

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

NOMINATION: (TOURTELLOTTE AND HUMMEL ARCHITECTURE IN IDAHO⁷⁰)

✓ SITE NAME: Mickle, Willis, House ✓ SITE NUMBER: 3

✓ LOCATION: 1415 ^{8th}North Eighth Street, Boise, Ada County (001), Idaho

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Robert F. and Susan Payne
c/o John Fenwick
1415 North Eighth
Boise, Idaho 83702

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

This nomination includes described structure on parcel 0350, block 10, Ressigue Addition to Boise. Legal description at the Ada County Court-house, Boise, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/5,64,790/48,30,570

DATE OR PERIOD: 1898

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: excellent unaltered original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Willis Mickle House is a one-and-a-half-story cottage in a regularized Queen Anne style. The plan is boxy: only an outset bay on the north wall elaborates the rectangularity of the interior space, and the front elevation assumes the asymmetry we expect of the style only by virtue of a large gabled wall dormer at upper left and an outset hip-and-ridge porch at lower right. But the offset front-facing gable, with its high, shallow eave returns and its oculus, is effective contrasted with the very large side-facing gable, with its upper area outlined in molding and its continuous eave along the extreme lower margin.

Materials are appropriately mixed. The main story is rock-faced, random-coursed Boise stone. The upper story and the low porch walls are shingled frame. Shingles are half-octagonals on the dormer and porch, and square with large diamond insets on the side gables. The upper gables and dormer are penetrated by sash windows with molded heads. Narrow bed molding lines the side gables; wide moldings underline the dormer gable and divide the first from the second story. The porch supports are simple squared posts with beveled shanks. The approximately centered entrance is transomed; the large parlor window to the left of the door has a narrow upper light and there is a small horizontally set hall window to the right. Other main-floor windows are double-hung sash.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Willis Mickle House is architecturally significant as a transitional variant. It stands between the studiously asymmetrical Queen Anne house which would continue to be designed for several years, and more severe classicizing or colonializing residences, which would be designed with increasing frequency after the turn of the century. With its shingled side-facing gables with pent eaves, this house begins to suggest the houses in the group that we have called shingled colonial revival style (sites 7, 9, 10, 14, 17, 28, 35), although its facade is asymmetrical and its roof is more steeply pitched than theirs. Probably as a result of its unusually regular profile, the Mickle house was hailed as "a pleasing and very substantial innovation in Boise building."¹ At the same time, the emphatic contrast of stone and shaped shingle, together with the marked asymmetry provided by the front gable and porch, are solidly within the earlier tradition and relate to such later stone-and-shingle Queen Anne examples as the 1901 Meyers house, the 1905 Looney house, and the 1908 Wyman house, all by the firm of Tourtellotte and Company and all included in the Harrison Boulevard Historic District.

Willis Mickle was a superintendent for the Capitol Electric Light, Motor and Gas Company. His house reportedly cost \$1250 in 1898.

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

MAJOR BIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Polk and Company. Boise City Directory. 1899.

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