

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0681521

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED AUG 9 1978

DATE ENTERED

14/0

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Homer Pound house
AND/OR COMMON**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

314 2nd Avenue South

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Hailey

VICINITY OF

2nd

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Idaho

16

Blaine

13

3 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:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Roberta McKercher ✓

STREET & NUMBER

314 2nd Avenue South

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Hailey

VICINITY OF

Idaho

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Blaine County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Hailey

Idaho

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

STATE

Boise

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 Ezra Pound residence is a modest, one-and-one-half story frame dwelling. The shiplap sided, L-shaped house has a gabled roof. All windows are double hung sash with wood frames, except the more recently added picture windows on the front and west side. The door is also modern.

A cast iron fence surrounds the property on the south and east sides.

The door and picture windows are the only exterior alteration. There are no additions.

A plaque below the front gable windows reads: "Ezra Pound, the poet, was born in this house on the 30th of October, 1885" A quote from Pound's poem, "The Rest" also appears on the plaque with the words "I have beaten out my exile"

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

1884

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Horace Greeley Knapp

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ezra Pound house is significant as one of the few structures in the nation associated with this internationally reknown poet. Considered, by some to be the father of modern poetry, and by others to be a difficult, avant-garde expatriate, ¹ he was, in the words of Reed Whittemore, "one of America's strangest emanations."

Educated at the University of Pennsylvania and Hamilton College, he embarked on a short-lived teaching career at Wabash College in Crawfordsville,, Indiana. He was fired from his position of professor of Romance languages after a few months due to suspicions of moral turpitude. He removed to Europe, where he lived the remainder of his life, except for the thirteen years he spent in Washington's St. Elizabeth's hospital for the criminally insane following World War II. The federal government had him **confined** here for a series of wartime broadcasts he made supporting Mussolini's government. Upon his release in 1958 he returned to his home in Italy where he died in 1972.

Pound's major work, Cantos, sections of which were published intermittently from 1925, remained unfinished at his death. As the London representative for Poetry and The Little Review, his influence on modern literature was profound. ^{He} more than anyone else, defined and determined the direction it was to take, as early on he encouraged such people as Frost, Hemingway, Eliot and Joyce. In 1949, he received the Bollingen prize for poetry. Several months before his death he was denied the Emerson-Thoreau Medal of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences by reason of his anti-Semeticism and facism.

Ezra's father, Homer Pound, the son of former Wisconsin governor Thaddeus Pound who served as Chairman of the House Committee on Public Lands in the early 1880's, came to Hailey, Idaho, in 1883 as Register of the Public Lands. The town was in its infancy at this date. The wealth of the near-by mines was just becoming apparent and Hailey, which was **adjacent to** the railroad, was the major railhead in the Wood River valley.

Homer Pound built this house in late 1884, prior to his November wedding. Ezra was born in October 1885. The family lived in this house until February 15, 1887, when they moved back east as the father's reappointment to office failed to materialize.

Pound, in his book Indiscretions, wrote that the Hailey experience "enriched" his parents' "table talk for life," and through them Idaho left its mark on him.

The house is representative of its period and place, and the iron fence is one of the better preserved examples of its genre in Idaho.

¹. New Republic, v. 167 (November 11, 1972), p. 28.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

W. B. Wigginton, "The Pounds at Hailey," Rendezvous,
Vol. 4 (Winter 1969) pp. 36-37.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,1 7,1,7,4,4,0 4,8,2,1,6,6,5
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This nomination includes the real estate located on block 23, lots 21, 22 of the Hailey townsite.

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

Don Hibbard, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Idaho State Historical Society

DATE

1 August 1978

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 ☐

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

Mark Wells

TITLE

Idaho State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

1 August 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: *Charles A. Whitt*

DATE

12/28/78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

12 27 78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Homer Pound house

Hailey, Idaho

Photographer - Duane Garrett
1977

Idaho State Historical Society

View of the front and side

from the Northwest

Site Survey File

DEC 28 1979