

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Ririe Community Hall

other names/site number Old Gym; Idaho Historic Sites Inventory No. 51-17881

Name of Multiple Property Listing N/A

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

2. Location

street & number 455 Main Street not for publication

city or town Ririe vicinity

state Idaho code ID county Jefferson code 51 zip code 83443

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 Xlocal

Applicable National Register Criteria: X A B C D

Signature of certifying official/Title: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date _____

Idaho State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____

Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

 entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register

 determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register

 other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

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5. Classification

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

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

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

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		site
		structure
		object
1	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/sports facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/sports facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: Rustic Style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE: sandstone

walls: WOOD: log

roof: ASPHALT

other: _____

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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 Ririe Community Hall is located at 455 Main Street in Ririe, Jefferson County, Idaho. The one-story, rectangular log building faces east, with the main entrance on Main Street. It was constructed as a gymnasium and music room for the community and is an excellent example of log building construction. Horizontal peeled pine logs with saddle notch exterior corners create the exterior walls. The horizontal logs with vertical log corners create the interior walls. Vertical logs hide the joining of the horizontal logs inside the building. A sandstone rock foundation supports the building. Sandstone is also used to create a prominent, gabled entrance, which projects from the center of the building. A gabled roof with asphalt shingles tops the building. There is one large main rectangular section in the center of the building with a gabled wing projecting from both the north and the south ends. The log building with both wings is 9,300 square feet.

Character-defining features include: the symmetrical arrangement of the facade; symmetrical footprint; the log materials; design features including notching on the exterior and interior; vertical logs placed within the side gables; the projecting exposed purlins; the prominent chimney; the sandstone foundation; the sandstone projecting entrance; and the roof structure with exposed rafter tails. Integrity of location, setting, materials, design, workmanship, feeling, and association are intact. Some minor alterations include: a small addition on the back of the building; a wheelchair ramp at the entrance on the interior; and a small seven-step stair on the south elevation. These alterations do not compromise the building's overall ability to convey clearly its historic architectural and recreational associations. The building is in good condition and retains historic integrity.



Narrative Description

Location and Setting

Located in the western foothills of the Teton Mountain Range, Ririe is on the southeastern edge of Jefferson County. While the community population is less than 1,000 and largely agricultural, the area is considered part of the Idaho Falls metropolitan area. Due to the placement on the property, the Ririe Community Hall building is one of the most prominent buildings in town, set aside for public recreational activities. The Ririe Community Hall building was constructed in 1933-35 and sits on 1.15 acres of grass-covered lawn in the center of town. There is a large open lawn to the north of the building. This has been used for athletic practices, marching band practices, competitive games, outdoor fairs, and many other community activities. A non-historic chain link fence protects the north end of the grassy lawn then extends along the east side of the lot half way down the block; the remaining lot area is not fenced. A concrete sidewalk located on the east side of the block on Main Street extends from Smith Street to Miller Street, where the sidewalk turns and continues from Main Street to the alley behind the Community Hall. Another concrete path connects the sidewalk to the front entrance of the Community Hall. The landscaping continues into the residential community with many non-native grasses, trees, and shrubs.

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General Characteristics

The Ririe Community Hall was constructed in 1933-35 and is a one-story, side-gabled building with a roughly rectangular footprint. Originally constructed with two wings, one on each side of the building, the north and south elevations are very similar with a central emphasized bay and two double-hung windows. The east facade is symmetrical with a sandstone projecting bay and six double-hung wood windows, some paired on either side. The building is Rustic Style featuring exposed log ends and rafter tails, similar to other recreational buildings constructed during the same time period in Idaho. The Ririe Community Hall was made with locally-quarried sandstone, is primarily a log structure, and has vertical wood siding within the gable ends. The windows are one-over-one, double-hung with a simple rectangular wood frame. Some minor alterations have occurred over the years due to necessity, such as stairs and new doors.

The Ririe Community Hall is built on a sandstone foundation approximately three-feet below grade and extends three-feet above grade. Horizontal peeled pine logs built with saddle notch exterior corners create the exterior walls. A 1935 photograph (see image on the right) of the Community Hall shows the logs that run perpendicular to the façade, projecting from the building forming a tapered look. These log ends no longer exist and have likely rotted away, which now leaves the building with a sharp edge at the corners. The original plans called for one large area, 90' x 60', constructed as a gymnasium for sporting events. On the north is a 20' x 40' wing which originally contained a stage, dressing rooms, showers, and restrooms. To the south is another 20' by 40' wing built to serve as a music room. A



large prominent sandstone entrance provides access to the gymnasium. Double wood doors surrounded by small square windows open to the entry. Five concrete steps lead from the ground level entry to the gym floor. In the 1990s a concrete ramp was added from the stairs to the gymnasium floor to allow wheelchair access. Double wood doors open from the entry to the gymnasium. A large sign reads "Ririe Community Hall" with the date of 1935 atop the exterior doors. An open gable roof with asphalt shingles covers the entry.

Twin double-hung windows are located on each side of the entry. On the back of the building, two groups of twin double hung windows are equally spaced on either side of the centered exterior fireplace chimney. To keep with the log character of the building, split logs frame the windows. At an early date the windows were boarded over on this elevation, inside and outside, and remain covered today (exact date unknown).

The roof is side-gable covered with asphalt shingles. The ridgeline is 27-feet high on the central portion of the building and 23-feet high on each wing. In each gable-end, on both wings and the center building, the ends feature pine planks with a scalloped edge instead of the horizontal log design. In 1985 a 10' by 20' utility room was added to the west side of the north wing on the rear elevation containing the new furnaces and auxiliary equipment. The exterior of the utility room is made of horizontal wood planks and has one single door on the west for access. The roof is an extension of the original roof but is made of metal roofing material instead of asphalt shingles. The planks and the roof are painted to match the rest of the building. An interior door on the south side of this utility room connects to the gymnasium.

Two wings were included when the building was constructed, one on the south end and one on the north end. The south end wing was built as one large room to be used as a music room. The wing sits on the sandstone

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foundation three-feet above grade, five concrete steps with metal rod handrails lead up to the single wood door. On either side of the door two double-hung windows were placed. On the east side and the west side of the wings there are twin double-hung windows. At some time in the 1990s the windows on the east and west elevations and one window on each side of the door were boarded over; leaving two windows on either side of the door to let light in. The ceiling is made of pine tongue and groove wood, the floor is pine plank. A three-foot wide concrete interior staircase leads from the room down to the main floor of the gymnasium. In the 1990s partitions were built into the single room to create three different spaces to be used as offices and storage.

Interior

The interior walls rest on a four-foot high base of moss colored sandstone with black tinted mortar. Above the sandstone base horizontal logs rise fourteen-feet to where the ceiling slopes up with vertical logs placed at all corners. Vertical logs are evenly spaced around the room to hide the jointing of the logs. Originally the gym was built with an open beam ceiling construction. Beams and posts were visible under the wood tongue and groove ceiling, creating a rhythmic visual effect. A fire in 1937 damaged the beams and an acoustical ceiling was then installed below the burned area.¹ In the 1990s the acoustical ceiling was refitted with more contemporary tiles and the florescent lighting fixtures were updated. In the 1950s electric scoreboards were installed to make the viewing easier for spectators.

According to the original plans the log building was to be heated by a coal furnace assisted by three, wood burning, sandstone fireplaces. One fireplace is located between the main part of the building and the south wing opening into the south room. Another fireplace is located in the center of the north wall of the north wing. The third fireplace is on the west wall of the main structure. This large fireplace is a dynamic and character-defining feature of the building. It is twenty-feet wide at the bottom and tapers up ten-feet before it disappears into the ceiling. The visible part of this fireplace is faced with granite stones. None of the fireplaces have been used since the 1937 fire. When the granite fireplace was no longer used a platform was put on the hearth and a table added so that timekeepers and score keepers could sit there out of the range of the play. When the building was no longer used for basketball and volleyball the table was removed.

The north wing provided a large stage. Under the stage are two dressing rooms, showers, and restrooms. Concrete steps on either side of the stage lead up to the stage and down to the dressing rooms and restrooms. In about 1980 the stage was closed off to create a room. This room was used as a weight room for the athletes and later for storage. A double hung window was placed on either side of the fireplace on the north. Originally, there was no entrance built on the north wing, however sometime after 1970 a door was installed in the east side and a metal stair case was added to access that door. A short overhang was added to the east side of the roof. It is made of metal roofing material. In the 1980s the dressing rooms and restrooms were updated and remodeled. The plumbing was updated, the concrete floors were improved and the stalls were replaced.

A ramp was added to the interior front entry to allow wheelchair access. Except for the small staircase in the front, the utility room at the back and the boarded windows, the exterior of the building appears as it was when it was built in 1935. Most of the interior changes were made to update and improve the usability of the 83-year-old building.

Integrity

The Ririe Community Hall retains a high degree of all seven aspects of integrity. While alterations have occurred they are minor in size, scale, and do not diminish the overall integrity of the building. Historic integrity is clearly conveyed through the retention of the original character-defining features. It is an excellent example of a log building in Ririe, Idaho.

¹ Beth Ardella Anthony, *Ririe, Our Home Town* (Rexburg, Idaho: Ricks College Press, 1990).

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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.)

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION
EDUCATION

Architect/Builder

Tuttle, Harvey (A)
Johnson, William and Magleby, Rulon (B)

Period of Significance

1935-1967

Significant Dates

1937

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (if applicable)

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Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins in 1935, the year the Ririe Community Hall was completed, and continues through 1967, when Ririe High School constructed a new gymnasium. The building actively served the community for several decades, and still continues to serve the community today. The year 1967 is used as a closing date for the period of significance because there is no exceptional significance to justify ending the period after that time. Additionally, closing the period in 1967 allows for the alterations that occurred prior to be considered contributing to the historic significance of the building. Construction of the Ririe Community Hall began in November 1933 and was completed in September 1935.² In February 1937, a fire caused damage which required some rebuilding and minor remodeling of the interior of the structure.³ The building is still in use today.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

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 Ririe Community Hall is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A in the areas of Entertainment/Recreation and Education. Constructed in 1933-35 by William Johnson and Rulon Magleby, the building was the sole recreational facility in the community until 1967, which makes it important in the areas of Entertainment/Recreation. It is important in the area of Education because almost all school and community activities took place in the Community Hall or on the lawn of the property, including physical education classes, school athletic events, and music and theater programs. Ball games, dances, plays, community meetings, graduations, fairs, wedding receptions, family reunions, and carnivals were all held there as well.

Both the high school and elementary school held physical education classes in the Ririe Community Hall. Music education was taught to students in the south wing. Bands and choirs practiced there and performed on the stage for more than 35 years. Dance classes were held in the gymnasium. For thirty years the building was in use every hour while school was in session. The social history of the town of Ririe has been tied to the Community Hall since construction was begun in 1933. It has been the most important building in the small community since its completion in 1935. As part of the New Deal era programs, the building is locally significant as an excellent example of a log building constructed with a grant from the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) to provide recreational opportunities to citizens. Ririe Community Hall plays a central role historically by drawing the town's citizens to sporting events, as well as providing a venue for other community and family exhibits and activities.

Although building use has declined in recent years, the Ririe Community Hall is still used today for sporting events, practices, special school events, and community and family activities. The Ririe Community Hall was and is a vital part of the town. The community has important memories of the building because of its long history and significance. It has been and still is a dominant feature on Main Street. Most every person who has lived in the town of Ririe has attended some activity in the Community Hall and has special memories associated with the Hall. Even surrounding communities associate with the Hall and have memories of attending sporting events or dances in the building. The Ririe Community Hall is not only a part of the history of Ririe but also of the surrounding communities in Bonneville and Jefferson Counties, who have come to Ririe for activities in the Community Hall.

² Beth Ardella Anthony, *Ririe, Our Home Town* (Rexburg, Idaho: Ricks College Press, 1990).

³ *The Rigby Star* (Rigby, Idaho), 30 September 1937.

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

History of Ririe, Jefferson County, Idaho

Prior to 1863 there was no non-native settlement in the Upper Snake River Valley in Southeastern Idaho. The discovery of gold in Montana in 1863 brought about a need for miners and freighters to get across the Snake River. In 1864-65 Matt Taylor built a toll bridge across the Snake River in what is now Bonneville County. A very small settlement, named Eagle Rock, grew around the location of the bridge. It wasn't until the Utah Northern Railroad came to Eagle Rock in 1879 that settlement actually started. By 1882 a substantial number of settlers were coming to the Upper Snake River Valley. Many were railroad workers coming with the railroad. Others were farmers looking for land to homestead. A large number of them settled in the fertile lands north of the Taylor Bridge at Eagle Rock.⁴

In 1863 the Idaho Territory was created and some county boundaries were established. All of Southeastern Idaho was one county, Oneida. This county spread from the Utah border to the south to the Montana border to the north, and from the Wyoming border to the east westward to the Snake River. In 1883 Bingham County was created from the northern part of Oneida County. In 1893 Fremont County was created from the northern half of Bingham County. Bingham County and Fremont County both play an important part in the history of Ririe.⁵ In 1911 Bonneville County was created from the northern part of Bingham County and in 1914 Jefferson County was created from the southern part of Fremont County. The county line remained as was established in 1893.⁶

In 1882, Joseph Hewitt, a railroad worker from Pocatello, homesteaded 160 acres of land in Bingham County.⁷ Hewitt, his wife Mary Miller, and her siblings Robert Miller, Annie Miller, Ephriam Miller, and Margaret McIntosch, each homesteaded an adjoining piece of land. The combined total was 800 acres. The southern edge of this property was the county line between Bingham and Fremont Counties, later Bonneville and Jefferson Counties. This property was located ninety miles south of the Montana/Idaho border, fifty miles west of the Wyoming/Idaho border and 150 miles north of the Utah/Idaho border. The Miller family fenced in the eight hundred acres. One brother, Robert Miller, built a cabin and lived there year around, while the rest of the family would spend the winters in Pocatello, Idaho, and come to work their land in Fremont County in the summer.⁸ They were some of the first settlers in the area. As more settlers came into the area, small communities sprang up surrounding this property. These settlements usually consisted of a church, a school and a small business but none of them developed into towns. The nearest town was Rigby which is ten miles to the west of Ririe. The largest town was Eagle Rock, Bingham County, Idaho, fifteen miles to the southwest where the railroad depot was located. In 1891 the name of Eagle Rock was changed to Idaho Falls. Most of the settlers coming to the area were farmers from Utah. Major irrigation projects provided water from the Snake River to the arid land, making farming a prosperous venture.⁹

About fifteen miles east of Joseph Hewitt's homestead, in the foothills, was an area known as Antelope Flats. In 1912 this area was opened for homesteading. Rich fertile soil encouraged people to flock to the area for free land. The area was particularly suited to growing dry-farm wheat, which didn't require irrigation. Rapidly, Antelope filled with settlers farming the rich soil. In 1912 and 1913 the farmers in Antelope had to take their harvest to Idaho Falls to ship east. It was a day and half trip each way with a horse and wagon to take one load to the shipping depot. As the farmers discussed this problem they came to the conclusion that if there was a railroad depot closer to their farms it would be much better for them. An influential citizen named David Ririe was asked to approach the railroad about taking a spur rail closer to the farms.¹⁰

⁴ Edith Haroldsen Lovell, *Captain Bonneville's County* (Idaho Falls, Idaho: Eastern Idaho Farmer, 1963).

⁵ The boundary line between the two counties was the township line between T3N R40E and T4N R40E.

⁶ Edith Haroldsen Lovell, *Captain Bonneville's County* (Idaho Falls, Idaho: Eastern Idaho Farmer, 1963).

⁷ Located on the SW 1/4 section 32 of T4N R40 E.

⁸ June Hutchinson, "The History of the Robert Miller Family and Their Relationship to the History of Ririe Idaho" (Unpublished, 1988).

⁹ Beth Ardella Anthony, *Ririe, Our Home Town* (Rexburg, Idaho: Ricks College Press, 1990).

¹⁰ Edith Haroldsen Lovell, *Captain Bonneville's County* (Idaho Falls, Idaho: Eastern Idaho Farmer, 1963).

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When he heard about this Joseph Hewitt saw a great financial opportunity. He volunteered to give the railroad five acres of land for a depot and the right of way for the railroad tracks. David Ririe offered to provide room and board at his home for the railroad workers building the depot. With these conditions the Utah Northern Railroad agreed to run a spur railroad to Mr. Hewitt's land.

Mr. Hewitt had a secondary motive besides helping the farmers. He hired a survey company from Salt Lake City, Utah, to survey his 160 acres. In December 1913, under Hewitt's direction they laid out a town site. He determined where the streets should be, where the business district would be, and where the school would be located. On February 1, 1914, he started selling city lots for the new town he had planned. The railroad decided to name their depot Ririe after the Ririe family, so the town became known as Ririe. The original town site, as platted by Mr. Hewitt, was located in Jefferson County. However, as the property was located on the county line, as the town grew it extended into Bonneville County.¹¹ Today most of the town is in Jefferson County but the southern part of the town is located in Bonneville County. The Ririe Community Hall is on the Jefferson County side.

The town rapidly grew and became a major shipping center for the agricultural area. As businesses came to the town it became a vital shopping area and an important recreational location. A dance pavilion became a favorite spot for dancing, bringing in people from the surrounding towns. Town sporting groups such as basketball, baseball, and boxing teams hosted teams from other communities. Holiday celebrations brought people in from all over the surrounding areas.

Creation of the Ririe Community Hall

The school Mr. Hewitt had planned originally was a grade school, covering grades one through eight. Later the ninth and tenth grades were added. Most people considered that graduating from the eighth grade was enough education. After the tenth grade those students who wanted to continue their high school education had to go to Rigby or Idaho Falls or to Ricks Academy in Rexburg, which was a high school and a junior college. Students wanting to complete high school had to make sacrifices. Transportation made it difficult for them to live at home; they had to stay, at least during the week, in the town where the school was located. Some students managed to live with family members or friends but most had to work for board and room in stranger's homes. Parents had to pay tuition for their students to attend these high schools.¹²

This system worked well until the Great Depression of the 1930s. Bonneville and Jefferson Counties were hard hit by the Depression as were most farming communities. The price of wheat, which was the major crop produced in Bonneville and Jefferson Counties, dropped to 26-cents per bushel, cattle brought less the \$20.00 a head in 1932, the lowest average price since the 1890s, and sugar beets sank to \$4.00 per ton in 1932. During this time, the income of the average Idahoan farmer dropped by 49.3 percent.¹³

With the onset of the Great Depression school boards in other towns decided to raise tuition for students living outside their school districts. Because of the financial conditions of the Depression most families couldn't afford the additional tuition. Most of the students had to discontinue their education after the tenth grade because of financial concerns. This was a serious concern for the citizens of Ririe and the surrounding rural areas. Community members met and decided they needed to create a high school of their own. Andrew Swenson had come to the town in 1916 from Utah and he had built a large brick building that was originally used as a barn. When automobiles became popular he converted the barn into a garage. By 1933 he had closed the garage and the building was for sale.¹⁴

In 1933 a committee consisting of Joseph Ririe, Dick Smith, Dave Anthony, Lawrence Peterson, Frank Brown, Gus Kunter and Clarence Folz was organized to collect and solicit donations for a high school. The members of the committee visited every family in the area asking for donations. This was a difficult assignment because most families were suffering financially. The committee used every trick they could think of to get donations. Two of the richest men in the community were Harold Freeman and Milo Rowan. They were good friends but competitive with each other. The

¹¹ Beth Ardella Anthony, *Ririe, Our Home Town* (Rexburg, Idaho: Ricks College Press, 1990).

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Leonard J. Arrington, "Idaho and the Great Depression," *Idaho Yesterdays XIII* (Summer 1969): 2-8.

¹⁴ Beth Ardella Anthony, *Ririe, Our Home Town* (Rexburg, Idaho: Ricks College Press, 1990).

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committee told Harold that Milo had agreed to double anything that Harold would donate. Harold donated a large sum so that Milo would have to donate an even larger sum. Milo had never said such a thing but he doubled Harold's donation anyway.¹⁵

After the funds were collected, the committee negotiated to buy Andrew Swensen's building for \$4,000.00. Mr. Sandburg was hired as the architect of the building. The contractors were Christiansen and Pointer from Pocatello, Idaho. Starting on September 18, 1933, volunteers went to work putting up walls, building furniture and converting the large open space into classrooms.¹⁶

The newly created high school opened October 26, 1933. Since the school opened its doors so late in the year, classes were held six days a week for a full year to complete the requirements set by the State of Idaho. The new school building consisted of six classrooms and a study hall, which a short time later became the library and one office.¹⁷ As the building was being renovated the citizens recognized there was no place for extra-curricular activities like sports, music, or dances.

Athletic competitions had been an important part of the social life of Ririe and of the surrounding towns for many years. At first Ririe did not have high school athletic teams because there was no high school, but there were teams organized from the elementary school which competed with other schools nearby. More importantly most of the towns in the area had adult sports teams that competed with the sports teams from other towns; Ririe was no exception. In Ririe softball played by both men and women, golden gloves boxing, and wrestling were the most important and common sports played. These teams competed against teams from Rigby, Rexburg, Iona, Ucon, and Swan Valley, Idaho.¹⁸

When the high school opened, athletic teams were established. Most of the coaches were men from the community who had participated in sports themselves on the community level. Football, basketball, and boxing were the first teams organized; wrestling and track and field teams soon followed. The biggest problem with organizing these teams was finding places for practices and for the athletic events to be held.

The students, coaches, and administration quickly adapted to the situation and became creative in finding places for sporting events and practices. Buildings around the small town were drafted for use by the school for activities. Wrestling matches were held in the local privately-owned dance pavilion, while wrestling practice was held in the basement of a local bar. Basketball practices and games were held in a nearby Globe Mills wheat granary. Boxing matches were held in the basement of the local Latter Day Saints ward. Football games, softball games, and track and field events were held in a field at the north side of town.¹⁹

Music was another important part of the community. Parents demanded that music classes be included in the curriculum of the new high school. To meet this need music classes used the academic classrooms after school. A local theater provided a small stage for programs and musical events. Larger programs were held in the Latter Day Saints ward.²⁰ The most important activity since the settlement of the area was community dances. Dances were held almost weekly in schools, church buildings, fields, barns, granaries, or in the streets. Children, teenagers, and adults all attended the community or church dances. In the early 1920s a group of local businessmen built a dance pavilion to house the weekly dances. To the citizens of the community there couldn't be a high school without school dances. School dances were held in the privately-owned dance pavilion on Main Street.²¹

¹⁵ Beth Ardella Anthony, *Ririe, Our Home Town* (Rexburg, Idaho: Ricks College Press, 1990).

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Wendy Lieu Freeman, "The Life Story of Mark James and Sylvia Mary McNeil Freeman" (Unpublished 1995).

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Beth Ardella Anthony, *Ririe, Our Home Town* (Rexburg, Idaho: Ricks College Press, 1990).

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There was no place in town for community meetings or large gatherings, except the Latter Day Saints Church building. There was definitely a need for a large building that could be used by both the school district and the community for sporting practices and games, programs, dances, and community gatherings.

New Deal in Idaho

The Great Depression was a nationwide recession that devastated the Idaho agricultural, timber, and mining industries. When President Franklin D. Roosevelt promoted a series of New Deal era programs, a great help to Idaho was the Agricultural Adjustment Act of May 12, 1933.²² This farming program brought economic relief to the distressed rural areas of the state. Another major program to benefit Idaho was the Federal Emergency Relief Act (FERA), in which monies would be issued to states by matching three dollars of state monies with one dollar for FERA monies. This relief program focused on unemployment and built a majority of roads in Idaho.

A popular and well used relief program in Idaho was the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), which created work camps for young men to learn new skillsets. In Idaho, the CCC also worked closely with "forest and soil conservation, disease eradication, and fire prevention. Idaho's twenty million acres of timberlands made it a natural center for CCC activity."²³ The Public Works Administration (PWA) focused on building useful public projects, in which Idaho has allocated funds for twenty-six projects.²⁴ New Deal era programs helped to stabilize rural communities of Idaho and brought a great deal of relief to the state.

Federal Emergency Relief Grant

After much discussion the community of Ririe and the Ririe School District agreed to combine efforts and construct a gym building. The biggest problem in constructing any sort of a building at that time was the finances. Community members had just put up as much as they could afford to build the high school building and hire teachers. The Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) was approached about helping to finance the project.

The Federal Emergency Relief Administration had been established in May 1933 by an act of Congress. Members of Congress worked with the Roosevelt Administration to create a new program which would help the millions of Americans suffering from the Depression. This relief program was designed to be a joint federal-state effort. The FERA was not directly involved in the work projects but provided funding for projects developed by the states. Throughout the states, new roads were built, old roads were repaired, and over five thousand new public buildings were built. An appropriation of \$500 million was allotted for the relief effort, of which \$250 million was designated for use by the states.²⁵

In his book *C. Ben Ross and the New Deal in Idaho*, Michael Malone states, "During the first stage of FERA aid to Idaho, Hopkins [FERA Administrator] obliged Ross [Idaho Governor] and allocated federal money to the state without requiring any special matching fund...In fact, the percentage of federal funds in the total amount spent for Idaho relief in 1933 was 68.2 percent. Ross later boasted in his campaigns that, through his thrifty ingenuity, he had saved money for Idaho and outguessed the bureaucrats."²⁶ The FERA program was one of the most influential in Idaho because of the amount of projects the state was able to fund.

The FERA agreed to provide the majority of the finances necessary to cover the cost of building the gymnasium. In 1933, the cost to build the Ririe Community Hall was \$21,075.00. The community of Ririe managed to provide \$9,340.37 to guarantee the labor.²⁷ The process of buying the property where the building would be built was not completed until April 19, 1939.²⁸ It was purchased from Jefferson County for the sum of \$20.00. This property had been forfeited by C.E. Moore

²² Michael Peter Malone, *C. Ben Ross and the New Deal in Idaho*, (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1970), 59.

²³ *Ibid.*, 61.

²⁴ *Ibid.*, 69.

²⁵ Leonard J. Arrington, "Idaho and the Great Depression," *Idaho Yesterdays XIII* (Summer 1969): 2-8.

²⁶ Michael Peter Malone, *C. Ben Ross and the New Deal in Idaho*, (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1970), 60.

²⁷ *The Rigby Star* (Rigby, Idaho), 3 October 1935.

²⁸ The Deed by County of Property Acquired for Taxes, Instrument Number 61341, 17 April 1939: 215.

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for nonpayment of taxes. The \$20.00 was the minimum amount the County Commissioners could charge for this property.²⁹ After the building was completed it would be maintained by the Ririe School District.

Building of the Ririe Community Hall

Construction began on the Community Hall in November 1933. Volunteers from within the community constructed the building. Harvey Tuttle was responsible for drawing the plans for a large log structure. William Johnson, assisted by Rulon Magleby, was the foreman in charge of the construction.³⁰ William Johnson was born in Brigham City, Utah, in 1878 and moved to the Ririe area in 1902. He was a farmer who originally farmed on Antelope, Idaho but then moved nearer to Ririe. He started building log structures with his father as a child. He was responsible for building several homes and other buildings in Antelope. Johnson served on the school board while living in Antelope and in Ririe after moving there. He served on those boards for over thirty years. He was the chairman of the school board when the high school was built and when the gymnasium was constructed.³¹

Rulon Magleby was a teacher and school administrator. He was from Carbon County, Utah, but relocated to the Ririe area in 1922. Magleby was the superintendent of the Ririe School District when the gymnasium was planned and constructed. He also served as the principle of the elementary school and taught in the new high school.³² Twenty-one men, under the direction of William Johnson, cut pine trees in Kelly Canyon about five miles north of Ririe. Mr. Johnson personally chose and marked each tree that was to be cut down. The rafters in the gym are forty foot long and only vary two inches in diameter from the tip to the butt.³³

The sandstone for the foundation was obtained from a rock quarry about five miles up Birch Creek in Bonneville County, Idaho, an area about ten miles to the southeast of Ririe.³⁴ The granite rocks for the fireplace were hauled about forty miles from Bone in Bonneville County. The granite in the fireplace was laid by Josiah Blackburn. Mr. Blackburn was another Utah transplant; he came from Davis County, Utah, to Lyman, Idaho, in 1910. He learned masonry work in Utah and became the most experienced and important stone worker in Jefferson and Bonneville Counties. He was responsible for doing rock work in several rock churches, school buildings, and large homes. Mr. Blackburn was the logical choice for the large amount of stone work required for the Community Hall.³⁵

The ceiling in the log building was open to the roof with exposed beams. When completed in 1935, it was the largest structure of its type in Idaho and was reported by the local newspaper as the grandest FERA project in the state.³⁶ The first activity in the Hall was held before the building was completed in 1935. The year before in the fall of 1934, the Ririe community held its first Harvest Festival. This eventually became the Jefferson County Fair. There were neither fair grounds nor buildings for displays and exhibits that year, so displays and exhibits were located outside the high school building. In 1935, the Community Hall was nearing completion and the Harvest Festival relocated there. It was the first opportunity for most people in the town to see the inside of the building. A large number were in attendance.³⁷

A month later Hyrum Manwaring dedicated the Ririe Community Hall during a dedication ceremony held in the building on October 3, 1935.³⁸ Most of the citizens of the town and people from other communities came to attend the dedication ceremony.

The log building was heated by the large granite and sandstone fireplace in the gymnasium, as well as one smaller sandstone fireplace at each end. The granite fireplace was not built correctly and caused smoke to fill up the building each

²⁹ The Deed by County of Property Acquired for Taxes, Instrument Number 61341, 17 April 1939: 215.

³⁰ *The Rigby Star* (Rigby, Idaho), 3 October 1935.

³¹ Josephine Johnson, "William LeRoy Johnson, His Life Story" (unpublished 1960).

³² *The Rigby Star* (Rigby, Idaho), 31 August 1933.

³³ Beth Ardella Anthony, *Ririe, Our Home Town* (Rexburg, Idaho: Ricks College Press, 1990).

³⁴ *The Rigby Star* (Rigby, Idaho), 3 October 1935.

³⁵ *The Post Register* (Idaho Falls, Idaho), 18 January 1960.

³⁶ *The Salt Lake Tribune* (Salt Lake City, Utah), 6 October 1935.

³⁷ *The Rigby Star* (Rigby, Idaho), 29 August 1935.

³⁸ *The Rigby Star* (Rigby, Idaho), 3 October 1935.

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time it was used. The teen-agers in the area nicknamed the building "The Smoke House." A coal furnace had been added to supplement the fireplaces.³⁹ In 1937 a fire associated with the coal furnace caught the south end of the roof on fire. A new volunteer fire department had just been created in the small community. Men hurried to the area to try to save the building. With much effort they were able to pull some of the large beams that were burning down to the floor.⁴⁰ A young man on a motorcycle used a log chain to pull the beams up the cement stairs and out of the building onto the lawn. Once the burning beams were removed, men were able to get the fire under control and the building was saved. Insurance money was used to repair the roof and put in a new floor. There wasn't enough money or time to recreate the open loft so a suspended acoustical ceiling was installed. The ceiling was not high enough and soon many holes and dents appeared where volleyballs and an occasional basketball would hit the acoustical tiles. Teams from other schools didn't like to play basketball or volleyball in the Ririe Community Hall because they felt that the low acoustical ceiling hampered their shots.⁴¹

At the time of the original construction the two wings to the main log structure were part of the plans. Music was an important part of the community so it was important that the school provide a place for music instruction. A music room was established in the south wing of the structure while the north wing held the stage, dressing rooms, and restrooms.

Use of the Ririe Community Hall

The Ririe School District used the Ririe Community Hall as a gymnasium, an auditorium and a dance hall until a new gymnasium was built in 1967. Athletic events, plays, school assemblies, and graduation exercises were all held in the building. It was lavishly decorated for school dances and proms. The building would be overflowing for basketball games. The last official basketball game held there was held in March of 1967 against Roberts.⁴² The last class to graduate from that building was the Senior Class of 1967. The Ririe Elementary School also used the building for physical education classes, class programs, and other activities. For special occasions, movies were shown in the Hall.

Community events were held in the building. Community concerts, traveling programs, and other presentations were always presented there. Arts and Crafts fairs, displays, activities associated with the Jefferson County Fair and community meetings benefited from the large building. Class reunions, family reunions, wedding receptions, and parties benefited from having a large building in the community. For many years a Christmas program sponsored by the Ririe Lions Club was held there on Christmas Eve. Almost everyone in the town attended that party and for some it was the only Christmas activity they experienced. Halloween carnivals were a part of the annual activities as well. Over the years even the local Latter Day Saints ward and the community church used the building for some of their sporting events, dances, and activities.

In 1967 an addition was made to the existing high school building, built in 1933, and a gymnasium was added. A music room was also added to the new addition to the High School so there was no longer a need for the music room in the Community Hall. However, there was a need for a weight room for the student athletes. There was no provision for a weight room in the new addition of the High School. Because the room at the south end of the Community Hall was no longer needed as a music room it was decided to convert that room to a weight room for the student athletes. Exercise and weight training equipment was installed in the large room where music instruments had been. Before school and after school, both student athletes as well as community members could be found in the room working out. This continued to be the weight room until 1976, when the Ririe Public Library relocated to the south wing of the Ririe Community Hall. At that time, the weight and exercise equipment was moved to what had originally been the stage on the north end of the Community Hall.

Despite the new high school gymnasium, wrestling practices and other sporting events continued to be held in the community hall. The proximity to the elementary school continued to provide a place for their physical education activities. In 1973, when a civic auditorium was built as another addition to the high school building, the stage in the community hall was no longer needed.

³⁹ Beth Ardella Anthony, *Ririe, Our Home Town* (Rexburg, Idaho: Ricks College Press, 1990).

⁴⁰ *The Rigby Star* (Rigby, Idaho), 30 September 1937.

⁴¹ Beth Ardella Anthony, *Ririe, Our Home Town* (Rexburg, Idaho: Ricks College Press, 1990).

⁴² *The Rigby Star* (Rigby, Idaho), 30 March 1967.

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In 1976 the need for the log building was revitalized when the City of Ririe needed a space for a public library. It was decided to put the library in the old music room, then the weight room (south wing) in the Community Hall. The public library was located in this south wing of the Community Hall from 1976 to 1994. When a new Ririe City Building was built in 1994, the library was moved into the City Building.⁴³ When the public library was relocated to the south wing, the stage in the north wing was closed off and converted to the weight room for the athletes. A large canvas backdrop containing local advertising hung on the stage from the creation of the building until the stage was closed in. That backdrop is now on display in the Jefferson County Museum, in Rigby, Idaho. In 2012 a new weight room was added to the High School and the weight room in the Community Hall was converted to an area for storage.

After the library moved to the new city building, Ririe School District #252 moved their administrative offices to the vacant space in the south wing of the Community Hall. During that time, some walls were added in the south wing to create separate offices. After the administrative offices were moved in 2012 to the middle school building, the offices at the community hall they had been using were converted to storage. Prior to 1967 the Ririe Community Hall was the most important building and the most used building in town. Since 1967 building use has declined, however it is still used today for some sporting events, practices, special school events, and community activities. The main use of the building is as practice room for the wrestling team, who took first place in the Idaho State competition in 2016 and 2017. The log structure is still used for community functions. Every summer in July there are displays for the annual "Ririe Days" which are displayed in the community hall and on the lawn outside. Fall is also a busy time for the building. In September there is a craft fair and in October the Hall holds a fall Halloween festival.

Changes to the Ririe Community Hall

The Ririe Community Hall has seen very few changes since it was completed in 1935. The original open-beam ceiling was concealed by a suspended acoustical ceiling after the 1937 fire. This acoustical ceiling was again replaced and new lighting features added in 2000. The heating system was updated to gas in 1985 when natural gas was provided to Ririe. At that time a new utility room was added to the back of the building to contain the new furnaces and auxiliary equipment. The restrooms were also updated in the 1990's. The stage was closed off to create a separate room and walls were added to the south wing to create office space for the School District Offices. In the 1980s a small staircase was added to the front exterior of the north wing to allow better access to the weight room. After the fire in 1937 interior windows were covered with wooden boards to help with the efficiency of the heating system. After 1970 the exterior sides of the windows were also boarded over. After the Americans with Disabilities Act was passed in 1991, a ramp was added to the interior front entry to allow for wheelchair access. With the exception of the small staircase in the front, the utility room at the back, and the boarded windows on the exterior, the building appears as it was when it was built in 1935. Most of the interior changes were to update features and improve the usability of the 83-year-old building.

Criterion A – Summary: Entertainment/Recreation and Education

The Ririe Community Hall, with its size and log construction, is still the most prominent building in the town of Ririe. Since it was built the Community Hall has been a vital part of the little town of Ririe. The 1935 Ririe Community Hall is significant at the local level under Criterion A in the areas of Entertainment/Recreation and Education. The Community Hall is important in the area of Entertainment/Recreation for its history as the only gymnasium for the school and public in Ririe from its opening in 1935 until 1967. It is also important in the area of Education, as the Community Hall not only housed the physical education classes and school athletic teams of Ririe, but also was associated with the training of students from surrounding communities. The building also housed other educational programs for the school such as music, plays, school assemblies and more. Additionally, the building is significant to the community's history as numerous community activities took place in the building, such as Arts and Crafts Fairs, the County Fair, holiday programs, dances, graduations, and many more. Ririe Community Hall was a result of community engagement, volunteerism, and FERA grant funding. The building began as a community effort and continues to serve the community today.

⁴³ Beth Ardella Anthony, *Ririe, Our Home Town* (Rexburg, Idaho: Ricks College Press, 1990).

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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Ririe Townsite Plat Map. Jefferson County Assessor's Office. 18 December 1914.

The Rigby Star (Rigby, Idaho). 31 August 1933.

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The Rigby Star (Rigby, Idaho). 3 October 1935.

The Salt Lake Tribune (Salt Lake City, Utah). 6 October 1935.

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The Post Register (Idaho Falls, Idaho). 30 September 1937.

The Post Register (Idaho Falls, Idaho). 18 January 1960.

The Rigby Star (Rigby, Idaho). 30 March 1967.

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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): _____

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.15 Acres

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage; enter "Less than one" if the acreage is .99 or less)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

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

1	<u>43.631823°</u> Latitude	<u>-111.774204°</u> Longitude	3	<u>43.630692°</u> Latitude	<u>-111.773715°</u> Longitude
2	<u>43.631822°</u> Latitude	<u>-111.773713°</u> Longitude	4	<u>43.630698°</u> Latitude	<u>-111.774211°</u> Longitude

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

The Ririe Community Hall is situated in the middle of the Town of Ririe on 1.15 acres of land covering the east half of a Ririe City block. The block is bordered on the north by Smith Street, on the west by 1st West Street on the south by Miller Street and on the east by Main Street. There is an alley running north to south between 1st West Street and Main Street. This alley creates the west boundary of the Community Hall property.

Across Main Street from the Community Hall is the Ririe City Building, the Ririe City Park and the Ririe Lion's club building. To the north is the elementary school and play ground. To the west are residential homes and to the south is the city business district. There is one large main rectangular section of the building with one wing attached on the north end and one attached wing on the south end of the building. The log building with both wings is 9300 square feet. The town of Ririe is located on the SE ¼ section 32 of T4N R40E. The UTM is 12 – 434448 – 4837479. The GPS is 43 degrees 37'47.63" N 111 degrees 46'40.63" W.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

Located in the middle of the City of Ririe, the nomination property boundary includes the original block set aside for the Community Hall. In 1914 Joseph Hewitt hired a surveying team from Salt Lake City to come to Idaho to plot a town on the property he owned. They laid out the streets and designated the business area and the residential areas under Mr. Hewitt's direction. He named the streets after families that lived in the area. This was the beginning of the town of Ririe. When the school and the citizens wanted to build a community hall they wanted an area in the middle of town. They choose a center block that had been laid out and named by Mr. Hewitt. Those boundaries have not changed since 1914. Therefore, the boundary presented here has been unchanged for over 100 years and contains all necessary land associated with the significance of the property.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rebecca Freeman date 01/28/18
organization _____ telephone 208 252 1641
street & number 222 Ririe Street P.O. Box 207 email rfre@cablone.net
city or town Ririe state ID zip code 83443

