

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

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

✓ SITE NAME: St. Mary's Catholic Church SITE NUMBER: 133

✓ LOCATION: State ^{and 26th} ~~Street on Twenty-sixth Street~~, Boise, Ada County (001), Idaho

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

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

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Boise North, 7.5 minute ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the St. Mary's Catholic Church and the property on which it stands, lots 26-30, block 46, second amended plat Ellis addition to Boise. Legal description on file at the Ada County Courthouse, Boise, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/5,62,850/48,31,30

DATE OR PERIOD: 1937

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: excellent unaltered original site

DESCRIPTION:

The St' Mary's Catholic Church group consists of a church on the northwest corner of Twenty-sixth and State street and a rectory immediately north of it, both executed in red brick and exhibiting several elements of 1930s picturesque styles.

Building A. St. Mary's Catholic Church, Twenty-sixth and State streets.

St. Mary's is a Neo-Gothic Revival style church with walls of red clinker brick, gable-roofed, with a long front-to-back ridgebeam. The dimensions are 51 feet 4 inches facing State Street and 105 feet 2 inches back along Twenty-sixth Street. The large street-facing gable is given a distinctive profile by the symmetrical elongation of the raked eaves to meet the unusually low sidewalls of the nave. The lateral eaves run just above the square-headed windows and on a line with the tops of the doorways. Entrances are unusually placed, in small enclosed porches outset from the side elevations near the front corners. The porches are gabled-roofed over the single doors, with slightly asymmetrical raked eaves; their ridgebeams are finished with a small cross near the apex of the gable, as is the ridgebeam of the main roof. There are two more porch-ells, one at either side of the nave at the rear of

than the gable ends, as in the front porches. The rear porch on the left or west side has a small metal cupola on its ridgebeam, the only significant departure from symmetry in the design.

The nave is seven bays deep; the ays are separated by short, square, concrete-capped buttresses. Each bay contains a triple set of narrow, rectangular, stained glass windows with sloping sills. The front elevation has one of the buttresses on either side and contains three large lancet windows, the central one largest, and an oculus near the apex of the gable. There is a stylized metal steeple set far back on the ridgebeam near the rear gable.

Building B. St. Mary's Rectory, 2612 State Street.

The rectory is built in matching materials but in a classical revival style with Tudorsque detail reminiscent of the Bishop Glorieaux house (see site 37). The rectangular two-story and basement plan is covered with a low-pitched, hipped roof with a short lateral ridge. The facade is dominated by a centered square second-story bay containing a pair of sash windows, finished in stucco and mock half-timber and covered with a gable roof with scroll-sawn bargeboards. The whole is cantilevered out over the centered entrance, which has sidelights and a transom bar and is approached from a stoop with blocky, stepped concrete-coped brick parapets. There is a single sash window with a lintel of end-set bricks centered in the wall on either side of the door, and a double one with a common sill above.

SIGNIFICANCE:

St. Mary's Catholic Church in Boise has exceptional architectural significance as the parent design for a distinctive type of Catholic church which the firm repeated again and again in southern Idaho and eastern Oregon. The design was used twice more under the firm name of Tourtellotte and Hummel, numerous times more in the 1940s and early 1950s by the successor firm of Humell, Hummel, and Jones. Stylization of the Classical Revival tradition, represented by the associated parish house, show the firm's continuing commitment to a revivalist aesthetic, even during a period of experimentation with the art moderne and art deco modes.

The very distinctive, low-shouldered, close-eaved gable-end profile of this church is virtually identical to those of two pre-World War II successors, St. Nicholas' in Rupert and St. Anthony's in Pocatello, as well as a number of postwar designs. This type would become virtually a signature of the postwar firm, which carried on and even strengthened the firm's strong relationship with the Catholic Diocese. Curiously, the earliest of these churches, which we have chosen to include in the Thematic Group because of its prototypicality, is atypical in an important respect: the placement of the entries. Here, the front as well as the rear entrances are through small gable porches emerging from the corners of the side elevations. On all subsequent versions, a more normative, large, gable-end entry was employed.

Accordding to building-permit information, the church and rectory were undertaken by contractors J. O. Jordan and Son and Anton Popp, respective, for contracts of \$30,000 and \$14,000.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Boise, Idaho. Boise City Building Permits. August 30, 1937, and October 27, 1937.

Boise, Idaho. Hummel Jones Miller Hunsucker P.A. Files 242J and 115J. Collection and certificate book references 1937-1938. List of Volume of Work by Year, 1937. Drawings signed Tourtellotte and Hummel.