

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

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

SITE NAME: Brunzell House

SITE NUMBER: 54

LOCATION: 916 Franklin Street, Boise, Ada County (001), Idaho

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Frank J. and Helen D. Dages
6007 Lubkin
Boise, ID 83704

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Boise South, 7.5 minute

ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Brunzell House and the property on which it stands, lot 3, block 84, Boise City Original Townsite. Legal description on file at the Ada County Courthouse, Boise, Idaho.

UTM(S):

DATE OR PERIOD: 1909

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: good

altered

original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Brunzell House is a brick structure with a generally rectangular and bungalow plan, simplified and linear arrangement of its six main-floor rooms, and a front-facing gabled roof of approximately the proper bungalow pitch. But the derivation of the plan is effectively obscured by a number of decorative elaborations that are more in the colonial mode. The roof is tented over an outset beveled dining-room window bay on the east side, and all eaves are deeply flared. The regularity of the plan is disturbed not only by porch and bay and the outset ell of the frame kitchen porch at right rear, but by such details as the small square vestibule outset into the porch space and containing the front entrance. The attic space is lighted by a sash window in the dormer and an attic dormer on the left side.

The porch is supported on squared Tuscan columns supporting a double frieze board matching that which runs continuously under the eaves of the house. The low porch walls are closed with clapboarded panels. The house sits on a rock-faced foundation, which extends in low stepped parapets on either side of the front steps. The house is unaltered in form, although the brick has been painted and asbestos shingles have been applied to the roof. An interior chimney that does not appear on the original drawings rises at right front.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Brunzell House is architecturally significant as another of the colonial cottages that is colonial only in its wrapper. Encased in this wrapper is a basically bungaloid plan. As with the Schmelzel cottage (site 44), the masonry surface, offset porch, and elaborated flated roof and tented bay de-emphasize the simplicity of the essentially rectangular plan. However, the tighter profile produced by the brick surface and the simpler surface and the simpler support system of the porch contribute to a less Victorian or picturesque aspect than the Schmelzel example.

The Brunzell House may be another case of a cottage built by parents for an offspring. The drawings for the cottage are labeled J. M. Brunzell; the newspaper report names Fred Brunzell, and the city directory shows him there, but with no occupation specified, in 1912. The reported cost of the cottage in 1909 was \$3,000.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

(Boise) Idaho Daily Statesman, January 3, 1909, sec. 3, p. 2, c. 3.

Polk and Company. Boise City Directory. 1912-1913.

Boise, Idaho. Hummel Jones Miller Hunsucker P.A. File 409D. Tracings signed John E. Tourtellotte and Company.