

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR 22 1982

DATE ENTERED MAY 20 1982

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

HISTORIC

Daniel F. Murphy House

AND/OR COMMON

N/A

**LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

1608 North Ninth Street

N/A NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Boise

N/A VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Idaho

CODE

016

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☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Terry and Louise Maley

STREET &amp; NUMBER

1608 North Ninth Street

CITY, TOWN

Boise

N/A VICINITY OF

STATE

Idaho 83702

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Ada County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

N/A

CITY, TOWN

Boise

STATE

Idaho 83702

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Idaho State Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1972

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Idaho State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Boise

STATE

Idaho 83702

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

\_\_\_ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
\_\_\_ FAIR

\_\_\_ DETERIORATED  
\_\_\_ RUINS  
\_\_\_ UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

\_\_\_ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
\_\_\_ MOVED      DATE N/A

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Situated in Boise's north end near Longfellow school, the Daniel F. Murphy house is a two-story building of sawn coursed ashlar Boise sandstone. The house has a hip-roofed outset toward the street and a square front porch in the intersection of its L-plan. The fifty-seven feet long by thirty feet wide house has a front porch entry, a rear corner porch entry and a north-facing side doorway. The two porch entries are flush with the elevated ground-story level. The front porch columns of the Roman Doric order support the balustrade of the second-story corner balcony. The rear porch columns, which support a hipped roof, are square and Doric. The foundation of quarry-faced random ashlar sandstone contrasts with the finished stone walls of the rest of the house. The molded water table runs the full perimeter of the house, excluding the two porch areas. A projecting sill course runs the full perimeter of the house and continues on as the coping of the two porch walls. The large lower-story windows are double-hung sash with multi-paned upper sashes and plain flush lintels. On the street- and south-facing sides, a rectilinear projecting dripstone surmounts these openings. The double casement windows with multi-paned upper sashes on the street and south-facing sides of the second story are emphasized by double bracketed deeply projecting bevelled sills. The entrance to the corner balcony at the right of the facade is through an upstairs bedroom doorway. The windows on the north-facing second story have projecting sills, and two of them have a single bracket. The east or alley-facing second-story surface is of coursed vari-shaped butt shingles flaring out to the second story floor line. The windows are modern double-hung sash. The hipped roof system has carved exposed rafters and asphalt shingles. It is surmounted on the street-facing ridge by crenellated pressed sheet metal cresting and on the south-facing ridge by the central quarry-faced sandstone chimney.

The front porch originally had two doorways, one facing south and one facing west (the street). These doors were flanked by large windows. In 1956 the street-facing wall of the porch was altered to hold a picture window five feet by seven feet, leaving the south-facing doorway as the main front entrance. At this time the house was also divided into four apartments. Of the original interior, the staircase, banisters and newell posts, the central sandstone fireplace, the doors and windows and their surrounds remain intact. The kitchen has been completely remodeled, the rear porch has been enclosed, and the bathrooms are newly finished. The basement, entered either through the kitchen or the north-facing doorway, is unfinished, and remains as originally constructed by Murphy. The original coal burning furnace, now converted to gas, is still in use as the house's source of heating.

Also on the property is a garage with clapboard siding, built around the same time as the house. It is located on the alley at the rear of the house.

## 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/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799        | <input type="checkbox"/> ART                     | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING            | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC                  | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899        | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE                | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY             | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS          | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY               | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT    | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)     |
|                                           |                                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION              |                                                 |                                              |

SPECIFIC DATES    1908                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT    Daniel F. Murphy

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Daniel F. Murphy House, built in 1908, is significant for its historical associations with the stone mason for the Idaho State Capitol building and other prominent Boise sandstone buildings, and for its uniqueness of style and manner of construction. This house is a singular domestic example of the type and quality of stone work seen on the Capitol building. The house was built during the period when D. F. Murphy's construction firm, Capitol Construction Company, was at work on the Capitol. Boise sandstone houses of the period typically employed rock-faced stone, rather than the smooth-finished ashlar of the Murphy House. The house is architecturally significant, too, as a unique example of the application of the elements of monumental Neoclassicism, popular in the public buildings Murphy erected in Boise, to a domestic building. The buildings' Renaissance feeling, expressed by Tuscan classical quotations, renders it significant as one of Boise's few sandstone villas.

