

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

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

SITE NAME: Guernsey Dairy Milk Depot SITE NUMBER: 130

LOCATION: 2419 State Street, Boise, Ada County (001), Idaho

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Russell D. and Joan E. Allen
5350 Navaho
Boise, ID 83703

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Boise North, 7.5 minute ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Guernsey Dairy Milk Depot and the property on which it stands, lots 4-6 inclusive, block 2, Pleasanton addition to Boise. Legal description on file at the Ada County Courthouse, Boise, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/5,62,990/48,30,800

DATE OR PERIOD: 1937

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: excellent altered original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Guernsey Dairy Milk Depot is a light industrial building picturesquely rendered in a Spanish colonial revival style. Facing State and Twenty-fifth streets, the one-story stuccoed concrete block is flat-roofed, with low-pitched pent roofs covered with tile. The building is distinguished by a two-story tile-roofed tower on the corner. The main entrance is in a slightly outset bay approximately centered on the front elevation. The plan is rectangular, with a sixty-four-foot frontage on State Street and ninety feet on Twenty-fifth Street, except for a boiler room outset on the rear left side. The tall, square stack for the boiler is still extant, with a plain coped top over panels of inset tile.

The corner tower is the decorative focal point. It is slightly battered, with flat buttress-like pilasters terminating above the level of the first-floor eave. A denticulated outset strip runs between the pilasters just above eave level. The upper level of the tower has broadly clipped corners and, on the street-facing sides, pairs of tall, narrow, round-arched windows recessed into the stucco and separated by spiraled wooden columns on plain bases. There are inset panels of tile under, and single small stucco discs over, each pair of windows. A narrow string course runs under the eaves, and the low-pitched pyramidal roof is covered with tile and surmounted by a metal finial. The left face of the tower is penetrated by a segmented oculus window.

The plan originally enclosed office and sales rooms at right front; milk processing, by-products manufacturing, and receiving and washing and cooling rooms to the left and rear; and a long garage, an interior loading platform, and the boiler room across the rear. These interior spaces and functions have been erased by conversion of the entire structure into office space. The exterior has been almost entirely unaffected; the alterations that have occurred affect the fenestration and entrances. A side-lighted doorway into the former sales room under the tower, which shows on the original drawings, is now closed with a multi-light window matching those on the rest of the building. The segmented transom lights over this opening, in common with those over the rest of the openings, have been screened. The main entrance retains its glass transom, but the shouldered arch above it has been filled in. Finally, an oculus light in the forward face of the boiler room section has been blocked off and stuccoed over.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Guernsey Dairy Milk Depot is of exceptional architectural significance as one of the handsomest buildings on State Street in Boise and the most elegant industrial building in the Thematic Group: one which responds to its location on a residential street and its partial purpose as a retail outlet. The depot is the last and best example of Spanish colonial revival design in the group. It could be considered the only example, strictly speaking, for earlier instances of Spanish design (see sites 81, 110, 119, 121) have been so mixed and minimalized that they have generally been described as missionesque. This elegant revivalist shell for a building with an industrial interior, designed at a time when the firm was producing its best works in the art deco and art moderne styles, reveals very clearly the eclectic and picturesque propensities of these architects. This may suggest that to them even the apparently progressive styles were simply another form of picturesque.

As noted in the discussion of the last industrial building in the group, the Palumbo Fruit Company in Payette (site 117), the bulk of the more functional buildings designed in the 1930s, such as shops and warehouses, were utilitarian in character as well as purpose. The showy exception made by the milk depot probably results from the fact that it housed not only milk processing rooms but a salesroom under the eye-catching tower. The texture, scale, and careful detail also show a sensitivity to the urban residential streetscape of one of the major thoroughfares into Boise.

L. S. Mallory was the contractor for the building. The price summary on the list of Volume of Work by Years was \$40,000.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Boise, Idaho. Boise City Building Permit. March 24, 1937.

Boise, Idaho. Hummel Jones Miller Hunsucker P.A. File 127A. Collection and certificate book reference. List of Volume of Work by Year, 1937. Drawings signed Tourtellotte and Hummel.