

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

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

SITE NAME: Robert Price house Paris, Idaho SITE # 23

LOCATION: Northwest corner N. First W. at W. First N.

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: LaMont J. Bunn, Conda, Idaho 83230

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Nomination includes former Robert Price house and property on which it stands: T-2257, fraction of lots 1,2, block 23, Paris Townsite.

UTM(S): 12/4, 66, 705/46, 75, 115

DATE OR PERIOD: 1887 EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture

Fair condition Altered Original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Robert and Christina Price house is a tall one-and-a-half story, shiplap-sided frame structure; the core, with its narrow end facing the street, presents I-house proportions although the plan appears rather shallow. The gable facing N. First W. is jerkin headed, as are the gables of the short ells which emerge on both sides of the main block. A one-story, hip-roofed rear section wraps around the back of the house to merge with the ells and connect with the two porches which fill the intersections on either side of the front elevation.

The main decorative feature of this elevation, besides the clipped gable, is a one-story Italianate bay centered on the facade. A blind door with double round-arched lights is immediately above it. The left porch is the primary one. It employs turned posts and a "pedimented" overdoor drawn out from the hipped porch roof.

The main block of the house sits on a rugged stone foundation. There are two chimneys; one interior chimney of corbelled brick, and one chimney of modern construction on the north exterior wall. The house is unoccupied but in fair and apparently stable condition.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Robert Price house is architecturally significant not only for the complexities of its plan and the refinement in local terms of its ornament--both of which give it a commanding visual presence on its hillside perch--but for its connection by type to many of its contemporaries in Paris. On the Price house, the I-block has been complicated by jerkin-heads, a stocky cross wing, off-center entrance; at the same time the unit remains visibly recognizable as a part of the building vocabulary in Mormon Paris.

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Robert Price house

SIGNIFICANCE (continued):

The move to the hill was an indication of the rising star of Robert Price. His family was called to Paris in 1869, and Price set up log and then frame houses for his two wives at the east end of First North Street. In 1870, he went into partnership with Charles Rich and Francis Pomeroy to open the first shingle and planing mill in the Valley. 1874 brought him a position as secretary of the up-and-coming Paris Cooperative Institution from which he established business interests in a creamery, and the co-op mercantile store. Price was made bishop of the Second Paris Ward in 1877, confirming his status as one of the commercial, civic and religious leaders of the town. With the decline of the co-op in 1886, Price re-acquired the shingle mill as a private business, and also bought the local circular sawmill—he became the person to see in Paris for all wood products. Also in 1887, he moved his large family to the west side of town to take a place among the other prominent English families in Paris.