

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

NOMINATION: (Lava Rock Structures in South Central Idaho -R)

SITE NAME: Silva, Arthur D., Water Tank

SITE NUMBER: 17

LOCATION: ~~Four miles north and approximately three miles west~~ ^{NW} of Shoshone, ~~ID~~ ^{vic}

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Corwin Silva
Rural Route
Shoshone, ID 83352

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Shoshone, 7.5 minute

ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Arthur D. Silva Water Tank and the property on which it stands, the SE 1/4 NE 1/4 NE 1/4 NE 1/4 NE 1/4 Section 17 T5S R17E. Legal description on file at Lincoln County Courthouse, Shoshone, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/707560/4763225

DATE OR PERIOD: 1910's, 1920's

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: Bill Darrah,
Pete Duffy and sons

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture agriculture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: good altered original site

DESCRIPTION:

A round water tank about twenty feet high and twelve feet in diameter is several hundred yards above the Arthur D. Silva Ranch (site 3). It has a concrete covered wooden top with angled concrete coping at the top edge. A wooden water meter with a movable center attached to a float inside the tank extends about halfway down one side. A small overflow metal pipe extends about one foot from the wall at the top of the tank. The coursed rubble walls have untooled sand-colored mortar in the flush joints. The original mortar has been patched a great deal with concrete to stop leaks.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Arthur D. Silva Water Tank is significant as an example of water tank construction and as an example of the lava rock work of masons Bill Darrah and Pete Duffy and sons. Darrah built the water tank in the late 1910's. Its walls were raised by the Duffys in the late 1920's. With the Silva ranch and flume (sites 3 and 4), the water tank is part of a complete complex of ranch outbuildings that are built with lava rock. Not only is that complex a good example of ranch layout and of local ranchers' reliance on lava rock materials, but it is also significant for its association with Portuguese settlement in South Central, Idaho.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Silva, Floyd and Corwin, interview with Marian Posey-Ploss, Shoshone vicinity Summer 1979.

"Silvas--Early Sheep Ranchers " Bicentennial Supplement to the Gooding County Leader (Gooding) County Journal (Shoshone), and Hub City Voice (Wendell), July 15 1976, p. 32.