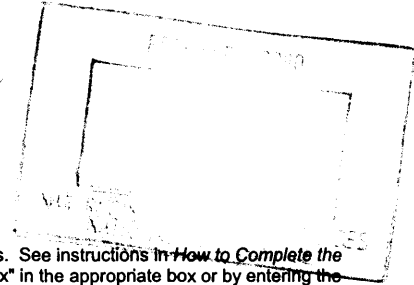


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

124



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 Spokane Valley Land and Water Company Canal

other names/site number Spokane River Canal, Corbin Ditch

2. Location

street & number Diverts in Falls Park, Fourth Street N/A not for publication

city or town Post Falls N/A vicinity

state Idaho code ID county Kootenai code 055 zip code 83854

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 30/01/03  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
KENNETH 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:)

Elsa R. Ball 3/28/03  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Spokane Valley Land and Water Co. Canal  
Name of Property

Post Falls, Kootenai Co., 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
_____	_____ buildings
_____	_____ sites
<u>1</u>	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>1</u>	_____ Total

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed the National Register**

N/A

### 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE:  
irrigation facility

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation \_\_\_\_\_

walls canal: concrete

waste way: stone

roof \_\_\_\_\_

other headgates: wood, concrete

### 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

Spokane Valley Land and Water Co. Canal  
Name of Property

Post Falls, Kootenai Co., 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)

Agriculture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

ca. 1907-1935  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1907  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**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
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Eastern Washington State Historical Society

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

Spokane Valley Land and Water Co. Canal  
Name of Property

Post Falls, Kootenai Co., Idaho  
City, County, and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property approximately 17 acres

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A 1/1 5/0/3/6/0/0 5/2/8/3/9/4/0 B 1/1 5/0/3/4/5/0 5/2/8/4/0/7/5  
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

C 1/1 5/0/2/8/2/0 5/2/8/4/1/0/0 D 1/1 5/0/1/7/2/0 5/2/8/3/2/4/0 E 1/1 5/0/0/3/6/0 5/2/8/3/0/4/0

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries include only the historic canal and headgates, with no surrounding land. The segments of the canal on privately owned land have been filled or graded and have lost their integrity; therefore these segments are not included, and the boundary of the nominated property consists of discontinuous elements.

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nancy F. Renk, Historian

organization Flume Creek Historical Services date 12 August 2002

street & number 1127 Early Breakfast Creek Road telephone 208-263-7697

city or town Sandpoint state ID zip code 83864

## 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 see continuation sheet

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.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Name of Property Spokane Valley Land and Water Co. Canal

County and State Kootenai County, Idaho

The Spokane Valley Land and Water Company Canal diverts from the Spokane River in Post Falls, Idaho, and runs in a westerly direction for approximately two-and-a-half miles. It is all that remains of a much longer system that originally crossed the Idaho border into eastern Washington to irrigate thousands of acres of farmland. The remaining segments include two headgates, a waste way, and two stretches of the canal, all of which contribute to the significance of the resource. Most of the canal is lined in concrete, with much of the remainder running through bedrock. The canal retains its integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, and association. A segment of approximately three-quarters of a mile has been deeded to adjacent landowners, some of whom have filled in the ditch; this segment is not included in the nomination. The remainder of the canal segments retain their setting and feeling, with fewer modern intrusions.

The Spokane River runs westerly from the outlet of Lake Coeur d'Alene approximately twenty-five miles to Spokane, Washington, where it bends to the northwest and continues more than fifty miles to its confluence with the Columbia River. At the town of Post Falls, rocky islands constrict the river and force it into three channels. A major dam and powerhouse on the middle channel, completed in 1906, continue to generate electricity. The other two channels have smaller dams that help maintain a stable river and lake level.

The irrigation system starts with an intake canal just east of the dam on the north channel of the Spokane River at Post Falls. The unlined intake canal runs through an area that has been developed recently by the city into Falls Park. A paved path crosses the original canal, which is filled in at this point with large rock on either side of the path. This initial segment is not included in the nomination due to the alterations.

