

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JUN 20 1978  
DATE ENTERED NOV 28 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Boise City National Bank

AND/OR COMMON

Simplot Building

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Eighth and Idaho

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Boise

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Idaho

CODE

16

COUNTY

Ada

CODE

001

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Boise Redevelopment Agency

STREET & NUMBER

City Hall

CITY, TOWN

Boise

VICINITY OF

STATE

Idaho

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Ada County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Boise

STATE

Idaho

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Idaho State Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1972

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Idaho State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Boise

STATE

Idaho

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

---

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Boise City National Bank is a four-story rusticated sandstone building in the Richardsonian Romanesque style. Its Eighth Street facade is three bays wide, dominated by a central portal with Romanesque columns and an elliptical arch. Foliated ornamentation bands the spandrels. Large rusticated round arched windows flank the entry. The Idaho Street side is seven bays wide. Each bay has a round arched opening: the four eastern most being windows, the fifth provides egress to the upper stories, and the 3 western archways form an arcade for the entry to an Idaho Power Company office.

All openings have modern aluminum frames and the upper story windows' transoms have been enclosed. The third story contains pairs of round arched windows with accented extrados moldings resembling eyebrows.

The building stands on a raised foundation and terminates with a crenellated parapet supported by a round-arched blind arcade. The cornice between the third and fourth stories terminated the original 1891 structure. The fourth story and four western most bays were added in 1904-05. In 1913 the first story was given its present appearance when the original corner entry was removed in favor of the major entry on Eighth Street.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1891, 1904-05, 1913 BUILDER/ARCHITECT James King, Tourtellotte & Co.

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Boise City National Bank is architecturally significant as one of the best extant commercial examples of the Richardsonian Romanesque Revival style in the west. Constructed of Boise sandstone quarried at Tablerock, and erected three years after Richardson's Marshall Field Warehouse in Chicago, this bank building is an outstanding local landmark.

Originally the bank was to be a \$13,000 structure, but architect James King convinced the bank trustees that a more substantial building should be erected. Thus \$40,000 was allocated for the construction of this building whose style and 20 inch sandstone walls were "to give an idea of solidity, strength and permanence."<sup>1</sup>

James King was an important Boise architect of the 1890s. He designed the National Register Moore-Cunningham house and the walls and administration building of the state penitentiary. The Boise City National Bank is the only surviving example of his commercial work.

Tourtellotte and Co., the foremost architects of their period in Boise, designed the 1904-05 addition and the 1913 remodeling. Both these alterations maintained the original building's spirit and appearance, and the crenellated parapet is a distinct enhancement of the original. (Charles Hummel, its designer, was German born and trained.)

<sup>1</sup> Idaho Daily Statesman, August 23, 1891, p. 6, c. 1.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Idaho Daily Statesman, August 23, 1891, p. 6, c. 1; November 26, 1905, p. 14, c. 1-3.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre.

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 1	5, 6, 4, 3, 8, 0	4, 8, 2, 9, 3, 7, 5	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This property consists of the Simplot building and its land on the southwest corner of Eighth and Idaho.

*Boise City Original Townsite: Block 3, Lots ~~10-12~~ 10-12. See phone report.*

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Don Hibbard, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Idaho State Historical Society

DATE

14 June 1978

STREET & NUMBER

610 North Julia Davis Drive

TELEPHONE

384-2120

CITY OR TOWN

Boise

STATE

Idaho

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Merle Walls*

DATE

14 June 1978

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Charles Adams*

DATE

11.28.78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

*W. Ray Luce*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11.22.78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER