

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

NOMINATION: Historic Resources of Paris (Partial Inventory : Architecture)✓ SITE NAME: (William L.) Rich house SITE # 20LOCATION: 34 West <sup>2nd</sup> Second South, Paris, IdahoOWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Ivan L. Gee Family Corporation, 1011 S. 1st, Lander,QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Paris, 7.5 minute ACREAGE: less than one Wyoming, 82520VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Nomination includes the former William Rich house and the property on which it stands: lot 3, block 18, Paris Townsite.UTM(S): 12/4, 66, 800/46, 74, 385DATE OR PERIOD: 1885 EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: localAREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture

Good condition                      altered                      original site

## DESCRIPTION:

The former Rich house is a two-story frame structure with a rather low hipped roof and a square plan elaborated by a one-story hipped kitchen ell to the rear. The main block is three evenly-spaced bays wide, and one broad and two narrow bays deep. The siding is wide shiplap. Door and window heads are molded. Broad wooden "quoins," short alternating with long in imitation of stones set sideways and lengthways into masonry corners, frame all elevations. Windows are two-over-two sash; the main entrance at left front has an oval transom. There are three interior chimneys, two to the right and one to the left, all of corbelled brick.

A hip-roofed porch supported on blocky posts now crosses the facade; it was built in the early 1920s. According to the present owner and long-time occupant, the original porch was small, spanning only the entrance bay and creating balcony space onto which the left front upstairs door opened.

## SIGNIFICANCE:

The William Rich house is architecturally significant as the sole example in Paris of the Western Colonial or "classical box" residential style. Standing, as it does, next to the cluster of adobe hall-and-parlor cabins in which all the Rich children were raised, this house is visible reminder of the passing of an architectural and cultural time in Paris. As one of only five full two-story residences in town, it can be seen as an attempt, in frame, to produce an image of substantiality and stature encouraged by Mormon culture and usually associated with structures built of brick or stone. The adoption of the classicizing and stone-allusive quoins, the low, solid hipped roof, the taut row of upper windows butting into the shadow of the eaves, convey a desire for a particularly formalized stylishness, vaguely uncomfortable but visually striking in the broad spaces of Paris. Although the classical box can be found in the Plains, a tall farmhouse

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William L. Rich house

SIGNIFICANCE (continued):

amidst open land, the upright William Rich house looks, among its small, more homey neighbors, to need a more densely populated streetscape. Its owner left Paris in 1886, just after the construction of the house, to become bishop in nearby larger Montpelier. He returned in 1893 as president of the Bear Lake Stake. It was said of Rich that he was "a lover of good books [and] theaters" and that he "believed in progress".<sup>1</sup>

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Daughters of Utah Pioneers, Bear Lake Pioneers, p. 682.