MPE Form 10-100 OMB No. 1024-0018 (Pev. 10/90)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narractive items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

nistoric name Mohawk Building		
other names/site number		
coo no piurusida luca		not for publication
street & number 509 W. Riverside Avenue		vicinity
city or town Spokane	- 1- 062	zip code 99201
state Washington code WA co	ounty Spokane code 062	ZID Code 99201
As the designated authority under the National Hi X nominationrequest for determination of eproperties in the National Register of Historic P in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property I recommend that this property be considered sign sheet for additional comments.)	eligibility meets the documentation standards laces and meets the procedural and professions X meets does not meet the National Reci	for registering I requirements set forth ster criteria.
Signature of certifying official	Date	
	cor	
Mary Thompson, State Historic Preservation Offi State or Federal agency and bureau	cei	
Signature of commenting or other official	Date	
State or Federal agency and bureau		
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:)		
	Signature of Keener	Date of Action

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form			
Property Name Mohawk Building		_	
County and State Spokane WA		Page 2	
Ownership of Property x private	Category of Property x building(s)	No. of Resources within Property contributing	noncontributing
public-local public-State public-Federal	district site structure object		buildings sites structures objects Total
Name of related multiple property list (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of multiple property listing.		No. of contributing realisted in the National	
· ·			
Historic Functions		Current Functions	
(Enter categories from instructions.)		(Enter categories from instructions.)	
COMMERCE: business-professional		COMMERCE: business-professiozal	
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.)	(Enter	Materials categories from instructions.)	
LATE 19th AND EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERI	CAN MOVEMENTS:	foundationConcrete	
Commercial		walls Brick, Terra Cotta	
		roof <u>Tar/Built Up</u>	

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Porm	
Property Name Mohawk Building	_
County and State Spokane WA	Page 3
8. Statement of Significance	
National Register listing.;	- 3 35 5
x A Property is associated with events that have made a si	gnificant contribution to the broad patterns of
B Property is associated with the lives of persons sign	ificant in our past.
x C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of or represents the work of a master, or possesses high and distinguishable entity whose components lack indi	artistic values, or represents a significant
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, informat	ion important in prehistory or history.
Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply	·.)
A owned by a religious institution or used for religiou	s purposes.
B removed from its original location.	
C a birthplace or a grave.	×
D a cemetery.	
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	
F a commemorative property.	
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance wi	thin the past 50 years.
Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions.) Period (of Significance Significant Dates
ARCHITECTURE, COMMERCE	1915-1953
	Cultural Affiliation
Significant Person	Architect/Builder Architect: John K. Dow/Builder: Sound Construction and

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Engineering

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form	
Property Name Mohawk Building	
County and State Spokane WA	Page 4
country and occurs sportate in	
9. Major Bibliographical References	
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form or	n one or more continuation sheets.)
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	Primary location of additional data:
preliminary determination of individual listing	State Historic Preservation Office
(36 CFR 67) has been requested	Other State agency
previously listed in the National Register	Federal agency
previously determined eligible by the National Register	z Local government
designated a National Historic Landmark	University
recorded by Historic American Buildings	x Other
Survey #	Specify repository:
recorded by Historic American Engineering	Spokane Public Library Northwest Room
Record #	*
ACCOLU II	
10. Geographical Data	
9 9 9 9 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	
UTM References 1 1/1 4/6/8/5/2/0 5/2/7/8/1/4/0 3 / //// Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting	<u>/ /</u>
2 _/ _//// _//// 4 _/ _///// _////	11
- to a to a to a control of a control of the contro	rgel 35194 2703 Township 25N Range 43E.
Building is located at 509 W. Riverside Avenue, Spokane, WA, 99201, tax pa Section 18, southeast % section, southwest % % section on property less the Block 20, re and ex to Spokane Falls Addition. Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a cont	continuation sheet.)
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city or town Spokane

state WA zip code 99202

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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7

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theleighthough

Narrative Description:

to replace an earlier significant The Mohawk Building was designed and built in 1915 to replace an earlier structure of the same name destroyed by a fire. It is architecturally significant as the work of master architect John K. Dow and for the high artistic values that his work conveys, especially in its terra cotta detailing, produced by the Washington Brick, Lime & Mfg. Co.

Setting

The Mohawk Building is located in the heart of the central business district in downtown Spokane, Washington, on the south side of Riverside Avenue between Howard Street, on the west, and Stevens Street, on the east. This block is one of the more intact historic streetscapes in the city. The Fernwell Building, built in 1890 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, abuts the Mohawk to the east, occupying the corner lot. The Rookery Building, representing noted architect G. A. Pehrson's interpretation of the Art Deco style of architecture, abuts the Mohawk to the west, anchoring the other corner lot of the block. Across the street, three historic buildings stand in the center of the block. The Sherwood Building, a gothic revival style landmark with terra cotta detailing rendered by Spokane's famed architect Kirtland K. Cutter, is the most prominent of these. The Art Deco style Green Building, next west, is the current home of Dodson's Jewelers, a long-time fixture in the Mohawk. To the west of the Green Building is another National Register property, the 1890 Hill Brothers Building. The Mohawk Building, then, is part of a larger fabric of historic structures that compose the historic landscape of this city block, but it is also significant in its own right.

The Mohawk: Exterior

The Mohawk Building is a seven-story steel frame structure with a flat roof and a poured concrete foundation. The building is U-shaped on the upper floors to accommodate a rear light well. The front is clad in a unique dark purplish-brown rug-faced brick with terra cotta detailing that together create a polychromatic effect and reflect high artistic values. The Washington Brick, Lime & Mfg. Co., one of the preeminent building materials suppliers in the northwest (see section 8), specially produced both the brick and terra cotta for the Mohawk.1

¹ Spokesman-Review. May 12, 1915, 6:4.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7

Page 2 of 4

Mohawk Building Spokane, WA

Narrative Description:

The storefront level of the building consists of metal sash display windows and doors, bulkheads and transoms of ceramic tiles and marble panels, and a flat canopy marquee added in 1960.2 Originally, the building featured an elaborate arched entrance framed by brick piers, each with a plaque identifying the building. Circular design elements and other detailing adorned the spandrels. The name "Mohawk" also spanned above the entrance. It was located to the west of the center of the building, with one storefront to the west, housing Dodson's jewelers with its landmark clock on the sidewalk in front, and three to the east. Storefronts consisted of large display windows, above a marble base, framing inset entrances. Band windows spanned the transom spaces above the shops, below inscription plates identifying the various tenants.3 The Italian white marble bulkheads remain in places, but otherwise the historic materials on the storefront level have been covered or removed. The basic configuration, however, remains the same. The main doorway remains in the same place, now framed in a "Verde Antique" marble surround dating to the 1960s, with one storefront to the west and two to the east. These are composed of metal-sash display windows framed in marble and green tile. A green tiled marquise spans the length of the building above. Marble paneling now covers the transom spaces once filled by the band windows and inscription plates.⁴

A wide terra cotta stringcourse, with the architect's name inscribed at the east end, delineates the break between the ground floor commercial spaces and the office spaces on the upper six floors. This feature remains intact.

Brick pilasters rise from this stringcourse to conventional Corinthian capitals below the cornice, dividing the façade of the upper levels into six bays of paired, original, 1/1 double-hung wood sash windows for a total of twelve openings on each floor (windows facing the light well at the rear of the building are also original but have three lights in

² Building Permits, 515-17 Riverside (2 of 2), Spokane City Hall 3rd Floor, Building Department Records (microfiche).

³ Libby photograph #11713-37, Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture # L87-1.11713-37, 1937.

⁴ The "Verde Antique" marble was quarried near Rutland, Vermont. Northwest Mining Association, Cornerstones of Spokane: A Guidebook to the Building Stones of Downtown Spokane, 1981, 29. Spokane Public Library Northwest Room, R721.0441.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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Mohawk Building Spokane, WA

Narrative Description:

each pane). Smaller brick piers further subdivide each bay. Window openings are rectangular with brick flat arches and brick sills. Decorative spandrel panels of brick tapestry-work with diamond motifs separate the levels of windows horizontally.

A terra cotta stringcourse articulates the seventh-story ceiling-level. A frieze composed of brick tapestry work in geometric designs spans above. One of the most prominent features of the building is the bracketed, overhanging terra cotta cornice featuring circular appliqués against a lancet background. The cornice is crested with a crenellated line of foliated and scroll-shaped designs. It terminates at bottom in a row of terra cotta dentils directly above the brick frieze.

The original fire escape runs from the roof to the third floor, west of center of the building. It consists of an unadorned black wrought iron ladder connecting bracketed window-level platforms with safety balustrades. A flagpole rises above all from the roof.

The rear of the building is clad in stucco painted a crème color with original 3/3 double hung wood-sash windows. The building is arranged in a U-shape on the upper floors to accommodate a light well. "Mohawk Building" is spelled out in brown lettering at the top of the western ell.

The Mohawk: Interior

While the Mohawk retains its basic original configuration with commercial spaces on the ground floor and office spaces above, it has undergone a series of interior alterations, the most significant probably being one undertaken in 1968 that allowed Dodson's Jewelers to expand its commercial space at W. 515-17 Riverside into the Rookery Building, next west, on the basement and first floor. The architectural firm of Walker & McGough drew the plans for the project; Teeples and Thatcher were the contractors that completed the \$35,000 remodel.

Other major alterations, according to building permits, included a 1959 remodel of the Dodson's storefront (\$16,229), 1929 alterations for Zoker's Store at W. 509 (\$10,000), interior alterations at W. 513 to accommodate Tom Day Optical Co. including lowering

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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Mohawk Building Spokane, WA

Narrative Description:

ceilings and installing new partitions (\$40,000), alterations to the entrance and installation of six laboratories for Anthony, Baker, & Burns in 1959 (\$37,744), and a makeover for Western Union in 1968 (\$15,760).⁵

The stairway and elevator are accessed by the main entrance on Riverside, which leads to a foyer remodeled in green tile that appears to date to the 1959 alterations referenced above. There is a stainless steel banister on the first flight of the stairwell, which wraps around the elevator shaft as it ascends. Original banisters remain in some places, have been relocated from the inside of the stair to the outside in others, and in other instances are absent altogether. On each floor, the elevator and stairwell access the primary hallway, running east and west. The configuration on all the upper floors is basically the same: the main hallway intersects at both ends with perpendicular corridors, forming a "U." Doors lining the main hall access street-facing offices. Many of the original doors and transom windows remain in place. The original marble skirting remains in place and the original tile floor is also evident in places where it has been uncovered. On the whole, vacancy has taken its toll on the building. It has deteriorated through water damage in places, and pigeon droppings and pigeon corpses cover the floors.

Integrity

The storefront level of the Mohawk Building has seen significant alteration over the years, so that the original features are no longer in evidence. The most significant change to the storefront came in 1960, when a continuous facing of delicately veined verde antique marble facing was applied and a tiled marquee installed. Such changes, however, are to be expected in a building of this age and sort and do not necessarily detract from National Register Eligibility, especially when the remarkable degree of exterior integrity of the appearance and materials of the upper floors is taken into consideration. The upper levels, right down to the original wood sash double hung windows, remain virtually the same as when the Mohawk was first built.

⁵ Building Permits, W. 509, 511, 513, 515-17 (1 of 2), 515-517 (2 of 2) Riverside, Spokane City Hall, 3rd Floor, Building Department Records (microfiche).

⁶ Building Permits, 515-17 Riverside (2 of 2), Spokane City Hall 3rd Floor, Building Department Records (microfiche).

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES **CONTINUATION SHEET**

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Mohawk Building Spokane, WA

Narrative Statement of Significance:
The Mohawk Building built in 1915 The Mohawk Building built in 1915, possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C (architecture), for the artistry of its terra cotta and brick building materials produced by the Washington Brick, Lime & Manufacturing Co., and as one of the best extant examples of the work one of Spokane's more accomplished master architects, John K. Dow. It may also be eligible under Criterion A for its long association with Dodson's Jewelers, the oldest operating retail business in Spokane. The Dodson family, part owners and occupants of the original Mohawk Building which burned in 1915, led the rebuilding effort that created the current Mohawk, which soon became a Spokane landmark in its own right.

Dodson's Jewelers and the Mohawk Building

Dodson's Jewelers grew up with the city of Spokane. In an article on pioneer businesses that remained in operation in 1983, Spokane's Daily Chronicle explained that "Dodson's own century of growth, in many respects, has mirrored the growth and development of Spokane and the Inland Northwest. Looking back at these many years of growth, it is impossible not to recognize the importance and influence of Spokane's business community in the city's evolution."²

As the article notes, Dodson's has been an integral part of the development of commerce in Spokane, helping it to become a regional distribution hub. For more than a century, first in the original Mohawk and then in the current building, Dodson's was a fixture at this site on Riverside, where it contributed to a pattern of events—the development of regional commerce—that have obviously made a significant contribution to the development of the community; that is, establishing Spokane as the primary metropolis of the Inland Northwest. The founder of Dodson's Jewelers, George R. Dodson, arrived in Spokane from Decatur, Illinois in June 1887. He pronounced himself "very much pleased" with Spokane and its prospects to his wife Meta, who soon joined him.³ Dodson purchased half interest in a jewelry store, forming a short-lived partnership with Daniel Wetzel; after the Great Fire of 1889, the two divided what remained of their \$5,000

³ Ibid.

¹ Spokane Daily Chronicle, May 19, 1983, 41.

² Ibid.

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Mohawk Building Spokane, WA

Narrative Statement of Significance:

inventory and went their separate ways. Dodson opened his new business on Riverside Avenue in the original Mohawk Building, where it became a fixture of the Spokane business community. By 1937, when Dodson's heralded its golden anniversary, the *Spokane Daily Chronicle* boasted that the business "ranks as one of the largest jewelry establishments in the northwest and numbers its customers from four states." Under a third generation of family leadership in 1987, Dodson's, by then the oldest operating retail business in Spokane, celebrated its centennial by relocating to a new building across the street, bringing an end to almost 100 years in the Mohawk Building and its predecessor on the site. The street clock outside of Dodson's, which had become a Spokane landmark, was also moved to the new location across the street.

Dodson's was tested twice by fire in its first century of business. After the Great Fire of 1889, Dodson moved into the Mohawk and subsequently acquired an interest in the building, which burned on March 29, 1915. Losses from the fire totaled half a million dollars, damaging the original Rookery and the Fernwell Building in the process of destroying the Mohawk. Dodson, in addition to his losses associated with the building itself, estimated that he had lost some \$25-30,00 in stock. The Whitehouse Store, R.J. Hurd & Co., Palm confectioners, Ritter Co. Drugs, Seligman & Co., and Regal Shoe Co. were among the other businesses that suffered as a result of the fire. Undaunted, Dodson remarked the day after the fire "I expect we will make plans to rebuild at once." He also expected that Mattie White, of San Francisco, the other owner of the building, would join him in building a new Mohawk, which, he hoped, would incorporate the surviving walls of the burned out building. White did join Dodson in rebuilding, but the earlier structure could not be saved or reused; the shell was razed in May.8 In reporting on the new building, the Spokesman-Review predicted it would "be one of the finest business blocks on Riverside Avenue." The cost was expected to run between \$150-200,000. "The front will be artistic," it noted, "of brick and terra cotta construction. The interior finish will be of the best, and the corridors will have tile floors and marble wainscoting." Dodson boasted that "it will be a first-class building in every respect." To build it, he and White

25-30,000

hazed ?

⁴ Spokesman-Review, October 25, 1987, 1.

⁵ Spokane Daily Chronicle, May 3, 1937, 8.

⁶ Spokesman-Review, September 16, 1987.

⁷ Spokane Daily Chronicle, March 29, 1915, 1.

Spokesman-Review, May 9, 1915, IV 7:5

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Mohawk Building Spokane, WA

Narrative Statement of Significance:

contracted with the Sound Construction and Engineering Co. of Seattle, and hired prominent Spokane architect John K. Dow to draw the plans.⁹

John K. Dow

John K. Dow was born in Gaylord, Minnesota in 1861 and in 1889 arrived in Spokane, where he practiced architecture until 1937. He then retired and moved to the Seattle area. He died there in 1961 at 99 years of age. While Dow practiced mainly on his own, some of his best-known works were designed in collaboration with architects Loren L. Rand and Clarence Z. Hubbell. With Rand, Dow designed the Masonic Temple and Bennett and Tidbal Blocks; collaborative works with Hubbell included the first Spokane Club Building (better known as the American Legion or Metals Building), and the Hutton, Paulsen, and Sellars/Jensen-Byrd buildings. In addition to the Mohawk, Dow's noted individual designs in Spokane included the Bump Block/Carlyle Hotel, the Empire State/Great Western Building, and the Westminster Congregational and Grace Baptist churches. The Mohawk Building offers a telling example of the skillful art of Dow's design. The building reflects the utilitarian emphasis of the Chicago School of Architecture, expressed through the grid composed of intersecting piers and horizontal spandrels, revealing the functional internal skeleton, and in its limited ornamentation. But the Mohawk also presages design elements that would become popular later, which set it apart from other buildings of its sort. The multicolored brick used in the building achieves a pleasing polychromatic effect that is particularly pronounced in the geometric brickwork in the spandrels and where the brick is juxtaposed with the terra cotta embellishment at the cornice line and above the ground floor. This terra cotta detailing on the building is especially elegant, and in it Dow literally left his mark; at the left (east) side of the terra cotta band that spans above the storefront level the words "John K. Dow, architect" are inscribed. 10 The Washington Brick, Lime & Manufacturing Co. specially produced the brick and terra cotta materials used to construct the Mohawk Building.

The Washington Brick, Lime & Mfg. Co.

⁹ Ibid., April 17, 1915, 1:3

¹⁰ Architect file, records of the Spokane City-County Office of Historic Preservation; Vertical Files, "Spokane—Bio—John K. Dow," Spokane Public Library Northwest Room.

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Mohawk Building Spokane, WA

Narrative Statement of Significance:

In the wake of the Great Spokane Fire of 1889 the city council passed an ordinance requiring that new buildings erected in the central business district be built of brick. The resulting increase in demand for brick helped to establish the Washington Brick, Lime & Mfg. Co., started in 1888 and incorporated the following year, as a premier building materials supplier in the Inland Northwest. For a time, the company produced some 20 million bricks a year, and by the time the plans were being drawn for the Mohawk, Washington Brick & Lime was known not only for its quality products, but for its artistry as well. The company had fashioned the 6,000-pound terra cotta eagle that perched atop the State Armory in Spokane. The Davenport Hotel, Crescent Building, Spokane County Courthouse, and Gonzaga University Administration Building were among the many local landmarks built of brick produced by the Washington Brick & Lime Co. The company devised a special "varsity brick" used at the University of Washington; crossstate rival Washington State also used Washington Brick & Lime products. It is no surprise, then, that Washington Brick & Lime was selected to fashion the terra cotta and brick for the Mohawk. 11 The company produced a new type of brick for the Mohawk the rough-faced purple hued blocks that give it such a unique look. Including the terra cotta, the Washington Brick & Lime Co. contracts for the Mohawk's materials totaled \$5,000.12

The Mohawk Building, in sum, is significant as an especially well-preserved example of the quality of the Washington Brick, Lime, & Mfg. Co. products and the skills of master architect John K. Dow—an example that clearly displays the quality of significance in its reflection of high artistic values. It is also significant for its long association with the business community and its importance in Spokane's emergence as a regional distribution hub. The Mohawk Building was built for Spokane pioneer jeweler George Dodson, and housed his family-owned business—the oldest operating retail business in town—for many years. The building's distinctive architectural qualities and materials, and its long association with Dodson's, have made it a local landmark.

12 Spokesman-Review, May 12, 1915, 6:4.

¹¹ Tony Bamonte, Spokane and the Inland Northwest: Historical Images (Spokane: Tornado Creek Publishing, 1999), 89; Spokane Daily Chronicle, September 8, 1965, 12.

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Additional Documentation

Maps

- 1. Assessor's Plat Map
- 2. Sketch Site Map
- 3. USGS Quad
- 4. Full size US Geological Survey Topographic

Photographs

<u>Historic</u>

- 1. ca. 1911 Libby photo, NW MAC
- 2. 1920s photo, NW MAC
- 3. 1922 Libby photo, NW MAC
- 4. 1937 Libby photo, NW MAC
- 5. 1948 Libby photo, NW MAC
- 6. 1952 photo, NW MAC

Contemporary

- 1. Front (north) elevation, looking west
- 2. Rear (south) elevation
- 3. View south of light well from 3rd floor
- 4. Facing south inside entrance
- 5. Main hallway looking east, 3rd floor
- 6. 2nd floor west, looking southeast
- 7. 2nd floor east, looking southwest

Slides

- 1. North elevation, looking west
- 2. North elevation, looking east
- 3. Rear (south) elevation
- 4. Looking south to light well from 3rd floor

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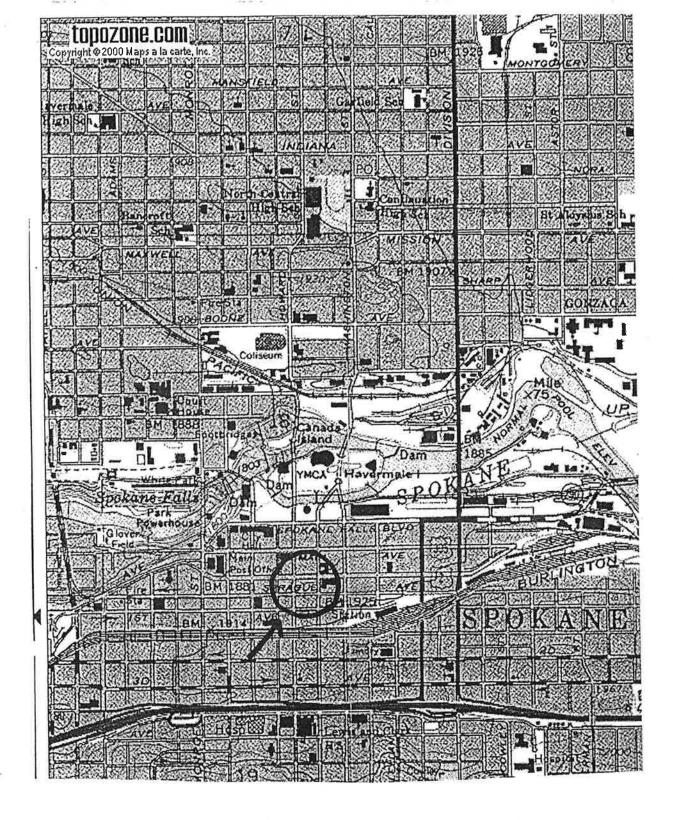
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- 5. Facing south inside entrance
- 6. Main hallway looking east
- 7. 2nd floor west looking northwest
- 8. Original marble base

Disk containing nomination

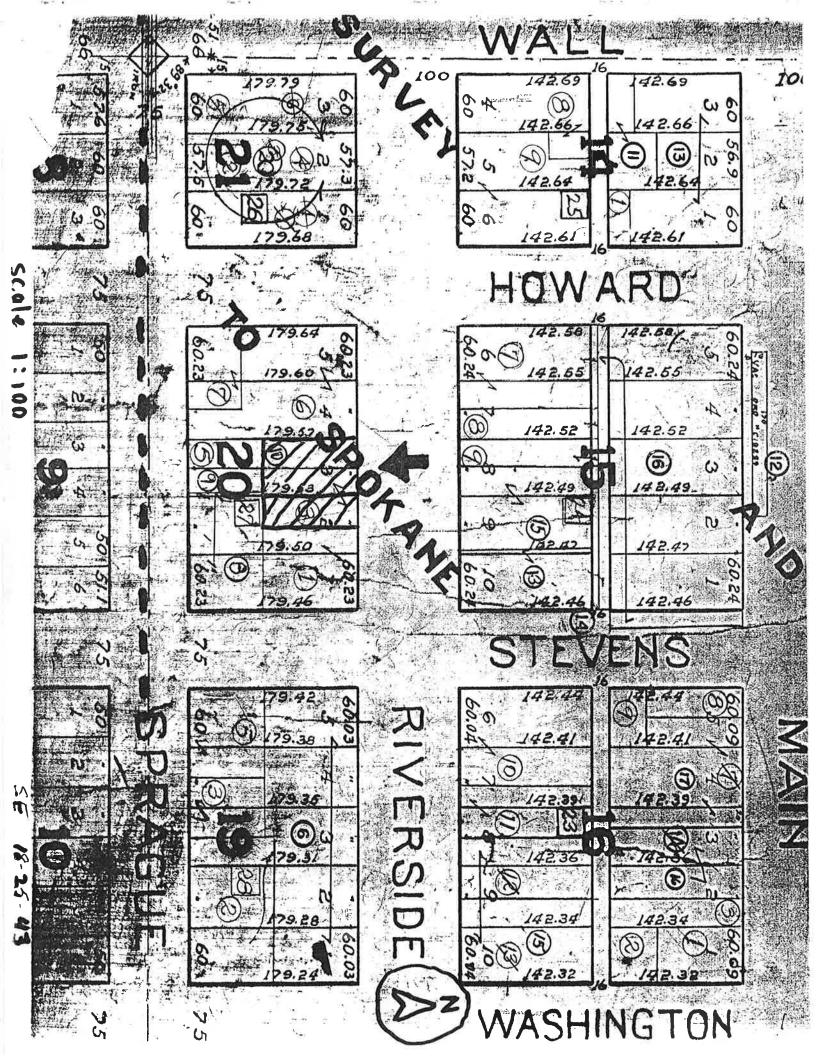


SCALE: 1:25,000



Mohawk Building

Source: USGS 7.5' series Spokane NW Quadrangle Washington – Spokane County



3 originals/ 3x/0 NN under 180-1 977-08

- HOWARD)

Riverside Ave. looking east

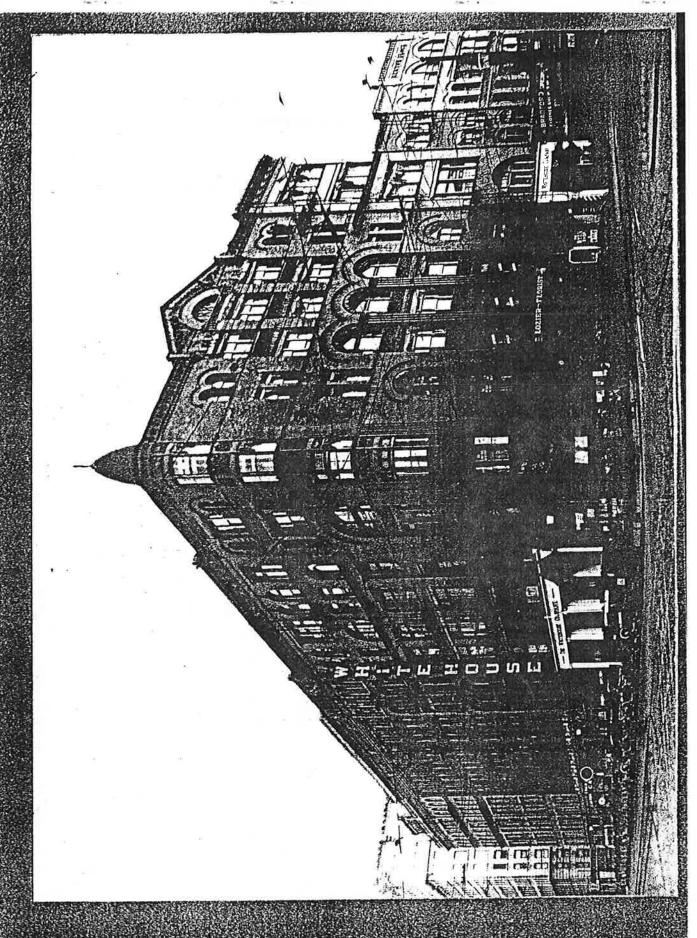
across HowardSt. The original Paul sen Bldg. under construction (right, center). Raokery Bldg.

Potographer: Libby #577-08

right, with turret.

RIVERSIDE, WEST-500-(STEVENS TO HOWARD)

Rookery Building, Howard and Riverside, 1920's.



194-36-402 7-67-7-7 Original 7

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TO HOMARD) MOHAMK BUILDING

Entrance and street level stores, Mohawk Building,

515 West Riverside, in 1922.

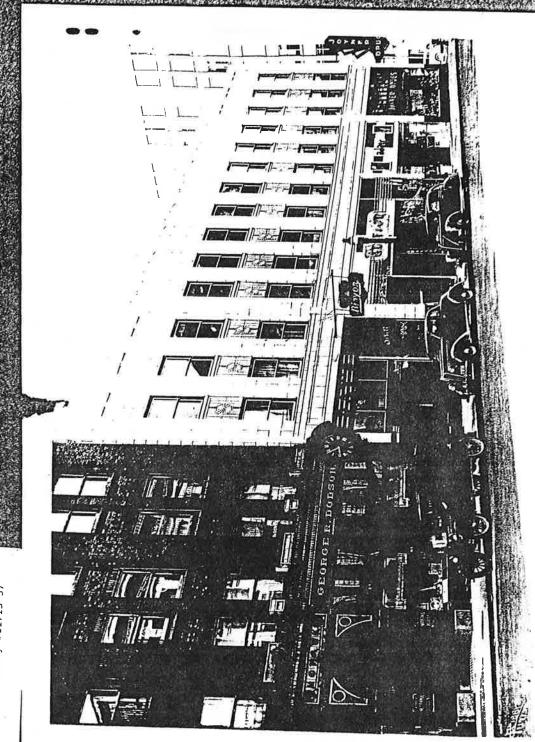
Photographer: Libby #21676-22

KIVEKSIDE, WEST-500 (STEVENS TO HOWARD)

Southside of Riverside between Howard & Stevens, 1937-Mohawk Bldg entrance at left, Rookery Bldg at

right (entrance on Howard.

