

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REFERENCE SERIES

SITE REPORT - SOUTH FORK PAYETTE-GARDEN VALLEY

Number 609

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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. Geographic context: Garden Valley is large enough to provide ranching opportunities important since 1862 gold rush days, but most of Payette River's middle and south fork are important for timber products. Elevations range from at Banks to on Scott Mountain. Deadwood Reservoir provides irrigation storage for lower Payette farms. A productive Deadwood mining area was developed in that area. Mostly high ridges and deep canyons, this region has great hunting, fishing, and recreational opportunities. Recent highway development has made it more accessible to tourist traffic.

2. Prehistory and significant archaeological sites: People have inhabited southern Idaho for fourteen thousand years or more. Until about eight thousand years ago they were noted primarily as big game hunters. Since then, they specialized more in camas, bitterroot, and other natural crops and seeds, as well as in smaller game. But they continued to hunt large game that remained after earlier elephants, camels, giant sloths, and other ice age creatures left as climatic conditions changed.

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:

9. United States Geological Survey Maps:

Banks (15')	1953	Grandjean	1972
Banner Summit	1972	Jackson Peak	1972
Boiling Springs (15')	1953	Lowman	1972
Bull Trout Point	1953	Miller Mountain East	1972
Cache Peak	1972	Miller Mountain West	1972
Deadwood Reservoir (15')	1953	Pine Flat	1972
Edaho Mountain	1972	Scott Creek	1972
Eightymile Mountain	1972	Stanley Lake	1972
Garden Valley (15')	1959	Tyhee Mountain	1972
Gold Fork (15')	1954	Warm Lake (15')	1954

10. Cultural resource management recommendations:

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