

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

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

SITE NAME: Jerome City Pump House

SITE NUMBER: 77

LOCATION: In the 600 Block of East B Street, Jerome, ID 83338

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: City of Jerome
131 South Adams Street
Jerome, ID 83338

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Jerome, 7.5 minutes

ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Jerome City Pump House and the property on which it stands, the SW 1/4 of Tax #2, Block A-191, Jerome Townsite. Legal description on file at Jerome County Courthouse, Jerome, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/703960/4732820

DATE OR PERIOD: c. 1922

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: H. T. Pugh, Ed Bennett

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: good, unaltered, original site

DESCRIPTION:

This tall, one-story shed-roofed building is approximately 42 by 38 feet with the facade on the longer dimension. It has a low false front and side walls with three stepdowns. There is a centered, interior brick chimney. Offset to the right on the facade is a tall, double, sliding wooden door. A small door has been cut into its lower right side. Offset to the left on the facade is a triple fold garage door that opens inward. There is a panel of six panes above it. There is a nearly flush, continuous concrete lintel about fourteen inches wide above the approximately ten-foot-wide opening. Two boarded rectangular windows are set about four inches inside the wall opening and between the two doors. The single square windows on each of the other walls are set at the inside of the opening in the walls. The openings outside of the windows are lined with boards and molding. All of the windows have nearly flush concrete lintels about eight inches wide and inset into the stone on each end about four inches. The windows on the facade have narrower, sloping, outset concrete lug sills. Ivy partially covers the building. There is darkened, brushed mortar in the slightly recessed wide joints of the rubble walls, which vary in height from approximately fourteen feet high on the front to ten feet high on the rear wall. The wooden parts of the building and the concrete lintels and sills are painted white.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Jerome Pump House is significant as an example of vernacular architecture and for its association with the settlement of Jerome. It was built to house the water pumps for the city of Jerome. Securing a reliable source of domestic water was of utmost importance to the orderly settlement and development of the city of Jerome, which is situated far from any natural water course. A permanent well was dug by a group of local residents, who formed the Jerome Water Works Company in about 1909. For many years the City of Jerome contracted with this private company to provide water to the residents of the town. In the late 1910's the wooden building that protected the pumps burned. The company replaced it with this stone building, which was built over a period of several years and was completed in about 1922. According to a former "mud man" for the mason, H. T. Pugh, the building was built by both Pugh and Ed Bennett. Perhaps the two masons may have worked on the building at different times as there are different treatments of the window openings. In contrast with the residential style of the Richfield Pump House (site 9), which was built over a decade earlier, the Jerome Pump House has a plain functional design. The false front is apparently derived from commercial architectural design of the period.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Miller, Milton, interview with Marian Posey-Ploss, Jerome, Idaho, July, 1978.

Sullivan, Verle, interview with Marian Posey-Ploss, Jerome, Idaho, June, 1981.

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