

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

NOMINATION: (Lava Rock Structures in South Central Idaho 70)

SITE NAME: Kohl, W. S., Barn

SITE NUMBER: 13

LOCATION: One mile east and approximately one mile north<sup>NE</sup> of Richfield, Idaho<sup>vic</sup>

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Earl C. Nelson  
c/o Mike Telford  
Paul, ID 83347

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Richfield, 7.5 minutes

ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the W. S. Kohl Barn and the property on which it stands, the NE 1/4, SE 1/4, SW 1/4, NW 1/4, SW 1/4 of Section 18, T4S, R20E, Boise Meridian. Legal description on file at Lincoln County Courthouse, Shoshone, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/733520/4772770

DATE OR PERIOD: 1910's

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: attributed to Jack Oughton and Sandy Reed

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture, agriculture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: good, altered, original site

DESCRIPTION:

This approximately 40-by-50-foot barn has a high gambrel roof with close eaves and a plain narrow bargeboard that has been painted white. Half the roof has blue shingles on it, while the rest is covered with metal panels. A white wooden gable--roofed cupola with louvered vents is centered on the ridge. A rectangular hay door is below a pointed hay hook on the shiplap-covered gable facade above the stone wall. Two small windows that have been closed with shiplap siding are at the lower edge and to the right and left of the hay door. A hay mow door is at the right of center on the lower edge of the gable. The gable walls above the stone walls are painted dark red. The north wall has two windows and two single wooden doors and the south wall has two windows and a wooden Dutch door. The doors are placed at the outside of the wall and are painted either red or white. Each of the small square windows is placed at the top of the wall obviating the need for lintels, nor do they have sills. The windows are placed at about midway in the wall openings, with the outer part of the opening lined with boards that have been painted white. There has been some weather damage to the mortar on the south wall, where it can be seen that the rocks in the approximately eight feet high coursed rubble walls were laid up with mud and then pointed with mortar. The mortar in the wide joints has been tooled to produce a beaded line. The beaded lines in the joints on the facade have been painted white, but the paint is now fading.

SIGNIFICANCE:

This gambrel-roofed barn is a significant example of the use of lava rock to build a rural vernacular type. It is one of the few buildings in the nomination for which a probable source of design is known. It very much resembles the pictures of a barn in the advertisement of the Gem State Lumber Company of Richfield that was carried in several issues of the local newspaper. Plans were available for purchase from the local lumber yard. Farmer W. S. Kohl obtained a mortgage in 1917, and this barn was build soon after. The masonry is consistent with work done by mason partners Jack Oughton and Sandy Reed, who were active in the Richfield area in the late 1910's, but it is not confirmed that this is their work. Viewed from the south side, the original attractiveness of the barn can be appreciated. The metal covered side roof is a utilitarian repair that could be reversed.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Bushby, Les, interview with Marian Posey-Ploss, Richfield, Idaho, July, 1981.

Records of the Security Title Company, Gooding, Idaho.

Richfield Recorder, March 11, 1915.