

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

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

SITE NAME: Brick, Frank J., House

SITE NUMBER: 45

LOCATION: 300 North Fillmore Street, Jerome, Idaho

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Don Sparhawk
300 North Fillmore Street
Jerome, ID 83338

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Jerome, 7.5 minutes

ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Frank J. Brick House and the property on which it stands tax 3 of lot 4 block 4, DuBois Brown Subdivision, Jerome. Legal description on file at Jerome County Courthouse, Jerome, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/704040/4733225

DATE OR PERIOD: 1917

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: H. T. Pugh

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: excellent, altered, original site

DESCRIPTION:

This one and one-half story residence of lava rock is approximately 34 feet wide and 39 feet long on a full basement. The shingled gable roof with slightly flared eaves has an east-west orientation. There is a tall, interior stone chimney. A centered, shingled, shed-roofed dormer on the south roof begins at the ridge line. On the gables are four purlins with chamfered ends that project just beyond the plain bargeboard. Similar horizontal purlins on each side of the dormer have diagonal brackets. The gable walls above the one-story stone walls are shingled, as is the dormer. The masonry is rubble with darkened, brushed mortar in the slightly raked-out joints. The walls are inset about two inches beginning just above the basement windows forming a water course. Offset to the left on the south side of the house there is a roof extension to cover an eight-by-fourteen-foot outset porch. The walls of the porch have a concrete coping that projects several inches on each side. At the corners are tapered, square, wooden columns. The porch, originally open, has been enclosed with fixed single-paned windows in wooden frames. A concrete stoop with stone walls and concrete coping extends from the porch on the west. There are two fixed, horizontal, sixteen-pane windows in the dormer with entablature-like heads and narrow outset moldings at the bottom. The windows in the stone section are double hung and are set about three inches from the outside of the wall into the window opening. The basement windows are set at the inside of the window opening. On the west wall there is a large, centered,

tripartite window with twelve panes over one pane, flanked by two narrower twelve-paned sections. All of the windows in the stone walls have flush concrete lintels about six inches wide that are inset into the masonry about four inches on each end. The sill sills are narrower, sloping and slightly outset. There is a low-centered, shed-roofed, frame porch ten feet wide by 24 feet long on the east. The eaves of the house, the bargeboards, the rafters, and the concrete coping, lintels, and sills are painted dark gray. The other woodwork, including the shingles in the eaves and dormers and the rear frame porch, are painted light gray.

SIGNIFICANCE:

This house is significant as an early example of the use of lava rock for building in town and as an example of excellent craftsmanship. It was one of the first stone houses to be built in the immediate environs of the city of Jerome. It was built for Frank J. Brick on his acreage adjoining the city limits of Jerome by mason H. T. Pugh. Mr. Brick's wife was a sister to Dr. Schmerschall, for whom Mr. Pugh built a stone house within the city limits the same year. The local newspaper's changing attitude toward the use of lava rock for a building material is exemplified in its report that, "Frank Brick is building a splendid lava rock house on his acreage tract adjoining the town on the east." The style of the house is a modification of the simple rectangular structures first built by H. T. Pugh. This home has an unusual corner entrance through the porch, and the gable roof is modified with a shed-roofed dormer. It is the first known example of Pugh's building one-story walls throughout instead of stone gable walls. And it is the last known example of Pugh's building a water course above the basement windows. The house shows his careful craftsmanship in the use of small- to medium-sized stones of matching color, brushed darkened mortar still in excellent condition, and competent use of concrete. In this case, the frame porch on the rear of the house was built at the same time as the main part of the house. The enclosure of the porch does not obscure any of the significant construction and design elements.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

North Side News (Jerome). June 14, 1917; August 1 1918.