

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

NOMINATION: Historic Resources of Paris (Partial Inventory: Architecture)

SITE NAME: LDS Seminary SITE # 90

LOCATION: Tabernacle block, Paris, Idaho

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Paris, Idaho,

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Paris, 7.5 minute ACREAGE: less than one 83261

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Nomination includes the LDS Seminary and the property on
which it stands: lot 8, block 12, Paris Townsite

UTM(S): 12/4, 67, 80/46, 74, 740

DATE OR PERIOD: 1931 EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture, social and humanitarian movements
 Good condition altered original site

DESCRIPTION:

The LDS Seminary is a cross-planned, hip-and-ridge-roofed structure rendered in orange-red grooved brick. The lateral block has plain forward surfaces on either side of an outset gabled ell -- there is a corresponding one to the rear -- containing a stylized side-lighted and transomed entry with a four-over-four light sash window on either side. The entry ell has corner pilasters and stylized eave returns. The ends of the lateral block are filled, between corner pilasters, by six tall nine-over-nine light sashes. Strip pilasters, without capitals but resting on simply concrete bases outset from the foundation, separate the windows. Five such windows are set into the outset rear ell. There is one plain brick chimney with a simple cast cap, approximately centered to the rear of the ridgebeam.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The LDS Seminary has unusual architectural and historic significance in its community, which lead us to include it in this inventory one year short of age eligibility. Architecturally the Seminary is one of the few buildings in Paris which display what is generally considered to be a typical Mormon attachment to Greek Revival forms. (The early Collings house, (site #6) is the other example inventoried here.) The building is a simple but crisply rendered statement of the affection for balanced, "rational" forms. Stylized eave returns and pilasters as well as the hipped profile and insistent symmetry evoke classical prototypes in a sleek, schematic manner consistent with then-contemporary tastes.

Historically this structure -- situated in the center of the central tabernacle block across from a public high school erected there two years earlier -- represents a continuing statement of the centrality of religion in the town. It was the next major building project by the Church since the state office building of 1910 and the dance pavilion of 1913; the next would be the present ward chapel on Main,

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 1

LDS Seminary

SIGNIFICANCE (continued):

which is much further short of age eligibility. Like the lost pavilion, the seminary building is an example of the concern of a Mormon community with providing a total environment for the young. LDS Seminary is a four-year course taken in concert with high school.

Local builder Orson Grinnett executed the plan, and the Tueller Brothers rendered it in brick.