

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

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

SITE NAME: Cook, William H., Water Tank House

SITE NUMBER: 38

LOCATION: ~~Four miles south and five and three-fourths miles east~~ of Jerome, ID.

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: W. L. Hills  
Rural Route 4  
Jerome, ID 83338

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Falls City, 7.5 minutes

ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Cook Water Tank House and the property on which it stands, the NW 1/4, SE 1/4, SW 1/4, SE 1/4, SE 1/4 of Section 1, T9S, R17E Boise Meridian. Legal description on file at Jerome County Courthouse, Jerome, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/712500/4726845

DATE OR PERIOD: ca. 1915

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: unknown

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture, agriculture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: good, altered, original site

DESCRIPTION:

This water tank house is approximately fourteen by twenty feet with approximately ten-foot-high rubble walls. Darkened, brushed mortar is in the shallow joints. The steep, shingled gambrel roof has wide eaves with exposed rafters with sharply pointed ends. Clapboard siding in the gables has been painted white. A door, clapboard-covered to match the rest of the gable, is offset to the left on the front. Square windows are opposite each other, offset to the right on the right wall and to the left on the left wall. The door and the windows each have an approximately twelve-inch-wide concrete lintel painted white, set flush with the walls, and inset about four inches on each end. The windows have narrower concrete sills. The door and windows are set near the inside of the walls, and part of the openings outside them are lined with wood. The floor of the attic is supported by fifteen exposed rafters, approximately three by twelve inches, set across the narrower dimension of the tank house. A round metal water tank was once located here. A red-brick chimney is astride the peak of the gable near the facade. Apparently a stove was once used to heat the building to prevent the water from freezing. A metal windmill tower with an aerometer blade sits just to the left rear of the building.

#### SIGNIFICANCE:

This water tank house is significant as an example of a vernacular water tank house type constructed with lava rock. This variant of water tank house has rectangular proportions, a gambrel roof, a metal water tank, and exposed eaves. Its style is drawn from the domestic architecture of the area and period. This water tank house was built for the first owner of the farm, William H. Cook, in the mid-1910's. The craftsmanship is consistent with that of H. T. Pugh, stonemason, but it is not confirmed that this is an example of his work. The Cook farm is in the Falls City area, one of the most desirable parts of western Jerome County, which was settled by prosperous investors from Pennsylvania and the Midwest. The metal water tank probably was removed and used for grain storage. Its absence in no way detracts from the structure.

#### MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

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



Lava Rock Structures in South Central Idaho  
Cook, William H., Water Tank House, site 38

Four miles south, five and three-fourths miles east  
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 southeast

Photograph one of one