



# Reference Series #660

## Site Report: Horseshoe Bend- Harris Creek-Jerusalem Valley

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**H**istoric-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: Between Banks and Squaw Creek, Payette River descends through a canyon which widens at times into small valleys. Most of this area, except for higher timbered slopes along Boise ridge, is arid. Ranching is important there, but mineral resources are not consequential. Elevations range from to almost 7,600 feet at Shafer Lookout. An important early gold rush route ascended Payette River to Horseshoe Bend and continued up Harris Creek to Boise Basin. Later highway construction brought traffic through Payette canyon past Banks.
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, 1824-1861
  2. Boise Basin mining routes, 1862-
  3. Farms and ranches,
  4. Idaho Northern railroad, 1911-1912
  5. Transportation improvement and farm depression, 1920-1932
  6. New Deal and wartime adjustments, 1933-1945
  7. Forest products industrial expansion, 1946-1980
  8. Contemporary economy, 1980-
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:
  - Banks (15') 1953
  - Boise North 1954
  - Cartwright Canyon 1957
  - Garden Valley (15') 1959
  - Harris Creek summit 1957
  - Horseshoe Bend 1957
  - Montour (15') 1953
  - Placerville 1957
  - Shafer Butte 1957
10. Cultural resource management recommendations: