

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REFERENCE SERIES

GIVENS SPRINGS

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A long-established fishing community, with pit houses that go back 4,500 years ago, has thrived at Givens Hot Springs, which provides a special attraction for this site. Ancient people who lived there combined elements of desert culture typical of Great Basin peoples (who ranged farther south) with other characteristics typical of Columbia plateau peoples who occupied an interior Pacific Northwest territory of which Idaho is a major part.

Emigrants who came by Givens Hot Springs on their way to western Oregon also appreciated that attraction. They already had come more than half way across what (until 1859 anyway) was Oregon and were getting tired of working their way past many hundreds of miles of sagebrush plains. Givens Springs gave them something different to make their long summer trip more interesting. It still has a park and a natural hot water swimming pool for visitors who stop there.

(This information has not been edited.)

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