

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Utah	
COUNTY: Millard	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER JAN 2 1974	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Topaz War Relocation Center *etc*

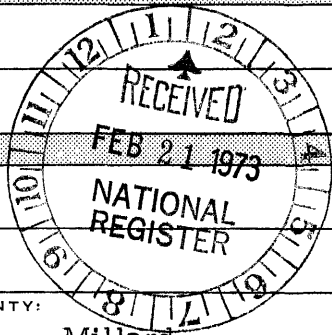
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
16 miles northwest of Delta, Utah

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: Utah CODE: 49 COUNTY: Millard CODE: 027



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) no present use - site only

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Lewis B. Ellsworth

STREET AND NUMBER:
Box 1192

CITY OR TOWN:
Globe

STATE:
Arizona

CODE:
04

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Millard County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Fillmore

STATE:
Utah

CODE:
49

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Utah Historic Sites Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: April 1972 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Utah State Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
603 E. South Temple

CITY OR TOWN:
Salt Lake City

STATE:
Utah

CODE:
49

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Utah

COUNTY: Millard

ENTRY NUMBER: JAN 2 1974

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DATE:

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

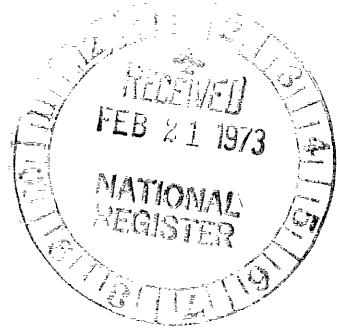
The entire camp covered 19,800 acres; however, the actual center was a mile square with areas for evacuee residents, administrative personnel and military police. The evacuee area consisted of forty-two blocks of which thirty-four were for living quarters. Each resident block was designed to house and service 250-300 persons. The facilities consisted of twelve single story barracks buildings which were divided into six single rooms, ranging from 16 x 20 feet to 20 x 25 feet in size, a central dining hall, recreation hall, combination washroom-toilet-laundry building, outdoor clothes lines and an office for the block manager.

Pot-bellied stoves, cots, mattress covers and blankets were furnished from army stores. However, evacuees were required to make benches, tables, shelves, closets, storage chests, and other furniture.

The administrative area consisted of eight blocks of one story office buildings, barracks apartments, dormitories, and a recreation center. A total of 623 buildings were constructed during the life of the camp. After the camp was closed, the property was sold. The buildings have all been torn down and there are few remains of the camp which once housed as many as 8,130 evacuees.

None of the 623 buildings constructed during the heyday of the camp remain. They have either been torn down or moved to other sites throughout Millard County.

A few foundations are still visible and the street system is still discernable. However, Topaz, like so many important sites in American history, once there was no further use, has been abandoned and, by many, forgotten, until it has almost been reclaimed by the greasewood, sagebrush and salt grass of the desert from which it was born.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Utah	
COUNTY	
Millard	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JAN 2 1974

(Number all entries)

Topaz War Relocation Center (continued)

of Japanese descent after the United States entered World War II. Many people feel that Topaz and the nine other war relocation centers in the United States were America's answer to the Auschwitz or Dachau of Nazi Germany.

The incarceration of American citizens and aliens of Japanese ancestry was for America's war-time mobilization effort, a grave mistake. The American-Japanese were an important part of California's economy. In addition to their shops and businesses, they were important in the fishing and agriculture industries of California. The incarceration of all Japanese on the West Coast meant a less vital labor force and required a considerable number of guards and officials whose energies could have been used in more worthwhile and beneficial aspects of the war effort, to staff the camps.

Of greater significance was the precedent this action set in allowing the basic constitutional rights guaranteed all American citizens, to be denied under a questioned justification of national security.

Many writers and historians have suggested that the basic question, following the bombing of Pearl Harbor, was, "Could democracy really work under all circumstances?" The Japanese-American experience of World War II demonstrates that democracy could have worked but, tragically, was not permitted to. The significant question for Americans of this and future generations is, "What circumstances, if any, justify the denial of the basic rights upon which this country was founded?"

Another significant aspect of the relocation story is what Dr. Roger Daniels describes as, "The logical outgrowth of over three centuries of American experience, an experience which taught Americans to regard the United States as a white man's country in which non-whites 'had no rights which the white man was bound to respect.'" (Daniels Concentration Camps U.S.A., p. xii.) Fortunately this part of America's race problems has been dissolved and America is not blemished by race hatred or discrimination toward the Japanese American. A feeling of sorrow, rather than resentment, would best characterize the American and American-Japanese attitude to the relocation experience and earlier forms of discrimination. This provides an America which has the potential for renewed racial strife with both an example and a hope of reconciliation of all races and groups within its society.

2. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

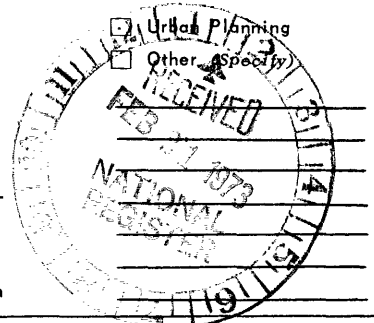
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation		

Urban Planning
 Other (Specify) _____



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Topaz War Relocation Center was one of ten camps established in the United States to house the Japanese evacuees from the West Coast. Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, fear of "enemy aliens!" in the United States was so great that President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Executive Order 9066 which gave the Army blanket power to deal with the enemy alien problem. Under this order General John L. DeWitt, commanding general of the Western Defense Command in San Francisco, issued Public Proclamation No. 1 which announced that all persons of Japanese ancestry would eventually be removed from the West Coast "as a matter of military necessity." The Wartime Civil Control Administration was established to supervise the evacuation.

At first the evacuation was voluntary and almost 5,000 did move, principally to Utah and Colorado. Many of these voluntary evacuees ran into trouble as they were greeted with "No Japs Wanted" signs and turned back by border guards and armed posses. On March 27, 1942 the voluntary evacuation was halted and the army began a program of compulsory evacuation.

Officially known as the Central Utah War Relocation Center, Topaz was opened September 11, 1942. Named for the nearby Topaz Mountain, the camp consisted of 19,800 acres and was designed to house 9,000 persons.

The camp was constructed between July 1942 and January 1943 by a California firm (Daley Brothers) under a contract let by the United States Corps of Engineers. The cost was \$3,929,000 with more than 800 men involved in the construction. The eventual cost was estimated at five million dollars with another five million dollars required annually for the operation of the camp.

Throughout the three-year history of the camp, crime was almost nonexistent among the 8,000 evacuees. There were only two cases of aggravated assault, two of grand larceny and one of destroying government property. Trouble was feared, however, when a sentry, enforcing a camp regulation which forbade any alien to approach the outer fence, shot and killed an elderly Japanese man. A mass funeral was held and a vigorous protest made to camp officials.

Residents of the camp were involved in various enterprises including agriculture, furniture-making, brick making, sheet metal manufacturing and numerous single-employee jobs and services. Most enterprises were intended to meet the needs of the community. Some 3,000 students passed through the Topaz School system. A newspaper Topaz Times was published.

The camp was closed October 31, 1945. Although there are only a few ruins, the site is significant because it symbolizes the extreme degree of prejudice and war hysteria that was directed against Japanese and persons (see continuation sheet)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Leonard J. Arrington, The Price of Prejudice. The Faculty Association, Utah State University, Logan, Utah, 1962.
 Audrie Giednce and Anne Loftis, The Great Betrayal: The Evacuation of Japanese-Americans During World War II. The Macmillan Company, Toronto, Canada, 1969.
 Allan R. Bosworth, America's Concentration Camps. W. W. Norton & Co., New York, 1967.
 Royce Daniels, Concentration Camps USA! Japanese Americans and World War II. Holt Rhenhart & Winston, New York, 1972.

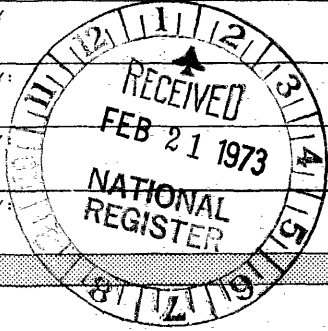
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	39°	25'	8"	112°	46'	48"	0		
NE	39°	25'	8"	112°	46'	8"	0		
SE	39°	24'	30"	112°	46'	8"	0		
SW	39°	24'	30"	112°	46'	48"	0		

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 300

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



NO UTM CD

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Kent Powell, Preservation Historian

ORGANIZATION: Utah State Historical Society DATE: December 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
603 East South Temple

CITY OR TOWN: Salt Lake City STATE: Utah CODE: 49

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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:

