

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

NOMINATION: Idaho Falls Downtown multiple resource area
(partial inventory: architecture)

✓ SITE NAME: Rocky Mountain Bell Telephone Company Building SITE NUMBER: 9

✓ LOCATION: 246 West Broadway Avenue

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Francis Sima
246 Broadway
Idaho Falls, ID 83402

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Idaho Falls South, 7.5 minute ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Rocky Mountain Bell Telephone Company Building and the property on which it stands, the west 23 1/2 feet of lot 11, block 25, Railroad Addition, Idaho Falls.

UTM(S): 12/416000/4815680

DATE OR PERIOD: ca. 1910

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: unknown

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: good, altered, original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Rocky Mountain Bell Telephone Company Building is a two-story yellow brick commercial building with pinkish-gray stone trim. There are two stone cornices on the second-story facade with three windows in between. There are stone sills below and stone lintels above each. The metal-framed windows are recent additions. The doorway has a stone or concrete round-arched broken pediment with a bell in the center. The foundation is stone, covered on the front facade by brick. The west side of the building has been spray-painted brown.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Originally built for the Rocky Mountain Bell Telephone Company in about 1910, the telephone building is architecturally significant as a local example of the simplified Renaissance Revival style commonly used for commercial buildings during the early twentieth century in Idaho's small cities. The earliest representative of Renaissance Revival in the multiple resource area nomination, the building is considerably more modest than the later Shane Building, Underwood Hotel, Hotel Idaho, and Farmers and Merchants Bank. It is the best remaining local example of the use of Renaissance Revival motifs during the first decade of this century. The building is historically significant for its association with an early Idaho Falls communications company. The building was used by the phone company until the late 1920's. Around 1930 the building was acquired by the Catholic Church, used as a parish hall, and named Faber Hall. About 1953 the building was purchased by the local carpenters union and used as a meeting hall and offices by several local labor unions. It was then renamed Labor Temple.