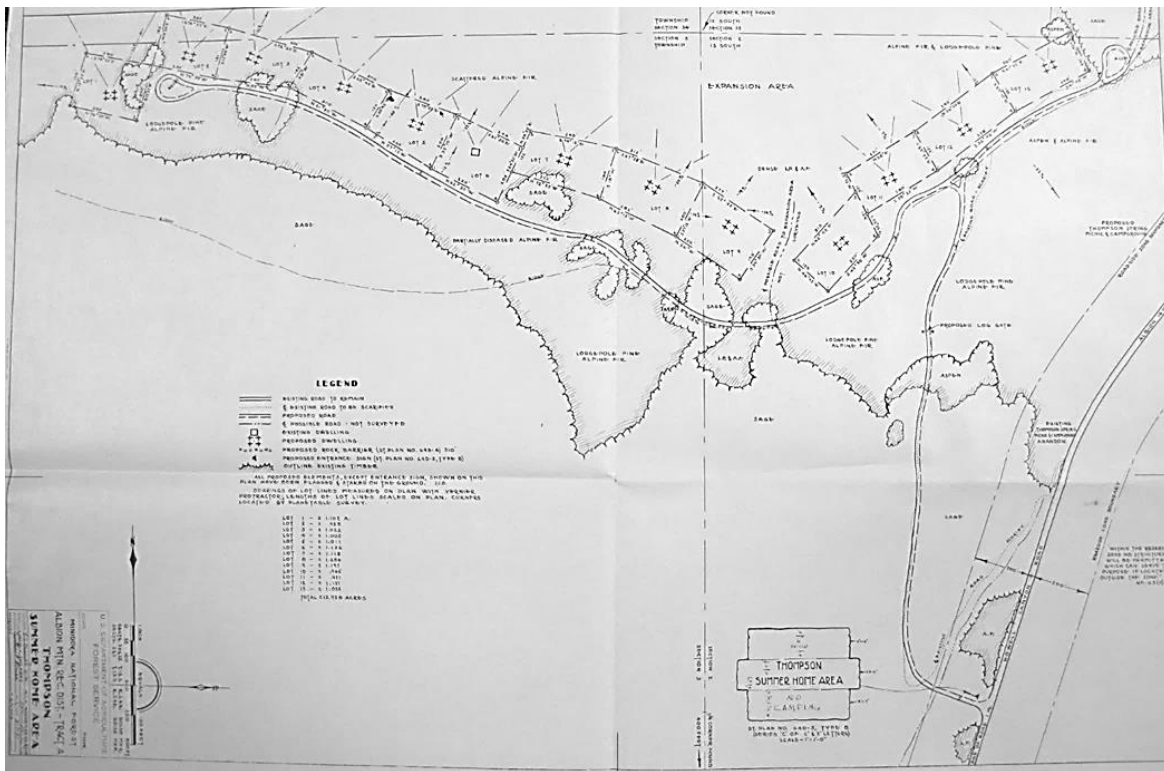


## Thompson Summer Home Area



SW-17-2963

December 2016

By: Kerry Davis, Architectural Historian  
Preservation Solutions LLC — Boise, ID

## Abstract

This report documents the results of a cultural resources survey conducted to identify and evaluate above-ground cultural resources in the Thompson Flats Summer Home Area recreational residence tract in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area, approximately ~14 miles southeast of Albion, Cassia County, on Howell Canyon Road.

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## CERTIFICATION OF RESULTS

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I certify that this investigation was conducted and documented according to Secretary of Interior's Standards and guidelines and that the report is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge.



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Signature of Principle Investigator

12/20/16

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Date

# Key Information

## PROJECT NAME

Thompson Summer Home Area

## PROJECT NUMBER(S)

SW-17-2963

## LOCATION

Cassia County

## USGS QUAD(S)

Mt. Harrison, 7.5'

## LEGAL LOCATION OF SURVEY

T13S, 24E, Section 2

## SURVEY AREA

~ 13 Acres

## AREA SURVEYED

~13 Acres Intensive Survey

0 Acres Reconnaissance Survey

## PROJECT DATA

1 Previously recorded cultural resources

9 New cultural resources located and/or recorded

## AUTHOR(S)

Kerry Davis, Architectural Historian

## FEDERAL AGENCY

USFS

## REPORT PREPARED FOR

Sawtooth National Forest

## REPOSITORY

Sawtooth National Forest; Idaho SHPO

## PRINCIPLE INVESTIGATOR

Kerry Davis, M.S.

## DATE

12/20/2016

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## CONTENTS

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Abstract	i
Certification of Results	i
Key Information	
Project Description	1
Environmental Setting	1
Cultural Setting	1
Pre-Field Research	1
Previous Cultural Resources Studies	1
Expected Cultural Resources	2
Field Methodology	3
Results	4
Maps	5
Location	5
Survey Area	6
National Register Eligibility Map	7
Original Landscape Plan	8
Recorded Sites	9

## Project Description

Permittees, Thompson Flats Cabin Owners' Association, contracted Preservation Solutions LLC (PSLLC) in June 2016 to complete a cultural resource investigation of the Thompson Flats Summer Home Area recreational residence tract, ~14 miles southeast of Albion, Cassia County, Idaho. The purpose of this preemptive survey effort is to establish baseline documentation to streamline future compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as amended, regarding any potential forthcoming proposed alterations.

## Environmental Setting

The survey area is located approximately 14 miles south of Albion, Idaho, off Howell Canyon Road. At an elevation of approximately 8,100 feet above sea level, the area has a north aspect and is generally forested by conifers and aspens. Sparse single-family, 1-story to 1-½-story recreational cabin development is found downslope to the north of FS 558/558B, a minimally maintained dirt track.

## Cultural Setting

Originally used for cattle and sheep grazing in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the survey area and vicinity came under federal management in 1906 as part of the Cassia National Forest (which was incorporated into the Minidoka National Forest in 1908, which itself was later absorbed into Sawtooth National Forest in 1953). Though lower sections of Howell Canyon were developed for recreational uses during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the survey area was not developed until around 1950. The survey area reflects circa 1950 through circa 1960 recreational cabin development. Please see the attached Idaho Historic Sites Inventory forms for an expanded discussion of the development history.

## Pre-Field Research

Results from Idaho Record Search #16314 were received on July 12, 2016.

## Previous Cultural Resources Studies

Numerous cultural resources studies have taken place in the vicinity over the years, primarily triggered by USFS actions such as timber sales and road-related projects dating from 1980 through 2016. Only one previous Idaho Historic Sites Inventory form is on file for one cabin – Lot 12 (31-13697) – within the recreational residence tract.

Summary of previous studies in this area (within one mile of the survey area).

Report#	Author	Date	Title
1989/1557	Eide, Nancy	1980	CRI of Mt. Harrison Borrow Pit CRM-SW-205
1989/7729	Zimmerman, Z.	1984	CRSRF, Mt. Harrison Borrow Site SW-84-734
1990/643	Harper, R.	1988	Lake Cleveland Area Survey SW-89-1274
1994/250	Zimmerman, Z.	1991	Howell Canyon Vegetation Management SW-91-1369
1994/252	Mauser, L.	1993	Howell Canyon Salvage Sale SW-93-1476
1996/57	Stone, R.	1995	Howell Canyon Forest Highway Project SW-95-1685
1996/991	Wells, C.	1996	Snowplay Salvage Sale (Snowmobile Area) SW-96-1761
1996/992	Wells, C.	1996	Pomerelle Expansion SW-96-1903
1999/151	Santini, D.	1998	Upper Cottonwood/Rocky Hollow Fence SW-98-1903
2005/750	Bennett, J.	2004	Leslie Rec Residence Pit Toilet SW-03-2178
2005/754	Guisto, B.	2005	Elba, Grape, and Marsh Creek Fences SW-04-2201
2009/11	Guisto, B.	2008	Thompson Flat Well Development SW-08-2383
2009/12	Guisto, B.	2008	Thompson Flat Fence SW-08-2384
2009/425	O'Brien, M.	2008	Howell Canyon Hazardous Fuels Reduction SW-08-2347
2011/656	O'Brien, M.	2011	CRI Darrington's Recreation Cabin Addition SW-11-2509
2015/622	Guisto, B.	2015	Pomerelle Ski Lift Replacement SW-15-2883
2016/116	Davis, K.	2015	Pomerelle Ski Area Improvements SW-15-2883
2016/258	Guisto, B.	2016	Boehmer Cabin Addition SW-13-2762

## Expected Cultural Resources

Only one previously documented cultural resource site is in the Survey Area (31-13697/FS# SW-2098), Lot 12, Darrington Cabin, which was determined NRHP-ineligible in 2010.

The region around present-day Thompson Flats Summer Home Area served primarily as open range grazing lands for cattle and sheep during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. With the establishment of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) under President Theodore Roosevelt in 1905, millions of acres across Idaho and throughout the West were drawn into the National Forest system. As part of this shift in land use management, the area including the Albion Mountains was designated as part of the Raft River Forest Reserve in 1906. Two years later, the USFS consolidated the Raft River Forest Reserve with nearby Cassia Forest Reserve under the name Minidoka National Forest (Minidoka NF) and began regulating grazing and timber harvesting by means of permits.

With the increasing affordability and popularity of the automobile during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the advent of improved roads into previously remote and rugged regions allowed a growing number of tourists to access the natural wonders of the national forests. Recreation in Minidoka NF increased significantly in this era and a shift in use and management from grazing and timber harvesting toward recreation took place. In 1917, Minidoka NF initiated reporting on recreation and noted 5,935 individuals visited the forest that year. By the early 1920s, campgrounds with latrines supported recreationalists at five locations in the Minidoka NF, among which were two sites in the Albion Mountains – one at Independence Lake(s) and one at Lake Cleveland, just three miles above present-day Pomerelle. In just two years between 1928 and 1930 the number of visitors increased over 67 percent, with 10,865 people entering the forest.

With the onset of the Great Depression came establishment of the programs of the Works Progress Administration (WPA), the Public Works Administration (PWA), and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), which significantly impacted not only the state's economic conditions, but also the Idaho landscape. In particular, these federal programs spurred significant improvements on National Forest

lands. With New Deal appropriations came funding for USFS projects for campgrounds, water systems, sanitary facilities, recreational areas, and so forth. In Minidoka NF, Howell Canyon received numerous enhancements, including campground construction, road improvements, and the establishment of Howell Canyon Ski Area a few miles down the canyon from present-day Pomerelle Ski Area.

From USDA Forest Service publication, *A Guide to Maintaining the Historic Character of Your Forest Service Recreation Residence*: "Recreation residences played a role in national forest land use policies before the establishment of the Forest Service as an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Between 1897 and 1914, annual special use permits authorized individual recreation residences, often called summer cabins or summer homes. In 1915, Congress passed the "Term Occupancy Act" to allow private recreation residences and commercial recreation facilities on National Forest System lands. Many national forests identified suitable locations for recreational development. They established recreation residence tracts that were divided into individual lots for planned recreation development.

By the 1950s, public demand grew for more active outdoor recreation opportunities, such as camping and hiking, while the emphasis on establishing new recreation residences began to decline. In 1960, the Forest Service stopped promoting the program. The Chief of the Forest Service issued a moratorium in 1968, ending the development of new recreation residence tracts. Eight years later, the Forest Service expanded the moratorium to halt development of new lots within existing tracts. Over the years, many permits have expired or have not been renewed. Today, the Forest Service administers special use permits for about 14,000 recreation residences, a decrease from a peak of nearly 20,000 structures. The Term Occupancy Act represents a unique era in Forest Service history and an enduring connection that recreation residence permit holders have with these tracts of public land."

The survey area and its vicinity were not developed until after the original landscape design for the Thompson Summer Home Area was approved in Spring 1941. The current survey project is taking place in an area that is and has historically been rural and recreational in character. The survey area reflects circa 1950 to circa 1960 summer home recreational development.

## Field Methodology

Preservation Solutions (PSLLC) architectural Historian, Kerry Davis, M.S., served as project manager, field photographer, researcher, and cultural resource assessment author. Recreational residence permittees, Thompson Flats Cabin Owners' Association, facilitated fieldwork and research. Davis completed the necessary research at Sawtooth National Forest Headquarters in Twin Falls and at Minidoka Ranger District Headquarters in Burley.

Additional research included review of Cassia Assessor records and USFS cultural resource and recreation permit records in Twin Falls and Burley, as well as the utilization of the online collections of USGS, BLM GLO, Ancestry.com, and the *Idaho Statesman* Historical Archive, available through the Boise Public Library.

The field survey to document each resource took place on August 1, 2016, and included photographic documentation of each above-ground resource in the Thompson Summer Home Area recreational residence tract sufficient to determine NRHP eligibility.

## Results

All cultural resources recorded in the survey area (see Maps section below):

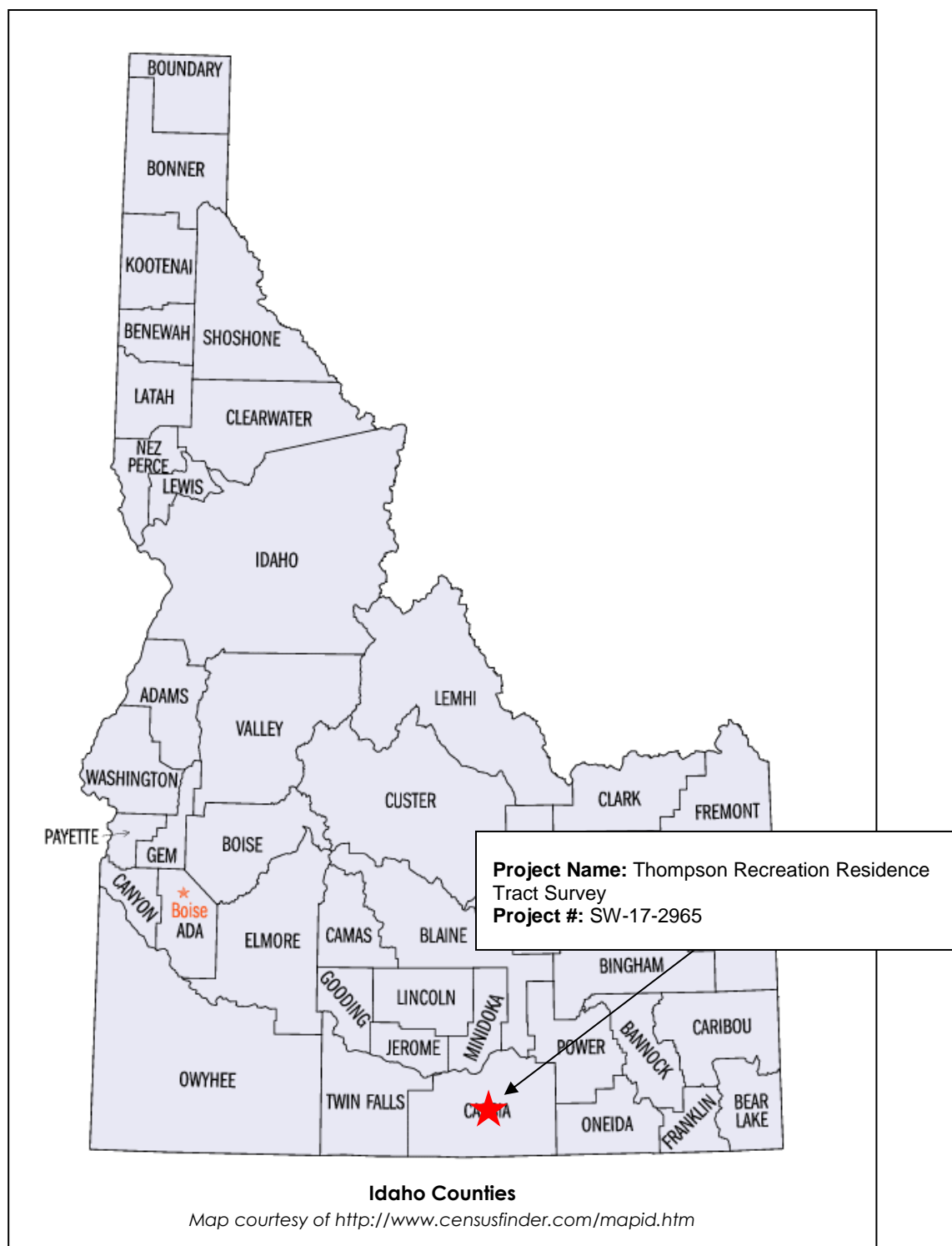
Site #	Site/Feature Type	NR Status
Temp. No. TF-01/SW-2265	Thompson, Lot 01	Eligible/Contributing
Temp. No. TF-02/SW-2266	Thompson, Lot 02	Eligible/Contributing
Temp. No. TF-03	Thompson, Lot 03	Vacant
Temp. No. TF-04/SW-2267	Thompson, Lot 04	Eligible/Contributing
Temp. No. TF-05/SW-2268	Thompson, Lot 05	Eligible/Contributing
Temp. No. TF-06/SW-2269	Thompson, Lot 06	Eligible/Contributing
Temp. No. TF-07/SW-2270	Thompson, Lot 07	Eligible/Contributing
Temp. No. TF-08/SW-2271	Thompson, Lot 08	Ineligible/Noncontributing
Temp. No. TF-09	Thompson, Lot 09	Vacant
Temp. No. TF-10	Thompson, Lot 10	Vacant
Temp. No. TF-11/SW-2272	Thompson, Lot 11	Eligible/Contributing
Temp. No. TF-12/SW-2098	Thompson, Lot 12 (31-13697)	Eligible/Contributing
Temp. No. TF-13/SW-2273	Thompson, Lot 13	Eligible/Contributing

A total of ten (10) cabin sites were identified and documented within the survey area, all but one of which was found to be NRHP-eligible as contributing resources to a potential Thompson Summer Home Area Historic District. Most not previously surveyed, all were documented at the intensive level as part of this investigation. For further information please see the attached Idaho Historic Sites Inventory (IHSI) forms.

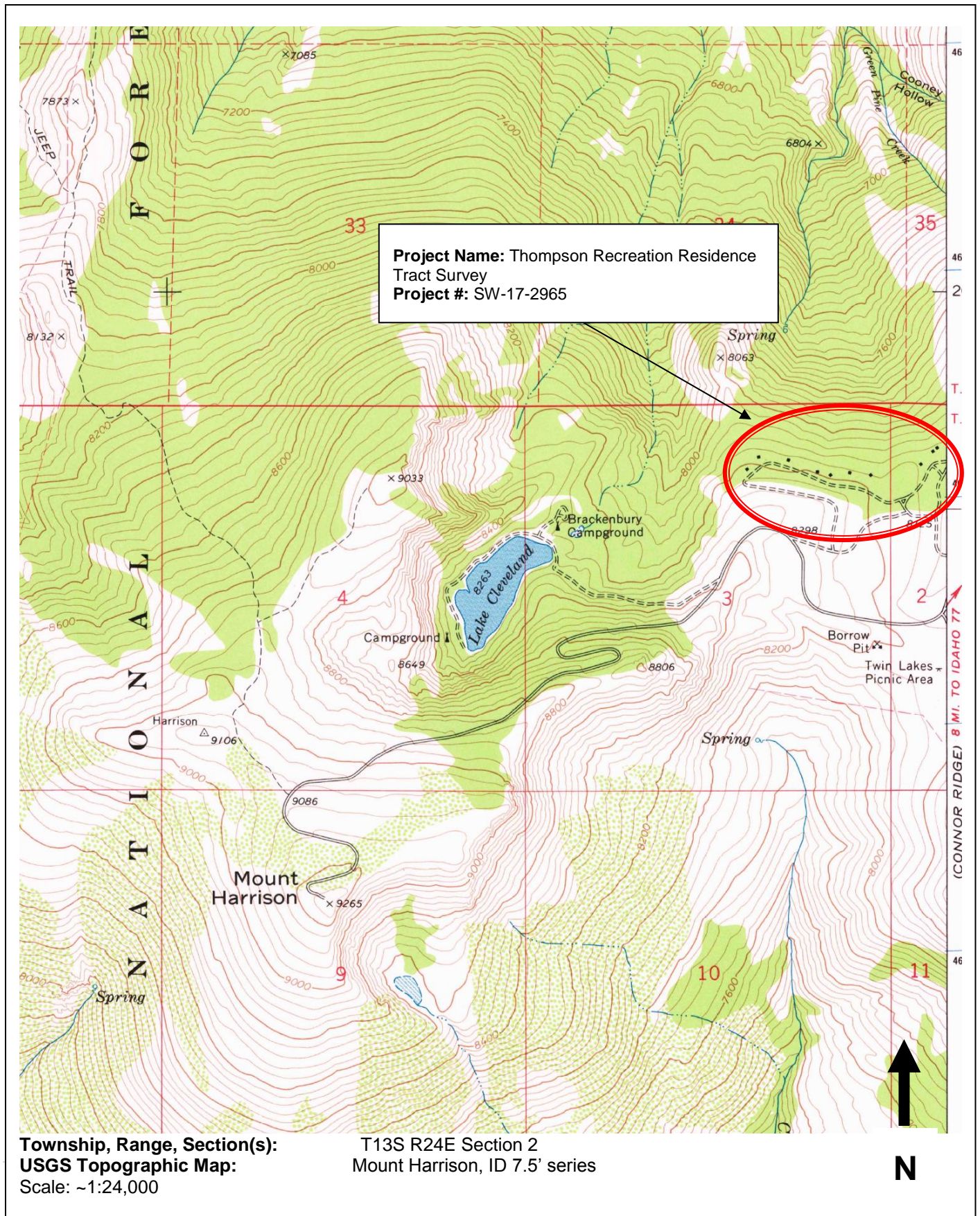


# Maps

## Location

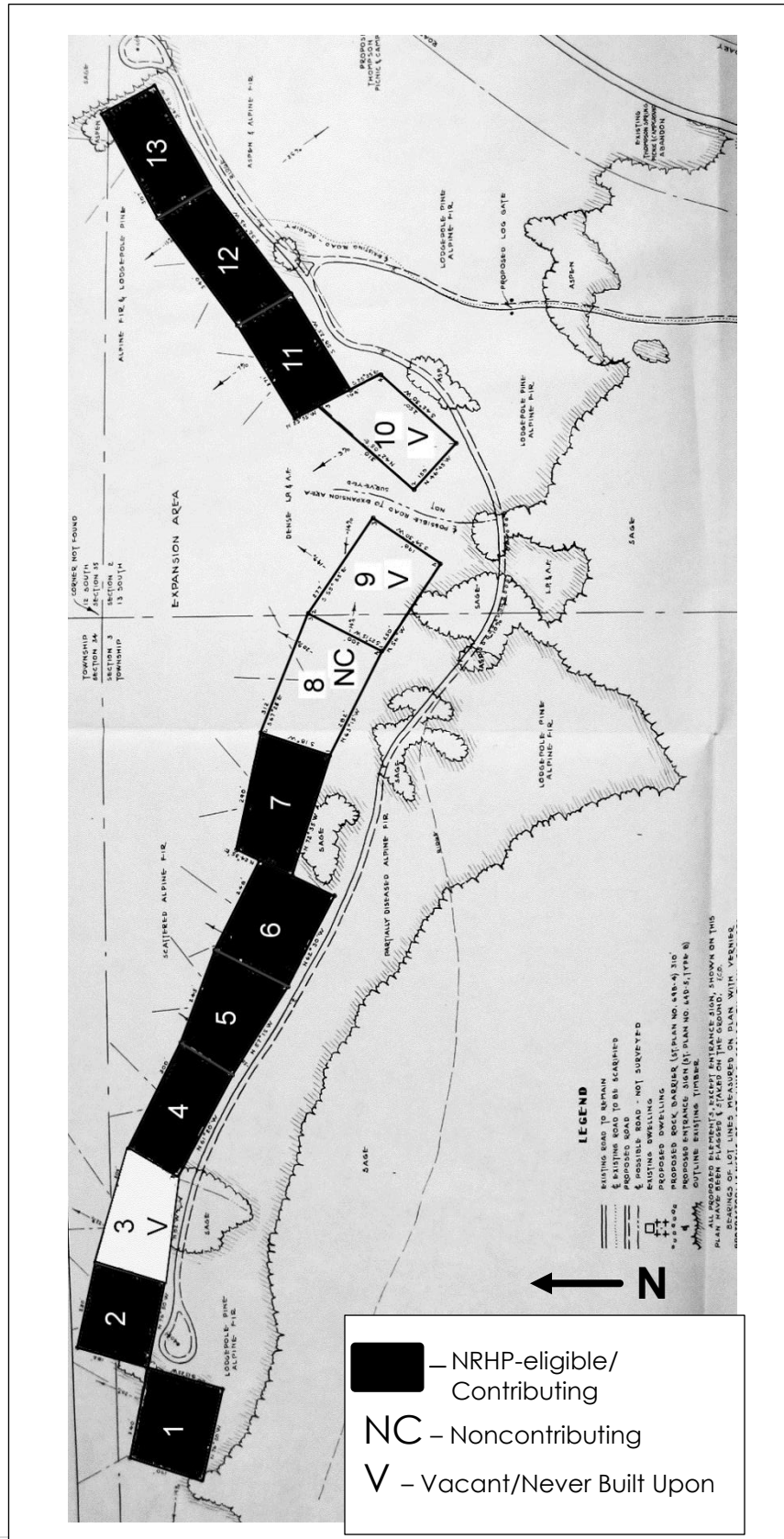


## Survey Area

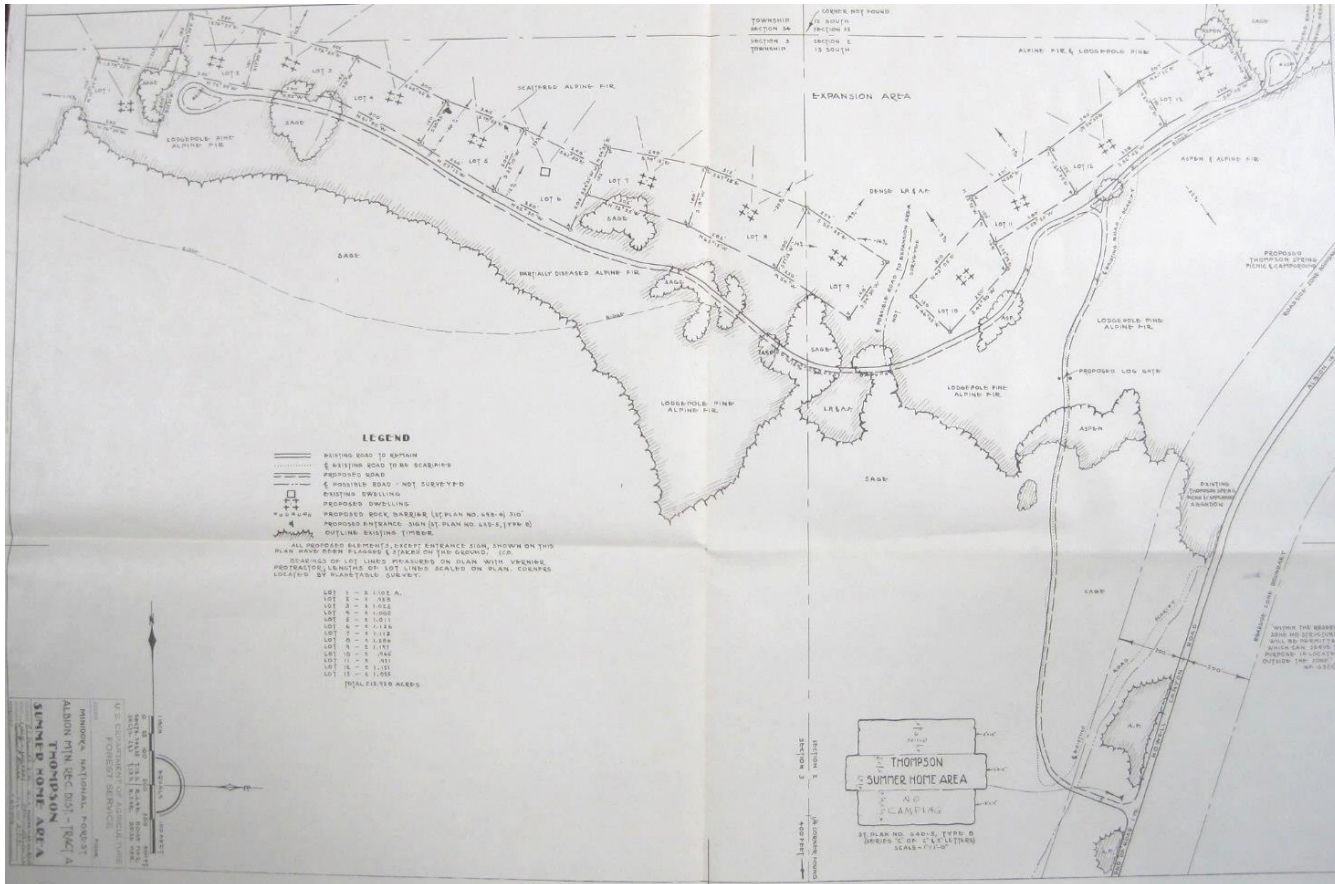




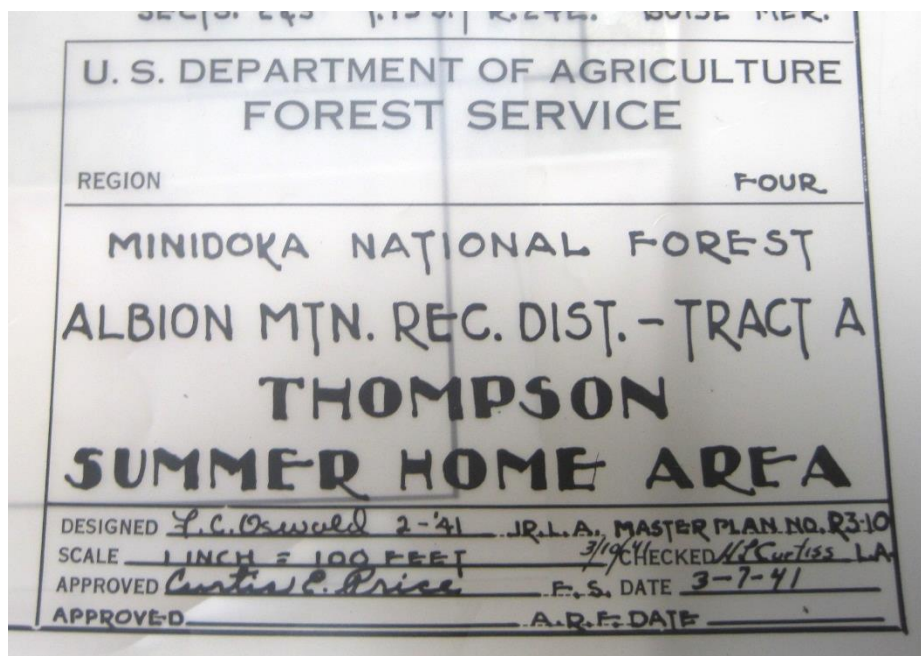
# National Register Eligibility Map



## Original Landscape Plan



Original Thompson Summer Home Area Tract, 1941



Detail of Original Thompson Summer Home Area Tract, 1941



## Recorded Sites



**TF-01, Lot 01, Thompson Summer Home Area, August 2016**



**TF-02, Lot 02, Thompson Summer Home Area, August 2016**



**TF-04, Lot 04, Thompson Summer Home Area, August 2016**



**TF-05, Lot 05, Thompson Summer Home Area, August 2016**





**TF-06, Lot 06, Thompson Summer Home Area, August 2016**



**TF-07, Lot 07, Thompson Summer Home Area, August 2016**



**TF-08, Lot 08, Thompson Summer Home Area, August 2016**



**TF-11, Lot 11, Thompson Summer Home Area, August 2016**





**TF-12 (31-13697), Lot 12, Thompson Summer Home Area, August 2016**



**TF-13, Lot 13, Thompson Summer Home Area, August 2016**