

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

NOMINATION: (Lava Rock Structures in South Central Idaho 7R)

SITE NAME: Olley, Thomas, House

SITE NUMBER: 80

LOCATION: 522 North Apple Street, Shoshone, Idaho

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Ruthe Dille
522 North Apple Street
Shoshone, ID 83352

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Shoshone, 7.5 minutes

ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Thomas Olley House and the property on which it stands, Lots 9-13, Block 15, Mountain View Addition, Shoshone Townsite. Legal description on file at Lincoln County Courthouse, Shoshone, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/711680/4757320

DATE OR PERIOD: c. 1923

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: Thomas Olley

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: excellent, altered, original site

DESCRIPTION:

The one and one half story Olley house is approximately 35 by 40 feet. It has a basement and a steep covered gable roof with composition shingles. A small, narrow gable-roofed dormer is centered on each side of the roof. Each gable has a plain bargeboard and three brackets with chamfered ends. Shingles painted dark gray are in the gables above the one-story stone walls. Two double-hung windows with four horizontal panes each are centered in each gable. The shed roof of the approximately 33-by-8-foot porch on the gable front begins just below the pair of windows on the gable. Half stone columns are on the corners of the porch and flank the centered entrance. A concrete stoop with low stone side walls extends from the porch. Concrete coping approximately four inches thick is on the low porch and stoop walls and forms a square base for tapered square wooden columns on each stone pier. The columns are painted white. They are not centered on their bases, but are set toward the porch opening. The facade has a pair of double-hung one-over-one-light windows to the right and to the left of the entrance door, which is offset a few feet to the right of center. There are shallow stone relieving arches above each of the windows in the house with the exception of one basement window that has a large stone lintel. The front door and the windows have curved wooden heads. The windows are set just inside the outside opening of the wall. The stone at the bottom of the window opening is lined with mortar. The irregularly coursed ashlar walls of dark stones have tight joints tooled to produce beading that has been painted white. There is a shed-roofed frame addition approximately 8 by 18 feet on the rear of the house.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Olley House is significant as one of the first stone residences in the Lincoln County area of the nomination to show the influence of the bungalow style. It is also significant as the home of stonemason Thomas Olley. The house retains the steeply-pitched roof and the stone relieving arches of an earlier tradition, but it has brackets on the eaves and a bungaloid front porch. The house was built by Thomas Olley, British-trained stonemason in about 1923. He lived in the basement and the partially finished first floor. The house was not completely finished until the early 1930's, when the property was purchased by Frank Crandall, a carpenter and sometimes mason. This is the only house found in the area of the nomination in which the stones are painted with black, thinned, oil-based paint to deepen and make more uniform their dark color. The beading was painted white to emphasize the precise lines of the masonry. Because of this attention to detail, the house has a polished appearance. The frame addition on the rear is unobtrusive.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Abstract of Title for the Olley house.

Dille, Merthan J. interview with Marian Posey-Ploss, Shoshone, Idaho, April 1979.