

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

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

✓ SITE NAME: Fleharty, Alva, House SITE NUMBER: 16

✓ LOCATION: 907 Hays Street, Boise, Ada County (001), Idaho

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

James Francis Griffin
705 North Ninth
Boise, ID 83702

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Alva Fleharty House and the property on which it stands, lot 11, block 84, Boise City Original Townsite. Legal description on file at the Ada County Courthouse, Boise, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11,5,64,620/48,29,950

DATE OR PERIOD: 1902

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: good unaltered original site

DESCRIPTION:

The one-and-a-half-story Alva Fleharty House shows elements of both shingled colonial and Queen Anne styles. A large two-slope roof with lateral ridgebeam covers most of the rectangular plan, extending down over the inset front porch and producing large shingled side gables with pent, though not close, eaves. But the facade is dominated by an outset two-story polygonal bay at right. The three forward angles of the bay are pierced with double-hung sash windows on both levels; the ridgebeam from the partial tent roof covering the front of the bay runs straight back to the main ridgebeam of the house.

Further asymmetry is provided by a small decorative gabled attic dormer above the porch and to the left of the bay; it contains a small lateral rectangular light, topped as are all other windows on the house with a molded head (here with an elongated wooden keystone). All vertical surfaces on the upper story are covered with shaped shingles. Broad rows of diamond cuts alternate with narrow rows of half-octagonals. There are single rows of square shingles at the flared lower edges.

The porch that gives access to the main entrance at left is supported on plain square posts with simple molding strips suggesting capitals and bases. A slightly flared extension of the roof pushes a short distance forward over the porch; a short length of pent eave returns along the side. The gabled overdoor of the left rear entrance is an addition. The rear dormer, which extends the usable attic space, does not appear in the original drawings and is probably an early improvement.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Fleharty house is architecturally significant as another late Queen Anne style house with an unusual profile. It shows some evidence of hybridization with the shingled colonial style in the simplification of the roof, with its lateral ridge-beam and two main slopes. The front slope is broken by a conspicuous two-story tent-roofed bay. This bay is not matched in any other documented Tourtellotte and Company commission, although a house built for F. A. De Clark in Emmett, one of the architectural landmarks of that town and possessed of a similar outset bay, is a possible sibling whose origin cannot be proven. (The Tourtellotte and Company records show a collection for an unspecified obligation from De Clark in 1907, but that is the only link beside the visual one.) The Queen Anne eclectic house at 907 Hays maintains in addition to its bay such solid Queen Anne attributes as contrasting sidings, fancy-cut shingles, and elongated keystones, while also adopting the big side gables and pent eaves of the shingled colonial style. It is unique in the Group.

Alva Fleharty was a foreman in the newspaper department of the Statesman who built his house in 1902 for a reported cost of \$2,000 and by 1904 had moved to San Francisco. Harrison Bryan and H. A. Palmer were the builders.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

(Boise) Idaho Daily Statesman, August 1, 1902, p. 5, c. 2; August 9, 1902, p. 5, c. 2; August 23, 1902, p. 5, c. 2; January 1, 1903, p. 5, c. 7.

Polk and Company. Boise City Directories. 1902-1903, 1904.

Boise, Idaho. Hummel Jones Miller Hunsucker, P.A. File 403F. Drawings signed John E. Tourtellotte and Company.