Photographer: Libby #11713-37

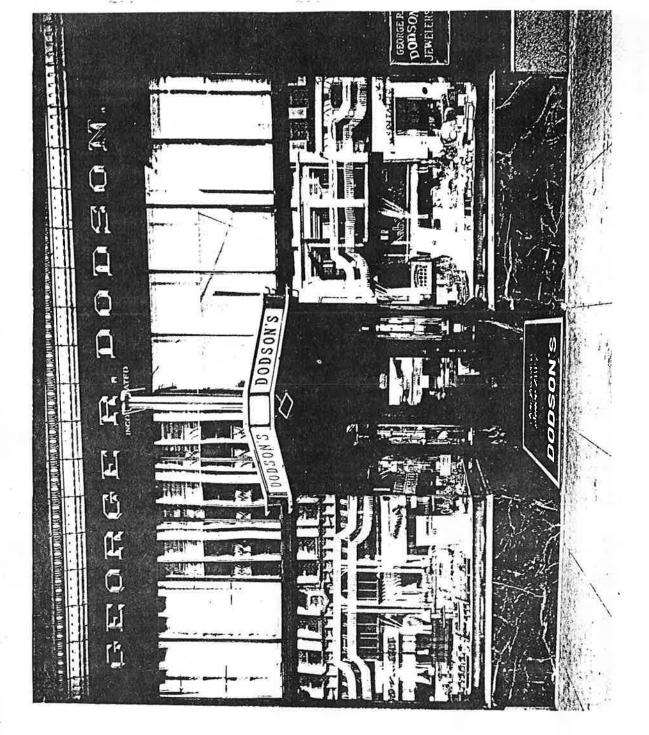


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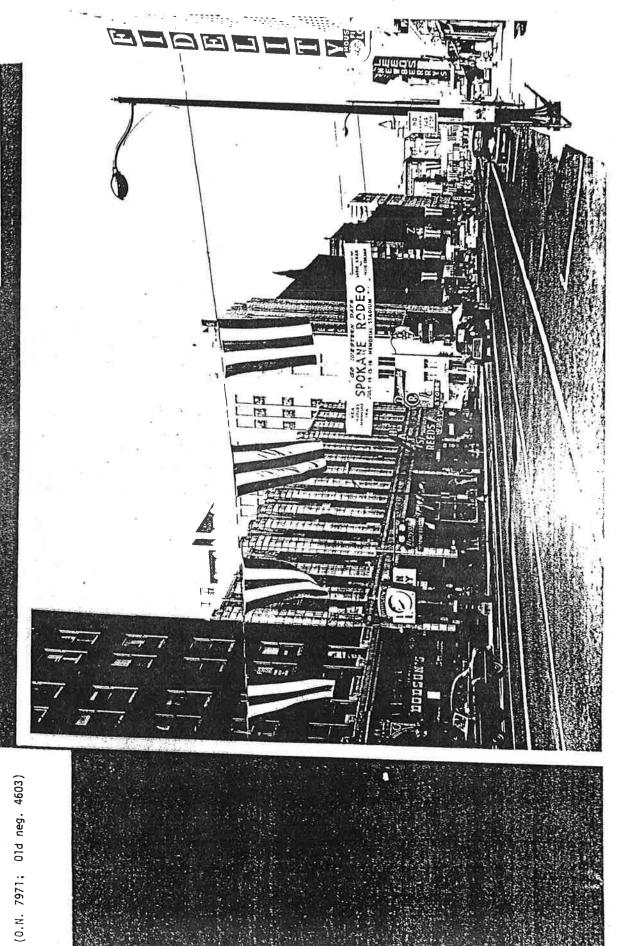
8X10 A/P /

1948 George R. Dodson Jeweler's, 517 West Riverside Avenue

Photographer: Libby Studio Collection: Libby Studio



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TO HOWARD)

Looking west on Riverside from near Stevens, ca. 1952.

