

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

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

✓ SITE NAME: Bryant, H. H., Garage

SITE NUMBER: 92

✓ LOCATION: ~~Northeast corner of Eleventh and Front streets, Boise, Ada County (001), Idaho~~ <sup>1124</sup> and Front streets, Boise, Ada County

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Boise Auto Mart, Inc.  
Box 2797  
Boise, ID 83707

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Boise South, 7.5 minute

ACREAGE: *unmeasured*

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the H. H. Bryant Garage and the property on which it stands, lots 1-3 inclusive, block 19, Boise City Original Townsite. Legal description on file at the Ada County Courthouse, Boise, Idaho.

*LMC 1/3/83*

UTM(S): 11/5,63,990/48,29,320

DATE OR PERIOD: 1917, 1934

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, Transportation

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: fair unaltered original site

DESCRIPTION:

The H. H. Bryant Garage is a two-story 122-by-150-foot brick building occupying more than a full quarter block on the southern edge of Boise's downtown. The long dimension is on Front Street, a thoroughfare which runs parallel to the railroad tracks. Both elevations were designed with a long row of display windows at ground level and large multi-paned shop lights above. The Front Street elevation is divided into nine bays, the Eleventh Street elevation into seven, by pilasters which terminate in curious stone ornaments under beveled stone caps that sit above the upper windows but well below the top of the flat parapet wall. The parapet crests over the corner bays in broad-peaked, gable-like forms with outset coping and notched shoulders on either side. Below these crests, patterns of geometric ornament--symmetrical arrangements of chevrons, triangles, and blocks--are outset in brick and stone. More patterned brick in a simpler design occur below the upper windows on the corner bays.

In 1934, the corner entrance on Eleventh Street succumbed to the opening of five corner bays, three on Front Street and two on Eleventh Street, to accommodate a gas station. The space for the station still survives, although it is no longer used

as such. Tourtellotte and Hummel did the design work for this renovation for what was still at that date the Bryant Ford Garage.

The multi-pane mezzanine lights have been screened on Eleventh Street and subsumed in large display windows on Front Street; there is some cracking of the right (south) parapet crest on the Eleventh Street elevation. Otherwise the building is generally unaltered and in good condition.

#### SIGNIFICANCE:

The H. H. Bryant Garage is architecturally and historically significant as a very large-scale icon of the burgeoning auto age, as an example of the very stylized commercial classical style noted in a number of sites from the 1910s, and as a further example of a long-term relationship between the firm and a client.

In the mid-1910s the rapidly increasing private ownership of automobiles resulted in ambitious "auto palaces" for their sale and maintenance in a number of Idaho towns. The Bryant garage, surviving just south and west of Boise's urban renewal area, is the city's largest and best of these. The symmetry, corner pediments, and pilasters which distinguish this facade are classically derived; the geometric brickwork of the corner bays and the curious dropped pilaster caps (reminiscent of forms on the slightly earlier Elks Temple across town), are the clearest statement to the time of the abstract extrapolation from that classical derivation which much commercial architecture would be taking.

Charles Storey and Company executed the superstructure contract for the garage in 1917 at a projected cost of \$40,000. It was still the Bryant and Son Garage seventeen years later when the owners returned to Tourtellotte and Hummel for the remodeling which created a drive-through gas station under the intersection bays. Contractor J. O. Jordan and Sons (who themselves commissioned a building, site 131, from these architects a few years later) carried out the second job at a cost projected at \$3,000 on the building permit.

#### MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

(Boise) Idaho Statesman, December 31, 1916, sec. 2, p. 2.

Boise, Idaho. Boise City Building Permit. February 9, 1934.

Boise, Idaho. Hummel Jones Miller Hunsucker P.A. Certificate and collection book reference 1917 and 1934. Frederick Hummel retrospective file. Tracings signed Tourtellotte and Hummel.