

CULTURAL RESOURCE EVALUATION
of the
SACK (KIPP) CABIN - BIG SPRINGS

INTRODUCTION

This is to document the results of a trip to the Sack (Kipp) Cabin at Big Springs, July 13, 1978, the purpose of which was to obtain information necessary for a determination of cultural significance. Accompanied by Bart Andreason, Landscape Architect from the Supervisor's Office, I visited with Mr. and Mrs. Kipp for about three hours.

BACKGROUND

To summarize what we know about the property - the Sack cabin at Big Springs, built ca. 1932-34 by German immigrant Johnny Sack, is a privately owned structure on 0.31 acres, Lot 1, Block J, of the Big Springs Summer Home Group, located in Sec. 34, T. 14 N., R. 44 E., and administered under special use permit by the Targhee National Forest. Associated developments include an outhouse, not presently in use, a water-powered pumphouse built in 1940, and a water tank. Improvements and modifications to the cabin include the addition of a front downstairs sleeping porch and a sitting room by Sack sometime prior to 1942. The present owners remodeled the indoor bathroom and kitchen in 1964 and replaced the outdoor deck in 1971.

My cursory examination confirmed that the main structure is constructed primarily of logs, that the interior woodwork is of high quality and characterized by an interesting and attractive planed-bark finish, and that overall it appears to be in good condition. Much of the original furnishings were also built by Sack, utilizing the same bark finishing technique. The workmanship exhibits considerable skill, imagination, and attention to detail.

Information on Johnny Sack himself is sketchy at present. It is known only that he was of German descent, never married, stood 4'11" tall, and died at the age of 60 years or less in 1956. He had two sisters, both deceased, and a nephew, Don Burwell, who lives in Idaho Falls. The Kipps have attempted to contact Mr. Burwell concerning historic information on the cabin but have not heard from him at this time. As an early resident of Island Park, Johnny Sack shoveled snow from cabins and built furniture for his livelihood. Other potential sources of information on his life and the history of the cabin are: Chris Schafroth, Macks Inn; Robert Wuthrich, presently residing in Switzerland; Dorothy McKay, Phillips Lodge; and Louise Engert, St. Anthony (USFS). I did not have the opportunity to contact any of these individuals.

After his death in 1956, the cabin went to his sisters, Anna Drollinger and Rosa Burwell, who then sold it in 1963 to the Kipps. The Kipps have used it as a summer home since that time.

CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

After inspecting the property and reviewing the criteria established by the Secretary of the Interior for evaluating the eligibility of historic properties (36 CFR 800.10), I have determined that the cabin, including its associated structures, does not appear to qualify for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places because:

- It is not associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; and
- It is not associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; and
- It is not likely to yield scientific information important in history.

Although considered by many to be a local landmark containing artistic (architectural) values representing the work of a master craftsman, clearly the property does not meet the 50-year age criterion. (The main cabin is 36-46 years old; the pumphouse, 38 years.) Structures less than 50 years of age qualify only if they are part of an eligible district or if they are of "exceptional importance," neither of which is considered to be the case here.

RECOMMENDATIONS

This determination of significance does not mean that the property is lacking in all historic, architectural, or visual value; it indicates merely that there is little or no justification for nominating it to the National Register of Historic Places. It could still be managed and preserved as a picturesque landmark for visitor enjoyment.

As required by 36 CFR 800 (FSM 2360), this determination must be reviewed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. If the State disagrees, then more comprehensive evaluation and documentation will be required for review by the President's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Department of the Interior. If they concur, then no further cultural resource action will be required.

If found to be significant, formal determination of effect will be required as soon as a concrete proposal is identified for this property.

