

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

NOMINATION: Historic Resources of Paris (Partial Inventory: Architecture)

SITE NAME: Thomas Sleight cabin . SITE # 1

LOCATION: Main Street, Paris, Idaho

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: State of Idaho

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Paris, 7.5 minute ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The nomination includes the Thomas Sleight cabin and the property on which it stands: T-2238, block 18, a fraction of lots 1 and 2, Paris Original Townsite.

UTM(S): 12/4,66,920/46,74,500

DATE OR PERIOD: 1860's EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture

DESCRIPTION: Fair condition      altered      moved      1892-1900

Typical of many early log cabins in southern Idaho, the Thomas Sleight cabin is about sixteen feet square with a gable-end facade of one centered door (panel, probably a later addition) in the east wall and a single window opening cut into the south wall. The window frame is pegged into the log wall with wooden pegs. The shingled gable roof on log purlins is steeper than many early log cabins--about forty-five degrees. It is possible that the roof structure--especially the shingles--is newer than the original building, as many early log buildings in Paris had straw roofs.

The building has a foundation of log sills. The walls are built of logs left in the round, joined at the corners with V-notching, and filled in the interstices with split lumber and split poles. The logs extend slightly beyond the joint. One log below the eaves, log loft joists are framed into the side walls with V-notching.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Thomas Sleight cabin is of historical and architectural significance as probably our sole remnant of the earliest architecture in Paris, though it is a more substantial building than some of the huts and dugouts described in diaries from the settlers' first winter in Paris. The first Paris buildings were scattered along the creek in Paris Canyon, and the Sleight cabin was moved from that area to Main Street sometime between 1892 and 1900, when it appears on the Sanborn fire maps. It is worthy of nomination in spite of the move because of its early date and because it affords a look at early log construction. Similarly to log buildings from the settlement of other areas in southern Idaho, the cabin exhibits a hurried technique: round logs joined with rough V-notches, log gables, and purlins supporting the roof.