

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

- ✓ NOMINATION: (Lava Rock Structures in South Central Idaho TR)
- ✓ SITE NAME: Epperson, George, House SITE NUMBER: 93
- ✓ LOCATION: ~~Four miles south, three miles east and one-half mile north~~ ^{SE} of Jerome, ^{vic.} Idaho

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Gene Anderson
Rural Route 3
Jerome, ID 83338

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Falls City, 7.5 minutes ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Epperson House and the property on which it stands, the SW 1/4, SE 1/4, SE 1/4, NE 1/4, SE 1/4 of Section 4, T9S, R17E, Boise Meridian. Legal description on file at Jerome County Courthouse, Jerome, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/707900/4727080

DATE OR PERIOD: 1929 ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: George Epperson and sons

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: good, altered, original site

DESCRIPTION:

The one and one half story Epperson house is approximately 36 by 46 feet. It has a basement and a shingled gable roof. A gable roofed porch about 24 feet wide offset to the left of the gable front extends the house approximately ten more feet in length. An additional gable intersects the main gable on the left roof. Below it is an outset porch approximately ten by twenty feet with a lower gable roof. The pitch of the two porch gables repeats the pitch of the roof gables so that the house appears to be double gabled both on the front and on the left wall. A plain, narrow bargeboard is on each gable. There are battered stone piers on the porches with tapered, square wooden columns. There are flush, unpainted concrete lintels about ten inches wide with narrower, outset, sloping concrete sills. The paired and single double-hung windows have four narrow vertical panes at the top and single panes on the bottom. The porch on the left wall has been enclosed with twelve eight-paned windows. A bulkhead entrance to the basement is to the left of the side porch. The shingles on the porches and in the gables above the one-story stone walls have been painted dark brown. The window frames, the eaves and exposed rafters, the porch columns and wooden porch moldings, and moldings at the tops of the stone walls are painted white. The random rubble walls are outset a few inches up to eighteen inches above the ground level, forming a water course. The joints in the walls are tight, having brushed mortar. On the front porch the mortar has been brought out to the faces of the stones, making the joints appear wider.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Epperson house is significant as an attractive stone bungalow style rural residence. Its bungalow features include a double gable effect from two aspects, the front, facing the lawn and county road, and the left wall. It is a larger house with a more complex style and more details than many of the stone rural residences built in the area of the nomination. The house was started in 1912 by George Epperson and his sons, who blasted rock out for the basement and did some work on the foundations. The basement, foundations, and partially built walls stood as a shell for some time. More work was done on it in 1922. This date is scratched in concrete on the porch. It was not until Ivan Epperson, a son, raised a clover seed crop that sold well, that the family finally had the financial means to finish the house in 1929. The masons who worked on the house are not known. The length of time that it took the Epperson family to finish the house is an indication of the fluctuating prices and fortunes experienced by many early farmers on the irrigated tract. An interim owner did interior remodeling and enclosed the side porch in 1938. The house is noted locally because Reuben Stoller, a later owner, was found dead in the basement in an unsolved 1942 murder. The enclosing of the porch is a functional alteration that in no way detracts from the significant features of the house. It is a very attractive house contrasting dark stones and dark shingles with white detailing.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Epperson, Mrs. Ivan, interview with Marian Posey-Ploss, Jerome, Idaho, July 25, 1978.