

# **A Brief History of the Kuna Area**

**Funded by: The Ada County  
Historic Preservation Council**

**Prepared by: The Arrowrock Group, Inc.,  
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**NOTE: Field numbers refer to sites documented in the Ada County Historic Site Inventory**



**Kuna and the surrounding area is part of the Snake River Plain that stretches for miles across southern Idaho. The vast sagebrush desert was originally home to Native Americans who utilized the land as hunters and gatherers. In time, irrigation opened the area to settlement and the eventual establishment of the town of Kuna.  
(View of area near Swan Falls Dam, SG 209/52, 73-51.211C)**



**The first non-Indians in the area were fur trappers. They arrived about 1811 having followed Lewis and Clark who opened up much of the Oregon territory, including Idaho, in 1804-1806. (Slide of “The Trapper” by Alfred Jacob Miller)**

**The Hudson's Bay Company established the first Fort Boise in 1834 where the Boise and Snake Rivers meet near present day Parma. It served as a fur trapping and trading post for the area. (Contemporary view of Old Fort Boise Site, ISHS, 61.181.1)**





**Although trapping declined, numerous people were making their way west through Idaho and into Oregon. Part of the Trail followed the Boise River to the Snake River and brought settlers to the area as early as the 1840s. However, Southern Idaho's hot, dry, dusty climate discouraged many early pioneers from settling in the area.  
(ISHS, 60-175.6, Wagon and mules in desert)**

**The discovery of gold in the Boise Basin in 1862 and the Owyhee Mountains in 1863 brought thousands of miners, farmers and businessmen to the area. The influx of people prompted the United States Army to establish a military fort in the area. Major Pinckney Lugenbeel who arrived from Fort Vancouver with a detachment of Oregon and Washington volunteers established Fort Boise on July 4, 1863.**

**(ISHS, view of Fort Boise Military Post, 1254-D, lithograph)**





**Boise City was established at the same time as the fort and developed as a major supply center for mining and agriculture. (Early Boise, 1866, ISHS, 65-132.6)**

**As the population grew settlers began to look for areas to settle outside Boise City. In general, they settled near creeks and rivers where there was a supply of water for human consumption and to irrigate crops. (Jeffers farm, ISHS, 73-163.26)**





**In 1881 the Oregon Short Line Railroad started building its line westward across Idaho and bypassed Boise City. In 1882 the railroad established a construction camp at a stage station where the road to Silver City (a major mining community) crossed the railway right of way. (Silver City, ISHS, 60-120.9)**

**The site was originally known as “Fifteen Mile Station” because it was fifteen miles southwest of Boise and approximately twenty miles from the Snake River.  
(ISHS, 76-119.4, freighting)**

