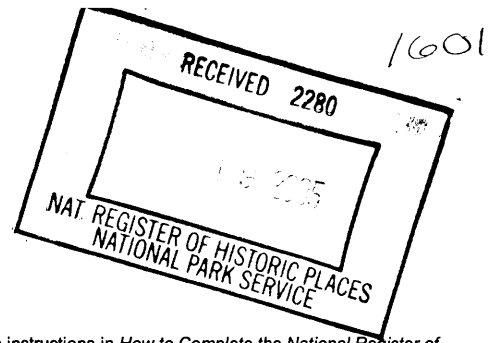


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Idaho Mining and Smelter Company Store

other names/site number Clayton Store

2. Location

street & number One Ford Street N/A not for publication

city or town Clayton N/A vicinity

state Idaho code ID county Custer code 037 zip code 83227

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Kenneth C. Reid DEC 15, 2005
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
KENNETH C. REID, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Robert Beall 2/1/06
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Idaho Mining and Smelter Company Store
Name of Property

Clayton, Custer County, Idaho
City, County, and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE:

Department store

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH

CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS

OTHER: False-Front

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls WOOD

METAL/Tin

roof METAL/Tin

other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

Idaho Mining and Smelter Company Store
Name of Property

Clayton, Custer County, Idaho
City, County, and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" on one or more lines for the criteria

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" on all that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE

Period of Significance

1880 – 1953

Significant Dates

1880, 1910, 1921,

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested Other State agency
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Federal agency
- Local government – Custer County
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

Idaho Mining and Smelter Company Store
Name of Property

Clayton, Custer County, Idaho
City, County, and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A 11 7/0/7/4/8/2 4/9/0/3/7/8/5/ _____
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

C _____ D _____
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Adjacent to Block 1, Lot 21 of the Original Townsite of Clayton, further described as The Ella Mill Site.

___ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary encompasses the property historically associated with the building.

___ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael Kalenick

organization Clayton Area Historical Assn date June 15, 2005

street & number PO Box 31 telephone 208 838-2467

city or town Clayton state Idaho zip code 83227

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps: A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and/or properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs: Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

Name Clayton Area Historical Association

street & number PO Box 31 telephone 208 838-2467

city or town Clayton state Idaho zip code 83227

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1 Name of Property Idaho Mining and Smelter Company Store
County and State Custer County, Idaho

DESCRIPTION

The Idaho Mining and Smelter Company Store (IMSCS) is located in the town of Clayton, in Custer County, in central Idaho. Clayton is a small village (with a current population of 26 people) located in a narrow, mountain canyon drained by Kinnikinic Creek, which empties into the Salmon River. The entire corporate boundary of Clayton covers only a portion of Section 25 of T11N, R17E, Boise Meridian. The building faces south at the bottom of a steep grade. It sits at the corner of Kinnikinic Creek Road and Ford Road, in the northwest corner of the community.

The IMSCS is a one-story, rectangular building. It sits on a stone foundation and measures 29 feet wide by 96 feet deep. The south façade has a centrally placed double door, flanked on each side by two 8-light, fixed-frame windows, measuring 50 inches by 130 inches. The door has a 4-light transom above. There are simple wood pilasters between each opening and on each end of the façade. The door and a boardwalk are reached via four wooden steps. The door and windows have been largely boarded over. A false front projects above and is covered with corrugated tin. Five paired brackets support the flat cornice. Most of the building has been covered in panels of corrugated tin, though pieces are missing and the wood board sheathing is visible in places. The sheathing has been laid on a diagonal. The gabled roof has a shallow pitch and consists of a single layer of corrugated metal. A brick chimney pierces the ridgeline approximately two-thirds of the way toward the back of the building.

There are two doors and one window visible on the west elevation. The window is a small, wooden, sliding window placed high on the wall. One door appears to be original and accesses the building near the back. Another side entrance has double doors, and interior indications are that this door was a later, though early, addition.

The rear, or north, elevation is largely devoid of details except for a double delivery door, centrally placed, and another off-center door in the gable end that would have accessed the attic space. There are currently no exterior stairs to this door. The rear of the building is almost completely covered in corrugated tin and the gabled roof is evident.

The east elevation has five windows, some of which are boarded over, and one door. The word "Clayton" is visible on the roof on this side of the building; it was painted in the 1950s to aid aerial navigation.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2 Name of Property Idaho Mining and Smelter Company Store
County and State Custer County, Idaho

The interior of the building retains its historic configuration and features one large, open space. Post and beam construction with chamfered corners is visible. The long walls of the building retain original store shelving with bins beneath. Each side also features a counter measuring two-and-a-half feet wide by forty-five feet long. The ceiling is finished in tongue and groove wood.

The IMSCS retains excellent integrity. The original storefront and interior make it a unique example of an intact, nineteenth-century, company store in a mining town.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 1 Name of Property Idaho Mining and Smelter Company Store
County and State Custer County, Idaho

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Idaho Mining and Smelter Company Store (IMSCS) is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level, under Criterion A, for its association with the boom economy of the small mining town of Clayton, Idaho. The Idaho Mining and Smelter Company Store was constructed and opened in 1880, by the Idaho Mining and Smelter Company, which at that time was operating out of Omaha, Nebraska. The IMSCS was the singular general merchandise facility within the town of Clayton, serving the smelter workers and housing the post office as well. As the only store in Clayton from 1890 to 1910, it also served as a gathering spot and was a center of community life. The store saw the town of Clayton and the surrounding area through the boom and bust cycle of mining so common in Idaho's mountain regions.

HISTORIC BACKGROUND:

Gold was discovered in what is today, Idaho, as early as the 1850s, but these scattered, early finds were kept relatively quiet; the first flood of miners to the area didn't occur until around 1860, peaking in 1862-1863. The first discoveries were located in the Clearwater valley in northern Idaho. By 1862, the Boise Basin deposits were discovered and a boom of population growth occurred around Idaho City, which, for a time, was the largest community in the Pacific Northwest. The City of Boise was founded during this period (the first plat was recorded in 1863) and grew to be an important supply center for the region. In response to the huge population shift, Boise City replaced Lewiston (in northern Idaho) in 1864, as the territorial capital. From the Boise Basin, miners continued to fan out through central Idaho; lode discoveries were made in Stanley, Yankee Fork, Bayhorse, and Clayton. The town of Salmon was established during this time to serve as the primary supply center for the new mining boom.

As mining districts were established throughout the State of Idaho, they were typically named for the first mines or claims that were found within a particular geographical area. The Bayhorse Mining District came into existence in 1864, with the discovery of excellent mineral deposits along a stream, which was subsequently named for the prospector's steeds. This stream empties into the Salmon River and is located 15 miles downstream from Clayton. The District yielded rich deposits; in 1866, gold was discovered on the Yankee Fork of the Salmon River. Placer, as well as hard-rock mining for gold, continued throughout many parts of Custer County.

Prospecting continued throughout the Bayhorse Mining District during the 1860s and 1870s, when rich silver ore deposits were discovered along Kinnikinic Creek. These deposits were significant, and in 1879, resulted in the construction of a new smelter on a site selected by professor J.E. Clayton of

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 2 Name of Property Idaho Mining and Smelter Company Store
County and State Custer County, Idaho

Atlanta, Idaho. The town that grew up around it was named for Clayton. A July 17, 1880, newspaper article from the Yankee Fork Herald read:

Wednesday forenoon we reached the mouth of Kinnikinic, distant from Bonanza 30 miles. Here we found a streak of business. Everything was bustle and stir. Gen. W.W. Lowe was busy directing the affairs of the Salmon River Mining and Smelter Co. This is an Omaha organization, composed of men of both capital and enterprise, who are inaugurating extensive works for mining and smelting the ores of Kinnikinic and adjacent camps.

C.B. Rustin is president of the company and W.W. Lowe general manager and treasurer. Men were coming on every trail to get employment or to locate. Wages are \$2.50 with board \$3.50 without. A town will be built fast as materials can be had. H.D. Jaquish is putting up a storeroom and warehouse [the IMSCS], and in a few days will move his goods up from East Fork. Everything is moving briskly as possible under the circumstance.

Supplies have yet to come up from East Fork and Challis by pack trains, but the company will have a road completed to East Fork in time for the machinery. The Salmon River will be bridged at East Fork in September or when the river has fallen sufficiently for that purpose. All the idle men in Challis have been put to work at East Fork and Kinnikinic and fifty more were wanted at last account.

