

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

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

SITE NAME: Webster, Archie, House

SITE NUMBER: 82

LOCATION: ~~On the west side of West Avenue at the corner of West Avenue B,~~  
Jerome, Idaho <sup>and</sup>

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: John Webster  
Rural Route 3  
Jerome, ID 83338

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Jerome, Idaho, 7 5 minutes      ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Webster House and the property on which it stands, the NE 1/4, NE 1/4, SW 1/4, NE 1/4, NW 1/4 of Section 24, T8S, R16E. Legal description on file at Jerome County Courthouse, Jerome, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/702200/4732680

DATE OR PERIOD: c. 1924

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: Ed Bennett and Heffner

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: excellent, altered, original site

DESCRIPTION:

This one and one half story bungalow style lava residence is approximately 31 feet wide and 50 feet long. It has a full, high basement and a shingled gable roof with wide eaves oriented north-south. The roof on the east exposure overhangs the full, inset porch. There is a large, centered, shed-roofed dormer beginning at the ridge of the main roof on both the front and rear. Both have a panel of three double-hung, single-pane windows surrounded by plain wooden molding. There are two figure-four brackets on each side of the dormers, and five on each of the shingled gables. The one-story rubble masonry walls of small (six to eight inch) rounded and oblong stones are continuous with the basement. Larger rectangular stones are used as quoins on each corner. Darkened mortar has been brushed out of the joints to a depth of two to three inches. A narrow wooden molding separates the stone wall from the gables. The gables and the dormer are shingled, painted charcoal gray to match the dark lava walls. An exterior stone chimney offset to the left of the north wall intersects the eaves. Square, outset, stone piers at each corner of the porch and shorter ones flanking the centered entrance support square wooden columns painted white, with molded bases and capitals. A centered stoop of concrete blocks with low stone walls extends from the porch. There is wide concrete coping on the top of the low porch walls, on the piers, and on the walls of the stoop. The porch has a concrete floor and a ceiling of narrow grooved

paneling. The flush concrete lintels in the stone walls are about six inches wide. The outset, sloping lug sills are narrower. Windows in the stone walls are set near the outside of the opening, while the basement windows are set at the inside of the opening. Windows are double hung, placed singly and in pairs. All of the concrete parts of the house are painted light gray, except the floor of the porch, which is unpainted. Wooden window frames and molding are painted white. Offset to the left on the west wall is a low, one-story, unobtrusive shed-roofed concrete block addition, measuring approximately eight by six feet.

#### SIGNIFICANCE:

The Webster House is an excellent example of a vernacular bungalow style house rendered in stone. The use of small, rounded, dark stones in darkened mortar with raked-out, brushed joints is unique in the area of the nomination. The rock came from the place and required careful selection because in most cases rocks which are rounded from being above ground acquire a white covering of salt from exposure to water. The details of the house--brackets, moldings, dormers, windows, porch columns--are in scale with the small stones. The house is very attractive, blending white, gray, and black into a pleasing composition with contrasts of texture in the rounded stones and angular trim. All of these features make the house a good representative of the bungalow style. The house was started in 1921 for Archie Webster, farmer, and was not completed until 1924. Ed Bennett was the mason with Mr. Hefner helping him. This is perhaps the best example of Bennett's work in a residence, for he was better known for farm buildings. This building is the only one in which he treated the stone in this way. The original owner did the framing and woodwork. The cinder block addition at the rear is not visible from the street and in no way detracts from the importance of this fine stone residence.

#### MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Webster, Mae, interview with Marian Posey-Ploss, Jerome, Idaho, August 24, 1978.