

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

NOMINATION: (TOURTELLOTTE AND HUMMEL ARCHITECTURE ~~IN IDAHO~~ (7R))

✓ SITE NAME: Kieldson Double House ✓ SITE NUMBER: 21

✓ LOCATION: 413-415 Jefferson Street, Boise, Ada County (001), ~~Idaho 83702~~

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Richard B. and Frank Church
Attn: Developers Assistance Company
1419 Bannock, Space C
Boise, ID 83702

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Kieldson Double House and the property on which it stands, west 44 feet 2 inches, lot 9, block 57, Boise City Original Townsite. Legal description on file at the Ada County Courthouse, Boise, Idaho.

UTM(S): 1/5,64,820/48,29,310

DATE OR PERIOD: 1903

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: excellent unaltered original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Kieldson Double House is a two-story brick and stone structure in a style that draws on late medieval and early Renaissance elements. It is flat-roofed, with an emphatic corbel table in stepped brick. Generally rectangular in plan, it has two prominent two-story bays, one on either side of the front elevation, each with an unembellished wall outset from the side elevation and a three-sided beveled bay outset toward the street. Each half of the structure was originally designed as a single-family dwelling. The main entrances are side by side between the projecting bays under a porch with a hipped roof (now covered by a shed roof) supported on slender Doric columns, two on each side and two in the middle. The columns rest in turn on shingled walls. The porch is approached by a broad common stair.

The building fabric is moderately polychromatic brick on a raised rock-facing stone basement; the window levels are demarcated by continuous bands of cut stone sills and lintels. The narrow upper sections of the central bay windows downstairs are filled with beveled and leaded glass. Windows on the sidewalls are segmentally arched. Outset porches containing kitchen porches below and sleeping porches above were designed for the rear.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Kieldson Double House has architectural significance as an outstanding example of the kind of non-detached residential space which was being built at an accelerating rate in rapidly growing post-1900 Boise. These buildings represent not only a response to demographic conditions but also a repository of styles. This Thematic Group, for example, includes the Kieldson house, followed by the medieval/Renaissance Revival Jones Apartments of the 1904-1911 (site 30), the bungalowoid Wolters Double House of 1908 (site 51), the Georgian revival Eichelberger Apartments of 1910 (site 65), and the stylized neo-Georgian revival Wellman Apartments of 1929 (site 118). The style of the Kieldson terrace is not unique among surviving early Boise apartment houses, but none others of the style survive in anything like this state of preservation. The double house is probably best compared to a blocky brick house with a big wood-columned porch built for T. B. Woodcock in 1906 (National Register, Boise Historic District, 1977). Even that handsome and well-preserved building cannot match the Kieldson house for elegance of detail, in the contrast of the cut stone and beveled and leaded glass with the polychromatic brick.

Louis Kieldson was a Boise builder--listed as a mason in the 1903 Boise City Directory and as a contractor thereafter--who built this double house in 1903. In 1905 he built a detached dwelling next door, a particularly elegant Western shingle style house (site 35). It appears that he lived in the first until moving into the second. As often happened with residential clients, Kieldson as entrepreneur later provided Tourtellotte and Hummel with several good-sized commercial commissions: the Central Hotel, which he capitalized in 1912, and the Kieldson and Stevens Theatre in 1913. Neither survives. His 1903 terrace was built at a reported cost of \$6,000.

MAJOR BIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

(Boise) Idaho Daily Statesman. January 1, 1904, p. 6, c. 3.

Polk and Company. Boise City Directories. 1903-1908.

Boise, Idaho. Hummel Jones Miller Hunsucker P.A. File 405C. Drawings signed John E. Tourtellotte and Company.