

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

NOMINATION: Historic Resources of Paris (Partial Inventory: Architecture)

SITE NAME: J. R. Shepherd house (Paris, I.D.A.) SITE # 36

LOCATION: 58 West Center Street, Paris, Idaho

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: F. Robert Bryner, 144 East Third North, Logan, UT 84321

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Paris, 7.5 minute ACREAGE: less than one acre

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Nomination includes former J. R. Shepherd house and property on which it stands: fraction of lots 3 and 4, block 16, Paris Original Townsite.

UTM(S): 12/4, 66, 820/46, 74, 885

DATE OR PERIOD: ca. 1890 EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture

DESCRIPTION: Excellent condition Unaltered Original site

The former J. R. Shepherd house, which faces south on Center Street, is a full two stories in a full-blown Queen Anne style. The house is essentially rectangular in plan. Only a very shallow ell at left front, square bays on the west side and the southeast corner, an octagonal bay on the east side, and a notch at right rear modify the rectangularity of the enclosed space. However, the appearance of the house is very asymmetrical. The right-of-center front door is approached through a slightly outset, gabled porch entry. The porch behind this entry runs around the right side of the house; a large tent-roofed gazebo is outset from it at the corner. The main block of the house is steeply hip-roofed; the various ells and bays, both front- and side-facing, are gabled.

Ornament as much as massing is fully in the Queen Anne mode. A variety of textures is employed. The foundation is coursed stone, the first story sided with narrow shiplap, and the second story end gable with shaped shingle. The bargeboards are elaborated with perforated and scalloped aprons and skirts. There is a sunburst panel in under the small porch entry gable, which is also double-bracketed and supported on elaborated squared posts. The gazebo and side porches have posts with turned midsections. The squared upper sections of these porch posts are joined by wide arched wooden screens enclosing rows of spindles; the squared lower sections are joined by rows of turned balusters. There are early screen doors front and rear.

The fenestration is not elaborate. There is a round light onto the porch on the east wall, and a small, horizontally oriented rectangular attic light with Queen Anne strips in the front gable. Other windows are simple one-over-one sash, or large fixed panes with smaller upper sections.

A single story, hipped porch is outset on plain posts at left rear. There is one interior chimney on the main house, centered behind the peak of the roof. Except for the addition of blocky and considerably more recent brick piers at the bottom of the concrete entry steps, the house appears unaltered. It is in very good condition.

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J. R. Shepherd house

SIGNIFICANCE:

The J. R. Shepherd house is architecturally significant as the most pretentious residence in Paris, the largest in the Queen Anne mode and as the home of one of Paris' commercial leaders. This house sets a striking contrast among its cottage-scale neighbors and because of its tall roof peak appears even larger than the few other two-story houses in town. Built in about 1890 by H. R. Shepherd, brother of the owner and Paris' most prolific builder, whose own Victorian showpiece on the hill has been lost, the Shepherd house set the style for a number of smaller houses which were to follow it, notably the George Ashley, Jr. house (site #38) and the Dan Price house (site #53). Though the house is distinctly regular in plan, the relative opulence of ornament distinguishes it in Paris. The George Ashley, Sr. house is a rival in quantity of decoration but the Shepherd house excels in its continuity and formality. The gazebo on the right, the single bit of irregularity on the house, is contained nicely by the rows of spindles and balusters which tie it to the main body of the house. The overdoor ensemble, a sunburst and perforated brackets, unlike the sawn and lathed millwork of the porch and gables, was probably imported by catalogue. This development in building materials occurred at the time of the decline of Paris' Cooperative Store which marked the end of the prevalence of home manufactured goods, millwork included. Indeed, J. R. Shepherd's Mercantile Store was a commercial rival to the Co-op, which Shepherd had managed until 1890. Shepherd, the up-and-coming entrepreneur, would remain a force in Paris business with his involvement in the Bear Lake State Bank and the Paris Commercial Club, which financially backed the Browning Block and Hotel Paris. Shepherd was also President of the Bear Lake Stake, succeeding William Budge, who had persuaded William Shepherd to bring his family to Paris in 1877.