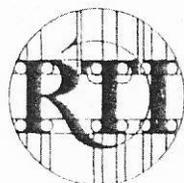
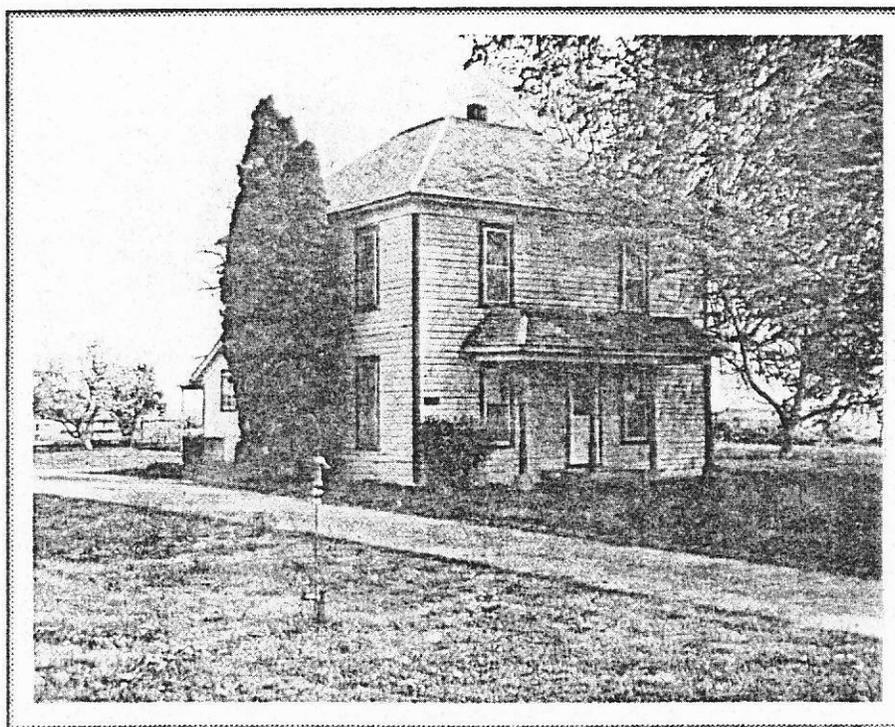


ADA COUNTY HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY PHASE I

FINAL PROJECT REPORT
1998



Renewable Technologies, Incorporated
511 Metals Bank Building • Butte, Montana 59701

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I. INTRODUCTION

This document is one product of a field survey of historic sites in Ada County, Idaho performed in April 1998. The project's fieldwork and accompanying research were conducted by staff members of Renewable Technologies, Inc. (RTI), under the terms of a contractual agreement with Ada County Development Services. The project was jointly sponsored and funded by Ada County Development Services and the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office, as part of both entities' ongoing program of historic preservation activities.

The work completed in 1998 constituted Phase I of a projected three-phase project designed to produce a comprehensive reconnaissance-level inventory of potentially historic buildings in that portion of the county under the jurisdiction of Ada County Development Services. The 1998 effort concentrated on the survey and recordation of resources in the northwestern area of the county, in and around the communities of Star and Eagle. Phase II work, tentatively planned for 1999, will survey other areas of the county; the final phase will complete any necessary remaining survey and produce a comprehensive project report. (The completion of Phases II and III will be dependent on the allocation of necessary funding.)

This report provides an overview of the Phase I methodology and survey results. In addition to this document, the project generated 100 reconnaissance-level historic site inventory forms, each describing an architectural resource in northeastern Ada County. The forms were created in a computer-readable format, using Microsoft Access software. The information on the forms is supplemented by digital color photographs of each resource, as well as black-and-white film-based photographs.

In the completion of this project, RTI acknowledges the substantial assistance of Patricia Nilsson of Ada County Development Services; Michael "Bert" Bedeau of the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office; and Celli Bradshaw of the Ada County Historic Preservation Council. Several other state and county staff members also provided assistance, as did a number of Star-area residents. Their support is appreciated, and the survey products reflect in large measure the information provided by these individuals.

II. SURVEY METHODOLOGY

A. Preliminary activities: This project is the initial component of a broad effort by Ada County Development Services to identify and catalogue potentially-historic resources in the areas under its jurisdiction. Ada County is currently experiencing a period of extremely-rapid population growth and urbanization, resulting in significant impacts to the area's cultural landscapes and historic architectural resources. Identifying the number and types of historic buildings remaining in the county is an important first step in quantifying these impacts, and in developing strategies for cultural resource protection in the face of increased development.

Prior to the beginning of the project, available information on potentially-historic buildings in the county was scattered and inconsistent. Several historic surveys of portions of the county, mostly at the reconnaissance level, were conducted during the 1980s and early 1990s, but none were comprehensive. The northwestern portion of the community – in and around the small community of Star – received the bulk of attention by these surveys, since the area is

perceived as having a relatively high concentration of historic resources and is being heavily impacted by the county's growth. These and other studies, both formal and informal, suggested that the number of potentially-historic buildings in rural Ada County could be in the hundreds.

To comprehensively inventory these resources, Ada County Development Services has teamed with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office to plan a multi-year survey effort for the county. Using funds provided by both entities, a three-phase program was tentatively scheduled, with two years of survey work followed by the development of a county-wide overview report. In preparation for the project, county planners divided the planned survey area into four quadrants, and prioritized these areas for survey. Priority area 1 included Star and the northwestern portion of the county, and was to be the focus of the Phase I survey contract.

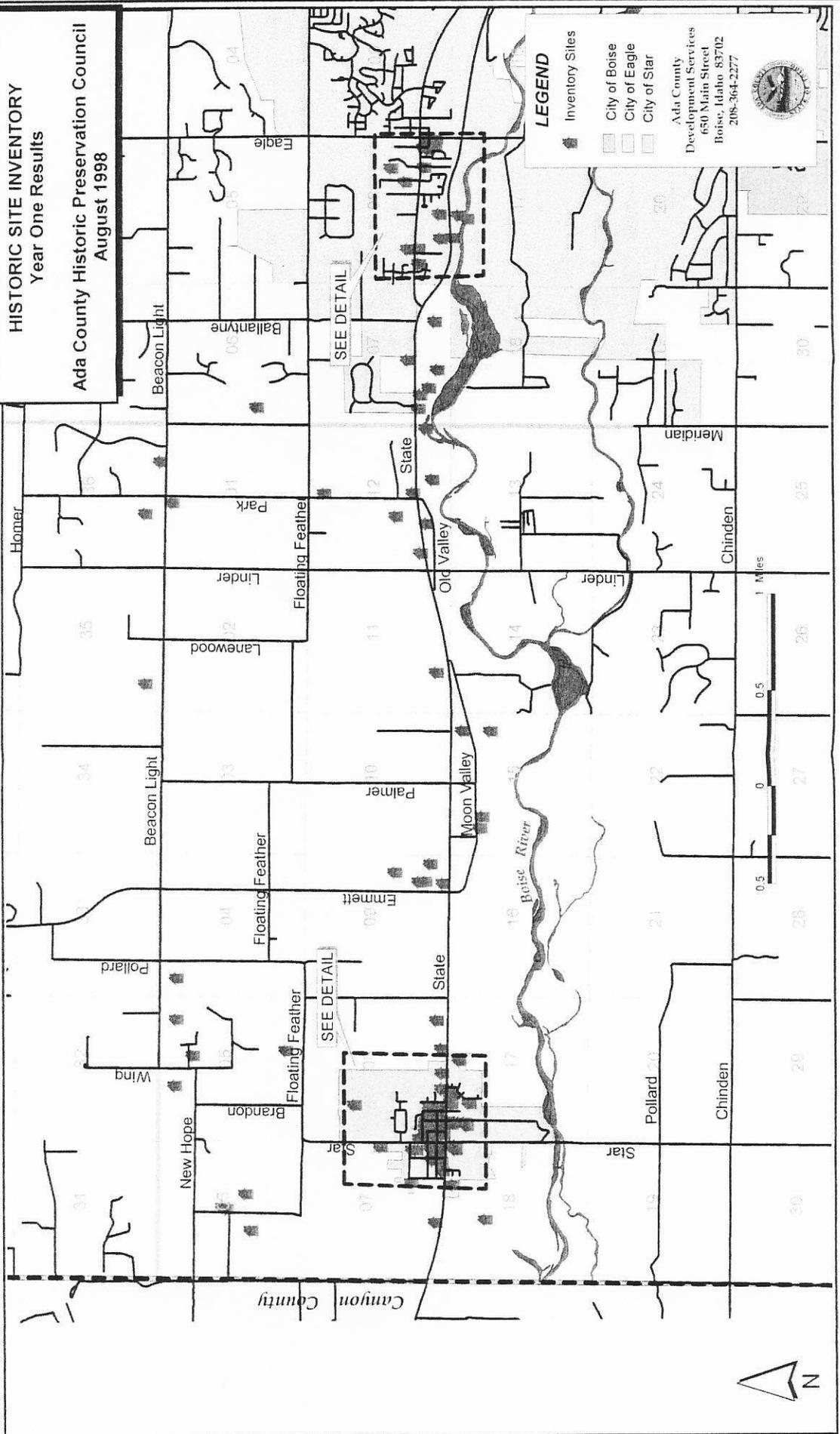
In October 1997, Ada County issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the completion of the planned Phase I historic sites survey effort. Renewable Technologies, Incorporated (RTI) was among the consulting firms who responded to the RFP, and was later selected to undertake the survey. In March 1998, Ada County formally contracted with RTI for the completion of the project; the contract called for the completion of 100 reconnaissance-level inventory forms for historic architectural resources in the county. During March and April 1998, RTI worked with Ada County planners and Idaho State Historic Preservation Office personnel to develop research designs and survey methodologies for the upcoming fieldwork.

As planning for the countywide survey progressed, both sponsoring organizations recognized the importance of having all survey information presented in a consistent, easily usable format. It was decided to prepare a computerized inventory form for the project using Microsoft Access database software. Prior to the beginning of fieldwork, Patricia Nilsson of Ada County Development Services created such a database, using the already-existing Idaho reconnaissance survey form as a model. This database will be used throughout the Ada County survey process, and can serve as a model for future computerization of other historic survey projects statewide.

B. On-site fieldwork: Mark Hufstetler, a member of RTI's professional staff, arrived in Boise on April 20, 1998 to begin project fieldwork. The following day, Hufstetler participated in a pre-work meeting with Mike Bedeau, from the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office, and Patricia Nilsson, from Ada County Development Services. Bedeau and Hufstetler then made a brief reconnaissance of the planned survey area.

Fieldwork began the afternoon of April 21, and continued through April 28. For a portion of the survey, Hufstetler was assisted by Mary McCormick, also a member of RTI's professional staff. RTI staff began in the community of Star, and recorded all potentially-significant resources located in that town. After the Star survey was completed, RTI began survey work in rural Ada County, starting at the western county line and working eastward. RTI staff traveled all public roads in the rural survey area, with the exception of those created to serve obviously modern subdivisions. (No private roads were traveled, nor was private property entered.) On the completion of the rural portion of the survey, RTI had comprehensively examined that portion of Ada County lying north of the Boise River and west of Meridian Road. After this area was reviewed, RTI began survey work in the community of Eagle, and continued until a total of 100 properties had been surveyed. (Additional sites worthy of survey remain in Eagle, and should be inventoried during Phase II of the countywide project.) Figures 1 and 2, on the following pages, show the approximate locations of the buildings surveyed by the project.

HISTORIC SITE INVENTORY
Year One Results
Ada County Historic Preservation Council
August 1998



During the inventory, each primary building was recorded on a field form containing the descriptive categories used by the historic sites database. Approximate construction dates for all buildings were estimated using visual clues. The locations of inventoried resources were noted on a base map. Each site was photographed using a Kodak color digital camera, and those images were downloaded to Ada County computers on a nightly basis. Black-and-white film-based photographs were also taken of each site, to fulfill the site recordation requirements of the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office.

The field inventory was designed to record all architectural resources that met the following criteria:

1. The primary building at the site remained in place, and appeared to be fifty years of age or older; and
2. The site as a whole displayed a sufficient level of integrity to remain evocative of the historic period, and to allow the property to contribute to a National Register of Historic Places historic district, if one exists.

No properties less than fifty years old were recorded, since federal guidelines require such properties to be of "exceptional" significance in order to qualify for the National Register. National Register guidelines were used to evaluate integrity. In general, if a surveyed property had both modern exterior siding and non-historic fenestration, it was not judged to retain a sufficient level of integrity. (It should be noted that the criteria for a property to be independently listed on the National Register are more rigid than those outlined above, and that while all surveyed properties are "contributing," they are not necessarily National Register-eligible.)

At the conclusion of fieldwork, RTI had successfully recorded 100 properties at the reconnaissance level, as specified by the contract for this project. No significant problems were encountered during the survey. A list of all properties surveyed is provided in the appendix to this report.

C. Project completion: After the project fieldwork was completed, RTI began the process of compiling site-specific supplementary information, and began entering survey data into the new historic sites database. A copy of the fieldwork base map and a complete address list of properties surveyed was provided to Ada County Development Services, which used this information to generate the final base maps used in this report. The county also provided parcel numbers and legal descriptions for the sites, and RTI added this information to the database.

Since this was a reconnaissance-level (rather than intensive-level) survey, RTI did not undertake extensive documentary research on the individual properties to be surveyed. We did, however, identify surveyed sites previously listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and this information was included on the final reconnaissance forms. RTI also obtained copies of Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for both Star and Eagle; these maps were reviewed to help confirm RTI's estimated construction dates for surveyed resources.

Both the final database and this report were prepared during August and September 1998. All deliverables were submitted to Ada County Development Services in September 1998, except for the black-and-white photography, which was delivered directly to the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office.

III. SUMMARY OF RESULTS

A. Community of Star: Approximately one-third of the properties inventoried by this project are located in Star, a small, recently-incorporated community near the western edge of Ada County. Star is a largely working-class town characterized by relatively unadorned residential construction and limited commercial development. Nearly all of the sites inventoried in Star consisted of houses and their associated outbuildings.

A number of surviving houses in Star date from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries; nearly all of these buildings display a vernacular "folk" or "National" design. Most are wood-framed and sided. The simplest of these houses are gable-roofed rectangular masses, often with enclosed, shed-roofed porch wings (figure 3). A somewhat larger number are square, single-story buildings with pyramidal hip roofs – the quintessential American Foursquare design (figure 4). Examples of both building forms are scattered throughout the platted townsite, intermixed with newer construction. Many display signs of non-historic alterations, including metal or vinyl siding, replacement windows, and modern porches and decks. Some lots also include historic outbuildings: animal sheds, possible well houses, and early twentieth-century garages.

A much smaller number of period houses in the Star area are larger buildings displaying stronger elements of architectural detail (figure 5). Scattered residences feature limited Queen Anne or Colonial Revival detailing, such as canted bays, wraparound porches, dormers, and the use of patterned shingles. These buildings are uncommon, though, and do not match the level of architectural sophistication found in many other Idaho cities during the period.

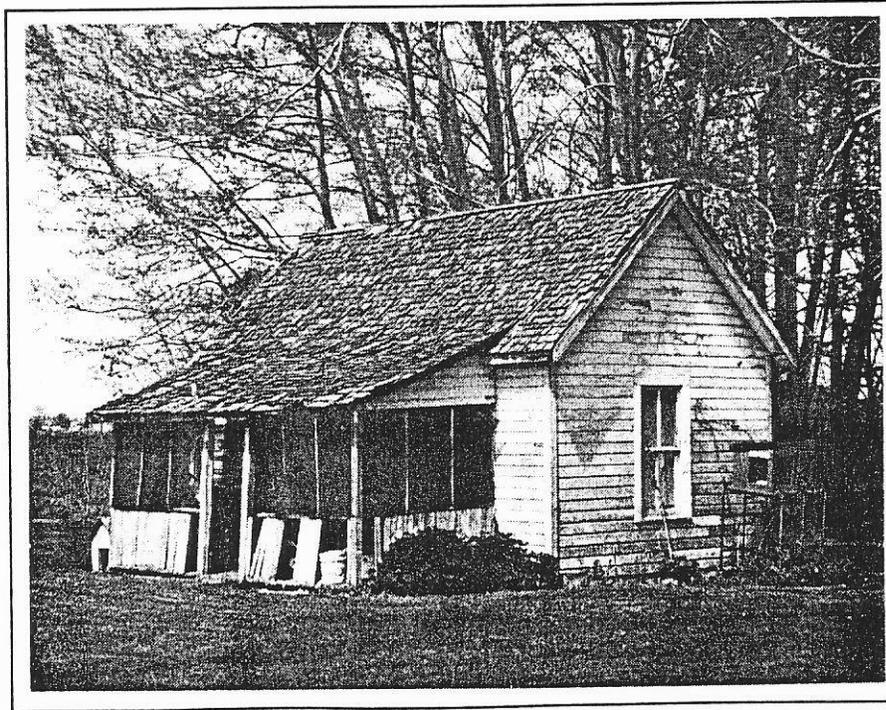


Figure 3. Vernacular gable house, Star.

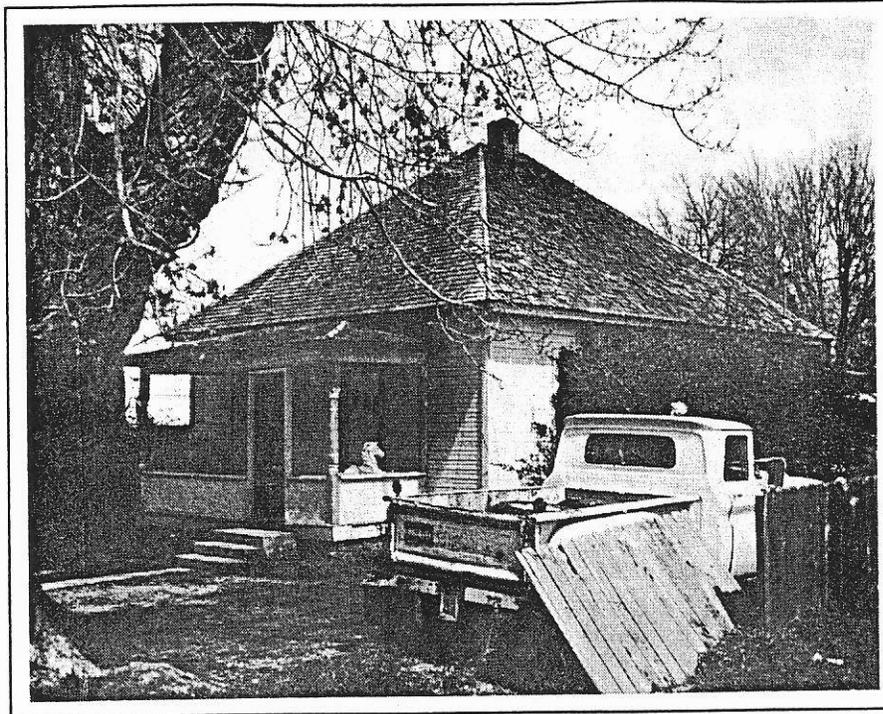


Figure 4. Vernacular foursquare house, Star.



Figure 5. "High-style" turn-of-the-century house, Star vicinity.

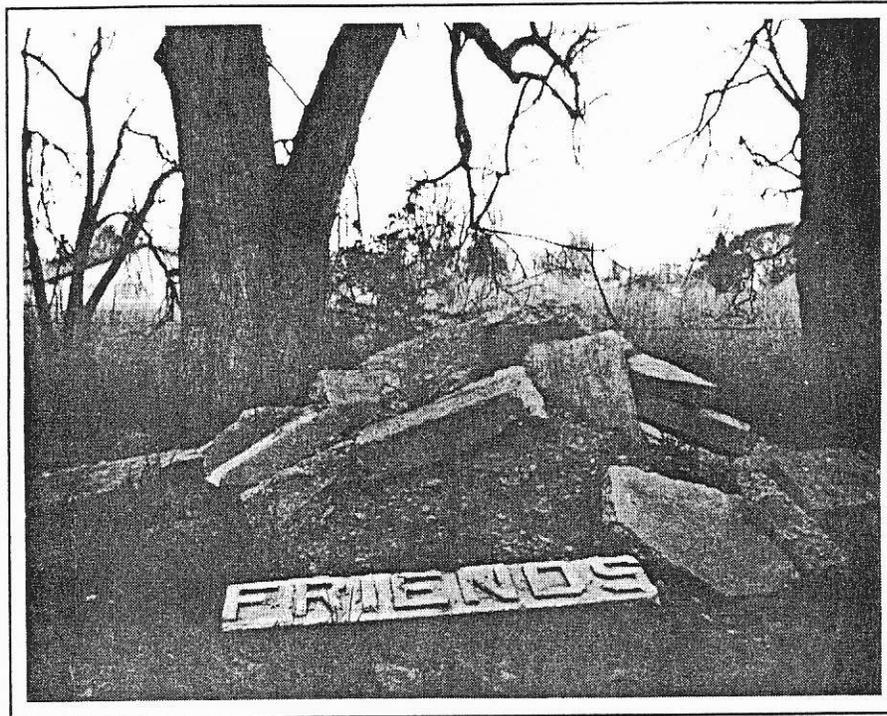


Figure 7. Architectural remnant, Quaker revival grounds, Star.

B. Community of Eagle: The 1998 Ada County survey included only the southwestern portion of Eagle; most of the town—including the entire commercial district—remains to be inventoried. The inventory did, however, record several quality examples of period residential architecture, dating from throughout the historic period.

As in Star, examples of turn-of-the-century folk housing and later Craftsman designs are present in Eagle. The houses in Eagle are generally larger, however, and exhibit more sophisticated plans and styling. A higher proportion of the houses surveyed retain an acceptable level of integrity. The amount of modern construction in Eagle, however, is greater than that in Star, dimming the prospects for a National Register historic district in the community. A final judgement on this matter, however, cannot be made until Phase II of the Ada County survey is completed.

There are several landmark examples of local residential architecture in the portion of Eagle surveyed during 1998. The O.F. Short House (figure 8) is a large, handsome residence from the late nineteenth century, with exterior wall cladding of local river cobble. The Orville and Floy Jackson house (figure 9) is a fine example of Tudoresque residential design, briefly popular in the 1930s. (Both of these houses are already listed on the National Register.) Finally, a Spanish Eclectic style home west of Eagle on Highway 44 was also recorded (figure 10). This is an exceptional property, very worthy of National Register listing.

Two non-residential properties in the immediate Eagle area were also recorded, including a tavern/roadhouse and a Baptist church (figure 11).

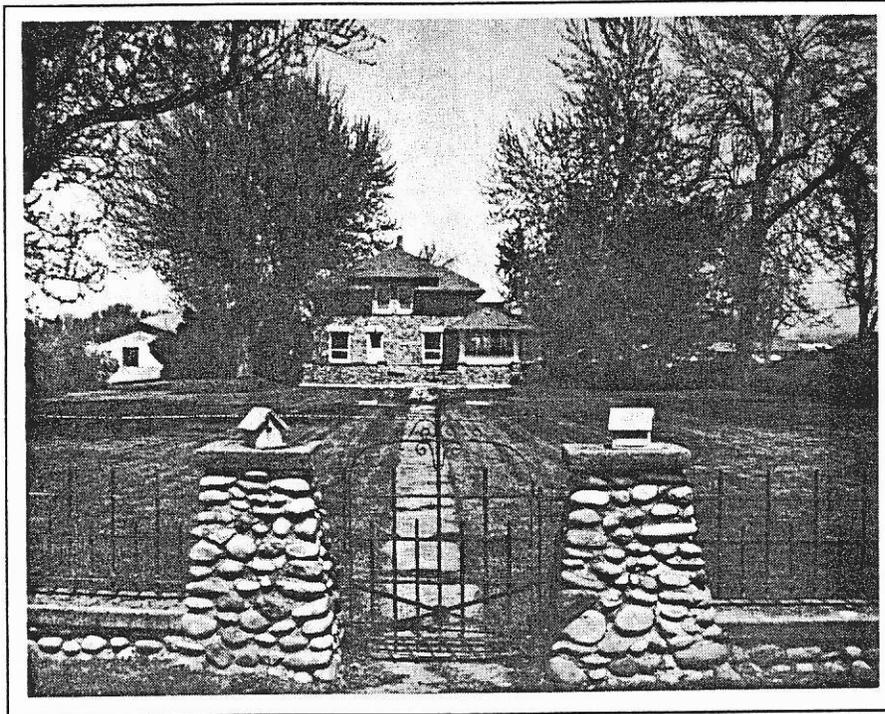


Figure 8. O.F. Short house, Eagle.

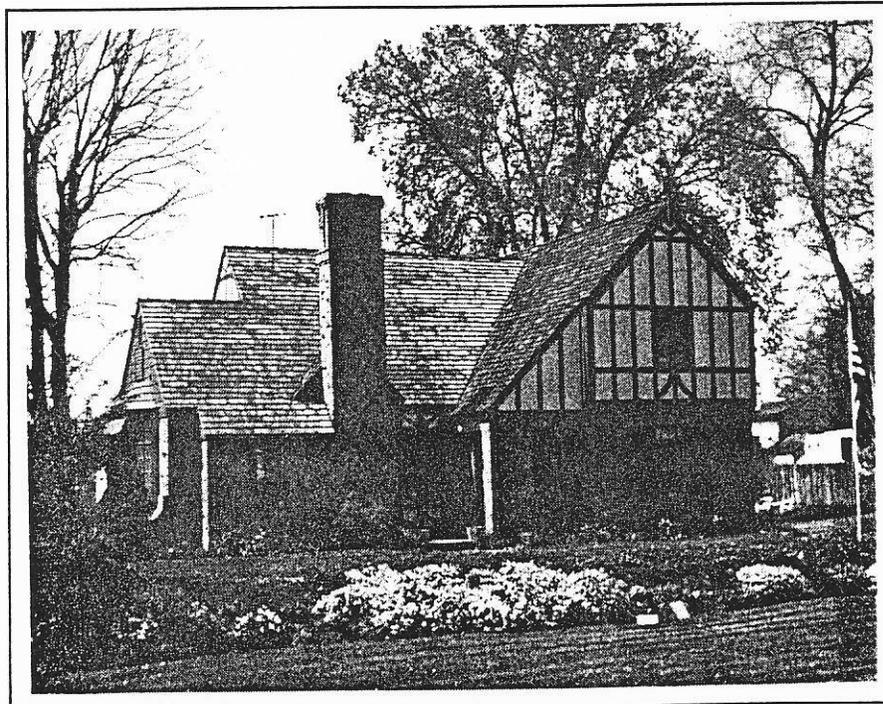


Figure 9. Orville and Floy Jackson house, Eagle.

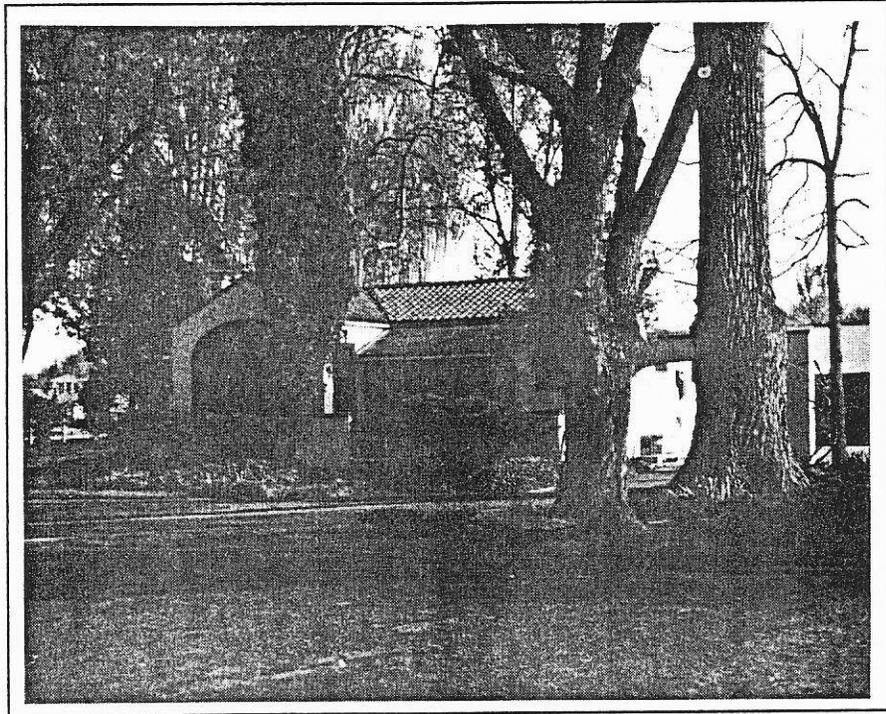


Figure 10. Mission-style home, Eagle vicinity.

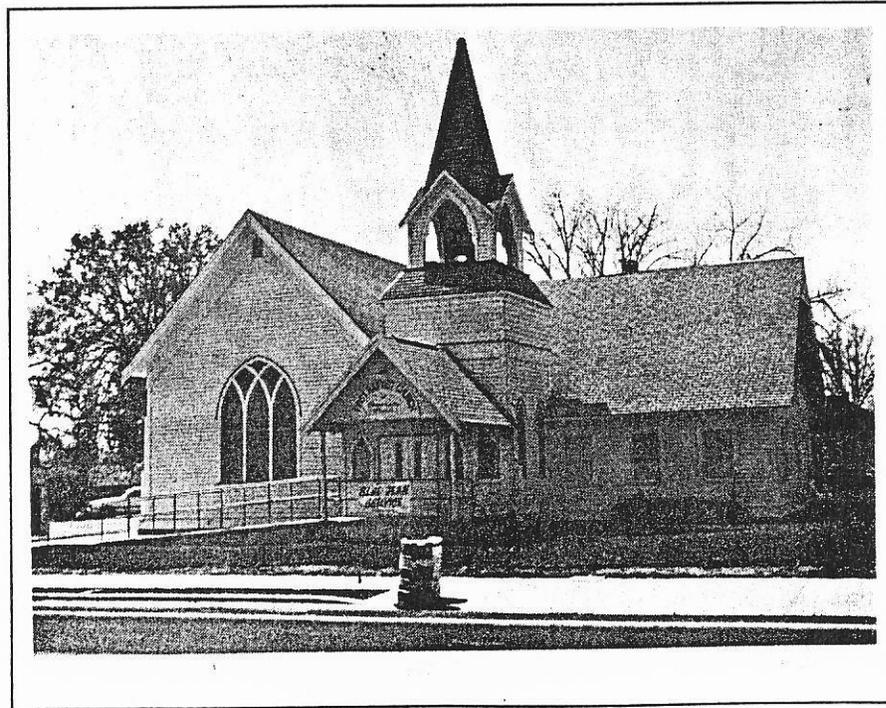


Figure 11. First Baptist Church, Eagle.

C. Rural Areas: Approximately half of the sites surveyed during the 1998 inventory could be considered rural, although the boundaries between the urban and rural regions of Ada County are rapidly becoming blurred. Resources in this category include turn-of-the-century folk designs, early twentieth-century Craftsman buildings, and scattered examples of other late-historic building types. Many (but not all) of these houses are accompanied by a variety of outbuildings: barns, animal coops, equipment sheds, granaries, and other structures.

Most of the late nineteenth and early twentieth-century farmhouses in the survey area exhibit one of two basic forms. Many are larger, more architecturally sophisticated variants of the basic foursquare design found in Star. Most of the rural examples are two stories high, and many are enlivened by bays, porches, and other detailing (figure 12). Some of the best examples reflect subtle influences of the Prairie school of design, primarily in their window and door placement. Other early area farmhouses exhibit more vernacular forms, usually with one or two-story "T" or "L"-gable plans (figure 13). As a group, these farmhouses display a relatively high level of integrity.

Most farmhouses constructed in the area after World War I utilized Craftsman designs (figure 14). In common with the Craftsman houses surviving in Eagle, most of the rural Craftsman homes display a higher level of design detail than those found in Star; substantial variations are present, however. As a group, the architectural integrity of these buildings is, at best, uneven.

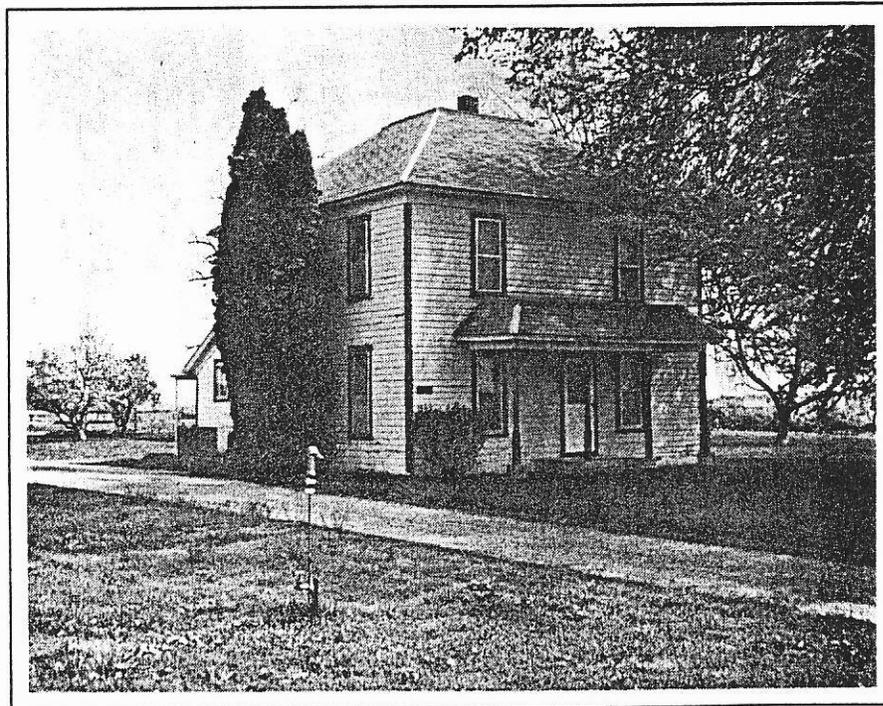


Figure 12. Two-story foursquare farmhouse, Star vicinity.

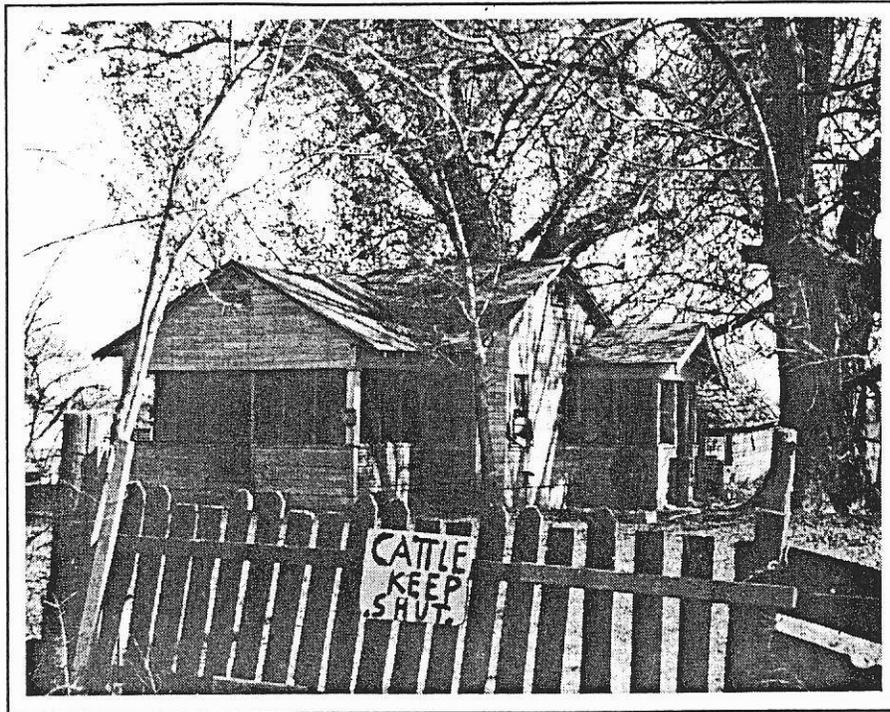


Figure 13. Vernacular twentieth-century farmhouse, Star vicinity.

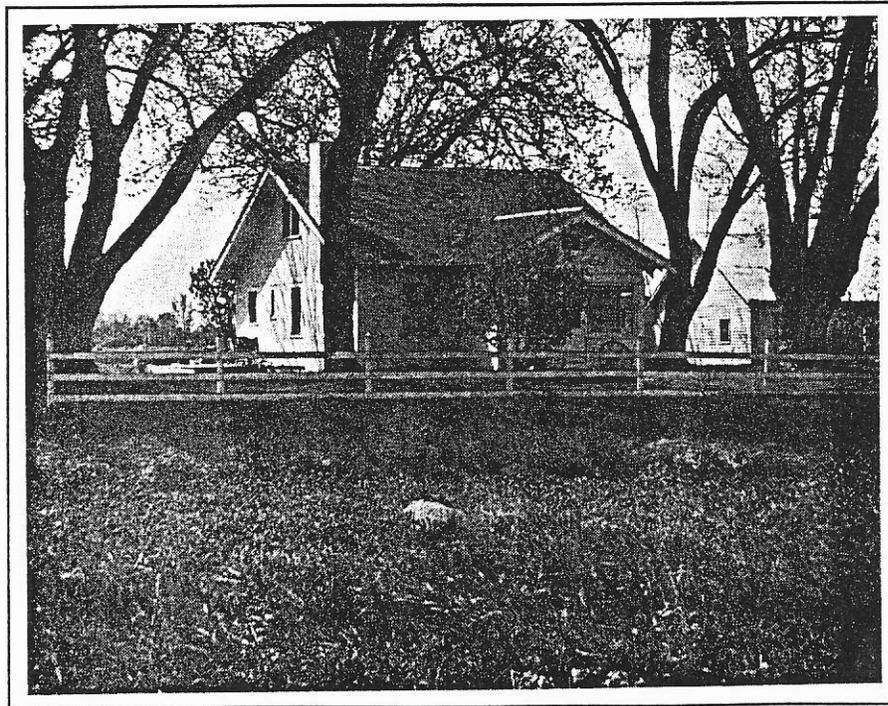


Figure 14. Craftsman farmhouse, Star vicinity.

Many of these properties display interesting and well-preserved collections of farm outbuildings (figure 15). Most of these ancillary features date from the early to mid-twentieth century. A significant number of barns, in particular, survive. Many of the barns share commonalities of design, such as multi-pitch gable roofs and board-and batten siding. (Very few gambrel-roofed barns are present.) As a group, the farmsteads surveyed represent a relatively strong collection of historic resources. While the level of modern development in the region probably precludes the National Register listing of these resources as a historic district or rural landscape, the National Register's Multiple Properties format may be an appropriate vehicle to formally recognize the significance of some of these properties. This possibility should continue to be evaluated during later phases of the Ada County survey. (The database prepared as part of this survey indicates those sites with potential for inclusion in such a Multiple Property study.)

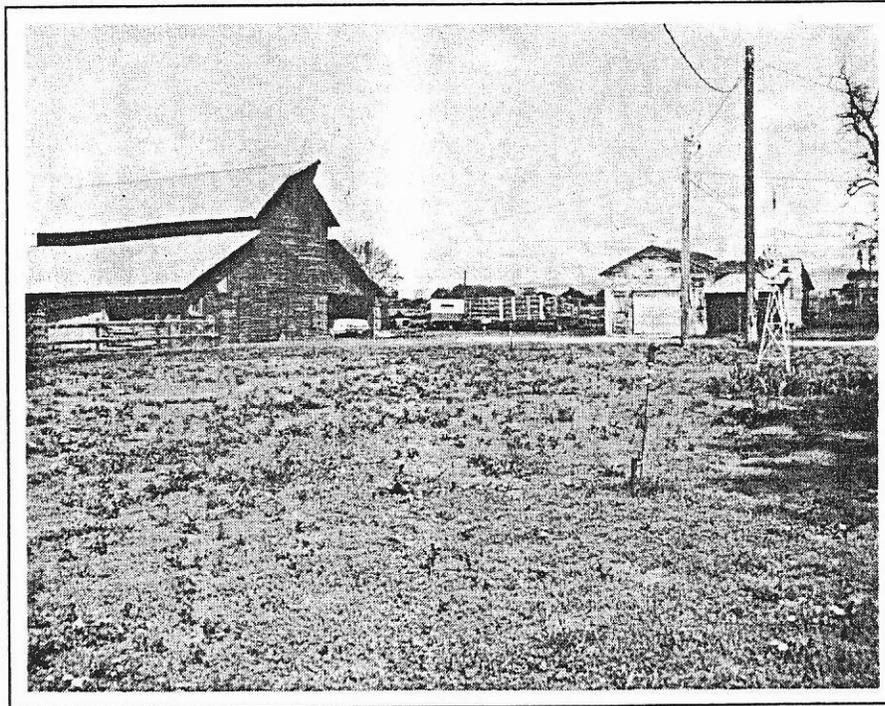


Figure 15. Typical rural barn and outbuildings, Star vicinity.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE STUDY

While Phase I of the Ada County survey is a complete product in and of itself, it is important to remember that it was designed to form part of a larger, countywide body of data. Some of the value of this study will therefore be lost if phases II and III of the project are not undertaken. RTI strongly recommends that the entire three-phase effort continue as planned, to provide the county with the comprehensive database of historic information it requires.

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Ada County Assessor's Office. Database of property records.

Davis, Belinda. "A Study of Irrigation and the Development of Ada County." Unpublished report prepared for the Ada County Historic Preservation Council, August 1990.

