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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Fish Creek Dam

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Idaho

VICINITY OF

Carey

CODE
16

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

COUNTY
Blaine

CODE
013

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- ___ DISTRICT
- ___ BUILDING(S)
- ☒ STRUCTURE
- ___ SITE
- ___ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- ___ PUBLIC
- ☒ PRIVATE
- ___ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- ___ IN PROCESS
- ___ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- ☒ OCCUPIED
- ___ UNOCCUPIED
- ___ WORK IN PROGRESS
- ___ YES: RESTRICTED
- ___ YES: UNRESTRICTED
- ___ NO

ACCESSIBLE

PRESENT USE

- ___ AGRICULTURE
- ___ COMMERCIAL
- ___ EDUCATIONAL
- ___ ENTERTAINMENT
- ___ GOVERNMENT
- ___ INDUSTRIAL
- ___ MILITARY
- ___ MUSEUM
- ___ PARK
- ___ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ___ RELIGIOUS
- ___ SCIENTIFIC
- ___ TRANSPORTATION
- ☒ OTHER: Reservoir

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Carey Valley Reservoir Company

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Carey

VICINITY OF

STATE

Idaho

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Blaine County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Hailey

STATE

Idaho

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Idaho State Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1972

___ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Idaho State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Boise

STATE

Idaho

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT

☐ DETERIORATED

☐ GOOD

☐ RUINS

☒ FAIR

☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED

☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE

☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Fish Creek dam is a reinforced concrete multiple arched dam, located at the confluence of the three branches of Fish creek. From bedrock to crest it is 92 feet high and is 1725 feet in length.

There are sixty eight arches. The reservoir has a capacity for 12,743 acre feet to the spillway and 14,600 acre feet to the crest of the dam.

The dam, although still in use, is not in good condition. A seepage problem exists and there are some fears that the dam is unstable.

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) Reclamation
		☐ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1919-1920

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

John S. Eastwood

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Fish Creek dam is significant as one of two multiple arch dams in Idaho. This type of dam was described as "the latest and most scientific form of dam known to the engineering world"¹ in 1919. This new design reputedly had greater elasticity and resiliency than more traditional dams and was considered to be earthquake proof.

John S. Eastwood, an engineer from Oakland, California, was the designer and builder of this type of dam. Fish Creek dam was the fourteenth dam he built in this style. Most of his work was done in California, although several examples exist in Utah, and this one and another at Malad Valley still stand in Idaho.

The dam was part of a Carey Act reclamation project and its reservoir provided water to irrigate the area around Carey, which was named after James Carey, the town's first post master, rather than the legislative act of 1894. This reclamation project is one of Idaho's better examples of systematic colonization by the L.D.S. church, and its meeting with no anti-Mormon resistance marks a change in social attitudes toward such church related endeavors.

¹ Idaho Daily Statesman, July 13, 1919, p. 9, c. 1-2.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Idaho Daily Statesman, March 9, 1919, p. 14, c. 1; July 13, 1919, p. 9, c. 1-2.
Wood River Times, June 19, 1920, p. 1, c. 2-3.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 5 acres.

UTM REFERENCES

A

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

res. 0
 43° 25' 30"
 113° 50' 00"

B  ZONE  EASTING  NORTHING

D  ZONE  EASTING  NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This nomination includes the dam and the bedrock it sits upon.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Don Hibbard, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Idaho State Historical Society

DATE _____

16 August 1978
ONE

STREET & NUMBER

610 North Julia Davis Drive

TELEPHONE

384-2120

CITY OR TOWN

Boise

STATE

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

Merle Wells

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 16 August 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE _____

12/29/78

DATE _____

2/18/78



Fish Creek Dam
near Carey Idaho

Photographer - Larry Jones
1977

Idaho State Historical Society

View from the back from the
east.