

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

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

✓ SITE NAME: McElroy, H. E., House ↓ SITE NUMBER: 14

✓ LOCATION: 924 West Fort Street, Boise, Ada County ~~(001)~~, Idaho

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Lowell E. Rudge
c/o Theodore and Betsy Kruth
924 West Fort Street
Boise, ID 83702

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the H. E. McElroy House and the property on which it stands, Tax 1 or McElroy tract, Boise City Original Townsite. Legal description on file at the Ada County Courthouse, Boise, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/5,64,660/48,30,100

DATE OR PERIOD: 1901

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: excellent unaltered original site

DESCRIPTION:

The McElroy house is another shingled colonial style house, with the characteristics typical of that style: a generally rectangular plan set laterally to the street, a double-slope roof, large side-facing shingled gables, a large gabled dormer centered above the entrance, and gable-end pent and close eaves. Here the lower-story fabric is brick over frame, with concrete lintels and sills. The walls of the centered outset porch, the gables, and the dormer are covered with fish-scale and square-cut shingles.

The gables are hung with double pent eaves, one at the base and one near the top. Above the upper gable deep-set eaves frame small rectangular attic lights with battered heads and wooden keystones. The identical arrangement is used in the gabled front dormer. Below the upper gable are close eaves. There is an outset beveled bay on the left side and, on the right side, a small hip-roofed enclosed porch that does not appear on the original plans and is sided with a different type of shingles. The house is otherwise rectangular insofar as enclosed space is concerned. The roof of the outset front porch is hip-and-ridge, with a small pedimented gable cantilevered over the steps on wooden brackets. Doric columns support an entablature broadly notched to create arch-like openings. The columns rest on

flared shingled walls. Stepped parapet walls flanking the front steps are also flared and shingled.

Windows are generally casement. Geometric upper lights appear in the large, fixed, downstairs windows. Except for the small and compatible addition on the east side and modern interior chimneys, the house is unaltered.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The McElroy house is architecturally significant as another and quite distinctive variation on the shingled colonial style described in sites 7, 9, and 10. Veneered as are two of the earlier examples, but in brick rather than the bolder stone or cobble; and fitted with a neat, centered, classicizing but inventive entry porch that renders the facade symmetrical, and is a feature that would recur in the firm's work for several years; it does not at first glance fall into the shingled colonial style. But the basic elements are clearly in evidence: lateral ridgebeam, two-slope roof, centered front dormer, shingled side gables with close and pent eaves.

The house was built in 1901 for lawyer Hugh McElroy at a reported cost of \$2,600. Since the tracings are signed John Tourtellotte instead of Tourtellotte and Company, it was evidently designed before 1900.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOURCES:

(Boise) Capital News, January 1, 1902, p. 1.

(Boise) Idaho Daily Statesman, January 1, 1902, p. 14, c. 4.

Polk and Company. Boise City Directory, 1902-1903.

Boise, Idaho. Hummel Jones Miller Hunsucker, P.A. File 410D. Tracings signed John E. Tourtellotte.