

# IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## REFERENCE SERIES

### SITE REPORT - SAINT JOE AREA

Number 697

December 1981

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: A forested region west of Idaho's Bitterroot range and Montana border, this area consists of a long canyon and a large number of side streams. A few flats provide space for small settlements or Forest Service installations. A transcontinental rail line descends part of this canyon, and a Forest Service road offers access to its upper segment.

A limited amount of Saint Joe gold mining has occurred, but this region depends almost entirely upon timber products and some ranching. Elevations rise from \_\_\_\_\_ at Saint Maries to \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Prehistory and significant archaeological sites:

3. Cultural resource surveys and archaeological literature:

4. Historical summary: Major historical episodes include

1. Exploration and fur trade, 18 \_\_\_\_ -18 \_\_\_\_

2. Early logging, 18 \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_

3. Rail construction,

4. 1910 fire
  5. Forest Service administration,
  6. CCC era, 19 -1940
  7. War and post war adjustment, 1941-19
  8. 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: Most architectural resources in this area relate to homesteaders, the lumber industry, and the U.S. Forest Service. The town of Avery, which developed as a rail center in the period 1906 through 1910, is a well-preserved example of a small and isolated mountain railway town. The St. Joe area also includes a number of important lookout houses and towers. Only one site is listed in the Idaho Historic Sites Survey: the 1909-36 Avery Ranger Station complex of six buildings. Further survey is needed in all parts of the area. The following towns and centers have received no attention:

Adair	Hoyt	Pearson
Calder	Kyle	Roland
Falcon	Marble Creek	St. Joe
Ferrell		

National Register sites of architectural significance include the Avery Ranger Station complex.

9. United States Geological Survey Maps:

Bacon Peak 1963  
 Bathtub Mtn. 1969  
 Calder (15') 1957  
 Chamberlain Mtn. 1965  
 Fernwood (15') 1961  
 Fishhook Creek 1969  
 Grandmother Mtn. 1969  
 Haugan (15') 1957  
 Hoodoo Pass  
 Hoyt Mtn. 1969  
 Huckleberry Mtn. 1969  
 Illinois Peak (15') 1957  
 Marble Mtn. 1969  
 Merry Creek 1969  
 Montana Peak 1969  
 Monumental Buttes 1969  
 Moose Mtn. 1965  
 Osier Ridge 1965  
 Pole Mtn. 1963  
 St. Joe (15') 1957  
 Saltese (15') 1956  
 Simmons Peak (15') 1957  
 Straight Peak (15') 1960  
 Thor Mtn. 1969  
 Three Sisters 1969  
 Twin Crags 1950  
 Wallace (15') 1957  
 Widow Mtn. 1969

10. Cultural resource management recommendations: