

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

NOMINATION: (TOURTELLOTTE AND HUMMEL ARCHITECTURE -IN IDAHO)

✓ SITE NAME: South Boise Fire Station

SITE NUMBER: 80

✓ LOCATION: 1011 Williams Street, Boise, Ada County (~~001~~), Idaho

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Mesa View Land and Livestock Company
2500 Kootenai
Boise, ID 83705

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Boise South, 7.5 minute

ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the South Boise Fire Station and the property on which it stands, lots 19 and 20, block 36, Dundee's first subdivision. Legal description on file at the Ada County Courthouse, Boise, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/5,65,90/48,26,510

DATE OR PERIOD: 1913

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: good

unaltered

original site

DESCRIPTION:

The South Boise Fire Station is a one-and-a-half story brick bungalow style building fronting on Williams Street near the intersection of Broadway and Boise avenues. It was built to a sixty-seven foot, six inch by thirty-five foot, eight inch L plan, which is rendered rectangular by a front porch running the length of the lateral block and contained under the slope of the gabled roof. There is also a small inset porch at right rear. This section of the station contained the living quarters, and entry to it is through either of two doors in the screened front porch. The ell at the east end of the structure has a front-to-back ridge-beam, pitched slightly higher than that of the lateral block, and a stucco and half-timbered gable facing Williams Street. The fire engine garage was contained in this section, which is penetrated by a large right-of-center vehicle door.

The building is carefully detailed in the bungalow mode with battered wooded porch columns, bracketed eaves and exposed rafters, and fictive half-timber decoration in the stuccoed gables. The east elevation, which looks toward Broadway, is especially elaborate. A large gabled wall dormer breaks through the eave, and the windows and pedestrian door are segmentally arched.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The South Boise Fire Station is architecturally significant as an exceptionally attractive example of the bungalow style as applied to a public service building designed to complement a residential neighborhood and to serve, in part, a quasi-residential purpose.

All the familiar bungalow motifs are employed, with unusual attention to detail (especially on the most public exposure) and richness of material. The fictive half-timbering of which the firm was especially fond is especially successful here, where the good-sized, prominently bracketed gables over the low brick walls produce a particularly rustic and picturesque effect. The plan, too, expands upon the typical bungalow rectangle. As noted above, it corresponds to function: the lateral ell contained an assembly room, bedroom, dining room, kitchen and bath; the front-facing gabled block, a fire engine garage--which included two plank-floored stalls and a manure pit as well as a designated auto door.

The station was designed in 1913 and completed the next summer. The general contract went to J. P. Walsh for \$2,258.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

(Boise) Idaho Statesman. May 27, 1914, p. 7. c. 2; July 7, 1914, p. 3, c. 2.

Boise, Idaho. Hummel Jones Miller Hunsucker P.A. F. C. Hummel retrospective file; tracings.