

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

NOMINATION: (TOURTELLOTTE AND HUMMEL ARCHITECTURE ~~IN IDAHO~~ (2))

✓ SITE NAME: Davies, Dr. James, House ✓ SITE NUMBER: 27

✓ LOCATION: 1107 ~~West~~ Washington Street, Boise, Ada County (~~001~~), Idaho

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Herman L. Dinken
P. O. Box 532
Mercer Island, WA 98040

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Dr. James Davies House and the property on which it stands, lot 11, block 78, Boise City Original Townsite. Legal description on file at the Ada County Courthouse, Boise, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/5,64,310/48,29,925

DATE OR PERIOD: 1904

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: fair altered original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Dr. James Davies House on Washington Street is an unusual variation on the shingled colonial style. The roof falls from a lateral ridgebeam in a broad unflared gambrel, which covers the entire floor space except that beneath the large, centered, gabled dormer. The cross-facade porch is inset under this roof, with massive stone corner pillars and walls (except on the left, where spindle balusters appear) and turned Tuscan columns on either side of the steps. The right front corner of the house is extended in a beveled side bay, so the porch runs slightly to the right. The big upper dormer has a pediment-like gable, fishscale-shingled sides, and, most curiously, a small tripartite curved bay to the right of center. The upper sections of the sash windows of the bay are mullioned in a sunburst or spider-web pattern that includes all three windows. Left of the bay, on the left front of the dormer, is a pair of small square sashes side by side in a common frame. To the right of the dormer is another curious feature, a nipping back of the roof to uncover a small upstairs balcony. To the left of the dormer is a small rectangular attic light, under a small shed roof that extends straight out from the upper slope of the gambrel roof.

The very large side gables produced by the gambrel roof are flared at the bases. They contain pairs of sash windows with multi-paned upper sections and flared hoods and have orange-slice fanlights in the upper angles. The extensive surfaces of the gables are otherwise completely covered with shaped shingles: bands of fishscales separated from bands of half-octagonals by single rows of squares. The first floor of the house, which apparently was originally veneered with rock-faced stone to match the porch material, has been re-surfaced with modern stone veneer. Downstairs window are sash with nine-over-one lights.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Dr. James Davies House is architecturally significant as a unique variation of the shingled colonial style. It is unique in several ways, but particularly in that it is gambrel-roofed. This double-slope roof form is rare in the Group. This house has several other idiosyncracies that harken back to Queen Anne tastes if not forms. The miniature slant bay on one side of the dormer and the open balcony nipped into the second-story roofline at right front.

James C. Davies was a recent arrival from Iowa when he commissioned this unusual house. The projected and reported costs were \$4,000.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOURCES:

(Boise) Idaho Daily Statesman, July 17, 1904, p. 5, c. 4; January 15, 1905, p. 13 (photograph).

Boise, Idaho. Hummel Jones Miller Hunsucker P.A. File 407F. Tracing signed John E. Tourtellotte and Company.