

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

NOMINATION: (TOURTELLOTTE AND HUMMEL ARCHITECTURE ~~IN IDAHO~~ → 710)

SITE NAME: Wellman Apartments ✓ SITE NUMBER: 118

LOCATION: ~~Northwest corner of Fifth~~ <sup>5th</sup> and Franklin ~~streets~~, Boise, Ada County (001), Idaho

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

John W. Browning and Associates  
c/o Steven W. Sanderson  
P. O. Box 753  
Boise, ID 83701

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Bosie South, 7.5 minute      ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Wellman Apartments and the property on which it stands, lots 5 and 6, block 99, Boise City Original Townsite. Legal description on file at the Ada County Courthouse, Boise, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/5,64,990/48,29,640

DATE OR PERIOD: 1929

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: excellent                      unaltered                      original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Wellman Apartments is a two-story flat-roofed structure on a tall daylight basement, its brick and concrete surface finished with rather strict but strongly stylized Georgian revival detail. The plan is minimally T-shaped, with a front-facing block extended about eight feet beyond the sides of the rear wing. This block has at its base a basement level of concrete scored to resemble stone. A round-arched entrance with a glass-paned wooden door approached from a brick stoop is centered at ground level. Its striated tympanum and brick arch extend to the top of the first story. Above it on the second story is a multiple-light sash window with narrow side-lights. Four six-over-six-light sashes on either side of the entrance bay are paired in the outside bays and set individually on the inside. Windows on both floors have pre-cast concrete sills. Smooth, strip-like pre-cast panels, broad and narrow, are set between the first- and second-story openings and correspond to them in width. The second-story heads are formed of end-set bricks, flush against the surface. Above these are a galvanized iron cornice and a parapet wall with panels of deep-relief concrete cast to resemble a balustrade. This mock balustrade is aligned over the windows and mid-story strips below. The corners of

of the building and the edges of the shallowly outset entrance and flanking bays are demarcated by outset brick quoins.

The plan is fifty-eight feet six inches wide in front, with a forty-three-foot-wide rear wing; the overall depth is 105 feet 6 inches. It was designed to contain eight efficiency apartments on each floor, ranged on either side of a central hall. Each contained a living room with disappearing beds, a dressing room, a bathroom, and a kitchenette. In front, where there is more space, the apartments have corner sun parlors as well.

The building appears precisely as planned on the exterior.

#### SIGNIFICANCE:

The Wellman Apartments is architecturally significant as the last of the apartment buildings in the Thematic Group (see also sites 21, 30, 51, 65, and 74), closing the stylistic sequence with an appropriate picturesque, stylized version of the Georgian revival style. In its stylization of an historic vocabulary, the building relates to such 1930s sites as the previously registered neo-Gothic Catholic church in Moscow. The simplified Georgian detail, especially the fictive balusters and quoins, relates in particular to the Weiser Post Office (site 125). These smoothly developed, rather monolithic buildings represent a final expression of these styles before they are very visibly affected by the art deco manner.

Like its earlier Georgian revival predecessor the Eichelberger Apartments (site 65)--in comparison with which its neo-Georgian character became clearer--the Wellman offered accommodations to single persons in individual efficiency apartments within walking distance of Boise's downtown. Construction of the building stretched over several years--1928 to 1932, according to the dated drawings and the Frederick Hummel retrospective file--which is, perhaps, a reflection of the economic conditions of the time. The contractor was J. O. Jordan; the contract price was \$45,000. Owner Walter A. Wellman was evidently an out-of-town investor; at any rate, his name does not appear in the local city directories for the period.

#### MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Boise, Idaho. Boise City Building Permit. April 5, 1929.

Boise, Idaho. Hummel Jones Miller Hunsucker P.A. File 227E. Certificate book references. Frederick Hummel retrospective file. Drawings signed Tourtellotte and Hummel.