

The principal visual device is the contrast of the extensive terra cotta trim against the red brick fabric. Terra cotta is used as coping for low stepped cresting above the cross wings, as framing for the windows, and as panels, embellished with vaguely heraldic devices, between the first- and second-story windows. Windows are multi-light and tripled in each bay, four bays wide between the entrance and the end-wings on either side, one bay deep on either side of the outset secondary entrances in the end-walls.

The terra cotta treatment is especially elaborate on the pavilion tower and on the left end-wing, which has a quoined and crested parapet above its second-story windows and an outset bay. The end entrances have low, Tudorsque arches and keystone forms. Terra cotta-capped buttresses appear elsewhere on the building as well. The entrance is tripartite--two double doors flanked by two singles, with a segmented transom light in the arch. It is approached by brick steps and terrace and surrounded by a terra cotta frame with a flattened arch and a stepped cornice with relief decoration. Above it are two tiers of five contiguous windows, framed and separated by segmented bands of terra cotta. Small, grotesque figures decorate the narrow bottom band; vaguely heraldic devices, the broad central one; and plain panels with gill-like upper borders, the top one. The gill-like forms recur on the top of the double louvered slits opening in each face of the tower, just under the coping. Both tower and entry have terra cotta-capped buttresses terminating at several levels.

The only exterior alterations to the building are screening and reglazing of some of the original multi-light windows, replacement of the front doors, and provision of a handicapped access ramp on the right side of the entry stair.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Boise Junior College Administration Building is of exceptional architectural significance, not only as a building of unusual institutional importance to the state of Idaho, but as one of the two very large-scale federally assisted projects with which Tourtellotte and Hummel closed out the Depression years. Both projects were carried out jointly with Boise's other major architectural firm, Wayland and Fennell; the Boise Junior College building is the only example included in the Thematic Group from among a number of such joint projects in the last several years of the firm's activity as Tourtellotte and Hummel. A comparison between the design for the Boise Junior College Administration Building, for which Tourtellotte and Hummel took primary design responsibility, and the Ada County Courthouse (National Register 1976, Boise Capitol Area Historic District), in which Wayland and Fennell took the lead, points up very clearly the conservative tendencies of the first firm and places it in a somewhat wide context.

In contrast to the tall, monochromatic, modernistic courthouse, the administration building for Boise Junior College is strongly evocative of the Tudor revival style of the firm's University of Idaho administration building of 1907: long dimensions around a central tower, contrasting materials, flattened arches, medievalizing ornament.

This contrast suggests once more that modern approaches to exterior design were picturesque options rather than ideological imperatives to these architects. This was probably true for most architects of the period; Wayland and Fennell too

designed many "Unprogressive" buildings in the 1930s. But the contrast revealed here suggests a particular bias toward revivalism on the part of Tourtellotte and Hummel. That apparent bias cannot be explained wholly in terms of appropriateness to particular projects.

The Boise Junior College Administration Building has substantial significance on a state level as the principal early building of an Idaho state institution of higher learning--and eventually its third university. During 1940-1941 the college conducted a great building campaign. The \$180,000 administration building was completed in 1940 by contractor J. O. Jordan.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

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