A. Zone: 11 | Easting: 545904 | Northing: 5189783 |
| B. Zone: 11 | Easting: 545903 | Northing: 5189814 |
| C. Zone: 11 | Easting: 546073 | Northing: 5189784 |
| D. Zone: 11 | Easting: 546052 | Northing: 5189753 |
| E. Zone: 11 | Easting: 546010 | Northing: 5189753 |
| F. Zone: 11 | Easting: 545904 | Northing: 5189752 |

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
County and State

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

The Bovill Historic Commercial District encompasses two blocks in the northwest corner of the city. It includes the north half of Block 5, lots 1-6; and the north portion of Block 4, including the first four lots from the SW corner of the intersection of Main Street and 1st Avenue, toward the east.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The commercial heart of Bovill has occupied the two blocks proposed for the Bovill Historic Commercial District since the city was platted and the railroad arrived in 1907. These blocks were developed with wood false front commercial buildings beginning in 1908 and with brick buildings in 1914, after the wood buildings burned in the fire of that year. The continuity of location, use, and building form drives the boundary justification.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Diana J. Painter, PhD/ Principal Architectural Historian & Owner

organization: Painter Preservation

street & number: 3518 N C Street

city or town: Spokane state: WA zip code: 99205

e-mail: dianajpainter@gmail.com

telephone: 707-763-6500

date: July 1, 2025

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
County and State

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Bovill Historic Commercial District

City or Vicinity: Bovill

County: Latah **State:** Idaho

Photographer: Diana Painter

Date Photographed: May 22, 2025

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

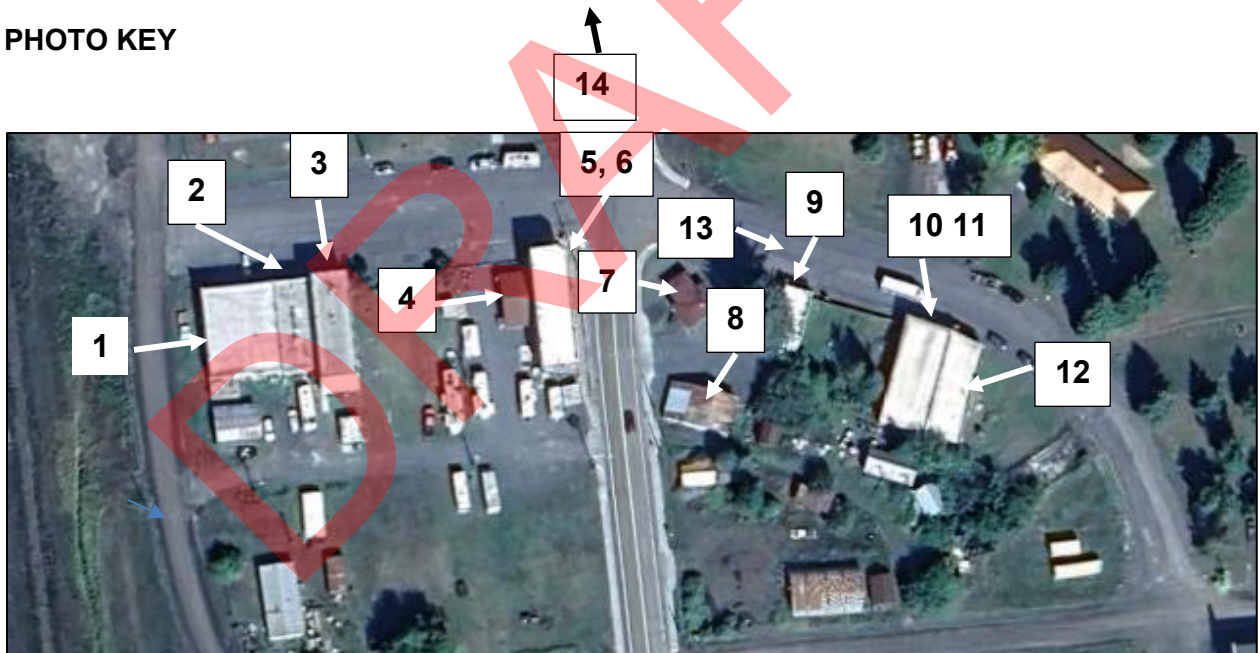
- 1 of 14. ID_LatahCounty_BovillHistoricCommercialDistrict_0001
West façade, looking east
- 2 of 14. ID_LatahCounty_BovillHistoricCommercialDistrict_0002
Front (north) façade, looking south
- 3 of 14. ID_LatahCounty_BovillHistoricCommercialDistrict_0003
East and north facades, looking southwest
- 4 of 14. ID_LatahCounty_BovillHistoricCommercialDistrict_0004
West facade, looking east
- 5 of 14. ID_LatahCounty_BovillHistoricCommercialDistrict_0005
Northeast corner detail, looking southwest
- 6 of 14. ID_LatahCounty_BovillHistoricCommercialDistrict_0006
East and north facades, looking southwest
- 7 of 14. ID_LatahCounty_BovillHistoricCommercialDistrict_0007
Northwest and west facades, looking southeast
- 8 of 14. ID_LatahCounty_BovillHistoricCommercialDistrict_0008
North façade, looking south

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
County and State

- 9 of 14. ID_LatahCounty_BovillHistoricCommercialDistrict_0009
East and north facades, looking southwest
- 10 of 14. ID_LatahCounty_BovillHistoricCommercialDistrict_0010
North facades, looking south
- 11 of 14. ID_LatahCounty_BovillHistoricCommercialDistrict_0011
North façade (detail), looking south
- 12 of 14. ID_LatahCounty_BovillHistoricCommercialDistrict_0012
East façade, looking west
- 13 of 14. ID_LatahCounty_BovillHistoricCommercialDistrict_0013
Main Street and First Avenue, looking east
- 14 of 14. ID_LatahCounty_BovillHistoricCommercialDistrict_0014
1st Avenue and Main Street, looking north

PHOTO KEY



Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
County and State

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations 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.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

DRAFT

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Bovill Historic Commercial District

Name of Property

Latah County, Idaho

County and State

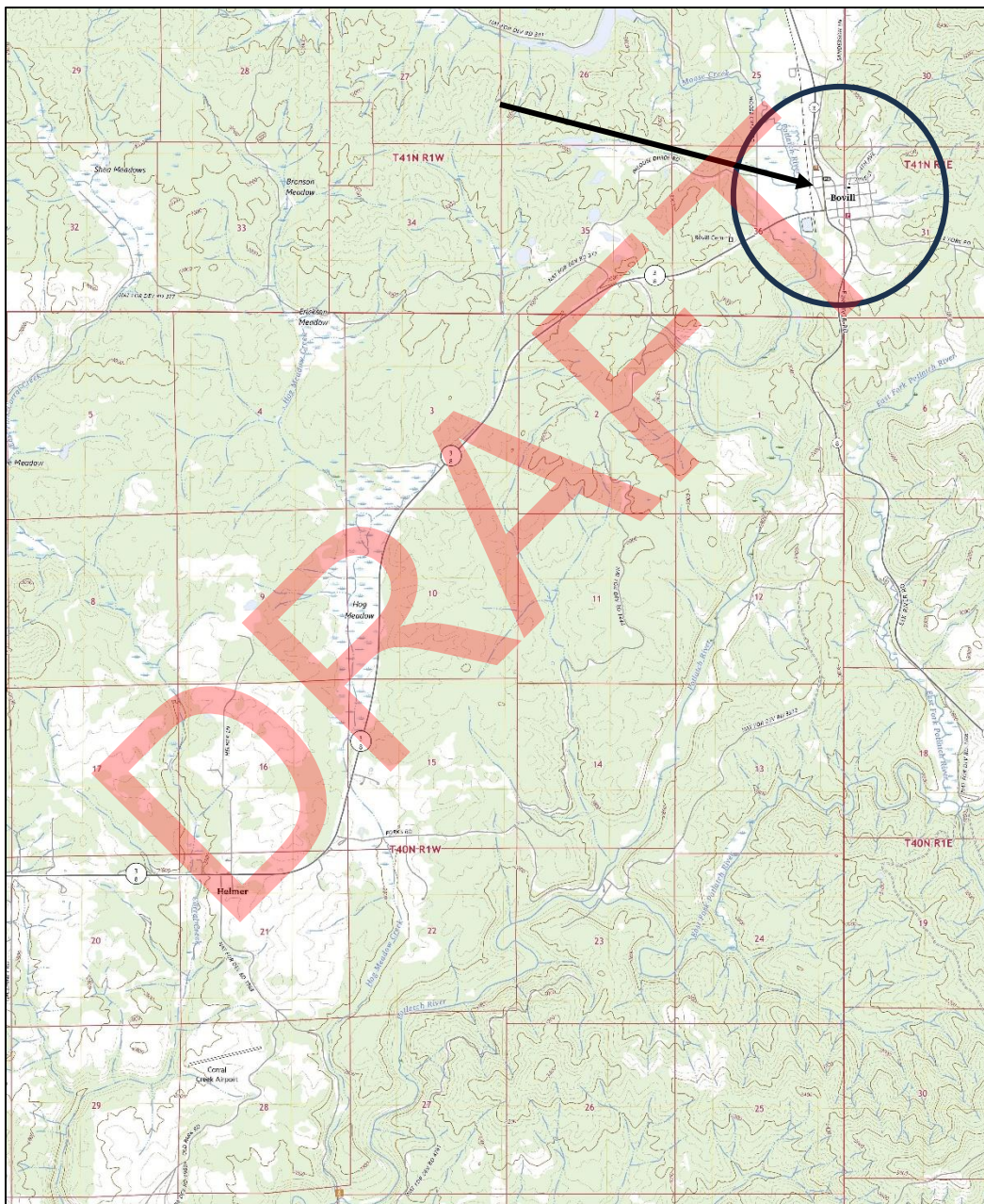
NA

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 64

Figure 1: Topographical map, Bovill 7.5 minute quadrangle, 2024



Source: USGS topographical maps

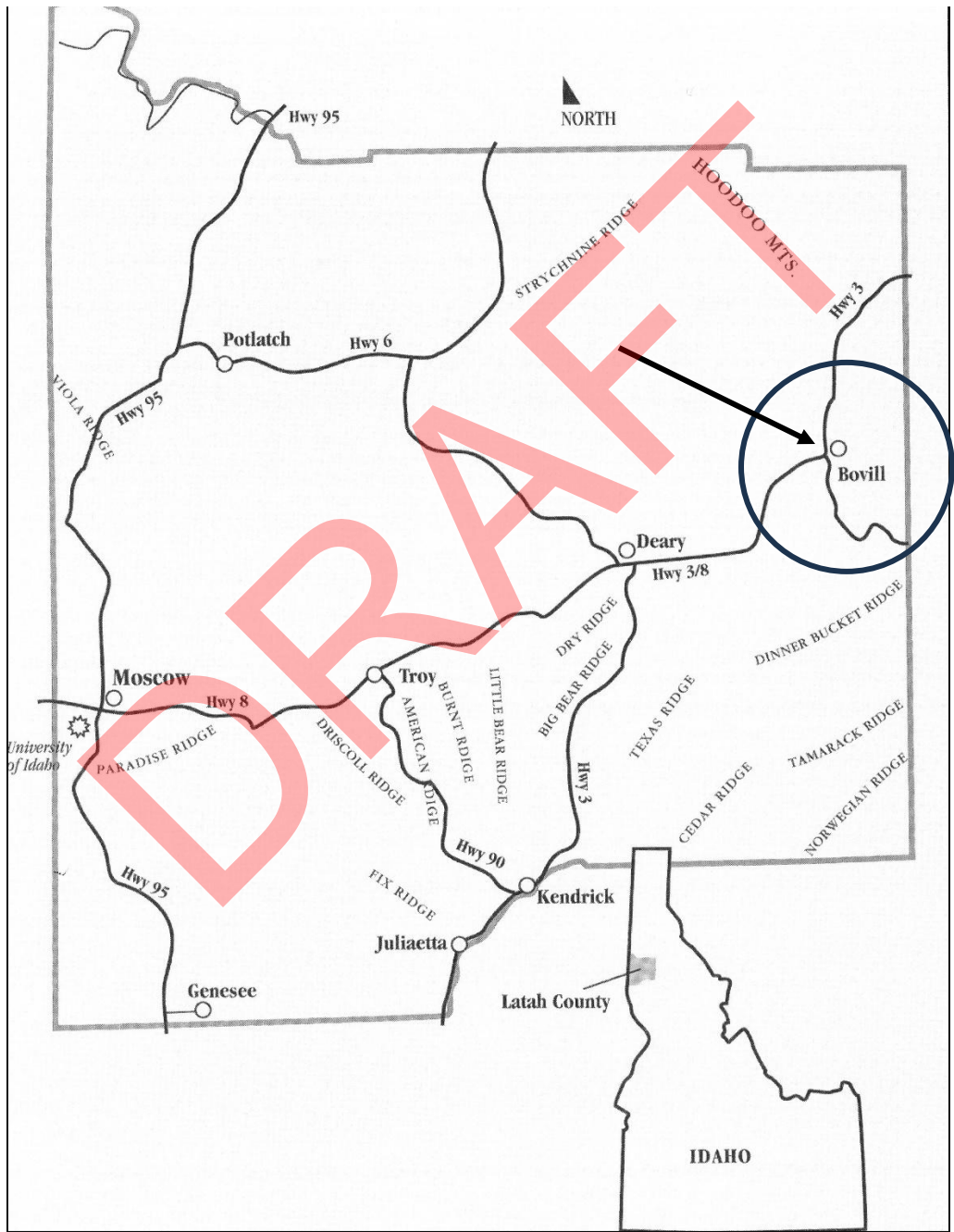
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property
Latah County, Idaho
County and State
NA
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation Page 65

Figure 2: Map of Latah County, showing Bovill



Source: Latah County, 2006

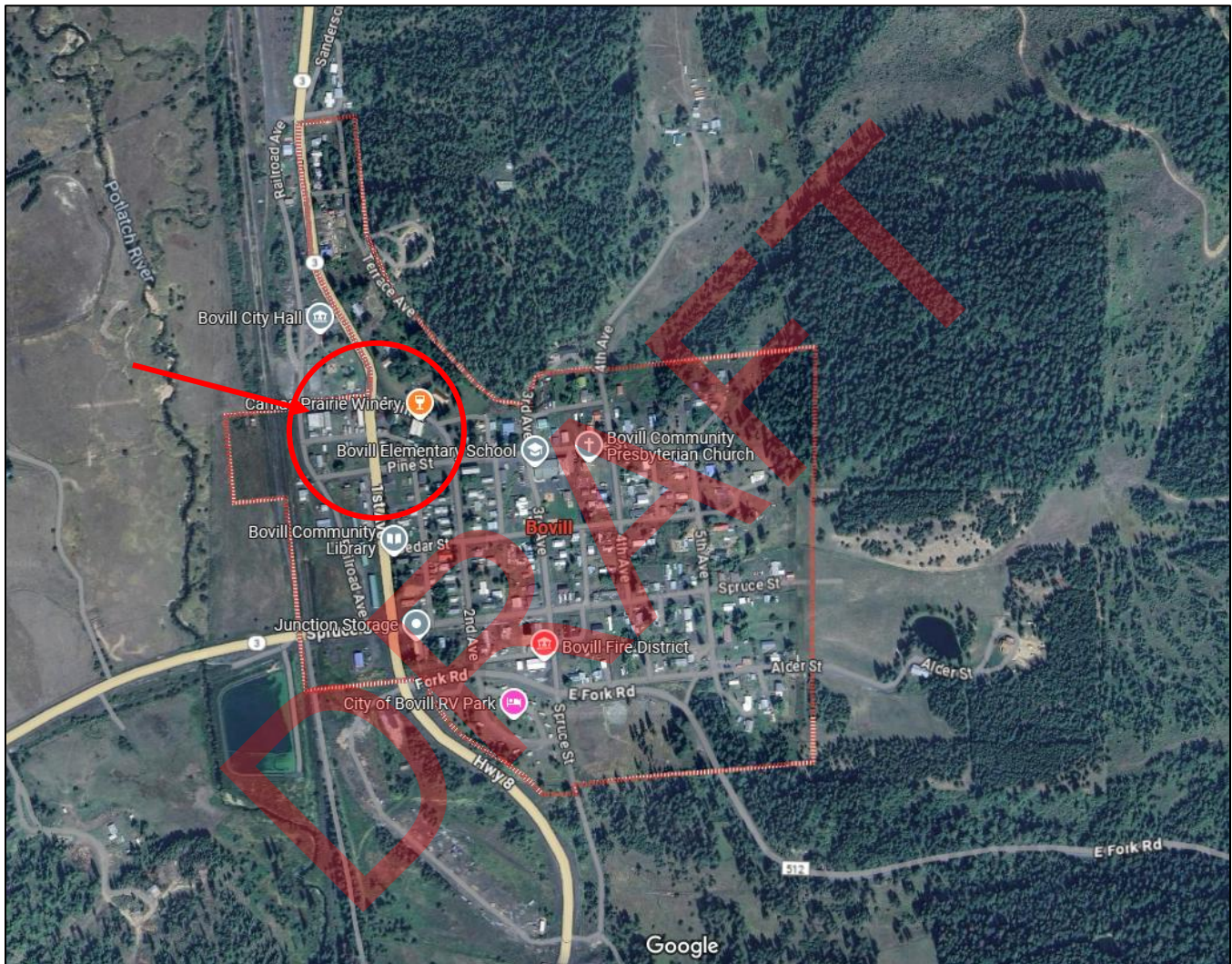
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property
Latah County, Idaho
County and State
NA
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation Page 66

