

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Twin Falls Historic Preservation Commission

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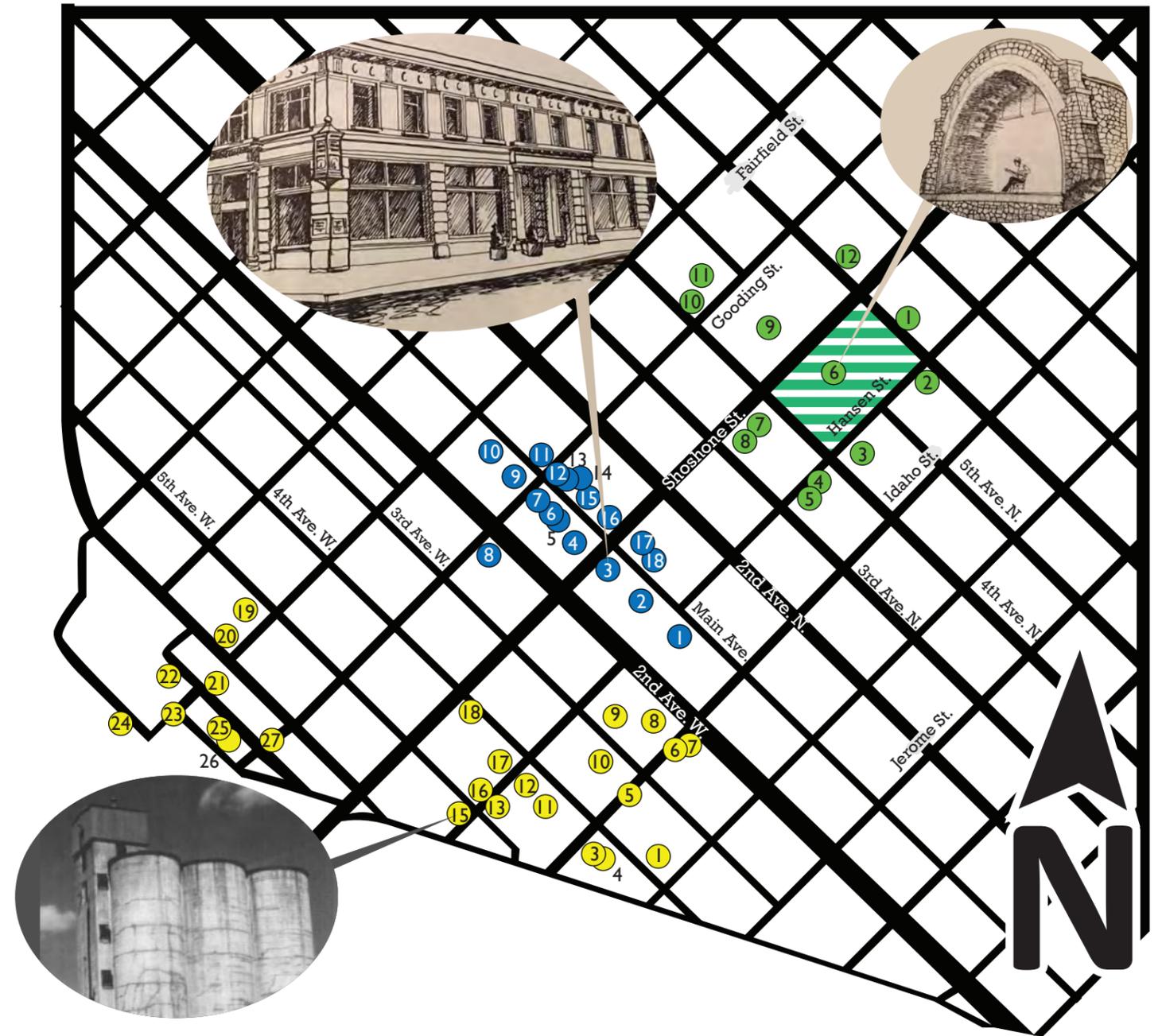
This brochure is based on information from the National Register of Historical Places nomination for Twin Falls Warehouse Historic District listed in 1978, 1996, and 2000.

