

*The Ada County Historic
Preservation Council -
Preserving Ada County's
Heritage*



A Walking Tour of Kuna's History



*Tent School, Circa 1908
Kuna's Temporary First School*

This brochure is a joint effort of
the Ada County Historic Preservation Council,
the Kuna Historical Society,
and the Kuna Chamber of Commerce.

Kuna's Humble Beginnings...

In 1881, when the Oregon Short Line Railway Company started building its line westward across Idaho, it bypassed Boise and in 1881 established a materials camp at Fifteen Mile House stage station, where the Silver City road crossed the railway right of way. When the line was put into operation in September of 1883, a station was placed there and called Kuna. Kuna was incorporated in 1915, in the middle of a prosperous decade of land development brought on by the opening of the New York Canal.



*Early photo of the Teed School (Circa 1908) formerly located
on the site of Colonel Bernard Fisher Veterans Memorial Park*

The town was platted in 1907 and modified in 1909 by D. R. Hubbard & F. H. Teed on 200 desert acres owned by Teed.

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Walking Kuna's Past...

Site #1 Kuna Grange Hall 189 N. Linder Rd.

Designated as a County Treasure

The Grange was an important organization for farmers from the mid-19th century throughout most of the 20th century. It kept farmers up-to-date on changing technologies, new ways of farming and offered a location for social activities. Most Grange buildings are rectangular, wood-frame buildings.

Site #2 Kuna Park (Linder Rd. & Avalon) Water Tower & Original School Site

By the fall of 1908, the community of Kuna had enough school-age children to open its own school. The school opened in a 16x24 foot tent located where the Route 69 Carwash now sits, to the north of the current City Park. There were fourteen pupils enrolled, with Mr. Gaylord Greene as the first teacher. In January, the school moved from the tent into the Teed home, on the site of the Kuna Grange Hall.

Site #3 Dutch Colonial Residence 383 N. Linder Rd.

The side-gabled, gambrel-roofed house is a sub-type of the Colonial Revival style. It features a shed-roofed dormer and double-hung windows. This was the only Colonial Revival style documented in Kuna.

Site #4 - United Methodist Church 260 W. 4th

In November 1908, eleven people met one Sunday in the school tent to organize a Sunday school. This consisted of one Episcopalian, one Baptist, one Congregationalist and three Methodists. The original idea was to organize a union Sunday school, but after some discussion it was voted to call it the Methodist Episcopal Sunday school. By October of 1916, the Methodist Episcopal Church had partially completed building. In mid-October, the church held an all-day meeting and raised \$1,500 to complete the building.

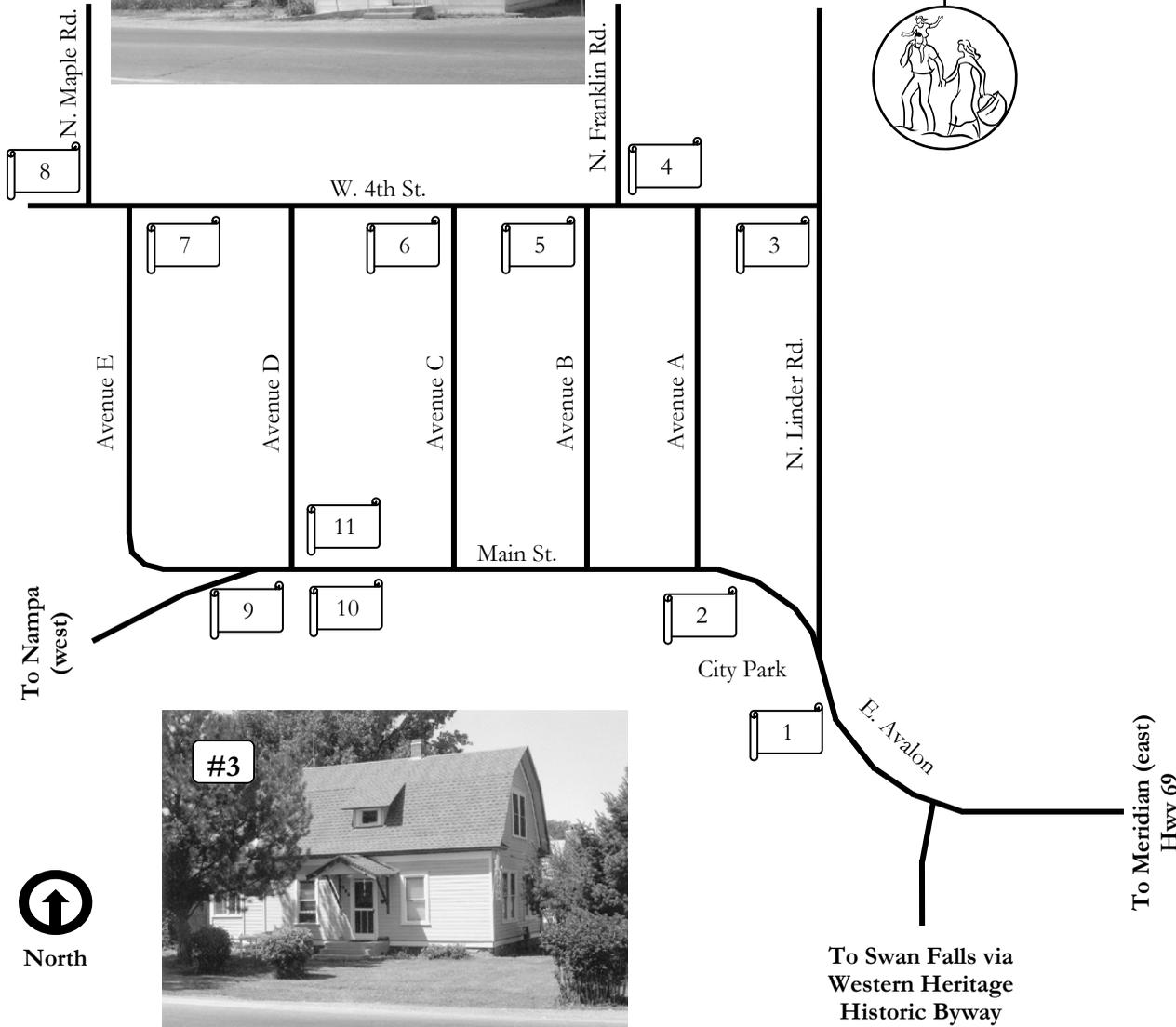
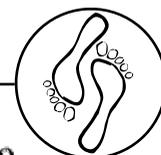
Site #5 Former Baptist Church 321 W. 4th

The Kuna Herald reported this historic event: The excavation for the Baptist Church commenced on May 24, 1915. The building was completed with an all-day dedication service held on December 5, 1915. Fourteen people comprised the charter membership. At the time of completion the Baptist Church was the only Church edifice in Kuna, although the Methodist Church, which had organized a little earlier and was



#1

Ku-na (Q'nuh) **n 1** : small, rural town in Southwest Idaho [commonly mispronounced by American foreigners] **2** : HOME { ~ sweet ~ }



#3

meeting in Fiss Hall, was also under construction at the same time.

Site #6 Neglay House 425 W. 4th

Designated as a County Treasure

Neglay Brothers Company was a local construction and masonry firm in Kuna from 1910 to 1930. They often used white brick as a building material in structures in town. This house was built by the Neglay Brothers and is an excellent example of the Craftsman style. Constructed of white brick, it is a one-and-a-half story, cross-gabled plan. The dwelling features an enclosed porch, with wood supports and double-hung windows. It has exposed roof rafters, and decorative wood shingles accent the gables.

Site #7 Old Gym (Former High School) 571 W. 4th

The construction of the gymnasium in 1947 marked the greatest major improvement in the physical plant of Kuna High School since the building of the auditorium more than ten years earlier. The new building provided a basketball floor of regulation size with bleachers seating 1,000.

Site #8 Fiss House 445 N. Maple

The Misses Sophia and Helen Fiss (sisters of F.B. and Ed Fiss), having arrived in Kuna in 1910, built this home and lived in it until their deaths many years later.

Site #9 Millinery Shop 525 Main

Misses Sophia and Helen Fiss opened the first millinery store in Kuna, first in the two-story brick building next to the Mercantile, then in this location across the street.

Site #10 The Arlene 459 Main

Designated as a County Treasure

This building is an example of a commercial building. It is a two-story brick building with a false front and large casement display windows.

Site #11 Mercantile 482 Main

In the spring of 1910, the first brick building, a double store with an assembly hall, office and living quarters above, was completed by J. H. Neglay and Sons and Ed Fiss. The Kuna Mercantile was then organized with F. H. Teed, president, F.B. Fiss, manager, and Ed Fiss, secretary-treasurer. Some months afterwards, the Kuna Savings Bank moved into a room and remained there until its liquidation in 1915.