

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

NOMINATION: (TOURTELLOTTE AND HUMMEL ARCHITECTURE ~~IN IDAHO~~ 7R)

✓ SITE NAME: Hays, Samuel, House SITE NUMBER: 114

✓ LOCATION: 612 Franklin Street, Boise, Ada County (~~001~~), ~~Idaho~~

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Derr Enterprises, Inc.
944 Argyle
Boise, ID 83702

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Samuel Hays House and the property on which it stands, lots 8 and 9, block 88, Boise City Original Townsite. Legal description on file at the Ada County Courthouse, Boise, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/5,64,870/48,29,730

DATE OR PERIOD: 1926

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: good unaltered original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Samuel Hays House has as its core a pre-1900 frame house by an unknown architect. This structure has been absorbed into a six-unit apartment house created by front additions, interior re-partitioning, and lifting of the roof of the original structure to accommodate additional floor space on the second story.

The original house, as it appeared in a photograph in the Statesman in 1892, was a one-and-a-half-story, apparently clapboarded or shiplap-sided house with a lateral ridgebeam and large side-facing gables on the main block. A single two-story gabled ell, its lower level in the form of a polygonal bay, emerged at left front, and a shed-roofed porch filled the intersection at left. At some time between the 1926 remodeling, the house was extended to the rear.

In the 1926 remodeling, the rear porches of the house were rebuilt to accommodate the living room and bedroom for a new rear apartment below and a sleeping porch and sunroom above. In the front of the house, a tall, slightly recessed two-story gabled entry-stairhall section was added to the left of the original gabled ell. To the right of the ell, where the porch had been, another two-story insert contained a bedroom for one of the upstairs apartments under its shed roof, and on the

the first floor an "owner's library." Almost the entire first floor was reserved for the owner's use; the only exception was part of the original big back kitchen, which was notched out and re-partioned to serve as kitchen and bath to the small rear apartment. The owner's apartment also included a fourth bedroom and rear sleeping porch on the second story. A terrace behind the stairhall addition was apparently accessible to all tenants. A sixth apartment was provided in the basement, with most of its floor space under the stairhall addition. A laundry, janitor's room, and other utility areas occupied the excavated sections under the main body of the house.

The exterior treatment of the structure is a blend of old and new materials to produce a picturesque effect. The 1892 illustration (which may not be accurate as to detail) shows overall board siding. The front elevation of the remodeling plans, however, shows the original front ell retaining "present shingles" at second-story level. These may be original or an interim renovation. In any case, the entire second story of the remodeled house, including additions, was veneered with "wall shingles" to match. The first floor was stuccoed. Eight-light casements--six-light on the stairhall--were installed on the front and on new second-story dormers. The original windows, generally double-hung sashes, and some original doors were retained toward the rear on the side elevations, or recycled to the rear. Eave returns were retained on the sides and added on the front where the addition of the stairhall and the shallow enclosed porch invited their use. An attic lunette window from the east side was re-installed in front, and a Palladian attic light was installed in the stairhall. The round arch was repeated in the porch portal, which led to a picturesque plank door with a pair of small glass panels at eye level. The house is externally unaltered from its 1926 state.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Samuel Hays House is architecturally significant as a fifth example of an extensive residential remodeling by the firm (see also sites 6, 13, 83, 79, and 121), one which demonstrates the movement toward a 1930s picturesque style, as well as providing a most interesting example of an owner's conversion of a formerly private residence into one which would produce rental income as well.

The mixture of elements in this house shows the increasingly picturesque taste of the period, which was blooming contemporaneously in the big Alexander's Store and Egyptian Theater commissions and would be put to an analogous use in the Frederick Hummel bungalow remodeling (site 121) a few years later. The combination of materials--the stucco which was becoming popular with the mission style, the rustic shingles which had been popular for some years, the rather formal classical elements rediscovered in the 1920s, and a picturesque multiplication of steep gables--give this house a proto-English cottage quality. In this way it prefigures the picturesque houses of the 1930s, one of the very finest of which is included in the Thematic Group as site 123.

The purpose for which this remodeling was undertaken is an interesting one. The Bishops' house, the Van Sicklin house, the Neal house, and the Hummel house were remodeled, at most to provide additional space for the owner-occupant, and often with simple exterior redecoration as a major motive. The owner-occupant of the Hays house, on the other hand, undertook remodeling in order to produce five new

income-producing units under his roof, in addition to still-comodious quarters for his own household. This practice was not at all uncommon. Tourtellotte and Hummel undertook such conversions for a number of long-term owner-occupants: in the no--longer extant Sedenia Dunford remodeling in 1911; the Dunton house remodeling (site 79) and Lusk Woodring house conversions (both non-eligible), in 1913; and the Eastman house conversion (non-extant) in 1935. Only the Hays and Dunton houses represent this category of the architects' work in the Thematic Group.

Samuel H. Hays was a long-time Boise resident. He was a lawyer who served as attorney general of Idaho Territory in 1889-1890. Later he served as president of the Idaho Bulding and Loan Association and as corporate attorney for various southern Idaho irrigation projects.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

French, Hiram. History of Idaho. (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1914), pp. 1257-58.

Polk and Company. Boise City Directory. 1901, 1925.

(Boise) Idaho Statesman, August 5, 1892, p. 5, c. 3.

Boise, Idaho. Hummel Jones Miller Hunsucker P.A. File 404D. Collection book reference 1926. Tracings signed Troutellotte and Hummel.