

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

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

✓ SITE NAME: Numbers, Dr. J. R., House SITE NUMBER: 38

✓ LOCATION: 240 ~~West~~ Main Street, Weiser, Washington County ~~(087), Idaho~~

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Margaret E. Dillon  
240 West Main Street  
Weiser, ID 83672

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Dr. J. R. Numbers House and the property on which it stands, lots 16-17, east 26 1/2 feet of lot 18, block 30, Watlington's addition, Weiser, Idaho. Legal description on file at the Washington County Courthouse, Weiser, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/5,02,250/48,99,140

DATE OR PERIOD: 1905

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: excellent unaltered original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Dr. J. R. Numbers House in Weiser is a colonial revival boxy style building, symmetrically planned with a pyramidal hipped roof and hip-and-ridge porches and dormers.

The house is approached through a cross-facade porch with parapets, walls, and pillars of stone. The stone is generally random-coursed and rock-faced, but in the case of the conspicuous central posts which support the overdoor, it is solid and rough-hewn with rough capitals. The overdoor is an outset gable with a recessed panel of ceiling strips behind a framework reminiscent of decorative half-timber gable treatments. The body of the house is brick on the first story. The plan is approximately square except for the polygonal beveled bays outset from the left front and right rear--the library and dining room bays, respectively. The library bay is extended upward in a shallow, square second-story bay; the side bay is roofed. Stone window sills and beveled-glass upper sections in the transom and large central window elements are decorative additions on the first story. An upper stone sill, or continuous lintel, runs around the building at windowtop level

and visually separates the stories. Further distinguishing them are the flared base of the second floor and the shaped shingle veneer that extends from base to eave in alternating bands of five fancy cuts. The hipped attic dormers that extend front and rear are also shingle-sided and contain a horizontal band of small tripled windows under their heavy lateral eaves. Windows are generally double-hung sash.

The house has slightly outset rear and side porches as well as the full front porch. The small side porch, with an overdoor matching that on the front, provided an approach to a secondary entrance set into one facet of the dining room bay. A similar entrance that now appears on the right side of the front bay does not appear on the original drawings. This and with the probably replacement of the front steps, which are now concrete with a wrought iron center rail, represent the only points of divergence between the drawings and the exterior as it now appears.

#### SIGNIFICANCE:

The Numbers house is architecturally significant as one of several early examples of the colonial revival style with a boxy massing (see also sites 34, 38, 39, and 67). It is one that like its contemporaries the Coffin and Glorieux houses, displays characteristics of the waning Queen Anne, but also shows the greater horizontality and rusticity of the colonial style. The Numbers house, with its rich materials and perfect state of preservation, is an example of this style unmatched in the Group; its only peer would be the Davidson house in the Warm Springs Historic District, a 1906 Tourtellotte and Company design. The Numbers house is particularly outstanding in its local context. There is nothing to compare it stylistically in Weiser, where Queen Anne, Queen Anne-colonial, and bungalow houses are the rule. A comparison of this house with the oversized bungalow built for B. S. Varian in Weiser in 1909 (site 63) does suggest the same rustic aesthetic.

Dr. Joseph Numbers, who had migrated to Weiser from the Midwest in 1888, established Weiser's first hospital in the same year he built his house. He was mayor of Weiser from 1907 to 1909.

#### MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Hibbard, Don. Weiser: A Look at Idaho Architecture. Boise: Idaho State Historic Preservation Office, 1978, p. 14.

Boise, Idaho. Hummel Jones Miller Hunsucker P.A. File 406F. Tracings signed John E. Tourtellotte and Company.