The new smelter with a 30-ton-per-day capacity was ready for business by mid-September, 1880. It was established to process the ores from the mines of Kinnikinic Creek, which consisted of: The Faithful Boy; Monitor; North Star; Overland; Ella; Climax; Crown; eleven claims for the Rose; three claims for the Discovery; Nancy Lee; Rob Roy; Lilly #2; five claims for the Campbird; and six claims for the Galena. The smelter was built at the Ella mill site, but additional mill sites were staked out for the Clayton, Climax and Crown.

Production costs were high for this Idaho smelter as, coke, initially, was imported all the way from Pennsylvania for its first two years of operation. By 1882, in order to cut costs and make the smelting process more efficient, the smelter began employing as many as forty-eight men to produce the necessary 180,000 bushels of charcoal required to maintain the smelting operation each year. The smelting operation functioned primarily as a seasonal endeavor, carried out for approximately 100 days each summer. Consequently, the population of Clayton rose and fell in the course of each year.

Exploration for silver and lead continued throughout the Bayhorse Mining District, resulting in the development of the Poverty Flat mines. These mines consisted of: the Uno; Silver Belt; Redemption Broadway; Vermont; Mammoth; Turtle X; Cisco; and others.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 3 Name of Property Idaho Mining and Smelter Company Store
County and State Custer County, Idaho

When the rich ore was moved to the smelter from the claims on Kinnikinic Creek, it was a relatively simple process as the ore could be moved by wagon. However, moving the ore from the Poverty Flat mines to the smelter was an entirely different matter, since the terrain of Poverty Flat was very steep and wagons could not negotiate the area. Instead, ore was hauled by mules from the mines to a natural rock chute on the western end of Poverty Flat. There the ore was dumped down the rock chute, collected again at the bottom of the chute, and loaded on to mules for the trip to the smelter. The location where this operation took place was known as "Transfer Cabin," the remains of which can still be seen today. Pieces of ore that were too large to be transported on the mules were "stone boated," a process whereby the ore was loaded onto sleds and dragged down the hill.

The Idaho Mining and Smelter Company Store:

From the establishment of the smelter in 1880, the Idaho Mining and Smelter Company operated a company store in Clayton where residents could secure the provisions they desired. The store was owned by the Omaha-based company that owned the smelter, but operated under a lease agreement, so it was not a "company store" in the traditional sense of the word. For thirty years, until 1910, it remained the only store in Clayton, and as such, it was also a community gathering place. The store served as the local post office, and for a short time in 1894-1895, after a fire destroyed its office in Challis, the local newspaper operated out of the store as well.

In 1910, the IMSCS closed; the precise reason is not known, but the drop in the price of silver did result in diminished activity in area mines. This resulted in less work for the smelter operation in Clayton, and likely, fewer workers and residents to sustain the store. Shipments to the smelter picked up in 1918, likely initiating resurgence of activity in Clayton and resulting in the reopening of the store by Mark Crawford in 1921.

It was during this same period that the Ford Motor Company began acquiring lead/silver claims throughout the Bayhorse Mining District, in the town of Bayhorse and up Squaw Creek, at the Redbird Mine. The Ford Motor Company built houses in Clayton for their employees who worked at the Redbird Mine, since employees could not winter there and the closest school for their children to attend was in nearby Clayton. Rather than seeking the silver deposits in the area, the Company was motivated by the lead in the ore that could be refined for use in Ford car batteries; the silver by-product was an added bonus.

In 1925, Mark Crawford and other Clayton residents removed the top layer of floor covering and replaced it with a hardwood floor so that the store could also be used as a dance hall for local recreation. They also built a stage into one end of the building so that the Clayton school would have a place to hold plays and performances. Local residents added their musical prowess to these events, making it a true community center.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 4 Name of Property Idaho Mining and Smelter Company Store
County and State Custer County, Idaho

In 1926, the Ford Motor Company expanded their mining holdings and moved directly into Clayton. They acquired the Ella Group of mining claims as well as the Overland, Climax and Crown. Many of the earlier mining claims within the Clayton area had been consolidated, and the Ford Motor Company also acquired the Clayton, Redbird and Omaha mill sites. This series of acquisitions included the Idaho Mining and Smelter Company Store. Custer County tax records from 1926, show the Ford Motor Company owned the smelter, the store, and additional residences that were built for company employees. Although the Ford Motor Company continued extracting ore from their claims throughout the Bayhorse Mining District (including the newly acquired Silver Rule Mine on Slate Creek), by the mid-1920s, the Company had begun to ship all of their ore to a smelter in Tooele, Utah, for processing. Fordson tractors were used to take the ore through Spar Canyon to the railway at Mackay. The Tooele smelter offered a newer refining process that was efficient enough to make the long transport of ore to Utah still fiscally advantageous. This shift in the location of the smelter operation resulted in the closure of the Clayton facility, having a significant impact on the community.

Although the smelter had ceased operations, this time the store continued to operate, and in 1928, George and Mabel Gossi purchased the lease and sold groceries and hardware. In 1930, Lawrence and Millie Worthington bought the Idaho Mining and Smelter Company Store business from the Gossis, though the store continued to be leased from The Ford Motor Company. In 1933, Fred and Catherine Leuzinger bought out the Worthington's interests. By 1935, rising silver prices spurred the reopening of the smelter, and another boom period ensued. Also that year, the Ford Motor Company sold a right-of-way to the State of Idaho and a state road was finally constructed through the area. This development dramatically changed the face of Clayton, as the main street in town was relocated away from Ford Road, and the IMSCS, to the new highway just north of the Salmon River. Traffic down Ford Road decreased, resulting in a decrease of business at the old Company Store. Business suffered more when, in 1946, the Ford Motor Company sold all of their interest in the Clayton Silver Company, greatly diminishing mining activity in the area, though the smelter continued to operate.

In 1950, the Leuzingers sold the business to Louie and Viola Giampedraglia, and in 1953, the Leuzingers opened a competing store, which they had built on land they purchased near the new highway. The combination of the relocated main road through town and a competing store on that road, was more than the IMSCS venture could withstand, and the store ultimately closed for good.

Recently, the Clayton Historical Association purchased the building for use as a local historical society.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 **Page** 5 **Name of Property** Idaho Mining and Smelter Company Store
County and State Custer County, Idaho

Conclusion:

Constructed the same year that the smelter opened, the Idaho Mining and Smelter Company Store in Clayton is representative of the historic cycle of boom and bust of many western mining towns. When silver prices dropped, and the smelter closed, so did the store. Later, as the price of silver went back up, the smelter reactivated, and the store eventually reopened. Its role in the commercial life and history of Clayton is clear; established at the onset of the mining boom that built the town, it served as a central commercial facility and the only store in Clayton for over 80 years. The Idaho Mining and Smelter Company Store not only served the community commercially, but also served it socially as a gathering spot and post office for the small town, adding to its importance. As such, it is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 1 Name of Property Idaho Mining and Smelter Company Store
County and State Custer County, Idaho

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

Custer County, ID, Quit Claim Deed Records, 1926, 1935, 1946.

Custer County, ID, tax records from 1926.

“Information on (Kinnikinick) Clayton,” Yankee Fork Herald, July 17, 1880.

“Scenes from Days Gone By,” Challis Messenger, c.1911.

Untitled article, Blackfoot Register, 1882.

Wells, Merle. Gold Camps and Silver Cities. Moscow, ID: University of Idaho Press, 1983.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number **Photos** **Page** 1 **Name of Property** Idaho Mining and Smelter Company Store
County and State Custer County, Idaho

Idaho Mining and Smelter Company Store
Clayton, Custer County, Idaho
Photographs taken by Mike Kalenick
May, 2005
Negatives on File at the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office

Photo 1 of 5	View from the south
Photo 2 of 5	View from the northwest
Photo 3 of 5	View from the north
Photo 4 of 5	View from the east
Photo 5 of 5	View from the southeast