Figure 3: Bovill Historic Commercial District within neighborhood context



Source: Google maps

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property
Latah County, Idaho
County and State
NA
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

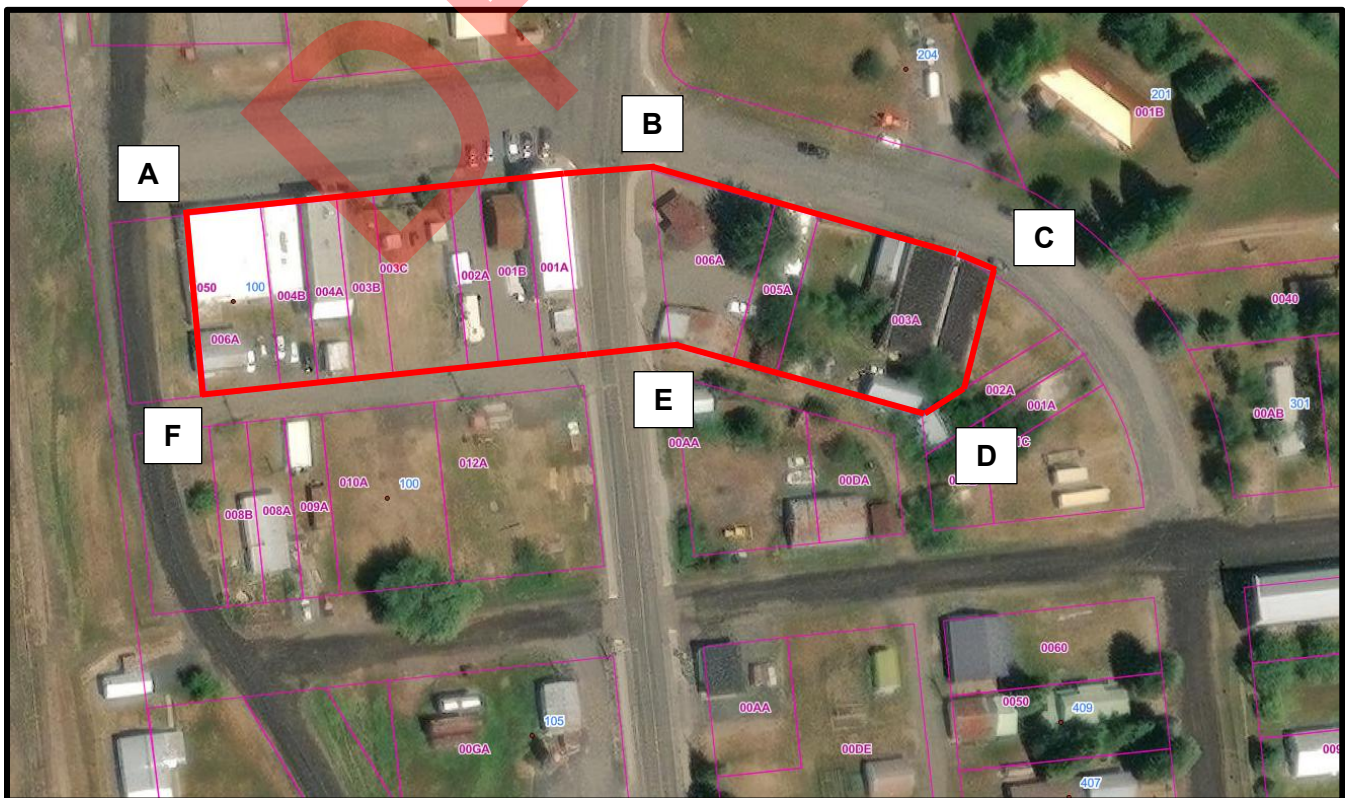
Section number Additional Documentation Page 67

Figure 4: Bovill Historic Commercial District area with Field ID numbers



Source: Google maps

Figure 5: Parcel map, Bovill Historic Commercial District boundary, and boundary markers
ADD COORDINATES TO CAPTION



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property
Latah County, Idaho
County and State
NA
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation Page 68

Figure 6: Map showing W.I. & M. Railway route to Bovill, 1907



Source: Rand, McNally & Co., Chicago

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property
Latah County, Idaho
County and State
NA
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation Page 69

Figure 7: Plat map of Bovill, 1907



Source: Potlatch Historical Society Collection

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Bovill Historic Commercial District

Name of Property

Latah County, Idaho

County and State

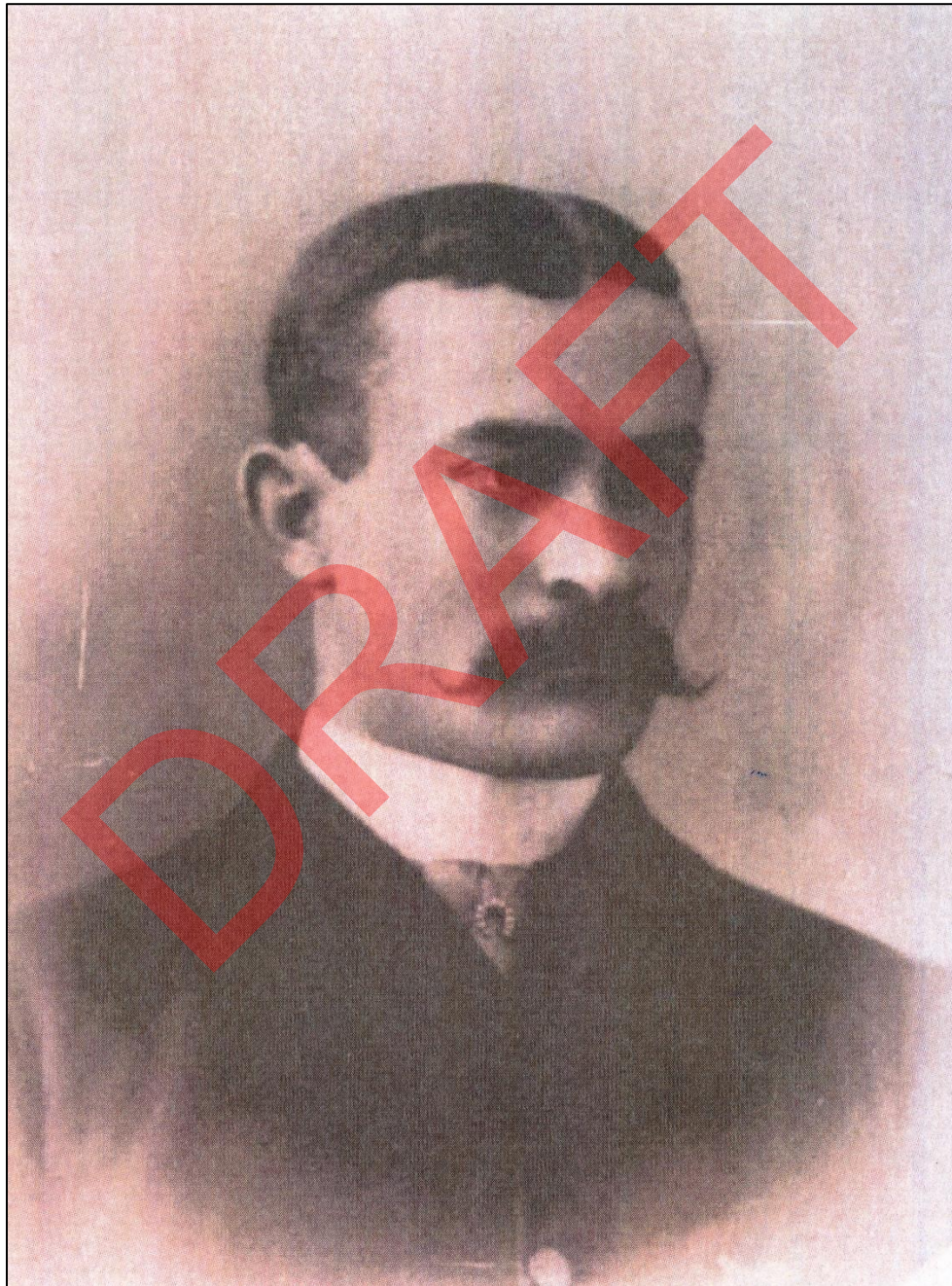
NA

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 70

Figure 8: Portrait of Hugh Bovill (no date)



Source: Latah County Historical Society

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Bovill Historic Commercial District

Name of Property

Latah County, Idaho

County and State

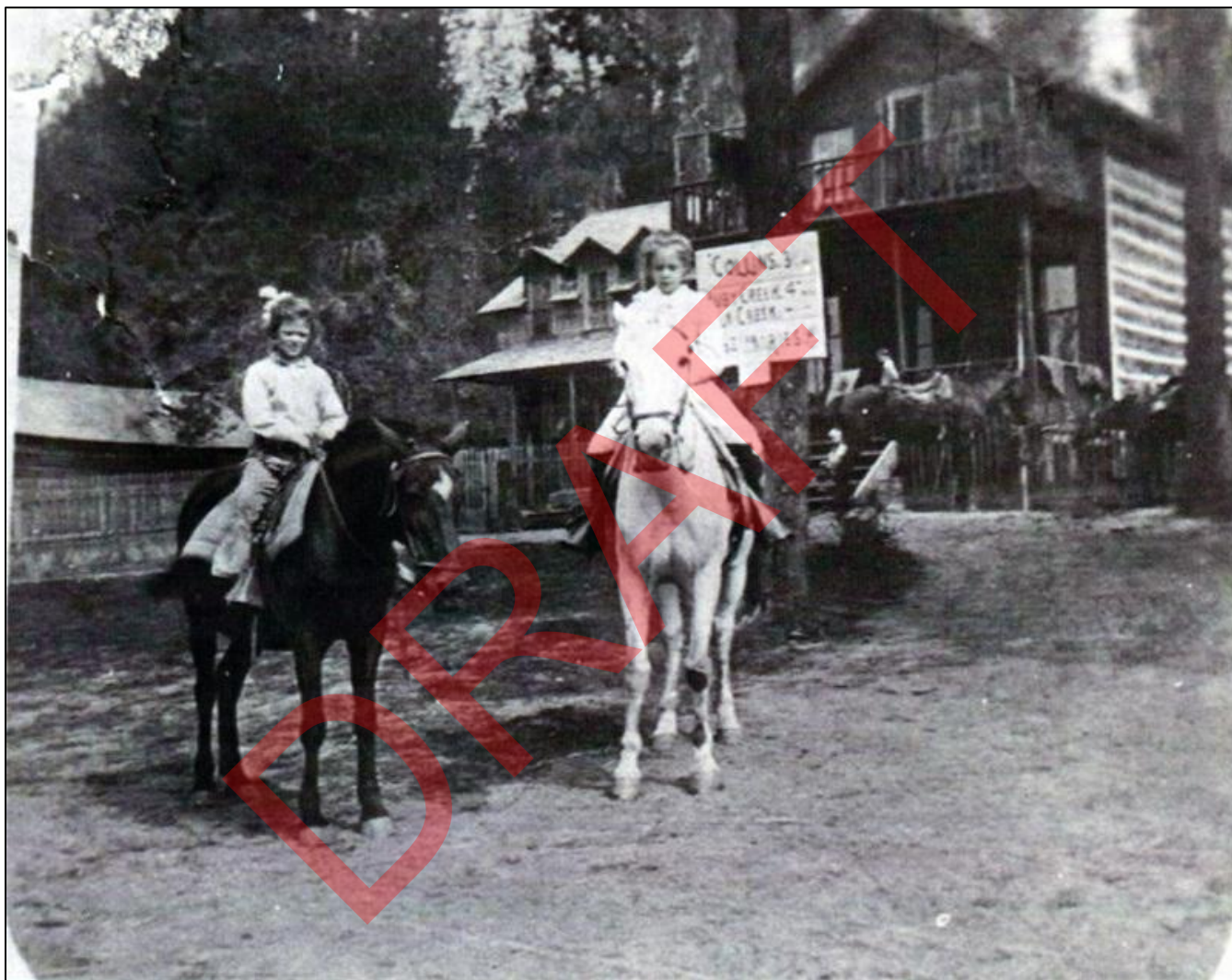
NA

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 71

Figure 9: The Bovill children on horseback in front of the Bovill Hotel, ca 1900



Source: *Potlatch Historical Society Collection*

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Bovill Historic Commercial District

Name of Property

Latah County, Idaho

County and State

NA

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 72

Figure 10: Bovill Hotel, 1910



Source: *Latah County Historical Society*

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Bovill Historic Commercial District

Name of Property

Latah County, Idaho

County and State

NA

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 73

Figure 11: Bovill Main Street ca 1909, before the fire of 1914



Source: *Potlatch Historical Society Collection*

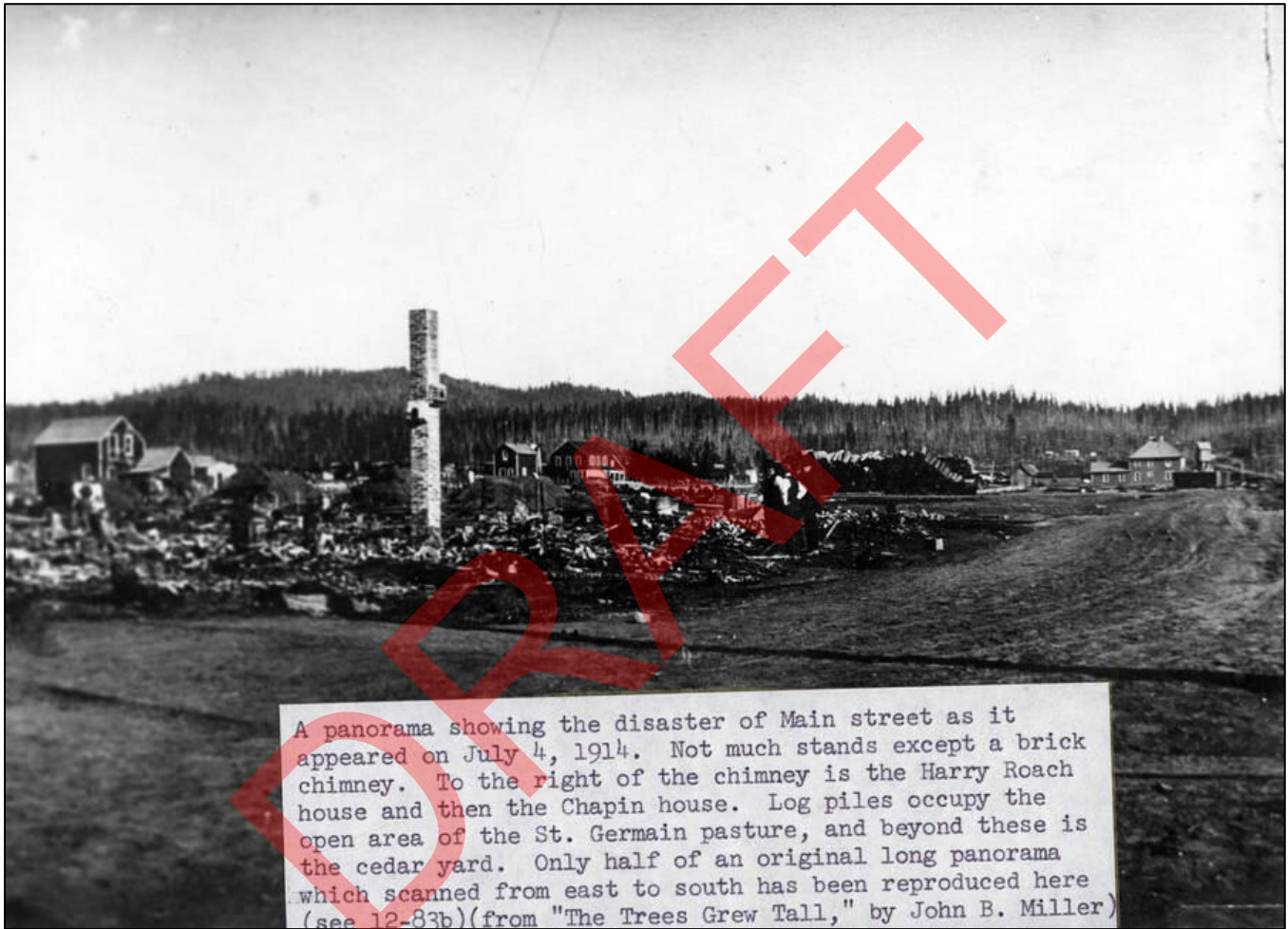
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property
Latah County, Idaho
County and State
NA
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation Page 74

Figure 12: Wreckage of July 4, 1914 fire



A panorama showing the disaster of Main street as it appeared on July 4, 1914. Not much stands except a brick chimney. To the right of the chimney is the Harry Roach house and then the Chapin house. Log piles occupy the open area of the St. Germain pasture, and beyond these is the cedar yard. Only half of an original long panorama which scanned from east to south has been reproduced here (see 12-83b)(from "The Trees Grew Tall," by John B. Miller)

Source: John Miller "Trees Grew Tall" Photographs, 1898-1943, University of Idaho

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Bovill Historic Commercial District

Name of Property

Latah County, Idaho

County and State

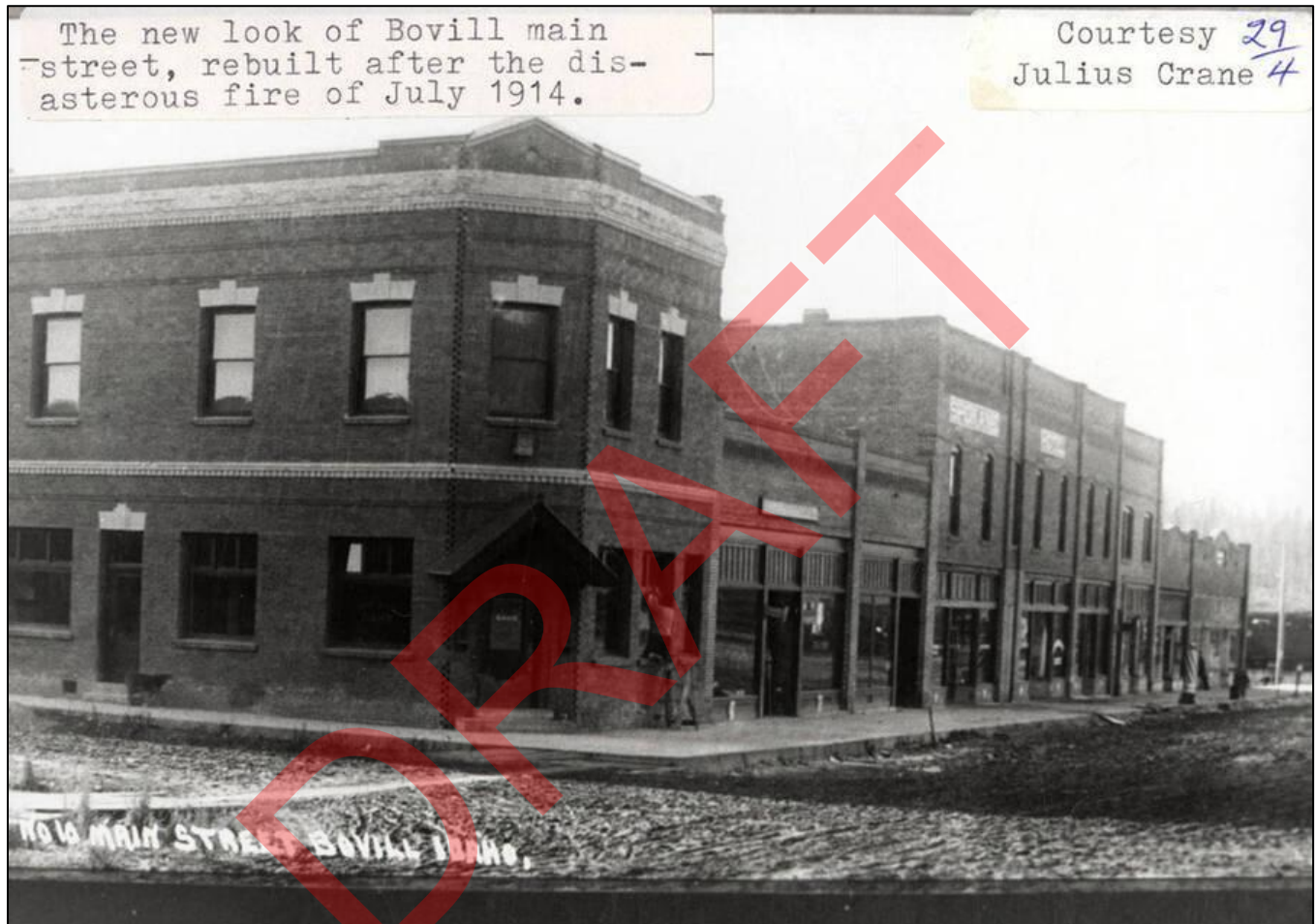
NA

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 75

Figure 13: Bovill Main Street west of 1st Avenue, as it was rebuilt in brick after the 1914 fire



Source: Potlatch Historical Society Collection

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Bovill Historic Commercial District

Name of Property

Latah County, Idaho

County and State

NA

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 76

Figure 14: Three-bay building (100 & 102 Main Street) at Railroad Avenue and Main, 1915



Source: *Potlatch Historical Society Collection*

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Bovill Historic Commercial District

Name of Property

Latah County, Idaho

County and State

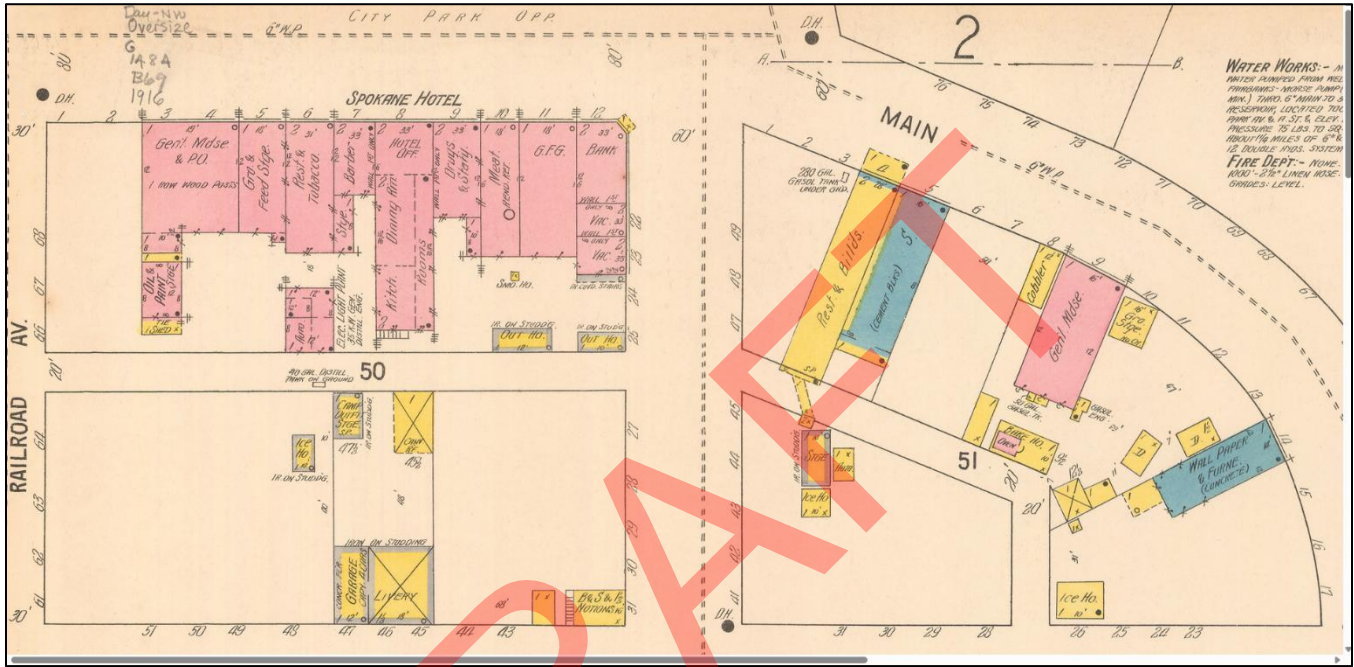
NA

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 77

Figure 15: Sanborn Fire Insurance map showing Bovill business district, 1916



Red = brick; yellow = wood; blue = masonry

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Bovill Historic Commercial District

Name of Property

Latah County, Idaho

County and State

NA

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 78

Figure 16: Ad for workers in Bovill, 1919

When You Want a Job **BETTER WRITE TO THE**
POTLATCH LUMBER COMPANY

<p>Potlatch, Idaho</p> <p>ONE of the largest sawmills in the country. Four bands and a gang saw. Box Factory. Comfortable, modern, electric lighted boarding houses where good meals are served. Hot and cold water and free shower baths. Splendid Schools, Primary, Grammar and High School grades, including Domestic Science and Manual Training. Good houses from three to seven rooms, all with city water and electric lights. Protestant, Catholic and Scandinavian Churches. Masonic, Odd Fellow, Woodmen and Scandinavian Lodges. The best and largest gymnasium in the Inland Empire. Good Movie Theatre. Free Public Library. L. L. L. L. wage schedule.</p>	<p>Bovill, Idaho</p> <p>SIX modern logging camps. All furnished with comfortable spring beds; sheets; pillow cases; individual linen towels; big, warm, woolen blankets; feather pillows; hot and cold water and free shower baths; electric lights; good meals, served on clean, white crockery. L. L. L. L. wage schedule.</p>	<p>Elk River, Idaho</p> <p>FOUR modern logging camps, all furnished and equipped like those at Bovill, described above. L. L. L. L. wage schedule.</p> <p>We can nearly always use experienced sawmill men, lumber pilers, lumber loaders, section men, steel gang men and trainmen.</p>
---	---	---

WE WANT
L. L. L. L. Members;
Discharged soldiers, sailors and marines;
Good, clean, loyal, law-abiding men.

WE WON'T HAVE
Wobblies, Anarchists, Bolsheviks, Radicals, and our works are very unhealthy for any of them.

OUR OPERATIONS RUN ALL THE YEAR 'ROUND (except the Elk River Mill, which sometimes shuts down for two or three months in the winter.)

Tear This Page Out---Paste it in Your Hat
And the next time you want a job write to
POTLATCH LUMBER COMPANY
at either POTLATCH, IDAHO, ELK RIVER, IDAHO, BOVILL, IDAHO

P. S. We nearly always have chances where Gypos and Contractors can clear big money

Source: Potlatch Historical Society Collection

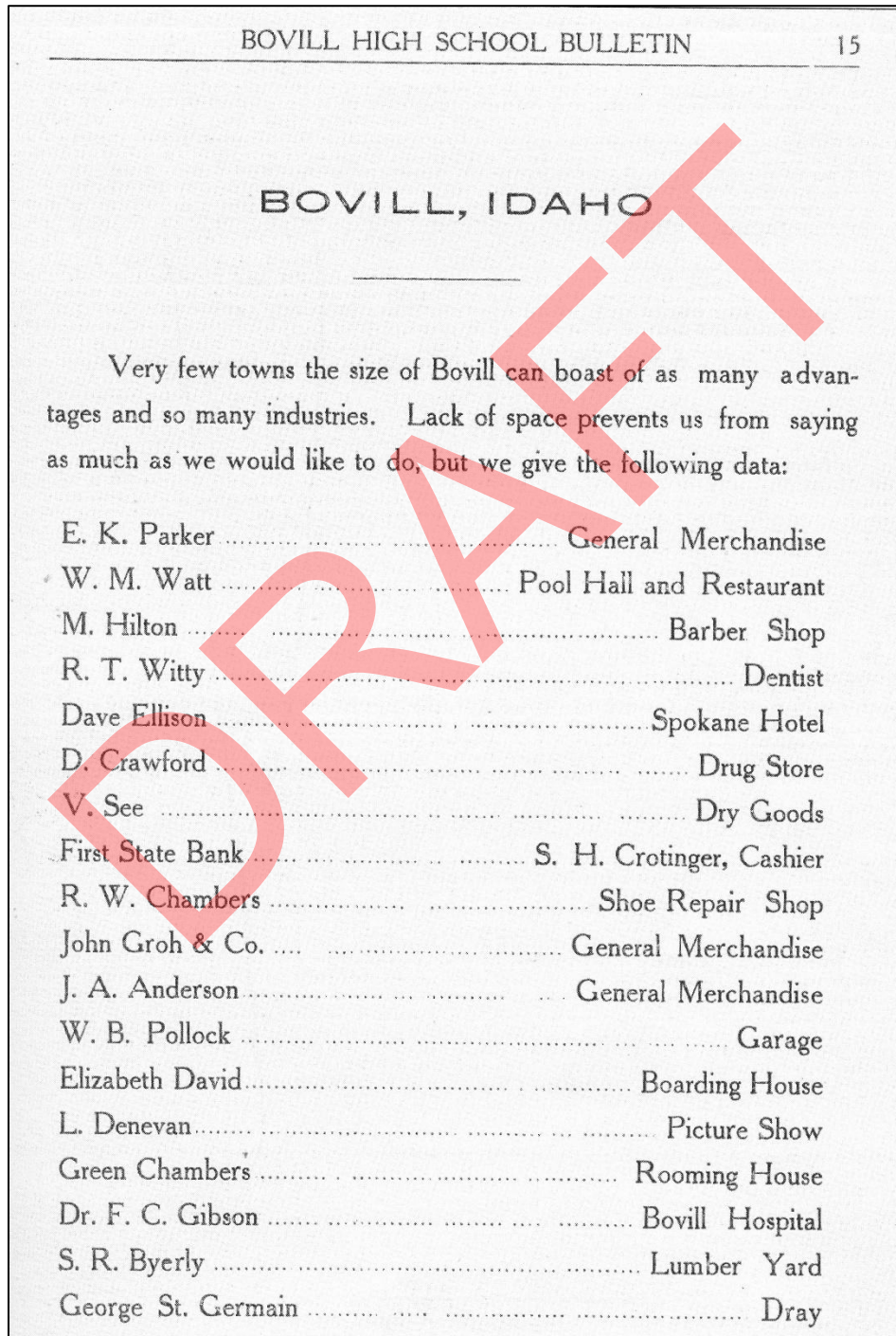
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property
Latah County, Idaho
County and State
NA
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation Page 79

Figure 17: Partial list of businesses in Bovill in 1921



Source: Images of America, Latah County

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Bovill Historic Commercial District

Name of Property

Latah County, Idaho

County and State

NA

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 80

Figure 18: Sanborn Fire Insurance map showing Bovill business district, 1928



Red = brick; yellow = wood; blue = masonry

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Bovill Historic Commercial District

