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

NOMINATION: Long Valley Finnish Structures (Thematic Group)

SITE NAME: John G. Johnson (Rintakangas) Homestead SITE # 12

LOCATION: One mile due south off Farm to Market Road approximately one and three-quarter of a mile on Farm to Market Road from Highway 55.

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Hazell Ruska, Route 1, Box 103, McCall, ID 83638

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Lake Fork, 7.5 minute ACREAGE: less than one 2.5 see 1 over

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The nomination includes the three John G. Johnson (Rintakangas) Homestead buildings and the property on which they stand; NE¼ SE¼, NW¼ SI

UTM(S): 11/5,75,130/49,68,390 Section 26, T18N, R3E.

DATE OR PERIOD: ca. 1910 EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: State

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

SAUNA: fair condition altered original site

This round log building measures fifteen-by-twenty-four-feet and contains a fifteen-by-six dressing room and fifteen-by-eighteen bathing areas on the north and south ends respectively. Its round logs are hewn at the ends and extend about a foot beyond the double notched corners. The gables are of milled boards. There are a door and a window on the north end and a window on the west wall. Inside the sauna area are the heating stove and rocks, and a large wooden barrel for holding the water which was thrown on the rocks to create steam. The barrel is attached to the stove by two metal pipes, probably to vent heat to it and to melt the snow which was placed in the barrel during the winter. The benches are still attached to the wall on the south side. The roof is covered with hand-split shakes and its chimney is still intact.

Significance:

This is the only all-log Finnish sauna in Long Valley; all the others are constructed of logs and milled boards. The building evidently saw use in the 1940's, as there is an electric light socket in the sauna, and the valley residents did not have electricity until the late 1930's or early 1940's. It is still quite a sound and sturdy structure. Since the road leading to the Rintakangas homestead no longer exists, the site is inaccessible except by walking and thus the buildings have not been disturbed.

GOAT BARN: good condition unaltered original site

This small, round log structure measures approximately fifteen-by-fifteen-feet; the rafters are only five feet from the floor. Its logs are not fit together in the Finnish style (this was not often done on animal shelters); instead pole chinking fills the spaces between the logs. The building has vertically-placed milled board gables and two doors on the north end, one in the log wall and one in the gable. The roof is covered with the original hand-split shingles.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

GOAT BARN: (Continued)

Significance:

This unique goat barn was obviously intended for small animals; the previous owner Jean Welsh said it was described to her as a milking barn for goats. As such, it is unusual among log homestead buildings in Long Valley. It is in relatively good condition and because of its isolation has not been disturbed.

CABIN: deteriorated condition unaltered original site

The log portion of this structure measures twelve-by-sixteen-feet; added to the north end is a board extension which is falling down. The log portion has a door on the north end and windows on the east, south, and west walls. The corners are double notched, but the logs are not fit together as is common in Finnish-built cabins; rather, pole chinking is nailed into the spaces between the logs. The structure has log gables and a shake roof over pole rafters. Old Finnish newspapers (circa 1911) are still visible tacked to the interior walls.

Significance:

This structure, together with the goat barn and sauna at the site, gives an idea of what a Finnish homestead looked like: it consisted of several small log structures of round or hewn logs with hand-split shake roofs and tightly-notched corners. The cabin, where the family lived until a larger house could be constructed, is usually about twelve-by-sixteen-feet, as is this one, and contains one room.

Long Valley Finnish Structures (Thematic Group)
John G. Johnson (Rintakangas) Homestead, site #12
Cabin
Long Valley, Valley County, Idaho

Photographer:
Alice Koskella
July, 1980

Negative on file in the Koskella Finnish Collection, available through the Idaho State Historical Society

View from southwest

Photograph one of one

Photo 6

Long Valley Finnish Structures (Thematic Group)
John G. Johnson (Rintakangas) Homestead, site #12
Goat Barn
Long Valley, Valley County, Idaho

Photographer:
Alice Koskella
July, 1980

Negative on file in the Koskella Finnish Collection, available through the Idaho State Historical Society

View from northwest

Photograph two of two

Long Valley Finnish Structures (Thematic Group)
John G. Johnson (Rintakangas) Homestead, site #12
Goat Barn
Long Valley, Valley County, Idaho

Photographer:
Alice Koskella
1980

Negative on file in the Koskella Finnish Collection, available through the Idaho State Historical Society

View from northwest

Photograph one of two

Long Valley Finnish Structures (Thematic Group)
John G. Johnson (Rintakangas) Homestead, site #12
Sauna
Long Valley, Valley County, Idaho

Photographer:
Alice Koskella
Winter, 1979

Negative on file in the Koskella Finnish Collection, available through the Idaho State Historical Society

View from northeast

Photograph one of three

Photo 10

Long Valley Finnish Structures (Thematic Group)
John G. Johnson (Rintakangas) Homestead, site #12
Sauna
Long Valley, Valley County, Idaho

Photographer:
Alice Koskella
Spring, 1979

Negative on file in the Koskella Finnish Collection, available through the Idaho State Historical Society

View from northwest

Photograph two of three

Long Valley Finnish Structures (Thematic Group)
John G. Johnson (Rintakangas) Homestead, site #12
Sauna
Long Valley, Valley County, Idaho

Photographer:
Alice Koskella
July, 1980

Negative on file in the Koskella Finnish Collection, available through the Idaho State Historical Society

View from northwest

Photograph three of three