

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

NOMINATION: (Lava Rock Structures in South Central Idaho TR)

SITE NAME: Bower, Charles, House

SITE NUMBER: 44

LOCATION: ~~Six miles north, one mile west and 1/2 mile north~~ ^N of Jerome, ^{Vic.} ID.

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Coy E. Jones
Route 1
Jerome, ID 83338

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Gooding SE., 7.5 minutes ACREAGE: 2 1/2 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Charles Bower House and the property on which it stands, the SW 1/4, SW 1/4, NW 1/4, SW 1/4 of Section 13 T7S. R16E Legal description on file at Jerome County Courthouse, Jerome, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/701340/4743120

DATE OR PERIOD: 1917

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: H. T. Pugh

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: good, altered, original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Bower house, measuring approximately 32 by 30 feet, is one and one-half stories with a basement. It has a shingled gable roof with wide eaves exposed rafters, and a narrow bargeboard. The walls and gables are random rubble of medium-sized reddish stones. There is light-colored brushed mortar in the medium-width joints. There is a small gable-roofed dormer on the rear roof. A nearly square casement window with two vertical panes is centered at the attic level in the peak of each gable. The front exposure, on the longer dimension of the house, has a centered door flanked by two slightly different sized double-hung windows. The door and window lintels are almost at the top of the approximately ten-foot-high wall. The windows have concrete lintels, approximately six inches wide, almost flush, and inset into the stone about four inches on each end. The slightly outset, sloping lug sills are narrower. The windows are set just inside the outer wall. A wooden stoop leads to the front door. A low shed-roofed frame addition approximately eight feet by ten feet is offset to the right of the right gable wall. There is an interior brick chimney.

SIGNIFICANCE:

This house is significant as a relatively unaltered example of the simple, rectangular one and one-half story gable-roofed house that H. T. Pugh built in the early part of his career. Several features of the house also represent a progression in Pugh's style and workmanship. The water course above the basement windows has been eliminated. Instead of being dressed, rounded stones have been selected for random rubble work that emphasizes the rounded surface and shape of the stones instead of the angular lines seen in his earlier coursed ashlar work. The house was built for the Charles Bower family in 1917 by Howell Trevor Pugh, stonemason. He built a similar house for the Kehrer family, in-laws to the Bower family, nearby, at the same time. Both homes are smaller and simpler in style than the other three houses Pugh built in 1917 (the Schmerschall, Brick, and Keating houses). The building of this modest but substantial home represented a decided improvement in living space for the family of six, who had been living in a small frame prove-up shack. The small frame addition to shelter the back door is typical and unobtrusive. A 1921 news story reveals that the roof and chimney were replaced after a severe storm. According to the North Side News, " . . . the house was unroofed and the chimney fell through the ceiling of the rooms below. Fortunately, no one was hurt. The house is of lava rock and whether the roof was properly anchored to the rock walls or not we have not learned." The Bower family returned to Pennsylvania in 1922, after Mrs. Bower died following the birth of her sixth child.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

North Side News (Jerome). May 17, September 22, 1917.

Bower, Agnes, Hughesville, Pennsylvania, letter to Marian Posey-Ploss.



Lava Rock Structures in South Central Idaho
Bower, Charles, House, site 44

Six miles north, one mile west, one-half mile 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 west

Photograph one of one