Name of Property

Latah County, Idaho

County and State

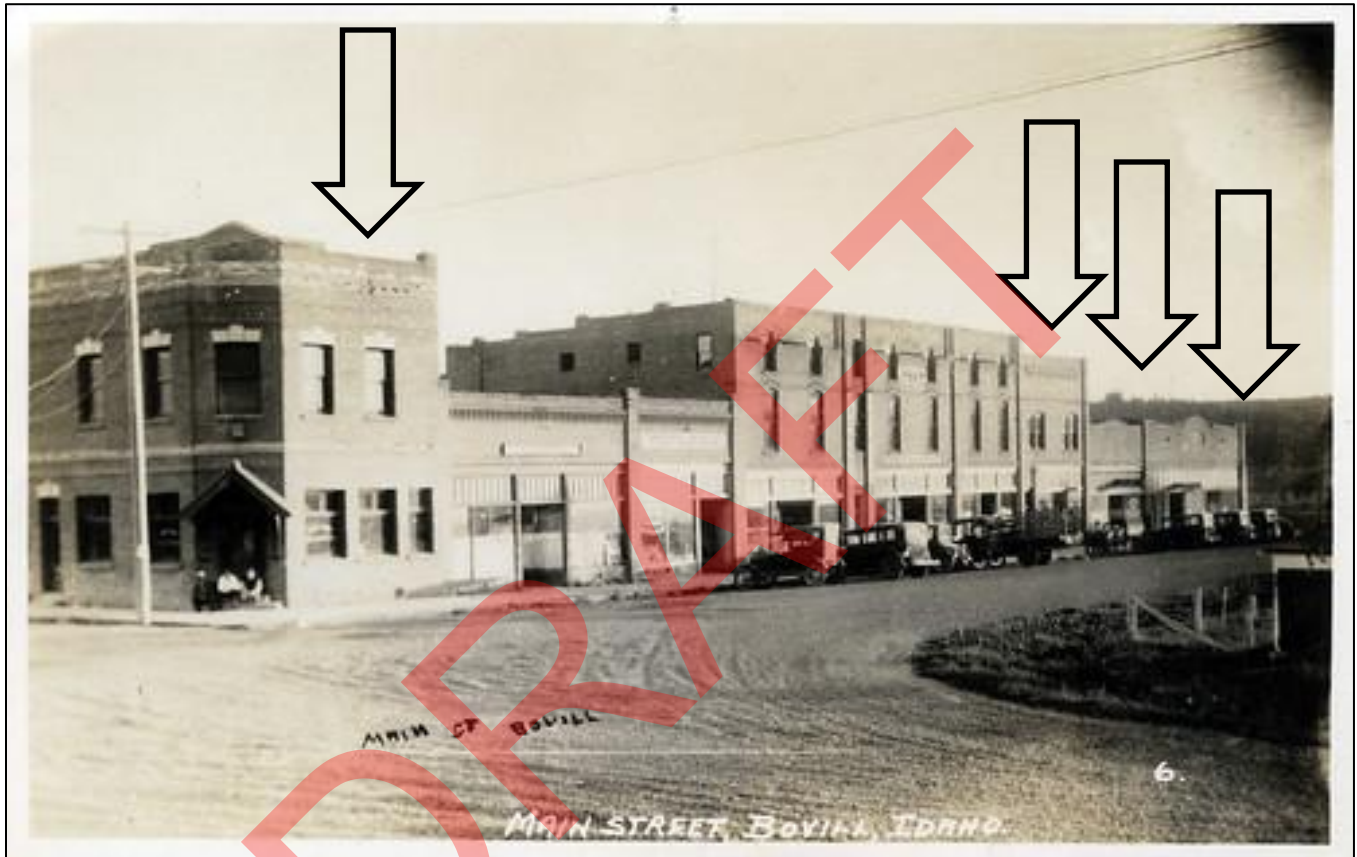
NA

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 81

Photo 19: Bovill Main Street ca 1930, looking west; extant buildings today are noted



Source: Potlatch Historical Society Collection

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Bovill Historic Commercial District

Name of Property

Latah County, Idaho

County and State

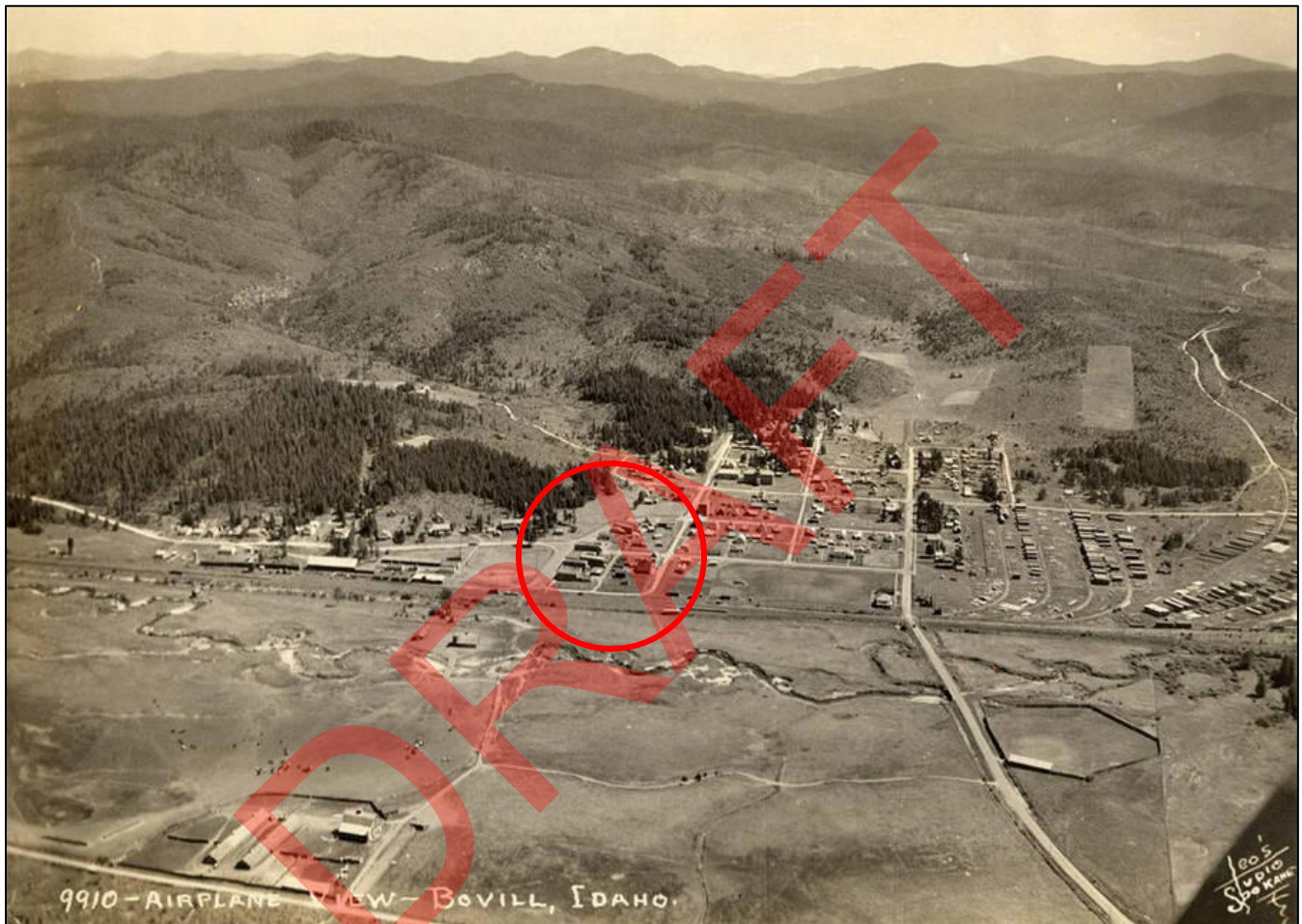
NA

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 82

Figure 20: Birds-eye aerial photograph of Bovill looking east, 1933; district encircled in red



Source: Potlatch Historical Society Collection

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Name of Property
Latah County, Idaho
County and State
NA
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation Page 83

Figure 21: Example of a Metzker storefront from 1905 showing storefront components

