

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

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

✓ SITE NAME: Boise High School Campus SITE NUMBER: 49

✓ LOCATION: Washington ~~Street~~ ^{9th} between ~~Ninth~~ ^{11th} and ~~Eleventh~~ ^{streets},
Boise, Ada County ~~(001), Idaho~~ 83702

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Independent School District
1207 West Fort Street
Boise, ID 83702

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Boise South, 7.5 minute

ACREAGE: ^{Six acres LMC} ~~less than one~~ 11/3/83

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Boise High School Campus and the property on which it stands, all of block 80, lots 1-2 block 85, and lots 8-12 block 86, Boise City Original Townsite. Legal description on file at the Ada County Courthouse, Boise, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/5,64,470/48,29,860

DATE OR PERIOD: 1908-1936

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: good altered original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Boise High School Campus is a complex of buildings with front or side elevations on Washington between Ninth and Eleventh streets, in Boise's Near North End. The buildings are in close physical proximity to each other and range in age, material, and style from the 1908-1920 buff-brick high school, which faces south at Tenth and Washington and is designed in the neo-classical revival style; through the reinforced concrete stylized neo-classical Industrial Arts building facing the same direction on the northeast corner of the same intesection; to the 1936 red-brick veneer gymnasium, which presents an example of the art deco style and faces east on the southeast corner of Ninth and Washington. (See enclosed sketch map.)

INVENTORY:

A. Boise High School.

Built in three stages starting with the east wing in 1908, Boise High School is a tripartite building in a right-angled W shape and a neo-classical revival style. All sections have denticulated cornices and flat roofs.

The central and dominant section was the last to be constructed. It is three stories in height on a tall basement, in comparison to the two-story-on-day-light-basement wings which flank it. The monumental two-story portico consists of a denticulated pediment containing relief decoration--intertwined garlands and a bust of Plato--supported on a plain entablature and fluted Ionic columns and approached by a tall and wide flight of parapeted steps. A cornice above the second full story, at the level of the base of the pediment, gives the third story, whose windows are set directly above it, an attic quality. At the rear of the central block, the elevated scenehouse of the theater-auditorium is apparent on the exterior. The theater with its elegant balconied space and classical decoration is the most significant aspect of the interior and in fact is the only space of its kind from the period to survive in Boise.

Short lateral sections connect the main block with the side wings. Both of the side wings are cornerstone-dated: 1908 on the east, 1912 on the west. As on the central block, the fenestration is organized into a series of tall bays by a series of shallow pilasters. In contrast to the monumental and rectilinear entrance, the side wings have front, rear, and side entrances consisting of round-arched portals under barely detached one-story porticos consisting of unfluted Ionic columns, simple disc-decorated entablatures, and coffered parapets on which corner and central anthemias are set. The tops of all of these arched openings have been filled in and modern doors installed, as has also been done on the main entrance. Aluminum-framed, infilled windows have been installed throughout the building. These are the only alterations.

B. Industrial Arts Building.

This 1920 structure was designed to be stylistically continuous with the high school building across Tenth Street to the west. The three-story concrete structure is entered through a single-story Ionic portico framing a round-arched entrance. Though the elements are identical with those of the high school building, the stylization of the anthemias, which become solid, simple geometric forms, is emblematic of the much greater simplicity of the entire building. The windows, in groups of three separated by narrow pilasters, are divided by broad pilasters into the major divisions of the facade: a narrow entrance bay containing narrow triple lights above the portico, two flanking bays containing full-sized windows, and a third wide bay in the slightly set-back garage section to the right. Again like the main building, the Industrial Arts building has a denticulated cornice and a parapeted roofline. The same alterations have occurred: re-glazing and infilling of the windows, and infilling of the large doorway to permit installation of a smaller door. Here, however, the upper part of the arch, a sort of stylized tympanum which contains the original pictographed legend and date, was solid to begin with and so has been preserved.

C. Gymnasium.

The 1936 gymnasium building is a red- and off-red brick building the equivalent of two stories in height, although the interior space is open to accommodate gymnasium and auditorium functions. The street-facing elevations are divided into bays and groups of bays by narrow and broad pilasters run-

ning from the base of the building to the top, where they crest in the art deco manner and are finished with light-colored coping. Each bay contains a single eight-light window with a top-hinged central section. The broad pilasters, three of which crest in the center of the facade and two more of which crest near the corners, are embellished at roofline with light-colored relief panels in a stylized art deco floral or sunburst design. The entrance itself has a tripartite portal, its supporting members trimmed with alternating bands of red brick and light stone. The elaborate panel over the entrance has an incised legend on a plain field surrounded by angular friezes of linear ornament. Brick steps and blocky parapets are original. The only alterations to this building, in fact, are the bricking in of several windows on the north side and the compatible (indeed, very sensitive) addition of a one-story music annex at the rear. The annex is also red brick, with a harmonized decorative system including pilasters and insignia over the entrance. It was designed by the successor firm of Hummel Hummel and Jones in 1961.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Boise High School is both historically and architecturally significant: historically, as the only public high school until the late 1950s of the state's capital city; architecturally, as a group of handsome and diverse buildings clearly illustrating three periods of developmental style, all designed by Tourtellotte and Company and Troutellotte and Hummel over a period of thirty years.

The most important of these buildings is the high school itself. It is architecturally significant as a neo-classical revival monument, in a state where they are rare. In fact, the high school appropriates some of the classical vocabulary--the tripartite form, the full pedimented portico, and the particular affection for the anthemion--which distinguishes the older and much grander capitol. The central section of the capitol was begun in 1904; the east wing of the high school in 1908. The beau-arts design was produced only after the Statesman rallied public opinion and the school board against an early proposal incorporating a heavily medieval exterior. The cost of the entire structure, which was completed in 1920, was projected at \$250,000 in 1909.

The Industrial Arts and gymnasium buildings contribute to an impressive ensemble. The 1920 Industrial Arts building is significant in showing some of the same neo-classical devices--the slightly outset porticoes over round-arched doorways, the classical anthemion--stylized and rendered in pragmatic concrete; the result is at once appropriate to the more prosaic function of a shop building, stylistically continuous with the main building, and illustrative of the tendency to simplify and geometricize that which was going on at the end of the 1910s. This tendency is also apparent in the masonry treatment of the scenehouse at the rear of the central, 1920 section of the main building.

The gymnasium, dating seventeen years later, is a fine example of the institutional art deco design of Frank Hummel, which he applied to Public Works Administration projects throughout the Depression. A generational peer of even greater distinction is the Boise Junior High School (site 129). The total cost was reported to be \$130,000.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Neil, J. Meridith. Saints and Oddfellows: A Bicentennial Sampler of Idaho Architecture.

(Boise) Idaho Statesman, September 15, 1908 (drawings); January 3, 1909; October 8, 1912 (drawings).

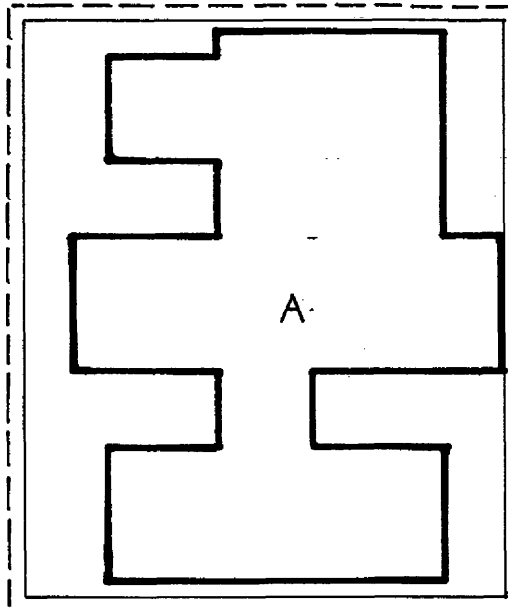
Boise, Idaho. Hummel Jones Miller Hunsucker P.A. Collection book references. F. C. Hummel retrospective file. Tracings and drawings signed Tourtellotte and Hummel.

N. 11th ST.

**TOURTELOTTE &
HUMMEL THEMATIC
GROUP**

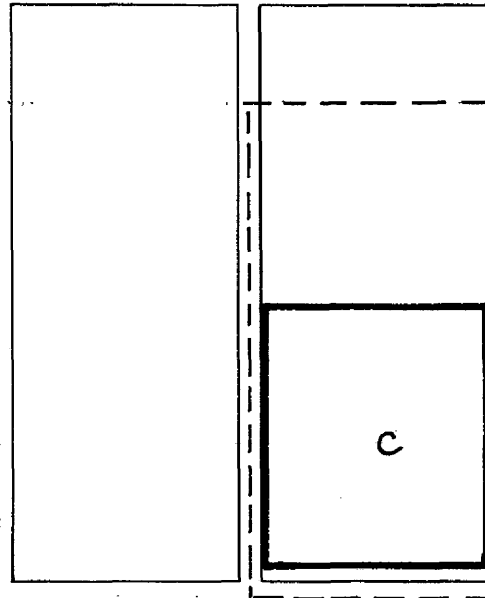
BOISE HIGH SCHOOL
CAMPUS, SITE #47
BOISE, IDAHO 1982
(NOT TO SCALE).

SITE BOUNDARY - - - -

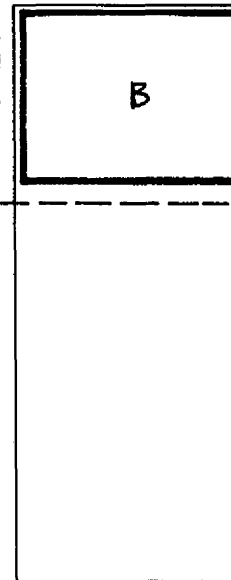


N. 10th ST.

W. STATE



W. WASHINGTON



W. FRANKLIN

