

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

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

SITE NAME: Silbaugh, W. H., House

SITE NUMBER: 72

LOCATION: ~~Three and three-quarters miles west~~ ^w of Jerome, ~~Idaho~~ ^{vic}

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: F. T. Smith
c/o Chas. J. Hosman
Route 2
Jerome, ID 83338

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Jerome, 7.5 minutes

ACREAGE: 2 1/2 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Silbaugh House and the property on which it stands, the NE 1/4, NW 1/4, NW 1/4, NW 1/4 of Section 21, T8S, R16E. Legal description on file at Jerome County Courthouse, Jerome, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/697160/4732745

DATE OR PERIOD: c. 1920

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: Walter Otis

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: good, altered, original site

DESCRIPTION:

The one and one half story bungaloid style Silbaugh house is placed on a high foundation on the top of a ridge. The original stone part of the house is about 24 by 26 feet. It has a steeply-pitched, flared gable roof with close eaves. A tall, narrow, gable-roofed dormer is centered on the front roof above the stone walls. A narrow molding board is at the top of the gable walls where they join the roof. The shed roof of the porch extends from the eaves line of the facade. The stone foundation of the porch is about six feet tall and is continuous with the porch's low stone walls. A section of the stone wall at each corner of the porch is raised about six inches to form a pier for square wooden columns painted white. Rough concrete coping is on the porch walls and on the pier. Concrete steps in the hillside and a narrow concrete sidewalk lead from the lower driveway to the centered concrete step extending from the porch. On the left side of the house and part of the rear of the house there is a daylight basement created by setting the house into the sloping side of a hill. The left wall of the house and the basement wall are continuous. The basement wall continues beyond the left rear corner of the house approximately eight feet. It continues across the rear exposure to form a foundation about six feet high for part of the T-shaped frame additions on the rear of the house. The frame additions vary in width from approximately eight to eighteen feet. There are two one-over-one-light double-hung windows in each gable.

similar windows on the first story have nearly flush, rough concrete lintels about six inches wide and set about four inches into the stone on each end. The narrower lug sills are outset and sloping. The windows are set about six inches into the wall opening. Three windows in the left daylight basement wall have a continuous concrete lintel. The spaces between and below the windows are roughly filled in with stone masonry that does not appear to match that of the rest of the house. The random rubble walls of stones of different sizes, shapes, colors, and textures have a rough uneven surface. There is mortar in the medium-width joints.

SIGNIFICANCE:

This house is significant as an example of vernacular house design and as an example of the craftsmanship of Walt Otis. The house is unique in having such strong design elements in so small a house. The house's symmetrical front is typical of vernacular houses in the South Central Idaho region. Its porch, dormer, and roof angle are adaptations from the bungalow style. Part of the daylight basement was originally an under-the-house garage. The extension of the basement wall at the rear of the house originally housed a coal room, with a porch on top, to which a wagon or truck could be driven up. The house's placement on a high foundation, the flared eaves, the high left wall, the narrow singly-placed windows, and the vertical lines of the high dormer on the steep roof, all add to a feeling of height. The impression from the nearby county road, below the house, is that the house has wings, sitting lightly on its high ridge setting. The house was built in about 1920 for farmer W. H. Silbaugh by Walt Otis, a mason trained by his father, M. T. Otis. Because of the placement of the house on the ridge, the frame additions on the rear are non-obtrusive and not particularly noticeable from the front.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Silbaugh, Frank, interview with Marian Posey-Ploss, Jerome, Idaho, July 1978.

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