

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

✓ NOMINATION: (Lava Rock Structures in South Central Idaho ^{TR})
✓ SITE NAME: Osborne, Jessie, House SITE NUMBER: 63
✓ LOCATION: ~~Four and three-quarter~~ ^w miles west ^{v.c.} of Jerome, ~~ID~~
OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Luther E. Myers
Route 2
Jerome, ID 83338

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Jerome, 7.5 minutes ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

✓ The nomination includes the Osborne house and the property on which it stands, the SE 1/4, NW 1/4, SE 1/4, SE 1/4, SW 1/4 of Section 17, T8S, R16E, Boise Meridian. Legal description on file at Jerome County Courthouse, Jerome, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/695865/4732925

DATE OR PERIOD: 1919 ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: H. T. Pugh, Paul Kartsky

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: good, altered, original site

DESCRIPTION:

The one-story Osborne house is approximately 36 by 27 feet with a shingled gable roof. Clapboard siding is in the gables above the approximately ten-foot-high stone walls. The rubble walls are of small, dark, rounded stones with darkened, brushed mortar in the medium-width nearly-flush joints. A slightly outset section about two feet wide at the base of each wall is topped with concrete, forming a continuous water course around the house. A three-quarter outset porch approximately eight by seventeen feet with a gable roof, lower than the roof of the main house, is set to the right on the gable facade. The boards forming the porch floor are laid on a stone platform. The porch has low stone piers on each corner. Concrete coping on the piers forms the bases for tapered, square, wooden posts. The double-hung windows are set near the outside of the walls. Nearly flush concrete lintels are about four inches wide; the sills of about the same width are outset and sloping. An inset porch offset to the left of the left wall has been enclosed and extended with an approximately seven-by-fourteen-foot, clapboard, covered frame addition on the rear.

SIGNIFICANCE:

This modest home is significant because it is a typical example of the simple, rectangular, gable-roofed vernacular stone residences built on farms in the area of the nomination. Unlike most others, it has not been enlarged, covered, or added onto. The rear addition on this home does not detract from the integrity of the building. This house demonstrates the versatility of H. T. Pugh's masonry, for he also built the much larger and more detailed Falls City School (61) and the Weigle House (65), the same year. He employs a concrete-capped variation of his wider-at-the-base wall to form a water course. The house was built in 1919 for Mr. and Mrs. Jessie Osborne, who contracted with Paul Kartsky, Jerome builder, for the house. Mrs. Osborne came to the house as a bride. She and her husband-to-be had looked at other stone houses near Jerome and had liked the Callen house (also included in this nomination, site 46) and they planned their house after it. The stone to build the house came from the place. Mrs. Osborne reported how lucky she felt to have such a good, comfortable house. Many people at that time were living in tiny wooden prove-up shacks.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Osborne, Mrs. Jessie, interview with Marian Posey-Ploss, Jerome, Idaho, August 23, 1978.