D. F. Murphy came to Boise in 1903 and for many years was actively connected with building operations there, chiefly the erection of public buildings. Mr. Murphy originally learned the building business under the direction of his father, a contractor in Springfield, Massachusetts. When Daniel was eighteen years of age he went to New York City, where he remained for more than a decade in the employ of a large contracting firm. Later he came west and for four years was in the service of Campbell Building Company of Chicago, which he represented in various states of the West and South. After he arrived in Boise he was a partner of Charles Storey. For a number of years they operated under the firm name of Storey and Murphy, which became recognized as one of the prominent building firms of the state. Besides the Idaho State Capitol, Mr. Murphy's firm, which later became known as Capitol Construction Company, was responsible for the construction of the Odd Fellows Block in Boise, the Interurban depots at Nampa and Caldwell, the high school and hospital buildings at Pocatello and the high school building in Boise.

The stone used by Murphy on the Capitol building was the buff-colored heart of the sixty-foot sandstone stratum of the old Jellison Brothers quarry at Table Rock, east of Boise. It was considered by experts to be among the most desirable sandstones for construction to be found in the United States. It proved to be comparatively easy to work, and with time and exposure to the dry Idaho climate has hardened to a considerable extent and has made a very durable and handsome

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hawley, J.H. History of Idaho. Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1920.

Idaho Daily Statesman. January 1907–December 1908.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME Boise North

QUADRANGLE SCALE 7.5 minute

UTM REFERENCES

A 1 1 5 6 4 7 4 0 4 8 3 0 7 5 0

B                        

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C                        

D                        

E                        

F                        

G                        

H                        

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property nominated is a rectangular lot, Tax 8, Block 28, Resseguie Addition, Boise, Idaho, and cludes all the property and buildings at 1608 North Ninth Street.

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

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| N/A   |      |        |      |

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Richard Briggs, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Idaho State Historical Society

DATE

24 Dec 80

STREET & NUMBER

610 North Julia Davis Drive

TELEPHONE

334-3356

CITY OR TOWN

Boise

STATE

Idaho 83702

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE   

LOCAL X

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

Mark Wells

24 Dec 80

DATE

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Entered in the  
National Register

DATE

5/20/82

ATTEST:

Melona Byers  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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Daniel F. Murphy House

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

building material. The big stone saw and stone planer installed by Murphy for use on the Capitol building insured precision, uniformity, and availability of large amounts of finished stone to be used in Murphy's Boise projects. The labor saved by these mammoth machines in producing uniformly dressed stone, Murphy's own masonry expertise, and the stone's quality and availability encouraged Murphy to build his house at 1608 North Ninth using dressed Boise sandstone. The exterior walls of Murphy's home display the sawn coursed ashlar surface of cut stone seen on the Capitol and but few of Boise's other sandstone buildings. This simplicity of surface treatment enabled Murphy to emphasize the windows and doors and to contrast the textures of the foundation and upper stonework.

The style of the building at first glance appears predominantly Italianate in feeling. The L-plan with corner porch and balcony, the bracketed sills, the Tuscan columns and entablatured door and window woodwork, and the low pitch of the hipped roof all speak with clarity of the neo-classical building trend popular in Boise at the time. On closer inspection, however, eclectic cross-currents are revealed in such elements as carved, exposed rafters in place of the usual Italianate eaves brackets, massive pressed sheet-metal cresting running along the ridge of the forward-projecting hipped roof, windows with multi-paned upper sashes and wooden muntins suggesting the Craftsman style rather than classical proportions, and the rear upper story exterior surface of layered, vari-colored, vari-shaped butt shingles flaring out at the second-story floor line suggesting the Queen Anne-Shingle-Bungalow tradition.

The high quality of craftsmanship demonstrated by Murphy through uniform stone dressing and well-laid coursing is countered by light-hearted personal innovations such as the single-bracketed north-facing window sills and the hand-carved sandstone fireplace of classical proportions with frieze relief sculpture.



Daniel F. Murphy House  
1608 North Ninth Street  
Boise, Ada County, Idaho

Photographer:  
Patricia Wright  
1979

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

View from southwest

Photograph one of one