NPS Form 10-900
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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received AUG 2 1983
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Lava Rock Structures in South Central Idaho thematic group

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number Lincoln and Jerome counties N/A **not for publication**

city, town See individual inventory sheets N/A **vicinity of** ~~congressional district~~

state Idaho **code** 016 **county** See individual inventory sheets **code** N/A

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	X occupied	X agriculture	___ museum
___ building(s)	___ private	X unoccupied	X commercial	___ park
___ structure	X both	___ work in progress	X educational	X private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	X religious
___ object	N/A in process	X yes: restricted	X government	___ scientific
X thematic group	N/A being considered	X yes: unrestricted	X industrial	___ transportation
		X no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name See individual inventory sheets

street & number N/A

city, town N/A N/A **vicinity of** **state** N/A

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lincoln County Courthouse AND Jerome County Courthouse

street & number West B Street Lincoln Street

city, town Shoshone Jerome **state** Idaho

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Idaho State Historic Sites Survey **has this property been determined eligible?** ___ yes X no

date 1972 ___ federal X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Idaho State Historical Society

city, town Boise **state** Idaho

7. Description

SEE INDIVIDUAL INVENTORY SHEETS

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	___ original site
___ good	___ ruins	___ altered	___ moved date _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

This thematic group nomination is comprised of a unique collection of masonry buildings and structures made of basalt and located in Jerome and Lincoln counties in South Central Idaho. This is a finite group of structures. There are few remaining masons skilled in working with this hard stone, and basalt is no longer popularly considered a building material in Idaho. Basalt was used in South Central Idaho as a building stone for residences and other domestic buildings, public buildings, farm and ranch buildings, and irrigation and water structures. The structures in this nomination were built during the first settlement of the Snake River Plains of South Central Idaho in the late 1880's, when railroads were first built across the area, through the 1900's, when the area was developed through irrigation projects, and up to World War II. The last major structures of lava rock were built in the early 1940's under the WPA. The regional term for structures built with basalt as a building stone is "lava rock." "Lava rock" is used interchangeably with "basalt" in this nomination.

Basalt is volcanic in origin, and extrusions of this material are found throughout southern Idaho. In south Central Idaho, particularly, basalt has been used as a building material. There is a concentration in the two counties nominated.

This nomination includes a variety of structures, all constructed of basalt, including dams and canal banks, residences, barns, chicken houses, spring houses, smoke houses, cellars, other farm buildings, commercial buildings, schools, churches, water tanks, and well houses.

The scale of most structures in this nomination is modest and utilitarian. The farm buildings are large enough to be functional. Many of the houses called "cottages" when they were built are also small by today's ranch style house standards. The few large barns in the nomination are exceptions to the buildings' modest scale. Commercial structures tend to be small also--usually one or two stories. For example, the City Hall of Eden, Idaho, built in 1941, is a one-story building only about twenty-four by forty-two feet. In summary, the scale of the structures in this nomination, is determined by their intended functions.

The styles and workmanship of the structures in this nomination vary from crudely built temporary structures to architect-designed buildings reflecting the architectural ideas of their period and exhibiting the expertise of skilled master masons. Some of the houses in the nomination represent the bungalow, Colonial Revival, and English cottage styles. The majority of buildings in this nomination, however, are in the vernacular tradition. Most buildings of lava rock achieved their style primarily through the knowledge and skill of a mason who adapted the material at hand to the styles he already knew how to use. Thus one- and two-story commercial buildings have false fronts, perhaps a metal cornice, and flat roofs.

Although simple, small, traditional gable-, pyramid- and hip-roofed residences continued to be built throughout the time period represented in this nomination, by the 1910's larger bungalow style residences began to be built. With many

variations in detail, this style became the predominant one for residences. Local newspapers carried advertisements for Radford's and other pattern house plans that could be adapted to stone. Mail order catalogs also sold plans for houses showing both bungalow and craftsman influence. Some of the patterns carried by local lumber yards showed stone porches on frame houses. The nomination includes one English cottage style house, for which plans were drawn by a Boise lumber company employee using the owner's ideas, but it is not certain that the draftsman was a trained architect.

Barns were less influenced by the current styles than were residences. Some of the barns in this nomination are rectangular with gable roofs, showing English influence. Others have variations of gambrel or rainbow roofs, showing influence from the Midwest. Even though the settlers soon learned that hay could remain uncovered outdoors in the arid southern Idaho climate, large barns with high lofts for hay continued to be built up until 1940. Even though local newspapers carried syndicated stories on recommended farm building styles for efficiency and productivity, barn styles were quite resistant to change. Present-day machine handling of hay renders the hay lofts of these large barns completely obsolete. Plans for other farm buildings also appeared in the newspapers, and one very large commercial chicken house included in this nomination is a faithful adaption of such a pattern.

Another influence on style was the national origin and training of the mason. The South Central Idaho masons who built lava rock buildings came from Wales, Ireland, Scotland, Spain, the Basque country, Sweden, England, the Netherlands, and Germany. The Basque masons in and around Shoshone built in traditional styles for their fellow countrymen but adapted their work to the prevailing styles when hired by others. In the same way, a skilled mason of German origin built a traditional German cottage for a member of his family, but also built other styles for non-German neighbors. A Dutch mason's own two-story house employs proportions and details distinct from those found in other regional houses. It is interesting to observe the progression of styles built by Howell Trevor Pugh, a Welsh-trained master mason who worked chiefly in Jerome County. When he first came to the county in about 1911, Pugh built small rectangular homes with steeply-pitched roofs. These early examples have stone gables. Pugh shifted to working on very large bungalows with wood frame gables, and schools and other public buildings in a variety of styles. However, when he finally built his own home late in the period of this nomination, Pugh went back to the simple rectangular one-story house, similar to his early work. In his own house, dressed stone is laid in a broken ashlar pattern quite different from the roughly-coursed random rubble work for which he was noted.

Some of the masons showed less versatility in their work. An Irish mason tended to build one type of house, using segmental relieving arches long after Pugh had begun to use concrete lintels and sills in competent, creative ways.

The nomination includes work of all of the known trained masons who worked in Jerome and Lincoln counties. It has not been possible to ascertain the mason for every structure. The large numbers of construction workers needed to build dams and canals, railroads and roads, as well as buildings, in all probability included masons who worked briefly in the area and then moved on to other projects elsewhere.

Another factor determining workmanship and design qualities was the importance of the structure. Usually, but not always, less care was taken on an animal shed than on a home. The masons' reputations also varied. In oral history interviews it was said of Dad Otis, "He wasn't no mason, but he sure could lay up the rocks." (Callen: 1978) The Otis father and brothers built a number of farm buildings in Jerome County. Of another mason it was said, "Well, he could make them stand up all right, but how they looked!" The latter referred to the utilitarian, sturdy work of Marland Cox who learned stone masonry from his English-trained father. (Sidwell: 1977)

Design quality and proportions were influenced not only by the style of the building, which was chosen by the owner contracting with the mason or by the mason but also by the materials used in the structure. The first and most important factor was the variation in the stone itself.

It is difficult to categorize the type of masonry construction used in this nomination. Technically, it is classified as rubblework, because in general the stones were not cut. Some of the work is random rubble, but some could also be characterized as coursed rubble. It is not always clear whether courses were planned by the mason or whether they resulted from the nature of the stone itself. It is believed that most masons just looked for the right size and shape. Several informants who were young people at the time their family home was built commented on the loads and loads of rock they hauled to the site for the mason to select from. One mason is reputed to have rejected over half of the rocks brought to a building site from a nearby railroad cut because he wanted uniformity in color. At least two masons seemed fascinated by the patterns and colors of lichen-covered rock and selected them for residences. One mason's work is characterized by curved lines rather than courses. Although lava rocks (those covered with a white mineral deposit through repeated exposure to water) were available throughout the area and sometimes were used in random rubble work, they were not selected to provide contrast or accents as one might expect. While there are clear examples of the selection of stones for their special features or for uniformity in color, it is probably that more often the rocks near a building site were used both because of their availability and because clearing the land and building passable roads were accomplished at the same time.

Rocks were brought to the building site either on a wagon or on a stone slip pulled by horses. According to a U.S. Geological Survey geologist, in 1913 there were no permanent active quarries of basalt in Idaho. He states, "it has been most economical for users of this stone to open temporary quarries within easy

reach of the point of use." He further states that because basalt rocks "are so common in the region, they have usually been taken from the nearest handy source . . . ." (Loughlin: 1913)

The nearest convenient source for most residents was "the place," the local term for the farm owned and worked by the family. Over and over again, this surveyor was told that the place was the source of the stone used for buildings. Many farms had extrusions of rocks among the fields known as rock piles or "blowouts," as well as loose rocks in the fields. Other sources of rock used for buildings came from basement excavations road work, irrigation projects and railroad beds. People on the edge of farm lands went to the desert, usually not more than three to five miles away to obtain ledge rock. Those bordering the Snake River Canyon and small canyons on the Wood and Malad rivers used rock from the canyon walls. Although field stones were frequently used, skilled stone masons did dress stones to fit around openings, to serve as quoins, or to provide a finished, uniform look on the fronts of buildings. Because of its structure lava rock is considered a difficult stone to dress.

Mason H. T. Pugh is said to have known exactly where to strike a rock with his chisel and hammer so that it would split along the columnar joints. A commercial building he built in Jerome, Idaho, entirely of dressed stone, shows the skill of his work. He directed a large volunteer force of Mormons, who built their church in Jerome of lava rock (now covered with a brick veneer), and is said to have marked with chalk lines where the volunteer workers were to strike the rock in order to split it. Some masons apparently used rock left from blasting, while others found that invisible faults caused by the blasting made the stone unpredictable for dressing. Some masons rejected stones brought in from cleared fields, referring to the dug-out rocks as "nigger heads," and saying that they showed too much rounding and lacked uniformity. Probably the most common source of building stone was from digging into a rocky outcropping and prying out with crowbars and rock tools as much rock as was needed. Usually the color and texture of the rock would be quite uniform in a single outcropping, so selection of stones was also minimized by this method. If enough stone was removed, soil could be scraped over the scars and the leveled land was available for other uses.

The walls of most buildings in this nomination are laid a standard eighteen inches wide, although they vary from less to as much as thirty-six inches wide. Some buildings have battered walls. Ruins and deteriorated walls show that it was necessary to have bond stones long enough to span the full width of a wall every few square feet in order for the wall to be stable. Double walls--that is, two eighteen-inch-wide walls with a four-inch space between them--were used to build an ice house and cellar on one site.

Although architect Flagg in the 1920's had developed and publicized a form method for building with stone, there is no evidence that it influenced lava rock building in the area of this nomination. (Flagg: 1922) Only one farmer used a form for building a barn. He says he devised this method because he lacked skill for

laying up rock directly as the stone masons did. He placed rocks against one wall inside the form, then poured liquid cement on the inside wall against the other side of the form. When the form was removed the inner side of the wall was concrete, and the outside was concrete with rocks showing through the surface (Lewis: 1978).

In a number of cases construction was started directly on rock outcroppings on the surface of the ground or just below the surface. In other cases, concrete foundation and footings were poured. Sometimes it was necessary to dig and blast out rocks for a basement. Basement walls that also served as foundation walls were then also made of lava rock masonry. In a few cases, buildings were fitted around rock outcroppings.

As has already been noted, farmers doing their own work used mud, that is sand and soil mixed with water, to lay up farm buildings and walls. In Lincoln County reliable deposits of clay could be found. Some extant buildings were laid up with mud which dried quite hard. Locally this mud is referred to as adobe. A number of masons, especially before building materials became readily available, laid stones with mud and used mortar to point the finished construction. Some masons, notably Pugh, used lime mortar throughout the building process as well as for pointing. The types of mortar used varied considerably from mason to mason, and also throughout the time period of this nomination. Early mortar was a lime and sand mixture. When it was available and when it could be afforded, lime and portland mortar was used. The mortar was mixed on the site, sometimes in a hole in the ground and sometimes in a mason's mud box. Children of the owner were often called upon to stir the mortar. Informants indicate that because of cost and scarcity a minimum of cement was used in most mortar. Pugh, however, prepared his own forms and prepared concrete blocks for use both as structural and decorative elements in his buildings.

Another factor in the design quality of lava rock structures was the variety of materials used in addition to stone. Concrete was used for lintels and sills, metal fronts were used on commercial buildings, and concrete blocks as well as wood were used with stone. Brick was often pleasingly combined with lava rock. Several buildings built by a Swedish mason in the Richfield area used yellow pressed bricks for quoins and as decoration around window and door openings. Red brick also was used for trim. In a few buildings almost equal amounts of stone and brick or stone and wood were used. In bungalow style houses, for example, the walls were usually one story high, with various kinds of treatments of wood in the gable walls above the stone, including shiplap and shingles. A plain painted frieze board was sometimes placed at the top of the walls. The width of eaves varied. Sometimes eaves were enclosed. Exposed rafter ends were sometimes cut decoratively. Brackets of various styles were used on a number of bungalow-influenced buildings. Color was introduced to lava block buildings by painting the concrete or wood portions.

Still another design element is the handling of the joints between the stones. On some farm buildings and on some side walls the joints were left unpointed. Some masons brought the joints of the stone out almost flush with the outside surface of the rocks, thus making wide joints and minimizing the stone surface. The color of mortar often varied according to the source of the sand used in it, and provided contrast with the stone. Sometimes the mortar was colored to blend with the rocks. A bead of varying width and heights might be made on the joints. When this was done, it was often painted white with a lime-based paint to emphasize the lines of the stonework. Sometimes special treatment was given only to the fronts of buildings. Some masons emphasized the texture of the stone itself by allowing rounded stones to protrude from the joints. The joints then could be pointed with a narrow beaded line that was painted white. In some cases the mortar was darkened with lampblack to match the stone as closely as possible. Then the pointing mortar was brushed flush with the edge of the stones, or slightly indented. Sometimes a concave indentation was drawn on the pointing mortar in the joints and painted white. There are many variations and combinations of joint treatments in this nomination.

Design and style were also achieved in the treatment of openings. Earlier structures have segmental stone relieving arches, sometimes of brick, with double-hung windows with curved heads. A few buildings have sandstone lintels and sills. Sometimes a found or shaped rectangular stone was used as a lintel. By 1910 concrete was used to create lintels and sills of varying widths. Although there were many variations, a common pattern in residences is a window or a panel of windows with a slightly outset lintel. This lintel is about ten inches wide and is inset into the stone about four to six inches on each end. There is a narrower, sloping, slightly outset slip sill. An alternative that required less skill is the use of lumber, often four-by-sixes, to build a box-like lintel above door and window openings. Not all windows had sills. Sometimes the window was set directly onto the stone of the wall. The stone below the window might then be sloped and covered with mortar to shed water. Lintels were reinforced with metal. Although reinforcing rods were available, where reinforcements are visible it is evident that any metal available was used. This included barrel staves and salvaged railroad rail sections. Another variation in building design results from the placement of the window or door within the opening. Sometimes windows or doors were set at the outside of the wall, sometimes a few inches inside the opening, sometimes midway in the opening, and sometimes at the inside of the wall. Setting the window closer to the outside of the wall allowed for a wider inside sill that could be used as an additional shelf. The placement of windows and doors provided rhythm, pattern, and design. Windows and doors were obtained from local lumber yards. Their selection reflects what was available as much as the taste of the owner. Some buildings have windows with decorative diamond-shaped panes.

Interior finishes of lava rock walls varied. Farm buildings were often unfinished. The inside walls of most barns and some residences simply were plastered. For appearance and comfort this was a satisfactory finish, although owners com-

plained of the difficulty of hanging pictures and attaching drapery hardware. Furring was used to construct interior wooden walls in some buildings. It is not known in each case if the furring was built into the interior walls during construction or if it was attached later. Wooden beams to which well machinery was attached were built into the masonry in some of the well and pump houses. In the majority of cases, the interiors of homes and business buildings have been altered to some extent. Original interiors are noted on individual inventory sheets.

The group of lava water storage tanks in this nomination deserves special attention for their uniqueness and for the resourcefulness shown in their design and construction. Storage tanks for water were built between the mid-1910's and the 1930's. The majority are found in Lincoln County, where a reliable source of irrigation water was not secured until the 1930's.

Water tanks built by sheep rancher Bill Darrah varied in height from about eight feet to over thirty feet and in diameter from about twelve to twenty-five feet. Small, rectangular, low, one-story pump houses with shallow gable roofs were built partially below ground and attached to or placed near the water tank to protect the windmill's pumping mechanism. The tanks were built by digging four or five feet into the ground to lay a firm foundation of stone. The walls of these structures are about thirty-six inches wide and built of stones closely-laid with lime-mortar. Large rocks form bonds across the full width to each outside wall. The wall was built up circularly and metal reinforcements were included in the wall as it was built upward. Metal cable was preferred, but any metal that was available would be used. Apparently much of it was salvaged from the railroad.

If the tank was to be elevated, a chamber was made underneath the tank. A small window was usually placed opposite a door. The concrete floor of the chamber usually was a foot or two below the level of the ground outside. The roof of the chamber was reinforced with metal, usually railroad rails. Several have steel I-beams projecting from one or both sides. Building the tank portion of the structure then continued on upward. The inside of the tank was coated with several especially prepared coats of concrete and/or mortar. One informant who had Darrah build a tank on his farm says that the last coat was boiled with Castile soap and painted on with a brush. (Martin: 1979) Some of the tanks had wooden covers. Others had wooden planks laid across the top and covered with a thin concrete coating. Both types of covers had a removable manhole lid through which a person could enter the tank to repair or clean it.

Marion J. Posey-Ploss, architectural historian, conducted the survey of the two-county area of this nomination during the summer of 1978, from July 1979 through 1980, and during the summer of 1981. She completed an intensive on-site survey by systematically covering the grid of roads within each county and noting all lava rock structures. Whenever a structure was found, the owner or occupant was asked if there were others nearby, but it was quickly found that their answers were unreliable. Local residents are so accustomed to seeing lava rock structures that they have difficulty locating them precisely. Illustrated newspaper articles

informed local residents of the value of their taken-for-granted lava rock buildings and also served as an introduction for the investigator. Some people called the investigator to tell her about buildings, but the majority of buildings were located by field survey. Legal descriptions, chains of ownership, and names and addresses of present owners were obtained and confirmed through county assessors' office records, and from abstract and title companies. Bureau of Land Management offices supplied information, and Agricultural Conservation Service offices provided aerial maps where they were needed. County superintendents of school, water companies, and church historians also supplied information. As far as was possible, the dates of construction and ownership were documented in local history collections, in local public libraries, in the state historical society library, or through old newspaper files. Oral history interviews were an additional source of information. The folklife collection of Utah State University also was consulted.

Over three hundred structures of lava rock were located in the two counties. The criteria used to choose the structures in this nomination were integrity of the structure and comprehensiveness of the survey. Structures that had been significantly altered were excluded. The most common alteration on lava rock residences is the enclosing of open porches. This had the practical result of providing more space, as well as protecting the front and/or back door from wind. When the full original structure is still visible, and the enclosure could be removed without damaging the integrity of the house, houses with enclosed porches are included in the nomination. Since many of the original houses are quite small, houses were often extended through a concrete block, brick, or frame addition. These altered houses are included here if the original facade remained intact and if the additions did not overpower the original in size, design, or proportion. Some exceptions had to be made to this rule. Occasionally a building was assessed as important enough, usually because of historical significance, that it was included despite alterations, especially if it was the only extant example of a type.

Stone buildings that had painted or stuccoed exteriors were excluded, with the exception of an early Shoshone store on which one side has been stuccoed but the stucco is now flaking away to reveal the original stone work. The facade of one nomination, a Basque house, has been whitewashed. Small, single, isolated farm buildings are also excluded. However, small farm buildings are included as part of a site when a residence or barn is also listed, in order to include a full range of representative types of buildings in the nomination. Water tanks were selected that were not damaged, and/or that represented a variation in form, construction, or proportion.

When possible, lava rock structures in Minidoka County on the east, and Gooding County and a portion of Elmore County on the west of the two-county area nominated should be inventoried for additonal nomination. Some of the Snake River Plains on the south side of the Snake River are also in the Snake River geological area, and structures of block basalt are also found there, especially near the Snake River. The South Hills, however, from which a number of streams flow into the Snake

River, are a part of the Salt Lake geological formation. Especially in the older towns in the valleys and passes leading into Utah, there are stone buildings not only of basalt, but also of quartz latite, welded tuff, quartzite, marble, sandstone, and other stones (Anderson: 1931). Study of stone buildings and structures in Southside counties is also needed, but its history and its geology is distinct. That area should be nominated as a separate masonry and stone thematic group after intensive survey and further study is completed. The Snake River Canyon, although crossed by two bridges, remains such a barrier, both physical and psychological, that the area of Magic Valley north of the river is referred to as the Northside, while the older area south of the river is referred to as the Southside.

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	X agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture	
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian	
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music		
X 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ theater	
X 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ transportation	
		___ invention		___ other (specify)	

Specific dates 1875 - 1941 **Builder/Architect** See individual inventory sheets.

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The group of basalt masonry structures in this nomination are architecturally significant because they document the use of basalt as a building stone in both vernacular and designed architecture. This is a finite group of resources built between 1875 and 1941. During this time the two counties in this nomination were settled first along stage and freight roads, then following the building of a railroad across the area, and finally through extensive irrigation projects. Rapid development of the area through the use of outside capital produced a concentration of buildings and structures of basalt in the two-county area of this nomination not found elsewhere in Idaho. The large number of lava rock structures still in good condition and in use testifies also to the extraordinary skill of the masons who built with this stone. Barns, residences, and other structures have not been built of block basalt in Southern Idaho since about World War II, both because of the absence of skilled artisans and because of changing tastes and economic conditions. Block lava is still being used in landscaping and for memorials. Recent structures often taken to be of lava construction instead are frame, concrete, or cinder-block buildings faced with slab lava. All of the structures in this nomination are on their original locations. The integrity of their settings and their relationships to other buildings and to the community is a rich resource also for cultural geographers. The nominated group exhibits many variations in handling stone, creative treatment of window and door openings, resourceful combinations of other materials with stone, and fine workmanship. Many of the vernacular buildings in this nomination are very pleasing in proportions, texture, design, and use of color.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheets

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property See individual inventory sheets

Quadrangle name See individual inventory sheets **Quadrangle scale** See individual inventory sheets

UMT References See individual inventory sheets

		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				
B				
C				
D				
E				
F				
G				
H				

Verbal boundary description and justification

See individual inventory sheets

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	Idaho	**code**	016	**county**	Lincoln	**code**	063
state	Idaho	**code**	016	**county**	Jerome	**code**	053

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Marian Posey-Ploss, architectural historian

organization Idaho State Historical Society **date** July 8, 1983

street & number 610 North Julia Davis Drive **telephone** (208) 334-3356

city or town Boise **state** Idaho 83702

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 Merle Wells

title State Historic Preservation Officer **date** 26 July 1983

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

See continuation sheet for listings **date**

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: **date**

Chief of Registration

The earliest use of stone for a building material by explorers and settlers of the two-county area of this nomination is not known. However, Kyner, a railroad contractor in 1882, tells of going into the town of Shoshone to the Lava Rock Saloon to find men to work for him. He says, "This--quite the most 'polite' of the town's saloons--was a one-story building built of the onmipresent lava rock, its black, cast-iron colored walls enclosing a room that was roughly twenty by sixty feet in size." (Kyner: 1936, reprinted 1960, p. 120) Building materials had to be freighted great distances and were expensive. Therefore, it was not unexpected that the large amounts of local rock would be used for a building material. When the railroad was being built from Granger, Wyoming, through Shoshone to the Wood River mines, Shoshone became a railroad construction camp. After the railroad was built on from Shoshone to Huntington, Oregon, Shoshone became a rail center for South Central Idaho.

Building of the railroad brought skilled workers as well as the need for more buildings. Early masons, whose names are largely unknown today, built buildings in Shoshone of lava rock with dressed stone facades and fine details. When Shoshone became a center for sheep raising, immigrant Basque sheep ranchers built more lava rock structures.

Since lava rock was the predominate building material for the commercial district of Shoshone, built on either side of the railroad tracks, the town undoubtedly served as an example, both negative and positive, for the irrigation tract towns farther south that were built by outside capital beginning about 1907. The majority of settlers on the irrigated tracts were well acquainted with Shoshone and its structures because they depended upon the railroad town for supplies. Shoshone is also the county seat of Lincoln County, which until 1919 comprised the area now in Minidoka, Jerome, and Gooding counties and present day Lincoln County.

Despite its abundance, lava rock was neither equally nor readily accepted as a building material. The builders of the town of Jerome saw lava rock as suitable only for footings for concrete block or brick buildings or for side and back walls, not as material for a whole building (The North Side News, 10 June 1920). Lava rock was seen as a building material for rural areas, partly because the demonstration farm established by the Northside Land and Water Company had used lava rock. "Here is a practical demonstration of the use of lava rock in rock walls, pillars supporting the porches and stone fire places" (The North Side News, 22 July 1909). The early operation in Jerome of a concrete block factory also lessened the consideration of stone as a building material. The earliest use of lava rock for full buildings in Jerome County occurred in the countryside. It was not until a highly skilled stone mason, Howell Trevor Pugh, had built rural schools, homes, and barns, that homes in the town of Jerome began to be constructed of lava rock.

Several buildings on the main street of Jerome were built with lava rock side walls and back walls, but brick facades in traditional midwestern styles seem to

have been preferred. The building in 1915 of the first section of the cooperative creamery was not commented upon, but the newspaper began about then to report on plans for residences where the owner was considering stone as a possible building material. (The North Side News, 5 July 1917) The attitude of the townspeople is probably accurately revealed in the headlines, "IS SMALLER THAN ALL OUTDOORS--Immense Dairy Barn being Built on Mountain View Farm in Famed Jonathan Valley--DESPISED LAVA ROCK IS USED." (The North Side News, 21 November 1912)

Gradually, beginning on farms, lava rock came to be regarded as an acceptable building material for even the most modern bungalow. The presence in the community of a master mason such as H. T. Pugh, who built excellent buildings that are still in fine condition and are prized by present owners, undoubtedly had an influence on its acceptance. By the end of the 1910's the townspeople, too, built fine residences of lava rock, or had lava rock porches and columns on their frame homes.

The attitude toward lava rock as a building material expressed in the Richfield newspaper contrasts with that in Jerome. In 1909, the Idaho Irrigation Company had directed a young draftsman, trained as an architect, to design a pump house to provide water from the Wood River for the new town of Richfield, which it was promoting. It was built of lava and white brick. So admired was the building that two photographs of it are included in the elegant brochure put out by the company to lure settlers to the tract (Idaho Irrigation Company: 1910). When the community began to plan for a school, newspaper headlines read: "NO TEMPORARY STRUCTURE, Richfield Wants a Permanent School Building--the Best is None Too Good," above an article recommending lava rock construction. Thus, within two years of its founding Richfield had stone buildings. It was ten years before Jerome saw its first stone residence within the city limits.

Skilled stone masons such as Pugh in Jerome County and Berriochoa, Hayden, Oughton, and Reed in Lincoln County may have been aware of the excellence of lava rock as a building material, but it seems likely that the average farmer saw the use of rocks for building as economical. An added advantage was getting rid of the pesky stones that hindered plowing, planting, harrowing, cultivation, irrigation, and transportation. Perhaps there was an added factor. The Northside was promoted as good land for orchards. It was not many years before the harshness of the climate and the lack of a market showed that this was an impractical dream. There were summers of short water and dust storms followed by freezing winters. Promises of the water companies could not be met and bitter lawsuits ensued. The settlers suffered from severe financial losses, homesickness, and illness during the early years of the project. Both irrigation projects were eventually successful, but in the beginning phases settlers had to lower and change their expectations. There must have been some satisfaction in wresting from this unpredictable land a free building material that could be made into handsome, substantial buildings.

The lava rock structures in this nomination are a functional and practical solution for shelter. Informants who have lived in lava rock residences report that they are comfortable. In most cases the spaces between the stones in the wall were left hollow. In some cases the spaces were filled with mud or leftover mortar in an effort to increase the insulating factor. The space between the stones was sometimes filled with wires and metal debris, both for the possibility of added insulation and also in order to assure structural strength. In any case, it appears the rocks themselves provided adequate insulation, regardless of the method of construction. Without exception, those who have lived in lava rock buildings comment on their coolness in summer. Lava rock buildings are warm in winter when openings are weatherstripped.

Examples of the work of a group of highly skilled master masons are included in this nomination along with the work of farmer-masons. Some of the buildings show the influence of architectural styles and traditions of other countries through the work of masons whose national origins included Sweden, Ireland, Wales, Scotland, Spain, England, Germany, The Netherlands, and others. The irrigation structure nominated is a example of sophisticated engineering. Among the group are several water storage tanks that show the builders' resourcefulness and skill. Since the sites are presented chronologically, they also serve to illuminate the record of structures resulting from exploration and settlement.

The sites in this nomination are nominated primarily for their significance in the history of lava rock construction technology and only secondarily for their representation of architectural styles and types and for their association with the settlement history of Jerome and Lincoln counties. Some of the nominated buildings and structures are located on farmsteads that may constitute good examples of farmstead layout and frame or brick or some other kind of architecture. Such buildings are considered to be outside the concerns of this nomination because their primary significance is not related to lava rock construction. They are part of the Idaho State Historic Sites Survey and may be nominated in future studies of farmstead sites, districts, groups, or resource areas.

This significance statement defends the importance of a finite set of resources built between the years 1875 and 1941. The sites currently being nominated date from 1890 through 1931. Buildings and structures constructed before 1890 are in ruins or are severely deteriorated. Before any of these sites can be nominated, detailed evaluation by an archeologist will be necessary. None of the Jerome and Lincoln county lava rock buildings and structures constructed during the 1930's and through 1941 are of exceptional significance. As the early and late lava rock sites are further evaluated and as they become age-eligible for National Register listing, they may be nominated as additions to the thematic group.

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Oral history interviews with Gus Callen (1978), Edgar Lewis (1978), Art Martin (1979), and Wayne Sidwell (1977).

NPS Form 10-900-a
(3-82)

OMB No. 1024-0018
Exp. 10-31-84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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Continuation sheet | Item number | Page 4

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Lava Rock Structures in South Central Idaho Thematic Resources
State Idaho

Nomination/Type of Review		Date/Signature
1. Allton Building	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper Delores Byrd 9/8/83
		Attest
2. American Legion Hall	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper Delores Byrd 9/8/83
		Attest
3. Anasola, Jose and Gertrude, House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper Delores Byrd 9/8/83
		Attest
4. Arambarri, Galo, Boarding House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper Delores Byrd 9/8/83
		Attest
5. Bacon, T. C., Water Tank and Well House	Substantive Review DOE/OWNER OBJECTION	Determined Eligible Keeper Linda McClelland 9/8/83
		Attest
6. Barnes, Tom, Barn	Substantive Review	Keeper Linda McClelland 9/8/83
		Attest
7. Bate, S. A., Barn and Chicken House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper Delores Byrd 9/8/83
		Attest
8. Baugh, W. H., House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper Delores Byrd 9/8/83
		Attest
9. Berriochoa, Ignacio, Farm	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper Delores Byrd 9/8/83
		Attest
10. Bethune-Ayres House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper Delores Byrd 9/8/83
		Attest

NPS Form 10-900-a
(3-82)

OMB No. 1024-0018
Exp. 10-31-84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet | Item number | Page 2-11

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Lava Rock Structures in South Central Idaho Thematic Resources
State Idaho

Nomination/Type of Review			Date/Signature
11. Blessing, Carl, Outbuildings	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrne 9/8/83
		Attest	
12. Bothwell, James, Water Tank House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrne 9/8/83
		Attest	
13. Boussuet, Birdie, Farm	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrne 9/8/83
		Attest	
14. Bower, Charles, House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrne 9/8/83
		Attest	
15. Brick, Frank J., House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrne 9/8/83
		Attest	
16. Byrne, Tom, House	Substantive Review	Keeper	Linda A McClelland 9.8.83
		Attest	
17. Callen, Dick, House	Entered in the National Register	Keeper	Delores Byrne 9/8/83
		Attest	
18. Canyonside School	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrne 10/14/83
		Attest	
19. Cook, William H., Water Tank House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrne 9/8/83
		Attest	
20. Cooke, E. V., House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrne 9/8/83
		Attest	

NPS Form 10-900-a
(3-82)

OMB No. 1024-0018
Exp. 10-31-84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet | Item number | Page 3-21

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Lava Rock Structures in South Central Idaho Thematic Resources
State Idaho

Nomination/Type of Review			Date/Signature
21. Custer Slaughter House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrd 9/8/83
		Attest	
22. Daniels, O. J., House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrd 9/8/83
		Attest	
23. Darrah, Ben, Water Tank and Well House	National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrd 9/8/83
		Attest	
24. Darrah House and Water Tank House	National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrd 9/8/83
		Attest	
25. Dill, Charles W., House	National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrd 9/8/83
		Attest	
9/15 ✓ 9/16 — 26. Doughty, George V., House and Garage		Keeper	Linda McClelland 9.15.83
		Attest	
27. Dunn, William S., House	Determined Eligible National Register	Keeper	Linda McClelland 9.8.83
DOE/OWNER OBJECTION		Attest	
28. Epperson, George, House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrd 9/8/83
		Attest	
29. Erdman, G. H., House	National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrd 9/8/83
		Attest	
30. Eskelton, Alvin, Barn	National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrd 9/8/83
		Attest	

NPS Form 10-900-a
(3-82)

OMB No. 1024-0018
Exp. 10-31-84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet | Item number | Page 4-2-11

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Lava Rock Structures in South Central Idaho Thematic Resources
State Idaho

Nomination/Type of Review			Date/Signature
31. Falls City School House	Entered in the	for Keeper	Delores Byrne 9/8/83
		Attest	
32. Fry, Merritt, Farm	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrne 9/8/83
		Attest	
33. Gaches, George H., Cellar and Ice House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrne 9/8/83
		Attest	
34. Gleason, E. C., House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrne 9/8/83
		Attest	
35. Goff, Hugh and Susie, House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrne 9/8/83
		Attest	
36. Gooding, Thomas, Water Tank House	Substantive Review	Keeper	Linda D. McClelland 9.8.83
		Attest	
37. Gottfried, Gehrig, Cabin	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrne 9/8/83
		Attest	
38. Graves, Lulu, Farm	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrne 9/8/83
		Attest	
39. Gregg, Edward M., Farm	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrne 9/8/83
		Attest	
40. Havens, Bert and Fay, House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrne 9/8/83
		Attest	

NPS Form 10-900-a
(7-81)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet | Item number | Page 5 of 11

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Leya Rock Structures in South Central Idaho Thematic Resources
State Idaho

	Nomination/Type of Review			Date/Signature
56 41.	Huer Well House/Water Tank	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrd 9/8/83
			Attest	
42.	Hunt, Daniel A., House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrd 9/8/83
			Attest	
43.	J. C. Penney Company Building	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrd 9/8/83
			Attest	
44.	Jerome City Pump House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrd 9/8/83
			Attest	
45.	Jerome Cooperative Creamery	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrd 9/8/83
			Attest	
46.	Jerome First Baptist Church	Substantive Review	Keeper	Louis S. Wall 9.8.83
			Attest	
47.	Johnson, Edgar, House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrd 9/8/83
			Attest	
48.	Johnson, Louis, Barn	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrd 9/8/83
			Attest	
49.	Johnson, Louis, Water Tank House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrd 9/8/83
			Attest	
50.	Johnson, Quet, Farm	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrd 9/8/83
			Attest	

NPS Form 10-900-a
(3-82)

OMB No. 1024-0018
Exp. 10-31-84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet | Item number | Page 6 of 11

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Lava Rock Structures in South Central Idaho Thematic Resources
State Idaho

Nomination/Type of Review			Date/Signature
51. Keating, Clarence, House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrne 9/8/83
		Attest	
52. Kehrer, Thomas J., House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrne 9/8/83
		Attest	
53. Kelley, Marion and Julia, House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrne 9/8/83
		Attest	
54. Kohl, W. S., Barn	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrne 9/8/83
		Attest	
55. Land, James H., Barn	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrne 9/8/83
		Attest	
56. Laughlin, Ben, Water Tank House-Garage	Substantive Review	Keeper	Linda McClelland 9.8.83
		Attest	
57. Lawshe, George, Well House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrne 9/8/83
		Attest	
58. Lee, J. O., Honey House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrne 9/8/83
		Attest	
59. Lee, J. O., House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrne 9/8/83
		Attest	
60. Lemmon Hardware Store	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrne 9/8/83
		Attest	

NPS Form 10-900-a
(3-82)

OMB No. 1024-0018
Exp. 10-31-84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet | Item number | Page 7 4 11

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Lava Rock Structures in South Central Idaho Thematic Resources
State Idaho

Nomination/Type of Review			Date/Signature
61. Mandl, Joseph, House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrne 9/8/83
		Attest	
62. Murphy, W. H., House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrne 9/8/83
		Attest	
63. Myers School	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrne 9/8/83
		Attest	
64. Newman, A. G., House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrne 9/8/83
		Attest	
65. Newman, J. W. and Rachel, House and Bunkhouse	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrne 9/8/83
		Attest	
66. North Side Canal Company Slaughter House	Substantive Review	Keeper	Linda McClelland 9.8.83
		Attest	
67. Olley, Thomas, House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrne 9/8/83
		Attest	
68. Osborne, Jessie, House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrne 9/8/83
		Attest	
69. Oughton, Jack, House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrne 9/8/83
		Attest	
70. Paul, Denton J., Water Tank	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrne 9/8/83
		Attest	

NPS Form 10-900-a
(3-82)

OMB No. 1024-0018
Exp. 10-31-84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet | Item number | Page 8-11

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Lava Rock Structures in South Central Idaho Thematic Resources
State Idaho

	Nomination/Type of Review		Date/Signature
71.	Phelps, Kenneth G., Barn	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper Delores Byrd 9/8/83
72.	Ploss, A. G., House	Substantive Review DOE/OWNER OBJECTION	Attest Determined Eligible Keeper Linda McClelland 9.8.83
73.	Purdum Livery Stable	Entered in the National Register	Attest for Keeper Delores Byrd 9/15/83
74.	Quay, Greer and Jennie, House	Entered in the National Register	Attest for Keeper Delores Byrd 9/8/83
75.	Richland Pump House	Entered in the National Register	Attest for Keeper Delores Byrd 9/8/83
76.	Ricketts, Julian T., House	Substantive Review	Attest Keeper Linda McClelland 9.8.83
77.	Ritter, William M., House	Entered in the National Register	Attest for Keeper Delores Byrd 9/8/83
78.	Shepard, L. Fay, House	Entered in the National Register	Attest for Keeper Delores Byrd 9/8/83
79.	Shoshone Falls Power Plant Caretaker's House	Entered in the National Register	Attest for Keeper Delores Byrd 9/8/83
80.	Silbaugh, W. H., House	Entered in the National Register	Attest for Keeper Delores Byrd 9/8/83

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NPS Form 10-900-a
(3-82)

OMB No. 1024-0018
Exp. 10-31-84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet | Item number | Page 9 4 11

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Lava Rock Structures in South Central Idaho Thematic Resources
State Idaho

Nomination/Type of Review			Date/Signature
81. Silva, Arthur, D., Flume	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrd 9/8/83
		Attest	
82. Silva, Arthur, D., Ranch	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrd 9/8/83
		Attest	
83. Silva, Arthur D., Water Tank	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrd 9/8/83
		Attest	
84. Silva, Manuel, Barn	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrd 9/8/83
		Attest	
85. Schmerschall, John F., House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrd 9/8/83
		Attest	
86. Spencer, Edward S., House and Garage and the Fred Nelson Barn	Substantive Review	Keeper	Lucia McClelland 9-8-83
		Attest	
87. Stevens, Arnold, House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrd 9/8/83
		Attest	
88. Stickel, John, House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrd 9/8/83
		Attest	
89. Sugarloaf School	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrd 9/8/83
		Attest	
90. Thomason, Rice, Barn	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrd 9/8/83
		Attest	

NPS Form 10-900-a
(3-82)

OMB No. 1024-0018
Exp. 10-31-84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet | Item number | Page 10 of 11

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Lava Rock Structures in South Central Idaho Thematic Resources
State Idaho

Nomination/Type of Review			Date/Signature
10b 91. Tooley, Don, House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrd 9/8/83
		Attest	
92. Turner, John G., House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrd 9/8/83
		Attest	
93. Van Hook, Jay, Potato Cellar	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrd 9/8/83
		Attest	
94. Van Wagener, Jacob B., Barn	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrd 9/8/83
		Attest	
95. Van Wagener, Jacob B., Caretaker's House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrd 9/8/83
		Attest	
96. Veasie, William T. and Clara H., House	Substantive Review	Keeper	Linda McClelland 9.8.83
		Attest	
97. Vineyard, Charles C., House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrd 9/8/83
		Attest	
98. Vipham, Thomas, House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrd 9/8/83
		Attest	
99. Weigle, William, House and Water Tank	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrd 9/8/83
		Attest	
100. Webster, Archie, House	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byrd 9/8/83
		Attest	

NPS Form 10-900-a
(3-82)

OMB No. 1024-0018
Exp. 10-31-84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet | Item number | Page 11 of 11

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Lave Rock Structures in South Central Idaho Thematic Resources
State Idaho

Nomination/Type of Review		Date/Signature
101. Wilson Lake Reservoir Spillway and Canal Walls	Substantive Review	Keeper Determined Eligible Linda A. McClelland 9-8-83
	DOE/OWNER OBJECTION	Attest
		Keeper
		Attest
		Keeper
		Attest
		Keeper
		Attest
		Keeper
		Attest
		Keeper
		Attest
		Keeper
		Attest
		Keeper
		Attest
		Keeper
		Attest
		Keeper
		Attest