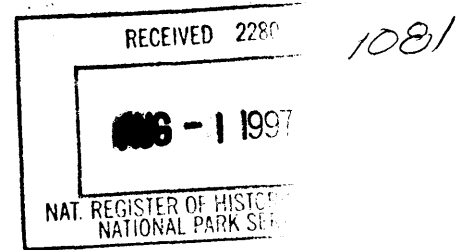


United States Department of the Interior National Park Service National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name PEND OREILLE MINES AND METALS BUILDING
other names/site number Lewis Larsen Apartments

2. Location

street & number 103 South Grandview Street not for publication
city or town Metaline Falls vicinity
state Washington code WA county Pend Oreille code 051 zip code 99153

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official

7.9.97

Date

David M. Hansen, Acting State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) _____

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

Property Name Pend Oreille Mines & Metals Co. Office Building

County and State Pend Oreille County, WA

5. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	contributing	noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a
multiple property listing.)

n/a

No. of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register:

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

BUSINESS
DWELLING

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DWELLING/APARTMENTS

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

No Style
Other: Moderne

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation CONCRETE
walls CONCRETE (brick)
roof ASPHALT
other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Property Name Pend Oreille Mines & Metals Co. Office Building

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1927-1947

1927

Significant Dates

1927

Cultural Affiliation

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

Gustav Albin Pehrson

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Property Name Pend Oreille Mines & Metals Co. Office Building

County and State Pend Oreille County, WA

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one

UTM References

1	<u>1/1</u>	<u>4/7/2/7/4/0</u>	<u>5/4/1/2/0/0/0</u>	3	<u>///</u>	<u>///</u>	<u>///</u>	<u>///</u>	<u>///</u>	<u>///</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing			
2	<u>/</u>	<u>///</u>	<u>///</u>	4	<u>/</u>	<u>///</u>	<u>///</u>	<u>///</u>	<u>///</u>	<u>///</u>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

The nominated property is bound by the three southeast-most lots of the block bound by South Grandview Street and Fourth Avenue in the town of Metaline Falls.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

The boundaries are consistent with the urban plat of Metaline Falls which historically contained this property.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janis Steele Haglund (edited by Lauren McCroskey)
 organization _____ date 4-22-97
 street & number 202 Northwest 60th Street telephone (206) 784-7794
 city or town Bellevue state WA zip code 98107

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner (complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Jeffrey A. Lindstedt and Janis Steele Haglund
 street & number 202 Northwest 60th Street telephone (206) 784-7794
 city or town Seattle state WA zip code 98107

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The Pend Oreille Mine and Metals Office Building is located in the town of Metaline Falls, in the northeastern corner of Washington state. It is a three-story, one-thousand-square-foot masonry building designed in a faintly Moderne style. The building occupies an entire lot and is situated along Grandview Street, behind a small commercial district, and adjacent to a residential area. The adjoining lot to the south of the building has the non-historical improvements of a patio and ornamental trees, and functions as a "back yard" for the building's occupants. The building is presently used as five residential units. It retains excellent integrity and has experienced only minor alternation since its construction in 1929.

Designed by noted Spokane architect, Gustav Albin Pehrson, the nominated property has five elevations, the fifth occurring as a canted side which is oriented to the northwest, to the main street intersection. Dimensions are fifty feet by eighty feet. The first story is approximately thirty-five percent higher than the second and third stories. The first-story facade that faces the street features large "storefront" windows. The windows of the second and third stories are double-hung sash. The facades terminate in a three-inch parapet which conceals the flat roof. There is a single chimney built into the east wall of the building, which served the radiator system boiler.

The second and third stories do not extend over the southeast corner of the first story. Here, a flat roof with a parapet covers this portion of the first story, and contains a pyramid-shaped wire-glass skylight, approximately eight feet square. There is an access door to this roof from the second floor. At present there is a shed roof over this area that was installed by the previous owner. The building has a full basement with exterior vehicle access via a concrete tunnel under the alley on the north side of the building. This was the town's first, and only "parking garage."

