

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received AUG 5 1986

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

## 1. Name

historic Fisher, James M., House

and or common N/A

## 2. Location

street & number 598 Pioneer Road

N/A not for publication

city, town Weiser

N/A vicinity of

state Idaho

code 016

county Washington

code 087

## 3. Classification

| Category                                        | Ownership                                   | Status                                                | Present Use                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district               | <input type="checkbox"/> public             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied          | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied                   | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | <input type="checkbox"/> both               | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress             | <input type="checkbox"/> educational                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                   | <b>Accessible</b>                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | N/A in process                              | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted              | <input type="checkbox"/> government                   |
|                                                 | N/A being considered                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial                   |
|                                                 |                                             | <input type="checkbox"/> no                           | <input type="checkbox"/> military                     |
|                                                 |                                             |                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> museum                       |
|                                                 |                                             |                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> park                         |
|                                                 |                                             |                                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
|                                                 |                                             |                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> religious                    |
|                                                 |                                             |                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific                   |
|                                                 |                                             |                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation               |
|                                                 |                                             |                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> other:                       |

## 4. Owner of Property

name Anthony L. Edmondson and John Murray

street & number 598 Pioneer Road

city, town Weiser

N/A vicinity of

state Idaho 83672

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Washington County Courthouse

street & number 256 East Court

city, town Weiser

state Idaho 83672

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Idaho State Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1982 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Idaho State Historical Society

city, town Boise

state Idaho

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**☒ excellent☐ good☐ fair☐ deteriorated☐ ruins☐ unexposed**Check one**☐ unaltered☒ altered**Check one**☒ original site☐ N/A moveddate N/A

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The James M. Fisher House is a large two-story, detached residence centrally located on what was originally a five-acre lot. The house is basically rectangular in plan and exhibits a hipped roof with three lower cross gables, one facing the front of the house (south elevation) and one each on the east and west facades. The gables, with partial eaves returns, are set off-center on their respective facades. The house is constructed of red brick, laid in common bond, with sandstone lintels and sills at each window.

In about 1914 a second story was added to the kitchen area at the rear of the house. Designed by the original architect, this early remodeling is compatible to the original design and has been the only significant alteration to the building. A minor alteration was the addition of a window in the east gable. This recent change is located on a minor facade and not easily visible from the public rights-of-way. The 1914 remodeling contributes to the significance of the building.

One of the most noteworthy features of the exterior is a large symmetrical porch which wraps around both sides from the front. The porch is characterized by a gable centered over the front steps, and is supported by simple Tuscan columns on brick pedestals. The porch railing is constructed of white sand lime brick. Windows are simple one-over-one double-hung sash; decorative leaded glass transoms are found over the door and picture windows, and an original stained glass fixed window remains in place at the southwest corner of the first floor. Cut shingles in the gables add a decorative element.

The interior of the house is essentially in its original condition, with only a few modifications made to the rear segments during the 1914 remodeling and minor paint changes in several rooms. The interior plan remains intact, and original hardware, electrical fixtures, and yellow fir molding are extant throughout the house. A built-in china cabinet is a distinctive feature of the dining room. The original fireplace mantel in the parlor is constructed of white sand lime brick and soft white Weiser stone.

The garage to the west of the house is of modern construction and is compatible in design to the house. The only other outbuilding on the site is a metal storage shed at the rear of the property. Neither building is contributory to the property.

## 8. Significance

| Period                                    | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below    |                                                 |                                                 |                                          |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric      | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric  | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning     | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499        | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic     | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation           | <input type="checkbox"/> law                    | <input type="checkbox"/> science         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599        | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> economics              | <input type="checkbox"/> literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education              | <input type="checkbox"/> military               | <input type="checkbox"/> social/         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799        | <input type="checkbox"/> art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899        | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> theater         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900– | <input type="checkbox"/> communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation  |
|                                           |                                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> invention              |                                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

**Specific dates** 1908–1909; ca. 1914 **Builder/Architect** H. W. Bond and Company

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The James M. Fisher House was built in 1908-09 for James M. Fisher, a prominent sheep rancher in the Weiser area during the latter half of the nineteenth century and early twentieth century. The house was designed by the architectural firm of H. W. Bond and Company and is an excellent representative example of their work. Its architectural integrity is essentially intact, both on the exterior and interior. The Fisher house is an excellent example of early twentieth-century residential architecture, combining Queen Anne and Colonial Revival elements to produce a stately and well-proportioned structure. As one of the largest private homes in Weiser, the Fisher House stands today not only as a reflection of a successful businessman, James M. Fisher, but its excellent condition and unaltered appearance also attest to the care of its past and present owners.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Mann Creek, Idaho

Quadrangle scale 15 minute

### UTM References

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** The nomination includes the James M. Fisher House and the property on which it sits: beginning at the southwest corner of Block "F" of the Butterfield Tract, thence run North 298.7 feet, thence East 126.5 feet, thence South 298.7 feet more or less to the South line of Block "F" thence run West 122.5 feet to the point of beginning.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Donald W. Watts, Historic Preservation Planner

organization Idaho State Historical Society date June 16, 1986

street & number 610 North Julia Davis Drive telephone (208) 334-3861

city or town Boise state Idaho 83702-7695

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Thomas J. Green*

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date 7/29/86

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

*for Thomas J. Green*  
Keeper of the National Register

date 9/4/86

date

Attest:

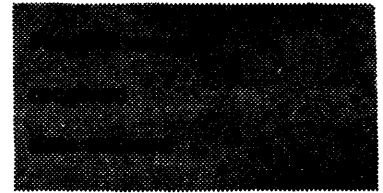
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Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Fisher, James M., House



Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

James M. Fisher was born in 1848 in Buckrigg, Scotland, and emigrated to Canada 1862 as a boy of fourteen. In 1889 he moved to Weiser after spending several years in Heppner, Oregon. Establishing himself in the sheep business, he returned briefly to Scotland in 1891 to marry Wilhelmina Kirk, returning to Weiser shortly thereafter with his bride.

After a successful life as a stockman, Fisher sold his farm and retired from the business in 1907 and moved into town. He purchased a five acre tract in the Butterfield Subdivision, an exclusive new residential area on the outskirts of town, and commissioned prominent local architect Herbert W. Bond to design and construct a major residence to house his growing family.

Completed in 1909 as a ten-room house, the Fisher residence was expanded in about 1914 by adding a second floor to the one-story rear portion of the structure. Again, Bond and Company were awarded the work. As a compatible design by the original architect, this expansion has achieved significance in its own right.

The significance of the house stems in part from its association with the architectural firm of H. W. Bond and Company, a versatile enterprise which was responsible for many of Weiser's finer architectural expressions, both residential and commercial. Herbert W. Bond moved to Weiser in 1907, and during the ensuing ten years of his residency there was responsible for the design of almost forty private and public buildings in the region.

The Fisher house represents not only one of Bond's earliest projects in Weiser, but one of his most ambitious domestic designs. In mass and scale, only the Broderon house (1915) next door can compare to the Fisher house. Importantly, the Fisher house also appears to represent one of Bond's last major uses of basic Queen Anne elements; most of his later residential work in Weiser are one-story bungalows and reflect a stronger influence of the Colonial Revival style.

Three other Bond designed buildings have received National Register recognition: the Colonel E. M. Heigho residence and the Pacific and Idaho Northern Railroad Depot in New Meadows, and the Pomona Hotel in Council.

Another aspect of the building's significance is its extraordinary degree of architectural integrity both on the interior as well as the exterior. Only minor changes to the building have occurred since 1914, and these can be readily discerned by comparison with the original architectural plans and specifications now in the current owner's possession. The only new rehabilitation work undertaken on the house has been the replacement of the original roof shingles with new shingles to match.

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Fisher, James M., House

Continuation sheet

Item number 9

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French, Hiram T.; History of Idaho, Lewis Publishing Company, (Chicago, 1914), Vol. II, pp 813-14.

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Weiser Signal; September 26, 1895; October 17, 1895; October 21, 1897; March 4, 1908; July 1, 1908; October 3, 1935.

Weiser American; February 6, 1908; May 7, 1908; April 1, 1909; March 10, 1910; October 3, 1935.



Fisher, James M., House  
598 Pioneer Road  
Weiser, Washington County, Idaho

Photograph by Donald W. Watts  
May 27, 1986

Negative on file at the Idaho State Historical  
Society, Boise, Idaho

View from southwest

Photograph 1 of 1