

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

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

SITE NAME: American Legion Hall

SITE NUMBER: 87

LOCATION: 107 West A Street, Shoshone, Idaho 83352

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Lincoln County Memorial
Shoshone, Idaho 83352

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Shoshone, 7.5 minutes

ACREAGE: Less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes The American Legion Hall and the property on which it stands, Lot 6 and the E 20' of lot 5, Block 12, Shoshone Townsite. Legal description on file at Lincoln County Courthouse. Shoshone, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/711585/4756585

DATE OR PERIOD: 1928

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: Jack Oughton, Steve Rhodes

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture, social/humanitarian

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: good, altered, original site

DESCRIPTION:

The tall one-story American Legion Hall is approximately 44 by 36 feet. It has a basement and a gable roof with wide exposed eaves and plain bargeboards. The roofing material is dark green diamond-patterned composition shingles. Decorative shingles on the gables above the one-story stone walls have been painted red and green in wide courses. A gabled overdoor intersects the roof line above the centered entrance to the porch. A small round American Legion symbol is centered in its gable. The approximately eight-foot-wide porch is inset under the roof and wraps around the right corner as an outset porch across approximately two-thirds of the right wall. A third gable is above the side porch. The left side of its gable roof is continuous with the main roof, extending about three feet beyond the main roof. There are slightly battered stone columns outset from the high porch walls on each corner of the facade, with a narrower inset section about one foot tall at their top. There are piers raised about one foot above the porch walls on each side of the centered porch entrance and at the right corner of the side porch. Tapered, square, wooden columns are on each pier. Sandstone is used for coping on the porch columns and outline water outlets at the porch floor. A concrete stoop with high stone walls and piers like those on the porch extends from the porch. The porch and stoop walls have narrow, slightly outset, concrete coping. There are sandstone quoins on each corner of the building and at the sides of the front door. This door has plain side lights. The window to the left of the door has a sandstone lintel and sill. Some of the windows on the side walls have sandstone

lintels and sills, while some have concrete lintels and sills. All of the windows are one-over-one double-hung sash. There are concrete steps leading down to an inset basement door at the right of the side porch. There is a concrete basin outside each of the basement windows. There is a plain wooden molding at the top of the walls and at the bottom of the side porch gable. The moldings and porch columns have been painted white. The broken coursed masonry of dressed stones has narrow nearly flush joints tooled to produce a beaded line that has been painted white. There is a concrete block addition approximately ten-by-fourteen feet with a shed roof offset to the right of the rear wall, which shelters the original rear entrance. A modern metal-framed door has been installed in the original front door opening.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The American Legion Hall is significant as an example of the bungalow style as an important building in the social-fraternal life of the community which is still being used for its original purpose, and as it is an excellent example of the craftsmanship of mason Jack Oughton. The hall was built in 1927 and 1928 by members of the Shoshone American Legion Post 11. The building was designed by Steve Rhodes, who was then their commander. It is of note that this residential style, popular in Twin Falls, Jerome, and other newer Magic Valley towns, was chosen for this building, which has only been used for fraternal and other group meetings. It is across the alley and only a few hundred feet away from the Shoshone opera house (in the Shoshone Historic District), but the active social and humanitarian life of the community called for the building of this more modern meeting place. The Rotary Club of Shoshone also meets in the building. The most outstanding feature of the building is the fine craftsmanship it exhibits, blending two kinds of stones, concrete, painted wood and composition roofing to create a pleasing composition in tones, colors and textures. This is one of the few buildings in the nomination incorporating two kinds of stones. The material for this building was salvaged from the abandoned Union Pacific roundhouse, which had been built of basalt and sandstone. In no other building in the nomination is sandstone used so extensively and to such decorative effect. The carefully patterned broken ashlar masonry with tight joints exemplifies the finely detailed masonry construction of which Oughton was capable. The later cinder block addition on the rear is unobtrusive. The replacement front door is an easily reversible alteration.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Hahn, E. C., interview with Marian Posey-Ploss, Shoshone, Idaho, Summer 1979.

Lincoln County Journal (Shoshone). April 20, 1928.