

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

NOMINATION: (TOURTELLOTTE AND HUMMEL ARCHITECTURE IN ~~IDAHO~~ (TR))

✓ SITE NAME: Jones, T. J., Apartments ✓ SITE NUMBER: 30

✓ LOCATION: ~~Southeast corner Tenth Street~~ ^{10th} and Fort, Boise, Ada County (001), ~~Idaho~~

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Mary Winifred Utterback Jones
818 North Tenth
Boise, ID 83702

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the T. J. Jones Apartments and the property on which it stands, lots 7 and 8, block 83, Boise City Original Townsite. Legal description on file at the Ada County Courthouse, Boise, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/5,64,630/48,30,80

DATE OR PERIOD: 1904-1911

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: good unaltered original site

DESCRIPTION:

The T. J. Jones Apartments, an L-shaped, two-story apartment complex at the corner of Tenth and Fort streets, was built in two stages. The wing facing Fort Street, which includes the cupolaed and finialed corner turret, runs back to the seam visible beyond the first set of entrances on Tenth Street. It was designed and built in 1904. The west wing was extended south along Tenth Street in 1910. The sections are carefully matched. Fabric for both is the same slightly rosy buff brick and now rther dark Boise stone.

The foundation, basement, and outset entry porch parapets and walls are random-coursed rock-faced stone. The brick walls are banded with continuous sills and lintels of cut stone above and below the window lines on both floors. Above the upper band are a pair of outset string courses containing a row of vents, then a stepped-brick corbel table, and then the upper parapet with its cut-stone coping. On both the 1904 and 1911 elevations an angular, vaguely pedimental ornament rises above the center of the parapet. They are identical in shape, but the 1904 ornament contains a blind arch with a cut-stone keystone and sill, while the 1911 ornament contains the last name of owner Jones.

The porches, as they survive on the original section, are outset with lateral flights of steps on either side behind a wall whose top aligns with the band of stone beneath the window lines on the first floor. Three doric columns on each wall support a low hipped roof. Two doors open behind each porch, each originally designed to give access to a single two-story apartment. On the west wing, sleeping porches have been built above the entry porches. This apparently early alteration is the only visible one. There are several screened frame porches on the back of the building, but these are original. An early multi-bay garage, of concrete with original frame doors, also survives in the rear court.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The T. C. Jones Apartments is architecturally significant as an example of the commercial use of late Medieval/early Renaissance elements. It is the only surviving example in the work of this firm of an apartment house with a turret suggestive of Queen Anne. Like the Kieldson Double House (site 21) and subsequent multi-family structures designed by the firm, the Jones apartments is also significant as evidence of the emergence of a dwelling type on the fringes of Boise's downtown during a decade when its population doubled.

The application of a corner turret to render more stylish a basically blocky and functional building was probably more common in the work of the firm around the turn of the century than the survival rate would indicate. The Pierce building in Boise, which relied heavily on this device to give it such style as it had, has been demolished. Several business buildings with corner turret addenda do survive in outlying towns of the Boise Valley, one of them included in this group (site 53). It seems probable, especially since John Tourtellotte had made his reputation as a picturesque architect with a particular predilection for turrets, that they found their way onto some of the now lost apartment buildings which appear in circa-1900 newspaper reports of the firm's work.

The building is interesting also as a two-stage construction, designed by the firm at different times but closely coordinated in style and material. Two more stories, in fact, were planned for later addition but failed to materialize.

Thomas J. Jones, a lawyer, lived in one of the two-story apartments he had built in 1904 at a reported cost of \$5,000. He appears to have moved to the new section when it was built in 1911. Estimates of the cost of the addition range from \$14,000, on the building permit, to \$22,000 or \$25,000, in the press. G. H. Rush was named as the contractor.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

(Boise) Idaho Daily Statesman, September 27, 1904, p. 5, c. 4; December 18, 1904, p. 12 (photograph), December 31, 1905, p. 18, c. 3; April 17, 1910, p. 6, c. 6; March 28, 1911, p. 3, c. 6.

Polk and Company. Boise City Directory. 1906-1907, 1912-13.

Boise, Idaho. Idaho State Historical Library. Boise City building permit, March 21, 1911.

Boise, Idaho. Hummel Jones Miller Hunsucker P.A. File 224B. Drawing loan book references 1910 and 1911; collection book references to T. J. Jones 1915 and 1923 (noted "old"); F. C. Hummel summary file. Tracings signed John E. Tourtellotte and Company and Tourtellette and Humme.