

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

NOMINATION: Historic Resources of Paris (Partial Inventory: Architecture)SITE NAME: E. F. Davis house (Paris, ID) SITE # 42LOCATION: 10 West ~~Second~~ North, Paris, IdahoOWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: LaVoy Eborn, Paris, Idaho 83261QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Paris 7.5 minute ACREAGE: less than one acreVERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Nomination includes former E. F. Davis house and it stands on: lot 8, block north of block 15, Paris townsite.UTM(S): 12/4, 66, 935/46, 75, 355DATE OR PERIOD: late 19th century EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: localAREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: ArchitectureDESCRIPTION: Good condition Altered Original site

The Davis house, a shiplap-sided one-story structure on the northwest corner of West Second North and Main, is one of the numerous early frame structures in Paris which appear to have been built in increments. The core is rectangular with a gable-end facing the street. There are gabled ells on both sides, the one to the west deeper and containing the main entrance, the one to the east shallower and containing a secondary door. There is a third ancillary section--whether an addition or the original structure is uncertain--at the left rear. Hip-roofed porches fill the front intersection on either side of the central section; the rear ell also has a porch (screened) and a tertiary door. There are three corbeled brick interior chimneys: one centered in the main block, one on the outside wall of the west ell, and one on the west wall of the rear ell.

Ornament is modestly stylish: slender Tuscan front porch columns, molded heads over the doors and windows, plain corner framing, bed molding in the gables, and small metal gable knobs. A relatively large rectangular window centered in the main section of the facade is set over two covered wood panels in the wall below; the plain sheet glass probably replaces original multiple lights. (Other windows are two-over-two sash.) Except for this probable re-glazing, the structure appears unaltered and in good condition.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Davis house is architecturally significant as a small but elegant house of the 'nineties in Paris, one which demonstrates the continued predilection for additive building which was so visible in the two decades previous. Without its eastern ell the Davis house is identical in plan to the contemporary Julia Budge house (site #41), but features more distinctly classical ornament in the porch columns, pronounced bed molding and underpaneled windows. The latter may be seen as a flattened version of the Italianate bay so often seen on Paris' I-houses of the 'eighties, such as the Price house (site #23). An added decorative device is the use of slender squared posts with capitals and pedestals on the side porch. Coexisting with this stylish dressing is the use of the squarish cabin unit for the rear addition, an excellent demonstration of the juxtaposition of folk and academic architectural traditions frequent in Paris' building.