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

NOMINATION: TOURTELLOTTE AND HUMMEL ARCHITECTURE ~~IN IDAHO~~

SITE NAME: Nampa First Methodist Episcopal Church SITE NUMBER: 108

LOCATION: ~~Twelfth~~ 12th Ave~~nue~~ S~~outh~~ and ~~Fourruth~~ 4th St~~reet~~, Nampa, Canyon County ~~(027)~~, ~~Idaho~~

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

First United Methodist Church
404 Twelfth Avenue South
Nampa, ID 83651

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Nampa First Methodist Episcopal Church and the property on which it stands, lots 50-52, block 60, Nampa Original Townsite. Legal description on file at the Canyon County Courthouse, Caldwell, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/5,35,400/48,24,680

DATE OR PERIOD: 1922, 1923, 1938

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: good unaltered original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Nampa First Methodist Episcopal Church is an L-shaped group of Romanesque Revival style structures reprsenting three stages of construction. The first stage produced a stone gymnasium at the right rear corner of the present ensemble, in 1922; the second, a matching Sunday School structure at right front in 1923. The buff-brick sanctuary on the corner was not completed until 1938.

The gymnasium section is stylistically the least pretentious as well as the earliest of the three sections. It is two stories in height, with a flat roof and a parapet stepped down from the corners and up toward the centers. The tall two-story strips of wondows are deeply inset into the fabric of rusticated, rock-faced random-coursed stone. Narrow panels dividing each pair of windows, and broader panels separating each pair from the next, divide the main exposed elevations into four two-story bays each. The openings are square multi-light windows above and a row of rectangular multi-lights below.

The 1923 Sunday School section is two stories in height, with a low-pitched hipped roof now merged with that of the sanctuary to the left. The fabric matches that of

of the gymnasium. The major decorative emphasis is on the fenestration and is dependent on the alteration of round- and square-headed windows. The two-story bays are in general formed by in-setting an upper and lower window in a single recessed panel. These panels are set above a deep basement band. The entrance is at left front. In it a double wooden door is set under a stained glass lunette and a smoothly dressed stone label molding. Above it is a contiguous pair of sash windows under a single square label molding; it is echoed by another on the right side of the facade. The two close-ranked bays in the center have short paired sashes with smooth flush sills which appear (though not always in pairs) throughout the first story; above them are round-arched windows, trisected into two narrow round-headed lights surmounted by an oculus. The same elements appear on the deeper side elevation. The windows on the front and part of the side elevation are segmented into small square panes with cross-mullions.

The 1938 sanctuary, to which the earlier buildings now appear as appendages, is a 45, 9 inches-by-seventy-six feet, 10 inches hip-and-ridge-roofed brick block immediately on the intersection. Two-story, parapeted, gabled bays are shallowly outset and centered on both street elevations. Each has a large louvered oculus, framed by a wide ring of stretcher bricks. The tripartite entrance is in the narrow Fourth Street elevation. The entrance consists of three separate round-arched openings, the central one larger and taller, all topped with stained half-round lights; the whole is framed in a small gabled porch shallowly outset from the face of the bay. A set of three round-arched stained windows--the middle one taller, double width and trisected--all with outset eyebrow window heads, are between the entrance and the upper lunette. The entrance bay is flanked by single narrow bays, with a round-arched window above and a rectangular one below in each. These bays are framed by corner pilasters. The same elements appear on the side elevation, where two narrow bays are marked out on either side of the gabled bay. The large triple stained glass window in that bay is the dominant feature of that elevation.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Nampa Mewthodist Episcopal Church is architecturally significant as a serially constructed ensemble, all parts of which were designed by the firm with a fifteen-year interval between the earlier and later building campaigns. As a consequence of this interval, the church exemplifies not only the practice of installment-plan building frequently employed by small-town congregations but several periods of developmental style.

As discussed in the significance statement for the Nampa Presbyterian Church (site 96), building a church in several stages was a common expedient in Idaho towns; Tourtellotte and Company and Tourtellotte and Hummel designed parts of several such corporate structures. In this case, they designed all three parts. Perhaps for this reason, the earlier and later designs are somewhat more closely related than those of, say, the Twin Falls Methodist Episcopal Church (National Register, 1978, Twin Falls City Park Historic District). Thre is a carry-over in material from the 1922 gymnasium to the 1923 Sunday School to the 1938 sanctuary. However, the later and earlier sections match no more than those of the corporately designed churches we have mentioned. This suggests that the values of the client and/or the architects were more inclined to an up-to-date look in the most recent parts of the

building than to stylistic homogeneity. As the church stands, its rusticateds tone and smooth brick surfaces present good examples of both the flush of picturesque revivalism in the 1920s and the sleeker taste of the late 1930s.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Boise, Idaho. Hummel Jones Miller Hunsucker P.A. File 224C. Collection book reference 1922 and 1924. Frederick Hummel retrospective file. Tracings signed Tourtellotte and Hummel and dated 1938.

PARKING

Tourtellotte and Hummel Architecture in Idaho
Nampa First Methodist-Episcopal Church, site #108
Twelfth Avenue and Fourth Street South
Nampa, Canyon County, Idaho

Photographer:
Patricia Wright
1980

Negative on file at Idaho State Historical Society
Boise, Idaho

View from north

Photograph one of two

Tourtellotte and Hummel Architecture in Idaho
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Negative on file at Idaho State Historical Society
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View from west

Photograph two of two