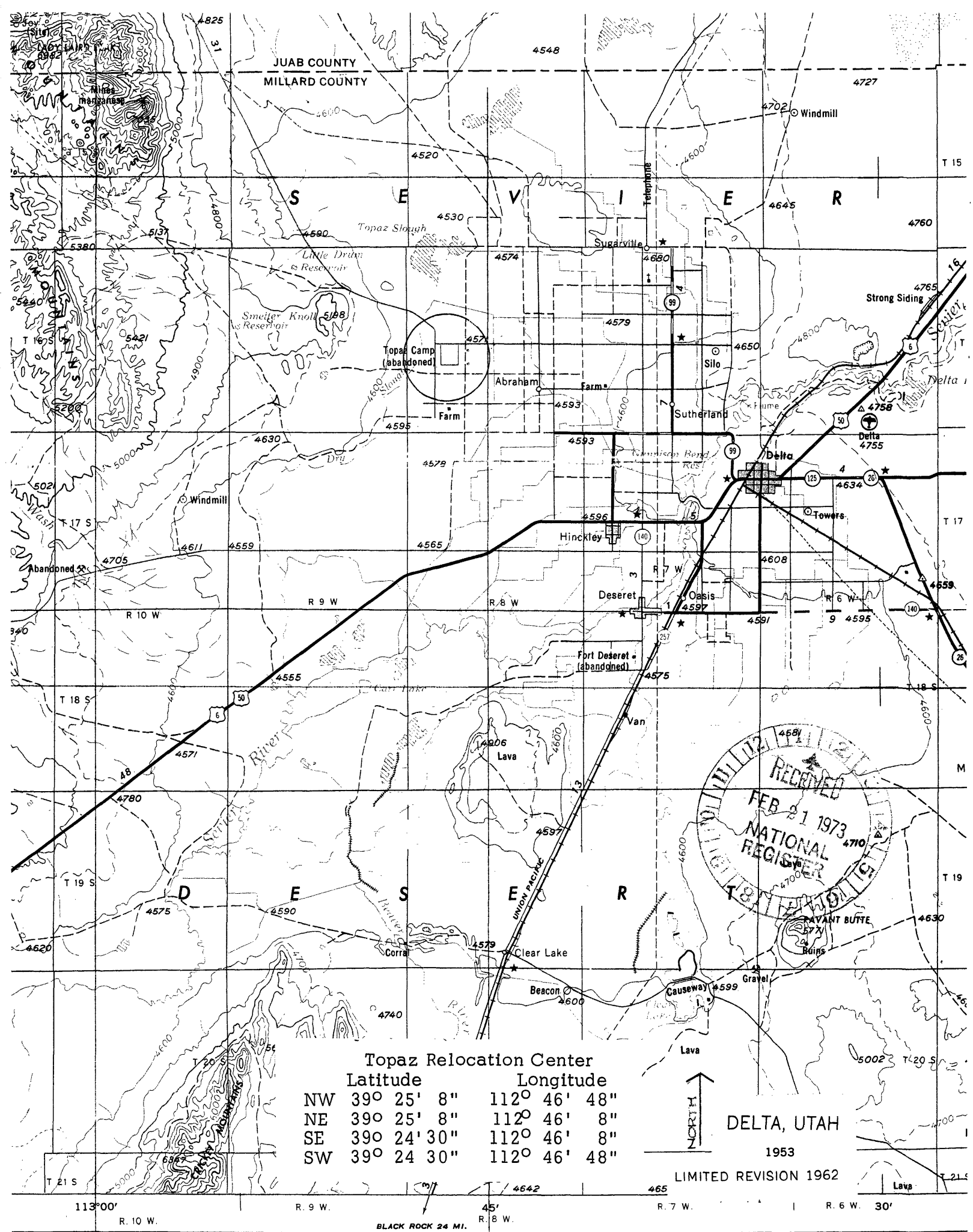
National State Local

Name: Milton L. Weilenmann
 Title: State Liaison Officer
 Date: December 1972

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

Ann A Connally
~~Executive Director, National Historic Preservation Service~~
 Associate Director, Professional Services
 Date: JAN 2 1974

ATTEST:
Wendell Smith
 Keeper of The National Register
 Date: 12-18-73



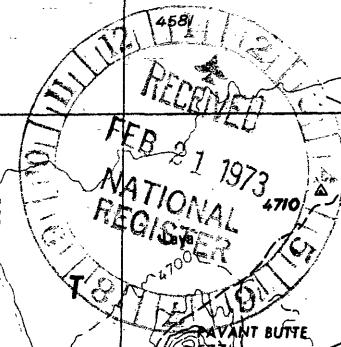
JUAB COUNTY
MILLARD COUNTY

S E V I E R

D E S E R

Topaz Relocation Center

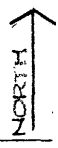
	Latitude	Longitude
NW	39° 25' 8"	112° 46' 48"
NE	39° 25' 8"	112° 46' 8"
SE	39° 24' 30"	112° 46' 8"
SW	39° 24' 30"	112° 46' 48"



DELTA, UTAH

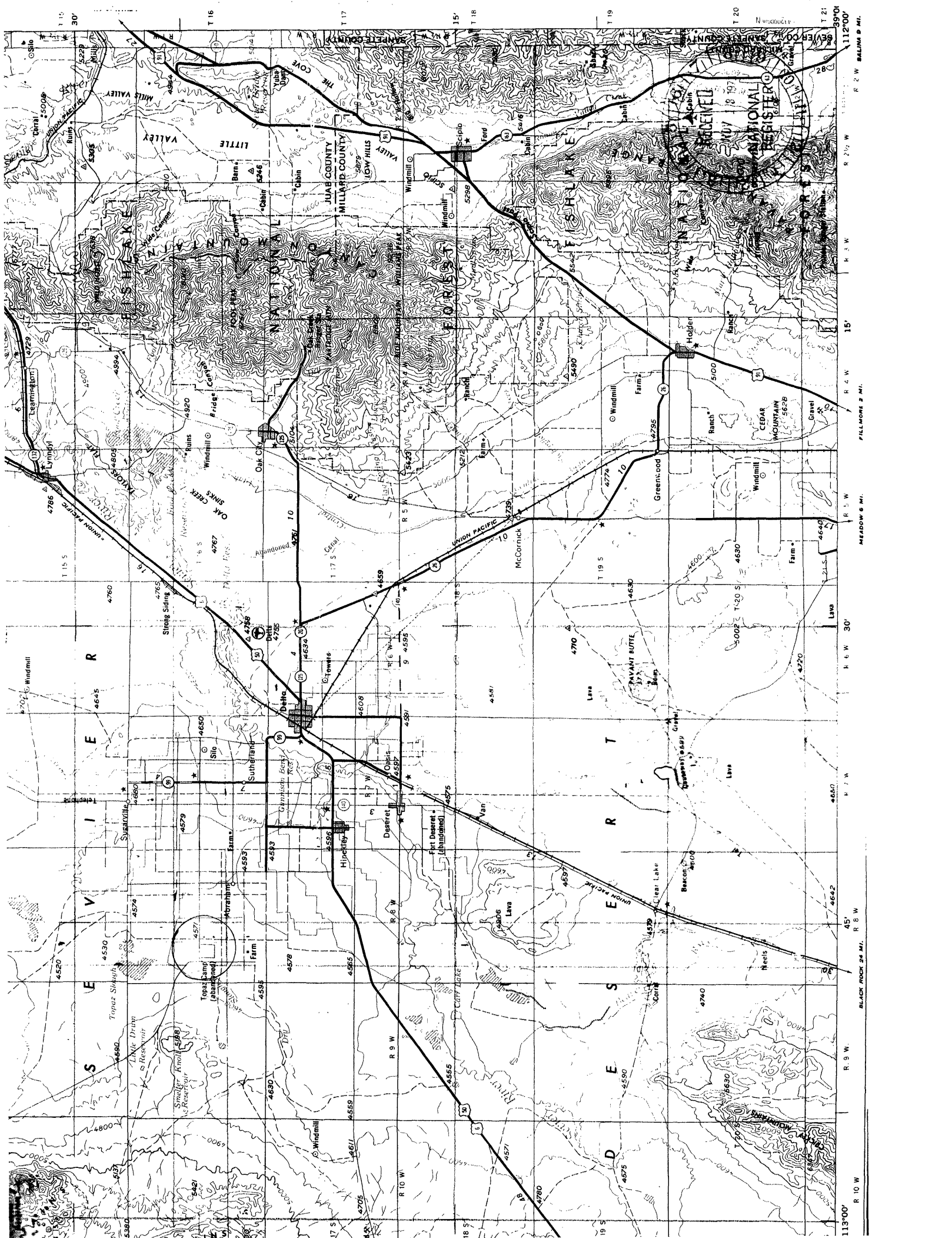
1953

LIMITED REVISION 1962



113° 00' R. 10 W. R. 9 W. 45' R. 8 W. R. 7 W. R. 6 W. 30' 4642 465

BLACK ROCK 24 MI.



113°00' R 10 W
112°00' R 9 W
111°00' R 8 W
110°00' R 7 W
109°00' R 6 W
108°00' R 5 W
107°00' R 4 W
106°00' R 3 W
105°00' R 2 W
104°00' R 1 W

T 20
T 19
T 18
T 17
T 16
T 15

113°00'
112°00'
111°00'
110°00'
109°00'
108°00'
107°00'
106°00'
105°00'
104°00'

MEADOW 6 MI.
FILLMORE 3 MI.
BLACK ROCK 24 MI.
R 10 W
R 9 W
R 8 W
R 7 W
R 6 W
R 5 W
R 4 W
R 3 W
R 2 W
R 1 W

