

APPENDIX C

Interpretive Resource Development Forms

INTERPRETIVE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT FORM

Site No. 01-2201

Site Name Aiken's Hotel

Contribution to Overall Theme of Interpretive Plan

This site ties in with the theme that Ada County history represents a microcosm of settlement of the West. The sequence of activities and livelihoods which led to the construction of this hotel in this area parallels that of western settlement.

Sub-Themes

The development of the Eagle community was possible and necessary to support the surrounding area farming and ranching economy. The ensuing commercial development and urban growth was (is) in response to the natural resources which originally drew people to this area.

Concepts

- + Farming (#5)
- + Ranching (#6)
- + Urban growth and commercial development (#7)

Interpretive Opportunities

This site provides an accessible location on which to focus attention on the history of the development of the community of Eagle. In so doing, the natural history and status of and threats to eagles in the area can be addressed. (An interpretive corollary to the sub-theme which could be explored here is: if a place is named after any plant or animal, the status of that plant or animal is destined to be changed, e.g. the City of Eagle.)

Also, to encourage some interaction with the structure, visitors could be invited to observe the "beaded" mortar between the blocks. This is somewhat unusual.

Interpretive Challenges

This structure is privately owned and currently used as a beauty salon and real estate office. There could be some conflicts in encouraging visitation. However, the businesses currently occupying the building may benefit by drawing people in. This may present a partnership opportunity. In addition, the Eagle Chamber of Commerce may welcome some community-focused interpretation and also provide a partnership opportunity.

Prepared by Vicki Jo Lawson

Date 8/19/94

INTERPRETIVE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT FORM

Site No. 01-2629 Site Name Barber Dam and Lumber Mill
Archaeological Site

Contribution to Overall Theme of Interpretive Plan

Barber Dam and Lumber Mill support the theme that the history of Ada County is a microcosm of the history of the settlement of the West. The dam and lumber mill illustrate how technology and engineering made it possible to harvest natural resources and support a larger population.

Sub-Themes

The sub-theme that human activity in Ada County has responded to the availability of natural resources, and, in turn, has affected those natural resources, is supported by the development of the dam, mill, and subsequently the railroad line.

This site also supports the sub-theme that several ethnic and religious groups have played prominent roles in Ada County history. Basque families made up about 20-25% of Barber in the 1920s. The work at the mill allowed them an opportunity to work, even though they didn't speak English. The community of Barber provided an opportunity for their families to cluster together, creating a nucleus of old country culture. In turn, the Basques provided a stable work force.

Concepts

- + Urban growth and commercial development (#7)
- + Timber harvest (#8)

Interpretive Opportunities

Consolidated Hydropower, Inc. (CHI) currently operates the dam and power plant; Ada County is the owner. The dam keeper, Troy Peterson, is an excellent tour guide, and enjoys giving tours. (His number is 338-1617.) He would be an excellent resource to utilize during an Ada County's Yesterdays weekend event.

There is a brass plaque on the power plant identifying it as a National Register site. There are numerous opportunities to install interpretive signs on the approach to the dam and along the road leading to it. A map and photos (or an artist's rendition of the photos) of the community of Barber at its zenith would be especially effective. The Idaho Historical Museum archive has such photos taken of Barber from the south side of the river.

This site also provides an opportunity to interpret the generation, use, and distribution of electrical power in 1904, as compared with 1995.

Interpretive Challenges

Access is the primary challenge at this site. Limited access may be a possible compromise. The gate could be left open when the dam keeper is in attendance, and visitors could be assured of access during specific hours. This information would be included in any interpretive brochure and posted at the gate.

Prepared by Vicki Jo Lawson

Date 9/25/94

INTERPRETIVE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT FORM

Site No. 01-4283 Site Name Biddle and Songer Buildings

Contribution to Overall Theme of Interpretive Plan

By the 1930's, when these buildings were constructed, urban development was underway. Farming and ranching had left the "back yard", and were becoming "agribusiness". This allowed E.K. Biddle to invest in property "uptown". This may be the link of this site to the theme that Ada County history, in particular, parallels western settlement, in general. More research into the lives of Biddle and Songer is warranted.

Sub-Themes

This site ties in with the sub-theme that architectural styles and trends reflect changes in lifestyles and cultural values.

Concepts

- + Urban growth/commercial development (#7)
- + Agribusiness (#10)
- + The Tourtellotte and Hummel story

Interpretive Opportunities

The site provides an opportunity to tell the Tourtellotte and Hummel story which will be especially effective in an architectural tour. There's also an opportunity to identify (for the sake of referencing in an interpretive publication) other local structures utilizing the missionesque design elements used here.

Interpretive Challenges

These structures are privately owned, and currently used as an arms and tackle store. Visitors to the site may be intrusive to commerce (or might stimulate it!).

Prepared by Vicki Jo Lawson

Date 9/18/94

INTERPRETIVE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT FORM

Site No. 01-1717 Site Name Diversion Dam and Power Plant

Contribution to Overall Theme of Interpretive Plan

Diversion Dam and Power Plant support the theme that the history of Ada County is a microcosm of the history of the settlement of the West. The role of the dam in realizing the potential of the New York Canal and its irrigation value illustrates reclamation of the West.

Sub-Themes

The sub-theme that human activity in Ada County has responded to the availability of natural resources, and, in turn, has affected those natural resources is supported by the history and current use of this site. People came to the area to farm because of the availability of irrigable lands adjacent to the river. Once those lands were occupied, irrigation sources for additional land were sought. Construction of the New York Canal led to the construction of Diversion Dam, and made possible the construction of Arrowrock Dam. Diversion Dam and Power Plant have been pivotal in changing Ada County's natural resources.

Concepts

- + Farming (#5)
- + Ranching (#6)
- + Timber harvest (#8)
- + Irrigation (#9)
- + Agribusiness (#10)
- + Quality of Life (#11)

There is an opportunity to interpret, at this site, the Boise Valley's historic, current, and projected needs for electrical power, thus tying in the quality of life concept.

Interpretive Opportunities

This provides an opportunity to interpret the New York Canal, a National Register-eligible site, a part of which is visible from the dam.

Another opportunity is that the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) offers tours of the power plant if pre-arranged (334-1461). Such a tour would lend itself well to an Ada County's Yesterdays Weekend event.

Visible from the dam site to the north, is the "devil's postpile", eroding basalt cliffs popular with rock climbers. This view provides an opportunity to discuss geology of the canyon.

Interpretive Challenges

Diversion Dam currently provides a "salad" of interpretive signing. The BOR has one sign on the dam which interprets the role of the BOR, and one near the power plant which interprets the remaining evidence of the logway. Both signs are difficult to read because of the letter size, sign size, and distance of placement.

There's also a low-profile mount interpretive panel located at the intersection of the dam walkway and the Greenbelt. It's a good interpretive effort, though badly faded. It addresses well the reasons and ramifications of construction of the dam and power plant.

There is also an Idaho Highway Historical Marker located in the parking area across Highway 21 from the dam. It addresses, very generally, the history of the site.

It would be awkward to add to this "salad" of interpretive panels with one of Ada County's. However, the Greenbelt sign (Boise City Parks and Recreation) needs to be replaced. The location of the existing, faded sign would accommodate one of the Ada County series. To effectively utilize this space, the Ada County panel will need to be larger than the others in the series (2' x 3', rather than a 12" x 18"). The Highway Marker will continue to meet the needs of an audience that views from the car, rather than walking to the site.

Prepared by Vicki Jo Lawson

Date 9/25/94

INTERPRETIVE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT FORM

Site No. 01-3366 Site Name Eagle Adventist Schoolhouse

Contribution to Overall Theme of Interpretive Plan

The Seventh Day Adventists came to and stayed in Ada County because of the availability of agricultural land. This is an opportunity to discuss some of the beliefs and habits of Seventh Day Adventists and the resulting farming and ranching practices.

Sub-Themes

Seventh Day Adventists were one of number of religious groups that came to Ada County, left its mark, and continues to be a part of the community.

Concepts

- + Irrigation (#9)
- + Agribusiness (made possible with irrigation) (#10)
- + Education in Ada County - The public school system was established in the Idaho Territory in 1863.

Interpretive Opportunities

There may be an opportunity for partnership with the current local Seventh Day Adventist community in interpreting this site. Seeking the Adventists' input on interpretation of this site is highly recommended.

Interpretive Challenges

The structure is privately owned, and currently is used as a child care center. Inviting people to view this structure may create a conflict with the current use, if not approached sensitively.

Prepared by Vicki Jo Lawson

Date 8/14/94

INTERPRETIVE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT FORM

Site No. no number* Site Name Guffey Butte-Black Butte
Archaeological District

Contribution to Overall Theme of Interpretive Plan

The prehistory and history of the area support the theme that the history of Ada County is a microcosm of the settlement of the West. The rich Native American culture that is evidenced here was a victim of that very settlement.

Sub-Themes

The prehistory of the area supports the theme that several ethnic and religious groups have played prominent roles in Ada County history. Some stayed; some left; all left their mark. The Native Americans who occupied this area left their marks culturally, with evidence of their presence, including basketry, tools, pottery, and petroglyphs.

