Spokane City/County Historic Preservation Office, City Hall, Sixth Floor 808 Spokane Falls Boulevard, Spokane, Washington 99201-3337

1.	Name of Property			
Historic Name Common Name		The Washington Furniture Company The Community Building		
2.	Location			
Site Street & Number		35 West Main Street		
City, State, Zip Code Parcel Number		Spokane, WA 99201 35184.1008		
3.	Classification			
City, S	publicpublicyerivateboth t Public Acquisitionin progressbeing considered Owner of Property & Number tate, Zip Code	of Property X_occupiedwork in progress Accessible X_yes, restrictedyes, unrestricted James L. Sheehan 214 West 17 th Avenue Spokane, WA 99203	Present Use of Property _agriculturalmuseum X_commercialpark _educationalresidential _entertainmentreligious _governmentscientific _industrialtransportation _militaryother	
Telephone Number/E-mail		835-5211		
5.	Location of Legal Descripti	on		
Courthouse, Registry of Deeds Street Number City, State, Zip Code County		Spokane County Courthouse West 1116 Broadway Spokane, WA 99260 Spokane County		
6.	Representation in Existing	Surveys		
Title Date Depository for Survey Records		Historic Landmarks Survey of Spokane 1978 Spokane City/County Historic Preservation Office		
7.	Description			
Archit	ectural Classification categories from instructions)	Conditionexcellent X_goodfairdeterioratedruinsunexposed	Check Oneunaltered X_altered Check One X_original sitemoved & date	

8. Spokane Register Criteria and Statement of Significance

Applicable Spokane register of Historic Places Criteria—mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for Spokane Register listing:

<u>Λ</u> _Α	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of	
	Spokane history.	
B	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	
C	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents	
	the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity	
	whose components lack individual distinction.	

__D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory.

Narrative statement of significance is found on one or more continuation sheets.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography is found on one or more continuation sheets.

10. Geographical Data

acreage of property Less than one acre

Verbal Boundary Description West ½ Lot 7, East ½ Lot 8, Block 4, Havermale's

Addition

Verbal Boundary Justification The site, 50 feet by 142 feet, is almost entirely

covered by the building.

11. Form Prepared By

Name and Title Sally Reynolds, Consultant, Planning & Historic Pres.

Telephone Number 509-448-0311

Street and Number 7015 East 44th Avenue City, State, Zip Code Spokane, WA 99223

And

Name and Title Daniel S. Butterworth, Associate Professor, Gonzaga U.

Telephone Number 509-456-5280 Street and Number 603 W. 23rd

City, State, Zip Code Spokane, WA 99203 Date Spokane, WA 99203 November 21, 2001

12. Additional Documentation

Maps

Photographs and Slides

13. Signature of Owner(s)				
Jangh. Sheeko				
14. For Official Use Only:	Carolina Princip Sign Constraints			
Date Received:	Attest:			
Date Heard:	City Clerk			
Commission Decision:	Approved			
Council/Board Action:	as to Form: Mulas Meccello Assistant City Attorney			
Date:				
We hereby certify that this property has Historic Places.	been listed in the Spokane Register of			
CITY ADMINISTRATOR, City of Spok	ane			
or				
CHAIR, Spokane County Commissioner	s			
CHAIR, Spokane City/County Historic I	Landmarks Commission			
Duisa Libor				
OFFICER, City/County Historic Preservation Officer				

City/County Historic Preservation Office Sixth Floor - City Hall, Spokane, WA 99201

Continuation Sheet Item Number 7 Page Number 1

The Washington Furniture Company

Narrative Description

Summary

The Washington Furniture Company is located in the first block of downtown Spokane's West Main Avenue. Facing north, its façade is contiguous with its neighbors, all early twentiethcentury brick Commercial Style buildings. One and one-half lots east of Browne Street, the beige brick structure is three stories tall, with a symmetrical façade. Its construction style-masonry with wood framing--is the same construction method used throughout the first block of West Main Avenue. At street level, a replacement storefront is consistent with the historic character of the building and the neighborhood, with three bays composed of large glass display windows and transoms. The middle bay contains double entry doors. Above street level, the original façade is intact, with window openings on the second and third floor that are evenly spaced below a corbelled cornice. Despite numerous alterations that include remodeling after a 1947 fire, the interior retains its basic form, with a mezzanine that overlooks the first floor and two rows of pillars that extend from front to back, dividing the length of the interior into three parts. New metal-clad wood windows have double sashes with slender frames. The west elevation, with limited visibility above its neighboring building, has new window openings at each upper level. New windows on the east elevation are visible only from the back alley. Formerly occupied by the Birkebiener Brewery and Restaurant, the building has been renovated for offices for community non-profit organizations and retail sales use. It is in good condition.

Location

The Washington Furniture Store is located in Block 4 of Havermale's Addition on the east end of Spokane's central business district. On two adjacent half-lots between Division and Browne Streets, it is two blocks south of the Spokane River. Fifty feet wide and one hundred and forty-two feet deep, the building covers its lot. It is in a neighborhood that is experiencing gradual regeneration but retains its original character with a mix of commercial and residential uses. Both to the east, and across Main Street, are three and four story brick buildings from the same era. An alley behind connects Division and Browne Streets and separates the Main Avenue buildings from the City's Fire Station Number One, a contemporary structure.

Exterior

At street level, four piers decorated with rows of vertical reeding divide the façade into three parts. They separate the center bay and entry from two side bays and frame the large windows of the side bays. On a plane without recesses, low bulkheads of wood support the windows and their single vertical division. Between, the central entry is an oak-framed double door with brass kick plates and door pulls, sidelights, and a shallow transom. Above the entry and windows, plain fascia panels sit between the piers, the center one bearing the title "COMMUNITY BUILDING" in raised gold letters.

Continuation Sheet Item Number 7 Page Number 2

The Washington Furniture Company

Description—continued

Just above, large transoms that light the interior's mezzanine repeat the three-part division. The far east end of the east bay contains a single metal door, set flush.

Above street level, the exterior walls are a mottled tan and gray brick laid in running bond. Six tall window openings on second and third floors are subtly paired. The window openings, all with slightly projecting cast stone lugsills, have radiating voussoirs on the second level, capped with a double row of slightly projecting bricks, and segmental arch voussoirs on the third below an arched string course. Metal-clad wood windows are one-over-one with slender frames and sashes. They are recent, replacing the 1950s windows that held three horizontal panes, but they are also appropriate approximations of the original fenestration. A second string course is without arches, and sits below a corbelled cornice. A flat composition roof sits behind the eighteen-inch cornice and its continuous coping. Mounted above the entrance, with access to the center pair of windows on each upper level, is a plain wrought iron fire escape.

West Elevation

The west elevation, visible above its adjacent one-story building, is unglazed red brick. The fading remnants of painted signs on the brick surfaces below the cornice document a portion of the store's history. On the north is "Ketchum & Son Wholesale Dry Goods," then a barely visible "C. H. Trunk & Co." and a newer "Drink Coca-Cola" advertisement. New window openings, only two-thirds the height of the façade windows, are widely separated, with flush metal lintels and recessed sills. They are paired, separated by mullions, with double panes. Three are evenly spaced on the north end, and two more, on the south third, are mostly hidden from street level view. Sashes are slender, matching those of the façade windows. A narrow pedestrian alley on the next lot west sits between the Washington Furniture Store and the one-story brick and frame building at 47 West Main Street. Their facades are linked with a one story-brick connecting passageway.

East Elevation

The east elevation's parapet is visible above the Washington Furniture Company's smaller neighbor, the Balkan Hotel. Separated from the hotel's west wall by only inches, this elevation still bears the shadow of a one-story metal carport that stood behind the hotel after 1953. A section of the red brick wall was painted white. There is a first floor entry, accessed by a wooden ramp leading to a small porch with metal railing. The entry would have been added after the 1938 removal of a one-story warehouse behind the Balkan Hotel. The wood-faced door is set flush, with a flush metal lintel. Single window openings on the south portion of each level match west elevation windows, with metal lintels and recessed sills. The grade, which descends toward Main Avenue, exposes the building's rubble foundation.

Continuation Sheet Item Number 7 Page Number 3

The Washington Furniture Company

Description--continued

South Elevation

Facing the alley and opposite City Fire Station Number One's back wall, the south elevation is also plain red brick in common bond. At street level, a centered service entry

has double metal doors set flush above a concrete sill. On the left, three window openings with segmental arches match façade openings in size but, below the arch, recessed brickwork creates a flat lintel and cast stone slipsills are set flush. On the right, a single doorway sits below a segmental arch of three header rows. Second and third floor window openings are symmetrical and grouped in threes, with segmental arches and cast stone sills. On the east, pairs of segmental arches indicate where window openings, now filled in with matching brickwork, once existed. New one-over-one sash windows match those on the other elevations. The plain brick cornice is finished with coping.

Interior

Inside the entry, a foyer has glass walls and double glass doors that access an interior that retains its open space, replicating the character of the 1950s interior. Retail space in the northwest corner is defined with glass walls. The two rows of supporting wood posts running from front to back, open portions of the mezzanine on the west and south, and two semi-elliptical arches that frame windows to a conference room at the mezzanine level, are visible features of the building's historic interior. On the east, beyond an enclosed staircase wall and halfway to the store's south wall, is an elevator. Installed in 1951, it has been recently upgraded. Past the elevator wall is a single door and a staircase with a plain closed stringer leading to the mezzanine. It is located where the 1950s staircase stood.

The second and third floors have offices lining either side of a central work area. Rooms on the west have windows that are open to the interior. A skylight that opens over the third floor's central work area is new.

Original Condition

Except for Sanborn Insurance Company maps, no documentation has been found for the Washington Furniture Company's original appearance. A 1947 fire caused major damage to the interior resulting in extensive remodeling for the Kent Furniture Store. Photo documentation from 1950 shows a storefront configuration at street level that is reflected in the current storefront. The east doorway, leading to a code-required staircase that accesses each floor, is the only deviation. Window openings on the façade are unchanged although the 1950 three-paned windows have been replaced by two-paned windows with frames and sashes that are similar.

The Washington Furniture Company

Statement of Significance Summary

The Washington Furniture Company building is historically significant for its association with events that have made a contribution to the broad patterns of our history; specifically, the commercial expansion of the central business district and the transition of the first block of West Main Avenue into an extension of the city's core during the unparalleled period of growth in Spokane during the first decade of the twentieth century. The building's construction in 1909 coincided with increased building activity that resulted in the emergence of West Main Avenue as a commercial area on the periphery of downtown that accommodated small business enterprises and residential spaces catering to the working class. Its brick façade still reflects its original character and use and also contributes to the high degree of integrity that the block as a whole conveys; no other block in east downtown is so intact. The first block of West Main Avenue was home to a community of immigrants from the Balkan countries who resided in the Balkan Hotel, next east of Washington Furniture, and congregated and socialized at a Balkan fraternal organization located on the next block west. Other SROs like the Saranac and Longbotham also provided working class housing. The block housed sheet metal and bottling works, second hand and furniture stores, and various businesses that catered to the working class population that lived and worked on the block. The integrity of surrounding blocks that once shared a similar character has been compromised through demolition and infill, leaving the first block of West Main Avenue as the best representative example of the eastern fringe of Spokane's central business district. While the building begins its story in this vital decade as a reflection of the city's prospering economy and flourishing population, its most curious role in the economic history of the city comes during the Great Depression, when it became the liquidation storehouse for many of Spokane's bankrupt businesses. Finally, the building is unique because its role in Spokane's economic development and in the life of its people is chronicled by Carl Trunk, amateur historian of Spokane, who, having lost significant amounts of money during the Depression, leased the building for his liquidation and second hand fixture business during the 1930s.

Context

The Washington Furniture Company Building was constructed in 1909, the culminating year in Spokane's unparalleled decade of growth. After the national financial crisis of 1880, which destroyed the savings of large portions of the population in the eastern United States, three decades of westward migration led to dramatic growth of western towns like Spokane. This shift benefited from and intensified the development of rail lines throughout the western states and particularly in the Inland Empire. Spokane became the wholesale center of the region, supplying it with the necessities of the burgeoning population and growing industries. Spokane was at this time the busiest rail center west of St. Paul, Minnesota. The thirty years between 1880 and 1910 also saw the discovery and development of the Inland Empire's silver-lead mines and the tremendous growth of the timber industry as the lumber interests of the east began to focus on the forests of the Northwest. The demands of the mining and timber industries for services and supplies, and their proximity to the rail hub in Spokane sparked the city's unprecedented growth. This growth accelerated as ancillary services were required within the city to house, feed, and entertain the many laborers who flooded Spokane in search of work. The need to rebuild the city after Spokane's great fire of 1889 also fueled the city's expansion. The official population figures established by the U.S. Census, generally considered to be inflated, still convey the proportion of growth in these thirty years: 1890—19,922; 1900—36,8484; 1920—104,402. That

The Washington Furniture Company

the population did not grow significantly between 1910 and 1920 (104, 437) indicates that by 1910 the rate of growth had begun to diminish dramatically.

This period of rapid growth, capped by the decade of 1900-1910, saw both fierce real estate speculation and unrestrained optimism. The decade was of great importance, as city government underwent modernization, the "City Beautiful" committee of the Chamber of Commerce and the "150,000 Club" were organized, the foundations of the city park system were put into place, city boundaries expanded, and Spokane received national praise for its amenities, its economy, and its architecture.

The Washington Furniture Company Building and Expansion of West Main Avenue

As Spokane's downtown skyline increased in height, its commercial core spread. One and two story residential frame structures were displaced or moved further out (as many as 50 families per day were arriving in Spokane) replaced by taller brick commercial buildings and apartments. Building construction kept pace with population growth. In 1903, 1,480 new buildings were raised in the city, an increase of 18% over the preceding year, and costing \$3,755,965. By 1907, a year in which the number of building permits was roughly the same as in 1903, the total cost of new construction was just under \$5 million. But in 1909 the total construction outlay was \$8,866, 226, a \$3 million increase over the year before. Subsequent years saw a decline from this peak of building construction--\$6 million in 1910, \$3.3 million in 1911, and \$1.2 million in 1915.

The Washington Furniture Company was built during the climactic year of the decade that saw Spokane's most rapid growth, the decade most responsible for Spokane's physical character even to this day. 1909 saw the first significant transformation of the first block of West Main Avenue. Near transportation and the city's core, the original homes and boarding houses were replaced by masonry buildings with living units above street level commercial space. Construction of the Balkan Hotel in 1909 was quickly followed by the Saranac to its east, and the Washington Furniture Company to its west. The character of the block, expressed in architectural styles and uses, remains today.

By 1910 the forces that led to Spokane's accelerated growth were already saturating the need for rapid building construction. But during 1909, the year of the most intense real estate speculation, buildings were not always built with a specific purpose in mind. While living standards required that hotels be built to serve specific purposes, at least on their residential floors, the design of commercial properties was not limited in the same way. This has led to considerable consistency in the use of vintage hotels in Spokane, many of which serve the purposes for which they were built long after their initial builders and owners passed on. And while commercial property has proven more adaptable, as we see in the current trend of converting warehouse space to office use, buildings like the Washington Furniture Company building were designed with this flexibility in mind from the very beginning. The construction of a building like this reflects the commodification of commercial space whose use would be determined by the real estate marketplace.

The Washington Furniture Company

The Washington Furniture Company property was held by three sets of owners within thirteen months as new construction drove investment opportunities on the first two blocks of West Main Avenue. The Washington Furniture Company Building was constructed on a lot acquired from J. D. Newman and W.W. Dreyfoos by real estate developers Michael Morris and B. S. Knudson for about \$25,000. In August of 1909, less than one year after purchasing the property, Morris and Knudson completed the building for \$15,000 to \$20,000. In February 1910 they sold the building to Margaret Monaghan, daughter of one of Spokane's pioneering founding fathers, James Monaghan. This sale made headlines for three reasons: 1. the profit on the initial investment was so large, \$20,000; 2. the sale testified to the new vitality of the improved block of West Main between Division and Browne, and; 3. because the buyer was from one of Spokane's most prominent families. By the time the building was sold, the Washington Furniture Company had already secured a long-term lease on the building. Details of the rental value (\$350/mo.), the rental readjustment rate (8%/3 years), as well as the characterization of the site as "one of the choice lots in the better improved section of Main," suggest that interest in the value of the property and in this district was keen. One year earlier, James Monaghan and his partner in the Granite investment company purchased two lots across the street for over \$73,000. In 1909-1910 Charles McNab, a Spokane pharmacist erected a four-story building across Main for \$40,000 after selling two lots to a railroad company for \$101,000.

The Washington Furniture moved to Riverside Avenue in 1917. The OK Furniture Exchange occupied the site in 1924 and was followed by C. H. Trunk and Company, selling store fixtures at the location for over a decade until 1940. Carl Trunk also owned the Westlake Public Market on North Post Street. In June, 1940, Margaret Monaghan sold the property to George and Ida Marks. During their ownership, Edwin J. Kent leased the building, selling new and used furniture. A dramatic fire that severely damaged the store's interior and contents occurred in May of 1947. The early-morning blaze, which started in the rear of the store, injured one fireman and scorched the faces of several others. In July of 1947, Edwin Kent purchased the property. Two months later, he invested \$35,000 in fire repairs. The remodeled store is documented in photographs taken by Libby Studios in 1950. In the early 1950s, Ketchum and Son, Inc. Wholesale Dry Goods began occupancy of the building for their wholesale clothing Ketchum and his former partner, Kenneth S. Bush, were well-known clothing wholesalers and "jobbers" in an era when Spokane was a regional center for wholesale clothing business. They operated out of the Crescent Warehouse Merchandise Mart in the early 1940s. The Ketchums purchased the building from Kent in 1959. Ketchum and Son remained, under the management of Robert, after the retirement of his father, George Ketchum. In 1974, the business became Cemac-Ketchum. Robert sold the building in 1987. Lasco, Incorporated, clothing manufacturers, rented the building in the 1980s.

Continuation Sheet Item Number 8 Page Number 4

The Washington Furniture Company

Vacant in the early 1990s, the 35 West Main building was renovated for the Birkebeiner Brewery and Restaurant in 1995. Following its closure in 1999, the building was remodeled and now houses community non-profits and retail sales.

The Depression

By 1930, Spokane's population had grown to 115,514, a moderate 10.6% increase since 1920. The end of the 1920s saw a thriving economy throughout the Inland Empire. In 1929 wholesale business in Spokane totaled \$270 million, an increase of 500% over the total for 1918. Building, too, had rebounded after the decline of the teens. The value of construction undertaken in Spokane in 1929 was \$4.1 million, and in the same year the manufacturing output was roughly \$70 million. But after October 24, 1929, the people of Spokane suffered a market loss of \$40 million. Building permits fell to \$3.6 million in 1930, \$2 million in 1931, and hit a low of \$572,000 in 1932. Nationwide, there was a 33% decrease in wealth overall, a 40% decrease in salaries, a 50% decrease in income, and a 60% decrease in wages. Spokane witnessed the same sort of economic trends. In 1933, bank deposits in Spokane reached a low—around \$27 million. By the same year, manufacturing in Spokane had fallen 45% from their value in 1929 to \$29 million. As assessed property values fell, so did taxes. The city budget shrank by 20% (this was when the Manito Park Zoo closed for good). One in four businesses along Riverside Avenue in the Central Business District had changed hands. By 1937 well over 9,000 unemployed workers in Spokane received some sort of public support.

By 1930, Carl Trunk had moved into the Washington Furniture Company Building. Before this he was a wholesale and retail grocer whose Imperial Trading Company, located at 502 W. Second Avenue, boasted "Spokane's Largest Exclusive Mail Order." The grocery division of his business supplied the mining and lumber camps of the Inland Empire as well as the restaurants of Spokane. He also operated as a "jobber," a sub-contractor who transported goods from the city to the outlying industries. Following the stock market crash in 1929, Trunk's company lost \$50,000 in only one month. His business also faced the daunting prospect of the new chain stores, consolidations of grocers that now competed directly with small grocers. The economic strain of the Depression in general and the pressure of these grocery conglomerates in particular drove many brokers out of business. But his own loss taught Carl Trunk a new way to preserve his business: he became a liquidator.

When he moved to the Washington Furniture Company, Carl Trunk became the liquidator of many of the businesses that were folding during the Depression. He purchased both merchandise and store fixtures from these failing businesses. Among others, he acquired the Bakerite Bakery (\$100,000 value), Murray Light and Copper Company (\$50,000), Staples Candy Company, Anderson Glove Company, which had been in business in Spokane for over fifty years, and Buckley's Café, the largest dining room in the important Riverside Avenue business district at the time. He also liquidated many saloons and bars.

In characterizing the tragedy of the times, Trunk writes of the inventories that he placed in the Washington Furniture Company Building:

One three-story building was completely filled with bankrupt fixtures representing broken dreams of security for old age.

The Washington Furniture Company

Spokane reached the depths of its depression in 1933, and within one year Trunk had liquidated over fifty businesses.

Spokane has an intimate glimpse into many of these transactions and the events associated with them because Carl Trunk was a historian. He writes of dealings with a wealthy man who committed suicide at this time, and of eight women from "high society" who were charging their personal checks to him after he was dead. He details the death of one of the Buckley brothers who owned the Buckley Café, and who, after losing the company, hired a cab to drive to "big bridge" where he dismissed the cab driver only to be found a month later in the river. The insurance company and the church decided not to treat it as a suicide. Trunk writes of winning the bid to liquidate a tailor's shop and of being approached by the owner's attorney and asked what profit he needed to make on the transaction. After Trunk named \$200, the attorney paid it to him, and the tailor was back in business. Trunk provides many anecdotes about this time including descriptions of the soup kitchens, the bread lines, and the desperation of the hungry.

Carl Trunk turned the Washington Furniture Company Building into the repository of the holdings of the failed businesses of Spokane, and by the time he left the building in 1940, he had made a small fortune. But he did not forget his first-hand experience of Spokane's financial tragedies. He became a devoted citizen and philanthropist who helped develop the Elks Club, worked assiduously for various charities such as Goodwill Industries. Among his many contributions to the life of Spokane is his History of the City of Spokane, published in 1968, the profits of which were donated to the handicapped people of Spokane. This history provides an intimate, eyewitness account of Spokane's development from 1880 until 1965. He emphasizes the story of Spokane's vice—gambling, prostitution, opium, drinking, and graft—and the reforms that eventually eradicated it as an institutional force. He provides many anecdotes about individual business and civic leaders, the foundation of groups and clubs, the character and life of the various districts downtown, and the foundation and development of Spokane's most prominent businesses. His history adds a valuable dimension to the significance of the Washington Furniture Company Building through the details he provides about the building's use, and through his characterization of Spokane during its most intense development and it most acute economic crisis.

In conclusion, The Washington Furniture Company Building is historically significant because it is one of the rare surviving structures that represent the peak of real estate speculation during Spokane's most formative decade at the beginning of the century. The building, moreover, is an integral part of the first block of West First Main, the most intact commercial block in east downtown Spokane. But its significance does not end with its being a relic of Spokane's greatest commercial boom. The building is also a memorial to the Depression, since it served as the repository of the inventories that the casualties of the Great Depression left behind. This economic history, and the good and ill fortunes of those associated with the building throughout its past, make its current use by non-profit organizations especially fitting. The Community Building continues to participate in Spokane's life by serving the economically disadvantaged, and by focusing many of its citizen's efforts to make the community of Spokane a more humane, a more healthy, and a more just place to live.

Continuation Sheet Item Number 9 Page 1

The Washington Furniture Company

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Continuation Sheet Item Number 12 Page 1

The Washington Furniture Company

Additional Documentation

Maps

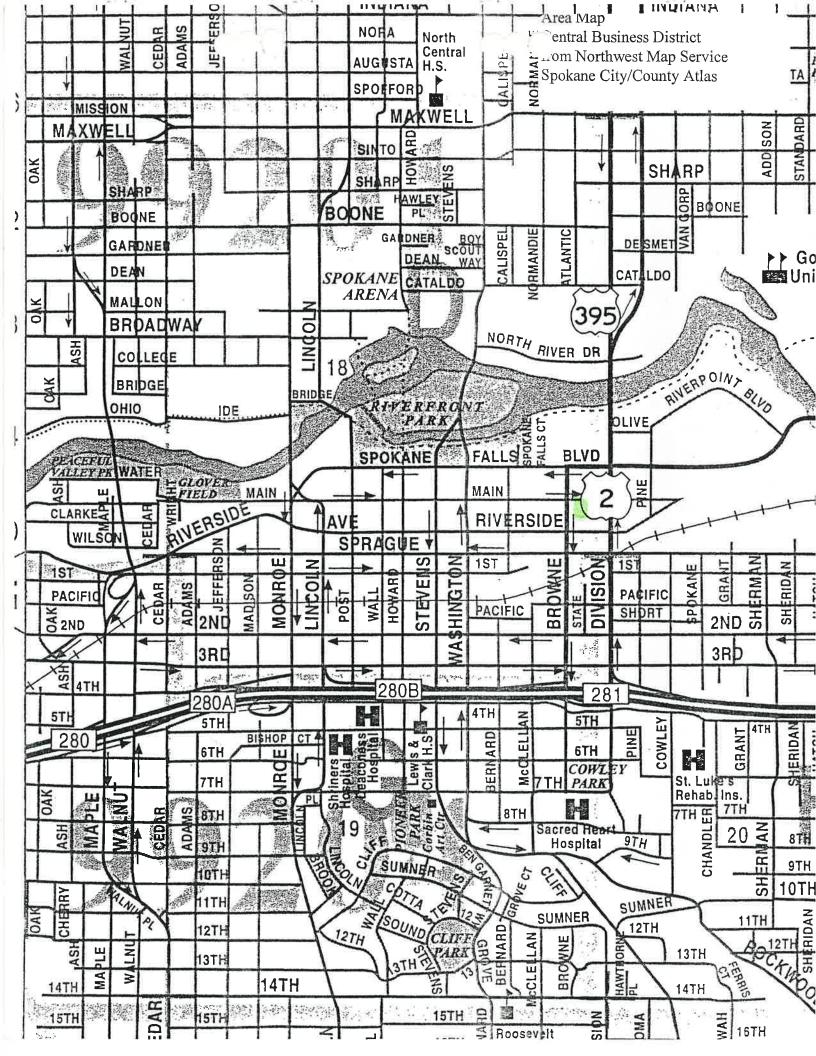
CBD section from Spokane City/County Atlas, Northwest Map Service Spokane County Assessor's Plat Map, Havermale's Addition, Block 4 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1910 and 1952

