

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

NOMINATION: (Lava Rock Structures in South Central Idaho T9S

SITE NAME: Shoshone Falls Power Plant Caretaker's House SITE NUMBER: 6

LOCATION: ~~Six miles south and about seven miles east of~~ ^{SE 1/4} Jerome, ^{vic} ID.

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: State of Idaho

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Twin Falls, 7.5 minute

ACREAGE: 2 1/2 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Shoshone Falls Power Plant Caretaker's House and the property on which it stands, the NE 1/4, SE 1/4, NE 1/4, SE 1/4 of Section 36, T9S, R17E. Legal description on file at Jerome County Courthouse, Jerome, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/713125/4719145

DATE OR PERIOD: 1907

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: unknown

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: good, altered, original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Shoshone Falls Power Plant Caretaker's House is an L-shaped one-story house measuring about 42 by 46 feet. Its dressed stone walls are ten feet tall at the rear and twelve feet tall at the front of the building. The foundation is of undressed stones, and there is a watercourse outset four inches from the wall surface. Stones are laid with dark mortar and beaded joints. Double casement windows are set about four inches inside the walls. Above most of the windows are key-stoned flat relieving arches built of stone, although a few of the windows have concrete lintels instead. Concrete window sills are four inches thick, outset, and angled at their edges. The house has a shingled hipped roof with decorative metal coping, wide eaves, shaped exposed rafters, and a plain bargeboard all along the roof edge. On the southeast exposure there is a porch supported on square wooden columns. Although the porch has been enclosed, the columns are still visible.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Shoshone Falls Power Plant Caretaker's House is architecturally significant as a well-preserved example of the American Colonial Revival style built in lava rock and as an example of rural industrial architecture. The house is historically significant as part of an important early hydroelectric development that supplied electricity to the settlers coming into South Central Idaho.

The power plant house is unaltered with the exception of an enclosed porch. Its porch posts, massing and roof plan, and casement windows make it a good example of rural American Colonial Revival design. Its stonework is well-preserved and exhibits a craftsmanlike use of beaded joints and dressed stone. The house survives to document the living quarters provided for power plant personnel by local hydro-electric ventures.

The Shoshone Falls Power Plant was completed in 1907 by the Great Shoshone and Twin Falls Water Power Company, a local firm that finished the efforts begun by prominent area settlers I. B. Perrine and H. L. Hollister in 1901 and taken up by the Shoshone Falls Power Company in 1904.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Idaho Power Company. Boise, Idaho: March 29, 1943.

Twin Falls News, June 28, 1907.

Young, George C. and Frederic J. Cochrane. Hydro Era; the Story of Idaho Power Company. Idaho Power Company, 1978.