

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REFERENCE SERIES

SITE REPORT - PORTNEUF VALLEY-GEM VALLEY

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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: These connected valleys, mostly arid enough to require dry farming or irrigation lie below ridges that have a limited amount of timber. Range lands appropriate for ranching predominate. Elevations increase from _____ on Bear River to _____

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 sloth, and other ice age creatures left as climatic conditions changed.

3. Cultural resource surveys and archaeological literature:

4. Historical summary, major historical episodes include:

1. Exploration and fur trade, 1812-1840
2. Emigrant traffic, 1841-1867

3. Fort Hall Reservation and ranching, 1867-1880
4. Railway construction and Mormon settlement, 188 -1899
5. Dry farming and agricultural expansion, 1900-1919
6. Transportation improvement and farm depression, 1920-1932
7. New Deal and wartime adjustments, 1933-1945
8. Contemporary life, 1946-
5. Historical documentation and literature:
6. Historic sites inventory:
7. Industrial archaeological and engineering sites summary:
8. Architectural resources:
9. United States Geological Survey Maps:
 - Bancroft (15') 1948
 - Bear Camp Gulch 1968
 - Bonneville Peak 1968
 - Chesterfield
 - Chesterfield Reservoir
 - Cottonwood Peak
 - Dunn Basin
 - Grizzly Creek
 - Hatch
 - Haystack Mtn. 1968
 - Jeff Cabin Creek 1968
 - Lincoln Peak
 - Midnight Mtn. 1969
 - North Canyon 1969
 - Oneida Narrows Reservoir 1969
 - Soda Springs (15') 1948
 - South Putnam Mtn. 1968
 - Thatcher 1969
 - Thatcher Hill 1969
 - Treasureton 1969
10. Cultural resource management recommendations: