

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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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 Big Falls Inn
other names/site number Upper Mesa Falls Lodge

2. Location

street & number Targhee National Forest, Forest Highway #295 N/A not for publication
city or town Island Park X vicinity
state Idaho code ID county Fremont code 043 zip code 83429

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Kenneth Reid 13 May 02
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
KENNETH REID, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

W G PESO MAY 10, 2002
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

USDA FOREST SERVICE
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- X 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:)

[Signature] 5/31/02
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Big Falls Inn
Name of Property

Fremont 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>	buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
<u>1</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
N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC: hotel

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
RECREATION & CULTURE: Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)
OTHER: Rustic
LATE VICTORIAN

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)
foundation CONCRETE
walls WOOD: log
roof METAL
other WOOD: shingles

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

Big Falls Inn
Name of Property

Fremont County, Idaho
City, County, and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" on one or more lines for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- 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)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

Ca. 1910

Significant Dates

Ca. 1910

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.)

X 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
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Island Park Historical Society

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

Big Falls Inn
Name of Property

Fremont County, Idaho
City, County, and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Ten acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A 1/2 4/7/3/8/8/0 4/8/9/2/5/8/0 B 1/2 4/7/3/8/1/0 4/8/9/2/4/2/0
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

C 1/2 4/7/3/7/2/0 4/8/9/2/5/4/0 D 1/2 4/7/3/7/9/0 4/8/9/2/5/7/0

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

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

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Julie Osborne, Architectural Historian
organization _____ date August 1998
street & number 3251 Bluff Avenue SE telephone 503-375-7759
city or town Salem state OR zip code 97302

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 USDA Forest Service, Targhee National Forest
street & number PO Box 208 telephone 208-624-3151
city or town St. Anthony state ID zip code 83445

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.

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Name of Property Big Falls Inn

County and State Fremont County, Idaho

The Big Falls Inn is located on the Mesa Falls Scenic Byway, sixteen miles north of Ashton and thirty miles south of Macks Inn. The building is set on a gently sloping lot, adjacent to a parking area. The primary facade faces west toward the Upper Mesa Falls, with a wooded hillside beyond.

The Inn is a large, one-and-a-half story log building that is set on a concrete foundation. It is designed with a truncated "T" plan; the main section measures 62' wide x 30' deep, while the rear ell measures approximately 21' wide x 34' deep. The building has three primary gables and a large dormer gable over the main (west) entrance. Each gable end is decorated with fish-scale and diamond shingles.

The walls are constructed of peeled, round logs, six to nine inches in diameter. They are joined at the corners with saddle notches and chinked with a concrete mortar. The gable roofs are supported by small-diameter pole purlins and rafters; the rafter ends are exposed. The building is topped with a corrugated metal roof.

The main entry is in the slightly outset ell that is centered on the west facade. Three concrete steps lead to the full-length, inset, front porch and building entrance beneath the balcony and dormer. These are supported by massive, four-sided "columns" made of short log segments joined at the corners to match the main walls. The inset porch is enclosed with low log walls and simple round log columns encircled with rope at the tops and bases of the columns. Each column also supports a pair of decorative, scroll-sawn brackets. The entry door is detailed with a simple Classical surround. The ceiling of the veranda is beadboard and the floor is wood.

Above the veranda, the large, projecting dormer shades a balcony accessed by double doors on the second story. This gable covers a balcony that contains newel posts and balusters supported by a log deck extending over the entry.

The windows on the building include both two-over-one double-hung sash and fixed-frame, single-lite windows. An historic photo from 1919 shows that all of the windows were originally two-over-two double-hung sash. The original double-hung sash have been replaced with single-lite windows in the second-story, side-gable ends; however, the original openings and pattern of fenestration have not been altered, nor have any of the first-story windows been replaced.

The lower level has three rooms: a large, open room and two smaller rooms that may have served as a kitchen and bedroom. While the upper level is currently an unfinished open area, it may have been divided into guest rooms and staff living quarters, as a relative of one long-time innkeeper reported that the upstairs was divided with fabric hangings that formed partitions for sleeping rooms. Access to the second floor is by a stairway from the lobby area in the rear portion of the building. There is no heat source in the upstairs, but it was probably warmed by heat from the stove and fireplaces below.

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Name of Property Big Falls Inn

County and State Fremont County, Idaho

There are two stone fireplaces, one at each end of the large, rectangular main room. The materials include both rock ashlar and rough, natural volcanic rock, with a stone veneer on the firebox. The chimneys are brick, held away from the wall about six inches. The fireplaces were clearly added at a later (but unknown) date since they were cut into window openings on the ground floor, and the chimneys slightly obscure a second-story window on each side of the building. A third chimney, in the approximate center of the rear ell, was an original part of the structure and was used for a cooking/heating stove for the rear two rooms.

The Big Falls Inn combines three distinctive design elements that provide an interesting and unusual combination of motifs. The Rustic nature of the building is a dominant feature, but the delicate scroll work and patterned shingles provide a Folk Victorian flavor as well. Finally, the atypical (for Idaho) nautical-themed elements apparently reflect its location next to the falls and make the Big Falls Inn a very unique building.

While the Big Falls Inn has seen some minor modifications over the years (the addition of fireplaces and chimneys and replacement of the window glazing on the second story), overall, the building looks very much as it did when constructed. The U.S. Forest Service recently undertook a restoration of the building, following the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and taking great care to replicate the building's historic doors, balustrade and decorative elements. The building is currently operated as a seasonal visitors' center and interpretive site.

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Narrative Statement of Significance

Built ca. 1910, the Big Falls Inn is eligible for the National Register at the local level under Criterion C, as an excellent example of a log lodge built in the Island Park area around the turn of the century. The Inn's scale and details illustrate the level of construction and craftsmanship available in the area during this period. In addition, the building is unique in the region as a Rustic structure with Victorian detailing as well as a nautical theme. During the early part of the twentieth century, Island Park was developing into a recreational destination, and log buildings became a symbol of this resort community. Tourists were drawn to the Island Park area largely because of its proximity to Yellowstone National Park. Automobile tourists, and resorts that catered to their needs, increased after Yellowstone was opened to cars in 1915; the primary road through the area was paved the following year. The Big Falls Inn benefitted from its location near a main highway to Yellowstone, but business declined when this road was changed, leading to the eventual closure of the hotel.

As in other resort areas of the U.S., the earliest lodges and clubs in the Island Park area were built by and for the wealthy. In eastern Idaho, these included: A. S. Trude and his development of the Arangee Ranch, starting in 1891; well-to-do railroad families and the NRHP-listed Island Park Land and Cattle Company Home Ranch (now Harriman State Park); and affluent hunters and fishermen from out of state, with sportsmen's clubs such as the Pittsburgh Club. Some very early tourists to Yellowstone found overnight accommodations at various stagecoach stops, but there was not much to serve the general tourist until the opening of Mack's Inn in 1909. This early establishment catered first to tourists who arrived by train and later to those traveling by automobile. Facilities were minimal and included only platform tents and a restaurant. By the mid-1920s, just as the auto-travel fad was sweeping the country, the Pond family developed its cabin camp resort with eight log cabins on the Buffalo River. Other private resorts offered sites for individual families to build summer homes within a loose resort association, while still other families built on either private land or land leased from the Forest Service.

The property around Upper Mesa Falls where the Big Falls Inn is located was first claimed by John Henry Hendricks and his wife, Clara Wahlen, of Marysville, Idaho. Hendricks and his brother filed for water rights in August, 1901, apparently being interested in harnessing the power of the Falls to produce electricity. After making improvements to the land, constructing a house, barn, and fence (none of which are extant), the Hendricks family moved to the property in November of that year. They built a bridge across the river above the Falls to access their land on the other side; apparently this bridge washed out, at least partially, nearly every year. Hendricks supported his wife and four children with trapping, sawmill work, and driving a stagecoach from the train station below Marysville to Yellowstone National Park.¹

Hendricks filed papers for final proof on his claim on January 26, 1903, appearing before U.S. Commissioner Thomas Elliott. He then immediately arranged for the sale of the property to Elliott,

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who, with a group of businessmen, had incorporated the Snake River Electric Light and Power Company. Hendricks received cash for his share of the claim, while his brother and others involved received stock in the power company. The parties later disputed the exact amount and value of the stock.²

When Hendricks received the patent for his claim on November 25, 1904, he signed it over to Elliott's power company. The wealthy members of the company then voted an assessment of \$1,000 per member to begin development of the power site. Hendricks and others who were unable to pay the assessment fee were effectively removed from the company, their stock declared worthless. The Government Land Office noticed these actions and opened an investigation by 1905. The newly established U.S. Forest Service became involved the following year. Both agencies continued gathering information into 1907, but were unable to build a case to force cancellation of the claim, sale, or to force prosecution.³

In 1912, Elliott and the Snake River Electric Light and Power Company sold the property. The land changed hands several times in rapid succession, with three sales involving members of the power company. The eventual owner was a new company, Mesa Power. Developers evidently planned to build a power plant ca. 1913-1914 at an area "to be known as Mesa Falls," with the power to be sold for mining operations at Virginia City, Montana. Despite these plans, this dam and power plant were never built.⁴

Although the power developers did not build a dam, they apparently did construct an office for their venture in 1910. They later converted it into a lodge - the Big Falls Inn - to cash in on tourist traffic on the nearby highway leading to Yellowstone National Park. The Inn was a convenient halfway stop between Ashton and Macks Inn, a full day's travel by wagon or even early automobiles.⁵ Most travel into Yellowstone was by horse or mule pack train at this time, on either a steep, difficult trail over the Ashton hill or on a more moderate route along the Warm River, built in 1895.

There is no written documentation, but many believe that Charles H. Causey, an architect and carpenter, built the Big Falls Inn. There is some similarity in construction techniques between the Inn and a building at Harriman State Park where Causey did some work.⁶ Born in Missouri in 1874, Causey moved to Idaho by 1910 where he raised hay on his homestead and adjoining land near Gerrit Siding. He married Maude Austin about this time, but their divorce by 1920 led to a lengthy dispute over ownership of the homestead. He began work as the Big Falls innkeeper by the early 1920s, probably maintaining this association for at least twenty years. In addition to his other work, Causey was interested in seeing that rural areas around Ashton were provided with electricity. He may have been involved in the proposal to develop power at Mesa Falls since the local newspaper reported in 1910 that he was in St. Anthony to "work on the power site proposition."⁷ During the 1930s, Causey worked with George Amen to develop a rural electrical cooperative. It held its first board meeting in 1938, and two years later it supplied power to rural homes. Causey, who also worked as an electrician, wired many of these homes.⁸

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The Big Falls Inn, with its unique natural attractions of both Upper and Lower Mesa Falls, became a well-known stop for travelers through the area. In all likelihood, it was intended for summer use only, to serve tourists traveling to or from Yellowstone; the highway was impassible during most of the winter, and there is no evidence that the Inn remained open all year. In addition to travelers, it served the local area around Island Park, Marysville, and Ashton, where ranchers, farmers, tourists, and sportsmen came for Saturday night dances held during the summer season.⁹

The Big Falls Inn continued to operate into the 1920s, attaining national popularity when it hosted occasional celebrities. The 1924 Administrative Plan for the Yellowstone Highway Special Uses Area of the Targhee National Forest mentioned the lodge. Although the road leading from the highway to the Inn was in poor condition at that time, a cooperative agreement between the Forest Service and the Ashton Commercial Club stipulated that the Club would provide labor, supervised by the federal agency, to improve the road.¹⁰

Ironically, other road improvements led to the decline of the Big Falls Inn. As the Yellowstone Highway improved, tourists took less time for travel and often completed their journey through the area in less than one day. This cut into the lodge's income, and it apparently closed by 1932 because it is not mentioned in the lists of private tourist facilities in the final Forest Recreation Plan for the Yellowstone Highway Unit.¹¹

In December, 1935, the Mesa Power Company sold the property to Idaho Transmission Company. The new owner may have hoped to develop the site's power potential, but instead, it sold all of its holdings to Montana Power Company in May, 1936.¹²

Rather than developing the power site, Montana Power used the old lodge, still apparently in fair condition, as a company resort. There may have been some public use as well, since one of the "queens" from the popular television program, "Queen for a Day," requested a stay there. Historic photographs show people continuing to enjoy socializing at the Inn into the 1950s. Other community groups, including the Boy Scouts and the Fremont County Peace Officers Association, used the building for meetings and retreats in more recent years. The latter group worked to renovate the lodge but stopped in the face of continuing vandalism.¹³

Montana Power revived the idea of developing power at Upper Mesa Falls and went so far as to conduct a feasibility study in the late 1950s. The report was unfavorable, however, due to both cost and environmental concerns. The company retained the property, though it opened discussions with the U.S. Forest Service about transferring the land soon after it dropped plans to develop power at the site. The federal agency had listed the property for potential acquisition in the early 1950s, and it remained interested in obtaining Upper Mesa Falls. The two parties proposed an exchange in 1968, trading the Falls for lands in the Lolo National Forest in Montana; however, the trade did not materialize due to the Forest Service policy against trading lands in two different states. Potential sales also failed for lack of

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agreement on a purchase price. Negotiations continued between Montana Power and the Forest Service, culminating in a complex agreement that gave the power company developed special use areas within Targhee National Forest that the company then sold back to the tenants. In return, the Forest Service got the property at Upper Mesa Falls along with some cash. The agreement was finalized on December 18, 1986.¹⁴

The Rustic Style

The Rustic Style of architecture emerged out of the resort architecture of the Adirondack region of New York in the late-19th century, where wealthy and elite members of New York society began to build "rustic camps" as retreats from the hustle and bustle of the city. The trend was an outgrowth of the era's romance with natural landscapes and the western frontier. These homes were usually designed by prominent city architects (though they were often built by local woodsmen) and were quite large and luxurious. The look and feel on the exterior were rustic, but inside were found all the amenities of an urban dwelling. For those with more modest incomes, popular periodicals offered plans for smaller cabins that also became extremely popular.

The style is characterized by: the use of indigenous materials (e.g., large peeled logs and stone are commonly used); broad, wood-shingled or seamed-metal roofs; wide overhangs, often with exposed rafters; and simply proportioned door and window openings. Buildings are generally very simple with little or no ornamentation, and materials are often left in their natural condition.

In the 1910s, the United States Forest Service and the newly created National Park Service developed policies that called for the design of new buildings on their lands - whether public or private - to be harmonious with their surroundings; the adoption of the Rustic Style was the logical choice. This use of the style in the National Forests and Parks helped to spread its popularity in the early decades of the 20th century, as automobile and rail travel allowed an increasing number of people to visit these places each year. In Idaho, where the U.S. Forest Service controls approximately 40% of the land, this resulted in the wide dissemination of the style throughout the state.

For private, residential structures, the heyday of the style lasted until the Depression, when the construction of vacation homes ebbed substantially. However, the style did continue to proliferate during the 1930s and 1940s, primarily through the public work of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and Works Projects/Progress Administration (WPA). Because these groups spent a considerable amount of time on improvements to state and national parks and forests, it was logical that they would build in the Rustic Style. Further, the style was nicely suited to both organizations because it typically had lower material costs (as materials were often simply harvested on-site) and called for a very labor-intensive method of construction. Significantly, of all the states, Idaho ranked second in number of CCC camps and per capita expenditure by the organization, ensuring a lasting impact with the widespread use of the Rustic Style in the state.

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Name of Property Big Falls Inn

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Architectural Significance

Big Falls Inn is significant architecturally under Criterion C as an example of the massive, peeled-log lodges built around the turn of the century to accommodate tourists in the western United States and the Yellowstone area, specifically. The Old Faithful Inn, much grander in scope, provided a model for other log lodges in the region. The Island Park area had a readily available supply of lodgepole pine, and peeled-log, hunting and fishing lodges sprang up throughout the Island Park/Henrys Lake area, starting in the late 1880s and early 1890s. In addition to the Big Falls Inn, these included the Flatrock (1903) and North Fork Club (1904), built at Macks Inn, and the Utaida Club (date unknown) at Pinehaven. Many large ranches in the area also featured large log structures to house family and business guests who visited for hunting, fishing, and sightseeing. Notable ranch lodges included those of Chicago lawyer, A. S. Trude, at the Arangee Ranch (ca. 1908); the Harriman and Guggenheim families, with connections to Union Pacific Railroad, at Railroad Ranch (ca. 1909); and Jay Gould, also with railroad connections, at his ranch, now known as Lakeside Lodge (date unknown).¹⁵

The Big Falls Inn is an excellent example of such log lodges and the saddle notching illustrates the outstanding craftsmanship used to construct the building. Although very rustic in form, materials and massing, the building also includes interesting Victorian and nautical details, making it stand out from the other lodges in the region. These details include fish-scale and diamond shingles in the gable ends, decorative, scroll-sawn brackets on the porch columns, nautical-themed bargeboard in the front-facing gable, and the use of rope at the top and base of the porch posts (adding to the nautical feel). These design elements make the Big Falls Inn an excellent and unique example of a Rustic log lodge.

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Name of Property Big Falls Inn

County and State Fremont County, Idaho

ENDNOTES

1. Charles G. Willingham, "Rehabilitation of the Big Falls Inn, Fremont County, Idaho," Targhee National Forest Report No. TG-97-634, 14 April 1997, Appendix C, "A Short History of Upper Mesa Falls"; J. D. Edlefsen, "Questions About Big Falls Inn," *Herald Chronicle*, 24 July 1997.
2. Willingham, Appendix C.
3. Ibid. Targhee Forest Supervisor Homer Fenn, in a February 1907 letter to the Chief Forester, said that Elliott admitted that he gave Hendricks \$200 to help him make a cash entry on the property, thus by-passing the normal waiting period to patent his claim. Because there were no other witnesses to this statement, however, the government did not believe it would be considered acceptable evidence.
4. Ibid.; *Teton Peak Chronicle*, 29 October 1914; 26 March 1914.
5. Edlefsen, 10A.
6. *Teton Peak Chronicle*, 26 March 1914.
7. *Teton Peak Chronicle*, 8 December 1910.
8. Jane Daniels, "A Look at Charles H. Causey," *Island Park News*, July 1997.
9. Edlefsen, 10A.
10. Willingham, Appendix C.
11. Ibid.
12. Ibid.
13. Edlefsen, 10A; Willingham, Appendix C.
14. Willingham, Appendix C.
15. Dean H. Green, *History of Island Park* (Ashton, Idaho: Island Park-Gateway Publishing Co., 1990).

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Name of Property Big Falls Inn

County and State Fremont County, Idaho

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Attebery, Jennifer. *Building Idaho: An Architectural History*. Moscow: University of Idaho Press, 1991.

Daniels, Jane. "A Look at Charles H. Causey." *Island Park News*, July 1997.

Edlefsen, J. D. "Questions About Big Falls Inn." *Herald Chronicle*, 24 July 1997.

Green, Dean H. *History of Island Park*. Ashton, Idaho: Island Park-Gateway Publishing Co., 1990.

Teton Peak Chronicle, 8 December 1910; 2 October 1913; 9 October 1913; 16 October 1913; 26 March 1914; 29 October 1914.

Willingham, Charles G. "Rehabilitation of the Big Falls Inn, Fremont County, Idaho." Targhee National Forest Report No. TG-97-634. April 1997.

Yehle, William D. Draft, National Register nomination. September 1993.

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Name of Property Big Falls Inn

County and State Fremont County, Idaho

Verbal Boundary Description:

The site is located within the NW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 13, T 10 N, R 43 E, Boise Meridian. Map reference is USGS Snake River Butte Quad, Fremont County, Idaho, 1977. The specific historic site boundaries are as follows:

A polygon, beginning at a point to be known as Point A, located approximately 50 feet from the northeast corner of the rear ell of the building; from Point A, traveling southwest approximately 500 feet to the edge of the Upper Mesa Falls to Point B, then along the edge of the shoreline, traveling in a northwesterly direction approximately 325 feet to Point C, then traveling in an east-northeasterly direction approximately 400 feet to Point D, then traveling in an east-southeasterly direction approximately 200 feet to the point of beginning (Point A). (See enclosed site map and the Snake River Butte, Idaho USGS quad map).

Verbal Boundary Justification:

The boundaries include the building itself, a portion of the path approaching the building, and the sloped approach to the Upper Mesa Falls up to the edge of the Falls. These boundaries include enough of the surrounding landscape to provide a sense of the remote wilderness setting, and also include the approach to the Falls, as the building's site was chosen for its proximity to the Falls.

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Name of Property Big Falls Inn

County and State Fremont County, Idaho

Photographic Documentation:

Big Falls Inn

Fremont County, Idaho

All photos taken by Kay Orme, U.S. Forest Service.

March, 2002

Original negatives on file at the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office

Photo #1 of 6: View looking southeast

Photo #2 of 6: View looking northeast

Photo #3 of 6: View looking east

Photo #4 of 6: View looking north

Photo #5 of 6: View looking south

Photo #6 of 6: View looking southeast