

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

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

✓ SITE NAME: The Falls City School House

SITE NUMBER: 61

✓ LOCATION: ~~Four miles east, three miles south and one mile east~~ ^{SE} of Jerome, ^{Vic} ID

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Sam and Jessie Schuyler
Rural Route 4
Jerome, ID 83338

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Fall City, 7.5 minutes

ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the Falls City School House and the property on which it stands, Tax 8 in the SE 1/4, SE 1/4 of Section 35, T8S, R17E. Legal description on file at Jerome County Courthouse, Jerome, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/711120/4728390

DATE OR PERIOD: 1919

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: H. T. Pugh, Maurice Wulff

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture, education

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: good, altered, original site

DESCRIPTION:

This one-story building is approximately 50 by 80 feet. It has a partial basement, a shingled gable and hipped roof with wide eaves and exposed rafters. The main entrance is through an outset bay with a low, stepped false front. A shallow segmental arch is above the entrance. Low stoop walls of stone have concrete coping on the top. The double doors each have eight panes. A twelve-pane transom is above the double door, and there are six-paned side lights. The top of the entrance bay has angled concrete coping. Just above the keystone of the entry arch is a concrete panel with "Falls City School" incised into it. A bank of six windows is set on each side of the entrance. The double-hung windows each have nine panes over nine panes. There is a narrow, outset, sloping, continuous concrete sill under each bank of windows. Quoins at the corners of the entry bay, the sides of the entrance, the sides of each panel of windows, and the corners of the building are of light-colored, smooth-grained concrete blocks. There are no windows on either end of the building, but two panels of windows identical to those on the facade are repeated on the rear. The rubble walls of small, dark, dressed stones have light brushed mortar in the nearly-flush medium-width joints. A concrete block addition with a shingled gable roof approximately 26 feet long and eighteen feet wide is centered on the rear. The addition replaced outhouses some distance from the building with indoor restrooms with plumbing. There are high basement windows with stone relieving arches above them. The horizontal casement windows

have curved window heads. A red brick chimney straddles the left roof ridge. The original interior features are intact. The residents utilize the three classrooms, kitchen, auditorium, and gymnasium as their home.

SIGNIFICANCE:

This school house is significant for several reasons. It is the first of four stone rural schools built by H. T. Pugh. The use of stone for the rural schools continued the Jerome tradition of relegating stone to a rural building material. Its style is representative of rural school design, and its craftsmanship is excellent. This is the first building in which Pugh demonstrated his artistry in the use of concrete blocks as structural accents for a stone building. He made the molds and poured the concrete to form the blocks on the site. The low profile of the building, with overhanging eaves, imparts a sheltered, almost domestic, feeling, but the elaborate entrance adds the formality appropriate to a public building. Maurice Wulff was the carpenter for the school. It was built in 1919 for Falls City School District 36. Inexplicably, no mention either of its building or its completion has been found in the local newspaper. This substantial building of high quality was built for long usage. It was used as a school until the late 1960's. Its construction demonstrated the growing settled population in the rural parts of Jerome County. Jerome had built an architect-designed brick school building in 1911, but it was the end of that decade before the crowded wooden country school houses were replaced with stone buildings. The concrete block addition on the rear is unobtrusive.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Pugh, David, interview with Marian Posey-Ploss, Paso Robles, California, April, 1979.

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



Lava Rock Structures in South Central Idaho
Falls City School House, site 61

Four miles east, three miles south, one mile 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 east

Photograph one of one