

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

NOMINATION: Idaho Falls Downtown multiple resource area  
(partial inventory: architecture)

SITE NAME: Hotel Idaho

SITE NUMBER: 3

LOCATION: 482 West C Street

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Capital Corners Corporation  
482 C Street  
Idaho Falls, ID 83402

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Idaho Falls South, 7.5 minute      ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Hotel Idaho and the property on which it stands, lots 7 through and including 10, block 14, Holmes Addition, Idaho Falls.

UTM(S): 12/415965/4816100

DATE OR PERIOD: 1917

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: unknown

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: good, altered, original site

The Hotel Idaho is a three-story brick building suggestive of the Renaissance Revival style. A stepped parapet wall with rusticated stone coping caps the structure, with a pedimented section centered over the two front bays and a similar section over the first side bay. Under the front pediment are inset diamond- and rectangularly shaped concrete panels. In the rectangular panels is inscribed "Hotel Idaho," and the center diamond has "1917" inscribed. There is a denticulated cornice of stone or cast concrete. Raised brick with denticulated relief divides the facade into two bays and also forms raised flat columns between the bays and at the corners. The windows on the upper stories are Chicago-style with central six-over-one double-hung sash windows and side lights of four-over-one double-hung sashes. Sills are of rusticated stone. Window trim is painted yellow wood. The west facade has three diamond-shaped inserts below the pedimented section. A raised brick relief also divides the side into three bays. First-floor side openings have raised brick surrounds and rusticated sills. A side door has been bricked in and replaced with a window. First floor storefront windows and doors have been altered. Art Deco light fixtures on the front corner pillars remain. The east side has been painted pink. Windows on this side of the structure have segmented arches and two one-over-one double-hung sashes per opening.

## SIGNIFICANCE:

The Hotel Idaho is architecturally significant as a nearly unaltered example of the highly simplified and classicized use of the Renaissance Revival style that is typical of Idaho's commercial architecture in the first decades of the twentieth century. The building's Renaissance features include a notched, pedimented parapet; a pressed iron cornice; a storefront entablature; and first-story raised brick courses suggestive of rustication. In its simplicity, the building is similar to the Farmers and Merchants Bank Building, remodeled about the same time; but its massing is much taller and more elongated, a massing typical of period hotel buildings. The building is one of three C Street hotel buildings in the multiple resource group; the C Street area was a hotel neighborhood situated near the Bonneville County Courthouse, the Federal Building, and the Union Pacific Railroad Depot.

The Hotel Idaho as built in 1917 by its original owner, Frederick C. Hansen. The southwest portion of the main floor was occupied by Hart-Elsworth Auto Company, which sold Nash automobiles. Later, this became a cafe with the hotel lobby in the southeast corner. The building was purchased in 1944 by Ira R. Taylor, a former warden at the Idaho State Penitentiary. Ross Gillespie, a Taylor employee, became owner and manager in 1954. The hotel closed in 1979 and is currently undergoing rehabilitation as office space under an Economic Recovery Tax Act project.