

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

NOMINATION: Long Valley Finnish Structures (Thematic Group)

SITE NAME: Herman Ojala Homestead SITE # 5

LOCATION: Approximately 2½ miles northeast of Lakefork, Idaho, off Pearson Road, in the N½ of the SW¼ of Section 27, Township 18 N Range 3 E, Boise Meridian.

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Leland Ilka, Route 1, McCall, ID 83638

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Lake Fork, 7.5 minute ACREAGE: less than one

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The nomination includes the Herman Ojala Homestead building and the property on which it stands; SE¼ SE¼, NW¼ SW¼, Section 27, T18N, R3E.

UTM(S): 11/5,72,690/49,68,270

DATE OR PERIOD: ca. 1902 EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: State

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

fair condition altered original site

DESCRIPTION:

The Herman Ojala homestead cabin, constructed of hewn logs, measures twelve-by-twenty-feet. This one-room structure exhibits an unusual feature in that the entire lengthwise walls extend three feet on the south end, creating a shelter for firewood. A door has been cut in the south end. The cabin has log gables, and although boards have been nailed over these, the boards are falling down. The roof is still partially covered with shake shingles.

SIGNIFICANCE:

This cabin is of historical importance as it was probably constructed around 1902. Mr. Ojala received the patent for his homestead in 1907, and thus had to have taken possession of the land at least five years earlier. It is, therefore, an early example of the Finnish style of log construction, with hewn and fitted log walls; moreover, it exhibits a unique feature in that its walls have been extended past the south end to provide a kind of windbreak porch or shelter for supplies near the door. It is definitely a unique structure, and although it is inaccessible by road and surrounded by aspen trees, thus being difficult to see from a distance, these circumstances have in fact attributed to its remaining in relatively good condition, as it has not been disturbed.



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Herman Ojala Homestead, site #5
Long Valley, Valley County, Idaho

Photographer:
Alice Koskella
July, 1980

Negative on file in the Koskella Finnish Collection
available through the Idaho State Historical Society

View from southeast

Photograph one of one