

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	DEC 2 1983
DATE ENTERED	

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Redfish Archaeological District

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Stanley

STATE

Idaho

VICINITY OF

CODE

16

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2

COUNTY

Custer

CODE

037

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input 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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

Sawtooth National Forest

STREET & NUMBER

1525 Addison Avenue East

CITY, TOWN

Twin Falls

VICINITY OF

STATE

Idaho

83301

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Custer County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Challis

STATE

Idaho

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Sawtooth Mountain Study Area Archaeological Reconnaissance

DATE

1964

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Sawtooth NF, Supervisor's Office

CITY, TOWN

Twin Falls

STATE

Idaho

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Contextual Data

The Redfish Overhang (10-CR-201) has been identified in several archaeological surveys, the earliest of which was Bowers (1964). The Dancing Cat site (10-CR-233) was discovered in 1972 on a survey funded by the Forest Service in advance of the construction of a sewer line. This same sewer line passed by the Redfish Overhang and both sites were excavated in 1972 and 1973 to mitigate the effect of the sewer line. (Sargent 1973; O'Conner 1974; Gallagher 1975)

Subsequent surveys conducted by the Forest Service have failed to locate other sites in the vicinity of these two sites, and these are the only sites in the general area that have had substantive excavations and analyses performed. No other nearby sites appear eligible for the National Register based on presently available data.

The principal components of these two sites represent very different cultural materials. The Overhang's most interesting materials are a cache of Haskett artifacts that have been C-14 dated to 9860 B.P. Prior Haskett discoveries were primarily in the desert-like Snake River Plain, 150 miles SE of this site. The discovery of Haskett materials in the alpine setting of Redfish Overhang gave new insight into what was once believed to be strictly a big-game hunting tradition.

Younger levels at Redfish contained only a minor amount of Archaic cultural materials. In the uppermost levels of the site a late prehistoric component was found (670 B.P.). These levels yielded evidence of a small temporary encampment that likely focused on gathering camas, other plant foods, and salmon fishing.

Dancing Cat, on the other hand, is a late prehistoric site. It is located in the open and the excavations produced a number of structural features. These included a large rock-lined baking oven, a sweat lodge, and several other circular rock features that may have been tipi rings or the outline of brush structures. Several task specific locations were discovered at the site, each dominated by a specific function (e.g., hide working, pottery manufacture, roasting and possibly plant food/seed processing).

O'Connor (1974) argued convincingly the site is a single component occupation. Chronometric dates for the site were not available but ceramic materials recovered suggest a post AD 1250 occupation, possible AD 1650 to 1750.

These two sites together provided insight into three important areas. The Redfish Overhang places mid-plano period culture in a mountain environment and around subsistence resources which suggests that the

(Continued on page 2 of Item 7)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" 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 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 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Redfish Overhang-Dancing Cat District is significant because it contains examples of what are likely to be the only two types of Late Archaic sites in Sawtooth Valley: rockshelters and open sites. At the Overhang, the Late Archaic assemblage consisted principally of small flaked lithic tools, ceramics (Intermountain Ware) and a small amount of ground stone. One small, linear rock alignment was partially exposed and a few hearths excavated. One hearth was radiocarbon dated to 670[±] 130 BP (WSU 1410, 1410B) (Gallagher 1975).

At Dancing Cat a similar, though somewhat more diverse, assemblage was recovered. The site additionally contained an array of rock structures, some related to cooking, others presumably to habitation (O'Connor 1974: 36-38). While carbon samples were collected from this site, no dates have been obtained. Ceramics and similar late archaic point styles place this site as a contemporary of the upper levels of Redfish Overhang.

Besides the related and complementary character of the Late Archaic components of both sites, the Redfish Overhang is also significant because of the well dated Plano or Haskett component (Butler 1965) at this site. Prior to the discovery of Haskett at Redfish Overhang (Sargent 1972), these materials were known to be pre-archaic but their precise age was unknown.

The site provided additional data on the movement of prehistoric peoples. Four widely separate geological obsidian sources were identified in an x-ray fluorescence analysis (Gallagher, Sappington and Wyler 1979) of the Haskett component materials. These sources are in geographic localities in Southern Idaho that can be linked to the ethnographic Shoshoni seasonal round. The inference from this is that the Archaic pattern of settlement and subsistence may not just have its roots in the Plano period but be fully developed at that time.

While substantive excavations have been made at both sites, unexcavated portions of the sites remain yet to be examined. No cultural materials remain in the Redfish shelter, but only a fraction of the occupation area in front of the shelter has been excavated. At Dancing Cat, archaeological excavations

(Continued on page 2 of 8)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1973 Sargent, K.E. Final Report on the Redfish Overhang Site 10-CR-201. Sawtoot National Forest, Custer County, Idaho. Unpublished M.A. thesis, Department of Anthropology, Idaho State University. Pocatello.
 1974 O'Connor, F. Final Report on the Dancing Cat site (10-CR-233) U.S. Forest Service.
 1975 Gallagher, J.G. The Sheepeater Battleground. Unpublished Master's thesis. Department of Anthropology. Idaho State University.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____
 UTM REFERENCES

A _____			B _____		
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C _____			D _____		

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Joseph G. Gallagher, Idaho Zone Archeologist

July 21, 1982

ORGANIZATION

USDA Forest Service, Boise National Forest

FTS 554-1882

STREET & NUMBER

1750 Front Street

Boise

TELEPHONE

Idaho 83201

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Mark Wells

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Evan J. Stevens

TITLE **AGENCY PRESERVATION OFFICER**

DATE

NOV 15 1983

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Alvina Byers

Entered in National Register

DATE

12/29/83

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

transition to an Archaic lifestyle was underway much earlier than previously thought. The upper layers of the Overhang portray a small family size incampment of hunters and gatherers. Few functions were represented in the tool assemblage, suggesting just a short-term occupation, reminiscent of the ethnogeographically described pattern for the area. (Steward 1938)

At Dancing Cat, sewer line construction destroyed a major portion of the site. Yet, the area that was excavated revealed unprecedented diversity of features for central Idaho. The total area involved of these features cannot be known now, but the assemblage recovered and these features mark this as an important site in the interpretation of aboriginal conditions just prior to the start of white contact in Idaho.

Descriptive Data

The Redfish Archaeological District consists of two sites, Redfish Overhang and Dancing Cat, in the central Idaho mountains. This area is heavily glaciated and dominated by morains, boulder fields, and related geological features. The vegetation is park-like with extensive stands of lodgepole pine dotted by meadows, lakes, and poorly vegetated glacial features. Sagebrush and grass dominate the forest understory and open areas. This area is administered by the Sawtooth National Forest's Sawtooth National Recreation Area.



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sewer line passes through both sites. Despite these intrusions, the sites have neither the appearance nor feel of disturbed sites and considerable data still exists.

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The archaeological work at both sites has been adequate to support this nomination. The excavations are shown in figures 1 to 4 . Some research, based on the materials from Redfish is ongoing but the results of this work (e.g., Gallagher, Sappington, and Wylie 1979), serves to improve and refine rather than revise our present understanding of the district.

The major pieces of investigation within the district are listed in section 9. Other work includes:

- 1964 Bowers, A.
 Sawtooth Mountain Study Area, Archaeological
 Reconnaissance, USDA-FS, USDI-NPS.

- 1979 Rosillion, M., Hull, K., and Archibald, L.
 Prehistoric Site Location and Water Sources
 Sawtooth National Forest, Sawtooth National
 Recreation Area - Stanley Zone, CRM-SW-150

- 1979 Gallagher, J., Sappington, R., and Wylie, H.
 Further Analysis of the Redfish Overhang
 Material Cache. Paper presented at the 32nd
 annual Northwest Anthropological Conference,
 Eugene, Oregon

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Statement of
CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2



At Dancing Cat several rock features, earth ovens, and hearths were exposed but were not totally excavated so that they might eventually be used for public inspection. The data remaining at both sites are extensive and may prove to be more informative than what is already known about these sites given our ability to ask more penetrating questions.

With the existing body of literature on this district, a number of problems can be proposed for future study. At both Dancing Cat and Redfish Overhang, there is ample opportunity to examine the intrasite structure of Late Archaic occupations. New horizontal excavations at Dancing Cat could be compared to similar excavations at Redfish Overhang which, in conjunction with a functional artifact analysis at both sites, would provide very valuable information on the development of Late Archaic society.

Knowledge of seasonal rounds during the Late Archaic could be vastly improved by the application of some special analytical methodologies at both sites. For instance, only 1/4 inch mesh was used in the investigations and an enhanced faunal and artifact assemblage could be gathered by screening selective units with smaller mesh and by using a flotation technique to recover small material. Other methodological studies include the full range of those available to modern archaeology. The single application of x-ray fluorescence to the Haskett Cache at Redfish Overhang is ample indication of the benefits of such work in this district.



Additional Bibliographic references:

1965 Butler, B.
A Report on Investigations of an Early Man.
Site near Lake Channel, southern Idaho
Tebiwa 8(2):1-20



REDFISH OVERHANG, IDAHO

The Redfish Overhang,

Located outside Stanley, Idaho

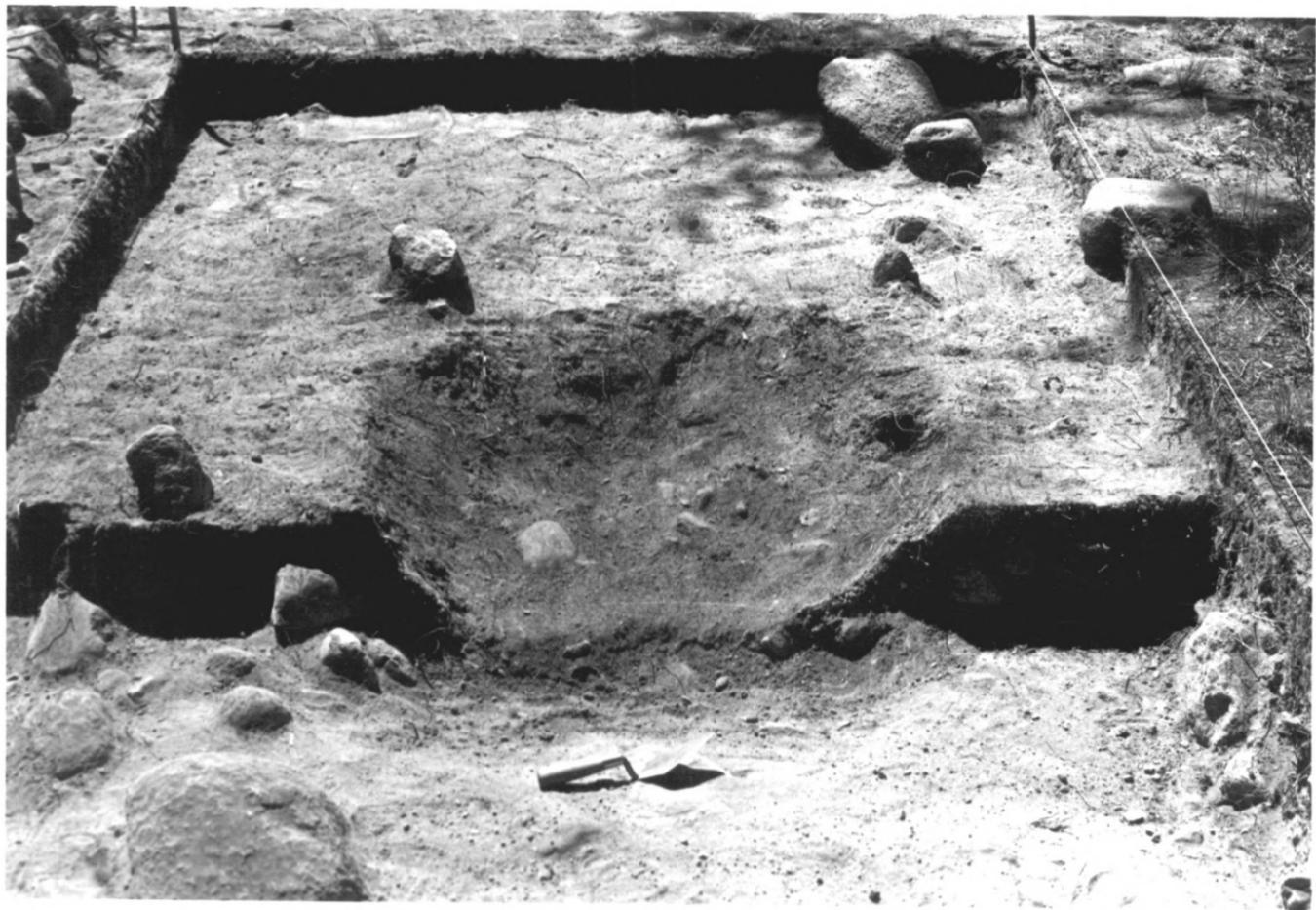
B. Robert Butler (photographer)

Picture taken 1973 (Aug)

Negative located in Idaho State Museum (Pocatello, ID)

Camera faces North

Photo 1



EARTH OVEN DANCING CAT SITE

Dancing Cat Site

Located outside Stanley, Idaho

B. Robert Butler (photographer)

Picture taken 1972 (July)

Negative located Idaho State Museum (Pocatello, ID)

Camera faces South

Photo 2



DANCING CAT SITE

Located outside Stanley, Idaho

B. Robert Butler (photographer)

Picture taken 1972 (July)

Negative located at Idaho State Museum (Pocatello, ID)

Camera faces West

Photo 3



STONE FEATURE DANCING CAT SITE

DANCING CAT SITE

Located outside Stanley, Idaho

B. Robert Butler (photographer)

Picture taken 1972 (July)

Negative located at Idaho State Museum (Pocatello, ID)

Camera faces SW

Photo 4



SWEAT LODGE DANCING CAT SITE

DANCING CAT SITE

Located outside Stanley, Idaho

E. Robert Butler (photographer)

Picture taken 1972 (July)

Negative on file (Idaho St. Museum, Pocatello, ID)

Camera faces South

Photo 5



COBBLE FEATURE DANCING CAT

DANCING CAT SITE

Located outside Stanley, Idaho

B. Robert Butler (photographer)

Picture taken 1972 (July)

Negative on file (Idaho State University Museum) Pocatello, Idaho

Camera faces south

Photo 6



STONE FEATURE DANCING CAT

Dancing Cat Site

Located Outside Stanley, Idaho

B. Robert Butler (photographer)

Picture taken 7/73

Neg on file at ISU Meseum, Pocatello, Id.

Camera faces SE

PHoto 7



SWEAT LODGE DANCING CAT SITE

Dancing Cat Site

Located outside Stanley, Idaho

B. Robert Butler, (photographer)

Picture taken 7/72

Negative on file ISU Museum, Pocatello, Idaho

Camera faces South

Photo 8