

INVENTORY SHEET FOR GROUP NOMINATIONS: IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, BOISE, IDAHO

NOMINATION: (TOURTELLOTTE AND HUMMEL ARCHITECTURE ~~IN IDAHO~~)

SITE NAME: Schmelzel, H. A., House

SITE NUMBER: 44

LOCATION: 615 ~~West~~ Hays Street, Boise, Ada County (~~001~~), Idaho

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Willaim R. Onyder
615 West Hays Street
Boise, ID 83702

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Boise South, 7.5 minute

ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the H. A. Schmelzel House and the property on which it stands, lot 9, block 97, Boise City Original Townsite. Legal description on file at the Ada County Courthouse, Boise, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/5,64,880/48,29,780

DATE OR PERIOD: 1906

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: excellent

unaltered

original site

DESCRIPTION:

The H. A. Schmelzel House is a one-and-one-half-story stone house with colonial style detailing. The roof has a single large front-facing gable, and the plan is rectangular. A dining room bay and a rear porch are outset from the basic rectangle, and the right front corner is inset. The entry porch that surrounds this corner is itself outset in two directions and runs at right angles around the corner. It has a hipped roof that in front extends down and out from the fully returned eave of the front gable, and is supported on slender Tuscan columns tripled at the corners. This porch gives a picturesque and Victorian aspect to the house, as do the tenting of the east-side bay roof and the flaring of all side eaves. The random-coursed, rough-cut stone surface of the body of the house contrasts with the broad, smooth bed moldings and the square-shingled surface of the porch walls and gables.

One room in the attic was designed to be lighted by the pairs of windows in the front gable and by the large gabled dormer emerging on the right or west side. Windows are various, generally double-hung sash as in the bay or fixed as in the small, square mantel windows that show on either side of the interior stone chimney on the front west side of the house. The large front parlor window, which the

original drawings show with a narrow, segmented upper panel, has been re-glazed. Otherwise the exterior appears in pristine condition.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Schmelzel cottage is architecturally significant as the first house designed by Tourtellotte and Company to enclose an unmistakably bungaloid plan and interior style--despite the colonial character of its flared eaves and offset porch. The house is similar in scale to the contemporary Rossi cottage in South Boise (site 43), which also uses a conservative, picturesque wrapper, almost as if to mitigate the effect of innovation. The newspaper reports of the Schmelzel cottage illustrate this architectural paradox very well. The earliest story describes it as "of a picturesque style of architecture" but goes on to describe it in what is clearly the imagery of the bungalow: "An outside stone fireplace will be seen off the sitting room. Convenience has been studied in the interior arrangements. The sitting room and vestibule will be furnished in the mission style."¹ The year-end report calls it "a novel bungalow design . . . six rooms, roomy and spacious, an ideal home, dark hardwood . . . \$4,000."²

The only Schmelzel in the 1906 City Directory was William, a partner in Schmelzel and Gallup, Barbers. (Mr. Gallup was an earlier Tourtellotte and Company client.) All but the first of the newspaper reports listed the cottage as commissioned by Mrs. Elizabeth Schmelzel. H. A. Schmelzel, who appears at the Hays Street address by 1908, was not listed earlier at all previously to this, and no occupation was given when he did appear. This is perhaps a case of parents having a starter home built for a son.

¹ (Boise) Idaho Daily Statesman, February 18, 1906, p. 18, c. 2.

² (Boise) Idaho Daily Statesman, December 30, 1906, sec. 4, p. 5, c. 3.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Hart, Arthur. Historic Boise: An Introduction to the Architecture of Boise, Idaho, 1863-1938. Boise: Boise City Historic Preservation Commission, 1978.

(Boise) Idaho Daily Statesman, February 18, 1906, p. 8, c. 2; April 18, 1906, p. 5, c. 2; December 30, 1906, sec. 4, p. 5, c. 3.

Polk and Company. Boise City Directory. 1906, 1908.

Boise, Idaho. Hummel Jones Miller Hunsucker P.A. File 407F. Tracings signed by John E. Tourtellotte and Company.



Tourtellotte and Hummel Architecture in Idaho
Schmelzel, H. A. House, site #44
615 Hays Street
Boise, Ada County, Idaho

Photographer:
Patricia Wright
1980

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

View from northeast

Photograph one of one