

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

SEP 14 1982

DATE ENTERED

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

HISTORIC

Halbert F. and Grace Neal House

AND/OR COMMON

N/A

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

101 West Pine Street

N/A NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Meridian

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**

N/A IN PROCESS

N/A 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

Richard Rakow

STREET & NUMBER

101 West Pine Street

CITY, TOWN

Meridian

N/A VICINITY OF

STATE

Idaho 83642

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Ada County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

514 West Jefferson Street

CITY, TOWN

Boise

STATE

Idaho 83702

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Idaho State Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1972

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Idaho State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Boise

STATE

Idaho 83702

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
☐ EXCELLENT	☐ DETERIORATED	☐ UNALTERED	☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☒ GOOD	☐ RUINS	☒ ALTERED	☐ MOVED DATE <u>N/A</u>
☐ FAIR	☐ UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located at 101 West Pine Street in what was known as the "suburbs" in 1905 when it was built, the Neal House is a two-story rectangular building of "cast stone" or concrete blocks laid in rock-faced plain ashlar courses up to the eaves line with shaped shingle work covering the upper wall surfaces. The Queen Anne styling of the house is accomplished by a corner turret in semi-octagonal mode capped by a hipped roof with flared eaves, and by a front-facing wall dormer with a hipped roof and a triplet of double-hung sash windows. The plan of the house is rectangular with a modified three-bay front and gabled ends. The entrance is placed in the turret-dominated corner, and a porch is constructed around this corner using octagonal porch posts of single-piece cast concrete. The corner position of the entryway, porch, and turret gives the house an asymmetrical appearance evoking the earlier Victorian era. The house also has several Colonial Revival features: enclosed eaves, classically-massed porch columns, and eaves returns. The interior features cedar woodwork of local stock. Mrs. Neal chose to carpet the hardwood floors with Persian carpets and to cover the walls and windows with luxurious red velvet drapes. An enormous coal-burning furnace in the basement was capable of heating the entire house, and when the living room fireplace was removed in 1923 it did just that.

In 1923 a fire destroyed the rear wall of the house. This led to the construction of a two-story gabled addition with an upstairs sleeping porch and downstairs sunroom. This addition is further indication of the influence of the twentieth century on the builder's art in rural Idaho. The fenestration on both floors is in the form of ribbon windows with French door entries on the lower floor. Other remodeling at this time included the removal of the corner living room fireplace and the dividing wall between living and dining rooms. These modifications created a larger living room for entertaining and an office for Dr. Neal in the sunroom.

Associated with the main house is a two-bay garage on the alley behind and to the west of the house. One-story and stuccoed, it housed first Dr. Neal's horse and buggy, and later his two Fords. When Dr. Neal replaced his horse and buggy with Meridian's first Model T, half of the garage was converted into a gigantic playhouse for his two young daughters.

The present owner of the Neal property has expressed an interest in restoration of this reminder of Meridian's heritage.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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Halbert F. and Grace Neal House

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

Mrs. Neal sandwiched a bone-crushing schedule of social activities, civic duties, duties as "office nurse and general factotum" for the doctor, between a surface appearance of an ordinary wife and mother. She had a hand in almost every social and civic innovation of her era: president of the P.T.A.; past matron of the Eastern Star (Boise and Meridian Chapters); member of P.E.O. and Rebekahs; clerk of the school board; registrar (births and deaths) and charter member of the Occident Club. Grace also belonged to the Methodist Church, its "Circle," and B.P.W. Upon the death of her first child as an infant, Mrs. Neal organized the townspeople into clearing the spot now used as the Meridian Cemetery. She was also instrumental in getting the public library established.

Many a party was held at the house, at which times the Persian carpets in the living room were rolled up, the floors waxed for dancing, and the old Victrola wound up. The Neal daughters, Dorothy and Louise, grew up here through their teenage years and remember the residence as often being the center of activity for social gatherings.

After her husband's death, Mrs. Neal moved into the upper floor of the house and rented the main floor out. Apparently many people rented all or part of the residence at one time or another. Since her death in 1974, the house has been owned by four families. The interior of the house has been altered greatly by these later tenants. The exterior concrete block, however, remains in extremely good condition, attesting to the fact that Ed Hartman used the correct "recipe" in making the concrete blocks for this large Meridian home. The house is also a visual reminder that Halbert and Grace Neal helped lay the foundations of Meridian itself.

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

1905

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Ed Hartman

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Halbert Fletcher Neal House, built in 1905, is significant for its historical associations with one of early-day Meridian's most outstanding families, and for its architectural uniqueness as one of Meridian's only Queen Anne houses. The house is a rare Meridian example of cast concrete construction, and gives expression to what was a modern building technique at the time.

Halbert Neal and Grace Andrews were married on December 28, 1904, and moved to rugged and remote Meridian, Idaho, from Indianola, Nebraska, in 1905. When they first arrived in Meridian, Dr. and Mrs. Neal set up a pharmacy, one of Idaho's first, and drugstore with Mrs. Neal serving as pharmacist. Within a year, however, they abandoned the pharmacy with Dr. Neal devoting full time to his country practice. At this time they moved into their newly-constructed home at 101 West Pine, which had been completed by local contractor-builder Ed Hartman. (The choice of concrete block as the major material may have been influenced by Mrs. Neal's father, a contractor and builder of concrete houses back in Nebraska; he probably supplied Hartman with the concrete "recipe.") All of the concrete blocks used to build the residence had been manufactured on the site by Hartman, using mail-order forms and molds. The final product was an imposing structure considered to be the handsomest and most modern home within miles.

For twenty-eight years, until his death in 1933, Dr. Neal served Meridian as its only resident physician. During his lifetime he and his wife migrated to the center of Meridian's civic activity and their home became a cultural center as well. He enjoyed nothing better than to go to a good movie or to spend an evening at some lodge reception, where he could meet people in a social way. He was one of the charter members of Meridian lodge A.F. & A.M., and was second master of this lodge. Later he identified himself with the Odd Fellows, Rebekahs, Modern Woodmen, Eastern Star, Security Benefit, Artizans, and Yeomen. He was connected with the State Medical Association, and was a member of the hospital staff of St. Luke's hospital in Boise. He also maintained a professional connection with St. Alphonsus hospital at Boise and Mercy hospital at Nampa. Dr. Neal helped to build the Methodist church in Meridian and was an active member of the Board of Trustees for many years. He was liberal in support of community institutions, including the local bank, building and loan association, and creamery. Perhaps his major interest was in the public school. He was elected to the school board a short time after he came to Meridian. On this board he was later made chairman and served until the rural high school district was formed. He served as clerk of the new district and graduated hundreds of students. Dr. Neal also served on the city council.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Idaho Daily Statesman, 1905-1956.

Meridian Times, 1925-1957.

Valley News, 1979.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME Meridian

QUADRANGLE SCALE 7.5 minute

UTM REFERENCES

A 1, 1 5, 4, 9, 0, 1, 0 4, 8, 2, 8, 7, 3, 0

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nomination includes the Halbert F. and Grace Neal House and the property on which it stands, lots 1 and 2 in block 2, West View Addition, Meridian.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Richard Briggs, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Idaho State Historical Society

DATE

2 August 1982

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

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

8 September 1982

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Entered in the
National Register

DATE

10/19/82

ATTEST:

John Helmer Bryan
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION



Neal, Halbert F. and Grace, House
101 West Pine Street
Meridian, Ada County, Idaho

Photograph by Ron Pisaneschi
July, 1982

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

View from Northeast

Photograph 1 of 1