

38 EVERETT BUILDING
115-123 North Washington Street

JUN 11 1979

Huntsville Housing Authority
Nathan Porter, Director
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Lot 3, Block 4 and Lot 1, Block 12, Old Town; 105' (Washington) X 80'
16 537900 3843220

1899: Architect/Builder unknown

DESCRIPTION

The Everett building is an attached, brick block of two stories containing five stores on the ground level which has been totally obscured by modernization. The second floor remains intact; it is a beautifully subtle design composed entirely of brick except for the ashlar lintels and sills. The facade is divided into bays by corbelled pilasters which set up a repetitive pattern across the wall that is reinforced by the identical, closely spaced windows. Flush masonry lintels span each bay; the building has been painted yellow so that the masonry creates a textural rather than a color contrast. The store is terminated by a brick parapet that alternates courses of stepped brick with a band of brick dentils. The center bay repeats the end bays while its increased height provides a focal point for the design. The northern bay continues the design features of the facade, but slight variations indicate that it may have been built at a separate time or resulted from a remodeling.

SIGNIFICANCE

The Everett building is an elegant example of the early Commercial Brick style before it became devoid of ornamentation. It has discarded Victorian applied decorative elements and instead relies on an imaginative use of the structural material and the pattern of fenestration for its effect. The lightness of its design would have been increased by the original street facade of slender cast iron columns between large expanses of plate glass.