

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

NOMINATION: (TOURTELLOTTE AND HUMMEL ARCHITECTURE IN ~~IDAHO~~ T R)

✓ SITE NAME: Sommercamp, Mary Elizabeth, House ✓ SITE NUMBER: 25

✓ LOCATION: 411 ~~West Third Street~~<sup>3rd</sup>, Weiser, Washington County (~~087~~), ~~Idaho~~

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Robert N. Stanfield  
c/o Patricia C. Lance  
408 West Third  
Weiser, ID 83672

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Weiser South, 7.5 minute ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Mary Elizabeth Sommercamp House and the property on which it stands, west 1/2 of lot 18, lots 19-20, block 21, Watlington's addition to Weiser, Idaho. Legal description on file at the Washington County Courthouse, Weiser, Idaho.

UTM(S): 1/5,02,140/48,99,80

DATE OR PERIOD: 1903

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: good unaltered original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Mary Elizabeth Sommercamp House is a two-story frame structure built around a hip-and-ridge-roofed central block. Gabled extensions emerge from this block in three directions. There is an open wraparound porch between the deepest of them, on the south side, and a shallower extension facing front, or east, toward Third Street. A second open porch runs back from the southern extension and around the southwest corner of the house. The third and shallowest extension is on the north side.

The house is in the colonial revival style with a few vestigial Queen Anne features. The outsets and porches render it asymmetrical. The gables contain shaped shingles and half-round segmented lights. The main porch, which is supported, as is the rear one, on Tuscan columns, has as well a sunburst-filled overdoor gable. There are curious window treatments, such as the mullioned upper central pane of the main window on Third Street and the oculus penetrating the sidewall of the porch. A classical taste is expressed quite specifically in the hip-roofed central block, in the row of dentils lining every inch of eave, in the pedimented gables, and in the Tuscan-like necking of the porch columns. A generally more severe taste is

evident in the use of plain clapboard siding, elaborated only by corner framing and quiet undereave and window moldings, for two full stories of the house; most decorative display is confined to the gables.

The corner lot on which the Sommercamp hose is sited is slightly elevated, and a handsome, uncoursed stone retaining wall survives on the side street.

#### SIGNIFICANCE:

The Sommercamp house is architecturally significant as a fine and well preserved example of the colonial revival-Queen Anne style house, with its classical core and detail and its anti-classical asymmetry. It is certainly the best example in Weiser, the rich period architecture of which tends to less diluted Queen Anne. It is the peer of such outstanding residences as the 1899 Spackman house and the 1903 Tipton house in Boise, both of which were designed by the firm and are part of the 1978 State Street National Register Historic District.

May Elizabeth Sommercamp, born in Ohio in 1839, was the matriarch of a Weiser mercantile family.

#### MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOURCES:

Hibbard, Don. Weiser: A Look at Idaho Architecture. Boise: Idaho State Preservation Office, 1978.

(Boise) Idaho Daily Statesman, August 13, 1903, p. 5, c. 6.