

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

NOMINATION: (TOURTELLOTTE AND HUMMEL ARCHITECTURE ~~IN IDAHO~~ 770)

✓ SITE NAME: Idaho Grocery Warehouse and Annex ✓ SITE NUMBER: 48

LOCATION: 1209 Main Street, Lewiston, Nez Perce County (~~069~~), Idaho, 83501

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Gladys Madden et. al.
c/o G. & M Rental
P. O. Box 153
Lewiston, ID 83601

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Lewiston, 7.5 minute ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Idaho Grocery Warehouse and Annex and the property on which it stands, lots 6 and 7, south of railroad right-of-way, Acres addition, Lewiston, Idaho. Legal description on file at the Nez Perce County Courthouse, Lewiston, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/4,98,730/51,40,390

DATE OR PERIOD: 1907-1911

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture and Commerce

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: good unaltered original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Idaho Warehouse and Annex on Main Street near Twelfth in Lewiston are immediately south of the railroad tracks. They are a contiguous matched pair, three stories in height and rendered in red brick. The 1907 building is on the west and contains three first-floor bays that are segmentally arched with outset denticulated label moldings over each. A flight of steps leads up into the left side entrance bay, and the other bays appear to retain original multi-light window frames. The upper two stories each contain three pairs of eight-over-eight-light windows. Above each tier of windows and thus demarcating the stories are a string course, an unelaborated band of masonry, and a corbel table consisting of a series of outset courses, variously elaborated and all terminating in flat bracket-like forms slightly inset from the sides of the building. The upper cornice is parapeted and has raised corner and center sections.

The entire arrangement is duplicated on the 1911 building to the east, except that the first-floor facade is opened up under a single broad basket arch to expose a recessed loading dock. The steel framing and heavy lumber construction of the building are clearly visible within the dock area. The denticulated trim over this

arch matches that on the three arches to the left. The sides of the building show the parapet stepped down to roof level. An early painted sign on the east wall identifies the building as owned by Lewiston Mercantile Company, as Idaho Grocery was called by the time the annex was built.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Idaho Grocery warehouses are architecturally significant as fine examples of functional commercial buildings which are stylistically responsive to their prominent location on the main approach to downtown Lewiston. They are also significant as one of only three examples in the Thematic Group of the work of Ralph Loring, manager of Tourtellotte and Company's short-lived northern Idaho operation.

These handsome warehouses were built in 1907 and 1911 in matching style. Their red-brick surfaces, segmental arches, and elaborate denticulation and corbel tables elevate them well above purely utilitarian buildings; they are among the best buildings architecturally on this stretch of Main Street. At the same time, the big segmented industrial windows, the recessed right-side loading dock, and the proximity to the railroad track and street make the practical function of the buildings very clear.

Ralph Loring, designer of these buildings--and probably of the closely related one-story structures just west of them as well, although we have no documentation for that--was a graduate of Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He joined Tourtellotte and Company as manager of its Lewiston office in 1906. The 1906 Commercial Trust Building (National Register, Lewiston Historic District, 1975) is the first building to come out of that association. It combines a plan almost identical to that of the firm's Caldwell Commercial Bank of the same year with a granite, marble, and coffeed wood facade which appears to be a product of Loring's classical-eclectic approach. He also produced, for example, the very curious Kamiah State Bank (National Register, August 29, 1978) during his tenure with the firm. Of the three Lewiston-office commissions included in this Group (see also sites 61 and 69) only the last, the Lewiston Vineyards Gates, really suggests that unusually eclectic spirit.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Lewiston Tribune, March 2, 1907, p. 6, c. 3; March 5, 1910, p. c, c. 3; March 24, 1910, p. 8, c. 1.