

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

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

✓ SITE NAME: Stevens, Arnold, House

SITE NUMBER: 57

✓ LOCATION: ~~Three and one-half miles west~~ ^w of Jerome, ~~ID~~ ^{vic.}

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Elizabeth Gross
Rural Route 1
Jerome, ID 83338

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Jerome, 7.5 minutes

ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

✓ The nomination includes the Stevens house and the property on which it stands, the SE 1/4, NE 1/4, SE 1/4, SE 1/4, SW 1/4 of Section 16, T8S, R16E, Boise Meridian. Legal description on file at Jerome County Courthouse, Jerome, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/697590/4732945

DATE OR PERIOD: 1918

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: Otis family, Charles Geer,
Arnold Stevens

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: excellent, altered, original site

DESCRIPTION:

This one and one half story bungalow style residence is approximately 34 by 44 feet. It has a gable roof with decorative composition shingles and wide eaves. A shallow, shed-roofed dormer centered on the front exposure has three pairs of single-paned square windows in it. Clapboard siding is above the one-story stone walls in the gables and on the dormer. Brackets are on the gables and on the sides of the dormer. A ten-foot-wide full inset porch is on the front. It has stone piers with concrete coping painted white on the corners and flanking the centered entrance. Square wooden columns with stylized tab capitals are at each corner. A concrete stoop extends from the porch. Offset on the right of the left wall is a bay about six feet wide and outset about two feet. The bay has a pent roof. Very long stones are used as lintels and sills on the side walls, but outset sloping concrete sills are on the windows flanking the centered door. Some of the windows go to the top of the walls, obviating the need for lintels. Flanking the ten-paned centered door on the porch are two double-hung sash windows of six panes over six panes. A ten-foot-high frame addition across the full width of the rear is covered by an extension of the house roof. The darkened mortar in the rubble walls has been tooled to produce a beaded line, which has been painted white. The wooden portions of the house also are painted white. The interior is original and includes oak paneling.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Stevens house is significant both for its architectural style and for its craftsmanship. It is an unusually attractive well-proportioned rural example of a bungalow style house. The dark stone with white joints and the white porch columns and gables provide lightness and pattern to the house which seems to hover close to the ground because of the broad wings of its gable roof. The numerous panes in the windows, especially on the facade, further contribute to an air of lightness. The house was built in 1917 and 1918 for farmer Arnold Stevens by the Otis family, masons from Hagerman, Idaho. Mr. Stevens assisted Charles Geer, carpenter, in building the wooden parts of the house. The porch piers are original, but the rest of the concrete porch was not completed until the 1940's. The house displays excellent craftsmanship with well-fitted stones and original mortar still in good condition. The frame addition on the rear is an unobtrusive alteration.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

North Side News (Jerome). January 24, 1918.

Stevens, William A., interview with Marian Posey-Ploss, Gooding, Idaho, August 19, 1978.