

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

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

✓ SITE NAME: Mackay Episcopal Church ✓

SITE NUMBER: 18

✓ LOCATION: ~~Southwest corner~~ Park Avenue and College, Mackay, Custer County ~~(037),~~
~~Idaho.~~

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Walden W. Gehrke
P. O. Box 401
Mackay, ID 83251

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Mackay, 15 minute

ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Mackay Episcopal Church and the property on which it stands, lots 10-12, block 16, Mackay Original Townsite. Legal description on file at the Custer County Courthouse, Challis, Idaho.

UTM(S): 12/2,90,175/48,65,100

DATE OR PERIOD: 1902

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: poor

unaltered

original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Episcopal Church in Mackay is a one-story frame structure, rectangular in plan except for a small gabled vestry at left rear that is outset and has its own entry. The steep main gable and a small gabled porch face the street. The whole is sided with shiplap and corner framed. Broad bed molding lines the eaves. Except for the porch the building is seated on a rough stone foundation.

Windows--four along the north nave wall, three along the south nave wall, one in the vestry wing, and a triple set in the west end wall--are rectangular double-hung sash. Those in the nave have molded heads. The vestry window and those on either side of the porch are surmounted by fictive Gothic frames filled with wooden strips. Two small Gothic lights higher up in the gable are covered over but originally may have had glass cut to shape.

The square belfry that is fitted over the ridgebeam just back of the gable has lost its roof, which was probably pyramidal, but retains its siding of square shingles. The outset porch is the most stylistically ambitious part of the church. Its gable is filled, above a round arch, with hand-cut shaped shingles in alternating rows of half-hexagons or diamonds, fishscales, and half-octagonals. The shoulders of the

arch rest on tripled round wooden posts with blocks at top and bottom to suggest capitals and bases. Two more posts are half-engaged at the rear. The posts rest on low walls covered with shaped shingles. The porch has been enclosed, possibly at an early date, against the rigorous climate. The concrete stoop is certainly recent. Otherwise the now-abandoned church is deteriorated but probably unaltered.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Mackay Episcopal Church is one of three small frame churches commissioned at the same time for small towns in the outer reaches of southern Idaho. The building is architecturally significant as an illustration of the recycling with slight modifications that a design might undergo in such circumstances. A comparison with the other extant member of this set, the Shoshone Episcopal Church (National Register, Shoshone Historic District, June 27, 1975; see supplemental photograph 1), indicates that the two churches were built to virtually identical plans. A third example, the St. Anthony Episcopal Church has not been located. There are evidences of economizing in the smaller, more isolated town of Mackay. The Mackay church has fictive lancets to Shoshone's real ones, the Mackay church's columns and even its shaped shingles look decidedly homemade in comparison to the more elegantly turned out decoration on the Shoshone church. The porch at Mackay has been substantially deepened, too, perhaps for the same reason it has been enclosed; in response to the more difficult climate at higher elevation.

The Mackay church also has resonance in its local setting as a building of grace and touching stylistic intentions, set in a modest town in the midst of a rough and spectacular mountain setting.

MAJOR BIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

(Boise) Capital News, April 8, 1902, p. 6, c. 4.



Tourtellotte and Hummel Architecture in Idaho
Mackay Episcopal Church, site #18
Southwest corner Park Avenue and College
Mackay, Custer County, Idaho

Photographer:
Patricia Wright
1979

Negative on file at Idaho State Historical Society,
Boise, Idaho

View from south

Photograph one of two



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Detail view from southeast

Photograph two of two