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

NOMINATION: (TOURTELLOTTE AND HUMMEL ARCHITECTURE ~~IN IDAHO~~ TR),

SITE NAME: Lobell Father House SITE NUMBER: 105

LOCATION: 125 ~~Fourth~~ 4th St~~reet~~ E~~ast~~, Mountain Home, Elmore County ~~(029), Idaho~~ 039 winner 8/15/83

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Roman Catholic Diocese of Boise
420 West Idaho Street
Boise, ID 83702

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Mountain Home North, Idaho, 7.5 minute
ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Father Lobel House and the property on which it stands, lots 19-24, block 10, Mountain Home Townsite. Legal description on file at the Elmore County Courthouse, Mountain Home, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/5,06,480/47,76,130

DATE OR PERIOD: 1921

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: excellent unaltered original site

DESCRIPTION:

The one-and-a-half-story clapboarded Father Lobell House in Mountain Home is a somewhat elaborated version of a standard bungalow type: rectangularly planned with its narrow end facing the street and a front-facing gabled roof. Here the front elevation, which appears rather broad because of the very low pitch of the roof, is given added interest by a porch offset to the right of the triple living room windows. The floor space of the porch is mostly inset, but the approach to it is slightly outset under a narrow gabled roof which extends just over the space displaced by the short battered wooden posts on the tall battered brick bases and by the low brick wall. Brick parapet walls flank the concrete steps to the porch and main entrance, which are approximately centered on the facade. The porch gable has at its base, as a lintel-like form above the porch posts, a broad peaked molding. Both porch and main gables have long, smooth, narrow, end-notched bargeboards and are supported on end-notched, purlin-like brackets. The same gable treatment is used on the half-story or attic dormers which emerge on either side of the house, their lateral ridgebeams meeting over the long front-to-back ridgebeam of the main block. Rafters are exposed under all lateral eaves.

The left side of the hosue has two shallow square window bays, cantilevered out from living and dining rooms. An exterior chimney of the same white brick used on the porch rises between them, piercing the eaves of both main roof and dormer. Except for very minor alterations such as the screening of the porch gable window, and the fitted metal storm windows which obscure somewhat the original sashes with their segmented upper sections, the house is externally unaltered.

Thre is a small bungaloid garage at left rear, between the house and the church which it serves as a rectory.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Father Lobel House is architecturally significant as an example of the relative simplification and standardization of the bungalow style, which has had so much direct and indirect influence on the work of the firm, at a point when it was becoming a relatively archaic mode. With its offset brick-walled porch and side bay and dormers, the Lobell bungalow is not without charm and distinction. This is particularly true in its local context, where it stands next to a much latter Hummel, Hummel and Jones neo-Gothic church and up the street from the earlier Tourtellotte and Company Baptist Church (site 52). The house thus contributes not only to the continuing presence of the firm but to the sequence of developmental styles in Mountain Home. Its significance in the Thematic Group, however, rests more on its position in the sequence of bungalows designed by Tourtellotte and Company and Tourtellotte and Hummel. Perhaps partly because this was an institutional commission, but also because the style was on the wane, this house is strikingly more modest and less deliberately elevated above the ranks of the pattern-book bungalow than is a premier effort like the Hunt bungalow of 1913 (site 82) or even the Echevarria bungalow of 1920 (site 100).

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Boise, Idaho. Hummel Jones Miller Hunsucker P.A. File 405G. Drawings signed Tourtellotte and Hummel.

Tourtellotte and Hummel Architecture in Idaho
Lobell, Father, House, site #105
125 Fourth Street East
Mountain Home, Elmore County, Idaho

Photographer:
Lisa B. Reitzes
1980

Negative on file at Idaho State Historical Society
Boise, Idaho

View from northwest

Photograph one of one