

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

✓ NOMINATION: (Lava Rock Structures in South Central Idaho <sup>TR</sup>)

✓ SITE NAME: Kehrer, Thomas J., House

SITE NUMBER: 48

✓ LOCATION: ~~Six miles north, one-half mile west and one-fourth mile north of~~  
*n of Jerome Idaho*  
*vic,*

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Gerald T. Brant  
Route 1, Box 1558  
Jerome, ID 83338

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Gooding SE, 7 5 minutes

ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

✓ The nomination includes the Kehrer House and the property on which it stands, the NE 1/4, NE 1/4, SE 1/4, NE 1/4, SW 1/4 of Section 13, T7S, R16E, Boise Meridian. Legal description on file at Jerome County Courthouse, Jerome, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/702080/4743185

DATE OR PERIOD: 1917

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: H. T. Pugh

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: fair, altered, original site

DESCRIPTION:

The one and one half story Kehrer house is approximately 31 by 32 feet. It has a basement and a shingled gable roof with exposed rafters and a narrow bargeboard. There are also shingles in the gables above the one-story stone walls and on the shed-roofed dormer centered on the rear roof. The centered door on the front is flanked by two double-hung windows with a very large pane below a narrow pane at the top. The other windows in the house are double-hung with two panes of about equal size. There are a pair of windows centered in each gable and also in the dormer. The windows in the random rubble stone walls are set just inside the opening, close to the outside wall. The lintels of the door and windows are almost flush. They are shaped of concrete about six inches wide and inset into the stone about four inches on each end. The sloping ouset lug sills are narrower. Centered on the facade of the house is a stoop, approximately six feet wide by eight feet long. Concrete steps lead up to it from the left side. At each corner is an elevated section to form a pedestal that has rounded concrete coping at the top. Some wooden boards attached to the wall above the door indicate that there may have been a porch roof with posts. Offset to the left of the left side wall is a porch, approximately eight feet by ten feet with a pyramidal roof that begins just to the left of and below the attic level windows. The porch walls have concrete coping at their tops and there are square wooden porch posts at each corner. The porch has been enclosed with screens and plastic. A concrete stoop with low stone sidewalls extends from the right side of the porch.



**SIGNIFICANCE:**

The Kehrer house is significant as an example of rural vernacular house design and also as an example of further progression in H. T. Pugh's craftsmanship. This house was built for Thomas J. Kehrer in 1917 by H. T. Pugh. The Kehrer and Bower families, related through marriage, had adjoining farms and had their stone houses built at the same time. Because the houses were built by the same mason at the same time, it is interesting to see the differences in them. They are approximately the same size, and are made of the same light reddish-brown rounded stones with light-colored brushed mortar. The major differences are the Kehner house's shingles in the gable above the one-story stone walls and stone porch on the left wall. The two houses were built during a transitional period in Pugh's work when he was discarding stone for frame gables and beginning to build Colonial cottages and bungalows. The houses are about one-half mile apart, each facing south, but are oriented to each other through the placement of the porches.

**MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:**