

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

NOMINATION: (TOURTELLOTTE AND HUMMEL ARCHITECTURE ~~IN IDAHO~~ TA)
SITE NAME: Nampa and Meridian Irrigation District Office ✓ SITE NUMBER: 99
LOCATION: 1503 ¹³⁴ ~~First Street~~ South, Nampa, Canyon County (027), Idaho
OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Nampa and Meridian Irrigation District
1503 First Street South
Nampa, ID 83651

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Nampa and Meridian Irrigation District Office and the property on which it stands, northwest 1/2 of lots 11 and 12, block 25, Young's addition to Nampa. Legal description on file at the Canyon County Courthouse, Caldwell, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/5,35/890/48,24,720

DATE OR PERIOD: 1919

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: fair unaltered original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Nampa and Meridian Irrigation District Office is a single-story, flat-roofed, rectangular structure of brick on a concrete foundation/basement, built to a sixty-by-thirty-six-foot plan. The long front elevation on First Street South is seven bays wide with an inset centered entrance. The side elevations are four bays deep. The entry and the tall narrow windows which form the bays on the street-facing elevations terminate in flat-arched stone heads with key- and side-stones. Stone sills are outset in the brick fabric under the windows. Triple boxed cross-vents are centered on each elevation immediately above a slightly outset string course and below a modillioned iron cornice. The parapet is finished with a smooth coping.

The recessed entry, penetrated by a flight of concrete steps, was designed to give access to a reception area with enclosed director's and superintendent's offices on either side. A counter separated the public space from the open work area across the back and the vault and storage area to left rear. The windows which lighted these spaces, originally tall sashes with nine-light upper sections, have been blocked off, except for the half-exposure of two re-glazed windows on the front

elevation. Square basement windows are set directly beneath the main ones. The original nine-light panes are visible only on the left side of the front elevation. Elsewhere the basement windows are block. Except for this screening of windows and the painting of the stone trim, the exterior is unaltered.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Nampa and Meridian Irrigation District Office is architecturally significant as a small classically inspired commercial building of a type quite uncommon in the Thematic Group: a one-story office block designed to stand free on its corner lot, rather than to join walls with an existing or projected commercial row. It has a peer in the Thematic Group only in another small-town office block, the Jones building in Blackfoot (site 78), with which it has much in common in conception and even in such details as the window heads. This neat and eminently restorable little building is the only one in this form in downtown Nampa. It relates stylistically to a last flush of neo-classical formalism which is also represented in Nampa by the already registered 1919 Farmers and Merchants Bank (National Register 1976) up the street, and elsewhere in the Group by such sites as the New Plymouth Congregational Church (site 103).

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Boise, Idaho. Hummel Jones Miller Hunsucker P.A. File 406B. Collection book references, 1918. Tracings signed Tourtellotte and Hummel.