

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REFERENCE SERIES

HISTORIC SITES OF TOURIST INTEREST

Number 942

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(This is not a museum list, but a number of these sites have valuable displays.)

COEUR D'ALENE MISSION, CATALDO

Idaho's oldest building that has been preserved, this architectural triumph dates back to 1850-1853. In a state park, it is a monument to Jesuit missionaries and their Coeur d'Alene Indian people. (National Historic Landmark) RS 122

PIERCE COURTHOUSE*

Built in 1862 when Shoshone County still was in Washington Territory, it served miners who joined Idaho's earliest gold rush. RS 946

WEIPPE PRAIRIE*

A traditional Nez Perce Indian camas ground, this National Historic Landmark has special interest as an important site for Lewis and Clark's expedition in 1805-1806. They rested there at the western terminal of their arduous Lolo Trail* crossing, and met Nez Perce peoples whose friendship helped them at a critical time. RS 944

CANOE CAMP*

A short distance west of Orofino, this small National Park Service site identifies Lewis and Clark's base for constructing canoes that took them to Astoria, Oregon. RS 1

PACKER MEADOWS*

Lewis and Clark reentered Idaho here, September 14, 1805, on their way west. They relaxed here at a welcome break in their hard Lolo Trail journey. RS 943

LENORE*

A park at a site of ancient prehistoric interest interprets Clearwater Valley life thousands of years ago. RS 985

KAMIAH MONSTER*

This unusual lava rock formation inspired a traditional Nez Perce Indian legend to explain how their people were created here. RS 747

SPALDING MISSION*

A Nez Perce mission location, developed two years after Henry and Eliza Spalding settled on Lapwa Creek in 1836, this site serves as National Park Service headquarters and contains a major interpretive center to explain Nez Perce history. RS 945

TOLO LAKE*

An important Indian campground, this natural lake in a camas production area was a major Nez Perce base while they attempted to avoid a devastating military campaign in 1877. RS 948

WHITEBIRD BATTLEGROUND*

A small group of Nez Perce Indians repelled a larger United States Army force that came down to drive them away, June 17, 1877. Because of its unusual geography and history, this battleground is of exceptional public interest. RS 440

CLEARWATER BATTLEGROUND*

An indecisive military operation against an Indian camp near Stites led to a long Nez Perce exodus into Montana and Saskatchewan in 1877. A variety of interesting features of this battle terrain survive here. RS 868

SAINT GERTRUDE'S ACADEMY

A Catholic religious school with buildings and educational services of historic interest, this institution features important displays of Nez Perce and Idaho County history. RS 947

SINEACATEEN

Across Pend d'Oreille River from Laclede, this center of prehistoric and fur trade activity continued as one of North Idaho's early commercial and transportation sites when an 1864 gold rush to British Columbia followed a road to Sineacateen and a pack trail from here on to a mining camp at Wild Horse. RS 469

STAMPEDE LAKE

Surprised to meet a pack trail of camels here on a Wild Horse Trail trip, a herd of horses stampeded in fright from their camp at Stampede Lake. RS 951

TREATY ROCK

In 1871, Frederick Post acquired 298 acres of land by a Coeur d'Alene Indian agreement that he recorded on a large rock near Post Falls. He utilized Spokane River hydroelectric power developed at his falls to run a sawmill there. A town of Post Falls grew up on his property, and his rock--which includes earlier Indian rock art--now is known as Treaty Rock. RS 950

MURRAY

Scene of an important North Idaho gold rush (1883-1884) that led to development of much more significant lead-silver mines, Murray has buildings and other features of historic interest. RS 210

LUCKY FRIDAY MINE NEAR MULLAN

This property has tours of unusual tourist value. RS 952

BUNKER HILL AND SULLIVAN MINE, WARDNER

Idaho's largest mine, with its major smelter at Kellogg, is an exceptional landmark. RS 456

WALLACE NORTHERN PACIFIC DEPOT

An architectural gem, it houses an interpretive center for regional history. RS 812

WILLIAM J. MCCONNELL MANSION, MOSCOW

In addition to its value as a monumental example of early Idaho architecture, McConnell's mansion houses valuable interpretive displays of Latah County history. RS 401

