

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

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

SITE NAME: Johnson, Louis, Barn

SITE NUMBER: 42

LOCATION: ~~Approximately four miles southwest~~<sup>SW</sup> of Richfield, ~~Idaho~~<sup>vic</sup>

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Delbert Tree  
Richfield, ID 83349

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Richfield. 7.5 minutes                      ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Louis Johnson Barn and the property on which it stands, the SE 1/4, NE 1/4, and the NE 1/4, SE 1/4, all in the SE 1/4, SW 1/4, SW 1/4 of Section 32, T4S, R19E. Legal description on file at Lincoln County Courthouse, Shoshone, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/725770/4767290

DATE OR PERIOD: 1916

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: unknown

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture, agriculture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: fair, altered, original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Johnson barn is approximately 39 by 100 feet. It has a shingled gambrel roof with flared, enclosed eaves and a narrow bargeboard. The stone walls are about ten feet tall. The wall is extended upward another six feet with frame construction. There are nine symmetrically-spaced windows on the side walls. The square four-pane windows are placed at the top of the stone wall. A flush wooden beam forms a lintel above each window. Shiplap is in the gables. There are two square windows at the peak of the gable flanking the sliding, rectangular hay door below the pointed hay hood. At the right of the gable is a loft door with an outside staircase supported by poles leading to it. The wall below the second window from the left on the right wall has been roughly opened to allow cows access to the barn and corral. Loosening mortar in the random rubble wall has been repaired with gunite on the left wall.

SIGNIFICANCE:

This barn is significant as an example of lava rock masonry to build a large variant of the gambrel-roofed dairy barn and as a remnant of an early rural community. The barn is a well known landmark on Marley Road near Richfield. Marley was a settlement at a crossing place on the Little Wood River for the freighting road

between Kelton, Utah, and the Wood River mines. It later became a railroad siding. The Johnson family operated the Marley post office and store (now demolished). The Marley school house has been moved away. Dances were held in the loft of the Johnson for a number of years. The size of the barn indicates the size of the farm operations managed by the Johnsons. The barn was designed to store grain and hay and to house numerous horses and cows. This is one of the largest buildings in the nomination. It is not clear why the upper parts of the walls are frame instead of stone. Perhaps building with wood above ten feet obviated the need for heavy scaffolding and ramps, or perhaps the unknown mason believed walls above that height could not be relied upon. The barn was built in 1916 for Louis Johnson. The rough opening in the wall and covering of some of the original stonework with gunite detracts from the impressive building, but enough of the original structure is visible to instruct the viewer of its original construction and historical importance.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Richfield Recorder. November 17, 1916.