

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

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

SITE NAME: Oughton, Jack, House

SITE NUMBER: 100

LOCATION: 123 North Beverly Street, Shoshone, Idaho 83352

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Sarah Magoffin
123 North Beverly Street
Shoshone, ID 83352

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Shoshone, 7.5 minutes

ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Oughton House and the property on which it stands, Lot 14, Block 4, Lincoln Addition, Shoshone Townsite. Legal description on file at Lincoln County Courthouse, Shoshone, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/711965/476865⁵

DATE OR PERIOD: 1931

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: Jack Oughton, Sandy Reed

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: good, altered, original site

DESCRIPTION:

This one-story house is approximately 28 by 48 feet with a basement and a shingled hipped roof with close eaves and sharply cut exposed rafters. Metal flashing is on the roof ridges. The central chimney is built of stone with a molten appearing surface. There is a full inset porch approximately eight feet wide on the front, which is on the narrower dimension of the house. Full battered piers on each corner of the porch have wide, flat, square concrete caps where they join the house. Battered half piers of rounded, undressed stones at each side of the centered porch entrance have the same square concrete caps. The caps extend about six inches on each side of the top of the pier. The piers form bases for square, wooden columns that have been painted white. Narrow concrete coping is on the low porch walls. A concrete stoop extends from the porch. The concrete lintel above the centered front door is approximately fourteen inches wide and inset into the masonry about six inches on each end. All of the single and paired windows in the house are one-over-one-light double-hung sash, set about midway into the wall opening. Nearly-flush concrete window lintels approximately six inches wide are set into the masonry about four inches on each end. The slightly sloping, outset lug sills are the same width, but set about six inches into the stone on each end. The concrete porch and window trim and wooden window frames are painted white. The house originally had a full inset porch across the rear, but it has been enclosed with cinder blocks. Corner columns and columns flanking the centered entrance of the

enclosed porch are made of red brick. The broken ashlar masonry of dressed, dark stones has nearly-flush, tight joints. A wide line of tooled beading in the joints has been painted white, emphasizing the angular lines of the masonry. Brushed mortar is in the recessed joints of the porch piers.

SIGNIFICANCE:

This house, showing both bungalow and traditional influences, is a significant example of vernacular architecture. In addition, it is significant because it was the home of Jack Oughton, a stone mason who lived and worked in and around Shoshone, Idaho, for over three decades. The front porch, the battered porch piers, the exposed eaves, the paired windows, and the low profile of the house seem to derive from the bungalow style, but the hipped roof comes from an earlier tradition, giving the house an overall appearance of mixed styles. The use of stones with molten-appearing surfaces in the chimney and the use of rounded stones with weathered faces in the porch piers provide contrast in color and texture with the precisely-shaped, dressed stones in the house itself. Mason Oughton's use of different types of stones in his own home indicates his awareness of the qualities of his building material. The house is unique in its use of brick for columns on the rear porch. The house, started in the middle 1920's by Jack Oughton and his long-time partner Sandy Reed, was finished in about 1931. Both masons were trained in Scotland. The rocks for the building were hauled by wagon from several miles north of Shoshone. The enclosing of the rear porch is an unobtrusive alteration that does not detract from the significant features of the building.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Finlayson, Frank, interview with Marian Posey-Ploss, Shoshone, Idaho, October 4, 1979.

Records of the Security Title Company, Gooding, Idaho.