

IDAHO HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

PROPERTY NAME Boise Funeral Home FIELD# 01-12111

STREET 507 W. Idaho St. RESTRICT

CITY Boise VICINITY COUNTY CD 11 COUNTY NAME Ada

SUBNAME Boise City Original Town BLOCK 5 SUBLOT 9-11 ACRES 1 LESS THAN

TAX PARCEL R1013000425 UTMZ 11 EASTING 564561 NORTHING 4829388

TOWNSHIP 3 N_S N RANGE 2 E_W E SECTION 10 NW 1/4, 1/4 NE 1/4

QUADRANGLE Boise South, 7.5' OTHERMAP

SANBORN MAP Boise 1949, 1956 SANBORN MAP# 55 PHOTO# Digital

PROPERTY TYPE Building CONST/ACT1 Original Construction ACTDATE1 1940 CIRCA1

CONST/ACT2 ACTDATE2 CIRCA2

ASSOCIATED FEATURES 1 building TOTAL # FEATURES 1

ORIGINAL USE Funerary WALL MATERIAL BRICK

ORIGSUBUSE Mortuary FOUND. MATERIAL CONCRETE

CURRENT USE Vacant/Not in Use ROOF MATERIAL SYNTHETICS

CURSUBUSE OTHER MATERIAL GLASS

ARCHSTYLE Moderne PLAN Rectangular CONDITION Good

NR REF # 77000448 NPS CERT Listed ACTIONDATE 11/9/77 FUTURE ELIG DATE

DIST/MPLNAME1 Boise Historic District DIST/MPLNAME2

Individually Eligible Contributing in a potential district Noncontributing Future eligibility

Not Eligible Multiple Property Study Not evaluated

CRITERIA A B C D CRITERIA CONSIDERATION A B C D E F G

AREA OF SIGNIF Architecture AREA OF SIGNIF Commerce

COMMENTS SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Boise Funeral Home (also known as the Gibson Funeral Home), located at 507 West Idaho Street at the east edge of downtown Boise, is a one-story building completed in 1940. The building is an excellent example of the Moderne style, with

PROJ/RPT TITLE 5th & Idaho Redevelopment SVY DATE 8/9/16 SVY LEVEL Intensive

RECORDED BY Kerry Davis, PSLLC PH 816-225-5605 ADDRESS 1007 E. Jefferson Street, Boise, ID 83712

SUBMITTED PHOTOS NEGS SLIDES SKETCH MAP

SVY RPT # ***** FOR ISHPO USE ONLY ***** IHSI# 01-12111

MS RPT # SITS#

IHPR # HABS NO. ID- HAER NO. ID- REV#

CS # IHSI# REF NR REF# 2 REV# REF

SVY RPT# 1 SVY RPT# 2 SVY RPT# 3 MS RPT# 1 MS RPT# 2

ADD'L NOTES Original plans on file with the City of Boise. Full Legal Description: E 29' OF LOT 9 LOT 10, W 30' OF LOT 11 BLK 5

MORE DATA B C O T. City lists the building as occupying 3,868 square feet on a parcel measuring 0.3 acres. ADDITIONAL PREPARER: Sarah J. Martin, Principal/Architectural Historian at SJM Cultural Resource Services (Seattle, WA) completed research and developed context for this project.

ATTACH Archival prints submitted with this IHSI form were printed with pure carbon pigment inks from MIS on Moab Lasal paper (acid and lignin free), exceeding the 75-year-permanence standard maintained by the National Park Service

OF PHOTOS NEGBOX# # OF SLIDES SHPO DETER DETER DATE

INITIALED ENTRY DATE REVISE REVISE REVISE

Table with 3 columns: REV#, SITS#, IHSI#

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PROPERTY NAME IHSI#
 FIELD# COUNTY NAME
 OTHER NAME
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OTHER MATERIAL2 CULTAFFIL AGENCYCERT
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 OWNERSHIP PROPOWN
 MORE DATA ATTACH

DOCSOURCE

ADD'L NOTES

COMMENTS

PHOTO LOG IHSI# REF INITIALED DATE ENTERED

SKETCH

IHSI#	SITS#	REV#

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COMMENTS:

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Boise Funeral Home (also known as the Gibson Funeral Home), located at 507 West Idaho Street at the east edge of downtown Boise, is a one-story building completed in 1940. The building is an excellent example of the Moderne style, with character-defining features including curvilinear walls, salmon-colored rug-faced brick facing, a lack of applied ornamentation, and an overall horizontal aesthetic. The primary elevation faces northeast onto West Idaho Street at the midblock between N 5th and N 6th streets. The reinforced concrete building has a flat roof and a rectangular footprint. Designed by Boise Payette Lumber Company's resident architect, Hans Hulbe, the building incorporates the original circulation pattern comprised of a main foyer, a central chapel space, 'Slumber' rooms, a family room, and embalming room, with casket and clothing display spaces, as well as a hearse garage and residential apartment on the full basement level.

ATTACH

The Boise Funeral Home retains its key character-defining features, including the original Moderne style elements and finishes, as well as the original interior spatial arrangement. The original floor plan remains essentially unchanged, retaining the historic spaces specific its historic function. The original multi-light steel sash windows and glass block windows are intact, as well. The Boise Funeral Home retains integrity of its historic location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. All its significant character-defining design elements and materials are intact and it clearly conveys its original role and historic associations as a funeral home. Its Moderne design and stylistic treatment successfully conveys feelings of its period of construction. The only apparent alterations include the loss of the original entrance visor awnings, the replacement entrance doors, the nonhistoric entrance canopy, nonhistoric replacement garage doors, and introduction of decorative aluminum shutters to the primary elevation windows. Though these alterations affect the integrity of materials, combined they do not compromise nor obscure the overall character or design of the building.

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Boise Funeral Home, located at 507 West Idaho Street in Boise, Ada County, Idaho, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area COMMERCE and under Criterion C in the area ARCHITECTURE. Constructed in 1940 from a design by Hans Hulbe, prolific Boise architect, small-scale developer, and resident designer for Boise Payette Lumber Company, the building has direct associations with the commercial development of downtown Boise, the development of funeral homes during the mid-twentieth century, and the popularity of the Moderne style at the time of its construction.

The building is locally significant in the area of Commerce for its associations with the patterns of providing funerary services during the mid-twentieth century. It is an excellent representative example of the mid-century downtown funeral home property type, which was replaced in the late twentieth century by a shift in funeral home location patterns from downtown to more suburban locations directly associated with cemeteries.

The Boise Funeral Home is additionally significant in the area of Architecture as an excellent example of the Modern Movement's Moderne style, as well as for its clearly conveyed associations with the funeral home/mortuary functional property type. Because of its 1940 construction date, it clearly has associations with the continuation of the Moderne style's popularity, which began in the 1930s. It represents a distinct and finite time during the mid-twentieth century shift in funeral home design to the Moderne style as the popular choice to reflect up-to-date services. As such it embodies distinctive characteristics of the property type, period of construction, patterns and features common to its style, as well as the individuality and variation of features that occurred within that architectural stylistic classification.

The building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1977 as a contributing resource in the Boise Historic District. It will be demolished in 2017. HUD involvement by means of financially backed loans triggered the Section 106 process. This process included the involvement of Idaho SHPO, Preservation Idaho, HUD, and the owner, all of which signed an MOA in Spring 2016 with stipulations including the thorough documentation of the building herein.

For an elaborated description and history, see attached continuation sheets.

IHSI#	SITS#	REV#

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The Boise Funeral Home (also known as the Gibson Funeral Home), located at 507 West Idaho Street¹ at the east edge of downtown Boise, is a one-story building completed in 1940. The building is an excellent example of the Moderne style, with character-defining features including curvilinear walls, salmon-colored rug-faced brick facing, a lack of applied ornamentation, and an overall horizontal aesthetic. The primary elevation faces northeast onto West Idaho Street at the midblock between N 5th and N 6th streets. The reinforced concrete building has a flat roof and a rectangular footprint. Designed by Boise Payette Lumber Company's resident architect, Hans Hulbe, the building incorporates the original circulation pattern comprised of a main foyer, a central chapel space, 'Slumber' rooms, a family room, and embalming room, with casket and clothing display spaces, as well as a hearse garage and residential apartment on the full basement level.

The Boise Funeral Home retains its key character-defining features, including the original Moderne style elements and finishes, as well as the original interior spatial arrangement. The original floor plan remains essentially unchanged, retaining the historic spaces specific its historic function. The original multi-light steel sash windows and glass block windows are intact, as well. The Boise Funeral Home retains integrity of its historic location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. All its significant character-defining design elements and materials are intact and it clearly conveys its original role and historic associations as a funeral home. Its Moderne design and stylistic treatment successfully conveys feelings of its period of construction. The only apparent alterations include the loss of the original entrance visor awnings, the replacement entrance doors, the nonhistoric entrance canopy, nonhistoric replacement garage doors, and introduction of decorative aluminum shutters to the primary elevation windows. Though these alterations affect the integrity of materials, combined they do not compromise nor obscure the overall character or design of the building.

LOCATION AND SETTING

The Boise Funeral Home is located on West Idaho Street midblock between N 5th and N 6th streets. The building stands at the border between the central business district, characterized by late nineteenth to mid-twentieth century commercial development, and late nineteenth and early twentieth century residential neighborhoods beyond (See Figures 1 and 2). Idaho Street, a primary downtown commercial street, is a three-lane, one-way paved roadway with concrete curbs and broad concrete sidewalks.

The Boise Funeral Home's footprint measures fifty-nine (59) feet by ninety-one (91) feet and is situated perpendicular to West Idaho Street, occupying the center rear of its approximately 106-by-125-foot parcel. The primary elevation faces northeast onto West Idaho Street and has a setback of about forty (40) feet from the street. A concrete sidewalk, flanked on each side by grassy lawn, spans the length of the setback from the street curb to the steps leading up to the main entrance. Seven concrete steps, flanked on each side by smooth poured concrete cheek walls, access the off-center entrance. A trapezoidal back-lit sign with letters that read, "507/Gibson/Funeral/Home" stands at the sidewalk, supported by three slender steel poles. An alley runs northwest-southeast behind the property to the southwest, beyond which are additional late nineteenth and early to mid-twentieth century commercial buildings. A paved surface parking lot abuts the property to southeast and the 1892 R.Z. Johnson Block (01-76) abuts the property to the northwest.

EXTERIOR

The Boise Funeral Home is a one-story building with a full finished basement, a rectangular footprint, and a flat roof. The primary elevation measures fifty-nine feet across its southeast-northwest alignment. Reinforced concrete walls form the wall structure. Salmon-colored, rug-faced brick facing laid in a running bond clads all exterior walls, with the exception of stacked header bricks forming the curved wall corners. Accentuating the horizontality are continuous courses of soldier brick along the top and header brick along the base of all walls. A continuous, cast stone parapet coping, featuring a scalloped profile, also enhances the streamlined aesthetic. The original steel windows are intact, each set within openings featuring soldier brick lintels and cast stone sills. The foundation is concrete, approximately 2' of which is visible on each elevation.

¹ The historic record also lists the location alternately as 503 W. Idaho.

The primary (northeast) elevation has four bays and the side (southeast and northwest) elevations have eight and twelve bays respectively. Wall penetrations – windows, doors, vehicular bays – define the bays and are asymmetrically arranged. The primary elevation terminates at each end with curved wall corners containing glass block windows curved to follow the contour of the wall.

The first-story openings in the primary elevation consist of original glass block windows, nonhistoric double-leaf full-light wood entrance doors (1970s), and the original multi-light steel windows with operable central casements. Throughout the remainder of the building, the original multi-light steel windows remain and are found in a variety of sizes.



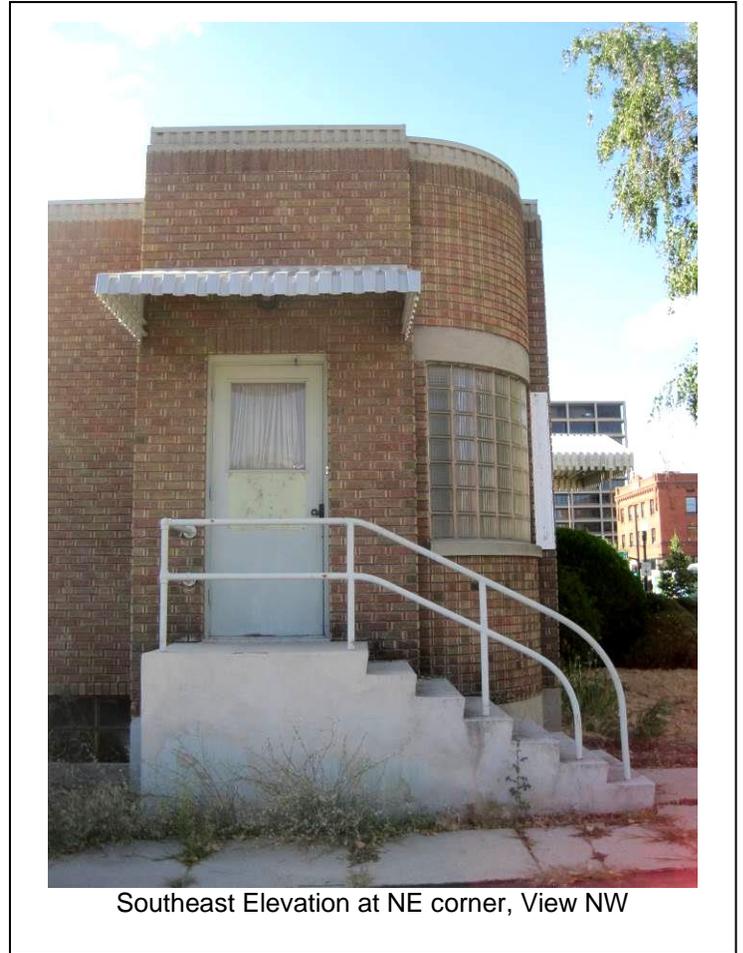
Primary Elevation, View S-SE



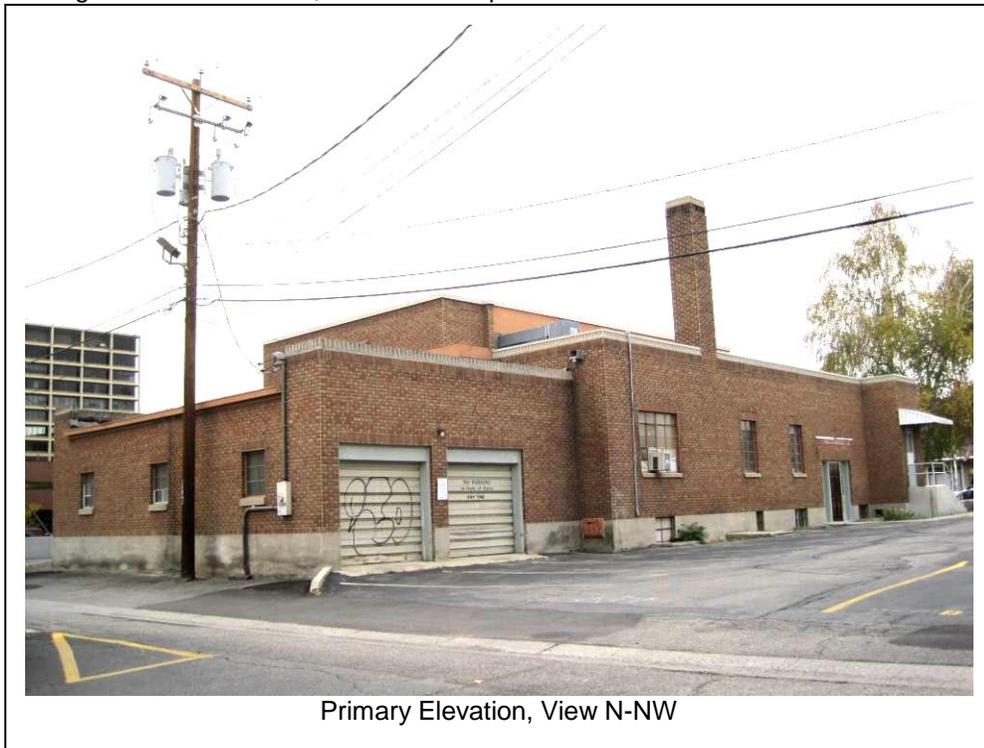
Primary entrance. View SW

The original shallow aluminum visor awning over the main entrance is missing. A nonhistoric, projecting gabled aluminum canopy extends to shelter the main entrance landing and steps. The c1970 doors are set within the original entrance opening, which features a course of perimeter glass block enframing the opening. Centered over the entrance doors are cut-out aluminum letters that read, "CHAPEL ENTRANCE." Nonhistoric coach lamp sconces flanking the entrance provide illumination. Flanking the entrance bay to each side are the original, large, twenty-light steel windows (behind nonhistoric fixed stored sashes). The outermost bays contain the original curved glass block windows and follow the profile of the curved walls. Beyond the forward part of the building, behind the curved wall corners, the building footprint steps in a few feet and extends southwest toward the alley.

The southeast side elevation is defined from front to back (right to left) as follows: a single entrance leading into the funeral director's office, accessed by concrete steps with pipe railing; the entrance with sidelights leading into the basement stair hall; two single windows illuminating the original slumber rooms (where family can sit with body/casket privately and body is stored until service); a large, twenty-light steel window illuminating the embalming room; and two vehicular bays leading into the hearse garage and containing nonhistoric fiberglass overhead doors. Additional features on this elevation include: the nonoriginal aluminum awning over the office entrance; the curved profile to the office steps railing; the half-light office door; the soldier brick lintels over each opening; the original half-height, three-light, sidelights flanking a nonhistoric wood door to the stair hall entrance; the noticeable shadow of where the original aluminum visor awning once spanned the stair hall entrance; the tall furnace chimney flush with the exterior wall; and the four at-grade steel windows, each within a poured concrete window well.



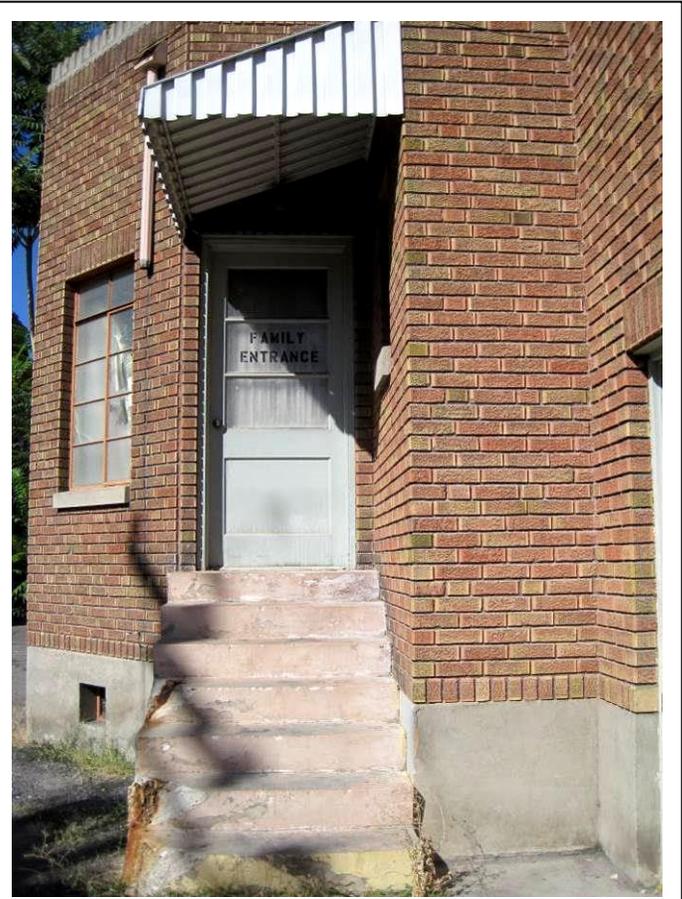
Southeast Elevation at NE corner, View NW



Primary Elevation, View N-NW

The northwest side elevation is defined from front to back (left to right) as follows: a ten-light steel window illuminating the foyer within; three, large 28-light steel windows illuminating the chapel within; a five-part projecting bay with canted corners and containing the family room within; the small three-light casement window illuminating the bathroom space inside; a single entrance containing the original half-light paneled door leading into the garage with stenciled letters that read, "FLOWER / ENTRANCE;" and two vehicular bays containing nonhistoric aluminum overhead doors. Additional features of this elevation include: the below-grade entrance to the funeral director's apartment toward the north end of the elevation; the curved profile of the pipe railing to the below-grade apartment entrance; the four at-grade window openings illuminating the basement spaces, each set within a window well; the two downspouts draining the roof through small spouts in the parapet wall; the original half-light paneled door into the family room bay, with stenciled letters that read, "FAMILY / ENTRANCE" and accessed by seven concrete steps; and the nonhistoric aluminum awning over the family entrance.

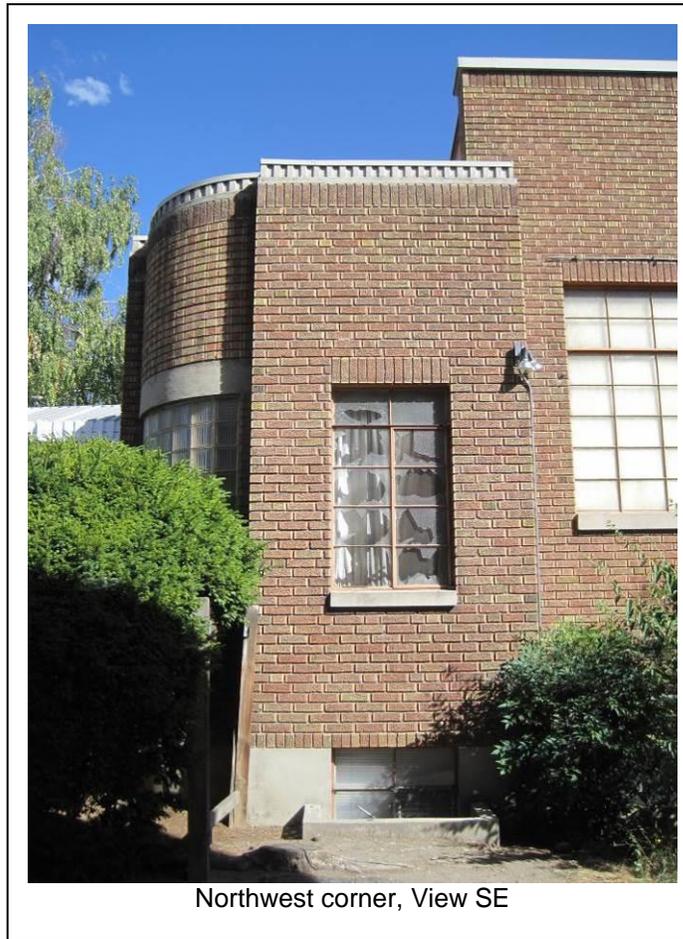
The rear elevation along the alley is three bays wide, defined by three symmetrically arranged six-light steel windows. Features of this elevation include the only partial parapet wall at each end, with continuous metal gutter between and the visible back wall of the taller central chapel space, which features two shallow brick buttresses.



Family Entrance, View NE



Northwest and Southwest (rear) elevations, View NE



INTERIOR

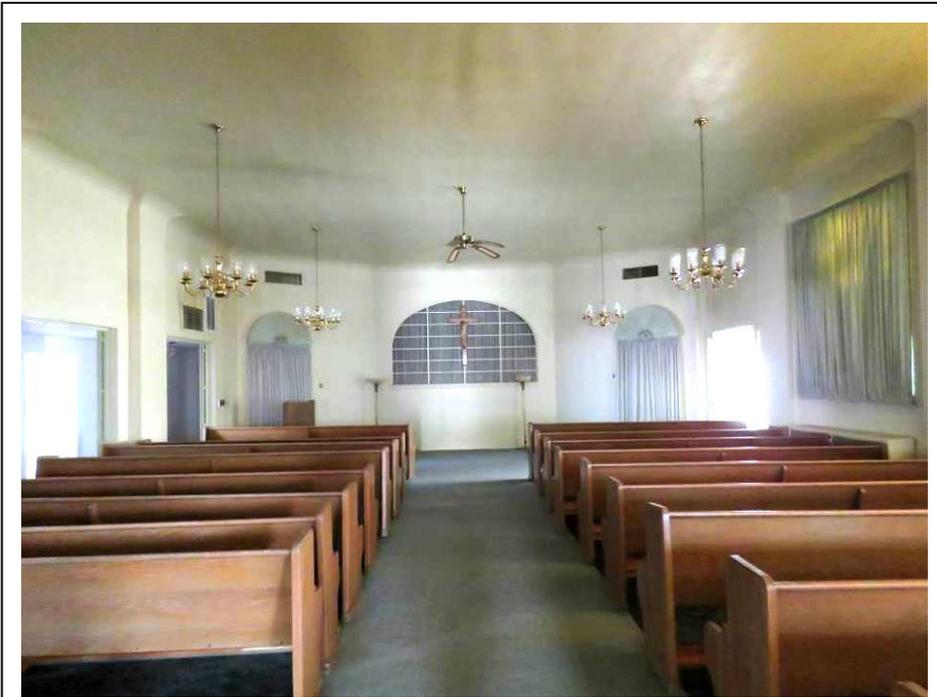
The Boise Funeral Home contains approximately 7,900 square feet of space across the main floor and full basement. The main floor contains the original circulation pattern and character-defining spaces associated with the historic funeral home. The double-leaf entrance leads into the main foyer, a rectangular space across the front of the building that directly accesses the chapel and a corridor running along the southeast length of the building. Notable features of the foyer include: the trapezoidal, five-walled space; the curved, glass block window at the northwest corner; and the two rectangular wall openings flanking the doorway leading into the chapel.

The chapel is about forty-seven feet (47') long and was designed to seat about 175 people. The ceiling and walls retain the original smooth wall plaster lacking any decorative treatment but for a gentle cove at the wall-ceiling juncture. Three, large multi-light steel windows illuminate the chapel along its northwest wall, balanced on the southeast elevation by matching openings into the adjacent corridor. Nonhistoric chandeliers and fans are suspended from the ceiling. The front (southeast) end of the chapel has canted walls angling inward toward a central wall section containing a segmental arched screen (allowing sound to travel from the music room behind) and crucifix.²

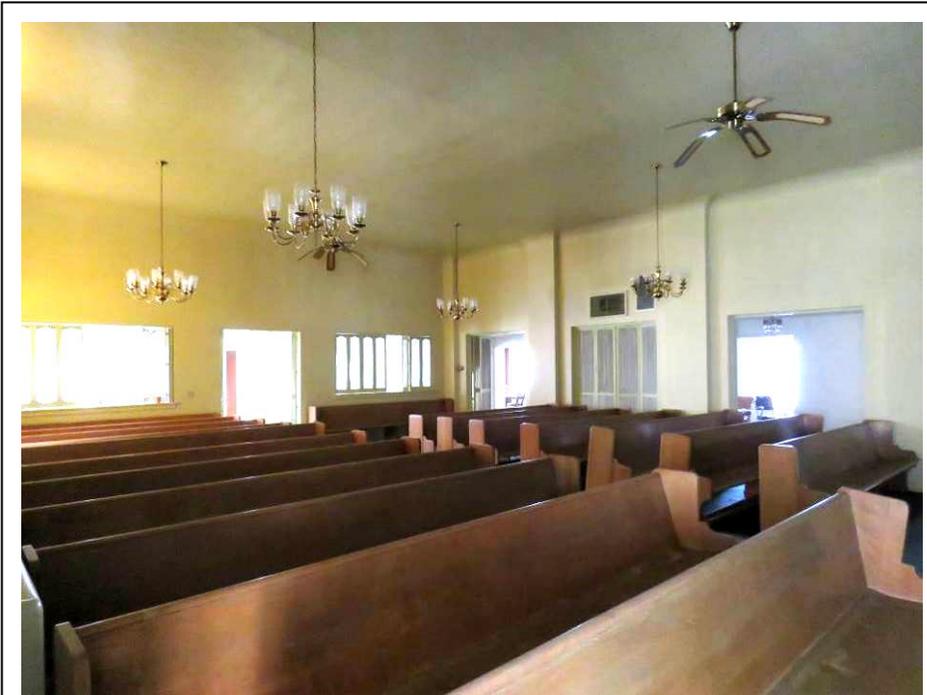
The private family room is off the southwest corner of the chapel and served as a space where family could have privacy during the service. This small, trapezoidal, six-walled space has canted corners. Four multi-light steel windows, an exterior door, an opening into the chapel, and a door into a rear corridor penetrate the various wall planes. Notable features in this room are the original state-of-the-art combination light-air conditioning vent fixtures and the glazed terra cotta window stools.

² According to Tim Gibson, the fern frond-patterned carpet under the chapel pews is original to the 1940s.





Chapel, View SW



Chapel, View NE



Family Room, View NW from Chapel



Family Room, View N-NE

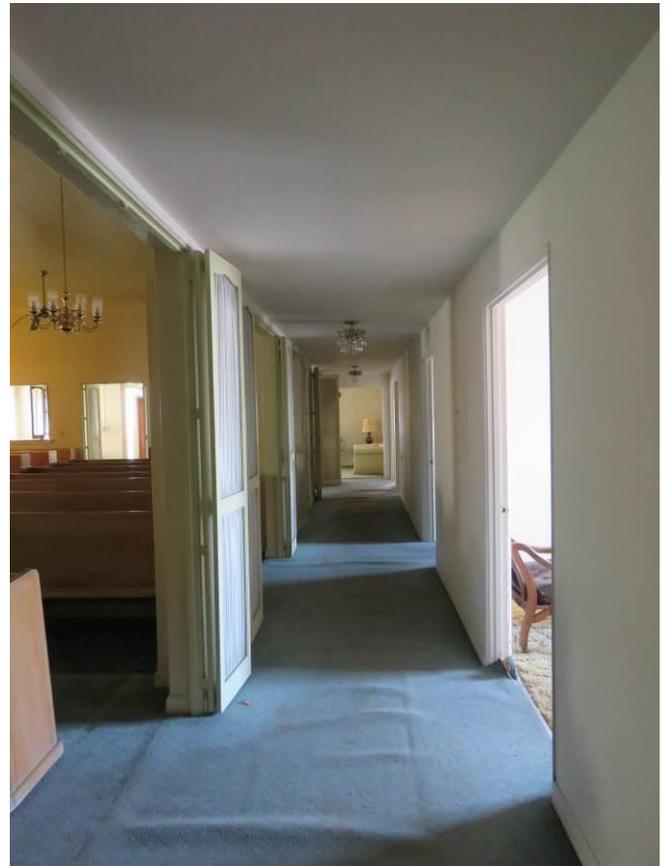
The main corridor along the full length of the southeast side of the main building accesses the following spaces (in order from the front to the back of the building): the original funeral director's office in northeast corner of the main floor; the stairs to the lower level; two 'slumber rooms'; the embalming room; and a casket elevator in the southeast corner of the main level. The main corridor terminates at a doorway leading down to the garage.

The funeral director's office occupies the northeast corner of the building. The room features the original curved, glass block window at the corner and the original, state-of-the-art combination light and air vent fixtures. The room's finishes reflect the 1970s remodeling, which includes wood wall paneling.

Down the main corridor to the south are two small slumber rooms. These small, square rooms are characterized by smooth plaster walls and ceiling that meet at a modest, narrow continuous crown molding. Aside from the molding, single-panel wood door, and the glazed terra cotta window stools, these rooms have no other finishes of note.

The embalming room (referred to as the Operating Room on the original plans) occupies the southeast corner of the building, at the end of the main corridor. The rectangular space is characterized by the white mosaic tile floor with a central drain. Additional features include the fluorescent light fixtures, broad storage cabinets/closet along the north wall, the notably broad entrance door (to accommodate a casket or gurney), and the large wash basins and sinks along the west wall.

Adjacent to the embalming room, the casket elevator has a 2,000-lb. capacity and is an Otis Elevator Co. design. The elevator spans only a half-level, allowing access from the garage and through to the main corridor. Distinguishing features include the notably wide, single panel entrance door, the elongated rectangular platform, original wood gates, and all original mechanicals.³



Main Corridor, View NE



Main Office, View NE

³ According to Tim Gibson, in order to allow access to funeral services for disabled or elderly attendees, funeral home staff would escort them on the casket elevator.

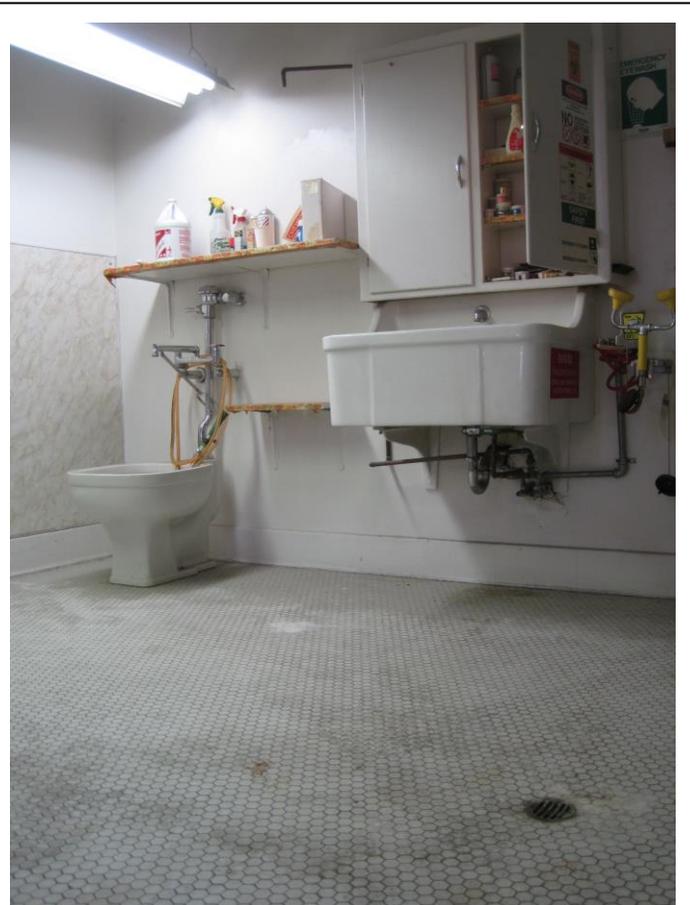
At the south end of the main corridor, a secondary corridor extends perpendicularly to the northwest behind the chapel space. Referred to as the Music Room on the original plans, this long, narrow space leads to a single small unisex restroom and terminates into the family room off the southwest corner of the chapel. The single-toilet bathroom is in the southwest corner of the building. The very small space reflects the 1970s remodeling that took place throughout the building, and thus features flocked wall paper and contemporary chain-suspended light fixture.

A stair hall from the main corridor, and also accessed directly from the east parking lot, leads to the lower level. The full basement level contains the original casket and clothing display spaces, sleeping quarters for ambulance staff (who were on call 24-7), a small apartment for the funeral director, and a two-bay, drive-through hearse garage along the full width of the rear of the building. Aside from the funeral director's apartment, the other basement spaces have been remodeled and functions changed over the years and they do not retain character-defining features or finishes. (see photos below.)

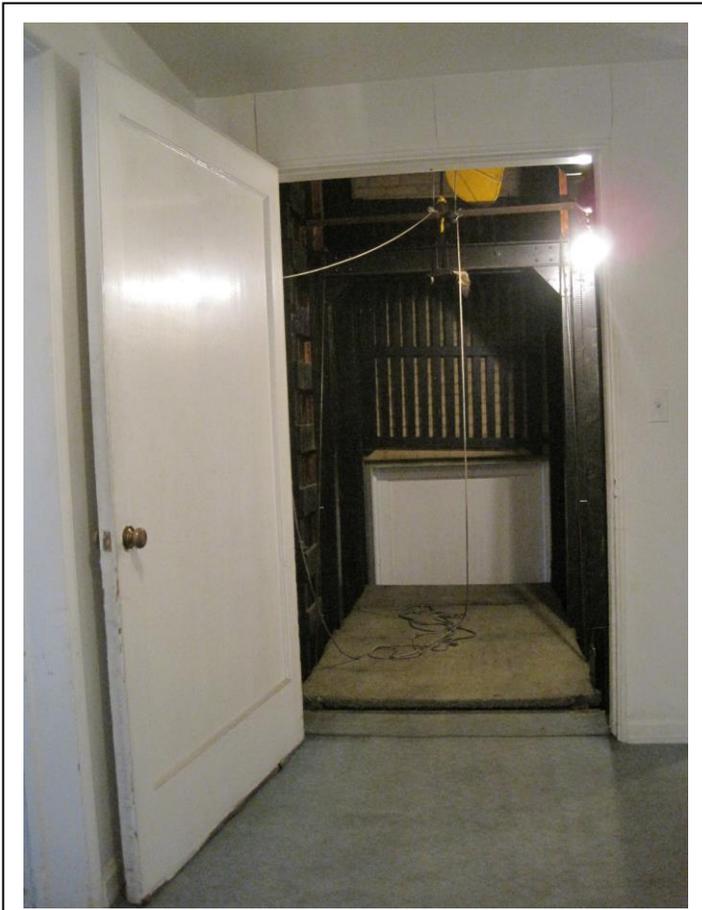
The funeral director's apartment occupies about 600 square feet of living space in the northwest corner of the lower level. The apartment features multiple rooms comprised of the original living room, kitchen, bedrooms, and bathroom spaces. The original partition walls and plaster are intact, as are the arched openings and original cabinet built-ins in the small kitchen



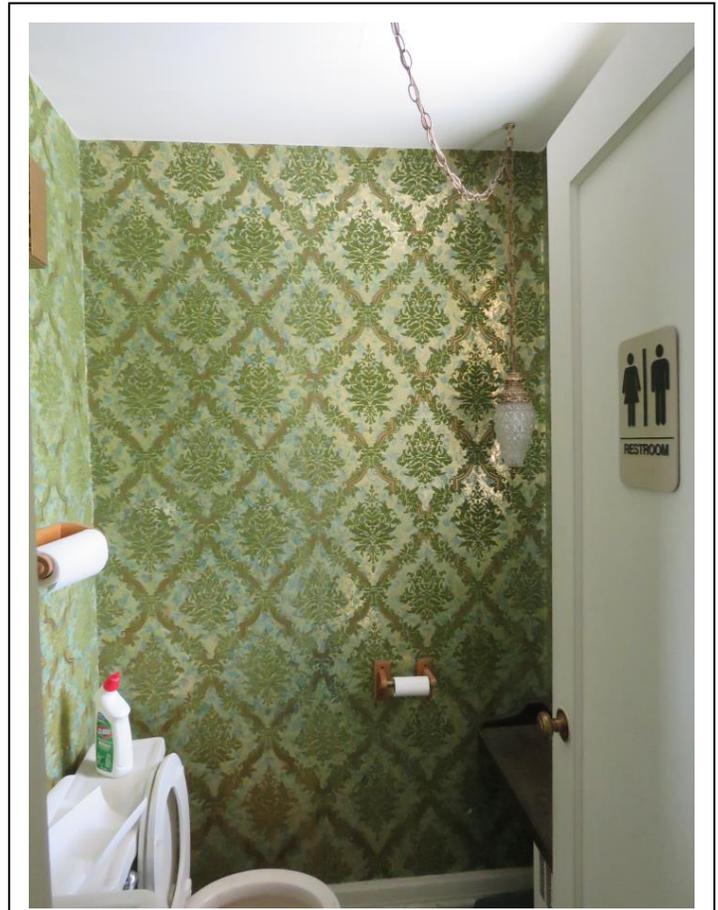
South Slumber Room, View NE



Embalming Room, View SW



Casket Elevator, View SW



Bathroom, View SW

INTEGRITY DISCUSSION

The Boise Funeral Home retains a high degree of all seven aspects of integrity. The integrity of location and setting are intact, reflected by the building's occupation of its original site on the east edge of downtown Boise at the transition from commercial to residential areas. Its historic identity is clearly conveyed through its retention of original character-defining features, including its size, scale, and massing, as well as its original design, materials, and workmanship. It is an excellent example of a mid-twentieth century funeral home executed in the Moderne style and retains the original design features including windows, entrances, and masonry treatments, as well as the interior spatial arrangement, functional spaces, and many finishes. The only apparent alterations include the loss of the original entrance visor awnings, the replacement entrance doors, the nonhistoric entrance canopy, nonhistoric replacement garage doors, and introduction of nonhistoric decorative aluminum shutters to the primary elevation windows. The cumulation of these alterations affects integrity of materials, but does not obscure the overall character or design of the building. By virtue of its degree of retention of all other aspects of integrity, the Boise Funeral Home continues to clearly convey its historic feelings and associations with the development of funeral homes during the mid-twentieth century in Boise, Idaho.

Note: For additional photos of additional details and lower level spaces, see below.

Statement of Significance

Summary Paragraph

The Boise Funeral Home, located at 507 West Idaho Street in Boise, Ada County, Idaho, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area COMMERCE and under Criterion C in the area of ARCHITECTURE. Constructed in 1940 from a design by Hans Hulbe, prolific Boise architect, small-scale developer, and resident designer for Boise Payette Lumber Company, the building has direct associations with the commercial development of downtown Boise, the development of funeral homes during the mid-twentieth century, and the popularity of the Moderne style at the time of its construction.

The building is locally significant in the area of Commerce for its associations with the patterns of providing funerary services during the mid-twentieth century. It is an excellent representative example of the mid-century downtown funeral home property type, which was replaced in the late twentieth century by a shift in funeral home location patterns from downtown to more suburban locations directly associated with cemeteries.

The Boise Funeral Home is additionally significant in the area of Architecture as an excellent example of the Modern Movement's Moderne style, as well as for its clearly conveyed associations with the funeral home/mortuary functional property type. Because of its 1940 construction date, it clearly has associations with the continuation of the Moderne style's popularity, which began in the 1930s. It represents a distinct and finite time during the mid-twentieth century shift in funeral home design to the Moderne style as the popular choice to reflect up-to-date services. As such it embodies distinctive characteristics of the property type, period of construction, patterns and features common to its style, as well as the individuality and variation of features that occurred within that architectural stylistic classification.

The building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1977 as a contributing resource in the Boise Historic District. It will be demolished in 2017. HUD involvement by means of financially backed loans triggered the Section 106 process. This process included the involvement of Idaho SHPO, Preservation Idaho, HUD, and the owner, all of which signed an MOA in Spring 2016 with stipulations including the thorough documentation of the building herein.



Narrative Statement of Significance

OVERVIEW

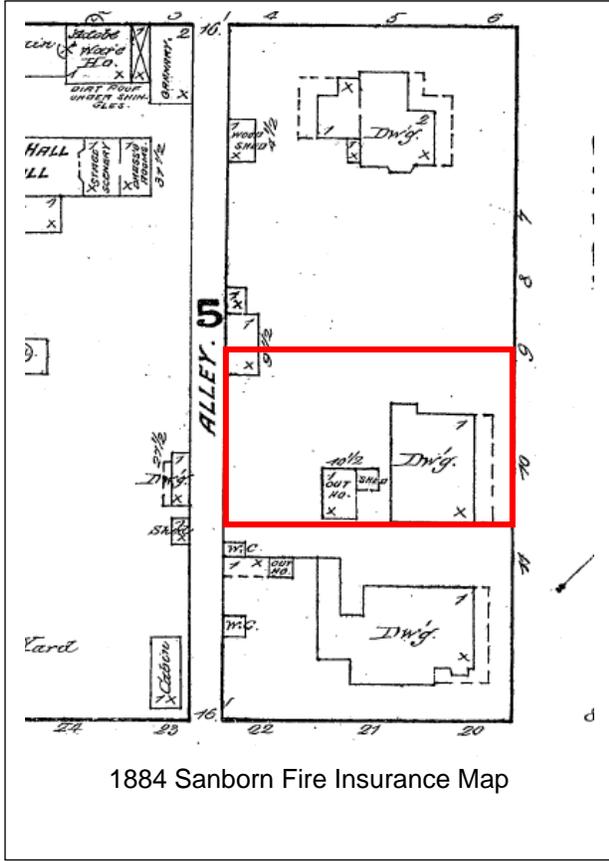
Since its opening in November 1940, the funeral home at 507 West Idaho Street has housed multiple mortuary businesses over time: the Boise Funeral Home (1940-45); Schreiber & McCann / Schreiber, McCann & Gibson (1945-1958); Schreiber & Gibson (1959-c1963); and the Gibson Funeral Home (c1963-c1995). This purpose-built funeral home was among the first generation of such facilities in Boise. Local architect Hans Hulbe, resident architect at Boise Payette Lumber Company, designed the building to reflect the latest in mortuary design, from its Moderne brick exterior to its division of interior public and private spaces, including a chapel, sales area, office, living quarters, and an embalming room. Changing trends within the funerary industry favoring suburban funeral homes and the one-stop experience at memorial garden cemeteries contributed to its closure in the 1990s.

AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE: CRITERION A

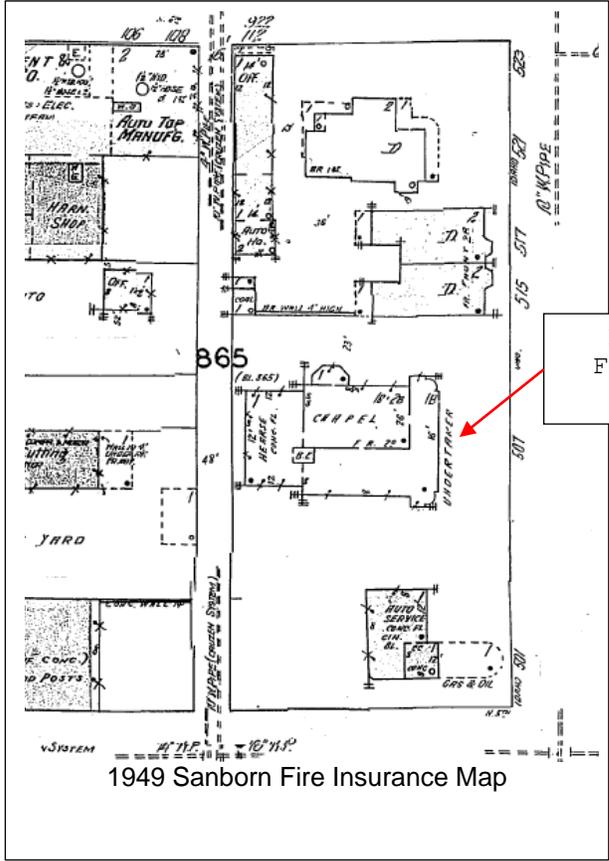
COMMERCE & DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT

The location of the Boise Funeral Home and its immediate vicinity was first organized in the original 1863 plat of Boise City. During the 1860s and 1870s, the building site and its immediate vicinity was at the east end of the commercial heart of the young community of Boise. Adobe, wood frame, and brick building comprised the streetscapes, most of which are no longer extant. With the rejuvenation of Idaho's mining industry in the 1880s and 1890s, numerous new brick buildings went up in the area, such as the R.Z. Johnson Law Office and Block buildings (1885 and 1892, respectively). During the early 20th century, tremendous population growth in Boise resulted in additional commercial and residential development, with construction techniques and architectural styles reflecting national trends. Among the immigration to Boise were great numbers of Chinese and Basque residents. According to Boise historian, Arthur Hart, "Basques who came to Idaho from Spain to herd sheep, made the neighborhood their headquarters," and buildings such as the Star Rooms and Royal Hotel served as boarding houses for shepherders. On the site of the Boise Funeral Home originally stood a pre-1884 one-story dwelling, which remained there until at least 1912.

The 1977 National Register nomination for the Boise Historic District states, "the Basque culture pervaded the district until World War II when increasing prosperity allowed the population to disperse itself throughout the community as a whole. At this time, many of their dwellings were removed in favor of the Moderne style Twentieth Century Lanes, Gibson Funeral Home, Del's 76 Service Station, and the Fifth Street Market." Following the deprivations of the Great Depression, Americans had a real and psychological need for new construction and clear signs of progress, which led to a building boom resulting in major changes to the nation's built environment including communities such as Boise.



1884 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map



1949 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map

Boise Funeral Home

Significance as a Local and a Regional Funeral Services Venue

The modern deathcare industry traces its roots to the American Civil War when fallen soldiers' remains were routinely embalmed for transport home. Embalming techniques slowly gained favor, especially following the final journey of President Abraham Lincoln's embalmed remains, and even more as death rituals shifted away from the home and into hospitals and funeral parlors.⁴ The earliest funeral parlors of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries occupied downtown store spaces, and often were run by undertakers who also worked as furniture makers or ran hardware stores. Downtown funeral parlors typically included a small gathering space, a sales area that often doubled as a hardware or furniture store, and a workshop where coffins were built.⁵

As professional mortician schools emerged during the early 20th century, so too did the need for specialized funerary spaces. By the late 1910s and early 1920s, American undertakers looked beyond downtown business districts for space to grow their businesses. Many saw the increasingly vacant Victorian-era mansions as offering a luxurious backdrop and ample space for both public and private functions, while giving the undertaker greater control over the process.⁶ As a result, cities like Boise featured a combination of both storefront funeral parlors and Victorian-era mansions repurposed into elaborate funeral homes.

During the late 1910s, the Boise city directories list only one business offering undertaking and embalming services – Fry & Summers at 906 Bannock (nonextant). By the mid-1930s, the field of death care in Boise and competition therein had grown and three firms took care of Boise's dead – Summers & Krebs (formerly Fry & Summers yet still at 9th and Bannock), McBratney at 905 State (nonextant), and Schreiber & McCann at 609-611 Bannock (nonextant) – all located in the heart of downtown and within a few blocks from each other.

In Boise, the transition to purpose-built, function-specific funeral homes began in the late 1930s. Summers led the pack when in 1939 it hired Wayland and Fennel to design its new funeral home to be located at the west edge of downtown at 1205 (W) Bannock. This uncommon combination of Art Deco and Moderne styles, the building features contrasting sections of smooth cast stone and the rough clinker brick.⁷

The following year, the Boise Funeral Home opened at its new location at the east edge of downtown, adding a fourth funeral home to the death care field in Boise and the second, modern purpose-built mortuary. At the time, Boise Funeral Home represented the only listing under 'Mortician' in the city directory.⁸

Purpose-built funeral homes became increasingly more common with the continued professionalization and commoditization of the funeral industry. By 1940, when the Boise Funeral Home opened, many in the industry considered the downtown storefront funeral parlor outdated, and "architectural modernism began to exert influence over mortuary design."⁹ As the Boise Funeral Home illustrates, purpose-built mortuaries could be thoughtfully designed with consideration of both sales and service, and careful to separate public and private spaces. Much design emphasis was placed on providing a nurturing and reflective experience for mourners. The chapel, often with an organ, "was the most important architectural innovation for encouraging the use of funeral homes as a one-stop, all-purpose establishment."¹⁰

As in other parts of the country, Boise experienced another distinct shift in the funeral industry in the 1960s and 1970s. A business model emerged with even more of a one-stop experience, which included the funeral home, crematory, chapel, mausoleum, and cemetery all in one park-like setting. Although he maintained his business at 507 Idaho Street, Daniel Gibson, owner of the Gibson Funeral Home, followed this trend. He purchased Cloverdale Memorial Park in 1960, built an

⁴ Gary Laderman, *Rest in Peace: A Cultural History of Death and the Funeral Home in Twentieth-Century America* (New York: Oxford University Press 2003), 4 and 6.

⁵ Dean George Lampros, "Like a Real Home: The Residential Funeral Home and America's Changing Vernacular Landscape, 1910-1960" (PhD diss., Boston University, 2013), 15. Accessed via ProQuest.

⁶ Lampros, 1.

⁷ Opened in September 1939, the building still stands and still functions as a funeral home.

⁸ According to Tim Gibson, the Gibson Funeral Home tended to handle the area Basque funerals, and thus often conducted Catholic-specific traditional services. Though Boise's funeral homes were not officially denominational, Gibson reported that there were de facto associations, including: Summers handled Masonic funerals; Relyea handled Mormon services; Alden-Wagner handled Pentecostal services; and Gibson held mostly Catholic funerals.

⁹ Lampros, 308.

¹⁰ Laderman, 26.

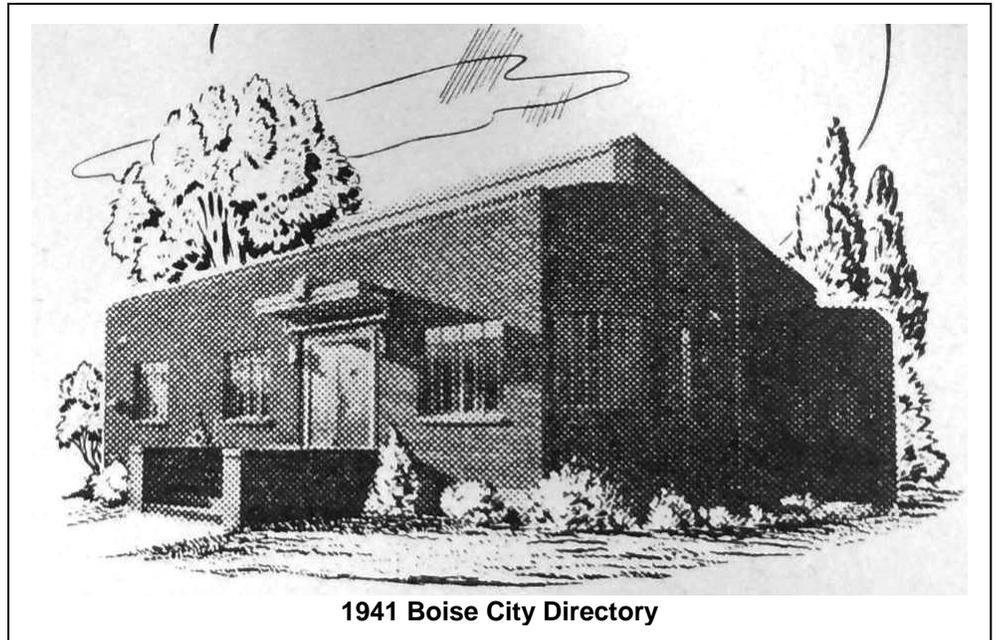
on-site funeral home in 1964, and a few years later purchased the nearby Terrace Lawn Memorial Gardens.¹¹ The Gibsons added a crematory around 1969 and became the first combination cemetery/funeral/crematory in the Boise area. Thus, as did suburban development during the same period, the focus of the Gibson funeral home business shifted away from the downtown location to these locations west of downtown.

AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE: CRITERION C

ARCHITECTURE

Designed in the Modern Movement's Moderne style by Boise Payette Lumber Company's resident architect, Hans Hulbe, the Boise Funeral Home is significant under Criterion C for its embodiment of distinctive characteristics of a type and period of construction. The Boise Funeral Home, located at the edge of the downtown central business district, features a broad, asymmetrical, streamlined façade, a deep setback, parking along each side of the building, and paved driveways either side that provided hearses ample access to and from the integral, drive-through garage.

Inside is a sequence of functional spaces, all part of a pre-determined circulation system. This hierarchy includes a series of interconnected spaces associated with both traditional and contemporary expectations of mourners: an ample foyer, a chapel with capacity to seat about 175 people, and a private family room off the chapel. Secondary public spaces include the funeral director's office (where families were greeted and arrangements discussed), two Slumber Rooms (small private rooms where families could spend time with the body), and a small restroom, all linked by an L-shaped corridor spanning the building. Tertiary non-public spaces included the



1941 Boise City Directory

embalming room, the music room (a small area behind the chapel screen), and the casket elevator. The basement level contained a large casket display room, clothing display room, quarters for on-call ambulance drivers, an apartment for the funeral director, and a boiler room. While a crematory is shown on the original plans, it was never built.¹² At the rear of the building is a two-bay, drive through garage meant for multiple hearses.¹³ The building's design accommodated all these function-specific spaces under one roof and enveloped in a modernistic aesthetic.

¹¹ Oral history interview with Tim Gibson, July 11, 2016, Boise, Idaho; and "History and Staff," Cloverdale Funeral Home website. Accessed 24 October 2016: <http://www.cloverdalefuneralhome.com/about-us/history-and-staff>

¹² A basement crematory is noted on the original architectural drawings produced by Boise Payette Lumber Company architect Hans Hulbe.

¹³ Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (1949), Boise, Ada County, Idaho. Sheet 55.

The Boise Funeral Home is a good mid-twentieth century state-of-the-art example of the funeral home property type, and featuring an aesthetic reflecting a departure from the earlier repurposed Victorian home property type to streamlined Modern Movement designs. This meant simple, soothing design treatments on the interior, up-to-date air conditioning (heat and cooling) systems, and sophisticated cutting-edge design on the outside.

Completed in 1940, the purpose-built Boise Funeral Home provided customers the latest in the funerary industry, from embalming to funeral and burial services, as well as ambulance service. At the time of construction, there was no crematory in Boise, with Portland providing the nearest cremation services.¹⁴

The Idaho Statesman covered the funeral home opening with an article describing the “modernistic” property and an invitation to the community to tour the new building.¹⁵ Funeral director, O. Sherwin Webb told the *Statesman* that efforts were made to create “pleasant surroundings for our services,” which translated into both physical comfort with the latest heating and air-conditioning technology and thoughtful interior design. The interior was described as follows:

Semi-indirect lighting softly illuminates cheerful fittings. From the green, patterned rug and light, marble-effect pews to the homey upholstered furniture and the flowered drapes of the family mourners’ room, the effect is in direct contrast to the conventional undertaking parlors... Air conditioning vents in some rooms are concealed in light fixture bases...A dual heating system that cleans and conditions air in both summer and winter is one of the features of the plant. When thermostats indicate a drop in temperature...booster arrangements immediately force hot steam into radiators of the section of the building that has cooled off.¹⁶

Moderne Style

By the mid-to-late 1930s, the popular aesthetics for funeral homes – repurposed Victorian mansions – gave way to a focus on state-of-the-art technology and the aesthetic of progress: Modernism. After the deprivations of the Great Depression, Americans felt a strong need for all types of fresh symbols of progress and earlier styles appeared extravagant and fussy.¹⁷ The property type exemplified by the 1940 Boise Funeral Home, expressed the Moderne style with its horizontality, curved walls, chrome detailing (nonextant), and salmon-colored brick facing. The fresh, streamlined motion implied in the Moderne style reflected the nation’s design preferences of the time, treatments that were easily applied to the design of numerous commercial and institutional building types.

The Moderne style evolved from the earlier and somewhat contemporaneous Art Deco and International styles of the Modern Movement in the 1920s and 1930s. Echoing the streamlined design of the industrial age and the automobiles, ships, and airplanes of the era, Moderne (aka Art Moderne, Modernistic, or Streamlined Moderne) strove to evoke active, aerodynamic movement using smooth wall surfaces, contoured walls, and horizontal lines. Moderne style utilized machine inspired motifs and featured smooth cubic and cylindrical forms with a horizontal emphasis, curving shapes, and a minimum of ornamentation. To achieve the desired aesthetic, designs integrated broad horizontal windows, light-colored brick, rounded wall corners, large expanses of glass, glass block, chrome, and stainless steel.¹⁸ Moderne style buildings sometimes incorporated the geometric elements of the Art Deco style, however they typically evoke the International Style’s reduction of decorative detailing and applied ornament to the barest minimum.¹⁹ The most popular of the Modern Movement styles after 1930, the Moderne style buildings appear throughout the country and many towns and small cities boast at least one example.

¹⁴ Tim Gibson, Oral History Interview, July 11, 2016.

¹⁵ “New Boise Funeral Home Opens Today; Modern Mortuary in Boise Opens for Inspection Today,” *The Idaho Statesman*, 16 November 1940, p. 3; [Opening Weekend Advertisements], *The Idaho Statesman*, 17 November 1940, p. 8.

¹⁶ “New Boise Funeral Home Opens Today; Modern Mortuary in Boise Opens for Inspection Today,” *The Idaho Statesman*, 16 November 1940, p. 3.

¹⁷ Gwendolyn Wright, *Building the Dream: A Social History of Housing in America* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1981), 242. The concern for more simple design began prior to the war in the late 1930s and continued after the war.

¹⁸ Richard Longstreth, *The Buildings of Main Street: A Guide to Americas Commercial Architecture Updated Edition* (New York: AltaMira Press, 2000), 47-49.

¹⁹ Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A Knopf, 2005), 466.

The state and federal relief programs of the Great Depression, in particular the Works Progress Administration (WPA) building projects, played an important role in the broad geographic dissemination of the Modern Movement's styles and its simplified architectural design throughout the country. Government-funded projects such as dams, bridges, parks, schools, stadiums, post offices, city halls, courthouses, and fire and police stations employed out-of-work architects who incorporated the stripped-down and cost-efficient Moderne style into their designs and spread the idiom throughout the country.²⁰

In Boise, numerous examples of the style went up across town, either replacing earlier buildings or on previously undeveloped lots. At the time of its construction, the Boise Funeral Home was one of no less than four Moderne buildings in the immediate vicinity, among them within a block were Twentieth Century Lanes (610 W Idaho), Goodman Oil Station (501 W Idaho, nonextant), and the Fifth Street Market (500 W Main).

Boise Funeral Home: Construction and Operation

From founding to opening, the Boise Funeral Home came into being in less than a year. On March 10, 1940, W. Schlofman a garage manager, and two wives of IRS tax collectors, Georgia B. Peterson and Eugenia E. Carver, filed to incorporate the Boise Funeral Home. The historic record did not reveal any of them with any previous association with the death care industry.²¹

Within 16 days, Boise Payette's resident architect, Hans Hulbe, had approved plans for the building, which had been drafted by a C.M. Allen. The following month, the building permit was filed with the City.

Boise contractor J.O. Jordan and Son, known for their construction of Boise's Ada Theater in 1927, built the funeral home for about \$30,000.²² The company, which is still in business today as Jordan-Wilcomb Construction, Inc., is deeply rooted in Boise.²³ (see brief company bio below.) In addition, the following local businesses were involved in the construction and opening of the building:²⁴

- Burley Brick & Sand Co., Inc., supplied the facing brick "for this landmark which will stand as a memorial in years to come"
- Harold A. Deppe, manufacturer of jobber bricks
- Morrison-Knudsen Co., Inc., surfaced the driveway
- Baker's Furniture Store provided floor covering and venetian blinds
- Pratt Furniture Company supplied furnishings
- Pabco Paint Store installed linoleum
- W. P. Fuller & Co., supplied decorative Corning Glass Blocks and windows
- N. J. Eiden Heating & Plumbing installed heating, plumbing and air-conditioning systems
- Eleanor Arthur Marshall Drapes and Interiors
- Finch's Stationary & Office Supplies

In just eight months, the Boise Funeral Home had incorporated, had plans drawn, applied for a building permit, and oversaw the completion of their modern mortuary.²⁵ The Boise Funeral Home opened in mid-November 1940 and boasted all the latest amenities and the requisite sequence of functional spaces. Upon entering the main foyer, patrons signed in and then moved either to the left toward the main corridor accessing all the ancillary spaces, or moved a few steps directly into the chapel. The chapel design reflected a simple and smooth aesthetic void of any applied ornamentation. In addition

²⁰ Sally Schwenk and Kerry Davis, Cultural Resource Survey Report, "Downtown and Old Town Warrensburg, Missouri," (Kansas City, Missouri: Sally Schwenk Associates, Inc., 2007), 49.

²¹ "Incorporations," *The Idaho Statesman*, 10 March 1940, 6. Also, "News of Record: Building Permits," *The Idaho Statesman*, 13 April 1940, p. 10; "New Boise Funeral Home Opens Today; Modern Mortuary in Boise Opens for Inspection Today," *The Idaho Statesman*, 16 November 1940, p. 3.

²² The Ada Theater (or Egyptian Theater), at 700 Main Street, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1974.

²³ "Jordan-Wilcomb Construction, Inc.," website. Accessed 14 October 2016: <http://www.jordan-wilcomb.com/history/>.

²⁴ [Opening Weekend Advertisements], *The Idaho Statesman*, 17 November 1940, 8.

²⁵ "Incorporations," *The Idaho Statesman*, 10 March 1940, 6. Also, "News of Record: Building Permits," *The Idaho Statesman*, 13 April 1940, p. 10; "New Boise Funeral Home Opens Today; Modern Mortuary in Boise Opens for Inspection Today," *The Idaho Statesman*, 16 November 1940, p. 3.

to all the funeral-specific spaces, a basement residential apartment provided living quarters for the funeral director, as well as on-shift quarters for the round-the-clock ambulance staff.

Under the direction of funeral director O. Sherwin Webb, who had just completed mortuary training in Chicago, the Boise Funeral Home promoted itself as non-sectarian, “catering to all denominations.”²⁶ Although located in the traditional Catholic Basque neighborhood, this simply may have been a way to welcome potential clients, as funeral homes in Boise were generally patronized by particular religious denominations.²⁷

Nationwide, as the funerary industry professionalized, funeral services (wakes and funerals) were held less often in the home and instead in either churches or funeral homes. “By the middle of the twentieth century the funeral home regularly hosted both rituals.”²⁸ However, “the church continued to compete with the funeral home as a possible setting for funeral services.”²⁹ The choice of location for funerary rituals – whether in a church or a funeral home traditionally associated with a particular denomination, was, and still is, greatly influenced by one’s religious affiliation, ethnicity, socio-economic class, and geographic locality.³⁰

Under the name Boise Funeral Home, the business was short-lived. In 1945, Webb sold the business and returned to his native Preston, Utah, where he and his wife Gertie purchased his uncle Willis Hendricks’ funeral home and operated it as the Webb Funeral Home.³¹

Long-time Boise mortuary Schreiber & McCann purchased the building in June 1945, selling their property of approximately 35 years at 6th and Bannock Street (nonextant).³² Spearheaded by James T. (J.T.) McCann (1878-1957), this move came just a year after the death of his partner Adolph Schreiber (1865-1944).

