United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register Bulletin* 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not, by to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property historic nameHill, Clara, House
other names/site numberMae Estes House; Dorian Studios; IHSI #01-13571
2. Location street & number1123 North Main Street
3. State/Federal Agency Certification
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this _X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property _X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally (See continuation sheet for additional comments.) Signature of certifying official Date KENNETH C. REID, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government
In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Signature of commenting official/Title Date
State or Federal agency and bureau
4. National Park Service Certification I, hereby certify that this property is: — entered in the National Register — See continuation sheet. — determined eligible for the National Register — See continuation sheet. — determined not eligible for the National Register — determined not eligible for the National Register
removed from the National Register
other (explain):

5. Classification	
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) X private public-local public-State public-Federal	Category of Property (Check only one box) X building(s) district site structure object
Number of Resources within Property	y
Contributing Noncontributing buildings sites structures objects Total	
Number of contributing resources pro	eviously listed in the National Register <u>0</u>
Name of related multiple property list (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple proN/A	operty listing.)
6. Function or Use	
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling	
7. Description	
Architectural Classification (Enter cat LATE 19 TH AND EARLY 20 TH CEN AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/Craftsi	egories from instructions)
AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/Crafts	<u>nan</u>
Materials (Enter categories from instruc	etions)
foundation CONCRETE	
roof <u>ASPHALT</u> walls <u>WOOD/Weatherboard</u>	
WOOD/Shingles	
other BRICK	
Narrative Description (Describe the his	storic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Ada County, Idaho County, State

 \underline{X} See continuation sheet (s) for Section No. 7

Hill, Clara, House Name of Property

8. Statement of Significance	
Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in listing)	one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register
A Property is associated with contribution to the broad part	events that have made a significant tterns of our history.
B Property is associated with	the lives of persons significant in our past.
represents the work of a ma	nctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or aster, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and ecomponents lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is li	kely to yield information important in prehistory or history.
Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes t	hat apply.)
A owned by a religious institution or used	for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.	
C a birthplace or a grave.	
D a cemetery.	
E a reconstructed building, object, or struc	cture.
F a commemorative property.	
G less than 50 years of age or achieved s	ignificance within the past 50 years.
Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instru- ARCHITECTURE	ctions)
Period of Significance 1920	
Significant Dates	
Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked N/A	d above)
Cultural Affiliation N/A	
Architect/Builder Arzt, Charles (builder)	
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or m	ore continuation sheets.)

Ada County, Idaho County, State

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

Hill, Clara, House Name of Property

Hill, Clara, House Name of Property	Ada County, Idaho County, State
9. Major Bibliographical References	
Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in	n preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)
Previous documentation on file (NPS) preliminary determination of individual listing (requested. previously listed in the National Register previously determined eligible by the National designated a National Historic Landmark recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey recorded by Historic American Engineering Re	Register
Primary Location of Additional Data X State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency Federal agency Local government University X Other	
Name of repository: <u>Meridian Historical Society,</u>	Meridian Old Town Library X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property Less than one	
UTM References (Place additional UTM reference	es on a continuation sheet)
Zone Easting Northing Zone 1 1/1 5/4/9/1/4/0 4/8/2/9/0/2/0 3 2 See continuation sheet.	Easting Northing
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)	
The boundary of the property includes only the foo ADD 03 RD subdivision	tprint of the Clara Hill House, S1/2 of Lots 16-20 INC, Block 1 of Nourses F. A. _See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)	
The boundary includes only the footprint of the hou	use because the property is nominated for Architecture.
	_See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title_Emily Peeso/Consultant	
organization Ind. Historic Preservation Consulting	date
street & number PO Box 7003	telephone <u>208-794-2678</u>
city or town_Boise	state_ID_ zip code83707

Hill, Clara, House	Ada County, Idaho_
Name of Property	County, State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- Continuation Sheets
- Maps: A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
 A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.
- Photographs: Representative black and white photographs of the property.
- Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

name Joe and Yvonne Marks	
street & number 1921 West Liberty Street	telephone 509-326-3121
city or town Spokane	state_WA zip code _99205

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to Keeper, National Register of Historic Places, 1849 "C" Street NW, Washington, DC 20240.

NPS Form 10-900-a

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INTRODUCTION

The Clara Hill House is located on Main Street in downtown Meridian, Idaho, a fast-growing community of 41,000 just six miles west of Boise.¹ The lots along this section of Main Street, which is also State Highway 30, were platted in 1914, amended in 1920, and advertised by Frank A. Nourse in the local weekly paper in 1920 to be the "best" part of town where the "good" houses were building.² The house faces east.

The Hill House is a one-and-one-half-story, frame, Craftsman-style bungalow featuring a gabled roof with a gabled dormer on the front, and an enclosed full porch. The domestic building, constructed in 1920, sits on a concrete foundation and has a rectangular plan with a footprint measurement of twenty-seven feet by fifty-four feet. The walls are clad with wood clapboard siding on the first level and wood shingles on the second level. The roof is side-gabled and covered with asphalt shingles. The gabled dormer on the front roof plane is centered. Exposed rafters and decorative rake boards are under the roof and dormer gables. The full-length front porch is enclosed under the principal roof structure. The interior reflects the bungalow design elements including the plain geometric moldings and entablatures framing the door and window surrounds. The house has a moderate setback from the street with a modern landscaped yard. Behind the house is a large shed. The property has had interior alterations related to its current commercial use. The exterior is in good condition maintaining very good integrity.

EXTERIOR

The main façade faces east and has balanced symmetry. The foundation is made of concrete. The walls on the first story have weatherboard cladding, while the side gable and dormer walls are clad in wood shingles. The principal roof is side-gabled with a break in the slope in both the front and back over the porches. The roof is now covered with asphalt shingles and has two brick chimneys. The first chimney is on the front pitch (exterior on the north facing gable elevation) and the second is on the back pitch (interior slope). A gabled dormer also interrupts the plane of the roof on the front elevation. The roof and dormer eaves are deep and unenclosed with exposed, plain rafter ends (along the horizontal edge) and triangular knee braces (along the gabled rake edges).

The front elevation features a full porch enclosed under the principal roof, after the break in the slope. This slope has a lower pitch. The entrance is centered and evenly surrounded by five, one-over-one-sash windows over a clapboard-clad wall on each side. The windows are set at the rail level of the porch and extend up to the roofline. The door and window treatments feature geometrically detailed moldings and surrounds. Exposed rafter ends are visible under the eave overhang.

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The dormer is centered on the front roof slope directly over the main entrance. The window structure is a large projection repeating the main structure's roof type (gabled), wall cladding (wood shingles) and decorative details (knee braces). The window fenestration incorporates a ribbon of three windows and exhibits a distinguishing Craftsman element. Two of the three windows have a decorative Craftsman, geometric design dividing the single glass pane into nine lights (a narrow top, bottom, and sides with a larger, center light). The third window interchanges seasonally with a one-over-one, double-hung sash, which allows the accommodation of a window air-conditioning unit in warmer months and is restored to match the others in cooler months.

The back porch extends across the entire rear elevation with few differences from the front. The off-center, rear doorway creates an imbalance in the symmetry with a ribbon of four windows on one side (north) and six windows (two sets of three windows in a row) on the other side (south). Each window is a casement type and has six lights. The wall below the windows is covered with the clapboard siding. Decorative rafter ends are exposed under the eave overhangs. A brick interior chimney projects from the roof slope, directly in line with the rear door.

One side-gabled elevation faces south to the alley. This elevation features the main body of the building and the side enclosure of the front and back porches. The first story features clapboard siding, while the second story is demarcated by a switch to wood shingle siding. Windows on the main section of this level include two pairs of decorative, Craftsman sash-over-one (each pair corresponding to the interior bedroom spaces) with a smaller version of the decorative Craftsman sash-over-one window between the two sets (indicating the special use of the interior bathroom space between the two bedrooms). On the second floor, a pair of decorative sash windows is centered under the gable and a smaller one-over-one sash window is tucked under the rear roof overhang. All windows are double-hung.

