

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

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

✓ SITE NAME: Thomason, Rice, Barn

SITE NUMBER: 98

✓ LOCATION: ~~Seven miles east~~ ^E of Jerome, ~~ID~~, ^{vic.} on Highway ~~25~~

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Rice Thomason
Rural Route 4
Jerome, ID 83338

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Falls City, 7.5 minute

ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

This nomination includes the Rice Thomason barn and the property on which it stands in the SE 1/4, NW 1/4, SW 1/4, SW 1/4, SW 1/4 of Section 29, T8S, R18E, Boise Meridian. Legal description on file at Jerome County Courthouse, Jerome, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/714350/4729990

DATE OR PERIOD: 1930

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: Rice Thomason,
Ed Bennett,
Skiver

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, agriculture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: good, unaltered, original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Thomason barn is approximately 40 feet square It has a shingled roof with a break and slightly flared close eaves. It has exposed rafters on the eaves and a narrow, plain bargeboard on the gables. There is clapboard siding on the gable walls above the one-story stone walls. There is a centered hay door covered with vertical siding below the pointed hay roof. A hay mow door has been cut into the lower center of the gable front. Two small, square, plainly-framed window openings are at the lower sides of the frame part of the front wall. A centered, sliding, wooden door the full height of the wall interrupts the stone walls on both the front and rear walls. A single door is offset to the left of the facade with a small square window between it and the centered sliding door. There are no windows on the right wall, but there are three square, six-paned casement windows set symmetrically on the left wall. The windows are set approximately twelve inches into the openings, with boards lining the opening outside the window. The small door and the windows have flush concrete lintels about six inches wide with roughly

shaped ends extending into the stone a few inches. The outset, slightly sloping slip sills are approximately the same width. The mortar in the medium-width joints has been tooled to produce a beaded line that has been painted white to emphasize the curving lines of the joints around the ox-eye shaped stones. The mortar is brought out to the edges of the stones, with the rounded faces of the stones projecting beyond the joints.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Thomason barn is significant as an unaltered example of rural vernacular architecture and as an example of Ed Bennett's lava rock masonry work. Thomason drew up the plans for the barn, a Mr. Skiver was the carpenter, and Ed Bennett did the rock work. The rock came from the property. The barn is a well-known structure in Magic Valley because in 1935 and 1936 community barn dances were held in the barn loft. Also, it is highly visible because of its placement on a high point near Highway 25. The emphasis on curved lines in the walls was characteristic of Ed Bennett's work, but he used smaller stones in this structure than he did in some of his later farm buildings. His handling of the mortar in this structure emphasizes to the rounded faces of the stones, giving the stone walls a rich quilted texture.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHY REFERENCES:

Thomason, Rice, interview with Marian Posey-Ploss, Jerome vicinity, Idaho, July 16, 1978.