

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

NOMINATION: (TOURTELLOTTE AND HUMMEL ARCHITECTURE ~~IN IDAHO~~ ^{TR})

SITE NAME: Davis, R. K., House

SITE NUMBER: 40

LOCATION: 1016 Franklin Street, Boise, Ada County (~~001~~), ~~Idaho~~

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Roy M. and Carrie V. Smith
c/o Mehran Abazary
921 North Sixth
Boise, ID 83702

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Boise South, 7.5 minute

ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the R. K. Davis House and the property on which it stands, lot 3, block 81, Boise City Original Townsite. Legal description on file at the Ada County Courthouse, Boise, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/5,64,480/48,29,980

DATE OR PERIOD: 1906

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: good

altered

original site

DESCRIPTION:

The R. K. Davis House is a large-scale two-story frame structure in which Queen Anne and colonial elements are almost exactly balanced. The body of the house is clearly classical, with squarish proportions, conspicuous symmetry in the upper facade, and a pyramidal hipped roof with symmetrically placed gabled wall dormers rising on the front and sides at attic level. Some of the detail is also classical, including the eave returns and small Tuscan-columned and pedimented portico, approached by a low flight of steps flanked by stepped stone parapets, that forms the entrance to the porch and the first story. However, the asymmetry and the combination of textures to be found in the house clearly reflect the Queen Anne style. Asymmetry appears in the left-of-center placement of the portico and the curved porch offset to the right. Textural variety appears in the use of clapboards on the first story and variously shaped shingles in bands on the second.

The stories are separated by broad strips of fascia board. On the first floor to the right of the entrance, the enclosed porch is penetrated by three windows: a large central window with beveled and leaded panes in the narrow upper section and double-hung sash windows on either side. Six-over-one-light sash windows continue around the curved side of the porch. There is a shallow beveled bay on either

sidewall of the house. On the upper story these bays are squared and surmounted by the gabled dormers. The dormer on the front elevation contains a simple dimple window and is set over a break in the flared eave of the main roof. Below it are a pair of double-hung sash windows, flanked by small square windows set high on the wall. Several more small windows, one of them with leaded glass, mark the position of the stairs on the front left side. A low shed roof extends down over the kitchen-pantry area at left rear. An outset rear porch completes the plan.

The major departure observable from the original design is the enclosed front porch. This appears to be an early alteration, harmonized with the original form by use of matching clapboard siding and by the removal of the original front parlor windows to the front of the sunporch with which that room is now continuous. A secondary entrance from the front porch lets into the side of the formerly open space; its transomed form also suggests an early date for the enclosure. The right side chimney also is rebuilt. Otherwise the house is externally unaltered and in good condition.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Davis house is architecturally significant as an elaborated colonial style house, unusually large-scale, its blocky hip-roofed body given an irregular aspect by the mixture of textures, the flared, returning eaves of the attic dormers, and the asymmetrical wraparound porch. The house is more formal as built than as planned. The plans call for dormers with bungalowoid, bracked gables and a less formal porch without the grouped columns and pediment. The increased formality and indeed the scale may have been a response to its immediate streetscape, for it sits between two large 1890s Queen Anne houses. The size of these houses, set close up to the street behind a row of mature trees, makes this block one of the most impressive in the Near North End.

Robert Davis was a native westerner, born in Jacksonville, Oregon, and a member of one of Idaho's oldest pioneer families. When he built his house, at a reported cost of \$5,000, he was vice president of Idaho Hardware and Plumbing. He was later president of the Davis Supply Company.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

(Boise) Idaho Daily Statesman, December 30, 1906, sec. 4, p. 5, c. 3.

Polk and Company. Boise City Directory. 1908.

Boise, Idaho. Idaho State Historical Society. Biographical file.

Boise, Idaho. Hummel Jones Miller Hunsucker P.A. File 407A. Collection book references to R. K. Davis in 1906. Tracings signed John E. Tourtellotte and Company.