

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REFERENCE SERIES

SITE REPORT - ARBON VALLEY-BANNOCK CREEK ROCKLAND VALLEY-BLACK PINE

Number 613

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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: Arbon and Curlew valleys connect Columbia and Great Basin drainages through an open north-south passage, but most modern traffic follows other routes. Pocatello valley as well as some additional basin borderland west of Curlew valley connects with this basin and range projection into Idaho.

Mostly arid, except for a few timbered ridges, these hills have altitudes as high as 8,756 feet on Bannock mountain (an important regional landmark) and 9,565 feet at Black Pine. Curlew valley also has a stream connection into Rockland's valley which parallels Arbon valley west of Bannock mountain. Bannock Creek north of Arbon valley descends to a plain near American Falls at an elevation of about 4,400 feet. Ranching, along with some dry and irrigated farming, is important in this area. Except for limited mineral resources at Black Pine, mining has not been prominent.

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. Hudspeth's Cutoff, 1849-1869
3. Black Pine gold mines, 1870-
4. Stock raising,
5. Dry farming, 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: Survey of the Arbon Valley-Bannock Creek-Black Pine study area is limited to a few isolated areas, and generalizations about the nature of the area's architecture would be premature. Sites related to the area's development as an agricultural area during the period 1900 to 1930 include ranch buildings and a number of log buildings.

No sites of architectural interest have been recorded in the area. All parts of the study area deserve further survey. The following towns and centers have received no attention and should be inspected for architectural remains:

Arbon
Buist

Crystal

Pauline

The area has no sites of architectural significance listed

in the National Register of Historic Places.

9. United States Geological Survey Maps:

American Falls 1971	Pauline 1974
Arbon 1973	Rockland East 1971
Badger Hole Spring 1973	Roy 1973
Bannock Peak 1971	Samaria 1968
Bradley Mtn. 1968	Sawmill Creek 1971
Buist 1973	Sheep Creek Spring 1973
Cedarhill 1973	Stone 1973
Clifton Creek 1968	The Cove 1973
Co-op Spring 1973	Wheat Grass Bench 1974
Dairy Creek 1968	
Deep Creek Peak 1973	
Flatiron Hill 1971	
Grover Canyon	
Holbrook 1973	
Indian Springs 1971	
Ireland Springs 1968	
Michaud Creek 1971	

10. Cultural resource management recommendations: