

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

NOMINATION: (Lava Rock Structures in South Central Idaho)

SITE NAME: Allton Building

SITE NUMBER: 8

LOCATION: 160 ~~East~~ Main Street, Jerome, ID

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Danny G. and Ellen C. Deckard
Jerry M. and Linda C. Osborn
P.O. Box 86
Hailey, ID 83338

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Jerome, 7.5 minute

ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Allton Building and the property on which it stands, lots 30 and 31, block 77, Jerome Townsite. Legal description on file at Jerome County Courthouse, Jerome, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/703380/4733000

DATE OR PERIOD: 1909

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: unknown

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture, commerce

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: good, altered, original site

DESCRIPTION:

This one-story, flat-roofed, rectangular building facing south onto Main Street is 25 feet wide and 60 feet long. The west wall and the back [north] wall are exposed lava masonry. The coursed rubble stonework has light tan untooled mortar in its wide flush joints. The west wall has been painted white. There is a full basement with stone walls three feet thick. The front and east sides have a white pressed brick veneer. There is an unpaved graded entrance to the basement offset to the left on the north exposure. This entrance has an approximately twelve-inch wide concrete lintel above a hinged double door of narrow, vertical, grooved wood. A small, one-story, shed-roofed frame structure on a dry stone base angles up from the side of the grade at the right of the basement door. The brick walls are American stretcher bond with tight joints with flush rose-colored mortar. Decorative black and white ceramic tile, a later addition, surrounds the display window on the south and covers the column supporting the corner to the top of the windows and door. The bricks are outset to resemble columns on the south and east sides of the building. Each of these simulated columns has a concrete coping about twelve inches wide. The top of the walls of the brick portion between the columns has a concrete coping about six inches wide. Offset to the right on the east exposure is a door with a transom. Above it is a flat arch two headers wide. To its right is a wide opening with a similar flat arch above it. The original opening was probably

for a warehouse door, but now there is a folding wooden door and a casement window with an eight-paned transom. Offset to the extreme right on this wall is a window with a segmental relieving arch two headers wide with an outset keystone above it. This window opening is closed with plywood. There are some alterations with concrete at the bottom of the last two windows. All windows in both the brick and stone walls are casement with six panes below and a transom with four panes above.

SIGNIFICANCE:

This building is significant because it is a highly visible, relatively unaltered example of the use of stone for back and side walls in commercial buildings in the new towns of the Northside irrigated tracts. The Allton building was built in 1909 for Maurice J. Allton, who came to Jerome from Hot Lake, Oregon. This was one of the first two buildings, built at the same time, in Jerome's Fire Limit. It was planned that the building would eventually cover the entire lot, measuring 25 by 125 feet and two stories but it was never enlarged beyond its original size. The three-foot-thick basement walls would have carried the extra weight of the second story. The white pressed brick on the facade and east wall came from Idaho Falls. Mr. Allton was a farmer and leased the store to various businesses, including a drug store, a bank, a furniture store, a music store, and a movie theater. Its present use is a dry cleaning plant.

The painting of the west wall is a historical use. A 1911 photograph shows a large painted sign advertising the drug store tenant on the painted wall. The tile was added sometime in the 1930's. This was a typical treatment of older buildings of the era, an attempt to make what was seen as utilitarian plainness more modern.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

North Side News (Jerome), June 3 and October 7, 1909.