

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

NOMINATION: (TOURTELLOTTTE AND HUMMEL ARCHITECTURE IN IDAHO² 700)

SITE NAME: Rossi, Mrs. A. F., House

SITE NUMBER: 43

LOCATION: 1711 Boise Avenue, Boise, Ada County (001), ~~Idaho~~

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Barbara Littlejohn
9005 New Dawn Drive
Sacramento, CA 75825

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Boise South, 7.5 minute

ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Mrs. A. F. Rossi House and the property on which it stands, parcel 0025, Crane Tract, Boise. Legal description on file at the Ada County Courthouse, Boise, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/5,64,410/48,27,160

DATE OR PERIOD: 1906

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: excellent

unaltered

original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Mrs. A. F. Rossi House is a single-story frame colonial style cottage of low, proto-bungaloid proportions and plan. Siding is corner-framed shiplap, further trimmed with continuous undereave molding. The roof is hipped in sections that correspond to the elaborated rectangle of the plan.

The rectangular main block of the house is covered by a hipped roof with a front-to-back ridgebeam. At the rear the ridgebeam is drawn out over a small glazed attic gable, below which the rear slopes of the roof are hipped downward over the rear of the house and its centered, inset rear porch. The main ridgebeam is terminated in the front with a metal knob. A secondary hipped roof, with a lower-pitched front-to-back ridgebeam, extends over the parlor section, which is deeply outset in the center of the front elevation. The ridgebeam of this section also terminates in a small gable light, below which the roof fans forward. A finial roof section, with a still lower-pitched ridgebeam terminating in another metal hip knob, covers the open front porch, which is outset from the left front corner of the main block and parlor bay and gives access to a small recessed entry hall to the left of the parlor. The porch is supported on simple, squared, wooden Doric columns. The only other projection from the rectangularity of the plan is a

beveled polygonal dining room bay on the left side. It does not extend beyond the rather deep enclosed eaves.

The plan contains the entry hall, dining room, bedroom, and rear utility to the left side and the parlor, bedroom, kitchen and bath, and rear utility to the right. The rooms are staggered rather than aligned. Except for the rebuilding of the front stoop with concrete, the absence of porch balusters shown on the drawing, and the presence of an (apparently early) coffered wood and glass paneled front door, the house appears as planned on the exterior. Multiple lights appear in the narrow upper section of the front parlor window. Interior chimneys rising from the kitchen and from the parlor, where a fireplace was set diagonally across the inner corner, appear original.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Rossi house is architecturally significant as a proto-bungaloid colonial style cottage that is a revealing contrast with the almost exactly contemporary Schmelzel cottage (site 44) in showing a rather cautious movement toward the bungalow style. These cottages are almost identical in size and number of rooms and in the out-setting of the porch to provide a recessed entryway opening into a small entry hall. Both have the same low pitch of the roof, and neither looks like a bungalow because of the elaboration of exterior planes and surfaces. But for the Schmelzel cottage--which was described as a bungalow in the local press--the architects adopted the front-facing gable and aligned the living room, dining room, and kitchen along one side and a bedroom-bath strip along the other. In the Rossi house, on the other hand, they held to the hipped roof--deliberately complicated--staggered the rooms, and laid them out so that the front room could be bypassed for the dining room. As a consequence the house appears to represent a deliberate choice of formalities of the Victorian parlor at the very beginning of the bungalow age.

Tourtellotte and Company had built at least one other house for the Rossi family, a residence on Jefferson Street in Boise in 1902. In 1906, the Statesman reported Tourtellotte and Company plans for a six-room cottage for Lex Rossi in South Boise, where the Rossi sawmill was located. The elder Alexander Rossi had recently died, and both his widow and his son were afterward listed in local directories as South Boise residents, though apparently in separate houses. As the unsigned drawings for this house are labeled "cottage for Mrs. A. F. Rossi," it was probably planned for the widow. The contract was reportedly let to Carpenter and Thompson, and the cost was expected to be about \$2,500 upon completion.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

(Boise) Idaho Daily Statesman, October 29, 1902, p. 6, c. 2; June 9, 1902, p. 8, c. 1; May 2, 1906, p. 5, c. 1; June 30, 1906, p. 5, c. 3.

Polk and Company. Boise City Directory. 1902-1903, 1908.

Boise, Idaho. Hummel Jones Miller Hunsucker P.A. File 407C. Collection book reference 1906. Tracings.