The masonry bearing walls consist of concrete block, two wythes thick on the first and second floors, one wythe thick on the third floor. The exterior is faced with locally manufactured rose-colored concrete brick (called Duntile), with some decorative geometric accent patterns executed in cream and green brick. The roofs are of asphalt tar. The window sash are wood frame, with oak veneer on the interior casings. All of the windows in the building originally held one-quarter-inch plate glass. In 1995-6, most of the window glass on the second and third floors, and the back unit of the first floor were replaced with thermopane, due to considerations of occupant

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comfort and energy conservation. It was possible to fit the thermopane into the original sash. Some store-front windows still feature metal mullions.

The building's structural system is a massive post and beam support system, which is visible on each floor, particularly in the basement and on the first floor where the support posts are all exposed. The exterior walls are solid and thick, constructed of concrete block, and faced on the exterior with concrete brick. Interior walls are plaster. The building has experienced little deterioration aside from water leakage from the main roof. The roof has since been resurfaced. Damage to interior ceilings has likewise been repaired. The concrete coping on parapet and chimney were badly deteriorated and leaking, and were covered in 1995 with continuous metal flashing of an appropriate color, in order to protect the parapet and chimney masonry from further damage.

Interior ceilings are fourteen feet, three inches high on the first floor, and nine feet, three inches on the second and third floors. The interior of the building features plaster walls; flooring of two-inch maple planks; solid oak doors, casings, and trim, and baseboards and overhead glass transoms. All hardware is original brass. The oak doors, measuring eighty inches by thirty-five inches are reputed to have been salvaged from an older bank building in Spokane. Closet doors, which are smaller, are of fir. Throughout the building, in most cases the original light fixtures and hardware have been retained. A small chandelier in the second floor front apartment is believed to have come from Spokane's Davenport Hotel.

The original heating system for the building was steam, with the boiler in the basement, however the boiler and all of the radiators but two have been removed and the heating is now electric. The original porcelain drinking water fountains are still in place on each floor, as are the plumbing and brass connections for fire hoses.

The ground floor is divided into two main areas of roughly equal size. The "storefront" elevation, which faces Grandview Street, with a main door opening onto Grandview Street, consists of a primary space with very large windows, and a separated small kitchen and a small half bath. The bath is the original office bathroom for this floor; the kitchen is not original. The rear half of the

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first floor is a large, undivided space which includes a kitchen area, and separate small bedroom and bathroom, which are not original. The bedroom and bath have eight-foot ceilings, leaving the entire area of the original ceiling of the space unobstructed. There is also a separate, room-sized concrete vault safe (currently used as a store room), with its original door (black enamel with gold-painted filigree), in this area. The front of the first floor (facing Grandview Street) was the front office for the mine. The rear of the first floor was designed for and used as the min engineering/drafting room (the skylight in the secondary roof lights this space). This area now houses two residential units.

With the following exceptions, the building's floor plan and materials are unaltered:

- * Three exterior windows have been boarded over and their interior surfaces covered. One of these is in the "storefront" and will be reclaimed as a window in an upcoming rehabilitation. The other two are in the rear (east wall) and will remain as is.
- * The "storefront" kitchen and rear unit bath, bedroom, and kitchen fixtures have been added.
- * A massive basalt-rock fireplace has been added in the rear unit (using the original boiler chimney).

Access to the second and third floors is via a stairway entrance door on the Grandview Street side of the building. The stairway is five feet wide and unaltered; the treads and handrail are of fir. The second floor has a very large landing/foyer and a central hallway. Originally this floor was divided into office rooms, with a blueprint room with a large blueprint sink at the end of the hallway. This floor has now been divided into two apartment units. However, the original office floor plan is practically unaltered--the present apartment rooms were once offices. Alterations are as follows:

- * The addition of a private bath in the west apartment.

