

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 26 1980

DATE ENTERED

MAY 23 1980

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

James Alvis House

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1311 Pole Line Road, Route 4

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Twin Falls

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

Idaho

VICINITY OF

CODE

16

COUNTY

Twin Falls

CODE

083

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

__DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

__STRUCTURE

__SITE

__OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

__PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

__BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

__IN PROCESS

__BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

__UNOCCUPIED

__WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

__YES: UNRESTRICTED

__NO

PRESENT USE

__AGRICULTURE

__COMMERCIAL

__EDUCATIONAL

__ENTERTAINMENT

__GOVERNMENT

__INDUSTRIAL

__MILITARY

__MUSEUM

__PARK

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL

__RELIGIOUS

__SCIENTIFIC

__TRANSPORTATION

__OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr and Mrs. Oren Boone

STREET & NUMBER

1311 Pole Line Road, Route 4

CITY, TOWN

Twin Falls

VICINITY OF

STATE

Idaho

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Twin Falls County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Twin Falls

STATE

Idaho 83301

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Idaho State Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1972

__FEDERAL ☒ STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Idaho State Historical Library

CITY, TOWN

Boise

STATE

Idaho 83702

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

☒ EXCELLENT ☐ DETERIORATED
☐ GOOD ☐ RUINS
☐ FAIR ☐ UNEXPOSED

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This is a square (thirty-nine and one-quarter feet by thirty-nine feet) one-and-one-half-story bungalow residence of lava rock (basalt) and light yellow brick. The laterally running gable roof with an east-west orientation is shingled and overhangs the porch. The exterior walls are continuous with the full basement. The masonry is coursed rubble with light tan brushed mortar in the joints. The stones are shiny dark reddish-brown and black with varied surfaces including flow lines, knobs and sags, and ripple marks, showing their molten origin. Some of the stones are dressed, especially on corners of the porch pedestals and where they adjoin quoins and window and door openings. There are quoins one-and-one-half bricks long on each corner with an alternating extension of an additional one-and-one-half bricks' length.

Each of the windows and doors has a three-header wide relieving arch in brick above it which joins a decorative side trim of brick, matching the quoins, but narrower. The wooden window heads are shaped to fit the brick arch above. Concrete sills are about four inches wide, slightly outset and sloping. All wooden portions of the house are painted white. All concrete on the house is light, natural colored and unpainted. The windows in the main story of the house are double-hung, in pairs and single, with four panes above, and four panes below.

There is a full inset porch on the front of the house, the south elevation. A gabled overdoor featuring decorative wood siding intersects the main roof at the porch entrance. The low porch walls are of stone and have a concrete coping which extends about three inches on each side. On the corners and flanking the entrance are square stone pedestals with a projecting concrete cap. On these bases are battered wooden piers with a simple wooden capital where each is attached to the shallow-arched wooden porch barge board. A concrete stoop with lava walls flaring outward have a concrete cap extending from the entrance piers. The floor of the porch is concrete, and has a ceiling of unpainted narrow-grooved panelling.

A gable-roofed dormer is centered on the south roof above the porch gable repeating its lines. There are oiled wooden shingles in the east gable and on the dormers and light brown asbestos siding on the west gable, covering the oiled shingles to protect them from the prevailing direction of the weather. Wide wooden molding separates the one-story stone walls from the siding and shingles in the gable ends. The porch gable and the dormer each have three white wooden rafters with camfered ends, while the gables of the house each have five rafters, the ends of which extend just beyond the plain barge boards. There are triple double-hung windows with four over four panes in wooden frames with entablature-like heads in each gable. An interior chimney is of dressed stone with brick quoins and with a brick corbeled cap.

The exterior and interior of the house is original except for routine maintenance and painting. Modern heating equipment was installed in the basement. The interior woodwork is original. There is a lava fireplace in the living room which also shows careful selection of stones placed to form an attractive design and display. The house is situated on a very large landscaped lot (one-hundred eighty-eight feet by one-hundred twenty feet) and maple trees older than the house itself tower over it.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION
1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE
1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE
1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER
1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION
1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☒ OTHER (SPECIFY) Stone-masonry
		☐ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1918 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Jeremiah H. Bryant, Mason

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house is an excellent example of the bungalow style, within a region which developed through privately financed irrigation corporations early in the 1900's. It is a home that most farmers could only aspire to. It was unique at the time it was built because of its modernity and elegance. It is significant today, not only because it is one of the finest bungalows in an area rich in examples of this style, but also because it is one of the very few extant, unaltered residences of lava from that time period with such quality and style in construction and detail.

The use of the local stone, basalt, regionally referred to as "lava rock," is virtually undocumented in existing surveys and architectural history. This stone is used for construction in western states where there were lava flows, but there is a concentration of building with this material in southern Idaho. Examples of the use of this material range from very crude to very fine. This home is an example of the most sophisticated use of basalt as a building material.

The house is situated on a site near the Snake River Canyon. The Perrine Memorial Bridge on Highway 93 is one-half mile due north of the house. One branch of the Oregon Trail went through the property. The first owner of the acreage was Silas Perrine, brother of I. B. Perrine, founder of the Twin Falls and Northside Tract. After the land exchanged hands one more time, James Alvis, an Englishman, acquired the property, living in a tiny frame prove-up shack. He became engaged to the niece of a neighbor and had the house built in 1918 as their future home. When the post-World War I depression hit the area, James Alvis lost the property. He was by now married, but was unable to move his bride into the house. Several other people attempted to hold the property, until 1923 when Frank C. Boone, the father of the present owner, bought it. It was originally eighty acres, but five acres were sold for the construction of the Perrine Memorial Bridge. An additional twenty acres was purchased so the property now consists of ninety-five acres, extending to Highway 93 on the west, to Pole Line Road on the south, to the canyon on the north and to the property line on the east.

The stonemason was Jeremiah H. Bryant. The stone was hauled from the canyon edge to construct the house. The stone was "laid up with mud," a common practice of even highly skilled masons, and finished with mortar on the outside between the joints. The inside was plastered directly on the rock wall. Lava has air bubbles incorporated into it, so some natural insulation is present. The artistry and skill of the stone-masonry and carpentry is noteworthy. It is unique to find decorative faces on block

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Route of the Oregon Trail in Idaho, Idaho Department of Highways in Cooperation with the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Public Roads, May 1963, pp. 8 and 9
R. L. Polk and Co.'s Directory, 1918-1919, Containing an Alphabetical List of Firms and Private Citizens of the Cities of...Twin Falls.... October 1918, R. L. Polk and Co., Inc., Seattle, Washington

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one.

QUADRANGLE NAME Twin Falls

QUADRANGLE SCALE 7.5

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,1 7,0,8 7,8,0 4,7,1,8 4,7,0

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This nomination includes the former James Alvis house and grounds, owned in 1979 by Mr. and Mrs. Oren Boone. The property is located two miles north of the junction of

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marian Anderson, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Idaho State Historical Society

DATE

2 February 1980

STREET & NUMBER

610 North Julia Davis Drive

TELEPHONE

334-2120

CITY OR TOWN

Boise

STATE

Idaho 83702

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Merle Wells

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

29 February 1980

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

5/23/80

ATTEST:

W. Ray Luce
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

5-20-80

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 28 1980

DATE ENTERED

MAY 23 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

lava structures. Especially on the west wall, on the porch, and in the fireplace, stones are arranged to accentuate their unique shapes, colors and textures. Careful attention has been paid to other details in the house: the skilled fitting of stones, especially where they adjoin brick; the decorative patterning of the brick; the fine quality of the concrete work; the balanced placement of windows and doors; and the shaped wood trim all show the skill and artistry of the builder.

The over-all appearance of the house conveys solidity, integrity of design, and pleasant proportions. The colors in the house -- dark, lustrous reddish-black stones, light grayish fine-grained concrete, yellow bricks, white wooden trim, weathered roof shingles, oiled shingles in the gable and warm asbestos shingles in the other gable -- are all very pleasing, each accenting and complementing the other components of the house. The house was an early showplace in the Twin Falls area at a time when the trolley line ran nearby. It is still a showpiece today.

The property was recently sold (option to purchase pending) to the Lewis Development Corporation of Santa Monica, California, for the development of a regional shopping center. The Boones have lifetime occupancy, but the future of the house is uncertain beyond that time. The house is an outstanding example of lava rock masonry within a region and should be noted and protected by being included in the National Register of Historic Places.

Item Number 10

Page 1

Highways 93 and 30 in Twin Falls, Idaho, thence $\frac{1}{4}$ mile east on Pole Line Road, on the north side. The property begins 506 feet east from the curb of Highway 93; the front property line runs 188 feet east along Pole Line Road, thence 120 feet north, 188 feet west, 120 feet south.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 23 1981
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET James Alvis House ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

A parcel of land being on the Northerly side of the Northerly right of way boundary of the Pole Line Road and being a portion of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 34, Township 9 South, Range 17 East, Boise Meridian, described as follows, to-wit:

Commencing at the Southwest corner of Section 34, Towhship 9 South, Range 17 East, Boise Meridian;

thence South 89°36'39" East along the South line of said Section 34, a distance of 560 ft;

thence North 0°23'21" East - 58.0 feet to a point in the Northerly right of way boundary of Pole Line Road and being the REAL POINT OF BEGINNING;

thence South 89°36'39" East along said Northerly right of way boundary 188.0 feet;

thence North 0°23'21" East - 120.0 feet;

thence North 89°36'39" West - 188.0 feet;

thence South 0°23'21" West - 120.0 feet to the REAL POINT OF BEGINNING.




James Alvis house
1311 Pole Line Road, Twin Falls,
Twin Falls County, Idaho

Photographer: Marian Anderson
Summer 1979

Negative on file at
Idaho State Historical Society
Boise, Idaho

View from southwest

MAR 26 1980

Photograph No. 1 of 2

MAY 23 1980





James Alvis house
1311 Pole Line Road, Twin Falls,
Twin Falls County, Idaho

Photographer: Marian Anderson
Summer 1979 MAY 23 1980

Negative on file at
Idaho State Historical Society
Boise, Idaho

Detail of porch from west end

Photograph No. 2 of 2

MAR 26 1980