

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

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

SITE NAME: Jerome Cooperative Creamery

SITE NUMBER: 37

LOCATION: 313 ~~South~~ Birch Street, Jerome, ID

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Ee-Da-How-Specialties, Inc.
217 South Birch Street
Jerome, ID 83338

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Jerome, 7.5 minutes

ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

This nomination includes the Jerome Cooperative Creamery and the property on which it stands on Block 107, tax 1, Jerome Townsite. Legal description on file at Jerome County Courthouse, Jerome, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/702920/4732760

DATE OR PERIOD: 1915, 1924, 1933

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: H. T. Pugh

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture, agriculture, commerce, industry

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: excellent, altered, original site

DESCRIPTION:

The lava part of the Jerome Cooperative Creamery extends approximately 112 feet facing east on South Birch Street. The building is about 75 feet deep. It has two sections, each approximately 56 feet wide. The north section is one story tall; the south section is two stories tall. Each section has a flat roof behind a low battlement with a centered, triangular pediment. An angled concrete coping tops the facade and extends to cap the false side walls on the north side. Centered in the peak of the south section is a small concrete panel with the date 1924, incised into it. A similar panel on the north side is incised with the date 1933. The random rubble walls are of black dressed stones. The darkened mortar in the medium-width joints have been tooled to produce a beaded line that has been painted white to emphasize the curved lines between the stones. A concrete course about fourteen inches wide below the level of the second-story windows on the north section visually ties the two sections together. Above a centered door on each section is a wide concrete panel with "Jerome Cooperative Creamery" cut into it. The door in the north section has a curved transom, now filled with wood, and six-pane side lights. Concrete quoins surround each door opening and are also on the southeast and northeast corners. All of the windows at the first-story level have flat concrete arches above them with alternating concrete slip sills about six inches wide. All of the smooth, fine-grained concrete is unpainted, a light, grayish tan in color. On the north section there are two sets of symmetrically-set, paired,

double-hung windows with nine panes over one pane. On the south section the window and door openings have been filled with glass brick. Some minor repairs and alterations with concrete have been made at the southeast corner in the door opening and below several windows. The windows on the first floor are set about ten inches into the wall. There are five symmetrically-set, six-pane, casement windows set at the inside of the wall in the north second-story section. The concrete course below them forms a continuous sill. Flush concrete lintels about six inches wide are inset about six inches into the stone on each end. Offset to the left of the north wall on the first floor level is a pair of windows like those on the front except that they have a flush, six-inch-wide lintel inset about four inches into the stone on each end instead of a flat arch. An almost centered, paneled, wooden sliding door with a panel of three lights at the top is set at the inside of the opening. Other window and door openings have been filled in with stone. On the second story are five symmetrically-set casement windows like those on the facade, except each has a separate, outset, sloping concrete slip sill. Attached to the south section of the facade is a full-width, one-story brick and concrete to an irregularly-shaped concrete and cinder block processing plant. Part of the back of the south section and part of the left wall of the north section is visible in a loading bay.

SIGNIFICANCE:

This building is significant as an example of the use of lava rock construction for an industrial plant, as an example of excellent craftsmanship, and for its association with the local dairy products industry, which had an important role in the development of the local economy. The building is the only example of industrial architecture in the nomination. The need for a creamery had been discussed for several years in the community before a cooperative of farmer producers was formed. Many farm families depended upon monthly income from small dairy herds in order to survive from crop to crop. In years of crop failure or shortages, the income from the creamery could mean farm and family survival. Cooperative members could take part of their pay in products at cost, an arrangement that improved the diets of many families. In 1915 the first small stone building was built by H. T. Pugh, who was also the mason for the 1924 and 1933 additions. Only a portion of the rear of the original building is visible, incorporated into the north wall of the 1933 section. The original building was entirely incorporated into the additions. For a number of years the cooperative continued as a dairy processing plant under the Challenge brand. Originally the plant only made butter, but by the time the Challenge operation closed in the 1970's, a full line of dairy products were being produced. The present owners package cheese for prepared foods. With its crenelated battlements, the building can be considered the best example of Pugh's craftsmanship. The stones are dressed throughout and carefully fitted and matched for color. The painted, beaded tooling of the joints provides color and surface pattern. The concrete quoins, flat arches, and angled coping on the parapet are fine examples of his mastery of concrete as well as stone. The alterations, mainly the closing of windows, do not detract significantly from the clear statement of artistry and solidity conveyed by the building. The low, one-story, brick addition on the left is visible from the front, but its proportions are small enough not to detract significantly from the two larger stone sections. Fortunately, the other additions on the rear of the building are angled back along the railroad tracks so that they do not overpower the smaller stone sections. The significance of this

building, through its architecture and craftsmanship and because of its importance in the development of the local economy, warrants its inclusion in the thematic group.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

North Side News (Jerome). April 17 and July 31, 1924; March 17 and November 16, 1938.



Lava Rock Structures in South Central Idaho
Jerome Cooperative Creamery, site 37

313 South Birch Street
Jerome, Jerome County, Idaho

Photograph by Marian Posey-Ploss
Summer 1981

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

View from northeast

Photograph one of one