

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

NOMINATION: Lava Rock Structures in South Central Idaho ⁷⁰¹

SITE NAME: Johnson, Louis, Water Tank House

SITE NUMBER: 12

LOCATION: ~~Approximately five miles west~~ ^W of Richfield, ^{NIC} Idaho

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Eugene Alexander
Rural Route
Richfield, ID 83349

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Richfield, 7.5 minutes

ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Louis Johnson Water Tank House and the property on which it stands, the SE 1/4, NE 1/4, NE 1/4, NE 1/4, NW 1/4 of Section 6, T5S, R19E Boie Meridian. Legal description on file at Lincoln County Courthouse, Shoshone, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/724580/476760 ^{φ 476760}

DATE OR PERIOD: 1910's

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: Bill Darrah

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture, agriculture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: good, unaltered, original site

DESCRIPTION:

This water tank house is approximately 27 feet tall to the peak of its conical shingled roof and about eighteen feet in diameter. The water tank is supported by metal mining rails incorporated into the concrete ceiling of the chamber. The wooden door is set at the outside of the walls. A large, long, rectangular stone is used as a lintel for the door. The stones in the coursed rubble walls are very dark brownish-black. The sand-colored mortar in the medium-width joints is un-tooled and nearly flush with the stone wall.

SIGNIFICANCE:

This water tank house is significant as an example of a variant of water tank design with a conical roof. It is also significant as an example of the communal use of a water tank house. The tank is both taller and larger in diameter than the other water tank houses in the nomination. It was built in the 1910's for Louis Johnson, prosperous Marley area farmer who was building up a series of farms for himself and his married sons and daughters during that decade. The higher location of this water tank house and its size indicates that it provided domestic water for at least four houses. The tank house is attributed to Bill Darrah. Its use of a stone for a lintel and lack of a window in the chamber indicate that this is an early example of Darrah's work.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Alexander, Eugene, interview with Marian Posey-Ploss, Richfield vicinity,
Fall 1979.