

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

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

✓ SITE NAME: Haas, Herman, House ✓ SITE NUMBER: 12

✓ LOCATION: 253 ~~West~~ Idaho Street, Weiser, Washington County ~~(087), Idaho~~

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Bonnie Lou Maddox
1029 West Sixth
Weiser, ID 83672

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Herman Haas House and the property on which it stands, lots 1-5, block 13, Watlington's addition to Weiser, Idaho. Legal description on file at the Washington County Courthouse, Weiser, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/5,02,170/48,99,20

DATE OR PERIOD: 1900

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

CONDITION: fair unaltered original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Herman Haas House is a two-story structure, brick below and shingle above, in a full-blown Queen Anne-classical style. The core of the house is hip-roofed, with a short front-to-back ridgebeam embellished (as are all the upper end points of the roof) with metal hip knobs. Three shallow outsets extend from the main block of the house. A two-story, arcaded, beveled bay on the east has a tent roof; a curved bay on the west has a gable roof; and an outset on the left of the facade has a gable roof with returning eaves. A broad hip-roofed porch curves around the entire front of the house, from the west outset to the east. The entrance to the porch is right of center and marked by a small gable.

Above and to the right of the entrance is the most picturesque feature of the house, a gazebo-like second-story porch with a conical turret roof capped by a metal finial and weathervane. The turret is embellished with a garlanded frieze and with the angular modillions and slender Doric columns that are the dominant and notably classical motifs of the house. The modillions, set over broad molding bands, underline the entire expanse of eaves on the second story as well as those of the extensive porch. The columns recur all around the porch, in spaced pairs linked by ranges of spindle-work balusters and in groups of three at the outset

entrance to the porch. Miniature columns in a schematic version of the order divide the three sections of the small Palladiansque dimple window in the shingled front gable.

The Haas house retains very fine detail. Stone trim on the downstairs windows, beveled and stained glass upper panes, and well-preserved interior woodwork are all significant features. The house is structurally unaltered except for the concrete front steps and a recently enclosed rear porch: the surface is intact except for the painting of the brick and installation of plastic storm panes.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Haas house is architecturally significant as the largest and most imposing Tourtellotte and Company house in Weiser that is fully in the Queen Anne style. While the house shows strong signs of the classicizing impulse that would eventually reform and replace the style, the creative imbalance provided by the front gabled outset, and particularly by the turreted second-story gazebo with its fanciful frieze, is stronger still. By comparison, for example, with the slightly later Sommercamp house (site 25), the Haas house is quite Queen Anne; by comparison with the Elwell house (site 12), it is quite pretentious.

Herman Haas was a German immigrant and a partner with his brother Bernard in the Haas Hardware and Implement Company.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

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

(Weiser) Weiser Signal, April 12, 1900, p. 7, c. 1; April 26, 1900, p. 7, c. 1, August 2, 1900, p. 7, c. 1.