

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

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

SITE NAME: George Spencer house (Paris M.F.R.) SITE # 11

LOCATION: Northeast corner of Center Street and North First East

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Hyrum G. Johnson, c/o Jay Chandler, Paris, ID 83261

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: includes the former Spencer house and property on which it stands: T-2234, s.w. portion lot 5, block 7, Paris Original Townsite

UTM(S): 12/4, 67, 250/46, 74, 875

DATE OR PERIOD: 1880 EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture

Fair condition unaltered original site

DESCRIPTION:

The former Spencer house is a brick structure with several distinct parts, constructed of pale salmon-coloured brick throughout. The main section, on the right or east side, is a full two-story, gable-roofed rectangular block. Its narrow end faces south onto Center Street. The main entry is to the left with two evenly spaced two-over-two sash windows to the right. The pattern is repeated upstairs with a balcony door at left and two windows at right. The second main section of the house is a one-story gabled ell, filling the intersection and giving access to a right-of-center ell entry. The rear intersection of ell and main block is filled with a low, hip-roofed section; it has its own entrance on the rear wall.

Ornament on the house is sober but fine. All openings are bridged with segmental arches, squared at the tops of the header courses. All sills are outset. There is a double-width corbelled brick chimney centered on the ridgebeam. The main entry door contains a pair of round arched panels, the balcony above it is reached from a pair of French doors, each with a vertical strip of lights. The present metal balcony clearly replaces an early wooden one, the brackets for which are still extant. The wooden porch posts are slender and square-cut, with tall bases, non-derivative capitals and scroll-sawn brackets. There is a small square window with a clear Queen Anne border in the hipped rear section. Smooth bed moldings line the eaves on all sections of the house.

The end chimney on the lateral ell has been rebuilt, or its corbel lost. The house is vacant and in disrepair, with building material being salvaged from it.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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George Spencer house

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Spencer house is architecturally significant as one of very few full two-story houses extant in Paris and as the oldest constructed in glazed brick. Its L-shaped arrangement of tall and short units is not unique among local houses of this period, but the scale, material and the assymetrical disposition of window and door openings in the gable end are atypical. The Bear Lake Democrat announced the existence of this house in 1880, which also serves to push back the date of a local brickyard. The fine masonry work was apparently achieved without the hands of the professional Swiss masons who came to Paris in 1884. The porch woodwork, elegant but noticeably uncomplicated, probably came from the local planing mill, the posts being similar but more delicate than those on the Smedley house (site #10).