

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

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

✓ SITE NAME: Ada Odd Fellows Temple ✓

SITE NUMBER: 20

✓ LOCATION: 109-115 1/2 North Ninth Street, Boise, Ada County ~~(001), Boise, ID~~
83702

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

IOOF Ada Lodge No. 3
115 1/2 North Ninth
Boise, ID 83702

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Boise South, 7.5 minute

ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Odd Fellows Temple and the property on which it stands, south 68.5 feet, lots 11 and 12, block 1, Boise City Original Townsite. Legal description at the Ada County Courthouse, Boise, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/5,64,210/48,29,320

DATE OR PERIOD: 1903-1907

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: fair

unaltered

original site

DESCRIPTION:

The building designed and finally built for the Boise Odd Fellows between 1903 and 1907 was a two-story late medieval/early Renaissance Revival structure with 100 feet fronting on Idaho Street and 122 feet on Ninth. The building was U-shaped, with a streetside light well notched into the Ninth Street elevation dividing it into twin sections. The section to the left is still occupied on the upper story by the fraternal order; it is entered through a one-story section inserted into the light well between the two-story blocks. The first-story space contains shop space, as it did originally, though now designed for two businesses rather than the original one.

What remains, then, is a building 68 feet wide by 100 feet deep, almost entirely two-story except for a small one-story section at right front. The two stories are exceptionally tall, so that the facade line is continuous with that of the three-story building to the south. The building fabric is rock-faced Boise sandstone, reportedly having a granite base, though this is now obscured by modern shopfront screening. The elaborate marquee over the entry section designed by Tourtellotte

and Hummel in the 1910s is also gone. What is visible now, above the mezzanine level, is a broad lintel-like course of rock-faced stone, surmounted by two narrow courses and a dressed-stone band under the double-wide second-story windows. In the demolished half of the building four of these windows were set A/AA/A across the facade; in the lodge section, the central bays are blind, with a recessed stone panel to hold the pattern. Immediately above the window are another broad lintel band and two narrow courses, then a series of four openings the outer two of which are filled with cross-vents. The inner two are also blind, with recessed stone panels. A cornice arrangement in dressed stone consists of an outset string course, a broader course laid flush, a plain corbel table, and a final flush band and coping.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Ada lodge of the IOOF is architecturally significant as an early stone commercial building, its strong texture still extant or (at shopfront level) retrievable, on a downtown Boise streetscape now nearly devoid of such texture and the sense of time and place it evokes. The awareness that it was once half of a double building with forward light well, a type common enough in many cities but unusual in Boise, adds to its architectural historical interest. At the same time, the remaining portion has independent integrity of form. The building has additional architectural and socio-historical significance as a good large-scale example of a lodge hall, a cherished institution in an early-twentieth-century America. Such buildings, which typically housed shop space for rental purposes downstairs and a lodge hall above, might be as simple as the slightly later South Boise IOOF hall (site 47), with its single store downstairs and single open lodge room upstairs; or as substantial as this one, with its double business block and lodge and banquet room and foyer. Or they might even be as elaborate as the firm's 1913 Elks Lodge in Boise (National Register, February 17, 1978), which had three floors of accommodations for members (a roof garden was planned as well) over a quarter-block of commercial space downstairs.

The business block which was to provide both income and a lodgehall for Lodge 77 was first reported designed in 1903, and a foundation was put down at that time. But problems relating to financing delayed construction for four years. The structure that was finally gotten under way in the spring of 1907 was essentially the original plan twice simplified. It had gone from a four-story, faintly Moorish concoction, with a dome over the setback connecting wings, to a severe geometrically ornamented four-story building, and finally to the tall two-story structure which took its place on the street next to, and kept its facade line continuous with, the three-story (now sleekly remodeled) Sonna building. The reported costs ranged from \$70,000 to a projected \$125,000.

MAJOR BIOGRAPHICAL SOURCES:

(Boise) Idaho Daily Statesman, January 1, 1904; October 5, 1904, p. 3, c. 4.; January 15, 1905, p. 3, c. 4; April 19, 1907, p. 4, c. 3; April 24, 1907, p. 5, c. 3; April 27, 1907, p. 5, c. 3; May 25, 1907, p. 5, c. 2; September 13, 1907, p. 5, c. 2; January 5, 1908, p. 14.

Boie, Idaho. Hummel Jones Miller Hunsucker P.A. File 226G. Collection book references beginning 1905; tracings for "Ada Lodge Oddfellows Hall," signed by Tourtellotte and Hummel.