

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page i

Location and Boundaries

The Union Main Street Historic District is located in Township 40 East- Range 4 South - Sections 18 and 19, in the City of Union, Union County, Oregon. The City of Union currently has a population of 1,915, and is located approximately fifteen miles southeast of LaGrande, the county seat. Union County encompasses approximately 2,038 square miles, and is situated in the northeastern quadrant of the state. Roughly triangular in shape, it is surrounded by Wallowa County to the east, Umatilla County to the west, and Grant and Baker Counties to the south. The City of Union is bisected by Catherine Creek, which flows in a westerly direction, dividing the town into north Union and south Union. Oregon highways 203 and 237 intersect at Union. Highway 203 from LaGrand passes through downtown along Main Street, then travels up Catherine Creek to Medical Springs and into the Baker Valley. This route was originally used to access the mines further east in Oregon and in Idaho's panhandle region. Highway 237 travels to the east side of the Grande Ronde Valley passing through Cove (located 8 miles north of Union) before entering downtown Union. Highway 237 served as the primary route for travel between Pendleton and Boise prior to the construction of the freeway in Ladd Canyon. This highway heads south and follows the historic Pyle's Canyon toll road route entering the Powder Valley at North Powder. Main Street is part of both Highway 203 and Highway 237.

The District lies entirely within the city limits of Union, and includes the area of the original 1864 town plat. The first four claims centered on Catherine Creek and what is now Main Street. This area also coincides with the era (1874-1904) in which Union was the county seat and commercial center of Union County. The brick buildings which still give the street its character all date from around this period.

The 18.2 acre Union Main Street Historic District is the historic business core of the small community of Union in northeast Oregon. Streets are laid in a grid system oriented to the cardinal points. The strongest concentration of commercial buildings is along Main Street, which runs north-south, with several buildings located along side streets. The district is approximately 10 blocks long extending on both sides of Main Street from Fulton Street in south Union to Birch Street in north Union. It is variable in width with the majority of the district being only one-half block deep. Around the midpoint of the district (Main and Arch Streets) it does extend two blocks to the east and 1 block to the west. Catherine Creek essentially divides the town north and south, running east to west through Union. Much greenway exists along its banks and will provide an opportunity for beautification in the future. This feature looks today much as did at the time of settlement.

Boundary decisions for the historic district were based on density and building integrity. The district has a

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

strong central focus along Main Street, and most buildings face onto this north-south axis. The northern boundary is irregular, falling along tax lots between Chestnut and Birch Streets. The southern boundary is Fulton Street. The eastern boundary is irregular, excluding vacant lots along the east side of the southern portion of Main Street, and encompassing properties as far east as College Avenue. The western boundary is also irregular, following Main Street (one-half lot deep) to Arch Street, then jogging west to include the City Park north of Catherine Creek (site 7A).

District Character

The nominated area contains commercial, public, religious, and residential buildings. There are a number of buildings in the district which are typical of nineteenth and early twentieth century architecture. Styles include Italianate, Queen Anne, Vernacular Gothic, French Second Empire, Commercial, bungalow; and Modernistic/ Moderne. The primary construction materials are wood and locally manufactured brick, with later additions of stucco. Decorative features of cast iron, sheet metal, or wood are common.

Commercial buildings within the district are one and two stories in height, constructed of wood or locally manufactured brick, stone foundations, rectangular in shape and reflect the Italianate and Commercial styles typical of small towns throughout the American west. The oldest buildings within the district are of wood frame construction. These include the Italianate Millinery/Harness Shop which dates from 1870, and the Vernacular Gothic Methodist Church building south of city hall, completed in 1874. The oldest of the brick buildings is the Levy Brothers General Store, built in 1870 by Aaron Sommer. Sommer also built the first brick buildings in LaGrande and Summerville.

Many of the storefronts of the commercial buildings have been modified with stone veneer, stucco, or sheet siding. Storefront windows have been replaced with large single-paned fixed glass windows with aluminum frames, or they have been removed and the openings altered to accommodate smaller windows. Transom windows are commonly covered with plywood. Applied stone veneer has been added to bulkheads, and some cornices have been removed.

Improvements in the district include the widening of Main Street(1870s), and recently added sidewalks and road surface improvements (1994).

Classification

The district is made up of 47 individual tax lots, some of which contain more than one building. In these cases, buildings were lettered a, b, c, etc., and assigned different classifications as appropriate. There are 48 buildings within the district boundaries, 2 sites, 0 structures, 0 objects, and 2 vacant lots. There are _____ contributing resources and _____ non-contributing resources within the district. A detailed definition of the classification system follows.

The criteria for evaluation and classification for contributing and non-contributing buildings is based on date of construction and integrity (type, number, and date of alterations). There are _____ Primary Contributing resources dating from the earliest represented period of development (1870-1919); _____ Secondary Contributing resources dating from the secondary period of development (1920-1940); _____ Historic Non-contributing resources; _____ Compatible Non-historic, Non-contributing resources; _____ Non-compatible, Non-contributing resources; and 2 Vacant Lots.

Primary Contributing: Resources are classified as Primary Contributing if they were built during the period

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

1870-1919. They retain sufficient integrity to convey their style and period of construction. These resources represent the primary period of development for the district, a time when a transition was made from wood frame building to masonry construction, and businesses grew and flourished. This was a period of great growth and prosperity for the City of Union.

Secondary Contributing: Resources are classified as Secondary Contributing if they were built between the years 1920-1940. They retain sufficient integrity to convey their style and period of construction. These building represent the secondary period of development which involved a slower pace of growth than in the Primary period.

Section 7

Page iii

Historic Non-Contributing: Resources are classified as Historic Non-Contributing if they were built during either the Primary or the Secondary periods of significance, but have been altered to such a degree that they no longer convey their style or period of significance. Contributing elements (siding, windows, cornice, entrance, decorative details) have been lost or concealed. If their contributing elements were restored, these resources could be reclassified as Primary or Secondary Contributing.

Compatible Non-Historic Non-Contributing: Resources classified as Compatible Non-Historic Non-Contributing were built afeeter 1939, but are architecturally compatible with the historic character of the district in scale, materials, or design.

Non-Compatible Non-Contributing: Resources are classified as Non-Compatible Non-Contributing if they were built after 1939 and are architecturally incompatible with the historic character of the district in scale, materials, or design.

Vacant: Properties are classified as Vacant if they contain no buildings, structures, or objects. Examples include parking lots or vacant lots.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 4

4. **Residence**
410 N. Main St.
2700 - 4S4018CC

Current owner: Charles S. Upson
PO Box 649
Union OR 97883
541-562-6285

Significance: Secondary/contributing

Style: Bungalow

Date: Mid-1920s

DESCRIPTION: This small, one story bungalow is located mid-block on the west side of Main Street between Birch Street and Catherine Creek. It is rectangular in plan, and has a side gable, composition shingle roof. The entrance, protected by a gable roof porch, is located on the south end of the west elevation. The porch has a closed railing, square posts and decorative brackets in the gable roof. The original wood horizontal shiplap siding has been covered or replaced with secondary siding of wide-reveal shingles typical of the type used in the 1940s. The primary window type is one-over-one double hung sash. There is a newer large picture window on the west facade. An exterior brick chimney is located on the south facade. Decorative features include bracketed gables and simple window surrounds.

There is a small two-car garage on the northwest corner of the property which is similar to the house in scale and detail. The hinge-mounted board and batten garage doors are off-centered on the east elevation.

SIGNIFICANCE: Constructed by Thomas Adams, who built a number of residences in the community (see Site #5). Originally built for Ralph Hutchinson, whose family's extensive holdings were both northeast and southwest of Union. His father, W. R., and uncle, J. H., were early raisers of stock and grain, and provided the backing for the Union National Bank (Site #33). Owned until the last several years by members of the Busick family, early Union pioneers of 1862, when Andrew H. and Arminta (Finkle) Busick emigrated from Iowa with their family, including four-year-old Arthur. Andrew H. was the first grain grower in the Grande Ronde Valley, and his son, Arthur, engaged in stock (raising and dairying). The earlier town home of Arthur's family still stands west of the district and is occupied by his daughter, Dorothea Busick.

4A. **410 N. Main St.**
2700 - 4S4018CC

Current owner: Charles S. Upson

Significance: Secondary/contributing

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 5

5. **Richard Benson Residence**
328 N. Main St.
4900 - 4S4018CC

Current owner: Michael O'Connor
PO Box 525
Union OR 97883
541-562-6265

Significance: Secondary/contributing

Style: Bungalow

Date: ca. 1920

DESCRIPTION: This single story bungalow is located mid-block on the west side of N. Main Street between Birch Street and Catherine Creek. It is rectangular in plan and has a medium pitched gable roof. The house has a poured concrete foundation. The projecting front porch is situated on the north end of the east elevation, and the gable roof is supported by square posts with decorative brackets. Decorative brackets are also found on the gables of the main portion of the house. The primary window type is three-over-one, arranged singly or in twos or threes. There is an oriel windows on the south elevation. A large, exterior stone chimney is also located on the south elevation, and is flanked by small square casement windows. A second interior brick chimney is located near the roof ridge toward the rear of the house. Horizontal aluminum weatherboard siding has replaced the original siding on the main body of the house, though the original wood shingles remain in the gables. The house is in good condition, and retains many character-defining features such as the original windows, stone chimney, and decorative brackets.

A two-car garage is located on the northwest portion of the property. This structure has a gable roof and decorative brackets, and has been re-sided with asbestos shingles. |

SIGNIFICANCE: This house was built as a residence for Richard Benson, who, with his brother, Samuel, founded Benson Brother's Meat and Packing Company (Site #29). The Benson holdings included over one thousand acres near Hot Lake, to the northwest of Union, as well as a larger ranch up Catherine Creek. By the 1960s, Nora McClellan assumed ownership. She was the mother of Albert and Leslie McClellan (see Site #29 and #42).

The house was built by Thomas Adams, with wallpapering, plaster and painting by his brother, Charles Adams. Both brothers built their own homes in northeast Union (outside the district) and worked as a team in the construction and finishing of numerous Union residences from about 1910 to 1930. The overwhelming majority of mostly modest bungalows built in Union were constructed by the brothers, and are admired for the quality of wood and workmanship.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 6

5A. 328 N. Main St.
4900-4S4018CC

Current owner: Michael O'Connor

Significance: Secondary/contributing

Date: Ca. 1920

DESCRIPTION: Garage

SIGNIFICANCE: This garage was built at the same time as the bungalow it serves, and echoes the residence's lines.

6. Union Hotel
326 N. Main St.
4900 - 4S4018CC

Current owner: Allen & Twyla Cornelius
PO Box 569
Union OR 97883
541-562-6135

Significance: Primary/contributing

Style: American Renaissance

Date: 1921

DESCRIPTION: This imposing three story brick building is the largest commercial structure on Main Street. It is located on the west side of N. Main Street between Birch Street and Catherine Creek. It is a symmetrical U-shape in plan that fronts east, with the U opening onto Main Street. The flat roof is hidden by a tall parapet with white brick corbelling and details. The building is slightly elevated above grade on a parged brick foundation and has a full basement which is lit by regularly spaced three-over-one double hung wood sash windows.

The red brick walls are accented with white brick, which is used for quoins, corbelled belt coursing, parapet decoration, and flat arches above the windows. The primary window type is three-over-one double hung wood sash. First floor windows on the north, south and east elevations have small transoms. First and second floor windows on the east elevation are surrounded by white brick. On the ends of the wings on the east elevation are wrought iron balconies which are accessed by paired french doors from the second floor.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 7

6. Union Hotel (continued)

The grand entrance, inside the U, is approached by a wide central staircase leading to a broad covered porch with simple wooden porch railing. Square brick pillars which support the porch roof divide the entrance facade into five bays. These bays each contain a set of french doors with transoms. The central entrance french doors are flanked by single doors which serve as side lights. French doors also open into the wings of the U on either side of the central porch.

A second floor, full-width balcony over the entrance porch is accessed from the second floor by a set of french doors. The original railing for this balcony has been removed. Overall, the exterior of the building retains a high degree of integrity, including original windows and doors, porch railing, exterior light fixtures, second floor wrought iron balconies, and various decorative details.

Although portions of the interior are in need of rehabilitation, it also retains high integrity. The spacious lobby includes intact woodwork throughout, tall ceilings, a large finely finished reception desk, and hexagonal tile floors. The south wing contains a large room, formerly used as the ladies sitting room, or parlor. The north wing originally contained a cafe, and is currently occupied by a bakery. On either side of the lobby (the north and south ends) are staircases to the upper floors.

The second and third floors house a total of over seventy rooms. There are several apartments, as well as numerous overnight guest rooms arranged in a double-loaded corridor plan. The integrity of the upper floors is good, and most retain original woodwork, doors and windows, hardware, and spatial arrangements. Many of the rooms are in need of rehabilitation to repair plumbing, water damage, and restore finishes.

The Union Hotel is architecturally significant as an excellent example of an early twentieth century hotel, and is notable for its high integrity and its status as the largest commercial building in Union.

SIGNIFICANCE: This edifice was a project of businessmen who, by the fall of 1919, recognized the need to provide modern accommodations and dining facilities for the motorists going through town on Highway 30, then the main route of travel through eastern Oregon. At this time, the paved highway running through Union was one of only three stretches between Boise and Portland. The board of directors consisted of Milton Levy (see site #8), George Benson (then president of the First National Bank, Site #25A), W. R. Hutchinson (rancher), L. A. Wright (druggist, see Site #38), S. A. Pursel (farmer and philanthropist, see Site #38), Mary E. Eaton (wife of Abel E. Eaton, see Site #2), and J. F. Hutchinson (financier and rancher).

The corporation was formed in September, 1919, and shares sold, with Milton Bloch of La Grande named as associate architect. When the bids were opened in March, 1920, all were deemed to high and the corporation decided to build the structure themselves. The following month, O'Hara and (Leo) Hansen of La Grande were awarded the bricklaying contract, and Milton Bloch was named architect in charge.

The fund drive was spearheaded by Milton S. Levy and George Benson. A Portland architect with hotel design experience was consulted, and Leo Hansen did the brickwork. The nucleus of businessmen who created this project as "a monument expressing confidence in the county and the city in which it is located... at a time when the remainder of the nation is crouching in the corner fearful to spend a dollar in building construction" (The Weekly Eastern Oregon Republican 4/2/21).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 8

6. **Union Hotel (continued)**

This group was organized as the Union Commercial Club on January 31, 1921.

There were sample rooms in the basement for merchants, which were in use through the 1930s and a dining room in the front area on the north side of the "U", which attained an excellent reputation for home cooked food. It has also housed a beauty salon, a bar, a ceramics shop, and once was the election headquarters for all three voting precincts in Union. Large banquets were the order of the day,

as well as meetings and balls. After some years of neglect, its new owners have undertaken major cleaning and restoration projects and have re-opened some rooms for overnight travelers. A bakery and gift shop are now housed on the main floor off the lobby.

This building site was first utilized by early Union settlers Mr. E. H. and Mrs. Harriet Lewis, who built a very small log cabin shortly after the city of Union was platted.

In the 1870s a home was built on this site, a 1½ story with a rear "ell" of rural vernacular inclinations, with front and rear porches in addition to a one-story addition filling in the northwest portion of the mass. Behind it stood a woodshed and stone cellar. When plans were formulated for the new hotel, this residence was moved westward to the other side of the city park (Site #7A), still facing eastward as it did then, where it sits on N. 2nd Street, today. It was built by John Burns, a Scottish emigrant who opened Union's first hardware store (Site #8) and who bequeathed the home to John and Mary (Reynolds) Summers who, by 1890, moved on into the rear of the then-millinery shop (Site #26).

7. **Union City Park (7A)/Carnegie Library (7B)**
182 N. Main St.
4700 - 4S4018CC

7A. Current owner: City of Union
PO Box 529
Union OR 97883
541-562-5197

Significance: 7A Union City Park - Primary/contributing

Style: Park

Date: 1917

DESCRIPTION: The Union City Park is located on the north side of Catherine Creek and west of Main Street. The Park is irregular in shape, and encompasses approximately three-quarters of a block. Generally flat, landscaping includes grass and trees. The rear (west) portion of the park grounds features double tennis courts, a playground area with slides, swings, and a tower, cooking facilities, and numerous old firs. The park was recently expanded to include the area north of the library building. An elliptically shaped sitting area and fountain marks what was formerly the southeastern park boundary. This feature

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 9

7A. Union City Park (continued)

is now in the center of the park property. A memorial to Union citizens who died in various wars is located in this new section of the park.

Catherine Creek forms the southern boundary of the park. This creek provided power to early industry in Union, and a dam remnant is located on part of the Creek located in the park.

SIGNIFICANCE: After donation of the park parcel in 1917, tennis courts were built and overnight auto camping was allowed. A number of improvements have been made (playground area, basketball, volleyball and horseshoe area).

A significant aspect of the park is the Veterans' Memorial, which includes the names of local men who died in service to their country, from World War I to Viet Nam.

The land for the original park was donated by Samuel A. and Esther (McComas) Pursel to the city for that purpose with the elliptical Pursel monument being constructed in 1917.

Samuel Pursel, a Civic War veteran of the fourth Iowa volunteer Infantry, joined Sherman at Atlanta on his march to the sea. When he migrated to Oregon in 1872, Pursel bought an interest in the Perry sawmill (west of La Grande in Union County) and operated from there until 1877, when he first purchased farmland north of Union.

The Pursels had no children of their own but opened their spacious home several blocks northeast of her sister's (Site #40 in the district) to several homeless adolescent girls. The Pursels fostered cultural and artistic activities through the Union Women's Club and literary evenings, as well as contributing heavily to the formation of the new library operation.

Pursel had part ownership in his brother-in-law's (E. S. McComas) *BLUE MOUNTAIN SENTINEL*, and also engaged in the livery business on this site in partnership with another brother-in-law, J. T. McComas.

Pursel again engaged in sawmill interest with Welsh and S. O. Swackhamer, ultimately buying out his partners.