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- * The addition of kitchen cabinets and fixtures into existing rooms. Originally, this floor featured a men's bathroom, a women's bathroom, as well as a blueprint room. Some of the plumbing fixtures have been removed in these rooms to accommodate a washer and dryer, a bathtub, and utility room.

The stairway continues to the third floor with a fir handrail and large landing with a window. The plan of the third floor is practically identical to that of the second floor. This floor originally contained an apartment and private bathroom used by Lewis Larsen, the President of the Pend Oreille Mines and Metals Company; three "hotel" rooms for guests, each with its own sink; and three "public" bathrooms: men's, women's, and a bathtub room. The third floor is completely unaltered except for some of the bathroom fixtures in the three public bathrooms. The kitchen retains its original sink with porcelain legs.

Lewis Larsen maintained his apartment on this floor from the time the building was completed until the year of his death, 1955. This floor is currently used as a residential unit.

In the upcoming rehabilitation work the building will remain apartments, since there is no present market for offices in the town of today. However, the building could be instantly converted back to offices, since the office walls and doors are still in place.

Prominent landmarks around the building include the nearby Larsen house (1914), and the original Metaline Falls School (1912, now the Cutter Theater), both of which are listed in the National Register. In addition, the commercial district includes the Craftman style Washington Hotel (1910), also built by Larsen Realty Company and listed in the National Register. Other commercial buildings on Fifth Avenue are wooden, fairly small, and not architecturally significant, aside from the Park Hotel, which retains its original weatherboard exterior. The Idaho & Washington Northern Railroad Depot (1910) sits beside the railroad tracks in a park at the head of 5th Avenue. Larsen was also a participant in the founding of this railroad. The tracks are still used for excursion train rides in the summer.

Another building associated with the cement plant and the town is the 1910 Metaline Falls Water & Light Company's 10,000 Horse Power powerhouse on Sullivan Creek (just east of town on

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Highway 31). Larsen was also instrumental in the Water & Light Company. The powerhouse supplied electricity to the cement plant and the town until 1956. A well-designed masonry building, the powerhouse's original machinery has been removed, but the P.U.D. has plans to install new machinery and put the plant back on line. This building, as well as the Washington Hotel may have been designed by prominent Spokane architect Kirtland Cutter.

The town's industrial anchor, the original cement plant, stood nearby at the edge of town. Most of the complex was demolished in the summer of 1996, but the storage silos and the old "bag house" remain. Larsen was instrumental in all of these buildings.

The building which most closely alligns with the stylistic program of the P.O.M.& M. building is the Pend Oreille Apartments, located across the street and visually compatible with the nominated property. It is a five-story apartment building that was planned to house miners and their families. Typical of a Lewis Larsen enterprise, it was to have a two-story lobby with a mezzanine for shops, and was to include an elegant restaurant and a separate dining room for residents on the ground floor. The building was not completed until 1949 because of shifting mine fortunes, and when it was completed, the elegant lower floor was redesigned (by Pehrson) into two additional floors of apartments. The building is in use as apartments today.

An interesting contrast to the P.O.M.&M. Building, the apartment building was designed in the same year, although it's Art Deco styling is much more explicit. Built in 1929, the apartment building is also faced with Duntile (cream color with green accents), and has characteristic Art Deco motifs on the exterior -- patterned, colored Duntile brick and embossed terra cotta tiles. The interior is strictly Moderne and has minimal ornamentation -- lower ceilings, absence of woodwork, enameled metal efficiency kitchens, etc.. This building provides a glimpse of the Art Deco and streamlined Moderne work Pehrson would produce in the 1930s.

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The Pend Oreille Mines and Metals Office Building is significant as the property in Metaline Falls which most strongly conveys the important role of the industrial metals mining industry in this corner of the state, and for architectural values associated with the Moderne movement as a work of the regionally important architect, Gustav Albin Pehrson.

