

DATA SHEET PH0283185

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Idaho
COUNTY: Ada & Canyon
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE MAR 15 1976

1. NAME

COMMON: Diversion Dam and Deer Flat Embankments, Boise Project
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: SE of Boise on 150th Street			
Section 3, T2N, R3E, and sections 19-20, 25-26, 35-36, T3N, R3W			
CITY OR TOWN: Boise, Id.		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Districts #1 & #2	
STATE: Idaho	CODE: 16	COUNTY: Ada & Canyon	CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

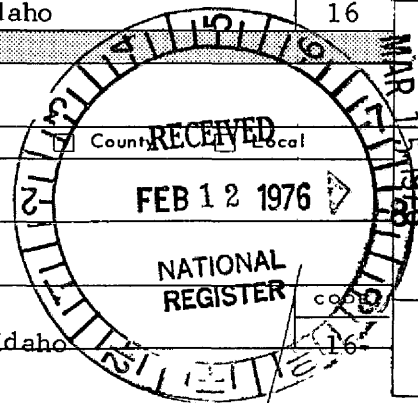
OWNER'S NAME: Bureau of Reclamation			
STREET AND NUMBER: Federal Building			
CITY OR TOWN: Boise		STATE: Idaho	CODE: 16

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:			
Ada County Courthouse		Canyon County Courthouse	
STREET AND NUMBER: Caldwell, Idaho			
CITY OR TOWN: Boise		STATE: Idaho	CODE: 16

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Idaho State Historic Sites Survey			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1972			
<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
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

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Embankments at Deer Flat Reservoir were constructed to form a large storage and reregulating area for water from the New York Canal. Both dams are of earthfill construction, the upper one being 4000 feet long and the lower one 7200 feet long. Approximately one million cubic yards of earth and gravel were used in the upper embankment which stands 68 feet high.

Deer Flat reservoir actually consists of two basins separated by a low ridge. They were connected by an equalization trench in the spring of 1908, and the ridge has been underwater since 1909 when the reservoir is full.

This 177,000 acre foot reservoir, now known as Lake Lowell, has remained essentially unchanged, and continues in use as an important example of a successful system for reclamation in a large western project.

this is correct

Diversion Dam still has its original appearance, and the 60-year old power plant still has its original units, complete with their wooden bearings. This is an interesting surviving example of an older kind of generating plant.

The original horse-power of 2500 to 3000 has increased substantially over the years. The three alternating current generators, each connected to its turbine, have an output of 2300 volts, which, when transmitted from the station, is 22,000 volts. With the current energy crisis, this museum-like plant has been in constant use since the summer of 1973.

The dam itself is a concrete and masonry structure standing 68 feet high. The height of the water behind the dam is 39 feet.

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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) 1906-1912

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>Reclamation-</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | <u>irrigation</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

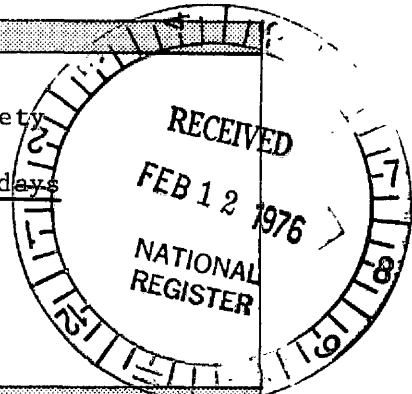
Irrigated farming started on a substantial scale in the Boise valley the season after the gold discoveries of August 1862 brought a rush of miners to the Boise Basin and the surrounding region. By 1864, farmers occupied all the land near the river that could be irrigated by direct diversion. Canals to water more desert land gradually were dug farther out into the valley, but two decades went by before construction of the major Boise valley canal got underway in 1883.

The New York Canal was conceived on a grand scale by A. D. Foote who expected it to handle 4500 second feet of water, eventually irrigating 500,000 acres. Progress on the canal, however, was painfully slow, held up by lack of funding and legal disputes. When the canal was finally opened in 1900, the results were disappointing as the canal was able to carry only 200-300 second feet of water. By 1905, with only 10,000 acres under irrigation, it was obvious that provision for storage and permanent diversion had to be made before the canal could be much of a success. This was accomplished by developing the Boise project under the United States Reclamation Service. Along with enlargement of the New York Canal, provision was made for an intermediate storage reservoir at Deer Flat when the Payette-Boise Project was approved March 25, 1905, with \$1,300,000 allocated for completion of these facilities. Construction of the three embankments for Deer Flat reservoir began in 1906. Because construction bids were too high, the United States Reclamation Service undertook to build the upper embankment with its own staff. This was the earliest large Idaho project the Service undertook in that manner, and the million cubic yard upper embankment was not completed until September 1, 1908. In 1908, the New York Canal was enlarged to handle the project that Foote had originally planned. A substantial diversion dam was constructed below the canyon so that this difficult canyon stretch could be omitted from the canal. Diversion Dam was built high enough to run water into the canal at that point, and on February 22, 1909, some three thousand people lined the canal below the dam for a mile or two to watch when the water was finally diverted into the large canal. Water filled the \$325,700 reservoir (eventually known as Lake Lowell) in 1909, after which additional construction was necessary to eliminate seepage and erosion problems. In January 1912, these additions were completed. This reservoir provided the original storage for a major early western United States Reclamation Service project: without it

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Reference series 171, 190, 182 Idaho State Historical Society
 John J. Peebles, "The Atlantic Steam Shovel", Idaho Yesterdays
 (Summer, 1969), 13/2:16-31.



10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		11° 5' 20" 320/48	24, 400	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		11° 5' 22" 000/48	26, 100	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		11° 5' 28" 780/48	22, 640	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		11° 5' 73" 350/48	20, 750	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: app. 65 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Idaho	16	Ada	001
Idaho	16	Canyon	027

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Merle Wells, Director

ORGANIZATION: Idaho State Historical Society

DATE: 6 February 1976

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: 6 February 76

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

[Signature]
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 3/15/76

ATTEST:

Robert B. Rettig
 Acting Keeper of The National Register

Date: 3-12-76

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
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(Number all entries)

8.

the Boise project could not have begun to provide adequate water for the arid lands served by an elaborate canal system engineered by A. D. Foote.

In May 1912, a 1500 KW power plant was completed at Diversion Dam to provide power for the construction of Arrowrock Dam further up the Boise River. After Arrowrock was completed, the three generator electric plant was used for supplemental power in the Boise Valley. It was connected with the Barber power plant of the Idaho-Oregon Light and Power Company (Idaho Power after 1916) and is still available for reserve use. The power plant is one of the earliest built by the Bureau of Reclamation. Deer Flat reservoir still serves Boise Valley's irrigated farms, although supplemental water for dry years has been added from other sources. The reservoir also offers a home for millions of ducks and geese, and has become an important national wildlife refuge.

