

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

NOMINATION: (Lava Rock Structures in South Central Idaho TR)

SITE NAME: Paul, Denton J., Water Tank

SITE NUMBER: 16

LOCATION: ~~Approximately one mile east of Dietrich, Idaho~~

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Gary Bowman  
Dietrich, Idaho 83324

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Dietrich Butte 7 5 minutes      ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

This nomination includes the Paul Water Tank and the property on which it stands in the SE 1/4, SW 1/4, SW 1/4, SW 1/4, SE 1/4 of Section 7, T6S, R19E. Legal description on file at Lincoln County Courthouse, Shoshone Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/725220/4754165

DATE OR PERIOD: 1910's

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: attributed to Ignacio Berriochoa

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture, agriculture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: good, unaltered, original site

DESCRIPTION:

This round water tank is about twelve feet tall and twelve feet in diameter. The plank top has been covered with concrete. The rubble walls have darkened mortar in their wide nearly-flush joints. The joints have been pointed to produce a concave indentation about one inch wide. Centered on the top of the tank is a roughly star-shaped concrete stand about one foot tall. On it is a block ball shaped of very dark lava about eight inches in diameter.

SIGNIFICANCE:

This water tank is significant as an example of a type of vernacular water tank and as an example of craftsmanship. It is the only structure in the nomination to have a sculptured decorative detail on it. It is located on a slight rise between the house and the farmyard, indicating that it was used to store water both for the farm home and for farm animals. The farm was owned and occupied by Denton J. Paul between 1911 and 1928. He received the final patent in 1918, and the water tank was built about that time. The mason is not known. The water tank may be the work of Ignacio Berriochoa and his helper, Julian Pagoaga, Basque masons. Ignacio Berriochoa was in the area by the late 1910's, living on a farm about three miles away from this site. The only other structure on which thumbprint--wide concave

pointing is found is known to have been built by Berriochoa. Further, the proportions of this tank are lower and wider than most of the tanks built by Bill Darrah. And finally, the decorative ball on the top of the tank points to the involvement of Pagoaga whose grandson said that he carved lava rock balls for weight lifting, a Basque sport.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Records of the Security Title Company Gooding, Idaho, July 1981.

Pagoaga, Joe, interview with Marian Posey-Ploss, Shoshone, Idaho, Fall 1979.