

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

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

SITE NAME: Nampa Presbyterian Church SITE NUMBER: 96

LOCATION: ~~West corner of~~ ^{2nd.} Second Street and ~~Fifteenth~~ ^{15th} Avenue South, Nampa,
Canyon County ~~(027)~~, Idaho.

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Suzanne C. Hudelson and Bethel Church of the Nazarene, Inc.
c/o Ray Schultens P. O. Box 830
P. O. Drawer H Nampa, ID 83651
Nampa, ID 83651

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Nampa, 7.5 minute ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Nampa Presbyterian Church and the property on which it stands, southeast 1/2 of lots 25 and 27, block 29, Nampa Original Townsite. Legal description on file at the Canyon County Court-house, Caldwell, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/5,35,770/48,24,660

DATE OR PERIOD: 1918

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: excellent unaltered original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Nampa Prsbyterian Church was designed in the Gothic Revival style as an addition to the much smaller, gable-roofed, cast-stone block section still standing at the right rear on Fifteenth Avenue. The new building of rock-faced random-coursed stone has a sixty-foot frontage on Second South. It has a two-story profile--a half basement below and the tall auditorium story above--and tall parapeted gables with doubled stepped corner buttresses facing both sides and the front. The plan is minimally T-shaped, with an outset front section mostly taken up with the foyer and sytems of stairs from the street-level entry down into the basement social area and up into the auditorium. The intersection of the full-height entry ell with the main axis of the auditorium is filled with subsidiary L forms subsumed under downward extensions of the main roof system.

The front elevation on Fifteenth Avenue is organized around the outset galbed entry ell. The elevation is not quite symmetrical, for in the first view there is one window at auditorium level in the front section of the subsidiary ell on the left;

this matched on the right, but there are also on that side a pair of windows at teach level on the forward face of the rear seciton of the subisdinary ell. The entry bay itself ocntains a pair of Tudor-arched doorways with small, squared, dressed stone hoods. The doorways are separated and flanked by short buttresses and on either side of teh outer ones are tall slit-like lights. Above the buttress caps is the recessed form of a large Gothic window; the form has a lateral bank of stone midway up, above a row of rectangular lights and below the stained glass tracery window in the upper part of the arch. On the side elevation, the window is full-length under the same half-length label molding and over a pair of short buttresses framing a range of basement windows. On both street elevations the stained glass windows are surmounted by tripled, louvered, lancet-shaped windows, the center one largest, arranged on a single outset sill. The parapets are finished with smooth stone copings.

The church is identified and dated on a shoulder-level stone at left front. Except for the hangin of a large cross and sign identifying the present congregation, it is exterially unaltered.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Nampa Presbyterian Church is architecturally significant as a handsome and unaltered Gothic church design of the later 1910s, which suggests in the increased verticality of its parapeted gables the renewed picturesque impulse that seems to have been emerging at this time (see also site 95). The church is also significant as one of the fairly numrous Nampa commissions by this firm, one which contributes welcome texture and style in a town whose streetscapes are consierably eroded. Finally, it stands as an example of the progressive building campaigns whereby small-town churches often accomodated growing congregations with limited resources.

The Presbyterian church, which survives unaltered though in use by another denomination, makes a significant addition to the streetscape on the eastern edge of a rather tattered business district. It stands diagonally across an intersection from a later Troutellotte and Hummel commission which shows even more clearly the resurgence of the picturesque taste, the Nampa American Legion Hall (site 122). The church exhibits the Gothic taste that surfaced again and again in the work of these architects, probably at the behest of congretational clients who saw it as the most, if not the only, proper style. But, as discussed in the significance statement for the Hailey Catholic church (site 86), the style tended to take on the tone of its period. The picturesque verticality of this church is a distinctive change from the bungaloid pitch of the gables on Immanuel Methodist Church in Boise (stie 41), which is in several ways comparable to it.

The railroad town of Nampa is only twenty miles from Boise, and it presented opportunities to Tourtellotte and Company and Tourtellotte and Hummel throughout the history of the firm. While none of the earliest commissions survive in a condition to be included in the Thematic Group, sites 94, 98, 99, 108, 110, and 122 make the town well-represented from the late 1010s onward. The Presbyterian church, along with the state school buildings (site 94), marks the beginning of a period of particular activity for the firm in Nampa around 1920. Representing as it does a large auditirium addition to a modest existing church, which would henceforth be used as a Sunday school, the building also illustrates a common pattern by which small-town congregations provided themselves with accommodations. For example, in

Twin Falls in 1909, Tourtellotte and Company had designed a starter building for the Methodists; local architect (and former employee) B. Morgan Nisbet prepared plans for the big auditorium addition six years later. Tourtellotte and Hummel themselves received all three commissions for a three-stage building campaign for Nampa Methodists (site 108) in 1922, 1923, and 1938.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Boise, Idaho. Hummel Jones Miller Hunsucker P.A. File 126C. Collection and certificate book references, 1918. Frederick Hummel retrospective file. Tracings signed Tourtellotte and Hummel.