

PH 0662844

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED FEB 13 1978  
DATE ENTERED JAN 12 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Vollmer Building

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Walnut Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Genesee

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Idaho

CODE 16

COUNTY Latah

CODE 059 87

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER: Fire Dept

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Genesee Volunteer Fire Department and Shirley Cromer

STREET & NUMBER Walnut Street

CITY, TOWN

Genesee

VICINITY OF

STATE Idaho

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Latah County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER Sixth and Adams

CITY, TOWN

Moscow

STATE Idaho

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Idaho State Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1972

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Idaho State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Boise

STATE Idaho

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT

GOOD

FAIR

DETERIORATED

RUINS

UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED

ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE

MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Vollmer block is a two-story brick commercial building which is distinguished by its factory-made second story galvanized iron facade. A pointed bay window dominates the metal front and is flanked on either side by three sash windows. Pairs of Corinthian pilasters demarcate the bays. The building terminates with a denticulated cornice with ornate bandings above and below.

The first story has been greatly altered to accommodate the needs of the volunteer fire department, by the placement of engine entries in the facade.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1892

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

J. J. Shepherd

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Vollmer building is architecturally significant for its iron front, one of the most elaborate in Idaho. It was manufactured by Mesker Brothers of St. Louis, a firm which distributed half a million mail order catalogs annually in the Western states to advertise its pre-fabricated store fronts. A total of ten similar fronts were sold in Idaho. Only three survive.

John P. Vollmer, a Lewiston merchant, erected this building to house his wide ranging wholesale and retail grocery business at a time when Genesee was an important rail terminus. A dance hall originally occupied the second floor. The Pastime Cafe and volunteer fire department now use this building, which still retains its architectural character in spite of changes required for adaptive use.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Genesee News, August 5, 1892, p. 3, c. 4; August 26, 1892, p. 3, c. 3;  
 December 9, 1892, p. 3, c. 3.  
 J. M. Neil, Saints and Oddfellows (Boise Gallery of Art, 1976), p. 38.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre.

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 1	5 0 6 0 4 0	5 1 5 5 0 6 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This property includes the Vollmer Building and the land it stands on.

This land is presently owned by the Genesee Volunteer Fire Department and Shirley Cromer.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Don Hibbard, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Idaho State Historical Society

DATE

8 February 1978

STREET & NUMBER

610 North Julia Davis Drive

TELEPHONE

384-2120

CITY OR TOWN

Boise

STATE

Idaho

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Merle Wells*

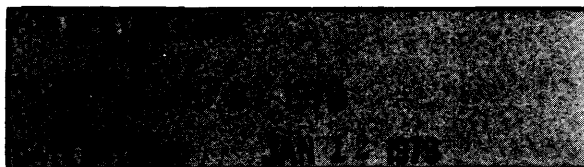
TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 8 February 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE 11/12/79
ATTEST: <i>William Lebowitz</i>	<del>KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER</del>
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE 1/10/78

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 & 8 PAGE 1

Vollmer Building

7. The most striking feature of the Vollmer building is the galvanized iron facade, a product of Mesker Brothers of St. Louis. The original description discusses its architectural features in the language and limited terminology available in Blumenson. The photograph itself reveals the numerous design motifs which the Mesker Brothers employed, which do not appear anywhere in Blumenson.

The building is a brick rectangle and features a flat roof. Both were common design elements of commercial buildings of the period in Idaho. Brick was a rather favorite material in most of the state due to its reputation for retarding conflagrations.

As noted in the original description the first story's facade has been extensively remodeled to provide for the building's adaptive use by the Genesee Fire Department. The only element of the 1892 building which remains intact is the pilaster at the east corner, clearly visible in the photograph. Except for this solitary pilaster the first story is not original, nor is the shed roof extending from the facade.

8. As noted already in the original statement of significance the Vollmer building is significant as one of three extant galvanized iron fronts in Idaho. Hope that is concise enough for you.

The iron front was a popular western motif as it was fireproof and provided a means to create iconographically "instant civilization." Many of these magnificent fronts have been destroyed and none in Idaho compare with the condition of this second story.

As to the building's commercial significance please consult the enclosed biographies of John P. Vollmer, which were pilfered from the pages of Hiram T. French's History of Idaho, v. III, pp. 1006-1008, Chicago, 1914 and An Illustrated History of North Idaho, Western Historical Publishing Co., 1903. The latter displays an engraving of Vollmer on the frontispiece facing the title page. Both contain more information than I would ever care to know with regard to Mr. Vollmer. If you wish you might ~~wish to~~ add literary significance to the nomination after reading French's account, I deign not to do so.