Schreiber, a German immigrant from St. Joseph, Missouri, had been in the funerary business for nearly a half-century. Having first learned the printing trade, he moved to Boise in 1891 to work for the *Statesman* until 1901 when he went into the undertaking business. In 1904, Schreiber bought J.D. McGuire’s business and partnered with E. Brennan. Two years later William Sidenfaden (1864-1929), a fellow German immigrant also from St. Joseph, bought Brennan’s interest in the business.³³ Schreiber served several terms as the Ada County Coroner in the early 1900s.

²⁶ [Opening Weekend Advertisements], *The Idaho Statesman*, 17 November 1940, p. 8.

²⁷ Tim Gibson, Oral History Interview, July 11, 2016.

²⁸ Lampros, 382.

²⁹ Lampros, 382. The nondenominational Gibson Funeral Home maintained hymnals for all denominations. Among those found in the building at the time of field documentation were Baptist, Nazarene, Christian Science, and Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

³⁰ Lampros, 382. The nondenominational Gibson Funeral Home maintained hymnals for all denominations. Among those found in the building at the time of field documentation were Baptist, Nazarene, Christian Science, and Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

³¹ It remains in business today. Gertie J. Webb obituary, *The Herald Journal* (Logan, UT), 6 February 2005. Accessed online 14 October 2016:

http://news.hjnews.com/obituaries/gertie-j-webb/article_4c94c24d-82fe-5f63-a685-4732cdbc1845.html; and “Celebrating 90 years, Webb has scored a hole in one in life,” *The Preston Citizen*, 6 June 2001, p. 6. Accessed online 14 October 2016:

<http://prz.stparchive.com/Archive/PRZ/PRZ06062001P06.php>.

³² “Funeral Home Changes Hands,” *The Idaho Statesman*, 17 June 1945, p. 14.

³³ Hiram T. French, *History of Idaho: A Narrative Account of its Historical Progress, Its People and Its Principal Interests*, vol. 2 (Chicago and New York: Lewis Publishing Company, 1914), 231; 853-54. Accessed online 14 October 2016: <https://archive.org/stream/historyofidahona02fren#page/n0/mode/2up>.

31

FUNERAL DIRECTORS



MORTICIANS

and Licensed Embalmers

INVALID COACH

AMBULANCE SERVICE



507 W. Idaho Phone 2-8221

Boise City Directory, 1960

McCann, a native of Nebraska born to Irish parents, worked in the furniture business in Weiser, Idaho, prior to becoming a mortician in Boise.³⁴ Like his colleague Schreiber, he served as Ada County Coroner, but much later in the 1930s. Daniel Gibson joined the firm in 1949, and it operated for a period under the name Schreiber-McCann-Gibson.³⁵ After McCann's death in 1957, Gibson became the sole living business partner and it became the Gibson Funeral Home.³⁶

Daniel G. Gibson (1916-2004), a native of Montana, entered the death care field after World War II. After schooling/training in San Francisco, he returned to Idaho. He, his wife, Betty, and their two children moved to Boise in 1949 when he started work with the Schreiber-McCann funeral home.

Gibson expanded the business in 1964 when he purchased Cloverdale Cemetery (founded in 1935) and proceeded to construct a funeral home on the property.³⁷ In the 1970s, Daniel's son, Tim, joined the business after his mortuary science training. Upon his return to Boise, Tim resided in the building's basement apartment. During his time, as funeral director, Tim Gibson oversaw approximately 125 funerals annually, at a time when the average funeral home handled about 100 funerals a year.³⁸ An extensive remodeling of the interior finishes took place at this time, updating the wallpaper, light fixtures, curtains, and carpet. Twelve phone lines accessed the building, a necessity to ensure someone in need of ambulance or funerary services would never get a busy signal.

Significant changes came to the industry during the late 1970s and 1980s. Pagers became a huge benefit to funeral directors. Ambulance service also shifted away from being a service of funeral homes and into its own specialized field. In Boise, downtown parking became a problem, with funeral attendees returning to their vehicles to find them booted or ticketed. Gibson attempted to purchase adjacent lots for additional parking, to no avail.

With the industry shifting to the more suburban, one-stop model, Gibson Funeral Home hosted its last funeral in the 1980s and the family concentrated their energies and efforts into Cloverdale. Though no more funerals took place at the Gibson Funeral Home, because the building was a traditional fixture to many area residents, the family kept it staffed with a single secretary into the 1990s in order to be available to the community as needed.³⁹

Daniel Gibson died in 2004 and was buried at Cloverdale. A few years later, due to a continued shift in the industry away from the traditional family-run business to an increasingly corporate culture, Tim Gibson sold Cloverdale. Attempts to sell or repurpose the Gibson Funeral Home were unsuccessful and the building remained unused and vacant for many years.

Hans C. Hulbe, Architect

Hans Carl (Karl) Max Hulbe (1883-1973), a native of Germany, arrived in the U.S. in 1909. The 1910 census shows him living in Hoboken, New Jersey, living with relatives and working as a carpenter. By 1915, he was living in Twin Falls, Idaho, where he married local German teacher, Katherine Nebe. The newspaper announcement of their marriage referred to him as "a well-known architect of this city."⁴⁰ The newlyweds lived briefly in American Falls in 1917. By 1918, the couple lived at 1515 Alturas in Boise's North End and Hans had secured a job working as a draftsman with Boise-Payette Lumber Company. Around 1919, the couple moved with their small daughter to 825 N 21st, where they stayed until moving up on the Bench in 1929.

It was at this time that Hulbe and his wife developed the Hulbe Tract just east of the then recently constructed U.P. Depot. Though platted in 1887, the Bench edge area between present-day Federal Way and Boise Avenue had not yet been developed. Comprising large parts of blocks 9 and 10 in the Original South Boise subdivision, Hulbe's re-plat of the area consisted of six lots along a small loop drive off what was then known as the Old Oregon Trail or Mountain Home Highway (present-day Federal Way). Sold to Boise's growing upper middle class, the lots were fully developed by 1940, with some

³⁴ World War I draft registration for James T. McCann, Washington County, Idaho. "United States World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918," database with images, *FamilySearch.org*. Accessed 17 October 2016.

³⁵ [Ad] "Funeral Service," *The Idaho Statesman*, 18 June 1952, page 5; [Advertisement] "Memory Lane," *The Idaho Statesman*, 16 May 1954, p. 8.

³⁶ "Mrs. McCann Answers Suit Over Mortuary," *The Idaho Statesman*, 25 June 1958, p. 20.

³⁷ <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=83958477&ref=acom>. Accessed online December 8, 2016

³⁸ Tim Gibson, Oral History Interview, July 11, 2016.

³⁹ Tim Gibson, Oral history interview, July 11, 2016, Gibson Funeral Home, Boise, Idaho.

⁴⁰ "Twin Falls," *Idaho Statesman*, May 30, 1915.

of the homes designed by Hulbe.⁴¹ Hulbe took the lot at 4 Hulbe Road for himself and his family and built a house that was listed as having a value of \$12,000 in the 1930 census. Upon moving into the house, the *Idaho Statesman* reported, "Mr. and Mrs. Hans Hulbe entertained 20 guests in their new home, 'Boise View,' on the mesa."⁴² Later in the decade, the *Statesman* reported on another new house in the tract: "Mrs. Maud Cosho has moved her family from the Bristol hotel to the Hans Hulbe property which she purchased recently. This is one of the handsome homes of the city on the edge of the mesa, southeast of the station, with a landscaped garden both in front and back of the house."⁴³

The historic record suggests Hulbe stayed in the position of resident architect with Boise-Payette Lumber Company his entire career, from 1918 until at least the 1940s (and possibly into the late 1950s/early 1960s). By the late 1930s he was in charge of the Boise Payette Home Planning Service. By the early 1940s he served as architect for the Idaho State Department of Education, a position he retained until at least 1952.⁴⁴

Hulbe was known for his designs of Revival-style homes, including the Koelsch House at 3216 Crescent Rim Drive and the Johnson House at 3703 Kootenai Street.⁴⁵ In 1935, he won *Good Housekeeping* magazine's First Place in Idaho award in their home design category; his winning design was a Cape Cod remodel of the Tyler Hunt home in Emmett.⁴⁶ Another Boise property that Hulbe designed was the State Forestry Department's Log Cabin, a unique landmark built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1939-40 in celebration of Idaho's 50th anniversary.⁴⁷

Hulbe left Boise at some point in the late 1950s or early 1960s and spent the last years of life in Portland, Oregon, where he died in 1974.⁴⁸

Known buildings:

- 1931 Feldhusen House, Kimberly (vicinity), ID⁴⁹
- 1932 Koelsch House, 3216 Crescent Rim, Boise, ID
- 1933 Johnson House, 3703 Kootenai, Boise, ID
- 1935 Hunt House, Emmett, ID
- 1937 New Rogerson Hotel (one-story addition), Twin Falls, ID⁵⁰
- 1937-38 dwelling, 1312 N 24th St., Boise, ID
- 1937-38 Cape Cod dwelling, 24th & Ridenbaugh, Boise, ID⁵¹
- 1939 Roxy Theater, Cascade, ID
- 1940 Boise Funeral Home
- 1942 Wright Community Church, Franklin & Orchard, Boise, ID⁵²
- 1950 Boise Brake & Wheel, 1320 Main, Boise, ID⁵³
- 1951 St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Boise, ID⁵⁴
- 1954 Afton-Lemp Office & Warehouse, Boise, ID⁵⁵

⁴¹ Based on records of the architecture firm of CSHQA, at least one of the homes is known to have been designed by Wayland & Fennel, the dwelling of Frank Poage on Hulbe Road.

⁴² "Thirty Years Ago In the Statesman," *Idaho Statesman*, October 16, 1960.

⁴³ "Mrs. Cosho Moves," *Idaho Statesman*, September 24, 1937.

⁴⁴ "Planners Map New School Plan Program," *Idaho Statesman*, October 13, 1948.

⁴⁵ "The Bench Buildings," Idaho Architecture Project, Preservation Idaho website, accessed 6 November 2016, <http://idahoarchitectureproject.org/location.php?id=6>.

⁴⁶ "Boise Architect Wins Prize," *Idaho Statesman*, September 7, 1935.

⁴⁷ "Log Cabin," Preservation Idaho website, accessed 21 October 2016, <http://www.preservationidaho.org/advocacy/legacy/log-cabin>. The cabin is located at 801 South Capitol Boulevard.

⁴⁸ "Hans Hulbe," *Idaho Statesman*, May 14, 1974.

⁴⁹ "Feldhusens Tell How Residence 'Got Its Wings'," *Times-News* (Twin Falls), May 9, 1942.

⁵⁰ "Hotel Man Plans to Add \$75,000 Story at Twin," *Idaho Statesman*, April 11, 1937.

⁵¹ "New Residences," *Idaho Statesman*, October 29, 1937.

⁵² "Wright Church Dedicated Sunday," *Idaho Statesman*, March 28, 1942.

⁵³ "Boise Builds," *Idaho Statesman*, May 21, 1950.

⁵⁴ "Cornerstone of New Boise Church Laid," *Idaho Statesman*, March 12, 1951.

⁵⁵ "Afton-Lemp Firm Moves to New Office, Warehouse," *Idaho Statesman*, October 10, 1954.

Boise Payette Lumber Company

The 1913 merger of the Barber Lumber Company and the Payette Lumber Company resulted in the formation of the Boise Payette Lumber Company. By 1922, the entity oversaw a system of 72 lumber source/sales yards in the intermountain region. Incorporated in 1931, shortly thereafter, the business began their Home Design Service. This service included customers direct access to licensed draftsman and architects. Later referred to as the Home Planning Division, this service remained an active part of the company until at least the late 1960s.

Though logging and milling were key to the Boise Payette's activities, it was the expanded retail lumber yard system, particularly in the post-WWII period, that provided the most profit.⁵⁶ The 1957 consolidation with Cascade Company of Yakima resulted in the formation of the Boise Cascade Corporation. The company became the largest lumber corporation in Idaho, expanded to include pulp and paper mills, as well as corrugated container plants, and has since grown to employ over 23,000 individuals across multiple states.

Lumber That Costs Less Per "Board-Foot-Year"

—is the lumber to put into your home for permanency and profit. The NET cost (the actual cost of the lumber in your house when finished, not the original cost at the yard), plus cost of labor, divided by the number of satisfactory years of service, equals the cost per "Board-Foot-Year."



Insist on 4-Square Lumber

It costs less per board-foot-year because you use less 4-Square than other lumber, for these reasons:

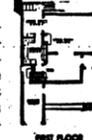
First: Accurately squared ends do away with most of the waste caused by hand-squaring.

Second: Packaged ends and protected faces eliminate splits and other damage and depreciation that occur in handling lumber.

Third: Full lengths enable your contractor to estimate quantities more accurately, eliminating another source of waste.

Fourth: 4-Square is properly seasoned. This is an important feature, because green or poorly seasoned lumber causes excessive warping and shrinkage that result in costly repair bills. 4-Square's long life lowers the cost per board-foot-year.

Fifth: The use of 4-Square results in better construction. Workmen instinctively do better work with superior materials. Carpenters recognize the extra quality of 4-Square and its exclusive time-saving features.



Take Advantage of the

Boise Payette Planning Service

A corps of trained and experienced home designers and draftsmen is at your disposal in planning your home. Let them combine your ideas with theirs for a beautiful, practical, comfortable MODERN home. There is no charge for this service!

Financial Department Of Boise Payette At Your Service

Let us tell you how you can build your own home and pay for it like rent. If you have a lot and some cash, you can, under the F.H.A. plan, borrow the money to build at very low interest rates. There is no good reason for delaying longer the construction of your own home!



Start Your Building Plans With a Visit to

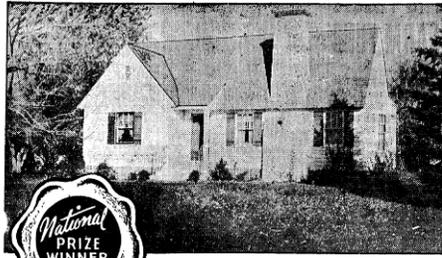
Boise Payette Lumber Co.

"THERE'S A YARD NEAR YOU"



Idaho Statesman, April 1936

⁵⁶ "Lumber in the Boise Region," Idaho State Historical Society Reference Series, Number 173.



\$1,000 GRAND PRIZE WINNER!
Newly completed home of Mr. and Mrs. John S. Feldhusen, located 4 miles east of Twin Falls, Idaho, that won one of the twenty national first prizes in the General Electric "New American Home Building Contest" in competition with hundreds of entries from all over the United States.

Plans and materials were furnished by Boise Payette Lumber Company, Constructed by Walter Feamster, Twin Falls building contractor.

BOISE PAYETTE
Home Designers and Materials
Consistently
Produce

★ CHAMPION HOMES ★



The Feldhusen's started with this plan in 1933. It was a livable arrangement designed for future expansion when the budget permitted. Convenience of a dining room and an extra bedroom were sacrificed for a few years in order to have the permanent arrangement shown below. Many Boise Payette homes are planned in similar manner to keep costs within present means.



The plan at the left shows the arrangement after adding living room and bedroom to complete the home in 1938. Although built in two operations, the entire home was planned at one time by Hans Huber, licensed architect in charge of Boise Payette Home Planning Service.



Boise Payette Customers Win 60% of Prize Money In Better Homes Bureau's Sectional Contest

In addition to the General Electric National Better Homes Contest, the Better Homes Bureau of Southern Idaho and Eastern Oregon staged a similar contest in 1938 under the same rules.

The territory was divided into two sections, with identical prizes in each. Boise Payette customers not only won both \$500 first prizes, but took a total of 60% of all the prize money offered in competition with homes entered from all over the Idaho-Oregon territory.



\$500 1st Prize, West division
Above: The C. V. Parker new home, 1125 Warm Springs Avenue, Boise.



\$500 1st Prize, East division
Right: New home of Miss Clara M. Billler, Twin Falls.

Boise Payette Home Designers Planned These Winners!

All the homes shown here were designed by Boise Payette craftsmen and built of Boise Payette materials. Plans, estimates, specifications and complete working drawings are furnished Boise Payette customers without cost.



PRIZE WINNER—J. D. Orr, 1107 Harrison Blvd., Boise



PRIZE WINNER—A. H. Koster, Idaho Falls



PRIZE WINNER—Clyde Bowen, Pocatello

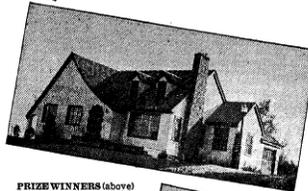


"Budget Building"

... is Boise Payette's own financial plan that includes:

1. FHA monthly terms for builders of new homes, as long as 30 years to pay!
2. "Protected Payments," an exclusive optional feature, obtainable only at Boise Payette, providing for the cancellation of the mortgage in the event of your death or permanent disability.
3. Monthly terms for remodeling without down payment

Ask Us For Complete Details!



PRIZE WINNERS (above)
R. W. Mangum, 1616 8th St. N., Nampa.



(right) The new D. E. Warren home at Payette.



Your Home Can be a Champion, too

Let the "Designers of Champions" help you! These men will sketch preliminary plans, figure estimates, draw up specifications, produce working drawings and blue prints and co-operate with you and your contractor until the job is finished. It costs no more to have this service.

Quality Materials

... are assured when you start your building plans with a visit to Boise Payette. Right from the start, better construction at lower final cost is yours through the use of

4-SQUARE Lumber

... the precision lumber that is thoroughly seasoned to prevent excessive shrinkage after the house is built.

Balsam-Wool and Nu-Wood Insulation, Certified Red Cedar Shingles and Devco Paints and Varnishes are a few of the other strictly QUALITY building materials available at Boise Payette.



PRIZE WINNER—Owen Davis, Jerome

BOISE PAYETTE LUMBER COMPANY



"There's A Yard Near You"

LET THE BUILDING BUG BITE YOU!

J.O. Jordan and Son, Builder

John O. Jordan (1871-1964), a native of Ohio, arrived in Boise between 1900 and 1910. Listed as a Boise house contractor in the 1910 census, by 1920, his son J. Cecil Jordan joined him in business. After WWII, Cecil's son J. Richard Jordan and son-in-law Richard P. Wilcomb joined the business in 1949.⁵⁷ By 1964, the business became known as Jordan-Wilcomb. According to local historian, Dan Everhart, "Though known for their construction of Boise landmarks including the Egyptian Theater, historic Ada County Courthouse, and Intermountain Gas, J. O. Jordan and Son (now Jordan-Wilcomb Construction) was responsible for the design and construction of dozens of homes throughout the city."

Known buildings: (Unless otherwise noted the building is/was in Boise and is a dwelling)

1910 1815 and 1820 N 8th
 1915 1923 N 9th
 1917 2204 and 2208 Ellis Ave⁵⁸
 1918 1417 and 1419 N 12th⁵⁹
 1919 one-story bldg., 706 N 19th⁶⁰
 1919 1616 Washington
 1919 1018 N 7th⁶¹
 1919-1920 1315, 1317, and 1319 Hays
 1919-1920 remodel 2107 N 15th⁶²
 1919 706 N 19th
 1920 1406 State
 c1920 117 N. Locust (01-4679)
 1920 1706 Franklin
 1920 1418 High St.⁶³
 1920 1600, 1606, 1614, 1616, 1620, and 1703 Jefferson⁶⁴
 1920 1418 W Hays
 1921 1203 N 6th
 1921 1606 Jefferson⁶⁵
 1921 612, 614, and 616 N 16th⁶⁶
 1922 713 N 20th⁶⁷
 1922 810 N 19th⁶⁸
 1922 1316 W Hays
 1922 802 N 19th
 1922 1821 State
 1923 523 Logan
 1923 611 W Hays
 1924 1211 N 25th
 1924 2118 Ellis Ave.
 1924 warehouse, 1820 N 8th
 1925 1320 W Hays
 1926 913 N 22nd
 1926 2120 Ellis Ave.
 1926 815 N 18th
 1928 819 N 18th

⁵⁷ "John O. Jordan," Boise, Ada County, Idaho. United States Census, 1910.

⁵⁸ "Brief City News," *Idaho Statesman*, March 29, 1917.

⁵⁹ "Brief City News," *Idaho Statesman*, June 2, 1918.

⁶⁰ *Idaho Statesman*, June 2, 1918.

⁶¹ "Many Building Permits," *Idaho Statesman*, July 24, 1919.

⁶² "Two Permits Issued," *Idaho Statesman*, November 8, 1919.

⁶³ "Two New Bungalows," *Idaho Statesman*, February 6, 1920.

⁶⁴ "Building Permits," *Idaho Statesman*, April 10, 1920.

⁶⁵ "Building Permits," *Idaho Statesman*, October 3, 1920.

⁶⁶ "Building Permits," *Idaho Statesman*, April 3, 1921.

⁶⁷ "Building Permits," *Idaho Statesman*, June 24, 1922.

⁶⁸ "Building Permits," *Idaho Statesman*, July 20, 1922.

1928 906 N 7th
 1930 808 18th
 1931 Idaho National Guard Building, Boise⁶⁹
 1931 Idaho Power Bldg., 13th and Idaho⁷⁰
 1932 2216 and 2218 Idaho
 1933 814 N 18th
 1933 1101, 1107, 1111, 1115-1117 N 7th
 1935-36 Post Office and Federal Bldg., Blackfoot⁷¹
 1936 1020 Harrison
 1937 2210 and 2212 Bannock
 1937 Boise Junior High⁷²
 1938 Nampa State Mental institution dormitories⁷³
 1939 Business Bldg. on Jefferson St. (across from Pinney Theater), to be occupied by Walker Electric, Baker Rug, and General Paint.⁷⁴
 1940 Boise Junior College Admin Building⁷⁵
 1940 2116 and 2120 Pleasanton
 1940 2200 Woodlawn
 1941 Boise Air Corps cantonment (41 bldgs)⁷⁶
 1943 warehouse, Fairview & 24th
 1944 Caldwell Housing Authority, 60 dwelling units⁷⁷
 1945 Logsdon Motor Co., 13th and Grove
 1947 Washington School addition
 1949 warehouse, 406 S 6th
 1950 St. Alphonsus addition
 1951 apartments, Woodlawn & 22nd
 c1953 Lowell Elementary School Pool, Boise⁷⁸
 1954 Boise Auto Body, 113 N 13th
 1954 Afton-Lemp Office & Warehouse, Boise, ID⁷⁹

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Boise Funeral Home is an excellent example of the funeral home property type. It has direct associations with the evolution of funerary practices in Boise during the mid-twentieth century and represents the development of funerary service buildings designed specifically to meet the comfort of funeral attendees during the mid-twentieth century in Boise, Idaho. By virtue of its architectural integrity, it is an excellent example of its property type executed in the Moderne style. It meets the National Register registration requirements and integrity thresholds and clearly conveys both its historical and architectural associations.

⁶⁹ Listed in the National Register in 1999 (#99000253).

⁷⁰ "Power Company Enters Modern New Structure," *Idaho Statesman*, May 23, 1931.

⁷¹ "Boisean Gets Contract," *Idaho Statesman*, March 29, 1935.

⁷² Listed in the National Register in 1999 (#82000186).

⁷³ "Asylum Work Contract Let," *Idaho Statesman*, December 25, 1937.

⁷⁴ "\$50,000 Building Planned in Boise," *Idaho Statesman*, June 29, 1939.

⁷⁵ Listed in the National Register in c1980 (#82000181).

⁷⁶ "Type of Building That Will House Air Base Non-Coms," *Idaho Statesman*, 1941.

⁷⁷ "Caldwell Units to Be Built By Boise Firm," *Idaho Statesman*, March 9, 1944.

⁷⁸ Idaho Architecture Project, <http://idahoarchitectureproject.org/structuredetail.php?id=1382>.

⁷⁹ "Afton-Lemp Firm Moves to New Office, Warehouse," *Idaho Statesman*, October 10, 1954.

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- "News of Record: Building Permits." *The Idaho Statesman*, 13 April 1940, page 10.
- "Capital City Enjoys Big Spurt In Early Summer Building Activity." *The Idaho Statesman*, 21 June 1940, page 6.
- "New Boise Funeral Home Opens Today; Modern Mortuary in Boise Opens for Inspection Today." *The Idaho Statesman*, 16 November 1940, page 3.
- [Opening Ads]. *The Idaho Statesman*, 17 November 1940, page 8.
- [Ad] "Funeral Services." *The Idaho Statesman*, 23 October 1941, page 2.
- "Funeral Home Changes Hands." *The Idaho Statesman*, 17 June 1945, page 14.
- [Ad] "Funeral Service." *The Idaho Statesman*, 18 June 1952, page 5.
- [Ad] "Memory Lane." *The Idaho Statesman*, 16 May 1954, page 8.
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Boise Funeral Home (01-12111)

Name of Property

Ada County, Idaho

County and State

Other Sources Consulted

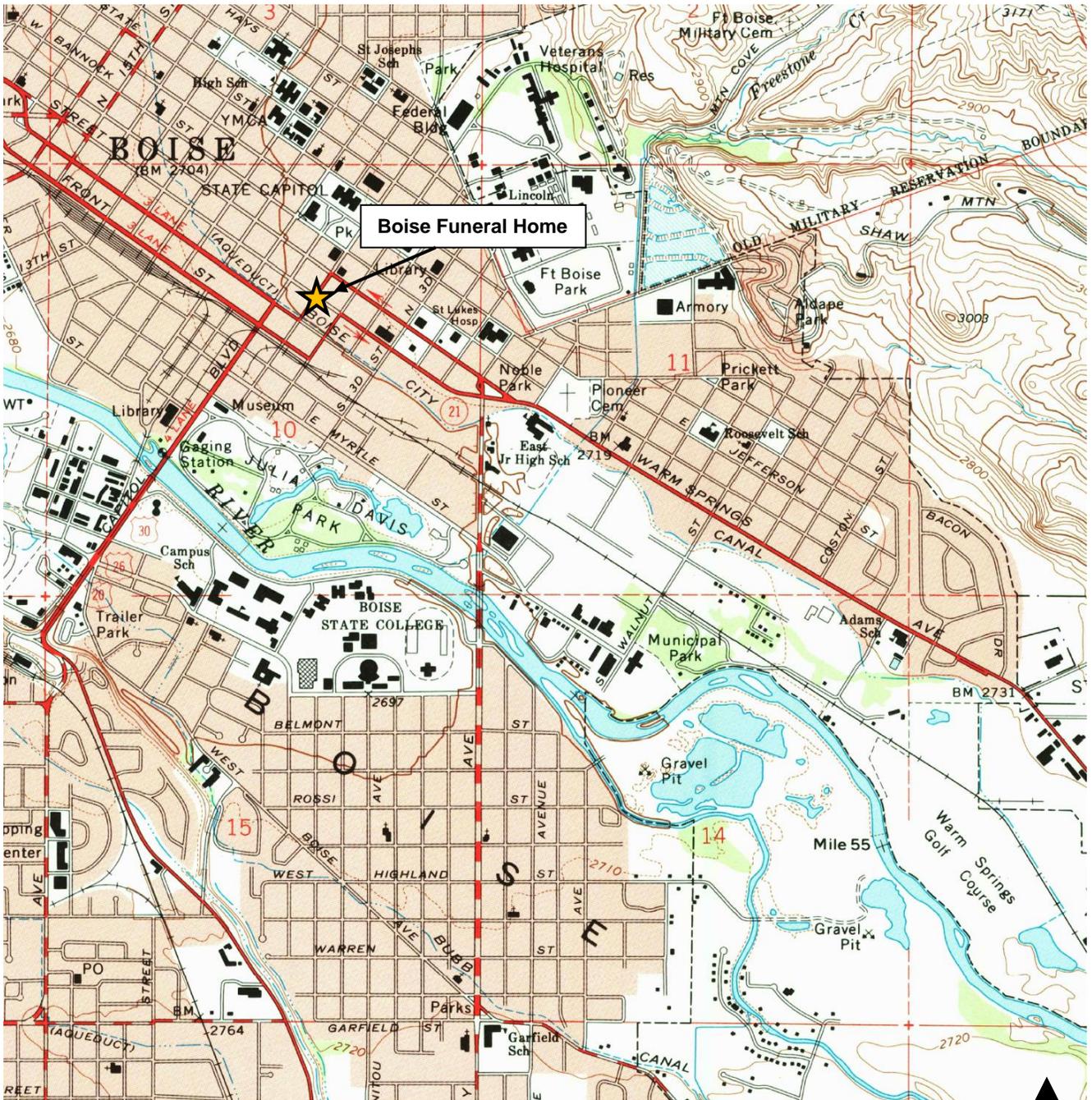
Boise City Directories, 1900-1950

Boise State University (BSU) Archives, Photograph Collection

Idaho State Archives, Photograph Collection

J.O. Jordan Research Files, Idaho State Historic Preservation Office.

FIGURE 1: GENERAL LOCATION MAP
Boise, Idaho



Township, Range, Section(s):
USGS Topographic Map:
Scale: 1:24,000

T3N R2E Section 10
Boise South, ID 1972 (1976), 7.5' series



FIGURE 2: SETTING MAP
Boise, Idaho

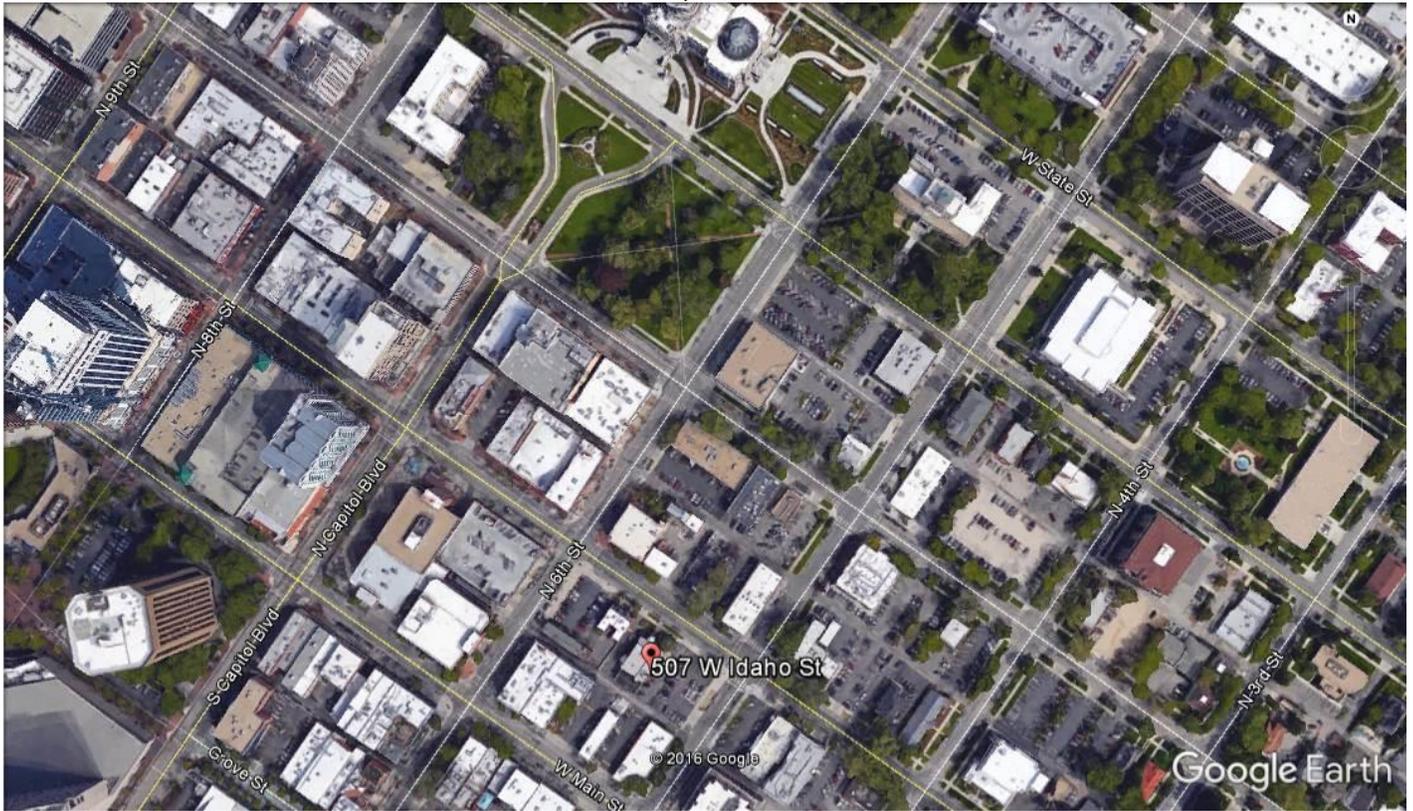


FIGURE 3: Original plans, 1st Floor

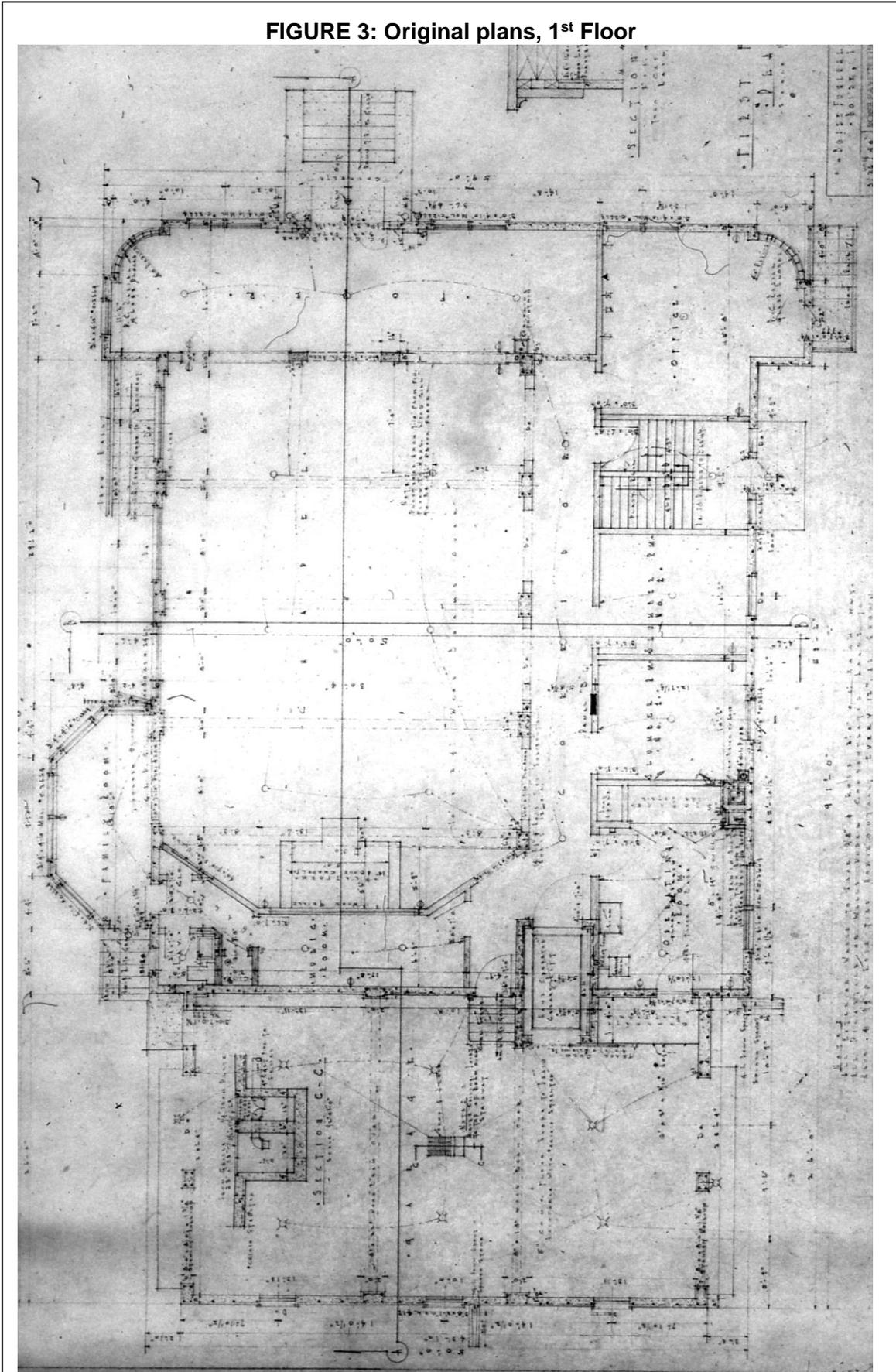


FIGURE 4: Original plans, 2nd Floor

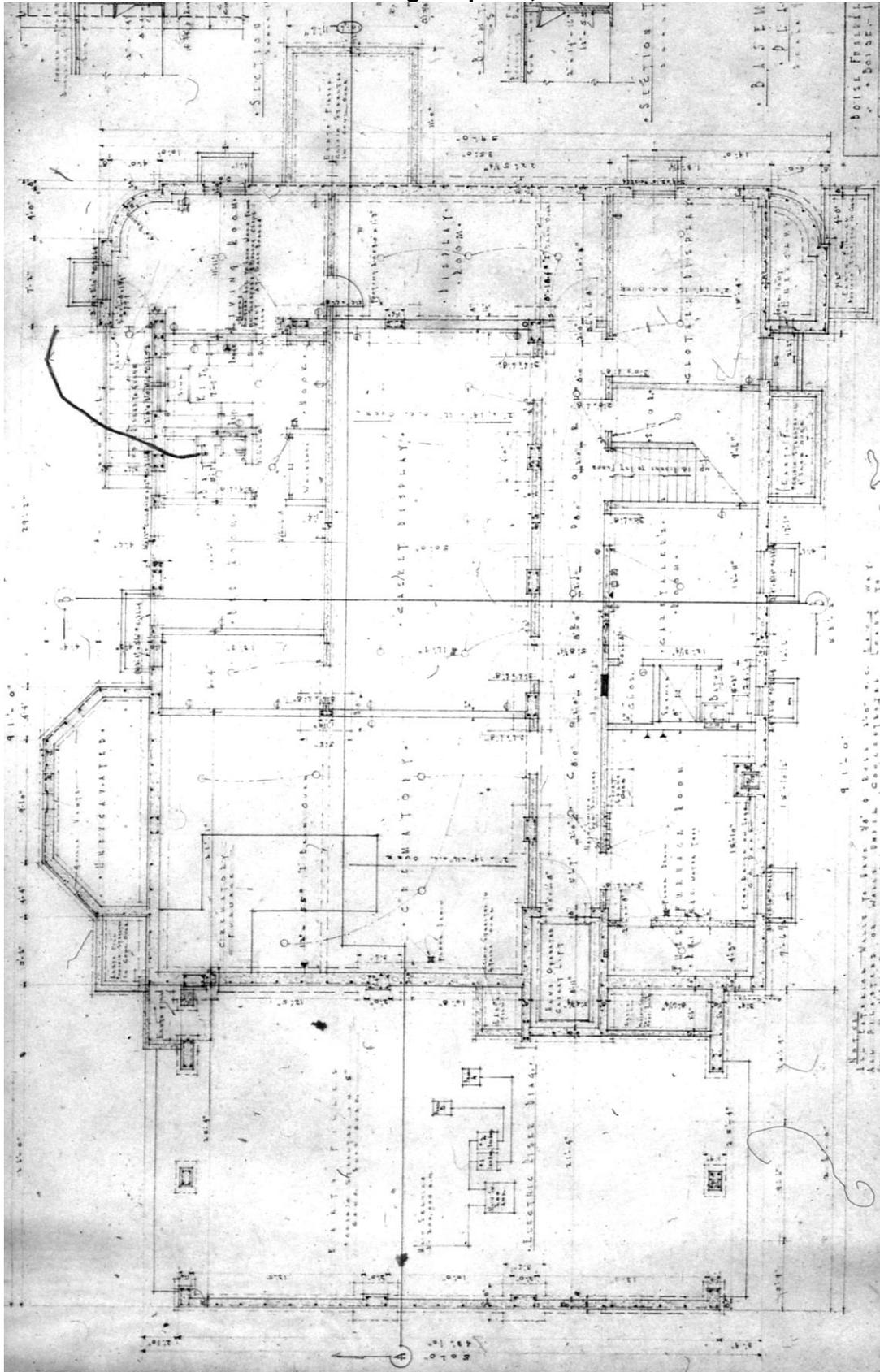
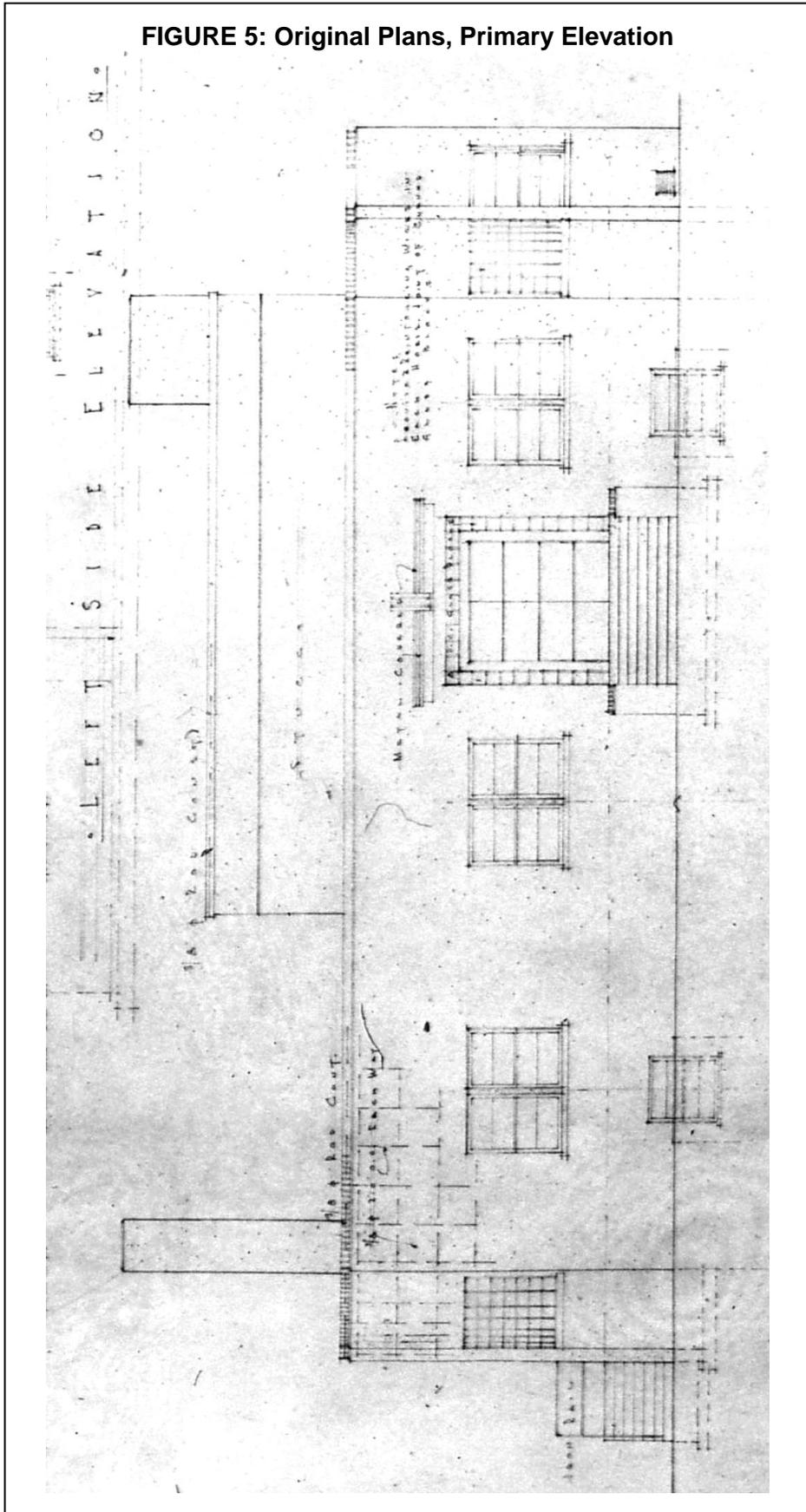


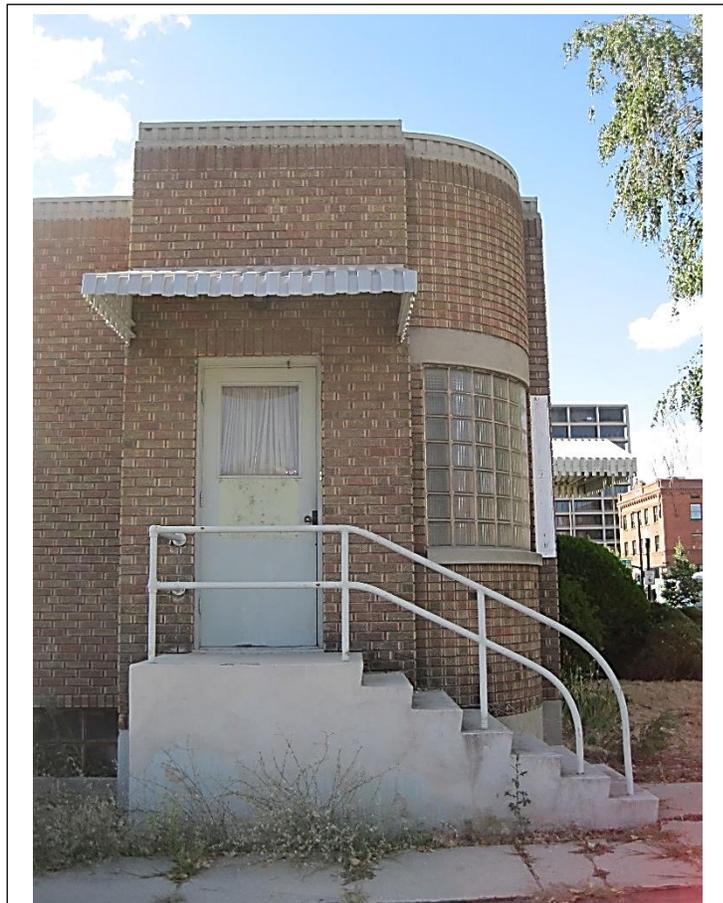
FIGURE 5: Original Plans, Primary Elevation







