

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

NOMINATION: (TOURTELLOTTA AND HUMMEL ARCHITECTURE ~~IN IDAHO~~ RR)

✓ SITE NAME: Bruneau Episcopal Church 12 SITE NUMBER: 75

✓ LOCATION: ^{off ID 51} ~~Near Idaho Highway 51~~, Bruneau, Owyhee County ~~(073) Idaho~~

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Bessie Keith
P. O. Box 276
Bruneau, ID 83604

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Bruneau, Idaho, 7.5 minute ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Bruneau Episcopal Church and the property on which it stands, block 39, Bruneau. Legal description on file at the Owyhee County Courthouse, Murphy, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/5,98,200/47,48,60

DATE OR PERIOD: 1911

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: good unaltered original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Bruneau Episcopal church building, most recently used as an antique store, is sited on a triangular lot just north of Idaho Highway 51 on the southern margin of the village of Bruneau. It is a shiplap-sided frame structure, the body rectangular in plan with an enclosed sacristy and front-facing gabled roof. A gable-roofed porch/belfry, which might be called an entry tower except that its roof is pitched just below that of the main block, is outset in front.

The Gothic revival style is alluded to in this otherwise simple structure by the windows, four deep on each side of the nave and one facing forward on either side of the porch. Their pointed upper panes and frames produce angular lancets. A bisected triangular light over the double doors into the enclosed entry porch, and pointed coffers recessed into the door panels, continue the lancet motif.

The enclosed porch is surmounted by an open belfry, which no longer contains a bell. The gable of this tower-like ensemble and the main gable above it are trimmed with plain bed molding. The main gable has a small wooden cross set about a foot back on the ridgebeam. All corners of the building are corner-framed. Except for the concrete stoop, the skirting of the foundation, and the antique dealer's sign, all material appears original and unaltered.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Bruneau Episcopal Church is architecturally significant as the last of a series of major and minor commissions undertaken for the Episcopal Diocese of Idaho under Bishop James Funsten and listed in the significance statement for the Bishop Funsten House remodeling (site 6). The Gothic-flavored frame church also has independent architectural significance as one of the most distinguished buildings--certainly the only example of its style and type--in the small town of Bruneau. The triangular and angular-arched lights and the unusual gabled belfry over the enclosed entry porch produce a building of great simplicity but considerable individuality and charm.

No cost or contractor information is available for the church, which was probably erected during the summer of 1911. Newspaper references and a Tourtellotte and Hummel business diary which has survived from this period make it clear that the Bruneau church was a pet project for Funsten, and that he picked up the plans and specifications in March to carry them personally to that rather remote south-central Idaho town.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

(Boise) Idaho Statesman, March 3, 1911, p. 3, c. 4.

Boise, Idaho. Hummel Jones Miller Hunsucker P.A. File 403D. Diary reference, 1911. Drawings signed Tourtellotte and Hummel.