



IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
REFERENCE SERIES

IDENTIFICATION OF NONARCHITECTURAL HISTORIC SITES

Number 1019

September 1993

A variety of historic sites that have gained significance for nonstructural features need to be investigated. Many cultural resource values are associated with architectural and engineering achievements, while others have identities unconnected with those activities. Attractions that go beyond structures of one kind or another include a surprising variety of forms and locations. These can be classified in many ways. Their documentation also assumes substantially different forms, depending upon what kinds of natural settings are involved. Economic and social history are represented along with military and religious sites. So long as an adequate historic context can be ascertained, cultural sites can be defined with interesting results. A satisfactory classification system cannot be too rigid in accommodating historic properties, and additions always are appropriate when new kinds of possibilities are encountered. Practically any kind of human activity can demand historic interest. An initial listing follows.

Inventory classes of historic sites for survey and registration:

Exploration and fur trade campgrounds, interest points, routes, posts, negotiation or ceremonial sites, or battlegrounds.

Missionary activity locations and mission sites.

Emigrant road routes and attractions: road segments, campgrounds, supply stations, stream crossings, inscription rocks, natural features.

Mining discovery or operational sites: placer locations and traces, lode outcrops, dumps, hydraulic pits, dredge tailings, underground evidence.

Ranching sites: grazing centers, water sources, range areas, sheep and cattle trails.

Land survey sites: initial point and section corner markers.

Stage station sites and robbery incidents.

Railway grades and points of interest.

Logging camps, abandoned lookouts, sites of splash dams, sawmills, log runs, major fires.

Battlegrounds: Indian wars, mining wars, sheep and cattle wars, irrigation wars.

Imaginary sites of popular but nonexistent events (robberies, massacres, monuments, but not Indian cultural or religious sites).

Historic highways and byways.

Landing strips and boat docks.

Recreation sites: wild and tame rivers, traditional picnic and camping areas, hot springs and resort areas, scenic locations and mountain attractions, parks, traditional sports sites, fishing sites, ski runs, recreational panning areas, nature trails.

(This information has not been edited.)