

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

NOMINATION: Historic Resources of Paris (Partial Inventory: Architecture)SITE NAME: Sam Athay house SITE # 43LOCATION: 20 West Second North, Paris, IdahoOWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Mignon Shepherd, c/o P. Kendall Life Estate, Paris, ID 83261QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Paris 7.5 minute ACREAGE: less than one acreVERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Nomination includes former Sam Athay house at 20 West Second north: lot 7, north of block 15, Paris Original Townsite.UTM(S): 12/4, 66, 900/46, 75, 355DATE OR PERIOD: late 19th century EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: localAREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: ArchitectureDESCRIPTION:

Good condition	Altered	Original site
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The former Athay house presents a Queen Anne appearance, although it has at its core a one-story rectangular frame block with laterally-running ridgebeam. This simple form is elaborated by a tent-roofed half-octagonal ell at left front, and at the intersection a shed-roofed porch on which most of the ornament treatment is concentrated. The porch is supported on turned posts. A small pedimentally-treated gable rises above a shallow perforated arch-screen, set between two posts which approach the pair of front doors. (One door gives access to the main block, and one to the front ell.) Further decorative treatment of the entry porch includes spindle-work under the eaves, engaged corner posts, and shaped shingles in the gable and shed-end. The same fish-scale shingles appear in the main gables.

There is an additional ell and an east-facing secondary entrance porch at right rear. The rear porch is supported on plain square posts. The house is sided with shiplap and is nicely-maintained. Remodeled windows are the only conspicuous alteration.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Athay house is architecturally significant for its relatively unusual shape and distinct but modest Queen Anne tendencies. Its design nearly follows that of the J. R. Shepherd house with octagonal projection, spindled porch, tapered posts and pedimental overdoor. Beyond that, the comparison fails since the two are of such different scale. The broad vertical pause of the roof of the lateral block is counteracted by the low brow of the porch, which partially conceals the front window. This makes the perforated arch of the entry seem more revealing of the doorway. The arch is an imitation of the spindle-laden portières found in architectural catalogues of the nineties, the effect reproduced here in simple form.

Sam Athay was a native of Paris, born in 1872. After a time as a farmer, Sam and his wife Margaret managed the Paris Hotel from its opening in 1918 to 1926.