

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



84

7 1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Turner Hotel

and/or common Mellen Building

2. Location

street & number ~~105-115 North Second East Street~~
140-170 East Jackson Street N/A not for publication

city, town Mountain Home N/A vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state Idaho code 016 county Elmore code 039

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mellen Estate, Inc. c/o Lottie Rowett

street & number P.O. Box 583

city, town Mountain Home N/A vicinity of state Idaho 83647

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Elmore County Courthouse

street & number Fourth Street East and Jackson

city, town Mountain Home state Idaho

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Idaho State Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records Idaho State Historical Society

city, town Boise state Idaho

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	N/A moved	date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Turner Hotel is a brick and stone commercial block sited at an intersection with storefronts along two streets. On the north it fronts a vacant lot and on the west it is attached to a one-story commercial building. The three-story building is rectangular. It is seven bays wide along its eastern exposure and eleven along the southern. The roof is flat.

The upper two stories of the building have rows of one-over-one-light double-hung sash windows set below segmental relieving arches. On the western exposure there are centered doors as well, opening onto a balconied fire escape. The lowest story has a series of plate-glass storefronts, some of them inset at an angle. On the first floor a large round arch is centered on the western side. The storefronts are separated from their mezzanine lights by a metal canopy running the full length of the south side and on either side of the arch on the west side.

The hotel's red brick walls are varied in texture and color by the use of light stone at the corners of the windows and by a corbel table at the cornice. In addition, the building's several bays are divided into inset panels that are capped with corbel tables. Above the cornice is an attic-like parapet with flared brick courses extending above the parapet wall.

The building's lowest story originally was designed with segmentally arched windows and doors spaced like those of the upper stories. In about 1920 the building was remodeled with the current configuration of large plate-glass windows and doors with upper mezzanine lights, an evolutionary change that has architectural significance in its own right. More recently the mezzanine lights have been masked, a metal canopy added, and lower storefront walls masked. These later changes are reversible.

There are no outbuildings or other manmade elements included in the nomination.

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Turner Hotel

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

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Designed with features suggestive of both the Romanesque and the Renaissance Revival style, the Turner Hotel is similar to many other turn-of-the-century commercial brick buildings in Idaho. The period saw the use of corbelled cornices, inset panels, segmental arches, curved parapets, and stone ornamentation. The Turner building is a large (in its local context) and finely designed example in which these elements are unified into a balanced composition. The building is one of Mountain Home's few commercial buildings to survive relatively unaltered from the turn of the century. Among these it is an outstanding example of architectural design. The building's architect, W. S. Campbell, worked out of Boise during the 1890's and designed many of Boise's major buildings. Campbell used a variety of styles in his Idaho work, including Romanesque Revival, French Chateau, Renaissance Revival, and Queen Anne.

W. J. Turner, builder of the hotel, opened a restaurant and hotel, the Turner House, in Mountain Home in 1883. In 1899 and 1900 Turner had this second hotel built near the original Turner House. After W. D. Evans acquired Turner's hotel, he sold it to Thomas Mellen, a prominent miner and sheepraiser, in July 1913.

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 checked="" 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 1899–1900 **Builder/Architect** William Stewart Campbell, architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Marion House, Charlie Chester, D. B. Sheeley, builders

The Turner Hotel is architecturally significant as a local example of commercial brick architecture from the turn of the century and as an example of the Idaho work of William Stewart Campbell. The hotel is historically significant for its association with prominent Mountain Home pioneer W. J. Turner, who had an Oregon Short Line Railway grading contract there and joined R. E. Strahorn in establishing a townsite later in 1883.

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Mountain Home) Elmore Bulletin 27 July 1899; 25 May, 1899.

Planmakers. "Mellen Building History." Idaho State Historical Society, Boise, Idaho.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Mountain Home North

Quadrangle scale 7.5 minute

UMT References

A

1	1	6	0	6	3	3	0	4	7	7	5	8	0	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nomination includes the Turner Hotel and the property on which it stands, lots 21, 22, 23, and 24, block 2, Mountain Home Original Townsite.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jennifer Eastman Attebery, State Architectural Historian

organization Idaho State Historical Society

date 2 July 1984

street & number 610 North Julia Davis Drive

telephone (208) 334-3861

city or town Boise

state Idaho 83702-7695

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 Wells

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 28 July 1984

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Alvina Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 9-7-84

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration