

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

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

✓ SITE NAME: Smith, Nathan, House

SITE NUMBER: 9

✓ LOCATION: ~~Southwest corner~~ Broadway and Targhee, Boise, Ada County (001), Idaho

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Alvin C. Baker
2315 Broadway
Boise, ID 83706

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Boise south, 7.5 minute

ACREAGE: two and one-half acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Nathan Smith House and the property on which it stands, the block bounded by Targhee, Broadway, Melrose, and Denver streets, Boise, Idaho. Legal description on file at the Ada County Courthouse, Boise, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/5,65,120/48,25,580

DATE OR PERIOD: 1900

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: good

unaltered

original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Nathan Smith House is a one-and-a-half-story shingled colonial structure with a large, laterally oriented gable roof, the two slopes of which cover the entire enclosed space except for the large porch-dormer emerging at front center and the rear sleeping porch. The surface treatment is striking: the gables and dormer are covered with shaped shingles, the lower story with cobblestones. The gables have double pent eaves supported, as are all the horizontal eaves, on simply cut scroll-like modillions. Above the upper gable and pents the roof eaves are deep, and they frame dimple windows with curved hoods. The eaves and window treatment also occurs on the porch dormer gable. Below the gable pent, the roof eaves are close. On either side of the house are one-story beveled bays subsumed under extensions of the lower gable end pent; above it, the bay is only slightly outset. Forward from the bays on the side walls are diamond-shaped attic lights.

The large dormer that forms an open porch on the second story has a broad segmental-arched opening across the front, supported on short squared Tuscan posts. On

the sides are oval openings; in the front is a plain balustrade. The porch is inset and crosses the facade. The cobble-covered supports are battered in form.

The only modern alterations are two brick chimneys, one interior and one on the north exterior of the house. The clapboard upstairs sleeping porch at left rear does not show in the original drawing but appears to be early or even original because the modillioned upper pent extends to cover it.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Smith house is architecturally significant as the largest and most flamboyant of the Tourtellotte firm's early shingled colonial-style houses. The house is elaborated not only with unusually active treatment of the shingled upper gables--with hooded dimple windows, modillioned pent eaves, and the basket-arched balcony in the front dormer--but also by overall veneering of the first story with Boise River cobblestones. This local material, which gives a curiously vernacular air to the house, was recognized as unique at the time and is now locally represented only by several cobblestone cottages on the banks of the Boise River and by the O. F. Short House on the outskirts of Eagle [National Register, May 23, 1980].

The battered posts of the cross-facade porch look forward to the bungalow style, which appears in clear form in Boise only several years later (and then as a direct import from California during the brief tenure in Boise of Los Angeles architect J. Flood Walker). These forms, therefore, and indeed the bungaloid character of the shingled colonial style houses in general, seem to anticipate the bungalow.

The grounds of the Smith house are the large open lawns with mature trees typical of a fine farmstead. Situated as they are in full view of a major arterial in and out of the city, they add greatly to the visual impact of the house and the sense of time and place it preserves.

Nathan Smith was a fruit grower living just south of what was then the village of South Boise. His house reportedly cost \$3,000.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Hibbard, Don J., "Domestic Architecture in Boise, 1904-1912: A Study in Styles," Idaho Yesterdays (Fall 1978), 22/3:2-9.

(Boise) Idaho Daily Statesman, April 8, 1900, p. 4, c. 3; August 27, 1900, p. 7, c. 1; January 1, 1901, p. 9, c. 3.

Polk and Company. Boise City Directory, 1899.

Boise, Idaho. Hummel Jones Miller Hunsucker P. A. File 407 G. Original tracings, unnamed and unsigned.