

MAR 26 1980

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

DEC 3 1980

NOMINATION: Early Churches of Emmett Thematic GroupSITE NAME: First Baptist Church of Emmett SITE # 3LOCATION: First Street at Hayes Avenue, Emmett, IdahoOWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: First Baptist Church, 126 S. Hayes, Emmett, Idaho, 83617

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: _____ ACREAGE: _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The nomination includes the First Baptist Church and the property on which it stands: lots 1-4, block 3, Hayes Addition to Emmett.

UTM(S): _____

DATE OR PERIOD: 1909-1915 EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: StateAREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, local historyDESCRIPTION

The Baptist Church, which faces south at the corner of First and Hayes, is an imposing red brick structure trimmed with stone and with contrasting light brick. The body of the church is basically rectangular, with a flared hip-and-ridge roof running front to back and broad, hip-roofed, half-hexagonal bays emerging from either side. A tall battlemented bell tower containing the main entry is outset from the main block on the left front corner. A tall gabled pavilion containing a large stained glass window and flanked by corner parapets is even further outset at right.

The church sits on a very tall basement, which is visually strengthened by the use of contrasting light brick quoins at every intersection of the planes. An outset stone sill runs all around the building, dividing the basement story from the main floor. The square corner tower is one of the dominant exterior features, with a rather simple rectilinear entrance and, much higher, two ranges of round-arched openings--one with stained glass lights, one louvered--below a parapeted roof featuring stone-coped merlins and enriched by a series of corbeled courses in contrasting brick. The other striking feature of the exterior is the expansive use of stained glass. Three large round-arched windows occur: one under a gabled roof on the outset facade, and one in each of the polygonal bays on the sides of the main block, here under barrel-vaulted caps emerging from the roofs of the bays. All of the large lights have round-arched window heads. The smaller windows, many of which also employ stained glass are square-headed and have wide stone lintels and sills.

The exterior, except for the remodeling of the entry steps and the bricking up of a secondary door at right front, is unaltered. Note: the entry steps were further remodeled in the fall of 1979, after the photograph taken for this nomination was printed. The present stair is doubled, with lateral approaches from both right and left to the landing. The streetside wall of this construction is faced with red brick so that it appears fairly continuous with the original fabric; it should appear more so with normal weathering and fading. It appears that the lost secondary entrance at right is to be reopened, as a wheelchair access ramp has been built to it.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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First Baptist Church of Emmett
Site #3

CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

The interior is similarly close to its original appearance. From within the broad bays on either side of the hall produce the impression of a round or octagonal space. The ranges of specially designed curved pews reinforce this impression. The large stained glass windows on either side, with their repeated lily, geometric, and classical architectural motifs, are exceptionally fine. The plaster walls, dark woodwork, and even several pieces of Mission-style furniture behind the altar, all appear to be original.

SIGNIFICANCE

The Baptist Church is architecturally the most distinguished of the six early Emmett churches here nominated. Both exterior and interior are largely original. The exterior presents one of the tallest and most imposing elevations in Emmett, as well as being the only one of the nominated churches to employ Italianesque round arches and an accompanying Renaissance flavor. The interior, with its belled walls, curving pews and excellent stained glass, is one of the finest--perhaps the finest at this scale--and most original in Idaho. The church is notable for its status as the only commission so far as is presently known of a Boise architectural office then of some importance Nisbet and Paradise. This elaborate local church was begun during a prosperous period in 1909, and not dedicated until 1915 or completely finished until still later. It kept its congregation in financial straits until 1924, but it was finished nonetheless. It has been carefully maintained ever since, and is notable today not only for its architectural interest but for its fine state of repair.