The north-facing gabled elevation exhibits the same basic features as the south-facing gabled elevation with a few differences. Again, the walls are clad with clapboard on the first level and wood shingles on the second level. There is a pair of decorative sash windows centered under the gable on the second level. The front and back porch enclosures also wrap around to the sides on this elevation. The differences are the features and types of windows that correspond with the different interior spaces (living room in the front and kitchen in the back). The exterior brick chimney protrudes out from the wall cladding near the front of the building. The lower portion is painted to blend with the attached wall. The building also exemplifies another identifying Craftsman window element with a three-sided bay window protruding from this side-gable wall with a ribbon of three decorative sash-over-one, double-hung windows, flanked by a narrow version of the same window on each side. Another special size window (a short, wide version of the decorative sash-over-one) on the back part of this elevation indicates the interior kitchen space.

The decorative elements on the building are modest with geometric elements, typical associations with the Craftsman style. Exposed rafter ends, purlins and rake boards are plain. The knee brace edges have a square finish. White paint subtly distinguishes the decorative elements from the wood wall cladding. The decorative sash-over-one window design appears in varying window sizes and types on the front and side elevations.

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INTERIOR

The interior currently functions as a commercial space. The original construction for residential use provided for a living room with a fireplace, two bedrooms, a bathroom and kitchen on the first floor and two more bedrooms on the second floor. On the north side, the living room boasted a comfortable fireplace and bay window, and the kitchen features a special-sized, nine-light decorative window and a stove, from which the chimney extends through the roof on the back slope. The layout on the south side from the front started with a bedroom, the stairway up to the second floor, a bathroom, a second bedroom and the stairway to the basement. The door to the back porch was through the kitchen. According to Ada County records, the building was remodeled in 1970.⁴

Today, a professional photography business occupies the building for both office and studio uses. The front porch is now open to the front room on the south side and serves as the reception lobby. The original wainscoting still lines the interior walls of the porch beneath the windows, as does the tongue and groove wood on the ceiling. The living room space now functions as a studio. To accommodate this use, the window to the front porch, the fireplace and the bay window (all intact and original) are blocked from the inside. This allows for more lighting control for professional uses. The second bedroom is an office. The north half of the back porch is storage space; the south half is another studio space. The original wood flooring still extends across the full width of the back porch. The upstairs has an open foyer space that leads to a small bathroom, another office (utilizing the light and air circulation of the dormer window) and a room on the north side (converted into a dressing room area).

Door and window treatments on the first floor are the original Craftsman-style trim. The plain, squared, wood edges utilize geometric forms to emphasize the natural beauty of the simple lines. While most of the trim edges are clean, straight lines, the trim over the kitchen window follows a clean, curving line.

The basement staircase is located adjacent to the kitchen on the south side of the building. The basement is concrete and the space provides access to wiring and utilities as well as extra storage.

Alterations have mainly changed the interior space to convert from a domestic- to a commercial-use property. The south part of the main front wall dividing the porch from the living space has been removed. The change opens up the plan and brightens the space for the commercial reception and lobby area. The living room on the north side of the building has temporary coverings over the bay windows and fireplace for a more functional use as a photography studio. These are easily removable. Exterior alterations include necessary structural updates to the front portion roof and sheathing.⁵ Several layers of asphalt shingles have replaced the original cedar roof shingles.

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The Hill House can distinctly be classified as a Craftsman-styled residential building. The identifying features categorize the building by shape subtype (side-gabled roof with a central front dormer), typical roof-wall junctions (wide eave overhangs, extended rafter beams and knee braces) and other details (wood clapboard and shingles, decorative Craftsman windows, and the triple window element in the dormer and bay window). The building's construction date (1920) falls within the period of occurrence (1905 to 1930).⁶

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Clara Hill House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criterion C as an excellent example of the Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements Craftsman style of architecture. The building typifies the distinct characteristics of the architectural style from the shape of the principal massing (sidegabled roof) to the decorative details (exposed rafter beams and simplified geometric themes). The well-preserved, frame structure maintains much of its historic integrity and is currently preserved as a commercial property.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Meridian was established late in the 19th century as a farming community called "Hunter" after the original postmaster. In spite of irrigation difficulties, the settlers had a strong sense of community and determination to persevere due in part by strong community organizations. The church communities, the Odd-Fellows lodge, the school system all contribute to the growth as businesses and services (post office, general store) set up shop. In 1893, the I.O.O.F. lodge began its new charter with the name "Meridian" referring to its location on the Boise Meridian base line.⁷ The settlement name subsequently changed from "Hunter" to "Meridian" after the lodge. In August of 1903, the town was incorporated with over two hundred inhabitants.⁸

Meridian established economic permanence with fruit orchards and creameries, once the irrigation canals, such as the Settlers' Ditch, were finally completed in 1892. Meridian marked the halfway point between Nampa and Boise City along the Idaho Central railroad. The railroad lines connected commuters and new settlers to nearby trade and commerce and opportunities for new beginnings. By 1920, the town's population had quickly grown to 1,000 people, and by the 1940s, 1,500. In 1990, the census count in Meridian was 9,596. The allure of the town and its location booms today as Meridian has expanded its boundaries and is home to more than 40,000 people. In

The period of significance for the Hill House is 1920, the construction date for the domestic building. The house was built while owned by Mae Estes. Clara Hill purchased the property in 1938. The Hill family continued to live and grow as part of the church and the community in the dwelling for the next 50 years. Even today Meridians fondly recall "Grandma Hill's House." The house was a part of the growing and maturing of the small-town establishment of the early 1900s supported by the farming and creamery industries as well as the local community organizations.

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ARCHITECTURE

Charles Arzt built the Hill House in 1920, after selling the property to Mae Estes. ¹³ The domestic, single-dwelling building embodies the Craftsman style of architecture. Contextually, the house models the transformation of the "Hunter" outpost to the growing and prospering town of Meridian. Built on the original through-town highway, the Hill House stands out as a domestic building of moderately large size and modern style of the times. Architecturally, the house represents a popular subtype of a prevalent late nineteenth-century, early twentieth-century building style. The location, scale and style indicate the successful beginnings of Meridian, now a fast growing and changing town. The house meets National Register Criterion C in the area of Architecture as a prominent example of the Craftsman style in the locality.

The Craftsman style of domestic architecture saw its greatest popularity between 1905 and 1930 in the United States. It was part of a movement from the Greene brothers in California with some types referred to as bungalows and related to Frank Lloyd Wright and the Prairie style. The Craftsman style of architecture quickly spread across the country from its origins due, in part, to the several widely distributed publications, including *The Ladies' Home Journal*, the *Craftsman Homes* guide by Gustav Stickley, and the Sears, Roebuck and Company's Modern Homes catalog. Leven the local *Meridian Times* weekly newspaper ran a regular architectural column featuring popular types of houses and the building plans. On April 30, 1920, the headline read, "Bungalow makes Attractive Home." Other reasons for the style's popularity relate to the modern amenities (electricity, indoor plumbing and central heating) incorporated into the structure. The open and functional design also reflected "modern" movements such as the Fresh Air Movement (porches and window screens) and the Arts and Crafts Movement (influenced by the Greene brothers). The style ranges from modest, one-story homes to larger estates and makes a statement of a more simplified form of expression apart from the previously popular Queen Anne style.

A Craftsman style building is characterized by its naturalness (in the use of wood and earth tone colors), simple characteristics and geometric forms. The Craftsman design was intended to simplify the domestic space for function and fashion in a new and modern style. Typical features include: low-pitched roof shapes; enclosed porches and patios; deep, unenclosed eave overhangs; exposed timbers (both structural and decorative); multiple (especially triple) windows in a row; sash window in the porch enclosures and centered dormer windows. Typical decorative elements include plain timber embellishments, geometric designs, decorative sashes over a single glass light and use of wood material. A modern floor plan encouraged an inviting open design (entry directly into living space with fireplaces). Porches connected the contained interior spaces to the natural exterior surroundings. Exterior treatments (brick exterior chimneys, wood shingles, and natural tones) reinforced the connection of the building with nature.

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The Hill House is shaped and detailed in typical Craftsman fashion. The house is one-and-one-half stories under a side-gabled roof (low- to normal-pitch) with enclosed porches on the front and back. Exposed rafters, roof beams and triangular knee braces (plain and square cut) line the deep, enclosed-eave overhangs from the roof. The wood shingles on the second level add texture and geometric design by having alternating narrow and wide rows. Triple window designs decorate the dormer and bay window features. Sash windows enclose the front and back porches. The sash windows on the side-gable walls and the bay window projection have a decorative sash-over-one design. The front elevation has symmetry with a centered, main entrance door, multiple window fenestration (equal on each side) and a centered, gabled dormer on top. The interior features wood material decorating walls (wainscoting), ceilings and window and door trim (wide, plain with squared edges).

Meridian is a fast growing community, especially within the last 15 years. The population has jumped considerably since 1990. The Hill House is in the heart of the original settlement and is a visible remnant of its beginnings. Its location on Main Street is also State Highway 30, a connective north/south transportation way. While the growth of the town points to the fact that the main street may have increase traffic flow, it is also a reminder of the towns beginnings. New commercial structures have filled lots where the original town buildings did not survive to today. The Hill House stands out as having high historical and architectural integrity and as a commercial property, has the commitment from its owner of keeping it maintained.

The Hill House, built in 1920, is a representative landmark relating to the maturing of small town Meridian, Idaho. Its location on the Main Street, a main through-town highway, places it in the heart of the life of the historical and currently booming town of Meridian. Built in the Craftsman style of architecture, few domestic dwellings stand out in Meridian today with evidence of continued care from the current owners. The workmanship of the sturdy structure comes through in the original wood elements (clapboard, shingles, roof timbers, knee braces, window frames and wainscoting) maintaining integrity of strength, shape, material and decorative design. The feeling of the property, from the principal massing to the decorative details, emits a distinctly Craftsman style of simplicity, ease and pride of ownership. The association of the property directly links to the development and success of the prospering town of Meridian as a viable Idaho community.

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Endnotes:

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- Ada County Assessor's Office, (Boise, Idaho, 1 March 1920), Plat Book 07, Page 299; Meridian Times (Meridian), 19 March 1920.
- Ada County Recorder's Office, (Boise, Idaho, 22 June 1920); Meridian Times (6 June 1920 and 5 January 1923); Meridian Map, Ada County, Idaho, (New York: Sanborn Map Company, February 1923), 1; Earl Hill and Robert Thrupp, Survey of pre-1926 Builders in Meridian area, Reconnaissance Site Form (Idaho State Historic Preservation Office, Boise, Idaho, 12 August 1987), Field number 3A-3.
- Ada County Assessor's Office, (Boise, Idaho, 2005), Land Records Parcel Number R6129020095.
- Joe Wise, interview by author, 23 April 2003.
- Virginia and Lee McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1984), 453.
- Lila Hill and Glen W. Davidson, <u>They Came to Build a Community: A History of Meridian, Idaho, and The People Called Methodists</u> (Meridian, Idaho: First United Methodist Church, 1986), 74; Annie Laurie Bird, <u>Boise, The Peace Valley, 2nd ed.</u> Canyon County Historical Society (Caldwell, Idaho: Caxton Printers, 1975), 368-369.
- Annie Laurie Bird, <u>Boise, The Peace Valley</u>, 372.
- ⁹ Ibid., 367.
- ¹⁰ Ibid., 370.
- Idaho Department of Commerce, <u>Historical Populations by County</u>, <u>http://idoc.state.id.us/data/census/index.html</u>.
- Ada County Recorder's Office, (22 June 1920), Deed Book 146, Page 34, cross-listed under Instrument Number 88341; Ibid., (1 December 1938), Deed Book 232, Page 125, cross-listed under Instrument Number 187257; Lila Hill and Glen W. Davidson, They Came to Build a Community: A History of Meridian, Idaho, and The People Called Methodists (Meridian, Idaho: First United Methodist Church, 1986), 159, 165, 166 and 184; Lila Hill, interview by author, 2 February 2005.
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- Greta Terrell, Getting to Know Your 20th-Century Neighborhood, 3-6.
- Virginia and Lee McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses, 453-454.

