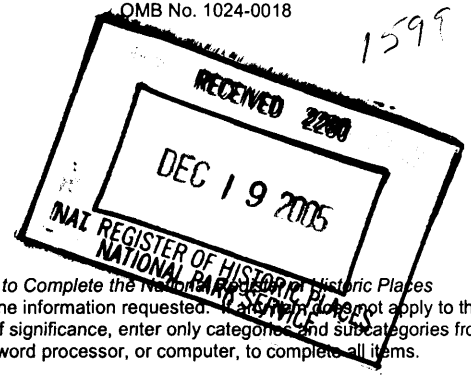


1599

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If a date does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Bell, R. H. and Jessie, House

other names/site number Griffiths, S. H., House; Grapatin, Scott and Julie, House; IHSI #01-13636

2. Location

street & number 137 East Pine Street not for publication N/A

city or town Meridian vicinity N/A

state Idaho code ID county Ada code 001

zip code 83642

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Kenneth C. Reid Dec 15, 2005
Signature of certifying official Date
KENNETH C. REID, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register
 other (explain):

Carol H. Bell 2/1/06
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u> 1 </u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u> 1 </u>	<u> </u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

 N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

 DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

 DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

 LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY

 AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/Craftsman

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

roof ASPHALT

walls WOOD/Weatherboard

other BRICK

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

 X See continuation sheet (s) for Section No. 7

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance 1922

Significant Dates 1922

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Krulich, John (builder)

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Bell, R. H. and Jessie, House
Name of property

Ada County, Idaho
County, and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Meridian Historical Society, Meridian Old Town Library

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone Easting	Northing	Zone Easting	Northing
1	<u>1/1</u>	<u>5/4/9/2/7/0</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>8/2/8/7/2/0</u>
2	_____	_____	4	_____
	<input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.			

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary of the property includes only the footprint of the Bell House, Lots 11 and 12, Block 5, Meridian Townsite.

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes only the footprint of the house because the property is nominated for Architecture.

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Emily Peeso/Consultant

organization Ind. Historic Preservation Consulting date 04/01/05

street & number PO Box 7003 telephone 208-794-2678

city or town Boise state ID zip code 83707

Bell, R. H. and Jessie, House
Name of property

Ada County, Idaho
County, and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Maps:** A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.
- **Photographs:** Representative black and white photographs of the property.
- **Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

name Scott and Julie Grapatin

street & number 137 East Pine Street telephone 208-884-8028

city or town Meridian state ID zip code 83642

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to Keeper, National Register of Historic Places, 1849 "C" Street NW, Washington, DC 20240.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1 Name of Property Bell, R. H. and Jessie, House
County and State Ada County, Idaho

INTRODUCTION

The R. H. and Jessie Bell House is a one-and-one-half-story, wood frame, Craftsman-style bungalow dwelling with a low gabled roof, a gabled dormer on each pitch, and a partially enclosed porch (originally a full porch). The rectangular plan measures approximately 30 feet by 52 feet on a concrete foundation. The walls are clad with wood clapboard siding. The roof is side-gabled and covered with asphalt shingles. There is a centered, gabled dormer in the front and in the back. Exposed rafters and decorative rake boards are under the roof and dormer gables. The porch is enclosed under the principal roof structure (partially converted to enlarge the interior space). The interior reflects the bungalow design elements, including built-in cabinetry, for the single-family home of the early 20th century.

Constructed in 1922, the house is part of the original Meridian Townsite subdivision in downtown Meridian, Idaho.¹ The house fronts north onto Pine Street at the corner of East 2nd Street and has a moderate setback from the street. The lawn on the side of the house is interrupted by a break in the curb for the coal carriage from the building's original occupation. Behind the house is a modern landscaped yard. The property is in good condition and has had few exterior alterations since its construction.

EXTERIOR

The main façade faces north and has balanced symmetry. The foundation is of concrete and the walls have clapboard siding. A ribbon of three pairs of casement windows encloses a partial porch on the east side, and the main entry doorway is centered. A ribbon of three double-hung-sash windows lights what is currently an interior living space on the west side. In 1991, the west side of the front porch was enclosed, converting it to an interior space expanding the front bedroom.² The principal roof is side-gabled with a break in the slope. The side-gabled roof subtype represents one-third of the Craftsman-style roof types.³ The roof is now covered with asphalt shingles and is topped off with a brick interior slope chimney. A gabled dormer projects out from the center of the main roof slope. The dormer has a ribbon of three fixed-sash (one-over-one) windows. The roof and dormer eaves are deep and unenclosed with exposed, plain rafter ends and plain rake edges.

The front porch is enclosed under the principal roof after the break in the slope. Typical Craftsman-style porch elements include short, square columns (painted decorative boards), balustrades (exterior wall with weatherboard siding) and battered sides. The pier supports stop at the porch railing level. The wood cladding over the foundation is battered and runs horizontal from the railing level to the ground without a break at the porch-floor level. This is a typical treatment of Craftsman-style bungalow porch supports.⁴ The central doorway (elevated three steps up from ground level) has four-light sidelights on both sides. The casement windows (eight-lights each) on the east half of the porch are paired and open out from the middle of each pair.

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Section 7 Page 2 Name of Property Bell, R. H. and Jessie, House
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The east side gable overlooks North 2nd Street. Its broad face has balanced symmetry from the front to the back including views of the side windows of both porches and the eave sides of both roof dormers. The two picture windows lighting the interior living spaces have a single glass pane (replacement glass, dates unknown).⁵ A nine-pane, fixed-frame window with a higher sill line identifies the interior kitchen space over the sink. A pair of one-over-one, double-hung-sash windows in the gable end illuminates the upstairs bedroom.

The west gable overlooks the fenced-in side yard and neighboring building. An addition to the first floor at the back of the dwelling extends out from the original building frame. The addition is set back from the exterior back-porch wall four feet two inches, extends out to the west ten feet, and is eighteen feet two inches long. A smaller gabled roof matching the principal roof pitch covers the added space. The wall cladding and triple window fenestration match the rest of the dwelling. The decorative trim around the windows are narrow and molded, differentiating these features from the wide, square decorative trim on the original portion of the house. The date of the added construction is unknown.

The rear façade resembles the front façade, though details differ with the more private setting. The rear façade is completely enclosed within a fenced and landscaped back yard. The porch supports are not battered. The back door is off-center as it opens directly to the kitchen located on the east side of the house. The back-porch windows also slightly differ from one side of the back door to the other. On the west side, the row of eight casement windows (each with eight lights) open out from the middle of each pair. On the east side of the porch door, the windows are one-over-one sash (with an exterior, one-over-one, storm window). The window frames are simply decorated with squared edges of green painted wood (unless otherwise noted). The rear dormer is identical on the outside to the front dormer. On the inside, only the center window opens over the stairway to let in the natural light. The exterior addition is tucked away on the west side of the house.

There are two dormer windows centered on the front and rear roof slopes. The large, projecting window structures repeat the roof type (gabled), wall cladding (wood weatherboard) and decorative details (deep eaves and exposed timber) of the main structure. The three windows on the front vertical side of both dormers are a distinguishing Craftsman element. The back-porch section, described as a "sleeping porch," closely replicates the fenestration of the front porch.⁶

The decorative elements on the building are modest, but typical associations with the Craftsman style. The porch supports are square and serve a decorative rather than structural purpose. Exposed timber also extends under the deep eaves of the roof and dormer gables. The edges of the rafter, purlin and rake boards are plain. Green paint distinguishes the decorative porch support piers, rake boards and purlins, and trims the wall openings.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3 Name of Property Bell, R. H. and Jessie, House
County and State Ada County, Idaho

INTERIOR

The interior functions singularly as a domestic space. There are five rooms on the main level (living room, dining room, kitchen with adjoining informal dining space, and two bedrooms) plus two bathrooms and two bedrooms upstairs. The front entry from the porch opens directly into the living space (on the east side of the building) and to the dining room space without wall divisions. Continuing to the back of the house leads to the kitchen with an informal eating space occupying the enclosed back porch. An arched doorway off the living and dining room space leads to a hallway giving access to two bedrooms and a bathroom on the west side of the dwelling. The bedroom, located in the back southwest corner of the house, was expanded when the exterior addition was built. A small hallway (underneath the staircase to the second floor) connects this bedroom to the kitchen and fashions original cabinets built into the wall.

The staircase up to the half story is located between the kitchen and back bedroom with access adjacent to the back bathroom. The staircase is lit by natural light from the center window in the back dormer. The small bedrooms, one on each side of the building at the top of the staircase, have slanted ceilings from the roof and half-sized doors to access closet space built into the attic space under the roof.

The significant interior features reflect the Craftsman-style theme. The porch spaces connect the inside to the outside environment. The front door leads directly into the open living room and dining room spaces. Part of the back porch is utilized as a place for the family's washer and dryer as well as providing access to the basement. Built-in cabinets in the hallways maximize space and function. The original wooden floor boards, window and door trims and wainscotting treatments exhibit smooth, straight lines favoring plain edges over elaborate embellishments.

