

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

NOMINATION: (TOURTELLOTTE AND HUMMEL ARCHITECTURE ~~IN IDAHO~~ TR)

✓ SITE NAME: Ake, F. P., Building 12 SITE NUMBER: 91

✓ LOCATION: 160-72 Main Street, Mountain Home, Elmore County (~~039~~), Idaho ~~83647~~

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

James W. Jones  
1107 Maple Drive  
Mountain Home, ID 83647

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Mountain Home North, 7.5 minute ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

This nomination includes the F. P. Ake Building and the property on which it stands, lots 8 and 9, block 2, Mountain Home townsite. Legal description on file at the Elmore County Courthouse, Mountain Home, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/5,06,270/47,75,980

DATE OR PERIOD: 1916

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: fair unaltered original site

DESCRIPTION:

The F. P. Ake Building is one of two surviving facades among a series of eight storefronts for five clients, designed and built by Tourtellotte and Hummel in 1916. Another section of the original block, the Eckstein and Greebe storefronts survives in more fragmentary form at the other end of the row. The Ake store buildings are a fifty-foot frontage including the third through fifth doors from the top of the row, a double storefront on the left and a single one on the right. The structure is rough uncoursed stone with a facade of very finely dressed stone block. The double and single fronts are framed and separated by smooth pilasters of this material, which terminate in narrow capitals at the level of the top of the mezzanine lights. Centered above the capitals on the smooth facade are long, narrow, lateral rectangles formed of outset strips of stone, one long coffer above the double front and one shorter one above the single front. A small stone cornice is outset above the coffers and below the parapeted roofline. The parapet is flat and finished with a smooth coping, broken at the corners and two-thirds of the way along its length by blocky capital-like forms cresting at intervals corresponding to the pilasters below.

The actual shopfronts framed by the stone facades have been subjected to some surface alteration. The mezzanine lights of the single-width front at right have been screened, as have the lower thirds of the display windows on both fronts. Originally these were full depth over shallow marble base plates. But the disposition of elements is intact and probably represents reglazing and screening rather than remodeling. There is a transomed door at left and at right of center in the double front and centered in the single one. There are mezzanine bands above an outset stone strip at the top of the display windows. The mezzanine lights are still exposed on the double front.

#### SIGNIFICANCE:

The Ake building in Mountain Home is architecturally significant on two levels. Individually it is a relatively well-preserved and restorable commercial building of handsome proportions and materials, which shows the firm's simplification and geometricization of basically classical forms and which relates to several others done in larger Idaho towns about this time. It is also significant as a remnant of a uniquely ambitious building project which filled the better part of a city block in Mountain Home with matching one-story buildings for five different clients.

The very smoothly dressed stone facade, here used as a veneer for the rough native lava structural material, is very reminiscent of the firm's R. H. Johnson garage, built in Boise in 1915 (National Register, Boise Historic District, 1977). A closely related design appeared in Nampa in 1919, in the E. H. Dewey stores (site 98). These bland, symmetrical, geometrically embellished buildings, often with a large indented pediment-like form at cornice line, are representative of a much simplified and stylized classicism that would be standard in the commercial work of the firm at least through the 1930s.

The Ake building is nominated here as the remnant of the series best retaining individual integrity of appearance. The storefront is only superficially screened, and the flat-corniced double facade makes a handsome and balanced architectural statement on its own. Several different contractors executed different parts of the series; C. R. Emmett took the contract on the Ake building, for a 1916 price of \$4,109.

#### MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Boise, Idaho. Hummel Jones Miller Hunsucker P.A. File 241A. Certificate, collection and selected accounts book references 1916-17. Frederick Hummel retrospective file. Tracings signed Tourtellotte and Hummel.