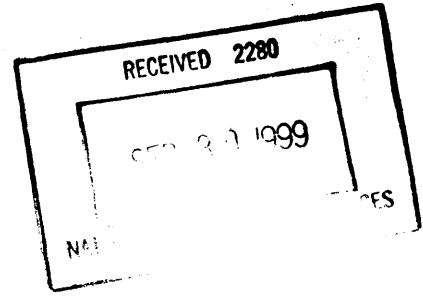


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



1278

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Obendorf, George, Gothic Arch Truss Barn  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 24047 Batt Corner Road N/A not for publication  
city or town Wilder x vicinity  
state Idaho code ID county Canyon code 027 zip code 83660

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_ statewide X locally. (\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  
Steve Guerber 9/22/99  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
STEVE GUERBER, State Historic Preservation Officer  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_meets \_\_\_does not meet the National Register criteria. (\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register.  
\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register.  
\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register.  
\_\_\_ removed from the National Register.  
\_\_\_ other, (explain:)

Edward H. Beall  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Obendorf, George, Gothic Arch Truss Barn  
Name of Property

Wilder vic., Canyon, Idaho  
City, County, and State

**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE; animal facility  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC; secondary structure  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER; Gothic Arch Truss Barn  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Materials  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE  
walls WOOD; weatherboard  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof METAL  
other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

Obendorf, George, Gothic Arch Truss Barn  
Name of Property

Wilder vic., Canyon, Idaho  
City, County, and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

Applicable National Register Criteria  
(Mark "x" on one or more lines for the criteria  
qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations  
(Mark "x" on all that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance  
(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1915  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1915  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

Sears, Roebuck & Co., Chicago, IL  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

Obendorf, George, Gothic Arch Truss Barn  
Name of Property

Wilder vic., Canyon, Idaho  
City, County, and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property less than one acre

UTM References  
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A 1/1 5/0/6/2/8/0 4/8/4/0/6/3/0  
Zone Easting Northing

B / / / / / / / / / /  
Zone Easting Northing

C / / / / / / / / / /

D / / / / / / / / / /

Verbal Boundary Description  
The property consists of a rectangular parcel measuring 42 feet by 60 feet whose northeast corner corresponds with the northeast corner of the foundation of the barn and whose southwest corner corresponds with the southwest corner of the barn.

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

Boundary Justification  
The above noted boundaries are those historically associated with the property.

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Merle Culp, with assistance from IDSHPO staff  
organization Owner date 2/18/99  
street & number 24047 Batt Corner Road telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Parma state ID zip code 83660

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- Continuation Sheets
- Maps: A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A Sketch map for historic districts and/or properties having large acreage or numerous resources.
- Photographs: Representative black and white photographs of the property.
- Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

**Property Owner**

name Merle Culp  
street & number 24047 Batt Corner Road telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Parma state ID zip code 83660

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Name of Property Obendorf, George, Gothic Arch Truss Barn

County and State Canyon, Idaho

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### NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The George Obendorf Gothic Arch Truss Barn is located at 24947 Batt Corner Road approximately 6 miles north of the town of Wilder, Canyon County, Idaho. The barn is located at the rear of the George Obendorf farm complex approximately 100 yards from the road. The building is 42' wide by 60' long and presents its front (narrow) elevation to the east. The structure was built in 1915 and is a pre-manufactured structure shipped in its component parts by Sears, Roebuck & Company to Wilder and assembled by local carpenters and the Obendorf family.

The Obendorf barn rests on a high, poured concrete foundation. It is a balloon frame structure and its exterior walls are clad in novelty drop siding. The building is dominated by a high lancet roof, known commonly as a Gothic-arch roof. This roof is supported by a series of curved arch trusses made of short sections of laminated dimension lumber. The roof is clad in corrugated steel and has a single wooden ventilator located in the middle of the ridge line.

The east elevation of the barn features a large hinged equipment door and flanked by a smaller access door on the north. There is a grain chute located to the south of the main equipment door. The date "1915" is inscribed in the concrete threshold of the main entry. The Gothic arch second level of this elevation features a vertical sliding hay mow door flanked on either side by a single four-over-four double hung sash window.

The north and south elevations of the building are identical--save for the addition of an external stair on the north side which allows access to the hay mow. Both side elevations feature a series of small two-over-two double hung sash windows. The rear of the building has two human scale exit doors either corner of the first level and two four-over-four double hung sash windows on the second.

The Obendorf barn was originally designed to house dairy cattle and a few horses. Over the years its interior has been modified for hop storage, grain storage, and equipment storage. The interior of the first level retains its concrete floor with silage tracks. The tack room also remains. One of the box stalls was converted to store grain. Other original partitions were removed when the barn was converted to house farm equipment. The hay mow is intact and encloses a vast space. There is a raised aisle in the center of the mow designed to ease working with loose hay. The mow retains floor openings which were designed to transfer hay to mangers in the lower level dairy stalls. None of the interior modifications inhibit the architectural significance of this building or its eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

Name of Property Obendorf, George, Gothic Arch Truss Barn

County and State Canyon, Idaho

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### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The George Obendorf Gothic Arch Truss Barn is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction. Specifically it is an excellent and intact example of a Gothic Arch truss barn—a significant barn type which represents one in a series of barn construction innovations which occurred in the early part of the 20th century.

Prior to the very end of the 19th century barn construction methods had remained relatively constant for many hundreds of years. Barns were constructed of heavy wood posts and beams and featured substantial trusses to support the roof. As the 19th century came to a close, many areas of the United States without a nearby supply of hardwood experienced new Euro-American settlement. Building in the traditional way suddenly became highly expensive. This was exacerbated by the development of light frame construction techniques and the associated depletion of timber supplies in the northern Great Lakes region. Demand clearly existed for barn designs that could use standardized dimension lumber. In addition, traditional truss designs severely limited the amount of usable space in the hay mow. Agricultural engineers and designers also began to pursue truss designs which were self supporting and as such would maximize usable loft space.

The first so called Gothic roof barns were constructed in the Midwest in the late 1880s. Their trusses consisted of short sections of cut lumber nailed into an appropriate arch form. This method proved to be labor intensive and less sturdy than was desired. The first widely popular innovation in dimension lumber barn design was the Shawver Truss, introduced in 1904. Named for its inventor John L. Shawver of Bellefontaine, Ohio, the Shawver truss consisted of a series of longer overlapping lengths of dimension lumber formed into a gambrel roof. The Shawver truss system did open up substantially more clear space in the hay mow and proved to be quite sturdy. It still required a substantial amount of lumber and did not completely open up the hay loft due to the need for diagonal truss braces at floor level.

During the first part of this century agricultural engineers and architects continued to work with the Gothic Arch truss. A new truss design eventually emerged which utilized longer laminated lumber segments which were bent to form the arch. This design resulted in a very economical design which provided 100% clearance in the hay mow. It was immediately touted as the latest in scientific farming advancement and became very popular with the farming community. It is unclear exactly when the first of this new type of gothic arch barn was built. They became increasingly popular in the latter half of the 1910s and remained popular through the 1920s. It is known that 1915 was the first year this particular design was offered by the Honor-Bilt Division of Sears, Roebuck & Co.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 2 Name of Property Obendorf, George, Gothic Arch Truss Barn  
County and State Canyon, Idaho

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As with much of southern Idaho, water development was the key to agricultural expansion in Canyon County. At the beginning of the 20th century, numerous private water companies developed large sections of previously uncultivated land in northern Canyon County. George Obendorf came to Canyon County from Minnesota along with many other members of his family. In 1915 he purchased the present George Obendorf farm on Batt Corner Road and began to develop a dairying and crop raising enterprise. His first order of business, as with many farmers establishing their operation, was to construct a substantial barn. The Honor-Bilt Division of Sears, Roebuck & Co, had been operating a highly successful mail order house and farm building business since 1908. All materials were pre-cut and finished by Honor-Bilt, and shipped by rail to be assembled by the customer. In 1915 George Obendorf ordered one of Honor-Bilt's newest offerings, a 42' by 60' Gothic Arch Truss horse and dairy barn, for which he paid \$1,500. The barn was assembled by local craftsmen and members of the Obendorf family during the summer of 1915.

The building remains to this day, testament to the Obendorf family and the quality materials and design of Honor-Bilt and Sears. The building is one of the earliest identified Gothic Arch Truss barns in Idaho and retains all necessary integrity of design to be listed in the National Register under Criterion C.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1 Name of Property Obendorf, George, Gothic Arch Truss Barn  
County and State Canyon, Idaho

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“Dairy Barn Construction” U.S.D.A. Farmers’ Bulletin No. 1342. Washington: (U.S. Government Printing Office), 1923.

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Noble, Allen G.: Wood, Brick and Stone: The North American Settlement Landscape, Vol I (Barns and Farm Structures), Amherst, MA: University of Massachusetts Press, 1984.

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