

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

NOMINATION: Buhl Dairy Barns thematic group

SITE NAME: Bowlby, T. P., Barn

SITE NUMBER: 2

LOCATION: 2 mi. E, 2 ^{NE} mi. N of Buhl

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:

Orlin Freeman
Route #4
Buhl, ID 83316

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Clover Quadrangle
7.5 min.

ACREAGE: 2.5 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the T. P. Bowlby Barn and the property on which it stands, the SW 1/4, SE 1/4, SE 1/4, SW 1/4, Section 21, Range 15E Township T9S

UTM(S): 11/688240/4721300

DATE OR PERIOD: c. 1912

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: Henry Schick &
others

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture & agriculture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: good, altered, original site

DESCRIPTION:

The T. P. Bowlby Barn is a rectangular, two-story, balloon frame structure with a gambrel roof and 13-1/2 foot concrete walls. Its proportions are 70 feet wide, 110 feet long, and approximately 45 feet tall. The shingled gambrel roof extends downward to the edge of the concrete walls which extend one foot higher than the first floor of the barn. The wood siding in the gable ends is painted white, as are all the bargeboards and eaves. The south facade contains 12 casement windows with six lights; there is one entrance covered by a sliding door. The north side is the same except for an extra sliding door covering an entrance to the middle of the

barn. The west gable end of the barn contains two windows near the apex of the roof and four windows in the first floor. A sliding door covers an entrance to the middle of the barn, and there are two other sliding doors at each corner. The east gable end has five windows in the first floor and a single sliding door at the southeast corner. A molded, filigreed ventilator tops the shingled roof.

The interior floor plan of the first floor has been altered greatly, but it seems to have been built along the lines of a multipurpose or general farm barn. A large portion of the barn consists of stock pens with dirt floors. Twenty iron stanchions facing inwardly are in the southeast corner of the barn on a concrete floor, with a milk room right beside them. Stalls for ten horses are in the northwest corner. The hay was unloaded inside the east end of the barn and lifted to the second floor by the use of slings and pulley. In the 1950's a ramp was added so that machinery could be stored in the loft.

The framing system of the gambrel roof is a partial post-and-lintel system with diagonal bracing between the upper and lower rafters. The weight of the roof bears on the concrete walls, which extends one foot above the loft floor. It is not known whether the diagonal framing was installed later or had always been there. Within the concrete walls are sections of long S-shaped stovepipe used to ventilate the loft.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The T. P. Bowlby Barn is significant as a good example of an early type of gambrel-roofed barn used mainly for dairying. It is also an early example of the use of cold-poured concrete in the construction of farm outbuildings. It is historically significant for its association with the beginnings of the Buhl dairy industry.

The Bowlby barn, like the Gustave Kunze Barn, reflects a transitional period between the traditional methods of constructing a barn and plan book methods. The partial post-and-lintel system used to frame the roof is a very early style used in framing a gambrel-roofed barn. The use of diagonal framing reflects an advancement in building techniques. Bowlby seemed to have followed Kunze's example of using concrete for the foundation and carried it a step further by extending the concrete walls a foot above the first floor. The concrete foundation shows signs of deterioration indicating some of the problems involved in the mixing and pouring of concrete.

The arrangement of the interior of the barn and method of unloading the hay are examples of agricultural practices of the period.

T. P. Bowlby was a dairy farmer from Tillamook who moved to Buhl in 1911-12 and became involved with the beginnings of the dairy industry there. He took his milk to Gustave Kunze's cheese factory. Longtime residents of the area reported that Henry Schick, who helped to build the Gustave Kunze barn, was involved in the building of the Bowlby barn.

The structure is presently used as a cattle and horse barn and is being kept in good condition by the owner.



Buhl Dairy Barns

Bowlby, T. P., Barn, Site #2

2 mi. E, 2 mi. N of Buhl

Vicinity of Buhl, Twin Falls County, Idaho

Photo by Bill Buckendorf

Winter of 1983

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

View from Southwest

Photograph one of one