SUMMARY:

The R. H. and Jessie Bell House can distinctly be classified as a Craftsman-styled residential building. The identifying features categorize the building by shape subtype (side-gabled roof with centrally located gabled dormers), typical roof-wall junctions (extra stickwork in the gables and porches, extended rake beams and battered foundation) and other details (wood weatherboards--the most common wall cladding). The dwelling's construction date (1922) falls within the period of peak occurrence (1905 to the mid-1920s).⁷

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 1 Name of Property Bell, R. H. and Jessie, House
County and State Ada County, Idaho

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The R. H. and Jessie Bell House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criterion C as an excellent domestic example of the Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movement Craftsman style of architecture. The 1922 building embodies typical characteristics of the style from the shape of the principal massing (side-gabled roof, symmetrical front façade with an enclosed partial porch) to the decorative details (exposed stickwork under the gables). The well-preserved, frame structure maintains much of its historic integrity and form and continues to function as a domestic single dwelling.

HISTORIC BACKGROUND

Meridian was established in the late 19th century as a farming community called "Hunter" after the original postmaster. In spite of irrigation difficulties, the settlers had a strong sense of community and determination due in part to strong community organizations. The church communities, the Odd-Fellows lodge, the school system, all contributed to the growth as businesses and services (post office, general store) set up shop. In 1893, the I.O.O.F. lodge began its new charter with the name "Meridian" referring to its location on the Boise Meridian base line.⁸ The settlement name subsequently changed from "Hunter" to "Meridian." In August of 1903, the town of Meridian was incorporated with over two hundred inhabitants.⁹

Meridian established economic permanence with fruit orchards and creameries, once the irrigation canals, such as Settlers' Ditch, were finally completed in 1892. Meridian also marked the halfway point between Nampa and Boise City along the Idaho Central railroad.¹⁰ Several railroad lines connected commuters and new settlers to trade, commerce and new beginnings. By 1920, the town's population had quickly grown to 1,000 people, and by the 1940s, 1,500. In 1990, the census count in Meridian was 9,596. The allure of the town and its location booms today as Meridian has expanded its boundaries and is home to more than 40,000 people.¹¹

The period of significance for the Bell House is 1922, the year it was built. The house was built while S. H. Griffith, a local coal merchant who also once served as Mayor of Meridian, owned the property.¹² Ralph H. and Jessie Bell purchased the property in 1925, and maintained ownership until 1977. The Bells engaged in the growth of the small town keeping active in the community and in religious organizations.¹³ The success of Meridian's continued growth and prosperity is largely due to its strong sense of community.

ARCHITECTURE

John Krulish had a contract with S. H. Griffith and built his house in 1922.¹⁴ The domestic, single-dwelling building embodies the Craftsman style of architecture. Contextually, the building represents the prospering townspeople and business owners creating a modern neighborhood building. Architecturally, the building represents an early 20th

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century style popularized by news media to disperse the trends and styles. The house meets National Register Criterion C in the area of Architecture as one of the best maintained domestic examples of the Craftsman style from the original Meridian Townsite development.

The Craftsman style of domestic architecture (part of a movement from the Greene brothers in California and Frank Lloyd Wright) peaked in popularity from 1905 to 1930 in the United States. The Craftsman style of architecture quickly spread across the country from its origins due, in part, to the several widely distributed publications, including, *The Ladies' Home Journal*, the *Craftsman Homes* guide by Gustav Stickley, and the Sears, Roebuck and Company's *Modern Homes* catalog. Other reasons for the style's popularity relate to the modern amenities (electricity, indoor plumbing and central heating) incorporated into the structure. The design also reflected "modern" movements such as the Fresh Air Movement (porches and window screens) and the Arts and Crafts Movement (influenced by the Greene brothers).¹⁵ The style ranges from modest, one-story homes to larger estates and makes a statement of a more simplified form of expression apart from the previously popular Queen Anne style.

A Craftsman-style building is characterized by its naturalness (in the use of wood and earth tone colors), simple characteristics and geometric forms. The Craftsman design was intended to simplify the domestic space for function and fashion. Typical elements include: low-pitched roof shapes; enclosed porches and patios; unenclosed, deep eave overhangs; exposed timbers (both structural and decorative); double- or triple-window fenestration; and centered dormer windows. A modern floor plan encouraged an inviting open design (entry directly into living space with fireplaces). Porches connected the contained interior spaces to the natural exterior surroundings. Exterior treatments (brick exterior chimneys, wood shingles, and natural tones) reinforced the building's connection with nature.

The Bell house models a one-and-one-half-story Craftsman dwelling architecturally and contextually. There are no other Craftsman-style domestic dwellings from the original Meridian Townsite plat in the old downtown Meridian blocks as prominent and well maintained as the Bell House. The architectural description of the Bell house directly mirrors the list of Craftsman-style building details. The Bell house stands out as a "modern" domestic building located on a prime downtown corner lot. In the May 6, 1921, edition of the *Meridian Times* newspaper, the news reports that S. H. Griffith has a contract to build a "strictly modern [house] including a furnace" on the corner of 2nd and Pine Streets. The same newspaper also regularly ran a column featuring fashionable and functional domestic buildings and agricultural structures in the early 1920s, demonstrating that even small-town Meridian sought to keep up with modern times. The Bell House represents the modern Craftsman-style trend of the early 20th century.

SUMMARY

The Bell House, built in 1922, is a representative landmark relating to the prospering growth of the original downtown development of the small farm town of Meridian, now the fastest growing city in Idaho. Its location in the original Meridian Townsite plat as well as the building's more-than-modest size shows the prominence of the dwelling as part of the town's development and ultimate success. The design exemplifies the Craftsman style of building during its peak of popularity for that particular architectural style. The setting remains the core downtown of Meridian; however, many of the surrounding residential buildings have converted to commercial uses.

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Section 8 Page 3 Name of Property Bell, R. H. and Jessie, House
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The Bell House stands as a reminder of the original domestic community. The materials largely remain overwhelmingly original with few modern updates or changes (two side windows have been replaced, a portion of the front porch has been enclosed, and the roof material updated to asphalt shingle). The workmanship is evident in the good condition of the exposed structural elements retaining its simple geometric appeal characteristic of the Craftsman style. The feeling of the property reflects its historic construction combining modesty and pride with modern, yet simple practical details. The association of the property directly links to the prosperous small, farm-town beginnings of the City of Meridian.

Endnotes:

- ¹ Ada County Recorder's Office, (30 July 1991), Deed record, Instrument Number 9141462.
- ² Scott Grapatin, interview by author, 9 February 2005.
- ³ Virginia and Lee McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1984), 58.
- ⁴ Ibid., 454-455.
- ⁵ Scott Grapatin, interview by author, 24 July 2005.
- ⁶ Robert Winter and Alexander Vertikoff, American Bungalow Style (New York: Archetype Press, 1996), 43.
- ⁷ Virginia and Lee McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses, 454.
- ⁸ Lila Hill and Glen W. Davidson, They Came to Build a Community: A History of Meridian, Idaho, and The People Called Methodists (Meridian, Idaho: First United Methodist Church, 1986), 74; Annie Laurie Bird, Boise, The Peace Valley, 2nd ed. Canyon County Historical Society (Caldwell, Idaho: Caxton Printers, 1975), 368-369.
- ⁹ Annie Laurie Bird, Boise, The Peace Valley, 372.
- ¹⁰ Ibid., 367, 370.
- ¹¹ Idaho Department of Commerce, Historical Populations by County (Boise, Idaho: Census Data, 2003) [online database] available from <http://www.idoc.state.id.us/data/census/index.html>.
- ¹² Lila Hill and Glen W. Davidson, They Came to Build a Community: A History of Meridian, Idaho, and The People Called Methodists, 74-76; Ada County Recorder's Office, (1918), Deed Book 131, Page 100, cross-listed under Instrument Number 75704; Ibid., (1925), Deed book 171, Page 227, cross-listed under Instrument Number 116367.
- ¹³ Ibid., (1932), Deed Book 201, Page 402, cross-listed under Instrument Number 149500; Ibid., (1977), Instrument Number 7711232.
- ¹⁴ Meridian Times (Meridian), 6 May 1921.
- ¹⁵ Greta Terrell, Getting to Know Your 20th-Century Neighborhood, Historic Preservation Information Booklets (Washington, D.C.: National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1996), 3-6, 9; Virginia and Lee McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses, 454.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 1 Name of Property Bell, R. H. and Jessie, House
County and State Ada County, Idaho

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- Ada County Recorder's Office, 200 West Front Street, Boise, Idaho. Deed Book 45, Page 87. 29 October 1902.
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- Ada County Recorder's Office, 200 West Front Street, Boise, Idaho. Deed Book 131, Page 100, cross-listed under Instrument Number 75704. 28 August 1918.
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- Ada County Recorder's Office, 200 West Front Street, Boise, Idaho. Instrument Number 7711232. 16 March 1977.
- Ada County Recorder's Office, 200 West Front Street, Boise, Idaho. Instrument Number 9141462. 30 July 1991.
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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 2 Name of Property Bell, R. H. and Jessie, House

County and State Ada County, Idaho

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Photos Page 1

Name of Property Bell, R. H. and Jessie, House

County and State Ada County, Idaho

PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION

R. H. and Jessie Bell House

Ada County, Idaho

All photos taken by Emily Peeso

Spring, 2005

Original negatives on file at the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office

Photo #1 of 9	Context view looking southwest
Photo #2 of 9	Context view looking southeast
Photo #3 of 9	Southeast oblique (rear façade) – view looking northwest
Photo #4 of 9	East elevation – view looking west
Photo #5 of 9	Southwest oblique (rear façade) – view looking northeast
Photo #6 of 9	Exterior detail (back porch and dormer) – view looking northeast
Photo #7 of 9	Exterior addition detail – view looking north
Photo #8 of 9	Interior front porch window detail – view looking east
Photo #9 of 9	Interior rear dormer window detail – view looking south

