



# National Register Nomination

**Planning Division**  
**Community & Economic Development Department**

**To:** Historic Landmark Commission

**From:** Cheri Coffey, AICP; Assistant Planning Director

**Date:** December 1, 2014

**Re:** National Register of Historic Places Nomination:  
Western Macaroni Manufacturing Company Factory 244 South 500 West

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Attached, please find the National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Western Macaroni Manufacturing Company Factory at 244 South 500 West.

The Utah State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) desires input from the Historic Landmark Commission, a Certified Local Government (CLG), regarding National Register nominations within the Salt Lake City's boundaries.

Commission Members should focus their review and comments on whether a reasonable case has been made for the significance of this property and forward a recommendation to the Board of State History.

## ***National Register***

The National Register of Historic Places is the federal government's official list of historic properties worthy of preservation. Listing of a property provides recognition of its historic significance and assures protective review of federal projects that might adversely affect the character of the historic property.

If the property is listed on the National Register, tax credits for rehabilitation and other beneficial provisions may apply. Listing in the National Register does not place limitations on the property by the federal or state government.

## ***Background***

In 1905, the Western Macaroni Company began leasing the modest three-story brick factory within Salt Lake City's emerging industrial district. By 1915 when the company expanded the building with a four-story addition, the Western Macaroni Company was the largest producer and distributor of pasta in the Intermountain West. Despite its modest size, the Western

Macaroni Company produced up to six tons of pasta per day and shipped product throughout the western United States and Canada.

The Western Macaroni Company was founded by Italian immigrants and became one of the most successful Italian-American businesses in Utah. During its nearly forty years of operation, the Western Macaroni Company was praised as an example of both the successful assimilation of immigrants into the American economic system and the widespread dissemination of an immigrant food product, primarily macaroni and spaghetti, into mainstream American consumption. The building is being nominated as part of the *Salt Lake City Business District Multiple Resource Area* context. The Western Macaroni Manufacturing Company Factory is the only extant historic pasta factory building in Salt Lake City and contributes to the historic resources of the city's west side commercial and industrial business district.

Despite its public American face, the Western Macaroni Manufacturing Company was an important resource for the immigrant communities on Salt Lake City's west side. The company made cultural foods available and affordable for local immigrant families. Although the majority of products were Italian in origin, the company also made orzo that was favored by the local Greek community, egg noodles that could be adapted into Asian dishes, and a variety of tubes, stars, shells, and alphabet letters for the masses. One of the most important contributions to the local community was the employment of numerous Italian and other immigrants at the factory.

The property is in the process of being renovated into a Mixed Use Project and are seeking both State and Federal Tax Credits.

### ***Criteria for Nomination***

The Western Macaroni Manufacturing Company Factory, built in 1900 and expanded in 1915, is locally significant under Criterion A in the areas of Commerce and Ethnic Heritage for a property associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

### ***Next Step***

The Board of State History will review the National Register nomination during their January 15, 2015 meeting prior to submittal to the National Park Service.

### **Attachments:**

- A. National Register Nomination





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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Western Macaroni Manufacturing Company Factory Draft #1

other names/site number Mountain Ice Company, Bush Bros. Truck Lines, Beehive Brick

### 2. Location

street & number 244 S. 500 West  not for publication

city or town Salt Lake City  vicinity

state Utah code UT county Salt Lake code 035 zip code 84101

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Utah Division of State History / Historic Preservation Office  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register  determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register  removed from the National Register

other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

**Western Macaroni Manufacturing Company Factory**  
Name of Property

**Salt Lake County, Utah**  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only **one** box.)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		district
		site
		structure
		object
1		<b>Total</b>

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

Salt Lake City Business District MRA

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE: business

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

WORK IN PROGRESS

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY  
AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Commercial Style

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE

walls: BRICK

roof: BUILT-UP

other:

**Western Macaroni Manufacturing Company Factory**  
Name of Property

**Salt Lake County, Utah**  
County and State

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### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

### Summary Paragraph

The Western Macaroni Manufacturing Company Factory was constructed in two major phases: the original three-story section in 1900 and a four-story addition in 1915. The factory is located at 244 S. 500 West in Salt Lake City's west side industrial district. The foundation of both sections is sandstone. Both built-up roofs are nearly flat with a gently slope to the west. The building is a plain example of the early twentieth-century commercial style. The only decorative architectural features are the patterns of brick corbelling along the east elevation parapets. Major modifications to the building include a seamed-metal shed attached to the south end of the building, the replacement of most of the historic windows and the rebuilding of the fourth-floor roof after a fire (circa 1980s). There is also a non-contributing metal vehicle shed on the 0.85-acre parcel. The building is currently vacant and in fair to poor condition with both structural and cosmetic issues. A complete rehabilitation is planned using state and federal historic preservation tax credits. The building will be adapted for use as office/studio space and residential units. The Western Macaroni building is a contributing resource in its Salt Lake City neighborhood.

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### Narrative Description

The earliest portion of the Western Macaroni building was constructed in 1900.<sup>1</sup> The original footprint for the brick factory was a rectangle measuring approximately 64 by 34 feet. The building was located in the center of the block with a wood dock facing 500 West suggesting that the east elevation was the façade.<sup>2</sup> By the time of the 1911 Sanborn map, the building had a one-story brick addition on the south end and a one-story concrete addition along two-thirds of the west (rear) elevation. These two additions were removed probably during remodeling that occurred in the 1970s or 1980s. The foundation of the 1900 portion is coursed ashlar blocks of rock-faced red sandstone. The yellow brick masonry was laid in American (common) bond with headers at every sixth course. The brick is painted white on the east elevation, red on the south elevation, and brown on the main level of the west elevation. There is considerable damage to the masonry at the southwest corner of the exterior walls. In 1920, the original gabled roof with dormers was removed and a third floor added. The brick bond features headers at every seventh course. The roof was flattened and a parapet was built along the east elevation featuring a corbelled cornice. The parapet is stepped along the south elevation where there is some settlement damage. The windows in this section are double-hung windows with segmental-arched brick hoods and rowlock brick sills. Most of the windows are aluminum replacements (circa 1980s). There are a few two-over-two wood sash windows that are damaged and blocked by either plywood or brick. Near the southeast corner of the second floor is a round wood sash window with a brick surround that is only visible on the interior. On the main level of the façade is a concrete loading dock with a flat metal roof (circa 1970s). The façade openings include three loading doors of various sizes. The arched opening is original, but the flatter openings were likely installed at a later date within the historic period. There is also one window and one standard-size door (both blocked). The south elevation has one unblocked opening into the attached shed. With the exception of a loading door, all the openings on the main level of the west elevation have been blocked with brick. There are visible iron star tie-rods at the upper floor levels on all three elevations. At the north end of the rear elevation is an exterior metal spiral staircase from a second floor opening (date

<sup>1</sup> Salt Lake County tax records give an estimated construction date as 1893; however, the building does not appear on the 1898 Sanborn map and a Salt Lake City building permit for a "brick factory" in 1900 provides the more accurate date.

<sup>2</sup> The original street address for the building was 244 S. 4<sup>th</sup> West. All numbered streets north and west of Temple Square were renumbered in 1972. Fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) West became 500 West. The older street name is used on all historic documents researched for this nomination. The address of the factory varies in the city directories from between 242 South and 258 South with some designations as "rear" of the property.

**Western Macaroni Manufacturing Company Factory**

Name of Property

**Salt Lake County, Utah**

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unknown). The non-historic attached shed at the south end is approximately 50 by 17 feet. It is mounted on a raised concrete foundation. The walls are stud and sheathed in seamed metal. The roof is corrugated metal. The only opening is a large loading bay door on the east elevation.

The four-story brick addition was constructed in 1915.<sup>3</sup> The footprint of this section is square at approximately 50 by 50 feet. The foundation is also coursed ashlar sandstone, partially encased in concrete. The red brick is laid in American (common) bond with headers every seventh course. The east elevation of the addition is flush with the original building and is currently painted white. The decorative parapet features an alternating pattern of corbelled brick dentils. The façade is divided into six even bays. The original windows were six-light casement windows with flat lintels and brick sills. The windows were replaced by single pane aluminum sliders in the 1980s. The window openings on the main level of the façade are blocked with plywood. The concrete loading dock extends across the south half of the addition. A decorative brick rail way and archway was built at the entrance in the 1980s. On the north, west, and the visible portion of the south elevation of the addition, the windows are similar replacements to the façade. One window has its original wood sashes (damaged) and one is filled with glass block. With the exception of a south-facing door, the main level openings on the secondary elevations are blocked with plywood. The addition was re-roofed after a fire and it appears that the parapet was partially rebuilt. There is a concrete penthouse for the freight elevator at the south end of the addition.

