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INVENTORY SHEET FOR GROUP NOMINATIONS: IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, BOISE, IDAHO

NOMINATION: Idaho Falls Downtown multiple resource area
(partial inventory: architecture)

SITE NAME: Farmers and Merchants Bank Building (historic name) SITE NUMBER: 11
Inkley's (common name)

LOCATION: 383 West A Street

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Idaho Falls School District #91
c/o Inkley's
589 North Main
Layton, UT 84041

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Idaho Falls South, 7.5 minute ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Farmers and Merchants Bank Building and the property on which it stands, the north 90 feet of lot 6, block 26, Railroad Addition, Idaho Falls.

UTM(S): 12/415910/4815770

DATE OR PERIOD: 1896-1897, altered between 1911 and 1921 ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: unknown

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: good, altered, original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Farmers and Merchants Bank Building is a two-story brick structure. The brick ranges from cream to dark burnt red in color and is laid in alternating header and stretcher courses. A simple capping of concrete is painted to match the darkest brick. The metal and concrete cornice is molded and also painted to match the darkest brick. The second story has a row of one-over-one double-hung sash windows set in plain rectangular openings. There are three bays on the north facade and five on the west. Between sets of one to three windows are brick pilasters, continuing from the attic story through to the street level. The mezzanine is masked with a modern plastic sign. The street level appears to be intact on the north exposure with a double door entry to the upper level and large single-paned display windows with concrete sills painted to match the darkest brick. Windows on the first-story west exposure also are intact. A double-door entry to the first-story store has been replaced with modern metal-framed doors. The present appearance of the building dates from between 1911 and 1921, when a brick veneer was added to the building. Previously the building was a red and white sandstone structure designed in the Romanesque Revival style. The twentieth-century remodeling is reminiscent of the Renaissance Revival style.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Farmers and Merchants Bank Building is architecturally significant as an example of the highly simplified and classicized use of the Renaissance Revival style that is typical of Idaho's commercial architecture in the first decades of the twentieth century. In comparison with the earlier Rocky Mountain Bell building of 1905-1911, the remodeled version of the Farmers and Merchants Bank is even more simplified Renaissance Revival, less given to quotation of specific motifs. The building's Renaissance features include the molded cornice and raised-brick courses that form pilaster-like piers and fictive first story "rustication." In its simplicity the building is similar to the Hotel Idaho, built at about the same time. Later local examples of the Renaissance Revival become much more decorative. Together the two buildings are representative of many others built in Idaho Falls and altered too radically to be considered individually eligible for National Register listing. Originally built of stone as the DeCoster Building in 1896-1897, the building was remodeled between 1911 and 1921 by the Farmers and Merchants Bank, which had been at the building's corner entrance since about 1907. The remodeled building is historically associated with the economic growth that occurred in the first decades of the twentieth century in Idaho Falls as a response to rapidly increasing agricultural development in the surrounding countryside.

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Farmers and Merchants Bank Building (historic name)
Inkley's (common name)
Site 11, Idaho Falls Downtown multiple resource area
383 West A Street
Idaho Falls, Bonneville County, Idaho

photograph by Jennifer Eastman Attebery

6 April 1983

Negative on file at Idaho State Historical Society

view from north

Photograph one of one

TATES
F THE ARMY
GINEERS

IDAHO FALLS SOUTH QUADRANGLE
IDAHO
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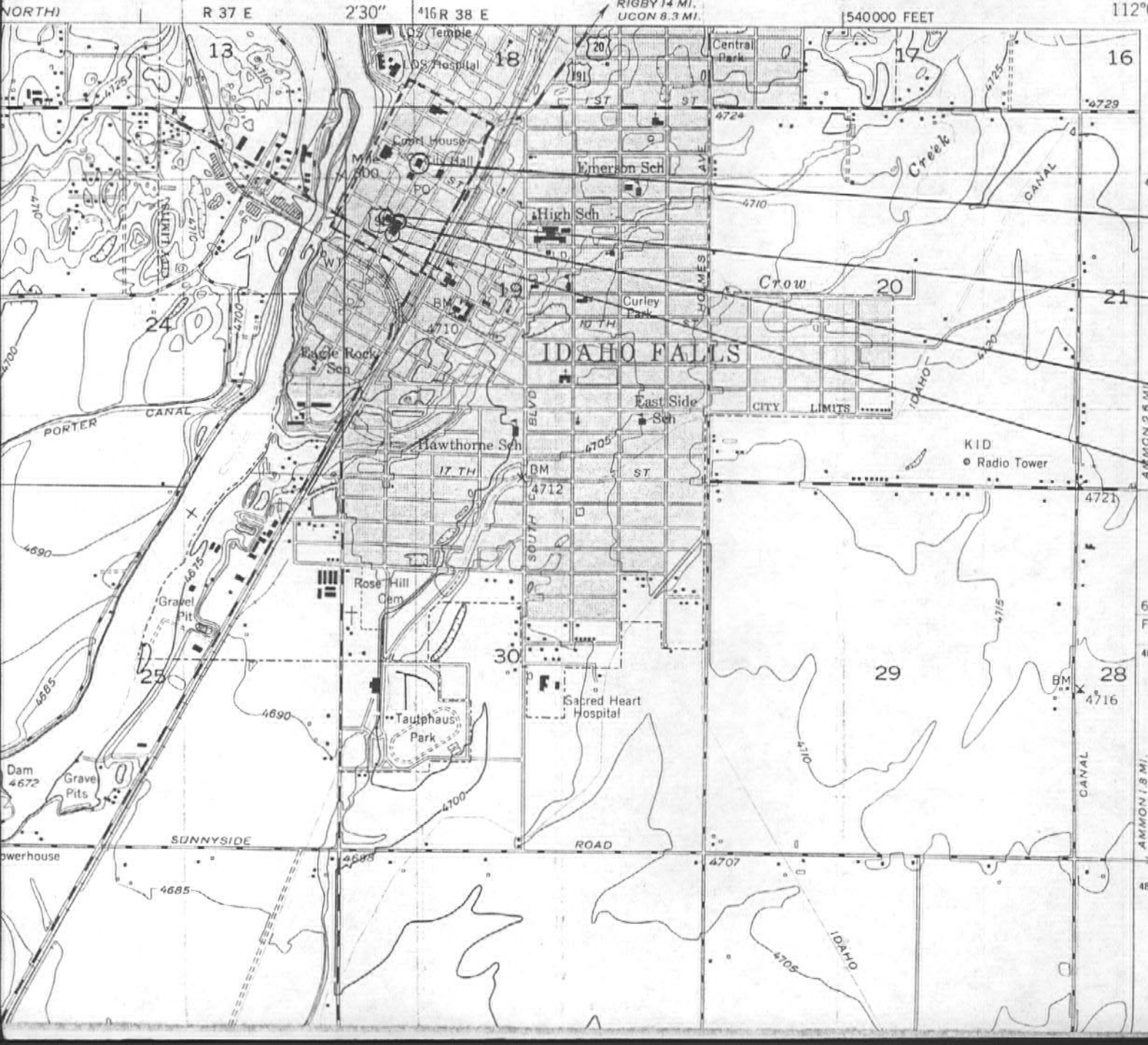
3671 III SW (UCON)



IDAHO FALLS DOWNTOWN...
IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO

#2 BONNEVILLE HOTEL
12/416020/4816060

#13 IOOF BUILDING
12/415885/4815825

#12 HASBROUCK BLDG.
12/415915/4815820

#11 INKLEY'S (common name)
12/415910/4815770

----- Boundary