

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1H0037842

STATE:	Idaho
COUNTY:	Minidoka
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	OCT 29 1974

1. NAME	
COMMON:	Minidoka Dam and Power Plant
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

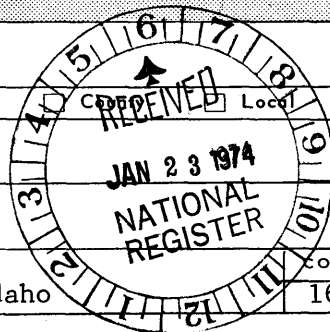
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: S of Minidoka Section 1, T9S, R25E, B.M.			
CITY OR TOWN: Minidoka vicinity		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: District #2	
STATE Idaho	CODE 16	COUNTY: Minidoka	CODE 067

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☐ Building ☐ Site ☒ Structure ☐ Object	☒ Public ☐ Private ☐ Both	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☐ Restricted ☒ Unrestricted ☐ No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
☐ Agricultural ☐ Commercial ☐ Educational ☐ Entertainment	☒ Government ☐ Industrial ☐ Military ☐ Museum	☐ Park ☐ Private Residence ☐ Religious ☐ Scientific	☐ Transportation ☐ Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: Bureau of Reclamation			
STREET AND NUMBER: Federal Building			
CITY OR TOWN: Boise	STATE: Idaho	CODE 16	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Minidoka County Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER: Rupert			
CITY OR TOWN: Rupert	STATE: Idaho	CODE 16	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Idaho State Historic Preservation Plan			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1972 ☐ Federal ☒ State			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Idaho State Historical Society			
STREET AND NUMBER: 610 North Julia Davis Drive			
CITY OR TOWN: Boise	STATE: Idaho	CODE 16	



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☒ Excellent☐ Good☐ Fair☐ Deteriorated☐ Ruins☐ Unexposed

(Check One)

☐ Altered☒ Unaltered

(Check One)

☐ Moved☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Minidoka Dam, located northeast of Rupert, has not changed greatly since the time it was built in 1904-06 for a cost of \$675,000. It is of zoned earth and rock fill construction with a concrete spillway. The height of the dam is 86 feet above the stream bed, and the total length is 4475 feet, of which 2400 feet is the spillway. The active storage capacity is 95,180 acre feet.

The powerhouse was the earliest federal hydroelectric plant in the Pacific Northwest, completed in 1913 for a cost of \$472,000. It originally had five generating units, but two more were added in 1927 and 1940, bringing the total to the present level of seven units.

Major reclamation canals for the Minidoka project come from this diversion dam, with a total of 120,000 acres irrigated in a desert country. The reservoir backs up past Bonanza Bar to Massacre Rocks.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☒ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☐ 19th Century

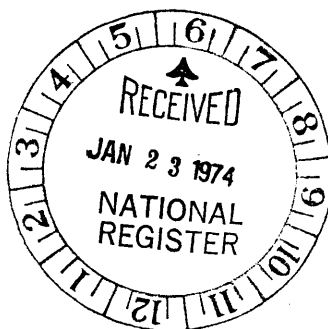
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) Dam: 1904-06; powerhouse: 1913

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| ☐ Aboriginal | ☐ Education | ☐ Political | ☐ Urban Planning |
| ☐ Prehistoric | ☒ Engineering | ☐ Religion/Philosophy | ☐ Other (Specify) _____ |
| ☐ Historic | ☐ Industry | ☐ Science | _____ |
| ☒ Agriculture | ☐ Invention | ☐ Sculpture | _____ |
| ☐ Architecture | ☐ Landscape Architecture | ☐ Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| ☐ Art | ☐ Literature | ☐ Theater | _____ |
| ☐ Commerce | ☐ Military | ☐ Transportation | _____ |
| ☐ Communications | ☐ Music | | |
| ☐ Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

On the basis of a 1902 investigation by the new United States Reclamation Service, Congress authorized construction of Minidoka Dam in 1904. Construction began September 17, and took more than a year. Part of the Burley canal system required pumping, so a 16,000 KWH electric plant was installed at the dam. Inadequate funding delayed completion of the \$5,800,000 Minidoka canal project until 1909, creating serious problems for the settlers there. Surplus power was available for public distribution, and some early experiments in space heating of houses and schools resulted from efforts to find local markets for Minidoka power. Senator George Norris of Nebraska used this experience with Minidoka power as a basis for justifying creation of the Rural Electric Administration.



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Annual History of the Minidoka Area Project, 1966, Vol. 60. Burley.

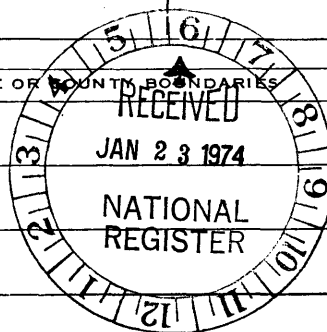
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
NW	Degrees Minutes Seconds 42 ° 40 ' 36 "	Degrees Minutes Seconds 113 ° 29 ' 29 "		Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "	Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "	
NE	42 ° 40 ' 36 "	113 ° 28 ' 17 "				
SE	42 ° 39 ' 45 "	113 ° 28 ' 17 "				
SW	42 ° 39 ' 45 "	113 ° 29 ' 29 "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 640 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Merle W. Wells, Director

ORGANIZATION
Idaho State Historical Society

DATE
18 January 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:
610 North Julia Davis Drive

CITY OR TOWN:
Boise

STATE
Idaho

CODE
16

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name Merle W. Wells

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date 18 January 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

A. R. Harkness

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 10/29/74

ATTEST:
Wm. H. Harkness
Keeper of the National Register

Date 10.22.74

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NW 12/29/74
SE 12/29/74
SW 12/29/74
NE 12/29/74



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Idaho	
COUNTY Minidoka	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: Minidoka Dam and Power Plant

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Section 1, T9S, R25E, B.M.

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

Idaho

CODE

16

COUNTY:

Minidoka

CODE

067

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Bureau of Reclamation

DATE OF PHOTO: 1972

NEGATIVE FILED AT:

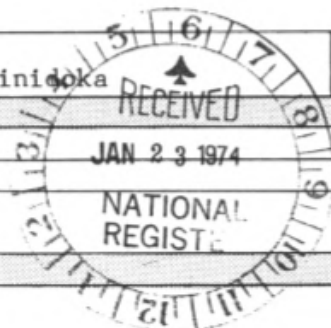
Bureau of Reclamation

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

The old power plant shows in the lower left of this view, looking upstream (east) at Minidoka Dam.

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS