

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

NOMINATION: (TOURTELLOTT AND HUMMEL ARCHITECTURE ~~IN IDAHO~~ (R))

✓ SITE NAME: Dunton, Minnie Priest, House

SITE NUMBER: 79

✓ LOCATION: 906 Hays Street, Boise, Ada County ~~(001), Idaho~~

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Susan Jane Travis
c/o R. Hemple
512 East Fifteenth
Hutchinson, Kansas 67501

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Boise South, 7.5 minute

ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Minnie Priest Dunton House and the property on which it stands, lot 5, block 83, Boise City Original Townsite. Legal description on file at the Ada County Courthouse, Boise, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/5,64,650/4829,990

DATE OR PERIOD: 1913

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: Excellent unaltered original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Minnie Priest Dunton House in its 1913 state represents an alteration and conversion to apartments of a Queen Anne cottage designed by John Tourtellotte for Herbert Dunton in 1899. The original structure is visible as the shiplapped, clip-cornered first story of the present building; stained glass Queen Anne strip lights survive in the upper panel of the main front windows. The entire stucco and half-timbered second story, a stairhall to reach it, a rear addition containing the owner's quarters, and a bungalow porch are all the result of the 1913 remodeling.

At its core the second story has a main hipped roof with a short lateral ridge. The roofline is further complicated by an offset forward gable over the original polygonal bay, a gable over a second-story oriel bay, and hipped and shed roofs over the left side oriel and side and rear ells. The front-facing gables of the roof and the small outset porch have a low bungalow pitch and are supported on flattened figure-four brackets. Trimmed rafters are exposed under all lateral eaves.

The gabled entry porch at right front is supported on blocky wooden posts with geometric dropped capitals. These in turn are supported on brick pedestals which are drawn out in low stepped parapet walls on either side of the broad stoop. The low-

est level of this parapet wall, notched and with corner pedestals, continues across the front of the house in a sort of terrace wall. This arrangement, which looks as though it might have been intended to support a continuation of the porch, appears precisely this way in the original drawings for the front elevation. In fact, except for the addition of an iron central rail on the concrete stoop, the house appears entirely unaltered from its 1913 state.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Dunton house is architecturally significant as a striking example of spatial and stylistic overlay achieved in an extensive remodeling. Spatially, the transformation is exceeded only by that of the Hays house remodeling (site 114), in which an 1890s structure entirely disappeared; the Dunton house at least doubled the existing floor space of the 1899 cottage, as had the Bishops' house project of 1900 (site 6). Stylistically, this renovation shows a different hopscotching of periods: where Bishop Funsten's project transformed an early provincial Queen Anne house to a late and much more sophisticated one, the Dunton project added to a still discernible late Queen Anne cottage the forms of the bungalow style and the often-associated Tudor revival and geometrized classical motifs. It created in Boise a hybrid type incorporating in a single structure several periods of developmental style, in precisely the same way that the 1899-1916 Kurtz-Van Sicklin house (site 13) does in Weiser.

Herbert Dunton, owner of the original \$1,400 cottage, was a Boise lawyer. Minnie Priest Dunton, who commissioned the radical renovation which converted the Dunton cottage to a boarding house with seven bedrooms on the new upper story, was a librarian at the Idaho State Law Library. A newspaper report on the completion of the project said 906 Hays was "now one of the handsome dwellings of the city."¹ The enlarged house was reported to contain:

. . . fourteen rooms, two baths, steam heat and every other modern convenience. Each bedroom has hot and cold water, the woodwork is white enamel with mahogany trim, and each room has a mirrored door. Mrs. Dunton has designated her home Rosemere on account of the rose gardens which surrounds it.²

Rosemere is still so designated in 1980. J. A. Peterson took the \$3,670 contract for the construction in 1913.

1. (Boise) Idaho Statesman. November 25, 1913.

2. Ibid.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

(Boise) Idaho Statesman. June 3, 1899, p. 9, c. 1; January 1, 1900, p. 5, c. 5; September 7, 1913, p. 3, c. 2; November 25, 1913.

Polk and Company. Boise City Directories. 1902, 1911.

Boise, Idaho. Hummel Jones Miller Hunsucker P.A. File 403B. Certificate and collection book references, 1913. Tracings signed Tourtellotte and Hummel.



Tourtellotte and Hummel Architecture in Idaho
Dunton, Minnie Priest House, site #79
906 Hays Street
Boise, Ada County, Idaho

Photographer:
Duane Garrett
1978

Negative on file at Idaho State Historical Society
Boise, Idaho

View from west

Photograph one of one