

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only

received AUG 14 1985
date entered SEP 12 1985

1. Name

historic Werthheimer Building

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 101 South Main Street N/A not for publication

city, town Hailey N/A vicinity of

state Idaho code 016 county Blaine code 013

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
☐ district	☐ public	☒ occupied	☐ agriculture ☐ museum
☒ building(s)	☒ private	☐ unoccupied	☒ commercial ☐ park
☐ structure	☐ both	☐ work in progress	☐ educational ☐ private residence
☐ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	☐ entertainment ☐ religious
☐ object	N/A in process	☐ yes: restricted	☐ government ☐ scientific
	N/A being considered	☒ yes: unrestricted	☐ industrial ☐ transportation
		☐ no	☐ military ☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Leonard H. McIntosh

street & number 3710 Grant Drive, Suite A

city, town Reno N/A vicinity of state Nevada 89509

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Blaine County Courthouse

street & number First and Croy streets

city, town Hailey state Idaho 83333

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Idaho State Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1982 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

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 N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Werthheimer Building is a one-story brick commercial structure built in 1889. The building is rectangular in plan, with a flat roof, and is constructed of brick laid in common bond with every seventh row being a header course. The one-bay storefront consists of a central recessed double-door entry flanked by large plate glass windows and iron columns. A Mesker Brothers iron cornice is in place on the top parapet wall. The Bullion Street (north) facade exhibits a simple parapet cornice stepped back toward the back property line. The exterior walls have been painted.

As originally constructed in 1889, the building was one of four attached commercial structures with a common denticulated brick parapet cornice. Early photographs clearly indicate a recessed central entryway as well as round fluted columns flanking the door. A simple cornice immediately above the storefront completed the basic elements of the front-facade design. The building is about 30 feet wide and was originally about 60 feet long. At some point between January 1906 and August 1907 the building was extended another 37 feet toward the rear and the Mesker Brothers iron cornice added. At the same time the storefront was remodeled to its present configuration.

In 1984 the Werthheimer Building was extensively rehabilitated under the provisions of the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981. The National Park Service issued a preliminary determination of eligibility (Part I) on 5/23/84 and approved the final certification of completed work (Part III) on 5/15/85 (NPS Project No. 0052-84-ID-84-0046). The principal exterior alterations to the building were the addition of four compatible windows on the north (Bullion St.) facade, a redesigned segmental-arch double door to replace the flat-arch doorway at the rear of the north facade, and removal of non-historic board-and-batten siding from the building's exterior. The only significant interior feature of the building that was still extant prior to the recent rehabilitation project was a simple metal ceiling. Severe deterioration and damage caused by the installation of a suspended ceiling several years ago, however, forced the removal of the metal ceiling. It was undetermined whether the ceiling was from the original 1889 structure or the 1906-07 remodeling. The removal was approved by the National Park Service as part of the certified rehabilitation. The project resulted in the building's appearing much as it did after Werthheimer's 1906-1907 remodeling.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
☐ prehistoric	☐ archeology-prehistoric	☐ community planning	☐ landscape architecture	☐ religion
☐ 1400–1499	☐ archeology-historic	☐ conservation	☐ law	☐ science
☐ 1500–1599	☐ agriculture	☐ economics	☐ literature	☐ sculpture
☐ 1600–1699	☒ architecture	☐ education	☐ military	☐ social/
☐ 1700–1799	☐ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian
☒ 1800–1899	☒ commerce	☐ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater
☒ 1900–	☐ communications	☐ industry	☐ politics/government	☐ transportation
		☐ invention		☐ other (specify)

Specific dates 1889; 1906–07 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Werthheimer Building is significant for its historical association with a successful local merchant and with the economic growth of an early Idaho mining community, as well as for its simple commercial design--partially a result of the circumstances of its construction.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Hailey

Quadrangle scale 7.5 minute

UTM References

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The nomination includes the Werthheimer Building and the property on which it stands: Lot 1, Block 32, of the Original Hailey Townsite. The lot is approximately 30' by 120' in size.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Donald W. Watts, Preservation Planner

organization Idaho State Historical Society

date 16 July 1985

street & number 610 North Julia Davis Drive

telephone (208) 334-3861

city or town Boise

state Idaho 83702-7695

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national state X 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 2 August 1985

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for Melissa Bryan
Entered in the
National Register

date

9/2/85

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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Werthheimer Building

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

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Leopold Werthheimer was born in Germany in 1854 and immigrated to the United States in 1872. After spending two years in New York, he moved to Cheyenne, Wyoming, and entered the clothing trade with his uncle. At the age of thirty he moved to Hailey, a growing mining community in Idaho Territory, with a stock of goods and opened a men's clothing and furnishings store in the Bullion Block, a large two-story structure at the corner of Main and Bullion streets. His business was successful, and in 1887 he was able to buy the building that housed his store.

On July 2, 1889, a year and a day before Idaho was admitted to statehood, a disastrous fire destroyed virtually the entire business district of Hailey, including Werthheimer's Bullion Block. The rebuilding of the town began almost immediately, and Werthheimer joined with local merchant J. C. Fox and the First National Bank to construct a block of four attached commercial buildings with a common simple brick cornice line and similar storefronts, Werthheimers located on the former site of the Bullion Block. The buildings went up quickly: Werthheimer reopened his business on October 5, three months after the fire.

The clothing store continued to prosper, and in 1906 or 1907 Werthheimer was able to remodel the building. The front storefront was redesigned, adding a large Mesker Brothers iron cornice and a complementary cornice just above the storefront display windows, and the building was extended approximately another 37 feet at the rear. Werthheimer continued to operate his business in its original location until his death in 1913.

The building's significance stems in part from its close association with the devastating 1889 fire. In conjunction with the attached buildings to its south, the Werthheimer Building was one of the first to be constructed after the conflagration. The the new building was one story in height, confirming an earlier editorial prediction in the Wood River Times that "few if any two-story buildings will be built at present in the burnt district, those destroyed not having proved sufficiently remunerative as investments to justify their reconstruction". It was not until just before World War I that two story buildings were again constructed in the downtown, and then only rarely. The present appearance of Hailey's commercial core still retains the one-story profile.

Another aspect of its significance relates to the local commercial network that was built up primarily to support first the early mining activity in the Wood River Valley and later its agricultural development. Werthheimer's store was in continuous operation almost thirty years, beginning in 1884, only three years after the town's establishment. The success of his endeavors are reflected in the extensive remodeling and expansion of the building in 1906-07.

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Few other buildings in Hailey's downtown commercial district dating from the immediate post-fire reconstruction retain a similar degree of architectural integrity as does the Werthheimer Building. Of the three other attached structures built simultaneously with it, only Werthheimer's store reflects its historic design.

[1] Wood River Times; Hailey, Idaho; July 31, 1889.

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Werthheimer Building
Continuation sheet

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

(Hailey) Wood River Times, July 10, 1889; July 17, 1889; July 31, 1889; August 10, 1889; August 21, 1889; August 28, 1889; September 18, 1889; October 9, 1889; January 5, 1907; December 39, 1913; December 30, 1913; December 31, 1913; January 2, 1914.

(Hailey) Wood River Daily News and Miner, October 2, 1889; October 8, 1889.

(Hailey) Wood River Journal, July 1, 1981, special centennial issue.

R. L. Polk's Oregon, Washington, and Idaho Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1886-87.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Company maps for Hailey, Idaho, 1885, 1888, 1890, 1897, 1907, 1920, and 1945.

U.S. Census, 1900. Blaine County, Hailey, Vol. 2, Sheet 4, E.D. 26, Line 31.

BILLION BLOCK

Prime Commercial Space
FOR RENT
White Cloud
Properties
726-3600



Werthheimer Building
101 South Main Street
Hailey, Blaine County, Idaho

Photograph by Kimmo T. Akerblom
July 17, 1985

Negative on file at the Idaho State Historical
Society, Boise, Idaho

View from northeast

Photograph 1 of 2



Werthheimer Building
101 South Main Street
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July 17, 1985

Negative on file at the Idaho State Historical
Society, Boise, Idaho

View from northwest

Photograph 2 of 2