

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

NOMINATION: (TOURTELLOTTE AND HUMMEL ARCHITECTURE ~~IN IDAHO~~ <sup>re</sup>)

✓ SITE NAME: Steunenberg, A. K., House SITE NUMBER: 32

✓ LOCATION: 409 ~~North~~ Kimball, Caldwell, Canyon County ~~(027)~~, Idaho

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Kenneth L. John  
c/o Vivian Cline  
P. O. Box N  
Rupert, ID 83350

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Caldwell, 7.5 minute ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the A. K. Steunenberg House and the property on which it stands, south 50 feet, east 15 feet lot 8, south 50 feet lots 9-12 inclusive, northeast 70 feet lots 6-12 inclusive, block 40 Caldwell Original Townsite. Legal description on file at the Canyon County Courthouse, Caldwell, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/5,25,560/48,34,960

DATE OR PERIOD: 1904

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: fair altered original site

DESCRIPTION:

The A. K. Steunenberg House is a two-story Georgian revival structure dominated by monumental pedimented porticos facing the two streets which intersect at its corner lot. The house represents a radical enlargement and remodeling by Tourtelotte and Company of an earlier frame residence owned by Steunenberg. The house has later been remodeled in the course of conversion to apartments, most noticeably in the enclosure of the left-side portico. Its salient architectural characteristics are still apparent, however.

The core of the original house was the left side of the present one. To this core Tourtelotte and Company added the porticos, front parlor, right front room and tower, and additional rooms on the right side. The result was a full two-story, cross-gabled structure with large pedimented gables facing in three directions, a two-story round tower outset at the right front corner, and an open, colonnaded two-story porch running from the tower to the small original bay window midway along the left side of the house. The porticos use the Tuscan order, with plain-necked columns and a plain entablature. Scroll-cut modillions run under all the

eaves. The gables are filled with shaped shingles. The left-side gable is pierced by a two-over-two-light sash, the front and right-side gables by oxeye windows. The tower windows are plain sash; those on the first floor are sash with extra panels of geometric panes over each. The tower originally had a balustrade around its circular top. To the left of the tower is the main entrance, which is right of center on the facade. To the left of the entrance is a two-story three-sided bay window, with coffered bases corresponding to those on the tower. To the left again is the left wing of the portico, now enclosed for living space, which extends back to an earlier, more ornately decorated bay.

The siding of the house is of narrow clapboards, which are matched on the portico enclosure. There are several rear additions and enclosures, both single- and double-story, and additional entrances with gabled overdoors on the side elevations. A secondary front entrance lets into the enclosed portico at left front. All of these extra entrances represent alterations.

#### SIGNIFICANCE:

The A. K. Steunenberg House in Caldwell, like the Episcopal Bishops' house in Boise (site 6), is architecturally significant as a large-scale remodeling project converting a relatively modest residence into a stylish, conspicuously architect-designed house. In this case the transformation is even more total: Steunenberg's earlier house is completely absorbed in this full two-story, monumentally porticoed building, and the new style is not pre-eminently Queen Anne, but classical. The house also has architectural significance as an unusual combination of Georgian revival and Queen Anne elements, especially visible in the round tower at the northeast corner. It is an imposing example in its local setting of the classical revival architecture of the period. Finally, the house has historical significance for its association with a local family of statewide prominence.

The classical tendency which has been becoming more and apparent mixed with other styles since the turn of the century began at about this time to appear in relatively pure form: for example, in the Timothy Regan House in Boise (National Register, West Warm Springs Historic District, 1977) and in the Idaho State Capitol (National Register, Boise Capitol Area Historic District, 1976) and its miniature spin-off, the Kinney Mausoleum (site 36). Although classical motifs had been included in designs for almost all of the eclectic styles, the more strongly classicizing monuments seldom show unusually eclectic elements. The Steunenberg house, combining as it does a full classical portico with a two-story balustraded corner turret, is an exception. Its style is sufficiently forceful (and locally rare) to maintain integrity despite some alteration.

The house has special significance in Caldwell, not only because it is without stylistic peers but also because it is associated with one of the town's most important families. Banker A. K. Steunenberg was a founder and cashier of the Caldwell Commercial Bank (which commissioned a building from Tourtellotte and Company in 1903) and promotor of a chain of Idaho Banks at about this time. He was mayor of Caldwell in 1902-1903. His brother, Frank Steunenberg, was a governor of Idaho.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Caldwell Tribune, March 12, 1904, p. 8, c. 1.

Boise, Idaho. Hummel Jones Miller Hunsucker P.A. File 137A. Collection book reference to A. K. Steunenberg in 1904. Tracings signed John E. Tourtellotte and Company.