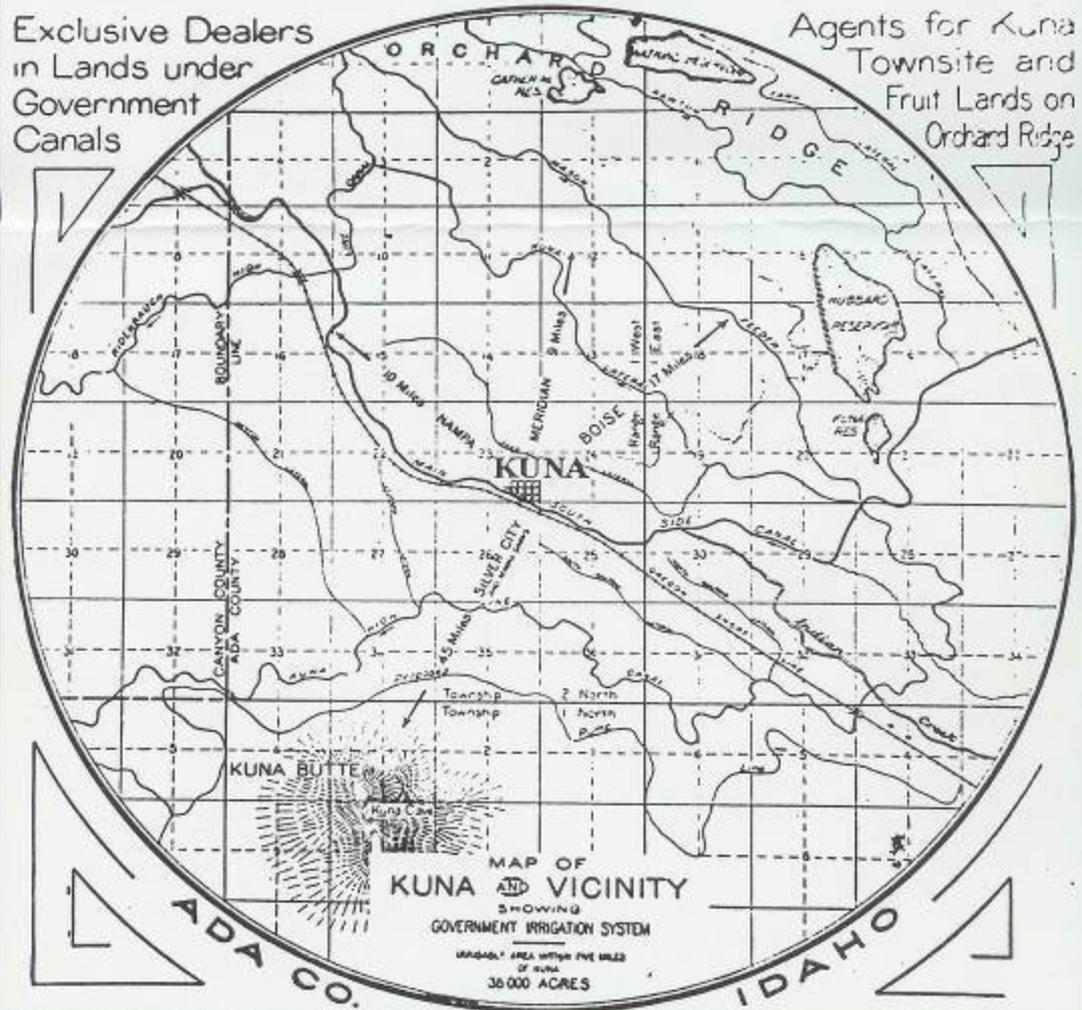


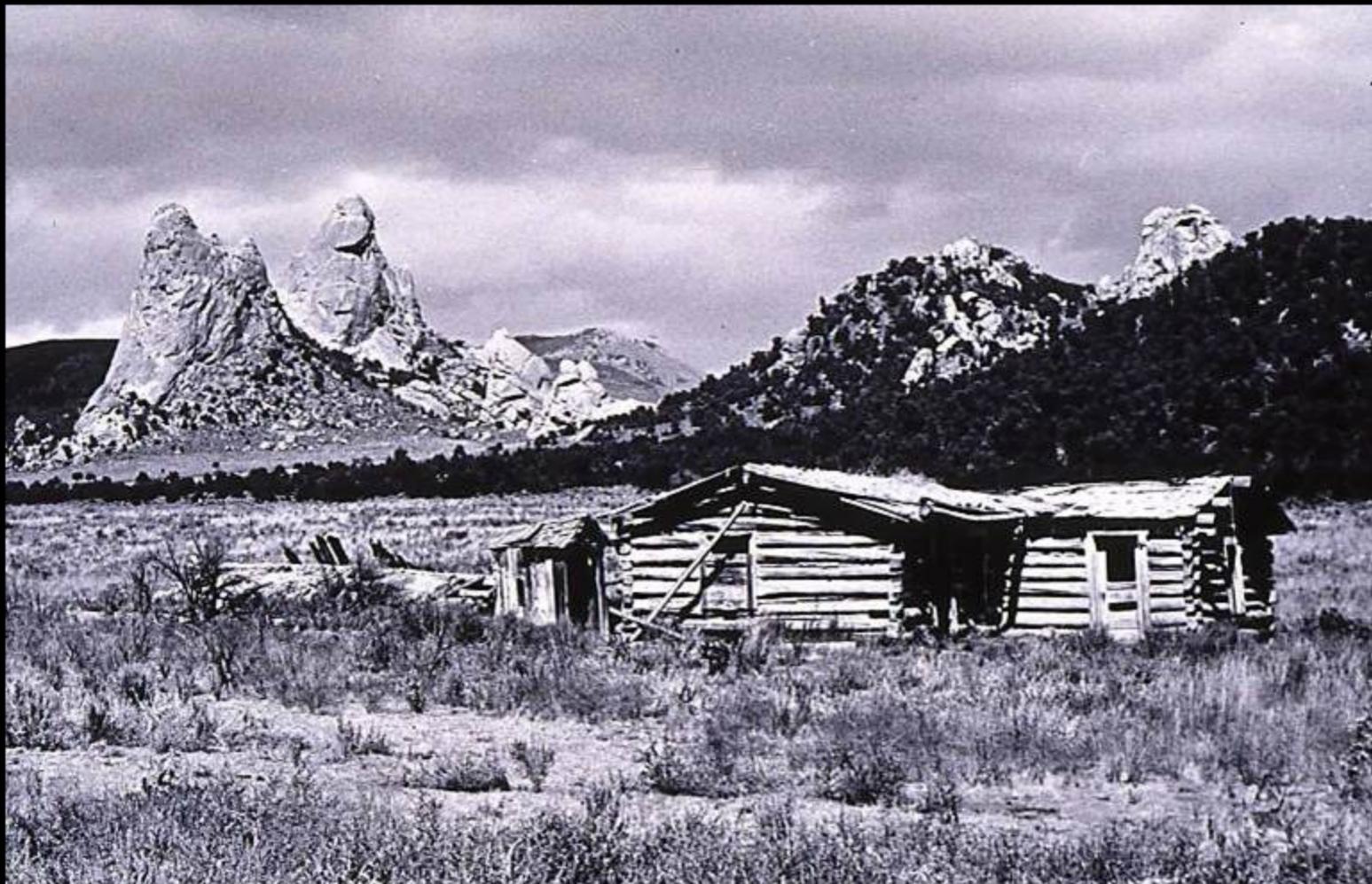
# D. R. HUBBARD & CO

Exclusive Dealers  
in Lands under  
Government  
Canals

Agents for Kuna  
Townsite and  
Fruit Lands on  
Orchard Ridge

When the rail line was put into operation in September of 1882, a station was placed at that point and given the name "Kuna". A settlement grew up around the station and flourished until 1887 when the O.S.L. built a branch line from Nampa to Boise. (Map of the Kuna Township, ISHS, 74-91.47)





**During the years 1883 to 1887 supplies for Boise City, Idaho City, Placerville, Centerville, and Silver City, were transported by freight wagon from the railroad at Kuna. There was so much activity at Kuna, that it was considered the settlement could be the successor to Kelton, Utah another supply town farther south.**

**(ISHS, 73-66.1, Stage Station, Kelton, Utah)**

**The early town consisted of at least three warehouses, a depot and a post office. But the early settlement of Kuna was short, after the branch line was completed; the need for a depot at Kuna was over. (Oregon Short Line engine, 613-ISHS, 73-80.4)**





**The settlement closed down and Kuna became just another railroad siding until prospects of irrigation water began attracting settlers. (Irrigation, ISHS, 65-41.2)**

**When the United States Reclamation Service was established in 1902, their planned project sites included the Boise Valley. Major reservoir development began on the Boise Project, including expansion of the New York Canal system.  
(New York Canal Deflecting Dam, October 3, 1906, ISHS, 61-165.1)**





**Eventually it ran south of Boise to the Kuna area, and extended onto Deer Flat Reservoir near Nampa. (Contemporary view)**



**In 1905 Mr. and Mrs.  
Fremont H. Teed  
anticipated the coming  
irrigation trend and filed a  
200-acre claim under the  
Desert Land Act, where  
Kuna stands. Water for  
stock and human  
consumption was hauled in  
barrels from Snake River  
and later from an 18-foot  
well, dug in the bed of  
Indian Creek near Mora.  
(View of Indian Creek)**

**The Teeds opened a post office in Kuna in 1905 and that same year the town site was opened. The promise of water brought numerous settlers to the area, although Kuna remained sparsely settled until 1909. (Kuna Library-photo of Teed family)**



**In 1907 D.R. Hubbard, F.H. Teed's  
brother-in-law, purchased a half  
interest in the town site and all of the  
west eighty acres.  
(ISHS, biography photo of Hubbard)**





**On February 22, 1909, the first water was let into the New York Canal at Diversion Dam east of Boise. Irrigation water was now available to the Kuna region.  
(Opening Day of Diversion Dam, ISHS, 74-91.47)**

In an effort to promote the area D.H. Hubbard placed advertisements in the local Boise newspaper, the Idaho Daily Statesman, that claimed, "To Build a City of Kuna... We want 200 partners to help build a city". 200 lots were available for sale at \$100 a lot. (Copy of Idaho Daily Statesman, March 9, 1909)

# THE IDAHO DAILY STATESMAN.

FOURTH-FIFTH YEAR.

BOISE, IDAHO, TUESDAY MORNING, MARCH 9, 1909.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

## MISSOURI LAWS NULLIFIED BY DECISION

Statutes Covering Commodity and Passenger Regulation Unconstitutional.

## DEATH KNEEL SOUNDS OVER TWO CENT RATE

Railroads' Attorney Says It Will Be Knocked Out in Every State in Union—Missouri to Return to Three Cent Fare at Once After Judge McPherson's Ruling That Present Law is Confiscatory.

KANSAS CITY, Mar. 8.—Missouri's two cent passenger and commodity laws were nullified by a decision handed down here today in the United States district court by Judge Smith McPherson. As a result it is believed there will be a quick return in Missouri to three cent fares. Frank Hagaman, counsel for the 18 companies involved, declared the court's ruling sounds the death knell of the two cent rate in every state in the union. Judge McPherson holds that both the commodity and passenger laws were confiscatory and unconstitutional. The state on the other hand, declared emphatically that Missouri's fight for lower rates would continue. Attorney General Hays said an appeal would be taken and that the present legislature would be asked to pass a new law that would stand the test of the court. Governor Hays made a similar statement at Jefferson, Mo.

The court's decision.

## JURY SENT OUT WHILE COURT FELICITATES

Judge Hart Compliments Spectators on Good Behavior.

## NO DEMONSTRATION IN CARMACK TRIAL

Captain Fitzhugh Completes Opening Argument in Fight to Convict Murderers of His Friend—Declares Liberty of Press and Security of Southern People is at Stake if Conviction is Not Secured.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., March 8.—After Captain Fitzhugh had completed the opening argument for the state this afternoon in the case against "colored" Dr. D. H. Carter, Robert J. Carter and John H. Carter, charged with the murder of General Richard B. McPherson, Judge Hart adjourned the jury withdrawn and said:

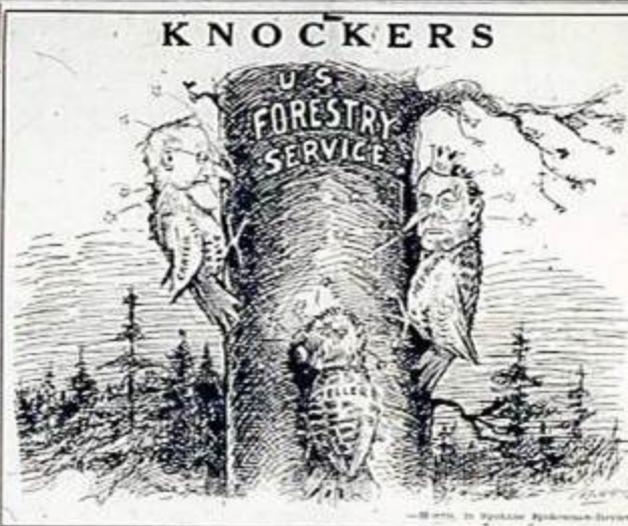
"I adjourn the court in private until after the jury was closed in order that I might do something I never did before. I want to thank you for the splendid order preserved today. In spite of the spreading rumors of violence from the speakers there has not been a single demonstration."

Ministry's Long Speeches.

Captain Fitzhugh spoke more than five hours. He was a close friend of Richard Carter and he is in the case at the special request of Mr. Carmack.

"There will be many arguments made to you," he said, "but I have faith. You will be asked to be generous and sympathetic. There will be a plea of the law, that gentlemen, be it 21 years old and some of the greatest achievements of our race have been accomplished before a man is 21. And they will point to Colonel Cooper as a precedent of the end, which, as the 'last flower of the old southern chivalry'.

"Do you believe it?" "Yes, he is a great man," he said, "but I have faith in the government of this law." And when they talk to you of sympathy, I have faith over there. You see in noble gentlemen, the widow of E. W. Carter, you see in her son, the son of



## NOT FAIR EXCHANGE—ROBBERY

Burglar at Lenia Steals Money and Leaves Old Articles for New.

Manager of Mercantile Company's Store and Wife Keep Into Muzzle of Gun While Watching Bold Visitor Help Himself.

(Special Dispatch.) SPokane, March 8.—A special tonight from Lenia, Idaho, to

## STEEL CORPORATION CLOSES BIG DEAL

WILL BE FINDER FROM KANSAS STEEL IN FUTURE WORK IN THE WEST AND NOW IN KANSAS.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., March 8.—Steel corporation from Kansas, which was the largest steel in the world, was closed today through the purchase of the Kansas Steel Corporation, which was in the hands of the receiver, and which probably the knowledge of Washington.

John Reed in Lake Superior, as shown in picture, consisting of 1,122 tons of steel, purchased by the receiver, and which was the largest steel in the world, was closed today through the purchase of the Kansas Steel Corporation, which was in the hands of the receiver, and which probably the knowledge of Washington.

## CHURCH AND PARTY CONFLICT

Catholics Must Choose Between Their Religion and Socialism.

Circular Letter From Pope Is Basis for Announcement Resulting From Nomination of Wisconsin Town—Candidate to Withdraw.

MILWAUKEE, Wis., March 8.—Pope's circular letter, which was

## BALANCING PLANS WITH TARIFF SCHEDULE

President Taft and Cabinet Members Trying to Solve Deep Problem.

## DISCUSS ENACTMENT OF REVISION BILL

Conferees Agree That Nothing Should Stand in Way of Prompt Action at Special Session of Congress—Talk of Providing Funds to Meet Demands of New Administration.

