

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: Methodist-Episcopal (United Methodist) Church SITE # 1

LOCATION: First Street and Washington Avenue, Emmett, Idaho

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: United Methodist Church, 132 S. Washington Avenue, Emmett,
Idaho, 83617

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: _____ ACREAGE: less than one acre

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: This nomination includes the United Methodist Church
and the property on which it stands: lot 6 and a fraction of lot 5, block 3, Emmett

UTM(S): _____ Original

DATE OR PERIOD: 1906, 1920 EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, local history

DESCRIPTION

The Methodist-Episcopal (now the United Methodist) church on the northeast corner of First and Washington is a buff-brick edifice cornerstone-dated 1906. Its rather broad proportions are emphasized by the presence of an addition in a closely similar brick, dating from 1920 and extending back along First Street. The earlier section, containing the main hall, is crossed-planned; large parapeted gables face both streets, and the short, square, hip-roofed entrance tower, with a gothic-arched entry on each street side, is set at the corner. There is a low tent-roofed cupola at the intersection.

All openings in the 1906 section employ sharply pointed arches, keystone brick label moldings, and extensive stained glass: not only in the large tripartite windows in the crosswing walls, and in the smaller windows that flank the large window on Washington, but in the overdoor lights. On the 1920 section, windows are segmentally-arched.

The interior has undergone a number of changes, as have most of the early church interiors in Emmett. Two of three balconies (which were installed some time after construction of the church) across the faces of the large windows, in two cases) have been removed; a sloping floor has been leveled; the altar has been moved from the north to the east wall and the arrangement of pews re-oriented in consequence. The 1920 annex, built as a recreation space and used as a high school gym until 1936 when Emmett High built its own, was at that time converted into classrooms. The building is in need of repair, particularly in the interior.

SIGNIFICANCE

Located as it is a block south of Main Street on the main avenue into town, the Methodist Church in Emmett is the most centrally-located and most visible of the larger churches in the group. Its cross-mullioned stained glass windows, with their crisp label moldings, are particularly handsome. The church is architecturally significant as a large-scale example--Emmett's largest--of small-town church building with a "gothic" flavor. There was a widespread taste, in Idaho as elsewhere, for the particularly pious look the pointed arch

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Methodist-Episcopal (United Methodist) Church
Site #1

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seems to impart to church buildings. It was frequently employed even in designs which reject, as does this one, the vertical organization properly associated with the Gothic style.

The 1920 addition is notable for its tact and compatibility with the 1906 structure. The addition was used for many years as Emmett's high school gym, which contributes to the local historical significance of the church. It would have such significance at any rate as the first substantial building of a pioneer congregation--the Methodists had built a frame church at Washington and Main 1866--and as the first brick church in an ambitious young town.