

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

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

SITE NAME: Coffin, Henry, House SITE NUMBER: 34

LOCATION: 1403 Franklin Street, Boise, Ada County ~~(001), Idaho~~

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

John A. and Adelaide S. McLeod
1403 Franklin Street
Boise, ID 83702

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Henry Coffin House and the property on which it stands, lots 11 and 12, block 129, Boise City Original Town site. Legal description on file at the Ada County Courthouse, Boise, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/5,64,100/48,30,200

DATE OR PERIOD: 1905

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: excellent unaltered original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Henry Coffin House is a two-story brick veneer structure with stone and shingle trim. The basically squarish, hip-roofed plan is elaborated by means of shallow gabled eaves on each of the three principal elevations and a massive, stone-based, Tuscan-columned one-story porch and balcony. The porch is outset at right front and runs to the left around a polygonal corner bay.

Decorative elaboration of the buff-brick surface of the house, above the level of the rusticated stone foundation and porch wall, includes the wooden porch columns, denticulated over-entrance pediment, and coffered second-story balustrade; stone sills and continuous lintels that form a between-story course; elaborated beveled and leaded glass; curvilinear under-eave brackets; ell-gables filled with stained square shingles and penetrated with diamond-segmented round lights; and prominent crest-like finials and hip knobs, as well as a spiky turned finial at the high point of the roof.

There is an inset sleeping porch at the left rear, and an enclosed (possibly added) back porch with a truncated hip-and-ridge roof. There are two interior brick chimneys.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Henry Coffin House is architecturally significant as one of the earliest and best examples of the large colonial style house that would be a significant element in the firm's residential work over the next decade. Other examples are the contemporary Numbers house in Weiser (site 38), the Glorieux house in Boise (site 37), the slightly later Cavanah house (site 39), the Davidson house [National Register, West Warm Springs Historic District, December 12, 1977], and the later Marks house (site 67). The essence of the style was the blocky, hip-roofed body, its classical derivation sometimes confirmed by the presence of more or less classical detail. In the Coffin house, age and ostentation converge to complicate the form. The construction date of 1905 is still early for the style. This house was reported to cost \$10,000.

The house is also outstanding for its detail, which is quietly opulent in its local context, particularly in the elaborate beveled glass of some of the first-story windows. The house has been carefully restored since the photograph that accompanies this nomination was made and is now an even greater asset to its North End streetscape.

The Boisean who commissioned this house was Henry Coffin, a cashier of the First National Bank for ten years and later organizer and cashier of the Bank of Commerce. He served two terms as state treasurer. He occupied that office when this house was built across the street from architect John Tourtellotte's new residence.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOURCES:

Hawley, James Henry. History of Idaho: The Gem of the Mountains, volume II. Chicago: S. J. Clark, 1920.

(Boise) Idaho Daily Statesman, March 29, 1905, p. 5, c. 3; July 8, 1905, p. 3, c. 2; December 31, 1905, p. 18, c. 2.