

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REFERENCE SERIES

SITE REPORT - EAST FORK SALMON RIVER

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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: Rising in a rugged Boulder mountain area, Salmon River's east fork contains some of Idaho's most spectacular terrain. Germania basin and some lower valley lands offer some contrast to towering ridges adjacent to high mountain lakes. Varying considerably in precipitation, this area contains forested slopes and rangeland rising above a valley which accommodates some irrigated farms. Wilderness values and mineral resources provide further economic diversification. Transportation is limited to a few roads and pack trails.

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. Snake River plains big game hunters came into the Salmon River mountains to fish and to hunt mountain sheep and other local game. Evidence of their activity there goes back for eight thousand years or so. An east fork hunting blind, a National

Register archaeological site, is in this area.

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:

Antelope Flat 1963
Bald Mountain 1963
Boulder Chain Lakes 1964
Bowery Creek 1963
Bowery Peak 1963
Easley Hot Springs 1970
Galena Peak 1970
Herd Lake 1967
Herd Peak 1970
Horse Basin 1967
Horton Peak 1970

Jerry Peak 1967
Livingston Creek 1964
Lone Pine Peak 1963
Meridian Peak 1967
Potaman Peak 1963
Ryan Peak 1967
The Paint Pot 1967
Washington Peak 1964
Ziegler Basin 1963

10. Cultural resource management recommendations: