

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

NOMINATION: (TOURTELLOTT AND HUMMEL ARCHITECTURE ~~IN IDAHO~~ 7/2)

✓ SITE NAME: Our Lady of Limerick Catholic Church ✓ SITE NUMBER: 89

✓ LOCATION: 113 ~~West~~ Arthur, Glens Ferry, Elmore County ~~(039), Idaho~~

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Roman Catholic Diocese of Boise  
420 West Idaho Street  
Boise, ID 83702

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Glens Ferry, Idaho, 7.5 minute ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Our Lady of Limerick Catholic Church and the property on which it stands, lots 5-10, block 61, south addition to Glens Ferry, Idaho. Legal description on file t the Elmore County Courthouse, Mountain Home, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/6,38,860/47,56,480

DATE OR PERIOD: 1915

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: good unaltered original site

DESCRIPTION:

Our Lady of Limerick Catholic Church in Glens Ferry is a rectangular white brick structure, gable-roofed with a front-to-back ridgebeam and a partially outset steeple/belfry/entry tower centered on the front elevation. The openings, aside from that of the flat-arched left rear entrance, shows a combination of Gothic, and Romanesque revival forms. Romanism is suggested by the round-headed entry, with its arch trim consisting of a triple row of outset header bricks, culminating in a small Latin cross at the apex. The flat niches in the main wall on either side of the entry, their outset sills at a level with the springing of the arch, are also round-arched, with outset double-coursed heads. However, an impression of Gothicism is created by the tall, tent-roofed, cross-surmounted steeple, with its crossed gables and pointed-arched louvered belfry openings that also have heads and sills of outset brick, this time single-coursed. The pointed-arch motif is carried out in the nave windows, five bays deep with double-coursed header brick arch trim and sills, and in such details as the trisecting of the fan light under the round arch of the main entrance so that it forms a pair of Gothic arches.

Other decorative detail on this basically smooth-surfaced church includes a very small brick corbel girding the tower just above the entry-arch cross and just below

a pair of rectangular stained glass windows at attic level. The nave windows are also stained and covered now with transparent protective materials. The rather close eaves, both raked and lateral, are closed and underlined with smooth, narrow bed molding strips. The double doors, each with a small round light at eye level, are probably replacements of the originals; the wrought-iron railings on either side of the steps are almost surely so. Otherwise, the twenty-eight-by-sixty-foot church on its concrete foundation is essentially unaltered.

#### SIGNIFICANCE:

Our Lady of Limerick Catholic Church in Glenns Ferry is architecturally significant as one of the few small medievalizing churches in the Thematic Group to be rendered in brick rather than frame (see also site 33) and one of the few to incorporate the round as well as the pointed arch. The brick church, one of several small but substantial masonry projects in Glenns Ferry at this time (see also sites 84 and 85), joins with several early schools and a handsome prairie style brick apartment house a block away in establishing a sense of time and place in a residential-institutional neighborhood on the south side of Glenns Ferry.

Like the Trinity Episcopal Church in Gooding (site 60), the church is also an example of on-site modifications of design. As built, Our Lady of Limerick represents a simplification of the surviving plans. These plans show the entrance outset still further from the outset tower and contained in a wider porch under bracketed, bargeboarded bungalow gables. As designed, the church would have had even more in common with a larger-scaled prototype, St. Charles Catholic Church in Hailey (site 89). The bungalow proportions (if not the detail) and the steeple arrangement have a clear family relationship to St. Charles, as well as to the churches in Parma and Bovill (sites 90 and 116).

#### MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Boise, Idaho. Hummel Jones Miller Hunsucker P.A. File 404B. Collection book reference 1915. Tracings signed Tourtellotte and Hummel.