

Nolen Grocery

2300 1st Avenue North

Designated April 2004/HPC#02-01



Nolen's Economy Grocery Store was designed by Edgar Ferdon in the Beaux Arts style. The highly organized facade features classical proportioning and a high degree of layered wall planes which give strength and solidity to the structure. Although the building was originally constructed as a one story building, it was designed to contain two additional stories of apartments which were not initially built. It is unclear why the additional levels were not constructed; however, a floor system was built within the attic space to accommodate the proposed upper stories. In addition, piping was run through the building and the structural footings were sized to accommodate a second and third story.

On June 4, 1926, the grocery store officially opened its doors. With over 6,000 square feet of space, the new market was the largest grocery in St. Petersburg and featured general groceries, meats, fruits and vegetables and, according to the St. Petersburg Times "6 car loads full of canned goods." The building operated as a grocery store until 1955 when it was leased out as an automobile supply company and subsequently a storage facility. During the 1990s, the building stood vacant before being purchased and converted into condominiums.

In 2002, the building was restored on the exterior to its former grandeur thanks to the Jeffery family who have been responsible for a good number of restorations in Historic Kenwood including Kenwood Court and Kenwood Cottages. The Jeffrey family has also been featured on HGTV's Restore America. The building has been converted to 4 residential lofts and a future corner store. This is the first historic building in St. Petersburg converted to multiple loft units. This truly is where the past meets the future in St. Pete.

See pictures below:



