

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

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

SITE NAME: Eskelton , Alvin, Barn

SITE NUMBER: 11

LOCATION: ~~One mile west and approximately three and one-half miles north~~ ^{NW} of Richfield, Idaho

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Rodney R. Riley
Rural Route
Richfield, ID 83349

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Richfield, 7.5 minutes

ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

This nomination includes the Eskelton Barn and the property on which it stands in the SW 1/4, SW 1/4, NW 1/4, SW 1/4, NW 1/4 and the NW 1/4, NW 1/4, SW 1/4, SW 1/4, NW 1/4 of Section 11, T4S, R19E, Boise Meridian. Legal description on file at Lincoln County Courthouse, Shoshone, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/730⁰⁴⁰4514774800

DATE OR PERIOD: 1910's

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: unknown

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture, agriculture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: fair, unaltered, original site

DESCRIPTION:

The approximately eight-foot high outer walls of this barn are approximately 58 by 60 feet. A decorative, green-colored, composition shingled hipped roof extends upward from the right and left walls and from the rear wall to a rectangular, up-raised section at the front of the structure. This section covers approximately a quarter of the area encompassed by the stone walls. Perpendicular side walls are built up a few feet. From this base rises a round roof with a kick at the close eaves. There are five windows in the west wall, and a single door and four windows on the east wall. The rear wall has a single door at both the extreme right and left of the wall with three windows in between. The right door opening has been partially enclosed with wood. All of the small square windows have four panes. The window openings go to the top of the wall and have neither lintels or sills. The windows are set near the inside of the wall opening, and the opening outside of the window is partly lined with boards. In some places the mortar shows weather damage, and repair with concrete has been done near the double door on the facade. In damaged sections it can be seen that the building was laid up with mud. Darkened mortar in the wide joints in the random rubble walls has been tooled to produce a line of beading. Some stones are falling out of the right facade corner.

SIGNIFICANCE:

This rural building is significant as an example of innovation within vernacular architectural style. Locally the building is called the "round barn." Its placement at the top of a rise accentuates its dramatic lines. The high center section seems even higher as it is approached going uphill toward it on the county road nearby. It is a striking building clearly related to the area's gambrel-roofed barn types but like no other stone structure found in the area of the nomination. The original owner, Alvin Eskelton, who was employed by the Idaho Irrigation Company, developers of the Richfield and Dietrich irrigation tract, obtained a mortgage in 1917. His barn was built soon after. The source of the design and the mason-builder are unknown.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Ervin, Scott, interview with Marian Posey-Ploss, Richfield, Idaho, July 26, 1980.

Records of the Security Title Company, Inc., Gooding, Idaho.