By the 1880s, he was in partnership with Jeremiah Thomson, another brother-in-law (see Site #40) operating a planing mill and undertaking establishment, the latter portion of the business undertaken to market the pair's (mostly pine) coffins and fill a local need.

A blacksmith shop stood on the site between the Library and Union Hotel and was in operation from the 1880s through its demolition in 1910, to make way for the Cozy Theater. The Cozy Theater was a one-story brick structure, which served Union movie-goers from 1910 onward to 1960. The Cozy was conceived and operated by Nora (Wilkinson) Webb (Jones) who was reared in High Valley east of Union, and who was a photographer, writer and entrepreneur. This was the first structure east of the Cascades built precisely for moving pictures, as opposed to stage performances. The structure went through name changes of Cozy to Electric to Oasis, before becoming the Roxy. The Roxy was razed in 1976.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 10

7B. Carnegie Library
182 N. Main St.
4700 - 4S4018CC

Current Owner: City of Union
PO Box 529
Union OR 97883
541-562-5197

Significance: 7B Carnegie Library - Primary/contributing

Style: American Renaissance

Date: 1912

DESCRIPTION: The Carnegie Library, located on the southeast corner of the expanded park site, fronts east onto Main Street. This is a small, Classically-influenced one story building that is rectangular in plan. It is elevated several steps above grade on a "plinth" - a parged stone foundation with a full basement. The body of the building is constructed of locally manufactured red brick laid in a common bond. The water table is volcanic tuff. The front elevation is symmetrical, consisting of five bays with regularly spaced, eight-over-one double hung wood sash windows. These windows have brick sills and flat arch architraves. The central bay is marked by a projecting entrance stoop with a stylized parapet. The double wood entrance doors appear to be original.

Windows on the north, south and west elevations are symmetrically arranged, and consist of single pane fixed wood sash. The west (rear) window openings have segmental arch heads. The two-over-one double hung wood sash basement windows have been boarded over on the east and north elevations. The roof is flat with a prominent cornice and modest parapet.

The interior of the library is nearly intact. The entrance vestibule stairs lead to the library upstairs, and meeting rooms and storage downstairs. The library retains original shelving and spatial arrangement.

The Union Carnegie Library is significant as a nearly intact example of a small library built with the financial support of Andrew Carnegie.

SIGNIFICANCE: Carnegie Library, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1996, had a circulation of 12,212 books, averaging between 1,100 and 1,300 books monthly. The Library has approximately 13,500 books at any one time, adding and "weeding" books annually.

In 1904, the Union Women's Club and the women's Christian Temperance Union joined forces to begin a subscription library for the community. With much cajoling of the menfolk in various civic and social organizations, they raised the means and labor to construct a frame building to house the library. Several versions of architectural drawings were sent back and forth to Union; one was selected and several adjustments were made to that plan. Mrs. Minerva Hendershott Eaton served as the first librarian. Mrs. Eaton had been the driving force in book fund raising in the little old frame structure serving as Union's lending library. She was active as a young homemaker in suffrage activities, representing Union County at the Oregon Congress and admired by Abigail Scott Duniway and others as a "bunchgrass member."

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 11

7B Carnegie Library (continued)

She hosted visits by suffrage speakers through the 1880s and 1890s. ("First Official History of Union County," by Mrs. Minerva Henderschott Eaton, Union County Historical Society, 1961.)

During the summer of 1912, a letter from Scotland addressed to the City of Union arrived. In it, Andrew Carnegie offered \$5,500 for the construction of a new library, with the stipulation that the city furnish \$500 yearly to maintain it. In conjunction with letting the contract, the city also had a levee constructed, since the site is close to the north bank of Catherine Creek.

The library stands on a site occupied in early Union days by two small buildings; an office and a wash house. By 1888, the channel of Catherine Creek had widened and the little one-story office now had its southwest corner hanging out over the creek; the washhouse was, by then, a Chinese establishment and had been enlarged by a platform on its west, or rear, facade extending behind an enlargement of the original space for the purpose of hanging laundry to dry.

8A. **Cock Bros. Furniture & Undertaking**
Union Cash Grocery
132 N. Main Street
5900-4S4018CC

8B. **Morrison Auto Electric**
Country Flowers
130½ N. Main Street
5900-4S4018CC

8C. **Wright & Davis Mercantile**
Union Auto Parts
130 N. Main Street
5900-4S4018CC

Current owner: SMG, Inc.
% Mike Colkitt
156 E. Ash St.
Union OR 97883

Significance: 8A Cock Bros. Furniture and Undertaking - Primary/contributing

Date: 8A 1912 (northern portion)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 12

8A Cock Bros. (continued)

DESCRIPTION: This building is the northernmost in a series of three commercial buildings located on the west side of N. Main Street between Catherine Creek and Arch Street. It was built in 1912 in the Twentieth Century Commercial style.

It is rectangular in shape and constructed of red brick laid in a common bond. The east (front) elevation displays a storefront system including a central entrance flanked by large wood framed display windows; the wood framed transom extends the entire width of the storefront. The entrance, formerly recessed, is now flush with the front of the building, and the original display windows have been replaced with larger plate glass.

The upper portion of the building consists of a series of corbeled beltcourses and a corbeled cornice. On the north elevation a trace of a sign reading "Cock Brothers - Furniture and Undertaking" remains.

The Cock Brothers Building is architecturally significant as an example of a twentieth century commercial building. It is one of three connected commercial storefronts on N. Main which present a solid commercial front which was typical of nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial areas.

SIGNIFICANCE: In 1884, this site, running from its southeast portion north to Catherine Creek, was occupied consecutively by a brick structure housing general merchandise, storage, drugs, tin and hardware, as well as two small frame commercial spaces for storage. By 1888, only the general merchandise space, with drugs added to its stock, remained standing.

By 1893, the brick general store (8A) had been joined by a common wall to create its two brick neighbors. 8B served at this time as a hardware and stove store, with a tin shop and storage space to the rear; a furniture store occupied the south bay; its north bay was a furniture store, and a small frame office sat just north of the brick store buildings of 8A and 8B.

The northern structure (8A) is now occupied by Union Market, the middle portion (8B) by Country Flowers, and the southern portion (8C) by Napa Auto Parts.

The L. T. Jones Furniture Store was in the north bay of this facility, which Jones had purchased in 1930 from the Cock family. The south bay of Wright & Davis Mercantile was occupied by Cadwell's Hardware, then Union Cash Grocery until Carl Posey bought it in the 1940s. In the 1950s, Posey purchased the north bay of the space from Jones, who subsequently operated his furniture store out of the south bay of Site #16 for a few years before it was closed.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 13

8B. Morrison Auto Electric
Country Flowers
130½ N. Main Street
5900-4S4018CC

Current owner: SMG, Inc.
% Mike Colkitt
156 E. Ash St.
Union OR 97883

Significance: 8B Morrison Auto Electric - Historic/non-contributing

Date: 8B 1891 (middle portion)

DESCRIPTION: This commercial building is located mid-block on the west side of N. Main Street between Catherine Creek and Arch Street. Originally built in 1891, the building has undergone numerous changes, and its current appearance does not reflect this early building date.

The east (front) elevation is faced with stone block. There is a single entrance door at the southern end of the storefront, with large plate glass display windows along the remainder of the facade. The original transom windows may remain under the stone facing, which is laid in two ellipses within a larger ellipse. A flat awning spans the width of the building. The parapet has been covered with metal roofing material.

The west (rear) elevation reveals that the building is constructed of brick laid in a common bond. There is a sliding door on a metal track, as well as a smaller entrance covered by a gabled roof.

This building, in its current condition, does not retain enough integrity to effectively convey its original style or period of construction.

SIGNIFICANCE: During the 1920s, the Morrison Auto Electric portion was occupied by Louis Biedler's Electric & Plumbing. In the 1930s, the space was occupied by Biedler's (two-lane) Bowling Alley. In the early to mid 1940s to the late 1950s, the space was occupied by Nele Morrison, as N.I. Morrison Automotive Electric, an automobile, truck and farm machinery repair shop. At the rear (west) of the shop was a large metal sliding door which allowed entrance of automobiles; the door remains in place, today. The shop was partitioned for automotive repair in the rear, larger portion, and office space in the front. At some time during the 1950s, Morrison rented the left (south) half of his office to Mr. Sloat as a radio repair facility, maintaining the right (north) half of the office for his own business use.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 14

8C. Wright & Davis Mercantile
Union Auto Parts
130 N. Main Street
5900-4S4018CC

Current owner: SMG, Inc.
% Mike Colkitt
156 E. Ash St.
Union OR 97883

Significance: 8C Wright & Davis Mercantile - Primary/contributing

Date: 8C ca. 1880 (southern portion)

DESCRIPTION: The Wright & Davis Mercantile Building fronts east on the northwest corner of N. Main and Arch Streets. Originally built in the Italianate style about 1880, this brick building is rectangular plan with a flat roof behind a stepped parapet. The east (front) elevation is divided into three bays by volcanic tuff pilasters. The central bay is slightly narrower than the outer bays, and it contains the recessed entrance doorway. The original display windows have been replaced with large plate glass windows, and the upper half of the glazed storefront, including the transom, has been covered. The parapet has crenellated brickwork and the corbelled cornice with runs along the east and south elevations. The building, except for the west (rear) elevation, has been painted.

The south elevation is blank, except for a keystone arched window and door at the west end.

SIGNIFICANCE: In the 1920's, the Wright & Davis Mercantile (southern) portion of this "tri" group, was occupied by Fred Conner's Dry Goods. During this time period, a grocery store was run out of the rear (west) portion of the building. Its south side entry door was crudely filled in but is still very visible, with a distinctively arched entrance door which has not been remodeled post-WWI, as has the front (Main Street) facade. The grocer in this smaller space was Jack Donovan. L. P. Woods dry goods moved into 8A in the 1930s, with Gloyd J. Bateman owning Bateman's Department store in the space in the late 1940s until its sale in 1970 to Carl Posey. In the 1970s, it was known as "The Habbit" and was operated by Judy

Hutchinson Perkins, with Posey retaining ownership. It was later sold to SMG, a partnership of Steve, Mike and George Colkitt, and became a NAPA auto parts franchise space.

The Davises were in partnership by the 1890s with W. T. Wright and family members, the mercantile firm having been started up by George Wright early on, who was joined by his son, William T. Wright, in this enterprise after his 1865 graduation from Portland Academy. The Wrights remained in the business until 1882, by which point father and son had turned their focus to the operation of their bank (Site #25A). E. W. Davis and his brothers, C. E. and A. B. Davis, were partners in this mercantile enterprise, as well as the Union Roller Mills (straight east from this site, just outside the district boundary and currently being demolished).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 15

9. **Wash House**
169 W. Arch St.
5800-4S4018CC

Current Owner: Steve Krummel
203 W. Alamo
Enterprise OR
541-426-3067

Significance: Historic/non-contributing in current condition

Style: Vernacular/Mission

Date ca. 1920

DESCRIPTION: This one story building is located mid-block on the north side of W. Arch Street. It is rectangular in plan, and is constructed of brick, which was covered with stucco in about 1950. The picture windows, front door and porch are also later alterations. The roof is flat, and the stepped parapet has sheet metal coping. The building is difficult to define stylistically, presenting elements of early commercial architecture, as well as of the Mission style employed on residential architecture in the 1920s.

SIGNIFICANCE: This building, formerly a wash house, occupies the site of what was, originally, a stage stable and corral in the 1880s and which remained in use as a feed barn and corral into the 1900s. It has now been transformed into a rental housing unit. To its rear (north, near the bank of Catherine Creek) was a two-story cheese house (factory) and loading dock, demolished in 1966. The wash house was used, also, as a cream station for Blue Mountain Creamery Cooperative after the turn of the century until the construction of the Blue Mountain Creamery in 1921.

10. **Wright's Hall**
183 W. Arch/ 185 W. Arch (one-story apartment addition)
5600-4S4018CC

Current owner: Steven Krummel
203 W. Alamo
Enterprise OR
(541) 426-3067

Significance: Historic/non-contributing in current condition

Style: Vernacular Gothic/Commercial

Date: ca. 1875

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 16

10 Wright's Hall (continued)

DESCRIPTION: Wright's Hall is located mid-block on the north side of Arch Street (west of Main), and fronts south. The main mass of the two story frame building measures 40' by 100' and has a steep gable roof. The primary window type is one-over-one double hung wood sash. There are two brick chimneys located at the ridge of the gable roof.

The front (south) elevation has numerous alterations including changes to the storefront windows, siding, and second floor balcony. Two doors on the second floor provide access to the balcony. The entire building has been covered in asphalt shingle material that mimics brick. There are additions to the west and north sides, one of which is an old outbuilding associated with the Hall.

Originally used as a public hall which provided entertainment in the form of traveling troupes, this building has lost much of its historic integrity to deterioration or removal. It is currently used as a residence and a rental.

SIGNIFICANCE: Wright's Hall was built by George Wright, with a stage which provided performance space for many traveling troupes during the last quarter of the 19th century and into the 20th century before the rise of moving pictures at the Cozy Theater (see Site #7) and more capacious school performance space. (See Site #8 for more information on George Wright). Basketball games were held upstairs prior to the completion of the old high school gymnasium in the 1890s.

By the turn of the century, the facility was also used for the packing and, in earlier years, storage of fruit, though dances and other entertainments continued. Roller skating was a popular activity. The building was altered some years ago to be used as apartments. "Haggerty's Apartments" was owned by William Haggerty for many decades until purchased by Leonard Huffman. Current owners have plans to inventory any remnants of historic relevance but due to the building's unsafe condition, contemplate razing for new apartments.

11. Knights of Pythias Hall 118 S. Main St. 100-4S4019BB (216)

Current owner: Robert A. & Jo L. Morgan
PO Box 565
Union OR 97883
541-562-5885

Significance: Primary/contributing

Style: Italianate Commercial

Date: 1898

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 17

11. Knights of Pythias (continued)

DESCRIPTION: The Knights of Pythias Hall is located on the southwest corner of S. Main and Arch Streets. The building fronts east, and is one-half block deep. The imposing two story structure is built of red brick laid in a common bond, and is rectangular in plan. The primary window type is one-over-one double hung wood sash with segmental arch window heads.

The east (front) facade has been altered at the storefront level. The street level is divided into three bays - two large storefront bays and a small bay with a doorway to the upper level - with volcanic tuff pilasters. This bay division is carried into the second floor. The original storefront window and door systems have been removed and replaced with wood shingle siding and aluminum windows, and the transom windows have been covered. As evident by the remaining stone surrounds, the storefront originally wrapped around to the secondary street front on the north side of the building, but has been covered. The north street elevation, along Arch Street, is a plain brick wall interrupted only by a single door and window at the west end. There is an attached, covered exterior stairway to the second floor on the west (rear) elevation, which is of frame construction.

The second level of the east (front) facade consists of regular placement of windows within the three bays. The pilasters expressed in stone on the street level are continued in brick on the second floor. The small bay contains a rectangular double hung window in a semicircular arch opening, with "1898" inscribed in the area above the sash. Crenellated brickwork embellishes the frieze. The original cornice has been removed from the building and the parapet is capped with metal coping.

The upper portion of the north facade is rhythmically fenestrated with ten one-over-one double hung windows, eight of which are arranged in pairs. The easternmost opening has been infilled with brick. A metal fire escape provides egress from the second floor.

SIGNIFICANCE: Built by the Knights of Pythias for use as a lodge hall, the building also housed professional offices on its second floor, as well as was used for lodge gatherings. Foster & Brown's Merchandise & Grocery occupied the lower floor upon its opening, with the Japanese restaurant of M. Tseuda (better known as "Soda") also being housed there after the turn of the century. David Hanks and Osborne Richins conducted a department store on the premises in the 1920s. Still in the 1920s, the south portion was a pool hall owned by Mr. Brizendine and operated by John Vass, maternal uncle of Eugene Reuter (see Site #16).

Irvin Westenskow began mercantile operations in the space in the late 1930s, selling out to Ray Coles who started up a bakery in the south bay, in turn selling the bakery to Matt McCormick while continuing to run a grocery out of the north bay for a brief period until selling it to the partnership of McClay and William Haggerty. Sole ownership passed to Haggerty, who went bankrupt before World War II, due to his generous extension of credit to many customers.

After WWII, Alfred Westenskow began operating a Benjamin Franklin variety store in the space, with Ed Thomas running a pool hall concurrently in the south portion. This was replaced for a time by Ivan's Food Store in the late 1940s, which moved to Sloat's Playland (see Site #25B) in 1950.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 18

11. Knights of Pythias (continued)

The upper story use as a lodge and dance hall continued until television reception of watchable quality arrived on the Union scene; through the 1950s, a weekly ad in The Union Republic announced local live country and western music and a Friday night opportunity to "stumble and fall at the KP Hall."

Later use, after being vacant, included a teen center and several crafts and antiques operations in the 1970s. Currently, the lower story is operated as the Union Tavern.

12. Baxter Building 122 & 126 S. Main St. 200-4S4019BB (216)

Current owner: Willard Bertrand
1414 Adams Av.
La Grande OR 97850
541-963-4068

Significance: Secondary/contributing

Style: Commercial

Date: ca. 1930s

DESCRIPTION: This simple one story commercial building is located mid-block on the west side of Main Street between Arch and Beakman Streets. It is roughly square in plan, and is one-quarter block deep. The area behind the building is used for parking. The structure has a flat or sloped roof. The building contains two business spaces, each with a recessed entrance and a large plate glass display window. The building is covered with stucco.

SIGNIFICANCE: Formerly on this site and extending southward was the Centennial Hotel, which burned in 1931. By 1933, Joseph W. Baxter, Jr. had built this modest structure on a portion of the Centennial site; the south bay was first operated as a clothing store prior to World War II by his son William B. Baxter, and then went into beauty shop use. The left bay of this site has been in more or less continuous use as a beauty shop. The north bay has been used as a barber shop, as office space for the justice of the peace, and as a bookkeeping service office.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 19

13. Wells Fargo Bank
144 S. Main St.
300-4S4019BB (216)

Current owner: First Interstate Bank of California
(Now Wells Fargo Bank)
PO Box 3131
Portland OR 97208

Significance: Non-contributing/non-compatible

Style: Modern Commercial

Date: 1952

DESCRIPTION: This modern commercial building is located mid-block on the west side of Main Street between Arch and Beakman Streets. It is a small one story structure with an annodized aluminum storefront system.

SIGNIFICANCE: This was the site of the Centennial Hotel's office, kitchen and dining room areas. The Centennial Hotel was built in 1879 by Dan F. Moore & Company to accommodate travelers then using smaller and less well-equipped facilities. To the rear (west), across the alley from this site, the detached brick addition to the Centennial Hotel complex remains extant.

Owned by A. J. Goodbrod in 1887 and, later, Henry C. Susewind, who purchased it in 1892, the Centennial Hotel was constructed in 1876 to serve the population traveling to the mining country to the south, and the general passing of tradesmen and out-of-state visitors coming to see the Grande Ronde Valley. Its main mass was of two-story frame construction, with a one-story addition in the area where this structure now sits, which housed the hotel's restaurant.

By the end of WWII, the hotel housed the White Cafe. It remained an embarrassment to the local business community after the loss of other local frame hotels since, as the chief hostelry in the new age of the automobile, it still boasted in-house outhouses, including a four-hole second-story communal restroom, with ensuing "pot maintenance" for employees.

Prime operators of the barbershop (north bay) included Roy and Albert Gipson (the "OK Barber Shop" operated in the 1960s by Willard Weise).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 20

14. **Eagle Tavern**
156 S. Main St.
400-4S4019BB (216)

Current owner: Pharis Timpy
PO Box 668
Irrigon OR 97844

Significance: Historic/non-contributing

Style: Twentieth Century Commercial (altered)

Date: 1920s

DESCRIPTION: The Eagle Tavern is located mid-block on the west side of Main Street between Arch and Beakman Streets. It is a rectangular one story structure with a stepped parapet and an altered storefront. The original storefront system has been covered or replaced with T-111 siding and aluminum sliding windows. The existing recessed double entrances doors may be original. The building is built of brick laid in a Flemish bond, which has been painted on the east (front) facade. The west (rear) facade has been covered with terra cotta tile. While the original storefront system may remain beneath the T-111 siding, in its current condition this building lacks sufficient integrity to convey style or its period of construction.

SIGNIFICANCE: The Eagle Tavern was built in the early 1920s by Leo Hansen, who carried mail from Union south to Medical Springs some twenty miles, traveling on skis in the winter. Prior to that stood a clapboard store front. Ed Thomas installed his pool hall operation in the space and it was known as the Eagle Tavern until he moved that operation several doors northward to the south bay of the Knights of Pythias Hall ground floor. The building was sold at auction to G. I. and Clarice (Brasher) Hess in 1932, who sold it in 1944 to Delbert and Mae Irvin, who operated it as a tavern called "Del's Place." It continued as Del's Place under succeeding owners until its recent closure.

15. **Commercial Building**
164 & 176 S. Main St.
500-4S4019BB (216)

Current owner: Sam & Dee Hamilton
PO Box 1006
Union OR 97883
541-562-5884

Significance: Secondary/contributing

Style: Moderne

Date: ca. 1930

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 21

15. Commercial Building (continued)

DESCRIPTION: This commercial building is located mid-block on the west side of S. Main and Beakman Streets. The building is rectangular in plan with a flat roof and plain parapet. Built circa 1930 of poured-in-place concrete, the building consists of one commercial storefront with a recessed entrance and large plate glass windows. The entrance door has a transom, and the windows appear to be framed in metal. There is a second door located to the north of this storefront.

It is stylistically related to the Moderne style, although it lacks even the subtle details associated with that style.

This building is significant as a good example of 1930s commercial architecture in downtown Union.

SIGNIFICANCE: This segment of the three-business site served as an attorney's office through the 1950s, has seen other uses such as an appliance repair shop and insurance agency. The building was constructed by "Tex" Knight, a real estate agent and developer; he logged off the old growth timber from the substantial Hall ranch up Catherine Creek, now a significant range, grass and wildlife research plot for the Oregon State University's Union Experiment Station. (The Experiment Station's handsome 1901 brick headquarters sits intact some 9 blocks west of the district. Knight and his wife lived in the sturdy two-story residence built by her father, G. F. Hall, several blocks northeast of the district.)

16. Commercial Building 164 & 176 S. Main St. 600-4S4019BB (216)

Current owner: Sam & Dee Hamilton
PO Box 1006
Union OR 97883
541-562-5884

Significance: Secondary/contributing

Style: Moderne

Date: ca. 1930

DESCRIPTION: This commercial building is located on the northwest corner of A. Main and Beakman Streets, and fronts east. The building is square in plan with a flat roof. Built circa 1930, of poured-in-place concrete, the building consists of two commercial storefronts.

The building is stylistically related to the Moderne style, although it lacks even the subtle details associated with that style. The business storefronts display two central entrance doors, which are flanked by wood framed fixed picture windows. Neither of these entrances is recessed.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 22

16. Commercial Building (continued)

SIGNIFICANCE: The south segment of this three-business site served as a real estate and insurance office for "Tex" Knight, husband of Alice Hall Knight, until his death. It also served, simultaneously, as office for the Union Cemetery District. Tex Knight served, for a time, as Clerk of the Cemetery District. This south segment is currently occupied by "Ticklecreek" custom sewing.

17. Reuter's Hardware 206 S. Main St. 4400-4S4019BB (216)

Current owner: Tony & Elaine Bork
206 S. Main St.
Union OR 97883
541-562-5472

Significance: Primary/contributing

Style: Italianate Commercial

Date: 1873

DESCRIPTION: This property fronts east on the northwest corner of S. Main and Beakman Streets. It shares a party wall with the building to the south, and appears on the 1884 Sanborn Map labeled as a General Merchandise Store. It is later identified as a Saloon (1900) and as a Billiards Hall (1910).

The building is rectangular in plan, constructed of red brick laid in a common bond. The single storefront has a recessed entrance with large plate glass display windows on paneled wood bulkheads. The transom windows, which span the width of the storefront, are tall and narrow panes in wood frames. The storefront glass and transom wrap around to the north elevation. Above the transoms are two horizontal recessed panels delineated by corbelled brick courses. A flat fixed awning spans the width of both buildings. This storefront appears to have been changed from the original, as evident by the seam in the brick on the north elevation and on the south elevation of the building next door (#16b).

The north elevation is essentially blank, with only one window at the west end. There are traces of painted advertising visible on this wall, much of which have been obliterated by a newer mural.

SIGNIFICANCE: Reuter's Hardware (north) was built in 1873. In 1877, an adjacent facility was built to the south (Site #17). At that time, the county approved the use of the south wall of this (north) site to become a fire wall for the south site. Site #16 and Site #17 are separate tax lots.

The north site was a general mercantile establishment where Foster, Bridges & Company were doing business into the 1890s. By 1900, this establishment became the Elk Saloon and, by 1910, this site was in use as a moving picture theater. Before World War I, the facility became a drug store, operated by

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 23

17. Reuter's Hardware (continued)

George Ferguson, who later moved to Imbler. Wayne Ferguson, longtime druggist and mayor, who also served as town druggist (at Site #38, Union Drug Company), was the son of George Ferguson.

After Ferguson moved the business, this location again became a hardware store. C. E. Davis operated this hardware business, which was purchased by Eugene Reuter in 1929. Reuter, son of the Methodist minister, Walter F. Reuter, had been active in the hardware enterprise since 1907 (at other locations), as well as in civic affairs. Reuter was married to Iva (Ivy) Minnick, youngest daughter of John W. and Mary Davis Minnick. The establishment now operated in the north and south portions, combined, as a retail store.

18. Reuter's Hardware
206 S. Main St.
4500-4S4019BB (216)

Current Owner: Tony & Elaine Bork
206 S. Main St.
Union OR 97883
541-562-5472

Significance: Primary/contributing

Style: Commercial

Date: 1877

DESCRIPTION: This property fronts east on the northwest corner of S. Main and Beakman Streets. Built in 1877, it shares a party wall with the building to the north, and appears on the 1884 Sanborn Map labeled as a storage building. It is later identified as a Hardware store (1893 and 1900) and a Second Hand store (1910).

The east (front) elevation presents a simple, twentieth century style storefront consisting of a central entrance flush with the plate glass display windows on simple wood bulkheads. The transom windows have been covered. A flat fixed awning spans the width of both buildings. The area above the transom windows has two side-by-side rectangular recessed panels. This storefront, like the building to the north, appears to have been altered from the original as evident from the seam on the south elevation. The building displays little decorative detail which would indicate its construction in the 1880s.

SIGNIFICANCE: In 1884, this site served as storage for Site #16, the general mercantile establishment adjacent (north) of this site. Foster, Bridges & Company sold hardware and tinware from this site into the 1890s. By 1894, this facility became Gardner & Davis Jewelers. A large timepiece was displayed above the sidewalk outdoors for the benefit of passers-by. A. N. Gardner was in partnership with Frederick William Davis, the son of Jarvis Elliott and Rachell Ann (Romaine) Davis who had come to Union in 1876.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 24

18. Reuter's Hardware (continued)

In 1900, the partnership dissolved and Gardner moved his jewelry business to the southernmost of the row of small frame commercial buildings occupying the space between this site and the Masonic Hall, and Davis established a hardware business here. Davis left this business in 1909 to move to Reedley, CA to engage in the fruit business in partnership with his brother, Edward Davis, and sister, Mary Davis Mallory.

Later south-portion use included a bakery and confectionary in the late 1920s. This business also moved south to a smaller frame establishment, now razed.

In the 1950s, L. T. Jones moved his furniture business into the south bay. Eugene Reuter's son, Henry, expanded his hardware concern to fill the entire building when he took over the business in 1956.

19. **Masonic Lodge**
U.S. Post Office
Union OR 97883
4700-4S4019BB (216)

Current owner: Grande Ronde Valley Lodge #56 AF&AM
% Ralph Patterson
PO Box 587
Union OR 97883
541-562-5005

Significance: Primary/contributing

Style: Commercial

Date: 1898

DESCRIPTION: The Masonic Lodge is located on the northwest corner of Main and Center Streets, and fronts east. This prominent two story structure is built of red brick laid in a common bond, with the storefront of volcanic tuff. The building has a stone foundation. The primary window type is one-over-one double hung wood sash, with stone sills and brick labels. The flat roof is hidden by a high parapet which recedes toward the back (west end) of the building.

The east (front) elevation is divided into three bays by brick and stone pilasters. At the street level, the storefront windows have been altered. The central entrance, surrounded by an arched opening of tuff, is flanked by recessed storefronts with aluminum windows. The original transoms have been covered. The second floor consists of a blind central panel with a raised brick design. The outer bays contain two windows each. The cast iron cornice remains in place. An tower capped with a bellcast hip roof rises one story above the main portion of the building on the southeast corner. The south and east panels which enclose upper portion of the tower are embellished with garlands.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 25

19. Masonic Lodge (continued)

The south elevation is divided into four bays by brick pilasters. Brick beltcourses divide the building horizontally. The side parapet is accented with a raised brick motif of square and rectangular panels. Lodge symbols and letters appear on the south and east elevations at the second story level.

The building retains fair integrity, and is significant for its association with fraternal movements in the City of Union.

SIGNIFICANCE: The Masonic Lodge was built in 1889 on property donated to the Masonic Lodge by John M. Burns, the proprietor of Union's first hardware store (at Site #8A). Once this building was completed, the Lodge moved into the upper story. The lower level became Townley & Gale's Mercantile. The northeast Union home of W. J. Townley, co-owner of this store, as well as mining manager and pioneer orchardist, has been named to the National Register of Historic Places. The Townley-Gale "Busy Store" was operated in this location through the war years, with Shanks Cafe & Bakery operating in the 1910s and 1920s in the north portion. Fisk's Grocery was in business in the south portion in the 1950s and early 1910s, with the north half then occupied by the U.S. Post Office. Dr. Paul Stennfeld conducted his office in the south half during the 1950s, then moving his office to La Grande. The post office then expanded to utilize the entire first story space and interior remodeling was done in 1969.

The Masonic Lodge was originally conducted in the upper story of a two-story frame structure one block southward. A fire in 1869 destroyed every frame building on the block, including those on the west half. Between the fire and the construction of the Masonic Hall, a blacksmith shop occupied this site.

20. Levy's General Store 304 S. Main St. 5400-4S4019BB (216)

Current owner: Michael O'Connor
PO Box 525
Union OR 97883
541-562-6265

Significance: Primary/contributing

Style: Italianate Commercial

Date: 1870

DESCRIPTION: The Levy Brothers General Store fronts east on the northeast corner of Main and Center Streets. Built circa 1870, this was reportedly the first brick commercial building constructed in Union.

The one story rectangular building has a stone foundation, volcanic tuff storefront, and brick walls. The storefront was originally an Italianate, cast iron storefront which was replaced with volcanic tuff around the turn of the century. Two slender cast iron columns remain to provide support on either side of the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 26

20. Levy Bros. (continued)

recessed entrance. The storefront windows are framed in wood, and the large transom windows are intact. The storefront window system wraps around for one bay to the north elevation. The sign panel above the transom consists of three narrow horizontal recess panels, surmounted by a series of corbelled brick courses. The intact metal cornice is topped at the corners with ball finials.

A ghost sign remains visible on the north elevation. Two windows and a door provide light and access to an apartment at the rear (west end) of the building. There is a small gable roof addition on the southwest corner.

The Levy Brothers General Store Building is architecturally significant as the first brick commercial building erected in Union. It is an excellent example of nineteenth century brick commercial architecture, and retains a nearly intact nineteenth century storefront system.

SIGNIFICANCE: Built by Aaron Sommer, this was the first brick building erected in Union. Sommer also built the first brick buildings in La Grande and Summerville, all of which were mercantile spaces. Sommer and Baer built the Union store. When Adolph Levy, born in Germany in 1835, came to Union in 1878, he bought an interest in the store. It then became Baer, Levy & Company. Soon, he bought out the business, which he conducted under his name until his retirement shortly before his death in 1895. Upon Levy's retirement, his sons, Leon and Milton S., purchased the business and it was then known as Levy Brothers until its closure in 1942. Beginning in the late 1950s, the vacant store went into use as a religious edifice, serving that purpose for the congregation of the First Baptist Church. When that congregation moved to a new church, it was divided into several residential rentals.

Adolph Levy served on the Union city council for a number of years, beginning in 1886. Milton S. Levy served as mayor of Union from 1923 to 1930. Leon Levy was, like his brother Milton, a lover of horses. Both brothers engaged in the breeding of horses, and their barns and stables, which housed prized draft horses and racing ponies, still stands on the southwest edge of Union. Considerable Levy pastureland of this property was given over to the raising of Berkshire hogs and Jersey cattle. Both father and, later, sons gave generous support to the upgrading of the Union Fire Department.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 27

21. **Commercial Building**
324 S. Main Street
5500-4S4019BB (216)

Current owner: Warner L. & G. Stein
PO Box 851
Union OR 97883
541-562-5056

Significance: Historic/non-contributing

Style: Commercial

Date: Circa 1930

DESCRIPTION: This commercial building is located mid-block on the west side of S. Main Street between Center and Dearborn Streets. The building is a one story frame structure with a flat roof and stucco exterior. The storefront windows are large aluminum framed plate glass windows, and the entrance is lightly recessed.

Originally two stories in height, the only remaining clues to the age of this building are the large cottonwood log subfloor system and the old wood trim in the entry way. The building was substantially altered, probably in the 1930s, and retains none of the character defining features of an 1865 structure.

SIGNIFICANCE: The original two-story frame structure was built in 1865 by M. F. Hobbrook and G. H. Fletcher. It was a general merchandise store for a period of years before becoming a harness shop by the turn of the century. Shortly thereafter, the *Eastern Oregon Weekly Republican* took occupancy (as the *Union Republic*). The second story was removed in the 1930s.

In 1874, when the county seat was awarded to the city of Union, business was conducted from this site until the new courthouse could be completed in 1876. The Masonic Lodge used the upstairs lodge hall on this site until its new Lodge was completed in 1898. Knights of Pythias subsequently used the upstairs hall until their own upper space (see Site #11) was finally finished at about the turn of the century. After *The Union Republic* moved, the site became a laundromat, in which use it continues today. Beneath it remains the original foundation of massive cottonwood logs laid side by side. Such foundations were commonly used in early businesses and residences alike, since mature black cottonwoods were plentiful along the banks of Catherine Creek's canyon and its far-flung meanderings through the valley. In fact, the native tribes who frequented the area had dubbed it Cop-copi or "valley of the cottonwoods."

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 28

22. **City Hall**
342 S. Main St.
5600-4S4019BB (216)

Current owner: City of Union
PO Box 529
Union OR 97883
541-562-5197
Leonard Almquist, City Administrator

Significance: Primary/contributing

Style: Commercial with Italianate and Gothic influences

Date: 1892

DESCRIPTION: The Union City Hall is located mid block on the west side of Main Street between Center and Dearborn Streets. The City Hall proper is two stories in height, with a tower base on the northeast corner. There is a single story garage addition on the south side of the main building, constructed in 1950s to house the fire department.

The rectangular building has a stone foundation, and is constructed of brick laid in a common bond. The street level of the east (front) facade is divided into three gothic arch bays. The two southernmost bays, which originally contained double doors, are larger than the northernmost bay, which contains the entrance door. All of these openings are surrounded by radiating voussoirs in brick with dressed stone keystones. The larger openings have been infilled with aluminum sliding sash windows.

The upper floor consists of four bays each with a double hung sash window. The primary window type was originally one-over-one double hung wood sash. All of these windows except one have been replaced with one-over-one double hung vinyl sash. The ornate bracketed cornice is intact, and is crowned by a central cartouche inscribed with the construction date "1891." The tower base, located on the northeast corner of the building, retains a simple cornice and is mounted with an electric fire siren system. Originally this tower housed the fire bell.

The west (rear) elevation has a set of double wooden garage-type doors on the ground level, and four regularly spaced one-over-one double hung vinyl sash windows on the second floor.

The Union City Hall is significant as the representative government building in Union. Its integrity has been compromised by the removal and replacement of the original double hung sash windows, and by the alteration of the windows/doorways at the street level. The original street-level gothic arch openings do remain.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 29

22. City Hall (continued)

SIGNIFICANCE: The construction of city hall was undertaken in earnest late in the 1880s to provide a fitting place for business for the growing town, as well as a new city jail (housed in the northwest corner of the first floor). This structure also housed the hook and ladder truck and the hose cart after its completion. (These two bays of double doors have been replaced by plate glass windows.) There were numerous construction delays, which resulted in the ultimate completion date not in 1891, as the inscription would suggest, but in the spring of 1892. S. L. Hunter, builder of several Union downtown buildings of the primary period, as well as throughout the Grande Ronde Valley, was the contractor of the structure.

The cement block addition on the south facade, a structure which formerly housed fire engines and currently serves as the city ambulance barn, was erected in 1949.

23. **Methodist Church / Sacred Heart Catholic Church**
366 S. Main St.
5700-4S4019BB

Current owner: Union School District No. 5
PO Box 908
Union OR 97883

Significance: Primary/contributing

Style: Vernacular Gothic

Date: ca. 1874

DESCRIPTION: The Methodist Church is located on the northeast corner of Main and Dearborn Streets, and fronts east. This single story frame church was built circa 1874 in the Vernacular Gothic style. This may be one of the oldest church buildings remaining in Union.

The church has a stone foundation, is clad in clapboard, and has a steeply pitched gable roof. The central entrance portico also has a gable roof. The apse on the west (rear) elevation was added circa 1890, and has a hip roof and shiplap siding. Fenestration is regular, and several of the elongated four-over-four double hung wood sash windows remain on the apse and on the north elevation. Multiple pane fixed sash windows have replaced the originals on the south and east elevations. Window frames on the east (front) elevation consist of pointed arches made with flat boards applied to form an inverted triangle at the window peak. Decorative features include freize boards at the eaves, corner boards and simple flat board window surrounds.

There are two small brick chimneys, one located on the west elevation between the apse and the main building, and a second on the north elevation. Landscape features appear to be recent, and include foundation plantings on the south side, and two trees on on the east side.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 30

23. Methodist Church (continued)

The Methodist Church is significant as a very good example of a nineteenth century frame church building in the Vernacular Gothic style. Although its integrity has been compromised by the removal of several of the original windows, the building continues to convey its original style and function.

SIGNIFICANCE: One of the chief benefactors of the Union Methodist congregation was Abel E. Eaton (see Site #2) who afforded the land and made other contributions for construction of this church; the steeple and bell tower were added in 1885 and the chancel added around 1895. After the Methodists built their brick church on South Main Street, the local Catholic congregation used this building until 1984. Since then, it has been intermittently in use for school performances and art show displays. The Catholic diocese sold the land to the school district, but deeded the building to the Union County Museum Society for preservation purposes. In 1996, the School District allowed the Society to take occupancy of the building.

24. Blue Mountain Brewery/Union School District Bus Garage 400 S. Main St. 7900-4S4019BB

Current owner: Union School District #5
PO Box 908
Union OR 97883

Significance: Primary/contributing

Style: Italianate Commercial

Date: 1879

DESCRIPTION: The Blue Mountain Brewery occupies the southwest corner lot at Main and Dearborn Streets, and fronts east onto Main Street. This single story brick building has a stone foundation and a shallow pitched gable roof. It is basically rectangular in plan, with a shallow projection on the south elevation.

The east (front) facade consists of three bays delineated by prominent arched openings. The pilaster that divided two of these openings has been removed to create one large opening, but the arches remain. The original storefront systems have been removed, and replaced with solid wood infill. Above each of the arched openings are recessed panels. The building retains a stylized corbelled brick cornice, which is surmounted by a tall parapet which hides the gable roof line. The north elevation is a plain brick wall, interrupted only by a single arched window and a square opening, both of which have been infilled. There are remnants of painted advertising on the north elevation, including perhaps three or more layers or signs.

The western half of the building on the south elevation projects approximately five feet from the main mass of the building. This projection includes two arched windows and an arched doorway. The eastern (front)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 31

24. Blue Mountain Brewery (continued)

half of the south elevation also shows indication of several painted signs. The west (rear) elevation reveals the gable roof and has a large wooden garage door.

The Blue Mountain Brewery is architecturally significant as an early brick commercial building in Union. It has sustained some loss of integrity due to the removal of the original storefronts, but continues to convey elements of its style and period of construction.

SIGNIFICANCE: One of the district's earliest commercial brick buildings, the Blue Mountain Brewery dominated this end of the district along with the early county courthouse and the then-Union City Hotel opposite the courthouse. By the late 1880s, it had become an opera house with a stage built along the west end, and in the 1890s was under serious consideration to house the Eastern Oregon Light and Power Plant.

By the turn of the century, however, N. P. Wood had established a grocery and dry goods business within the space. It served as a mercantile establishment through several changes of ownership until being opened up to house the Oregon Trail Wrecking Garage in the 1920s, followed by Brownie's Auto Repair. After World War II, it became the State Highway Shop until being purchased by Union School District #5 in the early 1950s. It has been in use as a bus garage since that time.

25. County Jail (25A)/Union High School (25B)
540 S. Main Street
7900-4S4019BB

Current owner:	Union School District #5 PO Box 908 Union OR 97883
Significance:	25A County Jail -Historic/non-contributing
Style:	Italianate (altered)
Date:	1872

DESCRIPTION: The Old Jail is located to the northwest of the Union High School Building. It currently serves as the boiler room for the High School, and has a large addition to the south elevation which houses the High School Auto Shop. The structure is attached to the northwest corner of the Union High School.

The Jail was originally rectangular in plan with a flat or sloped roof and a tall parapet. Constructed of brick, it had a corbelled brick cornice, segmental arch window openings, and four-over-one double hung sash windows. Windows on the north elevation have been partially infilled with brick, and one window on the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 32

25A. County Jail (continued)

east elevation remains intact. The large concrete block addition on the south elevation has severely compromised the integrity of the Old Jail.

SIGNIFICANCE: The boiler room of the High School (Site #24B) is the old jail from the Union County courthouse, which was affixed to the High School at the time of construction in 1911. It is on the northern end of the west (rear) facade. A cement-work auto shop has been added to this west facade, as well.

25B. Union High School (25B) 540 S. Main Street 7900-4S4019BB

Current owner: Union School District #5
PO Box 908
Union OR 97883

Significance: 25B Union High School - Primary/contributing

Style: American Renaissance

Date: 1911

DESCRIPTION: The Union High School forms the southern anchor of the Union Main Street Historic District, located on the northwest corner of Main and Fulton Streets. The building fronts east.

This prominent building is rectangular in plan and two stories in height, with a full daylight basement. The foundation is constructed of volcanic tuff, and the walls of red brick. The primary window type was originally one-over-one double hung wood sash. These have been replaced with aluminum windows of a single fixed sash over a two-pane sliding sash. The east (front) elevation presents a balanced appearance with a central pedimented classical entrance with a broad staircase approach. The four fluted Ionic columns and two pilasters support a pedimented gable and a full entablature. Decorative features include a full, wrap-around dentiled cornice, recessed panels between the first and second floors, brick labels over the windows, and a Union High School sign above the main entrance. Secondary entrances on the north and south elevations are labeled "Girls" and "Boys" respectively. The south entrance has a metal-framed glass wind shelter which was added in 1996.

The Union High School is in good condition. The removal of the original windows has affected its integrity, but the building continues to convey the sense of symmetry and balance that are typical of the American Renaissance style. This is accomplished through the remaining significant details of the entrance portico, the cornice, and the retention of the original configuration of window and door openings.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 33

25B. Union High School (continued)

SIGNIFICANCE: The Union High School was built in 1911 on the site of the old Union County courthouse, which was built on this site in 1872. The courthouse was vacated with the removal of the county seat to La Grande in 1904, and was subsequently razed.

Two blocks to the northeast, the three-story school housing 12 grades was becoming crowded. A bond issue was prepared in the amount of \$50,000 to finance this building; this was approved in 1910, but only after a recount, a series of court injunctions, two appeals to the Supreme Court, and two subsequent elections was this accomplished. The bone of contention was the site, since a strong preference had also been voiced to build at the site of what was to become the "new" Union Hotel (see Site #6). (The "old" Union City Hotel, built prior to 1865, had been situated across from the courthouse on the east side of Main Street, and played a significant role in earlier Union days when court was held on this site.)

By mid-May, the stonework, backed up with brick, was completed to the top of the window casings; in "the beauties of style of architecture are apparent... work is close to finish on the roof, workmen are putting finishing touches on the terra cotta trimmings, lathers are putting the 'slats' on the upper rooms, concrete men are laying floors in the basement and a force of men are busy overhauling the old jail building which is to be attached to the main building and used as a heating plant." (*Eastern Oregon Republican*, 15 July, 1911.)

An additional election was called in order to fund completion of grading the grounds, landscaping, sidewalks, and schoolroom furnishings; but the public, which had so proudly furnished the old school with Indian clubs, tumbling mats, block horses, trapezes and rings, library books and all sorts of furnishings, declined to do so. When school opened in the fall of 1911 in the new building, all pupil and teacher seats were second-hand.

26. Sloat's Playland/Ivan's Food Store
331 S. Main St.
4400-4S4019BA (215)

Current owner: Union County Museum Society
333 S. Main St. - PO Box 190
Union OR 97883

Significance: Non-historic/non-contributing

Style: Vernacular

Date: 1947

DESCRIPTION: Sloat's Playland is located on the east side of S. Main Street between Dearborn and Center Streets. The wood frame building is rectangular in plan with a gable roof hidden behind a wood parapet. The building is currently clad in vertical board and batten siding, which replaces the original

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 34

26. Sloat's Playland (continued)

vertical aluminum sheathing. The storefront originally had a central entrance with large plate glass display windows on either side. The storefront has been significantly altered by changes to the awning, the entrance and replacement of the storefront window.

This building is connected to the First National Bank of Union building to the north.

SIGNIFICANCE: The Sloats built this structure in 1947 as a roller rink and dance hall, but soon sold out for lack of steady trade. Ivan Parks and his sister, Elvie Rizer, operated a grocery store here from 1950 through 1973. Then grocer Ken Awmiller shared the building with a Sears outlet. It was used for electronic assembly during the 1980s and was acquired about 1989 by the Union County Museum Society, which currently uses it for storage and office space, with expectations to convert a portion to exhibits.

27. First National Bank of Union Building Union County Museum 333 S. Main St. 4200-4300 4S4019BA

Current owner: Union County Museum Society
PO Box 190
Union OR 97883

Significance: Primary/contributing

Style: Italianate Commercial

Date: 1881

DESCRIPTION: The First National Bank of Union is located on the southeast corner of Main and Center Streets, and fronts west. The building is irregular in plan, with a connection attaching it to the Sloat's Playland building to the south.

This brick building was constructed with a two story main mass, and a single story annex to the south which together form an L-shaped plan. Sanborn Maps from the 1880s and 1890s indicate that the one story section was used as a post office. The east (front) elevation is distinguished by the series of six segmental arch window and door openings. There are two single-pane and two four-pane divided light wood frame fixed sash with glazed tympana at the streetfront level. One set of original wooden double doors remains in the one story section. A corbelled brick beltcourse (which forms the simple cornice of the single story section) continues along the east and north elevations.

The second story was originally used as the International Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.) hall. The three second story windows on the west elevation are regularly spaced, arched openings with four-over-four double hung wood sash and glazed tympana. The original cornice is missing from the building.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 37

28. Millinery (continued)

A community pump and well stood in front of the narrow (northern portion) commercial space and was used in early decades for firefighting and other purposes. By 1890, the main space was a millinery shop, and remained in use as a millinery and dry goods store past the turn of the century, operated by Mary Reynolds Summer in the late 1880s, and later by Mrs. Mentor Bernard. By that time, the narrow office portion was utilized as Kielblock's cobbler shop, with the main portion used as Beidleman's Harness Shop from about 1905 to 1915. Beidleman was followed by Eve Cameron, and ultimately Leo Anderson purchased both portions of the property from Holly's Harness & Boot Repair Shop in the 1930s, bringing with him the Swedish machines brought by boat from the old country by his grandfather. When Anderson moved his shop to La Grande in 1948, he took that equipment with him, and some is in use today by his grandson in the business, there. The shop has seen intermittent vacancies, but was used as a carpentry shop in the early 1960s by Richard Bonney. It was used as a saddle and leather shop by a series of leather workers. A card and gift shop was located in this building during the 1980s. After it closed, Lester Real Estate opened a branch office, and it continues to operate at this site, today.

29. Union Liquor Store 263 S. Main St. 1500-4S4019BA (215)

Current owner: Etta M. Ruberg
PO Box 531
Union OR 97883
541-562-5557

Significance: Secondary/contributing

Style: Commercial

Date: ca. 1920

DESCRIPTION: This commercial building is located mid-block on the east side of Main Street between Center and Beakman Streets. It is rectangular in shape, with a flat roof and a simple receding parapet. The building is clad in stucco.

The building contains two business spaces. The west (front) elevation has two entrance doors with transoms located at the center of the facade, each with adjoining large plate glass display windows. The bulkheads have been faced with red brick. A flat wooden awning with wood railing has been added.

SIGNIFICANCE: The current structure was built by Joseph W. Baxter, Jr. in 1930, with C. Thomas as the initial proprietor. Business uses since that time have been as various offices, with the south space serving as the Standard Oil distributorship from the 1950s into the 1970s. The north portion is currently the town's Oregon Liquor Control Commission outlet.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 38

29. Union Liquor Store (continued)

This site originally harbored a collection of store fronts and was the establishment of C. Thompson, Boot and Shoemaker, in the 1870s and 1880s. By the turn of the century, C. Vincent was operating the same type of business from the site. There were "false front" establishments; a collection of narrow spaces including millinery shops, a bakery, and a small blacksmith shop. Skiff's Grocery also operated from one of the store fronts earlier in the century.

30. Roe's Barber & Beauty Shop
251 S. Main St.
1400-4S4019BA (215)

Current Owner: Thomas & Sally Roe
PO Box 540
Union OR 97883
541-562-3616

Significance: Historic Non-contributing

Style: Commercial

Date: ca. 1930

DESCRIPTION: This commercial building is located on the east side of Main Street between Center and Beakman Streets. The one story building appears to date to the 1930s, and is rectangular in plan with a flat roof and recessed parapet. The building is clad in stucco. A flat wooden awning extends the entire width of the building, including the building next door at 239 S. Main Street.

Divided into two business spaces, each with an entrance door with large picture window. The original features of the northernmost storefront have been altered by the addition of T-111 siding, a new plate glass display window, and a newer entrance door. The southernmost storefront has what appear to be original wood frame storefront windows and an entrance door with a small transom. The bulkhead has been covered with stone veneer on the southernmost storefront.

SIGNIFICANCE: Roe's Barber & Beauty Shop was built as a commercial space in a 1920s project to replace a series of early adjacent frame properties between Site #26 and the brick portion of Site #29. It housed a wide variety of short term occupants, followed by a long term vacancy, until its present use as a barber and beauty shop.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 35

27. First Nat'l Bank of Union (continued)

The north elevation has two arched entry doors, and two windows on the first floor. On the second floor there are three arched windows and an arched door which provides egress onto a metal fire escape.

A recent (1993) addition connects the building with the Sloat's Roller Rink building to the south. The frame addition which connects the two buildings has a thirteen foot setback from Main Street. It therefore has little visual impact on the historic First National Bank of Union Building.

The First National Bank of Union Building is in good condition, and retains good integrity. It is architecturally significant as a prominent commercial structure on Union's Main Street, and is also significant for its association with local resident W.T. Wright.

SIGNIFICANCE: William Roth built this significant commercial building in 1881, and it was pictured the following year in D. H. Stearns' promotional literature for Union County. The First National Bank of Union (later acquired by First National of Oregon) used the structure until a "modern" replacement was built up the street in 1952 (see Site #13). Initially, the (weekly) *Eastern Oregon Republican* operated from the office space in the rear (east) portion of the bank building, from its 1888 inception until past the turn of the century. Its site was, thus, cheek-and-jowl with *The Oregon Scout*, its Democratic rival already in residence just east of the bank building outside the district boundary.

In the 19th century, the bank was associated with the Wright family, particularly with W. T. Wright, cashier and, later, president. Wright, the eldest son of George Wright (see Site #8), was an influential and active mayor of Union, whose accomplishments included building the city hall and developing the town's water system.

The one-story "annex" portion was built in 1882, again by William Roth, who also built several frame residences in Union (including his own, just west of the district, still unre"muddled", today. Roth constructed the first brick commercial building (see Site #19) for the Sommer & Baer Mercantile Company. Roth also worked on frame commercial structures in downtown Union and is said to have done numerous smaller store fronts up and down Main Street, such as the harness and saddle shop just north of the bank building (Site #26). In 1968, the Union County Museum Society, the current owner, began developing the building for exhibits and storage.

The second story served as lodge hall for the Red Men, Odd Fellows, and Rebekahs in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The Union VFW post succeeded these lodges until 1988. Since then, the upper story has been an artist's studio.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 36

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28. Millinery/Harness Shop/Anderson's Shoe Repair Shop
267 S. Main St.
1600-4S4019BA (215)

Current owner: Lester Real Estate
% Russ Lester
1702 Fourth St.
La Grande OR 97850
541-963-4156

Significance: Primary/contributing

Style: Italianate Commercial

Date: ca. 1870

DESCRIPTION: This small wood frame commercial building is located on the northeast corner of Main and Center Streets, and fronts west. Built circa 1870, the false-front building is rectangular in plan, with a gable roof. The building is clad in horizontal wood siding on the east (front) elevation and vertical board and batten siding on the south (side) elevation.

The storefront consists of a central recessed entrance with double wood doors and transom windows. This entrance is flanked by large, four-pane display windows with paneled bulkheads. The parapet is topped by a prominent bracketed wooden cornice. There is a small single story addition to the north of the main building, which was built circa 1885, and appears on the 1893 Sanborn map. The narrow street facade of this addition has a four-pane fixed window next to a single wood door with transom. The simple cornice has small wooden brackets similar to those on the older building.

