

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

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

✓ SITE NAME: Mountain Home Baptist Church ✓ SITE NUMBER: 52

✓ LOCATION: 265 North ^{4th} ~~Fourth~~ East, Mountain Home, Elmore County ~~(039)~~, Idaho
OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Mountain Home Christian Center, Incorporated
P. O. Box 168
Mountain Home, ID 83647

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Mountain Home, 7.5 minute ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Mountain Home Baptist Church and the property on which it stands, west 66.6 feet of lot 123, block 14, Mountain Home Townsite. Legal description on file at the Elmore County Courthouse, Mountain Home, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/5,06,480/47,76,220

DATE OR PERIOD: 1908

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: fair altered original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Mountain Home Baptist Church is a generally rectangular brick building on a high concrete basement, with a square corner tower and large frame gables covered with clapboards. The gabled roof has slightly flared eaves and gable end pents. The main ridgebeam runs from front to back; large lower-pitched gables emerge on either side. The rectangularity of the enclosed space is disturbed only by the slight outsetting of the square corner entrance tower, the clapboarded upper level of which is set into the left front intersection of the gables, and by a curious triangular projection on the rear right side where the rectangular form of a pipe organ was set at an angle into the wall.

The brick walls as well as the concrete basement have now been painted, so that the polychromatic aspect of the decorative brickwork, visible in an historic photograph, is no longer visible on the building. The patterns can be seen, however: keystone segmental arches over the openings, those on the doors built up to a flattened top and surrounded by an outset frame of header bricks with inner rows of "dentils"; outset sills of double rows of header bricks; and outset headers running continuously in a single string course over the windows with a double course under them. The "Baptist Church" legend over the doors in the sides of the entrance

tower was also picked out and framed in outset contrasting bricks but is now obscured by signs identifying the present congregation. The principal windows, three in each front wall and one in each gable, are plain double-hung sash. Small single-light windows are used on the tower, one on each level of each face. The entrances are framed by battered concrete piers.

Besides the painting of the brick, two significant alterations have been made to the church. Both are reversible. One is the blocking up of the left side tower entrance and the replacement of the wooden doors on the right side. This alteration probably dates from the 1930s. The other is the removal of a simple wooden balustrade which once ran around the top of the tower.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Mountain Home Baptist Church is architecturally significant as a peer to Immanuel Methodist in Boise (site 41)--a large, low church with broad cross-gables and bungaloid characteristics, which, as designed, had a faintly medieval air. It is significant also as a building of some distinction in its setting on a corner lot facing a central park, and as are several others in the Group, (for example, Trinity Episcopal Church in Gooding (site 60)--of modifications in a design in the hands of a local builder.

The church was designed with a full brick surface, sets of round-arched windows trimmed with cast concrete trim, and a crenellated tower. As rendered in the local setting, the building has less expensive materials and less elaborate detail. The tall, segmented, round-arched windows have become simple double-hung sashes in segmentally arched openings; the upper walls and tower are frame; crenellated masonry has given way to a wooden balustrade; and so on. The church is even more eclectic as built, then, than as designed, while retaining some classical elements and the bungalow-influenced gables and battered doorway.

The church was built during 1908 at a reported cost of \$7,000. It was one of three commissions in Mountain Home during that year, including an addition to a no-longer extant high school and a bungaloid colonial Carnegie Library (National Register, July 24, 1978).

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

(Boise) Idaho Statesman, January 3, 1909, sec. 3, p. 2, c. 1-2.