

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED DEC 11 1979

DATE ENTERED

FEB 5 1980

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Challis Brewery Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

Klug Brewery

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Challis Creek Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Challis

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

Idaho

CODE

016

COUNTY

Custer

CODE

037

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☒ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☒ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☒ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Multiple; see continuation sheet

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

VICINITY OF

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Custer County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Challis

STATE

Idaho

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Idaho State Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1972

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Idaho State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Boise

STATE

Idaho

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

☐ EXCELLENT ☐ DETERIORATED
☐ GOOD ☐ RUINS
☒ FAIR ☐ UNEXPOSED

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The 1879 Challis Brewery historic district is made up of a cut-stone and rubble brewery building, two rubble-stone houses held together with mud mortar and mud plaster, a stone-walled outbuilding with wooden roof and facade, and the stone foundation of a fifth structure no longer extant. Brewery Spring is nearby--source of the water used in the original brewery operation. It flows at a good rate into a catch basin.

The one-story brewery building is the largest of the structures, and is in good condition. It is 37' 6" long x 28' wide, constructed of local stone. The east-facing entry wall is made of hand-cut smooth-finished stone, laid in random-coursed ashlar. The other three walls are of uncoursed rubble.

The front door is centered under the gable, and is flanked by double-hung 6 x 6 sash windows, one on each side. The three openings are spanned by stone lintels, each set under a shallow segmental arch in stone which relieves the weight of the wall above. The space between these arches and the lintels is slight, and is filled with mortar. A clearly discernible keystone is visible in the arches above the left-hand window and the door, but the same function on the right hand window is carried out with two stones. The projecting square-cut stone window sills are monolithic. There are two additional windows in north and south walls.

The roof is gabled, running east and west. It is covered with sheet metal but was originally shingled.

Interior wood work is largely intact, and is handsomely proportioned. Wainscoting of pine lumber is divided into panels trimmed with delicate moldings. This has been painted an ivory color which enhances interior lighting from the six windows. Upper walls are papered.

Archaeology may reveal three stone tanks used in brewing, remembered by old time residents but no longer visible.

The two rubble structures to the south, originally dwellings for the brewers and their families, were literally held together with mud. Repeated plastering with mud, whitewashed on the outside, has built up an additional thickness of 4 to 6 inches on the rough stone beneath. This is severely weathered, but is intact enough for accurate restoration. The Don Ferguson rock-adobe "B" is the larger of the two. It has one small off-center six pane window in the east wall and a door on the north wall. The Henry Reynolds rock-adobe "A" has a centered door in the east wall flanked by one six-pane window on the left hand side. A window in the door supplies all additional light. Rubble retaining walls at the back of these two dwellings connect them and control erosion from the hillside to the rear. Several small wooden sheds of recent date complete the complex.

The low pitched roofs on these two dwellings are framed in lodgepole pine logs, running parallel to the ridgepole, and covered with planks. Earth for insulation was placed on top of the planks. Adobe "B" has a tin roof on top of original earth and plants. All of these structures are in fair condition and restorable, if work can be started within the next year or two.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER
☒ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☒ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)
		☐ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES	1879	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Unknown
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

There has been no brewery operating in Idaho for 20 years. Even these most recently used brewery structures have been demolished. The Challis brewery is of especial interest, since it is one of only two known breweries in the state to have survived, and is older by 25 years than the second.

The brewery building itself is a fine example of frontier stone commercial architecture. The craftsmanship on the random ashlar facade is especially noteworthy. The front half of the building is well finished on the inside since it doubled as saloon as well as brew house.

The brewers' dwelling houses adjacent to the main structure are also of great interest, due to their method of construction. The rubble stone walls of these buildings were mortared together by mud and heavily plastered with it inside and out. Although mud was often used for mortar in early Idaho, the mud plastering was rare--due no doubt to a mountain climate which deteriorated it rapidly. It was a geographical eccentricity which made mud plaster more permanent in Challis, Idaho, than elsewhere. In the rain shadow of the Salmon River mountains, Challis gets less snow and milder temperatures than other mountain areas nearby. This, and the fact that the two dwellings have been almost continuously occupied since 1879 accounts for their preservation. Fresh mud has been added, along with an occasional coat of paint to keep the buildings intact and habitable.

Three Germans, Fred Albiez, Ferdinand Klug, and George Fuchs teamed up in 1879 to start a brewery in Challis--a townsite laid out just that year in a region of promising mineral discoveries. By 1886 the establishment of other breweries at Custer and Bayhorse, farther up the Salmon river, made the Challis operation unprofitable. In 1887 the brewery building was used for at least one winter as a school. It has had varied uses since, including residential.

A small historic district, encompassing all of the structures associated with the brewery and the spring which supplied the water, will enable the preservation and restoration of a unique example of early industry. The brewery itself is the property of the North Custer Historical Society. The other structures are in process of being acquired.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Summary of history of Challis brewery, compiled by Roberta H. Green, on file at Idaho Historical Society, Boise, Idaho.
Idaho Statesman, Boise, Idaho, 30 April 1979, p. 6B

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 10 acres.

QUADRANGLE NAME Challis

QUADRANGLE SCALE 15.

UTM REFERENCES

A 1 1 7 2 0 1 2 5 4 9 3 1 8 7 5

B 1 1 7 2 0 7 5 4 9 3 1 7 5 0

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 1 1 7 2 0 0 0 4 9 3 1 7 5 0

D 1 1 7 2 0 7 5 4 9 3 1 8 7 5

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the Challis Brewery Historic District is described in item 7 and shown as the dotted line on the attached sketch map entitled "Challis Brewery Historic District, Challis, Idaho." The eastern boundary of the district

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Arthur A. Hart, Architectural Historian and Idaho State Historical Society Director

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Idaho State Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

610 North Julia Davis Drive

384-2120

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Boise

Idaho

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Maude Wells

TITLE

Idaho State Historian, SHPO

DATE 4 Dec 79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Sally G. Oldham
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
ATTEST *W. Ray Luce*
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 2/5/80

DATE 2-4-80

DEC 11 1979

Item 4. Continuation.

Challis Brewery Historic District
Owners List:

Lloyd Reed
Challis, ID 83226

Don Ferguson
Box 52
Silverton, ID 83867

Leslie Corrigan
543 Hancock
Hayward, CA 94544

M. P. Shull
Route 1, Box 51
Mead, WA 99021

Henry Reynolds
Box 711
Challis, ID 83226

Francis Doffing
P. O. Box 18407
Las Vegas, Nevada 89114

J. Yacomella
Challis, ID 83226

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Description

CONTINUATION SHEET

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The most southerly site in the district is Brewery Spring itself. The remains of a small springhouse sit over it. Although the roof is lost, the walls of saddle-notched poles remain. The greater height of the northern wall and the pitch of the rafter-poles show that the springhouse was a shed-roofed. Water flows steadily from a wooden pipe, formed from narrow staves bound by an iron strap, which emerges from the eastern base of the structure.

The district^{is} immediately to the west of Challis Creek Road, within the northern corporate limits of Challis. The boundaries recognize the "strip" arrangement of the historically, architecturally, and historic-archaeologically significant sites, and allow a clearance of at least 25' to the north, south and west of the major sites.

Three small houses have been built inside the historic brewery complex in the 20th century (map #'s 2, 3, and 8). The Ferguson and Reed houses are frame bungalows. The Reynolds house is a log cabin of the 1920s, built of lodgepole pine. All must be regarded as intrusive, but could be moved if the property is acquired by the local historical society.

