

Spokane Register of Historic Places Nomination

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

1. Name of Property

Historic Name **GERMOND BLOCK**
And/Or Common Name **TRAVOS/MICHAEL BUILDING**

2. Location

Street & Number 820-830 West Sprague Avenue
City, State, Zip Code Spokane, Washington 99201
Parcel Number 35183.0608

3. Classification

Category of Property	Ownership of Property	Status of Property	Present Use of Property
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both		<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> residential
<input type="checkbox"/> object	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes, restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes, unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other

4. Owner of Property

Name Diamond Parking
Street & Number 650 First Street
City, State, Zip Code Seattle, Washington 98104
Telephone Number/E-mail

5. Location of Legal Description

Courthouse, Registry of Deeds Spokane County Courthouse
Street Number 1116 West Broadway
City, State, Zip Code Spokane, WA 99260
County Spokane

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Title
Date Federal State County Local
Depository for Survey Records Spokane Historic Preservation Office

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Condition

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

Check One

unaltered

altered

Check One

original site

moved & date _____

Narrative description of present and original physical appearance is found on one or more continuation sheets.

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:

A 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 history.

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

RES&ADD SPOKANE FALLS L7 & 9 B23

Verbal Boundary Justification

Nominated property includes entire parcel and urban legal description.

11. Form Prepared By

Name and Title

Jim Kolva

Organization

Jim Kolva Associates

Telephone Number/E-mail

(509) 458-5517/jim@kolva.xohost.com

Street and Number

115 S. Adams Street

City, State, Zip Code

Spokane, Washington 99201

Date

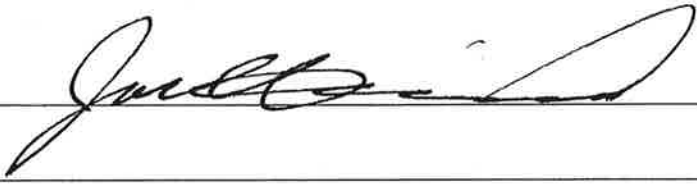
December 14, 2007

12. Additional Documentation

Map USGS 7.5 minute topographic Spokane Northwest, Wash. 1986

Photographs and Slides


13. Signature of Owner(s)



14. For Official Use Only:

Date Received: _____ Attest: _____

Date Heard: _____ City Clerk

Commission Decision: _____ Approved
as to Form: 

Council/Board Action: _____ Assistant City Attorney

Date: _____

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

CITY ADMINISTRATOR, City of Spokane
or

CHAIR, Spokane County Commissioners

CHAIR, Spokane City/County Historic Landmarks Commission



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

Description -Summary

Rising from a basalt and concrete basement, the Germond Building is a four-story brick building that occupies the northeast corner of Sprague Avenue and Lincoln Street in downtown Spokane.

Designed by the Reid Brothers of San Diego (and San Francisco), the building is a well-detailed but relatively simple example of the Romanesque Revival. The building is on a site consisting of two lots that extend 100 feet along Sprague Avenue and 90 feet along Lincoln Street. In order to provide an access lane to the north side of the building, the north wall is seven feet south of the property line. The building dimensions are 83 feet deep along Lincoln Street, and 100 feet wide along Sprague Avenue.

Distinguished by angled corners on the southwest and northwest corners, the building anchors an important corner the city's downtown core. Five identically sized wide bays and the angle corner on the west end define the south façade. Four bays, two wide and two narrow and the angled corners, define the west façade. Extending above the 1970 marblecrete stucco ground floor facade to the third floor is a continuous arcade running from the east end around the southwest corner and terminating at the northwest corner. Above, along the 4th floor, is a series of paired segmental arch window bays that wrap around the fourth floor. The building terminates in a simple cornice which projects slightly in a brick corbel. The roof is flat, built-up tar composition.

Sprague Avenue (south) Façade

The Sprague frontage is divided into five bays. At the east end in 822 is Dentist John R. Tiffany, at 824 is Katz Boutique, at 824-1/2 is the entrance to the upstairs apartments, 826 is vacant (has historically been a barber shop, hair salon), at 828 is the Artists Tree, and at 830 is the Blue Fish Restaurant with an entry on the corner. The storefronts have been altered over the years (permits in 1916, 1927, 1945, 1947) with the major alteration, and current configuration in 1970, with only the storefront at 826 resembling an historic front probably from the 1940s. The storefronts are composed of aluminum framed glass display windows and entry doors. Above the storefront bays is a solid marblecrete transom that extends to the sill course of the second floor. A pattern of segmental arches emulates the pattern presented by the original brick façade, but a photo from 1945 (Libby L87-1.58688-49) reveals a brick field below the sill course, and a 1936 photo (Libby L87-1.8116-36) indicates transom windows above the storefront at 828 W. Sprague. An entry bay to the west bay, occupied by Bluefish Restaurant, is within the angled corner.

The façade remains intact above the ground floor marblecrete that terminates at the sill course of the second floor window bays. The window openings while retaining their original form have been reduced in size by removal of the original window sash and filling the arch tympanums with painted wood panels. Double-hung metal sash windows fill the remnant openings.

An arcade of niches formed by compound semi-circular arches extending to the third floor wraps around the building –five wide bays in the south façade, one wide bay in the southwest corner, two wide and two narrow bays in the west façade, and one wide bay in the northwest corner.

Areas of Significance – A and C

Period of Significance – 1890 -1958

Significant Date – 1890

Architect – Reid Brothers; Builder – Eugene Germond

Summary

The 1890 Germond Building is eligible under Category A because it is one of a few remaining buildings that rose from the ashes of Spokane's 1889 fire. The Germond Building is one of ten extant buildings of the 150 buildings that were built in the year following the 1889 fire that razed the downtown business district. Two of those other buildings, the Miller and Whitten share the block front on Sprague between Post and Lincoln streets. The building also has the distinction as serving as Spokane's city hall for its first two years as the new city hall was being constructed. As touted in an August 5th 1890 article in the Spokane Falls Review in the year anniversary since the great fire, the rebirth demonstrated "A Mighty Faith in Spokane." The building represents the beginnings of the new business district of Spokane, the foundation of today's downtown.

The building is also eligible under Category C, because it represents a distinctive work by a prominent architectural firm, the Reid Brothers, in the Romanesque Revival style. The Reid Brothers had been invited from the Mid-west to San Diego in 1886 by the founders of the Coronado Beach Company to design the Hotel Del Coronado (NHR, 1971). In 1889, both James and Merritt were made Fellows of the American Institute of Architects. Merritt moved north that year to open an office in San Francisco. Sometime during that transition the brothers designed the Germond Building, probably drawn by the great opportunity provided by the Great Spokane Fire of 1889. (This is the Reid Brothers only known building in Spokane, and there is no available record of how they happened to be invited to design the building.) Although the building's ground floor storefront façade has been altered, as have the upper story windows, the building remains a distinctive element of downtown Spokane's historic streetscape.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE (Category A)

Durham reported in his History of The City of Spokane and Spokane County, Washington, the birth of a New Spokane:

NEW YEARS, 1891 SEES A NEW SPOKANE.

By January 1, 1891, sixteen months after the great fire of 1889, a new and imposing business district had taken the place of that leveled by flame. It was closely estimated that \$5,000,000 had gone into new buildings in 1890. The census of June had given Spokane nearly 20,000 population, but that count embraced only people living within the old city limits, two miles square. Population with the annexed territory gave a true total of nearly 25,000, and by January 1 the newspapers claimed 28,000.

Real estate transfers for 1890 were totaled at \$18,000,000. The assessed valuation of city property was \$18,790,000. The flour mills had a daily capacity of 700

barrels, and the year's lumber cut was 30,000,000 feet. Eleven banks had \$5,000,000 on deposit. The year's postoffice receipts were \$52,705, as against \$19,612 in 1888. A census of manufacturing interests showed 223 concerns employing hands. The railroads that year had carried in and out of Spokane

257,500 tons of freight. The telephone system had 410 subscribers, and thirty four miles of street railway were in operations.

The city had nine public school buildings, valued at \$425,000; forty-three teachers and 2,500 pupils. There were thirty churches.

As revealing the growth of a decade, the Review contrasted these figures with the showing of 1880, when the town had a population of 350, an assessed valuation of \$50,000, real estate transfers of \$25,000, a milling capacity of ten barrels daily, an annual lumber cut of 500,00 feet, and a payroll of twenty-five hands.

An August 5th, 1890 article in the Spokane Falls Reviews had reviewed the phenomenal rebirth of the city in listing all the buildings that had been completed in and near the downtown.

SIX MILLIONS ... A Grand Record of a Years Growth ... Brick and Granite ...
Over 150 Brick Buildings Since the Fire ... A Mighty Faith in Spokane ...
Magnificent Blocks Cover All the Old Fire Ruins of a Year Ago

The Review today gives a complete record of the tangible results of the energy and confidence of the citizens of Spokane. It has been the aim of the Review in this building article to give a list of all the buildings that have been erected in the business portion of the city since the great fire of August 4, 1889. It is an anniversary edition, and the scope of this article has been confined exclusively to within the fire limits of a year ago, at the same time showing the natural growth of business beyond those boundaries.

...

Spokane has spent in round numbers six millions of dollars in business blocks since last August and is even now preparing for even greater expenditures in the same line.

In the face of so many buildings being thrown open at about the same time it is a noticeable fact, and a most encouraging sign of the times, that all of them are rapidly filling up with tenants. No sooner is a building declared ready for occupancy than the rooms and stores are immediately rented.

In a recapitulation of the investment touted in the August 5th article, the following table lists streets and expenditures on their frontages:

Riverside Avenue	\$2,607,000
Main Street	\$1,424,500
Sprague Street	\$ 816,000
Howard Street	\$ 402,400
First Street	\$ 264,000
Front Street	\$ 95,000
Second Street	\$ 93,500
Other streets	\$ 181,000
Total	\$5,975,400

According to the August 5th article: Sprague Avenue claimed three new buildings in the block between Post and Lincoln. **“Germond’s Building \$50,000”** Diagonally opposite on the northeast corner of Mill [sic] is Eugene Germond’s Building the dimensions are 82 x 100 feet. The building will be four stories high of pressed brick and will cost \$50,000. It will be ready for occupancy about December 1.”

Two present day neighbors were listed in the same article of August 5th: “Miller’s Building, \$25,000” Stanley Millers new building stands on the north side of the street about half way between Mill and Post. It is almost completed, and is a handsome brick building our stories high 50 x 85 feet in size with Roman brick front. The building will be completed September 15 and will be finished with native oak. Cost, \$26,000.”

“The Whitten Block \$45,000” “On the northwest corner of Post Street is L. B. Whitten’s five-story brick building, now rapidly nearing completion. It is 50 x 90 feet in size cost \$45,000 will be ready for occupancy by November 1.” Other buildings in the downtown listed in that article of August 5th include the Fire House on First, Bennett Block on Main, Lang Building on Washington, Review Building, Fernwell Building and Hill Brothers Building on Riverside, and Woodward Building on Howard.

Building History

The Sanborn maps of 1884 and 1888 show a dwelling on the westerly lot of the site.

In February 1889 Sanborn shows the site as vacant.

The following year, 1890, the ruins of the fire of 1889 and tent city were depicted in the entire downtown. On the site were a beer hall, restaurant, saloon, barber, and others.

By 1891, Sanborn depicted the Germond Block on the site, and the Miller Building and Whiten Block at the east end of the block.

The 1902 Sanborn depicted the entire block as developed.

In 1892, the Polk City Directory listed the Germond Block and also as City Hall. By 1893 most of the city offices were listed in the building, but the City Hall was listed at Front (later Trent, now Spokane Falls Boulevard) and Howard. Spokane's new city hall was completed in 1893.

According to an article in the Spokesman Review in 1976 (9/27) "Curious about early-day store"

Eugene Germond built the four-story Germond Block after the fire of 1889 and in this building he housed his Log Cabin Saloon. The building's upper floors were first used as Spokane's seat of government while the new city hall at Front (later Trent ...) and Wall was under construction in the early 1890s. The Log Cabin became a rendezvous for the French who were fairly numerous in the city at that time. The 1893 panic hit Germond hard and within six years he lost his building and his business. During the next eight years Louis L. Bertonneau was the saloon's proprietor. The Spokane City Directory shows that the saloon was operated by F. Wm. Boettcher and Theodore Heise in 1908. Heise was apparently the sole proprietor for the next two years after which there is no record of the Log Cabin Saloon.

A review of the Polk City Directory and Spokane Building Permits indicate the following building occupants:

West 822 – Pierce (Dave) Harness Co between 1906 and 1911, Withers Brothers (Taxidermists) between 1912 and 1922, Electric Furnishing Co. between 1923 and 1934; Spokane Electric Co. in 1935-45; Rohrer's Spokane Electric (also Rohrer's Lamps & Lighting Store) from 1950 to 63; Cameo School of Charm and Les Femmes Beauty Salon in 1965; Betty's Wigs Les Femmes an Beauty Salon in 1970; Fred Jackson Hearing Aid in 1972-75; Union Dental Services in 1980; Tiffany's Dental Services 1985 to present.

West 824 – Empire Tile & Mantle. Co. between 1909 and 1914; Little Taylor and Month in 1919; New Paris Beauty Parlor in 1922, Paris Beauty Shop and Parisian Cloak and Suit in 1924; Parisian women's furnishings in 1929 and 1930; Fur Access in 1932 through 34; Remington-Rand Inc. Office supplies in 1935; Royal Typewriter in 1939-45; Harold Bradley in 1944; Pierone's Men Shop in 1947 to 1956; vacant in 1959; Jamieson's Clothing in 1965; vacant in 1970; Spokane World Travel Agency in 1975-82; Northwest Professional Hearing Aid in 1985; Bohemian Trading Co. in 1995; Gary Brandt in 2000; Jeffrey and Riley Dodd in 2006.

West 824-1/2 entrance to the Germond Block Apartments offices and apartments on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th floors. In 1929 seven office tenants and thirty-seven residential tenants were listed. In 1950, the building was listed as the Travo Building. The 1959 Polk indicated that about twenty-five of the units were vacant. The units were most all occupied in 1965 with most of the names listed being women. From 1982 through 2006, Dean C. Derek Eliassen, a significant Spokane artist occupied Unit 310.

West 826 – 196 N.W. Shining Parlors, 1915, Louie Sackless in 1918 and 1919 Charles Wilson, 1925, Kavolaris Shine Parlor in 1931, Spokane Shoe Shine in 1935; F.C. Parrish in 1945-46; Parrish's Flowers in 1949-1964; Mike Travo's Barber Shop in 1963-70; Big Norwegian Gift Shop in 1975-1990; Visions Art Gallery in 1992 through 1995; not listed in 2000 and 2006.

West 828 – Elk Saloon in 1912 (D. Holtzman); Lewis Green saloon between 1913 and 1915; Portugues Cigar Store in 1921 through 1925; Johnson Drug Company in 1926-1930; Service Drug Co. in 1931 and 32; Maxine Earl in 1935; Jordan and Co. 1936 (soft water systems); Health Food Store in 1944; Harold Bradley in 1945; Miller's Photos 1945-46; Milady's apparel shop in 1949; Chandlers women's clothing in 1950; Fun & Fancy in 1955-65; vacant in 1970; The Hanger ladies apparel in 1975; Sound Hole music store in 1982 through 2000; Artists Tree in 2006

West 830 - The Spokane Candy Kitchen in 1909 to 1911; Germond Waffle House in 1913 and 1914; McLean and Taylor in 1916; L. Sackless obtained building permits in 1918 and 1919; Outside Inn, an ice cream parlor, from 1919 through 1949; Travo Brothers in 1950; Travos Fountain Lunch; 1954; Travo's Restaurant and Apache Room 1959 through 92; the Marco Polo in 1994 and 1995; vacant and under construction between 1996 and 1998; Travos Outside Inn in 1999 to 2001; Quinn's Restaurant in 2002 and 2003; Joe Brazils Restaurant & Lounge in 2006; and Blue Fish to present.