On the eastern end of the south elevation is a single door with small one-over-one double hung wood sash windows on either side. There is a brick chimney along the roof ridge at the eastern end of the building.

The building retains high integrity, and is significant architecturally as an intact example of a nineteenth century wood frame Italianate commercial building.

SIGNIFICANCE: W. T. (Tom) Wright is said to have operated Union's first bank out of this building, first living in the small dwelling attached to the rear (now part of the commercial building). It is still shown as a bank in the July 1884 edition of the Sanborn maps, but by that year, the bank Wright opened in the Roth building began doing business as the First National Bank. The site became a grocery and stationery store that year, and a small office was added about 1885, running along the side (north) elevation. The dwelling portion was converted to business space for a millinery shop in the 1880s. A small photo shop was added to the rear. The photo shop housed at various times, the shop of Amos K. and Charles M. Jones (the duo whose 1894 *"Union Through a Camera"* provided numerous views of Union residences and businesses), followed by G. W. McKinney in 1899 and Hill Photo after the turn of the century.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 39

31. **Benson Bros. Meat & Packing Company**
239 & 251 S. Main St.
1401-4S4019BA (215)

Current owner: Randy & Patsey Stockam
10900 E. Street
Island City OR 97850
541-963-6297

Significance: Primary/contributing

Style: Commercial

Date: ca. 1881 (possibly earlier)

DESCRIPTION: The Carson Brothers Meat Market is located on the east side of Main Street between Center and Beakman Streets. The single story brick building was built circa 1881, and appears on the 1884 Sanborn maps. It is rectangular in plan and has a flat or sloped roof behind a brick parapet.

Very simple in style, this building was possibly remodeled after the turn of the century, as it's appearance is typical of small commercial buildings of the 1910s and 1920s. The west (front) elevation has a central recessed entrance with a single door and transom, and large plate glass display windows. The parapet has a recessed sign panel and simple corbelled cornice. The flat awning is a later addition, and continues along the storefronts of the building to the south. A wood framed transom spans the entire width of this storefront.

SIGNIFICANCE: The butcher shop was one of the longest continuous use structures in Union serving one type of business. In 1881, the butcher shop was operated by C. E. Robbins & Company ("At Prices To Suit The Times"). The Benson Brothers, Samuel and Richard, were partners in a meat and packing company, which occupied the quarters much of the time. This site was advertised in the 1880s and 1890s as "Union's Meat Market". J. T. Mulvehill was a turn-of-the-century occupant, and Rorig Meats occupied the premises at a later time. This building includes a frame addition dating to the 1920s when an aggregate of small frame store fronts between Site #26 and the brick portion of Site #29 were razed. It was used as refrigerated locker and store space. Rental freezer lockers were added in the late 1930s.

The middle portion was a harness shop prior to the turn of the century. The south portion was a millinery shop during this same period of time.

The Bensons, who had come across the plains, held over a thousand acres near Hot Lake and another larger ranch up Catherine Creek. They were supporters of the Eastern Oregon Livestock Show & Rodeo, which began in 1908, for many years. The butcher shop was known as the Eastern Oregon Meat Company for many years until its purchase in 1944, when Leonard S. Huffman and Albert and Leslie McClellan acquired it and it became the H & M (Huffman and McClellan) Meat Market. It was operated in the 1970s by Theodor R. & Beverly A. Gallegos as Stockmen's Meat Market, with a brief stint by Mitch Johnston as the final butcher-in-residence. After a stint as a florist shop and video store, the space will open as a glassblower's studio in January, 1997.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 40

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32. Shanks Cafe/The Hut Lounge & Cafe
219 S. Main St.
1200-4S4019BA (215)

Current owner: Jeff F. & Patty Collier
PO Box 1025
Union OR 97883
541-562-5800

Significance: Non-historic Non-contributing

Date: 1910 (portion comprising Shanks Cafe)
1960s (intermittent remodeling and facade changes)

DESCRIPTION: This single story rectangular building is located on the southeast corner of Main and Beakman Streets. The building fronts north. It has a low pitch gable roof, and large square fixed sash windows. The aluminum entry door is located on the northwest corner of the building. The building is clad in T-111 siding and stucco.

This building does not yet meet the age criterion to be considered a contributing feature in the district.

SIGNIFICANCE: Shanks' Bakery was built in the southern segment of this site, with the Cozy Corner saloon built on the northern portion in the 1920s. The enlarged Shanks' Cafe served as the Greyhound bus stop for decades. Ultimately, the Cozy Corner was razed to build the present structure in the mid 1960s. The complex now serves as "The Hut" Lounge & Cafe.

Originally, this was the site of the Pacific Hotel, built by an unknown company in 1864, with the upper story of its frame construction housing a public hall in its largest room. It was leased to numerous parties, including "Rockefeller" or "Old Man Rockefeller" as he was referred to in newspaper accounts in the 1880s. Rockefeller was said to be a cousin of John D. Rockefeller and his daughter, Grace, wed Harvey Meacham of the Meacham family for whom the town of Meacham (between La Grande and Pendleton) is named. It is thought to be the earliest hotel and public hall site in operation in Union.

Eventually, this site became a boarding house. Over the years, the lower segments served as a drugstore, barber shop, variety store, and millinery store, until fire destroyed it.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 41

33A. McCaslin Lumber Company
219 E. Beakman St.
400-4S4019BA (215)

Current owner: Mace Cadwell
1090 E. Ash
Union OR 97883
541-562-6278

Significance: Secondary/contributing

Style: Vernacular/Utilitarian

Date: 1894 (with 1920s additions)

DESCRIPTION: The McCaslin Lumber Company building is located on the northwest corner of Beakman Street and College Avenue. The building fronts south onto Beakman. It is configured in a central elongated rectangle with parallel wings along either side. The entire structure, including the wings, has a low pitch gable roof oriented in a north-south direction, giving the building a low horizontal emphasis.

The slightly elevated entrance is centered in the south elevation, which has a stepped parapet. The storefront includes a central entrance door flanked by multiple light display windows. The wings, which provide storage for large items and lumber, are accessed by large sliding doors on the north and south ends.

The north elevation has a large shed addition on the central portion of the building which is currently used for storage of lumber. The sliding doors accessing the wings are unobstructed. A large painted sign, reading "Bronson Lumber Co." is located in the gable of the north elevation. The east and west elevations are dominated by the long slopes of the gable roof. The short side walls are pierced by small, regularly spaced square windows.

SIGNIFICANCE: Originally a stable and barn site, by 1894 the portion which forms the store front portion of this business housed Walter Pelham's wagon construction operation. Additions were constructed in the 1920s.

James Martens sold his lumber and coal yard to Home Lumber and Coal Company in 1936. In 1945, it was sold, in turn, to McCaslin Lumber Company. Upon sale to Lloyd Bronson in 1961, its current name came into use.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 42

33B. Fruit Warehouse

NW Corner of E. Arch & N. College Sts.
400-4S4019BA (215)

Current owner: Mace Cadwell
1090 E. Ash
Union OR 97883

Significance: Primary/contributing

Style: Utilitarian

Date: ca. 1910

DESCRIPTION: This wood frame building is located on the southeast corner of Arch and College Streets. The building is identified on the 1910 Sanborn maps as a "Fruit Warehouse." It is rectangular in plan, and has a low pitch gable roof oriented in an east-west direction. The building is raised above grade on a poured concrete foundation, and appears to have once had a loading platform along the west and north elevations. The building is utilitarian in character, with few decorative features.

The north elevation, which faces the former Union Railroad line, has three large doors regularly spaced along the wall. The west elevation has a four-panel wood door and three small windows which have been boarded over. The south elevation has a single large doorway with a platform protected by a small bracketed shed roof.

This building, though simple and utilitarian, retains integrity of workmanship and construction and is one of three industrial type buildings in the District.

SIGNIFICANCE: Built by Cedric Gale of the Gale orchardists west of the district, this building served as a fruit packing shed along side the railroad tracks which continued east to the Oregon Roller Mills and Oregon Trail Lumber Company. It is currently used as storage by Bronson Lumber Company.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 43

34. **Vacant Lot**
NW Corner of E. Beakman & S. College
1000-4S4019BA (215)

Current owner: Sidney Huffman
% Union Hotel & Apartments
326 N. Main St.
Union OR 97883

Significance: Non-contributing

Style: Vacant Lot

DESCRIPTION: Vacant lot

SIGNIFICANCE: Now vacant, a house stood on this corner in the 1880s, with additions in the 1890s adding a lodge hall above, the early-on home of the International Order of Red Men Lodge. In the 1930s and 1940s, the downstairs housed Tallman's Beauty and Barber Shop.

35. **Union National Bank (35A)/ Oregon Trail Garage (35B)**
181 S. Main St.
900-4S4019BA (215)

Current owner: Sidney Huffman
1314 N.W. Irving #301
Portland OR 97206
503-281-6239

Significance: 35A Union National Bank - Primary/contributing

Style: Commercial

Date: ca. 1910

DESCRIPTION: This property consists of two single story brick buildings located on the northeast corner of Main and Beakman Streets. The buildings both front west. The southernmost building, originally known as the Union National Bank, is located on the corner, and was constructed circa 1910. This portion is rectangular in plan, and has a stone foundation. The northern portion, the Oregon Trail Garage, was also built circa 1910, and both appear on the 1910 Sanborn map.

The Union National Bank is characterized by a typical commercial storefront, including a recessed corner entrance door with transom and a large display window. The storefront is framed by volcanic tuff. The open corner is supported by a square column on a simple plinth and capital details. The display window

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 44

35A. Union Nat'l Bank (continued)

has been altered by replacement of the glass and infill of the transom level with wood shingles. The upper portion of the building has a wide corbelled beltcourse, with three recessed panels above. The cornice is a simple, single course of lightly corbeled brick.

The south facade of the Bank building has square fixed sash windows on the first floor. These appear to have originally been elongated double hung sash windows, as evident by the stone lintels which remain in the wall. At the east end of the south facade is a single door with a large, four pane transom. Above these windows are what appear to be four infilled square window openings with brick sills.

To the east of these buildings is a single story brick section, which appears on the 1910 Sanborn map as an auto repair shop. This rear portion spans the width of both buildings. This section has been altered by the removal of the original windows and their replacement with six-light vinyl sash windows. The segmental arches and brick sills remain. On the south and east elevations are large centrally located bays which appear to have been garage door openings.

SIGNIFICANCE: The Union National Bank facility, with the addition to the north for a service garage, became the Oregon Trail Garage, owned and operated by Thomas Brasher, which use it retained into the 1950s. The north section has been used as a fire station by the city of Union, and the south section has been used as the Union Community Center. The south portion is now a pizza parlor.

The site of an early tin smith shop, later storage and a liquor store by the 1890s, small commercial spaces along this stretch housed 19th-century saloons, and restaurants, as well as a bowling alley and shooting gallery. The main building opened its doors on the corner in 1910 as the Union National Bank, with the Hutchinson family as main backers with high hopes of providing competition to Tom Wright's First National Bank down the street (Site 25A). By 1919, the bank merged with Wright's.

35B. Union National Bank (35A)/ Oregon Trail Garage (35B)

181 S. Main St.
900-4S4019BA (215)

Current owner:

Sidney Huffman
1314 N.W. Irving #301
Portland OR 97206
503-281-6239

Significance:

35B Oregon Trail Garage - Primary/contributing

Style:

Industrial/Utilitarian

Date:

ca. 1910

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 45

35B. Oregon Trail Garage (continued)

DESCRIPTION: This property consists of two single story brick buildings located on the northeast corner of Main and Beakman Streets. The buildings both front west. The southernmost building, originally known as the Union National Bank, is located on the corner, and was constructed circa 1910. This portion is rectangular in plan, and has a stone foundation. The northern portion, the Oregon Trail Garage, was also built circa 1910, and both appear on the 1910 Sanborn map.

The northern section is labeled on the 1910 Sanborn map as the Oregon Trail Garage. It is a single story building built on a poured concrete foundation. There are three bays on the west (front) facade. The center bay contains a garage door, while the two exterior bays consist of large plate glass display windows with transoms. Above the storefronts the sign panel is divided into two panels, which is surmounted by a simple corbelled brick cornice.

To the east of these buildings is a single story brick section, which appears on the 1910 Sanborn map as an auto repair shop. This rear portion spans the width of both buildings. This section has been altered by the removal of the original windows and their replacement with six-light vinyl sash windows. The segmental arches and brick sills remain. On the south and east elevations are large centrally located bays which appear to have been garage door openings.

SIGNIFICANCE: Thomas Brasher had an early Ford dealership in Telocaset (a small railroad town eight miles south of Union). He started the Oregon Trail Garage in 1918 in partnership with B. I. Hess in the garage of the Chevrolet dealership (addition to the north of the bank building).

Clarice Brasher, daughter of Thomas Brasher, married G. Irvin Hess, who was the owner of the Oregon Trail Lumber Company, Union's largest sawmill in the 1940s and 1950s. The partnership of Brasher & Baird, which occupied the rear office, later became Brasher & Hess Real Estate & Insurance after the death of George Baird. With the death of Brasher, G. I. Hess purchased the Oregon Trail Garage.

36. Home Independent Telephone Company, Inc. Between 105 S. Main and 181 S. Main St. 800-4S4019BA (215)

Current owner:	General Telephone of the Northwest, Inc. PO Box 1068 Everett WA 98207
Significance:	Non-historic Non-contributing
Style:	Modern
Date:	ca. 1970

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 46

36. Home Independent Telephone Co. (continued)

DESCRIPTION: This single story building is located mid-block on the west side of Main Street between Beakman and Arch Streets. It is rectangular in plan, constructed of cinderblock, and has no windows. The entry door is on the west elevation. There is a small rectangular structure to the east of this building.

SIGNIFICANCE: This building was built in the 1970s to replace a 1921 brick building. This was originally the site of a 1½-story, 50'x100' livery stable built by A. F. Benson, about 1867.

J. T. McComas and Samuel A. Pursel purchased the business in 1879 and took advantage of their location across from the Centennial Hotel to provide a means of convenience for tourists intent on inspecting the area. McComas and Pursel operated the site as a sale stable, selling buggies, hay and grain, teams and horses, and renting those items, as well, to travelers who had come by train. The livery stable was razed about 1905.

George Baird, born in 1862 in Missouri, emigrated to Union and homesteaded with his parents, Thomas and Lydia Baird on 320 acres. In 1874, Thomas Baird sold the property to Taylor B. Green, another of the 1863 emigration train riders. The property was later sold to Abel Eaton, but for many years was known as the Taylor Green ranch, a geographic name which survives southeast of Union off the old route to Medical Springs and the mines. The family farmed in Thief Valley and in Antelope Valley and then moved to Union. As a young man, George Baird made several trips with livestock into Wyoming and Montana, during the Bannock Indian war period, whose siege they were rescued from by the U.S. Cavalry. Baird became a barber at age eighteen and eventually established himself in Union in that business for six years. Baird married Minnie Seamans in 1885. (By 1890, the "Union Tonsorial Parlor", two doors from the Centennial Hotel, noted George Baird as proprietor.) He operated a mercantile store in Union from 1891 to 1907, during which time he was also employed by the Pacific States Telephone Company until 1910, which required him to be out of town a great deal. In the month of December, 1910, Baird took charge of the Home independent Telephone Company with headquarters in Union. (This was his business, and not in conjunction with Thomas Brasher.)

Home Independent Telephone Company built a new brick office in 1921 on this site, replaced in the 1970s by GTE's cement block structure.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 47

37. **Wilson Brothers Brick Building**
101 S. Main St.
700-4S4019BA (215)

Current owner:	Kenneth & Karla Michrina PO Box 585 Union OR 97883 541-562-5258
Significance:	Primary/contributing
Style:	Italianate Commercial
Date:	1890

DESCRIPTION: The Wilson Brothers Brick Building is located on the southeast corner of Main and Arch Streets, and fronts west. The two story building is constructed of brick on a stone foundation, and is rectangular in plan.

The west (front) elevation has a storefront consisting of two window bays and a doorway (acsss to to the second floor), each delineated by cast iron elements. The window bays are divided by a slender cast iron column, and include large plate glass display windows and transoms covered by T-111 siding. The narrower door bay is framed by larger cast iron pilasters, also with the transom covered with T-111 siding. The door and its frame are not original. The main entrance transects the northwest corner of the building, and is also framed by cast iron pilasters. The door and the transom has been altered by infill and door replacement. The first and second floors are divided by a heavy cast iron beltcourse which is interrupted by the decorative capitals of the pilasters.

The upper level of the west facade includes the same division of bays found on the first floor. Windows are one-over-one double hung wood sash with elaborate bracketed architraves and molded wood sills. The metal cornice has brackets, a coffered freize, and is broken by the decorative capitals atop the pilasters.

The first floor of the north elevation is blank except for a single window and door on the eastern half of the building. Both have bracketed architraves. The upper story has four one-over-one double hung wood sash windows with bracketed architraves and molded wood sills. Four chimneys along the edge of the roof are visible from this elevation.

There is a one story brick addition to the east (rear) elevation which was built during the historic period, and a recessed one story addition to the north of the main building. Construction dates for these additions are not known at this time.

The building is in good condition, and despite the storefront alterations and small additions, it retains sufficient integrity to convey its style and period of construction. It is significant architecturally as a good example of 1890s commercial architecture in Union.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 48

37. Wilson Bros. Building (continued)

SIGNIFICANCE: S. L. Hunter was the contractor on this building, which was one of the first in the flurry of commercial brick buildings of the 1890s to be completed. William Wilson, one of Union's long-term residents, had it built to house offices and, later, lodgings in the upper story, with the door on the north elevation (not currently used) serving the freight office within for the freight depot across and down the street. The downstairs front portion housed the Cornucopia Saloon & Billiard Hall, as well as an ice house to the rear. William "Billy" Wilson was known as the saloon keeper, while his brother, Benjamin Franklin Wilson, practiced law. Benjamin served as Union County Clerk in 1884; in 1893, he became the land office registrar and, in 1898, county judge.