View W, August 2016



View NW of NE corner, August 2016



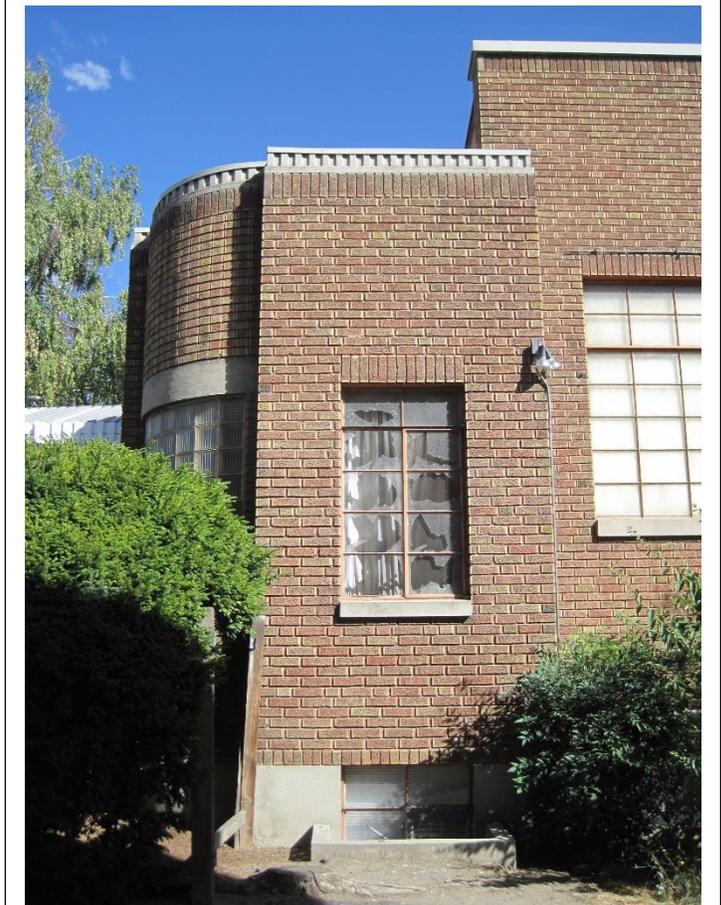
View NW, August 2016



View NE, August 2016



View N of exterior of Family Room bay, August 2016



View SE of NW corner, August 2016



View NW in Foyer, August 2016



View SE in Foyer, August 2016



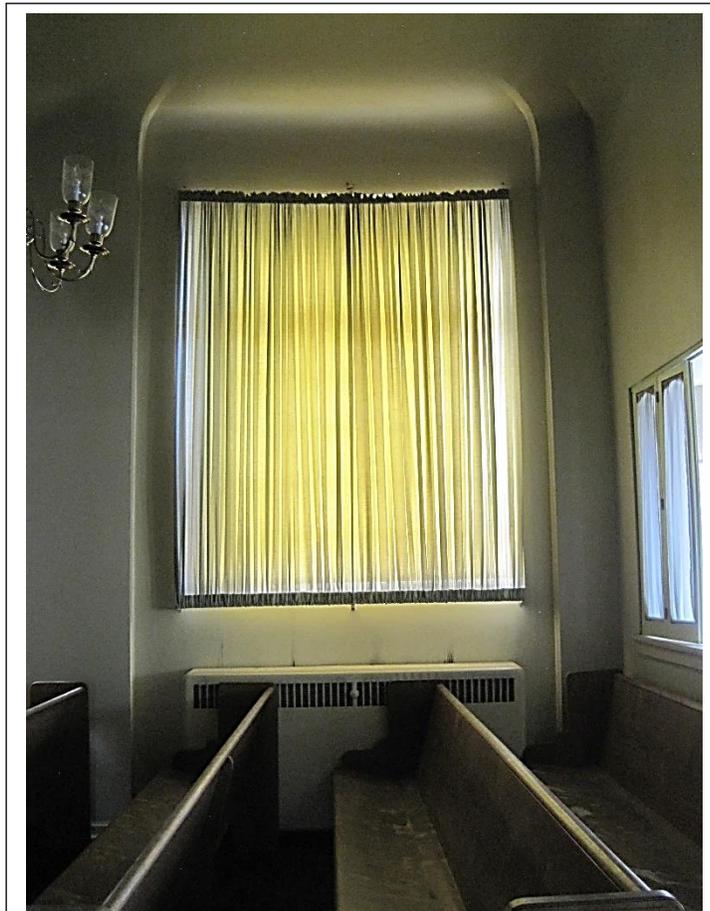
View SW in Chapel, August 2016



View N-NW in Chapel, August 2016



View NE in chapel, August 2016



View NW in Chapel, August 2016



View SE in Chapel, August 2016



View SW in Chapel, August 2016



View NW to Family Room from chapel, August 2016



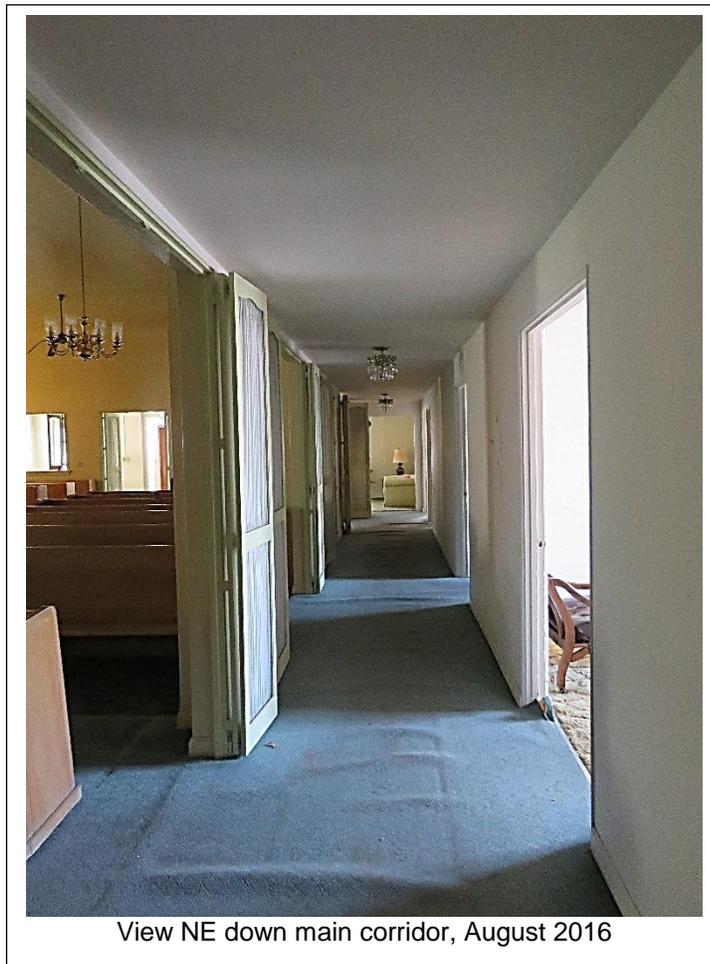
View SW to Family Room, August 2016



View NE to Family Room, August 2016



View NE from Family Room into Chapel, August 2016





Embalming Room, August 2016



Embalming Room, August 2016



View SW of casket elevator, August 2016



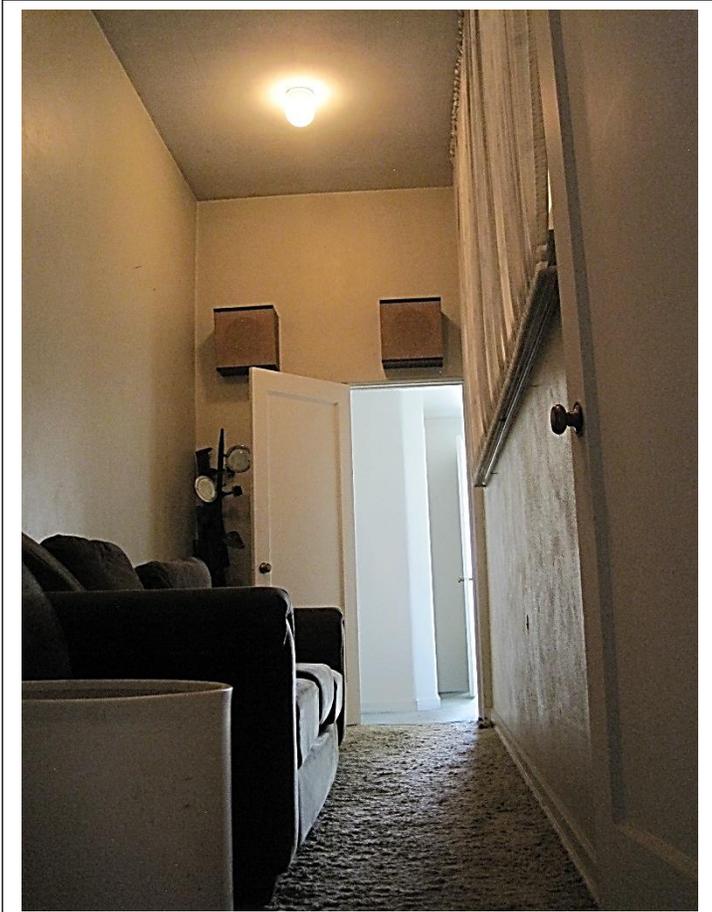
View SW inside casket elevator, August 2016



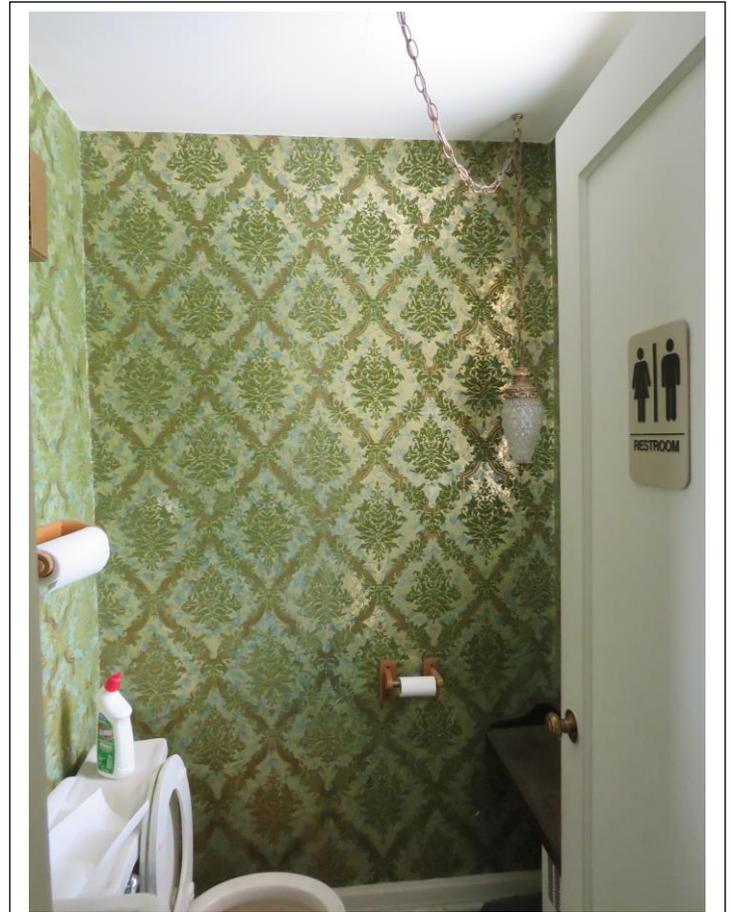
View inside casket elevator, August 2016



View inside casket elevator, August 2016



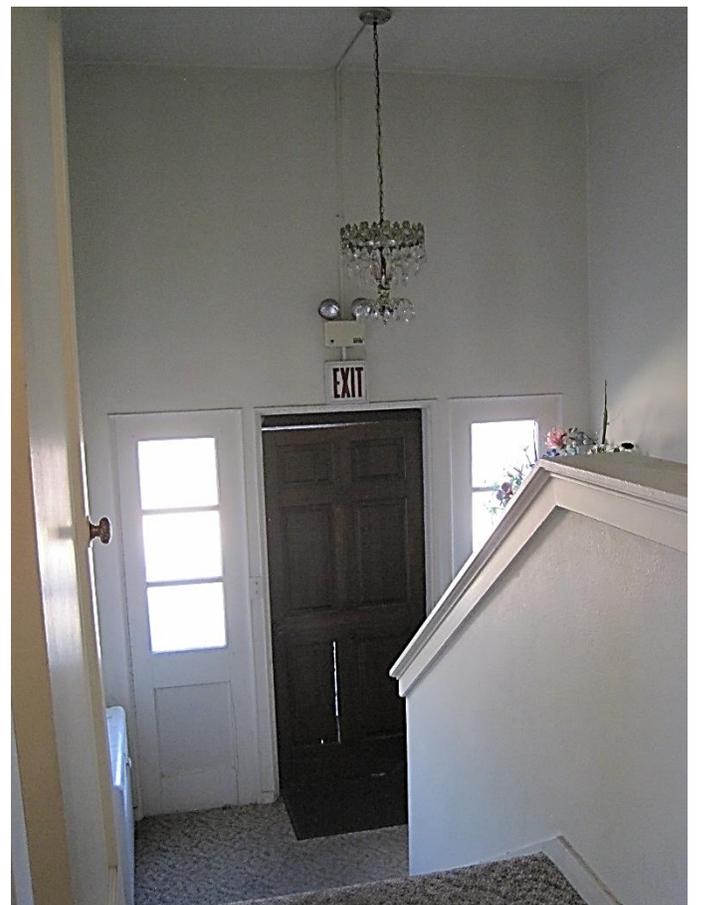
View NW in corridor behind Chapel, August 2016



View SW in bathroom behind Chapel, August 2016



View NW from Stair Hall toward Chapel, August 2016



View SE in Stair Hall, August 2016



Lower Level Corridor, View NE, August 2016



Lower Level Corridor, View SW, August 2016



Caretaker/Staff Break Room, August 2016



Caretaker Bathroom, August 2016



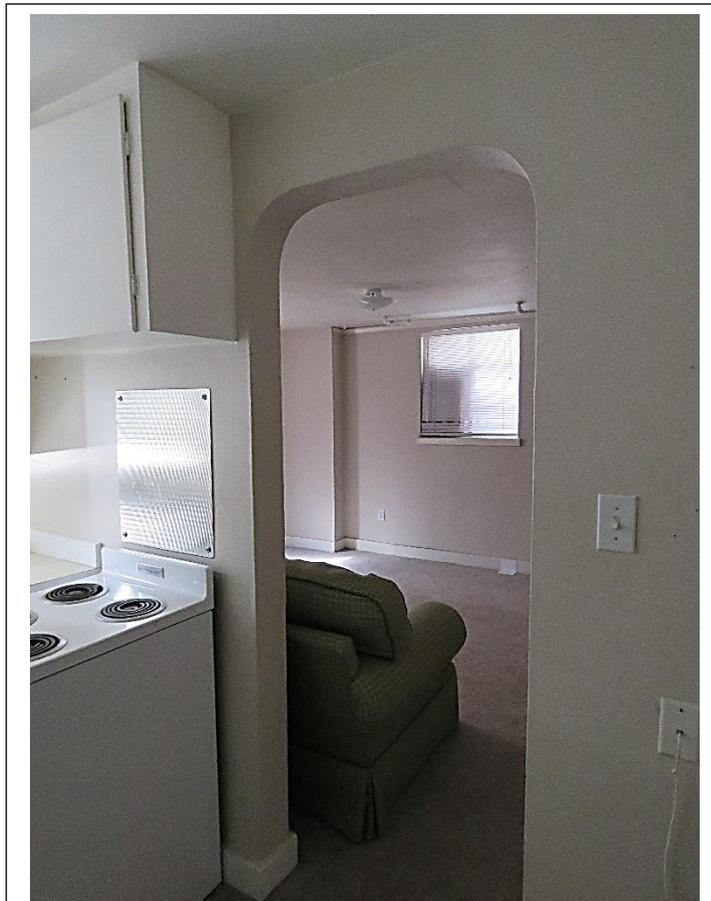
View SW in casket display room (basement), August 2016



View W-SW in casket display room (basement), August 2016



View NW in basement apartment, August 2016



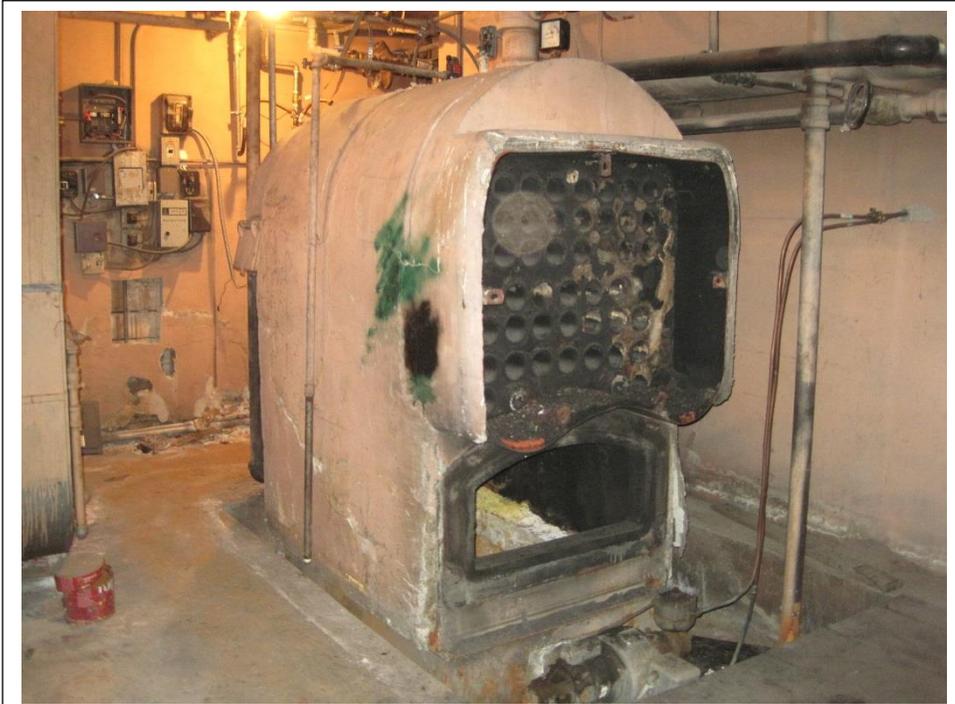
View N in basement apartment, August 2016



View NW in hearse garage, August 2016



View NE of casket elevator door in hearse garage, August 2016



View NE in boiler room, August 2016



View SE in basement printing press room, August 2016