

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |             |
| RECEIVED         | JUN 20 1978 |
| DATE ENTERED     | NOV 20 1978 |

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Alexanders

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Ninth and Main Streets

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Boise

VICINITY OF

First

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Idaho

16

Ada

001

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- ☐ DISTRICT
- ☒ BUILDING(S)
- ☐ STRUCTURE
- ☐ SITE
- ☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- ☒ PUBLIC
- ☐ PRIVATE
- ☐ BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- ☐ IN PROCESS
- ☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- ☒ OCCUPIED
- ☐ UNOCCUPIED
- ☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- ☐ YES: RESTRICTED
- ☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED
- ☐ NO

PRESENT USE

- ☐ AGRICULTURE
- ☒ COMMERCIAL
- ☐ EDUCATIONAL
- ☐ ENTERTAINMENT
- ☐ GOVERNMENT
- ☐ INDUSTRIAL
- ☐ MILITARY
- ☐ MUSEUM
- ☐ PARK
- ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ☐ RELIGIOUS
- ☐ SCIENTIFIC
- ☐ TRANSPORTATION
- ☐ OTHER

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Boise Redevelopment Agency

STREET & NUMBER

City Hall

CITY, TOWN

Boise

VICINITY OF

STATE

Idaho

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Ada County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Boise

STATE

Idaho

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Idaho State Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1972

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Idaho State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Boise

STATE

Idaho

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

\_\_\_EXCELLENT

X\_\_\_GOOD

\_\_\_FAIR

\_\_\_DETERIORATED

\_\_\_RUINS

\_\_\_UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

X\_\_\_UNALTERED

\_\_\_ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

X\_\_\_ORIGINAL SITE

\_\_\_MOVED      DATE\_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Alexander building is a two-story structure with white terra cotta veneer, rendered in the Second Renaissance Revival style. Both facades of this corner building have centered inset entries and plate glass windows. The mezzanine windows have been painted over. Doric pilasters demarcate the first story bays. A canopy extends from the ninth street entry.

The second story is distinguished by Ionic pilasters, squared-topped and round arched windows and a wrought iron mock balcony with a centered initial letter "A". The round arched windows have modillion-like keystones and the balcony is supported by garlanded brackets. The building terminates with a denticulated cornice with a parapet accented at the corners. The name "Alexander" is inscribed in the frieze and raised shields with the letter "A" decorate the parapet.

A frieze and cavetto separate the first and second stories. Discs ornament the frieze as does a wreathed oval plaque over the Main Street entry.

There are no additions or alterations other than block-letter signing on the mezzanine windows.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)     |  |
|                                           |                                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION               |                                                         |                                              |  |

SPECIFIC DATES

1924

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Alexander building is architecturally significant as one of Idaho's best examples of the second Renaissance Revival style applied to a commercial building. The terra cotta veneer with its high quality of design and attention to detail further makes this building worthy of preservation.

Alexander's Men's Store was founded by Moses Alexander, who served as mayor of Boise and governor of Idaho. He holds the distinction of being the first Jewish governor in the nation. His clothing stores occupied a number of different locations in Boise from 1890 onward. This building, erected in 1924, served as the company's main store, offices and warehouse until 1975 when the Redevelopment Agency purchased the property. The Alexander family still operates their company.

In 1924 the Union Pacific decided to place Boise on its main line. This in part prompted Moses Alexander to build this structure in a period of agricultural depression. He proclaimed a "confidence in Boise's future" and desired "something new in architectural construction"<sup>1</sup> in the city. This shining white terra cotta building was the result of that desire. It remains a unique architectural statement in downtown Boise and a community and commercial landmark.

<sup>1</sup> Idaho Daily Statesman, April 1, 1924, p. 5, c. 1.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Idaho Daily Statesman, April 1, 1924, p. 5, c. 1.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre.

UTM REFERENCES

A 

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | 1 |
|---|---|

|   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 0 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

B

ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This property consists of the Alexander building and the land it stands on at the northeast corner of Main & Ninth Streets.

