### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR	FEDERAL	PROPERTIES

DA	ATA_;	SHEET	λ.
FOR NPS USE ONLY RECEIVED APR	r 2 8 197	6	
DATE ENTERED	[4] A. S. S. S. M. C. S. S. M. S.	2 9 1976	

SEE	INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW 7 TYPE ALL ENTRIES			S
1 NAME			*******	
HISTORIC				
AND/OR COMMON	Italian Rock Ovens	(2 sites)		
2 LOCATION STREET & NUMBER	5 of Chaney	r ·		
	Turnbull NWR, Route	3, Box 385	NOT FOR PUBLICATION	
CITY, TOWN	Cheney miles	. VICINITY OF	CONGRESSIONAL DISTR #4 - Honorable Mi	
STATE	Washington	codé 53	county Spokane	CODE 063
3 CLASSIFIC	ATION			
CATEGORY DISTRICT BUILDING(S) X_STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT	OWNERSHIP X_PUBLIC PRIVATE BOTH PUBLIC ACQUISITION IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED	STATUS OCCUPIED X_UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS ACCESSIBLE X_YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED NO	PRES X_agriculture commercial educational entertainment X_government industrial military	ENT USE MUSEUM PARK PRIVATE RESIDENCE RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC TRANSPORTATION X_OTHER: NWR
4 AGENCY				
REGIONAL HEADQUA	ARTERS:( <i>II applicable</i> ) U. S. Fish and Wildl	ifa Sarvica		
STREET & NUMBER	P. 0. Box 3737, 1500	<u> </u>		····· ··· ··· ··· ··· ··· ··· ···
CITY, TOWN	Doutland	VICINITY OF	state OR	
5 LOCATION	OF LEGAL DESCR	IPTION		
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS,	ETC. Spokane County C	ourthouse		
STREET & NUMBER	W. 1116 Broadway	Ave.		
CITY, TOWN	Spokane		state WA	
6 REPRESEN	TATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS		

DATE

\_\_FEDERAL \_\_STATE \_\_COUNTY \_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN



CONDITION		CHECK ONE CHECK O		
EXCELLENT _XGOOD FAIR	DETERIORATED RUINS UNEXPOSED	_XUNALTERED ALTERED	XORIGINAL SITE MOVED DATE	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

These are roughly pyramidal-shaped rock mounds, hollow in the center, with chimney-like openings in the top. On one side at the base is an opening approximately 10 inches wide and 6 inches high allowing access to the hollow center portion of the rock ovens. The ovens are made of flat to rounded basalt, and are approximately 5 feet wide at the base. They vary from about 3 to 5 feet in height.

Two such ovens are found in the Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge approximately two miles apart, and near the Spokane, Portland and Seattle Railroad tracks which pass through the northwest portion of this refuge. Both are built on the edge of natural soil mounds which are typical in the mounded soil type of the channeled scablands of Eastern Washington. (see attached map and geographical data)

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# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	` AR	EAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	ECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	X_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	XENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
1800-1899	_XCOMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	X_TRANSPORTATION
<b>X</b> 1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIEV)
		INVENTION	•	• • •
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### SPECIFIC DATES

#### BUILDER/ARCHITECT

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

These rock ovens were built by Italian <u>laborers</u> who worked on construction of the Spokane, Portland and Seattle Railroad in 1906. There were several contractors and subcontractors crews building the railroad in this vicinity.

The nearest labor camp to these ovens was at Mock, about 1-2 miles to the southeast. About 50 to 75 men worked out of this camp, which was run by an Italian subcontractor named Gabriel Ballante. Construction through the basalt rock outcrops was very difficult, and required extensive blasting. Holes for the charges were hand drilled with drills up to 16 feet long.

Fires were built in these ovens to heat the rocks. Coals were removed and the bread loaves were inserted through the side openings with long wooden paddles. The Italians subsisted almost entirely on bread and macaroni during the construction period. Only occasionally did they purchase meat from local farmers.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Information was obtained from an interview of Mr. John Van Brundt, a resident of Cheney, Washington. He was raised on a homestead near the rock ovens and was present during the construction period.

CECRTIFICATION OF NOMINATION AND PROPERTY 0.1 acre (2 sites of 0.05 acre each) UM REFERENCES ALL 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 15 310.0.5 15 225 105 24 ALL 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 15 310.0.5 15 20						
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