

# IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## REFERENCE SERIES

### THE IDAHO NATIONAL REGISTER PROGRAM

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In 1966, Congress voted to expand the National Register of Historic Places to include sites of state and local significance.

To carry out this program authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act, the Secretary of the Interior arranged to have proposed nominations passed upon by state historic sites review boards and to have nomination forms prepared by state historic preservation officers. The National Parks Service handles the program and maintains the National Register. The Idaho State Historical Society prepares a large state inventory of historic and archaeological sites and nominates a small portion of these for inclusion in the National Register.

Properties listed in the National Register are eligible for matching preservation grants. The National Register serves also as a federal agency planning device.

Under procedures administered by the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation--an independent federal agency--any federal project requiring an impact statement must go through two preliminary steps:

1. An inventory of historic sites in the project study area is utilized in the planning process.
2. Historic, architectural, archaeological, and cultural sites eligible for inclusion in the National Register are identified and any project impact upon such sites is reviewed in consultation with advisory Council staff.

Many kinds of Idaho projects are involved: reservoirs, sewer and water systems, power lines, subdivision developments, park and outdoor recreation projects, building construction, and streets, highways, and airports, for example. Without historic site inventories and without identification of sites eligible for inclusion in the National Register, federal projects cannot be commenced. Some federal agencies have tried to get away with declarations that they know of no eligible National Register sites in their project areas. But impact statements prepared that way are rejected by the Advisory Council. So the State Historical Society helps get Idaho projects approved by preparing inventories and helping to identify National Register sites.

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