

DEC 3 1981

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

NOMINATION: Historic Resources of Challis (Partial Inventory: Architectural Properties)

SITE NAME: Custer County Jail SITE # 22

LOCATION: Main Avenue to rear of Custer County Courthouse

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Custer County, Courthouse, Challis, Idaho

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Challis, 15 minute ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The nomination includes the Custer County Jail in block 30, lots 3 and 5, Challis, Idaho, and the property on which it stands with a margin of one foot around the building.

UTM(S): 11/7,20,175/49,31,475

DATE OR PERIOD: ca. 1922 EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture

good condition                      altered                      original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Custer County Jail has three coursed, rock-faced stone walls, all of rhyolitic rock. The rear wall, also rhyolitic, is random rubble built to courses. The walls, capped with a concrete layer, step down along the sides, hiding the shallow lean-to roof, which is tarred. Deep-set modern windows and door do not detract from the style of this plain structure. On the building's sides, one can still see the original barred windows. All of these openings appear to be original: a heavy stone lintel supports each.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The persistence of stone work with local materials is shown in this 1922 example. The building is additionally significant for the high quality of its stone work. Few of the earlier stone buildings have three sides of coursed stone, using instead rubble on all sides unexposed to public view. The building is unique, too, as the only all-rhyolite building in Challis. Builders seemed instead to prefer the easily worked tuff.