

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

NOMINATION: Historic Resources of Paris (Partial Inventory: Architecture)

SITE NAME: George, Ashley, Sr. house Paris, IDAHO SITE # 29

LOCATION: West <sup>2nd</sup> Second North, Paris, Idaho

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Nadine E. Lutz, Paris, Idaho

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Paris 7.5 minute ACREAGE: less than one acre

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: nomination includes the former Ashley Sr. house and the property on which it stands: portion of lot 6, north of block 15, Paris Original Town-site.

UTM(S): 12/4, 66, 805/46, 75, 355

DATE OR PERIOD: late 19th century EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture, craft

DESCRIPTION: Good condition Altered Original site

The former Ashley Sr. house is a tall one-and-one-half story frame house, sided with shiplap, built as<sup>a</sup> provincial adaption of the Queen Anne style. The plan is complex, with a shallow two-story ell on the rear west wall and several utilitarian extensions in back. In the main, however, the plan conforms to an ell-shape, with wings of equal length extending south and east and a two-story entrance tower set into the intersection. The tower roof is hipped, with a very short lateral ridge; the gable-ends on the main wings are jerkin-headed, as is the rooflet on the single wall dormer facing east to the left of the tower. There is a square one-story bay centered in the front-facing wing. Half-hexagonal bays face east and west on the sides of the house.

Decorative treatment is striking. Very elaborate, non-derivative millwork under the front and clipped gables incorporates spindles with floral and geometric motifs. Scroll-sawn brackets are set under the tower eaves. All upper story windows, along with those in the west bay, are sharply pointed with angular shanks; in some cases they are paired, and generally they are two-over-two lights. Lower windows are double-hung sash, generally two-over-two lights in the coffered bays. The front windows have been reglazed; a modern metal overdoor has been installed at the entrance; and the house is partially weathered and partially painted. Otherwise it appears unaltered and in sound condition.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Ashley Sr. house is architecturally significant as the most idiosyncratic house extant in Paris, one which displays a unique exuberance in form and decoration. George Ashley, an English emigrant who came to Idaho in 1879 was described by oral sources as the "only professional builder in Bear Lake."<sup>1</sup>

1

Daughters of Utah Pioneers, Bear Lake Pioneers, p.28.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 1

George Ashley, Sr. house

SIGNIFICANCE (Continued):

His house reflects his family's direct journey from England in its formal consciousness, as evident in the well-set pyramidal tower and the interplay of this intersection with the clipped gabled dormer. The use of pointed-headed windows, rendered in plank is a rare element of Gothic styling placed unabashedly alongside the Italianate bays and classically-molded windows widely seen on Paris houses of the 'eighties. The decoration in both gables is the crowing point of the house, an array of shapes punctuated with an abacus-like row of spindles framed with ferns. The scalloped border is also found in the dormer.