

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

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

SITE NAME: Myers School

SITE NUMBER: 15

LOCATION: ~~Eight miles west~~ ^W of Shoshone ^{V.I.C.} ID

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Barbara Farms, Inc.
Gooding ID 83330

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE Shoshone 7 5 minutes ACREAGE 2 1/2 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Myers School and the property on which it stands in the NW 1/4, SW 1/4, NE 1/4, SW 1/4 of Section 30, T5S, R17E, Boise Meridian. Legal description on file at Lincoln County Courthouse Shoshone. Idaho.

UTM(S) 11/704820/4758980

DATE OR PERIOD: 1910's ARCHITECT OR BUILDER attributed to Bill Darrah

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE architecture, education

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE local

CONDITION deteriorated unaltered original site

DESCRIPTION:

The one-story, nearly square Myers School building has a shingled hipped roof. The close eaves have exposed rafters. There is an exterior red brick chimney on the southeast wall. The wide main centered entrance on the facade is flanked by symmetrically-placed window openings. A panel of six wooden frames for windows are offset to the left on the northwest wall. The panel begins about one-third of the way up the wall. The rear wall has a smaller doorway offset to the left. The only opening on the southeast wall is a small low clean-out for ashes. Unusually large, dressed, dark, rectangular lava slabs are used for lintels for the doors and for the facade windows. The stones at the bottom of the window openings were covered with mortar in place of a sill. The corner quoins are also of dressed stone. The northwest corner of the building has slipped out, probably from foundation damage caused by irrigation. The opening in the wall reveals that the building was laid up with clay and pointed with mortar. There are spalls between the stones on the interior of the wall. The mortar has been patched a great deal, obscuring the original mortar. Apparently the original untooled mortar was brought out to the surface of the stones creating the effect of wide joints in the coursed rubble walls. The interior was plastered directly on the stone. Cattle have caused damage by rubbing against the walls, both inside and out. The building stands as a deteriorating shell without a floor, windows or doors, and is used intermittently as a shelter for cattle.

SIGNIFICANCE:

This building is a significant example of a rural school house of a local vernacular type. Like many similar frame one-room schools this one appears to have been modeled after a home, with only the panel of windows as a concession to the particular needs of a school. It was built when homesteading families along the Little Wood River provided for their children's education in small rural districts. This school was built for District 2 on the Charles Myers property. The district was formed by taking territory from already existing Districts 23 and 25, according to a Petition for Formation of a New School District dated March 7 1911. The County Commissioners granted the petition in January 1912, after the proposed new district was combined with District 4, Tunupa, on November 27 1911. Older residents believe that the frame Tunupa School was moved to the Myers property, and that the stone building was built later, probably in the mid-1910's. It was used as a school building until about 1930. The Myers School very much resembles the Darrah residence (also in this nomination) in size, proportion, roof type, and in handling of the joints and mortar. From these similarities it can be deduced that Bill Darrah was the mason, although this is not confirmed. The little abandoned school has a picturesque setting near the Little Wood River, with towering cottonwood trees nearby. While there are no current plans to restore the deteriorating building, the building deserves National Register listing as the only extant lava rock school of its type in the two-county area of the nomination.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Documents on file in the office of the County Clerk, Lincoln County Courthouse, Shoshone, Idaho.

Mabutt, Mrs. B. A., interview with Marian Posey-Ploss, Shoshone, Idaho, Summer, 1979.