

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

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

SITE NAME: ✓ Custer Slaughter House

SITE NUMBER: 1

LOCATION: One mile west of Shoshone, ID <sup>vic.</sup> ~~vic.~~ ~~vic.~~

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Cliff Stutzman  
General Delivery  
Shoshone, ID 83352

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Shoshone, 7.5 minute

ACREAGE: 2.5 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Custer Slaughter House and the property on which it stands the NW 1/4 NW 1/4, NW 1/4 SE 1/4 of Section 34 T5S R17E Legal description on file at Lincoln County Courthouse, Shoshone, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11 / 711190 / 4757720 <sup>✓</sup> ~~vic.~~

DATE OR PERIOD: c. late 1890's

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: unknown

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture, commerce

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: fair, altered, original site

DESCRIPTION:

This tall one-story building is approximately 18-by-26 feet with a lateral, shingled hipped roof with narrow boxed eaves. A tall square wooden tower intersects the right side of the roof on the northwest exposure, beginning at the eaves line and extending a few feet beyond the ridge line. The tower is covered with vertical board and batten and has a shingled pyramid roof with close boxed eaves. The roof lines of both the main building and the tower have metal flashing ending with a metal ball. A Dutch door is centered on the northwest wall about three feet above the ground. It had a wooden lintel formed of a heavy wooden beam. Mortar clinging to the stone below the centered facade door indicates a platform or stoop may have been there. Very small rectangular windows now boarded up are placed nearer the corners of the building than toward the centered door. They have narrow, flush concrete lintels inset into the stone about three inches on each end and narrower outset sills. A larger rectangular window, also boarded up, which extends to the top of the wall is placed just to the left of the door. On the southwest wall and on the back (northwest) wall, are high, centered wooden double doors with ornate hinges. Each has a wooden lintel made of heavy beams. A platform of stones and deteriorating concrete extends from the door. A low, shed-roofed, full-width extension to the building is on the northwest wall. It has a sliding ground-level wooden door on the facade. The sliding door, the boards closing the windows and the tower are all painted a deep bright yellow, matching the nearby frame farm

house. A Lazy H Crescent brand is painted on the side of the tower. The faces of the stones in the rubble walls appear to have been dressed but the stones were not selected for uniform color or size. The mortar is brought almost to the face of the stones forming wide joints which have been tooled with a line

#### SIGNIFICANCE:

The Custer Slaughter House is architectural significant as it is an early example of a commercial building built with lava rock. It was built near the railroad tracks and the Little Wood River as a slaughter house. Its domestic style is adapted to business use through the placement of double doors and a water tower. The doors are placed about the height of a wagon bed so that animals and meat could be loaded and unloaded conveniently. The high wooden tower once held a metal water tank that was filled from the river by a windmill. Providing meat for railroad workers, travelers, and tourists who departed from Shoshone to see the famed Shoshone Falls, was an important business in Shoshone, and one or more meat markets operated in Shoshone from its beginning. This property was first owned by John S. White and E. Hayward from 1893 to 1897, when a Mr. Hull foreclosed on it. In 1908 a Mr. Mott took title holding it until 1914 when Fred J. Hill obtained title. Only the latter name is known to be connected to a Shoshone meat market. However, oral sources indicate that the building was already extant when Hill bought the property. The building has been attributed to a Mr. Custer, who operated a meat market in Shoshone beginning in the 1890's. Sparing use of concrete in the original construction indicates early work. The stone mason is unknown. The low shed-roofed addition was constructed at a later date. The absence of the platform or stoop on the facade does not detract from this picturesque building's significance.

#### MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Harris O. J., interview with Marian Posey-Ploss Shoshone Idaho Fall 1979.

Lucke Ralf, interview with Marian Posey-Ploss Shoshone Idaho Summer 1981.

Records of the Security Title Company Gooding Idaho August 1981.

Shoshone Journal, March 24 1899

Silva Floyd, interview with Marian Posey-Ploss Shoshone Idaho Spring 1980.