

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

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

✓ SITE NAME: Gooding College Campus SITE NUMBER: 93

✓ LOCATION: ~~Highway 26 near Main, Gooding, Gooding County (047), Idaho~~
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OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Don C. Morrow, Bart D. Morrow and Elwood L. Shirk, P. O. Box 58, Gooding, ID 83330

Alice O. Adams, Ronald H. Adams and Frances L. Adams, Rt. 1, Box 111, Hagerman, ID 83332

State of Idaho

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Gooding, 7.5 minute ACREAGE: 40 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the described structures and the grounds on which they sit, tax 15 and 16 and lots 26, 31, and 32 in section 8 T6S, R15E, Boise Meridian. Legal description on file at Gooding County Courthouse, Gooding, Idaho.

UTM(S): A. 11/6,87,130/47,54,700 B. 11/6,87,140/47,54,500
C. 11/6,86,760/47,54,490 D. 11/6,86,750/47,54,680

DATE OR PERIOD: 1916-1917, 1920

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, Education, Social and Humanitarian

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: State

CONDITION: good/fair altered/unaltered original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Gooding College Campus consists of two two-story buff brick buildings, with a modern structure attached to one of them, on a level site on the southern margin of Gooding. The site is the highest in the area, which consists of low-rolling range and farm land pocked with lava outcroppings on the northern extremity of the Snake River plain. The north-northwest exposure of the buildings gives them a pleasant prospect over the town and environs of Gooding to the mountains which rise a few miles to the north. The buildings, designed by Tourtellotte and Hummel within a few years of one another, are all but identical in style, scale, and material. They were probably spaced to permit the eventual building of a third college building between them. The three-story modern brick addition now occupying that position though (see building A, below) appears as a separate visual unit, though it is connected to the 1917 Gooding College dormitory.

Building A, south of Highway 26 near Main Street. The first of the Gooding College buildings was completed as a multi-purpose building in 1917. The 46-by-150-foot plan is labeled "Gooding College Dormitory" but included bedrooms only on the second floor. There were recitation, laboratory, library, president's, and reception rooms on the first; an auditorium, music rooms, kitchen, and dining and domestic-science rooms in the daylight basement. The exterior has a tall foundation-basement wall of rough-cut random-coursed stone and main stories of buff-colored brick. The rows of double-hung sash windows have slightly outset stone sills and flush square arches, all of smoothly dressed stone. The hipped roof with its long lateral ridge rests on exposed rafters and is broken by low-pitched hip-and-ridge dormers, three in the front slope (the middle one broader) and one in each end.

The modern hospital building that has been built between the two historic structures and that extends to the rear of them in a deep T, is attached to the least end of the 1917 building by a connecting wing. Fortunately for one's perception of the form of the early building, the wing is set back along the east elevation and is only two stories in height (the main block of the modern building is three stories). A less obvious alteration is the enclosure--probably dating from the 'twenties--of the outset, centered porch. The porch was originally open on square wooden posts, identical to the porch on the 1920 building to the east. The double lateral stone parapets now precede a porch which has been walled with brick (originally red, since painted white). The enclosure is flat-roofed with a wide low-pitched gable-like parapet cresting in front. Below the parapet is a round-arched door flanked by double-hung sash windows.

The windows on the original block of the building are also double-hung sash: one-over-one lights at basement and first floor levels, six-over-one lights on the second. The attic door casements--three casements in the broad middle dormer, two in the narrower ones on either side--contain nine small lights each.

The modern hospital wing, though attached to building A, appears as a separate entity and is not included in the nomination.

Building B, south of Highway 26 near Montana Street. The 1920 Gooding College building was built from plans labeled "Boys Dormitory." The plan called for another 44-by-156-foot structure containing recitation and classrooms in addition to bedrooms and a gymnasium on the east half of the upper floor. This building is also two full stone-trimmed brick stories tall, on a tall stone basement, with a laterally ridged hip roof broken by hip-and-ridge dormers in the front and end slopes. The dormers are more closely ranked on this building, however: five across, with a pair of, two-casement dormers on either side of a central, three-casement dormer. The porch on this building is intact: double-parapeted flights of steps parallel to and outset from the main structure of the porch; flat porch roof supported by doubled squared wooden columns, tripled at the corners and imbedded, pilaster-like, at the back. The main basement entrance is under the porch. No additions or significant alterations have been made to this building, and although it is vacant it is in fair and stable condition.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Gooding College Campus is architecturally significant as an institutional example of the residential styles which were developing in the firm's work in the first decade of the century. It is historically significant as evidence of the firm's continuing relationship with the Methodist Episcopal church, builder of the college, for which they had designed two substantial churches in Boise; and as the remains of an ambitious plan for private post-secondary education in the open spaces of South Idaho. These remains are still evocative despite the modern structure which intrudes between the two historic buildings, in a spot where a third Tourtellotte and Hummel-designed building was probably intended.

In the overall work of the firm, institutional applications of this style appear contemporaneously with the residential ones: e.g., the lost Central School in Boise in 1905, and the 1910 Children's Home in Boise (Warm Springs Historic District, National Register, 1980). There was a cluster of such commissions, however, in the late 1910s: the Gooding buildings in 1916 and 1920, the Nampa State School Administration building in 1917 (site 94), and the Caldwell IOOF Home (site 102). The Gooding buildings, with their simple square-membered porches and exposed rafters, have an informality akin to that of the ubiquitous bungalow; this produces a homey quality which is very appropriate to the function and location of the buildings.

Gooding was a small but ambitious town in fast-growing newly irrigated South Idaho. It was a church-minded town which prided itself on the absence of saloons; it managed to become something of an institutional center with the location there in 1910 of a state school for the deaf and blind, and the Methodist college in the mid-teens. Planning for the college began in the early 'teens, when the town offered securities and a tract of land to the Methodists to locate there. The town's founder and most prominent citizen, Frank R. Gooding, governor of Idaho, 1905-1908, was a prime mover in the campaign; he offered the additional inducement of \$10,000 cash contribution. By 1915 it was reported that Gooding Townsite Company and Governor Gooding had conveyed to the Gooding College Corporation securities and real estate valued at \$150,000. \$267,000 was reported to have been subscribed for the purpose by Gooding citizens, and an additional \$50,000 in gifts and bequests was received.

Tourtellotte and Hummel were awarded the architecture and landscape contracts in mid-1916. Their general plan, which has not been located, was reportedly for a campus of eight buildings and a stadium. What does survive, in addition to plans for the administration, classroom, and dormitory structures built in 1917 and 1920, is a set of drawings for an unbuilt 93-by-155-foot administration building with Ionic portico and stylized pediments in the manner of the Bryant garage in Boise (site 92). It was probably intended as a centerpiece between the two closely matched buildings that still stand on the site.

That site and its buildings are still impressive as a whole, strongly evocative of their period and a promise which was keenly felt at the time. The town paper, which had boasted that the property transfer which convinced the Methodist trustees to come to Gooding would "be recorded in history as one of the notable events in the educational development of the great west,"¹ later described the physical location of the college as "a most imposing site when approached from the city,"² and as "the most sightly eminence in South Idaho."³

1. Idaho Leader, November 22, 1912, p. 1, c. 1.
2. Idaho Leader, July 20, 1916, p. 1, c. 1.
3. Idaho Leader, September 21, 1916, p. 1, c. 1.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

(Gooding) Idaho Leader, November 22, 1912, p. 1, c. 1; January 14, 1915, p. 1, c. 1; April 1, 1915, p. 5, c. 2; July 20, 1916, p. 1, c. 1; August 10, 1916, p. 1, c. 6; September 21, 1916, p. 1, c. 1, p. 2, c. 2.

(Boise) Idaho Statesman, January 20, 1921.

Boise, Idaho. Hummel Jones Miller Hunsucker P.A. File 303A. Certificate, collection, and Selected Accounts Book references 1916-17. Frederick Hummel Retrospective file. Tracings signed Tourtellotte and Hummel.