

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0677582

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RECEIVED

MAR 20 1979

MAY 1 1979

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Church of the Assumption

AND/OR COMMON

Hellenic Orthodox Church

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 528 North 5th Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Pocatello

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

Idaho

VICINITY OF

CODE

16

COUNTY

Bannock

CODE

005

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

X BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

X PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

X OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

X YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

X RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Hellenic Orthodox Church

STREET & NUMBER

528 North 5th Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Pocatello

VICINITY OF

STATE

Idaho

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Bannock County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Pocatello

STATE

Idaho

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Idaho State Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1972

FEDERAL X STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Idaho State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Boise

STATE

Idaho

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Pocatello Hellenic Orthodox Church is a one-story structure designed in a Byzantine Revival style with a gable roof, apsidal floor plan, and red brick exterior set off by stone accents. The west (front) facade is topped by a square bell tower and round-arched gable front. The central main entrance is flanked by two round-arched, stained glass windows. Each side facade has four round-arched windows, and a doorway is located in the center of the north side facade. A cylindrical roof-tower with a conical roof and twelve small round-arched windows provides additional illumination for the nave. The church windows are done primarily in opalescent glass, with green used as the predominant color. All window designs are abstract in character and do not depict specific scenes or events.

The interior space is basically one room with the main altar located in the apse end and a choir loft over the main entrance. A small secondary altar is located in the choir loft. A wooden iconostasis (altar screen) separates the sanctuary from the nave. The iconostasis is decorated with paintings of Christ, the Virgin Mary, John the Baptist, and the archangels Gabriel and Michael. Imported iconographic paintings adorn other interior walls in the church. The glass chandelier is also original and imported.

Comparison of an historic photograph (ISHI 63-211.83) with the present appearance of the building indicates that, aside from replacement of the front doors, no changes have occurred. The building is presently very well maintained and still serves as a church.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☒ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☒ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER
☐ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION
☒ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☒ OTHER (SPECIFY) Immigration
		☐ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1915 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Charles B. Onderdonk (?)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As the oldest of two Hellenic Orthodox churches in Idaho, the Pocatello structure represents several areas of architectural, historical and cultural significance. The church and its intact interior provide an excellent example of Byzantine Revival architecture, and since its construction in 1915 has served as the educational, religious, and social focal point of the immigrant Greek community in Pocatello.

The Pocatello Hellenic Orthodox church was consecrated Sunday, August 15, 1915. Because of his status as one of the major donors to the church building fund, Alex Katsilometes, a Greek immigrant who came to the United States in 1907 at the age of 17, was given the honor of being church godfather. Mr. Katsilometes chose the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, which is celebrated on August 15, as the name of the new church.

Records held by the church indicate that Pocatello architect Charles B. Onderdonk was involved in the construction of the church, and may have served as project architect. Born in New York City in 1875, Onderdonk studied under McKim, Mead, and White, and came to Pocatello in 1914. The building contractor appears to have been North Pacific Construction Company. The church was constructed in the Byzantine Revival style and remains the oldest example of Greek church architecture in the state today.

Because of employment opportunities in the railroad and livestock industries, the Pocatello immigrant Greek population was the largest in the state. In 1910, 641 Greek immigrants (35% of the state total) lived in Bannock county, most in Pocatello.

Historians have often cited the Church as being the primary factor which encouraged the perpetuation of Hellenic culture in the United States, and Pocatello has been no exception. Aside from its obvious religious importance, the Church of the Assumption was an important social and educational center. Even today, religious and national holidays, especially Independence Day, name days, and Easter, are celebrated at the church in the traditional style. The church also still provides instruction in Greek language and culture thus assuring the preservation of Idaho's Hellenic heritage.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interview with Panagota Katsilometes, November 6, 1978

Miscellaneous records held by Pocatello Hellenic Church.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre.

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	2
ZONE	EASTING

3	8	1	8	10
NORTHING				

4747
~~375111810~~

B

ZONE	EASTING

NORTHING			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This includes the church and property on which it stands, lots 11 and 12, Block 272, Pocatello Townsite Survey.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Terrence W. Epperson, Preservation historian

ORGANIZATION

Idaho State University

DATE

12 March 79

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 8079

TELEPHONE

236-3380

CITY OR TOWN

Pocatello

STATE

Idaho

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Mark Wells

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

12 March 79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Charles A. Brown
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

5-1-79

ATTEST: *W. Ray Price*
for KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

4/30/79
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Church of the Assumption

528 North 5th Avenue

Pocatello, Idaho, *Bannock County*

Photographer: Duane Garrett

December 1978

Negative on file at Idaho State
Historical Society
Boise, Idaho

View from South

DOE

MAY 1 1979

1 of 1

MAR 20 1979