

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED MAR 31 1976
DATE ENTERED OCT 29 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC *Na*

**** American Falls East Shore Power Plants**

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1039

CITY, TOWN

American Falls

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2

VICINITY OF

STATE

Idaho

16

CODE

Power

COUNTY

CODE
077

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED old one	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Idaho Power Company

STREET & NUMBER

1220 W. Idaho St.

CITY, TOWN

Boise

VICINITY OF

STATE

Idaho

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Power county Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

American Falls, Idaho

STATE Idaho

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Idaho State Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1972

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Idaho State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

610 N. Julia Davis Dr., Boise

Idaho STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED <i>Island plant</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD <i>bank plant</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Idaho Power Company's power station at American Falls consists of two buildings. The earlier island power station was constructed in 1902, and the east shore station was built in three stages from 1905 to 1927.

The east shore station consists of four sections and is made of poured concrete. The original 100' x 230' station, built between 1905 and 1913, is closest to the east shore line and is on two levels. The elevated, upstream level is one and a half stories high and two bays wide, with the bays demarcated by non-classical pilasters which culminate with a bracketed hipped roof. Each bay contains a mullion window with transoms. The mullion window has a center 18/18 double-hung window flanked by 9/9 double-hung sash windows. The respective transoms have twelve and six lights. Each top half-story bay contains a mullion casement window and repeats the first story's transom. A band molding, the width of the pilasters, separates the first story from the half story and gives the windows the appearance of being inset. The downstream level sits in the river and contains the machinery. It is three stories high and two bays wide, with the bays demarcated by non-classical pilasters which culminate in a cornice and parapet. The bay nearest the shore contains a double doorway with a square transom and is capped by a round arched window. The other bay contains a two story round arched window. The third story, separated from the other two by a band molding, contains two mullion casements identical to those in the upstream level.

In 1923-24 two generator units were added to the station. These extend into the river and are two stories high and four bays wide, with the bays demarcated by non-classical pilasters which terminate as non-derivative finials. Each bay contains a double-hung sash window on each story, the lower being larger. A concrete molding runs between the pilasters. In 1927 another four bays identical in style, were added. This addition connected the east shore plant to a small lava island which was reclaimed with fill and made into Trennar Island Park.

In 1924 the generator repair house was added to the east side of the original station's upper level. It has a hipped roof, is two stories high, and has three bays which are demarcated with pilasters similar to those employed in the 1923-24 generator units. Each bay contains a two story set of three double-hung sash windows piggy-backed on each other to form a continuous glass appearance.

The 1902 Island plant retains its original generators, which should be preserved. The building is badly deteriorated, with water flowing through it, as shown in the photograph.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The American Falls Power station is one of the pioneer Snake River hydroelectric operations. Following the construction of the 1902 plant, the American Falls Power, Light, and Water company, in 1905, decided to enlarge its plant facilities by building the east shore station, but because of financing problems and floods the project was not completed until 1913. In September 1913 the company was sold to the Kuhns of Pittsburgh for over two million dollars. General Electric supplied the plant with a 3,500 K.W. generator, and Allis Chalmers provided the hydraulic equipment. With the completion of this station the company employed the no longer extant west-shore station and the island station to service the Minidoka area. The original east-shore station was designed by A. J. Wiley and J. L. Savage and was constructed by James A. Green and Company. On July 13, 1916, the facilities were purchased by Idaho Power Company. In 1924 the first addition and the generator repair house were completed. Mr. Massey was the resident engineer in charge of these projects and Ed Woodhead was in charge of the construction.

Architecturally these buildings are significant as examples of the shifting conception of what an industrial building should be during the first two decades of the twentieth century. The island plant was created on the scale of a large residence and in many ways resembled one, only with less detail. The original east-shore plant retained many of these characteristics as well, although there was an increased emphasis on the windows. With the 1924 structures and their Moderne-like appearance, any allusions to a domestic or even traditional architecture had been abandoned, as indicated by the non-derivative pilasters and the continuous glass windows of the repair house. This engineered structure predates the appearance of the Moderne in Idaho by at least six years and was considered to be "one of the most beautiful structures in Idaho from an architectural point of view." (American Falls Press, February 28, 1924, p. 1, c. 3.)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY ten

UTM REFERENCES

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Nominated properties include the east side power plant buildings and the island west of the power dam and south of the railway bridge,

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Donald Hibbard, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Idaho State Historical Society

DATE

26 March, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

610 N. Julia Davis Drive

TELEPHONE

384-2120

CITY OR TOWN

Boise, Idaho

STATE

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Merle Wells

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

March 26, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

10/29/76

ACTING DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

10/26/76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER