

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

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

✓ SITE NAME: Murphy, W. H., House

SITE NUMBER: 89

✓ LOCATION: 607 ~~South~~ Greenwood Street, Shoshone, Idaho, 83352

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Harold and Dora Perron  
607 South Greenwood Street  
Shoshone, ID 83352

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Shoshone, 7.5 minute

ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

✓ The nomination includes the Murphy House and the property on which it stands, Lots 11-16, Block 36, Shoshone Townsite. Legal description on file at Lincoln County Courthouse, Shoshone, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/711485/4756240

DATE OR PERIOD: c. 1928

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: Jack Oughton, Sandy Reed

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: good, altered, original site

DESCRIPTION:

This approximately 28-by-48-foot one-story house has a shingled hipped roof with close eaves and sharply cut, exposed rafter ends. There are curvilinear metal finials on the two points of the roof. A full inset porch approximately eight feet wide is across the facade on the narrower dimension of the house. Full battered piers of rounded stones with weathered faces are on each corner. Square stone piers flank the centered entrance on the porch. Each has a wide square concrete cap about four inches thick and outset about six inches from each side of the top of the piers. A concrete stoop extends from the porch. The low porch walls have concrete coping. A nearly flush concrete lintel approximately twelve inches wide and inset into the stone approximately four inches on each end is above the front door, which is offset to the right of center. It is flanked by two windows. All of the windows in the stone walls are wide double-hung sash windows. The bottom two-thirds of the windows are single panes. Narrower top sections have twelve small panes. The windows are set midway in the walls. The nearly flush concrete window lintels are approximately ten inches wide and are inset into the stone about four inches on each end. The concrete porch trim, the lintels and sills, and the wooden window frames are painted white. The sloping, outset concrete sills are narrower. The broken ashlar walls of dressed stones have tight, nearly flush joints that have been tooled to produce a line of beading which has been painted white. Mortar in the recessed joints of the porch piers is brushed. It appears

that originally there was a full, inset porch across the rear of the house. This has been enclosed with siding and extended by another porch or stoop with low stone walls, which has also been enclosed with wooden siding. Both sections have windows. The rear roof has been extended to cover the second porch. The masonry of the rear porch is random rubble with untooled mortar brought almost out to the face of the stones.

#### SIGNIFICANCE:

This residence is a good example of vernacular architecture in a town setting. It is also significant as an example of the craftsmanship of stone mason partners Jack Oughton and Sandy Reed. This house shows elements of the bungalow style, such as the battered piers and exposed rafters, but it also has the hipped roof, close eaves and windows of an earlier tradition. Its setting, surrounded by shrubbery at the south entrance to the town of Shoshone, adds to an impression of darkness created by the very dark stones and the inset front porch under the hipped roof. Its hooded, brooding appearance is lightened only by the white trim. The house is one of the first instances in which Shoshone masons used weathered stones with rounded faces to contrast with precisely-cut, dressed stones used in the walls of the house. The house was built in 1928 for W. H. Murphy. It is similar to the Oughton house (site 100), built by the same masons. It appears that the original inset rear porch of the house was enclosed at an early date, then another rear porch was built by a different mason. The enclosing of both porches is unobtrusive and does not detract from the significant features of the house.

#### MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Perron, Dora, interview with Marian Posey-Ploss, Shoshone, Idaho, July 16, 1979.

Records of the Security Title Company, Gooding, Idaho.