

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

NOMINATION: Historic Resources of Paris (Partial Inventory: Architecture)

SITE NAME: Walter Hoge house SITE # 26

LOCATION: ~~Northwest corner~~ Center and ~~North First~~ East

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Nadia Johnson and Olga H. Klinke, c/o Eleanor Arnell, Paris, Idaho

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Paris, 7.5 minute ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Nomination includes the former Hoge house and property on which it stands: south portion lot 1, block 13, Paris Townsite.

UTM(S): 12/4, 67, 185/46, 74, 865

DATE OR PERIOD: 1880 EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

Fair condition Altered Original site

DESCRIPTION:

The former Hoge house is a complex and much revised mansard-roofed house, the main sections of which conform to a T-plan and I-proportions. The narrow end of the rectangular main block faces front at left. An ell of equal height emerges at right. The main entrance at the intersection is through a later outset porch with round-arched portals and long swept eave. There is another such porch facing forward on the right side of the ell; an elevated concrete deck connects the two porches. The original brick masonry, faintly visible on the rear of the house, has been covered with stucco.

At right rear, apparently originally detached from the main house but now connected to it by a shed-roofed section, is a hip-roofed "square cabin" form. There is still another hipped one story section, smaller than the cabin, at left rear.

The main block retains a handsome bracketed and coffered Italianate bay in the front elevation; above it a balcony door with double round-arched lights emerges from the mansard; it is framed with scroll-sawn millwork and topped with an odd, steep, hip-and-ridged cap. Dormer windows in the ell are gable-headed. Downstairs windows are straightforward two-over-two sash. The mansard retains its double eaves, and, on the main block, its small paired curvilinear brackets. The house appears to be in sound condition.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Hoge house is architecturally significant as one of Paris' more complex mansard houses which seemed to have received its distinctive roofline independent of the construction of its main blocks. The series of additions and remodelings on this 1880 house extend to 1929 and thus, it presents a good example of the continued use and periodic development of an early brick structure.

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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Wallace Elliot's 1884 History of the Idaho Territory, an interesting, if not always verisimilitudinous source of images of early houses, includes a drawing of Walter Hoge's residence as an L-shaped house with stilted Italianate bay and raised running porch with balustrade, and featuring a gable roof. An 1883 reference in the Bear Lake Democrat states that Hoge was "making an addition to his brick house" and was erecting a frame house on the same lot.¹

The porch base still shows on the present form of the house between the two 'thirties arches. The "square cabin" portion to the rear is most probably that separate frame dwelling mentioned in the paper. It is possible that its × construction coincided with Hoge's response to a "call from authority" to marry again, and that this house was joined to the main block at a later date. Due to Elliott's illustration, it seems clear that the mansard roof was also added after the house had its nearly final shape. With the addition of the more exotic roofline, which not only created a stylistic change but gave the house an added half-story, the Hoge house came to resemble the Tueller mansards built around 1887. Its wedge-roofed upper door in the elaborate bracketing is a detail not found on any of the others.

Walter Hoge came to Paris in the 1870's and, at various times, was county sheriff, editor of the Southern Idaho Independent, had a land office, ran a lumber mill in nearby Liberty, and was active in the Paris Cooperative Institution.

¹Bear Lake Democrat, 23 June 1883