On the interior, the Western Macaroni factory building has 28,538 square feet of space. The main, second, third, and basement levels have 6,490 square feet of space each. There is 2,578 square feet on the fourth floor. There is an additional 1,200 feet of space in the attached shed. An original two-story manufacturing opening was modified by the extension of the main floor sometime within the historic period. The stone foundation and brick walls are mostly visible on the interior, only a few surfaces are covered with plaster. The timber support posts and other structural members, such as floor joists, are also visible. Several fire doors are still intact, but not operable. There is the remnant of a decorative fireplace on the north wall of the main floor (not historic). The basement has a concrete floor. A few barred basement windows are visible on the interior, but blocked from the outside. The floors of all the other levels are wood. Both the wood staircase and the freight elevator are on the south wall of the addition. The original location of the freight elevator in the older portion has been filled in with wood floor boards. There is water damage on the third floor of the older section. The ceiling level of the fourth floor in the addition was lowered when the roof was replaced. There is a brick chimneystack in the northwest corner of the addition. The building is currently vacant and with the exception of the boiler room in the basement, all partitions have been removed. Except for the built-in scale in the loading dock area, no manufacturing equipment remains.

The building sits on an L-shaped parcel of 0.85 acres. Access to the building is through a parking lot on 500 West. The yard around the building is completely covered in asphalt. The property is mostly surrounded by chain link fence. On the north property line, the fence is mounted on a concrete retaining wall. A neighboring building is along the south property line. A metal shed measuring approximately 61 by 34 feet is in the southeast corner of the property (built circa 1980s). The three-bay vehicle shed is not historic and does not contribute to the historic integrity of the property. There are a few trees north and east of the shed. The neighborhood has a mix of historic and non-historic commercial buildings, although the west half of the block is almost entirely vacant. The historic Rio Grande Railroad Depot is on the block to the east and the Z.C.M.I. General Warehouse is on the neighboring parcels to the south.<sup>4</sup> The Western Macaroni Manufacturing Company Factory has good historic integrity in terms of location, setting, design, feeling, and association. Some alterations have impacted the integrity of the materials and workmanship, but will likely be addressed during the proposed rehabilitation.

<sup>3</sup> A Salt Lake City building permit dated August 18, 1915 describes a three-story brick factory, but photographs taken in the early 1920s shows of the current four-story building.

<sup>4</sup> Both buildings are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



**Western Macaroni Manufacturing Company Factory**  
Name of Property

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**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our 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 or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE

ETHNIC HERITAGE

**Period of Significance**

1905-1942

**Significant Dates**

1905, 1906, 1915, 1942

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Architect, Unknown

Various Builders

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The period of significance includes the use of the building by the Western Macaroni Manufacturing Company Factory.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)** N/A

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### Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Western Macaroni Manufacturing Company Factory, built in 1900 and expanded in 1915, is locally significant under Criterion A in the areas of Commerce and Ethnic Heritage. The period of significance is defined by the use of the building by the Western Macaroni Company between 1905 and 1942. In 1905, the Western Macaroni Company began leasing the modest three-story brick factory within Salt Lake City's emerging industrial district. By 1915 when the company expanded the building with a four-story addition, the Western Macaroni Company was the largest producer and distributor of pasta in the Intermountain West. Under Criterion A, the building is significant in the area of Commerce for its contributions to the economic output of Utah during this period. Despite its modest size, the Western Macaroni Company produced up to six tons of pasta per day and shipped product throughout the western United States and Canada. In the area of Ethnic Heritage, the Western Macaroni Company was founded by Italian immigrants and became one of the most successful Italian-American businesses in Utah. During its nearly forty years of operation, the Western Macaroni Company was praised as an example of both the successful assimilation of immigrants into the American economic system and the widespread dissemination of an immigrant food product, primarily macaroni and spaghetti, into mainstream American consumption. The Western Macaroni Company produced forty-five varieties of pasta, not only for the Italian community, but specialized products for other immigrant groups. The building is being nominated as part of the *Salt Lake City Business District Multiple Resource Area* context. The Western Macaroni Manufacturing Company Factory is the only extant historic pasta factory building in Salt Lake City and contributes to the historic resources of the city's west side commercial and industrial business district.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

