

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

NOMINATION: (TOURTELLOTTE AND HUMMEL ARCHITECTURE ~~IN IDAHO~~ 712)

✓ SITE NAME: Palumbo, J. C., Fruit Company Packing Warehouse Building SITE NUMBER: 117

✓ LOCATION: ~~Northeast corner of~~ <sup>2nd.</sup> Second Avenue and <sup>6th.</sup> ~~Sixth~~ Street, Payette, Payette County ~~(075), Idaho~~

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Dairyman's Creamery Association, Inc.  
P. O. Box 578  
Caldwell, ID 83605

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Payette, 7.5 minute ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the J. C. Palumbo Fruit Company Packing and Warehouse Building and the property on which it stands, lots 9 and 10, less 8 1/10 feet, and lots 11 and 12, block 2, Master Original. Legal description on file at the Payette County Courthouse, Payette, Idaho.

UTM(S): <sup>winner 5/16/63</sup> 11/5,05,75/48,79,770

DATE OR PERIOD: 1928

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: good unaltered original site

DESCRIPTION:

The J. C. Palumbo Fruit Company Packing and Warehouse Building is a 12--by-74-foot industrial structure presenting a nearly unfenestrated four-story profile on a site directly across from the railroad tracks in west Payette. Walls are red brick with deep concrete linels over all openings, which are almost entirely confined to the first floor and the shallow basement.

The building ws designed for fruit packing and shipping activities on the first floor and storage on the upper three floors. The exterior reflects these functions. A short spur of track runs beside the west wall for direct loading into boxcars from the wide portal centered in that wall. The south wall is penetrated by a row of multi-light shop windows punctuated by loading doors and a pedestrian entry. On the rear elevation--where a compatible one-story brick addition obscures most of the original ground-level fenestration--a vertical strip of shop lights runs from the second through the fourth floor to the left of the elevator shaft, lighting the entrances to it. The shaft emerges in an elevator section on the

northeast corner of the building. This section is brick-walled continuously with the rest. The basement level is apparent on the exterior from the rows of horizontally oriented rectangular barred windows at the base of the south walls.

The building appears tallest to the west, where the plain parapetd sidewalls are drawn up to maximum height. They are stepped down gradually to the east on either side of a gently sloping shed roof. The "J. C. Palumbo" on the painted banner signs on west and south walls has been painted out and replaced with the name of Rinelli, a later owner; the original letters are still faintly visible under the later name. The Palumbo designation remains on the east wall of the elevator section.

#### SIGNIFICANCE:

The Palumbo warehouse is architecturally significant as one of the few non-retail and non-office commercial structures included in the Thematic Group, although a number were designed by the firm. Its monolithic brick surface may be seen in heralding the end, in the work of this firm, of a habit of dressing up such buildings in the materials one would expect to find in an office block. (A very notable exception is the Guernsey Dairy Milk Depot, site 130). It is one of the most impressive buildings in Payette, and until recently was probably the largest as well.

The only comparable buildings in the Thematic Group are the Idaho Grocery warehouse in Lewiston and the Beaver River Power Station (sites 48 and 76). It is significant that, like these considerably earlier buildings, and like such other distinguished and previously registered examples as the flatiron-shaped Goreczky warehouse of 1910 (National Register, 1977, South Eighth Street Historic District), the Palumbo building expresses an interest in beautification by use of a brick veneer which is not, strictly speaking, necessary. At the same time, physical function is clearly expressed, through fenestration or its lack, by loading docks and by the trackside location. While its sleekness may be seen as precursor of a functionalist aesthetic, it seems also to mark the beginning of the end of this sort of expression in this sort of building. Plain cast concrete became the material of choice, and none of the warehouse and shop buildings designed in later years has been judged to have sufficient distinction to warrant inclusion in the Thematic Group.

The building has additional significance as evidence of the important fruit industry of the western Boise Valley. A fairly extensive series of Tourtellotte and Hummel commissions for packing houses and dryers in Emmett, Meridian, Fruitland, and Payette for several different clients, clustered in the years 1917-1918 but done in subsequent years as well, suggests a general level of contact with this industry. Only the Palumbo building, which is probably the largest and most important of them, has been located and included in the Thematic Group.

#### MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Boise, Idaho. Hummel Jones Miller Hunsucker P.A. File 227D. Collection book reference 1928. Frederick Hummel retrospective file. Tracings signed Tourtellotte and Hummel.