

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

NOMINATION: (Lava Rock Structures in South Central Idaho ^{TR})

SITE NAME: Weigle, William, House and Water Tank

SITE NUMBER: 65

LOCATION: ~~Two miles north, four miles west and one-half mile north~~ ^{NW} of Jerome, ID

OWNER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: Thomas D. Jackson
Route 2 Box 2256
Jerome, ID 83338

QUADRANGLE AND SCALE: Gooding SE, 7.5 minute

ACREAGE: 2 1/2 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The nomination includes the William Weigle House and Water Tank and the property on which they stand, the W 1/2, NW 1/4, NW 1/4, NW 1/4, SW 1/4 of Section 4, T8S, R16E Boise Meridian. Legal description on file at Jerome County Courthouse, Jerome, Idaho.

UTM(S): 11/696725/4736765

DATE OR PERIOD: 1919

ARCHITECT OR BUILDER: H. T. Pugh, Leach

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: architecture

EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: local

CONDITION: excellent, altered, original site

DESCRIPTION:

House: The one and one half story bungaloid style Weigle house is approximately 44 by 33 feet with a shallow, shingled gable roof across the narrow dimension of the house. It also has a full basement and a high, centered, stone chimney with a corbelled top. The wide eaves have exposed rafters with sharply cut ends. The gables have a plain, narrow bargeboard and six angular brackets. The wide, centered, shed-roofed clapboard-covered dormers on both the front and rear have an angular bracket at each corner. Each gable has two pairs of double-hung windows. There is a full inset porch about eight feet wide. It has low stone walls with outset stone piers at the corners and flanking the centered entrance. The piers are approximately six inches higher than the porch walls. A wide, centered, concrete stoop with low stone side walls extends from the porch. The porch walls, the piers, and the stoop walls have concrete coping. Plain, square, wooden pillars are on each pier. Centered in the peak of each gable are two pairs of double-hung one-over-one-light windows. The windows in the first story of the house are also double-hung. They are spaced singly and in pairs. The basement has horizontal windows. The lintels for the windows and doors are approximately ten inches wide and inset into the stone on each end approximately four inches. The lug sills on the windows are slightly outset and sloping. The lintels and sills are continuous

der the panel of four windows in the gable walls at the second-story level, and under the paired windows on the first story. The windows are set near the outside of the stone walls. The rubble walls are of light brown, medium-sized stones with rounded faces. The medium-width nearly flush joints have sand-colored, brushed mortar. The gable walls are stone. At least one set of the original paired windows has been replaced with a single-paned picture window.

Water Tank: The round water tank sits several hundred feet behind the house, between the house and the barnyard. It is approximately ten feet tall and approximately eight feet in diameter. It is covered with boards, then coated with concrete. The nearly flush joints in the rubble walls are untooled. Part of the stones in the tank have a whitish appearance caused by leaks from the tank.

SIGNIFICANCE:

This site is significant as an example of the bungalow style and for its craftsmanship. This is the third large bungalow stone house built by master mason H. T. Pugh. Mr. Leach was the carpenter. It was built for farmer William Weigle in 1919, the same year as the E. V. Cooke house (site 59) was built. It differs from the Cooke house in its proportions, with this house being narrower and longer. The Weigle house also has shed-roofed dormers rather than gable-roofed dormers. The most notable difference is that the Weigle house has full gable walls of stone. It appears that this was the last time Pugh built full gable walls of stone. There are also differences between the two houses in porch detail. This farm residence is large in comparison to most other stone rural residences. Compare it, for example, with the Osborne house (site 63), also built in 1919 by H. T. Pugh just a few miles away from this site. Several stone houses were being constructed in 1918, and Mr. and Mrs. Weigle had looked at them before engaging Pugh to build their family home.

Rock for construction came from the property and from the nearby desert. The two Weigle sons hauled the stones and were directed by Pugh to choose rocks from the desert with "moss" (lichen) on them. Lime was purchased by Pugh, but the sand was hauled from a nearby coulee. The two boys were expected to help the mason, and they mixed mortar in a mud box and wheeled rocks up to wherever Pugh was working. The house was started in the spring and it took all summer to build. Mr. Pugh prepared and poured all of the molds for the lintels and sills. Since each had to cure, this was a lengthy process. The well was dug in about 1919. The stone water storage tank was built immediately after the well was dug in order to store water for water pressure to the house and the farmyard. It is assumed, but not confirmed, that Pugh built the water tank. If it is his work, it is one of the few tanks attributed to him. The tank was filled by windmill. The Weigles were generous with the use of their well and shared well water with many neighbors, including the Blessing family whose water storage buildings are also included in this nomination. The house was not wired for electricity until 1935. The replacement of a few of the original double-hung sash windows with single-pane windows is an alteration that does not detract from the integrity of this building.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Weigle, George, interview with Marian Posey-Ploss, Jerome, Idaho, Summer 1978.



Lava Rock Structures in South Central Idaho

Weigle, William, House and Water Tank, site 65 (house)

Two miles north, four miles west, one-half mile north
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 south

Photograph one of one