_____, and Barbara Perry Bauer. "Ada County Historic Resources: A Reconnaissance Survey." Unpublished report prepared for the Ada County Historic Preservation Council, August 1989.

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Planmakers. "Star Historic District Feasibility Study." Unpublished report prepared for the Ada County Historic Preservation Council, July 1991.

Reed, Kate O'Brien. "Star Historic District: Phase I." Unpublished report prepared for the Ada County Historic Preservation Council, August 1992.

Sanborn Map Company. Fire insurance maps for Star and Eagle, June 1923. Idaho State Historic Preservation Office files.

Wright, Patricia, and Lisa B. Reitzes. *Tourtellotte & Hummel of Idaho: The Standard Practice of Architecture*. Logan, Utah: Utah State University Press, 1987.

RTI-AD-037	2204 North Munger Road	Star vicinity	residence	c
RTI-AD-038	2205 North Munger Road	Star vicinity	residence	c
RTI-AD-039	2420 North Munger Road	Star vicinity	residence	e
RTI-AD-040	2800 North Wing Road	Star vicinity	residence	e
RTI-AD-041	3133 Wing Road	Star vicinity	residence	c
RTI-AD-042	9655 West Beacon Light Road	Star vicinity	residence	e
RTI-AD-043	2963 North Pollard Road	Star vicinity	residence	c
RTI-AD-044	10194 West Floating Feather Road	Star vicinity	residence	c
RTI-AD-045	1050 North Star Road	Star vicinity	residence	c
RTI-AD-046	10643 West State Street (Hwy 44)	Star vicinity	residence	c
RTI-AD-047	10591 West State Street (Hwy 44)	Star vicinity	residence	c
RTI-AD-048	10600 West State Street (Hwy 44)	Star vicinity	residence	c
RTI-AD-049	10446 West State Street (Hwy 44)	Star vicinity	residence	c
RTI-AD-050	10287 West State Street (Hwy 44)	Star vicinity	residence	e
RTI-AD-051	10174 West State Street (Hwy 44)	Star vicinity	residence	c
RTI-AD-052	9816 West State Street (Hwy 44)	Star vicinity	residence	c
RTI-AD-053	300 Block N. Emmett Hwy (Hwy 16)	Star vicinity	grange hall	e
RTI-AD-054	570 North Emmett Hwy (Hwy 16)	Star vicinity	residence	c
RTI-AD-055	11037 West State Street (Hwy 44)	Star	residence	c
RTI-AD-056	10985 West State Street (Hwy 44)	Star	residence	c
RTI-AD-057	277 South Main Street	Star	residence	c
RTI-AD-058	245 South Main Street	Star	residence	c
RTI-AD-059	147 South Main Street	Star vicinity	residence	c
RTI-AD-060	10769 West State Street (Hwy 44)	Star	residence	e
RTI-AD-061	10717 West State Street (Hwy 44)	Star	residence	e
RTI-AD-062	West Moon Valley Road	Star vicinity	residence	e
RTI-AD-063	7575 West Moon Valley Road	Star vicinity	residence	l
RTI-AD-064	6786 West Moon Valley Road	Star vicinity	residence	c
RTI-AD-065	6615 West Moon Valley Road	Star vicinity	residence	e
RTI-AD-066	8310 West State Street (Hwy 44)	Star vicinity	residence	e
RTI-AD-067	8180 West State Street (Hwy 44)	Star vicinity	residence	e
RTI-AD-068	6166 West Beacon Light Road	Star vicinity	residence	c
RTI-AD-069	212 North Emmett Hwy (Hwy 16)	Star vicinity	residence	c
RTI-AD-070	5800 West State Street (Hwy 44)	Star vicinity	residence	c
RTI-AD-071	410 North Linder Road	Eagle vicinity	commercial	c
RTI-AD-072	West Beacon Light Road	Eagle vicinity	residence	c
RTI-AD-073	4130 West Beacon Light Road	Eagle vicinity	residence	e
RTI-AD-074	3632 West Beacon Light Road	Eagle vicinity	residence	c
RTI-AD-075	1882 North Meridian Road	Eagle vicinity	residence	e
RTI-AD-076	183 North Park Lane	Eagle vicinity	residence	c
RTI-AD-077	1012 North Park Lane	Eagle vicinity	residence	c
RTI-AD-078	4278 West Old Valley Road	Eagle vicinity	residence	c
RTI-AD-079	4001 West Old Valley Road	Eagle vicinity	residence	c
RTI-AD-080	3950 West State Street (Hwy 44)	Eagle vicinity	residence	e
RTI-AD-081	3205 West State Street (Hwy 44)	Eagle vicinity	residence	c
RTI-AD-082	West State Street (Hwy 44)	Eagle vicinity	commercial	c
RTI-AD-083	2811 West State Street (Hwy 44)	Eagle vicinity	residence	e
RTI-AD-084	2755 West State Street (Hwy 44)	Eagle vicinity	residence	c
RTI-AD-085	2501 West State Street (Hwy 44)	Eagle vicinity	residence	e
RTI-AD-086	2500 West State Street (Hwy 44)	Eagle vicinity	residence	c
RTI-AD-087	2005 West State Street (Hwy 44)	Eagle vicinity	residence	e
RTI-AD-088	1389 West State Street	Eagle	residence	c
RTI-AD-089	1209 West State Street	Eagle	residence	c

RTI-AD-090	1208 West State Street	Eagle	residence	c
RTI-AD-091	1163 West State Street	Eagle	residence	c
RTI-AD-092	825 West State Street	Eagle	residence	c
RTI-AD-093	550 West State Street	Eagle	residence	l
RTI-AD-094	386 West State Street	Eagle	residence	c
RTI-AD-095	349 West State Street	Eagle	residence	e
RTI-AD-096	119 West State Street	Eagle	residence	c
RTI-AD-097	87 South Park Road	Eagle	residence	c
RTI-AD-098	97 West Aikens Road	Eagle	residence	c
RTI-AD-099	93 South Eagle Road	Eagle	church	c
RTI-AD-100	127 South Eagle Road	Eagle	residence	l