

United States Department of the Interior
 National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: St. John Lutheran Church
 Other names/site number: Evangelische Lutherische St. Johannes Gemeinde
 Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
 (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 290 7th Street
 City or town: Idaho Falls State: ID County: Bonneville
 Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,


I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D


 Signature of certifying official/Title: Tricia Canaday/Deputy SHPO Date: 12-15-23
Idaho State Historic Preservation Office
 State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: _____ Date: _____
 Title: _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	_____	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION/ religious facility
RELIGION/ church school
SOCIAL/meeting hall

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION/ religious facility
RELIGION/ church school
SOCIAL/ meeting hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late Gothic Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Foundation: concrete block; Walls: brick;
Roof: steel; Other: terra cotta accents and cornerstone

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

St. John Lutheran Church (hereafter called St. John) is situated in the Numbered Streets, a historic residential neighborhood in the original section of Idaho Falls, east of the Snake River. Located at the southwest corner of 7th and Emerson streets, the church building is set back from the street amidst a large, maintained lawn on the north and east. Designed in the Late Gothic Revival style by C.A. Sundberg Associates, it is a single-story building with a raised basement that is U-shaped in plan. St. John is of a linear design with a gabled roof and a 42-foot Gothic bell tower adjacent to the elevated main entrance on the north elevation, facing 7th Street. The exterior walls are red brick veneer in running bond overlaying concrete block, offset with cream-colored terra cotta accents on sills, jambs, copings, and caps. The tower features a large terra cotta cross near the top. The foundation is concrete block treated with an exterior parge coat. A series of Gothic, pointed-arch, stained glass windows are visible from the exterior on the north, east and south elevations. White, pointed-arch, Gothic gable vents are present on the gabled roof peaks and on the bell tower. In continuous use since 1950, St. John is a fine example of early mid-century church design in Eastern Idaho that has retained most of its historic features. Despite the construction of the 1959 addition and minor alterations, it retains good overall integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and clearly conveys its original function, historic associations, and period of construction.

Location and Setting

Idaho Falls is the county seat of Bonneville County and the fourth largest city in Idaho with an estimated 2023 population of 66,898.¹ Located in Eastern Idaho along the Snake River, it is situated approximately 210 miles (as the crow flies) from Boise, the state capitol. The elevation of Idaho Falls is 4,705 feet above sea level with the Blackfoot Mountains rising to the east of the city. Blackfoot Peak is the highest point at 7,550 feet. The orientation of the Idaho Falls city grid runs parallel to the Snake River with streets oriented in a southwest-to-northeast direction.

Located at 290 7th Street, the St. John Lutheran Church sits on a 1.1-acre property in the Numbered Streets, the nearest neighborhood east of downtown Idaho Falls. The grid of the Numbered Streets neighborhood, which are east of Boulevard, shifted the city grid to be strictly aligned with the cardinal directions. Each east-west oriented street

¹ <https://www.idahofallsidaho.gov/442/Demographics>

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is a numbered street, starting with 1st Street at the north and running to 25th Street at the furthest south point. Between each street is an alley. Developed as the first planned neighborhood in Idaho Falls, the built character of the Numbered Streets represents an urban residential neighborhood from between 1900-1950 with mature trees, two schools, a park, and several other historic churches of various denominations. The neighborhood's predominantly one- and two-story assortment of bungalows, cottages, Ranches, and other house types exhibit a variety of early-to-mid-twentieth century architectural styles.

Bounded by 7th Street to the north, Emerson Avenue on the east, a gravel alleyway to the south, and a one-story vernacular house at 244 7th Street, the property occupies lots 1-12 of Block 27 of Crow's Subdivision.² The church is oriented towards the north and set back on the property from the intersection of 7th Street and Emerson Avenue behind a manicured lawn and foundation plantings on the north and east sides of the property. Concrete walkways lead from the sidewalks on the north and east sides of the property and intersect at the main entrance. A monument sign is situated on the lawn on the north side of the building facing 7th Street. The western half of the property contains an asphalt parking lot with approximately 50 parking spaces for the church.

Exterior Overview

The building is U-shaped in plan, with the open end of the U facing north and each section being of unequal length. Built on a raised basement, the building is 1½ stories in height with a steeply pitched gable roof. In the lower left (southwest) corner of the interior of the U-shape is a two-story bell tower. The main exterior materials are dark red-colored brick in a running bond, dark gray mortar, with a tan-colored standing-seam metal roof. Windows from the original 1950 section of the building feature a Gothic arch and stained glass and are aligned at the sill level around the entire building. Windows from 1959 on the west wing are rectangular of various size and pane division with an operable awning sash at the bottom. The historic entryway is located in the bell tower and features a Gothic arch. It is raised above ground level and accessed by concrete steps. A secondary entrance from the parking lot is within the 1959 west wing and faces west.

Building specifications called for all cement to be of Portland brand as it had been "recognized as of first-class quality for uniform color." All elevations were clad in "scratch faced wire cut red face brick" from or equal to that by Idaho Falls Brick and Tile Company. Mortar was composed of one part lime to three parts clean, sharp, and reasonably fine sand. It was to be tempered with Portland cement, using not less than 1½ bags of cement to cubic yard of mortar. Terra cotta of glazed pulschrome finish was installed on elevations at the sills, jambs, copings, caps. etc., anchored to the masonry

² St. John Lutheran Church owns the house at 244 7th Street, but it is not included in this nomination.

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with #8 galvanized wire ties from masonry joints. The original roof was Johns-Manville's Transite American shingles installed in a staggered butt layout (See Figure 9).³

Exterior Description

North (Main) Façade

The north (main) façade as viewed from 7th Street is one of a rectangular one-story center mass that connects two forward-facing 1½-story gabled sections of different size, and a two-story bell tower in the corner of the west (right) gabled section and center rectangular mass. Construction of the façade is dark red brick in a running bond with no differentiation between the 1950 building and the 1959 addition. The steeply-pitched roof of the main building and wings is tan colored standing seam metal. The roof of the bell tower is flat. The 1950 building rests on a concrete block foundation that is exposed three feet above ground and treated with a parge coat, while the 1959 building's foundation is parge coated and exposed approximately 10 inches.

The bell tower, incorporating the historic main entrance to the building, is roughly square in plan with brick columns at the corners that step in between levels. A set of eight concrete steps lead up to the Gothic arch entryway, which features a tan-colored terra cotta surround, double metal doors, and a stained glass transom window divided by wood muntins into three sections. Two Gothic-arched windows are located on the main level of the bell tower. The windows are wood-framed stained glass and are surrounded by a header course of brick with a terra cotta sill. The second level of the bell tower features two Gothic-arched openings with vents on both the north and east sides. Additional terra cotta accents on the bell tower include brick column caps, a belt course between levels, sills of the upper-level openings, the parapet cap, and a Christian cross near the top.

In the center section, the fenestration is three bays defined by buttresses with two windows within each bay. Each buttress has a parge-coated concrete block foundation, brick shaft, and terra cotta caps as the buttress steps in toward the building. Within the foundation level are six openings with two-part aluminum slider windows. Two Gothic-arched stained glass windows are centered within each bay and aligned with each other. Surrounding the windows are a header course of brick and a terra cotta sill.

The east gabled end, which is part of the 1950 building, continues the three-foot exposed parge-coated concrete block foundation and dark red brick construction from foundation to the eave. The eaves of the roofline have a zero-eave depth on the gable end. Three windows are within the foundation level. These are two-part aluminum hopper windows. Windows on the main level include three stained glass Gothic-arched windows aligned with each other at the sill level. The center window is larger size than

³ Johns-Manville's Transite, a brand of that company, was created in 1929 as a line of asbestos-cement roofing products. Due to the carcinogenic properties of asbestos, Transite was phase out in the 1980s and replaced by crystalline silica. More can be found at <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transite>.

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the other two but generally the same in shape and construction. Surrounding the windows are a header course of brick and a terra cotta sill. Centered within the gable is a Gothic-arched opening with a vent. The opening has a surround of header brick and a terra cotta sill. On the west-facing elevation of the east wing are two additional stained glass Gothic-arched windows aligned with each other at the sill level. In addition, on this elevation is a single-door entryway at grade that leads to a split interior stairway. The door is aluminum with a metal covering supported by two round metal posts.

The west gabled end is part of the 1959 addition. The eaves of the roofline have a zero-eave depth on the gable end. The main level windows are large replacement vinyl windows divided into six sections with two awning-style openings at the bottom. The grouping of main level windows features a continuous header brick surround and a terra cotta sill. These windows match those on the addition's south wall. Centered within the gable is a Gothic-arched opening with a vent. The opening has a surround of header brick and a terra cotta sill. On the east-facing elevation of the west wing are three additional basement windows. These windows are divided horizontally into three parts with the lower section an operable awning sash. The entire section of three windows features a header course brick surround.

East Elevation

The east elevation is part of the 1950 original church building. The main mass is north-south in orientation with its gables on the north and south. A protruding cross gable extends to the east from the main mass. There is a shallow eave at the bottom of the roof slope but zero eave on the gable end. The largest Gothic arch window in the building is located in the center of the gable end and features a tan-colored terra cotta surround. Wood muntins divide the window into 12 sections of stained glass. Three small double hung windows are located at the foundation level centered on the gable end of the east façade. A single Gothic-arched window is located in the north section of the east elevation. The window features a header course brick surround and a terra cotta sill.

South (Rear) Elevation

Composing the south (rear) elevation are the 1950 original building – the east gabled section and center rectangular mass – and the 1959 addition – the west gabled section. Moving from east to west, the east gabled section is 1½ stories in height and rests on a three-foot parge-coated concrete block foundation. A metal coal chute door and opening covered with a metal grate are located within the foundation. Metal grates cover two-part aluminum slider windows in the raised basement. The roof eave of the east gabled section is approximately six inches. A red brick end chimney extends above the eave slightly off-center to the east. Centered on the upper wall of the east gabled section is a Gothic-arched opening with a vent. Two Gothic-arched stained glass windows are centered within and aligned with each other on the east gabled end. A header course of brick and a terra cotta sill surrounds each window.

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The center rectangular mass rests on a three-foot concrete foundation. The fenestration is four bays divided by a buttress and two windows within each bay. Each buttress has a parge-coated concrete block foundation, brick shaft, and terra cotta caps as the buttress steps in toward the building. Within the foundation level are six openings with two-part aluminum slider windows covered by metal grates. Between the foundation and the eave is dark red brick running in regular bond. The roof eave of the rectangular section is approximately three feet in depth. Two Gothic-arched stained glass windows are centered within each bay and aligned with each other on the east gabled end. The windows feature a header course brick surround and a terra cotta sill. At the ground level of the furthest east bay is a brick enclosure for an exterior stairway to the basement boiler room and coal room. The room has a matching brick exterior, flat roof, single solid wood door, and one window opening that is filled with plywood. The window and door have header brick surrounds on two sides and the window has a terra cotta sill.

The west gabled section of the south elevation is similar to the historic building in red brick material running in regular bond, matching roof pitch, six-inch eave depth, parge-coated concrete block foundation (though only 16 inches high), and a Gothic-arched opening with a vent in the upper wall. The differentiation between the two sections is exhibited in the eave length of the addition, extending below the roofline of the original building, and the windows. The six basement windows are paired (three groups of two) and divided horizontally into three parts with the lower section an operable awning sash. The entire grouping of basement windows features a continuous header brick surround. The main level windows are large vinyl windows divided into six sections with two awning-style openings at the bottom. The entire grouping of main level windows features a continuous header brick surround with a terra cotta sill. This set of windows matches that on the north (main façade) wall of the addition.

West Elevation

The west elevation is the 1959 addition. The main mass is north-south in orientation with gables on the north and south. A protruding cross gable extends to the west from the main mass. Built on a parge-coated concrete block foundation, all construction is of dark red brick with a steeply pitched standing-seam metal roof. There is a shallow eave at the bottom of the roof slope but zero eave on the gable end. The gable end exhibits continuous brick in running bond pattern from the ground to the eave. A Gothic-arched opening with a vent is located on the upper wall. An exterior chimney of the same brick is located in the southwest area of the gable end and has terra cotta accent caps where the chimney steps in and narrows. Two windows are within the gable end. Both are divided horizontally into three parts with the lower section an operable awning sash. The upper-level window has a terra cotta sill and both have a header course brick surround on three sides. The main mass includes the main parking lot entrance; a set of double doors with a large rectangular picture window (non-original window) above. A three-sided shallow porch with brick piers and a flat built-up roof surrounds the entryway and

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is 1½ stories in height. A secondary entrance from the parking lot is located north of the main parking lot entrance. It has a single solid metal door. The porch covering for the secondary parking lot entryway is a front gable structure with steeply pitched roof of matching standing seam metal that is supported by four metal posts. The purpose of the secondary parking lot entrance is ADA access to an interior elevator. Five windows are located on the north section, each divided horizontally into three parts with the lower section an operable awning sash. Four are located at ground level for the basement and one located at the upper level. The upper-level window has a terra cotta sill and all windows have a header course brick surround on three sides.

Interior Overview

The interior maintains much of its original floorplan, historic finishes, and equipment. The restored original Gothic windows, exposed glue-laminated beams, and original pews and chancel furnishings highlight the historic interior. Building specifications called for oak flooring in the nave and tongue-and-groove fir throughout the rest of the spaces. The 1950 building is arranged in a traditional Protestant floorplan with a narthex, nave, and chancel. The basement originally served as the fellowship area with limited space for separate classes. In 1959, an addition was constructed as the Education Wing. It provided a new entrance from the parking lot, multiple classrooms of various sizes, and storage. In 1996, the church installed an elevator and remodeled a classroom in the addition into offices.

Interior Description

The main entrance in the bell tower leads into the narthex, which is trimmed in oak. This 16 x 16-foot space is at the west end of the original building. The narthex and the entire structure to its left (east) are the original 1950 construction, with overall dimensions of 92 x 36 feet. To the south, visitors enter the nave, the rectangular central part of the church with dimensions of 40 x 36 feet and a vaulted ceiling. The nave has seating 350 members of the congregation in two rows of 16 original, maple pews. Walls are plaster. Glue-laminated vertical beams and rafters with solid timber purlins support the ceiling vault. Original acoustic tile, 1 x 1 foot in size, is installed directly on the ceiling between the exposed beams. Eight original, wrought iron, Gothic pendant lanterns hang from the ceiling. A series of Gothic, 3 x 8-foot, stained-glass, Gothic-arched windows is found on each side of the nave; six on the north side and eight on the south side, for a total of 14 windows along the sidewalls of the nave. These windows, as well as nine additional stained glass windows in other areas of the 1950 portion of the building, were fabricated and installed during construction in 1948-1950. Also original are the maple altar, table, baptismal font, lectern, pulpit, and altar rail, which appear to be hand carved.

As is traditional in Christian architecture, the chancel is located at the east end of the nave. The chancel is the space around the altar and is separated from the nave by the original maple communion rail and step. The chancel has dimensions of 16 x 16 feet and contains an intricately carved, original maple altar having dimensions of 8 x 7 feet,

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original carved maple baptismal font, lectern, pulpit, and table. A large, Gothic arched, stained glass window above the chancel measures 7½ x 13 feet. To the left (north) of the chancel through an archway, is a room that formerly served as the Pastor's office, containing three Gothic-arched, stained-glass windows. Additional Gothic stained glass windows are located in the narthex and a side entry adjacent to the former Pastor's office, bringing the church's total to 23 throughout the original section of the building. The former Pastor's office is now used for storage but retains its original large crown molding.

St. John's 23 neo-Gothic, stained glass windows are each of unique design (See Figure 16). The largest window is over the altar in the chancel, with dimensions of 7½ x 13½ feet. Most of the stained-glass windows have dimensions of 3 x 8 feet, including the 14 in the nave. Additional stained glass windows are located in the entrance to the former Pastor's office in the chancel, the former Pastor's office itself, and in the narthex. St. Joseph's Art Glass of St. Joseph, Missouri manufactured all the windows in 1948.

The basement is accessible from four locations: split stairway on the west from the parking lot; elevator from the parking lot; secondary entrance on the north (main) façade; and south (rear) façade entrance. There are two internal stairways on the west and north for circulation. The basement ceiling height is eight feet and finishes range from wood paneling, to painted cinder block, to plaster. The flooring throughout is commercial carpet.

The main room of the basement is the fellowship hall and is central to the function of the basement. To the east are the kitchen, rest rooms, and nursery (former ladies lounge). Moving west through the fellowship hall, one reaches the education wing which has numerous classrooms aligned along a hallway. At the south end of the hallway is the women's meeting room that displays a fireplace and wood paneling.

Change Over Time and Integrity

St. John has been in constant use as a Lutheran church since its construction and has been well-maintained, in a nearly original state. The changes over time have included the following, in summary:

- 1959 – Addition;
- 1985 circa - Remodel of classroom for offices;
- 1996 - Interior remodel (drop ceiling in fellowship hall) and elevator; addition of elevator exterior covering;
- 1997 - Roof replacement (Transite shingles removed; now standing seam metal; aluminum soffit added);
- 2005 circa - vinyl windows installed in north and south facades of addition;
- 2021 - aluminum vents in gables; stained glass restoration; protective coverings added over stained glass window openings.

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The 1959 addition, referred to on plans as the Educational Wing, contains office space for the Pastor and Secretary, toilets, classrooms, and an overflow room (originally designated a kindergarten) with additional seating and a set of rectangular windows that can be opened to the nave on its east, allowing a view of the nave and chancel.

As completed in 1950, the church had a total of 26 stained glass windows manufactured by St. Joseph's Art Glass. Construction of the 1959 addition necessitated the removal of two stained glass windows from the west side of the narthex and one from the west side of the nave.⁴ In 1996, the church added an elevator to the 1959 addition to allow access for disabled and elderly persons from the west parking lot. Additional new elements since the completion of the original building in 1950 include the west parking lot, and a large, red brick-framed monument sign that identifies the building, which is situated on the lawn to the right of the main entrance.

Willet Hauser Architectural Glass of Winona, Minnesota professionally cleaned and refurbished the building's 23 stained glass windows in 2021. This work included repairing and repainting the wood millwork, re-cementing of the individual glass pieces, the application of a protective coating on the glass, and installation of an aluminum frame to support a quarter inch, vented, protective acrylic covering for each window. This project restored the windows to their original, brilliant appearance as viewed from both inside and from the street. The wood Gothic gable vents were in poor condition, and were replaced with identical, custom-built aluminum gable vents that maintain the original appearance, also in 2021. Most interior components, including pews, communion rail, baptismal font, lectern, and altar are original.

Modifications to the original building since the 1959 addition have been limited, and where they've happened, have been historically appropriate to maintain the style and feel of the original Late Gothic Revival design. The addition was designed and constructed in such a way to complement and not overly detract from the original building. It has complementary brick color, massing, and roof pitch. The 1959 addition's window openings and materials, orientation to the parking lot, and an eave drop that is slightly lower than the original roofline differentiate it from the 1950 section of the building.

St. John Lutheran Church is a fine example of early mid-century church design in Eastern Idaho that clearly conveys its original function, historic association, and period of construction. The addition completed in 1959, with respect to massing, scale, and materials, does not significantly impact the character-defining features associated with the original C.A. Sundberg Associates-designed building. While rooms have changed

⁴ St. John donated these three stained glass windows to the Crown of Life Lutheran Church in Rigby, Idaho. The center window of the tryptic is a stained glass mosaic of various colors with a bell in a center pane and an abstract fleur-de-lis near the top. The right window is in a similar mosaic of stained glass colors with the abstract fleur-de-lis with a center pane displaying a dove. The left window is also in a similar mosaic of stained glass colors with the abstract fleur-de-lis with a center pane displaying a cross intersecting with a crown.

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use, major interior spaces have been maintained with limited division of the original floorplan. The property overall maintains excellent integrity of location, setting, workmanship, feeling and association, and good integrity of design and materials.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1950

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Significant Dates

1950 (completion of original church building)

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Clinton A. Sundberg of C.A. Sundberg Assoc., Architect (1950 building)

William Kloepper, Builder (1950 building)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

St. John Lutheran Church is significant under National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Criterion C, at the local level of significance. It is eligible under Criterion C in the area of significance of ARCHITECTURE as an important example of the work of the prolific Idaho Falls-based architectural firm C.A. Sundberg Associates. The firm, whose history encompasses Clinton A. Sundberg's independent practice and its earlier iteration as Sundberg & Sundberg, dominated architectural production in Eastern Idaho between 1919-1967. Architecturally, the church's restrained Late Gothic style exemplifies the firm's transition from historicist styles to modernism in the early postwar years. The period of significance is 1950, the date of the original building's construction.

St. John Lutheran Church meets Criteria Consideration A for religious properties because its primary significance is derived from its importance in the area of ARCHITECTURE as a pivotal work of the Sundberg firm, master architects in Eastern Idaho.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criterion C: C.A. Sundberg Associates, Master Architects

The architect of St. John Lutheran Church was Clinton A. Sundberg of C.A. Sundberg Associates. Based primarily in Idaho Falls, the firm's history encompasses Clinton Sundberg's independent practice in Rexburg from 1919 to 1925, a subsequent partnership with his brother Howard W. Sundberg as Sundberg and Sundberg from

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1925 to 1947, and his late career until 1967 as senior partner of C.A. Sundberg Associates following his brother's retirement. Throughout its history the firm was immensely influential in Eastern Idaho, with a heavily prolific period between 1920-1945. The firm designed more than 400 buildings ranging in purpose from churches to courthouses, and gas stations to libraries. The breakdown of their known design portfolio is approximately 150 schools, 130 commercial and industrial buildings, 50 residences, 20 churches, 17 recreation buildings, 8 apartments, and 6 hotels (See Figure 17).⁵ Due in part to the longevity of the firm, they utilized Late Victorian Commercial and Period Revival styles early; Prairie, Art Deco, and Art Moderne in the middle of their careers; and International Style influences in the later years. Also due to their longevity, alongside their positive reputation in the region, the Sundberg firm had several repeat clients and a high degree of influence on the built environment and younger architects. Clinton also served on the State Board of Examiners for Architects and Engineers, the architectural license granting entity, from 1947 until his death.⁶

Sundberg-designed buildings are immediately recognizable in Idaho Falls and surrounding rural Eastern Idaho communities by virtue of their size, comparatively complex programs, and the overall high quality of their architectural design. In the early 1920s, the firm developed a signature architectural palette of materials that was employed in many of their projects consisting of brick exteriors with contrasting, light-colored terra cotta embellishment, particularly in the form of trim around entrances and windows. This distinctive combination was rendered in a variety of historicist and modern architectural styles into the early post-World War II years, as seen in the design of St. John Lutheran Church.

The Sundberg firm benefitted from the architectural climate of Idaho during the early 20th century. During this prosperous period, the number of architects working in the state was small in comparison to the number of building projects underway.⁷ This reality meant that a few resident architects in each region of the state generally designed the major buildings, in addition to the smaller commissions. Accordingly, the work of these architects played an outsized role in shaping the architectural character of the area in which they practiced.

Frank H. Paradise, Jr. (1879-1952) of Pocatello was the Sundberg firm's primary competitor in Eastern Idaho, although his work was primarily focused on the southeastern corner of the state. Following the dissolution of his seven-year partnership with Benjamin M. Nisbet in the Boise architectural firm Nisbet & Paradise, Paradise relocated to Pocatello in 1914 and opened his own office. He practiced in the city for 40 years, designing many of the city's commercial and institutional buildings, including

⁵ Utt, Emily. 2010. *Paper 3*, HP 611.

⁶ There is a discrepancy as to what years C.A. Sundberg served on the State Board of Examiners for Architects and Engineers. Two obituaries state it was 1926-1967 while a newspaper article from 1947 stated that this was a new appointment. *Idaho Daily Statesman*. 1968. 12. *Salt Lake Tribune*. 1968. 29. *Idaho Daily Statesman*. 1947. 2.

⁷ Attebery, Jennifer Eastman. *Building Idaho: An Architectural History* (Moscow, Idaho: University of Idaho Press, 1991), 85.

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much of downtown and several major projects on the campus of Idaho State University. Paradise received commissions for major projects in smaller communities in the region as well, yet his work remained more centered in Pocatello than the Sundberg firm's projects did in Idaho Falls.⁸

Tourtellotte & Hummel, which maintained offices in Boise and Portland, had the widest footprint of the resident firms working in Idaho during the first half of the 20th century. Yet this extremely influential and prolific firm secured relatively few major commissions in the Sundberg firm's home region. The two firms collectively dominated the most prestigious New Deal building project commissions, particularly courthouses, in different parts of the state: Tourtellotte & Hummel in western Idaho and Sundberg and Sundberg in the eastern portion of the state.

A Family of Architects and Builders

The Sundberg firm's founders, the brothers Howard W. Sundberg (b. May 2, 1887, Pleasant Grove, Utah; d. January 17, 1970, Parowan, Utah) and Clinton A. Sundberg (b. May 15, 1892, Pleasant Grove, Utah; d. December 31, 1967, Salt Lake City, Utah), were members of a Swedish-American immigrant family of architects and builders in northern Utah. Their father, Andrew Sundberg (b. February 26, 1851, West Gothland, Sweden; d. August 26, 1923, Pleasant Grove, Utah), joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (hereafter called the LDS Church) in 1866. In 1869, he moved with his mother and brother from Sweden to Chicago and started a merchant business. However, the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 destroyed their home and business. Andrew obtained a job as a carpenter in the rebuilding of Chicago and went on to become a successful general contractor working in Salt Lake City, California, Oregon, and Washington.⁹ On at least one occasion, he assisted his sons with a contracting business they were operating in Rexburg, Idaho in October 1914.¹⁰

Clinton and Howard's mother was Hannah Sundberg (b. August 1, 1858, Westervick, Sweden; d. July 25, 1939, Pleasant Grove, Utah). In her youth, her family joined the LDS Church and emigrated to Utah in 1871, locating in Pleasant Grove. The couple had eight children.¹¹ Three of the five Sundberg boys - Alvin, Howard, and Clinton - were involved in architecture as a profession.

⁸ Paradise studied architecture at the Chicago Art Institute and Amour Institute of Technology (later the Illinois Institute of Technology). He also apprenticed with a Denver architectural firm. Beyond Southeast Idaho, Paradise's most notable commission was a standardized Art Deco grocery store design for Safeway companies (1940) built throughout Idaho and in other states. Attebery, 120-121.

⁹ *American Fork Citizen*. 1923. "Another Old Resident Called By Death." September 1, 1923, 5. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/286618189>.

¹⁰ *American Fork Citizen*. 1914. "Pleasant Grove Department." October 3, 1914, 7. <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85058027/1914-10-03/ed-1/seq-7/>.

¹¹ *Deseret News*. 1939. "Hannah Sundberg (Obituary)." July 26, 1939, 16. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/593901110>.

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The eldest Sundberg brother, Alvin F. Sundberg (b. April 24, 1883, Pleasant Grove, Utah; d. August 22, 1929, Salt Lake City, Utah), was the first of the siblings to become a licensed architect. During his years engaged in architectural practice in a partnership in Salt Lake City, he provided a technical education in architecture and engineering to his brothers Clinton and Howard as they worked for the firm. Alvin attended the Normal School at the University of Utah. Shortly after graduating, he was appointed director of the carpentry training shop at the University of Utah School of Mines. He left the university in 1908 to open an architectural practice in Salt Lake City that year.¹² His office was in the newly constructed and highly fashionable Newhouse Building.¹³

Alvin Sundberg partnered with Salt Lake City architect Niels Edward Liljenberg by 1910, forming Liljenberg & Sundberg, Architects.¹⁴ The firm's work included the Granite District elementary school (1910; demolished), Bonnyview Elementary School (1910; demolished), the Taylorsville LDS Meetinghouse Amusement Hall (1910; NRIS #100007527), Salina School (1910; demolished), Lehi High School (1911; demolished), and Madison Elementary School (1913; demolished).¹⁵ The firm was one of the local architectural finalists invited to compete in the Utah State Capitol design competition in September 1911.¹⁶ It was during this time that Clinton and Howard received a technical education in architecture and engineering by working for Alvin and the partnership.¹⁷

Training and Early Work

Howard and Clinton Sundberg relocated from Salt Lake City to Eastern Idaho around 1909, where they laid the foundation for their future careers as the leading architects in

¹² *Pleasant Grove Review*. 1929. "Former Pleasant Grove Man Dies In California." August 24, 1929, 1. newspapers.com.

¹³ *Salt Lake Herald*. 1909. "List of New Tenants Newhouse Building." July 4, 1909, 13. newspapers.com.

¹⁴ *Deseret News*. 1910. "Notice to Contractors." April 12, 1910, 11.

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045555/1910-04-12/ed-1/seq-11/>. The most common location the firm advertised in during 1910-1911 was the Swedish-language newspaper *Utah Korrespondenten*.

¹⁵ This is a partial list of buildings potentially completed by the firm. Beall, Jr., Butch W. 2019. "ALVIN FRITHIOF SUNDBERG." Utah Center for Architecture. http://www.utahcfa.org/architect/alvin_frithiof_sundberg. Beall, Jr., Burtch W. 2019. "NIELS EDWARD LILJENBERG." Utah Center for Architecture. http://www.utahcfa.org/architect/niels_edward_liljenberg.

Salt Lake Herald-Republican. 1909. "Miller Ward's Handsome Meeting House and a New School in Granite District to Be Occupied Soon." December 3, 1909, 6. <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85058140/1909-12-03/ed-1/seq-6/>. *Salt Lake Herald-Republican*. 1910. "Modern Ideas Seen In Lehi High School." September 11, 1910, 12.

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85058140/1910-09-11/ed-1/seq-33/>. *Salt Lake Herald-Republican*. 1910. "Splendid School at Salina." May 1, 1910, 1. <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85058140/1910-05-01/ed-1/seq-13/>.

¹⁶ *Salt Lake Telegram*. 1911. "Architects of Capitol Announced." September 26, 1911, 8. newspapers.com.

¹⁷ Utt, Emily. 2010. *Paper* 3, HP 611. In later years, Alvin Sundberg may have caught gold fever. His partnership with Liljenberg was dissolved by June 1912, and he was among several local men who purchased the Blue Wing Mine near Goldville, California in March 1913. That same month, Sundberg was announced as President of the Free Wire Gold Mining Company and a vein within the mine was discovered. However, in August that same year, two lots owned by Sundberg and his wife in the Forestdale neighborhood of Salt Lake City were sold at Sheriff's sale. In 1916, he defaulted on an insurance note to the Beneficial Life Company. Alvin moved to Los Angeles in 1922 and continued to practice architecture as well as mining engineering. *Deseret News*. 1913. "Sheriff's Sale." August 27, 1913, 10. newspapers.com, *Salt Lake Tribune*. 1916. "Daily Court Calendar." September 1, 1916, 11. newspapers.com, and *Pleasant Grove Review*. 1929. 1.

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the region. The initial impetus for the brothers' move was a pair of teaching positions in Rexburg, but they also practiced architecture on the side. Howard, a graduate of LDS College in Salt Lake City, taught architectural engineering at Ricks College from 1909 to 1915. Clinton, who had received his elementary and high school education in Salt Lake City, attended the University of Utah. He later served as a school principal in Rexburg and taught at Ricks College.¹⁸

Clinton maintained an independent architectural practice in Rexburg as C.A. Sundberg, Architect between 1919 and 1925. During that time, he was noted for the design of schools, banks, and courthouses throughout Eastern Idaho. His courthouses in Madison County (1921; NRIS #87001587), Teton County (1924; NRIS #87001589), and Power County (1925; NRIS #87001601) are listed in the NRHP. This formative work, particularly the courthouses, exhibited several design elements that would characterize the Sundberg firm's later output in a variety of architectural styles.¹⁹ These preferences included a fondness for classical symmetry, surface texture expressed in color and material, and decoration, typically rendered in terra cotta.

Sundberg and Sundberg: Architects of Eastern Idaho

Clinton and Howard Sundberg founded the architectural firm Sundberg and Sundberg in Rexburg in 1925. They were among the few successful architectural firms to emerge in Idaho during these years and built their reputation during the depression.²⁰ Howard was the firm's senior partner, acting as the lead designer for nearly all the religious buildings in the firm's portfolio.²¹ Clinton brought expertise in the design of commercial and public buildings in the region, skills he developed during his years of independent practice. The brothers relocated to Idaho Falls in 1927, where they quickly emerged as the leading architectural firm in the city and surrounding rural communities in Eastern Idaho during the interwar period. Their work stretched from Burley to Driggs and from Salmon to Preston, in addition to outlying commissions in Idaho communities such as Jerome and Orofino.²²

The firm's specialty was the design of public and religious buildings, although they gained commercial and residential commissions as well. Their prominent commercial commissions include the American National Bank of Idaho Falls (1939; Figure 18). The firm's residential work is less documented but includes houses in the Eleventh Street Historic District (NRIS #97000863) and Ridge Avenue Historic District in Idaho Falls (NRIS #93000388), alongside examples in smaller communities throughout the region such as St. Anthony. Several notable examples were designed in the Tudor Revival

¹⁸ Ricks College is now known as Brigham Young University-Idaho. *Idaho Daily Statesman*. 1968. "Clinton A. Sundberg (Obituary)." January 4, 1968, 12. Newspapers.com. *Salt Lake Tribune*. 1968. "Clinton A. Sundberg (Obituary)." January 3, 1968, 29. newspapers.com.

¹⁹ Attebery, 128.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ *Southern Utah Free Press*. 1970. "Howard M. Sundberg (Obituary)." January 29, 1970, 9.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/284758874> and Utt, Emily. 2010. *Paper 2 - Historic Place*, HP 611.

²² Attebery, 128.

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style, such as the Collette House at 302 11th Street in Idaho Falls, which is contributing to the Eleventh Street Historic District (1935; Figure 19). The State of Idaho commissioned the firm to design institutional buildings across the state, including a series of projects on the campuses of the Idaho State Hospital North in Orofino and the Idaho State Hospital South in Blackfoot.

In the late 1930s, Sundberg and Sundberg's expertise in the design of public buildings enabled the firm to secure three of its most significant commissions, the Works Progress Administration (WPA)-funded Jefferson County Courthouse (1938; demolished; Figure 20) in Rigby, Jerome County Courthouse (1939; NRIS #87001600) in Jerome, and Oneida County Courthouse (1939; NRIS #87001588) in Malad (Figure 21). Notably, Jerome County is part of the Magic Valley region of south-central Idaho, far from the eastern part of the state, and demonstrates the firm's increasing statewide stature during this period. The three Art Deco courthouses were similar in design: two-story, five-bay buildings with outset entry bays. Their main entrances each featured unique Art Deco terra-cotta ornamentation. The three courthouses were ambitious designs for their time and locations in rural county seats, where they constituted the most significant pieces of architecture.

Sundberg and Sundberg were also particularly noted for their school designs. Architecturally, the largest of the firm's school designs closely resembled the design of their WPA courthouses: two-story buildings with symmetrical massing, outset entry bays, and brick cladding with terra cotta embellishment. The firm's notable school projects include the Emerson School (1929; Figure 22) and the Hawthorne Elementary School (1937; Figure 23), both in Idaho Falls. As was typical in school design during the period, the schools were variously period revival, Art Deco, or stylistic hybrids.

The LDS Church was a major client throughout the interwar period, and the firm contributed to the development of the so-called "Mormon Moderne" architectural movement that centered in California, Idaho, and Utah during this era.²³ Between approximately 1928 and 1945, the LDS Church was at the forefront of modern religious architecture in the United States, where most ecclesiastical buildings were still designed in historicist styles. Drawing inspiration from the Paris Exposition Internationale des Arts Décoratifs of 1925 and other early modern sources, LDS Church architects designed a succession of meetinghouses, seminaries, and temples in the Art Deco, Art Moderne, International Style, and Stripped Classical styles in the years leading up to World War II. Eastern Idaho boasts the major landmark of this period of LDS architecture: the Idaho Falls Temple (1939-1945; John Fetzer, architect) with its Art Deco tower reminiscent of a setback skyscraper.

Sundberg and Sundberg's contribution to the Mormon Moderne lay in the design of a series of ward meetinghouses in Idaho Falls and the surrounding region. On several

²³ On the concept of Mormon Moderne, see Paul L. Anderson, "Mormon Moderne: Latter-day Saint Architecture, 1925-1945," *Journal of Mormon History* 9 (1982): 71-84.

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occasions, the firm was engaged to remodel and enlarge existing LDS meetinghouses. This arrangement was common for congregations that desired classrooms, offices, or a recreation hall to compliment a chapel that had been built earlier. Most of these congregations were small and located in rural southeast Idaho and could not afford an entirely new church building.²⁴ The popularity of the Sundberg and Sundberg-designed LDS ward meetinghouses, alongside that of their other Art Deco designs in Eastern Idaho, may have influenced the design of the Idaho Falls Temple, which went through many iterations and was ultimately highly influential in Idaho and Utah.²⁵

The firm's first known (and only surviving) early modern LDS building design is the Idaho Falls Fifth Ward Meetinghouse (1937; Figures 24 and 25), a blend of Art Deco and Art Moderne influences. Like the later design process for St. John, the firm met with the congregation numerous times and revised the drawings according to the needs of a growing ward with numerous activities. These meetings even resulted in a change in the architectural style of the building from the original Tudor Revival scheme. The congregation approved the revised plans for the meetinghouse in 1937 and construction began on the concrete and cinder block building with a white stucco exterior.²⁶ The firm's other early modern LDS buildings included the Ashton Ward Meetinghouse in Ashton, Idaho (1940), designed in a hybrid Art Moderne and International Style mode, the Idaho Falls First Ward Meetinghouse (1940; demolished; Figure 26), designed in the Art Deco style, and the Stripped Classical style First Ward in Shelley, Idaho (1940; demolished). The firm designed buildings for the LDS Church in historicist styles during this period as well, including the Late Gothic Revival-style former Third Ward Meetinghouse (1929; contributing to the Eleventh Street Historic District) and the whimsically exotic former High School Seminary building (1937; Figure 27), both in Idaho Falls.

St. John Lutheran Church and the Transition to Postwar Modernism

St. John Lutheran Church was designed at a pivotal moment in the Sundberg firm's history in the immediate postwar years. During this time, the firm underwent a transition both in terms of its organization and output. Howard M. Sundberg retired in 1947 after over two decades as the senior partner in the firm.²⁷ Clinton emerged as the senior partner in the renamed C.A. Sundberg Associates. The firm continued to gain prestigious commissions for public and religious buildings throughout Eastern Idaho, alongside other types of projects.

²⁴ Utt, Emily. 2010. *Paper 3*, HP 611.

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ Utt, Emily. 2010. *Paper 2 - Historic Place*, HP 611.

²⁷ Following his retirement, Howard moved to Santaquin and later to Parowan, both in Utah. While there, he supervised the building of the Parowan City Library and served as Parowan's building inspector. *Southern Utah Free Press*.

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Clinton was a well-respected architect in Idaho during the postwar years and proved to be a capable leader of the firm until his death in 1967.²⁸ In addition to his 20 years of service on the State Board of Examiners for Architects and Engineers, the architectural license granting entity in Idaho, he spoke at numerous events, including the state school building planning conference in Boise in 1948.²⁹ Clinton was also a licensed engineer and served as Madison County Engineer. He was a member of the Professional Engineers and the American Institute of Architects, as well as a member of the Idaho Falls Elks Lodge, Idaho Falls Country Club, Idaho Falls Chamber of Commerce, and the LDS Church.³⁰

Architecturally, this period marked the Sundberg firm's stylistic transition from historicism and prewar early modern styles to postwar International Style-influenced modernism. In Idaho, this stylistic evolution occurred gradually well into the 1950s and was determined on a project-by-project basis, often in consultation with the client.³¹ These developments resulted in architectural hybrids, most often a mixture of International Style influences and the Art Moderne, and less occasionally prewar historicist styles.

The Sundberg firm was adept in International Style design by 1949, as seen in the design of the Eastern Idaho Equipment Co. in Idaho Falls (Figure 28). This building exhibited a clear-span rectangular mass with a flat roof capped by a monitor roof of windows. A continuous band of windows wrapped around three sides of the building. For buildings toward the latter part of the 1950s, the firm evolved their designs from a strict International Style of steel and glass to mainly using brick, glass, and various types of wall panels. Evidence of this is seen in the designs of the Arco Hospital (1957; Figure 29), Cassia County Hospital (1960; Figure 30), and Minidoka Memorial Hospital (1960; Figure 31).

During the same period, the firm continued to be sought after for their designs in prewar styles of architecture. The Idaho State College Liberal Arts Building in Pocatello (1950; Figure 32) is in the Art Moderne style with accents and entryway executed in terra cotta and walls in brick. In Blackfoot, the firm's design for the Central Facility Building at the State Hospital South (1965) was a notable very late use of the hybrid Art Moderne and International Style.

The St. John Lutheran Church, perhaps more than any of the Sundberg firm's other major commissions in the early postwar years, exemplifies the architectural tension between traditional revival styles and International Style-influenced modernity during the period in Idaho. Its simplified Late Gothic Revival style is certainly reflective of the firm's

²⁸ Afterward, the firm remained active as Sundberg and Associates into the 1990s and continued to specialize in the design of schools, hospitals, banks, and commercial buildings. Utt, Emily. 2010. *Paper 3*, HP 611.

²⁹ *Idaho Daily Statesman*. 1948. "Planners Map New School Plant Program." October 13, 1948, 10. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/723477244>.

³⁰ *Idaho Daily Statesman*. 1968. 12. *Salt Lake Tribune*. 1968. 29.

³¹ Attebery, 139.

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stylistic evolution in the postwar years. While the firm had been designing buildings in early modern styles for decades by the late 1940s, some clients in the immediate postwar years—particularly churches—preferred a traditional design that had modest modern characteristics. St. John is a significant local example of this phenomenon, particularly as it relates to ecclesiastical architecture, a building type in which the firm specialized and was especially influential in Eastern Idaho.

In the design of St. John, the firm simplified historicist elements and incorporated select modern details. Similar to the firm's earlier work, the traditional features, or those associated with historicist design, on St. John include the use of brick as the main exterior and structural material, a pronounced entryway, and the pointed-arch Gothic windows and gable openings. The modern characteristics where historic features have been applied more modestly include the roof materials (Transite shingles instead of clay tile), minimal roof eaves, and flat masonry walls. In addition to the building's pared down appearance, the simplified terra cotta ornamentation and trim are particularly modern details on the exterior. On the interior, the exposed glue laminated beams in the nave can be interpreted as modern given that the structure is left exposed rather than being covered, enclosed, ornamented, or having the ceiling installed beneath them.

St. John became the firm's model for "transitional" churches in the early postwar years. The Zion Lutheran Church in Ashton, Idaho (c. 1953; Figure 33), for example, reflects the same design approach towards simplifying historicist elements and incorporating modern influences. The two churches are remarkably similar in design, including their brick exteriors, pointed-arch Gothic windows and entry doors, buttresses, and terra cotta accents around the entry doors, on the main façade trefoil windows, and in the gable of the main façades. Architectural plans indicate that the nave featured the same "modern" glue-laminated vertical beams. Project files indicate that the firm also employed the same suppliers in both buildings, including for stained glass and terra cotta. The overall impression of Zion Lutheran Church is of smaller variation of the earlier St. John design, notably with different massing and without the imposing bell tower. St. John occupies an important niche in the regionally significant Sundberg firm's portfolio as a key work and influential local model during a national time of transition in design from traditional and revival styles to International Style-influenced modernism.

Additional Historic Background

Settlement and Early History of Idaho Falls

Idaho Falls began as Taylor's Crossing in 1864-65 when Matt Taylor built a log bridge across the frozen Snake River to move wagons and supplies from Salt Lake City to the mining districts of northern Idaho and western Montana. On the east bank of the Snake at the base of the bridge, one of his partners, J. D. Anderson, constructed a bank and post office. In 1879, the Utah Northern Railroad extended north from Brigham City, Utah, and constructed its track east of the settlement. In the summer of 1881, the Oregon Short Line Railroad began to serve Taylor's Crossing.

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By 1884, the settlement east of the Snake, then named Eagle Rock, had 670 residents. As a result of Midwestern promotional efforts and the construction of irrigation projects in the upper Snake River Valley, the community was able to share in the State's economic expansion of the 1890s and early 1900s. As canals and dams were constructed, agriculture became the economic base of Idaho Falls, as the town came to be known in 1891.

The Original Townsite of Eagle Rock was platted between 1886 to 1890. The street pattern in the original plat was dictated by the railroad right of way, and most of the settlement was located between the Snake River and the railroad. In 1893, W.H.B. Crow built the first home east of the Oregon Short Line Railroad, on Ridge Avenue in the Original Townsite. Crow also acquired land to the east of the original plat and laid out Crow's Addition.

Idaho Falls quadrupled in size from 1,262 in 1900 to 4,827 in 1910 and doubled again to 8,084 in 1920. The area where Crow built his home, Ridge Avenue, was to receive much of Idaho Falls' first decade of residential growth. Its peak period of construction was 1900 to 1910.

Farm prices began to slide after 1920, and the agricultural depression of 1921 jolted Idaho. Idaho lost population during the 1920s, and accelerated growth for Idaho Falls did not continue. The city, which had a growth rate of 640% from 1900 to 1920, only grew by 17% in the 1920s. It was not until the end of the 1920s and during the Great Depression, at which time Idaho experienced an influx of migration, that the city again grew substantially. The city population increased by 5,600 people in the 1930s.

The next wave of construction in Crow's Addition was not until after the Second World War. Post-war homes were smaller and exhibited less architectural variety. Each home tended to look like its neighbor, and the Numbered Streets east and south of the district were filled with newly constructed Cape Cod or early Ranch style dwellings.³²

History of St. John Lutheran Church Before 1950

The history of Martin Luther and the Lutheran Church is the history of the Protestant Reformation of the 16th Century; one of the most significant themes in the development of modern, western civilization. Many historians regard the Protestant Reformation as marking the end of the Middle Ages and the beginning of the modern age. According to Metaxas, "...ideas of pluralism, religious liberty, and self-government all entered history through the door that Luther opened..."³³

³² Magee, Renee R. 1997. "Eleventh Street Historic District," National Register of Historic Places Nomination. National Register of Historic Places Digital Archive. <https://npgallery.nps.gov/NRHP/AssetDetail/89cb36f1-0f20-416d-8942-138e2229c5c1>.

³³ Metaxas, Eric. 2017. *Martin Luther: The Man who Rediscovered God and Changed the World*. New York, New York: Viking.

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The new church, originating in Wittenberg, Germany, was called Lutheran, after its founder. These ideas spread through northern Germany and Scandinavia and found their way to North America with the immigration of these peoples from Europe. As the Reformation spread widely across Europe, other peoples developed their own forms of Protestantism, and immigrants to North America from other countries, including the Puritan Pilgrims from Great Britain, shared these ideas, contributing to the development of American ideals of self-government. St. John Lutheran Church adheres to the unaltered Augsburg Confession, of which an English-language copy is enclosed in the time capsule sealed behind the cornerstone of the building. The Augsburg Confession was written in 1530 for presentation to Holy Roman Emperor Charles V at the Diet of Augsburg. It is a defense of Protestant faith and doctrine and as such is the foundational document of the Reformation. It is not possible to overstate the importance of Martin Luther and the Augsburg Confession to world and American history.

Although there had been a Lutheran presence in Eastern Idaho since prior to the Civil War, St. John Lutheran Church began as a mission church of the Reverend E.P. Meyer in 1902. Meyer was officially installed as Pastor in 1909, and by December 1913, the Reverend W. Jaeger founded the German-language *Die evangelische-Lutherische St. Johannes Gemeinde ungeänderter Augsburgischer Konfessions zu Idaho Falls, Idaho*. (Evangelical Lutheran Community of St. John, Unaltered Augsburg Confession of Idaho Falls, Idaho). The short name for the congregation was St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church. The congregation lacked a building, and services were originally held on alternate Sundays at the Swedish Lutheran Church building, formerly located on the corner of Birch Street and Water Avenue, in Idaho Falls. Between 1915-1922, the St. John congregation met in their old parsonage house on 7th Street, in the Numbered Streets neighborhood of Idaho Falls.³⁴ The St. John community grew along with the city population and finally, in 1922 the congregation built the "Little White Church," a wood structure on a portion of their present, larger property at the southwest corner of 7th Street and Emerson, across the street from the old parsonage.

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church was an independent congregation that joined the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod in 1933. It has since been called St. John Lutheran Church. Figure 34 provides a list of the Pastors of St. John, with notes about important events of their time.

In 1935, St. John purchased two lots east of the Little White Church and five lots to the west.³⁵ In 1938, the old parsonage was converted into a parochial school that operated until 1946. In 1947, coinciding with the installation of a new pastor a new parsonage was constructed.³⁶

³⁴ The old parsonage, located across the street from St. John, is now a private residence at 281 7th St. in Idaho Falls.

³⁵ Dedication Booklet. 1950. Idaho Falls, Idaho: St. John Lutheran Church.

³⁶ The St. John congregation continues to own this house at 244 7th Street.

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History of St. John Lutheran Church Since 1950

Idaho Falls experienced growth during World War II as it became a center of manufacturing and research. The Idaho Falls power plant was constructed to support the war effort. The city of Idaho Falls adopted the 1947 City Plan, which prepared the area for growth while improving transportation networks and building new amenities.³⁷ In 1949, the National Reactor Testing Station³⁸ was established near the city. The growth of the city attracted new residents to work in industries that required a higher level of education or training. This same population growth led to the St. John congregation's need for a new, larger church building.

The groundbreaking for the current St. John building occurred under the Reverend W. Rist, on the site of the Little White Church and nearly surrounded the little building during construction. Construction proceeded according to plans by architect Clinton A. Sundberg that are dated October 1948. The cost of the building was \$85,000 and the general contractor was William Kloefer of Rupert, Idaho. The cornerstone of St. John was laid on May 15, 1949, and displays the dates "1913" commemorating the founding of the congregation, and "1949" commemorating the beginning of construction. Pastor Roland Koch of Pocatello was the guest speaker for the cornerstone laying service. The cornerstone contains a time capsule in the form of a metal box containing a Bible, Hymn Book, Prayer Book, a copy of the Augsburg Confession, and three newspapers from May 1949: *The Salt Lake Tribune*, *Deseret News*, and *The Post-Register*. It also contains a list of names including the President of the United States, Governor of Idaho, Mayor of Idaho Falls, St. John Lutheran Church officers, building committee and building pledge committees of that day. Figure 35 provides a complete list of persons and companies involved in design and construction of St. John Lutheran Church.

The congregation announced that the new building was completed on September 24, 1949, although it is apparent that construction continued into the following year. On November 20, 1949, the last official service was held in the Little White Church. The congregation subsequently sold and moved the old building on May 3, 1950, to make way for new landscaping on the grounds.³⁹ The first service in the new church was held in the basement on November 24, 1949, as the main sanctuary was presumably not yet completed. The new St. John building was dedicated on May 28, Pentecost Sunday, 1950.⁴⁰ According to unpublished records at St. John, Clinton Sundberg was present at the dedication of the building and is credited with having provided a "liberal discount" of his fee for designing the building.⁴¹

³⁷ Lloyd, Donald F., and Artie L. Gardner. 2023. "Bonneville County Heritage Association." Bonneville County Heritage Association. <http://bonnevilleheritage.org/MJFCODPg.php?pag=chap7>.

³⁸ This facility is known today as the Idaho National Laboratory.

³⁹ The Little White Church was moved to 491 E. 16th Street and converted to apartments. The building is extant.

⁴⁰ Dedication Booklet. 1950. Idaho Falls, Idaho: St. John Lutheran Church.

⁴¹ *St. John Lutheran Church Archives*. 1930-2023. Idaho Falls, Idaho: n.p.

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Originally a German-speaking congregation, the official language of church business changed to English in 1951, following a revision of the St. John Lutheran Church's constitution.

The 1950 dedication booklet describes the new St. John's Church as follows:

"Our church building is of Gothic Architecture. The entire plan is for the purpose of giving beauty and dignity to the church, but also to lift the worshiper's spirits in coming before the presence of God."

Due to the continued growth of the area and the church congregation during the 1950s, an addition was deemed necessary to support the church's mission. Located to the west of the original building, the 1959 addition was designed by architects Harold E. Collard and Francis A. Schulz of Idaho Falls. The style is restrained Modern, with a structure of 2 x 14-inch lumber framing and a red brick veneer that matches the original structure as viewed from the exterior. It has dimensions of 87 x 34 feet and is referred to as the Educational Wing in the architectural drawings.

Recent History

Today's St. John congregation are active members of the community, working in every major business in town, including science and engineering jobs at the Idaho National Lab, professional service providers, agriculture, and health care. St. John owns and operates a house directly west of the church that is provided rent free to needy members of the community for periods of up to one year. Programming of the church includes Sunday services, Bible study, fellowship, youth education and special events, Braille classes, First Sunday food drives and offerings, summer camp, vacation bible school, holiday events for the congregation and the community at Halloween, Valentine's Day, Easter, and Christmas, and supporting the Shepherd's Inn Pregnancy Support Center. The congregation also provides meeting rooms free of charge to other organizations. The church is integrated into the Numbered Streets community in such a way that one local, non-Lutheran resident who is also a former member of the Idaho House of Representatives has stated that the sight of the stained glass as viewed from the street is "inspirational."

It should be noted that although the Lutheran Church was founded by people of Northern European ethnicity, the church has never excluded persons of other ethnic origins. Currently, St. John Lutheran Church has attendees of non-European ethnic origin. Although welcoming to all persons, the neo-Gothic architecture of St. John retains the feel of its northern European heritage.

Summary

The St. John Lutheran Church is eligible for listing the NRHP under Criteria C in the area of ARCHITECTURE at the local level of significance for its association with the

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work of C.A. Sundberg Associates, successor firm to Sundberg and Sundberg. Throughout its existence from 1920 to 1967, the prolific Sundberg firm led by Clinton A. Sundberg set the standard for architectural design in Eastern Idaho. The design of St. John reflects a pivotal point in the firm's career, exemplifying its gradual transition from historicist to modern styles in the years immediately following World War II. Despite the construction of an addition in 1959, and a few minor alterations, the Sundberg-designed building completed in 1950 retains good overall integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and clearly conveys its original function, historic associations, and period of construction.

St. John Lutheran Church
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Utt, Emily. 2010. *Paper 2 - Historic Place*, HP 611.

Utt, Emily. 2010. *Paper 3 - Historic Place*, HP 611.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data: N/A

- State Historic Preservation Office (Idaho)
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government (City of Idaho Falls)
 University
 Other

Name of repository: St. John Lutheran Church

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.1 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 43.491557 N | Longitude: -112.029853 W |
| 2. Latitude: 43.491564 N | Longitude: -112.028638 W |
| 3. Latitude: 43.491080 N | Longitude: -112.028631 W |
| 4. Latitude: 43.491084 N | Longitude: -112.029847 W |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property is bounded by 7th Street on the north, Emerson Street on the east, the end of the parking lot on the west, and an unpaved alley way on the south. The church owns a residential house to the west of the west parking lot; however, that structure is not a subject of this application.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

These are the property ownership boundaries in the subject neighborhood.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Kirk Huffaker, Principal
organization: Kirk Huffaker Preservation Strategies for the Idaho Falls CLG
street & number: 774 East 2100 South
city or town: Salt Lake City state: UT zip code: 84152
e-mail: kirk@kirkhuffaker.com
telephone: (801) 949-4040
date: September 23, 2023

name/title: Bruce J. Mincher, Past Chair, St. John Board of Directors
organization: St. John Lutheran Church
street & number: 290 7th St.
city or town: Idaho Falls state: ID zip code: 83401
e-mail: brucemincher@hotmail.com
telephone: (208) 521-8199
date: September 23, 2023

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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Figure 3. Neighborhood Context Map.

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Figure 8. View of St. John during construction in September 1949 with the “old white church” in the elbow of the building. Source: *Post Register*, September 29, 1949.

Figure 9. St. John upon completion, ca. 1950. Source: St. John Lutheran Church archives.

Figure 10. First Floor floorplan. The area labelled classroom was used as the original Pastor’s office. Source: Dedication Booklet, 1950, St. John Lutheran Church archives.

Figure 11. Basement floorplan showing the Recreation Room (now the Fellowship Hall), Kitchen, and Boiler Room. The Ladies’ Lounge is now the nursery. Source: Dedication Booklet, 1950 St. John Lutheran Church archive.

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Figure 16. Stained-glass windows of St. John Lutheran Church.

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Figure 19. The Collette House, 301 11th Street, Idaho Falls, 1935. Source: Idaho SHPO.

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Figure 25. Idaho Falls Fifth Ward LDS Meetinghouse, 1937. Source: Idaho SHPO.

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Figure 29. Arco Hospital, 1957. Source: *Idaho State Journal*, Newspapers.com.

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Figure 31. Minidoka Memorial Hospital, Rupert, 1960. Source: *Herald-Bulletin*, Newspapers.com.

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Figure 34. List of Pastors of St. John Lutheran Church, their dates of service, and accomplishments.

Figure 35. Persons involved in the design and construction of St. John Lutheran Church.

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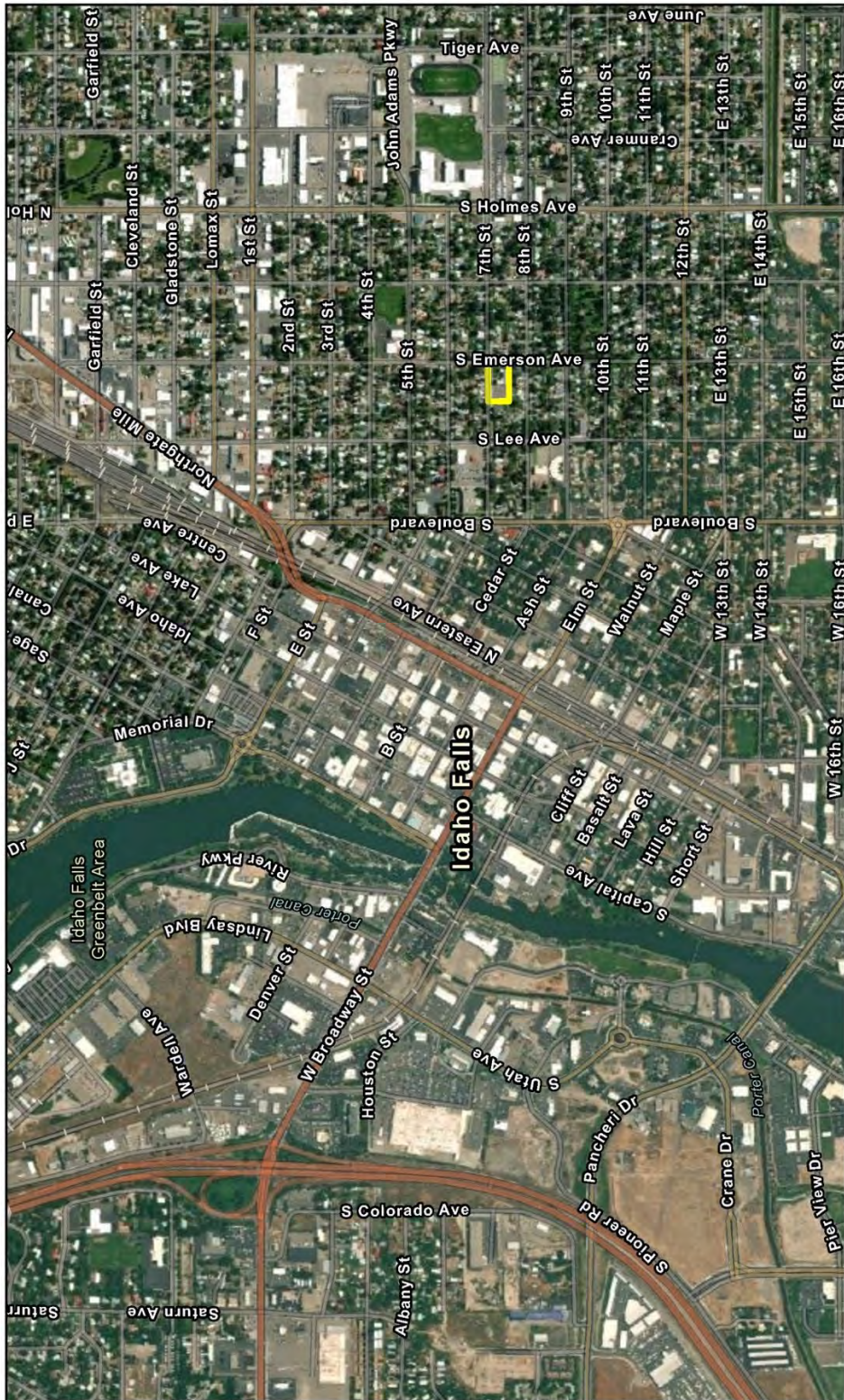
Figure 1. State Context Map.



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Figure 2. General Context Map.



Legend

Property Boundary

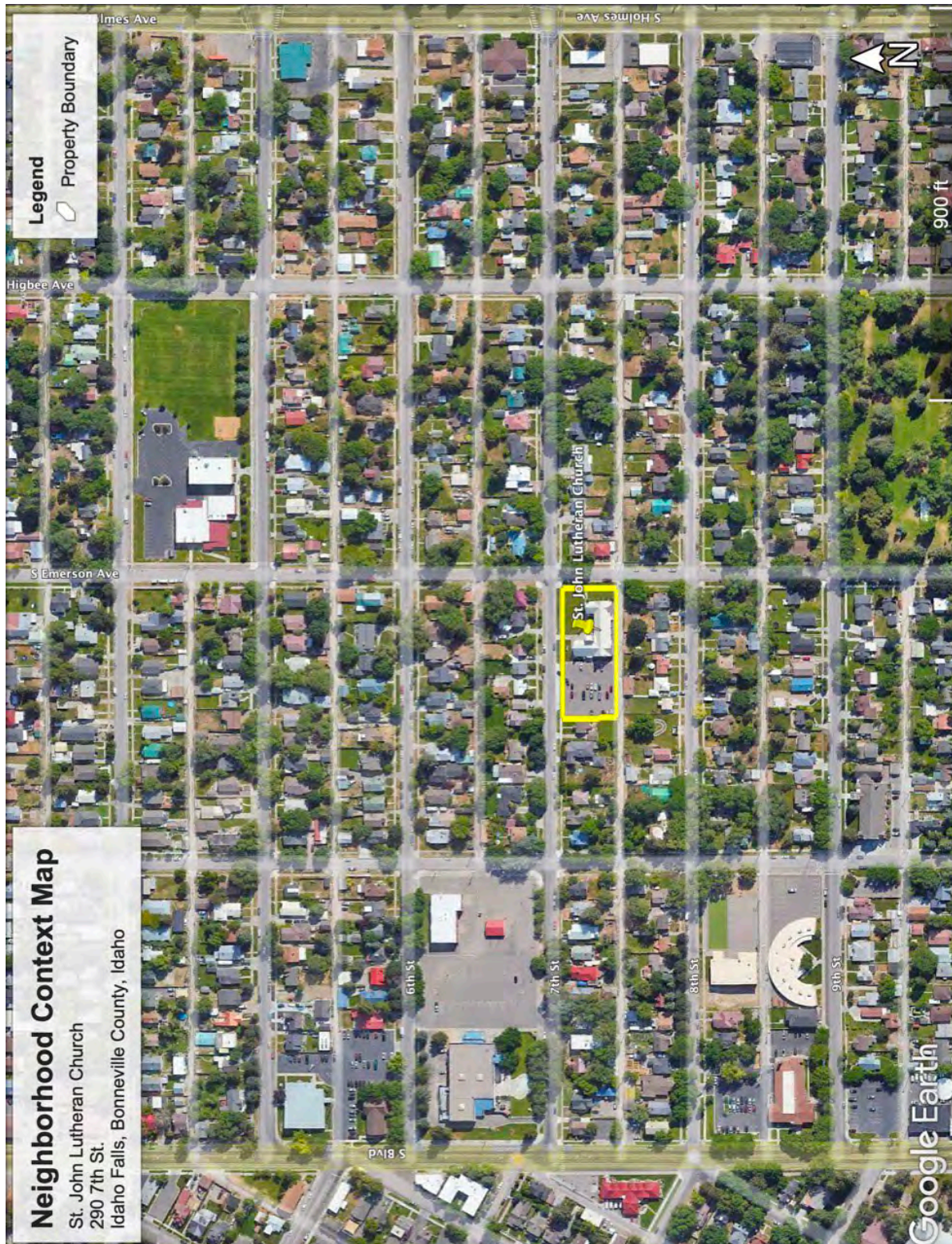


General Context Map
St. John Lutheran Church
280 7th St.
Idaho Falls, Bonneville County, Idaho

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Figure 3. Neighborhood Context Map.



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Figure 4. Property Boundary Map.



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Figure 5. Photo Key – Exterior.

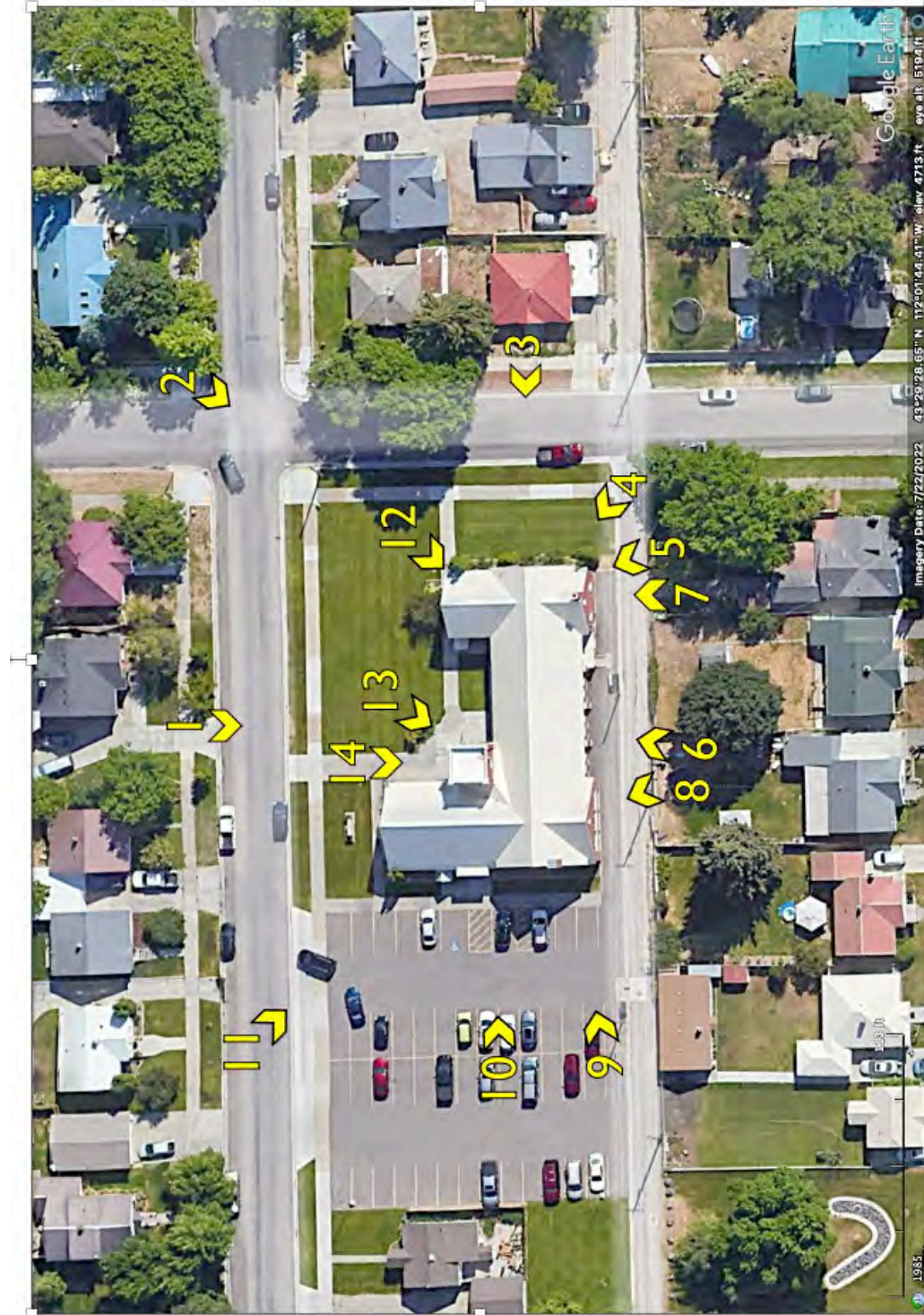


Photo Key – Exterior
St. John Lutheran Church
290 7th St.
Idaho Falls, Bonneville County, Idaho

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Figure 6. Photo Key – Interior.

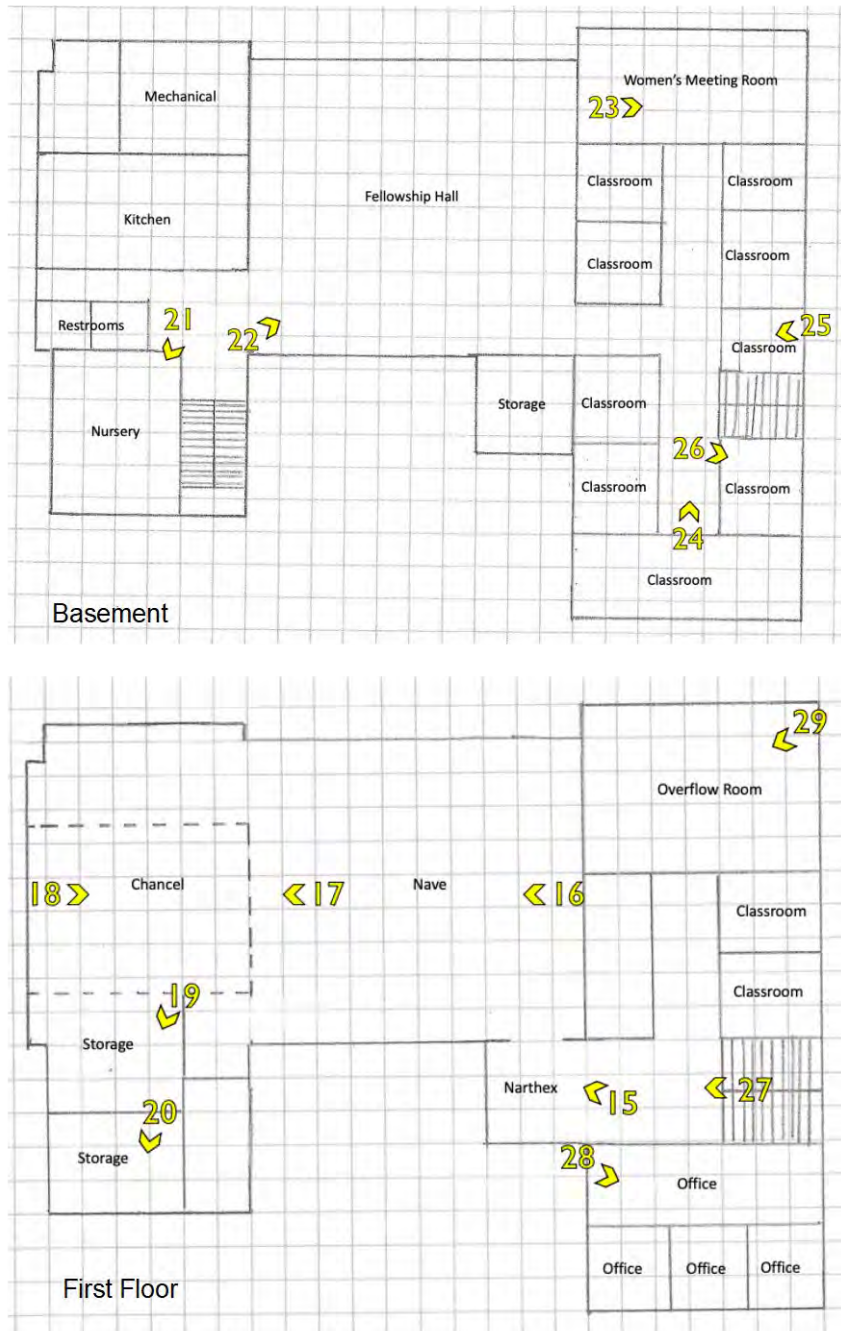


Photo Key – Interior
St. John Lutheran Church
290 7th St.
Idaho Falls, Bonneville County, Idaho

Not to Scale

\

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Figure 7. St. John under construction in 1949, showing glue-laminated vertical beams, rafters, and solid timber purlins which form the sanctuary space. Source: St. John Lutheran Church archives.

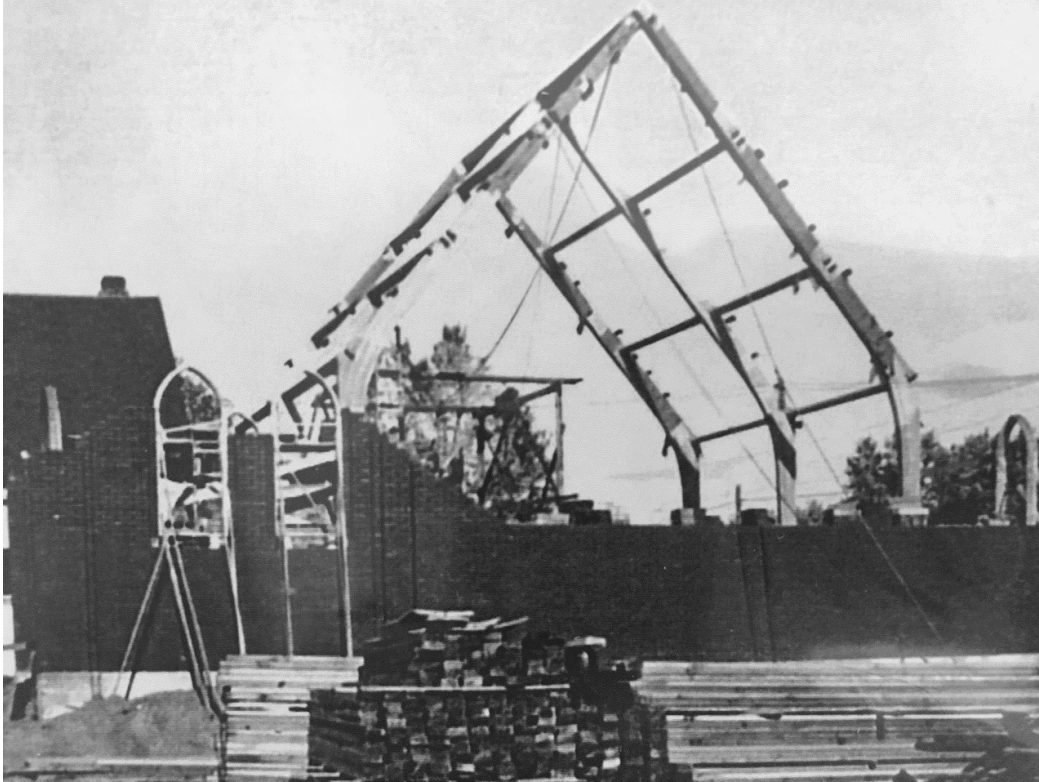


Figure 8. View of St. John during construction in September 1949 with the “old white church” in the elbow of the building. Source: *Post Register*, September 29, 1949.



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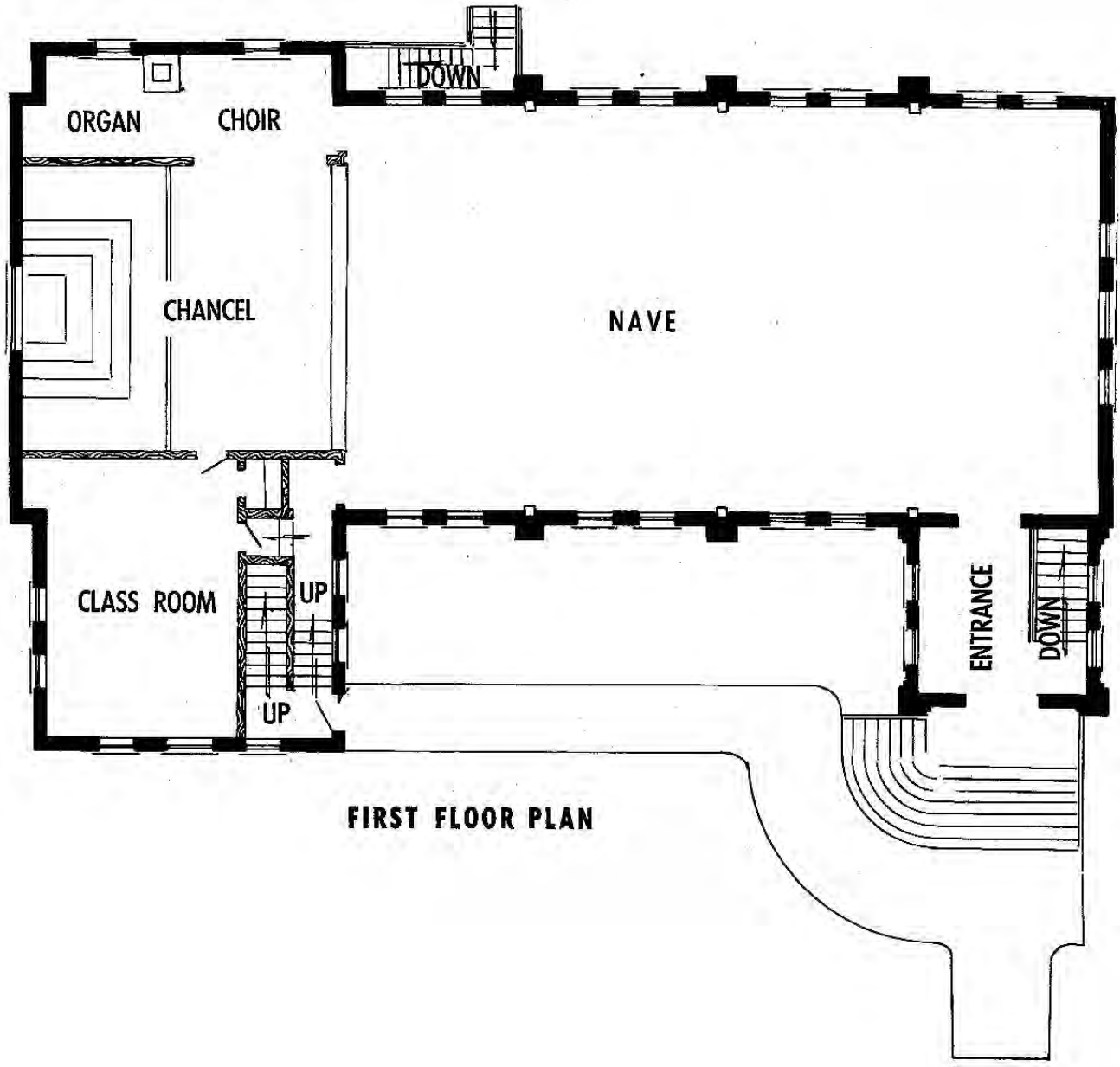
Figure 9. St. John upon completion, ca. 1950. Source: St. John Lutheran Church archives.



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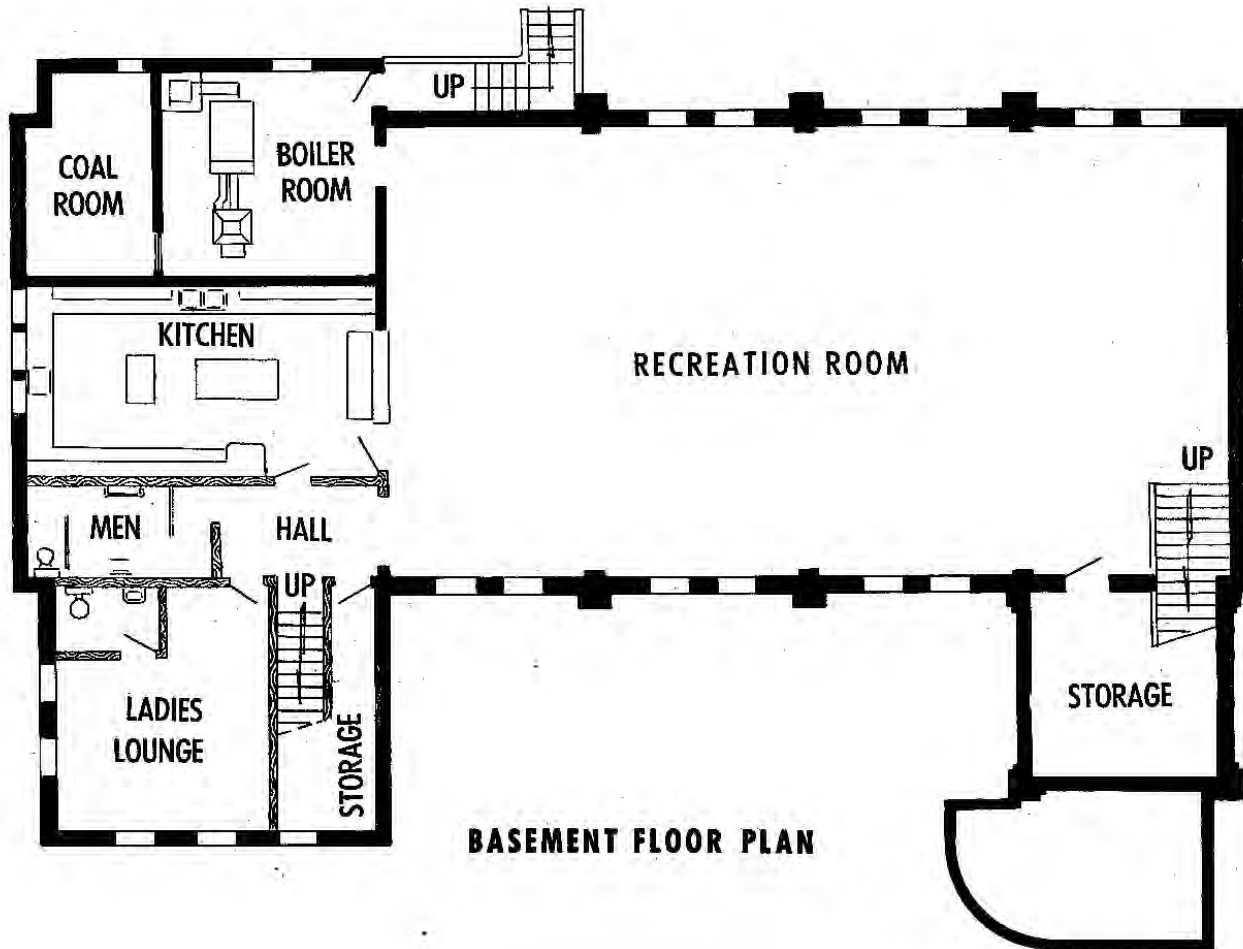
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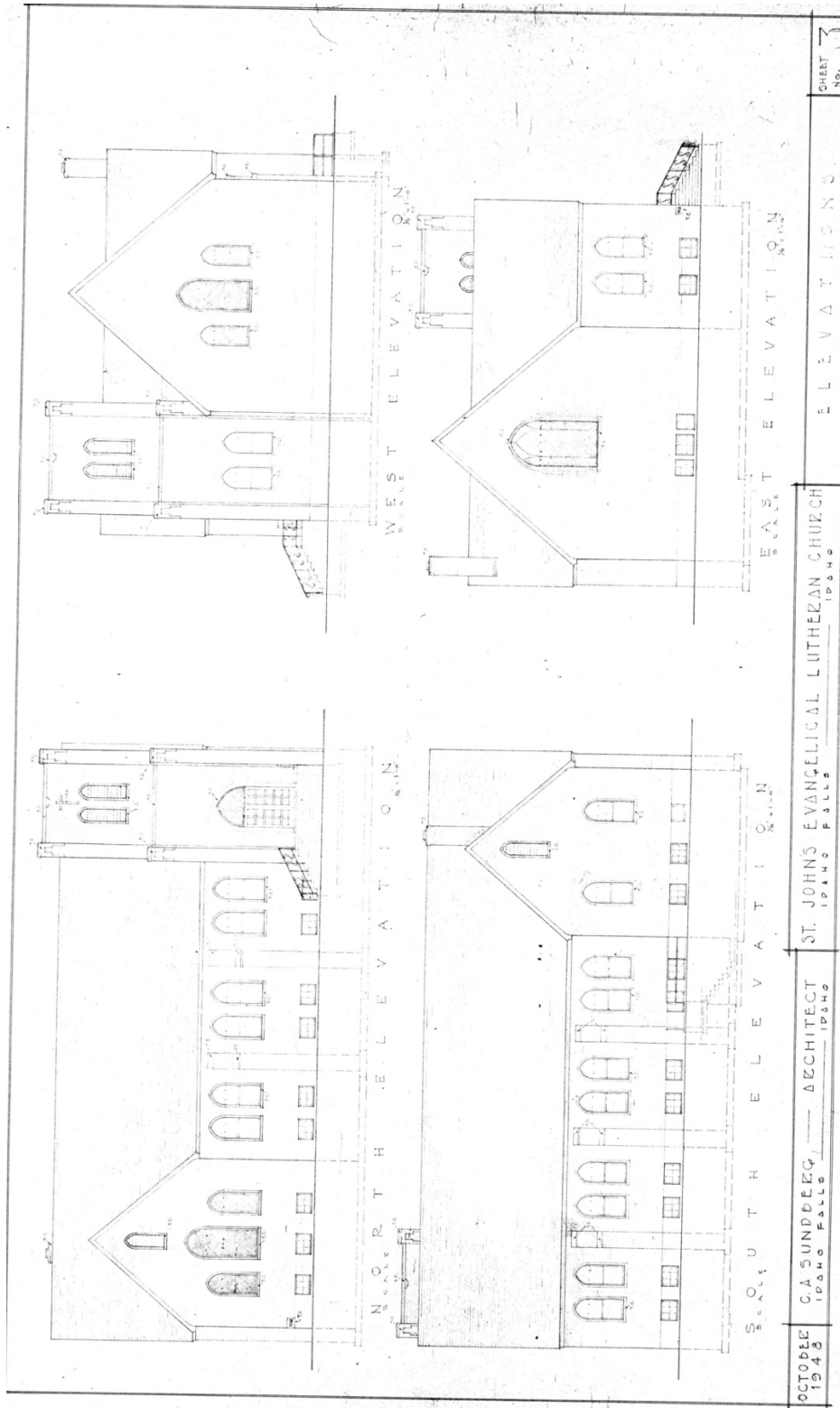
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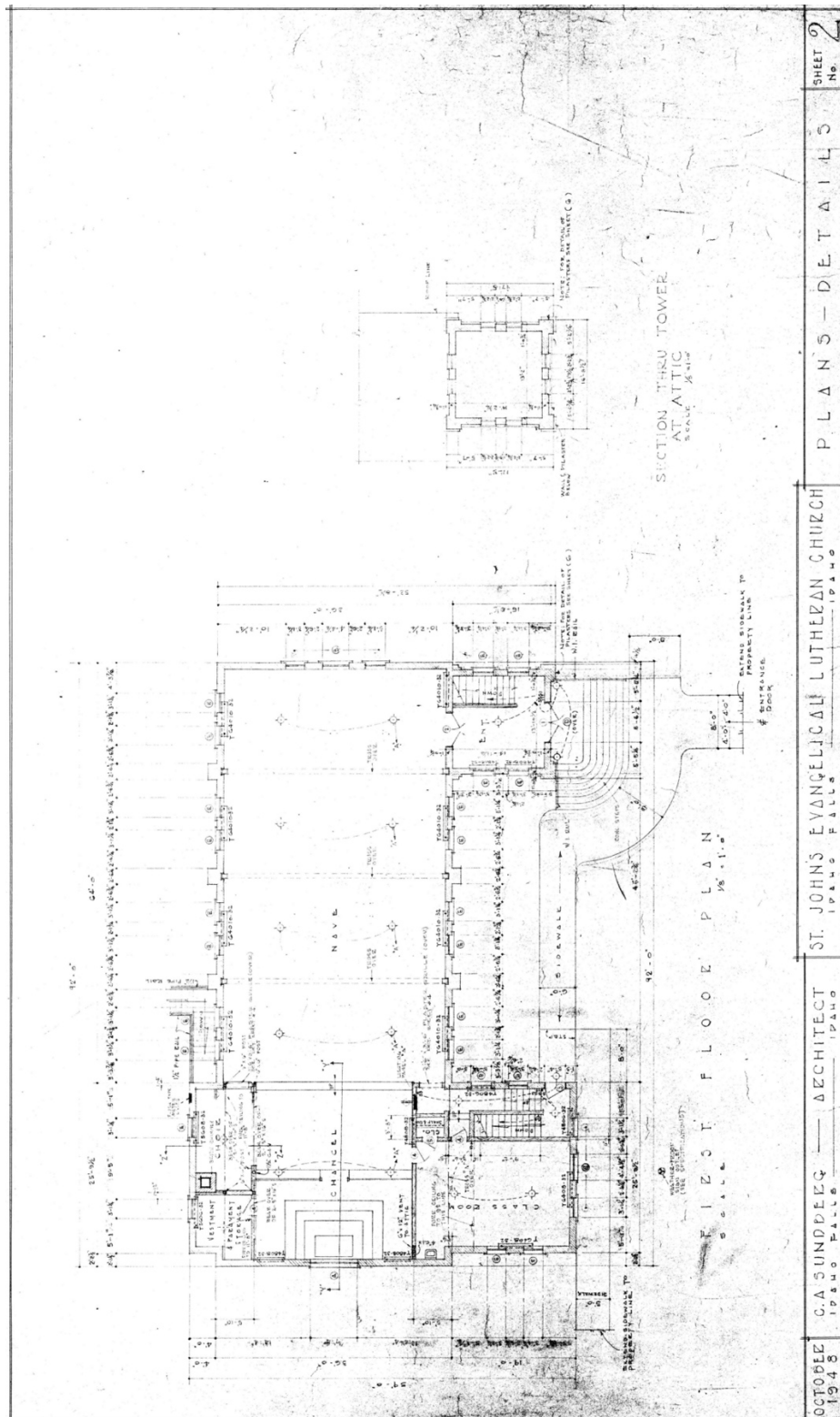
Figure 12. Original elevation drawing. Source: St. John Lutheran Church Archives.



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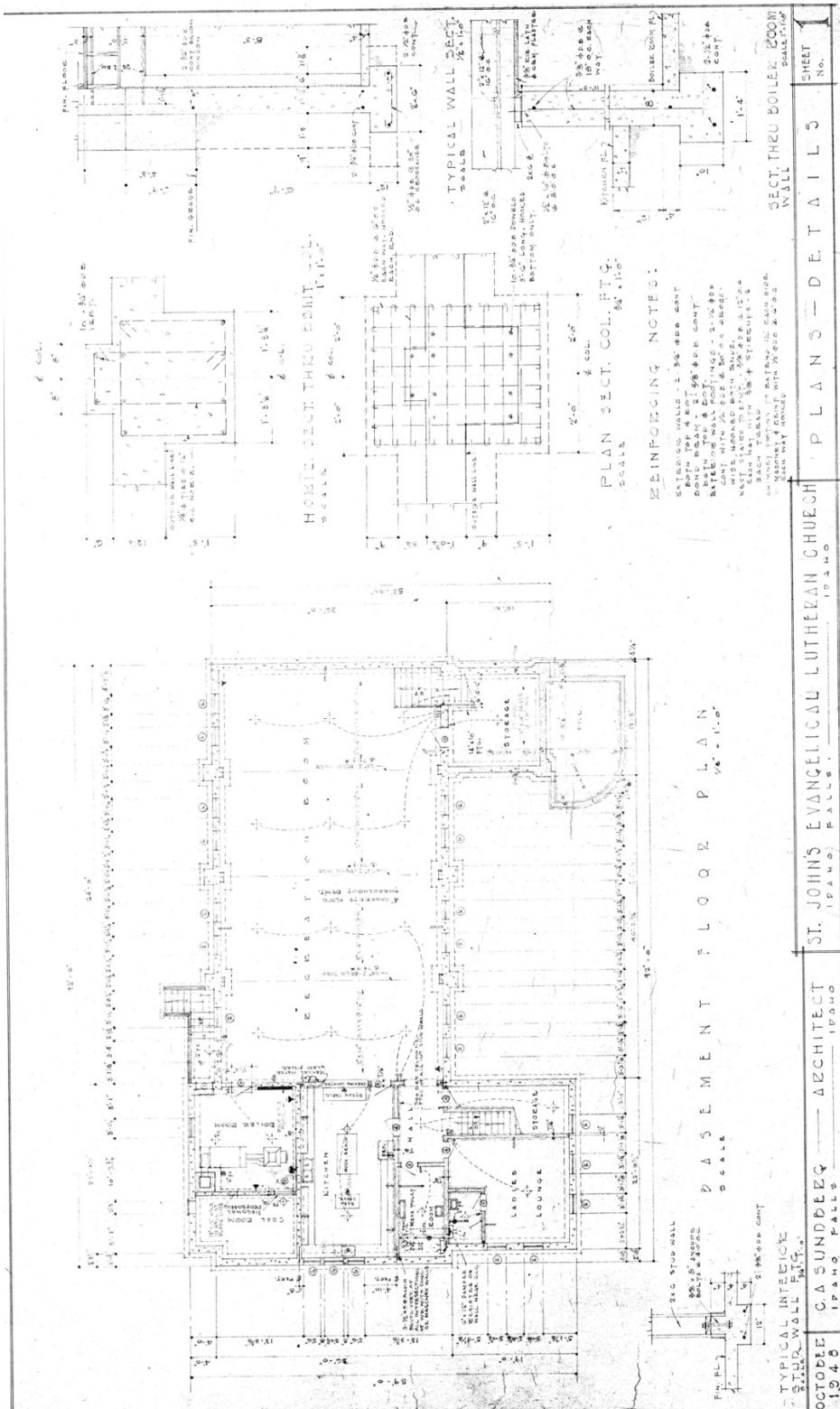
Figure 13. Original first floor floorplan drawing. Source: St. John Lutheran Church Archives.



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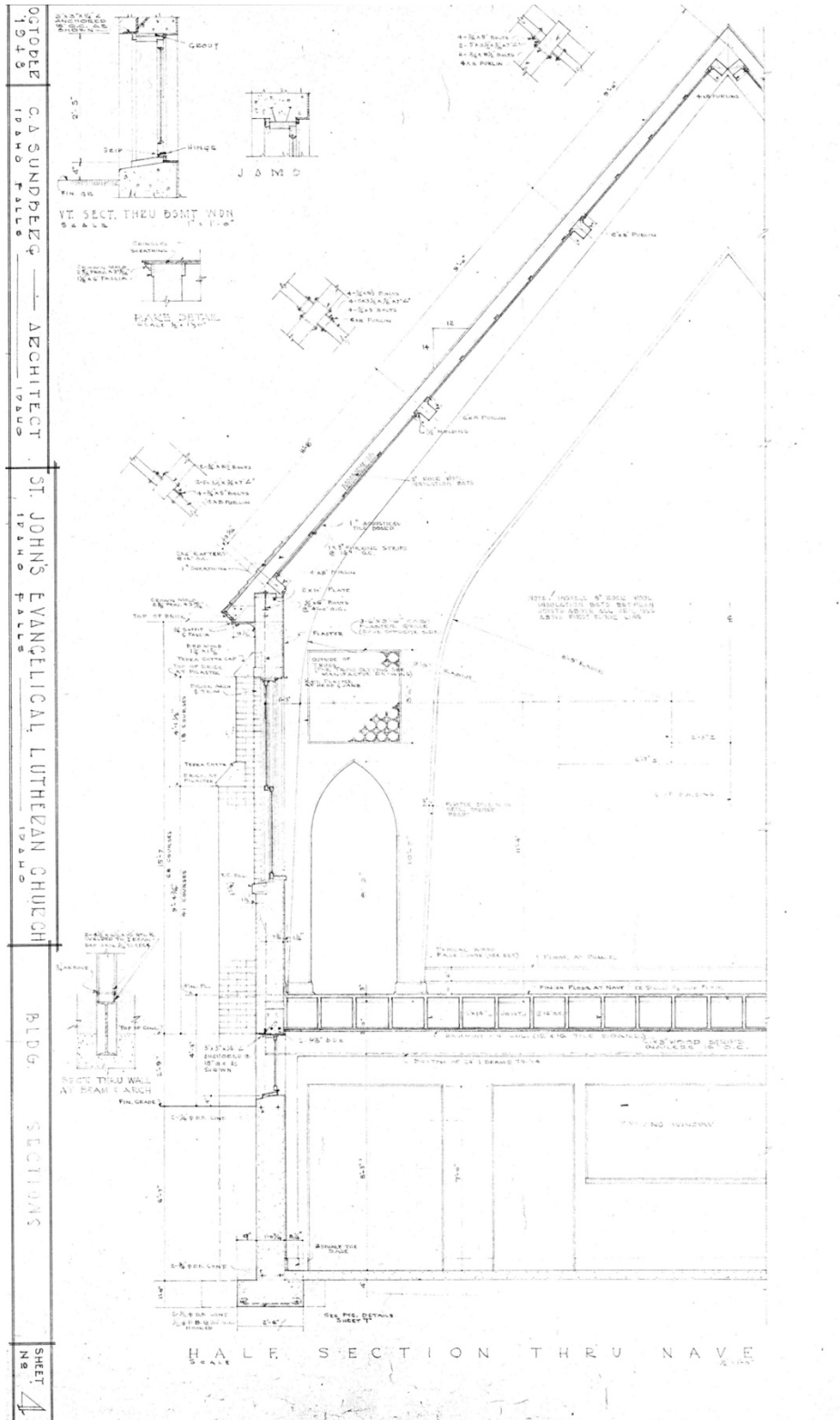
Figure 14. Original basement floorplan drawing. Source: St. John Lutheran Church Archives.



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Figure 15. Original building section drawing. Source: St. John Lutheran Church Archives.



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Figure 16. Stained-glass windows of St. John Lutheran Church.

Number	Location	Dimensions	Symbolism
1	Alter window	7.5'x13.5'	Christ prays at Gethsemane
2	Nave, north side	3'x8'	Messianic rose
3	Nave, north side	3'x8'	Easter lighted candle
4	Nave, north side	3'x8'	Holy Spirit as a dove
5	Nave, north side	3'x8'	Vine, branches and 12 apostles
6	Nave, north side	3'x8'	Patte cross and four evangelists
7	Nave, north side	3'x8'	Crown and three persons of Trinity
8	Nave, south side	3'x8'	Open Bible and crown
9	Nave, south side	3'x8'	Ten commandments
10	Nave, south side	3'x8'	Elements of the Lord's Supper
11	Nave, south side	3'x8'	Holy Spirit over baptismal font
12	Nave, south side	3'x8'	Fruits of faith
13	Nave, south side	3'x8'	The Bible, a light for our path
14	Nave, south side	3'x8'	Hourglass and wings; time flies
15	Nave, south side	3'x8'	Sign of Constantine the Great
16	Narthex, east	3'x8'	Shield of Holy Trinity
17	Narthex, east	3'x8'	Lamb of God, Agnus Dei
18	Narthex, entrance	6'x4'	Geometric design
19	Chancel, south	3'x8'	Bread of Life
20	Chancel, south	3'x8'	Lord is light
21	Chancel side entry	3'x8'	geometric design
22	Chancel office	3'x11'	geometric design
23	Chancel office	3'x8'	geometric design

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Figure 17a. List of Sundberg & Sundberg and Sundberg & Associates commissions.

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	SITE NAME	LOCATION	ARCHIVE	NOTES
1920	Sewage System	Rexburg	Idaho State Archives	
1920	Second Ward	Idaho Falls	Idaho State Archives	
1921	Central Heating Plant, Idaho State Hospital North	Orofino	Idaho State Archives	
1923	School Building	Bingham County	Idaho State Archives	
1924	Gymnasium, Idaho Industrial School	St. Anthony	Idaho State Archives	
1925	Central Heating Plant, Albion Normal School	Albion	Idaho State Archives	
1926	School Building	Eden	Idaho State Archives	
1926	T.H. Douglas Building	Idaho Falls	Idaho State Archives	
1926	Osgood Meeting House	Idaho Falls	Idaho State Archives	
1926	Third Ward	Smithfield	Idaho State Archives	
1927	Elks Lodge	Idaho Falls	Idaho State Archives	
1927	26th Ward Meeting House	Salt Lake Cty, UT	Idaho State Archives	
1928	Science Building, Idaho State University	Pocatello	Idaho State Archives	
1929	Schools	Idaho Falls	Idaho State Archives	
1929	Third Ward	Idaho Falls	Idaho State Archives	
1931	Lincoln Ward Chapel and Recreation Hall	Lincoln	Idaho State Archives	Reused as Assembly of God church 1935, 1936; now part of Lincoln School
1932	Heating Plant, Iona School District		Idaho State Archives	
1933	American National Bank Building (addition)	Idaho Falls	Idaho State Archives	
1933	D.F. Richards House	Idaho Falls	Idaho State Archives	
1933	First Ward	Idaho Falls	Idaho State Archives	1936, 1941, 1944
1934	High School (addition)	Shelley	Idaho State Archives	
1934	High School (remodel)	Idaho Falls	Idaho State Archives	
1934	Mary Clark Building	Idaho Falls	Idaho State Archives	
1934	Wandamere Dance Pavilion	Idaho Falls	Idaho State Archives	
1935	Bybee and Peterson Building	Blackfoot	Idaho State Archives	
1935	Carnegie Library (addition)	Idaho Falls	Idaho State Archives	
1935	Coltman Building (remodel)	Idaho Falls	Idaho State Archives	
1935	Fair Store (remodel)	Idaho Falls	Idaho State Archives	
1935	Model Home	Idaho Falls	Idaho State Archives	
1935	Sweeney Building (remodel)	Idaho Falls	Idaho State Archives	
1936	Junior High School	Idaho Falls	Idaho State Archives	
1936	Pacific Fruit and Packing Co. Warehouse	Idaho Falls	Idaho State Archives	
1936	School Building	Ammon	Idaho State Archives	
1937	Dormitory, Albion Normal School	Albion	Idaho State Archives	
1937	Hawthorne Elementary School	Idaho Falls	Idaho State Archives	
1937	High School	St. Anthony	Idaho State Archives	
1937	Hospital	Driggs	Idaho State Archives	
1937	Riverside School (remodel)	Idaho Falls	Idaho State Archives	
1937	School (addition)	Lincoln	Idaho State Archives	
1937	School (addition)	Hamer	Idaho State Archives	
1937	School (addition)	York	Idaho State Archives	
1937	Idaho Falls Seminary	Idaho Falls	Idaho State Archives	Renovated by 1959
1937	Parker Ward Meeting House	Parker	Idaho State Archives	
1938	Dormitory, Idaho State Hospital North	Orofino	Idaho State Archives	
1938	Idaho Falls Potato Growers Packing Plant (remodel)	Idaho Falls	Idaho State Archives	
1938	Isenburg Drug Co.	Idaho Falls	Idaho State Archives	
1938	Jefferson County Courthouse	Rigby	Idaho State Archives	
1938	School (addition)	Goshen	Idaho State Archives	
1938	School (addition)	Irwin	Idaho State Archives	
1938	Vocational Arts Building	Idaho Falls	Idaho State Archives	
1939	Elementary School	Ucon	Idaho State Archives	
1939	High School (addition)	Menan	Idaho State Archives	
1939	Jerome County Courthouse	Jerome	Idaho State Archives	
1939	Oneida County Courthouse	Malad	Unknown	
1940	American National Bank Building (addition)	Idaho Falls	Idaho State Archives	
1940	Carnegie Library (addition)	Idaho Falls	Idaho State Archives	
1940	Gymnasium	Dubois	Idaho State Archives	
1940	Japanese Friendship Garden Museum	Idaho Falls	Idaho State Archives	
1940	School (remodel)	Chester	Idaho State Archives	
1940	Superintendent's Residence, Idaho State Hospital North	Orofino	Idaho State Archives	
1940	First Ward	Shelley	Idaho State Archives	
1940	Mud Lake Branch Church	Treton	Idaho State Archives	1943; Treton Ward; also at Idaho State Archives
1940	St. Anthony Presbyterian Church	St. Anthony	Idaho State Archives	
1940	"Old White Church"	Ashton	Idaho State Archives	Demolished 1960
1940	Beaver Creek Branch	Dubois	Idaho State Archives	Demolished
1941	Second Ward	Rexburg	Idaho State Archives	
1941	Central School (remodel)	Idaho Falls	Idaho State Archives	
1941	Elmer Rigby Building	Idaho Falls	Idaho State Archives	
1941	Firestone Tire & Rubber Co.	Idaho Falls	Idaho State Archives	
1941	Gymnasium	Rexburg	Idaho State Archives	
1941	National Guard Armory	Rexburg	Idaho State Archives	
1941	School Building	Blowout	Idaho State Archives	
1942	Doctor's Residence, Idaho State Hospital South	Blackfoot	Idaho State Archives	

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Figure 17b. List of Sundberg & Sundberg and Sundberg & Associates commissions.

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	SITE NAME	LOCATION	ARCHIVE	NOTES
1942	Pharmacy Building, Idaho State University	Pocatello	Idaho State Archives	
1943	First Ward and Tabernacle	Idaho Falls	Idaho State Archives	
1943	Fifth Ward Chapel	Idaho Falls	Idaho State Archives	Also at LDS Church History Library
1943	LDS Hospital Nursery	Idaho Falls	Idaho State Archives	
1944	Heise Pool	Heise	Idaho State Archives	
1944	Upper Snake River Flood Control	Unknown	Idaho State Archives	
1946	G.L. Model Housing	Idaho Falls	Idaho State Archives	
1946	Hyrum Keppner Building	Resburg	Idaho State Archives	
1946	O.E. Bell Junior High Gym (remodel)	Idaho Falls	Idaho State Archives	
1946	Palisade Dam Office Building	Idaho Falls	Idaho State Archives	
1947	Boys Dormitory, Idaho Industrial School	St. Anthony	Idaho State Archives	
1947	Burns Industries Warehouse	Idaho Falls	Idaho State Archives	
1947	Chesbro Building (addition)	Idaho Falls	Idaho State Archives	
1947	Dr. Tall Medical Office	Rigby	Idaho State Archives	
1947	Municipal Airport (improvements)	Idaho Falls	Idaho State Archives	
1947	Municipal Airport (improvements)	Twin Falls	Idaho State Archives	
1947	Swimming Pool (renovation)	Idaho Falls	Idaho State Archives	
1947	Virlow Peterson Building	Idaho Falls	Idaho State Archives	
1947	Water Supply Head House	Resburg	Idaho State Archives	
1948	Elks Lodge (remodel)	Idaho Falls	Idaho State Archives	
1948	Joseph Murley Furniture Store	Idaho Falls	Idaho State Archives	
1948	Stadium, High School	Idaho Falls	Idaho State Archives	
1949	St. John Lutheran Church	Idaho Falls	LDS Church History Library	
1949	Central Heating Plant, Idaho State Hospital South	Blackfoot	Idaho State Archives	
1949	Country Club Clubhouse	Idaho Falls	Idaho State Archives	
1949	Eastern Idaho Equipment Co.	Resburg	Idaho State Archives	
1949	Emerson Elementary (addition)	Idaho Falls	Idaho State Archives	
1949	Riverside Elementary (addition)	Idaho Falls	Idaho State Archives	
1949	Smith-Hart Garage	Idaho Falls	Idaho State Archives	
1950	Central Heating Plant, Idaho State University	Pocatello	Idaho State Archives	
1950	Elementary School	Soda Springs	Idaho State Archives	
1950	Elementary School	Grace	Idaho State Archives	
1950	Medical Clinic	Idaho Falls	Idaho State Archives	
1950	Vocational Building	Bannock	Idaho State Archives	
1951	Liberal Arts Building, Idaho State University	Pocatello	Idaho State Archives	
1952	Dormitories and Heating Plant, Idaho Industrial School	St. Anthony	Idaho State Archives	
1952	High School	Arco	Idaho State Archives	
1952	High School (remodel)	Soda Springs	Idaho State Archives	
1953	School Building	Irwin	Idaho State Archives	
1954	Franklin County General Memorial Hospital (addition)	Preston	Idaho State Archives	
1954	Library, Idaho State University	Pocatello	Idaho State Archives	
1954	Snake River High School,	Riverside	Idaho State Archives	
1955	Girls Dormitory (remodel), Idaho Industrial School	St. Anthony	Idaho State Archives	
1956	High School	Shelley	Idaho State Archives	
1957	Wood River Convalescent Center	Shoshone	Idaho State Archives	
1958	Marsh Valley High School	Arimo	Idaho State Archives	
1958	National Guard Armory	Idaho Falls	Idaho State Archives	
1958	National Guard Armory	Rigby	Idaho State Archives	
1960	Butte County Courthouse (addition)	Arco	Idaho State Archives	
1960	Cassia County Hospital	Burley	Idaho State Archives	
1960	Gould and Arthur Shopping Center	Pocatello	Idaho State Archives	
1960	High School	Soda Springs	Idaho State Archives	
1960	Lost River Hospital	Arco	Idaho State Archives	
1960	Minidoka Memorial Hospital	Rupert	Idaho State Archives	
1960	National Guard Armory	Preston	Idaho State Archives	
1961	First Baptist Church (addition)	Blackfoot	Idaho State Archives	
1962	Eastern Idaho Regional Storehouse	Ucon	LDS Church History Library	
1962	Central Heating Plant, Ricks College	Resburg	LDS Church History Library	1963, 1973
1962	Elementary School (addition)	Jackson, WY	Idaho State Archives	
1963	First Christian Church	Idaho Falls	LDS Church History Library	
1963	Disciples of Christ Church	Idaho Falls	Idaho State Archives	
1963	Valli Vista Apartments	Ketchum	Idaho State Archives	
1966	Classroom and office building, Ricks College	Resburg	LDS Church History Library	
1967	PE Building, Ricks College	Resburg	LDS Church History Library	1968
1968	Main Gym, Ricks College	Resburg	LDS Church History Library	
1968	David O. McKay Library, Ricks College	Resburg	LDS Church History Library	1973
1969	Old Gym Building, Ricks College	Resburg	LDS Church History Library	
1970	Elks Lodge	Jackson, WY	Idaho State Archives	
Unknown	Hammer Ward Meeting House	Hammer	LDS Church History Library	Sundberg designed school next door
Unknown	Storage Building	Idaho Falls	LDS Church History Library	
Unknown	Bishops Storehouse	Idaho Falls	LDS Church History Library	
Unknown	Lyman Ward Meeting House	Lyman	LDS Church History Library	
Unknown	Apartment court, Ricks College	Resburg	LDS Church History Library	
Unknown	Handball court, Ricks College	Resburg	LDS Church History Library	

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Figure 18. American National Bank, Idaho Falls, 1939. Source: *Post-Register*, Newspapers.com.

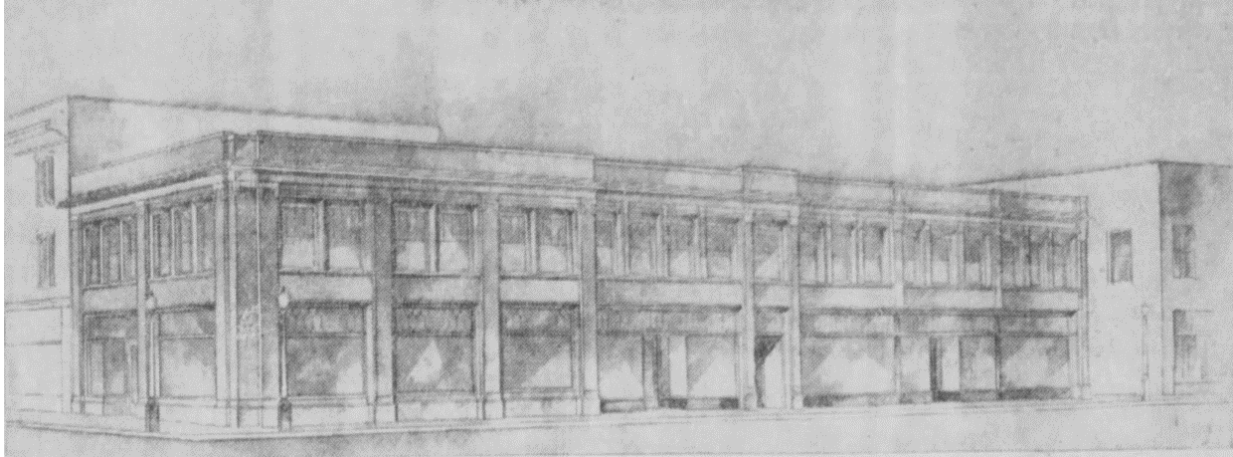
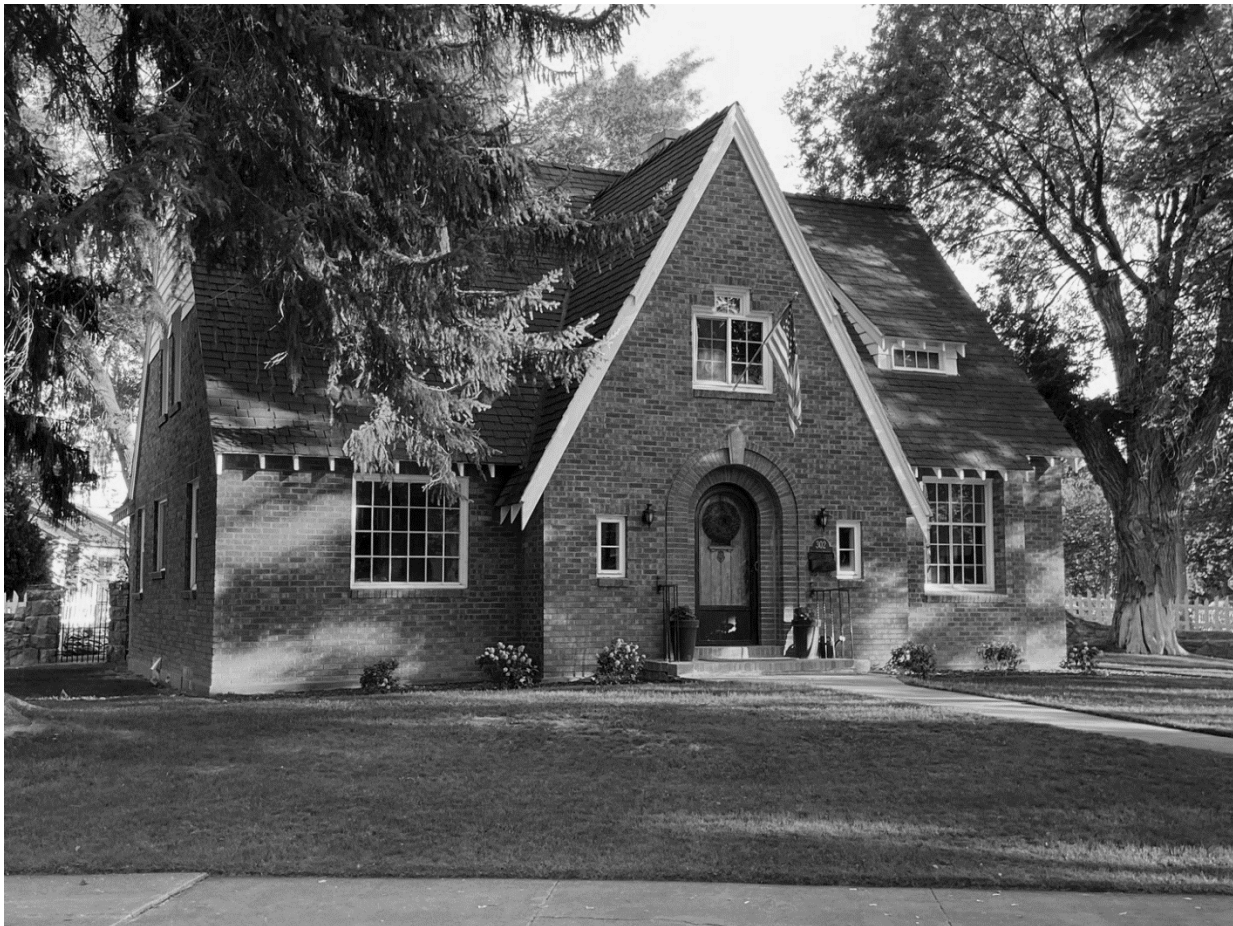


Figure 19. The Collette House, 301 11th Street, Idaho Falls, 1935. Source: Idaho SHPO.



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Figure 20. Jefferson County Courthouse, Rigby, 1937. Source: *Post-Register*, Newspapers.com.

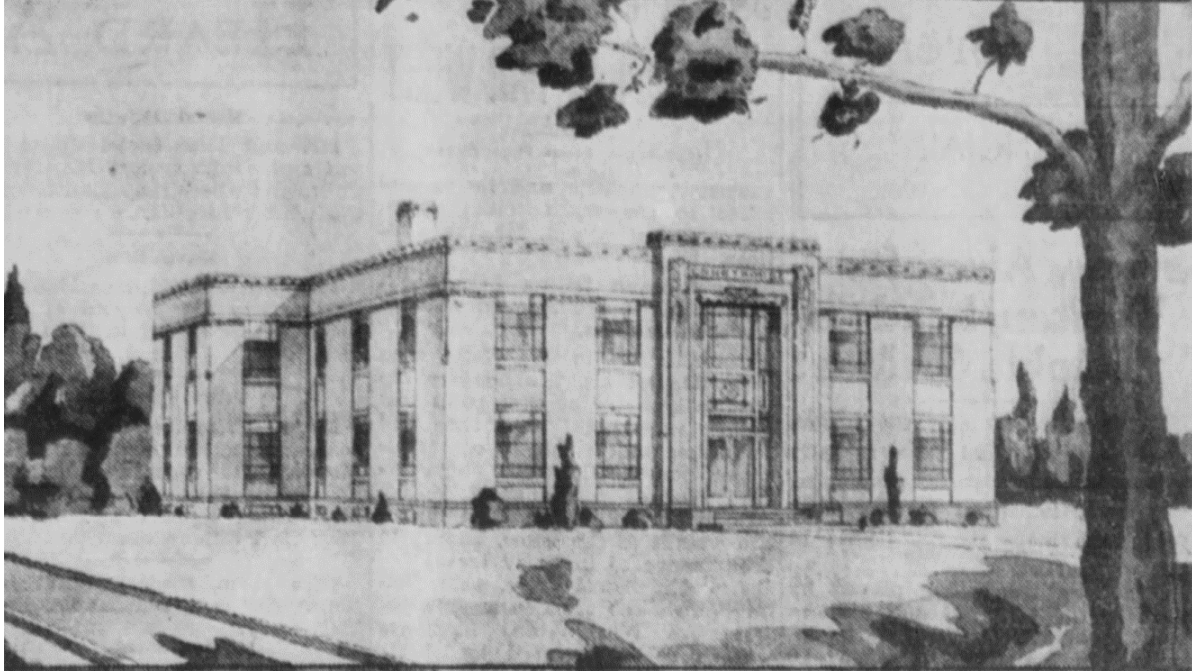


Figure 21. Oneida County Courthouse, Malad, 1938, in 2021. Source: Author's Collection.



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Figure 22. Emerson Elementary School Addition, Idaho Falls, 1949. Source: Idaho SHPO.



Figure 23. Hawthorne Elementary School, Idaho Falls, 1937. Source: Idaho SHPO.



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Figure 24. Idaho Falls Fifth Ward LDS Meetinghouse, 1937. Source: *Post-Register*,
Newspapers.com.

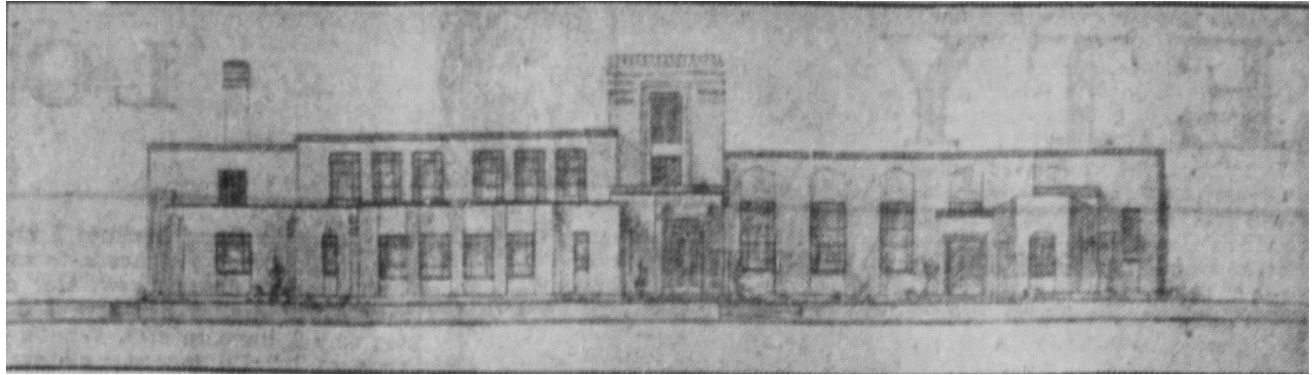


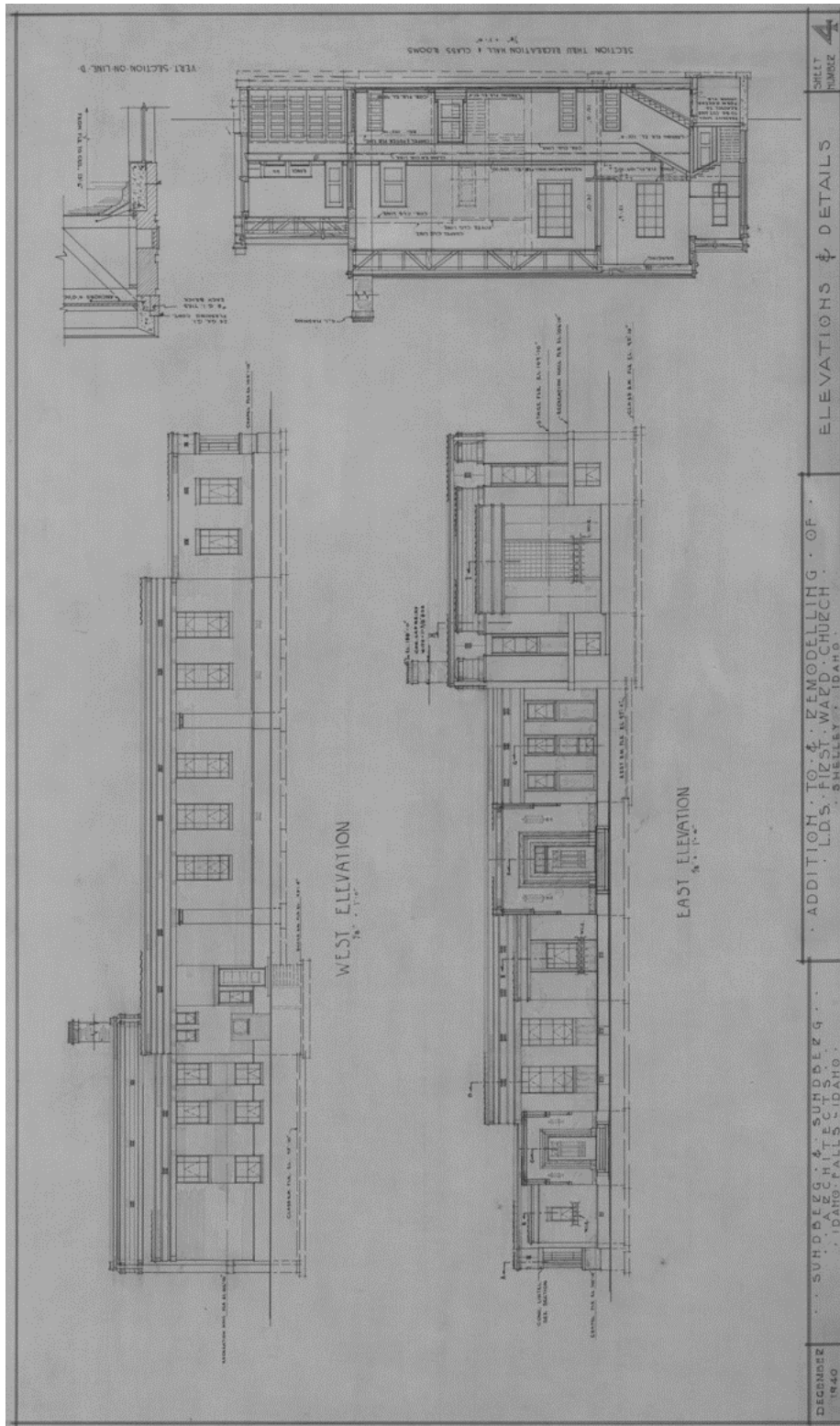
Figure 25. Idaho Falls Fifth Ward LDS Meetinghouse, 1937. Source: Idaho SHPO.



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Figure 26. Idaho Falls First Ward LDS Meetinghouse, 1940. Source: Idaho State Archives.



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Figure 27. The former Idaho Falls High School LDS Seminary, 1937. Source: Idaho SHPO.



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Figure 28. Eastern Idaho Equipment Co., Idaho Falls, 1949. Source: *Post-Register*,
Newspapers.com.

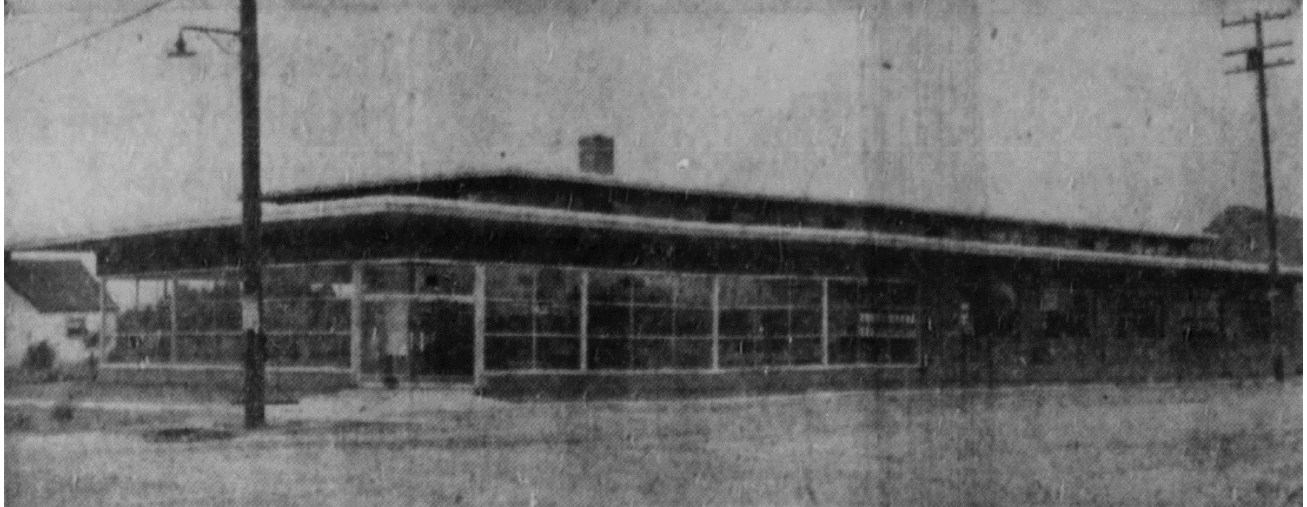


Figure 29. Arco Hospital, 1957. Source: *Idaho State Journal*, Newspapers.com.

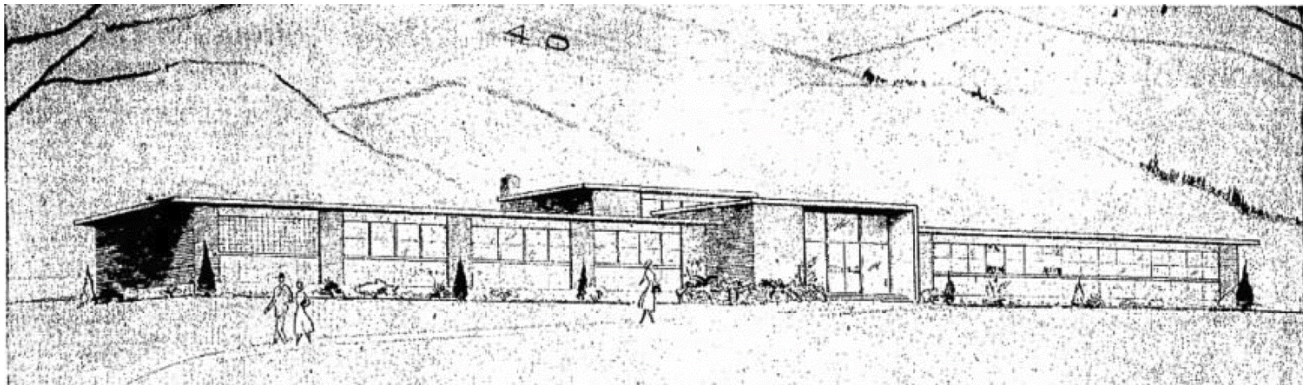
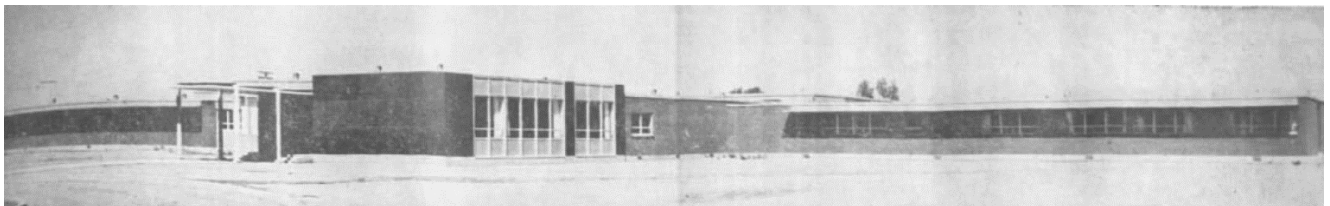


Figure 30. Cassia County Memorial Hospital, Burley, 1960. Source: *Times-News*,
Newspapers.com.



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Figure 31. Minidoka Memorial Hospital, Rupert, 1960. Source: *Herald-Bulletin*,
Newspapers.com.

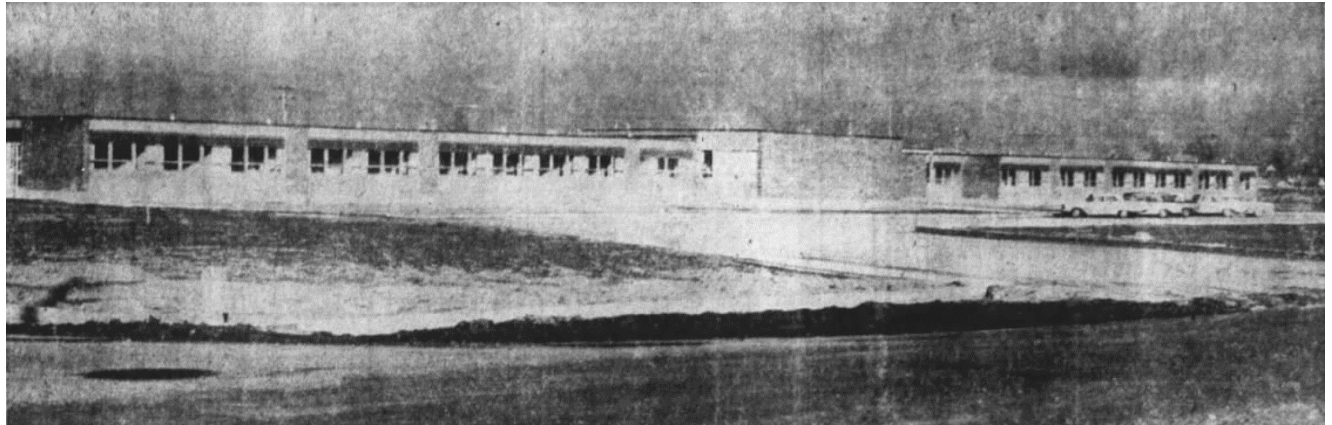


Figure 32. Idaho State College Liberal Arts Building, Pocatello, 1950. Source: Idaho SHPO.



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Figure 33. Zion Lutheran Church, Ashton, c. 1953. Source: Author's Collection.



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Figure 34. List of Pastors of St. John Lutheran Church, their dates of service, and accomplishments.

Name	Dates	Notable Events
E.P. Meyer	1902-1912	Mission church foundation
P. Tonyes	1912	
P.C. Schlichting	1912	
William Jaeger	1913	Congregation officially forms
P. Schaus	1914	
H.L. Westendorf	1915-1922	7th Street parsonage built
F.C. Braun	1922-1930	Little White Church built
Harry A. Kriefall	1930-1947	Acceptance into Missouri Synod
Waldo H. Rist	1947-1957	New 7th Street parsonage & St. John church built
E.G. Reidel	1957-1960	Addition of new wing
C.W. Brueggemann	1961-1968	
Andrew Loesel	1969-1975	
George L. Ploetz	1975-1982	
Hugo Hein	1983-1990	
Bruce Neff	1986-1993	
Richard W. Collins	1993-2004	50 years since groundbreaking/re-dedication
Gerald Reinke	2005-2012	
Travis Guse	2013-2017	
Stephen Weems	2017-	Stained glass restoration; NRHP nomination

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Figure 35. Persons involved in design and construction of St. John Lutheran Church.

Names	Role
Clinton A. Sundberg	Architect
William Kloefer	General Contractor
Percy Dunlap	Construction Foreman
Albert Allen	Plastering
L. Arave, Harold Decker	Painting
Jewel Electric Co.	Wiring
Kerr and Sons	Plumbing
Bartile Inc. of Pocatello	Tile Roofing
Modern Roofing Insulation of Pocatello	Insulation
Elias Morse and Sons	Acoustical Tile
Sheet Metal Works	Metal Works
C.R. Moser	Finisher
Johnson Planing Mill	Millwork
Karl Farwick	Lighting Fixtures
Sales Stimulator Service	Lighting and Plumbing Fixtures
Fuller Company	Glass
St. Joseph Art Glass Works	Stained Glass
Timber Structures	Laminated Trusses
Denver Terra Cotta	Terra Cotta
Eagle Rock Roof Co.	Tower Roof
Kewanee Boiler Co.	Boiler
Utah Fire Clay	Face Bricks
Idaho Falls Brick Co.	Common Bricks
Marshall Fixtures Inc.	Church Furniture
Carlson Blacksmithing	Welding and Outside Rails
Van Kampen's Inc.	Tile
Fred Guderjohn	Excavation and Fill

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: St. John Lutheran Church

City or Vicinity: Idaho Falls

County: Bonneville State: Idaho

Photographer: Kirk Huffaker

Date Photographed: May 2023

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photograph 1. Exterior, north (main) façade with bell tower entrance and 1959 addition to the right. Camera facing south.

Photograph 2. Exterior, north (main) and east facades. Camera facing southwest.

Photograph 3. Exterior, east façade with the main sanctuary's stained-glass window with terra cotta surround. Camera facing west.

Photograph 4. Exterior, east and rear (south) facades. Camera facing northwest.

Photograph 5. Exterior, south façade with 1959 addition on left. Camera facing northwest.

Photograph 6. Exterior, south façade, central mass of the sanctuary. Camera facing north.

Photograph 7. Exterior south façade, east wing. Camera facing north.

Photograph 8. Exterior, south façade, west wing / 1959 addition. Camera facing northwest.

Photograph 9. Exterior, south (rear) and west facades of 1959 addition. Camera facing northeast.

Photograph 10. Exterior, west façade of 1959 addition. Camera facing east.

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Photograph 11. Exterior, west, and north (main) facades. Camera facing southeast.

Photograph 12. Exterior, cornerstone detail on north (main) and east facades. The 1949 date marked the beginning of construction of the building and 1913 is the founding date of the congregation. Camera facing southwest.

Photograph 13. Exterior, north (main) façade, detail of bell tower. Camera facing south.

Photograph 14. Exterior, north (main) façade), detail of entryway with terra cotta surround. Camera facing south.

Photograph 15. Interior, first floor, narthex with bell tower entrance to left and nave entrance to right. Camera facing southeast.

Photograph 16. Interior, first floor, sanctuary view through the nave toward the chancel. Camera facing east.

Photograph 17. Interior, first floor, \detail of chancel, altar, and largest stained glass window. Camera facing east.

Photograph 18. Interior, first floor, sanctuary view through the nave toward overflow room on left and organ on right. Camera facing west.

Photograph 19. Interior, first floor, original Pastor's office which was later divided. Camera facing northeast.

Photograph 20. Interior, first floor, storage room that was part of original Pastor's office. Camera facing northeast.

Photograph 21. Interior, basement, nursery showing original aluminum windows. Camera facing northeast.

Photograph 22. Interior, basement, fellowship hall. Camera facing southwest.

Photograph 23. Interior, basement, women's hall in 1959 addition. Camera facing west.

Photograph 24. Interior, basement, hallway in 1959 addition showing typical finishes. Camera facing south.

Photograph 25. Interior, basement, classroom in 1959 addition showing typical finishes. Camera facing east.

Photograph 26. Interior, basement, former classroom turned storage and elevator core. Camera facing west.

Photograph 27. Interior, main floor, hallway between stairway from parking lot entrance and narthex. Camera facing east.

Photograph 28. Interior, main floor, office suite and elevator core. Camera facing northeast.

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Photograph 29. Interior, main floor, overflow room view toward sanctuary. Camera facing northeast.

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Photograph 1. Exterior, north (main) façade with bell tower entrance and 1959 addition to the right. Camera facing south.



Photograph 2. Exterior, north (main) and east facades. Camera facing southwest.

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Photograph 3. Exterior, east façade with the main sanctuary's stained-glass window with terra cotta surround. Camera facing west.



Photograph 4. Exterior, east and rear (south) facades. Camera facing northwest.

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Photograph 5. Exterior, south façade with 1959 addition on left. Camera facing northwest.



Photograph 6. Exterior, south façade, central mass of the sanctuary. Camera facing north.

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Photograph 7. Exterior south façade, east wing. Camera facing north.

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Photograph 8. Exterior, south façade, west wing / 1959 addition. Camera facing northwest.

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Photograph 9. Exterior, south (rear) and west facades of 1959 addition. Camera facing northeast.



Photograph 10. Exterior, west façade of 1959 addition. Camera facing east.

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Photograph 11. Exterior, west, and north (main) facades. Camera facing southeast.



Photograph 12. Exterior, cornerstone detail on north (main) and east facades. The 1949 date marked the beginning of construction of the building and 1913 is the founding date of the congregation. Camera facing southwest.

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Photograph 13. Exterior, north (main) façade, detail of bell tower. Camera facing south.

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Photograph 14. Exterior, north (main) façade), detail of entryway with terra cotta surround. Camera facing south.

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Photograph 15. Interior, first floor, narthex with bell tower entrance to left and nave entrance to right. Camera facing southeast.



Photograph 16. Interior, first floor, sanctuary view through the nave toward the chancel. Camera facing east.

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Photograph 17. Interior, first floor, detail of chancel, altar, and largest stained glass window. Camera facing east.



Photograph 18. Interior, first floor, sanctuary view through the nave toward overflow room on left and organ on right. Camera facing west.

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Photograph 19. Interior, first floor, original Pastor's office which was later divided. Camera facing northeast.

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Photograph 20. Interior, first floor, storage room that was part of original Pastor's office. Camera facing northeast.

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Photograph 21. Interior, basement, nursery showing original aluminum windows. Camera facing northeast.



Photograph 22. Interior, basement, fellowship hall. Camera facing southwest.

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Photograph 23. Interior, basement, women's hall in 1959 addition. Camera facing west.



Photograph 24. Interior, basement, hallway in 1959 addition showing typical finishes. Camera facing south.

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Photograph 25. Interior, basement, classroom in 1959 addition showing typical finishes. Camera facing east.



Photograph 26. Interior, basement, former classroom turned storage and elevator core. Camera facing west.

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Photograph 27. Interior, main floor, hallway between stairway from parking lot entrance and narthex. Camera facing east.



Photograph 28. Interior, main floor, office suite and elevator core. Camera facing northeast.

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Photograph 29. Interior, main floor, overflow room view toward sanctuary. Camera facing northeast.

Property Owner Information

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

Name St. John Lutheran Church
Address 290 7th St.
City or Town Idaho Falls State ID Zip code 83401
Telephone/email (208) 522-5650 / office@stjohnministries.net

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering, and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.