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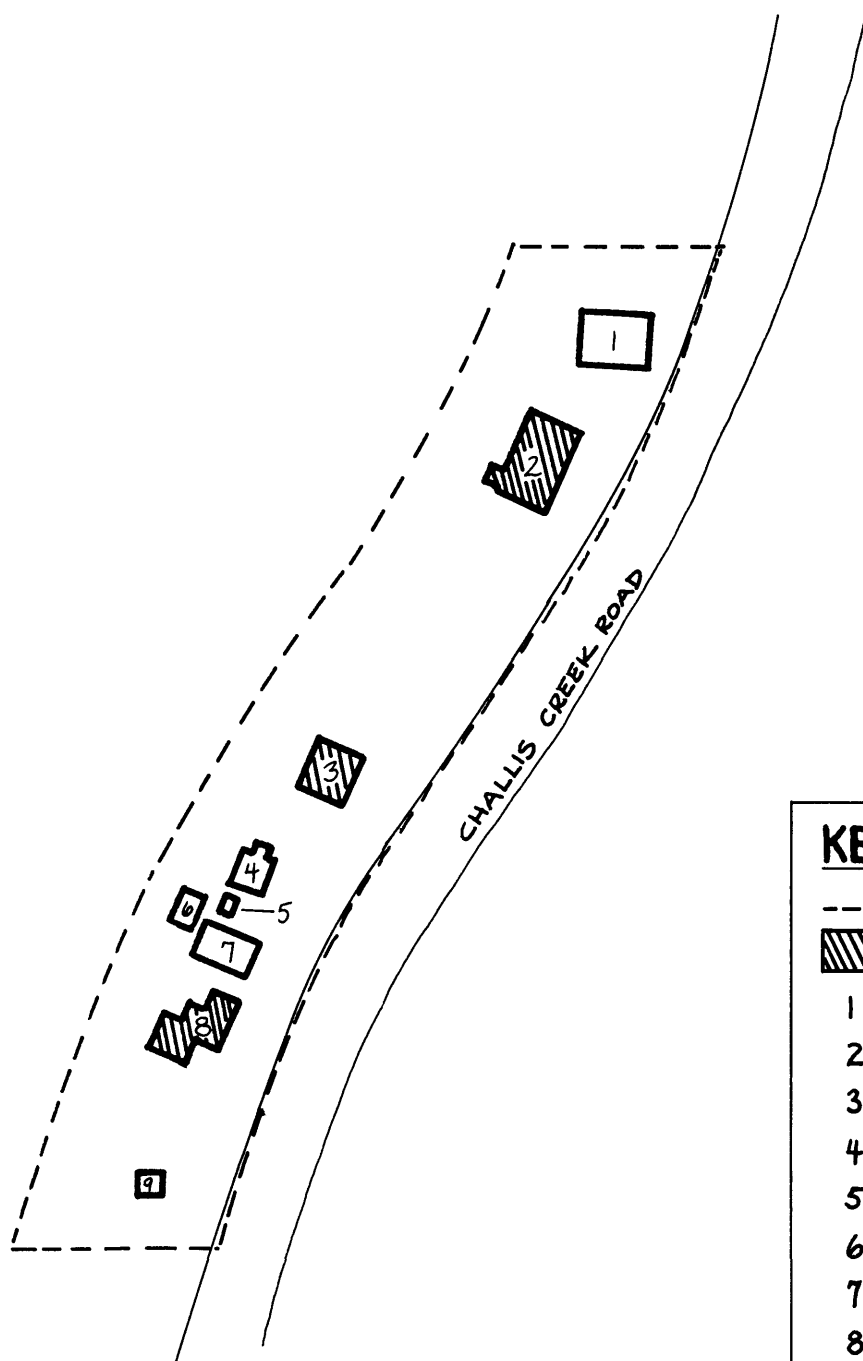
FEB 5 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE 1

boundary of the district follows the western edge of the road. It commences at a point due east of a point 25' south of the southernmost site (Brewery Spring, map #9). It continues northeasterly to a point due east of a point 25' north of the northernmost site (Challis Brewery, map #1). The western boundary of the district is described by a line which is at every point 100' due west of the eastern boundary. The northern and southern boundaries run laterally, due west from the northern and southern extremities of the eastern boundary to the corresponding extremities of the western.



KEY:

- DISTRICT BOUNDARY
-  NONCONFORMING INTRUSIONS
- 1 BREWERY
- 2 LLOYD REED RESIDENCE
- 3 HENRY REYNOLDS RESIDENCE
- 4 REYNOLDS' ROCK ADOBE "A"
- 5 STONE FOUNDATION
- 6 STONE OUTBUILDING
- 7 FERGUSON ROCK ADOBE "B"
- 8 DON FERGUSON RESIDENCE
- 9 BREWERY SPRING

CHALLIS BREWERY HISTORIC DISTRICT

CHALLIS, IDAHO

SCALE: 1" = 100' 1979

DEC 11 1979



Challis, Idaho
Brewery

Challis Brewery Historic District
(Site 1, Brewery)
Challis Creek Road, Challis, Custer
County, Idaho

Photograph by North Custer Historical
Society

1979

FEB 5 1980

Negative in private collection

View from southeast

Photograph #1 of 4

DEC 11 1979



Challis Brewery Historic District
(site 4, Reynold's Adobe)
Challis Creek Road, Challis, Custer
County, Idaho

Photograph by North Custer Historical
Society , 1979

FEB 5 1980

Negative in private collection

View from southeast

DEC 11 1979

Photograph #2 of 4



Challis Brewery Historic District
(site 7, Ferguson Adobe)
Challis Creek Road, Challis, Custer
County, Idaho

Photograph by North Custer Historical
Society

Negative in private collection

View from east

Photograph #3 of 4

FEB 5 1980

DEC 11 1978



Challis Brewery Historic District
(site #9, springhouse)
Challis Creek Road, Challis, Custer
County, Idaho

Photograph by Patricia Wright
September 1979

FEB 5 1980

Negative on file at Idaho State
Historical Society, Boise, Idaho

View from southeast

Photograph #4 of 4

DEC 11 1979