

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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JUN 21 1979

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**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 Artesian ~~Hot and Cold Water Company~~ Pumphouse and Wells

AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER *off ID 21* SE corner SW 1/4 Sec. 12 T3N, R2E, vicinity of old Penitentiary Road

CITY, TOWN

Boise

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Idaho

VICINITY OF  
CODE

16

COUNTY

Ada

CODE

001

**CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

DISTRICT  
 BUILDING(S)  
 STRUCTURE  
 SITE  
 OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

PUBLIC  
 PRIVATE  
 BOTH  
**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**  
 IN PROCESS  
 BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

OCCUPIED  
 UNOCCUPIED  
 WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
 YES: RESTRICTED  
 YES: UNRESTRICTED  
 NO

**PRESENT USE**

AGRICULTURE  
 COMMERCIAL  
 EDUCATIONAL  
 ENTERTAINMENT  
 GOVERNMENT  
 INDUSTRIAL  
 MILITARY  
 MUSEUM  
 PARK  
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
 RELIGIOUS  
 SCIENTIFIC  
 TRANSPORTATION  
 OTHER pumphous

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Boise Warm Springs Water District

STREET & NUMBER

660 Emerald

CITY, TOWN

Boise

VICINITY OF

STATE

Idaho

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Ada County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

514 West Jefferson

CITY, TOWN

Boise

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

Boise

STATE  
Idaho

# 7 DESCRIPTION

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

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Situated at the base of the foothills northwest of the old State Penitentiary, the Artesian Hot and Cold Water Company pumphouse is a tall, one-story, rectangular building of board and batten construction.

Three sides of the approximately 27 x 50 foot structure are battered, the canted timbers emerging at the angles from the corrugated metal roof. The walls of the building are battered due to the fact that the building was constructed following the lines of two drill derricks, located over the two hot water wells. The framework of the derricks was used as the bearing members for the building. The fourth, unbattered wall, on the south side of the pumphouse, is lower than the other sides; it represents an addition to the building which produces a long "saltbox" profile to the roofline. Two rectangular cupolas with hinged vents straddle the ridge of the gabled roof.

A double-width machine-access door in the west wall leads to a concrete floored interior. Inside the building there are two pumps. The west pump is a 1914 Byron Jackson Deepwell Turbine. The current motor is dated 1950.

The east pump is driven by a 1927 General Electric Co. variable speed motor. The depth of both wells is 400 feet. These two wells are the only ones currently in use, pumping 1650 gallons of hot water per day. The water is about 165° and is rich in flouride. The wells were last cleaned in 1954.

Southwest of the pumphouse is a concrete equalizing reservoir of which the construction date is unknown; it was abandoned in the 1930's.

# 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) energy
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Artesian Hot and Cold Water Company pumphouse is significant in the areas of **archffecture, engineering, and energy because the** surviving structure was built to accomodate Idaho's pioneer application of a natural hot water heating system. Commercial geothermal power systems soon followed in Italy (1904), New Zealand, Iceland, Mexico, Salvador, Japan, and Russia, as well as in one or two other places in the United States, including a similar space heating arrangement in Klamath Falls, Oregon, and a major electric power development in Lake county, California.

The uses of the geothermal resource were both public and private. Boise became a well known resort, with the opening of her elaborate Natatorium in 1892. Fine homes were built along Warm Springs Avenue after the Natatorium and a connecting street car line were completed. The natural hot water was piped in for space heating and domestic purposes.

A group of Boise businessmen secured an option for ten acres of land near the state penitentiary on the east edge of Boise and began drilling in December of 1890. It was announced on December 24, 1890, in the Idaho Statesman, that warm water (92°) had been struck at a depth of eighty feet.

By May of 1891, two wells had been established, each about four hundred feet deep, that produced a flow of over one million gallons of water daily, at a temperature of 180°.

Inmates from the Idaho State Penitentiary, which borders the pumphouse property, maintained the pumps for several years. This penitentiary site was abandoned in 1973 and is now an historical park.

The pumphouse houses two wells that curently serve approximately 240 customers, including three state office buildings.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Idaho Daily Statesman, Dec. 28, 1890, p. 8, c. 1; May 8, 1891.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Boise South Quadrangle

QUADRANGLE SCALE 7.5

UTM REFERENCES

A 1 1 | 5 6 7 5 8 0 | 4 8 2 8 8 0<sup>080</sup>

B [ ] | [ ] | [ ]

C [ ] | [ ] | [ ]

D [ ] | [ ] | [ ]

E [ ] | [ ] | [ ]

F [ ] | [ ] | [ ]

G [ ] | [ ] | [ ]

H [ ] | [ ] | [ ]

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property includes the Artesian Hot and Cold Water Company Pumphouse and the land it stands on. The property comprises less than one acre and is situated at south side of the termination of the old Penitentiary Road in the SE Corner SW 1/4 Section ~~Township 3 North Range 2 East; refer to UTM points on attaches USGS map.~~

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Janet McCulloch, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION	<u>Idaho State Historical Society</u>	DATE	<u>14 June 1979</u>
STREET & NUMBER	<u>610 North Julia Davis Drive</u>	TELEPHONE	<u>384-2120</u>
CITY OR TOWN	<u>Boise</u>	STATE	<u>Idaho</u>

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X 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 Idaho State Preservation Officer DATE 14 June 1979

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**

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

ATTEST: W. Ray Luce for CHIEF OF REGISTRATION DATE July 25, 1979

Merle Wells KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE 7-26-79