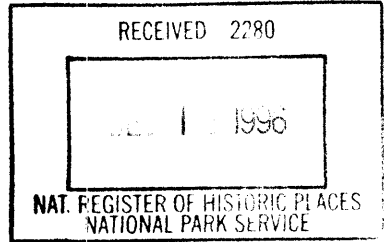


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Sensenig, Emerson and Lucretia, House

other names/site number Vogel, Marjorie, House

### 2. Location

street & number 1519 W. Jefferson Street N/A not for publication

city or town Boise N/A vicinity

state Idaho code ID county Ada code 001 zip code 83702

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination    request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets    does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant    nationally    statewide X locally. (   See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] / Interim SHPO      12/12/96  
 Signature of certifying official/Title      Date

Idaho State Historic Preservation Office / Idaho State Historical Society  
 State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property    meets    does not meet the National Register criteria. (   See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of certifying official/Title      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that this property is:
- entered in the National Register.  
   See continuation sheet.
  - determined eligible for the National Register.  
   See continuation sheet.
  - determined not eligible for the National Register.
  - removed from the National Register.
  - other, (explain:)  
\_\_\_\_\_

[Signature]      1-16-97  
 Signature of the Keeper      Date of Action

Sensenig, Emerson and Lucretia, House  
Name of Property

Boise, Ada County, Idaho  
City, County, and State

### 5. Classification

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>		Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

### 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE NINETEENTH AND EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY  
AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/Other: American Foursquare  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: granite  
walls BRICK, WOOD: shingle  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof ASPHALT  
other \_\_\_\_\_

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

Sensenig, Emerson and Lucretia, House  
Name of Property

Boise, Ada County, Idaho  
City, County, and State

### 8. Statement of Significance

#### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" on one or more lines for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

#### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" on all that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

#### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Community Planning and Development  
Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### Period of Significance

1905-1946  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### Significant Dates

1905  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### Architect/Builder

Watson Vernon  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

### 9. Major Bibliographical References

#### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

#### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

#### Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Idaho Historic Sites Inventory #01-1854

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

Sensenig, Emerson and Lucretia, House  
Name of Property

Boise, Ada County, Idaho  
City, County, and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of property Less than one acre

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A 1/1 5/6/3/7/8/0 4/8/3/0/0/4/0  
Zone Easting Northing

B / / / / / / / / / /  
Zone Easting Northing

C / / / / / / / / / /

D / / / / / / / / / /

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Madeline Buckendorf  
organization Independent Contractor date September 5, 1996  
street & number 1402 E. Blaine telephone (208) 454-3435  
city or town Caldwell state ID zip code 83605

## Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Maps:** A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A Sketch map for historic districts and/or properties having large acreage or numerous resources.
- **Photographs:** Representative black and white photographs of the property.
- **Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

## Property Owner

name Dr. Kathleen Blackburn  
street & number 1519 W. Jefferson telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Boise state ID zip code 83702

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1 Name of Property Sensenig, Emerson and Lucretia, House  
County and State Ada County, Idaho

### NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION:

The Emerson and Lucretia Sensenig house is located at 1519 W. Jefferson Street in Boise, Idaho. It sits on the southeast corner of West Jefferson and North Sixteenth streets, in the original Boise townsite plat. Surrounded by elevated lawns and ornamental plantings, the house is a two-story rectangular structure with a shallow pitch hipped roof. Its dimensions are approximately 50' x 30'.

The first story is composed of brick masonry laid up in English bond with alternating rows of headers and stretchers. The walls rest on a foundation of cut granite blocks with rough ashlar faces. The second story is of balloon-frame construction consisting of square-cut coursed wood shingles over 8" x 8" wood framing. The hipped roof is covered with asphalt shingles and has two matching hipped-roof dormers located in the center of both the north and west facades. The flared eaves are lined with decorative brackets. Two interior chimneys of corbelled brick are located in the main section's peak and on the east side. A two-story rear el includes the kitchen and an enclosed porch on the first level and an enclosed sleeping porch on the second level.

A wrap-around porch covers the first story's north and west facades. A half-hipped roof covers the porch. It is supported by battered, round columns resting on a short brick balustrade capped in granite. The pillars are cushioned with rectangular, stepped capitals and have no integral bases. A concrete sidewalk on the house's north facade leads to an offset stairway with brick side rails topped with granite. This in turn leads to the porch and the offset main entry. The porch floor consists of wide, beaded boards. The first story's central doorway has a single-panel, glazed door with a leaded-glass transom and sidelights. A similar transom is located over the large fixed window west of the doorway. The window is recessed and supported by a rough-faced granite sill. East of the doorway is a 24-light fixed window which also has a stone sill.

The north facade's second story contains several picturesque details. A shadow-box window effect is created on the east side by a recessed, shingled area lined with four vertical posts covered with shingles. Its wooden sill is supported by three abutting posts. A 16-over-1 double-hung sash window with a curved top and curved sidelights is located in the center of the facade; its arrangement is reminiscent of a Palladian window. Three rows of shingles curve around the window and sidelights to create a Syrian arch effect. This window is covered with a matching, curved screen. A single-hung sash window is located near the second story's west corner. A fixed leaded-glass transom tops the single-paned section. A hipped-roof dormer is centered on the roof; it has a rectangular casement window with diamond panes.

French doors, each with 12-light glazing, lead out to the porch on the first story's west facade. The door is recessed and has a concrete sill. To the south of the door is a three-sided bay. The bay's north side is solid brick with no window; a large fixed window with a leaded-glass transom is in the

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Name of Property Sensenig, Emerson and Lucretia, House

County and State Ada County, Idaho

bay's west side. A 16-over-1, double-hung sash window is in the south end of the bay. Centered in the west side of the south (rear) kitchen el is a 1-over-1 double-hung sash window .

All west-facade windows have stone sills. The second story has a single sash window with a fixed leaded-glass transom located at the northwest corner. Located slightly off-center is a narrow single-sash window with a transom of 3-over-3 lights. A similar window is located next to it, but has a removable air conditioner in the bottom sash. A small, square casement window of 4-over-4 lights is near the facade's south edge.

The east facade's first story includes three daylight basement windows with heavy stone lintels and two lights. Above these are four windows, two that are fixed and two that are double-hung sash. The fixed windows are located on the east facade's north section; the larger one has 24 lights and the smaller, 16 lights. Both have stone lintels and sills. A wide flush mounted board separates the east facade's first and second story, and the second story's shingled sides flare slightly over the trim. A double-hung sash window of single lights is located in the north end; it has flared shingles covering the lintel and a wooden sill. Two similar windows are located in the house's middle section. A square fixed window of 20 lights is located in the facade's south section.

A two-story el to the south of the main structure includes the kitchen and an enclosed porch. The kitchen has brick masonry walls and a matching hipped roof with flared boxed eaves and no decorative brackets. A large crown molding covers the enclosed eaves. Two 8-over-8, double-hung sash windows are flush with the frieze trim and have stone sills. One daylight basement window with a stone lintel and sill is in this section. The enclosed porch section consists of wood framing and plain 1-over-1, double hung sash windows. Plain wood ledges are below the windows and at the porch level. Decorative flush board trim and latticework enclose the porch's foundation. Porch walls consist of vertical, tongue-and-groove boards; the present windows have aluminum frames. An aluminum door is located near the center of the south facade, with another wooden door on the porch's west edge. The aluminum door has wood steps leading to it. The west door consists of one wood panel with 8 lights. This door is on ground level and leads to the basement. Behind the porch, the south facade's main wall has an offset, central doorway with a brick segmental arch over it. The door is a three-panel one with one light in the top section. The basement door has two vertical panels and one light. Paired double-hung sash windows are centered in the facade; they have two vertical lights in each section and stone sills. A similar window is on the south facade's east end.

A second-story sleeping porch extends southward from the main section to the porch roof's edge. The sleeping porch has wood-frame walls covered with shingles and a steeply pitched hipped roof. A ribbon of double-hung sash windows with single lights cover the top half of the sleeping porch's three facades. A gabled roof extends downward from the main section's peak, past the second-story

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Name of Property Sensenig, Emerson and Lucretia, House

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sleeping porch intersecting with the first story's roof. A hinged casement window consisting of single lights is located in the west gable section. There is no window in the east gable section.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1 Name of Property Sensenig, Emerson and Lucretia, House  
County and State Ada County, Idaho

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Emerson and Lucretia Sensenig house is significant under Criteria A and C. The Sensenig property is associated with significant early-20th-century suburban growth and development patterns in Boise. Its architecture represents a highly styled rendition of the popular American Foursquare form. Architect Watson Vernon used Foursquare form combined with Prairie and Craftsman detailing when designing the Sensenig house, creating a unique example among remaining period dwellings in Boise.<sup>1</sup>

#### Criterion A

The City of Boise was founded in 1863 and initially functioned as a service center for the nearby Boise Basin mining districts. A few farmers took out homesteads north and west of early Boise, raising foodstuffs and livestock to feed hungry miners. When Boise became the territorial capital in 1864, the city began to evolve into a regional center for politics, business and culture. As a result, it expanded north and west between the river and foothills.

What later became the Sensenig property on North 16th and Jefferson was patented in May 2, 1870, to Boise mayor Henry E. Prickett as part of the original townsite plat. By 1878, the first North End suburb was platted between Ninth, Thirteenth, Fort and Resseguie streets. Several prominent real estate developers, including Walter Pierce and Robert Noble, speculated on potential suburban properties, including the future Sensenig lot. Fluctuating economic conditions slowed further successful development for the next ten years. During this time, the Sensenig property changed hands often.<sup>2</sup>

Idaho received statehood in 1890, and several long-awaited irrigation projects began construction. Boise experienced an economic boom in the 1890s, which lasted well into the 20th century's first decades. A modern streetcar system began serving the downtown core in 1891 and was soon extended to Boise's North End suburbs. By the turn of the century, developers and promoters planned a massive extension of the existing streetcar lines west from State Street along Valley Road (later also called State Street) to the smaller towns of Eagle, Star, Middleton, and Caldwell. The line was finished in 1907, and later an entire loop served the Boise Valley. Expectations of a real estate boom based on economic expansion were well founded as Boise's population nearly tripled from 5,957 in 1900 to 17,358 in 1910.<sup>3</sup>

Following a pattern similar to suburban development in Los Angeles and many other western cities of this period, middle-class professionals and entrepreneurs bought land along streetcar lines to develop as suburban homes or country estates. Many prominent Boise families bought lots in early Boise suburbs. They followed the pattern of middle-class families in burgeoning American cities



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County and State Ada County, Idaho

everywhere, building stylish homes surrounded by lawns and landscaped plantings. The influence of early garden suburbs such as Riverside, Illinois (designed by Frederick Law Olmstead) and the "City Beautiful" planning movement spurred by the "White City" of the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago, had its effect on many new Midwestern and Western communities. Boise was no exception. The suburban design offered families a small taste of country living, with relatively easy access to all urban amenities. Early streetcar systems provided the "easy access" between city and country.<sup>4</sup>

Emerson Sensenig typified a middle-class, successful businessman who decided to move his family to Boise's new suburbs. Sensenig worked as a salesman for various downtown businesses and served as secretary of the Boise Cold Storage Company. He and his family lived at Third and State streets until 1905 when he bought a lot on the corner of Sixteenth and Jefferson streets. The lot was two blocks from the original streetcar line, and only one block from the new extension along State Street and Valley Road. Sensenig purchased the undeveloped lot for \$1,500 in February, and hired a new Boise architect to design his home. The cost of construction was \$5,000.<sup>5</sup>

As the city continued to expand in the first two decades of this century, the Sensenig house was joined by other middle-class homes until most of the available lots in the area were built upon. Following the mass adoption of the automobile in the 1920s, the area began to change. State Street became a major surface arterial and lost its streetcar line. Suburban growth declined during the prolonged economic hardship of the 1920s and 30s. When growth resumed following the Second World War, State Street developed into a commercial boulevard and middle-class suburbanites moved further away from the city center as new areas were developed. The Sensenig house is a well-preserved reminder of the former suburban character of the Near North End.

### Criterion C

One of the most popular vernacular housing forms to emerge during the latter part of the 19th century was what later became known as the American Foursquare. Several basic characteristics define the Foursquare: a square or nearly square footprint (at times with smaller rear el), a shallow pitched, hipped roof (often with a central hipped-roof dormer), and an over-all emphasis, in both design and decorative treatment on restraint and rationality. This basic form afforded the burgeoning middle class of the late 19th and early 20th centuries with a solid, comfortable and dignified home at a price well below that of a more complex design.

The Foursquare reached its greatest level of popularity during the period from 1890 to 1915--a time well noted for phenomenal suburban expansion in many parts of the country. It was during this period that American architecture underwent a definite shift. Tastes moved away from the irregular and exuberantly decorated styles of the High Victorian era and embraced a return to restraint and

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rationalism. Several distinct domestic movements evolved out of and embraced this general change in philosophy. They include such seemingly diverse styles as the Colonial Revival, the Craftsman and the Prairie. While much is made of the differences between these styles and of the struggle for dominance between their proponents, the Foursquare form found equal patronage among the high-style modes of the day; examples with detailing from one or all of these traditions are quite common. In short, the Foursquare was the dominant domestic design form of its period.<sup>6</sup>

The Sensenig house stands out among Boise Foursquare homes. Its designer, Watson Vernon, utilized the basic Foursquare form, enhancing his design with decorative detailing derived from a variety of sources. The house's squarish massing, symmetrical facades, and hipped roof with brackets and wide eaves are all typical of Foursquare design. The wrap-around porch, bays, and shingle wall cladding suggest earlier 19th-century styles. Similarly, the shadow-box effect and central window treatments on the second story's north facade are unique among period Boise homes and harken back to the more flamboyant Queen Anne and Shingle styles. Craftsman and Prairie influences are evident in the wide, flaring eaves underpinned with decorative brackets, the battered porch columns and blocky capitals, the contrasting porch caps and balcony railings, and the use of simple flush-mounted boards to provide separation between floors and to delineate the frieze. Finally, the sidelighted entrances and multiple-light window treatments indicate some Colonial Revival influence.

