

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REFERENCE SERIES

COSTON DITCH

Number 525

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The Coston Ditch begins on the south side of the Boise River in the southwest 1/4 of the northwest 1/4 of Section 33, T3N, R3E. It was built in 1864 by I. N. Coston and F. C. Ghost to water their 270 acres. They appropriated and diverted 800 inches of water under a four-inch pressure. The headgate measured four feet in width at the top, four feet wide on the bottom, and was three and one-half feet in depth. The ditch had a fall of two inches to the rod. Annual enlargements took place until completion of the ditch in 1869. On September 10, 1869, Coston purchased the land and water rights of Ghost. In December of 1903, Coston sold his property and water rights to the Barber Lumber Company. At the time of this sale, the ditch had a capacity of 18.3 second feet and extended one mile in length.

The Barber Lumber Company proposed to transfer the water rights to the north side of the river. To accomplish this, they planned to build a headgate of 21 feet and divert the water by constructing a dam across the river one and one-half miles below the diversion point of the Coston Ditch. They further envisioned the erection of a power house. They estimated the cost of the dam and power house at \$80,000. To aid in diversion of the water, they placed an order for delivery of machinery, water wheels, and a pump. They estimated it would cost \$25,000 to eventually divert the water. The water was to be utilized for irrigation and as a source of supply for the mill workers and village at the dam site. These plans were initiated in 1904. In 1906, the ditch received water right (50) of 112 inches.

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