

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received AUG 31 1983  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Crystal Ice Company Building

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 2024 North Davis Street N/A not for publication

city, town Pensacola N/A vicinity of

state Florida code 12 county Escambia code 033

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Huggins, W.J., Jr.

street & number 500 E. Jordan Street

city, town Pensacola N/A vicinity of state Florida

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Escambia County Courthouse

street & number 223 Palafox Place

city, town Pensacola state Florida

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Florida Master Site File has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date July, 1980  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Division of Archives, History and Records Management

city, town Tallahassee state Florida

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Crystal Ice Building is a small commercial building located in Pensacola, Florida. It was designed and built by Steve Fulghum and is a very unusual example of "Roadside Commercial" architecture. It is built of concrete block with applied stucco ornament and is in fair condition. The building has seen some deterioration, but only minimal alteration.

Contractor Steve Fulghum designed and built the trapezoidal-shaped building with the west (front) facade wider than the east facade. The west facade is 20 feet wide while the back facade is only 19 feet. The north and south sides are 14 feet long. It is oriented about 45 degrees from parallel with the street, and has a concrete driveway running in front of it from Davis Street to Jordan Street. The influence of the automobile age is apparent in the cantilevered overhanging roof on the west facade. This overhand extends 10 feet from the building and is 17 feet long. Since the building was intended only for use as an outlying dealership, its design is simple and functional, allowing customers to drive by and quickly purchase their ice. The interior of the building has a small office and large storage freezer. Carved in the stucco of the west facade wall is a sign illustrating the hand signals to be used by customers to order ice without leaving their cars.

The building is built of concrete block and is entirely covered with rough cast stucco. It has three doorways, two on the west facade and one on the south facade. One of the building's two windows is located on the east facade. The second is on the south side, and like the doorway beside it, it has a hood over it. The roof of the building is flat, with an irregular parapet. The building rests on a large concrete slab.

Decorative elements of the building graphically convey its function as an ice dealership. Two massive stuccoed columns in the shape of icicles flank the west facade. The irregular, jagged edges of the parapet and the roughness of the stucco on the exterior also convey the impression that the building is carved from a large block of ice. Stucco icicles drip from the roofline, from the window lintels, and from the hoods over the door and window on the south facade. The icicles are formed around metal reinforcing bars. Finally, in the center of the roof on the west facade, above the bold block letters proclaiming the Crystal Ice Company, stands a stucco polar bear.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** C+ 1932      **Builder/Architect** Steven Fulghum (Pensacola)

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

This c1932 building is significant architecturally as one of the few remaining examples of vernacular "roadside commercial" architecture in Pensacola. It is important historically as both a reflection of the growing importance of the automobile in American society during the 1930s and of the continued importance of ice for domestic cooling in Pensacola.

Guy Spearman, a noted Pensacola brewer, established the Crystal Ice Company in about 1930. Ice manufacturing was scarcely a new industry to West Florida, having developed during the late 1860s in conjunction with Pensacola's snapper fishing industry. The household ice box also consumed large amounts of manufactured ice. By the 1920s, however, refrigerators began to appear in affluent households, reducing the need for manufactured ice. Refrigerators remained expensive, however, and in many middle and lower income areas the ice box was a common appliance through the 1930s and 1940s. Spearman oriented his marketing toward such lower income neighborhoods, and established three dealerships in black workers neighborhoods.

The Crystal Ice dealership was a fanciful, but efficient building. The impact of the automobile on society is readily apparent in Crystal Ice Company's emphasis on drive-through service. The building's stucco icicles and polar bear instantly conveyed the purpose of the building to passing motorists. Customers could drive up nearly to the door of the building, flash one of the convenient hand signals carved on the stuccoed walls, and be quickly and efficiently served.

Crystal Ice Company continued to operate until 1970. With the death of Guy Spearman, the company was purchased by the Connohio Corporation and the dealerships closed. The other two dealerships have since been demolished.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

(See Continuation Sheet)

# 10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property Less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Pensacola

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A	<u>116</u>	<u>4719</u>	<u>51710</u>	<u>313</u>	<u>616</u>	<u>81010</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing			

B						
	Zone	Easting	Northing			

C						
	Zone	Easting	Northing			

D						
	Zone	Easting	Northing			

E						
	Zone	Easting	Northing			

F						
	Zone	Easting	Northing			

G						
	Zone	Easting	Northing			

H						
	Zone	Easting	Northing			

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The North 60 feet of Lot 4 and of the west 10 9/10 feet of Lot 5, Block 76 East King Tract. This boundary includes all significant features of the property.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>
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state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>
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# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Alan Gantzhorn/Larry S. Paarlberg, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Division of Archives, History & Rec. Mgmt. date August 17, 1983

street & number The Capitol telephone (904) 487-2333

city or town Tallahassee state Florida

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature George W. Percy

title George W. Percy, State Historic Preservation Officer date 8/22/83

### For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register, entered in the National Register

for Marion Byers date 9/29/83  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet One

Item number 9

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Primary Sources

Escambia County Deed Book 131.

Escambia County Official Record Books 448, 1355.

Escambia County Tax Rolls 1931, 1932, 1933.

Pensacola City Directories 1931, 1934, 1940, 1970.

Secondary Sources

Ellsworth, Lucius F. and Linda V. Pensacola: The Deep Water City. Tulsa: Continental Heritage Press, 1982.

McGovern, James R. The Emergence of a City in the Modern South. De Leon Springs, FL: O.E. Painter Printing Co., 1976.