Watson Vernon moved to Boise from Denver, Colorado in 1905. He set up business as an "Architect and Superintendent" in the Sonna Building, located in the heart of downtown. Virtually no information has been found about Vernon's background and education, except that he was born in Ohio.<sup>7</sup> Vernon stayed in Idaho only one year, but during that time he designed the Moscow Carnegie Library, the Emerson Sensenig residence in Boise, and two homes in Caldwell, respectively for businessman W. G. Cowden and former newspaper editor Rees H. Davis.

Vernon left Boise reportedly for Portland, Oregon, but ended up in Seattle, Washington, in 1907. There he first worked as a draftsman for architect W. D. Van Siclén, then set up his own business. Three buildings he designed have since been listed in the National Register of Historic Places: The Moscow Carnegie Library in Idaho (built in 1905); The Immanuel Lutheran Church in Seattle, Washington (built in 1907); and the State Training School for Girls' Administration Building in Rochester, Washington (built in 1914).<sup>8</sup>

The Sensenig home remains largely unaltered. The Sensenigs owned the house until Emerson's death in 1927. The estate then sold the house to Howard and Alida Stein in 1928. The economic depression of the 1930s caused the Steins to lose their property. A mortgage holder filed for nonpayment against the Steins and the Sensenig estate, and in 1933 the house was sold at a sheriff's sale. In 1937 the property was deeded and mortgaged to Marjorie D. Vogel, a widow, for a mere

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\$7,250--only \$950 more than what the Sensenigs paid for the lot and house construction. Kathleen Blackburn bought the house in 1991 and she and her husband Guy Baird carefully restored the house to its original condition. The restored house serves as a tribute to Watson Vernon's imaginative design skills, as well as an example of early suburban development in Boise.

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### END NOTES

1. Don Hibbard, "Domestic Architecture in Boise, 1904-1912," Idaho Yesterdays (Fall 1978), 3-9.
2. Abstract of Title, Emerson Sensenig property, in the personal possession of Guy Baird, Boise, Idaho.
3. For information about the Boise Streetcar System, see William Dougall, "The Boise, Idaho, Public Transportation Dilemma: A Case Study." Master's thesis, Seattle: University of Washington, 1972. For information about early subdivisions, see the Ada County Subdivision Records. Boise, Idaho: Ada County Recorder's Office. For Boise's population figures, see United States Bureau of the Census, 1900 and 1910, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Census Office.
4. Kenneth T. Jackson, The Crabgrass Frontier: The Suburbanization of the United States (New York: Oxford University Press, 1985), 122.
5. The Idaho Statesman (Boise), 15 March 1905, 3. See also the Abstract of Title, Emerson Sensenig property, and Bill Dougall.
6. See generally, McAlester, Lee & Virginia, Field Guide to American Houses, (New York, Alfred A Knopf, 1988), 320-321 and 438-439.
7. The author and her associate checked the following resources for information: Denver City Directories, Denver Public Library, AIA Seattle Chapter records in the University of Washington's Special Collections, Seattle Public Library, Grays Harbor Community College Library. No detailed information was uncovered on Watson Vernon.
8. Nomination Forms of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Seattle, and State Training School for Girls, Grand Mound Area, on file at the Washington State Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, Olympia.
9. National Register Nomination, Moscow Carnegie Library, on file at the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office, Boise.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1 Name of Property Sensenig, Emerson and Lucretia, House  
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### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Lot 7 in Block 121 of the Original Townsite of Boise City, Ada County, State of Idaho.

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The boundary description is the legal boundary that has historically been associated with the property.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number ADD Page 1 Name of Property Sensenig, Emerson and Lucretia, House  
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### PHOTO LOG

following information common to all photographs:

The Emerson Sensenig House

1519 W. Jefferson

Boise, ID 83702

Photographer: Madeline Buckendorf

Date: 2/15/1996

Negatives on file at Idaho State Historic Preservation Office, Boise

**Roll#: 1**

<u>Frame #</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Location</u>
2	East and North Facades	1519 W. Jefferson	NE
3	East and South Facades	"	SE
4	South Facade	"	SW
6	West Facade	"	SW
7	West Facade	"	NW
8	North Facade	"	N