Concepts

- + Hunting and gathering (#1)
- + Mining (#3)
- + Geology
- + Natural history of birds of prey
- + Transportation

Interpretive Opportunities

This rich site could best be interpreted remotely unless major development occurs. The vista from Initial Point offers a landscape perspective which would provide a good interpretive context to interpret life on the Snake River flood plain.

A different perspective could be gained from being ON the river. Outfitted boat tours currently go up the Snake River from Swan Falls. Such tours would be an excellent means to interpret the prehistoric and historic resources of the area.

Interpretive Challenges

Lack of access is the primary challenge to interpreting these sites. The sites within this district are spread over a 35-mile long river corridor, and there is no well developed access to any of the sites. The Wees Bar site is sometimes interpreted to small groups by BLM archaeologists.

Another challenge has to do with the sensitivity and vulnerability of these sites. Making the public aware of the specific locations of sites may result in vandalism.

*Each site within a district has an individual number, but the district has no number.

Prepared by Vicki Jo Lawson

Date 2/4/95

INTERPRETIVE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT FORM

Site No. 01-4282 Site Name E.F. Hunt House

Contribution to Overall Theme of Interpretive Plan

This site may be one of the weakest contributors to the overall theme of the plan. However, the role of E.F. Hunt in developing the community of Meridian, and the role of Tourtellotte and Hummel in "designing" the Treasure Valley may provide examples of how Ada County history is a microcosm of western settlement.

Sub-Themes

This site ties in with the sub-theme that architectural styles and trends reflect changes in lifestyle and cultural values.

Concepts

- + Urban growth/commercial development (#7)
- + The Tourtellotte and Hummel story, including an introduction to architectural vocabulary.
- + The year of construction of the structure (1913) provides an opportunity to discuss events in Ada County at that time, including the establishment of the town of Meridian.

Interpretive Opportunities

This site provides an opportunity to tell the Tourtellotte and Hummel story which will be especially effective in an architectural tour. This particular bungalow design employs so many angles and devices that it offers a good opportunity to illustrate a broad architectural vocabulary. There also is an opportunity to do some research on E.F. Hunt's life.

Interpretive Challenges

This structure is privately owned and currently used as a residence and photographic studio. Visitors to the site may be intrusive to the residents.

INTERPRETIVE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT FORM

Site No. 01-4281 Site Name Orville Jackson House

Contribution to Overall Theme of Interpretive Plan

The original owner of this structure recalls that, at the time this structure was being built, there were very few other structures underway in the Valley. This reflects one of the impacts of the Great Depression across the West.

Sub-Themes

This site ties in with the sub-theme that architectural styles and trends reflect changes in lifestyle and cultural values.

Concepts

- + Urban growth/commercial development (#7)
- + The Tourtellotte and Hummel story, including an introduction to architectural vocabulary.
- + The year of construction of the structure (1932) provides an opportunity to discuss events in Ada County at that time, including the impacts of the Great Depression on the County.

Interpretive Opportunities

This site provides an opportunity to tell the Tourtellotte and Hummel story which will be especially effective in an architectural tour. There also is an opportunity to do some research on Orville Jackson's life. (His daughter still resides in the Jackson home.) It is a structure which many people may pass and wonder about everyday.

Interpretive Challenges

This structure is privately owned and currently used as a residence. Visitors to the site may be intrusive to the residents. It is difficult to access, except from the side street.

It will be challenging to weave this site into the overall project theme, given that its significance is largely architectural.

Prepared by Vicki Jo Lawson

Date 8/14/94

INTERPRETIVE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT FORM

Site No. 01-7617 Site Name MacMillan Chapel

Contribution to Overall Theme of Interpretive Plan

MacMillan Chapel supports the theme that Ada County history is a microcosm of the history of the settlement of the West in that the Chapel represents a focused, cooperative effort of newcomers to an area.

Sub-Themes

The Chapel supports the sub-theme that several ethnic and religious groups have played prominent roles in Ada County history. The Southern Methodists, who constructed and worshipped at the Chapel, helped as ranchers and farmers to establish the Ustick area.

Concepts

- + Farming (#5)
- + Ranching (#6)
- + The role of the Methodists in the evolution of Ada County can be explored here.

Interpretive Opportunities

The Chapel appears totally out of context along a busy street amidst encroaching development. Many people pass this site each day, and probably are quite curious about its origins and purpose.

Interpretive Challenges

The likelihood of the Chapel remaining undisturbed on site seems slim, given the encroaching development. This is unfortunate because the Chapel provides a dramatic and powerful contrast to current Ada County.

It has been difficult to find information on the early Southern Methodist community of Ada County. One untried source which may provide valuable information is the current Southern Methodist community in Ada County.

Prepared by Vicki Jo Lawson

Date 9/18/94

INTERPRETIVE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT FORM

Site No. 01-4284 Site Name Meridian Exchange Bank

Contribution to Overall Theme of Interpretive Plan

The Meridian Exchange Bank can be the focus for illustrating the evolution of banking in Ada County, that is, moving from a trade economy to a capital economy in less than a century. A similar evolution occurred across the west.

Sub-Themes

This site ties in with the sub-theme that architectural styles and trends reflect changes in lifestyles and cultural values.

Concepts

- + Urban growth/commercial development (#7)
- + Banking
- + The Tourtellotte and Hummel story
- + The Independent Telephone Company had its office on the second floor of the bank for a few years, so the history of communications in Ada County could be a concept to explore here.

Interpretive Opportunities

Another Tourtellotte and Hummel building, the Compton Building, is to the west of the bank. Although it is not on the National Register, it may provide an opportunity to further discuss the work of Tourtellotte and Hummel. The construction contractor who built the bank was named Barber. His family's influence in local history could also be discussed here. The use of graphics in relation to this site invites old coins, bills, and early trading goods.

Interpretive Challenges

This structure is in disrepair. In an attempt to protect the existing brick and mortar, another layer of mortar-like sealant was applied to the surface, and it appears to be ineffective. Vandalism seems prevalent in this part of town, so any interpretive installation would have to be thoughtfully placed and vandal-resistant.

Prepared by Vicki Jo Lawson

Date 9/18/94

INTERPRETIVE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT FORM

Site No. 01-4488 Site Name Halbert F. and Grace Neal House

Contribution to Overall Theme of Interpretive Plan

This site ties in with the theme that Ada County history represents a microcosm of the pattern of settlement of the West. The Neal family came West to Idaho, drawn by the opportunities of setting up a medical practice, pharmacy, and drugstore in an area that had no other medical practitioner. They came during a period of commercial growth, and stayed and helped shape the community.

Sub-Themes

The Neal house ties in with the sub-theme that architectural trends reflect changes in lifestyles and cultural values. The Neal house was built of concrete blocks, mixed at the site from a "concrete recipe" supplied Mrs. Neal's father in Nebraska.

Concepts

+ Urban growth/commercial development (#7)
+ History of the settlement of Meridian. Since the Neals played such a prominent role in the early days of Meridian, through their service club affiliation, local hospital support, and service on the school board and city council, a discussion of the history of Meridian would be appropriate.

Interpretive Opportunities

The Meridian Chamber of Commerce may be a potential partner in interpreting this site, given the concepts to be discussed. The current owners are interested in doing some historically accurate, restorative work with the garage, so they may have an interest in sharing the historic value of the house with others. This could also be an opportunity for partnership.

Interpretive Challenges

This structure is privately owned and currently used as a residence. Visitors to the site may be intrusive to the residents.

Prepared by Vicki Jo Lawson

Date 9/18/94

INTERPRETIVE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT FORM

Site No. 01-2627 Site Name Oregon Trail

Contribution to Overall Theme of Interpretive Plan

The Oregon Trail ties in with the theme that Ada County history represents a microcosm of settlement of the West. Reasons why the Oregon Trail passed through Ada County, experiences of the emigrants as they reached Ada County, and the effects of those emigrants on the development of Ada County all support this theme.

Sub-Themes

The Oregon Trail is the route that emigrants followed to and through Ada County. Some people stayed on in Ada County rather than continuing west, attracted by the natural resources of the area. In particular, the possibility of claiming valuable minerals attracted people. These folks, in turn, affected the mineral and other resources of Ada County. This supports the sub-theme that human activity in Ada County has responded to the availability of natural resources, and, in turn, has affected those natural resources. Establishment of the Oregon Trail through Ada County, in fact, is not just an accident of geography, but underscores the availability of attractive natural resources here.

Concepts

- + Trapping (#2)
- + Mining (#3)
- + Military presence (#4)

Interpretive Opportunities

The Oregon Trail provides significant opportunities to interpret the adventures and hardships experienced by the emigrants, impacts of the Euro-American culture on Native Americans, and the impacts of western expansion on natural resources.

With continued encroachment by development on Oregon Trail remnants, the best opportunity will be to partner with the Bureau of Land Management; Idaho Department of Transportation; Idaho Power Company; Boise City; State Historic Preservation Office; J.R. Simplot/CVJV Inc.; O'Neill Enterprises, Inc.; U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; and Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation to protect and jointly interpret the remaining trail segments. This partnership interpretation, through development of an interpretive kiosk, will allow development of themes and sub-themes consistent with the Ada County Interpretive Master Plan.