

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

✓ NOMINATION: (Lava Rock Structures in South Central Idaho 72)

✓ SITE NAME: Bothwell, James, Water Tank House

SITE NUMBER: 83

✓ LOCATION: ~~Three and one-quarter miles north~~ ^N of Jerome, ~~Idaho~~ ^{VIC.}

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Anna M. Gunning
508 East Main Street
Jerome, ID 83338

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Gooding SE, 7.5 minutes

ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

✓ The nomination includes the Bothwell Water Tank House and the property on which it stands, the SE 1/4, NW 1/4, SW 1/4 SW 1/4 of Section 31 T7S, R16E, Boise Meridian. Legal description on file at Jerome County Courthouse, Jerome, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/703190/4737880

DATE OR PERIOD: c. 1926

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: John Gott

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture, agriculture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: fair, unaltered, original site

DESCRIPTION:

This water tank house measures approximately fifteen feet tall and fourteen feet square. It has a shingled pyramidal roof with narrow eaves. The broken coursed masonry has darkened mortar in the nearly flush, wide joints. A narrow, convex beading has been painted white. Several vertical cracks in the walls reveal that it was originally laid up with mud, with mortar applied as pointing. Two small, low, horizontal windows, opposite each other on the side walls of the chamber below the water tank, have been boarded up. Each has nearly flush concrete lintel about ten inches wide. Neither has a sill. The door is set inside the wall with two two-by-six-inch boards lining the opening. The door also has a concrete lintel.

SIGNIFICANCE:

This water tank house is significant as an example of square water tank house type and as an example of John Gott's craftsmanship. The building is one of two unaltered square water tank houses that were located in the Jerome and Lincoln county survey. James Bothwell, early attorney in Lincoln and Jerome counties and investor in farm properties, obtained a mortgage for the property in 1926, probably for improvements including the well and this water tank house to store water and provide

pressure for domestic and farmyard use. John Gott was a German-trained mason employed by Mr. Shephard, manager of the North Side Land and Water Company. Mr. Gott, under Shephard's direction, also did extensive landscaping, including lava rock retaining walls on the Shephard estate, now the grounds of St. Benedict's Hospital in Jerome, Idaho.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Records of the Jerome Abstract and Title Company, Jerome, Idaho.

Patz, F. A., interview with Marian Posey-Ploss, Jerome, Idaho, Summer 1978.



Lava Rock Structures in South Central Idaho
Bothwell, James, Water Tank House, site 83

Three and one-fourth miles north of Jerome
Jerome vicinity, Jerome County, Idaho

Photograph by Marian Posey-Ploss
Summer 1981

Negative on file at the Idaho State Historical Society,
Boise, Idaho

View from southwest

Photograph one of one