

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

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

✓ SITE NAME: Vipham, Thomas, House

SITE NUMBER: 74

✓ LOCATION: 313 ~~East~~ Avenue D, Jerome, ~~Idaho~~

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Sam Smith
313 East Avenue D
Jerome, ID 83338

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Jerome, 7.5 minutes

ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

✓ The nomination includes the Thomas Vipham House and the property on which it stands, Block 122 Lots 4 and 5, Jerome Townsite. Legal description on file at Jerome County Courthouse, Jerome, Idaho.

UTM(S): 1/703625/4732520

DATE OR PERIOD: 1920

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: Thomas Vipham

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: excellent, altered, original site

DESCRIPTION:

This one-story house, approximately 30 feet square, is made of brick on a high lava rock foundation. It is situated on a lot that slopes to the rear so it is one-story at the street level and two stories at the rear. It has a shingled, hipped roof with wide, enclosed, stuccoed eaves. The lava rock foundation wraps around to the front of the house forming low porch walls for the full inset porch. There are slightly higher piers at each corner and beside the entrance. A narrow, concrete belt course divides the stone portion from the brick and becomes coping for the porch walls. The piers also have concrete caps. The coursed rubble masonry has nearly flush medium width joints painted white. There are stone relieving arches above the basement windows. The brick is laid in Flemish bond in a decorative pattern alternating light- and medium-red bricks with dark-red glazed bricks. There is dark gray mortar in the medium-sized, slightly raked joints. There is a tall, square interior tall brick chimney with a corbelled cap. A larger outset chimney is offset to the left of the side wall and intersects the eaves. It, too, has a corbelled cap. There are four square brick columns supporting the porch across the front of the house. The lintels and sills in the brick section of the house are concrete. Brick planter boxes, later additions, are at ground level at each side of the centered concrete porch steps. One of the front windows has been partially blocked with siding to create space for an aluminum-framed window.

SIGNIFICANCE:

This was one of the the earliest brick houses built in Jerome. There was no local kiln, so the bricks were shipped in, possibly from Idaho Falls. Thomas Vipham, who built this house for his own residence, was a highly skilled plasterer and brick and stone mason who learned his trade in Wisconsin. The house conveys a sense of grace and elegance through its pleasing proportions, fine details, and contrasting textures and colors, all suggestive of the Prairie style. The almost-black lava with white lines, the plain grayish-tan concrete, the brick in three colors and two textures, the fine-textured stucco coving and the unpainted cedar shingled roof all contribute to a harmonious building. The house has been well cared for and is in excellent condition. The partial closure of one front window is a reversible alteration.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

North Side News (Jerome). June 3, 1920.