The Pend Oreille Mines & Metals Office Building is both a well-preserved representative of the high-quality, medium-sized commercial structures of its era, and an important relic of the developmental era of the Metaline Falls area. Lewis Larsen's major role in the history of both the area and the Pend Oreille Mines & Metals Office Building is an interesting aspect of this very era of industrial development--an era when many individualistic "captains of industry" left their mark.

Lewis P. Larsen was born in Denmark in 1876, and acquired a technical education there. He came to the United States in 1895, settling first in Salt Lake City where he worked as a cowboy, and then in mining. He came to the Inland Empire in 1897, locating in Wallace, Idaho where he worked as a mining engineer. In 1900 he was associated with the Last Chance Mine in Northport, Washington, and became aware of the potential of the Metalines area. Larsen began acquiring property in the Metaline Falls area in 1906. He bought a number of mining claims and had them patented. The town of Metaline Falls was built on sections of three of these claims -- Defiance, Spokane and Homestake, all of which were gold placer claims.

Larsen is credited with being one of the main pioneers in promoting and developing the Metaline Mining District; acquiring the land and laying out the town of Metaline Falls. He is remembered for founding the Larsen Realty Company and the town of Metaline Falls in 1910; promoting the extension of the Idaho and Washington Northern Railroad to Metaline Falls in 1910; providing the land for and being instrumental in the founding of the Inland Portland Cement Plant in Metaline Falls and the Metaline Falls Water and Light Company in 1910.

Larsen was a "mover and shaker," but his fortunes in mining enterprises waxed and waned over the years. During the good times, there was money to spend on high quality buildings and acclaimed architects. Larsen's first architect in Metaline Falls was Spokane's Kirtland Cutter. Larsen was forced to sell his Cutter-designed "Rock House" to the cement plant early on, and

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never owned it again. Local lore recalls that Larsen lived in the Washington Hotel (which he did not own) until the owners told him he had to pay rent or leave!

Mining in the Metaline Area

The nominated property is the last intact property associated with Larsen's mining ventures and locally represents the rise of the Metaline area as an important mining district.

Early gold exploration and prospecting led to the discovery of immense lead and zinc deposits in Pend Oreille County. The Metaline Mining District was by far the most productive of the three mining districts (Metaline, Calispell and Newport) in Pend Oreille County. The first lead and zinc ore deposits in the Metaline District were reported in 1869, but little ore was removed until the Idaho & Washington Northern Railroad came into Metaline Falls in 1910.

The majority of the mineral wealth taken from Pend Oreille County was obtained by "hard rock mining"--drilling holes in the rock, loading the holes with dynamite and blasting, removing the ore and waste rock and sorting out the ore.

Although periodic shipments of ore were made from all three districts, it was not widely known until 1928 that massive bodies of ore had been discovered and extensive production was in progress in the Metaline Mining District. The "Metalines" was the leader in the State of Washington for zinc and lead production from 1930 until the early 1950s. Although there were hundreds of mines and mining claims in Pend Oreille County, the Pend Oreille, Grandview and Metaline mines of the Metaline Mining District yielded ninety percent of the county's ore production.

The Pend Oreille Mine was the most productive mine in the history of Pend Oreille County. Lewis Larsen purchased this group of claims in 1906. Mining was commenced in 1910, and continued on a small scale until 1919, when the property was shut down. From 1906 to 1928, Larsen and his financial backers made repeated attempts to mine and mill the low grade zinc and lead ore from the Pend Oreille Mine's Josephine shaft on the west side of the river north of

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Metaline. This operation was successful, but not highly profitable. As late as 1916, this was the only productive zinc mine in the state.

In 1928 and 1929, Larsen secured a number of investors from the Consolidated Mining & Smelting Company of Canada, which was the largest mining company in Canada. From this new capital almost \$400,000 was spent in exploratory drilling and mill tests of several properties (which had been combined by Larsen into the Pend Oreille Lead & Zinc Company). Exploration indicated large tonnages of low-grade zinc ore, and high grade zinc-lead ore. By 1930, the Metaline Mining District was beginning to be recognized as one of the world's largest reserves of base metals. On April 10, 1929, a new corporation was formed, which was the successor of Larsen's Pend Oreille Lead & Zinc Company. This new corporation, the Pend Oreille Mines & Metals Company, also had a controlling interest in the Reeves-MacDonald Mines just across the Canadian border in British Columbia. A 300 ton flotation mill (for processing the ore) was completed and production begun in November 1930. In May 1932 the Pend Oreille Mine was shut down again but in June 1933 was reopened for about eleven months. Early in 1936 production was once more started, although handicapped by a power shortage. In September 1937 a power plant on the Pend Oreille River (architect: G. A. Pehrson) was completed, the flotation mill overhauled, and production stepped up to about 600 tons a day.

By 1952, the Pend Oreille Mines & Metals Company was considered by both the U. S. Geological Survey and the U. S. Bureau of Mines as potentially the most promising in the United States. From 1942 to 1952, twenty percent of the nation's lead and thirteen percent of its zinc were produced from the Metalines. Following a labor strike in 1975, Pend Oreille Mines, which became part of Bunker Hill, never reopened. However, vast amounts of ore have been mapped and await removal.

The Pend Oreille Mine--now owned by Chemico, is presently in another period of exploratory testing, and scheduled to go on line again in 2000, (if ore tests are favorable). The present interest is in zinc.

The main access portal to the Pend Oreille Mine is on the east side of the Pend Oreille River, two and a half miles northwest of Metaline Falls and about a quarter of a mile from the river. The

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flotation mill and other mine buildings are in close proximity to the portal. By the time the Pend Oreille Mine closed its operations in the mid 1970s, there were over fifty-five miles of roads going deep into a solid rock mountain. Mammoth empty caverns where ore was extracted are of ample size to contain large buildings. There are streams, waterfalls, ponds and cliffs with over one-hundred-foot drops. During the life of the mine, huge pumps ran continuously to keep water from filling the lower levels.

The Pend Oreille Mines & Metals Office Building was the exclusive office building for the Pend Oreille Mine, but serving as the mine's office was not its only purpose. It was also an expression of Larsen's penchant for high quality architecture to promote the values of the area. This approach can be seen in the other buildings associated with him in Metaline Falls: The Washington Hotel, the Metaline Falls School (now the Cutter Theatre), the Rock House (his early-days residence), and the Pend Oreille Apartments, as well as the general site plan of the town, which includes several parks, which remain today. The P.O.M.&M. Office Building continued to be used as the mine's offices until 1952, when the offices were moved across the street to the Pend Oreille Apartment Building. The Office Building sat empty, with its street floor windows boarded up, for a number of years. In 1979 the mine auctioned the building.

Gustav Albin Pehrson

At the time Spokane's Kirtland Cutter was designing for Larsen in Metaline Falls, the architect had the young Gustav Albin Pehrson working for him. Pehrson had started his own office by the time Cutter moved to California in 1923, and inherited many of Cutter's projects-in-progress, among them an appointment as Larsen's architect. The men had more than an architectural association. Pehrson also served on the Board of Directors of Pend Oreille Mines & Metals from 1939-1948.

Pehrson designed the P.O.M.&M. Office Building and the Pend Oreille Apartments across the street in the same year (1929), and in 1937 he designed the concrete structures for a very ingenious power plant for the P.O.M.&M. mine, at river level on the Pend Oreille River. This plant provided power for the mine until Boundary Dam was built--raising the water level and making the plant inoperable. The upper third of the river-level structure is still visible above the

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water, and the transformer building on the bank above still exists. Although purely industrial, these structures display an aesthetic of line and form that marks them as the work of a refined designer.

G. A. Pehrson is a well known architectural figure in the Inland Empire, working in Spokane from 1913 until his death at age eighty-five in 1968. His work includes the Paulsen Medical and Dental Building, Western Union Life Building, Chronicle Building, Centennial Flour Mill, and numerous residences, all in Spokane. During World War II Pehrson designed the entire city of Richland, Washington for workers at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. His earlier work was similar in philosophy to Kirtland Cutter's--a beautifully executed range of revivalist styles. During the 1930s his work included the Moderne style, including decorative Art Deco surface treatments.

The Pend Oreille Mines & Metals Office Building, built under Lewis Larsen's direction, using concrete and concrete brick (brand name "Duntile") manufactured at the nearby Portland Cement plant, is a straightforward, relatively unadorned building distinguished by a floor plan that is simple, efficient, and aesthetic -- and marks a transition in Pehrson's design move towards Moderne. The general composition of the street facades and stepped brickwork around the first-story street windows, the high ceilings and the heavy dark interior woodwork reflect the early 20th century Commercial Style. At the same time, the proportions of the windows when viewed from the exterior, the subtle geometric decoration on the facades, and particularly the very plain and beautifully composed south facade, are definitely precursors of the Moderne style Pehrson would develop in the next decade.

The Pend Oreille Mines & Metals Office Building is a major architectural feature in a town that has retained its general site plan as laid out in 1910. The town is beautifully sited on a bench above the Pend Oreille River, and is surrounded by forested hills. Metaline Falls is rather exceptional for such a small town (population under 300) in enjoying a "downtown" that offers quite a few commercial amenities. There are a number of businesses, but no traffic signal nor fast food franchises. Other important buildings from the early era include the Washington Hotel, the Metaline Falls School by Kirtland Cutter (now the Cutter Theatre), Lewis Larsen's first residence by Kirtland Cutter, the Pend Oreille Hotel (now the Pend Oreille Apartments) by G. A. Pehrson, and a number of smaller scale, one-to-three-story business buildings on the main street -- as well

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as the monolithic towers of the now-closed cement plant. The town as a whole retains a feeling that is compatible with its early history.

Lewis Larsen's early vision of what Metaline Falls would become was never actually realized. The P.O.M.&M. Office Building did not become a feature of the commercial hub that Larsen must have envisioned. Larsen made a fortune on his mining ventures, but Metaline Falls went the no-growth way of most small towns of its era. However, the Office Building continued to service its community. Extra spaces that were not used for the mine offices had a number of other uses over the years. At various times it housed a dentist, a hairdresser, aerobic classes were held in the old Drafting Room. The current owner's family once lived on the third floor and operated a fabric store in the old Front Office. In the 1980s the two apartments on the second floor and the one in the old Drafting Room were established. In the last decade the old Front Office has housed a Head Start Program, been a residence, a thrift store, a computer training facility, and is now once more a residence.

Larsen's apartment in the P.O.M.&M. Office Building was probably never his only residence. He always spent time in Spokane because of connections to its business and financial establishments; in his later years he had an estate on Salt Springs Island, a yacht, etc.. It is likely that he maintained the Metaline Falls apartment for use when he was in the area. Larsen's furniture was still in this apartment when the building was purchased in 1979. In 1995, while dusting a transom ledge in the apartment, a key was found with this inscription in spidery writing on its tag: "Mr. Larsen's living room." The key fit the door below.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

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Bibliographical References

Referenced newspaper articles from Northwest Room files, Spokane Public Library.

Interviews:

- Tony Bamonte, historian and former owner, long-time resident of Metaline Falls, now of Spokane
- Nancy Compau, Northwest Room, Spokane Public Library
- Lynn Kinney, retired Manager and long-time employee of Pend Oreille Mines & Metals, of Metaline Falls
- Van Wysong, architectural advisor to the Cutter Theatre, of Metaline Falls

Original architectural drawings for the P.O.M.&M. Office Building by Architect Gustav Albin Pehrson