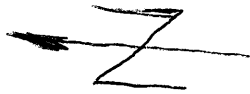
IDaho Mining AND SHELTER
COMPANY STORE



FORD ROAD

CLAYTON

KILZIKINDIA CREEK ROAD

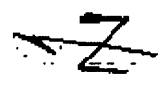
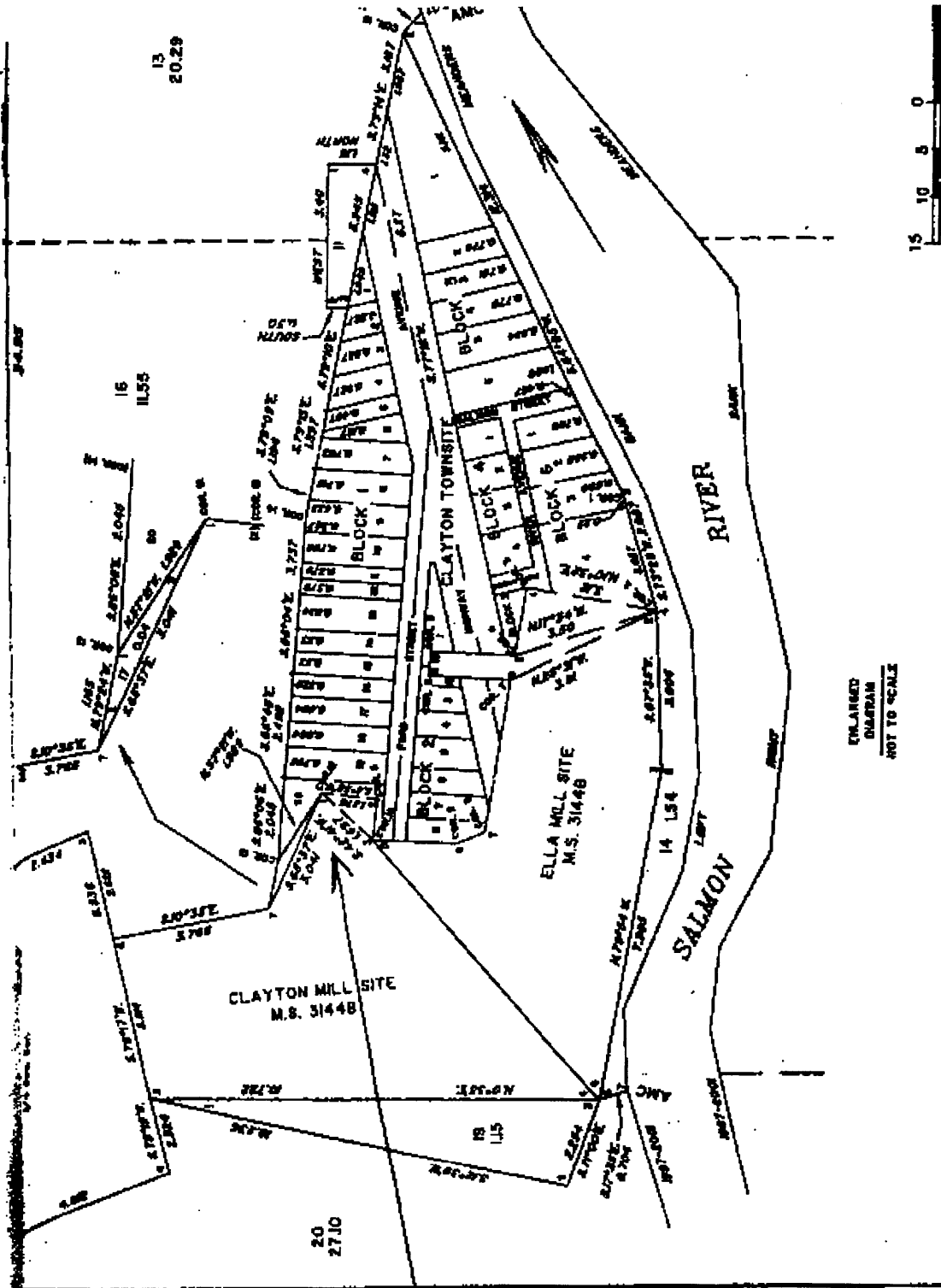


Not To Scale

STATE HIGHWAY 75

SITE OF THE
CLAYTON
SMELTER

CALIFORNIA



IDAHO MINING AND
 SHELTER COMPANY
 STORE SITE

ENLARGED
 DIAGRAM
 NOT TO SCALE



0 5 10 15