*Boise City Original Townsite: Block 2, Lots 1 & 2. See phone report.*

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Don Hibbard, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Idaho State Historical Society

DATE

14 June 1978

STREET & NUMBER

610 North Julia Davis Drive

TELEPHONE

384-2120

CITY OR TOWN

Boise

STATE

Idaho

## 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

*Mark Wells*

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

14 June 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Charles H. ...*  
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

*W. Ray ...*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

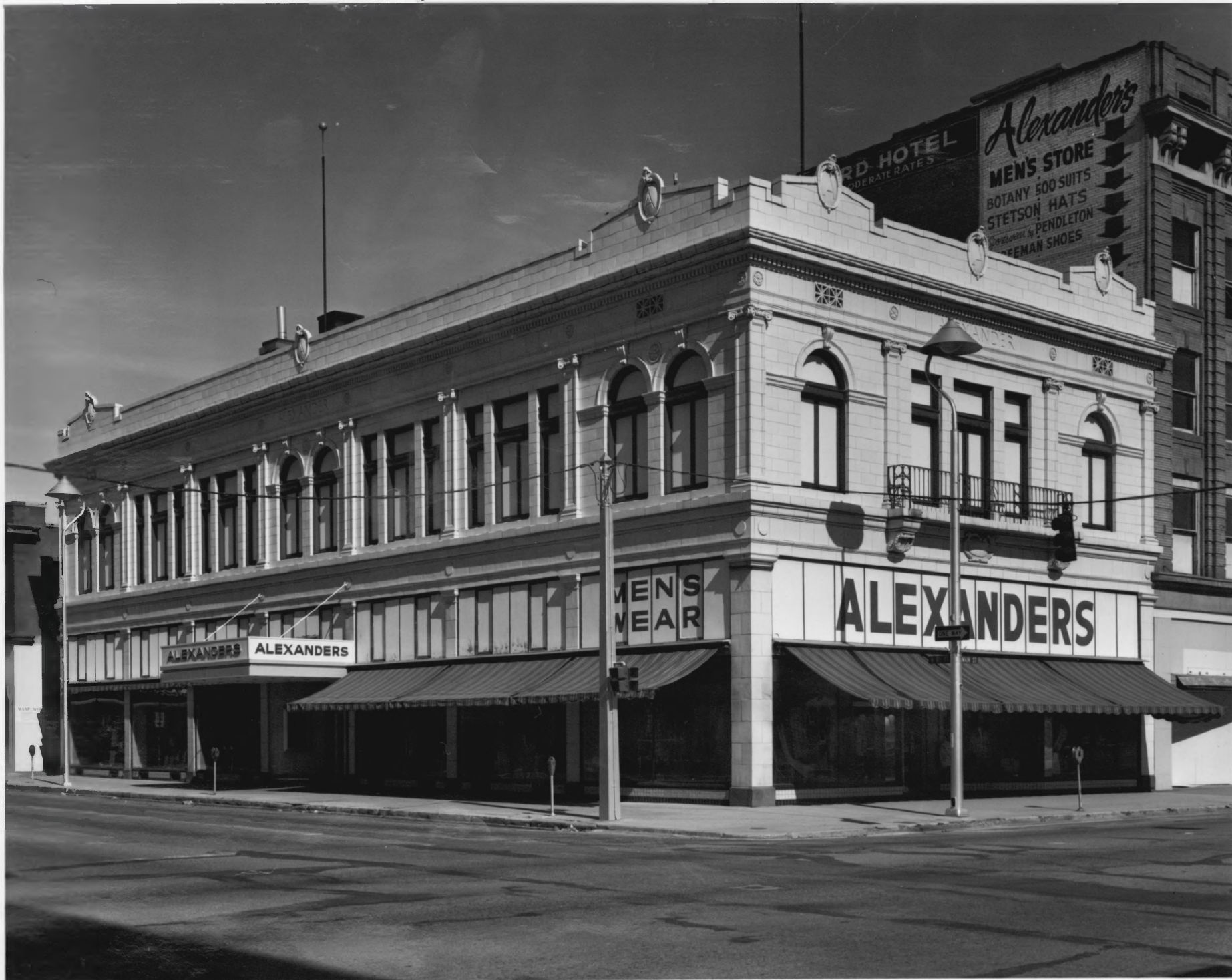
DATE

7/1/20/78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11/20/78



Alexanders  
Boise, Idaho

Photographer - Duane Garrett  
1977

Private collection  
View of front and side from the southwest.

JUN 20 1978

NOV 20 1978

*Garrett Photography*

714 WEST STATE

BOISE, IDAHO 83702

REORDER NO. 30931