

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

NOMINATION: (TOURTELLOTTE AND HUMMEL ARCHITECTURE ~~IN IDAHO~~ 772)

SITE NAME: Neal, W. Scott, House

SITE NUMBER: 83

LOCATION: 215 East Jefferson, Boise, Ada County (001), Idaho

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Harry T. Aker
215 East Jefferson
Boise, ID 83702

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Boie South, 7.5 minute

ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Neal W. Scott House and the property on which it stands, lots 7 and 8, block 4, John Krall's Addition. Legal description on file at Ada County Courthouse, Boise, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/5,65,330/48,28,980

DATE OR PERIOD: ca. 1897, 1914-16

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: good

unaltered

original site

DESCRIPTION:

The W. Scott Neal House represents four generations of plans for the same client by members of this firm. The first generation and the core of the house, now barely visible, is a one-story Queen Anne cottage by John Tourtellotte, dating from about 1897. The second is the addition of a no-longer-extant wrap-around shingled porch. This addition is undated, but since the drawings for it are signed John E. Tourtellotte and Company, it would have been added sometime during the first decade of this century. The third generation of plans is signed Tourtellotte and Hummel and dated 1914. The fourth addition to the site is a garage at right rear.

The extensive 1914 remodeling produced the present appearance of the house. The wrap-around porch was removed to expose the small, right-of-center, outset classifying porch that had marked the original design. The second story was radically remodelled. A large, full-wall, front-facing gable was drawn out from the original hipped roof. A large gabled dormer was drawn out on the left side to balance the original smaller gables (their derivation apparent from their elaborate scroll-sawn brackets) which emerge from the right side, the smaller one above an attic dormer, the larger above a shallow two-story bay. Two one-story sun porches were added, one on the right side near the front of the house and the other, a more conspicuous porch, outset from the right front side. The drawings show them as screened, they are now glazed. The entire structure was stuccoed at this time.

The plan is generally rectangular, with two-story porches in the rear. The window treatment is a conspicuous feature of the design. Multiple lights are the rule: in the upper sections of the triple parlor windows, in both sections of the sash windows in the front gable; and in the broad, basket-arched opening of the front sun porch. The front door contains nine square panes arranged in a three-by-three square at eye level; the door is side-lighted and transom-barred, with rows of small panes on all three sides.

The last generation of plans, done in 1916, is for the matching garage on the alley at right rear. The 22-by-18-foot two-car, detached structure is Greek Revival in style, with corner framing and eave returns.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Neal house is architecturally significant in preserving the results of an unusually active relationship with a single residential client and a single residence. Three home-improvement projects, all of some ambition and generally representing reversal and re-reversal of previous design decisions, are represented in the drawings for the property. The various projects, and the traces of them on the house, show the movement from the frilly Queen Anne taste represented by the side dormers to the Classical Revival taste represented by the formal entry and the garage; also present in the stucco surface and broadly arcaded sun porches of the last state is a touch of the mission style influence discussed in connection with the Welch house (site 81). At the same time that substantial changes in the appearance of the circa-1897 frame Queen Anne cottage have been effected, a cottage scale and character have been maintained in the course of these remodelings. This is especially evident in comparison with a project like the Dunton house (site 79). Some interior space has been added here, but it is clear that--as with the much larger-scale bishops' house (site 6)--a major motive was exterior redecoration.

W. Scott Neal was an insurance and loans broker. Olive Rubin was the contractor for both his \$3000 residential remodeling in 1914 and his \$500 garage two years later.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

(Boise) Idaho Statesman, July 23, 1914, p. 3, c. 4.

Polk and Company. Boise City Directories. 1899, 1901, 1915.

Boise, Idaho. Hummel Jones Miller Hunsucker P.A. File 406E. Collection and Selected Accounts book references 1914 and 1916. Frederick Hummel retrospective file. Blue-prints and tracings signed John E. Tourtellotte, Tourtellotte and Company, and Tourtellotte and Hummel.