

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

NOMINATION: (TOURTELLOTTE AND HUMMEL ARCHITECTURE ~~IN IDAHO~~ 72)

✓ SITE NAME: Bald Mountain Hot Springs ✓ SITE NUMBER: 120

✓ LOCATION: Main and <sup>1st.</sup> ~~First~~ streets, Ketchum, Blaine County ~~(013)~~, Idaho

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Bald Mountain Hot Springs, Inc.  
c/o Phyllis Houk,  
P. O. Box 426  
Ketchum, Idaho 83340

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Sun Valley, 7.5 minute ACREAGE: about two acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Bald Mountain Hot Springs and property which it stands, block 20, Ketchum, Idaho. Legal description on file at the Blaine County Courthouse, Hailey, Idaho.

UTM(S): 1/7,12,680/48,38,410

DATE OR PERIOD: 1929

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture and Commerce/Recreation

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: State

CONDITION: good altered original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Bald Mountain Hot Springs complex on Main Street in Ketchum is a group of single-story buildings with rustic slab siding meant to resemble log construction. Its centerpiece is a structure surrounding an unroofed swimming pool. Flanking the natatorium on three sides is a U-shaped cluster of attached tourist cabins. Across First Street from the north side of the north row of cabins is the owner's cabin, built for the capitalizer of the project.

Building A. Natatorium, 151 Main Street.

The Natatorium building, as indicated above, is a rectangular structure rendered in rustic materials. The narrow end faces Main Street. Centered on it is an outset gabled porch, supported on de-barked trunks. Its sides are filled with an open framework of sturdy de-barked branches set at curious angles to one another over a low fence of horizontal boards. Siding is de-barked slabs. The rafters are exposed and trimmed under the lateral eaves. The gable is without bargeboards, the last set of rafters, braced on figure-four brackets, serving that purpose. The apex now contains a naive

sunburst apron which did not appear on the original plan or in an early photograph. The door centered at the back of the recessed entry corridor has a multi-light upper panel of glass. The windows in the front wall, as elsewhere in the structure and group, and multi-light casements.

The interior of the natatorium consists of the unroofed pool with office space in front and dressing rooms across the rear and sides. The poolside space is in effect an open loggia, covered by the pent roofs which are hipped inward from all four sides to terminate against the rows of tree trunks--now de-barked, though an early photo shows them shaggy--which form the inner row of "columns." The bases of these were once surrounded with log flower boxes. They now rest on thick concrete slabs imbedded with stone. The trunks extend somewhat higher than the roofline on the long sides. Lateral logs linking them at the roofline have been masked by planks.

Building(s) B. Tourist cabins, 151 Main Street.

The rows of cabins on three sides of the natatorium now contain thirty-one units. They are hip-roofed, with lateral ridgebeams stepped down in three stages toward the rear of the complex. Clapboarded sections with small metal frame windows represent the enclosing of original pairs of garages to produce more rental units. The roofs have been altered, as have those of the natatorium, by covering the shingles with snow-resistant metal panels. Otherwise, the motel rows are unchanged: log slab siding, casement windows, and a decorative, slabsided, bracketed roof gable above each pair of entrances.

Building C. C. E. Brandt residence, 211 First Street.

The owner's cottage is at its core a rectangular cottage, hip-roofed with a low-pitched lateral ridgebeam. Like the other buildings in the complex its is sided with horizontal log slabs. Centered in the front elevation is a small gabled porch. The gable, also very low-pitched, is filled with short vertically set slabs and supported on barked posts. The entrance is side-lighted. On either side of the entrance is a set of four tall casement windows, each segmented into three longitudinal strips with a narrow lateral strip at top and bottom. There is a pair of these casement near the front on the left side. The other walls are now obscured by compatible additions: plank-sided ells on the rear left wall and on the left rear and right side, with a shed-roofed addition linking the latter two.

**SIGNIFICANCE:**

Bald Mountain Hot Springs is architecturally significant on two levels. It stands as an excellent example of the rustic-style tourist accommodations, geared to the auto trade, which flourished in scenic areas of the Northwest in the 1920s and 1930s. In comparison with the more grandiose plans that preceded it, it is an icon of the economic catastrophe of 1929.

The use of rustic materials such as logs (or fictive log siding) was not entirely unprecedented in the work of Tourtellotte and Hummel, though it appears here for the first time in the Thematic Group. It is quite in keeping with their recurrent bent for the picturesque. Similar materials, in fact, had been used by them soon after the turn of the century in a log-cabin style post office and store in Roosevelt, deep in the Idaho mountains, and in a spectacular stone and frame road- and bathhouse at Kelly Hot Springs east of Boise. Neither of these has survived. But in the 1930s this manner came into its own in a greater way.

Later projects in this nostalgic mode are represented in the Thematic Group only by a log church at Pinehurst (site 124).

The surviving plans are a large packet identified in an early index as the "C. E. Brandt Hotel, and Natatorium, and Tourist Camp." They include drawings not only for the pool building, tourist cabins, and owner's cottage, but for quite a splendid hotel with log siding on the first story and board-and-batten on the second story. An enormous stone fireplace in the best rustic manner, complete with a mounted elk's head, was a centerpiece of this design, and the transverse section showing it is one of the most impressive of a series of increasingly detailed drawings with various late 1929 dates. These drawings are similar to others found in the vault for this period. Unusually elaborate and often showing numerous alternate proposals for a single project, many were never used. Not only did Mr. Brandt do without the hotel, but the natatorium was built without the central clerestory walls and roof which were designed to rise above the pent-roofed aisles.

#### MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Boise, Idaho. Hummel Jones Miller Hunsucker P.A. File 411C. Collection book reference 1930. Drawings and tracings signed Tourtellotte and Hummel.