

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED JUN 20 1978  
DATE ENTERED MAR 12 1979

# 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 The Union Block and Montandon Buildings  
AND/OR COMMON The Fidelity - Union Block

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Eighth and Idaho  
CITY, TOWN Boise VICINITY OF First  
STATE Idaho CODE 16 COUNTY Ada CODE 001

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Boise Redevelopment Agency  
STREET & NUMBER City Hall  
CITY, TOWN Boise VICINITY OF Idaho

## 5 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  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Idaho State Historical Society  
CITY, TOWN Boise STATE Idaho

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Union Block and Montandon Buildings are both two-story commercial buildings with rusticated sandstone facades. The Romanesque Revival styled Union Block is distinguished by an arcaded second story window with a clerestory capped by a stepped parapet. A denticulated cornice leads to the parapet with its centered, truncated chevron proclaiming "Union Block." The building is symmetrical and five bays wide. The two eastern most bays have been covered by perforated aluminum panels; the original facade is preserved beneath these panels.

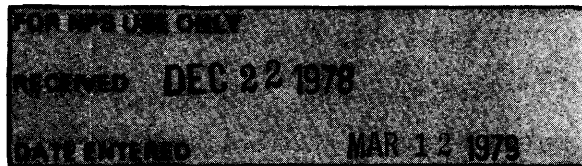
The Montandon Building was erected in 1908.

This Renaissance revival structure is distinguished by smooth stone Doric pilasters, and a higher cornice and parapet also of smooth stone. It has three bays on Idaho Street and seven bays on Eighth Street. Each bay contains 3 double hung sash windows with smooth stone flat arches with drip stones. The extreme east bay originally was a one story brick. In 1908 a sandstone veneer and second story was added. It is in a commercial style with two double hung sash windows with rusticated sandstone flat arches above them. The bay terminates with a rusticated sandstone cornice and parapet.

The first stories of all these buildings have been altered to accomodate present day retail purposes. The sole reminder of the original facade is the Union block's stone round arched entry to the upper story. There have been no additions.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**



CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

8

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Fidelity-Union Block

The Fidelity-Union block is significant in part for its continuation of the Romanesque motif on Idaho Street. It is a rather late rendering of the style and more maintains the spirit of the style than displays any precise design features. Its ponderous massing, use of local sandstone (as already described in the original significance), quasi-medieval parapet and flattened round arched windows all contribute to the structure's ability to evoke the Romanesque essence.

By perpetuating this stylistic spirit the Union block was much in keeping with its surrounding structures. On the south side of Idaho street once stood the impressive Rhenish Romanesque Boise City Hall building, unfortunately this was destroyed in the fifties in the name of progress and a completely ugly aluminum and glass, plastic looking excretion now occupies the site. Fortunately, the Boise City National Bank, certainly the city's, if not the state's finest example of Romanesque revival architecture as applied to a commercial structure, still stands diagonally across the intersection from the Fidelity building.

As such the building is an integral focal point on Idaho Street. Presently it is endangered by a rather insensative "progress" oriented redevelopment program.

P.S. In looking at this nomination I noticed I failed to provide you with all the owners names. The Redevelopment Agency only owns a portion of these buildings. The Gem State Optical portion is owned by

Rudy Anderson  
c/o Gem State Optical  
718 W. Idaho Street  
Boise

The center section is owned by

Brad Shaw  
7383 Cloverdale Road  
Boise

# 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 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		

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SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Tourtellotte & Co., J. W. Smith

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Fidelity-Union Block is significant as a good local example of commercial buildings rendered in sandstone. The stone for both these buildings was quarried locally at Tablerock. This quarry's reputation was nationally known with a Yale University building and much of downtown Portland employing it in their construction. Several downtown Boise buildings use it, including the Capitol, the Emmanuel Lutheran Church, St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Eastman Building, and Boise City National Bank.

This block is a prominent part of the downtown streetscape and the Union block is especially noteworthy with its unique second story window and parapet design.

The Union block was built for a syndicate composed of some of turn of the century Boise's most prominent personalities: Mayor Moses Alexander, Fort Boise Commandant General Green, sheepman Robert Noble, wholesaler Jerry Lusk and Charles A. Clark. The first story accomodated five stories while the second story contained offices and Christensen's dance hall.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Idaho Daily Statesman, January 1, 1902, p. 14, c. 1-2; March 22, 1908, p. 3, c. 4;  
June 7, 1908, p. 5, c. 2.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre.

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	1	5	6	4	4	6	0	4	8	2	9	3	7	0
ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

B 

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This property includes the Fidelity-Union buildings and the land they stand upon at Eighth and Idaho.

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

*Meredith 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

ATTEST: *Bill Laborich*  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 3/12/78  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
DATE March 8, 1979



(Union Block & Montandon Buildings) MAR 12 1979  
The Fidelity-Union Block  
Boise, Idaho Ada County

Photographer - Duane Garrett  
1978

#1 of 2

Idaho State Historical Society

View of the front and side from the southwest.

Site survey file.

JUN 20 1978



UNION BLOCK

GEM STATE OPTICAL

MUSIC



FIGUER'S OFFICE EQUIPMENT

The PAPER TREE

GARDEN - HANGING - GIFTS

Hallmark

GIFTS LOGGAGE HAND BAGS



(Union Block + Montandon Buildings)

MAR 12 1979

The Fidelity-Union Block

Boise, Idaho

Ada County

Photographer - Duane Garrett - 1978

Idaho State Historical Society

View of the front from the southeast.

#2 of 2

Site survey file.

JUN 20 1978