

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

JUL 10 1979

DATE ENTERED

AUG 30 1979

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Judge Charles P. McCarthy house

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1415 Fort Street

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Boise

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Idaho

___ VICINITY OF
CODE

16

COUNTY

Ada

CODE

001

CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**☒ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☐ YES: RESTRICTED☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Herbert and Ethyl Shaefer

STREET & NUMBER

1415 Fort Street

CITY, TOWN

Boise

STATE

Idaho

___ VICINITY OF

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Ada County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Boise

STATE

Idaho

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYSTITLE Idaho State Historic Sites Inventory
1972

DATE

___ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Idaho State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Boise

STATE

Idaho

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The McCarthy house at 1415 Fort is a two-story duplex built in the Prairie style, apparently adapted from a Frank Lloyd Wright plan published in the Ladies' Home Journal in 1907. As in that design the structure is basically a cube covered with a slab roof. Here, however, the window area at right rear is increased by a double inset corner. The roof, rather than being flat--although it appears so from the street--is pitched to a very low hip. A one-and-a-half story wing and a long terrace which appeared to the left in the original plan have been omitted; a small sun-room at right occurs instead. As though in compensation for the loss of emphatic horizontality which would have been provided by the terrace, a pent eave has been added over the first story. The fenestration has also been somewhat modified by the adaptation to duplex form: the corner windows at upper left light the stairwell and entry to an upstairs apartment, and did not appear in the Wright facade.

Despite these adaptations to local climate, site and the particular needs of the first owner, the effect of the house is substantially Wrightean and purely Prairie. The fabric is light stucco, against which the typically deep, wood-banded eaves are ranged. Low, short, ledged stucco walls, extending at right angles to the ground-floor facade, demarcate its main openings. Windows occur in horizontal bands; the lines and shadows of their outset sills further emphasize the horizontal organization; the low rectangular chimney follows suit.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

French, Hiram T., History of Idaho, Vol. II. Chicago and New York: Lewish Publishing Co., 1914, pp. 691-2.

Idaho Daily Statesman. Boise: 20 May 1913, p. 3. c. 2.

Manson, Grant Carpenter. Frank Lloyd Wright to 1910: The First Golden Age. New York: Reinhold Publishing Corporation, 1958, pp. 103-7, 181-3.

Interviews with Mrs. Margaret Givens and Mrs. Caroline Miller, May, 1978.

Charles P. McCarthy's files are in the manuscripts division of the Idaho State Historical Society.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre.

UTM REFERENCES

A 11 564180 4830360
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This nomination includes the duplex at 1415 Fort Street in Boise and the property on which it stands, which are owned in 1978 by Herbert and Ethyl Shaefer.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Patricia Wright, Architectorial Historian

ORGANIZATION Idaho State Historical Society

DATE 26 June 1979

STREET & NUMBER 610 North Julia Davis Drive

TELEPHONE 384-2120

CITY OR TOWN Boise

STATE Idaho

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

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

Merle Wells

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 4 July 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Carol Shaefer

DATE

8-30-79

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

~~KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER~~

ATTEST: *W. Ray Price*
for KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

8/29/79

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION	
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE	
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE	
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER	
☐ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION	
☒ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☒ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		☐ INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1913

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The McCarthy house is architecturally significant as the purest example in Boise of the Prairie Style of residential architecture. Indeed it is one of the purest examples in the state, where only about a dozen houses have been identified which follow the style very deliberately. As indicated in the description the McCarthy house follows in its basic plan and appearance a design published by the originator of the Prairie style, Frank Lloyd Wright, in the Ladies' Home Journal in 1907. This was the third design Wright has sold to the Curtis Publishing Company to be resold by mail to its readers; it was for a more modest dwelling that could have been built from the more complex, cross-planned and decoratively elaborate designs published in 1901. The cost of the building from the earlier plans was projected at \$5800 and \$7000; from the later one, although it appeared six years later, only \$5000. Just this cost was projected six years later still, when the Idaho Statesman reported on "the handsome \$5000 home" that Charles Penderghast McCarthy planned to build on Fort Street.

McCarthy, a native of Massachusetts and a graduate of Harvard, had been in Boise eight years in 1913 and had risen quickly. He had begun in the law office of ~~then Senator~~ W.E. Borah, been admitted to the bar, moved on to the positions of acting city attorney and county prosecutor, and married the daughter of a state supreme court judge. In 1912 he was appointed judge of the third district of Idaho, one of the youngest ever appointed to the office, and a year later he built his new house. Its arrangement as an unaltered duplex reflects the fact that it was originally occupied by an extended family: the Judge and his young family lived downstairs, his widowed mother and his sister above.



Judge Charles P. McCarthy house
1415 Fort Street
Boise, Idaho

AUG 30 1979

Ada County
Photographer: Duane Garrett
1978

Negative on file at: #1

Idaho State Historical Society
Boise, Idaho
View from North

JUL 10 1979