

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REFERENCE SERIES

SITE REPORT - NORTH FORK PAYETTE-LONG VALLEY

Number 606

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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: Long Valley provides a major opening in central Idaho's extensive mountain ranges. Payette River's north fork flows into it from high Salmon River mountain sources and then continues on through a steep canyon that created a serious barrier to traffic headed south. So although Long Valley provides a fine 40-mile route of transportation, lack of good connections in any direction limited that segment's value until modern highways could be built.

Forested ridges rise above valley farms and ranches at a high enough elevation (4,000-5,000 feet) that irrigation is not required. Payette lakes offer an important resort attraction. A large reservoir above Cascade provides water for lower Payette irrigation. Some mineral resources also have been developed there.

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 archaeological 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 North Fork Payette-Long Valley study unit has a number of significant architectural sites related to the Finnish settlement of Long Valley in the period 1890 through 1930. Finnish homesteads survive that represent Finnish farmyard layout and the immigrants' use of horizontal timber construction. That construction, characteristic of Northern Europe, includes hewn logs shaped with the long groove and complicated corner timbering. The study unit also has examples of false-fronted frame commercial buildings and examples of log and frame resort houses from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, many of them clustered around Payette Lake. In Banks is a cluster of buildings related to the development of the Idaho Northern Railroad.

Thirty-five architectural sites have been recorded in the study area, one in Banks, three in Cascade, one in Donnelly, four in McCall, one in Roseberry, and the remainder in the rural areas of Long Valley along Idaho Highway 55 and Farm-to-Market Road. The Finnish homesteads of Long Valley have received adequate attention, but the remainder of the study area deserves further survey. Towns and centers that have received no attention include the following:

Arling	Lardo
Alpha	Smith's Ferry
Lake Fork	

National Register sites of architectural significance include the following:

T16N R3E section 10: Mahala, Jacob and Herman, Homestead (Long Valley Finnish structures thematic group [LVFS], site 2)
 section 12: Korvola, John, Homestead (LVFS, site 1)
 T17N R3E section 3: Jarvi, Thomas, Homestead (LVFS, site 4)
 section 9: Maki, Jacob, Homestead (LVFS, site 3)

- section 12: Ruatsala, Matt, Homestead (LVFS, site 13)
- section 13: Long Valley Finnish Church
- T18N R3E section 2: Rice Meeting House
- section 22: Koski, Charles, Homestead (LVFS, site 8)
 - Wargelin, Nickolai, Homestead (LVFS site 9)
- section 23: Elo School and Teacher's Cottage (LVFS, site 11)
 - Hill, Matt N., Homestead (LVFS, site 10)
- section 25: Johnson, John G. (Rintakangas), Homestead (LVFS, site 12)
- section 27: Ojala, Herman, Homestead (LVFS, site 5)
- section 34: Laituri, Gust, Homestead (LVFS, site 6)
- section 35: Johnson, John S. (Sampila), Homestead (LVFS, site 7)

9. United States Geological Survey Maps:

- Banks (15') 1953
- Blackmare 1973
- Black Tip 1953
- Boiling Springs (15') 1953
- Box Lake 1969
- Brundage Mountain 1963
- Cascade (15') 1954
- Fitsum Peak 1973
- Fitsum Summit 1973
- Gold Fork (15') 1954
- Granite Lake 1963
- Lake Fork
- McCall
- Meadows
- No Business Mtn.
- Paddy Flat 1973
- Smith Ferry (15') 1953
- Victor Peak 1969
- Warm Lake (15') 1954

10. Cultural resource management recommendations:

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