

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

NOMINATION: (Lava Rock Structures in South Central Idaho <sup>TR</sup>)

SITE NAME: Darrah House and Water Tank House

SITE NUMBER: 32

LOCATION: Approximately five miles northeast<sup>NE</sup> of Shoshone, ~~ID~~<sup>VIC.</sup>

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Richard M. Oneida  
Shoshone, ID 83352

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Shoshone, 7.5 minutes

ACREAGE: 5 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Darrah House and Water Tank House and the property on which they stand, the S 1/2, SW 1/4, SE 1/4, SE 1/4 of Section 18, T5S, R18E. Legal description on file at Lincoln County Courthouse, Shoshone, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/715350/4762000

DATE OR PERIOD: 1913

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: Bill Darrah

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture, agriculture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: fair, unaltered, original site

DESCRIPTION:

House: The one and one half story house is approximately 29 feet square. It has a shingled, truncated pyramidal roof with metal flashing and close enclosed eaves. Centered on the rear roof is a narrow shingled dormer with a hipped roof. The coursed rubble walls have flush medium-width joints. A line has been incised in the joints as a decorative element. Some of the mortar has fallen out where the walls receive the force of wind and rain, and it can be seen that the house was laid up with mud and pointed with sand-colored mortar. Doors are centered on the front and rear walls, flanked by symmetrically-set windows. The two side walls also have two windows spaced somewhat toward the corners. The wooden lintels on the windows, made of railroad ties, are at the top of the wall. The double-hung windows are set almost at the inside of the wall. The opening beyond them is partially lined with lumber. There is sloping mortar covering the stone at the bottom of the windows and acting as sills. The original interior of this four-room house is intact. The dormer allows head room for the stairs to the attic, which begin just inside the front door. A wooden beam to support the attic is built into the stone walls.

Water Tank House: The water tank house is about 100 yards east of the house. It is approximately fifteen feet in diameter and about twenty feet tall. A plank door to the chamber is set about halfway in the approximately 36 inch wall. The opening outside the door is lined with lumber. The lintel is gone, but the shape and size

of the indentation indicates that it might have been a railroad tie. Steel cable about seven-eighths inch in diameter is visible in the wall where the lintel is missing. A horizontal window with a wooden shutter closing the opening on the outside is several feet to the left of the door. The coursed rubble walls have sand-colored mortar in the nearly flush joints. Also on the property, but not included in this nomination, is the ruins of a barn and a windmill tower base of stone. There are also the remains of a low concrete serpentine wall with decorative lava rocks built.

#### SIGNIFICANCE:

These two structures are significant both for their architecture and for their craftsmanship. The house is a good example of a vernacular house built along the Big Wood River by sheep ranchers. The property was owned by the Darrah family from 1910 to 1915, and Bill Darrah built these structures during that time period. Ben Darrah, Bill's brother, then moved his sheep ranching headquarters further west about three miles. The water tank house is probably among the first built by Bill Darrah. It is unique in having had a wooden lintel above the door instead of the reinforced concrete that he later used, and because the window to the chamber is at one side rather than opposite the door. The house is in good condition considering that it has been vacant since 1968, and the water tank house is in excellent condition. This speaks for the solid, utilitarian masonry done by Bill Darrah. The whole site is instructive of early farmsteads in Lincoln County.

#### MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Records of the Security Title Company, of Gooding, Idaho.