

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 4 6 1980

DATE ENTERED

3

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

HISTORIC O. F. Short/house

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**W of Eagle on ID 44  
STREET & NUMBER Highway 44

CITY, TOWN

Eagle

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Idaho

VICINITY OF

CODE

16

COUNTY

Ada

CODE

001

**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☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Jay Transtrum

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Eagle

VICINITY OF

STATE

Idaho

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Ada County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Boise

STATE

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

Boise

STATE

Idaho

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT      ☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ GOOD            ☐ RUINS  
☐ FAIR             ☐ UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED  
☐ ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

The O. F. Short house sits at the rear of an extremely deep lot north of Highway 44 on the western outskirts of Eagle. The lawn and its mature trees are separated from the highway by an iron fence, set between pillars and upon a foundation of the same cobblestone of which the house is constructed. At the rear of the lot, immediately behind and to the right rear of the house, respectively, are a cobblestone woodshed and garage, both with gabled roofs and contemporary with the dwelling.

The house itself is a one-and-a-half story "classical box" with interior chimneys and walls entirely constructed, but for concrete lintels and wooden upper porch walls, of native cobble from the nearby Boise River. Even in this strikingly vernacular material, the classicizing impulse of this style is evident in the hipped roof with its four hipped dormers over paired sash windows, and in the balanced, horizontal aspect of the basically four-square plan. The nearness of the 19th century, however, is evident in a nearly-as-strong impulse to asymmetry. This appears in the placement of the left-of-center entry and in the elaborate porch on the east side. The porch is ell-shaped, has battered piers at all corners (as in the bungalow style that was just then appearing in the Boise valley), and an odd, crenellated parapet emerging along the ridgebeam of the hipped roof. The upper section of the sun porch is woodframed; this appreciation of various materials and textures, along with the picturesque form of the porch roof and the picturesque fabric of the house, balance the restraint of its basic form. The result is an unusually eclectic example of the transitional "nineteenth-century-picturesque-going-classical-box" style.

The interior of the house has been extensively altered over the course of 70-odd years of residential use. However, the living room retains a good deal of its original dark woodwork: wainscoting, ceiling beams, and stairwell. The exterior is unaltered.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)<br>social history |
|                                           |                                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION              |                                                 |                                                                       |

SPECIFIC DATES 1906

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Short house just west of Eagle is significant both architecturally and historically. Architecturally it is significant as a splendid and externally unaltered example of a residential building type commonly employed by prominent Idahoans in the first decade of the century, here rendered in a material unusual by any standard and apparently unique in the state for a dwelling of this scale. Historically it is significant for its association with one of the first families (temporally and socially) of the Boise Valley, a family whose history follows the economic history of the area, from mining to ranching to agriculture.

Architecturally the house is an example of the blocky and imposing "classic box" or "western colonial" style. Indeed, as one would expect from its date, it corresponds to a transitional type we have called the "Queen-Anne-going-Western-Colonial." The quaintly crenellated side porch and the offset entrance render minimally asymmetrical the massively symmetrical body of the house. Although the basic type of the house is a common one in early-twentieth-century Idaho architecture, the Short house is unique in the detail of the porch (a two-story turret, as in the Jones house in Malad, is the more common holdover from the Queen Anne style), and even more for the cobblestone fabric. There are other examples of cobble masonry near Idaho rivers -- the foundation and porch of the cottage at the Combe farm further west of Eagle, for example, or the two cottages which survive on the banks of the Boise River within the present limits of Boise city, or the scatter of cobble structures in the Spokane Valley/Rathdrum prairie area of North Idaho. But within the limits of our ongoing architectural inventory, the Short house appears to be unparalleled in the state for scale and pretension in a building constructed in this material.

In fact it was described nearer the time of its building as "one of the most beautiful homes in Idaho."<sup>1</sup> The owner-builder, Oliver Francis (Frank) Short, belonged to a family that figured prominently in the history of the Boise Valley. After his father, a Kansas newspaper publisher and government surveyor, was killed by Indians in 1874, young Short and his brother were sent west to stay with their maternal uncle Truman C. Catlin. Catlin had come to the Valley from Illinois in 1863 and worked briefly as a miner.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hawley, James, A History of Idaho. Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1920.

Idaho Daily Statesman, 8 Aug. 1915, sec. 2, p. 8.

Interview with Mrs. H. B. Bartlett, daughter-in-law of O. F. Short, 19 April, 1979.

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**  
**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY acreage

QUADRANGLE NAME less than one

QUADRANGLE SCALE

UTM REFERENCES

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

B                        

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C                        

D                        

E                        

F                        

G                        

H                        

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION This nomination includes the O. F. Short house, house grounds, and outbuildings as specified in item #7, on the north side of Highway 44 just west of Eagle, Idaho: parcel #7950 of the west half of the southeast quarter of section 8, 4 north, 1 east.

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, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Idaho State Historical Society

DATE

2 February 1980

STREET & NUMBER

610 North Julia Davis Dr.

TELEPHONE

2  
384-2120

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 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 Idaho State Preservation Officer

DATE 23 February 1980

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*for W. Ray Luce*

DATE 5/23/80

ATTEST: *[Signature]*

DATE 5-20-80

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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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

Conceiving the plan of securing good farmland and selling produce to the miners, he preempted in that same year a claim on Eagle (then called Illinois) Island in the Boise river some ten miles west of Fort Boise (military). The first one hundred and sixty acres he claimed was the core of a ranch eventually including over five hundred acres. He became one of the best known stockmen in the state, owner of ranchland in Montana as well as Idaho and organizer of one of the first west-to-east cattle drives. Catlin remained a rancher until 1917, when he "sold nearly all his cattle entirely, then amounting to about 3500 head, because of the fact that nearly all his cowboys entered the army . . . His attention is now being given to diversified farming and dairying . . ."<sup>2</sup>

O. F. Short, who spent much of his boyhood at his Uncle Catlin's Eagle Island home and his adolescence as a cowboy and driver on the Eagle and Montana ranches, left Idaho for two years in 1887-89 and returned to Kansas, where he married Mrs. Catlin's sister. They returned to Idaho and Short took up management of his uncle's four hundred forty acre farm west of Eagle. He eventually purchased three hundred twenty acres of it, fifty-five of which he retained and planted to prune orchards and diversified crops. The concrete foundation of his prune warehouse is still in evidence in 1979, east of the impressive residence the Shorts built for themselves and their two children in 1906. An early description by a writer not usually interested in architecture makes explicit not only the unusual features of the house but the connection which was felt, and which the Shorts were probably interested in expressing, between success and the possession of a residence of such pretension:

Mr. and Mrs. Short are now most pleasantly situated in life. They have erected upon their farm one of the most beautiful homes in Idaho-- a fine residence built entirely of cobblestones in attractive architectural design. The living room is beamed in old mission style and the house modern throughout. It contains fifteen rooms, with large windows and broad porches, with a wide lawn surrounding it, and its furnishings indicate the cultured tastes of the owners. Mr. and Mrs. Short well deserve the prosperity that has come to them as the reward of his business enterprise and inventiveness.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> James Hawley, A History of Idaho, Chicago, S. J. Clark, 1920, v. III, p. 158.

<sup>2</sup> Hawley, op. cit., V. II, p. 142.

<sup>3</sup> Hawley, op. cit., v. III, p. 158.



↖  
O. F. Short House

*Ada Co.*

Highway 44 West of Eagle, Idaho

Photographer: Patricia Wright

April, 1979

MAY 23 1980

Negative on file at Idaho State

Historical Society, Boise, Idaho

View from South

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MAR 26 1980