

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REFERENCE SERIES

SITE REPORT - PALOUSE-POTLATCH TIMBERLANDS

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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: Forest lands on higher Palouse County ridges continue past Potlatch Creek west of Elk River and south above farm land north of Clearwater canyon. Aside from logging, some gold mining has been done in this area. Railroad, highway, forest, and county road systems provide transportation facilities in an area with elevations varying from 4,140 feet at Teakin butte to 4,932 feet at Beals butte.

2. Prehistory and significant archaeological sites: After the last great Missoula-Spokane flood, which surged and splashed from Pasco up Snake River past Lewiston into Idaho some 12,000 years ago, people moved back into Snake and Clearwater canyons, where they have been active ever since. Traces of human occupation of higher canyon and prairie country and adjacent forests (including this area) also go back for eight thousand years or so, and lower clearwater pit houses have been in use for five thousand years or more.

3. Cultural resource surveys and archaeological literature:

4. Historical summary: Major historical episodes include

1. Exploration and fur trade, 18 -18
2. Mine development, 18 -
3. Early logging,
4. Forest Service administration,
5. Transportation improvement,
6. Potlatch Mill,
7. New Deal and wartime adjustments, 1933-1945
8. Contemporary economy, 1946-

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.

8. Architectural resources: The Palouse-Potlatch Timberlands were settled by homesteaders during the period 1870 through 1900, and the area experienced growth after the turn of the century with the development of the lumber industry. Sites in the Idaho Historic Sites Survey document the use of the Colonial Revival and bungalow styles for houses and the existence of frame false-fronted commercial buildings.

Architectural survey in the Palouse-Potlatch Timberlands has concentrated on two towns, Bovill and Potlatch, and in those towns only sixteen sites have been recorded. Further survey is needed in all parts of the area. Towns and populated centers that have received no attention include the following:

Avon	Helmer	Princeton
Crescent	Onaway	Stanford
Harvard	Park	Vassar

National Register sites of architectural significance include the St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Bovill, Tourtellotte

and Hummel Architecture in Idaho, site 116.

9. United States Geological Survey Maps:

Ahsahka (15') 1961
Anthony Peak 1969
Bovill (15') 1961
Deary (15') 1961
Elk River 1969
Emida (15') 1957
Farmington 1964
Fernwood (15') 1961
Kendrick (15') 1961
Moscow Mtn. 1960
Potlatch (15') 1960
Robinson Lake 1960
Tensed (15') 1957

10. Cultural resource management recommendations: