

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REFERENCE SERIES

SITE REPORT - LOWER SNAKE AND CLEARWATER

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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: Snake River north of Salmon drainage and Clearwater River west of Greer cut deep canyons in a plateau area below Camas Prairie and Palouse farmlands. Some side canyons (Potlatch and Lapwai primarily) form part of this area of low elevation. Some irrigated farming is possible in arid valley segments. Urban centers (Lewiston and Orofino) and smaller towns have grown up along these rivers. Some gold mining has occurred along Snake River bars, and important Clearwater forest products industries have been developed. Nearby farm products also support lower Clearwater cities and towns. A Clearwater rail and highway system serves this area, but Snake River has only boat service for more than a few miles above Lewiston. Elevations range from 732 feet at Lewiston to at .

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 also go back for eight thousand years or so, and lower Clearwater pit houses have been in use for five thousand years or more. Numerous archaeological sites

(Lenore, Myrtle Beach, Hatwai Creek near Lewiston especially) provide important information concerning prehistory of this area.

3. Cultural resource surveys and archaeological literature:

4. Historical summary: Major historical episodes include

1. Exploration and fur trade, 1805-1836
2. Lapwai mission 1836-1847
3. White laws and treaties, 1848-1860
4. Mine traffic and supply centers, 1861-1876
5. Nez Perce War, 1877
6. Efforts to gain rail service, 1878-1899
7. Commercial lumbering, 1900-19
8. New Deal and wartime adjustments, 1933-1945
9. Dworshak dam, 19
10. Contemporary economy, 19

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: Architectural sites in the Lower Snake and Clearwater study area are related to mining, agriculture, the lumber industry, and the establishment of the Nez Perce Indian Reservation, all of which influenced this area during its major period of development between 1860 and 1920.

Among the study area's early architectural sites are the Waha post office and stage station (1879) and the Fort Lapwai horse barn and officer's quarters (1866). The study area has

commercial and institutional buildings dating from the 1880's through the 1920's designed in brick, frame, stucco, and concrete block. Terra cotta and cast iron are sometimes used for ornamentation. The commercial buildings draw on the Romanesque, Renaissance, and Neo-classical Revival styles. Churches, usually frame or brick, employ the Greek, Gothic, and Romanesque revival styles.

Lewiston has numerous residential buildings of interest representing the Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, Tudoresque, and Prairie School styles and dating from the turn of the century through the 1920's. The designs of Kirtland K. Cutter, Ralph Loring, J. K. Dow, and James Nave are represented in Lewiston buildings.

In the rural parts of the study area there are good examples of farmsteads, including large barns with hay doors and hoods.

Eighty-four sites of architectural significance have been recorded in the Lower Snake and Clearwater study area. More than half of these are in Lewiston; the remainder are in the towns of Culdesac, Lapwai, Lenore, Orofino, Spalding, and Waha and in the rural area around these towns.

The following towns and centers need to be inspected for architectural remains:

Ahsahka	Lewiston Orchards	Peck
Agatha	Myrtle	Sweetwater
Arrow	North Lapwai	Webb

National Register sites of architectural significance include the following:

Lapwai: Fort Lapwai
First Lapwai Bank
First Presbyterian Church

Lewiston: Lewiston Railway Depot
Idaho Grocery Warehouse and Annex (Tourtellotte and Hummel Architecture in Idaho thematic group, site 61)
St. Stansclaus Catholic Church
First Christian Church
Lewiston Methodist Church
Garfield School
Henry C. Kettenbach House
Nave Apartments
Lewiston Historic District

Orofino: Orofino Historic District

T34N R3W section 4: St. Joseph's Mission
9. United States Geological Survey Maps:

Ahsahka (15') 1961	Lewiston Orchards North 1972
Asotin 1971	Lewiston Orchards South 1972
Capt. John Rapids 1968	Limekiln Rapids 1968
Clarkston 1971	Moscow (15') 1961
Culdesac (15') 1958	Orofino East 1967
Dent 1969	Orofino West 1967
Frye Point 1968	Peck 1967
Jim Creek Butte 1963	Sweetwater 1972
Kendrick (15') 1961	Waha 1968
Lapwai 1972	Wapshilla Creek 1963

10. Cultural resource management recommendations: