

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 14 1980

APR 3 1980

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Geertson, Lars, House

AND/OR COMMON

Herb Aldous House

LOCATION

SE of Salmon

STREET & NUMBER

Route 1 Box 13

CITY, TOWN

Salmon

VICINITY OF Salmon

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

Idaho

CODE

16

COUNTY

Lemhi

CODE

059

CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Herb Aldous

STREET & NUMBER

Route 1 Box 13

CITY, TOWN

Salmon

VICINITY OF

STATE

Idaho

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Lemhi County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Salmon

STATE

Idaho

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Idaho State Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1972

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Idaho State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Boise

STATE

Idaho

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Geertson House is a two-story rectangular log structure with a one-and-one-half-story rear ell. It is constructed of hewn log timbers, one foot thick, joined at the corners with square notching and chinked between the logs. Log joists for the second story are framed into the front and back walls and run parallel to the gables. The gables are frame with horizontal siding, and the forty-five-degree gable roof is shingled. In 1940 a concrete foundation was added.

The four-bay facade of the house has a central door offset to the right with multipane side lights and a transom. The windows are one or two-over-two-light double-hung sash. Each gable in the front section has two pentagonal windows on either side of a brick chimney. The original three porches, and a commissary that served stagecoach customers on the Red Rock-Salmon City Line and local residents, have been removed. The present owner has added a small frame porch on the west side of the ell and a framed-in outside entrance to the wine cellar.

The interior walls are brick, finished with lath and plaster. Lumber for the nine-and-one-half-foot ceilings and the front door casing of hand-carved oak came from Oregon. The first story includes a den, living room, three bedrooms, and in the rear ell a kitchen-dining room and the bathroom. Under the kitchen is a wine cellar. The second story consists of a 30-x-60-foot dance hall and a smaller extra room. An outside staircase on the west side leads to these rooms. There are six inches of sawdust insulation between the first and second floors. This feature, coupled with the bricked inside walls of the first floor and the thick outside logs, makes this a very energy-efficient home. There are two outbuildings; a one-story log barn, built about the same time as the house, and a log single-car garage constructed in the 1920's.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION	
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE	
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE	
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER	
☒ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION	
☐ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		☐ INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES	1872-1883	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Lars Geertson
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Geertson House is architecturally significant as an exceptionally fine example of an unusually large, well-preserved, and well-constructed log building from the later nineteenth century. The builder/owner, Geertson, known as Lars locally and listed as Louis C. in the 1880 Census, was born in Denmark. He and his wife, also Danish, came to the Salmon area in 1866 or 1867. Salmon, founded in 1867, owed its existence to the nearby gold mines discovered in 1866. Geertson raised cattle to supply meat for the miners on his 160-acre ranch, which he homesteaded in 1868. A small rural community known as Geertson Creek developed shortly thereafter.

In 1872 Geertson began construction on this house, which took him eleven years to complete to his satisfaction. Throughout its history, the house has had several secondary uses. The ranch commissary served area settlers as well as travelers on the Red Rock-Salmon City Stage Line. It was also the scene of local legal decisions, as Geertson served for a time as a Territorial Justice of the Peace, and through 1926 many community social activities took place in the second-story dance hall.

In comparison with other two-story log houses in Idaho--which are rare--the house is in remarkably good repair and its few alterations have not changed its character. Its construction, of chinked hewn logs with square notching, is found elsewhere in Idaho on a smaller scale and has precedents in the southern and midwestern United States. It is interesting to note that Geertson adopted these American construction techniques rather than utilizing North European methods, and that he applied these techniques on a much more ambitious scale than did his neighbors.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interview with Herb Aldous, July 25, 1979.

The Recorder-Herald, Salmon, Idaho, February 1, 1979, pp. 1A and 8A.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre.

QUADRANGLE NAME Salmon

QUADRANGLE SCALE 15 minute

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,2 2,8,1 5,0,0 5,0,0 8,2,5

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property includes the log house, barn and garage and the property on which it stands as delineated by the UTMS.

OK-J.F.T. 4-2-80

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Jennifer Eastman Attebery, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Idaho State Historical Society

DATE

2 Jan 80

STREET & NUMBER

610 North Julia Davis Drive

TELEPHONE

384-2120

CITY OR TOWN

Boise

STATE

Idaho

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Male Wells

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

2 Jan 80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

4/3/80

ATTEST:

W. Ray Luce
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

4-2-80

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION



Geertson, Lars, House
Geertson Creek
Vicinity of Salmon, Idaho
Lemhi County, Idaho

Photographer: Bob Johnson
January, 1979

APR 3

1979

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

View from North
1 of 3

JAN 14 1980



(House)

Geertson, Lars, Barn
Geertson Creek
Vicinity of Salmon, Idaho
Lemhi County, Idaho

Photographer: Larry Jones
July, 1979

APR 3 1980

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

View from Northwest
2 of 3

JAN 14 1980



(house)
Geertson, Lars, Garage
Geertson Creek
Vicinity of Salmon, Idaho
Lemhi County, Idaho

Photographer: Larry Jones
July, 1979

APR 3 1980

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

View from South
3 of 3

JAN 14 1980