Additional Documentation

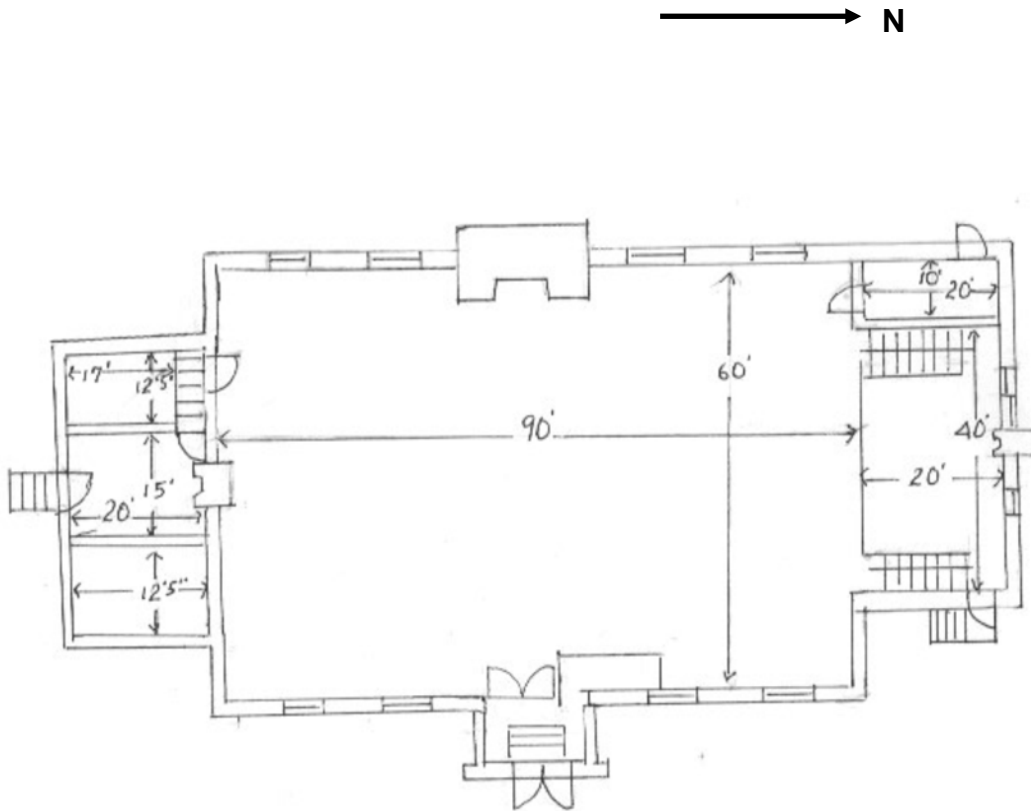
Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Regional Location Map**
- **Local Location Map**
- **Tax Lot Map**
- **Site Plan**
- **Floor Plans (As Applicable)**
- **Photo Location Map** (Include for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map and insert immediately after the photo log and before the list of figures).

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Floor Plan – Ririe Community Hall



Floor plan
Ririe Community Hall

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Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 pixels, 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 ID_JeffersonCounty_RirieCommunityHall

Name of Property: Ririe Community Hall

City or Vicinity: Ririe

County: Jefferson **State:** ID

Photographer: Travis Lovell

Date Photographed: 10/27/17

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

Photo #1	Exterior front view from the East, take about 1935, photographer unknown
Photo #2	Exterior front and south wing taken from the southeast facing northwest
Photo #3	Exterior back and south wing taken from the southwest facing northeast
Photo #4	Exterior north wing taken from the north facing south
Photo #5	Exterior front and north wing taken from the northeast facing southwest
Photo #6	Exterior taken from the Ririe City Park across Main Street taken from the northeast facing southwest
Photo #7	Exterior showing the open lawn which is part of the property taken from the northeast facing southwest
Photo #8	Exterior front view taken from the east facing west
Photo #9	Exterior view of the main entrance taken from the east facing west
Photo #10	Interior view of the west wall
Photo #11	Interior view of the north wall
Photo #12	Interior view of the south wall
Photo #13	Interior view of the east wall showing the main entrance

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Photo 1

Ririe Community Hall, Jefferson County, Idaho
Exterior front view from the east, taken c. 1935
Photographer unknown

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Photo 2

Ririe Community Hall, Jefferson County, Idaho
Exterior front and south wing taken from the southeast, facing northwest

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Photo 3

Ririe Community Hall, Jefferson County, Idaho
Exterior rear and south wing taken from the southwest, facing northeast

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Photo 4

Ririe Community Hall, Jefferson County, Idaho
Exterior north wing taken from the north, facing south

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Photo 5

Ririe Community Hall, Jefferson County, Idaho
Exterior front and north wing taken from the northeast, facing southwest

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Photo 6

Ririe Community Hall, Jefferson County, Idaho

Exterior taken from the Ririe City Park across Main Street, taken from the northeast, facing southwest

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Photo 7

Ririe Community Hall, Jefferson County, Idaho
Exterior showing the open lawn which is part of the property, taken from the northeast, facing southwest

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Photo 8

Ririe Community Hall, Jefferson County, Idaho
Exterior front view taken from the east, facing west

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Photo 9

Ririe Community Hall, Jefferson County, Idaho
Exterior view of the main entrance taken from the east, facing west

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Photo 10

Ririe Community Hall, Jefferson County, Idaho
Interior view of the west wall

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Photo 11

Ririe Community Hall, Jefferson County, Idaho
Interior view of the north wall

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Photo 12

Ririe Community Hall, Jefferson County, Idaho
Interior view of the south wall

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Photo 13

Ririe Community Hall, Jefferson County, Idaho
Interior view of the east wall, showing the main entrance

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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, D