

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 27 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Bridwell, James F., houseother names/site number Dragseth, Gena, house

2. Location

street & number 107 5th Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Kamiah

N/A vicinity

state Idaho code ID county Lewis code ID 061 zip code 83536

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this
☒ 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 ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. 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:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

vacant/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revival/
Colonial Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls weatherboard

roof wood shingle (original)

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Bridwell house is a detached, single-family dwelling built in 1907. It has two stories, a partial basement, is square in shape and is two pile deep. The clipped gable roof has corner returns, a central chimney, and was originally covered with wooden shingles. The house is covered with beaded shiplap siding and has milled corner boards with Tuscan capitals.

A porch extends the length of the north side of the house, plus one-half of the east side. It has a hip roof which is supported by five Tuscan columns. The remainder of the east side of the house is an original, one-story attachment containing a pantry and bathroom.

The lower floor of the house also includes a kitchen, dining room, living room, and bedroom, the space being equally divided among these four areas. The bedroom has a small walk-in closet. A stairway (with cupboard underneath) is located in the dining room and leads to the upper floor. Upstairs are three bedrooms, one running the length of the west half of the house and two smaller rooms on the east half. All floors; light fixtures; woodwork, including door and window frames, the stairway, and kick boards; and much of the wallpaper and decorative elements such as doorknobs and key plates are original to the house.

On the east (gable) end of the house, the two windows of the one-story attachment are fixed, single pane. There is also a one-over-one light sash window which looks into the dining room on the lower floor. On the upper floor is a double, one-over-one light sash window. Two wooden panel doors are located on the east side—one leads into the dining room and other, set at an angle, leads to the kitchen.

On the north (front) side of the house is a wooden panel door with glass in the upper half. This door leads into the dining room. The lower floor also has two large fixed sash windows, one in the dining room and the other in the living room.

The west (gable) side includes a double-one-over-one light sash window on the upper floor. The lower floor has a large fixed sash window overlooking into the living room and a one-over-one light sash window in the bedroom....There is also a

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

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☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☒ B ☐ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Commerce

1907-1938

1907

Exploration/settlement

Cultural Affiliation

Significant Person

Bridwell, James F.

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Bridwell house in Kamiah, Idaho is significant under Criteria B because of its association with Dr. James F. Bridwell, an early settler and prominent citizen of the town.

The Bridwell family were early settlers in the State of Oregon. James F. Bridwell received his education in Oregon and obtained professional training as a dentist in St. Louis. He worked several years during the early 1890s as a dentist in Kendrick, Idaho, and about 1896, established a partnership with a Dr. Briley from Lewiston, Idaho. The two men handled medical and dental work for the Northern Pacific Railroad then being built through that region of Idaho.

The Kamiah valley is historically associated with the Nez Perce Indians. In 1806, members of the Lewis and Clark expedition were the first non-Indian visitors to travel through the region. The name Kamiah apparently comes from a Nez Perce word meaning "place of many rope litters." The kamo plant (*Apocynum Androsaemifolium*, also known as Indian hemp), which was used to make ropes, grew in the area and the Nez Perce used the valley as a manufacturing site. Reverend Henry Spaulding set up a short-lived mission in the valley to the Nez Perce in 1837 and in the early 1870s, another mission was established by Miss Sue McBeth. Only limited occupation by whites occurred prior to 1895 when the Nez Perce Indian Reservation was opened for settlement. As settlers began to arrive, a trading post/store was opened (1892), post office established in the store (1894), and hotel built (1899). It was about 1899, while working for the Northern Pacific Railroad, that Dr. Bridwell first visited the area, decided to make it his permanent home, and purchased the store/post office building.

After a railroad depot was built in 1900, the town of Kamiah moved a short distance from the earlier location and grew up around the depot. Dr. Bridwell was one of many to construct a business (drugstore) in the new location on land obtained (through a five-year lease) from the Nez Perce. In 1905, he became president of the Kamiah Townsite Company, Ltd., which was organized to find a permanent location for

☒ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Lolita Brown, Pioneer Profile: A Bicentennial Salute to Kamiah and the Upper Clearwater Region, [1976], Clearwater Valley Publishing Company, Inc., Kamiah, Idaho.

