

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

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

SITE NAME: (Dr. George) Ashley house SITE # 38

LOCATION: 40 West Second North, Paris, Idaho

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Annie B. Boss, Paris, ID

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Nomination includes former George Ashley house and property on which it stands: lot 6 north of block 15, Paris Original Townsite.

UTM(S): 12/4, 66, 850/46, 75, 355

DATE OR PERIOD: late 19th century EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture

DESCRIPTION: Good condition Altered Original site

The former Ashley Jr. house is a short one-and-one-half story, lap-sided, essentially ell-shaped frame dwelling with a modestly Queen Anne aspect. The lateral main block has a gable-end to the east; on the west the roof is hipped, merging with the tent-roofed, clip-cornered ell at left front. A hip-roofed porch crosses the facade to the right of the ell. The entrance, immediately to the right of the ell, is approximately centered on the front elevation. There is a small gabled addition at left rear, and two corbeled brick interior chimneys.

The decorative treatment of the house is concentrated on the facade. It consists of wall dormers, hipped on the ell and gabled on the main block. Windows have molded heads, peaked on the large ell window. The larger windows are also bordered with smaller clear lights. The porch millwork is distinctive: spindlework under the eave and in the ballustrade, "cookie-cutter" pierced brackets, and curious "ring and ball" wooden posts.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Ashley house is architecturally significant for its unusual tent-roofed ell, handsome fenestration and ornate porch. Built in the early 1890's for the son of builder George Ashley, Sr., this house is one of a group of Queen Anne styled cottages which were probably prompted by the model of the J. R. Shepherd house (site #36). Despite the eclectic decoration — classically-inspired on the window heads and approaching Eastlake in the spindled and plumb-posted porch — the plan of this house, and its contemporaries, is noticeably regular and not unlike the L-shaped houses of taller profile of the 'eighties. George Ashley had the distinction, upon his move to Montpelier, of founding the first hospital in the Bear Lake Valley, designed by his father. Previous to this, Ashley was one of Paris' physicians.