Site No. TG-58

CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
SITE INVENTORY FORM

2360 A

IDENTIFICATION

Site No. TG-58 Project No. CRM-TG-15
Project Name None
Recorded By J. Wylie
Date of Survey 7/13/78 State No. 10 F11-140

MANAGEMENT DATA

Site Type: Historic Prehistoric
National Register Status: Eligible Not Eligible
Unevaluated On Register
Evaluated By J. Wylie
Site Condition Excellent (occupied)

% Destroyed 0 %
Agent Causing Impact: Nature Vandalism
Project On-going Use
Management Potential: Interpretation Scientific
Preservation Action Recommended: Record Collect & Record
Avoid Salvage Sign None Other Maintain
Artifacts Collected? Yes No
Disposition: FS CREC Other
Site Map: Yes No
Photos Taken: Color B/W Where on file? Idaho Zone
Roll JW 7-13-78a

LOCATION

Forest Targhee District Island Park
State Idaho County Fremont
UTM Grid: Zone 11 479790 E, 4927260 N
Township 14 N. Range 44 E. Section 34 NW 1/4, NW 1/4, NW 1/4
Meridian Boise Map Name and Scale Big Springs 7 1/2'

CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
 SITE ATTRIBUTES

2360 C
 Historic

SITE DESCRIPTION

Site Function: Transportation Logging Farming
 Mining Resort Ranching
 Exploration Military Trapping
 Forest Service Other

Features: none Buildings Log
 Dwellings Outbuildings Milled
 Bridge/trestle Flume Rock
 Mill Other Water wheel/pumphouse
 Metal

Age of Site: _____ BP 1932-34 _____ BC AD

Based on: Guess Architecture Ceramics
 Documents Other

Dimensions of Site: Length _____ M ft. Width _____ M ft. Depth _____ M ft.

Direction of long axis: N E NE NW
 S W SW SE

Artifacts Observed: N.A.

Lithic _____ Ceramic _____ Glass _____
 Bone _____ Wood _____ Metal _____
 Other _____

Kinds of Artifacts:

- Kitchen
- Bone
- Architectural
- Furniture
- Clothing
- Personal
- Activities

Artifact Density: _____ per _____
 (items) (area)

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Vegetation on Site lodgepole and firVegetation around Site same

Ground visibility on Site _____ %

Topographic Situation:

Bench Terrace _____ Valley Bottom _____

Hill side _____ Mesa top _____ Saddle _____

Ridge top _____ Talus slope _____ Alluvial fan _____

Ledge _____ Alcove/shelter _____ Overhang _____

Lake shore _____ Sand bar _____

Ground slope 0 ° Aspect/Exposure: N, E, S, W, NE, SE, SW, NW, Flat

Relation to Water:

Type of Water Stream _____ Spring

Seep _____ Lake _____

Name Big SpringsDistance 25 m. ~~mi.~~ Direction: WestElevation of Site 6,400 ft.

Remarks:

Vacation cabin built 1932-34 by German immigrant Johnny Sack. Built and occupied under special-use permit. Includes main cabin, outhouse, and streamside waterwheel pumphouse. The latter two structures are not functional at present.

Nominated to NRHP by the State on the basis of architectural and aesthetic values. Apparently accepted by the NR, although formal notification has yet to be received.

For more information, see the evaluation report and NR nomination form.

SACK CABIN - SPECIALTY ITEMS/FURNITURE
All built by Sack

Dinette - table and two bench seats

Chair

Small tables (3)

Porch chairs (2)

Beds (3)

Toaster stand

table, folding dropleaf

Bedroom dressers (2)

Dressing table

Benches (2)

Floor lamp

Wall match-holders

Pipe/smoking stand

Firewood rack

Trophy heads with wood bases (6)

Assorted ceiling lamps

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

103. PHO 695 424

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 23 1979

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Sack, Johnny, Cabin

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Big Springs

VICINITY OF

Island Park

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

Idaho

CODE

16

COUNTY

Fremont

CODE

043

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Summer home

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Rudy Kipp

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 128

CITY, TOWN

Macks Inn

VICINITY OF

STATE

Idaho

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Fremont County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

St. Anthony

STATE

Idaho

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Idaho State Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1972

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Idaho State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Boise

STATE

Idaho

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Johnny Sack cabin is an exceptionally well made log bungalow, approximately 20x27 feet in size, with additions in the form of porches for sleeping and entry. Two bedrooms on the second story are made possible by a shed dormer extension to the east. Native stone, laid in random pattern, is used for piers and foundations of the enclosed entry porch. The stone is chiefly of granite material in pink and several shades of grey.

The wooden window sashes employed are varied in size and construction. Most are fixed. Second story end windows are of the sliding variety.

The shapes and overall character of the cabin seem to derive from the prevailing bungalow mode of the period of construction (1932-1934) rather than from German models which may have been known to its immigrant builder, Johnny Sack. The roof pitch, extended eaves, exposed rafters, and chopped gables are all typical bungalow features which can be seen in most small towns in Idaho.

The craftsmanship in wood displayed in the house, especially in interior finish and hand-made furniture, is notable. A planed-bark technique is employed which creates rich and pleasing surface patterns.

28 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTONIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1932-1934

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Johnny Sack cabin is architecturally and artistically significant for its distinctive craftsmanship. It is widely recognized locally as a landmark, and generally acknowledged to be the finest building in the Big Springs area of Island Park. It is considered to be the work of a master craftsman, and concern for its preservation has been expressed locally by the Madison County Historical Society. As an example of the bungalow mode applied to log construction the Sack cabin has more than local significance, however, and should be preserved.

The Johnny Sack cabin is a typical vacation house of the period 1920 to 1950. During this period the use of the log cabin motif became popular among rustivating Idahoans seeking peace and tranquillity in the sylvan confines of Idaho's mountain regions. The Sack cabin, with its exquisite craftsmanship, is one of the more remarkable examples of its genre encountered in our state site survey to date.

The log cabin motif with its associations with rustic life became a prime symbol of the roughing holiday seeker as the actualities of pioneer life retreated into the realm of nostalgia. The Island Park area developed as a rather exclusive vacation area as the Railroad Ranch, owned by the Guggenheims and Harrimans, is a part of the region. The Big Springs region of the park, where the Johnny Sack cabin is located, was designated as part of the Federal Forest Reserve in 1906. In the early 1920's land was leased to the Kooch family and a resort inn was built. Later, in the 1930's more land was opened up to the public and it was at this time that the Sack cabin was erected on lease land. The cabin is the most pretentious of the cabins on Big Springs and is picturesquely located on a point overlooking the lake.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cultural Resource Evaluation of the Sack (Kipp) Cabin at Big Springs,
by Jerry Wylie, Zone Archaeologist, USDA Forest Service, August 7, 1978.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre.

QUADRANGLE NAME _____

QUADRANGLE SCALE _____

UTM REFERENCES

A 12 479 7910 49 27 255

B _____

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C _____

D _____

E _____

F _____

G _____

H _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Land leased by Forest Service Special Use Permit.
This nomination includes the Johnny Sack cabin in Island Park, Idaho, a structure of approximately 540 square feet which is owned in 1978 by the Kipp Family. It ~~also includes the property leased by the Kipps from the Forest Service on which~~

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE CODE COUNTY

STATE CODE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Arthur A. Hart, Architectural Historian

24 Dec 78

ORGANIZATION Idaho State Historical Society

DATE

STREET & NUMBER 610 North Julia Davis Drive

TELEPHONE 384-2180

CITY OR TOWN Boise

STATE Idaho

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 89-663) 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

Mable Wells

24 Dec 78

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

610 NORTH JULIA DAVIS DRIVE BOISE, IDAHO 83706



STATE MUSEUM

December 7, 1978

Mr. Henry G. Wylie
Zone Archaeologist
Boise National Forest
1075 Park Boulevard
Boise, Idaho 83706

Dear Jerry:

I understand that the Forest Service is requesting the opinion of the State Historic Preservation Officer concerning the eligibility of the Sack Cabin for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places and that my opinion may be submitted to the Secretary of the Interior with a formal request for a determination of eligibility on this property. This statement confirms that I have been consulted as part of the determination of eligibility process.

In my opinion, the Johnny Sack Cabin is eligible for inclusion in the National Register. This cabin is an exceptionally well made log bungalow, approximately 20x27 feet in size, with additions in the form of porches for sleeping and entry. Two bedrooms on the second story are made possible by a shed dormer extension to the east. Native stone, laid in random pattern, is used for piers and foundations of the enclosed porch. The stone is chiefly of granite material in pink and several shades of grey.

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December 7, 1978
Mr. Henry G. Wylie
Page 2

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and is picturesquely located on a point overlooking the lake.

Sincerely,



Merle W. Wells
State Historic Preservation Officer

mjlw