

**SPOKANE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Nomination Form**

**City/County Historic Landmarks Commission
Sixth Floor - City Hall
Spokane, Washington 99201-3337**

Type all entries--complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Buchanan Building
and or common _____

2. Location

street & number 28 - 30 West Third Avenue
city/town Spokane vicinity of _____
state Washington county Spokane

3. 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:

4. Owner of Property

name Katie Karcher and Hugh Brown
street & number South 515 Maple Street
city, town Spokane vicinity of _____ state WA 99204

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds etc. Spokane County Courthouse
street & number West 1116 Broadway
city, town Spokane state Washington

1062

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None
date _____ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local
depository for survey records _____
city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Buchanan Building is 50' x 140'. Originally the north 50' x 50' served as a garage and stable. The second floor was a hay loft and apartments. The main front building is 50' x 90' and is made of red brick. The primary facade is comprised of light beige pressed brick and white terra cotta decoration. Fenestration at this elevation includes large windows, and two sets of double doors. A stained glass marquee shelters a row of transom windows and the entry below. Gold rosettes provide a decorative element on the marquee and building.

Originally, a wall in the lobby divided the east and west entrances to the building. A large general reception room with a decorative tin ceiling was situated off the west entrance; the east entrance led to the chapel. According to building permits, Hennessey and Calloway extensively remodeled the building in the 1920s. It is likely that this was when the wall dividing the east and west entrances was removed to create the large open lobby still seen today. In addition, the choir balcony was removed, the ceilings were lowered slightly, and columns capped with Corinthian capitals were installed. The exterior marquee was also added at this time.

There is a large hallway through the center of the building with arches at each end. On the east side of the hallway, the original chapel is still intact. The chapel's highly decorative Gothic ceiling has been restored. French doors with leaded glass separate the lobby from the chapel. The north end of the chapel is a lounge; it probably served as the mourning room. A bathroom with original tile wainscoting and tile floor still remains.

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8. Significance

Period

- prehistoric
- 1400-1499
- 1500-1599
- 1600-1699
- 1700-1799
- 1800-1899
- 1900-

Areas of Significance-Check and justify below

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> archaeology-prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/> archaeology-historic <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture <input type="checkbox"/> art <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce <input type="checkbox"/> communications <input type="checkbox"/> community planning <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> economics <input type="checkbox"/> education <input type="checkbox"/> engineering <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement <input type="checkbox"/> industry <input type="checkbox"/> invention <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture <input type="checkbox"/> law <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> music <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government <input type="checkbox"/> religion <input type="checkbox"/> science <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture <input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/> theater <input type="checkbox"/> transportation <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |
|--|--|--|

Specific Dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Buchanan Building in Spokane remains a significant building both architecturally and historically. Designed by local architects F.P. Rooney and Lewis Stritesky, the Buchanan Building was specifically designed to house the undertaking business of James D. Buchanan. For over ten years it served in this capacity for the Buchanan family; in 1924 it became Hennessey and Calloway Funeral Home. The ornate entry marquee, elaborate lobby and impressive chapel provide a continuous testament to the prominence of this locally owned business.

James D. Buchanan moved to Spokane in 1880 where he farmed and started a cigar and tobacco business before entering the undertaking field in 1898. While the Buchanan Building was under construction, he operated his business at W. 310 Riverside Avenue. In December 1911, the "Spokesman Review" reported that Buchanan's "modern mortuary" had been custom designed at a cost of \$25,000. According to Durham's History of Spokane and Spokane County, Buchanan's became one of the finest undertaking establishments in the Inland Empire.

The Smith & Co. Funeral Home, located at W. 1124 Riverside, was the only other mortuary of similar caliber in Spokane. Erected at much the same time as Buchanan's Building, the Smith & Co. Building was completed in 1912 at a cost of \$130,000. Smith & Co. was a larger and well established business many years before Buchanan entered the field. Surely Buchanan had Smith & Company's success in mind when he designed his building and moved his business. Architecturally, the facade of the Smith & Co. building remains intact; however, deterioration of the marquee forced its removal during renovation. The interior has also been altered to accommodate office use.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Spokane Directories, 1910-1935.

Durham, N.W., The History of Spokane and Spokane County, Spokane:
S.J. Clark Publishing, 1912.

"The Spokesman-Review," Sunday Edition, December 3, 1911. Cowles Publishing.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 50 feet x 140 feet (.1606 Acre)
Lots 29 and 30, Block 112, Fourth Addition to the Railroad Addition.

Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at the Southeast Corner of Lot 29, thence West 50 feet to the Southwest corner of Lot 30, thence North 140 feet to the Northwest corner of Lot 29, thence South 140 feet to the point of beginning.

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

state _____ county _____
state _____ county _____

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Katie Karcher - Owner
organization None date 6-13-93
street & number South 515 Maple telephone (509) 624-6826
city/town Spokane state Washington 99204

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12. Signature of Owner(s)

[Signature]
Katie Karcker

For Official Use Only:

Date Received: 10-1-93
Date Heard: 10-20-93
Commission Decision: Approved
Council/~~Board~~ Action: Approved
Date: November 1, 1993

Attest: Marilyn J. Montgomery
City Clerk

Approved as to Form:

[Signature]
Asst. City Attorney

We hereby certify that this property has been listed on the Spokane Register of Historic Places.

[Signature]
MAYOR, City of Spokane

or

CHAIR, Spokane County Commissioner

[Signature]
CHAIR, Spokane City/County Historic Landmarks Commission

[Signature]
City/County Historic Preservation Officer

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City/County Historic Landmarks Commission
Sixth Floor - City Hall, Spokane, WA.

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On the west side of the hallway are the offices; a set of French doors opens into the lobby. At the end of the hallway is a large open room which was originally the morgue. It is illuminated by a large skylight.

An open stair is situated on the east side of the lobby. It leads down to a finished basement. At the bottom of the staircase are two waiting rooms with original multi-paned windows, glass paneled doors and paneled wainscoting with fluted pilasters. Another glass paneled door opens up to a large room originally used for display purposes. The west half of the basement features only a furnace room, storage rooms (probably the factory), an elevator and staircase to the first floor.

The floors in the building are fir; some have been restored and some have been covered with carpet. The original doors and matching door hardware are all intact. Original light fixtures were rewired and reused; other antique fixtures were purchased to match.

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The Buchanan Building, in turn, has retained its marquee, and many of the primary interior elements continue to reflect the architectural significance of this early 20th century facility. The construction and design of the facility are of exceptional quality. Originally intended to include two additional stories, the structural beams and thick brick walls are more than adequate for the one-story structure.

The architects' attention to design details is evident in the elaborately embellished plaster ceiling in the chapel, the Corinthian columns, accordion French doors, skylights, arches, turned baluster staircase, and paneled wainscoting. The building's exterior reflects similar finesse with its white terra cotta decoration and stained glass marquee. The architects, Lewis R. Stritesky and F.P. Rooney, were leaders in Spokane's architectural community in the early decades of the 20th century. Other buildings designed by Stritesky include the Shade Brewery on Trent and the Westminster Apartments in Browne's Addition.

Since 1935, when Hennessey and Calloway moved, many different businesses have occupied the facility including Spokane Funeral Home in 1941, Ibister Plumbing & Heating in 1945, Goodwill in 1965, Ceramic Arts in 1977, and Antiquex in 1993.

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