### History of the Western Macaroni Manufacturing Company Factory

Salt Lake City was founded in 1847 by members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS or Mormon Church). Within a few years, the city had assumed the characteristics of a Mormon village: a grid of ten-acre blocks divided by wide streets with blocks set aside for communal purposes. Historians generally agree that the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869, was a benchmark in Utah's history: the official end of the pioneer era in Utah. In January of 1870, the Mormon church-sponsored Utah Central Railroad completed a line connecting Salt Lake City to the Union Pacific line at Ogden. In 1872, Union Pacific acquired control of the Utah Central, as well as interests in another Mormon railroad, the Utah Southern, which ran south from Salt Lake to Provo. The 400 West corridor provided the best grade and location for the tracks, and within a few years, a warehouse district had developed next to the city's central business district. The coming of the railroad had a direct effect on the neighborhoods west of the track for even one track created a barrier to east-west movement. By the time of the 1889 Sanborn map, the Utah Central-Union Pacific Railroad had laid six lines of track near 500 West, and the Denver & Rio Grande Railway, which had completed its Salt Lake to Denver line in 1883, had a track running north to south along 700 West. The 1898 Sanborn map shows that in the decade before the turn of the century, the Oregon Short Line Railroad (incorporated by Union Pacific/UP) had laid seventeen sets of track (through lines and sidings) near 500 West and North Temple separating the west side of town from the rest of the city.

While many early residents moved away from the city's west side after the coming of the railroad, many others stayed and made a living from the commercial and industrial growth around them. One example was Susannah Alston Chamberlain. Susannah Alston was born in American Fork, Utah. In 1882, she married James Thomas Chamberlain, a New Jersey native who came to Utah to raise sheep. The Chamberlain family lived in an adobe house on Lot 8, Block 63,

**Western Macaroni Manufacturing Company Factory**

**Salt Lake County, Utah**

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Salt Lake City survey Plat A (230 S. 500 West, demolished). Three children were born to the couple, the last after James' death in 1889. As a widow, Susannah Chamberlain took in lodgers and eventually became a landlady. She built two brick houses on her lot by 1898 and a brick duplex by 1910 (248, 258, and 262 S. 500 West, demolished). The census enumerations indicate her renters worked primarily for the railroad and other west side businesses. She sold the west half of her lot in 1899. She lived in one of the houses on her property until her death in 1940, by which time the majority of her neighbors and renters were a diverse mix of Italian, Greek, Mexican, and Japanese immigrant families.

On May 5, 1900, the Mountain Ice Company applied for a permit to build a brick factory on the west half of Lot 8, Block 63. A mechanics lien filed in August 1900 suggests that C. Albert Rosten working for the D. L. Holden Company of Philadelphia was the builder.<sup>5</sup> Access to the building was limited by existing houses and duplexes along 500 West and 300 South. In addition, ten brick cottages had been built on Denver Court just west of the property (demolished). The factory had a modest footprint and there was no possibility of a spur to the property even though rail lines ran along both 500 and 600 West. In 1902, the ice company sold the 500 West property to the Salt Lake Ice Company; however, the building appears to have been vacant between 1903 and 1904.<sup>6</sup> The Salt Lake Ice Company sold the property to John C. Lynch and Samuel Spitz, who owned the land and the building until 1945.<sup>7</sup>

In 1905, the Western Macaroni Manufacturing Company began leasing the building. An advertisement in the local newspaper states the company working out at "Rear 242 S. 4th West" was producing twenty-two different shapes of "Red Tiger Brand Sun-Dried Macaroni, Spaghetti, Vermicelli and Egg Noodles" in October 1905.<sup>8</sup> The Salt Lake Pasta Company on Richards Street was the only other macaroni producer in the city at the time (demolished). The Western Macaroni Manufacturing Company filed articles of incorporation in January 1906.<sup>9</sup> The officers were Gaetano Borelli, president; Nicola Del Duca, vice-president; Antonio Ferro, secretary and general manager; Erminio De Rocca, treasurer. Antonio Ferro's brother, Frank Ferro, was also an early partner in the company. Within a few years, Antonio Ferro had bought out the other partners and was producing pasta under the "Queen's Taste" brand name. Antonio Ferro was born in southern Italy in 1872 where his family owned a large farm. He immigrated to Pennsylvania in 1894 to pursue work in mining. His employment took him west to Colorado and Mercur, Utah. He eventually established a grocery business in Salt Lake City in 1896. After taking control of the Western Macaroni Company, Antonio Ferro found a partner in Reuben Edgar Miller whose family owned several businesses including a flour mill. Reuben E. Miller served as the president of the company through the 1910s and most of the 1920s, but lived in Murray, Utah, had several other business ventures, and does not appear to have been involved with the day-to-day operation of the macaroni factory.

After some early setbacks, including a fine for stealing electricity from the municipal transit grid and a devastating fire (both in 1909), by the 1910s, the macaroni company was a success.<sup>10</sup> A newspaper article from 1911 estimated that the daily output from the factory was 4,000 pounds of pasta in forty different styles. Salt Lake City building permits indicate that the building was expanded with a one-story addition built by S. Demario in 1912. In August 1915, two permits were issued for alterations at \$1,850 (no builder listed) and a \$5,000 three-story brick addition built by F. E. Fletcher. During World War I, the company's market share grew as shipments of products from Europe were cut off. Although the company did not have a rail spur next to its factory, the company used the rail for its long distance shipments as well as marketing. Entire railcars full of pasta were labeled with placards declaring each was a "Carload of Queens Taste

<sup>5</sup> *Salt Lake Tribune*, August 23, 1900: 5.

<sup>6</sup> Both ice companies had another, more prominent, place of business. The 500 West property would have been a secondary location.

<sup>7</sup> The Western Macaroni Company never owned the land or the older section of the building, but maintained a long-term lease on the property.

<sup>8</sup> *Salt Lake Tribune*, October 1, 1905: 9.

<sup>9</sup> *Salt Lake Tribune*, January 12, 1906: 12.

<sup>10</sup> *Salt Lake Tribune*, March 3, 1909: 3; *Salt Lake Tribune*, July 24, 1909: 3. According to news reports, both the building and its contents were covered by insurance.

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Macaroni from Western Macaroni Mfg. Company, Salt Lake City, Utah.”<sup>11</sup> In 1918, Antonio Ferro began replacing the company’s horse-drawn wagons with Kissel trucks for local deliveries.<sup>12</sup>

During the 1910s and 1920s, the Western Macaroni Company had little local competition. The few companies, such as the International Macaroni Company and Tenenzio & Son, only stayed in business for a few years (both demolished). A second one-story addition was built in 1920 by contractors Schuyler & Sorenson. A few days after a second extensive fire on April 10, 1921, two building permits were issued to remodel the factory: a \$2,000 estimate for work to be completed by builder P. O. Maron and a \$6,000 estimate for work by R. T. Chamberlain & Sons. In 1927, at the height of the company’s production, the macaroni plant was featured in an article in the *Utah Payroll Builder*, the trade journal of the Utah Manufacturers’ Association. The writer of the article was taken on a tour of the factory from the mixers in the basement to the packing rooms on the upper floors. The writer was particularly enthralled by the pressing/molding machines and the equipment needed to maintain the atmosphere of the drying rooms. The article noted that the factory was operating at five tons of daily production, but had a capacity of six tons.<sup>13</sup>

Around the time of the 1927 article, Antonio Ferro became president of the company and Joseph Scarpino took over the general manager position. During the 1930s and early 1940s, there were no macaroni factories in Salt Lake City; however, the company had competition from outside the state. Antonio Ferro’s son, Ariosto M. Ferro, helped managed the factory, but earned a law degree and went into practice. In August 1940, a third major fire caused \$5,000 worth of damage to the factory. The company never recovered and filed for bankruptcy in 1942, a year after Antonio Ferro retired. Antonio Ferro died two years later in 1944. According to historians, Antonio Ferro was known in his day as the “Pasta King” of the Mountain West.<sup>14</sup> The city directories indicate there were no pasta makers in Salt Lake City for many years after the Western Macaroni Company closed its doors. The property was sold by the Lynch and Spitz families to Burton Lumber & Hardware in 1945. During this time, a variety of trucking and equipment businesses operated in the building. The lumber company sold to T.W. and Mac Fotheringham in 1948, who sold the property to George and Thyra Browning in 1950. Browning Freight Line, Warehouse and Storage used the building for many years. Beehive Brick was the last company to use the building prior to its most recent period of vacancy.

**Significance in the Area of Commerce**

During its thirty-seven years of operation, the Western Macaroni Company had a large impact on Utah’s food industry. The company purchased raw Utah products such as 150,000 eggs annually and tons of Turkey Red wheat, which was grown on dry farms in Utah and Idaho. The company mixed the Turkey Red with harder Durham wheat shipped from Minnesota. The factory reportedly furnished “most of the macaroni supplied to Utah, Idaho, Wyoming and Nevada.”<sup>15</sup> By employing four traveling salesmen, large quantities were also marketed to stores and restaurants in Colorado, California, Oregon, Washington, and Montana. For a number of years, macaroni was shipped to British Columbia until the Canadian government began to tax imported wheat products in the 1920s. According to one observer, the Queen’s Taste “is a brand that has become recognized as standing for the very best that the market affords in the way of macaroni, spaghetti, vermicelli, noodles, etc.”<sup>16</sup>

Described as a “Utah Concern” and the largest plant of its kind west of Chicago, the Western Macaroni Manufacturing Company was believed to be largely responsible for the dissemination of pasta into the American diet, at least in the

<sup>11</sup> *Salt Lake Telegram*, November 19, 1916: 7.

<sup>12</sup> *Salt Lake Tribune*, June 16, 1918: 30.

<sup>13</sup> “A Visit to a Macaroni Plant” in *Utah Payroll Builder*, vol. 16, #4 (April 1927): [103-107].

<sup>14</sup> Miriam B. Murphy, “The Pasta King of the Mountain West” *Utah History Blazer*, May 1996. Eileen Hallet Stone “Living History: Italian Immigrant Became Utah’s Pasta King” *Salt Lake Tribune*: August 10, 2013.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>16</sup> *Salt Lake Tribune*, November 19, 1916: 27.

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Intermountain West. As one writer observed: "In years past, it was the rare exception rather than the rule to find macaroni and spaghetti [sic] served on the table of the masses. It seemed then to be the exclusive dish of the epicure but today throughout Utah the excellent products which come in almost endless variety manufactured by the Western Macaroni Co. . . . are almost a matter of daily enjoyment."<sup>17</sup> In the area of Commerce, the Western Macaroni Manufacturing Company's contributions to Utah between 1905 and 1941 cannot be overstated.

### **Significance in the Area of Ethnic Heritage**

The Western Macaroni Manufacturing Company also made important contributions to Utah in the area of Ethnic Heritage. Although a keen observer could note that 41 out of the company's 45 products had Italian names, the Queen's Taste brand was never marketed as an Italian food product. Italian cultural references were not regularly used on packaging, in print advertisements, on railcar placards, or at state fair and trade show booth displays. Nevertheless many considered the company's immigrant origins when praising the enterprise. An article published in the *Salt Lake Herald* in 1916 cited the Western Macaroni Company as an example of the American melting pot:

The old theory that mixed races are strongest is, of course, being again demonstrated today in this county. We are now a mixture of almost everything and after each new foreign element settles down and becomes American we can see that their poorer traits die out and their best traits and talents and customs survive and begin to grow among all Americans. Macaroni is perhaps the latest regular addition to our diet . . . today we have a great company, the Western Macaroni Manufacturing company, capitalized at \$26,000, manufacturing 4,000 pounds daily in forty different styles, and all of it to the "queen's taste," which is fresher and superior to imported goods.<sup>18</sup>

The patronizing tone of this praise was symbolic of the controversies surrounding immigration during this period of American history period. It is likely the reason the Western Macaroni Company went to great lengths to Americanize the marketing of its products. Instead of being exotic, Queen's Taste products were promoted as "The Most Delicious, Nourishing and Economical Food." Countering perception of inferiority, the factory and its machinery was described as scientific and modern by both the company and its observers. As one advertisement proudly proclaimed: "These are the delicious Queen's Taste products made right here in Salt Lake City in a spotlessly clean sunlight factory."<sup>19</sup>

