

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

NOMINATION: (TOURTELLOTTE AND HUMMEL ARCHITECTURE IN IDAHO TR)

SITE NAME: Johnson, J. M., House.

SITE NUMBER: 2

LOCATION: 1002 Franklin, Boise, Ada County (001), Idaho

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Frederic W. Constant  
107 Burnham Road  
Lake Oswego, OR 97034

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Boise South, 7.5 minute

ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the J. M. Johnson House and the property on which it stands, lot 6, e. 2' lot 6, block 81, Boise City Original Townsite. Legal description at Ada County Courthouse, Boise.

UTM(S): 11/5,64,520/48,29,960

DATE OR PERIOD: 1898

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: Good condition

unaltered

original site

DESCRIPTION:

The J. M. Johnson House, on the northwest corner of Eleventh and Hays Streets, is a single-story Queen Anne cottage, the irregular outlines of which enclose an approximately square space. The gabled main block is set parallel to Hays Street. A gabled ell with a lower ridgebeam extends streetward at left front. An outset corner porch emerges on the diagonal from a curved wall spanning the intersection of the ell and main block. Each of the flanking wings terminates in a beveled window bay. A hipped-roofed side porch shelters the rightmost light of the Eleventh Street bay as well as the secondary entrance immediately to the right of it. A low hip-roofed section is at right rear, an inset back porch at left rear; a rear attic gable is set above and between them. A corbelled brick chimney rises behind the porch.

The decorative treatment of the house contributes to its irregular and inventive aspect. The three gables that dominated the oblique view are all filled with shaped singles, and all employ flared lower edges and eaves returns, but they are otherwise varied. The large gable on the right has a solid shingled apron over a

rectangular sash window. The smaller gable at left is apronless with a small dimple window elaborated by an elongated, stylized wooden keystone. The porch gable emerging from the hipped porch roof is flattened and unadorned but for its shingles and returns.

Ornamentation also includes broad wooden modillions set under the free corners of the gables and above coffered pilasters. These appear on either side of the bays. The supports for the front porch and its gabled approach and for the side porch on Eleventh Street are round wooden posts with flattened abaci and bases. The surface of the house is shiplap between its shingled gables and shingled skirt, with panels above and below the bay windows. The upper sections of the main central windows in both bays contain beveled and leaded glass in a diamond pattern, with stained glass fleur de lis set into the middle range of panes.

#### SIGNIFICANCE:

The Johnson House is architecturally significant as a modest version of the Queen Anne cottage produced by John Tourtellotte in independent practice before the turn of the century. It is an example possessed of ornament that is unusually fine though far less flamboyant than the ornament of the Pierce-Borah House (site 1). The house occupies its original site in Boise's Near North End, and hence it is among the earliest representatives of a remarkable cluster of residential designs (as well as ecclesiastical and educational ones--see the St. John's Cathedral Block, site 37, and Boise High School, site 49) produced by the firm in this section of Boise just before and after the turn of the century.

J. M. Johnson was a sheep and wool dealer. His house was built in 1898 at a reported cost of \$2,300.

#### MAJOR BIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Boise City Directories. Polk and Company. 1899, 1902-1903.

(Boise) Evening Capital News. August 30, 1902, supplement, p. 6 (photograph).

(Boise) Idaho Daily Statesman, January 1, 1899, p. 6, c. 1-2.