LAWYER'S CANYON RAILROAD TRESTLES

In order to gain access to Grangeville, an ambitious Camas Prairie Railroad project involved construction of a number of spectacular high trestles that symbolize a bygone era. RS 953

HEADQUARTERS

A logging community north of Pierce, it retains interesting features of early lumbering days. RS 954

BERTHA HILL

A Clearwater Timber Protective Association lookout erected in 1905 on Bertha Hill was important for beginning a new system of forest fire protection. RS 630

HEYBURN STATE PARK

Originally established as a step toward becoming a National Park, this attractive reserve began and still remains as a foundation of Idaho's state park system. RS 291

FARRAGUT STATE PARK

This large naval training station site (1942-1945) has become an internationally significant park. Nearby Bayview adds to its attraction. RS 949

WARREN'S

An 1862 gold rush camp, Warrens has buildings and relics of Chinese mining that attract tourists to a remote area. RS 197

BURGDORF HOT SPRINGS

This old mining resort still maintains its early attraction. RS 437

LEMHI PASS

Scene of Meriwether Lewis' entry into Idaho, August 12, 1805, this National Historic Landmark marks a major exploration achievement. RS 280

GILMORE

A ghost town with good highway access, Gilmore retains buildings of interest. RS 209

CHARCOAL KILNS NEAR VIOLA

Essential components of a lead smelter system, kilns to manufacture charcoal survive in a number of parts of Idaho. Some good examples are close to State Highway 28 on Upper Birch Creek. RS 209

RAILROAD RANCH

E. R. Harriman and his brother Averell arranged to preserve their important family ranch as an impressive part of Idaho's state park system. RS 956

JOHNNY SACK'S CABIN

A model vacation cabin at Big Springs, this 1934 structure occupies a scenic point in an exclusive resort area. RS 957

CAMAS MEADOWS SKIRMISH SITE

An interesting 1877 Nez Perce campaign incident took place at this National Historic Landmark. RS 450

TETON DAM

When its initial storage water washed it out, June 5, 1976, uncontrolled flood waters from Teton Dam ruined a number of towns and farmland above American Falls reservoir, which halted that devastation. Part of Teton Dam still remains as a monument to that disaster. RS 958

PIERRE'S HOLE RENDEZVOUS, 1832

An unusually significant fur trappers trading fair met on a site that has not changed very much near Driggs. RS 744

CARIBOO MOUNTAIN

Southeastern Idaho's major gold camp had a long and interesting history that still is documented by tailings and other surface evidence of mining there. RS 205

MARKET LAKE

A flat, former lake bottom along Interstate 15 north of Roberts survives from a time it was a lake bottom during a fur trade and ranching era before it was adapted for farming. RS 959

BAYHORSE

An unusually well-preserved mining community that goes back to 1878, Bayhorse is privately owned. RS 169

BONANZA DREDGE AND TOWNSITE

Bonanza flourished as early as 1878, but its dredge (a rarity, although a recent addition) operated through 1951. Bonanza's dredge is preserved for public tours and information. RS 204

CUSTER

An old gold camp prominent after 1880, Custer has buildings and displays of special interest. RS 204

STANLEY RANGER STATION

Maintained to interpret mining, ranching, and forest history for a wilderness as well as a historic national recreation area, this museum complex preserves several significant Forest Service buildings. A replacement facility has been built between Stanley and Redfish Lake. RS 960

REDFISH LAKE SITES

Redfish Lake has been a recreation area since prehistoric times, when people camped here in a rockshelter that has explanatory signing. A Forest Service visitor center interprets this area.

IDAHO ROCKY MOUNTAIN RANCH

Located near Obsidian, this pioneer guest ranch retains its historic associations that go back to Dave Williams 1912 homestead, part of which it occupies. Its buildings were constructed in 1930 for a private club that became a commercial operation in 1951.

POLE CREEK RANGER STATION

A 1908 ranger station has been preserved near Sawtooth City, on its original site 2.8 miles from State 75. Its surroundings still reflect wilderness life in that area.

