

NPS Form 10-9000
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL
REGISTER

1. Name of Property

historic name: A.F.R. Building

other name/site number: Roulet Block / 001275

2. Location

street & number: 501 North Main

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Pocatello vicinity: N/A

state: ID county: Bannock code: 005 zip code: 83204

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register Criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Ronald J. Lee
Signature of certifying official

9-26-90
Date

Idaho State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

☒ entered in the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the
National Register

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register

☐ removed from the National Register

☐ other (explain): _____

Anthony J. Lee

11/16/90

for Signature of Keeper

Date
of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: Commerce/Trade
Domestic

Sub: restaurant
multiple dwelling

Current: Vacant/Not in use

Sub: _____

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

RomanesqueRenaissance

Other Description: _____

Materials: foundation not visible roof not accessible for inspection
walls on the exterior other metal: iron
brick stone stone

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Locally.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, CCriteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A

Areas of Significance: Architecture
Commerce

Period(s) of Significance: 1903 _____Significant Dates : 1903 _____Significant Person(s): N/A
_____Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

X See continuation sheet.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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X See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other state agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other -- Specify Repository: _____

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: Less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>12</u>	<u>381260</u>	<u>4746670</u>	B	___	___	___
C	___	___	___	D	___	___	___

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: ___ See continuation sheet.

The nomination includes the A.F.R. building and the lot on which it sits, lot 11 in block 456, Pocatello Townsite.

Boundary Justification: X See continuation sheet.

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11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Jennifer Eastman Attebery, Architectural Historian Southeast RegionOrganization: Idaho State Historical Society Date: 22 June 1990Street & Number: 210 Main Telephone: (208) 334-3861City or Town: Boise State: ID Zip: 83702

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The A.F.R. Building is a two-story brick commercial building located on the corner of Main and Wyeth streets at the northwestern edge of Pocatello's downtown commercial district. The building is rectangular in plan, with the exception of a cut-away corner entrance at Main and Wyeth. The roof is flat. The building is detached from surrounding buildings.

The building's side and rear walls (northwest and southwest exposures) are common brick laid up with common bond. The facade along Main and Wyeth streets (northeast and southeast exposures) is veneered with pressed brick and sandstone trim laid up in a variety of decorative motifs drawn from the Romanesque Revival and Renaissance Revival styles: round and segmental relieving arches, a corbelled cornice, and outset brick courses suggesting pilasters. A carved-stone panel under the cornice has the legend "A.F.R."

Much of the building's fenestration is covered with aluminum storm windows and protective boarding, but it is apparent from an inspection of the interior that most of the building's double-hung sash windows are intact, as are the double doors at the corner entryway. A cast-iron storefront is also at least partially intact on the northeast facade.

The building is divided into three sections based upon the decorative treatment of the facade. The principal, or front, section faces onto Main Street. It includes the corner entrance flanked by large storefront windows and an inset storefront along Main. This is the most elaborately decorated part of the building, with outset pilasters, contrasting cream-colored pressed-brick corbelling, and round-arched windows. A second section of the building along the Wyeth street facade is expressed with upper and lower rows of segmental windows unified on the second story by an outset string course. The third section of the building is the rear bay of the Wyeth Street facade, where a round-arched entry gives access to a stairway for the second story. This third section of the building replicates many of the decorative motifs of the principal, Main Street section.

On the interior a few original or early features are intact, including a galvanized, pressed, sheet-iron ceiling on the first floor. Also visible are features of the cast-iron storefront and storefront doors and fenestration. In the basement the coursed-rubble basalt foundation is visible. Stairs to the second story of the building are intact. On the second story a hallway stretches the length of the building, with apartments on either side of it. According to the

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tax assessor's files, these apartments have undergone several remodelings, but most of the current arrangement and appointments (such as plumbing fixtures) appear to date from a 1930 remodeling. There are no other buildings on the property.

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The A.F.R. Building is architecturally significant as a well-preserved local example of turn-of-the-century commercial architecture. The building is historically significant as a representative of local commercial development in a transitional neighborhood.

The A.F.R. Building is one of Pocatello's few commercial structures--and certainly one of the most intact structures--from the early-twentieth century period. At least three periods of rapid expansion occurred in Pocatello's commercial district. An initial period of growth occurred after enlargement of the Pocatello townsite and relocation of the Utah and Northern railroad shops from Eagle Rock to Pocatello, in 1887-88. The result was a number of two-story stone and brick commercial blocks built during the early 1890s. At least five of these blocks survive and are listed in the National Register as part of the Pocatello Historic District. They are Picturesque renditions of the Romanesque Revival and Richardsonian Romanesque styles.

The A.F.R. Building belongs to a second period of expansion that began with the land rush of June 17, 1902, when 416,000 acres of the Fort Hall Reservation bordering the Pocatello townsite on the northeast was opened to white settlement. This period saw considerable residential construction, construction of several institutional buildings (such as the county courthouse and the first Academy of Idaho buildings), and further downtown development with the construction of at least thirteen new two-and three-story brick buildings. The A.F.R. Building is one of the few downtown blocks to survive from this period of commercial development. The others are the Masonic Building, Monarch Building, Seavers Building, W.O.W. Building, and Fire Station 1, all listed in the National Register as part of the Pocatello Historic District. Like the A.F.R. Building, these six buildings express Romanesque and Renaissance style through brick corbelling, brick pilasters, and arched openings. Compared to the buildings of the 1890s, they are subdued and less Picturesque.

Beginning in the mid-1910s Pocatello construction increased dramatically and much of downtown Pocatello was rebuilt, leaving the A.F.R. Building and its fellows as the few representatives of nineteenth-century and turn-of-the-century construction and style. The A.F.R. retains numerous stylistic and structural features representative of this period in Pocatello architecture: common-bond brick walls, a stone foundation, a wood and cast iron storefront, a pressed iron ceiling, and brick veneer laid up to create corbelling, arched openings, string courses, and pilasters.

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As a saloon and apartment house (later cafe and grocery), the A.F.R. Building was a social and commercial center for the surrounding working class neighborhood and was a source of commodities important to its inhabitants: food, liquor, and lodging. The A.F.R. Building was built for Albert F. Roulet's saloon, a Pocatello establishment dating from 1887 or 1888. Albert's wife Mary Ann Roulet managed the Roulet Apartments on the second floor of the building, and the Roulet family lived in a one-story frame house at the rear of the lot (demolished 1986).

The building's function was typical of the building uses found in Pocatello's transitional neighborhoods. The A.F.R. Building stands in a neighborhood that is transitional between the downtown core and the working-class residential neighborhood to the north and west. In his study of Pocatello's occupational structure, Robert L. Wrigley, Jr., characterized this area as suffering "from the commercialization of north Main and the proximity of the railroad plant." As Wrigley notes, transitional neighborhoods of this kind ring both of Pocatello's commercial districts (west and east of the Union Pacific railroad tracks), and their mixed uses—including numerous apartment houses—are typical of the city's high-density, unplanned growth and its largely blue-collar population, which included itinerant railroad workers in need of lodging and other domestic services.¹

The area around the A.F.R. Building has always had a mixture of residential, multiple-unit residential, and commercial development, and beginning around the turn of the century it acquired a few light manufacturing establishments: a cigar factory, a blacksmithy, a cobbler's shop. Later industrial uses included a book bindery and a machine shop. During the 1920s and 1930s the area became a center for automobile showrooms and service stations. Today the area continues to accomodate a range of uses, including motels, commercial storefronts, and single-family residences. The A.F.R. Building retains several features indicative of its historic function, including the corner entry and surrounding wood and cast iron storefront and the rear apartment entrance and stairs. The current owner of the A.F.R. Building intends to rehabilitate the building under the H.U.D. rental rehabilitation program, maintaining the building's historic use as apartments on the second story and commercial storefronts on the first floor.

1

Robert L. Wrigley, Jr., The Occupational Structure of Pocatello, Idaho, Chicago: The University of Chicago Libraries, 1942.

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Pocatello Tribune. 31 January 1927, p. 10. Obituary for Mary
Ann Roulet.

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BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary for the nomination conforms to the commercial lot boundaries for development of the A.F.R. Building during the period in which it achieved significance. The boundary also conforms to current ownership by developers planning rehabilitation of the building.



1. AFR Building
2. Pocatello, Idaho Banner
3. Jennifer Attebery
4. August 27, 1990
5. Idaho State Historical Society
Boise, Idaho
6. view from the east



1. AFR Building
2. Pocatello, Idaho Bannock
3. Jennifer Attebury
4. August 27, 1990
5. Idaho State Historical Society,
Boise, Idaho
6. view from the south