

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

JUL 10 1979

DATE ENTERED

SEP 4 1979

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC John A. O'Farrell House

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 420 W. Franklin Street

CITY, TOWN

Boise

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Idaho

CODE

16

COUNTY

Ada

CODE

001

CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY** DISTRICT BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT**OWNERSHIP** PUBLIC PRIVATE BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION** IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS** OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE** YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED NO**PRESENT USE** AGRICULTURE COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL MILITARY MUSEUM PARK PRIVATE RESIDENCE RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC TRANSPORTATION OTHER:**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Rees

STREET & NUMBER

420 W. Franklin Street

CITY, TOWN

Boise

VICINITY OF

STATE

Idaho

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Ada County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Boise

STATE

Idaho

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Idaho State Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1972

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Idaho State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Boise

STATE

Idaho

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The O'Farrell house stands on a large, handsomely landscaped lot which fills the northeast corner of Fifth and Franklin Streets in Boise. It is a tall two-story brick, now painted white, in a Colonial Revival style with Queen Anne elements. That is, the body of the house is symmetrical and rectangular in plan. It has a laterally-running hip-and-ridge roof, from the planes of which centered hipped dormers emerge. Lines of dentils run under the eaves, and elaborate a curved pediment over a classicizing front entry. A Queen Anne taste shows, however, in the placement of a two-story, tent-roofed octagonal bay at the southwest corner and a one-story square bay on the east wall, which render the house minimally asymmetrical. It shows also in the ornate Italianate eave brackets, the slightly left-of-center placement of the entry, and the picturesque use of round hip knobs at every possible intersection of the roof planes. The square-arched windows are capped with stone lintels. An added historic feature of the exterior is a graceful Colonial Revival fence made up of sections of balustrade from the lost Dewey Palace Hotel at Nampa, a famous local landmark.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) local history
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1892

BUILDER/ARCHITECT N. W. Bower

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The O'Farrell house in Boise, as a brick residence built in 1892 by one of the founders of Boise City, is both architecturally and historically significant. Architecturally, it is a good and very well-preserved example of the substantial residences built in the 1890's by the pioneers of the 1800's. In recently-settled Idaho, such houses are quite uncommon. While mansions of comparable age survive in Boise and elsewhere in the state (e.g. the 1891-2 Moore-Cunningham house on Warm Springs Avenue, or the contemporary Bush house on Franklin), many substantial houses of the more modest proportions of the O'Farrell house were of frame construction and are lost or deteriorated. The mansions, too, tend to be fully-blown Queen Anne in style; the O'Farrell house, dating as it does from 1892, is one of the earliest and best examples in the capital city of the Colonial Revival taste in brick residential design, here only marginally modified by the Queen Anne. The house may thus be seen as a very early example of 2 "Queen Anne-going-classical" transitional style which is quite common in Idaho during the first decade of the twentieth century.

The historical significance of the house is its association with one of the founders of Boise, John Andrew O'Farrell (1823-1900). O'Farrell was a native of Ireland who became a sailor at the age of 15. His travels brought him to California at the time of the first discoveries of gold there. He subsequently became a miner, and his prospecting activities led him to Idaho in 1863. The O'Farrell cabin, which now stands on Fort Street a few blocks from the later residence, was one of the first dwellings in what is now Boise; a Catholic Mass said there in the summer of 1863 was one of the earliest religious services. O'Farrell made Boise his home until his death. He retained extensive mining and land interests; he was one of the promoters of the New York Canal, which tapped the Snake River for irrigation purposes. He was considered one of Boise City's most prominent men, and 420 Franklin, built to the design of N.W. Bower at a cost of \$8,000 in 1892, one of its finest homes.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Idaho Statesman, 2 June 1892, p. 8 c. 2.

French, Hiram T. History of Idaho, vol. II, Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1914, p. 662-5.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Boise South

QUADRANGLE SCALE 7.5

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,1 5,6,5 3,0 4,8 2,9 6,2,0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This nomination includes the former O'Farrell house on the n.e. corner of 5th and Franklin in Boise and the property on which it stands: lots one and two, block 138, of Boise City original townsite.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Patricia Wright, architectural historian

ORGANIZATION Idaho State Historical Society

DATE 26 June 1979

STREET & NUMBER 610 North Julia Davis Drive

TELEPHONE 384-2120

CITY OR TOWN Boise

STATE Idaho 83702

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE X LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Merle Wells

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 4 July 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

for Charles Hull
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 9-4-79

ATTEST: *W. Ray Luce*
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 8/30/79