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

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

SITE NAME: McGinnis, J. S., Building SITE NUMBER: 107

LOCATION: ~~Southwest corner of First~~ 1st and Commercial st~~reet~~s, Glenns Ferry, Elmore County ~~(039), Idaho~~

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Oral H. Irving
P. O. Box 453
Glenns Ferry, ID 83627

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination incluces the J. J. McGinnis Building and the property on which it stands, lots 19 and 20, block 14, north addition to Glenns Ferry. Legal description on file at the Elmore County Courthouse, Mountain Home, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/6,38,690/47,56,940

DATE OR PERIOD: 1922

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, ~~Commerce~~

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: good altered original site

DESCRIPTION:

The J. J. McGinnis Building is a one-story concrete structure with a brick veneer facade and concrete trim. It contains the original three shops, each fifty feet deep, one double-wide, within a quadrisected seventy-foot frontage.

The shopfronts are framed by brick pilasters with plain concrete capitals and dropped tab ornaments. The single-width fronts at left have centered inset entries, plate glass display windows on the sides, and plywood-screened bases and mezzanine strips--originally coffered wood and vertically segmented glass, respectively--at bottom and top. The double-wide front at right has two inset entries, one centered and one left of center; the bases and mezzanine strips are likewise screened. Above the level of the mezzanine lights and pilaster caps the brick is embellished with a row of four narrow lateral rectangles, one over each front or half-front, formed of slightly outset header brick with cast stone corner blocks. Above the cornice, the brick parapet is quardisected by five short, blocky, flat-topped forms breaking the lateral line of the coping, from positions vertically aligned with the pilasters below. The two outermost of the four bays so formed are low-peaked gable- or pediment-like forms, finishes as is the rest of the parapet with smooth concrete coping.

Two large metal ducts prsentlyu extend upward from the mezzanine strip above the double shopfront to machinery mounted on the roof. This conspicuous but superficial alteration, and the screening described above are the only exterior changes.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The J. J. McGinnis building in Glenns Ferry is architecturally significant as a little-altered example of the geometricizing, classicizing commercial style that has appered in the group since the mid-1910s--there with ornament related to that of the Roswell school, which would have been designed fairly contemporaneously with it. The McGinnis building appears in a town especially rich in examples of the work of these architects in this mode (see also sites 84 and 85), and, as befits its relative age, it is the most evolved example of it there. As opposed to the traditional red brick surface of the earlier Glenns Ferry buildings and of the Roswell school, the McGinnis building uses a dark grey-toned pressed brick veneer which was quite popular in the early 1920s. Tourtellotte and Hummel also used it on one of their most ambitious commercial/classical designs, the Broadbent building in Boise (site 111). The ornament of the McGinnis building is of an advanced type as compared to the O'Neill building, which has a related profile but a fairly traditional corbel table; here, abstract geometric qualities are emphasized in the masonry decoration as well as in the delineation of the pedimented forms at the cornice line.

The store is dated 1922 by a notation of "payment in full," dated January 1923, in the firm's collection books.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Boise, Idaho. Hummel Jones Miller Hunsucker P.A. File 410D. Collection book reference 1923. Drawings signed Tourtellotte and Hummel.

potpourri
potpourri
K CLARK AGENCY
ELMORE COUNTY
LICENSE PLATES
COURT CLERK
DRIVERS LICENSE
WED 9 AM-4 PM

Tourtellotte and Hummel Architecture in Idaho
McGinnis, J. J. Building, site #107
Southwest Corner First and Commercial streets
Glenns Ferry, Elmore County, Idaho

Photographer:
Patricia Wright
1980

Negative on file at Idaho State Historical Society
Boise, Idaho

View from east

Photograph one of one