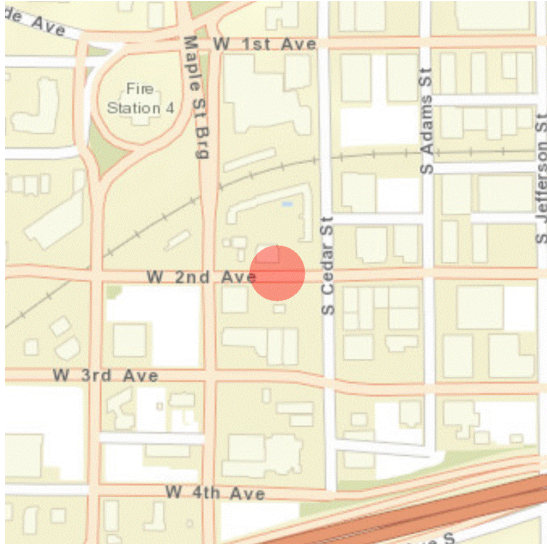


Location



Address: 1420 W 2nd Ave, Spokane, WA, 99201, USA

Geographic Areas: Spokane Certified Local Government, Spokane County, T25R42E24, SPOKANE NW Quadrangle

Information

Number of stories: 2.00

Construction Dates:

Construction Type	Year	Circa
Built Date	1966	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Use:

Category	Subcategory
Domestic	Domestic - Hotel

Historic Context:

Category
Architecture

Architect/Engineer:

Category	Name or Company
Builder	Northridge Industries
Architect	

Thematics:

Local Registers and Districts

Name	Date Listed	Notes
------	-------------	-------

Project History

Project Number, Organization, Project Name	Resource Inventory	SHPO Determination	SHPO Determined By, Determined Date
2016-12-08751, , Spokane Mid-20th Century Modern Survey 2016	6/30/2017		

Photos



West facade, entry feature



Entry sign, west wing



West and south facades, office



Detail, entry feature

Historic Property Report

Resource Name: Tiki Lodge

Property ID: 710454



East and south facades, west wing, showing train



Detail, west facade, east wing



Period postcard



West facade, east wing



East facade, east wing



South facade, east wing



Entry sign, east wing



Alley between motel and railroad

Inventory Details - 6/30/2017

Common name: Tiki Lodge
Date recorded: 6/30/2017
Field Recorder: Diana Painter
Field Site number:
SHPO Determination

Detail Information

Characteristics:

Category	Item
Foundation	Concrete - Poured
Form Type	Hotel/Motel - Motor Inn
Roof Type	Flat with Eaves
Roof Material	Asphalt/Composition - Built Up
Cladding	Concrete - Block (cmu)
Structural System	Masonry - Concrete Block
Plan	L-Shape

Styles:

Period	Style Details
Modern Movement	Tiki-Polynesian



Historic Property Report

Resource Name: Tiki Lodge

Property ID: 710454

Surveyor Opinion

Property appears to meet criteria for the National Register of Historic Places: Yes

Property is located in a potential historic district (National and/or local): No

Property potentially contributes to a historic district (National and/or local): No

Significance narrative: History. The Tiki Lodge was developed on the same block and at about the same time as the former Denny’s Restaurant and a 76 gas station. The Denny’s Restaurant, Jenny’s Diner today, was constructed in 1965 and the Tiki Lodge and gas station in 1966. The Tiki Lodge and Denny’s Restaurant were developed by Sepulveda Industries out of Sepulveda, California (AKA Northridge Industries), and the 76 station was designed and constructed by the Union Oil Company. Although each parcel is separate, the entire block is now owned by the same company. The full block was formerly occupied by the Bohemian Brewery (Sanborn Fire Insurance map, 1952).

The Tiki Lodge went by that name from the time it was constructed. Developed by the Hyatt hotel chain, it was a Hyatt Motel Lodge. In 2000, the building was owned by Select Inn. A 2014 Inlander article noted that the property was being restored “to its former glory” by Montana native Tim Rice, who was living in Coeur d’Alene. The property was purchased by GS Bains Two, LLC (Gurchait S. Bains) in January 2016.

Architectural Context. The Tiki Lodge shares the Googie style of architecture with the former Denny’s Restaurant next door. Googie architecture (also known as Roadside Architecture), so-called after the Googie coffee shop in Los Angeles designed by John Lautner, is renowned for its eye-catching forms and signs that are suitable for viewing at the speed of automobile travel. Googie is a vernacular style that emerged in the 1930s in Los Angeles, Las Vegas, and other tourist venues around the country that catered to automobile travelers, and where commercial development was popping up along commercial corridors and highways. The Googie style is most often seen in restaurants and drive-ins, gas stations, and car dealerships. Googie signs are also often seen at mid-20th-century motels – such as this one – and hotels as well.

Googie architecture is characterized by an unusual, eccentric building shape, often accented by neon, or simple building forms overshadowed by a dominant, typically neon, sign, and the use of humor and visual gags. Other qualities include employing bold angles and eccentric rooflines, colorful signs with pop culture imagery, large plate glass windows (often canted windows), and sweeping cantilevered roofs over exterior areas. The prototype for the former Denny’s Restaurant on this block, designed by the Los Angeles firm of Armet & Davis in 1958, is considered an archetypal Googie building (Hess, 1985:126).

The design of the Tiki Lodge also fits squarely within the Tiki pop culture phenomenon of the 1950s and 1960s. Described as a “welcome escape” by Tiki historian Sven Kirsten, the Tiki pop phenomenon became all the rage in the US after World War II, before disappearing into obscurity, only to again emerge in the last few years. Some say the popularity of Tiki in the post-war era was due to US servicemen’s exposure to Polynesian cultures during the war and nostalgia for the same after the war.

Tiki is a Polynesian-based demi-god that originated in Maorian culture. A Tiki is the sculptural head representing the Tiki god, but the word also became associated with popular cocktails and, by extension, the restaurants and bars that served them. “Tiki drinks have been around since 1934, when Don the Beachcomber opened in Los Angeles, followed shortly thereafter by Trader Vic’s in Oakland. The two became chains that expanded steadily, and together created a nationwide sensation that peaked in the late 1950s and early ‘60s” (Curtis, “From Tacky to Tiki . . . , 2011).

The Tiki phenomenon manifested in Spokane in the 1960s in two motels – the Trade Winds and the Tiki Lodge – and one restaurant, The Polynesian. The Trade Winds was developed in 1962 by Henry Lackman, whose family ran the motel until the mid-1990s. It recently sat empty for four years, and is now being redeveloped as a Howard Johnson Hotel. The Polynesian motif could also be seen in The Polynesia restaurant, which was developed in 1965 by Seattle restaurateur David Cohn. Cohn had developed a restaurant of the same name and design on Pier 51 in 1961. It did not catch on in Spokane, however, despite the excellent site above the Spokane River. A year after opening Cohn leased the building to Stuart Anderson’s Black Angus Steakhouse chain, without the Polynesian décor. This restaurant was a success and was very popular during Expo ’74. It closed in 1988 and sat empty for several years, eventually re-opening as a Salty’s in 1994. The city of Spokane bought the site in 1997 and then re-sold it to Anthony’s, which has operated at the site since 2004 (Tinsley, “Then and Now . . . ,” 2016). At this time, the Tiki Lodge may be the only remaining Tiki-themed property of the post-war era in Spokane that has operated continually and maintained its Polynesian-inspired theme.

Architect. The local Spokane architect for the Tiki Lodge was Max Kevin. Research did not reveal further information about this architect. The property was developed by Sepulveda Industries of Los Angeles, the same company that developed the Denny’s Restaurant next door. The famed Los Angeles firm of Armet & Davis designed the prototype for the Denny’s Restaurant and were the architects of record for the Denny’s. They were apparently not, however, involved in the design of the Tiki Lodge, which was developed for the Hyatt hotel chain.

Physical description:

Location and Setting. The Tiki Lodge is located west of downtown Spokane, on 2nd Avenue between Cedar Street (to the east) and Walnut Street (to the west). The block on which the motel sits is further bounded by the elevated rail track, directly to the north. The “L”-shaped motel occupies a triangular, .86-acre parcel on the north and east sides of the block. The restaurant is located in the center of the south side of the block, and the 76 service station (Divine’s Auto Center) is on the southwest corner. The area surrounding the restaurant is occupied by a full range of uses, including restaurants, a grocery store, car dealerships, and industrial and other commercial uses. North of the rail line are late 19th and early 20th century buildings, including apartments and mixed-use structures. Frank’s Diner, a diner in a rail car, is located on the block to the west. The Spokane River is located about five blocks to the north, and Interstate 90 is two blocks to the south. West of Maple Street, two blocks away, is the beginning of the Brown’s Addition neighborhood. Second Avenue in this location is a busy east-west arterial with three westbound travel lanes with parking lanes on each side. Both Maple and Cedar Streets continue north under the elevated rail track; Walnut Street continues north across the Spokane River as the Maple Street Bridge.



Historic Property Report

Resource Name: Tiki Lodge

Property ID: 710454

Materials. The Tiki Lodge is a concrete block building with both plain and decorative concrete blocks. The drive-through entry feature is wood frame. The roof is built-up, with a short shingled mansard roof on the motel proper. The railings are metal with vertical balusters and the windows and doors have aluminum frames. The foundation is concrete.

Massing and design. The Tiki Lodge is a largely “L”-shaped building, with the motel wings located parallel to the north and east property lines within its .89-acre parcel. A small strip of vacant land that is fenced at either end is located between the north wing and the raised train track that is adjacent to the site. The two-story, 15,629 square foot motel has a flat roof, but for the small mansard detail at the edges that face the interior of the lot. The tall, Tiki-inspired entry feature has a steeply pitched, front gable roof. The motel itself displays a classic mid-20th century design, with exterior walkways and stairs and one door and a three-part window for every room. The drive-through entry feature is enclosed in the upper portion, with a truss-like detail. Three beams support the roof. On the south side, these beams are anchored into the ground; on the north side, the central beam does not continue into the motel office that is located here. The signs for the motel, which are located at the west and east entrances, show the Polynesian inspiration for the motel. It was developed as a Hyatt Lodge by the same Los Angeles-based company that developed the Denny’s Restaurant next door. The block within which the Tiki Lodge is located is also home to a former Denny’s restaurant, now Jenny’s Diner, and a gas station, making this block truly auto oriented. The local architect for the 1966 building was Max Kevin.

Changes over time. Interior alterations to the manager’s unit were made in 1971. No known changes have taken place to the exterior of the property, with the exception that the swimming pool has been filled in.

Landscape and site design. The site design of the block that includes the Tiki Lodge is complex, accommodating as it does three separate, auto-oriented businesses. Although each building associated with the businesses is sited in a separate location and on a

separate parcel within the block, they share some service areas. The main driveway for the Tiki Lodge is off Walnut Street, where cars can enter through the gabled structure adjacent to the office and register to stay at the motel. The motel itself is located along the perimeter of the elevated railroad track on the north side and Cedar Street on the east side. The complex forms a large “L,” with the main parking lot in the center of the block. There is no landscaping on the block, but for some grass close where the two wings of the motel intersect, the former site of the swimming pool.

Bibliography:

The AIA Historic Directory of American Architects, 1956, 1962, 1970, <http://public.aia.org/sites/hdoaa/wiki/Wiki%20Pages/What's%20here.aspx>, accessed December 2016.

Bovey, Chris, “Dialing Up the Past, the Return of the Tiki Lodge,” Inlander Bloglander, November 24, 2014, <https://www.inlander.com/Bloglander/archives/2014/11/24/dialing-up-the-past-the-return-of-the-tiki-lodge>, accessed January 2017.

City of Spokane, Pre-1993 Permit Archive, <https://my.spokanecity.org/permits/archive/>, accessed January 2017.



Historic Property Report

Resource Name: Tiki Lodge

Property ID: 710454

City of Spokane building permits,
<https://aca.spokanepermits.org/CitizenAccess/default.aspx>, accessed January 2017.

Curtis, Wayne, "From Tiki to Tacky – and Back, A taste of cocktail Americana comes in from the cold," *The Atlantic*, November 2011,
<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2011/11/from-tiki-to-tackyand-back/308666/>, accessed August 2017.

Hess, Alan, *Googie Redux – Ultramodern Roadside Architecture*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 1985.

Hess, Alan, "Long Live Tiki, the Whimsical Soul of Midcentury Modern," *The Iris*, April 10, 2013, <http://blogs.getty.edu/iris/long-live-tiki-the-whimsical-soul-of-midcentury-modern/>, accessed August 2017.

Kirsten, Sven, *The Book of Tiki: The Cult of Polynesian Pop in Fifties America*. London: Taschen Books, 2000.

"Remnants of Spokane's Tiki Past . . .," *MetroSpokane*, June 17, 2017,
http://metrospokane.typepad.com/index/2007/06/remnants_of_spo.html, accessed August 2017.

Sanborn Fire Insurance map, Sanborn Fire Insurance maps,
<http://sanborn.umi.com.ezproxy.spl.org:2048/>, 1910 updated to 1952, accessed January 2017.

Spokane County Assessor, <https://www.spokanecounty.org/219/Assessor>, accessed January 2017.

Tinsley, Jesse, "Then and Now: The Polynesia restaurant," *The Spokesman-Review*, June 13, 2016, <http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2016/jun/13/then-now-the-polynesia-restaurant/#/0>, accessed August 2016.

Washington State Commercial Architecture, *Commercial Architecture Context Statement (1940-1975)*. Prepared for Department of Archaeology + Historic Preservation, Olympia, Washington. Prepared by Artifacts Historic Preservation, Tacoma, Washington. March 2016.