

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

NOMINATION: TOURTELLOTTE AND HUMMEL ARCHITECTURE IN ~~IDAHO~~ ^{TR}

SITE NAME: Nixon, Axel, House

SITE NUMBER: 22

LOCATION: 815 ~~West~~ Hays Street, Boise, Ada County (~~001~~), ~~Idaho~~

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

James M. and Lorna B. Auld
P. O. Nox 7491
Boise, ID 83707

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Boise South, 7.5 minute

ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Axel Nixon House and the property on which it stands, lot 9, block 89, Boise City Original Townsite. Legal description on file at the Ada County Courthouse, Boise, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/5,64,710/48,29,900

DATE OR PERIOD: 1903

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: fair

altered

original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Axel Nixon House is a small Queen Anne cottage and an elaboration on a small and very simple hip-and-ridge-roofed block. The ridgebeam runs front to back, and the roof that flows down from it is deeply flared at the eaves. A flared hip-and-ridge dormer, shingled-sided and with a pair of small square lights, emerges at the center front. Below it and to the left is a broad, tent-roofed, beveled bay with a coffered base, broad divisions between the windows, and multiple lights in the upper center one. To the right of the bay is an outset porch with a small flared gable containing a sunburst cantilevered slightly over high-necked Tuscan columns and low shingled walls. On the left side of the house is a very shallow bay; over this opens a large gabled attic dormer that is matched by another on the opposite side.

The presence of dormer windows implies a habitable attic, and indeed the contemporary newspaper report was of a one-and-a-half-story cottage, but the attic was designed to be open. Despite the low profile of the house, the attic is now in partial use. There are several rear porches, and a wooden stair to a rear balcony is certainly an addition. An element of uncertain derivation is the secondary front door, outset into the porch space just to the right of the main entrance.

This door and the small enclosure behind it do not appear on the original drawings, but the siding appears identical to that of the rest of the house. The siding is shiplap, corner-framed, with broad strips of molding under the eaves.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Axel Nixon House is architecturally significant as a late Queen Anne cottage that achieves a very picturesque profile by elaborating the roofline of a one-story house. The house is little altered beyond reshingling of the roof, and it maintains a stylish presence on a mid-block lot at the edge of a homogenous early residential area near the minor commercial development (gas stations, offices) that has grown up on the thoroughfare of North Eighth Street.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOURCES:

(Boise) Idaho Daily Statesman, January 28, 1903, p. 5, c. 4.

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

Boise Idaho. Hummel Jones Miller Hunsucker P.A. File 406E. Tracing signed John E. Tourtellotte.