

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

NOMINATION: (TOURTELLOTTE AND HUMMEL ARCHITECTURE IN IDAHO FR)

SITE NAME: Simpson, W. A., House SITE NUMBER: 57

LOCATION: 1004 North Tenth Street, Boise, Ada County (001), Idaho

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Robert L. and Jean Anne Bailey
1004 North Tenth Street
Boise, ID 83702

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Boise South, 7.5 minute ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the W. A. Simpson House and the property on which it stands, south 80 feet of the west 1/2 of block 9, Arnold's addition to Boise. Legal description on file at the Ada County Court-house, Boise, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/5,64,660/48,30,240

DATE OR PERIOD: 1909

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: excellent altered original site

DESCRIPTION:

The W. A. Simpson House is a two-story stone veneer and stucco surfaced bungalow structure on the northeast corner of Tenth and Thatcher streets in Boise. The rectangular main block of the house has low-pitched side-facing gables and a ridgebeam set laterally to Tenth Street, which the house faces. A flat-roofed entrance porch is outset on the front elevation; a two-story, hip-roofed ell and a shed-roofed, three-sided bay are outset on the south side. On the rear elevation a large two-story hip-roofed section is outset from the main block.

The first story of the house is stone, probably stone veneer, in a rock-faced random-coursed pattern. The upper story is stucco with half-timber strips. Notched rafters are exposed under the lateral eaves of the main roof and under the eaves of the hipped roof of the ell and of the attic dormer, which emerges center front. The dormer contains a triple set of small square lights. The upstairs windows are double hung sash, those in the ell six-over-one lights. The downstairs windows, which are exposed to the street, retain narrow upper sections with multiple panes. The porch has stone walls and square posts with simple bases and capitals. It supports an upper balcony reached by a second-floor door. The side ell entrance is recessed behind embedded wooden posts similar to those of the porch.

The only apparent exterior alterations are the probable re-balustrading of the balcony with wrought iron and the inconspicuous addition of a two-story, glass-paneled section to the right of the ell on the rear elevation.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Simpson house is architecturally significant as a particularly handsome peer to the Wolters house (site 51) in presenting a clear statement of the bungalow style at a scale and with some design features which are markedly not bungalowoid.

These features, which the house shares with the Wolters examples, are the stone surface of the first story and the outset porch. The upper story of nearly full height, of course, is also almost by definition not bungalowoid, but it represents a favorite way (other than simple enlargement of the standard one-and-a-half-story type) that the firm made its bungalows conspicuously more than a cut above the pattern-book types (see also the Nesbit house in Weiser, site 62). The fictive half-timbering of the upper story is a decorative device that the firm first used on the Bishop Glorieux House (site 37). It was often used in connection with the bungalow style, where indeed it is especially appropriate because of the emphasis on structural frame (see also sites 51 and 80). but the impulse was basically picturesque, as the Tudoresque strips would be showing up as late as the late 1930s on an otherwise classicizing parish house for St. Mary's Church in Boise (site 133).

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Polk and Company. Boise City Directories. 1906, 1901.

Boise, Idaho. Hummel Jones Miller Hunsucker P.A. Collection book drawing loan book, and correspondence, 1909.