

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

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

SITE NAME: ~~The~~ Bethune-Ayres House

SITE NUMBER: 68

LOCATION: ~~Eight miles east~~<sup>E</sup> of Jerome, ~~Idaho~~<sup>vic.</sup>

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Ralph Kohntopp  
Route 4  
Jerome, ID 83338

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Twin Falls N.E., 7.5 minutes

ACREAGE: 2 1/2 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Bethune-Ayres House and the property on which it stands in the NE 1/4, SE 1/4, NE 1/4, SE 1/4 of Section 32 T8S, R18E. Legal description on file at Jerome County Courthouse, Jerome, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/715980/4728800

DATE OR PERIOD: 1920

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: unknown

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: good, altered, original site

DESCRIPTION:

This house is approximately 26 by 32 feet with a shallow, aluminum gable roof across the narrower dimension. The roof has a wide overhang forming the roof for a concrete patio on the front. Four small metal pipes support the overhang. There is a centered door flanked by double-hung one-over-one-light windows on the front. The concrete door and window lintels are nearly flush, approximately six inches wide and set about four inches into the stone on each end. The narrower lug sills are sloping and outset. The windows are set just inside the window opening. Shingles are in the gables above the one-story rubble walls. The stones are dark brownish-black. Darkened mortar in the joints has a beaded line painted white. On the rear the wide overhang of the roof extends over an approximately six-by-eight-foot bay, offset to the right on the rear wall. A shed-roofed frame addition encloses the corner at the right of the rear wall.

SIGNIFICANCE:

This modest rural home is significant as an example of vernacular house styles. The use of concrete for lintels and sills clearly puts it in the twentieth century, but the symmetrical facade is a style element from the past. A news story referred to it as a "beautiful rock bungalow," but there is little in the house to classify

it clearly as a bungalow or a building style. Perhaps the porch treatment was influenced by the bungalow style. The house is known as the "Captain Ayres House," but ownership records show that the property was owned by Peter G. Bethune, a sheepman with property in Perrine Valley. Organizational records of School District 6, the Sugar Loaf School in this nomination (site 81), refer to a meeting at Captain Ayres' place just across from the proposed school house site, further identifying the house with Ayres. The mason is unknown. The mortar was in disrepair when the present owner bought the property. Joe Rose, Sr., repaired the mortar giving it its present treatment. The small frame addition on the rear is unobtrusive.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

North Side News (Jerome). June 20, 1920.

Records of School District 6, Jerome County Courthouse, Jerome, Idaho.

Records of the Jerome Abstract and Title Company, Jerome, Idaho.

Kohntopp, Ralph, interview with Marian Posey-Ploss, Jerome vicinity, Idaho, Summer 1978.