

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

NOMINATION: (Lava Rock Structures in South Central Idaho TR)

SITE NAME: J. C. Penney Company Building

SITE NUMBER: 55

LOCATION: 104 ~~South~~ Rail Street, Shoshone, -ID

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: c/o Nina V. Murphy Estate  
Douglas Hansen  
503 West B Street  
Shoshone. ID 83352

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE Shoshone, 7.5 minute

ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the J. C. Penney Company Building and the property on which it stands, Block 2, Lot 10, and twelve feet of lot 9, Shoshone Townsite. Legal description on file at Lincoln County Courthouse, Shoshone, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/711680/4756660

DATE OR PERIOD: 1918

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: Ignacio Berriochoa

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture, commerce

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: good, unaltered original site

DESCRIPTION:

This one-story commercial building is approximately 42 feet wide and 92 1/2 feet long. The front, facing the railroad tracks that run through the center of Shoshone is of brick painted white. The recessed centered door is flanked by display windows. The brick facade wraps around the building to the west side about five feet where there is a display window with two mezzanine panes above it. A row of mezzanine windows above the display windows have been painted to make them opaque. "Hansen's Dept. Store" is painted in black letters across the upper part of the facade. The building has a low false front. On the side walls there are three stepdowns hiding the flat roof, which is visible at the rear of the building. On the west wall facing U.S. Highway 93, is a yellow, black, red, and green sign painted over a mural of green trees and blue sky. A black arrow about midway on the wall has advertisements painted on it for Shoshone Ice Cave and Hansen's Department Store. The rear of the building has a wide, centered, wooden double door with a steel I-beam for a lintel. At the top of the rear wall are two rows of eight square-paned windows, one panel on each side of a narrow stone section above the rear door. The left wall of the building is a party wall with Strunk's store. The window trim on the facade and rear has been painted black. The interior of the store has the original balcony and fittings of early J. C. Penney stores. The almost twelve-foot-high ceiling is covered with pressed tin panels in an ornate design.

#### SIGNIFICANCE:

This building is significant as an unaltered example of early twentieth-century commercial architecture and as an example of lava rock craftsmanship. The building's plateglass storefront, mezzanine lights, stepped false walls, brick corbeling and interior plan are typical of local commercial design during this period. It was built as an investment for Dr. W. H. Baugh, the owner of the property, in 1918 by the Basque mason, Ignacio Berriochoa. Dr. Baugh leased the building to the J. C. Penney Company that same year, and it has been used as a department store ever since. The present owner commissioned R. E. Jacobs to paint the colorful sign on the side of the building in 1957. This retail clothing and household goods store has been and still is important to the residents of the city of Shoshone and the surrounding area as a supply source.

#### MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Berriochoa, Carlos, interview with Marian Posey-Ploss, Shoshone, Idaho, August, 1978.

Records of the Security Title Company, Gooding, Idaho.