

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REFERENCE SERIES

SITE REPORT - COEUR D'ALENE RIVER AND LAKE

Number 466

December 1981

Historic-site reports contain information designed to assist in two preservation functions. One is preservation planning at the local level. The other is the work of federal agencies in carrying out their responsibilities to comply with historic-preservation requirements prescribed by federal statutes and regulations. These reports summarize local archaeological, historical, and geographical contexts; existing surveys of historic sites; architectural, engineering, industrial; and other cultural resources; and available maps and literature concerning each area. Natural geographical, rather than governmental, boundaries have been used to identify seventy-two areas that vary greatly in size. Site reports reflect a broad cultural and geographical disparity characteristic of diverse regional components found in Idaho, but the areas are designed to incorporate cultural elements of immediate local significance that need to be taken into account for preservation planning.

1. Geographical context: located west of a long north-west trending range that interrupts transcontinental transportation routes for several hundred miles north of southern Idaho's Snake plains, this area has good access north through a major glaciated trench into British Columbia and west through Spokane valley to lower Columbia destinations. Some Rathdrum prairie farm lands benefit from irrigation, but most of this area is timbered ridges with important rivers and lakes, which offer major recreation attractions. Mineral resources (lead-silver-zinc primarily) have been of primary importance in developing this region. Coeur d'Alene silver production is unequalled anywhere, having surpassed Bolivia's Potosi mines (dominant for three centuries) in 1981. Forest products join mining and tourism in supporting a mountain resource-oriented local economy. Elevations vary from about 2,020 below Post Falls to 6,815 at Granite Peak.

2. Prehistory and significant archaeological sites:

3. Cultural resource surveys and archaeological literature:

4. Historical summary:
5. Historical documentation and literature:
6. Historic sites inventory:

7. Industrial archaeology and engineering sites summary: Surface evidence of placer mining in this area offers opportunities for study of industrial procedures utilized in historic production. Hydraulic pits, patterns of dredging operations, or tailings that distinguish hill claims from stream claims--or that identify Chinese services--provide information of historic importance. Prospector's pits disclose gravels that were searched unsuccessfully for gold. Ditches, flumes, stream diversions, and similar evidence of water sources also are important.

Lode mining operations left a variety of indications, many of them relatively permanent in nature. Disturbance of surface outcrops includes trenches and exploratory shafts. In other places, tunnels and raises or stopes that reached surface outlets reveal important aspects of mining activity. If accessible, underground workings have still greater importance for industrial archaeology and engineering analysis. Abandoned tools and equipment, along with items like timbering in tunnels and stopes, add to this record.

8. Architectural resources: The Coeur d'Alene River and Lake area first attracted extensive white settlement in 1878 when Fort Coeur d'Alene (Fort Sherman) was established on Coeur d'Alene Lake and gold was discovered in the area around Wallace. The Northern Pacific Railroad bolstered development of the area when they built a line through the Coeur d'Alene Valley in 1881-83. While the area upstream developed as a mining and smelting center, especially after the 1885 discovery of Bunker Hill lead and silver deposits, the area around Coeur d'Alene Lake developed into a supply center for the mines and the agricultural lands around Post Falls. Lumber milling became an important industry in the area beginning in 1900.

Architecture surviving from the early period of settlement includes officers' quarters and a chapel at Fort Coeur d'Alene and the Cataldo Mission of the Sacred Heart, designed in the Italianate Baroque style in the late 1850's. In the mining areas, survivals include log mining and homestead buildings and frame and log commercial buildings.

Architecture representing the period 1890 through 1910 includes Queen Anne and Colonial Revival style frame houses, Gothic and Romanesque style frame or brick churches, and

institutional and commercial buildings of stone or brick with terra cotta and iron ornamentation, often designed with Georgian or Renaissance Revival features. Toward the end of this period molded concrete block became popular and was used extensively in some areas.

The architectural survey of the Coeur d'Alene River and Lake area includes 67 sites. Coeur d'Alene and Wallace are under represented in the survey, with 19 and 12 sites. Smaller towns and population centers make up the remaining half of the survey.

Surveyors have concentrated somewhat on Rathdrum and Spirit Lake.

Further survey is needed in all parts of the study area. The following towns and centers have no recorded sites and need examination for architectural remains:

Bellgrove	Eagle	Lane	Post Falls
Bunn	Enaville	Larson	Pritchard
Burke	Ferguson	Mace	Rockford Bay
Carlin Bay	Gem	Medimont	Rose Lake
Chilco	Hauser	Osburn	Smelterville
Delta	Kellogg	Pinehurst	Springston
Dudley	Kingston	Pleasant View	State Line
Duthie	Lacon		

National Register sites of architectural significance include the following:

Cataldo	Coeur d'Alene Mission of the Sacred Heart
Coeur d'Alene	Inland Empire Electric Railway Substation Roosevelt School St. Thomas Catholic Church Coeur d'Alene Federal Building Kootenai County Courthouse Coeur d'Alene Masonic Temple First United Methodist Church Coeur d'Alene City Hall Fort Sherman Buildings
Hayden Lake	Clark House
Murray	Murray Courthouse John C. Feehan House
Rathdrum	Rathdrum State Bank St. Stanislaus Kostka Mission
Spirit Lake	Spirit Lake Historic District
Wallace	Northern Pacific Railway Depot

Wallace Historic District
Wallace Carnegie Library

9. United States Geological Survey Maps.

Athol (15') 1961
 Athol 1961
 Bayview 1967
 Bloom Peak 1966
 Burke (15') 1957
 Calder (15') 1957
 Cathedral Peak 1966
 Coeur d'Alene (15') 1957
 Cooper Gulch (15') 1956
 Fairfield (15') Wa.-Id. 1954
 Gem Peak 1966
 Greenacres (15') 1949
 Hayden 1961
 Hayden Lake 1961
 Jordan Creek 1966
 Kellogg (15') 1957
 Kingston (15') 1957
 Lakeview (15') 1961
 Lane (15') 1957
 Mt. Spokane (15') Wa.-Id. 1950
 Plummer (15') 1957
 Pond Peak 1966
 Rathdrum 1961
 Rochat Peak 1950
 St. Maries (15') 1957
 Spirit Lake East 1961
 Spirit Lake West 1961
 Spyglass Peak 1966
 Taylor Peak 1966
 Twin Crags 1950
 Wallace (15') 1957

10. Cultural resource management recommendations:

Publications--450 N. 4th Street, Boise, ID 83702--208-334-3428