

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

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

SITE NAME: Gregg, Edward M., Farm

SITE NUMBER: 36

LOCATION: ~~One mile east of Exit 168, 184, southeast~~ ^{SE} of Jerome, ~~ID~~ ^{Vic.}

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Donald V. and Margaret M. Nutsch
Rural Route 6
Jerome, ID 83338

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Jerome, ID 83338

ACREAGE: two and one-half acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Edward M. Gregg Farm and the property on which it stands, the NW 1/4, NW 1/4, NW 1/4, NW 1/4 of Section 5, T9S, R17E. Legal description on file at Jerome County Courthouse, Jerome, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/704800/4728120

DATE OR PERIOD: 1914-1930's

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: R. W. Grant,
carpenter

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, agriculture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: good, altered. Bunk house, well house, and barn unaltered.
other buildings altered.

DESCRIPTION:

House: The one-story house is approximately 37 by 29 feet with a truncated pyramidal roof with decorative metal flashing and close eaves. The house is extended at the back by an eight-foot-wide, low, shed-roofed frame and cinder block addition. It appears that there originally was an inset porch approximately eight by fourteen feet on the southeast corner, but this has been enclosed with vertical tongue and groove siding. Rough relieving arches are above each window. The top of the single, outset, rectangular stones used for sills are coated with mortar. The double-hung sash windows are set about six inches inside the walls. The section of the stone wall to the right of the enclosed porch has fading reddish-orange paint on it. Brushed, sand-colored mortar fills joints raked out one to four inches in the low rubble walls.

Bunk House: The building now used as a shop is approximately fifteen by twenty feet with seven-foot-tall and twenty-four-inch-wide walls. It has a shingled gable roof with a narrow, plain bargeboard. The gables have horizontal planks in them and are set midway in the walls. A door on the facade is offset slightly to the right. Opposite it on the rear wall is an outset brick fireplace. The chimney portion of the fireplace has been replaced with cinder block. A small window is

centered on the right wall. Roughly-set light-colored mortar is in the slightly raked out joints in the rubble wall of rounded stones.

Well House: The approximately eleven-by-twelve-foot well house has a gable roof. A metal windmill tower without mortar or blades is still on the roof. Darkened, brushed mortar is in the wide joints of the five-foot-tall rubble walls, which is built of stones with slightly rounded surfaces. The shingled gable roof has metal flashing ending with a decorative ball at each end of the ridge and has a narrow, plain bargeboard. Horizontal planks are in the gables. Centered on the facade is a diagonally-sheathed wooden door. Steps go down into an entrance well because the floor is lower than the outside ground.

Barn: The approximately 37-by-41-foot barn has stone walls varying in height from about five to seven feet. The composition-shingled, flared gambrel roof has narrow eaves. A hinged hay door is centered in the gables, which are covered with horizontal boards. The door below it is slightly offset to the right. There are three windows in each side wall. The windows are set near the inside of the wall and the openings are partially lined with boards. The windows go to the top of the walls, obviating the need for lintels. The openings below the windows are lined with mortar in place of a separate sill. Darkened untooled mortar is brought almost to the surface of the stone, creating wide joints. Three symmetrically-set doors are in the rear gable wall.

Chicken House/Garage: The shed-roofed chicken house faces south. It has a common wall with the shallow gable-roofed open garage, which opens the opposite direction, to the north. A carport with a shed roof supported by poles extends from the left side of the garage. The chicken house section is approximately seventeen by fourteen feet. It has been opened up now for use as a shop. The garage section is approximately fifteen feet wide and twenty feet long. The rubble walls were laid with a very soft mortar and then were pointed with a harder mortar. The mortar throughout is in poor condition, and rough patching with a concrete mortar has been attempted.

SIGNIFICANCE:

This group of farm buildings includes significant examples of rural vernacular building types that exhibit the craftsmanship of three masons and the work of the farmer-owner. As a group the buildings are instructive of the way a farmstead could be built up over two decades by using stone. The relatively small scale of these buildings should be noted; the walls of all of the buildings were built without scaffolding. The group of buildings surrounded by pole corrals and high poplar trees is highly visible from Interstate 84 near Exit 168. Thomas Vipham and three sons built the house in 1914 for farmer Edward M. Gregg. The house was built directly onto a rock pile. When plumbing was installed later, it was difficult to blast enough of an opening to get under the house without endangering it. The closing of the porch on the house and the unobtrusive rear addition are typical alterations that do not detract significantly from the integrity of the house.

The barn was built in 1923 by Brannock (Pete) Duffy. The mortar brought out to the surface of the wall is typical of his utilitarian craftsmanship. No concrete is used in this barn, probably because Duffy, trained in an earlier era, did not

handle it with competence. The bunk house and the garage/chicken house were built by the Gregg in the 1920's. By the time he built these buildings he had assisted two trained masons and acquired some skill himself. The 24-inch wall in the bunk house was easier for him to build than the narrower walls of the trained masons' work. The well house was built by H. T. Pugh in the early 1930's. It shows his characteristic care in selecting and fitting stones, even in so small a building, as well as the use of darkened, brushed mortar. The removal of the frame from the front of the chicken house is typical farmer recycling of buildings as they are no longer needed for their original use.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Gregg, Harold, interview with Marian Posey-Ploss, Jerome, Idaho, July 21, 1978.