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|---------------|-----------------------|--|--|
| PROPERTY NAME | Beacon | FIELD# | ARCO-05 |
| STREET | U.S. Highway 93/20/26 | | RESTRICT <input type="checkbox"/> |
| CITY | Arco | VICINITY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | COUNTY CD 23 COUNTY NAME Butte |
| SUBNAME | | BLOCK | SUBLOT ACRES 1 LESS THAN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| TAX PARCEL | RP03N26E110650 | UTMZ 12 | EASTING 312204 NORTHING 4830855 |
| TOWNSHIP | 3 N_S N | RANGE 26 | E_W E SECTION 11 NE 1/4, 1/4 NW 1/4 |
| QUADRANGLE | Arco South | OTHERMAP | |
| SANBORN MAP | | SANBORN MAP# | PHOTO# Digital |

| | | | |
|---------------------|--------|------------------|---|
| ASSOCIATED FEATURES | beacon | TOTAL # FEATURES | 1 |
|---------------------|--------|------------------|---|

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------|--|----------|--|---------------|--|------------------|--|
| NR REF # | | NPS CERT | | ACTIONDATE | | FUTURE ELIG DATE | |
| DIST/MPLNAME1 | | | | DIST/MPLNAME2 | | | |

CRITERIA A ☒ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ CRITERIA CONSIDERATION A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐

| | | | |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|--|
| AREA OF SIGNIF | Transportation | AREA OF SIGNIF | |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|--|

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| COMMENTS | For an elaboration on this resource's description, history, integrity, and eligibility see continuation sheets below. |
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|----------------|---------------------------------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| PROJ/RPT TITLE | Arco Airport Section 110 Survey | SVY DATE | 11/10/16 | SVY LEVEL | Intensive |
|----------------|---------------------------------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|

| | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------------|----|--------------|---------|---|
| RECORDED BY | Kerry Davis, PSLLC | PH | 816-225-5605 | ADDRESS | 1007 E. Jefferson Street, Boise, ID 83712 |
|-------------|--------------------|----|--------------|---------|---|

SUBMITTED PHOTOS ☒ NEGS ☐ SLIDES ☐ SKETCH MAP ☐

SVY RPT # ***** FOR ISHPO USE ONLY ***** IHSI# ARCO-05

MS RPT # SITS#

IHPR # HABS NO. ID- HAER NO. ID- REV#

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|--|-----------|---------|-----------|--|----------|--|----|----|----|
| CS # | | IHSI# REF | ARCO-01 | NR REF# 2 | | REV# REF | | RI | ST | IH |
|------|--|-----------|---------|-----------|--|----------|--|----|----|----|

SVY RPT# 1 SVY RPT# 2 SVY RPT# 3 MS RPT# 1 MS RPT# 2 #A #S #IS

ADD'L NOTES

This is resource #11 on Arco Airport (ARCO-01)

MORE DATA

☒

ATTACH

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| | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|--|---------|--|-------------|--|------------|--|------------|--|
| # OF PHOTOS | | NEGBOX# | | # OF SLIDES | | SHPO DETER | | DETER DATE | |
|-------------|--|---------|--|-------------|--|------------|--|------------|--|

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|--|------------|--|---------|--|---------|--|---------|--|
| INITIALED | | ENTRY DATE | | REVISE1 | | REVISE2 | | REVISE3 | |
|-----------|--|------------|--|---------|--|---------|--|---------|--|

IHS# _____
SITS# _____
REV# _____

IDAHO HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

PROPERTY NAME IHSI#
 FIELD# COUNTY NAME
 OTHER NAME
 COUNTY CD CITY VICINITY ☒
 UTM REF2 UTM REF3 UTM REF4

OTHER MATERIAL2 CULTAFFIL AGENCYCERT
 SIGNIFDATE SIGNIFPERIOD SIGNIFPERSON
 ARCH/BUILD ARCHPLANS ☐ TAXEASE ☐ TAXCERT ☐
 OWNERSHIP PROPOWN
 MORE DATA ☒ ATTACH ☐

DOCSOURCE

ADD'L NOTES

COMMENTS

PHOTO LOG ☐ IHSI# REF INITIALED DATEENTERED

SKETCH ☐

| | |
|-------|-------|
| IHSI# | _____ |
| SITS# | _____ |
| REV# | _____ |

IDAHO HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

PROPERTY NAME IHSI#
FIELD# COUNTY NAME

COMMENTS:

For an elaboration on this resource's description, history, integrity, and eligibility see continuation sheets below.

ATTACH ☐

| | |
|-------|-------|
| IHSI# | _____ |
| SITS# | _____ |
| REV# | _____ |

ARCO-05 – Arco Airport Beacon

Eligibility Assessment: This original structure retains excellent integrity and appears to be individually NRHP-eligible as one of only a few historic beacons remaining in Idaho. SHPO records include only two other beacons documented – the Cold Springs Beacon near Hammet (39-018251) constructed in 1942 and the Idaho Falls Airport Beacon constructed in 1930 and counted as a contributing resource to Idaho Falls Airport Historic District (NR #97001126).

Description: This Beacon tower (#11; ARCO-05) is located on the Arco-Butte County Airport (ARCO-01), which spans approximately 195 acres about 3 miles southwest of Arco, Butte County, and abuts the south side of Highway 93/20/26. This beacon is one of 12 aviation-related resources constructed between 1949 and c.1997 on the airport property.

This Beacon tower (#11; ARCO-05) dates to c.1950 and the initial development stage of the airport. The beacon sits atop a self-supported, four-sided lattice tower that stands approximately 60' in-height. The simple, four-sided tower is comprised of an open lattice framework of bolted angle iron. The beacon mechanism and lamp are intact. A nonhistoric pre-fabricated metal shed houses the beacon generator at the base of the tower. The four legs together form an approximately 9' square footprint. The beacon access ladder rises along the west face of the tower to a small square platform below the beacon.

Resource History: Based on historic photographs and newspaper articles, this beacon dates to c.1950 and served traffic on the original unpaved airstrip. A 1965 aerial photograph shows the beacon as among only a handful of other features at the airport, which at the time consisted of only the airstrip, 2 hangars, a small ancillary building, and this beacon. The structure continues to function in its historic use today.

Historic Context: With the onset of World War II federal programs such as the Development of Landing Areas for National Defense (DLAND) received large allocations of funding, which were administered by the Civil Aeronautics Administration (CAA) for both civil and defense purposes. Airport traffic control, airport construction, and other associated activities became the purview of this federal agency.¹ Following World War II was a period of focused expansion of the nation's civil airports. The Civil Aeronautics Administration (CAA) promoted this expansion through a federal aid program, proposing work to more than 120 airports in Idaho in the late 1940s, which included a new field at Arco.²

While this announcement came in 1947, the appropriation of funding was slow to follow. It was not until the Atomic Energy Commission announced in early 1949 its selection of a site near Arco as the location for its first peacetime nuclear power plant that local officials pressed the State of Idaho for airport funding. At the urging of State Senator Earl J. Soelberg (R-Butte), in 1949 the State allocated \$7,000 to develop Arco Airport, in part "because of the emergency situation expected to develop there in connection with the [nearby] atomic energy plant."³ The strip would be located about 3 miles southwest of Arco on land owned by the city. Funding was expected to pay for a gravel strip measuring between 3,500 and 4,000 feet long and large enough to accommodate a DC-3.⁴

¹ National Register Bulletin, *How to Evaluate and Document Historic Aviation Properties*, 1998, 17.

² "67 New Airport Cites Listed For Gem State," *The Idaho Statesman*, 12 February 1947.

³ "Arco Receives Airport Fund," *The Idaho Statesman*, 19 April 1949.

⁴ "Arco Airport Fund Pledged," *The Idaho Statesman*, 1 April 1949.

The Arco airstrip, built parallel to the U.S. Highway 93/20/26, was finished and in use by November 1949. By year's end, the CAA reported a net gain of 28 new airports of all types, including the airstrip at Arco, in the Rocky Mountain states.⁵ Soelberg said the swift completion of the Arco airstrip accounted for the "speeded up development" at the reactor plant site, which he said was employing between 300 and 400 men in late 1949.⁶ Construction of the reactor, known as Experimental Breeder Reactor 1, began in May 1950 on a site about eighteen miles southeast of Arco.⁷ All of this activity related to the power plant resulted in a flurry of development in and around Arco, including the construction of 400 houses and a hotel.⁸

In October 1950, the CAA announced grant aid amounts for airport development and improvement, with \$7,377 earmarked for Arco Airport for land acquisition, grading, draining and stabilizing the runway, and installation of segmented circle and wind cones.⁹ The CAA allotted the following year another \$4,310, part of which was to fund stabilization of the tiedown area.¹⁰ [For additional context, see IHSI Form for the full Arco Airport Property (Temp. No. ARCO-01)].

National Register Significance Evaluation: Constructed in c.1950 and in continual operation as the airport's beacon since, this structure's period of significance is c.1950 through c.1970.¹¹ This structure is significant under NRHP Criterion A in the Area of Transportation at the local level. It is directly associated with the pattern of aviation and airport development at rural airports in Idaho, which was significant in the overall development of the Arco community.¹²

Integrity Analysis: This structure retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. It clearly conveys its historic associations with the local development of aviation. More specifically:

Location: This property has not been moved, and thus integrity of location is intact.

Setting: The historic setting is intact, communicated by means of the surrounding airfield and associated taxiway, hangars, and so forth.

Design: This property's integrity of design is intact, communicated primarily by means of the four-sided pyramidal form of the support structure and intact beacon light with surrounding catwalk.

Materials: Though this resource retains all its original materials.

⁵ "Airport Gain In West Told," *The Idaho Statesman*, 27 March 1950.

⁶ "New Airstrip Fits In With Arco's Progress," *The Idaho Statesman*, 20 November 1949.

⁷ "Work To Begin On Atomic Reactor," *The Arco Advertiser*, 12 May 1950; Experimental Breeder Reactor 1, now decommissioned, is a National Historic Landmark and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

⁸ "Work on Arco Homes To Start January 1," *The Idaho Statesman*, 16 December 1949; and "Contract Awarded for Construction Of New Hotel To Cost \$108,000 For Arco," *The Arco Advertiser*, 23 June 1950.

⁹ "Funds Obligated For Airport Work Exceed \$6 Million," *The Idaho Statesman*, 27 October 1950.

¹⁰ "Boise Airport Gets Signal To Go Ahead," *The Idaho Statesman*, 2 November 1951.

¹¹ The end of this period of significance represents the NRHP's recommended fifty-year 'cut-off', being the NRHP's "general estimate of the time needed to develop historical perspective and to evaluate significance." National Register Bulletin *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* (Washington, D.C.: Dept. of Interior, National Park Service, 1998), 41.

¹² National Register Bulletin *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* (Washington, D.C.: Dept. of Interior, National Park Service, 1998).

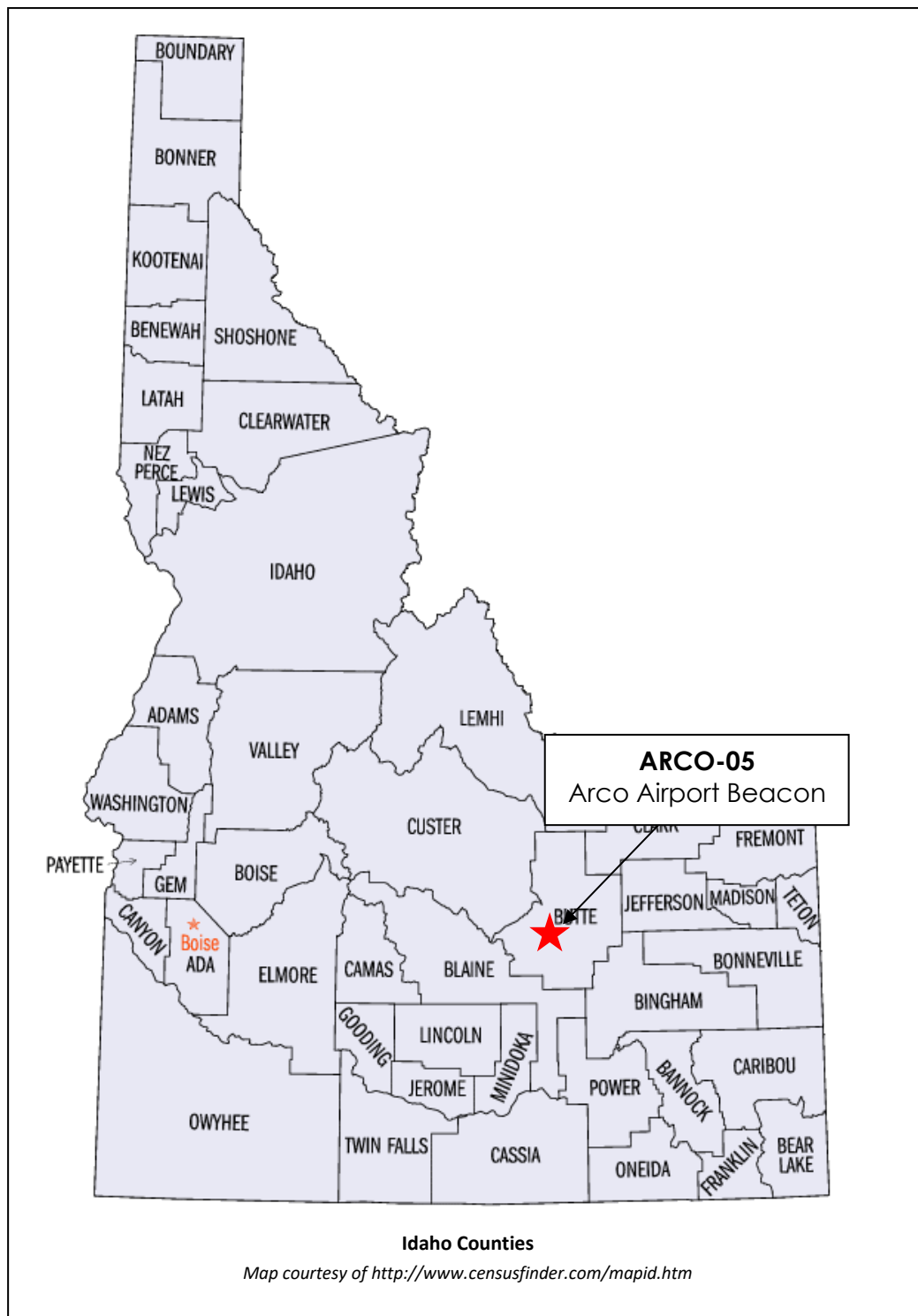
ARCO-05 – Arco Airport Beacon

Workmanship: Character-defining elements of workmanship are intact by means of the presence of integrity of materials.

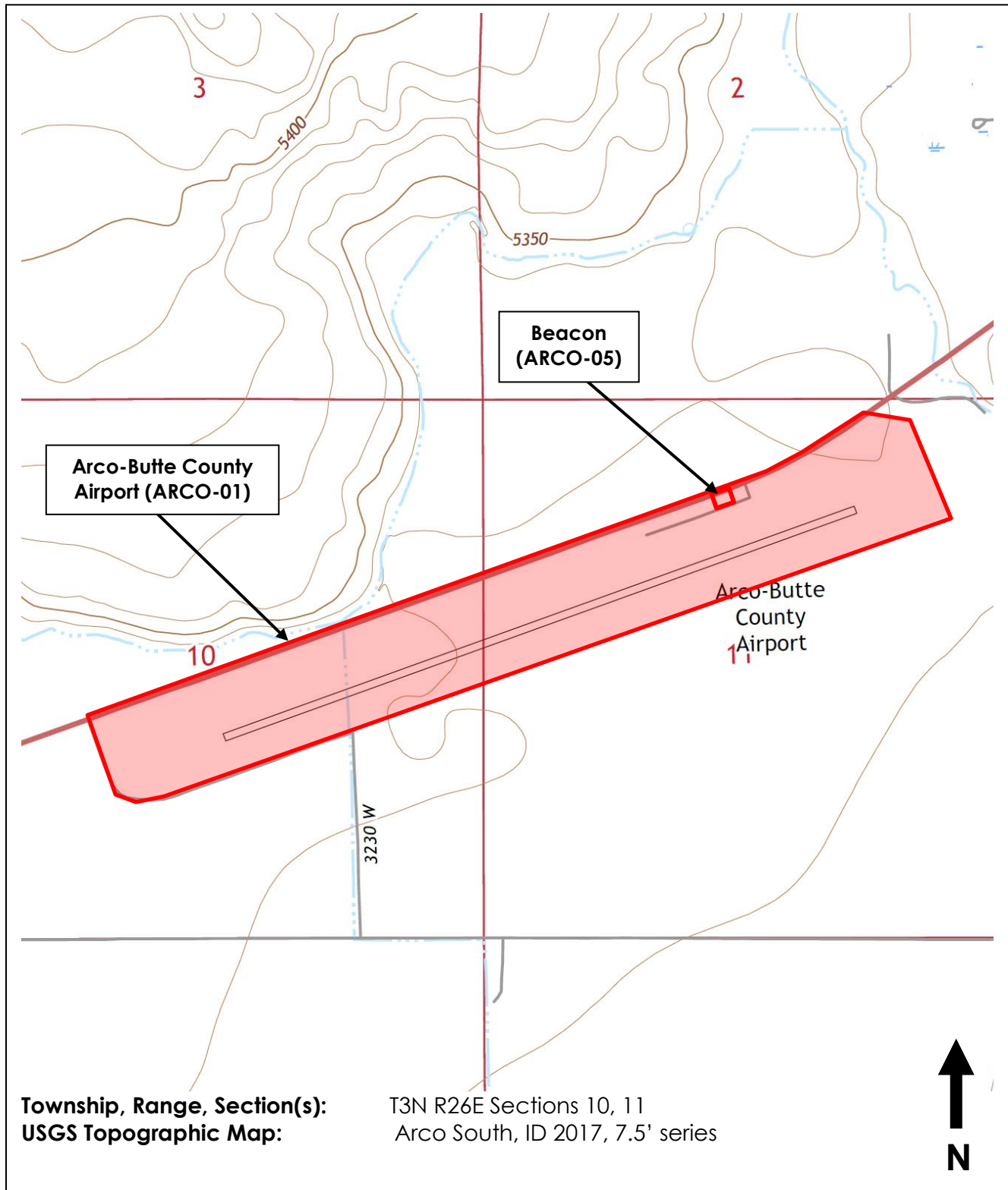
Feeling: The property's integrity of feeling is present due to the cumulative presence of integrity of design, materials, and workmanship.

Association: The association between this resource with the neighboring resources (e.g. hangars, taxiway) is intact.

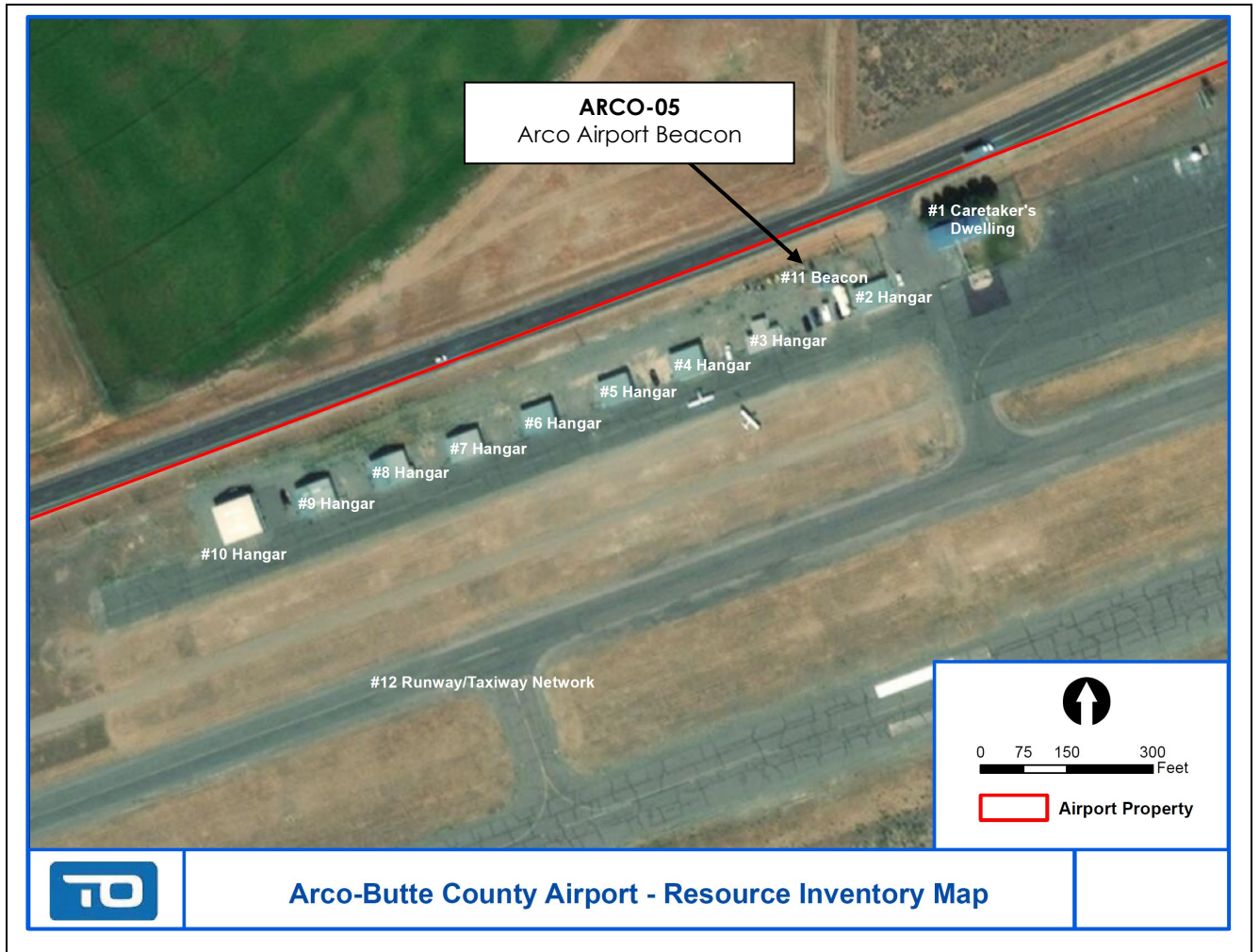
Eligibility: This original structure retains excellent integrity and appears to be individually NRHP-eligible as one of only a few historic beacons remaining in Idaho. To date, SHPO records include only three other beacons documented – the Cold Springs Beacon near Hammet (39-018251) constructed in 1942, the c.1950 Preston Airport Beacon (Temp. No. PA-08), and the Idaho Falls Airport Beacon constructed in 1930 and counted as a contributing resource to Idaho Falls Airport Historic District (NR #97001126).



ARCO-05 – Arco Airport Beacon



ARCO-05 – Arco Airport Beacon



ARCO-05
Arco Airport Beacon



Arco Airport, 1965 (NE at top)
Courtesy ITD Archives (online)



Beacon (#11; ARCO-05), view NE, November 2016



Beacon (#11; ARCO-05), view NW, November 2016