

PH00 37711

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Idaho
COUNTY:	Idaho
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	JUL 30 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
White Bird Grade

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
~~T28-29N, R1-2E~~ NB: ...

CITY OR TOWN: White Bird
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: District #1

STATE: Idaho CODE: 16 COUNTY: Idaho CODE: 049

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

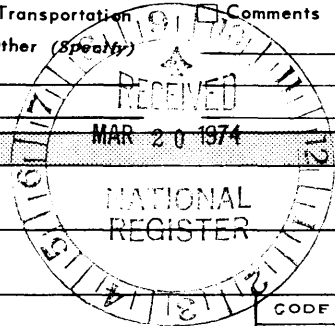
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Idaho Department of Highways

STREET AND NUMBER: 3311 West State Street

CITY OR TOWN: Boise STATE: Idaho CODE: 16



5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Grangeville STATE: Idaho CODE: 16

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Idaho State Historic Preservation Plan

DATE OF SURVEY: 1972 Federal State County 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: Idaho

COUNTY: Idaho

ENTRY NUMBER: JUL 30 1974

DATE:

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" 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 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 White Bird grade is a good example of an early engineering feat in highway building. U.S. Highway 95 winds up White Bird hill in a series of sharp curves and a dozen switchbacks, giving the impression of a confused snake crawling up a hill. This eight-mile section of two-lane road was originally only sixteen feet wide but in 1938 was widened to eighteen feet. Most of the switchbacks are in a relatively small segment of the grade, so that anyone going along the road scarcely can tell whether the rest of the traffic is going in the same or in the opposite direction. A new grade which will replace the old route is all but complete, with only a bridge still to be built. When the new grade is finished, the old road will remain as a marvel of highway building during the early automobile era.

The southern terminus for the White Bird grade is at a point described as 45°46'40" latitude and 116°17'04" longitude; northern terminus is at a point described as 45°52'28" latitude and 116°12'10" longitude. The corridor which follows the road between these two points is 60 feet wide.

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3. 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) 1920-1938

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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

No other major highway grade in the United States matches this one in the design of its switchbacks, an engineering achievement of the good roads movement after 1916. 21.1 miles of U.S. Highway 95 from White Bird to Grangeville was constructed in 1920, with grading, drainage and crushed rock work done that year. The total cost of this first project was \$362,155. The road was later surfaced with crushed rock in three separate projects in 1922, 1925 and 1927. Finally the road was surfaced with roadmix bituminous in two projects in 1937 and 1938, bringing the total cost for the 21.1 miles of road to \$521,316.

Highway 95 is the only highway in Idaho which connects the northern part of the state with the southern part. The White Bird hill is well-known by all who drive the road as a place where traffic slows considerably, even in good weather, to wind either up or down the sharp curves and switchbacks. Under bad weather conditions, White Bird hill presents a major obstacle to all north-south traffic. The new grade will be appreciated for its greater speed and safety, but the original White Bird grade will be remembered as one of the marvels of highway engineering, built when cars did not travel much more than 25 miles per hour.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Records of Idaho Department of Highways, 1921-1938.

NE
11/562900
5079840
SE
11/556260
5069140
SW
11/554840
5069660

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

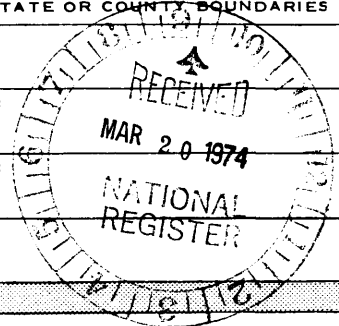
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	45° 52' 30"	116° 12' 17"		northern terminus:	° ' "	
NE	45° 52' 17"	116° 11' 23"		45 52 28	116 12 10	
SE	45° 46' 30"	116° 16' 36"		southern terminus:		
SW	45° 46' 50"	116° 17' 40"		45 46 40	116 17 04	

NW
11/561720
5080240

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 73 acres

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



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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Nancy F. Renk, Site Survey Staff

ORGANIZATION: **Idaho State Historical Society** DATE: **22 Feb. 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:
610 North Julia Davis Drive

CITY OR TOWN: **Boise** STATE: **Idaho** CODE: **16**

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 Maria Wells

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date 13 March 1974

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

AR Wooten
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 7/30/74

ATTEST:

W. M. Muntz 2
Keeper of The National Register

Date 7.26.74