

#15 An outstanding landmark in Lewiston, Idaho

Lewiston Idaho: 1890's – Lewiston Idaho 2016

Beginnings: 1860's

In 1860, Elias D. Pierce discovered gold on Oro-fino Creek. The Rush that followed helped create Idaho Territory in 1863 with Lewiston becoming the first Territorial Capital.

On the banks of the Snake and Clearwater Rivers a motley "Rag Town" grew up, a new treaty had to be constructed as it was on the Nez Perce Indian Reservation under the Treaty of 1855. The miners prospected for gold and the merchants who followed found gold in supplying miners, later the mills, and the farmers.

Lewiston grows to the east and south—then up Normal Hill;

As the miners and merchants came to Lewiston, missionaries followed—not like the early groups of missionaries to the Nez Perce, but missions serving the people in the newly established town, among them the Episcopalians.

The congregation, established in 1864 has lasted for over 150 years. In 1881, the church acquired building property at 411 D Street, but the parishioners objected to the downtown location. John Vollmer, merchant and communicant of the Church of the Nativity took the downtown lot in exchange for a lot he owned at 11th and F Street. On that lot, a lovely Carpenter Gothic structure was built. That church, pictured below, is the same church that was built in 1890 and moved up Normal Hill in 1919--1920. There was a Celtic cross atop the bell tower.



A comparison between views of the original church structure and today's structure, shows several modifications:

Notice: the bell tower which was taken off for transporting the structure up Normal Hill.

Notice: Addition of transepts and entrances on south.

Notice: Bell tower replaced in columbarium below.

Notice: Celtic cross placement below.

Notice: change in roofing materials from 1990's to today.

The original stained-glass windows today commemorate the early parishioners.



Nativty Episcopal Church
11th and F Street 1890's



Nativty Episcopal Church 8th Street and 8th Ave. 2016