

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY REFERENCE SERIES

REGIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL CENTERS

Number 777

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One of the responsibilities of the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office is to compile and maintain records pertaining to historic and prehistoric properties in Idaho, and these records include the Idaho State Archaeological Survey. The State Archaeological Survey was established by the Idaho State University Museum in 1958. After the State Historic Preservation Office began to help fund archaeological site inventory, responsibility for the survey was transferred to the office of the Idaho State Archaeologist, which was provided for by the Idaho Advisory Council of Professional Archaeologists.

In 1976 three archaeological centers were established. The Southeastern Idaho Regional Archaeological Center is located at Idaho State University. The Northern Idaho Regional Archaeological Center is located at the University of Idaho. The Southwestern Idaho Regional Archaeological Center is located at the Idaho State Historical Society and is operated in conjunction with Boise State University. These centers offer permanent storage and preservation of all archaeological collections and records for sites within their respective regions. The counties included in each region are listed in Reference Series Number 778.

In conjunction with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office, each center is responsible for the maintenance of site records and the assignment of Smithsonian numbers to archaeological sites in its region. To facilitate this function the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office provides support (with matching funds from the Department of the Interior) for staff positions in each of the regional centers.

An additional tie between the regional centers and the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office is that the personnel of the regional center, as well as other university personnel, are part of the Idaho historic and prehistoric sites survey staff. The amount of time each archaeologist contributes is variable.

Information on archaeological or historic properties in Idaho may be acquired from the appropriate regional center or the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office. If Smithsonian numbers are needed they can be obtained directly from the appropriate regional center, or the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office will forward such requests to the appropriate regional center for the assignment of numbers. Complete copies of all records will be maintained by the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office in Boise.

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