

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

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

✓ SITE NAME: Nesbit, G. V., House

SITE NUMBER: 62

✓ LOCATION: 308 ~~West~~ Liberty, Weiser, Washington County ~~(087), Idaho 83672~~

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Mearl E. Taylor
308 West Liberty
Weiser, Idaho 83672

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the G. H. Nesbit House and the property on which it stands, lots 11-14, block 5, Fruitvale Addition. Legal description on file at the Washington County Courthouse, Weiser, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/5,02,250/48,99,350

DATE OR PERIOD: 1909

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: excellent

unaltered

original site

DESCRIPTION:

The G. V. Nesbit House in Weiser is a double-level bungalow, a full two stories in height and further removed from the usual modesty of the style by the presence of a two-story gabled cross-wing. The main block is hipped rather than gabled to the rear of the cross-wing, and beyond it there is a hip-roofed, outset, two-story sleeping porch.

Siding is narrow clapboards. The front-facing gables of the main block and the overdoor are filled with square shingles. The main upper gable also displays large figure-four brackets, half-timber strips, and a pair of small, square, diamond-mullioned attic lights. The entry is right of center, and the simple overdoor in front of it is supported on square posts. Rafters are exposed on both porch and main roof. To the left of the entrance is a tripartite sitting-room window with narrow sashes on the sides and a large central element with a narrow upper section of geometric panes. The square hall window to the right of the entry is similarly segmented, and so are the rectangular lights in the shed-roofed sections in the intersections of the cross-wing on either side of the main block. Upper facade windows, one tall and one short, are simple sash, as are the other second-story windows. There is one corbelled brick interior chimney.

The original drawings show this house with a wraparound porch-balcony extending across the front and along both side elevations. It is possible that the porches were built and removed; however, since the pitch of the present porch gable corresponds closely to that of the main structure and is lined with matching shingles, and since an apparently original window is set above it where the drawing calls for a balcony door, it seems probable that the porches were never built. All existing material is apparently early and unaltered. The site is enhanced by a stone retaining wall along the front and side of the slightly elevated corner lot.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The G. V. Nesbit House in Weiser is architecturally significant as an elaborate double-level bungalow, an unusual style which extends to a second story the typical low-gabled, exposed-raftered form, here seen with a gable front for the first time in the Group. It is the only example of the type in the Group, and the only one in Weiser; there are several, by unknown architects, in Boise. This house is made the more pretentious by the presence of a gabled cross wing. It would have been more pretentious still, indeed perhaps almost unrecognizable, if the two-story porches designed for it were in position.

George V. Nesbit was a Weiser area rancher and a director of the First National Bank of Weiser who had this house built when he moved to town in 1909.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

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

Boise, Idaho. Hummel Jones Miller Hunsucker P.A. File 406E. Collection book references to George V. Nesbit, 1909. Drawings signed John E. Tourtellotte and Company.