

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

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

SITE NAME: Gleason, E. C., House

SITE NUMBER: 51

LOCATION: 209 East Avenue A, Jerome, Idaho

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Mr. and Mrs. Jack Morley
209 East Avenue A
Jerome, ID 83338

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Jerome, 7.5 minutes

ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the E. C. Gleason House and the property on which it stands, lots 11, 12, 13, and the E 1/2 of lot 14, block 98, Jerome Townsite. Legal description on file at Jerome County Courthouse, Jerome, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/703460/4732820

DATE OR PERIOD: 1918

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: H. T. Pugh

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: excellent condition, minor alterations, original site

DESCRIPTION:

The one and one half story bungalow Gleason house is about 31 by 51 feet. It has a lateral wood-shingled gable roof with an east-west orientation that overhangs the full, inset porch on the north exposure. The one-story random rubble walls have darkened, brushed mortar in the slightly indented, medium-width joints. A plain wooden molding painted white separates the stone walls from the gables which have diagonal wooden shingles painted red. There are six purlins with diagonal brackets extending just beyond the plain white bargeboards on the gable eaves. There is a similar bracket on each side of the dormers. There is a centered, shed-roofed dormers on both sides of the roof. There are square stone columns on the corners of the front porch and stone piers a little taller than the stone porch walls beside the centered entrance. Each pier supports a square, battered, squat wooden post painted white. A concrete stoop with stone walls extends from the porch. The pedestal, porch, and stoop walls have concrete coping. Offset to the left on the south exposure is a concrete stoop with stone walls. The walls are topped with a layer of rounded concrete. A shed roof of metal supported by metal posts covers the stoop. Just to its right is a bulkhead entrance to the full basement. The concrete lintels in the stone walls are from eight to ten inches wide, slightly outset, and inset into the stones about four inches on each end. The sloping, outset lug sills are narrower. All of the concrete in the house is unpainted, light grayish-tan in color. The windows are double-hung double or tripartite with

nine to sixteen panes at the top. A unobtrusive roofed carport supported by metal posts has been attached to the east gable wall. Original woodwork is intact in the interior.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The significance of the Gleason house lies both in its style and in its craftsmanship. It was built in 1918 as a town residence for E. C. Gleason, a farmer. It was one of the first lava rock houses to be built in the city of Jerome by H. T. Pugh, master stonemason. In it, he arrived at the much admired large bungalow style that he would be asked to repeat for others, and for which he was to become best known. His work in this house is characteristically fine. The stones are carefully chosen for both color and size. In this case, the stones are slightly larger than those in the nearby Lawshe house, in keeping with the larger proportions of the house. The fine-grained, light grayish concrete, the slightly raked out joints, and the darkened mortar still in excellent condition, are hallmarks of his work. The importance of this house in the city of Jerome both for its style and size and for the acceptance of lava rock for fashionable town buildings can be seen in the newspaper's lengthy and detailed report,

. . . . that [it] is one of the best and most substantial homes yet built in Jerome, and as far as rooms are concerned it is the largest. The dimensions are 31 feet 6 inches by 51 feet, comprising 11 rooms and bath. It has a full cement basement and [a] hot water heating system will be installed. The living room is 15 feet 6 inches by 18 feet 6 inches. The dining room 13 feet 6 inches by 15 feet. These two rooms are divided by a colonade and the combined length is 33 feet 6 inches. Besides there are two bedrooms, den, bath, kitchen and pantry and hall on the first floor, and four sleeping rooms and large sewing room on the second floor. There are front and rear porches, the front porch being 8 feet wide in the clear by 40 feet in length. The windows are of plate glass and the interior finish of corresponding quality. The front porch, balcony and part of the columns are of lava rock and the entire effect is massive and substantial as well as attractive. (North Side News, August 1, 1918.

It is not clear to what part of the house the term "balcony" was applied. The house is still an outstanding home in Jerome. It is maintained in excellent condition by the second and present owner.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

North Side News (Jerome). August 1, 1918.