

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

NOMINATION: (TOURTELLOTTE AND HUMMEL ARCHITECTURE ~~IN IDAHO~~ TA)
✓ SITE NAME: Nampa Department Store SITE NUMBER: 70
✓ LOCATION: ~~Southeast corner of First Street South and Thirteenth Avenue~~, Nampa,
Canyon County (027), Idaho 83651

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Greenside Associates
P. O. Box 4486
Boise, ID 83704

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Nampa Department Store and the property on which it stands, tax 4 of lots 14 and 16, block 18. Legal description on file at the Canyon County Courthouse, Caldwell, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/5,35,720/48,25,870

DATE OR PERIOD: 1910

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: fair unaltered original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Nampa Department Store is a two-story buff-brick structure built to an almost precisely square plan; ninety feet fronting First Street, eight-nine feet six inches fronting Thirteenth Avenue. The plan provided for a single open store space at ground level and offices on the second story. The first story with its corner entrance has been superficially remodelled by metal screening of the mezzanine lights and the bases of the display windows, along with replacement of the original doors. The upper story is intact, however, and displays handsome masonry. A stone cornice runs below the window band; a string course, symmetrically disposed vents, and a large metal cornice are above. The pairs of narrow windows at each corner are topped with keystone flat-arched brick heads and set into shallow outset bays above the upper cornice to form slightly elevated sections of the flat, coped parapet. The recessed middle section of each street-facing elevation is filled with a row of five double-hung sash windows with rectangular surrounds of outset header brick.

The fenestration is original except that the two front corner windows on First Street and the contiguous three windows on Thirteenth Avenue have been partially filled with the same metal fabric used on the mezzanine level below.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Nampa Department Store is architecturally significant as a commercial structure--one of relatively few in the Group--which shows plainly the movement to symmetry and restraint which we have been noting in all functional types. It is also significant as a handsome and relatively intact piece of architecture on a considerably altered local streetscape, and as an example of a commission in a town close to Boise.

The store is located in a prominent position on a corner lot on Nampa's main commercial street. The four-square plan is unusually expansive; the store is one of the largest on the street in terms of floor space. Alterations to the lower level are generally superficial screening which the store has in common with the rest of the streetscape. The upper facades, with their strict symmetry and smooth, rigidly geometric masonry, are in excellent condition and make the building one of the handsomest on the street as well as clearly expressive of a period of developmental style which is not otherwise represented there.

The building was commissioned by Nampa Department Store, Ltd., the president of which was Nampa E. H. Dewey (see site 98). The treasurer was Leo Falk of Boise, a principal in Falk Mercantile Company, a pioneering Boise retail operation with a big Main Street store for which Tourtellotte and Company had designed a three-story addition in 1904. The early newspaper report for the Nampa project identified it as a Falk's store and said that Tourtellotte and Hummel plans had been ordered by Falk Mercantile. At that point, a three-story building costing \$40,000 was projected. The architectural firm's certificate books show that the general contract for the existing two-story building went to G. H. Rush for a \$28,000 bid.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

(Boise) Idaho Statesman, June 3, 1909, p. 6, c. 4.

Boise, Idaho. Hummel Jones Miller Hunsucker P.A. File 306C. Certificate, collection, and drawing loan book references 1910 and 1911. F. C. Hummel retrospective file. Tracings signed John E. Tourtellotte and Company.