

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

NOMINATION: (Lava Rock Structures in South Central Idaho T R)

SITE NAME: Gaches, George H., Cellar and Ice House SITE NUMBER: 19

LOCATION: ~~Six miles north and two miles west~~ ^{SW} of Shoshone, ^{vic} ID

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Ed C. Sheer
Rural Route
Shoshone, ID 83352

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Mammoth Cave, 7.5 minute ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

This nomination includes the George H. Gaches Cellar and Ice House and the property on which it stands in the SW 1/4, SE 1/4, SE 1/4, SE 1/4, NW 1/4 of Section 4, T5S, R17E, Boise Meridian. Legal description on file at Lincoln County Courthouse, Shoshone, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/708180/4765840

DATE OR PERIOD: c. 1910 ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: unknown

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: The cellar is in excellent condition, and the ice house is in ruins. Both are unaltered, and on their original sites.

DESCRIPTION:

Cellar: Built mostly above the ground, the Gaches cellar is about twenty feet square, with a shallow, uneven dirt-covered gable roof. The walls are approximately four feet thick, consisting of two walls, each approximately eighteen inches wide with mud between them. The low windowless walls have been heavily patched with concrete mortar so that the original masonry is obscured. The interior is plastered. A pole roof framework supports boards that have been covered with straw, willows, and earth to form a roof. The wooden entrance door is set almost at the inside of the wide wall. It is reached by going down several steps, since the floor of the cellar is about two feet lower than the ground outside. The entrance has heavy wooden beams above it, and the opening is lined with boards.

Ice House: Three walls and one gable wall remain from a building that was approximately the same size as the cellar. Poles in the ruins indicate it may have had a roof of similar construction. The walls appear to have been taller, originally, than on the cellar. This building, too, has double-wall construction. The outer wall was originally pointed with mortar. The walls of both building were laid up with mud.

SIGNIFICANCE:

These structures are significant as examples of double wall construction and as examples of vernacular food storage buildings. The large amount of material and labor used in constructing them indicates the importance of buildings to preserve food for early settlers. Food storage facilities were often built early in the building-up of a farmstead. The cellar is still in use, completely frost-free in winter and cool in summer. The ice house was an important building on many farmsteads before electricity and refrigeration became available. This is the only extant ice house found in the nomination area. Ice was cut from the Big Wood River in the winter and placed in straw for summer use. The farm was owned by George H. Gaches from 1909 through the 1910's. An interim owner told the present owner that both of the buildings were already there in 1912.

MAJOR BIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Records of the Security Title Company, Gooding, Idaho.

Sheer, Ed, interview with Marian Posey-Ploss, Shoshone vicinity, Summer, 1979.