

INVENTORY SHEET FOR GROUP NOMINATIONS: IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, BOISE, IDAHO

NOMINATION: (TOURTELLOTTE AND HUMMEL ARCHITECTURE IN IDAHO)

SITE NAME: Immanuel Methodist Episcopal Church SITE NUMBER: 41

LOCATION: 1406 Eastman, Boise, Ada County (001), ID 83702

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Immanuel Methodist Episcopal Church
c/o R. O'Leary
1501 North
Thirteenth Street, Boise, ID 83702.

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Boise North, 7.5 minute ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Immanuel Methodist Episcopal Church and the property on which it stands, lot 11, block 3, Brumback's addition to Boise City Original Townsite. Legal description on file at the Ada County Courthouse, Boise, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/5,64,220/48,30,930

DATE OR PERIOD: 1910-1911

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: deteriorated unaltered original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Immanuel Methodist Episcopal Church, on the northwest corner of Fourteenth and Eastman streets, is a Romanesque eclectic structure of frame construction with stone veneer over the lower walls and cementine stucco veneer over the large gables. It is a single tall story in height over a tall basement. The building consists of an auditorium section at the corner, with crossed gables facing south on Eastman Street. The annex was connected with the auditorium on the interior by sliding wooden doors. On the exterior the annex is connected by the hipping down of the taller to the lower roof. The whole is approximately 90 feet by 708 feet square, exclusive of the porches. The full basement is approached by steps descending under the Fourteenth Street entrance.

Entry to the auditorium is through a large stone porch outset from the corner. The porch has a beveled entrance bay containing a large Tudor-arched portal, approached by a flight of concrete steps with raked stone parapets at the side. The side walls of the porch are stuccoed above a high stone base and set parallel to those of the church from which they are outset, and they are pierced with pairs of round-arched openings. The porch is finished with a broadly crenellated parapet. A rectangular outset side porch on Eastman uses the same motifs at a reduced scale.

An unporched entrance near the rear corner on the Fourteenth Street side gave access to the pastor's study and the choir. The random-coursed stone veneer of the structure extends as high as the lower margin of the porch crenellation; above that line the body of the church is also veneered with cementine. The large, segmented, round-arched windows in the main auditorium gables span the two levels. Stained glass can still be seen in the upper sections of these windows. The large gables are lifted above the stone veneer and have eave returns; the lower gables on the annex spring from the top of the veneered walls and are without returns. The fenestration of the smaller gable is also more modest, with only narrow rectangular triple lights penetrating it.

The church is closed and vacant, with the large windows covered over. It is deteriorating but appears unaltered and retrievable.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Immanuel Methodist Episcopal Church in north Boise is architecturally significant as an ecclesiastical structure showing an interesting hybridization of traditional, medieval forms (round arches and crenellation) with classical elements (eave returns) and a horizontality and breadth of gable which may be attributed, as may a good deal of the architecture of this period, to the influence of the bungalow and related styles.

The building is unusual for its Romanesque flavor. Although one of the firm's most important monuments, St. John's Cathedral, is Romanesque revival, Gothic revival was much more common in their overall ecclesiastical work. In fifteen such projects included in the Thematic Group, nine have a Gothic flavor; only three have Romanesque characteristics. One of the others which does, a 1908 Baptist church in Mountain Home, has much in common with Immanuel Methodist as far as the broad-gabled profile is concerned.

Immanuel Methodist is the institutional offspring of an earlier and larger commission for Boise Methodists, a church building at Tenth and State streets. Planning for a second building to accommodate members in the new subdivision in north Boise--only a mile or two away, which gives a sense of the different meaning of distance in the days before the automobile--began within a few years after the downtown church was completed. Late in 1906 the Methodists voted to build a church to replace their informal mission in the Hyde Park neighborhood. Building stretched over a number of years, and projected costs ranged from \$15,000 to \$100,000. At last report, when the building was nearing completion in 1911, the projection was \$40,000.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

(Boise) Idaho Statesman, August 12, 1905, p. 3. c. 1; November 10, 1906, p. 8, c. 2; January 5, 1908, p. 14, c. 4; January 3, 1909, sec. 3, p. 2, c. 3; February 13, 1911, p. 5, c. 1; April 9, 1911, sec. 2, p. 9 (photograph); June 25, 1911, sec. 2, p. 9 (photograph).

Boise, Idaho. Hummel Jones Miller Hunsucker P.A. File 221F. Collection book references to Methodist Episcopal Church, 1905, 1908. Tracings signed John E. Tourtellotte and Company.