

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

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

SITE NAME: Larsen, Archie, House

SITE NUMBER: 71

LOCATION: ~~Weiser vic.~~ on Larsen Road, ^S south of Weiser, Washington County ~~(087), Idaho~~

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Glendon Jacobs
Route #2, Box 8
Weiser, ID 83672

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Weiser South, 7.5 minute

ACREAGE: 1.5 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Archie Larsen House and the property on which it stands, tax 4, section 21, T10N, R5W, Washington County, Idaho. Legal description on file at the Washington County Courthouse, Weiser, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/5,05,210/48,93,370

DATE OR PERIOD: 1910

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: good unaltered original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Archie Larsen House on the north bank of the Snake River south of Weiser, Idaho, is a two-story bungalow building mainly of brick construction. The main body of the structure is nearly square--twenty-eight feet by twenty-six feet--with a two-story ell on the east side containing a sun porch below and a sleeping porch above. Both sections are covered with hip-and-ridge roofs, low-pitched with overhanging eaves above sharply projecting notched rafters. The upper, sleeping-porch level of the side ell is shingled and has a flared base, also undergirded with the projecting rafters. Rafters are further employed on the hip-and-ridge-roofed, shingle-sided dormer which emerges on the front elevation and on the gabled overdoor above the main entry. The overdoor is supported on complex wooden brackets.

The red brick fabric of the house is elaborated with continuous sills of outset header bricks under the first-floor windows and between the stories on both the main block and the ell. The low brick parapet walls on either side of the front stoop have brick coping continuous with the lower sill. A band of end-set bricks encircles the main block at lintel level, but the actual lintel over the triple living-room window group is concrete. On the ell a continuous concrete lintel

runs at this level. The upper-story main block windows have individual outset sills. There is a secondary entrance on the west side and a third through an original outset frame kitchen porch at left rear.

A brick chimney rises from the apex of the roof, marking the position of the central fireplace opening into the living room that occupies the entire front half of the main floor of the main block. The foundation is concrete. The house is unaltered, including the windows, which have multiple upper lights in the living-room group and otherwise plain sash on the main block, casement on the ell.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Archie Larsen House near Weiser is a spectacularly sited and beautifully developed example of a hipped-roofed two-story house with boxy massing. Like the Gakey house (site 66) it maintains in its main section the boxy hip-roofed form in a relatively vertical format, as compared to a horizontal type like the Numbers house (site 38); and it does so while introducing strong references to the bungalow mode. Here, however, the floor space of the virtually square main block is extended not to the rear in response to a noarrow city lot, but to the side in a two-story sun- and sleeping-porch ell. This maximizes the exposure of the house to its extraordinary closeup view of the Snake River. The execution and detail of the house are superior; it is altogether perhaps the firm's single most successful essay in a style which they generally handled well.

Archie Larsen ws a Minnesotan who moved to Weiser in 1909 to become a fruit grower. When high railway tariffs made his orchards unprofitable, he became a poultry grower instead. Tourtellotte and Hummel designed not only the residence but a fine small barn with jerkin-head roof for the Larsen farm, but the barn has not survived.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

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

Boise, Idaho. Hummel Jones Miller Hunsucker P.A. File 405D. Collection Book reference, 1911. Tracing signed Tourtellotte and Hummel.