

# IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## REFERENCE SERIES

### SITE REPORT - RAFT RIVER AND MARSH CREEK

Number 616

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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: Raft River drains a broad valley between several blocks of mountains, which range as high as Cache Peak (10,335') above City of Rocks--a California Trail landmark.

With Forest Service lands at higher elevation, and more arid sagebrush terrain predominate, Raft River Valley is largely a ranching country with some irrigated farming. Offering notable Snake Plains--Great Basin connections, this valley provides important transportation routes. Some desert lands south of Minidoka Reservoir (elevation 4,200') extend from Raft River drainage to Snake River. Upper Marsh Creek has farm land around Albion and irrigated farms near Snake River.

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, 1811-1840
  2. Emigrant traffic, 1841-
  3. Stockraising,
  4. Mormon settlement, 1878-1919
  5. Transportation improvement and farm depression, 1920-1932
  6. New Deal and wartime adjustments, 1933-1945
  7. Farm expansion,
  8. Interstate highway construction,
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:
 

Albion 1968	Lyman Pass 1969
Almo 1968	Mahogany Butte 1974
Badger Hole Spring 1973	Malta 1968
Basin 1968	Malta NE 1969
Black Pine 1973	Marion 1969
Blue Hill 1969	Marion SE 1968
Bridge 1968	Mt. Harrison 1969
Buckhorn Canyon 1965	Naf 1968
Cache Peak 1968	Nibbs Creek 1968
Chockcherry Canyon 1968	Oakley 1968
Conner Ridge 1968	Park Valley (15') 1959
Cotton Thomas Basin (15') 1959	Rupert SE 1964
Elba 1968	Severe Spring 1974
Gollaher Mtn. (15') 1961	Strevell (15') 1959
Goose Creek (15') 1961	Sublett (15') 1958
Hartley Peak 1973	Sublett Troughs 1973
Ibex Peak 1974	The Cove 1973
Idahome 1968	Timber Butte 1974
Jim Sage Canyon 1968	Trapper Peak 1974
Juniper 1973	View 1964
Kane Canyon 1968	Yale (15') 1959
Kelton Pass (15') 1959	Yost (15') 1959
Lake Walcott (15') 1959	
10. Cultural resource management recommendations:

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