

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

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

SITE NAME: James Collings, Jr. house SITE # 6

LOCATION: east side of Highway 89, approximately one mile south of town

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: David J. Collings, Box 636, Deer Lodge, Montana 59701

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The nomination includes the former James Collings, Jr. house and barn and the property on which it stands, T-2912, south of the Paris Townsite but within the Village limits.

UTM(S): 12/4, 67, 00/46, 73, 700

DATE OR PERIOD: 1876 EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: State

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture

DESCRIPTION: Fair condition altered original site

The former Collings house is a frame structure of sturdy proportions which sits on a slight rise next to the highway from Paris to Bloomington. It consists of a side-facing gabled block with cross-facade shed porch and a gabled ell, centered in the rear and framed by shed porches. The front entrance, raised two steps from ground level is centered and flanked by rectangular window openings, now boarded over. A single brick chimney rises on the left side. The facade has been sheathed in wide vertical siding but the ends and ell show original lap siding.

The ornament on this house is surprisingly opulent for its date and scale in Paris, and is clearly allusive to Greek Revival style. All porch supports are slender Tuscan columns with a single band high on each shaft. The gable ends are embellished with bed molding and the eaves form returns with molded friezes. Beneath the front eave is a string of schematic milled garlands.

East of the house is a one-and-one-half-story granary constructed in the inside-out fashion, with exterior studs. Behind the granary is a frame outhouse with a lean-to roof.

## SIGNIFICANCE:

The Collings house is architecturally significant as the only Greek Revival residence in Paris, and as one of the earliest houses in town to which a definite date can be attached. In shape and configuration, the Collings house suits the hall-and-parlor cabin type, but is perhaps somewhat larger in all dimensions than others of its type in Paris. In its ornament, however, this house is unique, particularly among its contemporaries. It was built by James Collings, Sr. for his son and daughter-in-law in 1876. Collings was a carpenter trained in finishing work who had worked on the Tabernacle in Salt Lake City and must have had some practical experience with planning classical detail. A local mill was operating in the 1870's, likely providing the siding and the molding. The eave returns, columns and tight run of custom-made garlands make a legible reference to a style which was flourishing

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James Collings, Jr. house

SIGNIFICANCE (continued):

in the Midwest as many of Paris' residents were making their way west. Greek Revival styles would also have been evident in Mormon Utah.

The Collings house is one of the purest examples in Paris of the pioneers' impulse to reproduce the aesthetic trappings of the environment left behind in an effort to "civilize" the new place. It also appears to be one of the few folk-form residences in the state to exhibit such a relatively academic style in its decorative scheme, and to do so with such confidence.