BLAINE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, HAILEY

One of Idaho's oldest courthouses that still is in use, it preserves an architectural tradition of Idaho's territorial period. RS 983

SODA SPRINGS

Some mineral springs there still appeal to tourists, as they did when fur trappers and Oregon Trail travelers came by more than a century ago. This was an outstanding emigrant road site. RS 182

PARIS TABERNACLE

A religious and architectural monument from 1889, this structure has been a community center for Bear Lake Valley for more than a century. Bear Lake County's original courthouse is adjacent to it. RS 961

L. H. HATCH HOUSE, FRANKLIN

Together with its neighboring Coop building, this 1874 dwelling represents a primary center for life in Idaho's oldest town. RS 962

CHESTERFIELD

A typical late nineteenth century rural Mormon community has been preserved to represent an important feature of Idaho history. RS 963

D. W. STANDROD'S MANSION, POCATELLO

As one of Idaho's major architectural landmarks, this mansion serves as a historic attraction with interpretive displays. RS 965

FORT HALL TRIBAL HEADQUARTERS

Many significant features of Shoshoni and Bannock history are preserved in this cultural center located in an important traditional area. RS 964

TWIN SPRINGS (CALIFORNIA TRAIL)

An essential source for water after a long stretch of desert travel, Twin Springs survives along with interesting examples of emigrant wagon tracks. RS 970

CITY OF ROCKS

A California Trail site of exceptional interest, this National Historic Landmark is administered as a national reserve. RS 126

THOUSAND SPRINGS

A marvel that appealed to Oregon Trail emigrants and to settlers ever since then, this is an important historic and geological attraction. RS 966

UPPER SALMON FALLS

A historic power dam at a primary Indian and Oregon Trail salmon fishing site (where Salmon Falls itself survives intact as an exceptional, but unutilized point of interest) needs attention in Hagerman Valley. RS 967

MALAD GORGE STATE PARK

An emigrant and stage road detour is adjacent to this unusual natural formation of geological as well as historical interest. RS 877

THREE ISLAND CROSSING

This major Oregon Trail barrier has become an important state park. RS 968

SHOSHONE FALLS

Idaho's greatest display of river falls was a magnificent nineteenth century national attraction that continues to gain tourist traffic, particularly when it is turned on. RS 969

BEAR RIVER MASSACRE, 1863

This National Historic Landmark is about to become a National Monument. RS 235

MASSACRE ROCKS BATTLE SITE, 1862

Located a couple of miles east of Massacre Rocks, this site with adjacent, well preserved, Oregon and California trail segments, is just across a state park development at Hunt Point. It displays hazards of emigrant travel. RS 234

STRICKER RANCH

Rock Creek stage station served an important Overland line from 1865 to 1882 and continued as a ranching center until after 1900. RS 972

DEVILS CORRAL

This natural side-canyon above Shoshone Falls, visible from Interstate 84, was a traditional hideout for cattle rustlers and horse thieves.

SHOSHONE HISTORIC DISTRICT

An 1882 railroad community that retains many lava rock buildings typical of its regional architectural heritage, Shoshone preserves many interesting features of rural life. RS 976

OAKLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT

Much of a historic Mormon settlement is preserved in Oakley with old mansions and commercial buildings. RS 555

ALBION NORMAL SCHOOL

Started in 1894, this campus still is surprisingly intact. Recalling a bygone era, it offers good tourism potential. RS 981

MINIDOKA DAM

An early twentieth century United States Reclamation Service storage and hydroelectric dam, it is an early example of a public and rural electric power system. RS 962

CALDRON LINN

A lava-rock waterfall in a Snake River gorge, Caldron Linn--given international recognition by Washington Irving--is a prominent fur trade exploration site of 1811. RS 289

OREGON TRAIL ROUTE NEAR MILNER

A Bureau of Land Management segment of emigrant wagon tracks near Milner is identified and interpreted in a visitor center there. Milner Dam (completed in 1904) that diverts water essential for irrigation projects on both sides of Snake River also is nearby. RS 497

SALMON DAM, 1910

A high early storage dam on Salmon Falls Creek remains an interesting, as well as, scenic structure. RS 448

JOHN SKILLERN'S RANCH

Across from a Forest Service ranger station where Little Smoky Creek flows into Big Smoky, this ranch has a 1922 log headquarters cabin modeled on Yellowstone Park architectural styles. RS 973

SUN VALLEY SKI LIFTS

Designed to make ski resorts practical when Sun Valley Lodge opened in 1936, these initial ski lifts are of substantial historic interest. RS 974

NATIONAL REACTOR TESTING STATION

An experimental breeder reactor that initiated nuclear energy production in 1951 is on display at this facility. RS 975

PACKER JOHN'S CABIN, 1862

A state park occupies a site where early politicians from North Idaho met their southern rivals to hold conventions, 1863-1864. RS 292

KINNEY POINT AND SHEEP ROCK

Thousands of feet above Snake River, these sites associated with Seven Devils copper mining are scenic as well as historic attractions. RS 116

ROOSEVELT LAKE

Formed by a landslide in 1909, this remote lake with difficult access covers an interesting ghost town from Idaho's last big gold rush. RS 21

HOOKER HALL

An important building from Weiser's Intermountain Institute has been renovated as a community attraction. RS 977

FAREWELL BEND, WEST OF WEISER

Accessible on its Idaho side and visible from Oregon, this emigrant's landmark indicates their departure from Snake River. RS 758

GIVENS SPRINGS

An emigrant campground and relaxation area at a hot springs along Snake River still gains tourist interest. RS 986

GUFFEY BRIDGE

This 1897 railroad bridge carried Silver City traffic before mines shut down there in 1912 and is preserved as an important example. RS 218

SWAN FALLS DAM, 1902

Historic features of this early hydroelectric dam are preserved at a scenic Snake River site. RS 68

DIVERSION DAM, BOISE RIVER

Constructed in 1909, this dam has a well-preserved power plant of that era that is open for public display. RS 955

ARROWROCK DAM

No higher dam had been built anywhere else between 1915 and 1934, and Arrowrock still is a monument to concrete dam construction. RS 174

GRIMES PASS

Evidence of mining ditches, Chinese operations, and of trouble associated with Boise Basin gold discoveries give this area more than ordinary interest. RS 198

IDAHO CITY

An important historic district in this 1862 gold rush camp-- Idaho's largest--features many interesting buildings, including Masonic and IOOF halls. RS 939

PLACERVILLE

A Boise Basin 1862 placer camp west of Idaho City. Placerville offers a town square with early buildings and other features. RS 198

PIONEERVILLE

One of Boise Basin's 1862 mining camps originally known as Hogem, Pioneerville retains important remnants of early activity. RS 198

QUARTZBURG AND GOLD HILL

A major early lode mine at Quartzburg operated until 1934, and some features of this long mining sequence still are visible. RS 198

SILVER CITY

An attractive nineteenth century gold and silver mining center, this ghost town has not been distorted by commercial development.
RS 940

DELAMAR

Very few historic buildings survive here, but large recent mining developments command substantial tourist interest. RS 200

ATLANTA

This 1864 mining camp has a spectacular mountain setting along with old buildings and mining features that attract tourists. RS 202

KITTY WILKINS' RANCH

A superior example of an early horse and cattle empire, this privately-owned ranch should not be publicized without its owner's agreement. RS 978

PICKETT'S CORRAL

A natural lava rock enclosure used by outlaws for horses stolen before 1866, this interesting site near Emmett is hard to reach.
RS 253

NEW PLYMOUTH

Organized by Chicago and Cleveland developers as a model reclamation community, its central town design survives as an indication of early Progressive community planning. RS 984

UNION PACIFIC DEPOT, NAMPA

One of Nampa's early railroad depots is preserved as a local historical museum. RS 979

BONNEVILLE POINT

An important Oregon Trail viewpoint overlooking Boise Valley, this site has a Bureau of Land Management interpretive center.
RS 980

SAINT MICHAEL'S CHURCH, BOISE

This 1866 example of church architecture now stands next to Broadway Bridge. RS 724

IDAHO TERRITORIAL PENITENTIARY

Constructed in 1869 and continued in use until 1973, this century-old prison houses several museums and interpretive displays. RS 481, 707

UNION PACIFIC DEPOT, BOISE

Constructed in 1924-1925, this station marks Boise's four decades of effort to secure mainline Union Pacific passenger service. RS 729

UNITED STATES ASSAY OFFICE, BOISE

Opened as an assay office to provide an outlet for Idaho's gold and silver in 1872, this Registered National Historic Landmark now houses state historical agency functions. RS 359

* Marks Nez Perce National Historic Park sites.

(This information has not been edited.)