Washington Water Power Company operated a headgate in the canal by at least 1904. By 1907, the company used this headgate to control and measure the flow of water into the irrigation system. This headgate remains in its original location, essentially unchanged, just downstream from the path leading into Falls Park. Two battered concrete abutments were poured on either side of the canal, immediately adjacent to the bedrock walls of the canal. The inner face of each abutment has a large, vertical slot or groove to accommodate the headgate and allow for it to slide open and closed. The abutments support a slatted metal platform that spans the canal and provides a base for the squared timber headframe and the gear system used to operate the gate. The gate itself is made from heavy squared timbers laid horizontally and bolted to two vertical timbers. These vertical pieces extend above the gate, braced with cross pieces. A double strip of cogged track along these vertical members meshes with the cogged gear wheel to allow the gate to raise and lower. This headgate contributes to the significance of the resource.

Approximately one-eighth of a mile down the canal is the second headgate, constructed in 1907

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Name of Property Spokane Valley Land and Water Co. Canal

County and State Kootenai County, Idaho

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to control the amount of water entering the irrigation system. At this point, the bedrock walls of the canal widen to allow for a low dam between the south abutment of the headgate and the bedrock wall. High water could spill over this dam into a natural rock waste way running back to the Spokane River. The headgate is flanked by battered concrete abutments similar to those on the first headgate. The gate itself is different, however, with a metal frame dividing it into three vertical sections. Each section has a metal panel that is faced with horizontal boards on the upstream side. No gears or headframe remain. A metal grate, set at an angle, protected the gate on the upstream side, but just one segment is left. The original setting and feeling remain undisturbed. The headgate, dam, and waste way all contribute to the significance of the irrigation system.

The irrigation canal starts at the second headgate. The first quarter mile (approximately) has a flat bottom and vertical or nearly vertical sides of poured concrete. It is approximately fifteen feet wide with walls standing six-and-a-half feet tall. Farther downstream from the gate, the walls begin to slant outward, and they gradually flare out to a lined canal that is eight feet across on the bottom and twenty-four feet across on the top edge, with sloping walls. The canal maintains this form for the rest of the first segment as it winds for approximately one-half mile along the hillside above the Spokane River. The section ends at a ravine that was probably spanned with a wooden flume. The canal, originally unlined, was lined with concrete ca. 1922-1924. This segment of the canal contributes to the significance of the irrigation system.

The next section of canal runs for approximately three-quarters of a mile in a generally southwesterly direction above the river through an area of homes. Kootenai County, former owner of the canal, recently deeded this section of the canal to adjacent landowners, many of whom have filled in much of the canal. This entire segment is not included in this nomination due to loss of integrity of design.

The final mile-long segment of canal starts at Breezy Way and runs northwest more than one-quarter of a mile before bending to the southwest for more than half a mile to a point where it ends approximately near Spokane Road. Much of the first quarter mile west of Breezy Way is rough and unlined since most of it is cut through bedrock. The canyon walls are steep in this section and access is difficult. Once out of the bedrock, the canal is once again lined with concrete. Some segments are fully lined, while others have no lining on the right (uphill) bank. This final section of the canal runs through a mostly rural area, with open areas as well as some homes. It retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, association, setting, and feeling and, thus, contributes to the significance of the resource.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

