

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

NOMINATION: Historic Resources of Potlatch

SITE NAME: American Legion Cabin

SITE NUMBER: 8

LOCATION: South side of Highway 95A, opposite the Potlatch City Cemetery and adjacent to the City Park, Potlatch.

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: American Legion Post #81
Potlatch, ID 83855

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Potlatch, 15 minute

ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The nomination includes the American Legion Cabin and the property on which it stands, .92 acres of government lot #2, Potlatch.

UTM(S): 11/508430/5196200

DATE OR PERIOD: 1928

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: Unknown

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

CONDITION: Good, altered, original site

DESCRIPTION:

This one-and-one-half-story log bungalow is L-shaped and has a gable overhang roof with exposed log rafters and a wood shake roof. It faces north and the original, main entrance door is wood, off-centered to the west. The new main door on the north. Also on the east are two French-style doors, each with fifteen lights, no longer used as the porch or balcony to which the doors led has been removed. There is a gable post portico with two log posts on the north and a stoop porch on the east. The north side has a single sash window with five lights. The south side has nine casement windows. The east has a single sash window with six lights, two single sash windows with two lights, and four casement windows. There is a concrete foundation. New casement windows and a door on the north have been added.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The American Legion Cabin is significant as one of the town's few privately-built structures, for its association with one of the few private organizations in the town, and for its role as a public meeting place, one of the few places where company workers and managers could mingle. This building appears on the 1928 Sanborn Fire Map of Potlatch, although a plaque on the structure says it was built in 1929. More than likely, construction was begun in 1928 with the building dedicated in 1929. The building is on the east part of town, separated from the rest of town. It was one of a very few buildings in Potlatch not constructed by the lumber company, being built by the Legion. The cabin was erected as a memorial to Potlatch servicemen who died during World War I. The site and the logs were donated to the Legion by the lumber company, and practically all construction work was done by Legion men and friends who donated their

labor. In addition to serving as the Legion headquarters, this building was an important social center and meeting place. It is today still owned by the Legion, but is leased as a restaurant.