

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

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

✓ SITE NAME: Marks, M. J., House

SITE NUMBER: 67

✓ LOCATION: 1001 Hays Street, Boise, Ada County (001), ~~Idaho~~

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

John D. and Elizabeth B. Archer
Trustees for Elizabeth D. Archer
P. O. Box 8031
Salt Lake City, Utah 84108

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Boise South, 7-5 minute

ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the M. J. Marks House and the property on which it stands, north 72 feet of east 33 1/3 feet of lot 11, north 72 feet of lot 12, block 81, Boise City Original Townsite. Legal description on file at Ada County Courthouse, Boise, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/5,64,540/48,30,20

DATE OR PERIOD: 1910

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: good

unaltered

original site

DESCRIPTION:

The M. J. Marks House is a colonial revival style house with bungalow features on the southwest corner of Tenth and Hays streets. The plan is two full stories high, with a low-pitched roof with exposed rafter ends and hipped porches outset toward both streets. The first story is veneered with random-coursed rock-faced stone, which is also the material for the porch walls and parapets and the exterior chimney on the Tenth Street side. The second story is flared and veneered with dark-stained square shingles. A single hip-and-ridge attic dormer emerges from the front slope, directly below the short lateral ridgebeam of the main roof.

The porches are supported on turned wooden columns. The main entry porch on the Hays Street side is the smaller of the two; the Tenth Street porch, the entrance to which is approximately centered on the elevation, extends on the right to the corner of the house. There is also a one-story enclosed porch outset at right rear, as well as an inset sleeping porch on the second story. The outset porch does not appear on the original drawings, but that and the wire screening of the side porch are the only points of divergence from the drawings so far as the exterior is concerned. Second-story windows are generally double-hung sash; the main living room window has multiple upper lights.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Marks house is architecturally significant as a large colonial revival residence of unusual stylistic interest. Its plan is almost exactly square, its horizontal and vertical aspects are almost exactly balanced. Most of the strams of stylisitic influence popularly available in Boise at this point are to be found here. The now-basic classical taste is evident in the symmetrical hip-roofed profile, well matched to the more pretentious profile of the neighboring Daly house (site 64) and by the classicizing porch supports. The bungalow mode is evident in the broad pitching of the roofs, exposure of rafters, and the general rustic aesthetic. (The contemporary newspaper account confirms this observation. For example, the house is desicribed as "plain, sensible and home-like in appearance,"¹ and the entry hall, living room, and dining room are described as open-planned in the bungalow manner, with a "wide colonnade"² connecting hall and living room and sliding doors connecting living and dining rooms.) Even the Queen Anne style, then on its last legs in Boise, is alluded to in the textural mix and the flared second story.

This house was designed, and reported at unusual length in the local press, in the fall of 1910. The client was Moses J. Marks, a member of Boise's small but prominent Jewish community. Marks was a German immigrant who came to America in 1849 and Boise in 1900. He was a member of B'nai Brith, president of Temple Beth Israel, and, with his sons Jacob, Isaac, and Samuel, proprietor of Marks Clothing Store on Main Street. The entire family, which also included Marks's wife and daughter Rose, appear to have occupied the Hays Street house.

The plan was executed by contractors McPhee & Blair for a projefted price of about \$7,000.

1. (Boise) Idaho Statesman, November 20, 1910, p. 10, c. 1-4.
2. Ibid.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

(Boise) Idaho Statesman, June 19, 1910, p. 16, c. 1-5; August 7, 1910, p. 8, c. 1; November 20, 1910, p. 10, c. 1-4; March 3, 1911, p. 3, c. 4 (sketch).

Polk and Company. Boise City Directories. 1911, 1912.

Boise, Idaho. Hummel Jones Miller Hunsucker P.A. File 408C. Collection and drawing loan book references 1910 and 1911. Tracings signed Tourtellotte and Hummel.