N 6 Lincoln – Spokane Candy Kitchen between 1909 and 1911; Palm Barber Shop in 1912–1918; Mike Travo Barber in 1927; Travo Brothers in 1940 through 1949; no listings in 1950 or thereafter.

N. 8 Lincoln - Log Cabin Saloon in 1892 to 1910 (with Germond proprietor from 1892 to 1899, Louis Bertonneau between 1900 and 1907, and F. Boettcher and Theodore Heise in 1908, and Theodore Heise in 1909 and 1910); and Theodore Heise saloon in 1911; not listed in 1912; Lewis Green saloon in 1913 and 1914; and EM Sampson in 1915; Holzman Bros in 1916; Permits were issues between 1924 and 1927 for Dave's Waffle House, Davison Waffles and Davison Café; Patterson's and Carpenter in 1930, Hand's Café in 1931; Callahan Café in 1934 through 1940; Needle Nook in 1945-46; and Palm Barber Shop in 1947, with no listings thereafter.

Eugene Germond, Original owner of Germond Block,

The Spokane City directory first listed Eugene Germond in 1885 as boarding at the California House, and in 1886 through 1889 with JN Squier & Company as one of the proprietors of the Eastern Beer depot at the southeast corner of Main and Mill. He was listed at North 8 Lincoln as proprietor of the Log Cabin Saloon between 1892 and 1899. After 1899 his residence was listed at S 16 Pine where it remained until 1925.

Eugene Germond was born in Switzerland, from one of the French cantons, according to a Spokesman Review article of January 20th, 1935. With a banner headline "Golden Locket Reveals Pioneer Romance," the article recounted the life of Eugene Germond in reporting the death of his wife, Amita Claudia. Photos in the article showed eight trunks belonging to the estate of Mrs. Germond accompanied by the conjecture of what they might contain, the Germond cottage at the corner of Sprague and Pine, a portrait of Gene Germond found in the locket, and depicted the Germond block. Mrs. Germond had passed away on December 8, 1934 at the Spokane County infirmary at Spangle. Gene Germond had preceded her in death in 1926. His final days were in the Eastern State Hospital for the insane at Medical Lake. According to the article of January 20th:

In 1884 Jack Squier and I. T Benhan built a block that bore their names at Main and Mill (Wall Street). It must have been about this time that Gene Germond became a partner of Jack Squier. They built a two-story brick building at Main and Mill and established a fine saloon and restaurant, know as Squier's. It had the first tile floor in Spokane.

It was regarded by old-timers as one of the finest on the Pacific coast. Gene was an expert judge of wines, liquors and cordials. They carried the finest imported liquors from Europe. They handled Guinness stout in stone jugs. Other famous brands were carried. It was said people came 150 miles from British Columbia and Coeur d'Alene points to visit Squier's. The delicatessen was equally as famous as the bar. They brought the first carload of Annheuser-Busch beer to Spokane and sold it for 5 cents a glass.

After the fire [of 1889 which leveled the Squier saloon] he had bought the corner at Sprague and Lincoln and erected the Germond block, which still carries the name. It has never had an elevator. Its first use was as Spokane's city hall in the early 90s while the city hall at Front and Howard was under construction. That city hall was sold in 1911 and razed to make way for the Union Pacific and Milwaukee entrances and depot.

In the Germond block, Gene achieved his great ambition to have his own saloon. He called it the Log Cabin. He worked as his own bartender and also his own porter. The Log Cabin became a rendezvous for the French who were fairly numerous in the city at the time. Each Christmas, Gene would give his cronies a bottle of fine whisky, always in the bottle the shape of a log cabin. Absinthe was dispensed there too.

It is hard to fix exactly the date of his marriage. In fact some are of the opinion that he had been married once before he courted the dusky Amita Claudia. Their marriage was probably some time between the fire of 1889 and the panic of 1893. That would make Amita around 21. Gene's retrogression began soon after.

Associated with another Swiss, whose name seems to be forgotten today, Gene purchased a row of one story brick buildings on the north side of Front between Howard and Mill. These were inhabited mainly by underworld characters, many of them French.

Gene also acquired property along Sprague between Pine and Division. There was a substantial business area there at the time-a saloon, a food store, a market and similar establishments of a neighborhood business district. Gene collected rents from them all.

There he decided to build his home for his bride. He selected a lot on Sprague and built his home, facing on Pine. It stands there today. You might call it a shack now but it was considered a fine home then and Gene was proud of it. He and his wife lived there for many years.

HIT HARD BY 1893 PANIC

The 1893 panic hit Germond hard. He no longer had the Germond building and he apparently lost the property on Front avenue. [sic] But he retained his holdings at Sprague and Pine. Ultimately he received a substantial cash settlement from the Northern Pacific when grade separation went through but that grade separation ruined his property for business purposes. But he continued to reside there.

Born in the French part of Switzerland where the color line was never drawn, it probably never entered Gene's head that he was doing the unconventional thing in marrying into another race of a different color. Those mulattos were often beautiful and, in many cases, vivacious and fascinating. No one has ever hinted that there was not a deep attachment.

But Gene's friends snubbed him thereafter. He couldn't understand their viewpoint. He wanted to be as friendly and genial as ever, but his old associates gave him the cold shoulder.

His bride had pride too. She was deeply resentful of the attitude of her husband's friends. She locked her door on them all. She locked the door, too, on the people of her own race. She was an outcast in both camps. It was an unfortunate state of affairs. It was beyond Gene's ability to comprehend. They were socially ostracized.

Finally, in a fit of despondency, he sent a bullet from a pistol crashing into his brain. He was rushed to the old St. Luke's hospital, then on First, near All Saints' cathedral. Strange to say, he recovered, although the bullet was never extricated.

But he was never the same again. His friends, partly restored to him by his rash act, saw that his mental faculties were waning, although he was still comparatively young, or at least only middle-aged. He became worse mentally and was persuaded that a sojourn at Medical Lake was necessary. He went there and was subsequently released as cured. But the old disorder returned and he was officially committed in 1919, dying there in 1926.

PROUD OF FINE CLOTHES

In his prime, he had made several trips to Switzerland. On one occasion, Frank Mead, an English tailor who did all the work for Spokane's men of means fitted him out with a complete outfit. Mead was strong or honest workmanship but a little weak on the mode of the moment.

New York laughed at his strange garb as he waited for his boat. He was humiliated beyond words. He junked his entire Spokane wardrobe and had himself fitted out with New York's latest before sailing. Money was no object then.

Following his death, Mrs. Germond drew farther into the shell of isolation. She had virtually dropped from sight completely until her death was reported at Spangle.

But she had remained faithful to her old love. In her effects, they found a gold locket. In that locket was a picture of Gene Germond in his prime. With a pin she had scratched on the locket, this notation: "Eugene Germond, Germond block Spokane, October, 1903."

She had done that 31 years ago. During all the intervening years she wore that locket.

Most old-timers knew Germond as a virile, chunky man with a full beard, black cropped and pointed in the French fashion. In later years, as the locket picture shows, he shaved the beard, but retained a black, well-waxed mustache.

Fate has written "Finis" on the lives of Eugene Germond and Amita Claudia Gernond. The postscript may be written when those battered old trunks are opened on court order.

Spokane Building Blocks reports:

Eugene Germond was a pioneer saloon keeper and building owner. As early as 1884, the two-story brick building on the southeast corner of Main and Mill (Wall), the site of the post-fire Squier Block, was listed at the "Squire (sic.),

Germond & Benham's Block" and housed a liquor and cigar store in 1889. Polk 1889 lists the J.N. Squier & Co. saloon there before the fire, Squier and E. Germond, proprietors.

Germond built his Log Cabin Saloon in the northwest corner of his new building and prospered there until prohibition in 1916. The north (alley) wall of the building stood (and still stands) high above the one-story building to the north, and presented a billboard face to the city, advertising "The Log Cabin Salon" across the top, and "New York brand Lager Beer."

At the center in the first story (of this north wall) was a wide semicircular arched opening [extant], where the brewery wagons could roll in the barrels as fast as the contents went out the corner entrance, and for a while, another entrance on Sprague as well.

The Travo Brothers, building owners from 1945 to 1993.

The Spokesman Review reported on February 28th 1945 that the "TRAVOS PURCHASE GERMOND BLOCK."

The Travo brothers, Frank, Mike and Tony business tenants of the Germond building, northeast corner of Sprague and Lincoln, yesterday purchased the four-story building at a consideration said to exceed \$100,000. The seller was Lt. Col. Edwin R. Schiller, president of Spokane Interstate Investment company.

...

The Travo brothers have been in business in Spokane 20 years. They operate the Outside Inn and a barbershop in the Germond building. They also operate the Aster candy kitchen and restaurant on Riverside.

The Spokesman Review would also report, on February 20th 1993, the selling the restaurant and the end of the "TRAVOS TRADITION."

The stuffed animals are gone. So is the glass candy case. Gone, too, are the friendly, familiar faces of the Travo family, the Italian clan who ran the restaurant at the corner of Lincoln and Sprague for 57 years.

"I don't think the restaurant would ever have been sold if my husband was still alive," says Della Travo, the widow of Frank Travo.

Travo, who died in 1986 at age 79, and his brothers, Mike and Tony, purchased the corner restaurant in 1936 for the princely sum of \$1,500--\$500 apiece. Back then, it was the Outside Inn.

Eventually, Frank bought out his brothers, and for the next half-century the restaurant and bar became a way of life for Frank, Della and their children, particularly Joe Travo, who started there as a dishwasher and busboy at the ripe old age of 10.

Last week, that way of life came to an end when Joe and his wife Margaret sold the place to Tian and Chun Tang, a couple from Kent, Wash.

“Spokane restaurateur Frank Travo dies at 79,” reported the Spokesman Review on December 31, 1986.

Frank Travo was born in Italy and came to Spokane in 1909 when he was 2 with his mother and a brother, Mike Travo, to join his father and another brother, Tony Travo.

In 1921 the three brothers operated a barber shop in what is now the Travo Building. In 1936 they started the Outside Inn, an ice cream and sandwich shop next to the barber shop, and in 1940 they bought the Aster Café and Candy Kitchen on West Riverside. The Aster Café was sold in 1954 while they continued to operate the Outside Inn, which became Travo’s Restaurant.

The Germond Building, in which the barber shop and restaurant were located, was purchased in 1945. Built after the Spokane Fire of 1889, it was remodeled and renamed the Travo Building. The restaurant was renamed Travo’s in 1949. The Apache Room, with additional remodeling, was added in 1957.

Antonio “Tony” Travo passed away on August 1988 at the age of 95. He had come to Spokane in 1907 with his father later to be joined by his mother and brothers Mike and Frank. Tony and his brother retired from the restaurant business in the 1950s and left it in the hands of brother Frank and his family.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Category C)

Architect – Reid Brothers

James William Reid (1851-1943) and his brother Merritt J. Reid (1855-1932) were both born in St. John, New Brunswick, Canada, two of the sons of William J. and Lucinda (Robinson) Reid. After graduating, (James from MIT and the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris), they lived and worked in Evansville, Indiana, at first for the architectural firm of Boyd and Brickley, then purchasing the contracts of that firm in 1879 and opening their own business. They soon established a solid reputation, designing buildings for the Evansville and Terre Haute railroad, among other local Evansville, Indiana clients.

The Reid Brothers were invited out to San Diego in 1886 by the founders of the Coronado Beach Company to design the Hotel Del Coronado (NHR, 1971). The hotel opened its doors in 1888 and one year later John D. Spreckels, who was investing heavily in San Diego, bought a one-third interest in the company.

In 1889, both James and Merritt were made Fellows of the American Institute of Architects. Merritt moved north that year to open an office in San Francisco, soon to be joined by James, leaving their younger brother Watson Elkinah Reid (1858-1944) running the San Diego office. From their San Francisco office, in 1892, the Reid Brothers designed the first steel-frame building west of Chicago, for the Portland Oregonian newspaper.

In 1895 Claus Spreckels hired the Reid Brothers to build a new headquarters for his rapidly growing newspaper, the San Francisco Call. The 315 ft. high steel-frame Call Building was, when it was completed in 1897, the tallest building west of Chicago, almost doubling the height of San Francisco's first 'skyscraper' (Burnham & Root's 160 ft. tall Chronicle Building of 1889). The Call Building was topped by a spectacular 4-story dome in which the Reid Brothers set up their offices, on the 18th floor. Local architect and writer B. J. S. Cahill called it the 'handsomest tall office building in the world'. It immediately became the most recognizable San Francisco landmark, dominating the City's skyline, and featured in many postcards of the day.

The Reid Brothers essentially became the Spreckels family architects, designing several mansions for them and the Spreckels Car House (2301 San Jose, 1899, now San Francisco Landmark #180, known today as the Geneva Car Barn).

In 1902 the firm was commissioned to design the Fairmont Hotel on Nob Hill. The building was close to completion at the time of the 1906 earthquake, but was badly damaged by the fire. Julia Morgan supervised its repair and the Fairmont finally opened on April 18, 1907, one year to the day after the earthquake.

Other surviving examples of the Reid Brothers work include two department stores for the Hale Brothers (989 Market, 1902 and 901 Market, 1912), the W. & J. Sloane Building (222 Sutter, 1908), the First Congregational Church (southeast corner of Post and Mason, 1913, now San Francisco Landmark #177), and many theaters, including the Coliseum (745 Clement, 1918), the Alexandria (5400 Geary, 1923), the Metropolitan (2055 Union, 1924) and the Balboa (3630 Balboa, 1926), all in San Francisco, and the Grand Lake Theater in Oakland (1926). The firm had also designed the third generation Cliff House which opened in 1909 after its ornate predecessor was destroyed due to an electrical fire in 1907.

The prolific Reid Brothers partnership ended in 1932 with the death of Merritt on February 4th. James retired from active practice at that time, turning to his hobbies of oil painting and music. He was a founder of the San Francisco Opera Company. James died on September 22, 1943 in his apartment in 1100 Union.

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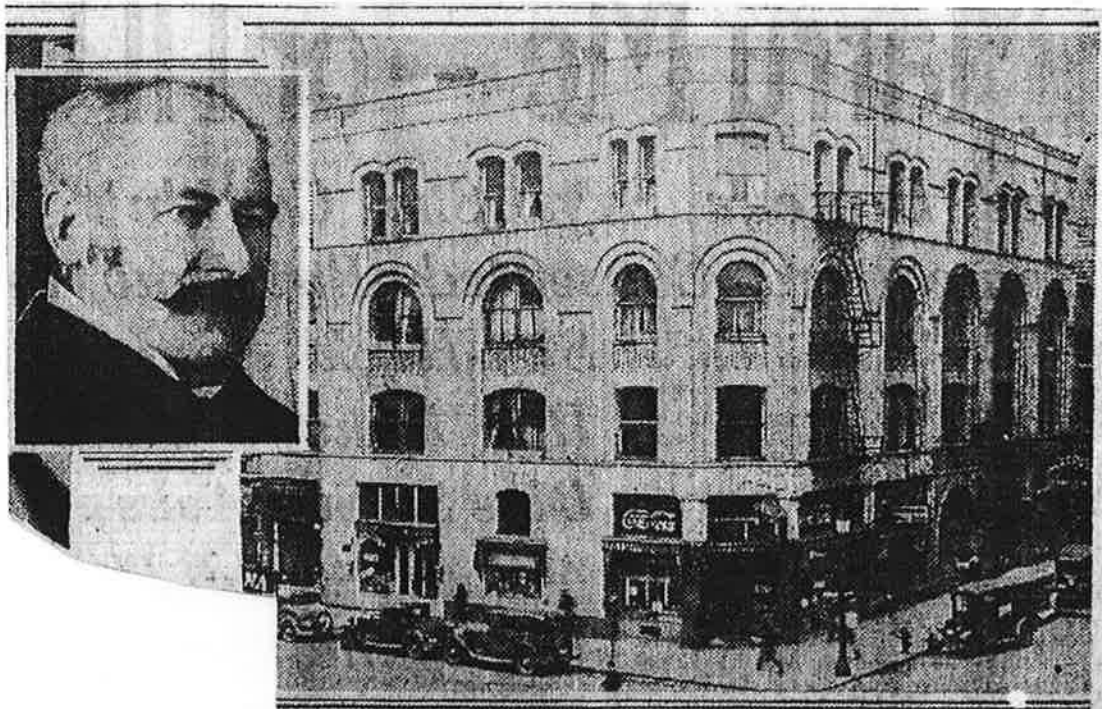
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Germond Building Changes Owners

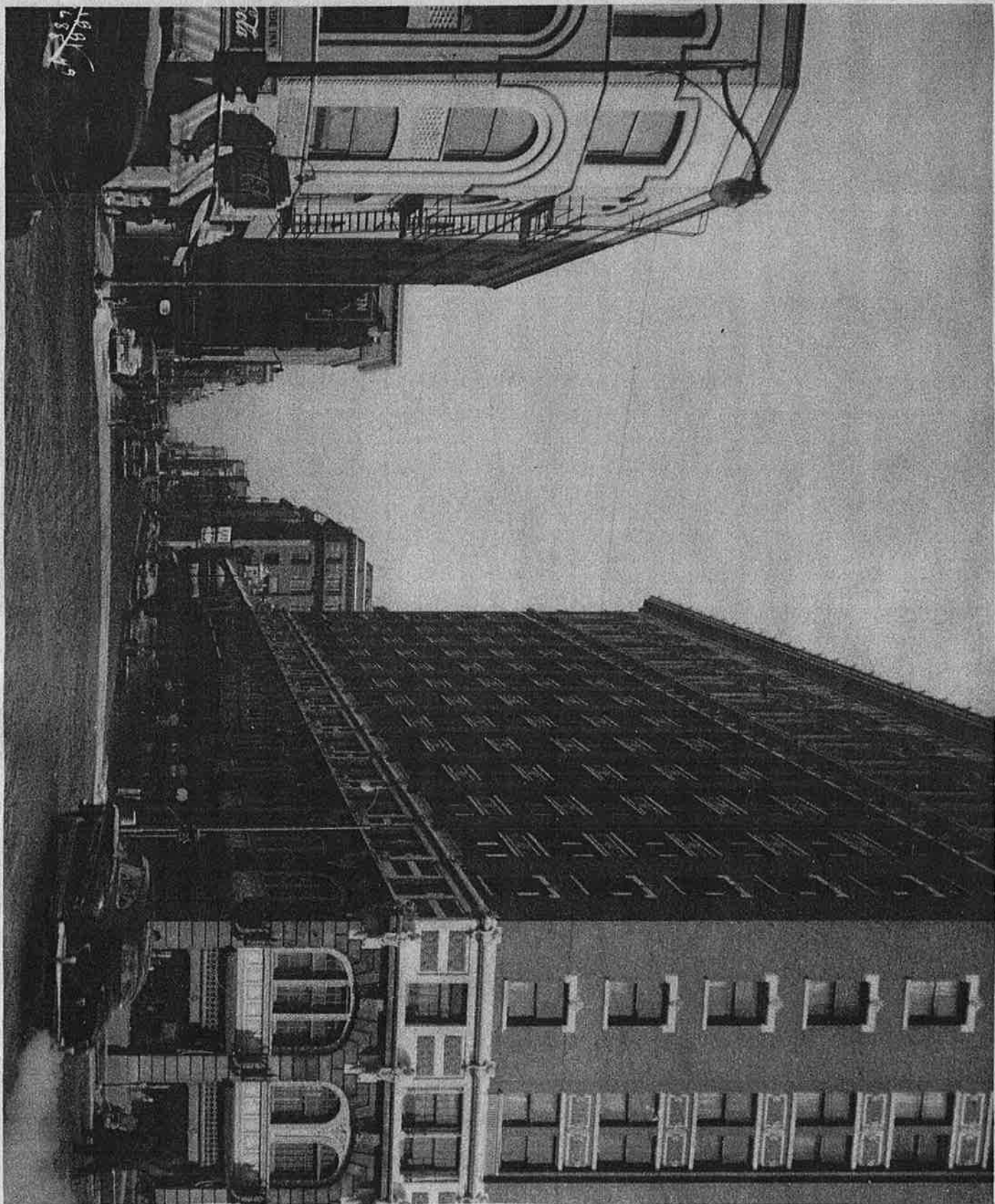


Purchase of the Germond building on the northeast corner of Sprague and Lincoln was announced yesterday by Frank Travo with the consideration said to be more than \$100,000. Associated with Mr. Travo are his brothers Mike and Tony, operators of the Outside inn and barber shop. Edwin R. Schiller, president of the Spokane Interstate Investment company, was the seller. Heavily constructed, the building is among the widely known early business structures of the city.



