Spokane Register of Historic Places Nomination

Spokane City/County Historic Preservation Office, City Hall, 3rd Floor 808 W. Spokane Falls Boulevard, Spokane, WA 99201

1. HISTORIC NAME

Historic Name Common Name

RIPOLI-SCARPELLI BUILDING

Ripoli Billiards & Pool Parlor, Gem Amusement & Moving Picture Theater, Scarpelli Brothers Macaroni Factory, East Sprague Adult Book Store

2. LOCATION

Street & Number City, State, Zip Code Parcel Number 2012-14 E. Sprague Avenue Spokane, WA 99202 35212.0503

3. CLASSIFICATION

 Category
 Ownership

 X_building
 _public

 _site
 X_private

 _structure
 _both

 _object
 Public Acquisition

 _in process
 Site

 X_original
 __being considered

Status X_occupied work in progress

Accessible X_yes, restricted __yes, unrestricted __no

 Present Use

 _agricultural
 _museum

 X commercial
 _park

 _educational
 _religious

 _entertainment
 _residential

 _government
 _scientific

 _industrial
 _transportation

 _military
 _other

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

Name Street & Number City, State, Zip Code Telephone Number/E-mail Pilastro LLC c/o Steve Schmautz 108 N. Washington Street #500 Spokane, WA 99201 509-462-9305, steve@sdsrealty.com

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Courthouse, Registry of Deeds Street Number City, State, Zip Code County Spokane County Courthouse 1116 West Broadway Spokane, WA 99201 Spokane

6. REPRESENTATION OF EXISTING SURVEYS

Title Date Location of Survey Records City of Spokane Historic Landmarks Survey Federal____ State___ County___ Local ____ Spokane Historic Preservation Office

7. DESCRIPTION

(continuation sheets attached) Architectural Classification

Condition __excellent X_good __fair __deteriorated __ruins __unexposed Check One __unaltered X altered

Check One X_original site ___moved & date

8. SPOKANE REGISTER CATEGORIES & STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

(continuation sheets attached)

Applicable Spokane Register of Historic Places Categories: Mark "x" on one or more for the categories that qualify the property for the Spokane Register listing:

- <u>X</u>A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of Spokane history.
- **<u>B</u>** B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- <u>C</u> Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method or 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.
- __E Property represents the culture and heritage of the city of Spokane in ways not adequately addressed in the other criteria, as in its visual prominence, reference to intangible heritage, or any range of cultural practices.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bibliography is found on one or more continuation sheets.

10. DIGITAL PHOTOS, MAPS, SITE PLANS, ARTICLES, ETC.

Items are found on one or more continuation sheets.

11. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of Property	Less than 1 acre.
Verbal Boundary Description	Wadsworth & McDonalds Addition, Block 5,
	Lot 3
Verbal Boundary Justification	Nominated property includes entire parcel and urban legal description.
Verbal Boundary Justification	

12. FORM PREPARED BY

L'ada Varana Canaditant
Linda Yeomans, Consultant
Historic Preservation Planning & Design
501 West 27 th Avenue, Spokane, WA 99203
509-456-3828
lindayeomans@comcast.net
September 18, 2019

13. SIGNATURE(S) OF OWNER(S)

14. FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Date nomination application filed:
Date of Landmarks Commission Hearing:
Landmarks Commission decision:
Date of City Council/Board of County Commissioners' hearing:
City Council/Board of County Commissioners' decision:

I hereby certify that this property has been listed in the Spokane Register of Historic Places based upon the action of either the City Council or the Board of County Commissioners as set forth above.

Megan Duvall	Date
City/County Historic Preservation Office	er
City/County Historic Preservation Office	
Third Floor—City Hall	
808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.	
Spokane, WA 99201	
Attest:	Approved as to form:
City Clerk	Assistant City Attorney



Ripoli-Scarpelli Building in 2019

SECTION 7: DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

Summary Statement

Built in 1909, the Ripoli-Scarpelli Building is a two-story commercial structure with brick masonry construction. The property's fenestration patterns are symmetrical and include a series of windows and doors that punctuate the north façade, south rear face, and east and west faces. Merchandise display windows with transoms and brick bulkheads are located between two pedestrian doors at street-level, and distinguish the front of the building. The display windows, pedestrian doors, and upper-story windows on the building's north face form a cohesive design articulated by protective black-colored metal shed awnings mounted over the windows and doors. Similar to many warehouses, the interior of the Ripoli-Scarpelli Building is open and expansive with exposed brick on both the first and second floors, and features a single staircase anchored to the east wall. The property retains good integrity in its original location, design, materials, workmanship, and association.

CURRENT APPEARANCE & CONDITION

Site

The Ripoli-Scarpelli Building fronts north along East Sprague Avenue at address numbers 2012 and 2014, less than a mile-and-a-half east of downtown Spokane. The

building abuts a paved public sidewalk along the south side of Sprague Avenue at the extreme north boundary of Lot 3 on Block 5 in the Wadsworth & McDonalds Addition. Lot 3 is 50 feet wide and 142 feet deep, and located on a level grade. Historic buildings along East Sprague Avenue were built mostly during the early 1900s through the 1960s. Incompatible contemporary infill with parking lots, automobile sales lots, commercial buildings, and multi-family apartments is located among the historic streetscape.

Building Exterior

The Ripoli-Scarpelli Building is 50 feet wide as it fronts East Sprague Avenue, and 60 feet deep. A single-story brick masonry construction warehouse addition was built on the building's southeast corner in 1929 (Spokane building permit #33679), and measures 24 feet wide and 28 feet deep. With the addition, the Ripoli-Scarpelli Building has an L-shaped footprint. The 1909 building has a plain parapet with metal coping at the north façade and east, west and south faces. The 1929 addition has a parapet at its south, east and west faces. Both the 1909 and 1929 structures have flat stepped roofs covered with a built-up tar surface. Built and installed in the 2000s as a protection from outside elements, dark brown-colored metal panels enclose a narrow exterior staircase, which is located on the building's west face. Behind the 1909 building and its 1929 warehouse addition is level grade with a graveled driveway and parking space that abuts a graveled east-west alley at the property's south border.

The north façade's first and second stories of the brick construction Ripoli-Scarpelli Building are covered with a thin layer of white-painted concrete. The concrete layer wraps 12 inches around the building's northeast corner to an adjoining one-story structure located next east, and wraps three feet around the northwest corner of the building to the next west adjoining structure. Window patterns at the property's north façade are symmetrical with street-level display windows at the first floor and five windows with flat arches on the second floor. A total of eight street-level display windows flank a single front entry pedestrian door located in the center of the first floor. The center front entry door is made of metal with a glazed vertical light, and retains a transom window above the door. A group of four display windows with transoms and a three-foot-high wood bulkhead are located next west of the front entry door. A duplicate group of four street-level display windows, transoms, and wood bulkhead are located next east of the center front entry door. A single wood street-level pedestrian door with a transom window is located at the east end of the north facade. Display windows and both entry doors are shaded by plain black metal shed-style awnings attached to the building. The five windows on the second floor are new metal-sash units with fixed panes. The original height of the windows was shortened at the lower edge with wood infill that is painted white to match the white-painted concrete slip. Wood frames surround the second-story windows, street-level display windows, and the two pedestrian doors. Like the display windows and entry doors at street-level, the five windows on the second story are also shaded by shed-style metal awnings.

The east face of the building reveals red brick masonry construction with a common bond pattern. Five symmetrically placed window openings with brick flat arches illuminate the

second story of the building. The windows are fixed-pane units with metal sash, and have been shortened at the lower edge with wood infill painted to match the color of the exterior brick. The first floor of the east face is adjoined to the next east one-story brick building.

The west face of the 1909 building reveals red brick masonry construction with common bond. Like the east face, five symmetrically placed windows at the second story punctuate the west face above the adjoining next west one-story building. The window openings have been shortened at the lower edge and infilled with wood panels. Windows are made of fixed-pane lights with metal sash.

The south rear of the building features the 1929 addition at the southeast corner. On the 1909 building, the exposed south rear wall reveals brick masonry construction with common bond. A group of five windows of different sizes punctuate the second story. The windows all have brick flat arches and fixed panes. In contrast, one original multipaned wood-sash window is located on the ground floor next west of the addition. The 1929 addition is one-story brick masonry construction with parapets at the east, west and south faces. The roof is flat with built-up tar. Parapets are protected with metal coping. A single metal warehouse door is located in the center of the addition's south elevation, and three windows are located on the east face, and three windows are located on the west face.

Building Interior

The interior of the 1909 building is separated in two halves by four wooden posts that run north-south. The interior of the building is open and void of any original partition walls or finish material. The floor is covered with laminate flooring that is very similar in appearance to hardwood floors. Walls are exposed brick masonry construction. Windows and window sills are framed with wide three-inch wood. The ceiling is 15 feet high and features exposed ceiling beams and rafters. A wood staircase attached to the east wall rises to the second floor (a smaller staircase descends to an unfinished basement). The entire second floor is open with no interior partition walls. The ceiling is eight feet high and is finished with painted drywall. The floor is made of diagonal subfloor boards painted white. Perimeter walls are brick masonry construction with symmetrically placed windows on all four walls. Wide three-inch wood frames and sills surround each window.

The 1909 building opens south into the 1929 addition. The addition was built as a warehouse and is a single story with 15-foot-high ceilings, three windows on the west wall, three windows on the east wall, and one center warehouse door on the south wall. The floor is poured concrete, the walls are exposed brick masonry construction, and the ceiling features exposed beams and rafters. Wood frames and sills surround each window. The interior area of the first floor in the 1909 building and 1929 addition is recorded as 3,312 square feet in Spokane County Tax Assessor records.¹

¹ Spokane County Tax Assessor Records. Spokane County Courthouse, Spokane, WA.

ORIGINAL APPEARANCE & SUBSEQUENT MODIFICATIONS

The 1909 Ripoli-Scarpelli Building is pictured on an updated 1910-1917 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map without the 1929 warehouse addition built at the rear southeast corner of the property. The updated 1910-1917 map also pictured a small, single-story 16-foot-wide by 12-foot-deep brick structure built in 1907 behind the commercial Ripoli-Scarpelli Building. Its use was indicated on the Sanborn map as an "office" and its post office address was noted as 2012 ¹/₂ East Sprague Avenue. The 1953 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map pictured the 1929 warehouse addition built onto the southeast corner of the commercial building but did not include the small office located at the rear of the Ripoli-Scarpelli Building.

Modifications to the property include:

1911-12 A "moving picture" theater was built for \$1,285 (Spokane building permit #3163).

1917 Unknown alterations were made to the Scarpelli Brothers Macaroni Factory inside the building (building permit #8076).

1920 Unknown alterations were made to the small brick office building located south behind the 1909 building (building permit #11653).

1929 Fire-related repairs and a southeast rear warehouse addition were built at the Scarpelli Brothers Macaroni Factory for \$5,500 (building permit #33679).

1939 Fire-related repairs were made to the macaroni factory (building permit #59433).

1970s-80s The north brick façade of the 1907-1909 building was covered with stucco.

2016 Stucco was removed and concrete was applied over the brick at the north façade. The facade was repainted white, upper story windows were shortened at the lower level, and new interior wood frames were installed around windows and doors. Exposed ceiling beams and rafters were painted dark brown in the first and second floors and in the warehouse addition. A small public restroom was constructed and installed on the first floor in the warehouse addition. A new wood staircase was built along the east wall in the 1909 building, and a laminate floor was installed on the first floor.

SECTION 8: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE Summary Statement

Commerce-Trade, Industry-Manufacturing
1909-1945
1909
Unknown
Luigi Ripoli (1909 building)
Geo. Archambault (1909 building)
Carson Company (1909 building)
G.N. Hendricks (1912 theater alterations)

The Ripoli-Scarpelli Building at 2012-14 East Sprague Avenue in East Central Spokane is significant in the areas of "commerce-trade" and "industry-manufacturing." The property is eligible for listing on the Spokane Register of Historic Places under Category A for its significance associated with broad patterns of development along East Sprague Avenue in East Central Spokane. It is also significant under Category B for its historic importance as the Scarpelli Brothers Macaroni Factory, and its association with founding partners Antonio Scarpelli and his four nephews: brothers Pasquale, Francesco, Giuseppe and Folicardo Scarpelli. The building's period of significance is defined from 1909 when the building was constructed to 1945 when the Scarpelli Brothers Macaroni Factory was closed. The Ripoli-Scarpelli Building initially housed the first property owner Luigi Ripoli and his beer parlor/pool hall and "moving pictures" theater, known as the Gem In 1917, the property's second owner, Antonio Scarpelli, Amusement Company. purchased the property for \$12,750² He rehabilitated the property and opened the Scarpelli Brothers Macaroni Factory, which was operated and managed by his four nephews. A February 18, 1932 article in the Spokane Daily Chronicle described the ongoing success of the business when the newspaper announced a "ton-and-a-half of macaroni products" were "produced daily" at the "Scarpelli plant." For 28 years, the Scarpelli brothers successfully managed the Scarpelli Brothers Macaroni Factory as one of East Sprague Avenue's most prominent and successful businesses.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

Early Spokane

Located next to a series of waterfalls on the Spokane River, the small settlement of Spokane was founded in 1873. In the 1880s, abundant gold and silver lodes were discovered in the Coeur d'Alene mining region just east of Spokane. Transportation was needed to haul the extracted gold and silver, which resulted in the establishment of numerous railroad routes that linked Spokane to the Mid-Western and Eastern United States. The community grew and gained recognition as a center for mining, lumber, agriculture, and rail transport. The city soon became a major Pacific Northwest railroad

² Spokane Daily Chronicle, Feb 1925

hub with a large number of passenger and commercial transport trains and tracks owned by various railway companies throughout the country.

As rail transport increased, Spokane's population grew with job seekers and a large influx of people from the United States and Europe who sought a better and more productive life. The city experienced phenomenal population gains from roughly 20,000 in 1890, to over 36,000 by 1900. Ten years later in 1910, the city's population had grown at an unprecedented rate to more than 100,000 people. Commercial and residential neighborhoods in Spokane were platted, and supporting infrastructure was developed, including such amenities as graded roads, concrete sidewalks, available fresh drinking water, underground sewer systems, and street lights. One of these areas was located a little more than a mile east of downtown Spokane along East Sprague Avenue from Helena to Altamont Streets in East Central Spokane.

Before 1950, West First Avenue to Division Street, and East Sprague Avenue (from Division Street) bisected Spokane from west to east. The east-west thoroughfare was officially named U.S. Highway 10. It was a busy route through Spokane and extended east into and through the Spokane Valley, now incorporated as the City of Spokane Valley. Until the 1940-1950s, the Spokane Valley was a sparsely populated agricultural area with a variety of truck gardens and fruit & vegetable stands. U.S. Highway 10 was at that time affectionately and colloquially called the "Appleway" as it continued east to the Idaho state line. Today in 2019, East Sprague Avenue in the City of Spokane Valley is a busy and important east-west transportation corridor.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

Category A

The Scarpelli Brothers Macaroni Factory is historically significant under Category A for its association with broad patterns of commercial development along East Sprague Avenue between Helena and Altamont Streets from 1917 to 1945. In the late 1890s and early 1900s, East Sprague Avenue was a dusty and muddy dirt road, which was welltraveled by people, farm animals, and horse-drawn carriages, carts and wagons. In the early 1900s, East Sprague was improved with street grading and paving, and was populated with modest single-family homes and small barns.

As Spokane's population continued to grow in the teens, 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s, commercial businesses began replacing houses along East Sprague Avenue. Examples in East Central Spokane from Helena Street east to Altamont Street included the Scarpelli Brothers Macaroni Factory (1917-1945) along with blacksmith shops, stores with "second-hand goods" (not yet called antiques or collectibles), furniture manufacturers, cabinetmakers, the Union Park Bank, the Old National Bank, Banner Drug Company, laundries, hardware stores, bicycle repair shops, barber shops & beauty salons, shoe repair shops, clothing stores, dressmaker shops, grocery & meat markets, fruit stands, early supermarkets (Piggly Wiggly-McMarr Stores, Pay 'n Take It, Safeway Foods, Stone's Foods), cafes & restaurants, saloons/taverns/bars, bakeries & confectionaries, a nurseryman, a hay & horse market, Aslin-Finch feed, "tourist camps" (motel courts), a

physician and dentist, and at least two multi-family brick apartment buildings (14 and 22 apartments each). Due to its importance as U.S. Highway 10, East Sprague Avenue also supported a variety of transportation services, including gas & oil filling/service stations, car dealerships, tire sales, automotive distributorships, automobile battery & repair shops, and wrecking yards.

By the 1950s-1970s, commercial development along East Sprague began to change with an ever-increasing occurrence of taverns and bars in addition to legal services (law, insurance, real estate, accounting), a variety of radio & electrical sales/repairs, vacuum & appliance sales/repairs, heating & plumbing sales/repairs, antique & collectible shops (no longer referred to as "second-hand" shops), and the first Zip's fast-food drive-in restaurant to be built in the area. During this time, vacancies in commercial buildings increased when traffic along East Sprague Avenue decreased due to the replacement of Highway 10 and East Third Avenue by multi-lane freeway U.S. 90 that extended east from Seattle, through Spokane to Coeur d'Alene and beyond.

With significantly decreased automobile and truck traffic along East Sprague Avenue, commercial shops and stores advertised an array of products and services in the 1980s-2000 that illustrated a much different culture in Spokane at the time. These included several bars & taverns, guns & firearm sales/repairs, TVs and repairs, office machines/printing services, and security systems sales. An unusual eclectic mix of social services emerged with massage parlors, adult book stores, exotic burlesque dancers & "pretty girls," and larger bars and beer halls with televised sports viewing, which surprisingly alternated with senior centers, a disabled veterans' club, a Christian ministry association, the New Apostolic Church, and a divorce agency.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

Category B

The Ripoli-Scarpelli Building meets eligibility requirements for listing on the Spokane Register of Historic Places under Category B for its associative values with significant persons. The Ripoli-Scarpelli Building and the Scarpelli Brothers Macaroni Factory was associated with the lives of Antonio Scarpelli and his four nephews—brothers Pasquale, Francesco, Giuseppe and Folicardo Scarpelli. Named after the four brothers, the factory was in operation on East Sprague Avenue for 28 contiguous years from 1917 to 1945.

In 1904, Frederic & Margaret Elmendorf, owners and proprietors of Elmendorf & Elmendorf, a prominent real estate-loan-insurance-investment company in downtown Spokane, sold Lot 3 on Block 5 in the Wadsworth & McDaniels Addition for \$400 to real estate agent William Niedermeyer. The property was located at 2012-14 East Sprague Avenue east of downtown Spokane.

Luigi Ripoli

In 1904, Italian immigrant Luigi Ripoli purchased Lot 3 from Niedermeyer for \$325.³ Ripoli lived and worked as a Spokane shoemaker at S. 174 Howard Street when he bought the lot. In 1907, Ripoli listed himself in city directories as a "contractor," and built a small brick, single-story structure at the south end of Lot 3.⁴ An updated 1910-1917 *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map* pictured a footprint of the house and identified it as an "office" building instead of a residence.⁵ Nevertheless, Ripoli called the building his home and continued to reside in it.⁶

Two years later in 1909, Luigi Ripoli built the two-story brick masonry Ripoli-Scarpelli Building on the north boundary of Lot 3, which abuts East Sprague Avenue. Spokane building permits from 1909 indicate he hired Spokane building contractor George Achambault and Carson & Company.⁷ When construction of the Ripoli-Scarpelli Building was complete, Ripoli occupied it with his Gem Amusement Company, which offered a beer parlor and pool hall on the east half of the first floor (2014 E. Sprague Avenue), and a "moving pictures" theater in the west half of the building (2012 E. Sprague Avenue).

On May 16, 1910, Antonio Scarpelli, founding partner of the Scarpelli Brothers Macaroni Factory, paid \$10,600 for the two-story brick commercial building just constructed by Ripoli and his professional contractors at 2012-14 East Sprague Avenue. The real estate transaction, however, was reversed, and Ripoli continued to use the property for his Gem Amusement activities, and live in the house behind the building for the next seven years. In 1912, Spokane building permits list Ripoli as hiring building contractor G. N. Hendricks to complete "alterations" to the Gem Amusement property and its theater at a cost of \$1,285 (Spokane building permit #3163, January 1912).

Due to bankruptcy and foreclosure, Ripoli's property at 2012-14 East Sprague Avenue was sold at public auction on February 5, 1917 by Spokane County Sheriff George Reid to Antonio Scarpelli for \$12,750. Scarpelli was listed as the "highest bidder" and was awarded a warranty deed for the property. Ripoli, however, would not leave the property so Scarpelli was "granted a writ of assistance" by a Spokane County Court that ordered the Sheriff to "oust Luigi Ripoli from the premises at 2014 E. Sprague Avenue."⁸ Ripoli vacated the property.

Antonio Scarpelli and His Four Nephews

Antonio Scarpelli was born in 1857 in Rovito, Italy, south of Naples in the Calabria region. He immigrated to America in 1882, and settled in Spokane in 1900. For ten years, he worked as a building and railroad contractor, becoming wealthy. After he

³ Spokane County public records, warranty deed #95628, 15 March 1904.

⁴ Spokane Polk's City Directories.

⁵ Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1910.

⁶ Spokesman-Review, February 1917.

⁷ Spokane building permits—January, April, May, October 1909.

⁸ Spokane Daily Chronicle, 1917.

purchased Ripoli's commercial brick building on East Sprague Avenue in 1917, Antonio and his wife, Rosa, lived in the small brick house (address number 2012 $\frac{1}{2}$) located behind the commercial structure. Well-respected by his Italian countrymen, Antonio was a former treasurer of the Macaroni-Colombo Society, an owner of a lounge called the Inland Club, editor of *LaVita* Italian newspaper in Spokane, and was "known in Spokane as the father of the Italian colony of the city"—a name sometimes given to an accomplished, older and respected Italian man by a city's Italian community."⁹ After Antonio's death in 1925, Joseph Plastino, a wealthy land owner and businessman involved in Spokane real estate, insurance, contracting and construction work, succeeded Antonio as the "father" of the Italian colony in Spokane.¹⁰

Antonio had four sisters (Sofia, Concetta, Barbara, Filomena) and one brother, Raphael Scarpelli. Raphael and his wife, Adelaide Palmeri, had four sons—Pasquale, Francesco, Guiseppe, and Folicardo. In 1917, Antonio organized the founding and development of a macaroni pasta factory to be located in the two-story brick commercial building he purchased at 2012-14 East Sprague Avenue.¹¹ He and his nephews Pasquale, Francesco, Giuseppe and Folicardo spearheaded the establishment, growth, and successful management of the business, which they named the Scarpelli Brothers Macaroni Factory. Giuseppe was acting president of the macaroni factory, Francesco was vice-president, Pasquale was secretary/treasurer, and Uncle Antonio was the salesman for the macaroni factory. He oversaw the operation of the macaroni factory until his death eight years later in 1925 at age 68.¹²

Pasquale (Charlie) Scarpelli was born in 1880 in Rovito, Italy and immigrated to America in 1893. For several seasons he was employed as a clown and tumbler with Ringling Brothers Circus then worked in Canada as a waterboy on a railroad construction gang. He moved to Spokane in 1896. In 1908, he returned to Italy, married his sweetheart Carmella Ambrosio, and moved back to Spokane. They had six children: Antonio, Ralph, Della, Mary, Rosie and Edith Scarpelli. From 1917 to 1941, Pasquale worked as secretary/treasurer and co-manager of the Scarpelli Brothers Macaroni Factory on East Sprague Avenue. In 1953, he opened Scarpelli's Restaurant in the Spokane Valley at 6315 E. Sprague Avenue. Pasquale Scarpelli died at age 98 in 1979.

Francesco (Frank) Scarpelli was born in 1883 and immigrated from Rovito to Spokane when he was 21 years of age. He married Mary Wise, divorced, and never remarried. He worked at different restaurants and confectionaries in Spokane, including employment as a cook for the Silver Grill and Hotel Spokane from 1907 through 1910, a clerk for confectioners Whaltier & Fabiano, and as vice-president of Colombo Manufacturing Company from 1910-1917 (10-30 S. Freya Street). In 1917, the Scarpelli Brothers Macaroni Factory was established at 2012-14 East Sprague Avenue and Francesco was employed as the company's vice-president until the company closed in 1945. An active

⁹ Spokane Daily Chronicle, 1925.

¹⁰ Durham, 1912. Joseph Plastino married Susetti Scarpelli (Antonio Scarpelli's daughter).

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ibid.

member of Oriental Masonic Lodge No. 74, Scottish Rite Bodies, and El Katif Shrine, Francesco died at age 81 in 1965.

Giuseppe (Joe) Scarpelli was born in 1888, and immigrated from Italy to America at age 16 with his brother, Francesco, in 1904. He married Adeli Ambrosio with whom he had three children: Anthony, Minot, and Louise. From 1910 through 1916, he worked at the Colombo Manufacturing Company. When the Scarpelli Brothers Macaroni Factory at East Sprague Avenue opened in 1917, Guiseppe was employed at the factory as president until the business closed in 1945. He died in 1954 at age 66.

Folicardo (Phillip) Scarpelli was born in Rovito in 1891, immigrated to America, and helped establish and manage the Scarpelli Macaroni Factory in Spokane. Folicardo was later appointed company vice-president when his brother Francesco became treasurer. He eventually moved to Portland, Oregon, and married Gabrialla Spadafore, who bore their son Ralph and daughter Theresa Scarpelli. Folicardo remained in Portland until his death in 1978 at age 87.

Immigration and the move to Spokane was not easy for the Scarpelli family and other Italians in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Not knowing the English language spoken by Americans was difficult, and food and shelter was nearly non-existant. However, many Italian men said that when they came to Spokane, they were able to find employment working as lumbermen, miners or for a number of railroads. Language was a problem but like everyone else from a foreign land, they learned English. As Spokesman-Review reporter Dorothy Powers stated in a December 1984 article, "the toughness of the cultural terrain didn't even slow the Italians down. They simply reshaped it to their liking."¹³ Powers adds, "Spokane boasts so many Italians nobody quite has a count." Estimates in 1984 were 2,000-3,000 Italians or people of Italian heritage lived in Spokane and the surrounding region. In a 1971 article in the Spokane Daily Chronicle, writer Jim Dullenty remarked "the general upsurge in minority pride and concern for cultural heritage has affected American-Italians as well as other minorities and ethnic groups with renewed zeal to maintain their arts and culture." The reorganization of ethnic clubs like the American-Italian Club, Sons of Italy, Daughters of Italy, and other organizations have helped spur such efforts. Today in 2019, third- and fourth-generation Italians in Spokane fondly remember stories from their parents, grandparents, and great-great grandparents who were ultimately thankful they immigrated to America.

The Scarpelli Brothers Macaroni Factory

The Scarpelli Brothers Macaroni Factory filed a "trademark registration" for various macaroni products on April 30, 1917 at a United States Patent Office in Spokane, Washington. *The American Miller*, a monthly professional journal devoted to the art and science of milling, published the macaroni factory's registration on June 19, 1917 with "serial number 103,431," which appeared in the magazine's August 1, 1917 issue.¹⁴ The

¹³ Spokesman-Review, December 1984.

¹⁴ United States Patent Office, 1917. The U.S. Patent Office recorded the serial number with a comma as 103,431.

registered trademarks were for "Golden West macaroni products, more particularly macaroni, spaghetti, vermicelli, short art macaroni, noodles, sea shells, alphabets, and other kinds of fancy-shaped macaroni pasta."¹⁵ By 1921, Scarpelli Brothers Inc. was advertising three trademark brands—Golden West, La Pantera and Gragnano—which represented products made at their macaroni factory at 2012-14 E. Sprague Avenue.¹⁶

An article in a January 1917 *Spokesman-Review* newspaper article reported the Scarpelli Brothers Macaroni Factory will open March 1, 1917 in their building at 2012-14 E. Sprague Avenue. The factory will have a "capacity sufficient to consume 30 barrels of flour a day...the building it will occupy is two stories, 44 by 50 feet."¹⁷ Factory president Guiseppe Scarpelli explained "the pasta flour and water is mixed without being cooked. After the mixing and kneading, the mass is put into a hydraulic press, by which 5,000 pounds pressure is applied, forcing the mixture through innumerable tiny holes of the desired size and shape. The plate in the bottom of the press can changed for making different sizes of macaroni, spaghetti, and vermicelli. We shall even make what is known as capillini—which is literally 'little hairs' in Italian." Guiseppe added "the secret of making good macaroni…is in the drying. Our drying rooms will embody the latest ideas. The fans will be big ones of wood, which revolve slowly, forcing heated air over the macaroni" to prevent breakage of the pasta.¹⁸

In May 1917, the Scarpelli Brothers Macaroni Factory had doubled the output of its macaroni products, using more than 30 barrels of flour a day. At that time, the factory employed 15 people.¹⁹ Five months later in October, factory president Giuseppe Scarpelli, exclaimed that "we use about two tons of flour a day and we manufacture more than 25 different [pasta products]. We ship four to five [automobile] carloads of our products a month to different parts of Washington, Idaho and Montana, and our trade is growing every day. We are doing all we can to further home industry…we buy all our boxes for shipping and paper for wrapping from Spokane factories…we intend to bring an Italian woman here to teach the art of making fancy Italian dishes to the women of Spokane." ²⁰

By 1925, the Scarpelli Brothers Macaroni Factory on East Sprague Avenue had grown to exceed former quotas. The factory's vice president, Folicardo Scarpelli, explained that "thirty-five 100-pound sacks of flour are made into macaroni products everyday here. We manufacture 25 kinds of flour products of various shapes and designs. Noodles as well as macaroni and spaghetti are our specialties. The factory is electrically equipped. Four drying rooms [on the building's second floor] through which air is circulated to

¹⁵ The American Miller, August 1917.

¹⁶ Spokane Daily Chronicle, November 1921.

¹⁷ Spokesman-Review, January 1917

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Spokane Daily Chronicle, May 1917.

²⁰ Spokane Daily Chronicle, October 1917.

harden the food, hold as much as 100 sacks of flour will make. The macaroni products are shipped out in 175-pound barrels and 10- and 15-pound boxes. "²¹

On February 12, 1929 a devastating fire nearly destroyed the Scarpelli Brothers Macaroni Factory on East Sprague Avenue:

Scarpelli Macaroni Plant Virtually Destroyed in Early Morning Blaze Loss Estimated at About \$25,000

A spectacular fire virtually destroyed Scarpelli Brothers Macaroni Plant, 2012 E. Sprague Avenue, early this morning. Giuseppe Scarpelli, manager, estimated the loss would total approximately \$25,000. Insurance will cover 90% of the loss, he said. The interior of the \$10,000 two-story brick and frame building, \$12,000 in machinery and other equipment, and a \$6,000 stock were believed to be a total loss.²²

Two more fires occurred in the building. In 1937, an electric motor caused a small fire on the factory building's second floor where it was confined to the ceiling, pasta drying racks, and product stock.²³ In 1939, heavy smoke damaged the building before a blaze formed.²⁴

For 28 contiguous years, the Scarpelli brothers made hundreds of thousands of pounds of pasta products at the Scarpelli Brothers Macaroni Factory located on East Sprague Avenue, and fed thousands of people throughout the northwest region. They were a prominent and longtime successful business on Sprague Avenue and employed many men and women for nearly three decades. Civic-minded and philanthropic, the Scarpelli Brothers and other Spokane suppliers were awarded in 1934 a variety of food supply contracts to furnish foodstuffs to men in Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camps at Mt. Spokane and in northern Idaho. The Scarpelli Brothers Macaroni Factory was responsible for supplying "2,000 packages of macaroni." ²⁵

By 1940, the Scarpelli Brothers Macaroni Factory on East Sprague Avenue occupied the east half of the building, addressed as 2014, and leased the west half (2012) to John Cimienti who sold fresh fruits. In 1945 after 28 years of service in the Ripoli-Scarpelli Building, the macaroni factory closed. The Scarpelli brothers then leased the property to a variety of businesses. In the 1950s, the building was occupied by the Heating Supply Company of Spokane, and a wholesale furnace business. The building sat vacant from 1960 to 1964, until Ray's Home Furnishings & Auction Company leased it to sell new & used furniture and merchandise. In 1970, A-1 Appliance Sales & Repair occupied the west half of the building at 2012 E. Sprague Avenue. Especially with the installation of the multi-lane Interstate 90 freeway, traffic on East Sprague Avenue was reduced, and vacancies in commercial buildings along Sprague became commonplace. In 1975, after

²¹ Spokane Daily Chronicle, December 1925.

²² Spokane Daily Chronicle, February 1929

²³ Spokane Daily Chronicle, March 1937

²⁴ Spokesman-Review, November 1939

²⁵ Spokane Daily Chronicle, April 1934

58 years of ownership, the Scarpelli family sold the Ripoli-Scarpelli Building, the only macaroni factory on East Sprague Avenue between Division and Altamont Streets, and one of the most prominent and successful businesses located on East Sprague Avenue.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Durham, N.W. *History of the City of Spokane and Spokane County*. Spokane: S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1912.
- Historic Property Report for Scarpelli Brothers Macacroni Factory, 2015. DAHP, Olympia, WA.

Menzel, Becky. Librarian, Spokane Public Library. 2019

Polk, R.L. Spokane City Directories, 1900 to 2019.

Spokane Building Permits. Spokane City Hall, Spokane, WA.

Spokane County public records. Spokane County Courthouse, Spokane, WA.

- *The American Miller*. Volume XLV, No. 8. Chicago: Mitchell Brothers Publishing, August 1917.
- U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. "Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation." Washington DC: Preservation Press, 1976.

______. "Bulletin 15." Washington DC: Preservation Press, 1998.

U.S. Patent Office. Official Gazette. August 21, 1917.

Newspapers

"Court Orders Ripoli Ousted." Spokesman-Review, 14 Feb 1917 "Ex-Restaurateur Scarpelli Dies." Spokesman-Review, 9 May 1979 "Frank Scarpelli." Spokesman-Review, 5 Jan 1965 "Joe Scarpelli Funeral Is Set." Spokesman-Review, 1 Aug 1954 "Macaroni Covers Empire States." Spokane Daily Chronicle, 18 February 1912 "Macaroni Factory is Burned." Spokesman-Review, 4 December 1916 "Macaroni Plant Business Grows." Spokane Daily Chronicle, 24 Dec 1925 "Macaroni Plant Operating Here Doubles Output." Spokane Daily Chronicle, 15 May 1917 "Reopen Plant to Make Macaroni." Spokesman-Review, 1 Jan 1917 "Rites Wednesday for A. Scarpelli." Spokane Daily Chronicle, 10 Feb 1925 "Scarpelli." The Oregonian (Portland, OR), 20 June 1978 "Scarpelli Brothers." Advertisement for trademark brands. Spokane Daily Chronicle, 18 Nov 1921 "Scarpelli Macaroni Plant Virtually Destroyed in Early Morning Blaze—Loss Estimated at About \$25,000. Spokane Daily Chronicle, 12 February 1929 "Use Two Tons of Flour Daily at Spokane Macaroni Plant." Spokane Daily Chronicle, 16 Oct 1917



North façade of Ripoli-Scarpelli Building in 2019



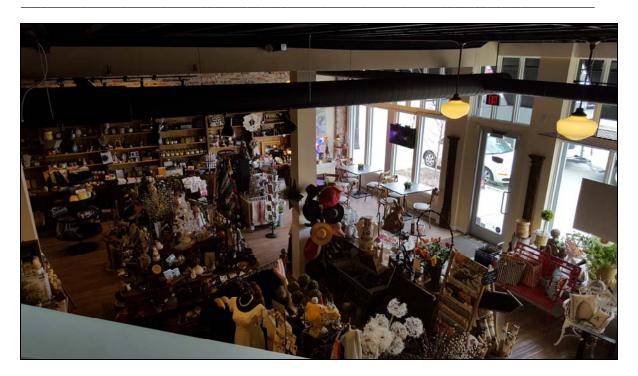
North façade of Ripoli-Scarpelli Building in 2019



North façade of Ripoli-Scarpelli Building in 2019



South rear face of Ripoli-Scarpelli Building in 2019



Looking down at first floor north front window wall in 2019



Looking north at front windows in 2019



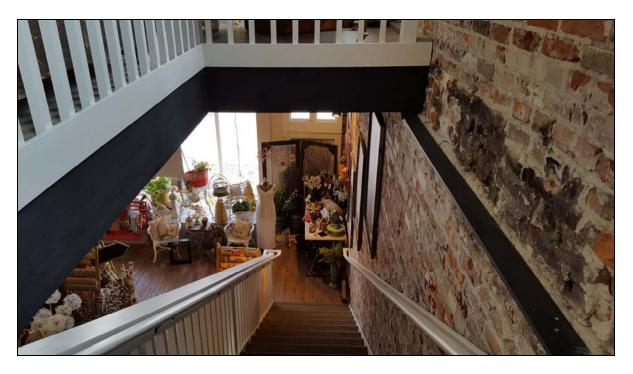
Looking at rear southwest corner of first floor in 2019



Looking northeast at stairs in 2019



Looking east at stairs in 2019



Looking down to first floor in 2019



Looking north at front wall on second floor in 2019



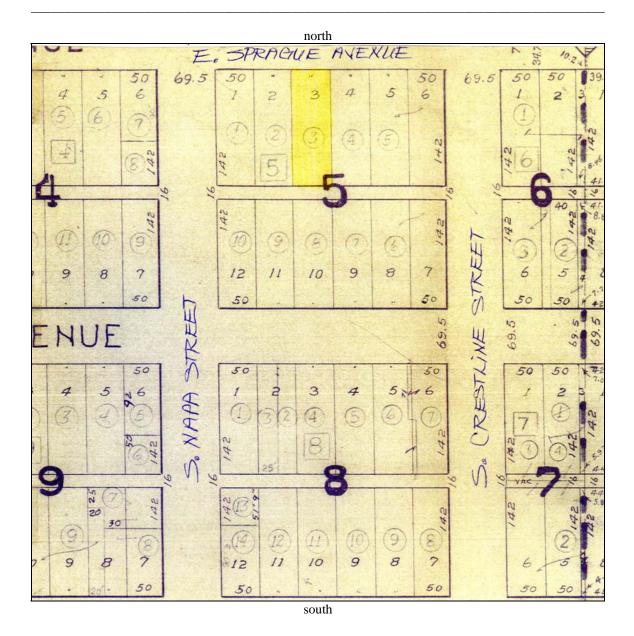
Looking south at rear wall on second floor in 2019



PLAT MAP 2019

Wadsworth & McDonalds Addition, Block 5, Lot 3 2012-2014 East Sprague Avenue Spokane, WA 99202

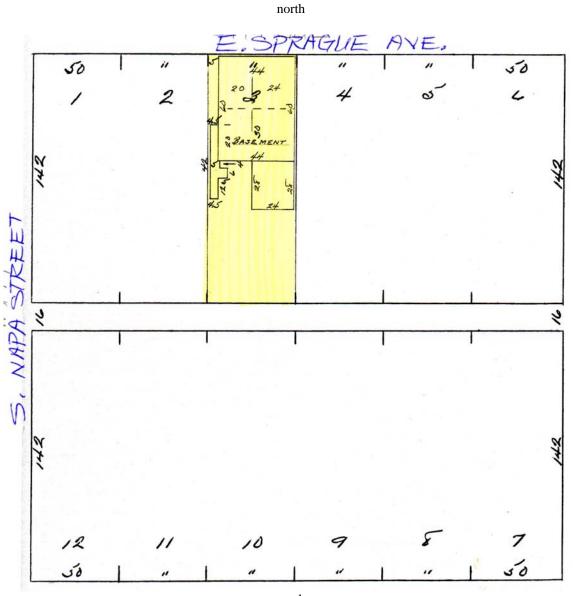
Source: Spokane County Tax Assessor Records Spokane County Courthouse



PLAT MAP Wadsworth & McDonalds Addition, Block 5, Lot 3 2012 and 2014 E. Sprague Avenue

(property highlighted in yellow ink)

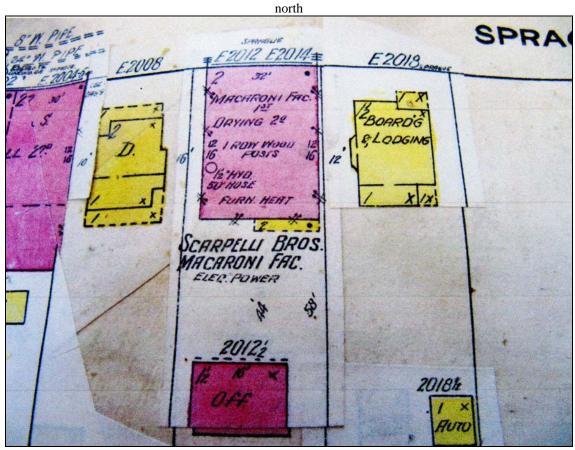
Source: Spokane County Assessor's Records Spokane County Courthouse



south

SITE PLAN 2012 and 2014 E. Sprague Avenue Spokane, WA

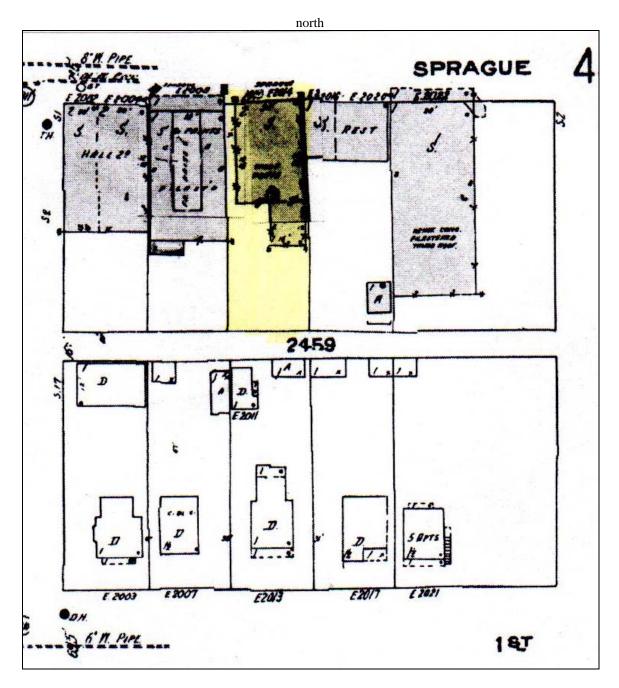
(property highlighted in yellow) Source: Spokane County Tax Assessor's Records Spokane County Courthouse



south

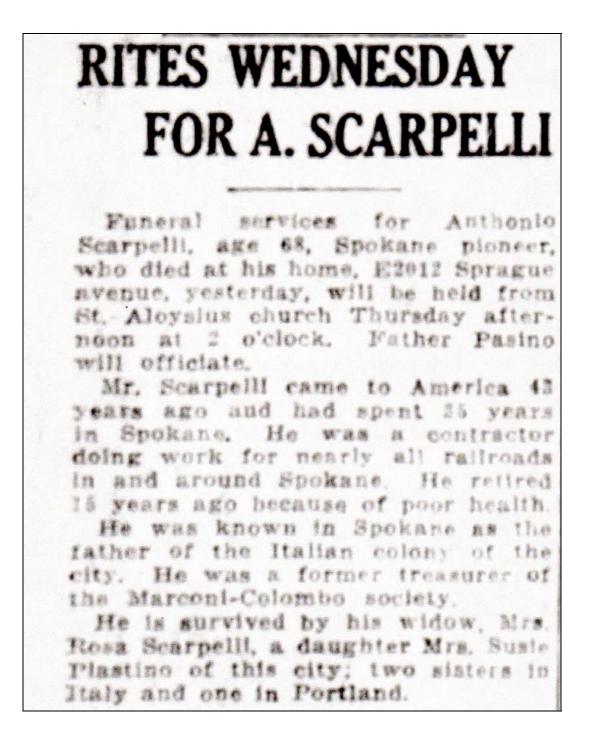
Updated 1910-1917 SANBORN FIRE INSURANCE MAP

Ripoli-Scarpelli Building 2012 and 2014 East Sprague Avenue Spokane, WA

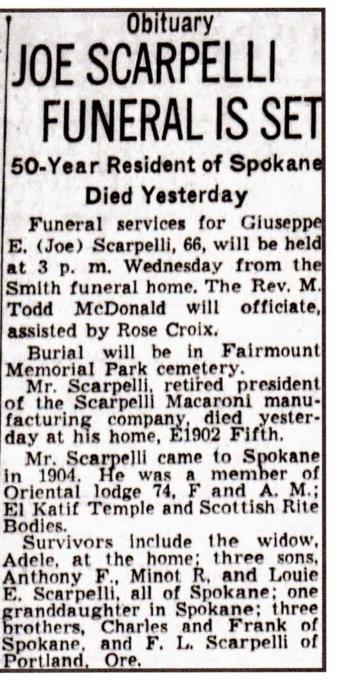


1953 SANBORN FIRE INSURANCE MAP

2012 and 2014 E. Sprague Avenue



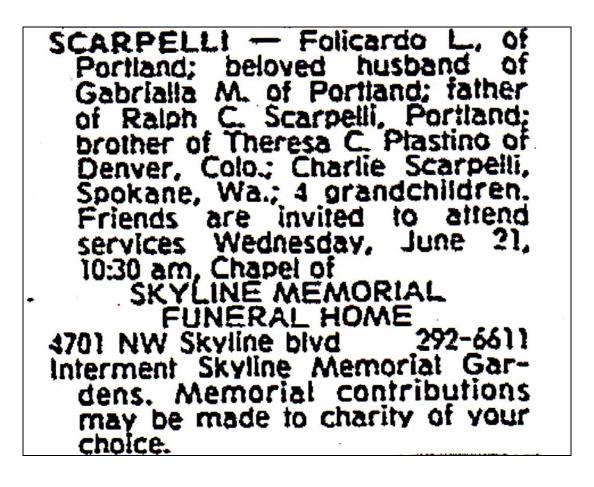
Spokane Daily Chronicle, 10 February 1925



Spokesman-Review, 1 August 1954



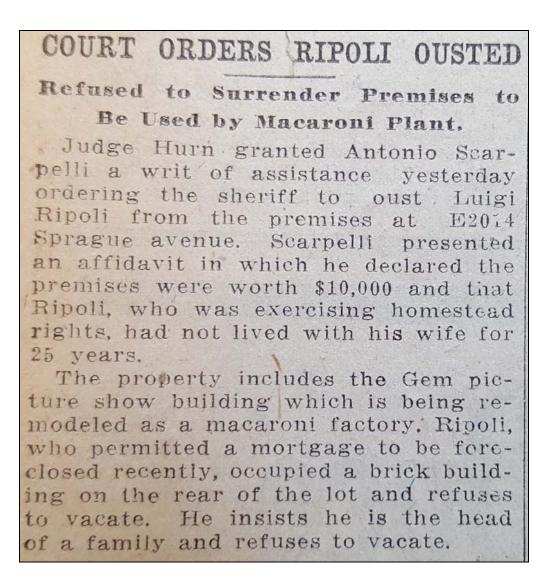
Spokesman-Review, 5 January 1965



Portland Oregonian, 20 June 1978



Spokesman-Review, 9 May 1979



Spokane Daily Chronicle, 14 February 1917



tributed by Boarpelli Bros. through Spokane jobbers. At least one salesman will be maintained on the road all of the time, but all orders he obtains will be turned in to the jobber supplying that particular retailer, and the macaroni furnished to the jobber from the factory. The only exception will be to the Italian trade in the northwest, which will be supplied direct from the factory because of the better understanding of their countrymen and their methods and demands which the manufacturers possess. Island Empire Wheat Good

Island Empire Wheat Good

"The hard wheat flour-made from durum wheat-that is grown in the In-land Empire is as good as any we can get for our product." said G. E. Scar-pelli. "The only reason we buy any flour from Minneapolis is that the mill there grinds a course flour which is

flour from Minneapolis is that the mill there grinds a coarser flour which is better adapted to our purpose. "I have just returned from a trip to Seattle and Portland, where I visited the macaroni factories of that city. In Portland has recently been opened what I consider the best macaroni facwhat I consider the best macaroni fac-tory in the United States west of Omaha, and I inspected it and talked with the owner and the expert. The latter is a native of Sicily, and is as well qualified in his line as any man now in this country. now in this country.

Secret is in Drying.

Secret is in Drying. "The secret of making good maca-roni, after the mixing of the paoper materials, is in the drying. The maca-roni must dry slowly enough that it will be the same throughout. In most small factories fans dry the outside of the macaroni, which is then stored for a few hours and then put in the drying blast from the fans again. This proc-ess may be repeated several times, and the result is that the macaroni is likely to crack, and more likely to break.

to crack, and more likely to break. "Our drying room will embody the latest ideas. The fans will be big ones of wood, which revolve slowly, forcing heated air over the macaroni. This slow drying will require a longer time. which our enlarged capacity will en-

Put in Hydraulie Press.

"The pasts flour and water is mixed without being cooked, although the temperature at which it is mixed is im-portant. After the mixing and knead-ing the mass is put into a hydraulic press, by which 5000 pounds pressure is applied forcing the mixture through housership time holes of the destred is applied forcing the mixture through innumerable tiny holes of the desired size and shape. The plate in the boi-tom of the press can be changed, for making different sizes of macaroni, spaghetti and vermicelli. We shali even make what is known as capillini-which is literally 'little hairs' in Italian -and is so fine that it can not be hung

"After the product comes out of the press it will be hung on racks which will be put on trucks, after which it will not be touched until it is ready to be packed. The trucks will be wheeled

be packed. The trucks will be wheeled from one room to another until the process is complete." The four brothers are G. E., Pasquale, Frank and F. L. Scarpell. They first engaged in the manufacture of macaroni in Spokane in 1909, and were con-tinuously in business until the fire which burned their plant in December. The new building they will occupy was erected for their use, but was for a time occupied by a motion picture show.

Spokesman-Review, 1 January 1917

-

USE TWO TONS OF FLOUR DAILY AT SPOKANE MACARONI PLANT Scarpelli Brothers Find Trade Increasing Rapidly -Boost Home Work. The Scarpelli Brothers Macaroni and Spaghetti factory, located at E2012 Sprague avenue, is rapidly increasing its trade, according to G. E. Scarpelli, president and manager of the concern. "We use about two tons of flour a day." said the manager, "and we manufacture more than 25 different articles. We ship from four to five carloads of our products a month to different parts of Washington, Idaho and Montana, and our trade is growing every day. On my last trip to the Montana territory I contracted for more of our products than we sold in whole year before. "We are doing all we can to further home industry," continued Mr. Scarpelli, "and with this idea we buy all our boxes for shipping and paper for wrapping of Spokane factories. Fifteen employes work at the factory. Mr. Scarpelli intends to bring an Italian woman here to teach the art of making fancy Italian pastry and cooking fancy Italian dishes to the women of Spokane.

Spokane Daily Chronicle, 16 October 1917



Spokane Daily Chronicle, 18 November 1921

MACARONI PLANT BUSINESS GROWS

Scarpelli Brothers Expect Another Increase During the Coming Year.

This year's business exceeds that of 1924, according to F. L. Scarpelli, vice president of Scarpelli Brothers Macaroni company, E2012 Sprague avenue. Definite check of the books has not been made and as a result, Mr. Scarpelli declared he could not give the percentage increase. Business in 1926 is expected to be even better than during the current year.

"Thirty-five 100-pound sacks of flour are made into macaroni products every day here" he said. "We manufacture 25 kinds of flour products of various shapes and designs. Noodles as well as macaroni and spaghetti are our specialties.

Operated Electrically.

"Four days' time is necessary to make and dry a quantity of macaroni. The factory is electrically equipped. Four dry rooms through which air is circulated to harden the food, hold as much as 100 sacks of flour will make.

"The macaroni products are shipped out in 175-pound barrels and 10 and 15 pound boxes. Very little stock is held on hand at the factory." Officers are: Joe Scarpelli, president; F. L. Scarpelli, vice president: Charles, secretary, and Frank, treasurer. The products of the firm are distributed through Washington. Idaho, Oregon and Montana. Seven men are employed.

Spokane Daily Chronicle, 24 Dec 1925



Spokane Daily Chronicle, 12 February 1929



Spokane Daily Chronicle, 18 February 1932