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- Ada County Recorder's Office, 200 West Front Street, Boise, Idaho. Deed Book 144, Page 80, cross-listed under Instrument Number 86183. 16 March 1916.
- Ada County Recorder's Office, 200 West Front Street, Boise, Idaho. Deed Book 146, Page 34, cross-listed under Instrument Number 88341. 22 June 1920.
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Section 9	Page 2	Name of Property Hill, Clara, House
	•	County, and State Ada County, Idaho

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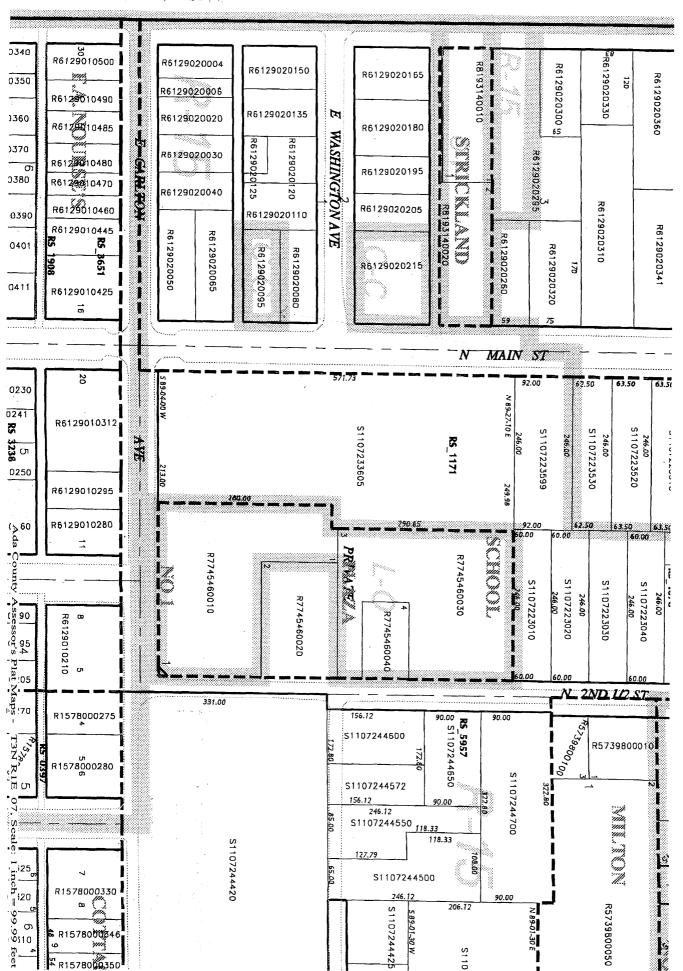
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Section	Photos	Page 1	Name of Property Hill, Clara, House
•			County, and State Ada County, Idaho

PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION

Clara Hill House Ada County, Idaho All photos taken by Emily Peeso Spring, 2005 Original negatives on file at the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office

Photo #1 of 7	Context view looking southwest
Photo #2 of 7	Main elevation – view looking west
Photo #3 of 7	Rear façade – view looking east
Photo #4 of 7	Southwest oblique (rear façade) – view looking northeast
Photo #5 of 7	Southwest oblique (rear façade) – view looking northeast
Photo #6 of 7	Northeast oblique – view looking southwest
Photo #7 of 7	Exterior detail – bay window



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