

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

NOMINATION: TOURTELLOTTE AND HUMMEL ARCHITECTURE ~~IN IDAHO~~

SITE NAME: Rosedale Odd Fellows Temple

SITE NUMBER: 47

LOCATION: 1755 Broadway, Boise, Ada County (001), ~~Idaho 83706~~

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Harry C. and Emma G. Musgrove and  
James C. and Joan Cochrane  
665 West Lake Hazel  
Meridian, ID 83642

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Boise South, 7.5 minute

ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Rosedale Odd Fellows Temple and the property on which it stands, south 15 feet of lot 7, lot 8 north of Canal block 33, Dundee's first subdivision. Legal description on file at the Ada County Courthouse, Boise, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/5,65,150/48,26,620

DATE OR PERIOD: 1907

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: fair

altered

original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Rosedale Odd Fellows Temple in South Boise has as its most prominent feature a parapeted stepped gable, laid up in the rock-faced cast stone used to veneer the entire upper front elevation of this basically boxy, two-story steel, frame, and concrete block building. The historic veneer, which is intact around an in-filled storefront, consists of rusticated cast corner blocks up to the top of the mezzanine windows. Above these are one wide and two narrow courses of rock faced block, then a smalloutset cornice. A row of windows follows, two on either side of a centered vertical panel containing the IOOF initials. The Whole ensemble is set into a ten-coursed bank of rock-faced blocks, with smooth string courses forming continuous sills and lintels at top and bottom. a five-course rock-faced band is inset with another relief panel bearing the legend "Rosedale No. 102." The stepped gable has broad bands of rock-faced blocks alternating with single smooth finished courses. The steps formed by the progressive inseting of these upper bands are finished with outsets on triangular corbels.

The original plasn show a thrity-eight-by-sixty-foot building with a single open store space below and a lodge room upstairs reached by exterior stairs on the right

side. (Contemporary newspaper accounts reported that two stores would be included.) The first-floor plate glass storefront has been completely infilled with modern materials, and the historic veneer which frames it has been painted from the first-story cornice down. The original sash windows have been replaced with modern aluminum frames, and a louvered aluminum vent has been set into the gable light.

#### SIGNIFICANCE:

The Rosedale Odd Fellows Temple is architecturally significant as one of the earliest and best uses in the city of concrete block as a structural material and as a decorative device. It is also significant as one of two examples in the Thematic Group (see also the Chinese Odd Fellows hall, site 72) of the modest type of two-story lodge hall built in small towns and villages, which is what South Boise was at the time of construction. With its picturesque stepped gable, it is perhaps the most distinctive building in the small cluster which marks the early community of Rosedale, now a part of Boise. The alterations, which are certainly noticeable, are most superficial and reversible, and involve filling in the original plate glass front.

Concrete cast on one side to resemble rock-faced stone block--cast stone, or "Roman stone" as the newspaper report on the I.O.O.F. hall called it--was never used as extensively in Boise as it was in some Idaho towns, such as Twin Falls, where an entire town had to be built quickly. But there was a flurry of interest in the material in Boise in the second half of the first decade of the century. Much of the actual building activity produced by this interest went on in north Boise; several cast stone houses are included in the Harrison Boulevard Historic District (National Register, February 29, 1980). The Waymire building (site 58) in the Hyde Park neighborhood is the only other known project designed by Tourtellotte and Company in this material. The Rosedale hall is the most refined example of it in town.

The building is also significant as the standard expression of the functional type of the lodge hall. As noted in the significance statement for the Ada Odd Fellows Temple (site 20), these could range from simple two-story blocks like this one, with a store downstairs and a meeting hall upstairs, to a more elaborate version such as the Turn Verein (Boise Historic District, National Register 1977), to a double block such as the Ada Lodge or a four-story gargantua like the Boise Elks Temple (National Register 1978), depending on the needs of the local chapter. South Boise's physical separateness from the capital city and its village status are evident in the modesty of scale and material in this hall.

Finally, the building is architecturally significant for its picturesque features. The stepped Dutch gable is unmatched in Boise; there are very few in the state, and no others in the design work of the firm. Like the firm's more splendid and expensive Pythian Castle in Weiser (National Register, May 13, 1976), this is facade architecture at its most transparent, representing an effort to achieve a look at once substantial and fanciful for an important fraternal organization in a small community.

The structure was completed in 1907 at a reported cost of \$6,000.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

(Boise) Idaho Statesman, March 4, 1906, p. 7. c. 2; June 24, 1907, p. 5, c. 1; January 5, 1908, p. 14, c. 4.

Boise, Idaho. Hummel Jones Miller Hunsucker P.A. File 410B. Collection book reference to Rosedale Lodge I.O.O.F., South Boise, 1907. Tracing signed John E. Tourtellotte and Company.