

Star Historic District Feasibility Study



Prepared for:
Ada County Historic Preservation Council

Prepared by:
Planmakers and
Ada County Development Services

Star Historic District Feasibility Study

Prepared by: **Planmakers**

Board of Ada County Commissioners

Vernon L. Blisterfeldt, Chairman

John Bastida

Gary Glenn



Prepared for: **Ada County Historic Preservation Council**

Robert Aldridge, Chairman

John Crowe, Vice Chairman

David L. Bagnard

Joseph G. Gallagher

C. Wayne Hunsucker

Ada County Development Services Department

Sheri Freemuth, Project Manager

Donna DeBlieck

Planmakers Planning and Urban Design

John L. Bertram, Project Director

Acknowledgements

Jennie M. Cornell

Ross Dodge, Ada Planning Association - Mapping

Elizabeth Egleston, Idaho Historic Preservation Office

Hummel LaMarche and Hunsucker Architects

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Barbra Rainey, Star Elementary School

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July 1991

Cover illustrates C. 1920 view of Valley Road (State St.) looking east from Star Road. Numerous commercial buildings and Interurban tracks are present. (ISHS 80-121.1)

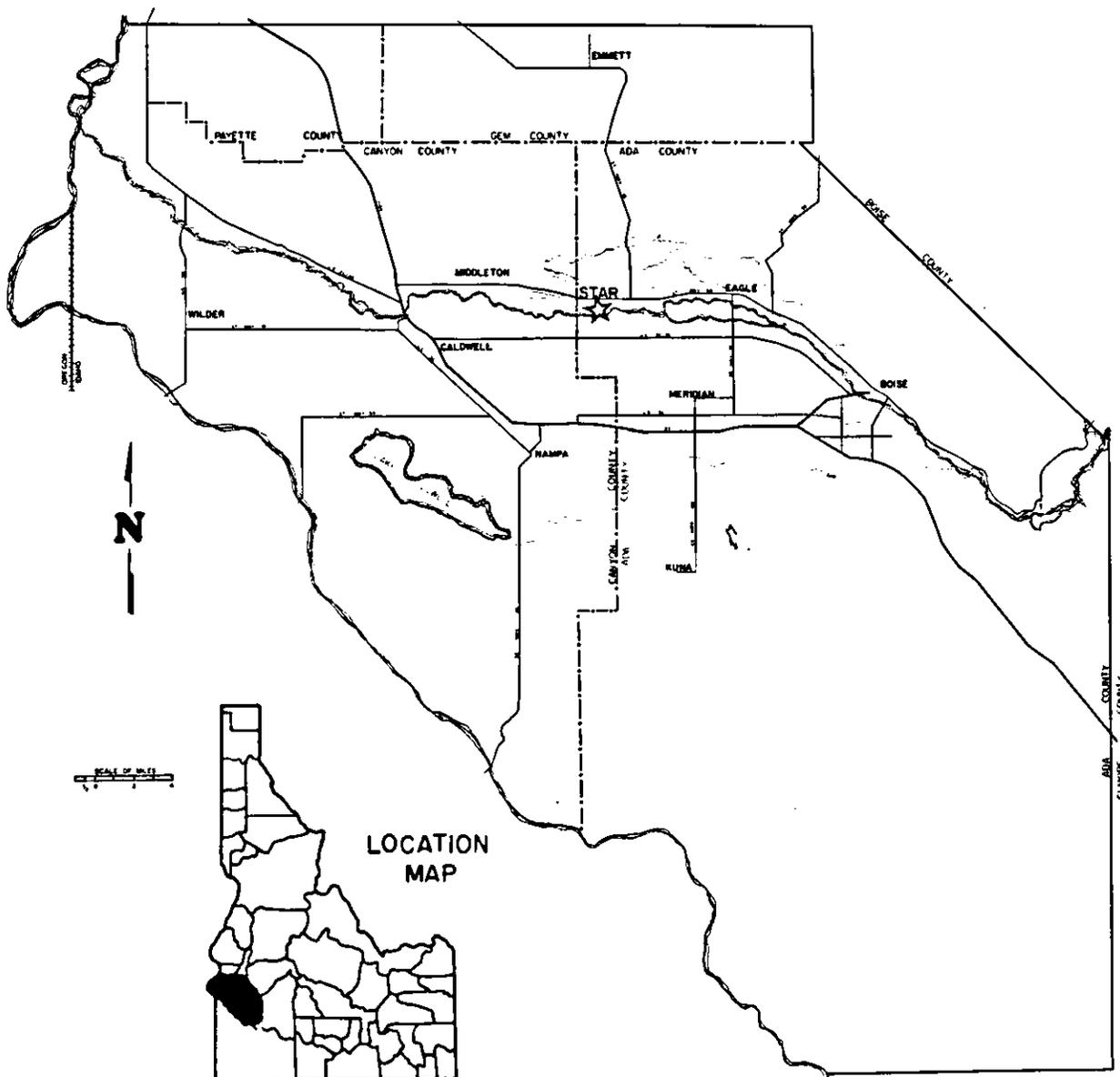
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Introduction

In 1988, the Board of Ada County Commissioners and the Ada County Historic Preservation Council began identifying and designating historic properties in Ada County. A reconnaissance survey in 1989 identified numerous historic resources in the Star area and recommended future work undertaken to evaluate the potential of a Star Historic District. Subsequently, Ada County Development Services submitted an

application to the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (ISHPO) for Certified Local Government grant monies to conduct a Star Historic District Feasibility Study. Grant monies were approved and on March 18, 1991 Ada County retained Planmakers to conduct the study. This document represents the results of that work.



Regional location map illustrating Star's central rural location in Ada, Canyon, and Gem counties.

History of Star

In his thoughts on growing up in Star, former resident Carl Reed recently wrote, "There is a definite sense of place at Star, Idaho. Located some 16 miles west of Boise, it is one of those very small towns that has been relatively untouched by the urbanization of modern life. About a mile south of Star, the Boise river meanders through groves of deciduous trees and bushes. A few miles to the north and to the west, the foothills begin their rhythmically rounded shapes and then lead on to the higher mountains in the background. Reclaimed from the desert at the turn of the century, the land around Star was cultivated into productive farms, thanks to a well-regulated irrigation system. There is a spaciousness about the place and yet a comfortable proximity to all the points of interest. On a human scale, it is completely manageable, and presents few complexities."

Pioneer Settlement

The community of Star was one of the earliest in the Boise Valley. The Pioneer ditch was started in 1863 by M.B. Palmer and later extended to the Middleton Mill. Due to this irrigation ditch and its supply of water, the country between Star and Middleton was one of the first areas settled in the Boise Valley.

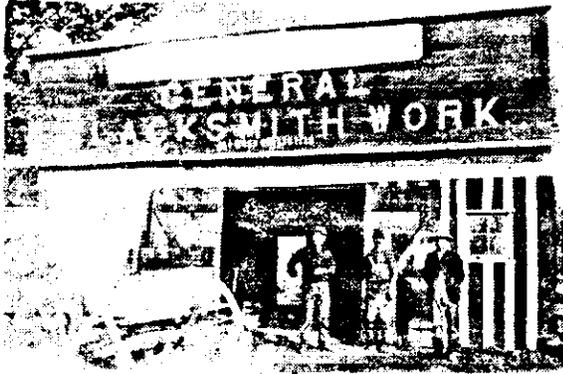
One of the first settlers was Ben F. Swalley who in 1864 drove his ox team and wagon onto 300 acres of land along the Boise River, a mile east of the present town. Others followed, homesteading the good farm land along the Boise River. The surrounding farms often catered to the needs of early travelers and miners, providing them with food and lodging in Star on their way to and from Boise and the mines in the Boise Basin.

The first location of the village of Star was one mile to the east of present Star, about half way between the present town of Star and the Star-Emmett junction. The first schoolhouse, part of District 20, was built



Star Post Office and Store, c. 1890. Family of postmaster Silas S. Gray. Notice star on sign. (ISHS 76-81.3)

there in the 1870s on land donated by B.F. Swalley. When the settlers finished building the schoolhouse, they couldn't decide on a name for the building. One of the men sawed out a star and nailed it to the front door, pounding nails all around the edge of the star. This became an important landmark for miles around, and was a guide for travelers and miners. When they came to the schoolhouse with the star on the door, they could travel west one mile and find board and lodging for the night. So in time, the town became known as Star.



General Blacksmith Work, All Work Guaranteed. c. 1910. Blacksmiths in Star were kept busy with horse-shoeing for farmers, cowboys, emigrants passing through the country, and plow shears to sharpen. (ISHS 78-43.12)



Star Red Front Barn. J. O. Kincaid and Son. (ISHS 78-43.11)

The village of Star began to grow, providing services to travelers and serving as a rural center for neighboring farmers and ranchers. In 1880, a post office was established in Star with Shepp Gray the first postmaster and proprietor of the general store. The early settlement also had two blacksmith shops for "iron work" as well as the district school-house, two churches, and half a score of residences. The first hotel was opened in 1888. One of the first brick buildings in Star was built in 1895 by Dr. O.W. Hall. Dr. Hall had a drug store and office there and served the community with distinction into his 90's.



Chas S. Geerhart

EXPERT HORSESHOER

AND BLACKSMITH

Wagon and Carriage Repairing

STAR -- -- -- IDAHO

1915 Boise City Directory



The board and batten Star Livery & Feed Stable was located on the southeast corner of 1st Street and Star Road. (ISHS 78-43.9)



Star Hotel operated by Mr. and Mrs. J.O. Kincaid. Their Star Livery was located next door, c. 1910. (ISHS 78-43.8)

Star Incorporated

In 1905, Star incorporated and established city limits reaching four miles in all directions. During the early part of the century the town flourished with places growing rapidly and merchants doing good business. The town had a mayor, marshal, constable, and justice of the peace. The jail was a wood-frame building located just east of the Odd Fellows Lodge Hall. By the time the interurban street car arrived, at least twenty new buildings had been erected in Star.



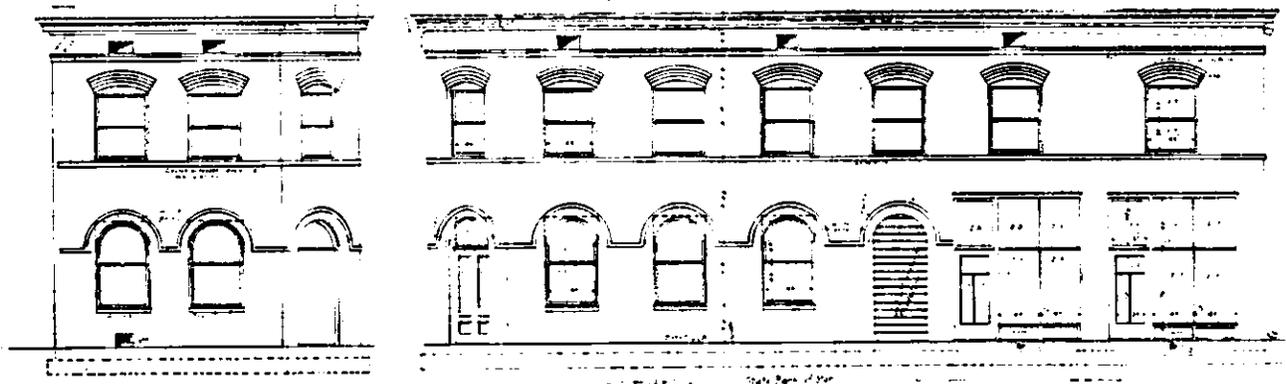
Picture postcard of Valley Road looking east from Star Road. c. 1906. (Jennie Cornell collection)

Star's elevation is 2466, with the surrounding terrain being extremely flat. The first buildings of the community were placed at a reasonable distance from the Boise River, away from potential floods. The town site of Star was officially platted in 1903. During the next few years, much of the land in Star was subdivided into small tracts. Plats included the Frost and Pierce additions in 1906, and the Interurban, McDowell's, and Dickson's additions and the Second Amended Plat of The Township of Star, all in 1907.

The Star Commercial Club met upstairs in the bank building and was composed of leading citizens of Star who worked for the best interest of their community. In 1908, the club sent out pamphlets about Star, highlighting the opportunities in Star for industrious people.

The Farmers Bank was chartered in 1907, with W.E. Pierce, the Boise real estate dealer, as the bank's president. The bank continued longer than most small town banks. The farmer and merchant patrons experienced hard times in the twenties and thirties, closing in 1934 with depositors receiving their money in full.

Other businesses in 1907 included the Star Creamery, Conway Hotel, and El Dorado Lumber Company which handled farm and orchard products. Star was a bustling village with a population of over 500 people, making it the largest community in the Boise Valley after Boise. That same year, a contract was let to lay a ten-foot wide, cement sidewalk for half a mile on the north side of Valley Street, where the electric line was located. According the 1907 *Idaho Daily Statesman*, "Business in all lines is well represented. There are five general merchandise stores, drug store, one hardware, one



Architect's Tourtellotte and Hummel front and side elevations of Farmer's Bank built of brick in 1906 and 1907 on the northwest corner of Valley and Main. (Hummel, LaMarche, & Hunsucker).



Conway Hotel built in 1907. *J.F. Tourtellotte & Co Architects*

lumber and coal yard, carrying as complete a stock as is to be found in the state, two blacksmith shops, two first-class hotels, two livery stables, one real estate and land office, newspaper and printing plant and the Farmers Bank of Star." In this short period, there was also great activity in the residence district. One very noticeable feature was the up-to-date style of architecture, with many of the houses being of the California bungalow type.

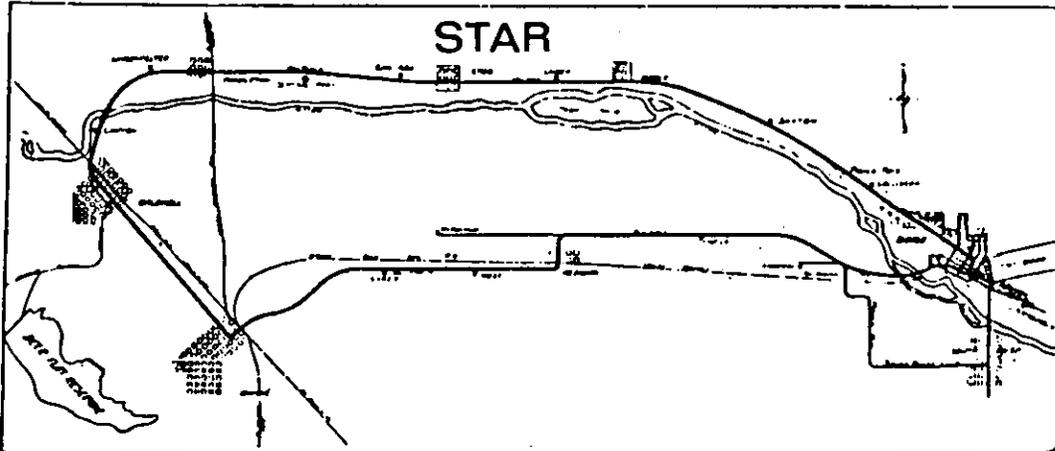


The Star Depot was built in 1907 at the southwest corner of Valley and Knox streets. Notice milk cans. (ISHS 75-65.133)

Boise & Interurban Railway

Rapid growth came to Star with the arrival of the Boise & Interurban Railway. In 1907, W.E. Pierce completed the electric railroad which ran from Boise to Caldwell, via Eagle, Star, and Middleton, and back through Nampa and Meridian. The fare was 65 cents and the transit system was a great convenience for the residents of Star. The interurban also brought electricity to Star.

IDAHO TRACTION CO. Boise Valley Loop



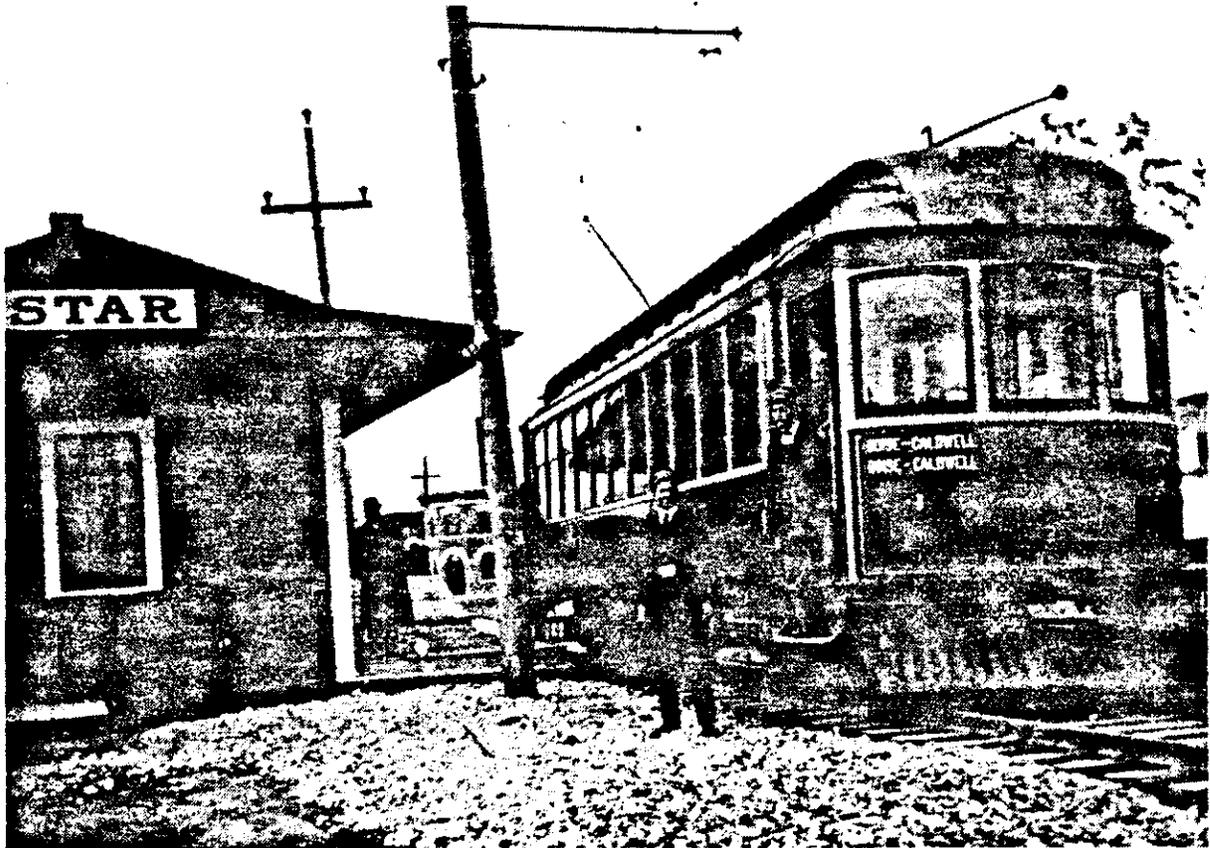
Practically hourly service between Boise, Meridian, Nampa, Caldwell, Middleton, Star and Eagle.

CONNECTS WITH THE OREGON SHORT LINE R. R. CO.

At Boise, Meridian, Nampa, Caldwell and Middleton. Sixty-eight miles of the highest class interurban lines.

"LOOP THE LOOP" AND SEE THE BEAUTIES OF BOISE VALLEY

Map of Boise & Interurban loop. Service provided from 1907 through 1928. (*Middleton in Picture & Story*)



Boise & Interurban railway car #4 in front of Star Depot. Farmer's Bank in background. (ISHS 77-24.3)

The *Idaho Daily Statesman* reported in 1907 that as a result of the completion of the Boise & Interurban line through Star, "this town has taken a wonderful activity and citizens here have awakened to the fact that Star is very liable to become a very important point before long. There's been a great deal of building of late and the population of the town has easily doubled since it was definitely known that the electric line would be built through here."

Completion of the Boise & Interurban created radical growth with W.E. Pierce and Co. platting two new areas of land to the east of the original town site. These areas included the Interurban and Pierce additions. Lot sales, as reported in the *Idaho Daily Statesman* at that time, were brisk.

The handsome Star Interurban Depot with a freight office and passenger waiting room was built at Valley and Knox streets in 1907. The building was designed by Boise architects Tourtellotte and Hummel. Nearby was the transformer house. At the time, the stage connected to Emmett. With the introduction of automobiles into the Treasure Valley, the Interurban was used less and less, eventually going out of business in 1928. The loss of this link to the valley meant a decline in activity for Star. The depot was moved to the east side of town in the 1950s.



Interior of Star Grocery in 1907. Wood floor case is similar to one now in Star Mercantile. (ISHS)

Business Activity

Growth continued in 1909 with at least 30 new buildings erected. That year the two-story brick Odd Fellows building was built, with part of the ground floor occupied by the Pinney Opera House. Unfortunately, the hall burned in 1926. 1912 was another active building year, including construction of the Friends Church and commercial buildings for J.W. Rounds, J.C. Hughes, and J.B. Stoner.



Star Odd Fellows Hall was built in 1911 on the southeast corner of Valley and Main. It burned in 1926. (Jennie Cornell collection)

STAR COURIER

ONE DOLLAR PER YEAR IN ADVANCE

F. I. Roberts, Editor and Propr.

N. R. Grace, Associate Editor

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

FULL JOB EQUIPMENT

STAR, IDAHO

1914 Boise City Directory

The *Star Courier* newspaper began publishing in 1904. For a short period of time it was called the *Star Observer*. A March 20, 1908 article entitled "Star As We See It Today" describes the "prosperous village" as "having many beautiful homes, best climate on earth, good social conditions, no saloons and as good citizens as can be found anywhere." The *Star Courier* provided weekly service through 1920. The banner above the headlines read "News of Three Towns Covering North Side of the Boise Valley." These towns included Eagle, Star, and Middleton. Star reached its peak in the early 1920s with a population of over 600.



P & W (Palmer and Wehr) Store on right with "Confectionery and Stationary" written on awning, Star Post Office, built in 1911, on left. Sign on pole reads "Star Hotel and Livery Barn. Best Accommodations. J.O. Kinkaid, Prop." (Jennie Cornell collection)

L. B. WEHR

POSTMASTER, NOTARY PUBLIC, INSURANCE, ETC.
AGENT BOISE VALLEY TRACTION CO.

STAR, IDAHO



1923 Boise City Directory

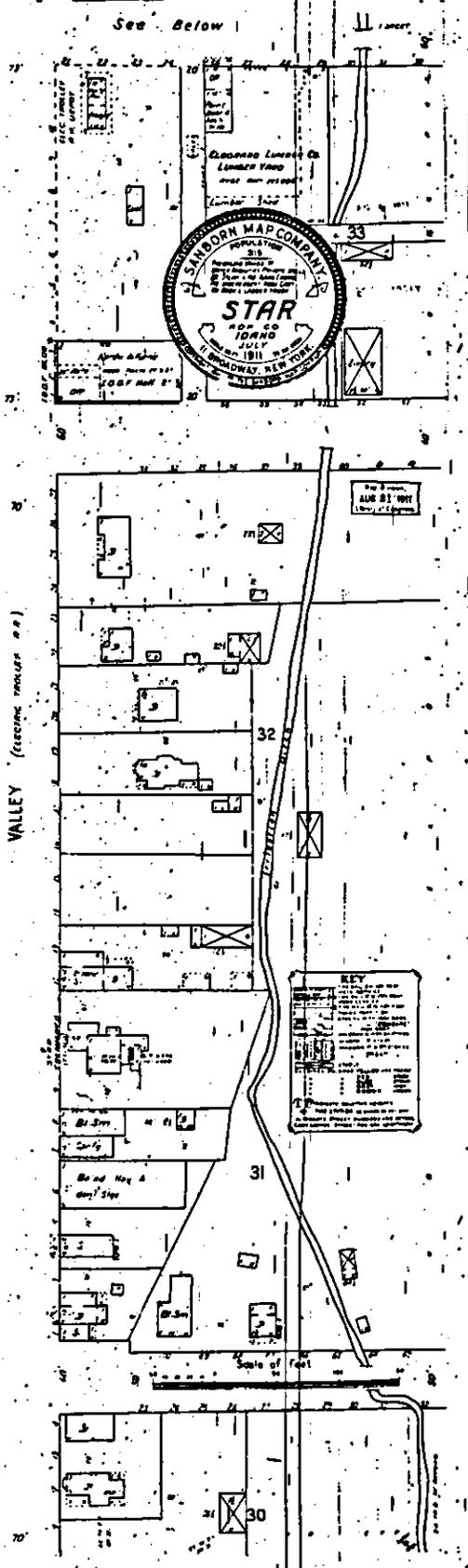
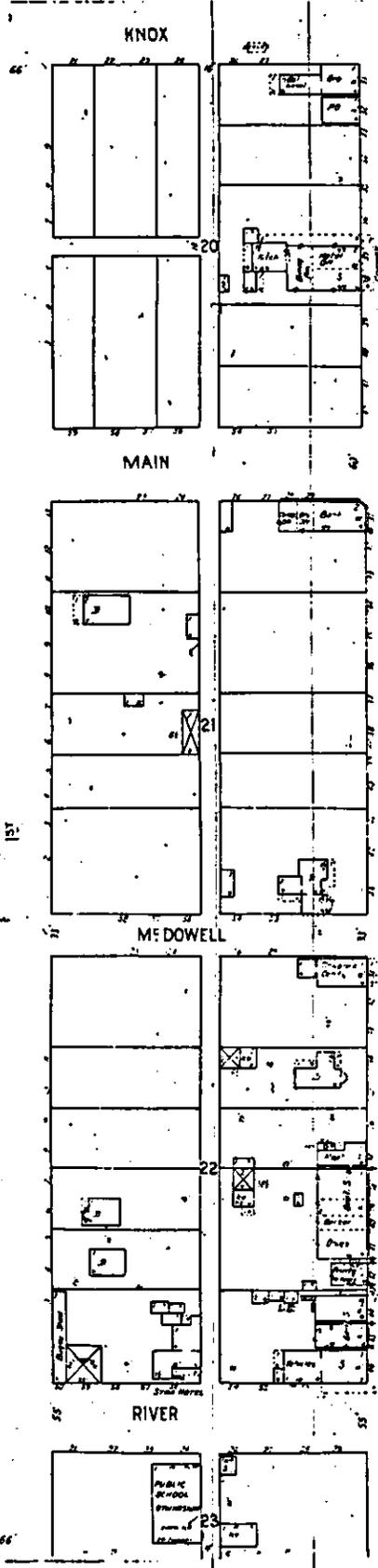
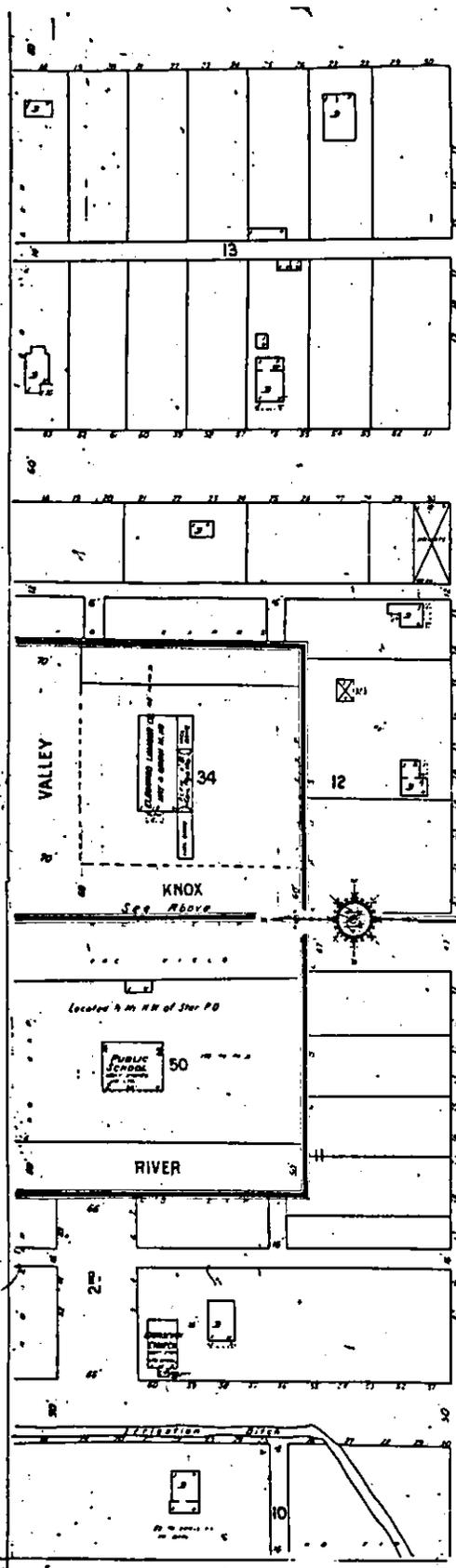


Former Iva Jeans Cafe located in old post office building. c. 1953. (Jack Kirtley collection)

In 1916, Boise Payette Lumber Company purchased the Copeland Lumber Co. and maintained a yard in Star until 1956. In 1916, W. T. Kirtley began a dry goods and grocery business in Star. Three years later he erected a building for his growing Star Mercantile Company. Over the years, the Star Mercantile made the transition from the cracker barrel store to a competitive mercantile carrying groceries, drugs, veterinarian supplies, stoves, and a complete line of appliances. The Star Merc continues today under the third generation of Kirtleys. Star also had a cheese factory in 1917, which later become the Mutual Creamery.



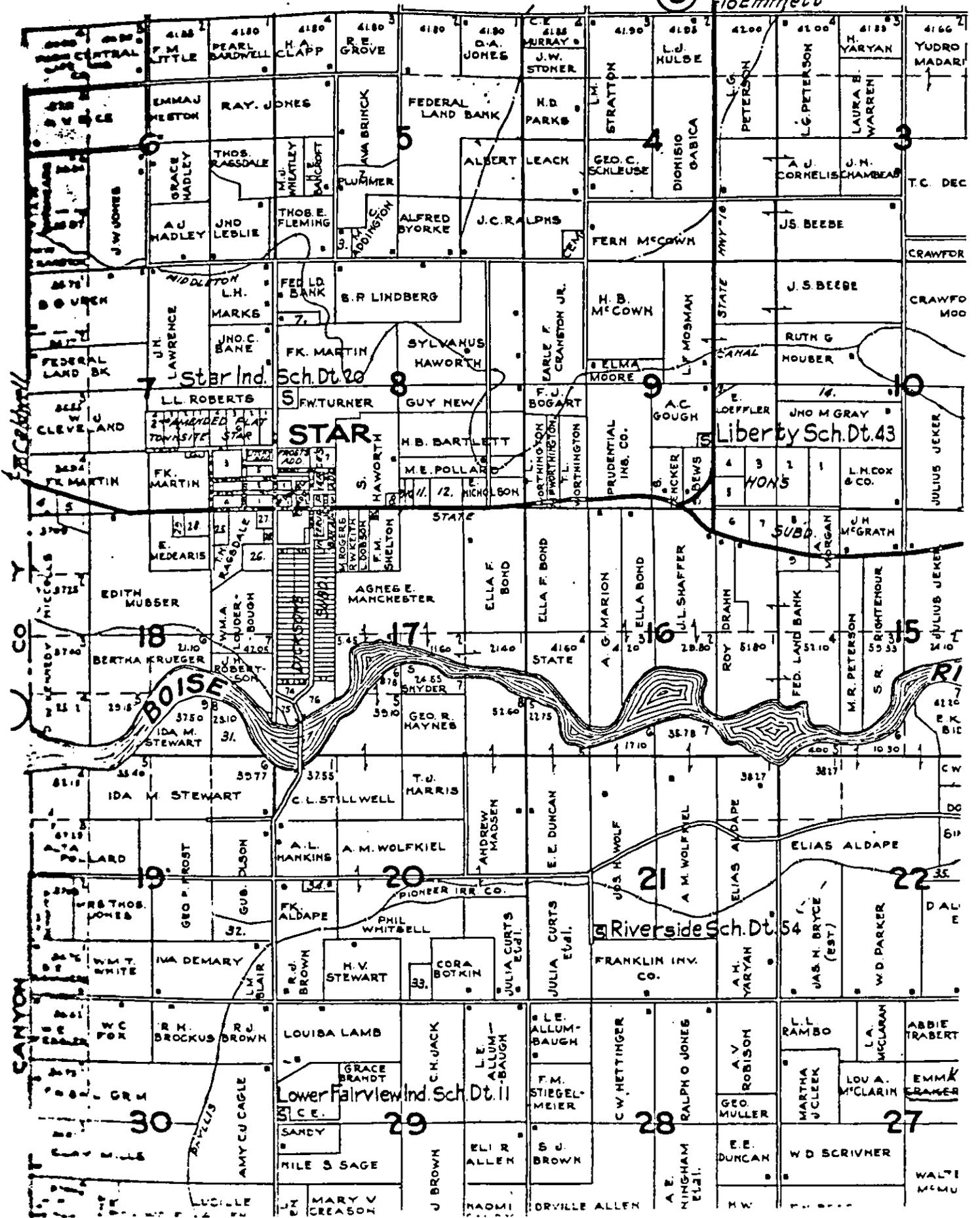
Kathryn's Cafe, c. 1937, with Hadley and Reed Hardware Store and gas pumps on Valley Road in background. (Jack Kirtley collection)



1911 Sanborn Map of Star

8

To Emmett



Transportation

One of the later branches of the Oregon Trail that crossed the river near Boise passed through what now is Star, just south of present-day Highway 44. Ezra Meeker, who spent his last years marking the course of the old Oregon Trail, visited Star on May 5, 1906. Portions of this early Oregon Trail corridor became the Old Valley Road connecting Boise to Caldwell. In the spring, travelers had to take the alternate foothills road to keep from getting stuck in the mud bogs.

Starting in the 1860s, the stage from Boise City followed the Old Valley Road and arrived at Gray's Station east of Star, near the old Balm Mill, on what is now Moon Valley road. Here the stage left the Valley Road and proceeded northwest through the sage brush to the Willow Creek Stage Station, northwest of Star. The route continued on to the Payette Valley and eventually to Umatilla, Oregon and the Columbia River. Stage routes served the area through the 1880s when the lines with their big six-horse coaches were abandoned with the coming of the railroad through the valley. This brought a decline to the area as the branch rail line came from Nampa to Boise bypassing Star. Nevertheless, Star grew and boomed for a period with the arrival of the Interurban in 1907.

Stage Station

FOR SALE.

Being anxious to remove for the reason of my family's health, I offer for sale the property known as

Willow Creek Station,

On the Umatilla road. The stages stop there for meals both ways and any economical man can make money out of it. For further particulars address either by letter or personally, Hagerwain D. J. SCOTT.

Idaho Tri-Weekly Statesman, Dec. 31, 1881

In 1890, A. Fouch and his brother built the Star Ferry south of Star at the Boise River. The crossing was located west of the present Star Bridge. In 1904, the ferry was replaced by a steel truss bridge. The Star Bridge was replaced in 1938 and again in 1982 with the current concrete bridge.

The Old Valley Road was paved through Star in 1929 following the town's disincorporation. In 1955, the road was widened to four lanes through Star, causing some local buildings to be altered. In 1964, certain sections of Valley Road/Highway 44 were realigned and the highway extended to Interstate 84, west of Middleton.



Picture postcard of Ezra Meeker's driver, ox team, and wagon on its May 5, 1906 visit to Star. Meeker pioneered the effort to mark the Oregon Trail, which he first traveled in 1852. Simon and Frost General Merchandise in background. (Jennie Cornell collection)

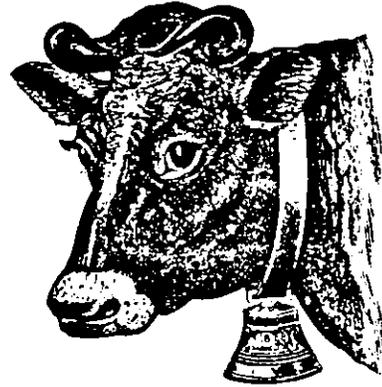
Agricultural Economy

The lowlands along the Boise River provide Star with a very flat topography allowing for numerous irrigation systems. Among these systems, the earliest to be installed was the Pioneer Canal, which dates from the 1860s. Others included the Lawrence Kennedy Canal on the south side of Star and the Middleton Canal on the north. The Canyon Canal headgate is located on the Boise River just upstream from the Star Bridge. The availability of irrigation, combined with the deep rich soils of the Boise River Valley, provided productive agricultural lands.

By the early 1880s, the land surrounding Star was being fenced and larger acreage was sown. S.S. Gray enclosed and plowed 140 acres, as did Henry Hill, 80 acres; D. Williams, 100 acres; Joseph Ayres, 125 acres, and Samuel McDowell, 90 acres.

Following the turn of the century, Star would serve as the service center for the outlying 40- to 80- acre farms. Later establishments such as Hadley and Reed did a thriving business all over the valley selling farm machinery and farm equipment.

The area's surrounding farms have supported diversified farming, with the soil and climate being especially favorable. Principle crops have included alfalfa and sugar beets as well as grains such as wheat and oats which yield abundantly. A few early grist mills existed in the area for grinding. Nearly all of the farmers had small orchards of varied fruits for their own consumption. The low foothills to the north were reclaimed to dry farming, adding to the rural wealth of the area.



Many farmers at the time also raised and milked dairy cows. In the teens and early twenties, the Mutual Creamery of Boise had a cheese factory on Star's Main Street, where farmers delivered their milk in cans for the factory-made cheese. The first artesian well drilled in Star was at this site. Cheese continues to be processed at Swiss Valley Cheese south of Star. Other farmers also raised beef cattle and horses and let them run on the range.

In the spring of each year before letting the cattle out on the range, the farmers grouped together to brand their cattle, horses, and calves. They were then sent out with cowboys to herd and care for them until the round-up in the fall, when the farmers would gather on the ranges to divide the stock according to their individual brand and drive them home. Some might be missing since rustlers got away with many in the early days. Some farmers fed their cattle during the winter, but others would drive them directly to market.

Rudisill & Dedwith

DEALERS IN
Shelf and Heavy Hardware

Diamond Edge Cutlery, Diamond Edge Tools, Blue Diamond-ware, Granite and Tinware, Guns and Ammunition, Sporting Goods, Builders' Hardware, David Bradley Plows and Implements, Universal Stoves and Ranges, Clinton Wire Cloth and Poultry Netting, Harness, Pumps, etc.

Odd Fellows Building

STAR, IDAHO

1911 Boise City Directory

HADLEY & REED

Hardware and Implements
Building Material

TELEPHONE 20-F-2

ODD FELLOWS' BUILDING

STAR, IDAHO

1917 Boise City Directory

Star Churches

There was ample opportunity for worship in Star. Star is the site of one of Idaho's oldest Christian churches, organized in 1871. As early as 1864 the first meetings of the Church of Christ were held at the home of David Fouch, a Christian minister, who was farming in the locality and later served as Star's second postmaster. Another of the church's early leaders was Shepp Gray, the first postmaster of Star. The Church of Christ built a church east of Star in 1881 on land donated by Mrs. Sam McDowell; it was moved to Star in 1906. Other early Methodist settlers built the Star Chapel in 1895, east of Star. In 1918, the church was dismantled and rebuilt in Star. Unfortunately, the church with its belfry burned in 1919. Quakers built the Friend's Church of Star in 1904 beside the New Hope schoolhouse. In 1911 and 1912, the church was moved to its current location where it had modifications in the 20s and 40s, and was enlarged in 1951. In 1952, chimes were added. The Pentecostal Grace Church was built at its current location in 1915 and is a school today.

In 1935 the InterDenominational Association, consisting of the Friend's Churches, the Salvation Army, the Free Methodists, and the Nazarenes of Boise, selected Star as a central location to hold religious camp meetings. That summer the InterDenominational Holiness Association held their revival services in a tent, and built their first cookhouse and storehouse behind the Friend's Church in Star. Their president, Rev. Fred Harris, bought five acres of land across the road south of the Friend's Church, planted a grove of trees, and built a four-room house on the land. In 1940, he sold his place to the InterDenominational Association. Through the years, several buildings, a dining hall, garage, and three individual cabins have been built, besides the cookhouse and storehouse which were moved from the back of the Friend's church. In 1953, the Rebekah Lodge sold them a small hall for rooms for some of their workers, who consisted of two evangelists, a song

leader, a pianist, one to care for the children, and one or two missionaries. Traveling evangelists and musicians made stops in Star each summer. Popular through the early 1960s, the Idaho State Holiness Association was a powerful force in the lives of the small Quaker community in Star.



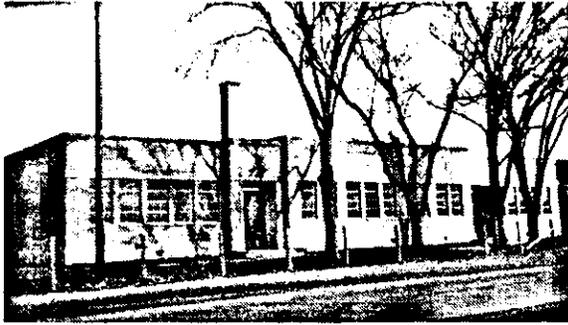
One of the Star Cemetery's earliest graves, is that of Hester A. Riley (1828-1872) from Pennsylvania who apparently died while traveling on the nearby Oregon Trail. (Inventory #30S) (J. Bertram)

Star Cemetery

A number of graves of those who died along the Oregon Trail can be found in the Star cemetery. The oldest ones are dated 1871. One grave has a hand-hewn stone, engraved with the name of Hester A. Riley, 1872. James and Jemima Ayers deeded this land to the community in 1900 for the Star Cemetery. The trustees were the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. In 1901, a picket fence was erected encircling the cemetery. Today, this well-maintained cemetery continues to serve the community.



Star's first school built in the 1870s and moved to Star in 1887. Photograph c. 1900. (ISHS 2179)



Former Star High School built in 1937. Central section is first floor of 1912 school. (Star Elementary School)

Schools

The 1870's school with the original star was moved in 1887 to Star and later replaced in 1903 by a two-story, four-room, brick schoolhouse on River Street. In 1912, a four-year high school was built just north of the old school. That same year a Parent Teachers Circle, later the PTA, was formed and became an integral part of school activities. In 1937, the second story of the high school was removed and the bricks were used to build on a new south wing. A gym addition was built in 1959. The existing Star Elementary School was built in 1976, north of the gym, and the old high school was later demolished. Two architectural ornaments with a star and "S" in the center were salvaged from the 1912 school and are now located in the planter in front of the gym. For a period of time, Dr. Hall's brick storefront building, which still fronts Valley Road, served as a school gymnasium and entertainment hall. Star maintained its own school district for a period, but is now part of the Meridian School District. West of Star on Highway 44 is the two-story brick Central School built in 1905; it is now a private home.

Events

The Fourth of July was always a big event in the early days of Star. A celebration was held in a grove of trees on a nearby 20-acre tract of land. People for miles around came to the celebration with their basket dinners, prepared to spend the day and much of the night. For entertainment they had many kinds of races, including horse races on Star's main road, women's races, children's races, and women shooting at a bull's eye with 22s. Ice-cream and lemonade were sold all day. A dance pavilion was always on hand, and a dazzling display of fireworks was enjoyed in the evening.

In the early 1900s, Main Street periodically served as a race track. Horse races were a big event with most everyone on hand and often followed by a baseball game. Impromptu races down Main Street were not limited to specific holidays but could arise from on-the-spot challenges.

Other activities included a weekly debating society where issues of the day such as railroads, Sunday laws, and women's rights were discussed. Also, there was a literary society, Star School sporting events, and a skating rink. An evening outing for a party of young people included chartering a trolley excursion to Boise and back. Star Trading Days were stock sales held on the third Saturday of every month.

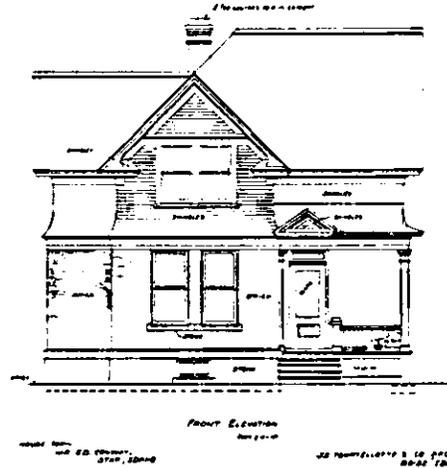


Star High School Boys Basketball Team c. 1912. Prof. O.D. Carper, school superintendent holding banner. (Jennie Cornell collection)

Star Architecture

Today, Star contains many of its original homes although most have been altered over the years. For many of the homes, the original floor plan and location of outbuildings can be located on the 1911 and 1923 Sanborn Insurance maps. Star's architecture is primarily vernacular, being designed and constructed by owners and builders. Architectural styles include National, Queen Anne, and Craftsman. A large number of Star's homes are square with a pyramidal hipped roof. Most materials are wood though a few are brick. The bricks in Star were fired at Jim Hussey's brickyard, located on his 160-acre homestead which is just north of the Star Cemetery.

As Carl Reed described his boyhood Star home, "It had a soaring hip-roof that culminated in a red-brick chimney. A spacious front porch, and an attached kitchen at the rear defined the living space. It was a plain and unpretentious house, but the front door had an ornamental character, and featured a frosted glass scene that was best viewed in the afternoon sunset glow. Two bedrooms served our purposes for sleeping, and modern indoor plumbing was installed in the early 1950s.



House designed by Tourtellotte and Hummel for Ed Conway of Star in 1907. (Hummel LaMarche & Hunsucker)

The house was situated on a complex of 6 lots, which formed a miniature farm graced with a large vegetable garden, fruit trees surrounding the house, and a 2-lot pasture for the one cow that we maintained in those days. Behind the house was a wood and coal shed, and an outhouse that boasted a hip-roof and was plastered and nicely finished inside. At one time, these dependencies were painted a mustard yellow with red trim, but were well faded by the time that I knew



1918 view of 1st Street residences looking west from Star Road. (ISHS 71-160.2)

them. A sturdy red-brick cellar and an attached saltbox shed were close to the kitchen door. The cellar stored root crops and canned goods for the winter, and had beautifully constructed shelves and storage bins. The attached laundry-room was large enough, and had a wooden Maytag washing machine which was later replaced with a more modern Norge. No running water was available here."

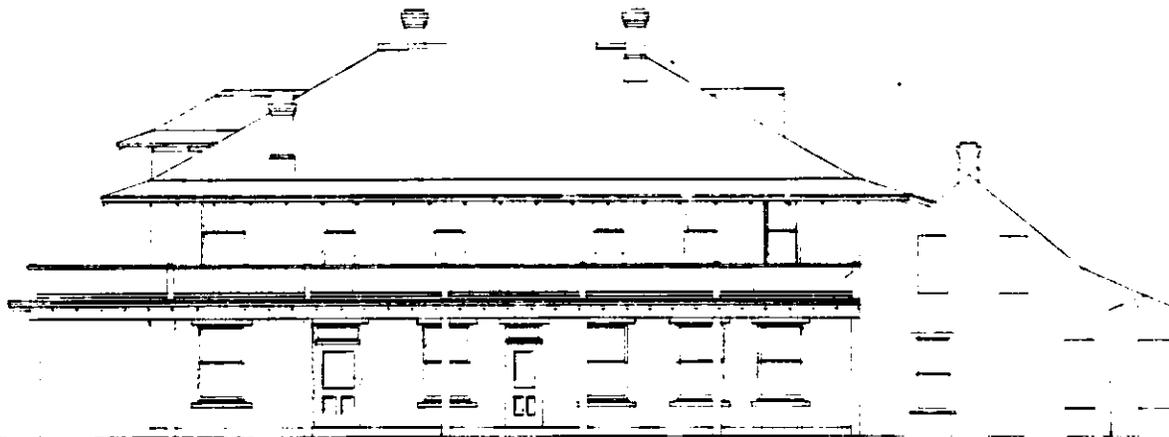
Unfortunately, the majority of Star's oldest commercial buildings have been lost to fire or torn down. A few exceptions include Dr. Hall's brick storefront building and the Star Depot which has been moved to the east end of Star. The Star Depot was designed by architects Tourtellotte and Hummel.

Likewise, with the exception of the Pentecostal Grace Church, Star's school and churches have been replaced by newer buildings.

Heart of an Artesian Belt

Star is fortunate to be the heart of an artesian belt. There are a number of privately-owned artesian wells where the water rises to the surface by internal pressure. These private wells serve a major portion of the community since there is no central water system.

In 1977, the community sewer district built a network of gravity-flow sewer trunk lines that lead to a sewage lagoon treatment facility southwest of town.



Side Elevation South E J.F. Tourtellotte & Co. Archts.

Side elevation of Conway Hotel designed by architects Tourtellotte and Hummel in 1907. The wood building was located on the site where the Star Mercantile now stands. (Hummel, LaMarche & Hunsucker).

Small Town Living

Star's growth declined with the closure of the Boise & Interurban in 1928. Another setback came in 1929 when the town was disincorporated. That year the state paved the highway east and west of Star to the city limits. Star would have had to pay for the pavement through the city. The farmers made so much disturbance about their taxes, which would have been raised to build the highway, that the city charter was turned back and the highway became the property of the state.

The increasing use of automobiles brought changes to Star in the 1930s and 1940s. A few service stations were opened and a number had tourist cabins that were available to travelers. One of the blacksmith shops was converted to a garage and repair shop.



Star's first Standard Oil Station was built at this location in 1931. The station shown above was built in 1956. Notice former Farmer's Bank on left and mill in background. (Jack Kirtley collection)

Over the years, the population of Star has stayed at around 500, about the same as it was early in the century. Star remains the trading center for a working community which earns its living for the most part from the soil.

In 1952, the Crystal Rebekah Lodge built a hall on land donated by Boise Payette Lumber Company. In its early years, the grounds were made into a small park with swings, a



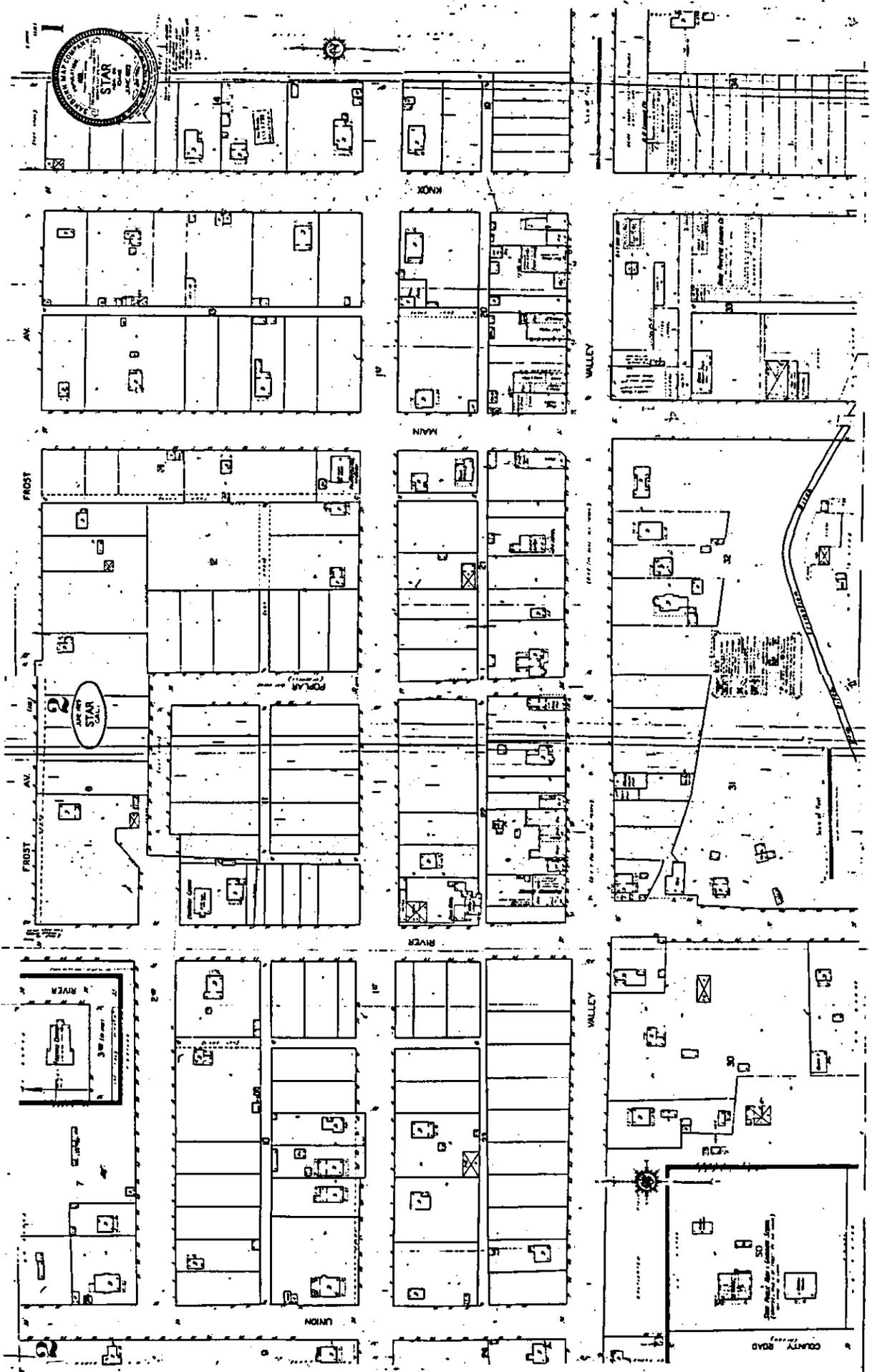
Star Mercantile Company, c. 1965. (Jack Kirtley Collection)

slide, rock barbecue, and landscaping. The building remains today behind the Star Country Cafe.

In the 1950s, a number of Star's commercial buildings were torn down, often with the materials being used for new construction. A number of other structures were moved to new locations for such uses as a garage, grainery, or chicken house. Fires have also taken a toll on Star's buildings. In 1954, fire destroyed the Hadley Hardware and Implement Company's building and grain mill. Due to the number of fires and lack of fire protection, the Star Community Fire Club was formed in 1955. As a result, a fire district was formed and firehouse built. The Star Fire District constructed a handsome new facility in the late 1980s.

Other changes in Star included the building of a new post office in 1960, which allowed the post office to move from the old bank building where it had been located since 1936.

Today, Star maintains its rural character, being located 16 miles northwest of Boise, six miles west of Eagle, 7 miles east of Middleton, 9 miles north of Nampa, and 16 miles south of Emmett. The river valley provides impressive views of the Boise foothills to the north and the Owyhee mountains to the south.



1923 Sanborn Map of Star (ISHS)

STAR HISTORIC RESOURCES*

<u>Inventory #</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Style</u>
8	Star Brick I/Mohne House	11223 E. State		National I
9	Hwy 44 Pyramidal house	11287 E. State		National pyramidal
168	Brick house	11070 W. State		
169	Gable Front house	11040 W. State		
170	W.E. Eilers House	11627 W. State		
52	Ireland house	245 S. Main St.		National Hall & Parlor
53	Star Prairie/Code House	147 S. Main St.	ca.1900-20	Prairie
54	State St. Linear house	10985 State St.		
55	Main St. Hedge house	57 Main St.		Craftsman
56	Grace Tabernacle	Main St.	ca. 1920	
57	Main 1 Pyramidal house	152(?) Main	ca. 1910	National pyramidal
58	Main 2 Pyramidal house	218 Main	ca. 1910	
59	Knox St. National house	188 Knox		National Massed Plan
60	Pyramidal Garage	192(?) Knox		
61	Knox St. Front Facing T	174 Knox		Front T -
62	Catalpa House	84 Knox	ca. 1920	Craftsman
63	Hipped-Roofed Craftsman House	83 Knox	ca. 1920	Craftsman-Bungalow
64	1st St. Craftsman House	10645 1st St.	ca. 1920	Craftsman
86	Frost St. Craftsman house	11049 Frost St.	ca. 1920	Craftsman
87	Frost St. National house	11134 Frost St.		National
88	Star Rd. Prairie House	767 Star Rd.	c. 1890	Prairie
90	Andy Knudsen house	385 Center St.	c. 1890	National Side Gable
	Moved from Star Rd. in 1958 (Owner may demolish)			
91	Star Log house	Star Rd.		Log
92	1st St. National House	11149 (?) 1st St.		National Hall and Parlor
93	Cobble Stone Cellar	11260(?) 1st St.		(Demolished 1990)
162	House with additions	10122 W. State		Hall and Parlor
163	State Street House	10174 W. State		Queen Anne
164	Star Depot	Star Motel State St.		
165	Ukerman/Wertman House	10600 (?) W. State		National/3 dormers
166	House with cross gables	10643 W. State		Queen Anne
167	National House	10717 W. State		National
31 Historic Buildings				

* 1989 Ada County Historic Resources: A Reconnaissance Survey by Belinda Davis and Barbra Perry Bauer.

Inventory

The 1989 "Ada County Historic Resources: A Reconnaissance Survey" identified 31 historic sites (page 18) within the formerly incorporated area of Star. The reconnaissance survey also identified another 29 historic sites within the potential Greater Star Rural Historic District. (See pages 23 and 24.)

The concentration of historic sites in the formerly incorporated area of Star led to a further 1991 windshield survey, identifying another 31 buildings, structures, and sites (page 20) worthy of further survey. These sites and their locations are identified in the map of the proposed Star Historic District (page 21).

The vast majority of the sites are residences with many being National, Queen Anne, and Craftsman in style. See Star Architecture on page 14. Many have been altered through new siding, additions, or window modifications. Only a few commercial buildings remain and most of Star's early schools and churches have been replaced over the years.

Further documentation of each site should be accomplished by completing an ISHPO intensive survey form.

It is the consultant's belief that the focus of the survey work should be for use by the Star Community and Ada County. This inventory would be the basis for the proposed historic district and in assisting the Ada County Historic Preservation Council in monitoring exterior changes.

The proposed historic district could also be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. This would involve additional work and cost due to such requirements as archivally-processed photographs. Also, eligibility to the register is not assured and the Star District may not be granted register status due to the numerous alterations and limited commercial core.



National style two-story brick house located on State Street. Inventory #8. Mr. & Mrs. Mohne, pictured on front porch, plan to rehabilitate the house. (J. Bertram)



Built by Dr. O.W. Hall, this Victorian house with its bay windows is one of Star's most historic homes. (Inventory #168) (J. Bertram)

Instead, it may be appropriate to nominate a number of individual structures to the National Register. The steps include preparing a National Register of Historic Places nomination form. This requires a description of a structure's present and original appearance along with a statement of significance which also identifies its historical context. A U.S.G.S. map, or map identifying the historic district, is required along with a bibliography and two copies of archivally-processed photographs. The nomination form is submitted to the ISHPO where it is reviewed and sent on to the National Park Service. An individual example recently honored for its historic value is the Herridge/Villeneuve House (inventory #159), a rock 1881 residence located on the Moon Valley Road and placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1990.

ADDITIONAL STAR HISTORIC RESOURCES*

Proposed for future evaluation

<u>Inventory #</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Style</u>
S1	Sargent House	10287 State St.		
S2	Barn	10415(?) State St.		
S3	Yellow house	10769 State St.		Victorian
S4	Pyramidal house A	133 Knox		National pyramidal
S5	Behind Grace Church	11002 1st St.		
S6	Mid-block house	11011 1st St.		
S7	Corner house	11103 1st St.		
S8	Pyramidal house B	11289 1st St.		National pyramidal
S9	Pyramidal house C	11306 1st St		National pyramidal
S10	Pyramidal house D	11322 1st St		National pyramidal
S11	Pyramidal house E	113 1st St.		National pyramidal
S12	1st St. National house	11321 1st St.		
S13	Dr. Ross/Haywoods house	11354 1st St.		
S14	Red bungalow house	11422 1st St.		
S15	Eilers Brick Springhouse	11627 1st St		
S16	Pyramidal house F	11500 State St.		National pyramidal
S17	Pyramidal house G	11348 State St		National pyramidal.
S18	Dr. Hall's Brick Storefront	11152 State St.		
S19	State St. Craftsman	11146(?) State St.		Craftsman
S20		11123 State St.		
S21		11069 State St.		
S22		11053 State St.		
S23	St. Street Bungalow	11037 State St.		
S24	Old Cremery/House	208 S.Main St.		
S25		268 S.Main St.		
S26	Tile roof house	11356 2nd St		
S27	Union St. house	211 Union St.		
S28	Holiness Assn. Site/Bldgs.	3rd and Union streets		
S29	Friends Church parsonage	3rd St.		
S30	Star Cemetary			
<u>S31</u>	Old Star Jail Cell	E. of Star Merc. State St.		
31 Historic Buildings/Sites				

* 1991 Windshield survey by Planmakers.

STAR ADA COUNTY,

-4-

STAR
(unincorporated)

VALLEY ROAD (STATE STREET) HIGHWAY

FROST

ADD

ADD

ADD

ADD

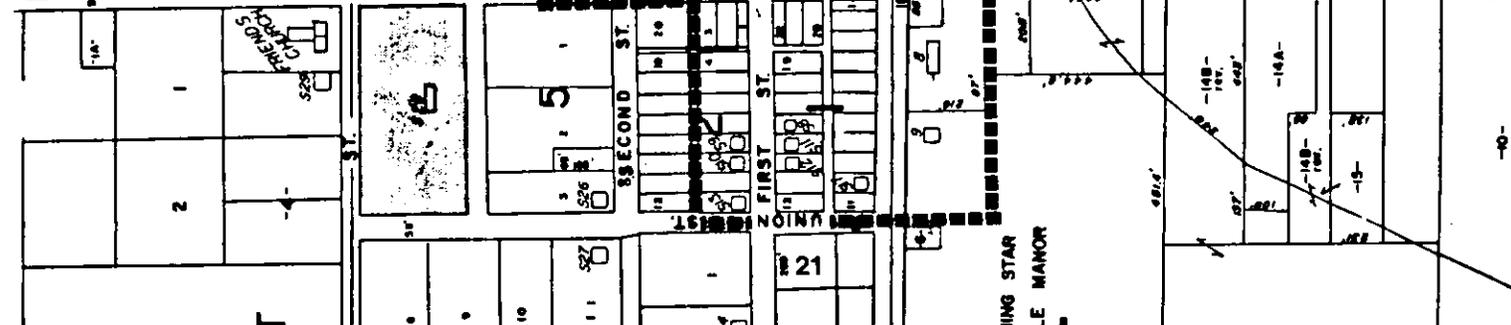
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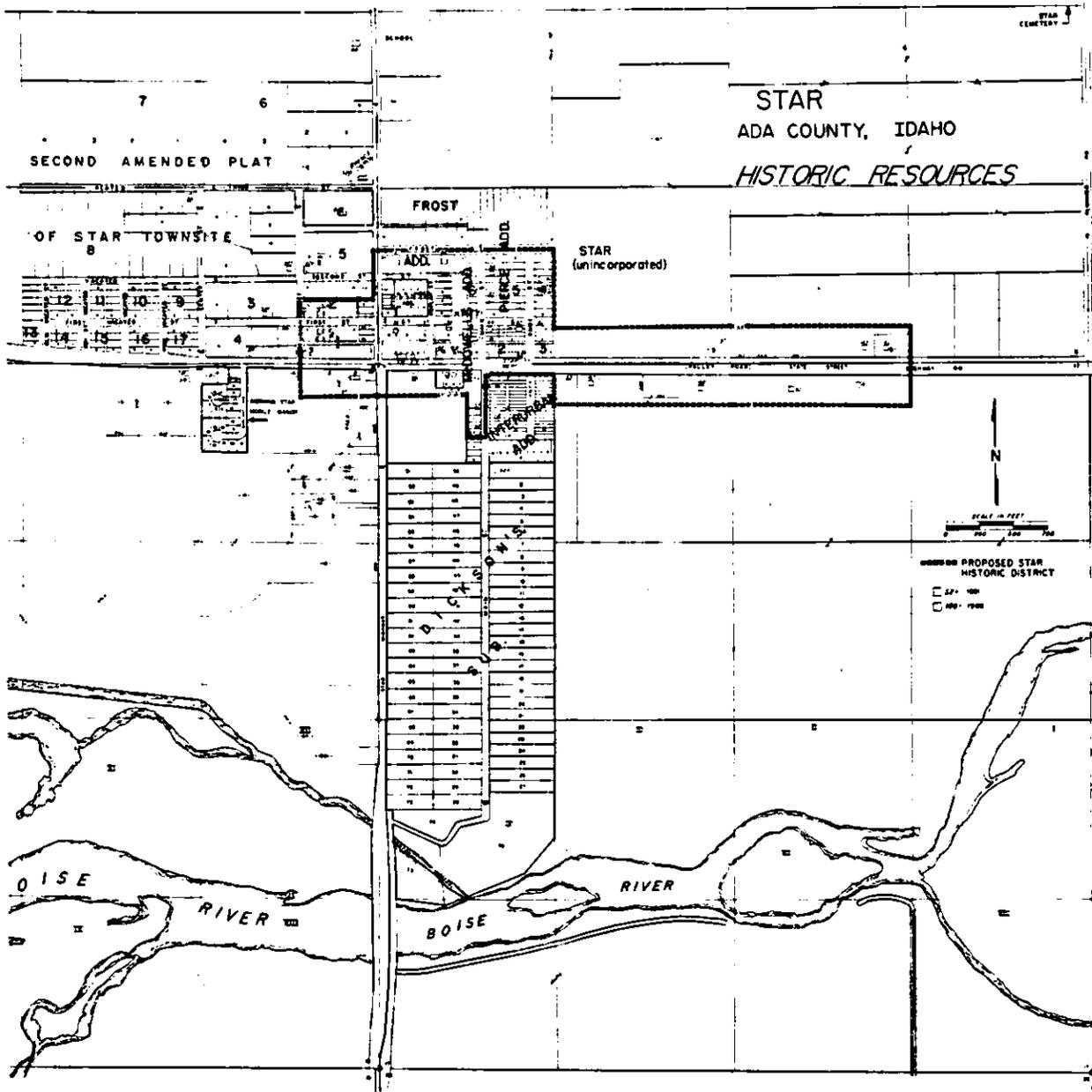
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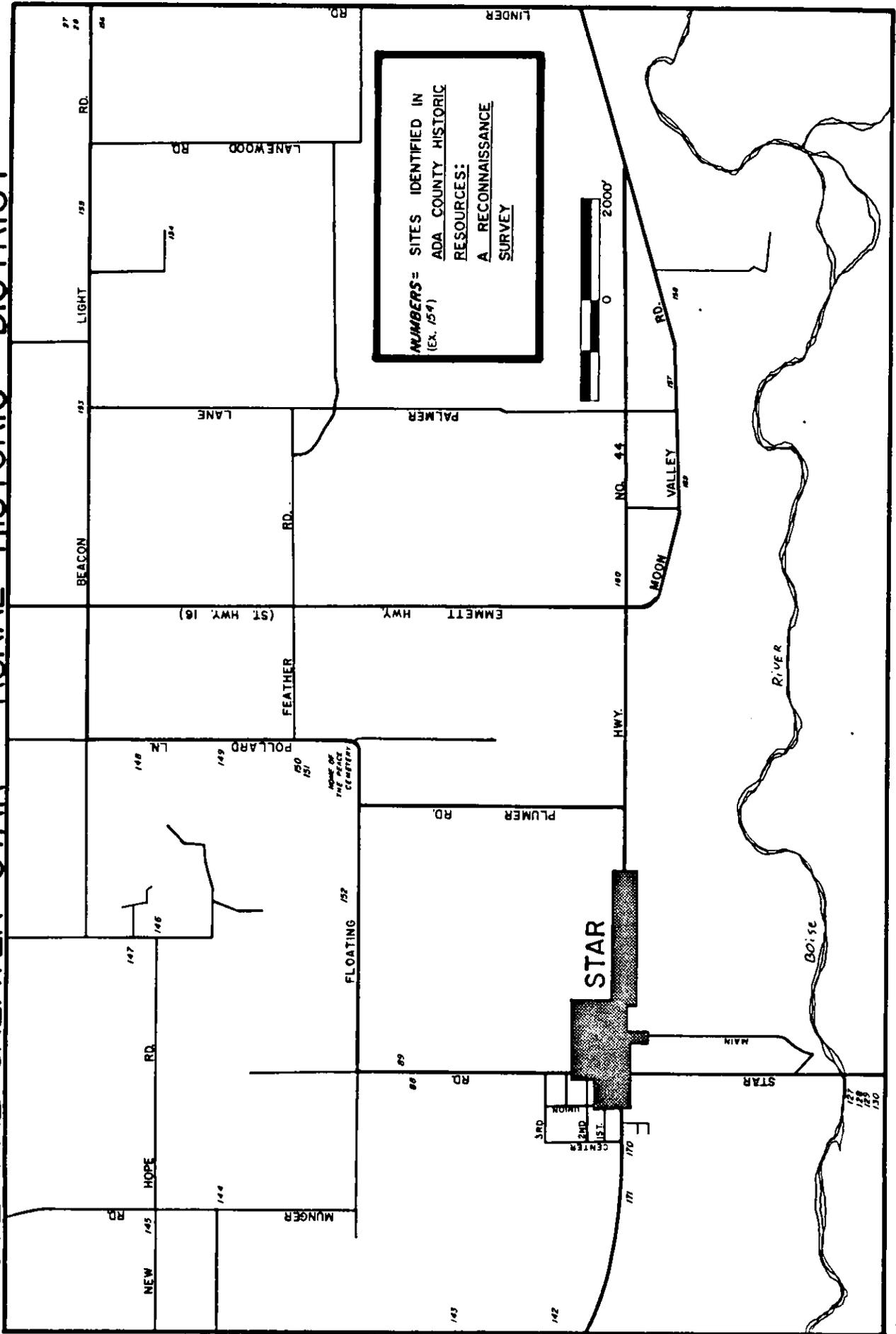


Location of historic resources within the proposed Star Historic District.



Star area and proposed Star Historic District.

POTENTIAL GREATER STAR RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT



**NUMBERS = SITES IDENTIFIED IN
(EX. 154)**
**ADA COUNTY HISTORIC
 RESOURCES:**
**A RECONNAISSANCE
 SURVEY**

The area surrounding Star has been identified as a potential Greater Star Rural Historic District. The dark area is the proposed Star Historic District. JUNE 25, 1991

POTENTIAL SITES FOR GENERAL STAR RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT					
INVENTORY NUMBER	SITE NAME	ADDRESS	DATE	STYLE	HISTORICAL THEME
27	George Washington Fry Barn	3251 Linder Road (demolished)	1900's	Board and Batten	--
28	George Washington Fry House	3251 Linder Road	1890's	National Hall & Parlor	--
88	Star Road Prairie House	767 Star Road	1890	Prairie	--
89	National House with bird house	1050 Star Road	--	National	--
127	John D. Turnball House	7855 N. Star Road	--	Prairie	--
128	Star Road house with flared roof	7825 N. Star Road	--	--	--
129	Phillips House	7830 N. Star Road	--	--	--
130	National house with rock garden	7595 N. Star Road	--	National	--
142	Barn with cupola	--	--	Hip/gable	--
143	House with triangular pediment	--	--	National Hall and Parlor	--
144	Miller House	2420 N. Munger Road	--	National Pyramidal	--
145	George House	12000 W. New Hope	--	--	--
146	Cosgrove House	2800 Wing Road	--	Colonial Revival	--
147	House with tractor gear mail box	--	--	--	--
148	Pollard Lane pyramidal house	2963 Pollard Lane	--	National Pyramidal	--
149	Pollard Lane house with screen porch	2415 Pollard Lane	--	--	--
150	House with solar panel	1995 Pollard Lane	1920's	National	--
151	National gable with shiplap	1995 Pollard Lane	--	National	--
152	Carswell House	10194 Floating Feather	--	--	--
153	House with lane	--	--	--	--
154	Barn with multicolored roof	--	--	--	Agriculture
155	Campbell House	6166 Beacon Light	--	National	--
156	Samuelson House	4995 Beacon Light	--	--	--
157	Moon Valley Road barn with pointed hay door	--	--	--	--
158	Moon Valley Ranch	Rt 1 Box 110 Moon Valley Road	1932	--	--
159	Villeneuve House	7575 Moon Valley Road	1881	Queen Anne	--
160	Girdner & Jones Ranch	--	--	National	--
170	W.E. Eilers House and outbuildings	11627 W. State Street	1890's	--	--
171	K-2 Arena House	--	1890's	Queen Anne	--

Findings

The consultant's work was productive and includes a written history of Star, historic and current photographs, an inventory of additional historic sites, maps identifying historic resources and proposed historic districts, a slide presentation, bibliography, and final report. A public meeting held on June 6, 1991 on Star's history resulted in strong interest by residents and a better awareness of Star's historic resources.

Star's rich and diverse rural character is worthy of protection and enhancement. Star's sense of place comes from its homes, wood barns, pastures, cultivated fields, and lushness of the Boise River. Throughout its history, the population of Star and the surrounding area has remained relatively consistent; however, the community is now facing the potential of change from a rapidly growing Ada County. Action is imperative to maintain a rural sector of western Ada County.

Recommendations

Star Rural Conservation Plan

A second phase planning project is needed to do more intensive survey work, prepare conceptual plans, refine potential projects, and identify recommendations and actions for the Star community.

The focus of the work would be on the protection and enhancement of the area's historic resources. Elements would include options to maintain the Star area's rural setting along with its cultural landscape. Further survey work would prepare reconnaissance and intensive site research with the potential of help from local residents and Boise State University students. Further historic interpretation of the community would also occur. The proposed Star Historic District would be further refined, with recommendations on guidelines and management. Options and recommendations for maintaining Star's rural and agricultural

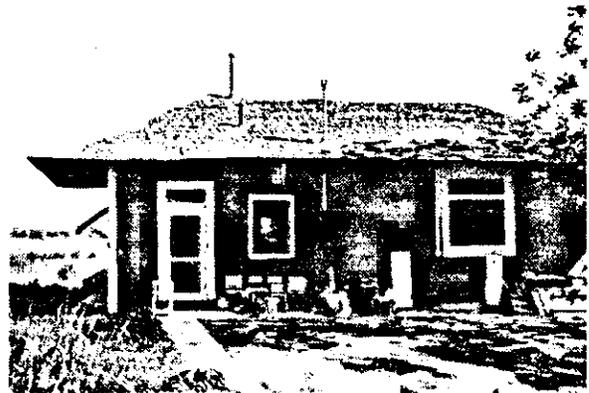
character would be prepared. Another element would look at ways to establish a revolving loan fund to assist residential rehabilitation. Another element would explore Star's commercial area with potential of adding new storefront buildings that reflect Star's earlier character. This second phase would provide Ada County with a better understanding of Star's rural historic resources and explore ways to plan for their protection. The estimated cost to complete this work is \$12,500.

Star History Committee

Formed by interested citizens at the Star History public meeting, this group would be the nucleus to assist with the inventory survey, collect further historical information, and help identify and support community programs and projects.

Star Depot

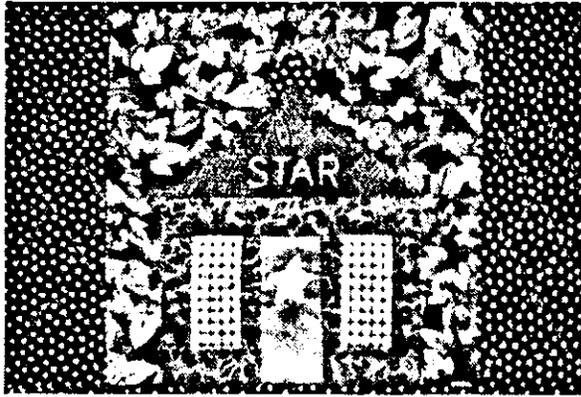
It is recommended that special attention be given to retaining the Star Depot for public use. Negotiations with the owner and a feasibility study to identify a potential site, use (e.g. library), and moving and rehabilitation costs are essential. A grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation could be helpful in analyzing the feasibility of returning the Star Depot to public use. Estimated cost of a feasibility study is \$5,000.



Former Star Depot with original sign still intact. Now privately owned, the depot was moved east of town and could be relocated to the proposed historic district. (Inventory #164) (J. Bertram)

Star History Book

Prepare a book, booklet, or brochure on the history of Star. Work with the Star History Committee and seek private and public funds for publication.



Star patch on the 1990 Ada County Centennial Quilt which hangs in the Ada County Commissioners office. (J. Bertram)

Implementation

The Ada County Historic Preservation Council and Ada County Development Services can provide leadership in protecting and enhancing the historic resources of Star. Working in coordination with the Star History Committee and a consultant, the second phase of the Star History project should be undertaken. Funding to complete the work should be from a blend of funds, including the following potential sources.

Certified Local Government (CLG): Following up on last year's CLG grant, the Ada County Historic Preservation Council should apply for \$4,500 from the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office to complete the Star Inventory and a plan for a rural conservation district.

Grant funds could be applied for from the National Trust for Historic Preservation: A "Preservation Service Fund" grant application to assist the rural conservation of Star could be submitted. Potential of approximately \$2000. Typically, there are numerous competitive proposals for a limited amount of funds.

Preservation Service Fund for depot preservation grants: The National Trust has targeted special funding for depot preservation projects. This grant would be ideal for moving ahead on the Star Depot project. Funds are awarded on a matching basis and cannot exceed \$5,000.

Grant and technical assistance from the University of Idaho's and Idaho State University's Cooperative Extension System should be sought. The work would focus on how the rural Ada County area of Star can remain socially and economically viable while protecting its historic resources. A grant for \$8,000 to confront Star's rural conservation issue should be requested.

Idaho Heritage Trust: Aimed to support projects which protect and interpret Idaho's heritage resource, the trust may be a source for funding in 1993.

Federal Funds: Look for funding and cooperative projects with federal agencies assisting small communities and rural development.

Volunteer Assistance: Encourage the Star History Committee to assist and spearhead various projects and activities. Coordinate with Boise State University to utilize history students in undertaking Star inventory work.

Local Funds: Have a local fund raising event such as a dinner or an auction. Seek funds from individuals and businesses to fund special projects and the Star History Book.

Appendix

IDS 6-6-91

House joins national list as Star reviews its history

A presentation on Star's historic buildings will be held at 7:30 p.m. today at Star Elementary School, 700 N. Star Road.

Planner and historian John Bertram will present the history of Star and review the town's historic resources. The public is invited to comment on Star's history and unique character.

Also scheduled is a 5 p.m. ceremony and reception at the home of Roy and Frances Herridge, which has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Ada County Commissioner Vern Bisterfeldt will present a plaque to the Herridges. The home is at 7575 Moon Valley Road.

IDS - 6-7-91

Star shines in history presentation

By Michael Deeds
The Idaho Statesman

STAR — Planner and historian John Bertram got more than he bargained for when he conducted a presentation on the history of Star on Thursday night.

He got Star — or at least a good part of it.

More than 100 people piled into Star Elementary School to watch Bertram's slide presentation and to voice opinions on restoring buildings deemed historically significant by Ada County and Bertram.

When the meeting ended, Bertram told the crowd he was going to recommend that Ada County spend more time analyzing Star's historical buildings.

The rest is up to the county, private grants and the citizens of the community, he said.

"I've looked at Star as a special place," Bertram told his audience. "I feel there's good heritage in this community."

Bertram, who was hired by Ada County to study the area, encouraged citizens to organize a volunteer effort for saving the remaining historical buildings.

And though initial response was a little slow, as discussion wore on, more and more people decided that heritage was, indeed, important to them.

"With the response we had, the presentation being excellent, it brought out a great deal of feeling for the past in the community,"

Dale Blake of Star said. "A great deal of talk has already taken place on how to move these buildings."

Blake owns such buildings, including the remnants of the early 1900s town jail, which he would like to put on Main Street, he said.

The other popular topic of discussion was the old train depot, which now stands behind the Star Motel and is privately owned.

Adrian Pollard, who was born in Star but now lives in Boise, said he enjoyed the whole evening.

"I think it's a fine deal," he said with a grin. "The thing I've enjoyed more than anything was getting here and seeing my old friends. Talking about old times . . . it was hard times, but good times."

The Idaho Statesman, June 6, 1991 and June 7, 1991.

STAR HISTORY COMMITTEE

STAR HISTORY COMMITTEE		
Name	Address	Phone
Sue Anderson		286-7060
Don & Mary Wertman	will help with restoration work	286-7419
Roberta Keller		286-7280
Jane Raynor		286-7388
Lura Knudsen		286-7375
Lou Hutton		286-7752
Marie Willis		286-7378
Dale & Vi Blake		286-7979
HISTORY OF STAR MEETING		
Roberta Keller	1665 N. Brandon Borad	286-7280
John & Bonnie Fields	P.O. Box 250	286-7347
Harold & Carmen Wolfkiel	2205 Munger Road	
Grace Pool		
Ethel New	157 N. Star Road	286-7906
Pauline Miller	2420 Munger Road	286-7183
Flosabell McCabe	11147 1st	
Clara Wilson	201 N. Main	
Sherm & MarisWillis	2nd Union	
Richard & Ida Corn	6188 W. Lake Hazel	
Andrew & Lura Knudsen	385 Center Street	
Lee & Virginia Moberly	Box 669 Middleton, ID 83644	
Sheri Freemuth	Ada County Development Services	
Barbara & Barrett Rainey	Eagle	
Harlen & Carolyn Schildhaun	11002 1st	286-9102
Walter & Illene Cluff		286-7800
Judy Carr	11070 W. State Street	286-7771

Margaret Stiffler	2nd W 11355	
Jason R. Stiffler	P.O. Box 21	286-7879
Jerry Dancer		466-5075
Dale & Violet Blake	P.O. Box 57	286-7979
Eugene Muller	320 Palmer Ln (Eagle)	286-7369
Jac Weinheimer	Box 261	286-9617
Robert Lenaghe	7928 Rapidan Ln (Boise)	853-3211
Leeburn Scrivner	153 N. Main	
Eleanor (House) Scrivner	153 N. Main	
Brian Hayes	7100 N. Pollard Lane (Meridian)	
Julie Cobler	185 N. Main	
Mike & Ginny Sigglin	1625 N. Munger	
Rick & Kim Boyack & Ross & Malerie	4270 E. Overland (Meridian)	887-1190
Ray & Frances Herridge	7575 Moon Valley Road (Eagle)	
Karl and Glenna Malott	9666 Floating Feather	286-7819
Robb & Vicki Lewis	1995 Pollard Lane	286-7884
G. I. Miller	11152 State Street	286-9244
Warrne & Rebecca Eilers	11627 Hwy 44	286-7465
Gary & Jan Belew	12509 Able Drive	286-7615
Ken & Kristen Belew	12509 Able Drive	286-7615
Don & Mary Wertman	01600 W. State	286-7419
J. L. & Jane Raynor	Box 145	286-7388
Frank & Mary Manchester	22451 Can Ada Road	286-7209
September Day	20314 Ward Road (Caldwell)	1-454-9538
Ross & Star Manchester	11422 1st Street	286-7137
Judy Duschka	202 1st street	286-7426
Adrian & Hazel Pollard	5820 Oreana Drive (Boise)	375-6777
Lester Sommers	9985 W. Joplin (Meridian)	466-1088

Ada (Ayres) & Herb Smith	1715 W. Flamingo Space 75 (Nampa)	
Irma (Ayres) Peterson	3451 Collister Drive (Boise)	
Esmerella (Ayres) Porter	P.O. Box 224	
Our Ayres Grandparents came to Star 1881 also great Grandparents		
Wayne & Richard Porter	Star	
Cheryl Little		
Clayton & LaVern (House) Cope		
Earl & Irene (House) DePartee		
Frankie Dobson Bruneel		
Ester Dobson Satterlee		
Eleanor Blessinger Kennedy		
Bill & Gladys Frost		
Leola Yuars		
Frank Mosman		
Elaine Mosman		
Jessie Goodwin		
Gordon & Velma Williams		
Joy Youngs		
Kathleen Hutton	10824 New Hope Road	286-7682
Travis Hutton	10824 New Hope Road	286-7682
Tyler Hutton	10824 New Hope Road	286-7682
Lou Hutton	10820 New Hope Road	286-7752
Montry & Tana Smith	7345 N. Linder (Meridan)	888-9747
Warren & Mary White	700 E. Fairview (Meridian)	

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