The Nickel Plate Restaurant & Chophouse was a two-story frame restaurant adjacent to the Cornucopia building on the south elevation, where now stands a cinder block addition. The Wilson site had originally been a blacksmith stand in the 1870s, operated by Nicholas Tarter. The Union Railroad of Oregon operated its office out of the north ground floor segment. That line was abandoned in 1924. One of the businessmen who kept an office there was Charles Miller. The Cornucopia Saloon gave way to Turner's Saloon and, eventually, to Charles Scott's furniture store. Meanwhile, the upstairs offices, once "a fine address in the Wilson Brick", fell into disuse for professional quarters when the county seat went to La Grande in 1904 and Union was falling on quieter times.

By the 1940s, the lower space had become the West Cafe, with food storage lockers in the rear. The lockers are no longer in use, but the name change (about 1950) has stayed with the building whose cast iron decorative trim was shipped from Chicago. By the early 1950s, the restaurant was known as the "Knotty Pine Cafe"; after a brief interlude, as the "Golden Harvest". It is now a restaurant known as "Michrina's".

38. Warehouse
SW Corner of E. Arch & S. College Sts.
1100-4S4019BA (215)

Current owner: Mace Cadwell
1090 E. Ash St.
Union OR 97883
541-562-6278

Significance: Primary/contributing

Style: Utilitarian

Date: ca. 1905

DESCRIPTION: This warehouse is located on the southwest corner of Arch Street and College Avenue, and fronts north onto Arch. The simple wood frame building is rectangular in plan, and has a moderate gable roof oriented in a north-south direction. There are wooden sliding doors on the north end. The building is clad in vertical board and batten siding, and the roof is covered in corrugated metal sheets.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 49

38. Warehouse (continued)

SIGNIFICANCE: Smith & Cadwell used this building as a machine shed until after World War II, when it became a mechanic's shop. It has long served as storage for the Bronson Lumber Company's lumber yard.

Originally the site of a wagon shed dating from the 1890s with numerous extensions thereto (those structures were razed after the turn of the century), for the erection of the mercantile establishment on the adjoining Site (#31A), which sold agricultural implements, paints, hardware and farm needs.

39. Freight Depot (39A)/Creamery (39B) North side of Arch ("Railroad") St. at intersection with College Avenue 4600-4S4018CD (210)

Current owner: Union School District #5
PO Box 908
Union OR 97883

Significance: 39A Freight Depot - Primary/contributing

Style: Vernacular

Date: 1893

DESCRIPTION: The freight depot is located on the same tax lot with the Creamery (#46a), several feet to the east. This is a small, single story wood frame structure with a gable roof oriented in an east-west direction. This building is in its original location, and fronts the former Union Street and Suburban Railway along Arch Street. The railway tracks were recently removed.

The building is rectangular in plan, and is supported by a post and pier foundation system. It is clad in horizontal wood shiplap. There is one window opening on the east gable end wall, and a pair of one-over-one double hung wood sash windows on the west wall. A door and a sliding door open onto a small platform on the south elevation, which is protected by an extension of the gable roof.

The Freight Depot is in good condition, and is the only rail-related structure in the Historic District.

SIGNIFICANCE: The Freight Depot was built in 1893 by the Union Street & Suburban Railway to serve the needs of the community in connecting the town to the mail line, some two miles to the east. The depot office was on the north side elevation of the Wilson Brothers Brick Building, just west and across Arch ("Railroad") St. The building of this railroad line was occasioned by Union's miss for the bid to have a main line such as Union Pacific build through town (going south) and up the east side of Pyle Canyon. Since La Grande offered significant cash inducements for the location of the division point in La Grande, as well as free land, it won out in the railroad's decision to bypass the then-county seat, which was a significant factor in Union's decline after the turn of the century. The building is used as storage by the school district.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 50

39B. Freight Depot (39A)/Creamery (39B)
North side of Arch ("Railroad") St. at intersection with College Avenue
4600-4S4018CD (210)

Current owner: Union School District #5
PO Box 908
Union OR 97883

Significance: 39B Creamery - Secondary/contributing

Style: Agricultural/Utilitarian

Date: 1922

DESCRIPTION: The Creamery is located on the north side of Arch Street at its intersection with College Avenue. The building is rectangular in plan, and is oriented in an east-west direction. It is built of brick laid in a Flemish bond, and has a barrel vaulted, wood frame roof. Fenestration is irregular, with metal sash, multiple pane window openings scattered along the south and west elevations of the building. The architraves and sills are of either concrete or parged brick. A large garage door is centrally located on the south elevation.

At the east elevation there is a single story shed roof section, hidden from the street view by a tall side parapet.

The Creamery building is in good condition, and contributes to the architectural diversity of the district with its brick construction and barrel roof.

SIGNIFICANCE: The Creamery building was constructed in 1922 by the Eastern Oregon Dairymen's Association. Its use was later taken over by the Farmers' Cooperative of Payette, Idaho, and finally by Challenge Creamery, a California-based operation. In 1966, the Union School District purchased premises and converted the structure to use as a welding and repair shop for the Vocational Agriculture classes.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 51

40. **Union Drug Company**
105 N. Main St.
4500-4S4018CD (210)

Current owner: Walter Brookshire
PO Box 400
Union OR 97883

Significance: Primary/contributing

Style: Twentieth Century Commercial

Date: 1903

DESCRIPTION: Chapman's Store is located on the southeast corner of N. Main and Arch Streets, and fronts west. The two story building is built of brick laid in a common bond, with a flat or sloped roof and a stepped parapet. A hip roof frame addition to the east (rear) serves as a store-room to the main structure.

The storefront consists of a recessed central entrance with large plate glass display windows on either side. The display windows appear to be replacements for the originals. The wood frame transom windows are intact above the storefront, and a flat aluminum awning has been added. The storefront system wraps around to both the north and south elevations for approximately six feet. On the second story the primary window type is one-over-one double hung wood sash in pairs, with brick flat arches and brick sills.

The south elevation displays one-over-one double hung wood sash windows, as well as two small square windows on the first floor. A painted sign reading "Union Drug Co. - The Rexall Drug Store" is located on the south facade near the storefront. There are two chimneys located along the parapet, one of which has been partially removed.

The building retains good integrity, and is architecturally significant as a good example of a Twentieth Century Commercial architecture on Union's Main Street.

SIGNIFICANCE: A wooden frame building, built in 1862, was moved to the east on this lot to serve as offices for Hutchinson Light & Power prior to the construction of the current brick building in 1903. Numerous doctors, lawyers and other professionals had second story offices in both structures. Lucias A. Wright was active in various lodges and Union civic affairs. He served two terms as mayor of Union, in 1910 and 1911.

In 1934, the property was purchased by George Ferguson, pharmacist and father of Wayne C. Ferguson, who owned this store until his death in July, 1993. The current owner, pharmacist Walter Brookshire, purchased the business from Mr. Ferguson's estate in January, 1994.

The earliest dwellings in the town of Union were located on the site of this building and its parking lot (the north side of this tax lot). Of frame construction, they succumbed to fire except for the white frame building which was constructed in 1862 for J. A. Chapman, who used it as a freight depot and Union's first store.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 52

40. Union Drug Co. (continued)

By 1864, it was serving as post office, with Chapman acting as express agent and postmaster. R. H. Brown later conducted his drug and paint business there. Lucius A. Wright, son of John T. Wright, who had learned the pharmaceutical trade under this father's tutelage, bought out R. H. Brown in 1897, and set up in business at this site.

41. **George and Minnie Baird Residence**
415 N. Main St.
3300-4S4018CD (210)

Current owner: Leona C. Taylor
415 N. Main St.
Union OR 97883
541-562-5236

Significance: Historic/Non-contributing

Style: Vernacular Gothic (altered)

Date: ca. 1888

DESCRIPTION: This residence is located on the northeast corner of N. Main and Ash Streets. The one-and-a-half story frame house fronts west, and is sited on a slightly elevated lot. It is irregular in plan (probably originally T-shaped), and has an intersecting gable roof. Originally Vernacular Gothic in style, the house has undergone numerous alterations, including siding replacement, front porch removal, window replacement, porch enclosures, and additions. The basic roof and building shape are still evident, however. A narrow upstairs doorway remains in the gable on the west elevation, originally providing access to a porch balcony.

Features which are typical of the Vernacular Gothic style include a vertical emphasis, gable roof, horizontal wood shiplap siding, a front porch with scrollwork details, and one-over-one, two-over-two or four-over-four double hung wood sash windows.

This house currently does not retain sufficient integrity to convey its historic appearance, and is not considered to be a contributing property in its current condition.

SIGNIFICANCE: Built in 1888, this house was, originally, the residence of George and Minnie Baird. George Baird was occupied as a barber (1880-90), merchant (1891-1897), and Home Independent Telephone Company founder and officer. Subsequent owners included Minnie Baird, his widow, followed by Ralph and Leona Taylor. Minnie Baird served as City of Union librarian from the 1920s through World War II.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 53

42. Jeremiah B. Thomson Residence
475 N. Main St.
3101-4S4018CD (210)

Current owner: David Thomas
Mitchell OR 97750

Significance: Primary/contributing

Style: Rural Gothic/Remodeled with Queen Anne-Eastlake elements

Date: ca. 1873

DESCRIPTION: The Jeremiah Thomson House is located on the southeast corner of N. Main and Brich Streets. The house fronts west on a slightly elevated lot. Originally rectangular in plan, it currently has an irregular shape, with several additions to the east. The Thomson House was originally constructed in the Rural Gothic style, with a steep intersecting gable roof, ornate front porch and balcony, and elongated double hung window openings. By the turn of the century the roofline had been altered to its current "jerkinhead" configuration. The dates of alterations such as the addition of a tower to the south elevation, and the removal of the front porch and its reattachment to the south elevation are not known at this time.

The house features horizontal wood shiplap siding with decorative wooden quoins, and is one-and-one half stories in height. A two story octagonal tower, which displays garlands, other elaborate trim details, and one-over-one double hung windows, was inset into a gable on the south elevation. A patio, also on the south elevation, is composed of the ornately decorated verandah which was originally attached to the west (front) elevation.

The west and north elevation have been extensively remodeled. A bay window and a more elaborate entrance was originally located on the north elevation, where now there is a secondary entrance and a series of additions. On the west elevation, the doors which originally led to a balcony atop the front porch are intact, though the porch has been moved. A simple shed roof with iron pipe supports now protects the main entrance. The primary window type is one-over-one double hung wood sash with molded architraves.

On the east elevation, it appears that a garage or carriage house was attached to the house with a small connector addition. It is unclear whether the carriage house is contemporary with the house. Decorative features around the house include applied wood quoins, a broad decorative frieze board, turned porch posts on the original porch section, porch brackets, and applied details on the tower. The date of the Queen Anne-Eastlake remodel is not known at this time.

The property is well-kept, with several Douglas fir trees to the west, and some older orchard trees to east, all in a broad expanse of lawn.

The Thomson House is unique in Union for its combination of Rural Gothic and Queen Anne-Eastlake elements. Although it has been altered, it still presents itself as a picturesque period house.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 54

42. Thomson Residence (continued)

SIGNIFICANCE: Jeremiah B. Thomson, owner and builder of this residence, was the operator of a local planing mill through 1919. Thomson offered services as both architect and builder, preparing plans and specifications, as well as doing complete construction. His was the first power-operated turning lathe in the area and he turned out much finished work in the way of stair railings, spindles and brackets. Many local frame homes took their finishing touches from Thomson's stock. His wife, Mary, was a milliner, operating her store from her home. Mary Thomson also took prizes at the Chicago World Fair for her cherries, grown on the grounds of their residence in the 1890s.

43. **Thomas Cock House**
511 N. Main St.
1500-4S4018CD (210)

Current owner: David & Carla Arnold
511 N. Main St.
Union OR 97883

Significance: Primary/contributing

Style: Vernacular Gothic

Date: ca. 1888

DESCRIPTION: The Thomas Cock House fronts west on the northeast corner of N. Main and Birch Streets on a flat lot. The one-and-a-half story house is rectangular in plan with an intersecting gable roof.

The house is simply detailed and clad in horizontal wood shiplap siding. Typical of the Vernacular Gothic style, the house displays one-over-one double hung wood sash windows, molded architraves, corner boards and a wide frieze board. The original front porch and balcony have been replaced with a small gable stoop with concrete steps and wrought iron railing. There is a bay window on the south elevation which may have been a later addition. A concrete block chimney has been added on the north elevation. Included in the property are a small garage and several large deciduous trees.

The Thomas Cock House is in good condition, and is architecturally significant as a good example of the Vernacular Gothic style in Union.

SIGNIFICANCE: This home was built for Thomas Cock, who, in partnership with Walter Cock, operated Cock Brothers' Furniture & Undertaking, early in the century. Subsequent owners included Jack Crook (of McCaslin Lumber Company, Site #31A), then Paul and Mabel Brookshire for a number of years before its relatively recent purchase by the current owners. This house is said to have had the first copper bathtub in Union.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 55

43A. 511 N. Main St.
1500-4S4018CD (210)

Current owner: David & Carla Arnold

Significance: Primary/contributing

DESCRIPTION: Garage

SIGNIFICANCE: This structure was built as a carriage shed to serve the site's residents.

44. Residence
401 N. 1st St.
4800-4S4018CC

Current owner: Helen L. McClellan
PO Box 125
Union OR 97883

Significance: Historic/non-contributing

Date: ca. 1925

DESCRIPTION: There are two houses on this property located on the east side of N. 1st Street near the City Park. This one story building is irregular in shape with a low pitch intersecting gable roof. The house has vertical board siding, and square one-over-one double hung wood sash windows.

SIGNIFICANCE: The primary (streetside) structure was altered from a carriage barn into a residence after a bungalow (Site #5) was built on Main Street.

In the 1950s, Albert McClellan brought in a second, smaller, out building (original site unknown), which was also remodeled into a residence, specifically scaled for Mr. McClellan, who was 4'8". McClellan's workplace, Benson Bros. Meat & Packing Company at Site #29, also acquired a concrete platform for him to stand on behind the counter.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Page 56

44B. Residence
401 N. 1st St.
4800-4S4018CC

Current owner: Helen L. McClellan
PO Box 125
Union OR 97883

Significance: Non-historic/non-contributing

Date: ca. 1950

DESCRIPTION: This one story house is sited immediately to the west of the house numbered 54a. It is a rectangular building with a gable roof oriented in a north-south deirection. Windows are wood frame fixed or double hung sash. There is alrge brick chimney onthe western roof slope. A shed roof garage is attached to the north elevation. The house is clad in wood or asbestos wide reveal shingles.

SIGNIFICANCE: The primary (streetside) structure was altered from a carriage barn into a residence after a bungalow (Site #5) was built on Main Street.

In the 1950s, Albert McClellan brought in a second, smaller, out building (original site unknown), which was also remodeled into a residence, specifically scaled for Mr. McClellan, who was 4'8". McClellan's workplace, Benson Bros. Meat & Packing Company at Site #29, also acquired a concrete platform for him to stand on behind the counter.

45. Catherine Creek Greenway
South bank between Main and Bellwood Sts.

Current owner: Union School District #5
PO Box 908
Union OR 97883

Significance:

DESCRIPTION: Vacant land

SIGNIFICANCE: This stream bank was further south prior to the 1930s when, from this site on upstream, the two creek channels running along here were dredged and bulldozed to create one (straighter) channel. At that time, "Mulholland's Grove", just east of the district, was felled of its giant cottonwoods and the small meanders of this stretch of Catherine Creek were brought together in a more-or-less straightforward course.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8

Page 1

The town of Union is located approximately fourteen miles southeast of La Grande, Oregon, along Catherine Creek which bisects the town into north Union and south Union. Oregon highways 203 and 237 intersect in Union. Highway 203 from La Grande passes through downtown Union, then travels up Catherine Creek to Medical Springs and into the Baker Valley (this route was used to access the mines in the Panhandle Region, which is now part of Baker County). Highway 237 travels to the east side of the Grande Ronde Valley, passing through Cove (located eight miles north of Union) before entering downtown Union. Highway 237 served as the primary route for travel between Pendleton and Boise, prior to the construction of the freeway through Ladd Canyon. This highway heads south and follows the historic Pyles Canyon toll road route, entering the Powder Valley at North Powder. Main Street is part of both highway 203 and highway 237. A 1994 highway project brought new concrete sidewalks and Main Street surface to Union. The bridge crossing Catherine Creek was replaced with a wider version of the earlier incarnation.

Union's business area retains a well-preserved set of commercial buildings from before the turn of the century. The central location of these buildings ties the present era with the earliest years of settlement.

"The home of the fishhawks in the valley of the cottonwoods"...according to Armand Minthorn, cultural historian of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, this is how native Americans described what is now the townsite of Union.

The fishhawks must have been a frequent sight, swooping down on the plentiful trout and salmon. The area along what is now Catherine Creek and westward to the foothills and Hot Lake saw seasonal reunions each spring, peaceful gatherings to harvest the plentiful camas root on the Grande Ronde Valley floor, as well as to hunt and fish. The tribes came from many directions; besides the nearby Walla Wallas and Umatillas to the north and northwest, they included Paiutes from the Nevada area as well as Shoshone and Nez Perce traveling from the north and east.

The first recorded group of white men to enter the Grande Ronde Valley were from the Astor overland expedition, under the leadership of Wilson Price Hunt. On December 30, 1811, they arrived cold and hungry, entered a friendly Shoshone encampment along a river and secured from the Indians four horses, three dogs, and some edible roots (most likely camas). They rested a few days and left the Valley January 2, 1812, proceeding on to Astoria and arriving February 15, 1812. The dogs are still much in evidence in Union.

The second recorded group of white men to enter the valley were heading east from Astoria to report on the progress of their post. This group arrived August 4, 1812, spent two days resting and then departed from the Valley by way of Pyle's Canyon.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

The last of the early explorers, John C. Fremont, was under orders to complete the exploration of the Far West. He described the Grande Ronde Valley as "a place--one of the few we have seen in our journey so far--where a farmer would delight himself to establish, if he were content to live in the seclusion which it imposes."

The Oregon Trail passed through the Grande Ronde Valley, originally descending into the Valley at Ladd's Hill. It was 18 years after the Emigration of 1843 when a settlement was established by Benjamin Brown who came over the mountains from the Umatilla Valley in 1861 to Mt. Glenn, north of present day La Grande. About this time, Conrad Miller built his cabin in what is now west Union. He wintered there and in the spring he planted a garden and set out for Vancouver to purchase fruit trees. His return trip was delayed by flooding on the John Day River. When he finally returned to his homestead he found it occupied by P.M. Coffin, Cutting Clark, and Jabaz Hinkle. They had assumed the settlement to be abandoned. Fred Nodine, who had settled in what was to become north Union (sites 1 through 7B), was asked to be judge. The fact that the garden had been planted demonstrated Miller's wish to return. Miller started a nursery and sold fruit trees for \$1.00 each to settlers throughout the valley.

In the summer of 1862, Fred Nodine went to Walla Walla to purchase a hundred head of cattle and several horses. A great rivalry between The Dalles and Walla Walla existed as to who might best serve the miners east of the Powder Valley. There was no road from Walla Walla to the mines; a fair road from The Dalles was being used. Fred Nodine was contracted by the merchants of Walla Walla for \$200 to open a route from Walla Walla, through the Grande Ronde Valley and on to Powder Valley. He used Pyle's Canyon to exit the Grande Ronde Valley and enter the Powder Valley. The trail from Walla Walla was marked and opened in two weeks. Upon returning to Walla Walla, Fred Nodine and his partners led ten pack trains of 20 to 30 animals per train over this route, thus permanently establishing it and making Union an important freight hub for the developing mines of Baker County.

In 1863, James Pyle, with the assistance of volunteers, built a grade through the canyon now bearing his name and obtained a charter from the state to operate a toll road. Travel was almost entirely diverted from the Old Emigrant Road at Ladd's Hill through Pyle's Canyon and Union. Both major routes to the mines (Meacham Road and Thomas & Ruckle Road) by 1863 passed through Union, enhancing its importance. In addition, a preferred route to the Panhandle mining area of the Snake River was through Union following Catherine Creek over the mountains to Eagle Creek. Union had become a natural shipping point.

On October 14, 1864, the state legislature created Union County from part of what was then Baker County. The new county included all of Baker County north of the Powder River (what is now Union and Wallowa counties plus the Panhandle area of Baker County). La Grande was designated county seat over much complaining by residents of Union who felt it should have gone to a vote of the people. Samuel Hannah of Union became one of the first three County Commissioners.

About this time John Chapman established a small general store at Catherine Creek (now the site of Union Drug Company, site 40). He saw this site as the logical location for a town and enlisted the service of David Thompson as surveyor to lay out a town. The plat was dated November 11, 1864. The original plat included land south east of Catherine Creek and what is now Main Street (sites 26 through 40). A blacksmith shop, two more general mercantile stores and a drug store were added shortly after the original survey. Chapman's location is still the general center of Union.

Union received its name in support of the North's cause during the Civil War. The first American Flag to flow in the breezes of the Grande Ronde Valley did so in June 1864, having been pieced together by early Unionites Minerva Hendershott Eaton and Mrs. Lewis.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

By 1865, population in Union had grown to over a hundred inhabitants and forced David Biens and Samuel Hannah to lay out a tract of land west of Main Street (sites 11 through 25B). In 1866, Union (formally called Union Town) was already being strongly recommended as a prospective business point for persons beginning trade with small capital. Nine years later, North Union was platted on land originally belonging to Fred Nodine (sites 1 through 7B). At the same time, Main Street was widened with the buildings on the east side being moved back about 30 feet.

An early travel writer, C. Aubrey Angelo, praised Union thusly in his 1866 publication entitled Stage Stops, Way-Stations, Wagon & Toll Roads of Grande Ronde Valley & Surroundings:

Union town...has already become a dangerous rival to Le Grand. It is situated on the main and only road to the mines, has quite a number of stores, and business-like appearance. Catherine Creek, always running through the town, is full of speckled trout; mutton, game, and beef are plentiful, and hay, cereals, and vegetables the place possesses advantage few inland towns can boast of. A large grist-mill, several stores, blacksmith shops. Post-office, and express office add to the comforts of the place. The Stanton House (*note: on site 33B*) receives all travelers, and is a good country hotel, with moderate charges. As a prospective business point, I strongly recommend Union Town as an eligible location to any person beginning trade with small capital.

1860s storekeepers in the district included Abrahams & Sonneberger, general merchandise; J.M Boyd, tinware; James MacLaferty and P. Argersinger, livery stable and feed store; Oat Blackburn, shoemaker; Caleb Howell, horseshoeing; Nicholas Tarter, wagon shop; A.F. Benson, livery and feed stable; E.C. Brainard, druggist; and D.W. Johnson, blacksmithing.

Union was fortunate to have an early siting on a good stage route, due to Samuel Hannah who owned the Northwest State Company. He promised the residents of Summerville and Cove that the stage would go through their communities if Union were the county seat. With their votes and votes from the Panhandle area (whose residents would find it more convenient to file their mining claims) Union secured the county seat from La Grande in 1874. Mr. Hannah established the stage routes he promised and La Grande was made a tributary route on the stage.

Of the 1260 citizens participating in the first (March 1865) special election to determine the county seat, only 509 voted for Union, while 759 cast ballots for La Grande. The results did not sit well with Unionites, who felt their central location in the county, with the Panhandle district stretching southeastward to Idaho, was a more logical seat.

An enabling act of the state legislature provided for a vote in 1874. Meanwhile Samuel Hannah had in 1872 been elected to the state senate and had been working to induce the Northwestern Stage Company, already routed through La Grande, to come via Union. North end voters got behind this relocation, as did the southeastern section of the county, and Union carried the day. Both towns attempted to influence miners' and farmers' votes. Medical Springs pioneer Dunham Wright recalled that on election day in Union "the drinking ladles hung from the whiskey barrels, as thick as beads on an Indian baby's necklace."

A fine new courthouse was promptly erected in Union (on site 25B), the records removed from La Grande, and the heavy log-constructed jail dragged across the Valley floor.

In 1883 rival La Grande pressed for the legislature to pass another enabling act, hoping to return the county seat. Unionites responded with formal resolutions, noting such a move would not only saddle the county with debt, but ultimately cause the Panhandle District to be lost to Baker County.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

The legislature did allow another election in 1890, in which Union clung to the county seat. But the railroad line through La Grande was steadily diverting business there, and support for Union dwindled with the loss of the Panhandle in 1901. In 1904, 30 years after losing the county seat, La Grande recaptured it and still holds it today.

The practical effect of the county seat transfer in 1874 was the construction of the most substantial structure to be built in Union during the following 30 years, with a jail that is still in use at the high school as a boiler room (site 25B). The successful campaign for the county seat gave the community a sense of confidence in its future as a commercial center, a sense reinforced by the substantial investment made in the courthouse. "Possession" of the county seat meant the transfer of records, especially land division records, a very active function in the county's early decades. County Court and District Court hearings would be held in Union, which implied a resident "professional" class of attorneys, with many lodgings in town during the days of slow travel. Union merchants could expect an increase in trade, as those in town for courthouse business also made purchases and sought other services. A major La Grande merchant moved his stock to Union. Proximity to the courthouse meant more opportunity for lobbying and employment in official positions. This in fact occurred, with a majority of elective and appointed positions being held by Union residents, a situation definitely not recurring during this century. Being the county seat brought a certain amount of recognition and prestige at the state level as well.

During this period many of the most significant decisions reached by the County Court concerned the layout and construction of public road improvements. Being "close to the action" brought advantages to south county owners and contractors. For all public issues, the courthouse would be a central point of reference in the days before instant communications. Proximity to the seat of government was therefore actively sought by newspapers, several of which flourished in Union during this period.

As it happened, Union was seat of government during the years immediately prior to the Nez Perce war of 1877, and appeals for aid from Wallowa settlers were sent to Union. During the Bannock Indian scare of 1878 the courthouse served as a temporary armory, though the feared Indians never actually approached the town.

The most significant single event occurring during Union's hold on the courthouse was the trial and hanging of Kelsay Porter, a Panhandle resident, in 1897. The public execution, which took place outside the jail, is believed to be the last legal execution conducted outside the state capitol.

The City of Union received its charter from the state of Oregon on October 19, 1878. Scarcely more than two decades after its first inhabitant, the town boasted of population of 800.

Formal city government began in 1878 when the State of Oregon chartered the City of Union. Until the opening of a city hall in 1892, the Council met at various locations such as private offices and public dining rooms. Under the term of Mayor John Kennedy in the years just prior to 1890, plans began in earnest for a City Hall building that would give the city meeting and office locations, provide a city jail, room for a municipal court and consolidate the various fire company locations on the ground floor.

Union's most active Mayor and City Council took office in 1891. The town more than doubled in size during the decade of the 1890s. The demands created by this increased population were matched by the vision for the community promoted by the more active businessmen represented on the City Council by proprietors G.F.Hall, Ed Davis, Adolph Levy, F.E.Foster and builder J.J. Odale. Banker W. T. "Tom" Wright headed this prominent group of leaders as Mayor. Three activities of this group continue to serve Union as the 21st century approaches.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

The City Hall building (site 22) completed during Tom Wright's term continues to serve the city as headquarters for city operations and the police department. The fire functions have gradually been moved to other locations, and plans in 1997 call for moving out the ambulance to make room for an accessible Council meeting chambers. Thus the city plans to maintain the building in its original functions.

A second major undertaking involved providing water for the growing city. The Council arranged for acquisition of property about two miles upstream on Catherine Creek for a diversion site and for easements across three ranches to lay the transmission line into town. This diversion and pipeline no longer serve the city for potable water, but are maintained for irrigation use and emergency backup. The water system also included the beginning of individual building and home service. Hydrants installed in the center of the business district (Main between Center and Beakman, for example) changed the capacity of the volunteer fire brigade and gradually led to improvement in insurance rates.

The third accomplishment of this group saw fruition with the location of the Eastern Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station on the west side of Union where the State had originally planned a mental asylum. Forces in Salem prevailed after a series of court battles in retaining the asylum facility in the capitol. Intense lobbying by the Union group led to the alternative. This effort ran beyond the term in office of the Council members and Mayor. W.T. Wright, G.F. Hall, Ed Davis, and others went to Salem to see the decision through. An appropriation of \$10,000 started the Experiment Station in 1901. The headquarters building, costing \$3,500 of this amount, still serves for Station offices, while the grounds occupy about 180 acres on the west side of Union, with additional land outside the city.

The eighties were golden years as Main Street bustled with both frame construction storefronts and larger brick edifices such as the First National Bank and post office buildings (site 27). Some of the frame buildings thrown up in haste earlier on were enlarged or improved upon. This decade also saw the construction of the chief group of finer homes throughout the city.

Maude Summers Maple describes her family's 1883 entrance into Union, the town where they were to make their new home: *(please indent the following paragraphs)*

Now out of Pyle's Canyon on the north side, a wonderful surprise awaited us. We were ushered into one of the most beautiful parts of the whole Grande Ronde Valley: the area surrounding Union, and the town, itself. Before reaching the south end of town, we saw prosperous looking farms and ranches, with grazing horses and cattle, poplar trees, nice little streams, and a profusion of wildflowers. And we saw nice homes and barns. We continued on this road; and it led us right into Union and along Main Street. This was the Oregon country I believe mama and papa dreamed about....

The next morning...the three of us walked up Main Street, which runs the length of the town. We soon reached the business district, among which were scattered some of the older homes and a few nice newer ones. We saw a very neat, thriving looking community, with the clear, fast-flowing Catherine Creek running the width of town from east to west...The streets here, too, were lined with poplars, and a few maples. The homes looked comfortable and well-kept.

Nearly all the businesses at that time were on Main Street...On both sides of the street were one and two-story buildings. Many were made of red bricks but there were some frame buildings. We learned that the little bridge across Catherine Creek divided the business district from the north side residential area where, with some exceptions, most of the bigger, newer homes were. Here we saw bigger yards and more trees. It was at that time considered the "sweller" part of town.

(It is of interest to note how a distinct majority of founding fathers and mothers inclined to the Northern

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

cause replicated that sentiment in their decisions as to where to settle early on, seemingly employing Catherine Creek as a sort of water-logged Mason-Dixon line.)

The Oregon Railway and Navigation Company entered the Grande Ronde Valley in 1884. La Grande was chosen to be the division point, a great blow to the city fathers who had naively assumed that common sense would prevail in the routing decision. However, inducements made by rival city fathers in La Grande on the other side of the valley prevailed in a decision to make it the division point. The earliest surveyor had recommended the line travel the west side of Pyle's Canyon, but later and more extensive survey work concluded that the line should go on the less challenging east slope of the canyon. When push came to shove, the course was laid on the more challenging west side and bypassed Union by some two miles.

In her recollection of the autumn of 1887, young Maude Summers recalled the potential impact: "The new Oregon Short Line Railroad ran right through La Grande. . .making it a thrifty young community. It was already competing strongly with Union. . .papa told us, "La Grande will steal most of Union some day." He was pretty much right. A few years later some businessmen moved up there because it was on the rail line. . .But Union remained headquarters for the big stockmen in the valley and it continues to have many lovely homes." Tracks were eventually laid to Cove some eight miles north and this branch ran daily until automobiles forced its decline in the 1920s. Its last run was in 1924.

The tracks of the Union railway were surveyed and planned eastward along Arch Street (known to its locals simply as Railroad Street). Completion of this project enhanced the second axis of the commercial area. Along the tracks, several warehouse and depot buildings were erected, as well as the Union Roller Mills at the east end in 1891 and the White Pine Lumber Company at the western edge of the city. (Another major mill, the Oregon Trail Lumber Company, would be constructed at the east end in 1927.) The railway continued in active use until about 1989 when Union Forest Products ceased operations. In 1994 the main crossing was removed, with the final track on Arch Street removed in 1996.

After the completion of the track into town, Union leaders trusted that their shipping access would assure a rhythm to the sending of local products to distant markets, and this was the case. Orchard fruits, wheat, sheep and other shipments made the Main Street traffic stop for the trains. The small freight depot (site 39A) collected small shipments daily and ferried goods and passengers to the Union Junction.

The recession of 1893 caused local businessmen to hold onto assets even more tightly; no more significant structures were completed until the Knights of Pythias Hall (site 11), which was slow going in construction, was finally completed in 1898. Civic leaders redoubled their efforts to attract immigrants/emigrants, realizing that a number of citizens in the "too crowded" Willamette Valley, as well as Midwesterners, might be attracted to farmland and business opportunities. The city promoted the publication in 1894 of Union Through a Camera by local photographers (site 28) Charles and Amos Jones, the latter being also the editor of The Oregon Scout newspaper. The book, boasting of Union's fertile soil, temperate climate and other amenities, featured photographs of Main Street businesses and mostly north side homes (doubtless anyone who paid the participatory fee was accepted for publication...)

The most dramatic population increase came with its doubling from 800 at the time of 1878 incorporation to 1600 in 1890. Leaders of the business community such as W. T. Wright and E.H. Davis developed new enterprises and public facilities that would enhance Union's status as county seat and center of commerce for an active agricultural sector. For example, the Wright and Davis Brothers collaborated on the construction of the Union Roller Mills just east of the district, an up-to-date facility for the milling of grain and provision of farm supplies. Wheat was by now an abundant crop in the Grande Ronde Valley and teams bringing in loads of grain to be ground would be corralled in the stock pens just east of the freight

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

depot (39A).

Lewis J. Davis seemed to be in the center of local boosterism. Besides lobbying for the Agricultural Experiment Station, other activities of the civic boosters included the production of brochures for railroad agents and public inquiries, with glowing testimonials about the idyllic conditions in the Grande Ronde Valley, most specifically Union. Union Through a Camera is the prime example extant.

The new century brought a series of blows beyond the diversion of the insane asylum. The loss of the Panhandle District in 1901 to Baker County took a significant amount of supply trips from that area over to Baker City via a much improved roadway to that town. In 1904 the loss of the county seat to La Grande cast a pall over the business district. 1904 also marked the year of Union's first dealership in Maxwell automobiles. M.L. Bideler, who had run that town's most popular harness shop (site 24), had converted that space to the Grande Ronde Garage by the end of the decade. In 1910 the grand new Oregon Trail Garage (site 35B)--and its companion Chevrolet dealership--opened its doors for business. In one decade it would expand into the now-empty bank space next door (site 35A).

Will and J.F. Hutchinson, of an early ranching family with substantial holdings to both the north and south of the city, had pioneered in electric power production and distribution in Union, building the Eastern Oregon Light and Power Company facility one block west of Main Street. (This edifice is one of just three commercial buildings, including the Experiment Station office, which are not located in the proposed historic district.) They started up the Union National Bank (site 35A) in hopes of giving the Wright family's financial establishment down the street (site 27) a run for its money. But with the increase in small business vacancies, plus the loss of second-story professional offices with the move of the county seat, by 1920 they had failed to attract sufficient assets to continue operation, and the corner space it had occupied became sales and office space for the Oregon Trail Garage next door.

Among Main Street business alert to the changing times was M. E. Tseuda, the town's lone non-Caucasian proprietor, whose business (site 11) advertised his Union Restaurant weekly with an emphasis on "special attention to the commercial and auto-travel trade." It is not surprising, of course, that bankers W.T. Wright and Will Hutchinson had been among the very first in town to purchase and wrestle with the metal monsters.

The family buggy or farm wagon was still much on the streets of Union into the twenties. Through the WWI era ladies made their social calls of an afternoon by such conveyance. Whole families often strolled Main Street all the way south to the city limits as well as northward on Cove Road. Several entrepreneurs tried local delivery services when they acquired a motor powered conveyance, but these were short-lived. Grocery markets continued their free delivery, as the district's drug store (site 40) and grocery market (site 8A) still do today.

The decade after the turn of the century saw a population decline (to 1483 people in 1920) and difficulties in managing public projects. For example, construction of a new high school involved such a wrangle over location that the Oregon Supreme Court had to settle the case. When the new high school (site 25B) was finally opened in 1911, on the site of the former Courthouse, it could not be furnished for lack of funds, and classes began with secondhand desks and loaned teaching materials.

Public education was enhanced by the funding of a library for the town (site 7B) by Andrew Carnegie in 1912 just north of the Catherine Creek bridge, where the Union Women's Club had earlier operated a reading room in a small frame building on the bank of the creek for some twenty years. That facility, and later the Carnegie, stayed afloat through the prodding of businessmen by their wives for contributions toward reading materials.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Union businessmen organized the Union Improvement Club in 1911, a forerunner of the Union Commercial Club of today. Its goals were to get the road through Pyle's Canyon improved for vehicular travels and to upgrade lodging establishments, since by then only the Centennial Hotel remained as a Main Street hostelry, and it was not aging gracefully. However, these same businessmen refused an opportunity to put up \$20,000 in 1915 for a handsome expansion southward of the Wilson Building (site 37), when hotelier Julius Roesch, La Grande owner of the Sacajawea Hotel in that city, offered to do it. It would not be until work on the highway through Pyle's Canyon had commenced in 1919 to create the only paved stretch of U.S. Highway 30 (from North Powder to La Grande) between Portland and Boise, that these leaders began to undertake in earnest the construction of the Union Hotel (site 6). Again, the local business group spearheading the effort declined to pay for estimated fees and had a local contractor draw a more modest proposal up. \$20,000 in stock certificates were sold to cover the project. There were numerous delays, mostly due to contract expenditure considerations. The hotel, which is currently being restored, still has no elevator in its empty shaft.

The buildings of the secondary period in the district, other than the hotel, were of more modest architectural ambition. No more the two-story substantial brick edifices of the late nineteenth century, these were one-story boxes (both of plain stuccoed and glass embedded) stick construction.

Local business leaders rejoiced in the news of the 1927 construction of the Oregon Trail Lumber Company. The depression, of course, affected attitudes by the end of the decade. Unionites did not suffer as much as their urban brothers, however. The First National Bank of Union remained steady and solid throughout the 1930s and beyond, and attained FDIC insurance in 1934. Several small mill operators ordered wagon loads of wood hauled to town where they were unloaded on a downtown lot and men with families were allowed to cut and use or sell them. Barter became a major mode of trade and few families went truly hungry. The local fish and game warden looked the other way when over-the-limit birds or fish or out-of-season game was taken. The U.S. Forest Service Union Ranger District oversaw a fence building project in 1931 that employed 30 family men.

As the automobile continued to siphon trade to La Grande, the Commercial Club used the 1934 year to plan and mount a "trade at home" drive, with a publicity campaign that culminated with a trade show. A lavish dinner at the Union Hotel was followed by a style show and a "home products" display at the high school gymnasium. Exhibits were produced by the Eastern Oregon Experiment Station, Coles Bakery, Burk Cleaners, Tony D. Smith (postmaster, broker and manager of Union Produce and Commission Company), Union Drug Company, Blue Mountain Creamery, Irvin Dairy, Union Cooperative Creamery, E. L. Griggs Dairy, Delaney Auto Services, Hutchinson Service Station, Stevens Greenhouse, Cock Brothers (furniture and undertaking) N.P. Woods (dry goods) Spears and Reuter Hardware (Spears having a more long-term association with the Union Roller Mills), Orton Blacksmith Shop, American Legion Post #50, Haggerty Grocery, Marten's Grocery, Oasis Theater, State Game Commission, Eastern Oregon Meat Company, Standard Oil Company, and Eastern Oregon Light and Power Company.

When the Eastern Oregon Experiment Station had opened in 1901, agriculture was king in the community's economy. Alfalfa hay, wheat and especially livestock constituted large ranching operations. Union was also encircled by a veritable green belt of orchards begun by such pioneer orchard men as Conrad Miller. The Union County Agricultural Association had been organized in 1876 with Unionites Samuel Hannah and Thomas Baird pushing its formalization. Its chief objective was to provide for the holding of an annual fair. The society held some successful events during the years which followed and encouraged the up-to-date breeding of fine cattle and horses. It was also utilized association dues to support promotional advertisements as to the resources and possibilities of the county.

At the turn of the century leaders of the (Mormon) Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints arrived

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

to investigate farming possibilities for a pioneer nucleus of members who would become the first satellite of the church in the state of Oregon. They were keenly interested in the cultivation of sugar beets north of Union as well as in establishing a wards (parishes) in the valley. They presented the first (of several) proposals to dam Catherine Creek. Although group had persistent legal representation, it successfully contested by those farms and ranchers further up the creek who held pioneer water rights.

The Eastern Oregon Livestock Show, which began in 1908, was an outgrowth of the county agricultural association's activity. This, the oldest livestock show and rodeo in the Pacific Northwest, was backed by commercial district business owners who publicized it in its early years by gathering up an automobile entourage and journeying in a tour around the valley and further afield to Baker City. (In the first few years less than half the cars could complete the journey, some having to be towed home.)

The show, which just celebrated its 90th year, no longer features the more dangers events, such as the chariot race, in which local contestants reveled.. But FFA and 4-H members from throughout Eastern Oregon present their animals for judging and auction, carrying on the spirit of the original show.

Sheep as well as cattle still figured prominently in the secondary (as well as the primary) period of Union's history. The WWI years had been a boon for sheep growers as well as horsemen, the latter of whom furnished animals for the cavalry as well as for food and other uses. By the 1930s sheep were still grazed in significant numbers, as evidenced by Union Pacific agent Newell West's 1933 report, accounting for the following loads going out at the Junction: Sheep, 89 cars; cattle, 18 cars; horses, two cars; mixed stock, two cars; wheat, 27 cars; barley 3 cars; flour one car (most of the local mill's output at this point in time was being sold to locals and local stores at the mill);lumber, 42 cars; prunes, 14 cars; apples, two cars; potatoes, one car; and cherries, two cars.

The orchards surrounding the town, as well as the fruit packing sheds west and north of the district, provided seasonal employment. Locals tended to work in the packing sheds, as well as to pick fruit. By the 1950s and 1960s migrant crews were providing the picking labor for the remaining fruit orchards. Today, only a very few remnants of those old orchards remain. The last 15 years have been the most dramatic decimation as housing developments on the west side of town have encroached on aging orchards.

As it did elsewhere, the onset of WWI ultimately proved a boost to Union's economy. A number of second-story professionals in the commercial district had either left town or established a second office elsewhere to which they eventually removed. The war spread a fervor of patriotism and numerous Victory Bond drives and Red Cross projects were undertaken. Carloads of flour left town to meet a government demands. In July 1915 S. E. Miller took advantage of skyrocketing lamb sales to offer up a batch of 2,000 "hothouse " lambs @ \$4.30 per head, not only the highest price in years, but more than a dollar higher than just the previous season.

Through 1917 and 1918 the children of Union saved fruit pits-an ultimate recycling segment of the processing of the Italian plum harvest (ultimately dried for prunes). Elderly Unionites who had seen few if any motion pictures flocked to the Cozy (Oasis) Theater (site 7A) to see reels shot at various war fronts and hear the accompanying lecturer. At the beginning of 1918, 133 Union men were serving in the armed forces.

In 1918 the Spanish influenza epidemic kept locals out of the theater as well as schools and some businesses. Locals of a certain vintage vividly remember the celebration in the streets of Union when the Kaiser abdicated and the armistice was signed by Germany. Crowds flocked to Main Street. Everything from dishpans to firecrackers were used to celebrate the moment. Church bells pealed on and on. The lumber mill whistles blew, as did the steam locomotive, until they were all out of steam. An effigy of

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

the Kaiser was burned with great rejoicing, and after what seemed to those youngsters a very long time the exhausted crowd went home.

Besides the autos making regular trails down Main Street, on the farm gasoline power was slowly making an inroad as threshing teams gave way to threshing machines. The jumble of outbuildings on the farm housing a variety of horse-power implements would remain in the vicinity for some time to come, but in some cases a tractor was no being stored in one of the sheds.

With the ascendance of horsepower over horse, there came a shifting of the influence of the larger ranchers to the lumber mill owners and operators. The Union Pine Lumber Company, dating from the 1890s and situated on a 30-acre site west of the district, had come through the war years having to travel father and father for timber. By the end of 1919 it was advertising "TEAMS WANTED. \$5.00 PER THOUSAND FOR 9-MILE HAUL GREEN TIMBER, AND \$4.00 PER HAUL FOR DRY LUMBER. TEAMS make from \$10 to \$14 per day: At this point the days were past when this then-largest mill in town could move its portable sawmills a mile or two seasonally in search of substantial harvestable timber.

Milling progress was tied to highway and forest road construction, enabling logs to be brought to central milling and shipping facilities. After the completion of the Old Oregon Trail Highway segment in 1921, the railroad was used mainly for shipping cut lumber out and heating coal in. Men who had been hauling by individual team and wagon soon lost out to those who pooled resources to buy primitive log trucks or set up their own "gyppo" operations in the woods.

Alma Hess and his sons Leland and G. I(rwin) had been engaged in the lumber business for some 20 years when they purchased acreage on the opposite side of town from the Union Pine Lumber Company, just off the banks of Catherine Creek where they set up operation as the Oregon Trail Lumber Company. Local business had worked at encouraging the Hess venture, though there is no evidence of monetary inducement. G.I. Hess became president of the Union Commercial Club in this period and encouraged many of its ventures, including the donation of land for a substantial new LDS (Mormon) Church chapel and gymnasium on north Main Street in 1937, as well as contributions by local businessmen. Hess also owned the Oregon Trail Garage (site 35B).

The 18-ton boiler for the Hess mill was set on its foundation and the band sawmill went into place for the May 1927 opening. While its components were purchased secondhand from closed mills in Michigan and Wisconsin, W.A. Maxwell, who was to be foreman, pronounced the used machinery to be "in fine condition; it will outlast the big timber belt adjacent to town."

Less than a year later logs rolling into the mill (on the "big" new trucks purchased by the Hesses) included four trips daily from east of Telocaset to the south, four trips daily from up Catherine Creek, and four trips daily coming in from High Valley to the northeast. A significant contributor to the Main Street economy was the weekly shopping excursions made by millworker families from Pondosa, some 20 miles to the southeast, where the Collins Lumber Company operated a company town as well as mill, with 263 full-time employees in 1931, plus a number of seasonal employees in the fruit box factory. Through the early 1930s a five-mile road was cut out up Big Creek to tap a 20-year-cut of timber for this mill. Baker City businesses made trade in their town --equidistant to the mill as Union--an hospitable experience, but the Pondosa folks plus Forest Service trade in Union was important through this secondary period.

With the closing of the Pondosa mill in 1957 (its holdings purchased by Boise Cascade), a significant loss to the Union commercial district was felt. Neighboring Cove, which had been an early supporter of the Union business district until the loss of the Cove-Union rail line in 1924 and concomitant increases in auto travel across the valley to La Grande, has had a modest renaissance in the last five or so

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

years as Cove residents utilize such services as the local florist shop, drugstore, food markets, medical clinic and video store,

The Oregon Trail Lumber Company closed at virtually the same time as the Pondsosa mill, with local men (and some Pondsosans) taking up the commute to Boise Cascade's La Grande mill, where the vast majority of Unionites now commute to jobs not only at the mill, but also at Eastern Oregon State University, Grande Ronde Hospital, Union Pacific Railroad, and clerical support positions in smaller businesses.

A housing boomlet in Union in the 1970s increased housing stock and stimulated the economy of downtown to a certain degree. However, the decrease in some federal programs left several developers with unsold lots which ultimately housed single-width mobile homes throughout the city. Later additions have been double-wide models. The consolidation of the USFS Union Ranger District with La Grande and the closing of the Ronde Valley Lumber Company in 1982 (formerly the Union White Pine Lumber Company) hurt local business. Later housing stock in the resurging 90s tends to be manufactured homes delivered to the site; a stick-built house is a relatively rare exception. More multi-generational living arrangements are being taken and "mother-in-law" apartments carved into existing homes. Retirees make up an increasing number of the population, which has climbed back to nearly 2000, with the school-aged population relatively stable.

The 1990s have been a virtual turnover in business ownerships from the 70s and 80s, with the retirements of long-term resident/owners and a modest influx of both women entrepreneurs and non-resident owners. "Re:Union, a community response team" developed from the citizenry at large, has developed a community strategic plan with the assistance of Rural Development Initiatives of Oregon. A number of the plan's goals have been realized and more are being implemented. A preschool has been located in the high school to afford student work experience. Acquisition of a major ranching exhibit from the "Cowboys Then & Now" Museum in Portland has been awarded to the museum (sites 26 and 27), which has also constructed a new reception room and courtyard and is expanding both exhibit and storage space. An athletic complex is underway on old mill site property, the health clinic is working toward a larger (new) facility on Main Street (within the district) and a wastewater utilization project and golf course are on the drawing board.

Finally, a foundation of community heritage and commercial vigor is being laid with the revitalization of the downtown district, whose critical mass of historic structures and their preservation are key to Union's economic health and cultural identity.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 9

Page 1

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Section 10

Page 1

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION OF THE UNION MAIN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

ALL SITUATE IN THE CITY OF UNION, UNION COUNTY, OREGON:

ON UNION COUNTY ASSESSOR'S TAX LOT MAP NO. 4S 40 18CC

Beginning at the NE corner of lot 1, block 2 of the North Union Addition (tax lot 2200 map 4S 40 18CC) thence west 100 feet to the east lot line of lot 8, block 2 (tax lot 2600), thence south to the north midpoint of lot 5, block 1 (tax lot 2900), thence west 100 feet to the NW corner of the same lot, thence south along the west lot lines of lots 5,6,7,and 8 of block 1(tax lots 2900, 2800, 2700) to the NW corner of tax lot 4800, thence west 260 feet to the NW corner of tax lot 4700, thence south 230 feet, thence west 60 feet, thence south to Catherine Creek crossing Catherine Creek thence southwesterly along the south bank of Catherine Creek to the NW point of tax lot 5301 and continuing to the NW point of lot 5600, thence south 240 feet to SW corner of tax lot 5600 on the north side of Arch Street, thence east 160 feet;

ON UNION COUNTY ASSESSOR'S TAX LOT MAP NO. 4S40 19BB AND IN WEST UNION ADDITION

thence south crossing Arch Street to the NW corner of lot 1, Block 1, West Union Addition (tax lot 100 map 4S40 19BB), thence south along the west lot lines of lots 1,2,3,and 4 of Block 1 (tax lots 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, and 600), crossing Beakman Street at NW corner of lot 1 of Block 10, thence south along the west lot lines of lots 1,2,3,and 4 of Block 10 (tax lots 4400, 4600, and 4700) crossing Center Street to the NW corner of lot 1, Block 11, thence south along west lot lines of lots 1,2,3, and 4 of Block 11 (tax lots 5400, 5500, 5600, and 5700) crossing Dearborn Street to the NW corner of lot 1 Block 20 (entering tax lot 7900), thence south along the east lot lines of lots 1,2,3,and 4 of Block 20, crossing the vacated Electric Street right-of-way, to the NW corner of lot 1 Block 21, thence west 110 feet to the NW corner of lot 8 Block 21, thence south along the west lot lines of lots 5,6,7,and 8 of Block 21, thence east 210 feet (along north side of Fulton Street);

ON UNION COUNTY ASSESSOR'S TAX MAP NO. 40 4S 19BA IN THE ORIGINAL PLAT OF UNION

continuing across Main Street to the SW corner of lot 4 Block 1 of the Union Subdivision (tax lot 8200 map 40 4S 19 BA), thence North 620 feet along the west lot line of lots 1,2,3, and 4 in Block 21 crossing Electric Street, lots 1,2,3, and 4 of Block 20, crossing Dearborn Street and lots 3 and 4 of Block 11, to the southwest corner of lot 2 Block 11; thence west 100 feet along the south lot line of lot 2 Block 11, thence north 100 feet along the east lot lines lots 1 and 2 Block 11 (tax lots 4400, 4300, and 4200) crossing Center Street to the SE corner of lot 4 Block 10, thence north 200 feet along the east lot lines of lots 1,2,3,and 4 ob Block 10

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

(tax lots 1200, 1401, 1400, 1500, and 1600) crossing Beakman Street to the SE corner of lot 4 Block 1, thence east 90 feet along the south line of lot 5 Block 1 (tax lot 1000), crossing College Avenue to the SW corner of lot 4 Block 2, thence east 100 feet along the south lot line of lot 4, thence north 200 feet along the east lot line of lots 1, 2, 3, and 4 Block 2 (tax lot 400), thence east approximately 35 feet along the north lot line of lot 8 Block 2;

ON UNION COUNTY ASSESSOR'S MAP 4S40 18BC

thence north crossing Arch Street to the SE corner of tax lot 4600 continuing north 41 feet along the east lot line of tax lot 4600 to the southern most point of tax lot 4402 and continuing north 153 feet more or less to the south bank of Catherine Creek, thence east 157 feet more or less to the west line of Bellwood Street, thence north crossing Catherine Creek, thence west following the north bank of Catherine Creek to Main Street, thence north along the west lines of tax lots 4300, 4200, 4100, 3400, 3400A1, to the and crossing Ash Street to the SE corner of lot 3300 in Block 3 of the McCully Addition; thence east 125 feet more or less to the SW corner of lot 330 Block 3, thence north 100 feet to the south line of lot 3101 in Block 3, thence 35 feet to the SE corner of tax lot 3101, thence north 160 feet crossing Birch Street, thence west 15 feet more or less to the SE corner of tax lot 1500, thence north 100 feet, thence west 135 to the east line of Main Street, thence south 50 feet along the west line of lot 1500, thence west 60 feet crossing Main Street to the point of beginning.

Section 10

Page 2

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the Union Main Street Historic District is designed to include as many contiguous properties retaining their historic integrity as possible. The historic district does focus primarily on historic commercial property. However, a small rural community commercial district does not exist without an adjoining residential area. Several residential structures, representing the living quarters of the merchants adjoining the commercial area, are included. Much intrusion and change has occurred outside the established boundary and, at this time, it would not represent the primary commercial period.