

BUILDING #4:

Minden Wool Warehouse
(Dangberg Land and Livestock Company Building)

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Acreage: Less than one acre
Location: 1615 Railroad Avenue
City: Minden, State: Nevada County: Douglas County
Current Owner: Donald E. Bentley
Address: P.O. Box 157, Minden, Nevada 89423
Data Prepared By: Douglas County Planning Department Date: 1981
Address: Minden, Nevada

Property Information:

Original Use: Wool Warehouse
Present Use: Offices for Bentley - Nevada Corporation
Condition: Good
Architect: Frederick J. DeLongchamps
Builder: Unknown
Construction/Modification Dates: 1915/c.1970
Building Type: Commercial
Style: Utilitarian

Physical Description

The Minden Wood Warehouse is a single story, masonry building constructed in 1915 as a storage facility for the Dangberg Land and Livestock Company. The building was designed by prominent Nevada architect, Frederick J. DeLongchamps through a commission from H.F. Dangberg, Jr., head of the Dangberg Company. The building which is in good condition, has been slightly modified for use as offices by the Bentley-Nevada Company. The structure retains its overall architectural integrity.

The structure occupies a paved lot at the corner of sixth street and Railway Avenue in Minden, Nevada. To the north of the building is a paved parking lot.

The single story, masonry building is supported by a raised concrete basement and terminates in a shallow gable roof clad in asphalt shingles. The exterior of the structure is clad in red brick laid in common bond. Basement and first story levels are divided by a visual belt course composed of a soldier course and a header course.

The gable ends of the building are accented by a corbelled raking course. Building corners are accented by brick panelled corner pilasters which extend above the roof line. The gable-ends include central, triple, rectangular ventilators fitted with recessed louvers. The seven by two bay, rectangular building combines multi-light, fixed sash windows with one-light-over-one-light sash units set in wood frames. All windows are supported by brick lug sills. The window located in the first bay of the south elevation was altered c.1970 to a fixed, plate glass unit. The principal entrance to the building is centrally located on the last elevation. The entry, and open shed porch were added to the building C 1970.

The Minden Wool Warehouse (Dangbery Land and Livestock Company Building) is architectural and historically significant to the early development of the town of Minden. The building is also important for its association with prominent Nevada architect, Frederick J. DeLongchamps. The Minden warehouse is an example of DeLongchamps' utilitarian design and is one of four buildings designed by the architect in Minden for the Dangberg businesses.

Please see the nomination cover form for a detailed discussion of DeLongchamps' work.

The Dangbergs were among the first settlers in Carson Valley. H. F. Dangberg, senior arrived in the area in 1856 and founded the region's largest cattle ranch. By the early twentieth century, the Dangberg Land and Livestock Company encompassed 48,000 acres and included related meat packing and food processing ventures. In 1905, H. F. Dangberg, junior donated a site to the Virginia and Truckee Railroad for the construction of a rail terminal to serve the Carson Valley. This site was located two miles northwest of the town of Gardnerville. Dangberg established the town of Minden adjoining the V & T terminal in direct competition with its southeast neighbors. Noted Nevada architect, Frederick DeLongchamps, was retained to design four buildings directly related to the Dangberg business interests in Minden.

The Minden Wool Warehouse, constructed in 1915, served as the headquarters for the Dangberg Land and Livestock Company. The Dangberg Company was a major economic force in the Carson Valley from its founding in 1856 until its subdivision in 1978.

The building is currently used as offices for the Bentley-Nevada Corporation.

Bibliography

Dangberg, Grace, Carson Valley Historical Sketches of Nevada's First Settlement (Reno, Nevada: The Carson Valley Historical Society, 1972).

Miluck, Nancy, ed, Genoa-Carson Valley Book: Where Nevada Began. (Genoa: Dragon Enterprises, 1981).

Boundary Description

Site known as 1615 Railroad Avenue, Minden. Parcel is located at southeast corner of Railroad Avenue and Sixth Streets, Township 13N, Range 20E, Section 29. See accompanying map of Minden. Douglas County Assessor's Map Book 25-180-06 (Parcel).

Location of Legal Description: Douglas County Courthouse, 1616 Eighth Street, Minden, Nevada

Representation in Existing Surveys: The Architectural Heritage of Carson Valley, 1981, Local Survey deposited with the Division of Historic Preservation & Archeology, Carson City, NV

UTM References: Zone 11 E 260460 N 4315240.