Name of Property Spokane Valley Land and Water Co. Canal

County and State Kootenai County, Idaho

**Summary:** The canal and headgates from the main Spokane Valley Land and Water Company canal are locally significant under Criterion A because they are associated with the early agricultural history of the area. They represent a local manifestation of the irrigation excitement that stimulated growth in the arid, western United States in the early 1900s. Construction of the canal system, starting in 1907, encouraged the development of small-scale farming in the rural area of eastern Washington between the Idaho border and the city of Spokane. The water irrigated thousands of acres and contributed significantly to the development of the Spokane Valley. The initial segment of canal, from the intake through the waste way, was constructed by at least 1889, when it carried water to power a nearby flour mill. There was a headgate in this section by at least 1904. The remainder of the system was built when the company developed its water rights and pushed through plans for a large irrigation system. The two original headgates remain, along with the waste way and approximately two-and-one-half miles of canal. This is all that is left of a much larger system that once included over thirty-four miles of canals, with many more miles of lateral ditches. The remaining portions of the canal are significant because they represent an early form of irrigation that has since been replaced with water pumped from deep wells. Such irrigation canals, common in many parts of the arid West, are rare in northern Idaho.

**Background History:** Irrigation stimulated growth and settlement in many arid areas of the western United States. Starting with the Desert Land Act of 1877 and continuing with the Carey Act of 1894, the federal government offered individuals, companies, and states incentives to place large tracts of dry land under irrigation. The success of many of these early projects stimulated interest in irrigation throughout the West. The federal government assumed a larger role in irrigation projects following the passage of the National Reclamation Act in 1902 and the formation of the Reclamation Service (later the Bureau of Reclamation).

While irrigation projects flourished in southern Idaho, they were uncommon in the northern part of the state since its rugged terrain and heavy forest covering were generally not conducive to irrigation. One exception, however, was the flat Rathdrum Prairie in Kootenai County. It slopes gently into the Spokane Valley of eastern Washington, dropping from 2,100 feet above sea level at the border to 1,900 feet at the eastern edge of Spokane. Although divided by a state line, these two areas are contiguous geographically and share the same gravelly soil and moderate climate. They attracted irrigation interest by the end of the nineteenth century.

W. L. Benham, a freight agent for the Great Northern Railway, assured his part in any irrigation plan by claiming water rights on Mud (later Hauser), Fish (later Twin), and Hayden lakes in Idaho, along with Liberty, Saltese, and Newman lakes in Washington. He joined with well-known Spokane developer Daniel C. Corbin and Corbin's son, Austin Corbin II, to incorporate Spokane Valley Irrigation Company (SVIC) on July 20, 1899. Benham exchanged his water rights for stock in the company the following month.<sup>1</sup>

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Name of Property Spokane Valley Land and Water Co. Canal

County and State Kootenai County, Idaho

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Following incorporation, SVIC pursued water rights to the Spokane River and claimed 1,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) in November 1899. The company planned to divert water at a point on the north bank at Post Falls and then use a canal, flume, or pipe to transport the water to the Spokane Valley, with the system completed within five years. Two years later the company claimed an additional 250 cfs from the river.<sup>2</sup>

About this time, the Washington State Legislature passed a bill that stimulated the development of irrigation projects in the state. The 1899 act authorized irrigation companies to condemn private land for canal rights-of-way as long as the route selected was the shortest and most practical. SVIC put this to use immediately.<sup>3</sup>

During the summer of 1899, SVIC employed engineers to survey the Spokane Valley to determine the feasibility of a large irrigation system. Based on these reports, company officials in 1899 bought or condemned a right-of-way and authorized the construction of the first canal to carry water from Liberty Lake for six-and-a-half miles to an area that became known as Greenacres. Established landowners in the Spokane Valley viewed the idea of irrigation with skepticism. Although they had been raising truck crops there since the mid-1890s, they considered the gravelly soil to be marginal for farming. They also believed that irrigation would fail since much of the water would seep into the gravels of the unlined ditches and be lost before reaching the irrigated tracts. While there was considerable water loss, the early results in Greenacres caused local farmers to reevaluate irrigation. By the summer of 1900, miles of laterals off the main canal watered orchards and vegetable gardens with favorable results. Problems with the ditch grade led to its reconstruction in 1903. Land sales began in 1901, with prices starting at \$50 per acre. Demand continued, even as prices eventually rose fourfold to \$200 per acre. All of these first irrigated tracts were sold by 1905.<sup>4</sup>

After successfully developing its water right on Liberty Lake, SVIC expanded its plans across the border into Idaho where the company had claimed water from Twin Lakes. The company began construction in 1902 on an irrigation system to water approximately 3,000 acres between Post Falls and the Idaho-Washington border. People were eager to buy these new tracts and most of the East Greenacres District sold by 1907.<sup>5</sup>

Once SVIC had shown that irrigation was feasible in the Spokane Valley, others jumped on the bandwagon. Since SVIC had not developed its claimed water right on Newman Lake within the allotted time, two other men filed a claim and organized the Spokane Canal Company in 1903. The new company constructed a system of canals that by 1905, brought water to a new development named Otis Orchards. It became well known for its fruit production, particularly apples. Other developers platted Opportunity, another irrigated tract, in 1905. It grew from 100 acres, irrigated with a single well in 1905, to approximately 2,900 acres with seven wells by the early 1930s. Vera was platted in 1908, and grew to 1,885 acres by the early 1930s; at that time, four wells supplied water for irrigation.<sup>6</sup>



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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

Name of Property Spokane Valley Land and Water Co. Canal

County and State Kootenai County, Idaho

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Following the success of East Greenacres in Idaho, irrigated tracts expanded on the Rathdrum Prairie in the early 1900s. A succession of companies, backed primarily by real estate agents W. G. and John S. Malloy, promoted irrigated developments using water drawn from Hayden Lake. Tracts in the Hayden Lake and Avondale districts were on the market by early 1907, with Dalton Gardens, Idaho following later that year. Prices started at \$150 per acre but were raised to \$175 or \$200 as the new developments proved popular. These irrigated tracts, which included approximately 5,000 acres, were all served by an interurban electric line that ran between Coeur d'Alene and Hayden Lake, making living on these small suburban tracts convenient. In 1910, Hayden Lake water reached the Post Falls District to irrigate another 3,500 acres in Idaho.<sup>7</sup>

With the sale of irrigated lands looking promising, W. L. Benham and Arthur A. Hawley, of Seattle, incorporated the Spokane Valley Land and Water Company (SVLWC) in April, 1901, to handle land transactions. The new company then merged with SVIC in October of that year. About that time, the Corbins withdrew from the company and were replaced with three new directors.<sup>8</sup>

Spokane Valley Land and Water Company continued to pursue its claimed water rights on the Spokane River at Post Falls. Officials from SVLWC and Washington Water Power Company (WWP) began meeting in August 1904, to work out a compromise on water rights claimed by both companies at Post Falls. Two months later, in a document carefully crafted to protect the rights of WWP, the two companies agreed to the following provisions:

- 1) SVLWC was allowed use, but not ownership, of an existing canal and waste way; the company could improve the waste way and could construct and maintain intake gates and controlling works in the waste way.
- 2) SVLWC was given a right-of-way for a flume or canal to run from the intake headgates and controlling works along the north bank of the Spokane River through property owned by WWP.
- 3) SVLWC was allowed to use water for domestic and irrigation purposes only.
- 4) WWP specified allowable rates of water diversion for various months of the year, with the flow to be measured at the WWP headgate in the canal.
- 5) SVLWC paid WWP \$11,500 for the use of this water. In addition, the company agreed to surrender to WWP its water rights on the Spokane River and Coeur d'Alene Lake over and above the amounts specified in the agreement.<sup>9</sup>

The Spokane Valley Land and Water Company was in financial trouble at the time it signed the agreement with WWP. The board of directors convinced Daniel C. Corbin to refinance the struggling company in 1905. He purchased more than two-thirds of the stock and reputedly invested close to \$850,000 to pay off company debts. This enabled the company to continue with its plans to bring more of the Spokane Valley under irrigation.<sup>10</sup>

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

Name of Property Spokane Valley Land and Water Co. Canal

County and State Kootenai County, Idaho

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Corbin had a particular interest in irrigation projects in the Spokane region. He had become interested in sugar beet cultivation in the 1890s and had invested in the Washington State Sugar Company in 1899. With Corbin's help, the company constructed a large factory at Waverly, Washington, about thirty miles south of Spokane, but it never achieved success due to a chronic shortage of sugar beets. Corbin found farmers reluctant to grow beets, which not only were difficult to cultivate but also brought lower prices than other farm crops. As Corbin and SVLWC developed irrigated tracts in the Spokane Valley, Corbin hoped to entice farmers to devote at least part of their acreage to sugar beets. His Washington State Sugar Company leased 1,000 acres for beet production in the Hayden Lake irrigation district in 1907, employing Japanese workers to tend the fields. Despite these efforts, the project failed and the Waverly plant closed in 1910.<sup>11</sup>

SVLWC began surveying in Post Falls in 1906 for the first unit of the Spokane River Canal, with construction starting the following year. Water reached the East Farms district, located in eastern Washington adjacent to the Idaho state line, by 1907. Other developments followed in quick succession. Between 1908 and 1911, SVLWC opened four East Farms subdivisions, West Farms Irrigated Tracts, and Pasadena Park.<sup>12</sup>

This first construction phase surely included the headworks needed to control water flow at the start of the irrigation system in Post Falls. The first of the two headgates described above in Section 7 was owned and operated by WWP. It is unclear if the existing gate was newly constructed in 1907 or reconstructed at that time from an extant headgate. At least by 1904, WWP maintained a headgate in its canal in approximately the same location as the gate existing today. By 1907, this gate was used to measure the amount of water flowing through the canal, to fulfill the allocation agreement signed by the two companies in 1904. The second of the two headgates described in Section 7 was probably constructed in 1907 during the first construction phase. It was used to control the amount of water entering the canal system. The canal itself was unlined initially.<sup>13</sup>

Daniel C. Corbin, the man behind much of the irrigation system in the Spokane Valley, died on June 29, 1918. His executor hired R. K. Tiffany, a Bureau of Reclamation engineer, to manage the Spokane Valley Land and Water Company. At the time he took over, the main canal was 34 miles long, with 54 miles of laterals. The system was large enough to water up to 12,000 acres, but served closer to 6,000 acres at that time.<sup>14</sup>

Tiffany expanded the irrigation system by designing a diversion pipe at Spokane Bridge, just west of the Idaho-Washington border, to carry water across the river. This opened an additional 4,230 acres of land south of the Spokane River to irrigation, and the area soon organized as the Spokane Valley Irrigation District. The irrigation district commissioned an engineering report in 1922 to analyze the irrigation system running from the headworks at Post Falls to lands within the district and 600 acres in the adjacent Greenacres Irrigation District. Based on the report, the company began work in 1923 to

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

Name of Property Spokane Valley Land and Water Co. Canal

County and State Kootenai County, Idaho

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upgrade and reconstruct parts of the main canal in Idaho, with the project completed by 1924. As recommended by the engineer, some of the work included lining the canal, at least on the downhill side, to prevent water loss and to reduce the risk of the collapse of the canal bank. The irrigation system continued in operation at least into the mid-1930s.<sup>15</sup>

**Conclusion:** The Spokane Valley Land and Water Company canal brought water from the Spokane River diversion at Post Falls to irrigate thousands of acres in the Spokane Valley, a few miles to the west in eastern Washington. The success of the company's projects, both in eastern Washington and northern Idaho, stimulated other individuals and companies to develop other irrigation systems to water thousands of additional acres. These projects led to increased population in the area and the development of small communities. Irrigation wells, pumped from the enormous Rathdrum aquifer that underlies the region, now have replaced the earlier canal system. In Idaho, the once-vital irrigation system is represented by the headworks and less than three miles of mostly lined canal. They are significant as parts of a larger system that encouraged the early development of the Spokane Valley in eastern Washington, which has now grown into a large metropolitan area.

### Endnotes for Section 8:

<sup>1</sup> John Fahey, *Inland Empire: D. C. Corbin and Spokane* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1965), 202; Kootenai County Water Rights, Book A, 138, 140-141, 270-271, 275, 278-279, 281, 283, 285; Spokane Valley Irrigation Company, Minute Book 1899-1903, 1 (Spokane Valley Consolidated Irrigation District Collection, MS 103, Box 3, Eastern Washington State Historical Society, Spokane); *Spokesman-Review*, 20 July 1899, 5:5.

<sup>2</sup> Kootenai County Water Rights, Book A, 154, 230.

<sup>3</sup> Fahey, *Inland Empire*, 204.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, 203; *Spokesman-Review*, 26 December 1899, 5:3; 14 July 1900, 5:1; 28 July 1901, 13:4; George L. Kimmel, "Iriigation [sic] in the Spokane Valley," ca. 1931, 8 (Rosebush Collection, MS 16, Folder 33, Eastern Washington State Historical Society, Spokane).

<sup>5</sup> Kimmel, "Iriigation [sic] in the Spokane Valley," 5.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, 5, 9-10.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

Name of Property Spokane Valley Land and Water Co. Canal

County and State Kootenai County, Idaho

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<sup>7</sup> Ibid., 12-13; *Coeur d'Alene Press*, 8 Sept. 1906, 1:1-2; 1 March 1907, 1:3-4; 2 April 1907, 1:5; 20 April 1907, 1:1-2; 25 April 1907, 1:3-5; 29 April 1907, 4:1-6; 17 May 1907, 2:1-6; 29 Aug. 1907, 6:1-3.

<sup>8</sup> Fahey, *Inland Empire*, 204; *Spokesman-Review*, 5 April 1901, 10:3; Spokane Valley Irrigation Company, Minute Book 1899-1903, 4, 21.

<sup>9</sup> Agreement between Washington Water Power Company and Spokane Valley Land and Water Company, 12 October 1904 (MS 103, Box 2, Folder 2.2, Eastern Washington State Historical Society, Spokane).

<sup>10</sup> Kimmel, "Iriigation [sic] in the Spokane Valley," 8; Fahey, *Inland Empire*, 205.

<sup>11</sup> Fahey, *Inland Empire*, 197-201; *Coeur d'Alene Press*, 26 March 1907, 1:5-6; 5 April 1907, 1:5-6.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid., 206; Kimmel, "Iriigation [sic] in the Spokane Valley," 7-8.

<sup>13</sup> A deed between Idaho Lumber and Manufacturing Company and Washington Water Power Company, signed in December 1904, includes a hand-drawn map that shows the canal and headgate; Kootenai County Deed Record, Book 9, 462-463.

<sup>14</sup> Fahey, *Inland Empire*, 207; Kimmel, "Iriigation [sic] in the Spokane Valley," 14.

<sup>15</sup> Kimmel, "Iriigation [sic] in the Spokane Valley, 14, II; H. R. Bolton, "Engineer's Report, Spokane Valley Irrigation District," 23 November 1922 (MS 103, Box 2, Folder 2.1, Eastern Washington State Historical Society, Spokane).

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### Major Bibliographical References:

Bolton, H. R. "Engineer's Report, Spokane Valley Irrigation District." Spokane: 1922. On file, Spokane Valley Consolidated Irrigation District Collection, MS 103, Box 2, Folder 2.1, Eastern Washington State Historical Society, Spokane.

#### *Coeur d'Alene Press.*

8 Sept. 1906, 1:1-2  
1 March 1907, 1:3-4  
26 March 1907, 1:5-6  
2 April 1907, 1:5  
5 April 1907, 1:5-6.  
20 April 1907, 1:1-2  
25 April 1907, 1:3-5  
29 April 1907, 4:1-6  
17 May 1907, 2:1-6  
29 Aug. 1907, 6:1-3

Fahey, John. *Inland Empire: D. C. Corbin and Spokane.* Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1965.

Kimmel, George L. "Iriigation [sic] in the Spokane Valley." Unpublished ms, ca. 1931, on file, Rosebush Collection, MS 16, Folder 33, Eastern Washington State Historical Society, Spokane.

Kootenai County Deed Record, Book 9. On file, Kootenai County Courthouse, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

Kootenai County Water Rights, Book A. On file, Kootenai County Courthouse, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

Spokane Valley Irrigation Co., Minute Book 1899-1903. On file, Spokane Valley Consolidated Irrigation District Collection, MS 103, Box 3, Eastern Washington State Historical Society, Spokane.

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### *Spokesman-Review*

- 20 July 1899, 5:5.
- 26 December 1899, 5:3.
- 14 July 1900, 5:1.
- 5 April 1901, 10:3.
- 28 July 1901, 13:4.
- 9 August 1904, 12:5.

Washington Water Power Company and Spokane Valley Land and Water Company agreement, 12 October 1904. Copy on file, Spokane Valley Consolidated Irrigation District Collection, MS 103, Box 2, Folder 2.2, Eastern Washington State Historical Society, Spokane.

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### 10. Geographical Data

#### Verbal Boundary Description:

The property includes the canal, waste way, and associated headgates located in the following parcels in Kootenai County:

#1138 (NW/SE/NW, NE/SW/NW, and S2NW/NW, Sec. 3, T50N, R5W, B.M.)

#1855 (S2NE/NE and NW/SE/NE, Sec. 4, T50N, R5W, B.M.)

#6830 (NW/SW/SW, Sec. 4, T50N, R5W, B.M.)

#6700 (S2NE/SE, SE/NW/SE, NW/SW/SE, NE/SE/SW, and S2SE/SW, Sec. 5, T50N, R5W, B.M.)

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### 11. Property Owner:

Kootenai County Tax Parcel #1138:

Avista Utilities (formerly Washington Water Power Company)  
P.O. Box 3727  
Spokane, WA 99200

Kootenai County Tax Parcels #1855, #6830, and #6700:

City of Post Falls  
5685 East Seltice Way  
Post Falls, ID 83854



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Name of Property Spokane Valley Land and Water Co. Canal

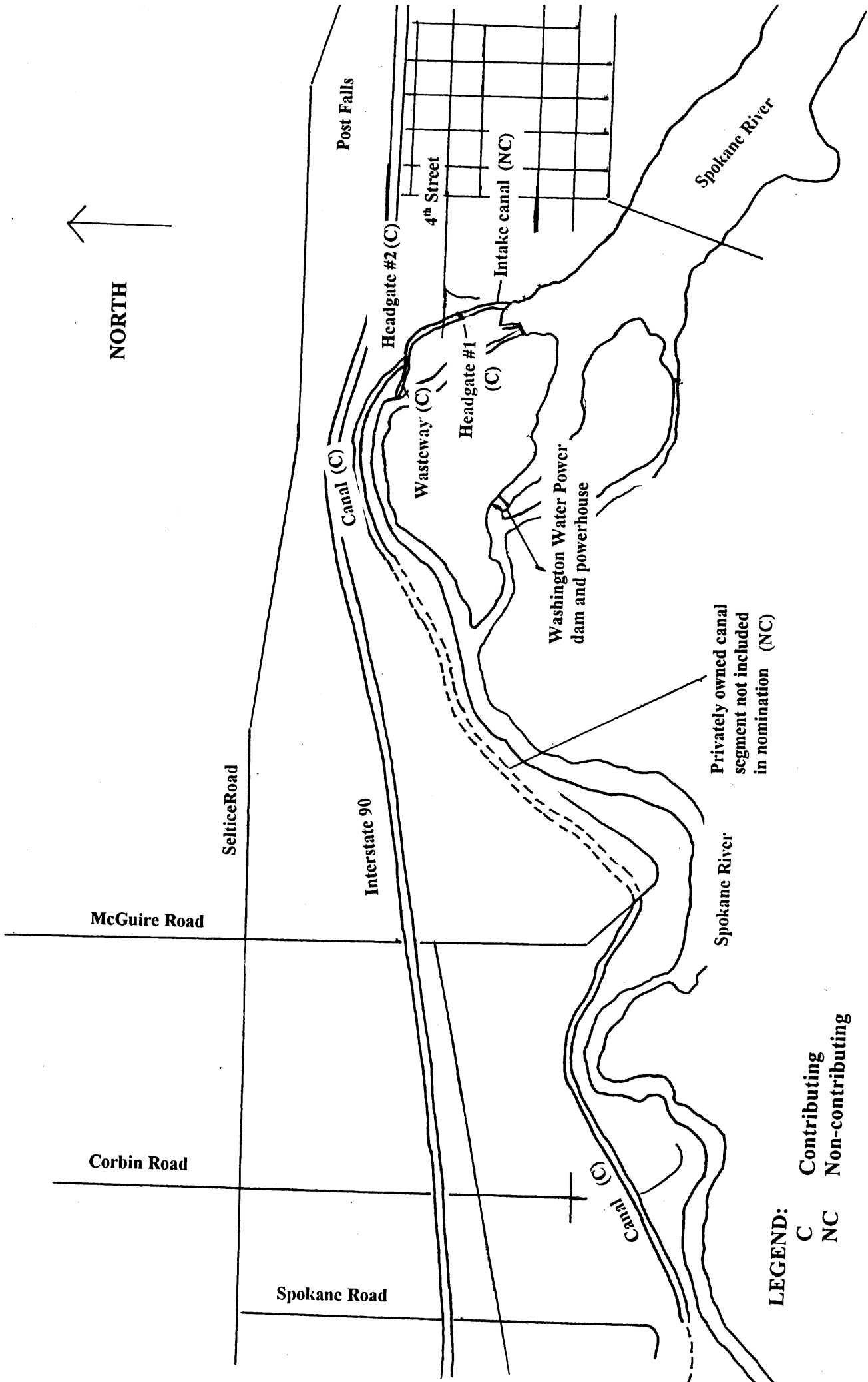
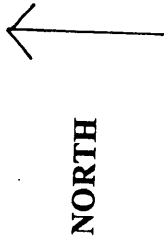
County and State Kootenai County, Idaho

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### PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION

Spokane Valley Land and Water Company Canal  
Post Falls, Kootenai County, Idaho  
Photographs taken by Nancy F. Renk, Flume Creek Historical Services  
Date of photographs 12 June 2002  
Original negatives on file at the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office

- Photo #1 of 5: First headgate on system, owned and operated by Washington Water Power Co.; view northwest
- Photo #2 of 5: First headgate on system; view north
- Photo #3 of 5: Second headgate on system, owned and operated by Spokane Valley Land and Water Company; view northwest
- Photo #4 of 5: Second headgate on system, with waste way dropping off to left and canal heading off to upper left; view north-northwest
- Photo #5 of 5: Lined canal west of Post Falls; view east



**LEGEND:**  
C Contributing  
NC Non-contributing

NOT TO SCALE

Spokane Valley Land and Water  
Company Canal

Post Falls, Kootenai Co., Idaho

re Road

Seltice Road

Interstate 90

Canal (C)

Photo #5

Wasteway (C) Photo #3

Photo #4

Head Photo #2

(C)

Photo #1 Intake canal (NC)

Headgate #2 (C)

4th Street

Post Falls

Washington Water Power dam and powerhouse

Spokane River

Privately owned canal segment not included in nomination (NC)

Spokane River

PHOTO LOCATIONS

Spokane Valley Land and Water Company Canal

