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

NOMINATION: Idaho Falls Downtown multiple resource area
(partial inventory: architecture)

SITE NAME: Underwood Hotel (~~historic~~ name) SITE NUMBER: 5
Ross Hotel (~~common~~ name)

LOCATION: 343-349 West C Street

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Rose Marie Morgan
c/o John W. Harris
1045 York Drive
Blackfoot, ID 83221

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Idaho Falls South, 7.5 minute ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Underwood Hotel and the property on which it stands, lots 14 and 15, block 18, Holmes Addition, Idaho Falls.

UTM(S): 12/416060/4815960

DATE OR PERIOD: 1918 ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: unknown

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: good, altered, original site

The Underwood Hotel is a two-story building of light to dark burnt red brick. The brick is laid in common bond. The attic wall has a stepped profile and is capped with concrete. Centered on this wall is the legend "19 Ward 18." Metal scrolls are attached to the roof on either side of the legend. A denticulated metal cornice has indistinct molding that appears to be egg and dart. The second story has four bays with double-hung sash windows in pairs and threes. Brickwork is set to outline the windows. A band of vertical bricks runs across the facade at the top of the windows. Sills have dropped pieces at the sides. The storefront is altered with new fenestration and facing materials. At either side of the storefront is a brick column with pressed-iron capitals embellished with heraldic shields. These columns also have decorative brickwork.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Built in 1918, the Underwood Hotel is architecturally significant as an example of the use of the Renaissance Revival style in a more elaborate and decorative manner than that found in the Hotel Idaho, Rocky Mountain Bell building, and Farmers and Merchants Bank. The building is dominated by a large metal cornice supported on brackets, a feature deemphasized in the plainer Idaho Falls versions of Renaissance Revival.

The hotel was built as the Underwood Hotel, Jennie Underwood, proprietor. It is an example of the domestic-related commercial enterprises available to women entrepreneurs during the early twentieth century. With the other C Street hotels it represents the range of hotels found near railroad depots and public buildings during the period in which trains were a principal mode of transportation.

PRESS
CHEVROLET
Dodge

Underwood Hotel (historic name)
Ross Hotel (common name)
Site 5, Idaho Falls Downtown multiple resource area
343-349 West C Street
Idaho Falls, Bonneville County, Idaho

photograph by Jennifer Eastman Attebery

6 April 1983

Negative on file at Idaho State Historical Society

view from North

Photograph one of one