

MAR 26 1980

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

DEC 3 1980

NOMINATION: Early Churches of Emmett Thematic Group

SITE NAME: St. Mary's Episcopal Church SITE # 4

LOCATION: First Street at Wardwell Avenue, Emmett, Idaho

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Episcopal Diocese of Idaho, 510 W. Washington, Boise, Idaho

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: _____ ACREAGE: less than one acre

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The nomination includes St. Mary's Episcopal Church and the property on which it stands: lots 13-16, block 4, Hayes Addition to Emmett.

UTM(S): _____

DATE OR PERIOD: 1886, 1928 EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, local history

DESCRIPTION

Saint Mary's Episcopal Church in Emmett sits on the southwest corner of First and Wardwell, facing north. The frame structure is sided with wooden shingles; the plan is basically an ell. The main block, gabled with eave returns and containing the nave, faces First Street. A smaller gabled ell containing the sacristy extends toward Wardwell Avenue at left rear. There is an outset, crenellated entrance tower at left front, and a half-hexagonal apse at the back of the nave.

The present appearance of Saint Mary's dates from 1928, when the main block, a gabled frame structure dating from 1886, was moved from a site four blocks distant at First Street and Boise Avenue. The sacristy and entrance tower were added at that time, and shingles applied over what was originally probably clapboard siding. A "gothic" appearance was apparently desired, for care has been taken to point the arches of all openings. The large, diamond-paned, amber-glass tripartite window on the facade is pointed-arched. Around and over the rectangular double-doored entrance is a frame culminating in a fictive lancet shape. The nave and sacristy lights, actually round-headed, are set in pointed frames. Even the overdoor above the outside entrance to the sacristy forms a tiny pointed tunnel vault. The broadly crenellated tower is a further picture-squely "medieval" element.

The interior of the church has been more recently remodeled, and a contemporary addition, Ashton House, was built adjoining the right side of the nave in 1962. Although the brick and glass fabric and contemporary massing of this structure bear no relationship to those of the older building, they keep a low profile and are visually separable from it. Except for some weakness in the large leaded glass window on the facade, the historic church is in good condition.

SIGNIFICANCE

Saint Mary's of Emmett is architecturally significant as a pleasing local example of a twentieth-century picturesque style. Along with the Mission Revival Catholic Church up the block, which was completed in the same year, the Episcopal Church is in broad stylistic tradition which particularly values the nostalgic associations buildings can evoke. In this case the associations (necessarily vague) which are evoked by the low and cozy massing, the rustic

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shingle siding, the determinedly "gothic" fenestration and the picturesque tower and apse, are probably with the English country church, from which small Episcopal churches in America may legitimately see themselves descended. (St. Michael's Cathedral in Boise, seat of the Idaho Episcopal Diocese, is identically massed, rendered in stone over which picturesque ivy was early trained.)

St. Mary's is the only church of this type in Emmett. As do its neighbors in other modes, it makes its stylistic presentation near the center of the town; in community with them also it is nicely maintained. The church is, further, historically important on a local level as the product of one of the two oldest congregations in the town, and as one which physically contains one of the first two churches in Emmett: the original St. Marys, dedicated by pioneer Bishop of Idaho Daniel S. Tuttle in June of 1886.