

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REFERENCE SERIES

SITE REPORT - MALAD VALLEY

Number 614

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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: Malad River heads in a large spring far from upper Malad valley, although Little Malad drainage extends northward through that area. Largely arid, except for forest lands along high ridges. Malad valley has ranches and irrigated farms. An important transportation route comes north past Malad and crosses into Marsh creek. Elevations range from 4,700 feet at Malad to at Oxford Peak.

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, 1812-1848
2. Hudspeth's Cutoff, 1849-1864
3. Mormon settlement and Montana traffic, 1864-1874
4. Anti-Mormon administration, 1874-1892
5. Farm expansion, 1892-1919
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:
 - Bradley Mtn. 1968
 - Buist 1973
 - Clifton 1968
 - Dairy Creek 1968
 - Daniels 1968
 - Elkhorn Peak 1968
 - Grover Canyon 1968
 - Henderson Creek 1968
 - Ireland Springs 1968
 - Malad City East 1968
 - Malad City West 1968
 - Malad Summit 1968
 - Oxford 1968
 - Samaria 1968
 - Sheep Creek Spring 1973
 - Wakely Peak 1968
10. Cultural resource management recommendations:

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