

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

NOMINATION: Buhl Dairy Barns thematic group

SITE NAME: Maxwell, Art and Frieda, Barn

SITE NUMBER: 7

LOCATION: ~~2 mi. E, 1/4 mi. S~~^{SE} of Buhl

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Johnny Blair
Route #4
Buhl, ID 83316

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Clover Quadrangle
7.5 min.

ACREAGE: 2.5 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Art and Frieda Maxwell Barn and the property on which it stands, the SW1/4, SW1/4, NW1/4, NW1/4, Section 4, R15E, T10S.

UTM(S): 11/687900/4717660

DATE OR PERIOD: c. 1915

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: Henry Schick

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture, agriculture, entertainment

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: good, altered, original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Art and Frieda Maxwell Barn is a rectangular, two-story, balloon frame structure with a flared gambrel roof and a nine-foot concrete foundation. Its proportions are 62 feet long, 40 feet wide, and 36 feet high. Its wood siding is quite weathered, but some patches of mustard-yellow paint are extant. The first floor of the west facade consists of three small fixed windows of four lights each, three double-hung sash windows of four-over-four lights, and three sliding doors. Three shed dormers with double-hung sash windows with six-over-six lights project from the side of the shingled roof. The east facade is the same, except there are only two doors instead of three. The south gable end has a pointed hay hood over a

sliding hay door. Two fixed windows with four lights each flank each side of the hay door. Four fixed windows of four lights each are located in the first floor on the south end. The north gable end has a concrete silo attached to the middle of it; two windows are located on either side of the silo on the first floor.

The interior of the first floor has been altered. Originally, two rows of stanchions of ten stanchions each ran from side to side in the barn. The mangers faced outward. The stanchions on the west side of the barn have been removed and an enclosed milk room built there. The original milk room is still in the northwest corner of the barn. A large calf pen is in the northeast corner of the barn. In the middle of the north end is an opening to the silo. The entire south end is walled off from the rest of the barn. In this area were four double horse stalls; the stalls have been altered slightly.

The loft of the barn is light and airy, due to the windows in the shed dormers. The roof is framed with a complex truss system. A truss rafter assembly runs from a vertical ridge pole to the top of a side wall extending five feet above the loft floor. A second brace runs from a support piece extending to the middle of the upper brace to the joint between the loft floor and side wall. Hay was unloaded from the outside of the barn by a track-and-pulley system. The track extends outside the loft underneath the pointed hay hood.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Art and Frieda Maxwell Barn is architecturally significant as a good example of a later type of gambrel-roofed dairy barn built in the Buhl area from 1913 to 1915. The barn is historically significant because of Art and Frieda Maxwell's association with the early Buhl dairy industry, and as a center for neighborhood gatherings.

The Maxwell barn exemplifies the most sophisticated method of framing a gambrel roof represented in the thematic group. The truss rafter assembly is extremely strong and opens up the loft interior. This barn also shows an interesting shift in barn builder Henry Schick's methods of framing a barn. He has adopted the relatively new form of truss assembly method, rather than the partial post-and-lintel system he used on earlier barns.

The Maxwell barn reflects agricultural practices of the period. The floor plan is one of many variations shown in barn plan books. Hay continues to be loaded from the outside of the barn. The horses are housed separately from the cows, showing a concern for proper sanitary conditions.

Art Maxwell was one of Gustave Kunze's hired hands; he eventually married Kunze's daughter, Frieda. Kunze deeded a portion of his own land to Frieda in 1915 and had Henry Schick build a barn for them. The Maxwell barn is fondly remembered by longtime local residents as the location for many a party and dance. The well-lit loft was used sometimes instead of the small neighborhood school for Christmas parties and other kinds of meetings.

The Maxwell barn is still used for milking cows and for storage. It is in good condition, except for a few broken windows and boards that need to be replaced.