

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

NOMINATION: Buhl Dairy Barns thematic group

SITE NAME: Dau-Weubbenhorst Barn

SITE NUMBER: 4

LOCATION: ~~1 mi. S, 1-1/2 mi. E~~^{SE} of Buhl

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Meinert Wuebbenhorst
c/o Henry E. Wuebbenhorst
Route 4
Buhl, ID 83316

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Clover Quadrangle
7.5 min.

ACREAGE: 2.5 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Dau-Wuebbenhorst Barn and the property on which it stands, the NW1/4, NW1/4, NW1/4, NE1/4, Section 7, R15E, T10S.

UTM(S): 11/685520/4716205

DATE OR PERIOD: c. 1913-14

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: Henry Schick &
others

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture & agriculture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: good, altered, original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Dau-Wuebbenhorst dairy barn is a rectangular, two-story balloon-frame structure with a flared gambrel roof and an eight and one-half foot concrete foundation. Its proportions are 52 feet in length, 31-1/2 feet in width, and 34 feet in height. It has a tin roof and wood siding that is painted red. The north facade contains six double-hung sash windows of six-over-six lights. The south facade is the same, except for a door in the southwest corner of the barn. The west gable end has a sliding door in the middle of the first floor with one double-hung sash window of six-over-six lights flanking each side of it. A bottom-hinged hay door at the top of the gable end; a pointed hay hood covers the hay track above the hay door.

The east gable end is the same as the west end, except it lacks the hay hood and door. Two molded, filigreed tin ventilators are located at both ends of the roof.

The interior of the barn has been altered somewhat, but the original floor plan can be seen. Two rows of ten iron stanchions and mangers face outwardly on each side of the barn. A feed alley runs in front of the mangers, and a narrow passageway runs the length of the middle of the barn. A calf pen is located in the southwest corner, and a milk room is in the northwest corner. The floor is concrete. Two large ducts for ventilation run from the south end wall of the barn, join together, and form one large duct leading to the ventilator in the roof.

The framing of the roof is similar to the Kunze and Bowlby barns in that it uses the partial post-and-lintel system with a diagonal brace between the upper and lower rafters. However, this barn is different in that the side walls extend above the loft floor four to five feet. The roof structure bears on these walls. The strong curve of the gambrel roof is carried to the outside of the wall by an outrigger piece attached to the lower rafter and resting on the top of the wall, reinforced with a second piece underneath the outrigger.

As with the Carlson barn, hay was unloaded from the outside of the barn through the bottom-hinged hay door. The hay track is still intact.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Dau-Wuebbenhorst Barn is architecturally significant as a good example of the transitional stage between the early style of gambrel-roofed dairy barns and a later style of barn built in the Buhl area between 1910 and 1915. It is also

historically significant for its association with the early Buhl dairy industry and with barn builder Henry Schick.

The Dau-Wuebbenhorst Barn follows part of the building pattern set by the Kunze, Bowlby, and Carlson barns. The roof is framed by a partial post-and-lintel system with a diagonal brace, and the first floor of the barn has concrete walls. However, the Dau-Wuebbenhorst Barn is smaller and narrower than the earlier barns and it has side walls extending four to five feet above the first floor. This second barn type had already been introduced to the neighborhood by the owner of a general farm barn, George Watt, in 1912-13. The dairy barns built after the Dau-Wuebbenhorst barn were built along those lines. The framing method used to create the flared eaves on the barn may reflect the builder Henry Schick's particular experience on working with mansard roofs.

The floor plan of the interior barn indicates a change in agricultural practice. The cows are facing outward rather than inward. New agricultural technology may have been an influence: a manure spreader could be loaded more easily from a wide central passage through the barn. The barn also follows a change in agricultural practice also illustrated in the Carlson barn. Hay was loaded from the outside, rather than the inside of the barn.

Max Dau moved to Buhl in 1913 and immediately ordered plans for his barn from the local lumber company. Henry Schick was the main builder of the barn. Dau took milk to Gustave Kunze's cheese factory. Max Dau sold his property to Henry Wuebbenhorst in 1919. Wuebbenhorst passed the property on to his sons; they have owned the property since that time.

The barn is in good condition, except for broken windows and the alteration of one side of the interior into calf pens. The owners are presently renting the property to someone else, so it is not known whether there is an active interest in its preservation.