

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

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

✓ SITE NAME: Dewey, E. H., Stores ✓ SITE NUMBER: 98  
✓ LOCATION: 1013-15 <sup>1st,</sup> ~~First Street South~~, Nampa, Canyon County (~~027~~), Idaho

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

William A. Schwartz  
c/o Melvin A. Zelaya  
P. O. Drawer C  
Nampa, ID 83651

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Nampa, Idaho, 7.6 minute ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the E. H. Dewey Stores and the property on which it stands, northwest lots 13 and 15, block 21, Nampa Original Townsite. Legal description on file at the Canyon County Courthouse, Caldwell, ID.

UTM(S): 11/5,35/480/48,25,90

DATE OR PERIOD: 1919

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: good unaltered original site

DESCRIPTION:

The building nominated as the E. H. Dewey Stores is actually one wing of an L-shaped structure designed to wrap around the firm's 1919 Farms and Merchants Bank (National Register 1976) and to present two closely similar facades, a fifty-foot frontage at the rear of the bank facing First Street and a forty-foot frontage to the left of the bank's front elevation on Eleventh Avenue. Each wing contained two long shops. The Eleventh Avenue stores have been demolished, but those facing First Street South have survived with a facade in unusually intact condition.

The surviving structure is a brick building 100 feet deep. The facade framing the glass fronts is finished with smoothly dressed stone; it is drawn into a parapet with a wide, low-peaked gable-like form centered between notches in the stone coping. Below the parapet crest, but still above the actual roof of the building, a stone cornice is outset. Below this is a frieze-like, slightly outset entablature resting on the stylized Tuscan capitals of the corner pilasters and forming the upper frame for the mezzanine lights. Those lights, in a long band common to both shopfronts, present a symmetrical aspect to the street, each with a beveled, inset, centered entry and a glazed, transomed wooden door. The hexagonal tiles of the entry floors, the wooden framing of the display windows, and their stone bases are all intact.

#### SIGNIFICANCE:

The E. H. Dewey Stores is architecturally significant as the beautifully preserved half of an L-shaped, double-fronted building capitalized by one of Nampa's most prominent citizens and businessmen. Its rich material and state of preservation make it perhaps the finest early storefront on Nampa's main commercial street, although it is not the most picturesque, employing as it does the restrained classical commercial forms used in other late 1910s sites like the O'Neill building on Glens Ferry (site 85) and the Bryant Garage in Boise (site 92). It is also noteworthy, as is the Nampa-Meridian Irrigation District building (site 99), as part of an unprecedented burst of commissions in Nampa in 1919. In addition to the buildings eligible for the Thematic Group, these included a bank, a commercial garage, a storefront, a store addition, and a hospital.

Owner E. H. Dewey was the son of William H. Dewey, a railroad entrepreneur and builder of Nampa's spectacular and now lost Dewey Palace hotel. The son operated the father's railroad lines after his death in 1903, was president of the Boise Valley Electric Railroad Company, and served as mayor of Nampa and as state treasurer. He was president of the Nampa Department Store, Ltd., for which Tourtellotte and Company designed a big retail outlet further up First Street in 1910 (site 70).

#### MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

(Boise) Capital News, May 28, 1935, p. 5.

Boise, Idaho. Hummel Jones Miller Hunsucker P.A. File 115D. Collection book references, 1919. Frederick Hummel retrospective file. Tracings signed Tourtellotte and Hummel.