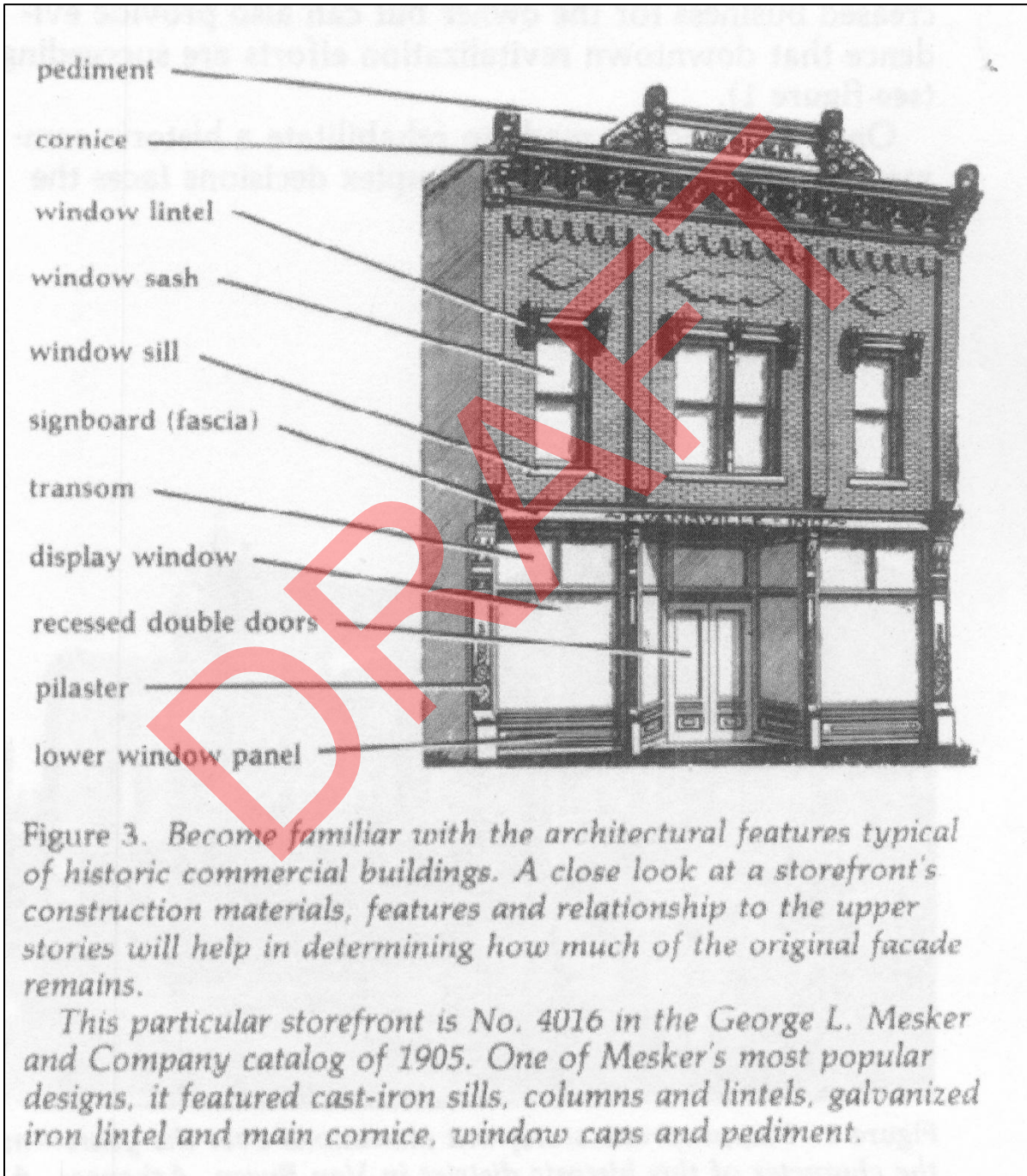
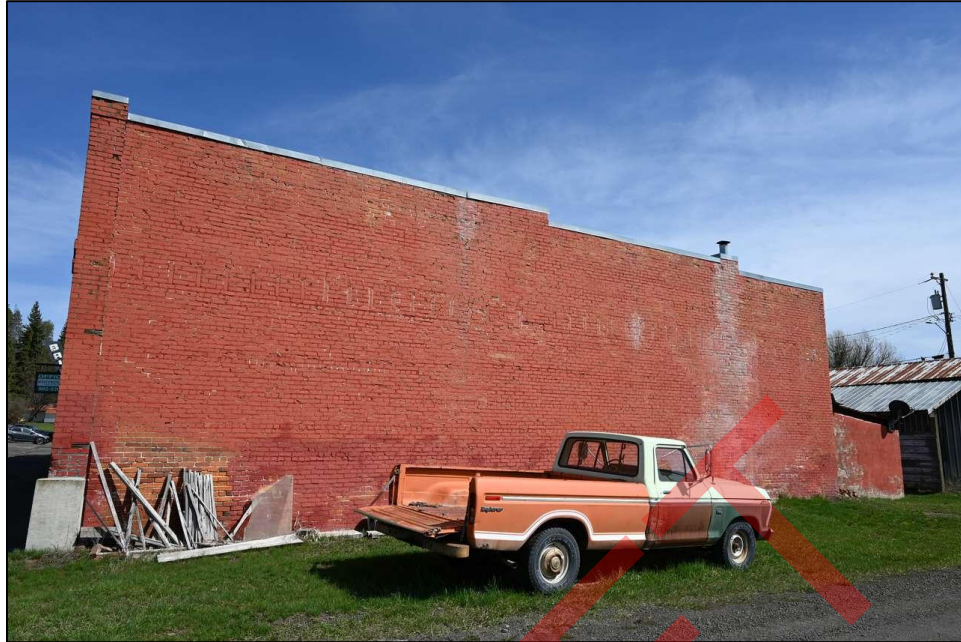


Figure 3. Become familiar with the architectural features typical of historic commercial buildings. A close look at a storefront's construction materials, features and relationship to the upper stories will help in determining how much of the original facade remains.

This particular storefront is No. 4016 in the George L. Mesker and Company catalog of 1905. One of Mesker's most popular designs, it featured cast-iron sills, columns and lintels, galvanized iron lintel and main cornice, window caps and pediment.

Source: "Preservation Briefs 11, Rehabilitating Historic Storefronts."

**Bovill Historic Commercial District
Latah County, Idaho**



1 of 14. ID_LatahCounty_BovillHistoricCommercialDistrict_0001
West façade, looking east



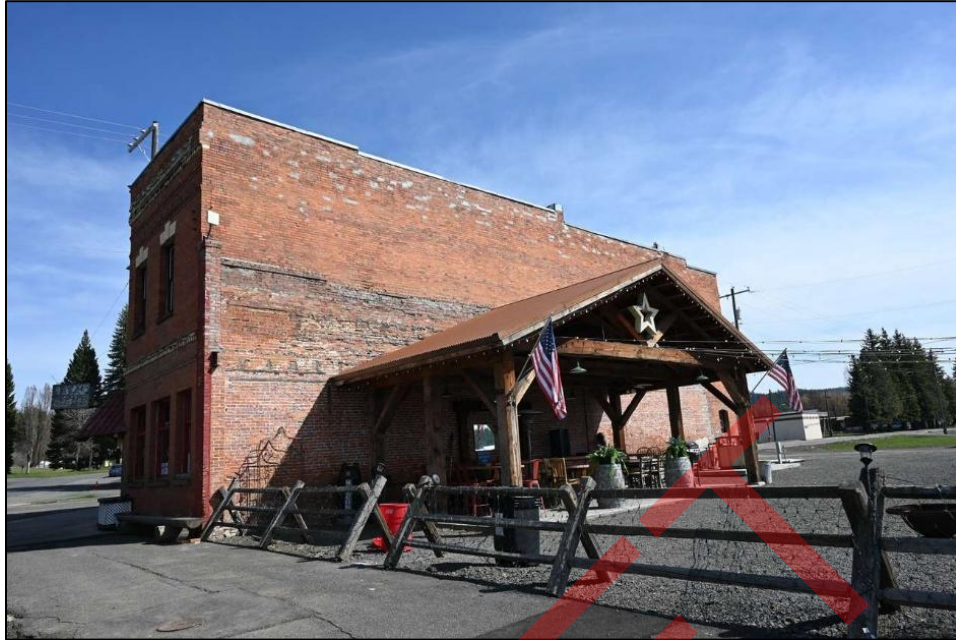
2 of 14. ID_LatahCounty_BovillHistoricCommercialDistrict_0002
Front (north) façade, looking south

**Bovill Historic Commercial District
Latah County, Idaho**



3 of 14. ID_LatahCounty_BovillHistoricCommercialDistrict_0003
East and north facades, looking southwest

**Bovill Historic Commercial District
Latah County, Idaho**



4 of 14. ID_LatahCounty_BovillHistoricCommercialDistrict_0004
West facade, looking east

**Bovill Historic Commercial District
Latah County, Idaho**



5 of 14. ID_LatahCounty_BovillHistoricCommercialDistrict_0005
Northeast corner detail, looking southwest

**Bovill Historic Commercial District
Latah County, Idaho**



6 of 14. ID_LatahCounty_BovillHistoricCommercialDistrict_0006
East and north facades, looking southwest



7 of 14. ID_LatahCounty_BovillHistoricCommercialDistrict_0007
Northwest and west facades, looking southeast

**Bovill Historic Commercial District
Latah County, Idaho**



8 of 14. ID_LatahCounty_BovillHistoricCommercialDistrict_0008
North façade, looking south



9 of 14. ID_LatahCounty_BovillHistoricCommercialDistrict_0009
East and north facades, looking southwest

**Bovill Historic Commercial District
Latah County, Idaho**



10 of 14. ID_LatahCounty_BovillHistoricCommercialDistrict_0010
North facades, looking south



11 of 14. ID_LatahCounty_BovillHistoricCommercialDistrict_0011
North façade (detail), looking south

Bovill Historic Commercial District
Latah County, Idaho



12 of 14. ID_LatahCounty_BovillHistoricCommercialDistrict_0012
East façade, looking west



13 of 14. ID_LatahCounty_BovillHistoricCommercialDistrict_0013
Main Street and First Avenue, looking east

**Bovill Historic Commercial District
Latah County, Idaho**



14 of 14. ID_LatahCounty_BovillHistoricCommercialDistrict_0014
Main Street and 1st Avenue, looking north