

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REFERENCE SERIES

SITE REPORT - IDAHO FALLS-BLACKFOOT-ABERDEEN IRRIGATED TRACTS

Number 652

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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: This portion of upper Snake plains windblown soils includes irrigated lands and river channel from near Poplar (Section 5, T3N, R41E, elevation 5,026 feet) past American Falls reservoir. Elevations vary but little between American Falls (4,400 feet) and Rigby (4,855 feet). Because these tracts are watered by a gravity canal system. Some adjacent lands reclaimed by pumping projects at slightly higher elevation also are included. Except for stream vegetation, particularly conspicuous in Fort Hall spring areas, these lands were typical upper Snake desert prior to irrigation which commenced on a major scale shortly after 1880.

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, 1811-1852
 2. Emigrant roads, 1852-1862
 3. Gold rush traffic, 1863-
 4. Railway construction and early settlement, 1878-1889
 5. Large scale irrigation, 1890-1919
 6. Transportation improvement and farm depression, 1920-1932
 7. New Deal and wartime adjustments, 1933-1948
 8. National Reactor Testing Station, 1949-
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:

Antelope Creek
 Austin Butte
 Balanced Rock
 Big Bend Crossing
 Big Horse Basin Gap
 Black Butte East
 Black Butte West
 Black Leg Creek
 Blackstone Reservoir
 Broken Wagon Flat
 Bruneau 1947
 Buckhorn
 Buster Butte
 Castleford Butte
 Cave Draw
 Chalk Hills 1976
 C J Strike Dam
 Clover Butte North
 Clover Butte South
 Coonskin Butte
 Coonskin Butte NE
 Cowan Reservoir
 Crowbar Gulch
 Crows Nest
 Crows Nest Butte
 Crows Nest NE
 Curtis Draw
 Dishpan

Grand View 1947
 Grasmere
 Grasmere Reservoir
 Grassy Hills
 Grindstone Butte 1948
 Hagerman 1949
 Hammett 1947
 Hill Pasture 1972
 Hodge Station
 Hole In Rock
 Horse Butte
 Hot Spring 1976
 Indian Butte 1949
 Indian Cove 1947
 Indian Hay Meadows
 Indian Hot Springs
 Indian Lakes
 Juniper Butte
 Juniper Ranch
 Little Blue Table 1972
 Little Valley 1947
 Mosquito Lake Butte
 Murphy Hot Springs
 Notch Butte
 Ox Lake 1972
 Pence Butte 1976
 Perjue Canyon 1976
 Poison Butte
 Pot Hole Butte
 Pot Hole Canyon 1976
 Riddle 1971
 Salls Crossing
 Sand Dunes 1947
 Stiff Tree Draw
 Sugarloaf 1972
 Table Butte
 The Arch 1975
 Three Creek
 Three Forks
 Triguaro Lake
 Triplet Butte
 Turner Table
 Twentymile Butte 1976
 Wickahoney Crossing
 Wickahoney Point
 Winter Camp
 Yahoo Creek

10. Cultural resource management recommendations:

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