

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

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

✓ SITE NAME: Lee, J. O., Honey House

SITE NUMBER: 84

✓ LOCATION: ^{5th Avenue E.} 322 ~~Fifth Avenue East~~, Jerome, Idaho ~~83338~~

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Bruce C. Dassel
322 Fifth Avenue East
Jerome, ID 83338

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Jerome, 7.5 minutes

ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

✓ The nomination includes the J. O. Lee Honey House and the property on which it stands, Block 22, Lot 13 and tax 1 of Lot 14, Jerome Townsite. Legal description on file at Jerome County Courthouse, Jerome, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/703600/4733525

DATE OR PERIOD: 1926

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: J. O. Lee

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: excellent, altered, original site

DESCRIPTION:

This high, one-story approximately 20-by-35-foot building has a composition- shingled hipped roof with decorative metal flashing. A concrete water course about a foot wide is continuous around the house, forming lintels for high basement windows. The front is on the longer dimension of the house. Offset to the right of the front wall is a wide concrete panel which acts as a continuous sill for a panel of four double-hung windows, the tops of which are at the top of the wall, obviating the need for lintels. Offset to the left of the front wall is a high redwood deck with steps leading to the front door which is offset to the left. The rubble walls have darkened, brushed mortar in their medium-width, shallow joints. A frame shed-roofed addition, approximately twelve by sixteen feet, is offset to the right on the rear wall. The building is placed at the back of its lot. Mature hedges around the lot are continuous with those of the J. O. Lee house next door.

SIGNIFICANCE:

This building is significant as an example of an owner-built vernacular commercial structure. The high, continuous, concrete water course was not used elsewhere and the grouping of windows on the facade was used only in school houses. The house is very attractive. The darkness and weight of the stones are lightened by the

yellow-painted wooden and concrete parts of the house. The redwood deck is a surprisingly compatible and reversible addition to the facade. Because it has open framing it does not obscure the original facade. This building was known locally as the "honey house" because from the 1920's into the 1940's it was used for processing and storage of honey. Many of the residents in the area of this nomination came directly to this building to purchase their year's supply of honey in five-gallon cans. The building was built by J. O. Lee in 1926. Mr. Lee was able to construct this building himself because he was an engineer and had knowledge of construction materials and techniques. At the time he built this building he was a mail carrier and handled bees and honey as an avocation. The frame shed-roofed addition on the rear of the house is unobtrusive.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Lee, Dick, interview with Marian Posey-Ploss, Jerome, Idaho, August 20, 1978.