

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

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

SITE NAME: Welch, Edward, House SITE NUMBER: 81

LOCATION: 1321 East Jefferson Street, Boise, Ada County (001), Idaho

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

David J. and Patti A. Bruner  
1321 E. Jefferson  
Boise, ID 83702

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Edward Welch House and the property on which it stands, lots 11 and 12, block 2, Warm Springs Addition. Legal description on file at the Ada County Courthouse, Boise, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/5,410/48,28,350

DATE OR PERIOD: 1912

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: excellent unaltered original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Edward Welch House is a two-story stucco bungalow style. The body of the house is squarish, with a roof hipped to a short front-to-back ridgebeam. The facade is dominated by the low-pitched, front-facing gable, supported on figure-four brackets, which rises from a broad and slightly outset two-story bay at right front. A somewhat deeper two-story ell containing an entry hall below and a screened porch above, under a hip-and-ridge roof, emerges midway back along the left side. The enclosed front porch runs around the left front corner between these two projections. Because of their differing depths, the porch walls are flush with the side ell and outset from the front bay.

The porch is unusual, with parapeted corners and front- and side-sloping shed roofs falling between them. The windows of porch and entry hall are large and multiple-light, with rounded upper corners. The double doors leading into the porch are also multi-light, as are the upper sections of the sash windows upstairs and down. The living room windows at right front are grouped three in a common frame; the other windows are set singly in the stucco surface and are nine- or twelve-over-one-lights.

Allusions to the bungalow style, in addition to the low-pitched gable and brackets, are the open-frame gable apron and the exposed rafters under all lateral eaves. The projecting joist ends are another reference to frame construction. The plain bargeboards have in-curved, square-bottomed terminations. The original drawings show the porch as open, but except for this change (which must be early if it is a change at all) the house appears as designed.

#### SIGNIFICANCE:

The Edward Welch House is architecturally significant as a very unusual use of stucco in combination with the bungalow style. The design fits its siting on a corner lot on a quiet residential street a block north of the more pretentious Warm Springs Avenue; the interesting plan has an inset corner entrance almost equidistant from living room, dining room, kitchen, and stair.

The use of stucco had appeared in the work of the firm in 1910, in a now-altered Catholic church in Nampa, and in 1911 in two impressive Boise residential commissions, both of which stand in National Register historic districts: the mammoth colonial Bond residence on Harrison Boulevard, and the more elegant and Mediterranean Will Regan house on Warm Springs Avenue. Both of these houses are surfaced overall with smooth stucco and are tile roofed. This flirtation with missionesque forms on important commissions appears rarely in the firm's work, with the exception of the Welch house and, to a less degree, the Neal house remodeling (site 83), until the late 1910s and 1920s. At that time these forms reappeared in a number of projects which are largely unrepresented in the Thematic Group: in subsequent Catholic institutional buildings and a commercial garage in Nampa; in a country club, a public school park gate, an Egyptian Theatre (National Register, 1974), and Frederick Hummel's remodeled bungalow (site 121) for Boise; in remodeled banks in Caldwell and Weiser; and, at the humblest scale, in a series of little gas stations and shop buildings in a number of area towns (see site 119).

The Welch house shows its affiliation with the mission style primarily through the overall use of stucco. Aside from this, the most interesting and exotic element of the Welch house is the porch. Porches akin to it, but more conventional, appear on the Neal house remodeling (site 83). The Welch example is reminiscent of much commercial mission design of the period--little storefronts with tiled pent roofs spilling down between corner piers. The porch windows somewhat anticipate a slightly more complex kind of shouldered opening which the firm would use a great deal in the late 1920s. It was used on the Egyptian Theatre and shows up also on the F. C. Hummel house remodeling. The hand of the draftsman for the Welch house drawings is strongly reminiscent of that elsewhere identified as Frederick Hummel's. This eldest son of Charles Hummel was responsible for the Egyptian and his own residential remodeling project, and probably for the other missionesque designs of the 1920s as well.

#### MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

(Boise) Idaho Statesman, September 10, 1912, p. 4, c. 6.

Boise, Idaho. Boise City Building Permit, November 30, 1912.

Boise, Idaho. Hummel Jones Miller Hunsucker P.A. File 408D. Collection and drawing loan book references 1912-13. Frederick Hummel retrospective file. Tracings signed Tourtellotte and Hummel.