

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

NOMINATION: (TOURTELLOTE AND HUMMEL ARCHITECTURE ~~IN IDAHO~~ TP)

✓ SITE NAME: Green, John, Mausoleum SITE NUMBER: 55

✓ LOCATION: Morris Hill Cemetery, Boise, Ada County ~~(001), Idaho~~

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

City of Boise
City Hall
Boise, Idaho 83702

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the John Green Mausoleum at section E, block 105, vault, Morris Hill Cemetery, and the property on which it stands with a margin of one foot around the John Green Mausoleum. Legal description on file at the Ada County Courthouse, Boise, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/5,62,60/48,28,650

DATE OR PERIOD: 1909

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: excellent unaltered original site

DESCRIPTION:

The John Green Mausoleum is a solid stone, bronze-doored funerary structure which shares the basic characteristics of the earlier Kinney mausoleum (site 36): rock-faced coursed stone walls between squared, smoothly finished corner pilasters, gabled granite slab roof, and shallow outset portico. The Green mausoleum, however, is notable eclectic in style and lower and broader in profile. The capitals are carved in a foliate design. The under-eave frieze is embossed with carved discs which also suggest petals. These same devices appear on either side of the date on the heavy lintel of the portico; the lintel is flat on the bottom but arched on the top and supports a large, stocky Latin cross. The gable, which is flush with the face of the structure rather than extended over the portico as in the Kinney example, is unornamented. There are no sidewall openings; the doors are decorated with garlands below heavily ornamented grillwork. The smooth stone foundation is extended forward to a low parapet on either side of the low wide steps, and the whole monument is seated on a low stone slab.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Green mausoleum is architecturally significant as a second piece of individual funerary architecture in the Group--there is also a corporate one in the Morris Hill Mausoleum (site 132)--which makes a valuable companion to and comparison with the Kinney mausoleum (site 36). Like the Kinney example, the Green mausoleum illustrates the way in which architectural forms express status even after death. These little temples allow burial above the common soil and stand up among the tombstones like mansions among cottages.

The stylistic contrast between the two mausolea, however, is perhaps more striking than intended. It suggests, as do several other comparisons between pairs of designs, that these architects were generally more effective when holding rather strictly to a set of decorative conventions than when being more inventive. As noted in the description, the lower pitch of the gables on the Green monument suggests the penchant for horizontality which was affecting all kinds of structures at this time. In addition, the Romansque capitals and the bland, heavy geometric forms suggest a slightly exotic taste. It is not clear where this impulse comes from. The only thing at all reminiscent of it elsewhere in the early work is a sleek, battered stone doorway on the 1910 Baker Loan and Trust Bank in Baker, Oregon.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

(Boise) Idaho Statesman, April 28, 1910, p. 6, c. 1.

Polk and Company. Boise City Directories. 1899, 1902-1903.

Boise, Idaho. Hummel Jones Miller Hunmsucker P.A. File 127A. Drawings signed John E. Tourtellotte and Company.