

BUILDING #5: Minden Butter Manufacturing Company

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Acreage: Less than one acre
Location: 1617 Water Street
City: Minden State: Nevada County: Douglas County

Current Owner: Bentley - Nevada Company
Address: P.O. Box 157, Minden, Nevada

Data Prepared by: Douglas County Planning Department
Address: Minden, Nevada

Property Information

Original Use: Food Processing plant
Present Use: Offices/Light Manufacturing
Condition: Good
Architect: Frederick J. DeLongchamps
Builder: unknown
Construction/Modification: 1916/c.1970
Building type: Commercial
Style: Utilitarian

Physical Description

The Minden Butter Manufacturing Company was constructed in 1916 by H.F. Dangberg, Jr. as a butter processing plant. The structure was designed by prominent Nevada Architect Frederick J. DeLongchamps and is one of five major commercial and public buildings designed by the architect in Minden between 1900-1920. Built as a food processing plant, the building now serves as a light manufacturing plant for Bentley-Nevada Company. The building retains its overall architectural integrity and is currently used as offices for the Bentley-Nevada Company.

The Minden Butter Manufacturing Company occupies a corner lot in the commercial district of Minden bounded by Sixth and Water Streets. The building lot is minimally landscaped and includes a south, black-topped parking area and foundation plantings.

The one-story, masonry building is rectangular in plan and supported by a concrete foundation. The asymmetrical structure is faced in locally fired, red brick and rises to a flat roof. The building's roof is hidden by a low parapet incorporating a concrete cap course. The principal, (south) elevation includes a two-story, gable roof. This parapet includes a simple, molded concrete cornice and decorative brick-work.

A prominent belt course separates the foundation from first floor. Entrance doors are located on either side of the two-story parapet. These entries are enframed by double, brick pilasters and a simple molded cornice.

Building windows are fixed, single pane, plate glass units enframed in simple brick surrounds. These units were installed C. 1970 when the building was converted to offices. Original windows were one-light-over-one-light, double hung units which occupied the same openings.

A two-story, corrugated metal, industrial building is attached to the rear of the masonry structure. This contemporary building (C. 1970) is clearly distinguishable from the DeLongchamps building and does not detract from the buildings overall architectural integrity.

Statement of Significance (Criteria A, C)

The Minden Butter Manufacturing Company is an architecturally and historically significant building important for its association with the early development of the town of Minden. The structure is also representative of the early commercial/industrial work of prominent Nevada architect, Frederick J. DeLongchamps. Please refer to the nomination cover form for a discussion of DeLongchamps' significance.

The Minden Butter Manufacturing Company was established on March 7, 1908, by R. W. Bassman, Dick Bassman, Fritz Schacht, H. Luhrs, Dick Fricke, William Dangberg and C. E. Merrick. The Company was organized to market Carson Valley produce, particularly butter, under the Windmill brand. Windmill products were marketed primarily in the San Francisco Bay area where they established a reputation for quality for Carson Valley agricultural products. Marketing Carson Valley produce in the San Francisco Bay area was made possible by the establishment of a Virginia & Truckee Railhead in Minden, Nevada. The Minden Butter Manufacturing Company was one of Minden's principal industries in the early twentieth century. The building continues to house a main economic mainstay of the town of Minden.

Boundary Description

Site known as 1617 Water Street, Minden. Douglas County Assessor's Map Book 25-180-01,02 (Parcels)

Location of Legal Description: Douglas County Courthouse, 1616 Eighth Street, Minden, Nevada

Representation in Existing Surveys: The Architectural Heritage of Carson Valley, 1981, Local Survey Deposited at the Division of Historic Preservation & Archeology, Carson City, NV

UTM References: Zone 11, E 260540 N 4315280.