

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

NOMINATION: (TOURTELLOTTE AND HUMMEL ARCHITECTURE ~~IN IDAHO~~ RA)

✓ SITE NAME: Varian, B. S., House SITE NUMBER: 63

✓ LOCATION: 241 Main Street, Weiser, Washington County (087), Idaho 83672

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

J. Marvin Trigueiro
241 West Main Street
Weiser, ID 83672

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Weiser South, Oregon-Idaho, 7.5 minute ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the B. S. Varian House and property on which it stands, east 1/2 of lot 3, lots 4 and 5, block 21, Watlington's addition. Legal description on file at the Washington County Courthouse, Weiser, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/5,02,230/48,99,100

DATE OR PERIOD: 1909

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: excellent unaltered original site

DESCRIPTION:

The B. S. Varian House is a large-scale one-and-a-half-story bungalow with cross as well as front-facing gables and a surface completely veneered with square shingles. The projecting gable eaves are supported on large figure-four brackets. A cross-facade porch is inset in front, and an open terrace, also with low shingled walls, is outset at the right front corner. An entry porch and living porch are outset at right rear.

A band of living-room windows--five four-over-one-light sashes--is set in a square bay slightly outset into the porch space. The gable contains a triple set of twelve-over-one-light windows within a single frame with a peaked lintel; in front of it is a bracketed window box or shelf with miniature balustraded sides. On either side of the triple window are square nine-light windows, and above it a tiny eight-pane attic light, all with wide flat frames and narrow outset sills. The full-length den and dining room windows and upstairs bedroom windows on the right or west side are also sashes with multiple upper lights. On the left, or east side, the upper windows are of this type; downstairs there is a large kitchen window to the rear, a side stairhall entrance, then two small square mantle windows on either side of the fireplace and its brick exterior chimney.

With the possible exception of the concrete stoop with a wrought-iron center rail which rises between stepped shingled parapets to the terrace entrance, the house appears to be entirely unaltered.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The B. S. Varian House is architecturally significant as one of the large shingled bungalow houses of this period which uses the vocabulary of the style--big front-facing bracketed gable, rustic materials--much more explicitly than, for example, the Simpson house (site 57) with its side-facing gables and stone veneer, but which physically expands and elaborates that vocabulary to a very pronounced degree. The house is massive for a bungalow, with a thirty-six-by-fifty-four-foot perimeter and an additional cross gable which allows a full four bedrooms and a sleeping porch to be included under the low gabled roof of the upper half story. The plan, too, while bungaloid in its dismissal of the Victorian stairhall and parlor and its emphasis on a big "mission style" living room, is definitely not standard. The rooms are not arranged in a simple linear fashion; there are extra ones, such as a den; and all bedrooms are relegated to the unusually commodious upper story.

The overall veneering with shingle is unique among the bungalows produced by the firm. This rusticity in the Varian house is quite in keeping with that of the premier example of colonial revival style in the Group, the 1905 J. R. Numbers residence directly across Main Street in Weiser.

Weiser lawyer B. S. Varian became judge of the Seventh Judicial District Court in 1919. He was appointed to the State Supreme Court in 1929.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Hibbard, Don. Weiser: A Look at Idaho Architecture. Boise: Idaho State Historic Preservation Office. 1978.

(Boise) Idaho Statesman, January 3, 1909, p. 3 (photograph).

Boise, Idaho. Hummel Jones Miller Hunsucker P.A. File 408B. Tracings signed John E. Tourtellotte and Company.