The Germond block was built at Sprague and Lincoln in the days of his wealth, after the fire of 1889, when he was rated as worth more than \$100,000. His Leg Cabin bar was in the corner for years. He lost the property a few years after it was completed, but it still carries his name. Its first use was as Spokane's city hall, while the structure at Howard and Trent, now razed, was being built.

The insert is an early-day picture of Gene Germond, found in a gold locket in the trinkets of his widow at the time of her death last December. It carried the date, October, 1903.



6787



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Map Scale: 1in. = 45ft.



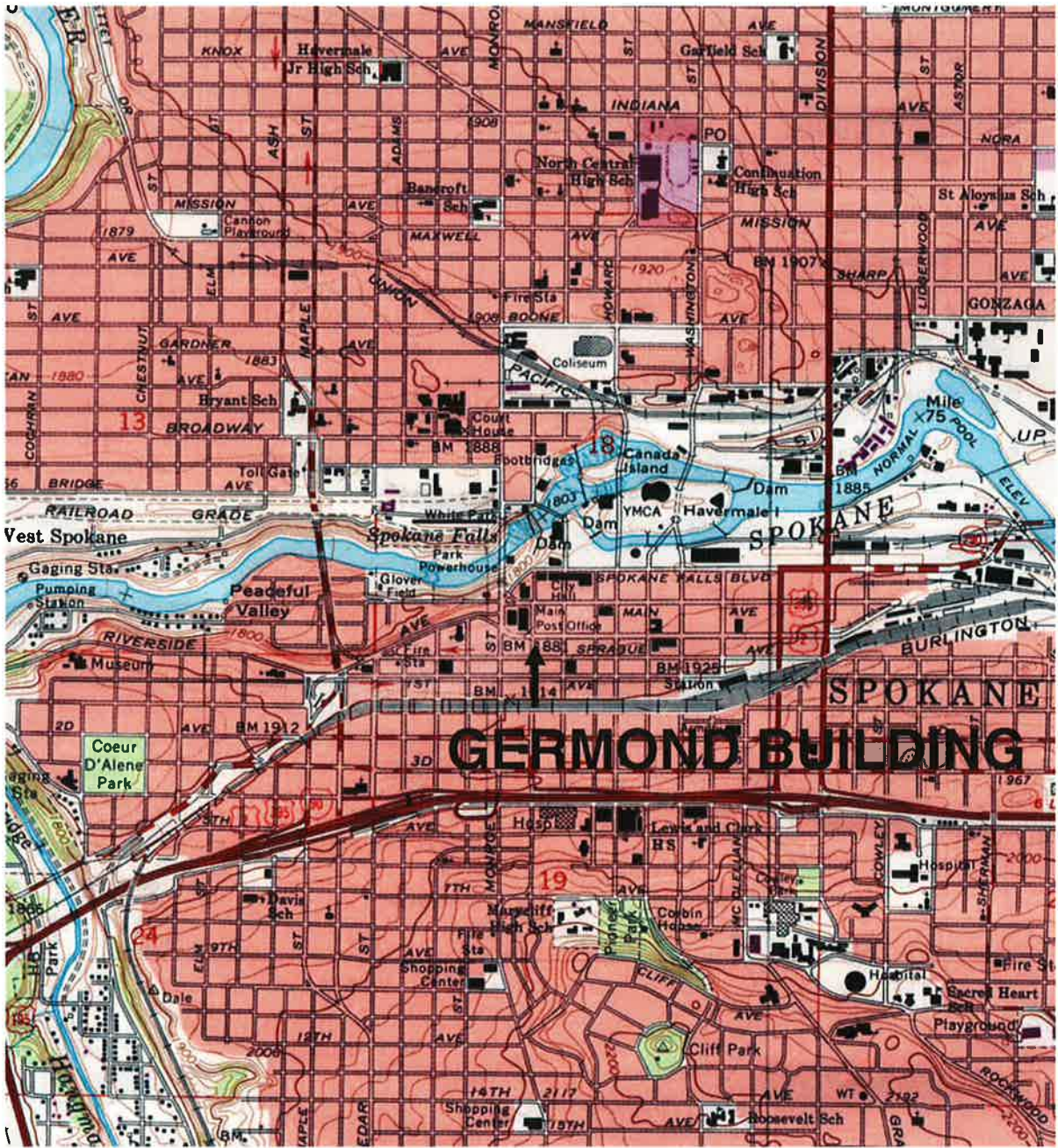


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USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle. Spokane NW. 1986.

GERMOND BUILDING SITE LOCATION

↑
N
1' = 2000'

