

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

✓ NOMINATION: Lava Rock ^{Structure in South Central Idaho TX} ~~Masonry Buildings~~

✓ SITE NAME: Van Wagener, Jacob B., Caretaker's House

SITE NUMBER: 29

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

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Kermit Cochran
Rural Route 4
Jerome, ID 83338

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Falls City, 7.5 minute

ACREAGE: 2 1/2 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

✓ The nomination includes the Van Wagener Caretaker's House and the property on which it stands in the NE 1/4, NE 1/4 SE 1/4, SE 1/4 of Section 34, T8S, R17E. Legal description on file at Jerome County Courthouse, Jerome, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/709480/4728647

DATE OR PERIOD: 1912

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: H. T. Pugh

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: good, altered, original site

DESCRIPTION:

The one and one half story Jacob B. Van Wagener Caretaker's House has a shingled gable roof with a plain bargeboard and metal flashing. It is approximately 28 by 30 feet, excluding lower frame additions on each gable end. An approximately eight-foot-long frame extension across the original gable front has a shallow hipped roof that begins just below a centered horizontal window in the peak of the gable. The front entrance is now through the side of this addition. A similar frame addition approximately twelve-feet long is across the rear and contains a back entrance. Both additions are sided with shingles. A water table about eight inches above the ground is formed by inseting the upper part of the stone walls about four inches. The horizontal casement windows in the basement have flat stone arches above them. The walls are of dressed stone in a broken coursed pattern. The darkened mortar in the medium-width nearly-flush joints has been tooled to form a line of convex beading. On three sides of the house the beading has been painted orange to match the orange frame additions and window trim. Each of the windows has an unpainted concrete lintel and sill. The lintels are about eight inches wide and are inset about four inches on each end. The sloping lug sills are about six inches wide and are outset about two inches. One-over-one light double-hung windows are in the first floor walls. There is a centered, deteriorated brick chimney. An exterior cinder block chimney has been added on the east wall where it intersects the eaves.

SIGNIFICANCE:

This house is significant in the context of this survey, despite the additions, because it is the earliest house built in Jerome County known to be built by master mason H. T. Pugh, and because it is one of the earliest stone residences built in the agricultural tracts of the county. It is significant both for its style and its excellent craftsmanship. Its location near the Shoshone Falls to Twin Falls road on a hilltop made it highly visible to travelers and the house may well have been influential in promoting lava rock as a building material for rural residences. The house was built as the residence for the farmer-caretaker of the J. B. Van Wagener farm. Van Wagener was the treasurer of the Northside Land and Water Company. The early development of his farm between 1909 and 1912 served both as a demonstration and a model for later settlers. This house was built in 1912. H. T. Pugh built several other similar small houses with steep gable roofs and stone gable walls before 1915, but the Van Wagener house is the only one included in this nomination because only in it are the original proportions and details visible. Other examples are more severely altered than the Van Wagener house. Pugh's excellent craftsmanship is still visible in the dressed, carefully-fitted broken ashlar masonry and in the competent use of concrete. Such details as stone arches above the basement windows, stone gable walls, dressed stones, and stone water table are typical of Pugh's early work. A news story refers to the house as a bungalow. Probably the original entrance was on the gable wall facing the Van Wagener main house and the large stone barn about one-half mile to the south (site 28).

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

North Side News (Jerome), November 21, 1912.



Lava Rock Structures in South Central Idaho
Van Wagener, Jacob B., Caretaker's House, site 29

Four miles east and three miles south 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 southeast

Photograph one of two



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View from northwest

Photograph two of two