

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

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

✓ SITE NAME: Cavanah, C. C., House

SITE NUMBER: 39

✓ LOCATION: 107 ~~East Idaho Street~~, Boise, Ada County ~~(001), Idaho~~

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

House of Flowers, Inc.
107 East Idaho Street
Boise, ID 83702

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Boise South, 7.5 minute

ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the C. C. Cavanah House and the property on which it stands, the east 20 feet of lot 3 and lot 4, block 1, John Krall's Addition to Boise. Legal description on file at the Ada County Courthouse, Boise, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/5,65,100/48,28,870

DATE OR PERIOD: 1906

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: good

unaltered

original site

DESCRIPTION:

The 1906 C. C. Cavanah House is a two-story frame colonial style house. The body is generally cubical, with a low-pitched pyramidal roof. The entry porch is outset, cross-facade, with a broadly hipped roof supported on squared columns. The entrance is left-of-center on the facade, approached by a flight of steps parapeted with the same rough random-coursed stone used for the foundations of the house. The porch on either side of the steps is enclosed by a low, square-membered wood balustrade.

Siding materials for this house is clapboard on the first story and square shingles on the second and on the hipped attic dormer that emerges at the center front. A chimney with geometric elaboration in the form of a long reverse-corbelled channel at first-floor level, cut stone shoulders where it narrows for the second floor, and outset bricks and corbelling at the top, is slightly outset from the east side wall. The rectilinearity of the plan is varied by the outseting of a beveled dining room bay on the left rear side and by the flared base of the shingled upper story. A small outset porch at right rear was also included in the plan.

The residential floor plan of the house is now obscured by its conversion to commercial space. Originally the plan was an unusual rejection of the standard Victorian stairhall-entry arrangement. The front door let directly into the sitting room; the stairs were pushed back behind the first tier of rooms. Externally, the house is unaltered except for the minor remodeling of the front steps with indoor-outdoor carpet and a wrought-iron rail.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Cavanah house is architecturally significant as a boxy representative of the colonial style house rendered in frame and in a very straightforward manner. It is less pretentious than the other early examples in the Group (sites 34, 37, 38, 39, and 40), and in its directness it more closely resembles a standard type, not necessarily architect-designed, of middle-class architecture of the period. Like the Numbers house (site 38) and the 1909 Marks residence (site 67), the Cavanah house with its low-pitched roofs and greater symmetry shows the impact of the bungalow aesthetic. To a greater degree than those more elaborate houses--particularly the Numbers house--the Cavanah example shows a marked modesty of treatment. In a reverse of the history of the Davis house (site 40), where a more rustic plan was made more formal in execution by substitution of classicizing elements, the Cavanah plans show a greater pretentiousness than does the house as built: they call for the formality of stylized Tuscan columns and the substantial look of brick veneer. The plain posts and wood siding actually used are heralds of a more democratic aesthetic.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

(Boise) Idaho Daily Statesman, April 19, 1906, p. 5, c. 2; December 30, 1906, p. ?, c. ?.

Polk and Company. Boise City Directory. 1909.

Boise, Idaho. Hummel Jones Miller Hunsucker P.A. File 402D. Collection book reference to C. C. Cavanah in 1906. Tracings signed John E. Tourtellotte and Company.

Boise, Idaho. Idaho State Historical Society. Biographical file.