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JUL 22 1994

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration 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 CHINESE STORE, CHINESE CAMP

other names/site number CHINESE MINING CAMP ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE, WARREN MINING DISTRICT
10IH1961

2. Location

street & number One mile northwest of Warren Guard Station not for publication

city or town Warren vicinity

state Idaho code ID county Idaho code 049 zip code 83671

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.)

Evan J. DeBovis 7/12/94
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Forest Service **Federal Preservation Officer**

State of Federal agency and bureau

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

[Signature] _____
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Idaho SHPO
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- 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:)

Janet E. Townsend

9-4-94

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	
		buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

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

Chinese Sites in the Warren Mining District

Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC - Camp
COMMERCE/TRADE - Store

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/Not in Use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation GRANITE - Cobbles

walls N/A

roof N/A

other GRANITE - Cobbles (fireplaces)

Narrative Description

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

Summary

The .62 acre square-shaped parcel containing the Chinese Mining Camp Archaeological Site is owned and maintained by the United States Department of Agriculture, Payette National Forest, McCall, Idaho. The property, which has been posted by Forest Service personnel identifying the area as "protected," consists of a single multi-featured contributing component, a historic archaeological site associated with the occupation of a Chinese mining company 1870-1910. The general appearance has remained unchanged since a 1933 forest fire destroyed the ruins of the remaining buildings. The site has retained its key association with the mining landscape of the Warren Mining District (Maps A and B).

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes 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" in all the boxes 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

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
- 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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHAEOLOGY HISTORIC - Non-Aboriginal
ASIAN ETHNIC HERITAGE
INDUSTRY - Mining

Period of Significance

1870 - 1910

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

CHINESE

Architect/Builder

N/A

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository.

BOWERS ANTHROPOLOGY LABORATORY
University of Idaho, Moscow

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .62 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 0 |
Zone Easting Northing
2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
Zone Easting Northing
4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John F. Elliott

organization ELLIOTT RESEARCH ASSOCIATES date March 1994

street & number P.O. Box 728 telephone 209/561-4843

city or town Three Rivers state CA zip code 93271-0728

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 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

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

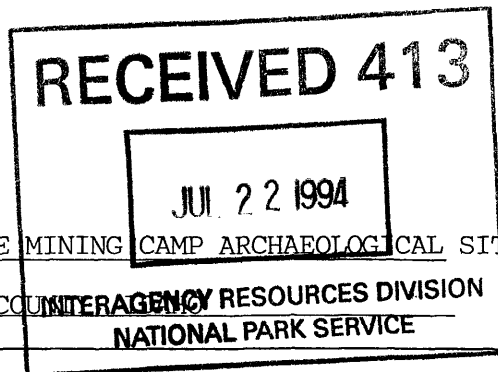
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain 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 CHINESE MINING CAMP ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE
County and State IDAHO COUNTY



General Characteristics

The Chinese Mining Camp Archaeological Site is located one mile northwest of the town of Warren. At the north end of the airstrip, a trail leads to the site located at 6,200 feet above mean sea level. The archaeological property occupies a cultural island which consists of approximately 2,500 square meters or .62 acres.

The soil of the area containing cultural material is a fine grain sandy loam. The locale is covered with mixed conifers, mostly lodgepole pine. Coring revealed that the trees were less than 70 years in age; the dates were consistent with archival information indicating that the area burned in a 1933 forest fire.

Other canopy trees include ponderosa pine and poplars. The understory is largely red huckleberry and strawberry. The nearest water source is Warren Creek. Precipitation, mostly in the form of snow, averages more than 25 inches annually.

The immediate environs of the site have been sluiced down to decomposed granite creating a relic landform, island-like in appearance. The cultural island, prior to archaeological investigations of 1989-1992, contained a general scatter of artifacts. In addition, several distinguishable features are present including the remains of four burned structures, a ditch, and two distinct garden terraces.

Setting

The historic setting of the Chinese Mining Camp Archaeological Site has remained essentially unchanged since its era of primary use 1870-1910. The site was undoubtedly selected owing to the fact it was situated upon a promontory overlooking areas rich in placer gravels of the Warren Creek drainage. A hand excavated earthen ditch trends in an east-west direction between the structures and the terraced garden. The ditch is an important site component in that it furnished water for domestic use and gardening.

There are deposits of associated placer tailings which exist within and outside the area included in this nomination. A portion of the terrain in the vicinity of the terraced garden has been washed out.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2 Name of Property CHINESE MINING CAMP ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE
County and State IDAHO COUNTY, IDAHO

Archaeological Study (1989-1992)

The site was formally recorded by Forest Service personnel resultant from a survey conducted August 1988. Based on the survey data, the site was officially assigned the Smithsonian trinomial 10-IH-1961; its Forest Service agency number is PY-920.

In the course of the archaeological survey, a map showing the site was discovered having been drawn by local artifact collector Harry Vaux. After the death of Mr. Vaux in 1988, it was learned that Vaux had collected several artifacts from the site. Several of these items are currently displayed as part of a collection of Warren artifacts housed at a local saloon.

In conjunction with the Heritage Program of Payette National Forest, Intermountain Region, a cooperative agreement was implemented with the University of Idaho at Moscow, Idaho. Under the terms of this agreement, an archaeological field school was conducted at the locale during four summer seasons: July 10-28, 1989; July 9-27, 1990; July 8-26, 1991; and July 6-24, 1992.

The Principal Investigator and Director of the field school was Roderick Sprague, University of Idaho. In the four seasons of archaeological work at the site, more than 100 individuals participated in the fieldwork including several local volunteers.

Archaeological Methodology

In the first season (1989), the entire area of the site was cleared of brush and low tree limbs to facilitate mapping and data control. Clearance and general site maintenance is particularly important on abandoned historic sites in an attempt to realistically view the setting during the period of primary use (1870-1910).

The visible structural features were then assigned "Operation" (Op) numbers and divided into lots similar to the Canadian Park Service system. The Canadian system was employed because it has been successfully used by the University of Idaho team et al. at other sites in the region.

Each Op was then surface collected and mapped. As is often the case in historical archaeology, the site was excavated in feet and inches rather than metric.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3 Name of Property CHINESE MINING CAMP ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE
County and State IDAHO COUNTY, IDAHO

Archaeological Methodology (cont.)

The first area to be excavated was the vicinity of the rock chimney of the "Chinese Store," so called by local informants. In the remaining days of the initial season, work was concentrated in defining what was apparently the largest building of the site (Map B, No. 4 Dwelling-Store). At the conclusion of each season, exposed excavation units were covered with plastic sheeting and backfilled.

During the second season (1990), excavation proceeded in the vicinity of the rectangular-shaped Dwelling-Store. Several associated features were discovered including notched timbers set into rock for the support of the floor, and a storage pit in the northern or "Store" section of the building.

Also during the fieldwork of 1990, a cross-section pit was dug through the Ditch and Terrace Garden features to recover construction related data. This work was conducted under the guidance of Lynden S. Williams, Ohio University, Athens. Mr. Williams is an acknowledged expert of historical canals and technology.

In the third season (1991), the majority of the work was concentrated in the area of the Dwelling-Store. Near the end of the session, evidence was discovered indicating a concentration of building materials extending northwest from the excavated area.

In the fourth and final season (1992), excavation of the Dwelling-Store was completed. The cache of material northwest of the building was composed mostly of "roof fall." Other areas thought to contain structures (Map B, Nos. 1-3) were also excavated.

Alterations/Site Impacts

Although the site contains evidence of relic hunting in the vicinity of the Dwelling-Store, the digging was minimal and did not cause significant impact to the archaeological potential of the property. Local informants, who were aware of the work of the relic hunters, first brought the site to the attention of FS personnel leading to its eventual documentation and protection.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

Name of Property CHINESE MINING CAMP ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

County and State IDAHO COUNTY, IDAHO

Summary

The Chinese Mining Camp Archaeological Site qualifies for NR listing under Criterion D being a property that has yielded, and is likely to yield, data important about the history of Idaho and the American West. The site is an important vestige of the Chinese ethnic heritage and mining history of the Warren Mining District. It is the first Chinese archaeological site to be documented as part of a Multiple Property Submission (90000893) in the State of Idaho.

Historic Context

After the onset of the California Gold Rush of 1848, thousands of Chinese immigrants arrived by ship on the West Coast of the United States. They came seeking fortunes in the gold fields, railroad camps, fish canneries, and later, the great agricultural ranches of the southwest. Determined to retain their cultural identity, the Chinese were but sojourners in a foreign land, to return home one day with untold wealth (O'Brien Reed 1989).

These Chinese immigrants were primarily from six districts of the Kwangtung Province (Lee 1978:22). The seemingly endless wave of immigrants soon journeyed beyond California arriving in Idaho during the 1860s. As the Chinese ventured to the Idaho wilderness, so, too, came the "Six Companies," clan societies to provide housing, protection, and to mediate disputes among those from one district or another (Chen 1982:27).

The Warren Mining District was organized in 1862 following the discovery of rich placers near Warren Creek. For a time, exclusionary laws prohibited Chinese from working claims in the Warren district. Warren experienced a boom for several years but most of the "free gold" was exhausted by 1868 (O'Brien Reed 1989).

In 1869, Warren miners voted to open the district to the Chinese. Although Chinese miners were unable to purchase land, they were permitted to buy claims or lease the rights to placer operations. From 1870-1900, at least five Chinese mining companies monopolized the gravel placers of Warren. The labor intensive companies often worked the ground of a single claim two or three times over (Reddy 1993:3).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2 Name of Property CHINESE MINING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE
County and State IDAHO COUNTY, IDAHO

Contextual History (cont.)

Although the population of Warren fluctuated seasonally, Chinese were the dominant ethnicity outnumbering all other groups combined. Estimates of Chinese population during the years 1870-1900 range from 355 in the census data (Reddy 1993:4) to 1,200 in contemporary accounts (O'Brien Reed 1989). Of this population, the majority were traditional adult male sojourner households. The social and cultural composition of the Warren district was markedly influenced by the Chinese (O'Brien Reed 1989).

The declining population after 1900 signaled the end of the Chinese occupation of the Warren Mining District. The dates 1870 to 1920 correspond with population shifts in Chinatowns throughout the west (ibid.).

The mobile character of Chinese sojourners is evident in the historical record of the Warren Mining District. Most Warren Chinese emigrated to the U.S. in the 1860s or 1870s. The anti-Chinese legislation of the 1880s curtailed new immigration. Many Chinese either returned home or died in their alien land. Soon after 1920, the Chinese virtually disappeared from census records (Reddy 1993:12 and O'Brien Reed 1989).

Archaeological Findings

In general, the thousands of artifacts recovered comprised what the investigators have come to regard as a typical assemblage of a Chinese mining site of the American West. The entire catalogued collection is currently housed at the Supervisor's Office, Payette National Forest, McCall, Idaho.

The fieldwork at the Chinese Mining Camp Archaeological Site has revealed that this was a multiple use site, although mining was of primary importance. The archaeology, that is, the volume and type of archaeological material present at the locale, has clearly demonstrated a company or communal use of the site.

The data may be interpreted to suggest that the site was used at least seasonally throughout the entire period of significance 1870-1910. Further, the specific functions of each of the ruined structures are now better understood, e.g. the Dwelling-Store, and the Blacksmith Shop.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3 Name of Property CHINESE MINING CAMP ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE
County and State IDAHO COUNTY, IDAHO

Archaeological Findings (cont.)

Among the data which suggested the Dwelling-Store was used communally was a "kitchen" feature with a large concentration of animal bone, food containers, and utensils. This feature was associated with the fireplace ruins and suggests that the northern-half of the building also served as a kitchen-dining room.

Other structures documented at the site include several small "leveled" areas, presumably for the quarters of individual miners or small groups. The presence of canvas and repair tools are indicative of tents, a common feature of all mining camps.

The Blacksmith Shop (Map B, No. 1) was not a place of manufacture but rather used to make necessary repairs to company equipment. This conclusion is supported by the presence of "maker's marks" on the large quantity of recovered tools such as shovels, files, and axes.

To date, approximately 20 per cent of the nominated area has been investigated archaeologically. It is clear that the site contains significant remains of one or more of the several Chinese mining companies known to have operated in the Warren Mining District.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1 Name of Property CHINESE MINING CAMP ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE
County and State IDAHO COUNTY, IDAHO

References Cited

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1982 The Chinese of America. Harper and Row, San Francisco.
- Kingsbury, Lawrence A.
1989 IMACS Site Form, FS R-4 2300-2. Ms. on file, Forest Supervisor's office, Payette National Forest, McCall.
- Lee, Ruth Hum
1978 The Growth and Decline of Chinese Communities in the Rocky Mountain Region. Ph.D. dissertation, University of Chicago, 1947. Reprinted, Arno Press, New York.
- Reddy, Sheila D.
1993 The Chinese Pioneer in Idaho: An Overview. Heritage program, Payette National Forest, McCall.
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1989 Chinese Sites in the Warren Mining District. National Register of Historic Places, MPS 90000893.
- Striker, Michael and Roderick Sprague
1993 Excavations at the Warren Chinese Mining Camp Site, 1989-1992. Ms. on file, Forest Supervisor's office, Payette National Forest, McCall.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1 Name of Property CHINESE MINING CAMP ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE
County and State IDAHO COUNTY, IDAHO

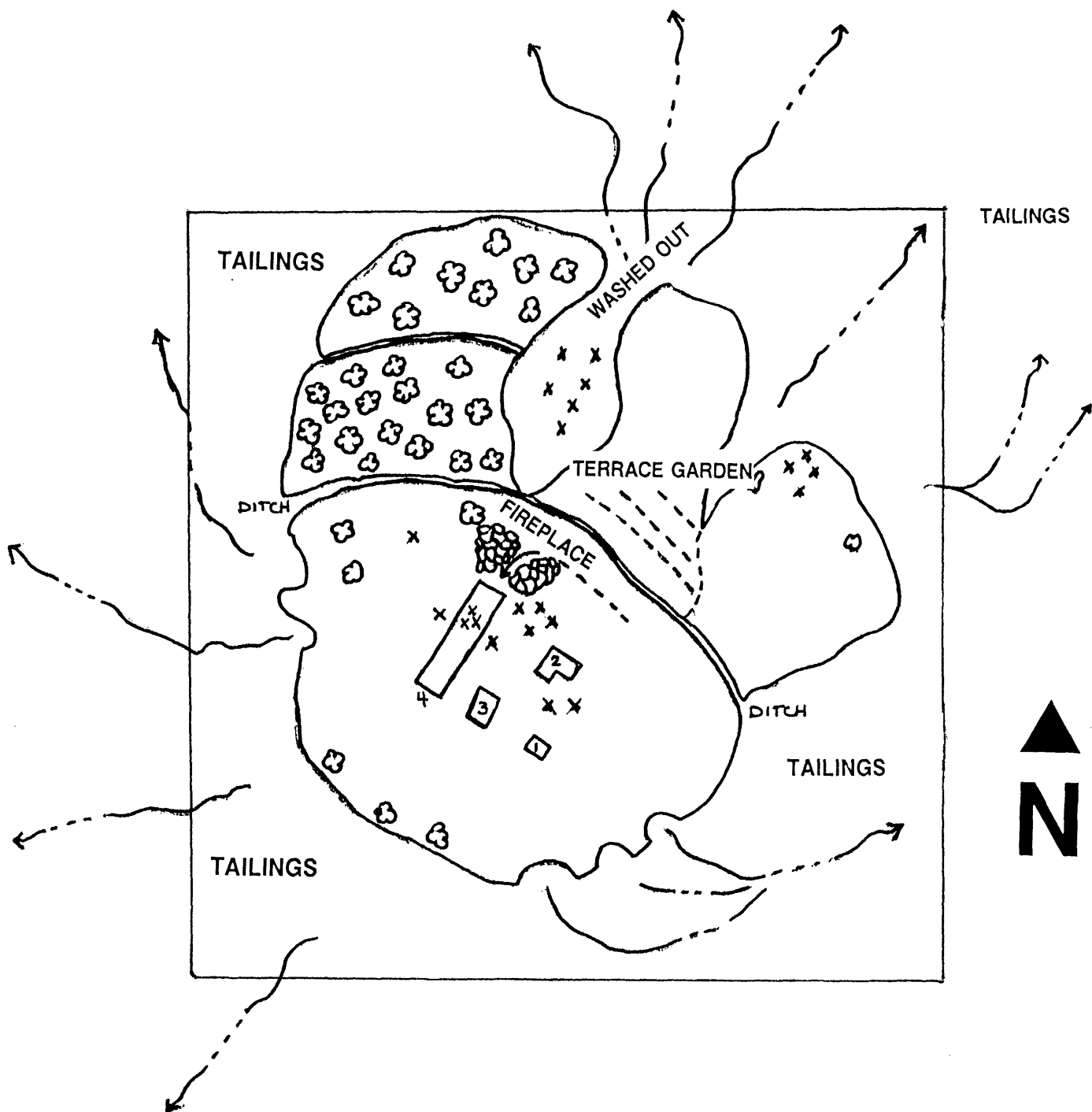
Verbal Boundary Description

Southwest quarter of the Southwest quarter of the Southwest quarter of Section 2, Township 22 North, Range 6 West (see Maps A and B).

Boundary Justification

The boundaries include the precise area which contains a concentration of historical archaeological resources present during the period of significance.

CHINESE MINING CAMP ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE



METERS
2 4 6 8 10

- 1. BLACKSMITH SHOP
- 2. STRUCTURE W/FIREPLACE
- 3. STRUCTURE W/FIREPLACE
- 4. DWELLING + STORE
- X - ARTIFACTS

MAP B
CHINESE MINING CAMP
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE
IDAHO COUNTY, IDAHO