

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

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

SITE NAME: Spencer, Edward S., House and Garage
and the Fred Nelson Barn

SITE NUMBER: 56

LOCATION: Six miles north, one mile east and seven-eighths mile north of
N of Jerome, Idaho

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Jack Nelson
Rural Route 1
Jerome, ID 83338

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Gooding, SE, 7.5 minutes

ACREAGE: 5 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Spencer House and Garage, the Nelson Barn and the property on which they stand, the S 1/2, NE 1/4, NE 1/4, NE 1/4 of Section 18, T7S, R17E. Legal description on file at Jerome County Courthouse, Jerome, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/704145/4744100

DATE OR PERIOD: 1918, 1922, 1941 ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: Pete, Earl and John Duffy,
and Jack Sellman barn
attributed to Ed Bennett

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture, agriculture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: good, house and barn altered, original site

DESCRIPTION:

House: The one and one half story Spencer house is approximately 31 by 40 feet with a lateral shingled gable roof with exposed rafters. There is a plain, narrow bargeboard on the gables. The width of the house is increased by an approximately ten-foot-wide, shed-roofed porch across the facade, making the house almost square. A gable-roofed dormer is centered high on the facade roof with a pair of double-hung windows in it. There is clapboard siding in the gables above the one-story stone walls. A single window is in the peak of each gable. The porch has four full battered piers outet from the low porch walls. The porch has two entrances, one on each side of a centered section composed of two piers with a porch wall between them. To the right of the right entrance and to the left of the left entrance is a square pier raised about six inches above the porch walls. There is concrete coping on the low stone porch walls. All of the door and window openings have stone relieving arches above them. Window heads are curved. The window sills are wooden. The windows are double-hung one-over-one light throughout the house. On the facade is a centered pair of windows flanked by two doors, each of which has a single window beside it, making a symmetrical pattern across the facade. There are

two large windows and one door on each of the other walls. The stones on the porch and facade have been shaped and dressed, laid in a broken ashlar pattern. The other walls are of coursed rubble. The almost flush joints are wide. There is an approximately six-by-twelve-foot, shed-roofed frame addition offset to the left on the rear wall.

Garage: There is a one-story, rectangular garage large enough for one automobile. It has a shingled gable roof with close eaves. It has coursed rubble walls with wide untooled joints brought out almost to the face of the stone. The garage sits a few hundred feet to the right of the house.

Barn: The approximately 33-by-48 foot barn has a rainbow roof with flared eaves, very close verges, and a centered metal ventilator. There are two uneven frame leantos joined to the barn by curving roofs. There is an off-center door in the south wall. The square hinged hay door is below a pointed hood. The gable walls above the one-story stone walls are covered with clapboards. Small windows at each side are placed about midway up on each gable. The rubble walls emphasize curved lines. The medium-width joints have been tooled to produce a line of beading that is painted white.

SIGNIFICANCE:

This group of three rural buildings present an excellent example of rural vernacular architecture, as well as craftsmanship. The hybrid style elements of the house are particularly interesting, for they show the adaptation of the simple square or rectangular base that earlier had a gable, pyramidal or hipped roof, into a bungalow style farmhouse, by doubling that unit and adding a porch across the facade. The double entrance is related to the double pen houses of southeast Idaho which have two front doors. The openings in the wall retain the stone relieving arches of a much earlier era. The house's blend of the old and the new can be especially appreciated when it is contrasted with, for example, the Gleason bungalow (site 51) built the same year.

The house was built in 1918 by Pete Duffy and his sons Earl and John, for Edward S. Spencer, a farmer. The date 1918 is scratched into a stone near the front door on the porch. Jack Sellman, Shoshone, Idaho, was the carpenter. He drove a horse and cart from Shoshone, staying on the job during the week and returning to his home on the weekends. The son of the original owner believes Mr. Sellman provided the plans for the house. The Duffys also were boarded by the Spencers in their small frame prove-up house while the stone house and later the garage were being built. Both the house and garage were laid up with mud that had a high clay content dug in the nearby desert. Sand was hauled from a coulee about four miles west of the house. The garage was built in 1922 by the Duffys to shelter Mr. Spencer's Model T touring car. The garage is one of very few stone garages extant in the area of the survey. The house and garage are examples of the sound craftsmanship of the Duffys. They continued to use stone relieving arches well after other masons began to use concrete. Typically they brought the joints out to the face of the stones, creating joints that appear to be wide. The barn was built in 1941 for Fred Nelson, interim owner, for \$1600. The masonry in the barn appears to be that of Ed Bennett, but this is not confirmed. This is one of the last stone barns built in the area of this nomination. By 1940 settlers had learned that hay could be

stored outdoors in the Magic Valley. The side sheds on the barn are typical utilitarian additions that do not detract from the central building, and the small shed-roofed addition on the rear of the house is unobtrusive.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Spencer, Marcus (Mike), interview with Marian Posey-Ploss, Gooding, Idaho, August 15, 1978.

Nelson, Jack, interview with Marian Posey-Ploss, Jerome, Idaho, August 15, 1978.

North Side News (Jerome). February 2, 1922.