

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

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

✓ SITE NAME: O'Neill Brothers Building ✓ SITE NUMBER: 85

✓ LOCATION: Idaho Street near Commercial, Glens Ferry, Elmore County ~~(039)~~  
~~Idaho~~

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Rufus Equisquiza  
c/o Bud Haskell  
c/o Commercial Hotel  
Glens Ferry, ID 83623

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Glens Ferry, Idaho, 7.5 minute ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the O'Neill Brothers Building and the property on which it stands, east 20 feet of lot 16, block 21, Glens Ferry Townsite. Legal description o file at the Elmore County Courthouse, Mountain Home, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/6,38,790/47,56,900

DATE OR PERIOD: 1914

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: good unaltered original site

DESCRIPTION:

The O'Neill Brothers Building is a modest one-story brick block built to a nineteen feet, ten inch-by-eighty-foot plan. The facade is largely filled by the storefront, which retains its coffeed window-bases, plate glass windows, and mezzanine lights. The intact bases indicate that the beveled right side entry is original, although the drawins for the front elevation show a centered entry. Otherwise the storefront and the masonry detail of the upper facade are precisely a designed. A few feet above the mezzanine is an outset string course of stretcher brick; cented on it is a double cross vent. The ends of the string course intersect the large ornamental elements dropped from the corbel table, which is a shallow seris of stepped elements surmounted by bands of end-set bricks and a band of header bricks. The parapet above the corbel is drawn up to a low peak. The whole is finished with a narrow concrete coping.

The exterior is substantially intact except for the replacement of the door, half-boarding of the display windows to protect the glass, and painting over of the mezzanine lights.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The O'Neill Brothers Building in Glens Ferry is architecturally significant as a well-preserved one-story storefront of a modest but neat and attractive type which Tourtellotte and Hummel designed several times for smaller Idaho main streets--for example, the individually ineligible Alexander's Store in Caldwell--but which is elsewhere unrepresented in the Thematic Group. This building also serves as an example of the way commissions tended to follow each other in a local community, and of the recycling of plans in such a setting.

Thomas and Garrett O'Neill were proprietors of O'Neill Brothers Drugs. Their neat little building went up next to R. D. Gorby's Tourtellotte and Company-rebuilt commercial building, down the street from his theater (site 84), and around the corner from the firm's 1922 McGinnis Building (site 107).

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Polk and Company. Idaho State Gazeteer and Business Directory. 1916.

Boise, Idaho. Hummel Jones Miller Hunsucker P.A. File 125D. Collection book reference 1916. Tracings signed Tourtellotte and Hummel.