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# CITY OF TWIN FALLS

## Historic Properties



**●** The warehouse district grew along with the city. As farmers distributed more crops and dairy products, they needed buildings to store their goods. This district has some of the largest buildings downtown Twin Falls, including the Twin Falls Milling and Elevator Company, which could hold 250,000 bushels (over 2.3 million gallons) of produce. Even today, many of the warehouses are still being used and some serve as part of the city's nightlife.

**●** Located between Shoshone and Hansen Streets, as well as 4th and 6th Avenues, the city park has hosted local activities for over 100 years. The park was designed by E. L. Masqueray, who also designed the original town hall. With the park intended to be the focal point of Twin Falls, early residents worked tirelessly to establish the trees. These were watered by hand from four blocks away. Surrounded by buildings no higher than three stories (primarily dating back to 1909 and 1920), the environment retains much of its original charm and character.

**●** Between the city's founding in 1904 and today, Twin Falls has expanded to become a center for business, entertainment, and living for over 60,000 people. One of Idaho's fastest-growing cities, it is expected to continue to boom for many years to come.

Interest in irrigating the area began to develop in the 1880s. After a major infusion of capital from Frank H. Buhl in January of 1903, the Twin Falls Land and Water Company signed a contract with the State Land Board to provide irrigation, who needed a town to guarantee the permanence of the irrigation project. The Perrine and Burton, a general store, was the first building completed on July 23, 1904, and Twin Falls village was incorporated less than a year later in April of 1905.

## WAREHOUSE DISTRICT

### **1. Twin Falls Milling and Elevator Company “Silos”**

516 Hansen St. South  
Seven stories high, these six concrete grain elevators once provided the largest storage between Denver and Portland.

### **2. Twin Falls Milling and Elevator Company Warehouse**

Part of the silos, this building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1995. While it stored a large variety of agricultural products, it was best known for its flour.

### **3. Simpson and Company**

161 Fifth Ave. S.  
Once the largest wholesale grocery stores in South Idaho, it was sold to Gem State Paper in 1941, whose name can still be seen on the side.

### **4. Warehouses (unknown)**

203 and 215-227 Fifth Ave. S.  
While the original owners are unknown, these buildings have housed the M. and R. Pink Firm, the Ford Transfer and Storage Company, the Zions Wholesale Grocery.

### **5. Intermountain Seed and Fuel Company**

403-407 Shoshone Ave. S.  
While its past is obscure, records show that it probably was a storage for Aberdeen Coal.

### **6. Warberg Transfer and Storage**

156 Fourth Ave. S.  
Originally owned by William Warberg in 1905 as a hauling business, it was later sold to his partner, Carl Benson.

### **7. Globe Seed and Feed Company**

220-288 Fourth Ave. S.  
Besides the Swift Building, all the buildings on this half-block are associated with the Globe business. In its day, Globe was the largest shipper of seed grains in Idaho. This certain warehouse handled a variety of crops from apples to onions until it closed in the mid-1950s.

### **8. Swift and Company Poultry and Creamery**

240-248 Fourth Ave. S.  
One of the only “fireproof” buildings in the district, this multi-faceted company sold both dairy and poultry products, offering its goods year-round.

### **9. Gibbs Bean Elevator**

337-343 Idaho St. S.  
With its distinctive curved roof, this building housed Gibbs Bean in 1937, owned by L. E. Gibbs.

### **10. Southern Idaho Wholesale Grocery**

302-322 Fourth Ave. S.  
Associated with German immigrant Harder Frederick Harder, this building specialized in potatoes, onions, beans, apples, berries, eggs, and honey.

### **11. Idaho Wholesale Grocery**

328 Fourth Ave. S.  
Originally housing the Idaho Wholesale Grocery, it was later sold to Scowcroft and Sons, a Utah wholesale firm from the Intermountain West.

### **12. Bean Growers Warehouse Association**

324-362 Fourth Ave. S.  
By 1954, the association had seven warehouses throughout the area, and “Bean Growers Warehouse” can still be seen near the top on the building’s east side.

### **13. W. P. Haney Bean Warehouse**

341-353 Fourth Ave. S.  
First mentioned in the city’s 1939 directories, this is credited with providing the garden bean and pea industry in the Magic Valley.

### **14. Self Manufacturing**

248 Third Ave. S.  
Starting as a blacksmith shop in 1910, it later progressed into providing farm machinery.

### **15. Coca-Cola**

242 Second Ave. S.  
According to a local citizen, this one-story brick building was originally associated with the Self Manufacturing Company.

### **16. Santo Guisasola Bilbao House**

302 Second Ave. S.  
Originally owned by Spanish immigrant Santo Guisasola in 1937, the boarding house was later owned by Ernest Bengochea.

### **17. Nibley-Channel Lumber Company**

221-245 Idaho St. S.  
Serving as the city’s first post office, it later became the Nibley-Channel Lumber Company.

### **18. Wagner Transportation**

560 Fairfield St. W.  
Originally established in 1936 to transport livestock, this building maintained a high degree of physical integrity within the district.  
19. Twin Falls Street Dept. Garage

### **205 Sixth Ave. W.**

This one-story structure is unusual due to its use of stone, lending it a more elaborate appearance, as well as its curved roofline.

### **20. Ford Transfer and Storage**

217 Wall St.  
Formerly owned by Consolidated Wagon and Machine Company (1911), this one-story brick warehouse had also housed Gibbs Bean (see #9) before Ford Transfer and Storage occupied it in 1942.

### **21. Falk Wholesale Company**

233 Wall St.  
With its lava rock construction and high-pitched gable roof, this is one the most unusual structures in the district. A great view of this building can be seen from the south side, across the railroad tracks.

### **22. Jerome Cooperative Creamery**

659-720 Fairfield St. W.  
The creamery let farmers bring milk and cream and trade them for processed dairy products such as ice cream and cheese. It eventually sold to the Challenge Corp. in the 1930s. The building currently houses a refrigeration repair shop and furniture store.

### **23. Jerome Cooperative Creamery Whey Processing Plant**

702 Bridge St.  
This structure is one of the largest in the district. Constructed around 1930, it now houses an agricultural chemical research company.

## CITY PARK DISTRICT

### **1. St. Edward’s Catholic Church**

139 Sixth Ave. E.  
Going northeast from the bandshell lies St. Edward’s Catholic Church, built in 1921 by local architect Ernest H. Gates. One of the best examples of the Renaissance revival style, it is distinguished by its two 75-foot bell towers, terra cotta exterior, and scagliola ornamented interior.

### **2. Lester T. Wright Residence**

210 Sixth Ave. E.  
Built in 1909, this seven-room, brick bungalow became the offices for Dr. Lamb in the 1920s. Since World War II, it has been used as a law office.

### **3. Twin Falls Public Library**

Corner of Hansen St. E. and 5th Ave. E.  
The library is a classically inspired brick building, constructed in 1939. While it has undergone several expansions on its south side, the original building can still be seen.

### **4. Dr. J. N. Davis Residence**

204 4th Ave. E.  
Built in 1938, this pueblo-style building was meant to be both an office and home to J. N. Davis. Unique among the other houses, this building has a flat roof and a row of projector tiles simulating extended roof beams, more commonly found in southwest architecture.

### **5. The American Legion Hall**

324 Hansen St. E.  
Distinguished by its brickwork, this one-story building served as an armory and community hall in addition to housing the American Legion.

### **6. The Park and Lava Rock Bandshell**

The most striking feature is the bandshell, built in the early 1930s. It hosts many events annually, most notably the Twin Falls Municipal Band concerts every Thursday evening in the summer. The first of these performances was on July 4, 1906.

### **7. The Methodist Church**

360 Shoshone St. E.  
Made in the Gothic style, this building displays beautiful stained-glass windows. Originally made with brick in 1908, it acquired its current form when remodeled in 1916 by architect B. Morgan Nesbit.

### **8. The Rex Arms Apartment Building**

312 Shoshone St. E.  
This 1918 neo-classical building was designed by Burton E. Morse, Twin Falls’ pioneer architect.

### **9. Twin Falls County Courthouse**

425 Shoshone St. N.  
Made from yellow brick and supported by stone columns, this three-story, neo-classical building from the early 1900s was once the tallest in Twin Falls. It also boasted of having the city’s first elevator. The building’s original mahogany and oak interior is still intact and was designed by local architect C. Harvey Smith.

### **10. Justamere Inn**

401 Gooding St. N.  
This former inn opened in 1910. It had 35 bedrooms, a dining hall that could seat 50 people, and a reception hall. In 1979, it was converted into an office building.

### **11. The Presbyterian Church**

209 Fifth Ave. N.  
Built in 1906, this church displays square columns over the entrance, presenting a graceful appearance. The dome was favored by John Visser, who designed another dome for the Methodist church two years later.

### **12. The First Christian Church**

601 Shoshone St. N.  
This 1929 church was designed by Taymond Hatch. It features two long staircases, a pediment portico with Doric columns, and supporting gables over the southern entrances.

## DOWNTOWN DISTRICT

### **1. 202 Main Ave. S.**

This business was started in 1919 by Claude Brown, who opened a music company at 143 Main Ave. E. Appliances, furniture, and draperies were added, though the appliances were dropped after World War II.

### **2. 144 Main Ave. S.**

A city landmark for over 65 years, it was first purchased in 1941 by S. Leslie Crowley.

### **3. 102 Main Ave. S.**

Originally a retail business, this building was sold to Twin Falls Bank and Trust in 1908. Under Harry Eaton and Curtis Turner, it was the only bank in the city to survive the Crash of 1929.

### **4. 113 Main Ave. W.**

Originally the Perrine Hotel, this building was sold to its current owners in 2003.

### **5. 139 Main Ave. W.**

This building boasts of being the oldest family-owned drug store in town under David Nelson.

### **6. 147 Main Ave. W.**

This building was sold to Rudy Ashenbrenner in 1947, whose son, Tom, changed from hardware to cooking supplies.

### **7. 155 Main Ave. W.**

This building housed *The Twin Falls News* in 1904. The town wasn’t even a year old.

### **8. 163 Second Ave. W.**

Built in 1909, this building housed the Twin Falls Canal Company until its relocation in 1993.

### **9. 201 Main Ave. W.**

Built in 1917, this building was originally the post office. After they relocated to Second Ave. W., this building became the headquarters of the T. F. School District Administration.

### **10. 241 Main Ave. W.**

Built in 1940 by Florence Gardener, this building featured well-known bands like Tommy Dorsey, Glenn Miller, and Lawrence Welk. In 2002, it was purchased and restored by two local businessmen.

### **11. 204 Main Ave. W.**

This building was owned by Consolidated Wagon & Machine Co. in 1909, and after World War II, Detweiler Brothers (a heating, refrigeration, and plumbing business) bought and remodeled it. It was last an appliance and home furnishing store under Elvis Cain in 1963, though now it is closed to the public.

### **12. 167 Main Ave. W.**

This 1908 building originally housed Twin Falls Light and Power before they moved in 1916. The Boy Scouts also used it for a number of years.

### **13. 156 Main Ave. N.**

From 1920 to 1930, this building served as Tom Koto’s Café. After World War II, his sons reopened the business at 147 Shoshone St. N., continuing to serve the city’s residents for another 23 years.

### **14. 146 Main Ave. N.**

Built in 1921 by the Twin Falls Amusement Company, this famous theater is a common favorite among the city’s residents. Before “talkies” in 1929, an eight-piece orchestra played for major movies. Famous march king John Phillip Sousa performed with his orchestra here in 1924, who also worked with the local high school band during the afternoon of their evening performance.

### **15. 124 Main Ave. N.**

Earl Falkner owned this building from 1952 to 1990. It was a common place for women buying outfits, and Mr. Falkner was a tireless fundraiser for the College of Southern Idaho. He was largely responsible for the college’s planetarium, and so CSI named the building after him. After his death in 2001 at the age of 89, he left his estate to CSI, and so the building currently houses a variety of businesses.

### **16. 102 Main Ave. N.**

Built in 1916 by a pharmacist from Shoshone. He affiliated with Walgreen’s Drug Store and included a soda fountain. It became Dunkin’s Draught House in 1990.

### **17. 103 Main Ave. E.**

Perrine owned this building in 1904 as the First National Bank. It later became the Fidelity National Bank in 1935, who then sold it to Key Bank.

### **18. 117 Main Ave. E.**

Built by Harder F. Harder as a bakery, it later became Bainbridge Grocery; the volunteer-run Idaho Free Traveling Library started in the second floor over the store.