

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

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

✓ SITE NAME: Fry, Merritt, Farm

SITE NUMBER: 41

✓ LOCATION: ~~Five miles west and one and three-quarter miles south~~ ^W of Jerome, ^{vic.} Idaho

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: John and Doris Mogenson
Rural Route 2
Jerome, Idaho 83338

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Jerome, 7.5 minutes

ACREAGE: 2 1/2 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

✓ The nomination includes the Fry Buildings the property on which they stand, the E 1/2 of the SW 1/4 and the W 1/2 of the SE 1/4 all in the SW 1/4, NW 1/4, SW 1/4 of Section 29, T8S, R16E, Boise Meridian. Legal description on file at Jerome County Courthouse, Jerome, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/695410/4730000

DATE OR PERIOD: 1916, 1926, c. 1930

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: H T. Pugh

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture, agriculture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: good, unaltered, original site

DESCRIPTION:

There are three buildings on this site.

House: The one-story house has a shallow, shingled gable roof. It is approximately 41 feet long and 31 feet wide, with the facade on the narrow, gable wall. Vertical shiplap siding is in the gables above the rubble stone walls. The narrow eaves are enclosed. There are a narrow bargeboard and four brackets on each gable. A gable-roofed overdoor is centered above the concrete stoop. A single double-hung window is to the right of the door, and a three-part window to the left. All of the windows in the house have slightly outset concrete lintels about eight inches wide set about four inches into the wall on each end. The narrower, sloping, concrete sills are more outset. Brushed, darkened mortar is in tight, slightly raked out, joints.

Bunkhouse: This rectangular one-story building appears to be a smaller version of the house, with some details varying. Shingles are in the gables above the stone walls, and three brackets support the eaves. The facade has a centered, continuous concrete sill below which is a door and, separated from it by about eighteen inches, a window. The brushed mortar is light-sand colored.

Barn: The rectangular, one-story barn sits on a rocky hill above and behind the house. One end of the shingled roof has a gable, while the other end is hipped. The lintels and the sills for doors and windows on one side are of wood, while they are of concrete on the other sides. The stones in the rubble walls are larger than those used in the other two buildings, and the untooled, sand-colored pointing mortar is almost flush with the surface of the stones.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The three stone buildings on this site are significant because as a group they demonstrate progression both in size and in craftsmanship in rural buildings. The building most recently used as a bunkhouse was the original residence of Merritt Fry. It was built in about 1916 by mason H. T. Pugh. It was a common practice for farmers to build a small temporary house and then to build a larger one later, but this was rarely done using stones. The barn was built in 1926, according to the date inscribed in a concrete lintel. The present residence was built in about 1930, also by Mr. Pugh. The bunkhouse and house show his careful attention to match and fit stones and his competent use of concrete in lintels and sills. These two buildings show natural-colored and darkened mortar examples of Pugh's slightly raked-out, brushed mortar joints. The texture and color of the stones are emphasized over the joints by his later use of darkened mortar. The barn, which draws on domestic architecture for its exterior style, seems always to have been a barn. It is an example of vernacular eclecticism. Its mason is unknown.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Pugh, David, interview with Marian Posey-Ploss, San Luis Obispo, California, April 1979.

Mogenson, Mr. and Mrs. John, interview with Marian Posey-Ploss, Jerome, Idaho, Summer 1978.