WASHINGTON, March 8.—The problem of balancing the budget with a tariff in early in the coming year will be the work with which President Taft, Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Taft, and the cabinet members are trying to solve. The cabinet members are trying to solve the problem of balancing the budget with a tariff in early in the coming year will be the work with which President Taft, Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Taft, and the cabinet members are trying to solve.

## TORNADO WRECK DAMAGE AND DEATH

Number of Persons Reported Killed in Arkansas.

## ENTIRE TOWN OF BRINKLEY DESTROYED

Passenger Train Blows Track While Going at Speed—Building Collapsed and Blaze Grew Beyond Control—Water Spout in Arkansas River—Property Will Be Great.

LITTLE ROCK, Mar. 8.—A number of persons are reported killed, many injured and a immense amount of property destroyed in a tornado which struck Arkansas late today. A St. Louis & Southwestern passenger train was blown from the tracks at Brinkley, it is said, while at full speed. The town of Brinkley was destroyed, reports the south, eight people being killed and others hurt.

After many of the buildings Brinkley had collapsed the train was blown from the tracks and the destruction of the town was complete.

Continuing the Outfit. The southern and western

- FIGHT ARE DEAD.
- LITTLE ROCK, Mar. 8.
- Late afternoon from Brinkley.
- Eight persons have been killed.
- and the injured will be reported by the news.

**Many people came to the area to buy town lots or make homestead claims.  
(Kuna Library, 81-50 P13C, "Family in front of homestead home")**



**Settlers who claimed land through the Homestead Act or Desert Land Claim needed to live on the selected property for five years and meet specific regulations to get the land. Many people would build “prove-up” shacks which they would live in as they made improvements on their property to get final patent on the land.  
(Prove-up shack near Kuna)**





**The small community of Kuna began to take shape when Frank Fiss established the first general mercantile store. (Kuna Library, 81-17 P8C, “Merc building from East”)**

**The Merc today (482 W Third Street).**





**That same spring Avalon Orchard Tracts Company was organized southwest of town. Two years later a portion of the land was platted and placed on record as the Avalon Addition. Many of the acres were planted in vineyards, apples and prunes. This home at 2067 East Kuna Road, Field Number 401 sits on property once part of Avalon Orchard.**



**Kuna now boasted a bank... (Kuna Library)**



**Bank today... (Field #362 - 397 West Third Street)**

A hotel... (Kuna Library historical files)



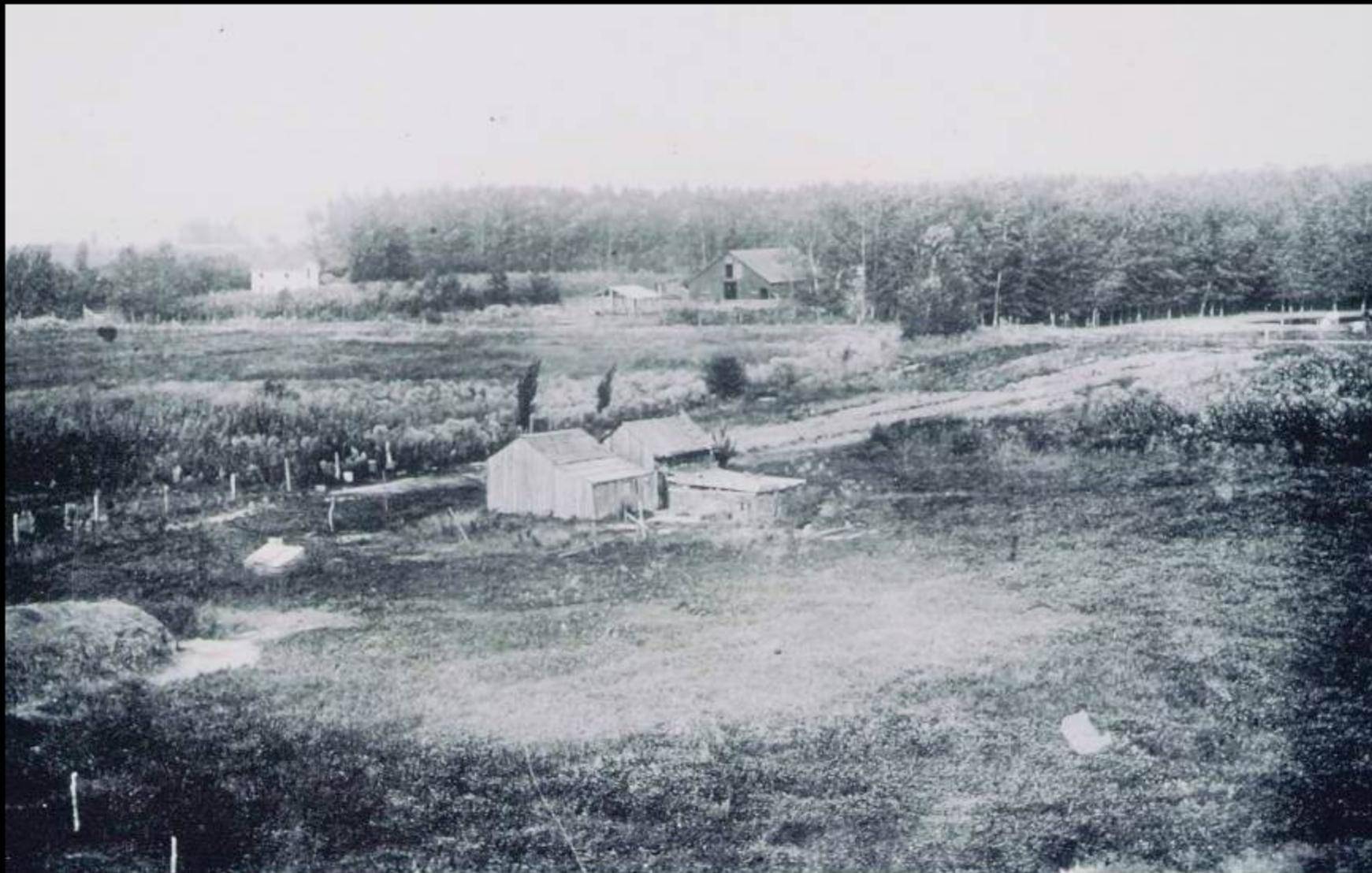


First School, Kuna, Idaho, 1908.

And a school. (Kuna Library historical files)

**The population of Kuna was approximately 75.  
(Kuna Library historical files “kids in front of house”)**





**But was rapidly growing as more people settled in the area and other companies sought to take advantage of the land made fertile by irrigation  
(Gekeler Farms, ISHS, P1985-14.15)**

**Just a year later, the population had grown to 300 people. In addition to the bank, hotel and school, Kuna also had a Methodist Episcopal Church. This is a photograph of the church not long after it was built. (Kuna Library, 81-50 P13ak)**





**And the church today. (Contemporary photo)**

**Kuna was developing as a fruit-growing center. Another orchard company, Nampa Apple Orchard Company was incorporated in 1911. The shareholders acquired 240 acres southwest of town. The land was platted as the Kuna Orchard Tracts and planted three commercial varieties of apples.**

**(Kuna Library, 81-48, P11e, "picking apples in Kuna area")**





**As the town grew many new homes were built. (Kuna Library, 81-50 P13R, “Panorama of homes and south side of railroad track and creek”)**

**Some of the earliest houses in Kuna have distinctive Queen Anne features. This house style was popular from 1880 to 1910. Identifying features include a steeply pitched roof, usually with a dominant front-facing gable. (Field # 373 - 722 West Fourth St.)**





**The style also features patterned shingles, cutaway bay windows.  
(Field #393 - 325 Cleveland)**

**As well as partial or full-width porches.  
(Kuna Library, 81.50 P13Q, “nice white house in town with Queen Anne shingles”)**





**Numerous homes were built in Kuna from 1910 until 1920. But the majority of houses were built in the Craftsman style. (Kuna Library, 81-50 P13N, street scene of houses)**

**The Craftsman style was popular between 1905 and 1930.  
(Field #375 - 204 W. Fourth St.)**





**The identifying features of the Craftsman include low-pitched, gabled roof...  
(Field #383 - 759 Franklin)**

**With wide, unenclosed eave overhang... (Field #374 - 182 W. Fourth St.)**





**Roof rafters, usually exposed... (Field #376 - 402 W. Fourth St.)**

**And decorative beams or braces commonly added under the gables.  
(Field #382 - 527 Marteeson)**





**Several exist on streets in Kuna, including Marteeson. (Field #379 - 423 Marteeson)**

**Franklin and Fourth Streets... (Field #384 - 701 Franklin)**





**Have numerous homes in the Craftsman style. (Field 388 - 581 Franklin)**

**The houses are built of wood... (Field #378 - 423 Locust St.)**





**As well as brick. The white brick visible on this home was a popular construction material in Kuna. (Field #370 - 425 W. Fourth St.)**

**It was often used by the Neglay Brothers Company, a local construction and masonry firm in town (Kuna library, 81.50 PI 3d, "Neglay white brick house")**





**Another house constructed of white brick. (Field #396 - 629, School Road)**

**Some houses were constructed of “Miracle Brick,” a masonry product which simulated cut-stone. A fine example can be found at 402 Linder Road. (Field #390)**





**The Tudor Revival Style house is also found in Kuna. It was popular nationwide from about 1890 to 1940. Tudor Revival houses are identified by steeply, pitched roof usually side gabled. It often has one or more prominent cross gables.  
(Field #368 - 281 W. Fourth St.)**

**They are often constructed of brick and occasionally stucco.  
(Field #367 - 267 W. Fourth St.)**





**Some houses reflect more than one style. Such as this home at 600 Franklin Street, (Field #387). It exhibits both Tudor Revival and Spanish Revival influences. It has a Tudor style roof and some Spanish Revival features such as the clay tile vigas in the eaves.**

**There were also more modest homes built in town, such as this pyramidal roof cube.  
This is an early photograph of the style then... (Kuna Library, 81-50 p13d)**





**This is an example of the style today. (Field #372 - 721 West Fourth St.)**

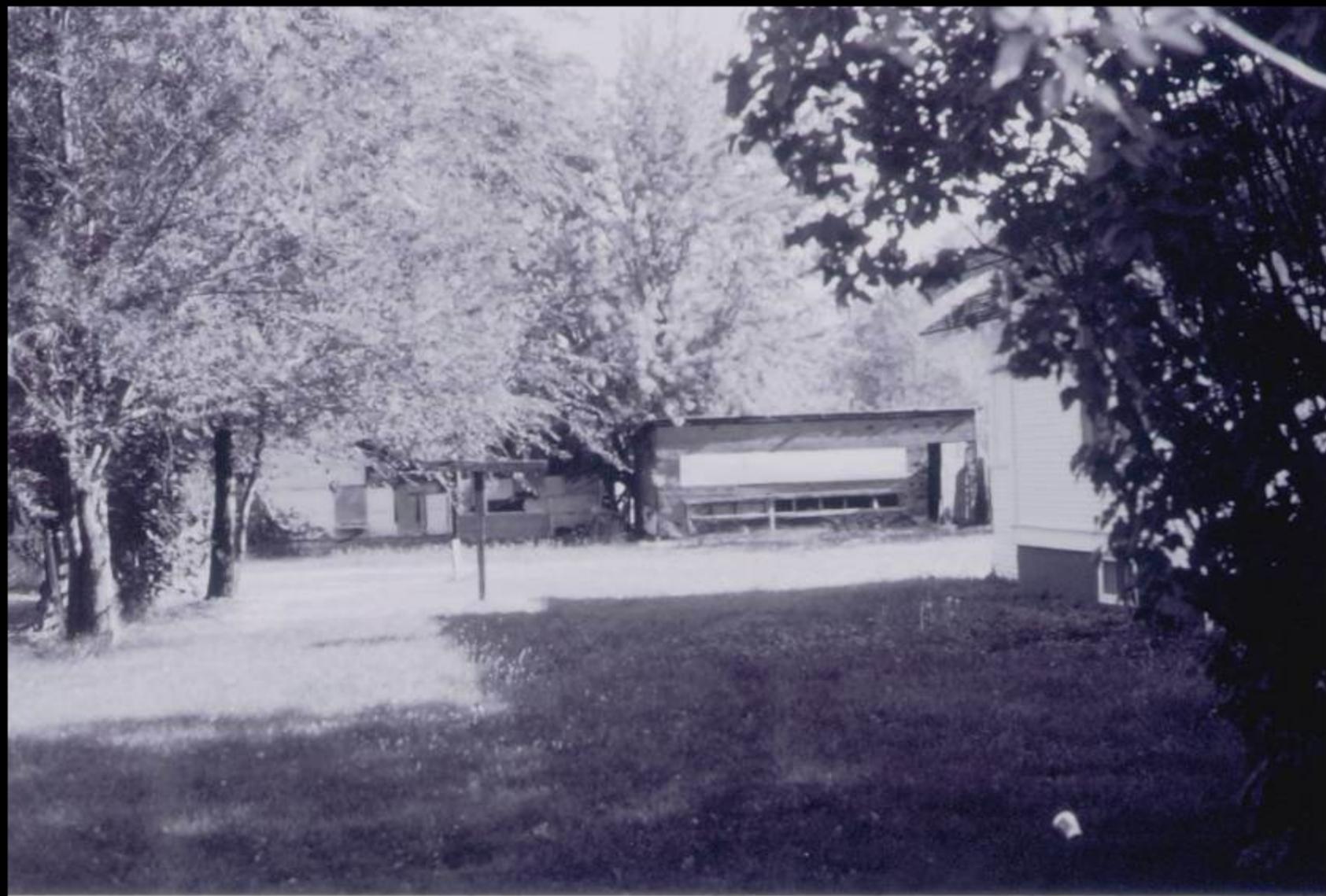
**Many of Kuna's early residents had small barns and coops on their property.  
(Kuna Library 81-15. P7g2)**





**They are still standing on some lots, such as this chicken coop...  
(Field #382 - 527 Marteeson St.)**

**And the outbuildings located at 204 W. Fourth St. (Field #375)**

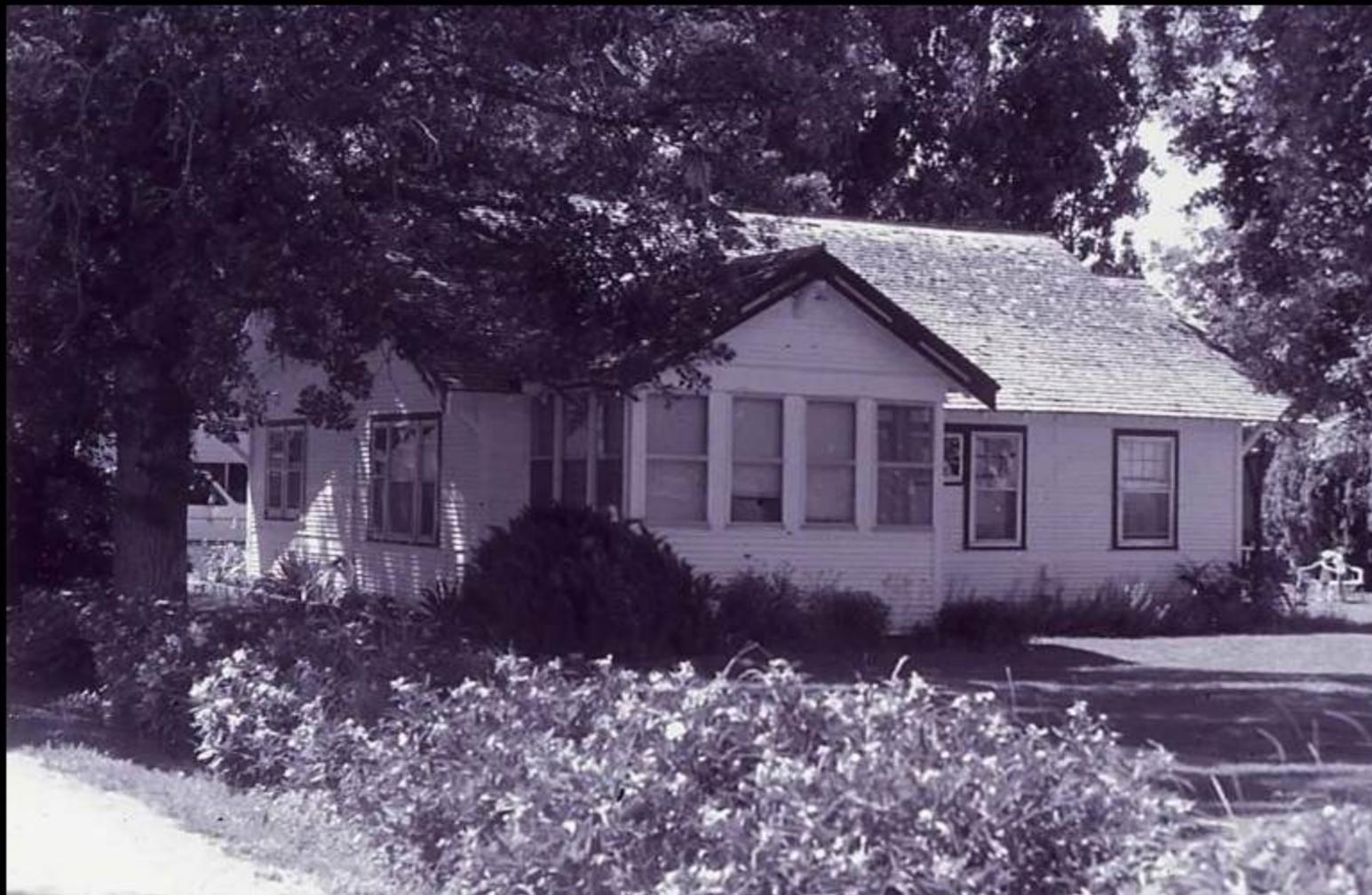




**The different styles can be found not only in Kuna, but also in the outlying agricultural area. (Kuna Library, 81-48 PI Id, "Haystack with 2 men and Mormon derrick")**

**Early farm sites were built in the Queen Anne style. (Field #331 - 1223 Linder Road)**





**Farm sites were also built in the Craftsman style. (Field #351 - 330 North Eagle Road.)**

**As urban area are rapidly expanding into rural areas... (Current photo of Boise and Linder Street)**





**The historic buildings in Kuna and the surrounding area are a reminder of our agricultural heritage. (Kuna Grange, Field #394 - 189 Linder)**