

DEC 3 1980

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

NOMINATION: Historic Resources of Challis (Partial Inventory: Architectural Properties)

SITE NAME: Buster Meat Market SITE # 18

LOCATION: Main Avenue, Challis, Idaho

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Isaac and Rosemary Hardman, Box 190, Challis, Idaho 83226

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Challis, 15 minute ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The nomination includes the Buster Meat Market and the property on which it stands, block 13, lot 3 and the west half of lot 5, Challis, Idaho

UTM(S): 11/7,19,700/49,31,500

DATE OR PERIOD: 1897 EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture

deteriorated condition                      altered                      original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Buster Meat Market is a one-story stone building embellished with a galvanized iron front produced by the Mesker Brothers company of St. Louis, Missouri. The foundation is rhyolitic rock; the front wall, coursed, rusticated tuff; and the side walls, random rhyolitic rubble, all quarried or picked up from the Challis bluff. At the corners are large tuff quoins. Lime and adobe mortar the building. The galvanized iron front, displaying the erection date of 1897, features a lion's head, trefoils, garlands, and an egg-and-dart design. The sheet iron wall below is stamped in imitation of rock-faced stone courses. Framing the storefront doors, which have been altered, are iron columns, also from Mesker Brothers. Windows on either side of these columns are multi-paned, set above wood paneling. The iron front is painted an off white to match the stone tuff.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Buster Meat Market was built in 1897 for local merchant George McGowan and rented to William Buster until he later purchased it. For many years the building, with its sheet iron front, was considered the finest structure in Challis. It remains now as the only iron-fronted building in the town and an excellent example of rock construction with local materials.

William Buster, still a bachelor at the turn of the century, was born in Tennessee. The census lists his occupation as "provisions dealer." In fact, the meat market carried a variety of perishables in its large Stevens refrigerator: vegetables, meats, fruits, and seeds. In addition Buster financed the building of several structures in Challis, renting them to other commercial enterprises.