Despite its public American face, the Western Macaroni Manufacturing Company was an important resource for the immigrant communities on Salt Lake City's west side. The company made cultural foods available and affordable for local immigrant families. Although the majority of products were Italian in origin, the company also made orzo that was favored by the local Greek community, egg noodles that could be adapted into Asian dishes, and a variety of tubes, stars, shells, and alphabet letters for the masses. As a result of the success of the factory, the Ferro family was active in the Sons of Italy, the Italian-American League, and the Catholic Church in Utah. One of the most important contributions to the local community was the employment of numerous Italian and other immigrants at the factory. Because the pasta drying process had to be monitored twenty-four hours a day to ensure a perfect product, several men lived on the factory property. The 1920 census lists seven men, two married and five single, living in a boarding house at the southeast corner of the property. All of the men had immigrated from Italy to the United States sometime between 1904 and 1914. Two were naturalized citizens. A number of other men and women from the surrounding neighborhood were also employed at the macaroni factory. The Western Macaroni Manufacturing Company provided both the comfort foods of the old country and the economic opportunities of the new country to many new arrivals to Salt Lake City's diverse west side neighborhood.

<sup>17</sup> *Deseret News*, April 7, 1916.

<sup>18</sup> *Salt Lake Herald*, November 26, 1911: 42.

<sup>19</sup> *Utah Payroll Builder*, April 1927.

**Western Macaroni Manufacturing Company Factory**  
Name of Property

**Salt Lake County, Utah**  
County and State

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

*Architectural Survey Data for Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County, Utah.* Report produced by the Utah State Historic Preservation Office, 2014.

Carter, Thomas, and Peter Goss. *Utah's Historic Architecture: A Guide, 1847-1940.* Salt Lake City, Utah: University of Utah Press, 1988.

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Stone, Eileen Hallet. "Living History: Italian Immigrant Became Utah's Pasta King." *Salt Lake Tribune:* August 10, 2013.

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**Western Macaroni Manufacturing Company Factory**  
Name of Property

**Salt Lake County, Utah**  
County and State

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 0.85 acres  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>1/2</u> Zone	<u>423487</u> Easting	<u>4512923</u> Northing	3	<u>                    </u> Zone	<u>                    </u> Easting	<u>                    </u> Northing
2	<u>                    </u> Zone	<u>                    </u> Easting	<u>                    </u> Northing	4	<u>                    </u> Zone	<u>                    </u> Easting	<u>                    </u> Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

W 1/2 LOT 8, BLK 63, PLAT A, SLC SUR., ALSO BEG AT NE COR OFSD LOT 8: S 59.0 FT; W 165.0 FT; N 59.0 FT; E 165.0 FT TO BEG.. (Property Tax Number 15-01-152-022)

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries are those historically and currently associated with the property.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Korral Broschinsky, Preservation Documentation Resource

organization prepared for MJSA Architects date April 24, 2014

street & number 4874 S. Taylors Park Drive telephone 801-913-5645

city or town Taylorsville state Utah zip code 84123

e-mail kbro@kbropreservation.com

**Western Macaroni Manufacturing Company Factory**  
Name of Property

**Salt Lake County, Utah**  
County and State

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
  
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

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**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Western Macaroni Manufacturing Company Factory

City or Vicinity: 244 S. 500 West, Salt Lake City

County: Salt Lake State: Utah

Photographer:

Date Photographed:

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

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**Property Owner:**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Redevelopment Agency of Salt Lake City  
street & number 451 South State, Room 418 telephone 801-535-7240  
city or town Salt Lake City state Utah zip code 84111

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.





Western Macaroni exterior 1922



Western Macaroni packing room 1924



Western Macaroni presses 1924



East Elevation current view



Southeast current view



Southwest current view



Basement North current view



Floor 1 North current view



Floor 1 North historic press location current view



Floor 1 South current view



Floor 2 North current view



Floor 2 South current view





Floor 3 North current view



Floor 3 South current view



Floor 4 North current view