

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

NOMINATION: (TOURTELLOTTE AND HUMMEL ARCHITECTURE ~~IN IDAHO~~ 72)

✓ SITE NAME: Dunbar, William, House SITE NUMBER: 109

✓ LOCATION: 1500 W. Hays Street, Boise, Ada County (001), Idaho

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Henrietta C. Dunbar
4004 Collister,
Boise, ID 83703

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the William Dunbar House and the property on which it stands, lot 6, block 134, Boise City Original Townsite. Legal description on file at the Ada County Courthouse, Boise, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/5,64,90/48,30,380

DATE OR PERIOD: 1923

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: good unaltered original site

DESCRIPTION:

The William Dunbar House is a one-story frame colonial cottage, the body of which has basically bungalow proportions. The lateral block with side-facing gables is covered with wide clapboards. The roofline has lateral ridgebeams on either side of a higher, hipped central section with its own short lateral ridge. The entrance, centered in the long side, has a coffered door with a transom bar and sidelights over coffered bases. It is approached through a small gabled portico with a miniature barrel vault, outset on fluted Doric columns and pilasters. The stoop on which the portico stands has brick parapets and riser trim. On either side of the entry is a triple set of double-hung sash windows, nine-over-one-light. There is a bracketed window box under the central window of each set. Gable-end lunettes and eave returns are additional classicizing features. An exterior chimney rises from the living room fireplace on the left side of the house.

The plan is rectangular except for the outsetting of a single-story rear porch and sleeping porch at right rear and center. The plan for this small house otherwise called only for a living room, sun room, kitchen, hall, and single bedroom. In 1934 Tourtelotte and Hummel drew plans to finish the attic, which added a recreational room and storeroom. The north-facing dormer dates from this renovation.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The William Dunbar House is architecturally significant as the small residential counterpart of the big, formal neo-classical buildings which appeared around 1920--the New Plymouth Congregational Church (site 103) and the Industrial School at St. Anthony (site 104)--along with several previously registered sites. This elegant little house has residential counterparts in the 1924 Burnett house in Boise (site 112) and the 1925 Father Keys house in Hailey (building B, site 86). The two Boise houses are particularly closely related in style and even in detail. Standing as they do a dozen blocks apart in Boise's Near North End, they exemplify not only their style and period but an unselfconsciousness about architectural borrowings and repetition which is also apparent, at a grander scale, in the close similarities between the Timothy Regan house (National Register 1977) Warm Springs Historic District) and the John Daly house (site 64.

William C. Dunbar was a Boise attorney. His house was built by contractor J. O. Jordan at a price projected on the building permit at \$7,000. The 1934 attic finishing was done by G. M. Reese for a \$805 contract.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Polk and Company. Boise City Directory. 1925.

Boise, Idaho. Boise City Building Permit. June 7, 1923.

Boise, Idaho. Hummel Jones Miller Hunsucker P.A. File 115D. Collection book reference 1922 and 1934. Tracings signed Tourtellotte and Hummel.