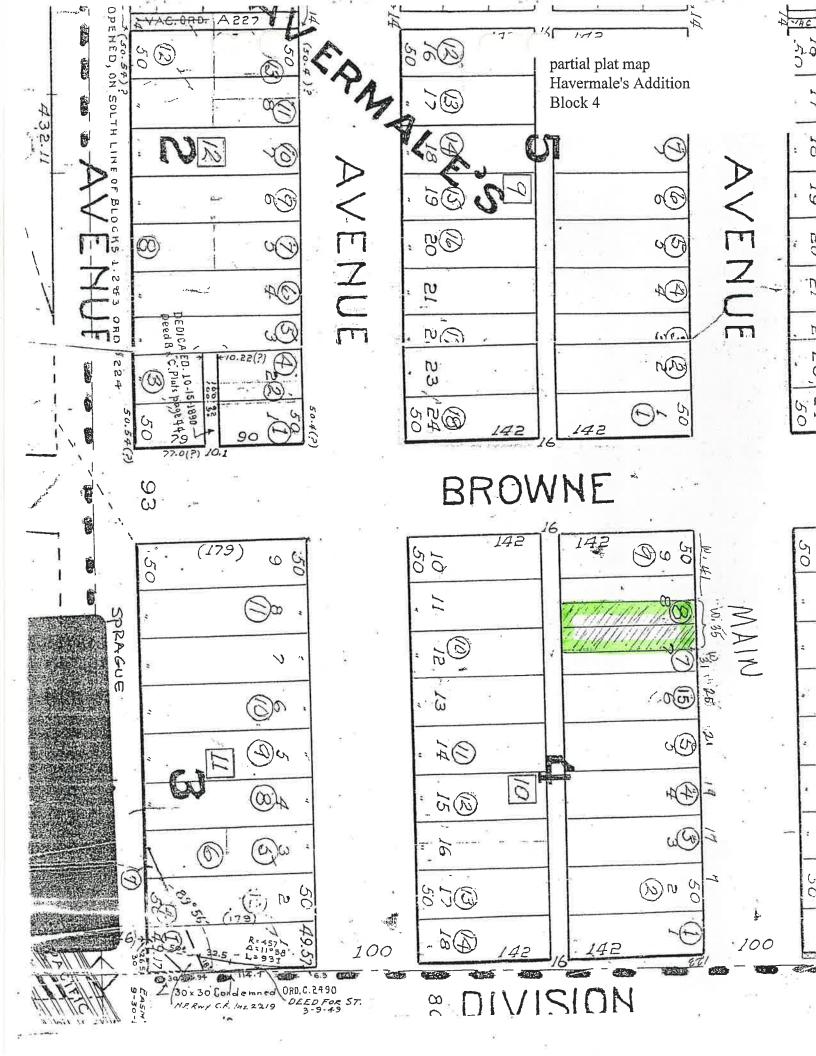
Historic Photos, EWSHS Collection

Kent Furniture Store, exterior and interior views, 1950

Photographs B/W

- 1. Façade (north elevation), view southwest.
- 2. Façade, view south-southeast.
- 3. Main Avenue facades, view southeast.
- 4. Façade, street level, view southwest.
- 5. Façade, upper floors, view southeast.
- 6. Streetscape east.
- 7. Streetscape west





SPOKANE, YOU. A EN. 28 MER = Block 4, Havermale's Addition 112 ر عالم ب from E Sanborn Fire Insurance Map 1910, Vol. 4, Sheet 432

















