

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

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

✓ SITE NAME: Abbs, Walter, House ✓ SITE NUMBER: 19

✓ ^{Boise} LOCATION: 915 Fort Street, Ada County (001), ~~Idaho~~

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

David Leonard
915 Fort Street
Boise, ID 83702

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Walter Abbs House and the property on which it stands, lot 9, block 83, Boise City Original Townsite. Legal description on file at the Ada County Courthouse, Boise, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/5,64,670/48,30,50

DATE OR PERIOD: 1903

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: good unaltered original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Walter Abbs House is a modest one-story frame cottage of Queen Anne derivation. Its main block is set laterally to Fort Street. The gabled roof is extended over a beveled bay on the left end. A large gabled ell faces forward to the right of center. There are entrances on both sides of this ell, but the one on the right probably (and its shed-roofed overdoor certainly) reflects conversion of the house into several dwelling units. The main entrance at left is approached through a small hip-roofed wraparound porch that extends from the front ell to the side bay. It is supported on plain posts with small brackets. There is also a gabled ell to the rear and a small hipped ell behind that.

The siding is corner-framed shiplap. Windows are principally casement with molded heads. The large front parlor window has a fixed upper section with multiple geometric lights. Further decorative display is confined to the front gable, which is closed by a pent eave lined with shaped shingles, and pierced by a small laterally disposed rectangular dimple window with a keystone head.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Abbs house, like the Allsup cottage (site 5), is architecturally significant for maintaining in a fair state of preservation an example of the modest ends of the scale of architectural commissions sought and executed by an already prestigious firm. For modesty, the house probably stands midway between the Allsup cottage and a house like that built for Walter Pierce in 1900 (site 8). The plan is more elaborate than the former, and some decoration is added. But it is smaller than the latter, and the decoration is at a minimum for what may reasonably be called Queen Anne.

Walter Abbs was with McGrew and Abbs, Abstracters, Loan Brokers, and Insurance Agents. His five-room cottage was built in 1903 at a reported cost of \$1,800.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOURCES:

(Boise) Idaho Daily Statesman, April 14, 1903, p. 5, c. 2; January 1, 1904, p. 10, c. 2.

Polk and Company. Boise City Directory. 1904, 1906.