Guy Reed Ramsey, Postmarked Idaho: A List of Idaho Post Offices, 1975, Idaho State Historical Society, Boise, Idaho.

Kamiah Progress (newspaper), Kamiah, Idaho.

☐ See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

☐ 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

Specify repository:

Idaho Architectural and Historic Sites Inventory

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A 11 574960 5119550
Zone Easting Northing

C

B
Zone Easting Northing

D

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 2, 3, and 6, block 12, original townsite of Kamiah, Idaho
(75' x 115')

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the three lots which are historically associated with the Bridwell house.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Linda L. Morton

organization State Historic Preservation Office

street & number 210 Main St.

city or town Boise

date May 16, 1988

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wooden panel door with a rustic scene etched in the glass upper half. This door seems to be non-functional as there is a steep drop-off to the ground and the entrance is now blocked by shrubs. There may have been steps or a small porch at one time but no photographs have been found to support this.

The south side has a one-over-one light sash window looking into the bedroom and a double-one-over-one light sash window in the kitchen.

All entrances of the Bridwell house have original screen doors and all windows are provided with storm covers. The house is virtually unchanged from its original appearance. A small partial basement was excavated by Dr. Bridwell after the house was constructed and the present owners added a composition single roof over the original wooden shingles.

To the rear of the lot sits a one-story building which was originally used as a shop/wood shed and in later years, a Boy Scout meeting hall. Much of the landscaping--trees, shrubbery--are original to the site.

The house is in run-down condition and is presently unoccupied. However, of the ten or twelve houses built at approximately the same time as the Bridwell house, all have either been torn down or have had substantial alterations made--siding, new porches, additions, aluminum windows and doors.

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the town. After suitable land was located and purchased from the Nez Perce, the town moved again and Bridwell's new drugstore was the first business to be completed and opened to the public. Numerous other commercial enterprises were established and the early merchants began to build substantial homes in the town. The Bridwell house was completed in the fall of 1907. In early 1912, Dr. Bridwell and a business partner, Wade Wilson, built a new brick building nearby to house the Kamiah Drug Company. Although this building is still standing, Bridwell's ownership of the company ended in 1921 when his partner became the sole proprietor.

As well as heading the Kamiah Townsite Company, Dr. James F. Bridwell also served the Village of Kamiah as Chairman of the Board, Trustee of the Board, and City Treasurer. He was vice-president of the Kamiah Bridge Company which, in 1909, built the first wagon bridge across the nearby Clearwater River; helped organize the Kamiah School District in 1900; helped organize and was vice-president of the Kamiah Valley Commercial Club in 1908; served on the Kamiah Fair Committee; was a board member of the Kamiah Highway District; was instrumental in making major improvements to the Kamiah airport; served as postmaster of Kamiah from 1902 to 1913; and was active in a variety of other town events.

Bridwell, his wife Mary and their three children lived in the family home until 1944, when it was sold to the present owners. Dr. James F. Bridwell died on January 6, 1948. The Bridwell house remains the structure most closely associated with the life and civic contributions of Dr. Bridwell in the community of Kamiah.



James F. Bridwell House
Kamahi, Idaho

Linda Morton, Photographer
24 April 1988

NORTH View



James F. Bridwell house
Kamiah Idaho

Linda Morten, Photographer
24 April 1988

interior hallway



James F. Bridwell house
Kamiah, Idaho

Linda Morton photograph
24 April 1988

Close up of porch



James F. Bridwell house
Kamiah, Idaho

Linda Morton, Photographs
24 April 1985

South view



James F. Bridwell house
Kamiah, Idaho

Linda Morton, Photographies
24 April 1988

West view



James F. Bridwell house
Kamiah, Idaho

Linda Morton, photographic
24 April 1988

East UNW