

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE
PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION

MISSOULA MERCANTILE
110 N. Higgins Avenue
Missoula
Missoula County
Montana

Location:	110 North Higgins Avenue Missoula, Montana 59802
Date of Construction:	1882 to 1904 with renovations as late as the 1940s.
Designer:	Edward Selander and Various
Builder:	Unknown
Present Owner:	110 N. Higgins Owners, LLC
Present Use:	Vacant
Significance:	<p>Most of the building was constructed between 1882 and 1904 when the property was owned by the Missoula Mercantile Company. The Missoula Mercantile originally was known as Bonner and Welch, being founded by E.L. Bonner, D.J. Welch, and Richard Eddy in 1866, and was located west of the present building site. The firm became known as E.L. Bonner and Company when D.J. Welch retired in 1871 and as Eddy, Hammond and Company when Andrew B. Hammond joined the firm in 1876. The company moved its store to its present location in 1877 and incorporated as the Missoula Mercantile Company in 1885, which owned the building until 1959, when it was purchased by Alstores Realty Corporation.</p> <p>The building is eligible for listing under Criterion B due to its association with E.L. Bonner, A.B. Hammond, and C.H. McLeod, all men who not only exercised a major influence on the formation, development and operation of the Mercantile, but also were principals in companies that were tied to the Mercantile and had a major impact on the development of Missoula and western Montana (e.g. the Montana Improvement Company, the Big Blackfoot Milling and Manufacturing Company, and the First National Bank of Missoula).</p> <p>The building also qualifies for listing under Criterion C. It is a large, pivotal building at the intersection of Higgins Avenue and Front Street (the axis of the original townsite) and still covers almost one-half block. It is constructed in the vernacular commercial style, and features distinctive and elaborate design elements, including large metal cornice, the cast iron storefront and support posts, Colonial Revival window hoods, and numerous cast iron window and door covers on the north (alleyway) side of the building.</p>