

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

NOMINATION: (TOURTELLOTTE AND HUMMEL ARCHITECTURE ~~IN IDAHO~~ TR)

SITE NAME: Caldwell Odd Fellow Home for the Aged SITE NUMBER: 102

LOCATION: ^{N. 14th} ~~North Fourteenth Avenue near Interstate 84, Caldwell, Canyon County (027), Idaho.~~

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Grand Lodge of Idaho IOOF
c/o Director
P. O. Box 371
Caldwell, Idaho 83605

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Caldwell Odd Fellow Home for the Aged at and the property on which it stands, the SW 1/4, SW 1/4, SW 1/4, NW 1/4, and the NW 1/4, NW 1/4, NW 1/4, SW 1/4, all in the SW 1/4 of Section 23, ~~and the NE 1/4, NE 1/4, NE 1/4, SE 1/4,~~ and the SE 1/4, SE 1/4, SE 1/4, NE 1/4, all in the SE 1/4 of Section 22, all in T4N, R3W, Boise Meridian. Legal description on file at the Canyon County Courthouse, Caldwell, Idaho.

correction LMS 1/3/83

UTM(S): 11/5,26,420/48,680

DATE OR PERIOD: 1920

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: State/Local

CONDITION: good altered original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Caldwell Odd Fellow Home for the Aged on the northeast edge of Caldwell is a Second Renaissance Revival style building sited on a hillside overlooking open land and approached by a long drive. The two-story stucco structure is built to a minimally U-shaped plan: a 139 foot, 6-inch-long hip-and-ridge-roofed lateral block, 45-feet deep at the full extension of the short end wings. These face forward at either end and are covered with lower pitched hipped roofs, their short ridgebeams running forward from the side slopes of the main roof. At either end of the building are two-story outset sections. As they do not rise from an elevated basement as does the main block, their flat roofs are set lower than the main eaves. The outset section on the west has been nearly absorbed into a long one-story addition which was not part of the original plan. The addition is clearly that, and no architectural distinction can be claimed for it, but its stucco surface and hipped roofs make it compatible one. The plan of the whole is completed by the outsetting of a central entry porch between the forward wings of the front elevation.

The decorative treatment of the structure is distinctive. The roofs are metal tile; the eaves are supported on scroll-like modillions; the seven bays of the lateral block are demarcated by smooth coffered pilasters with Ionic capitals. Corner pilasters on the end sections were also Ionic-pilastered. Originally, the front porch was open on square, Ionic-capitaled columns. It has been enclosed and the columns lost, though the modillioned flat eave survives to indicate its original shape. The wooden balustrade with ranges of turned wooden members between square posts, which formed a balcony rail above the porch, has been replaced with a wrought-iron one; matching rails used for decorative emphasis on top edges of the end sections and along the rooflines above the porch have also been removed.

Fenestration is simple: the central five of the two-story bays on the main block contain one three-over-one light sash window each. The outer two bays are each two windows wide. The end wings contain three windows, with window-boxes supported on modillion-like brackets on the upper level. The first-story windows are extra tall, with trisected transom bars.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Caldwell Odd Fellows Home for the Aged is architecturally significant as the best local example of the Second Renaissance Revival institutional style and, as designed and even as surviving, the most elegantly and formally detailed example of that style in the work of these architects. The combination of smoothness of surface and precision of detail produces an effect of very substantial refinement, an academic effect, particularly as compared to structures from the same period like the Nampa State School (site 94). Together with the much more bold but equally formal State Industrial School dormitory (site 104), the IOOF home joins sites as disparate as the New Plymouth Congregational Church (site 103) and the Nampa and Meridian Irrigation District office in representing a burst of relatively formal Renaissance Revival and Neo-classical design around 1920.

Tourtellotte and Hummel had had several earlier commissions for the International Order of Odd Fellows: the big Ada Lodge (site 20), the more modest Rosedale IOOF (site 47), and the very basic Chinese Oddfellows Hall (site 72), all in Boise. This big Caldwell project, which expresses particularly well the social-service aspirations of the order, was executed by C. E. Silbaugh for a general contract price of \$47,334.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Boise, Idaho. Hummel Jones Miller Hunsucker P.A. File 123B. Certificate and collection book references 1920. Frederick Hummel retrospective file. Tracings and drawings signed Tourtellotte and Hummel.