

DEAN E. CALL PROPERTY
Caribou-Targhee National Forest, Big Springs Summer Home Area
Lot 5, Block D
Island Park
Fremont County
Idaho

HABS No. ID-125

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ID-125

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
COLUMBIA CASCADES SUPPORT OFFICE
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
909 First Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104-1060

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

DEAN E. CALL PROPERTY

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Location: Lot 5, Block D, Caribou-Targhee National Forest, Big Springs Summer Home Area, Island Park, Fremont County, Idaho

The existing Big Springs Summer Home Area is located in the Island Park Management Area (MA#8), approximately 3 miles east of the community of Mack's Inn, Idaho. Access to the cabin is east from Highway 20 onto the South Big Springs Road #59 at Mack's Inn. Travel approximately 7 miles, cross over the Big Springs Bridge, and continue past corrals. Turn southeast onto the un-numbered road just before crossing the abandoned Railroad right-of-way Trail. Continue down road until the road narrows and appears to go through a swamp. The Dean E. Call Property is near the end of the road on Lot 5, Block D.

Present Owner: Dean E. Call

Present Use: Summer home

Significance: As an historic district, the integrity of Big Springs Summer Home Area has been lost. However, the summer home exhibits local significance due to its association with the original development of the area. The summer home was part of the original development of the Big Springs Summer Home Area begun in 1911 with the construction of the Forest Service Ranger station. The summer home also embodies the characteristics of the vernacular architecture typical of the region and time period that it was built.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date(s) of erection: Approximately 1930. The exact date of construction is unknown. Records indicate Mr. and Mrs. David Arrivee were issued a special use permit for the property in 1930.
2. Architect: Unknown
3. Original and Subsequent Owners: According a letter on file with the Island Park Ranger Station, it is believed that Mr. and Mrs. David Arrivee of Weiser, ID were the original owners and holders of the special use permit for the cabin from 1930 to 1953.¹

By April 1, 1953, Dr. Gordon M. Jensen, Salt Lake City, UT, had purchased the cabin from Mr. Arrivee and became the special use permit holder.²

In January 1958, Drs. Lloyd S. Call and Dean E. Call purchased the Gordon Jensen Estate interest in the Lot 5, Block D Special Use Permit.³ A Special Use life time permit was sent to Drs. Call for the residence in March 1961.⁴

The 1961 special use permit issued to Drs. Lloyd S. Call and Dean E. Call was cancelled in 1986 and a new extended permit was issued for Dr. Dean Call pursuant to the terms of the big Springs Agreement.⁵

4. Builders, Contractors, Suppliers: Original cabin – unknown. Mr. John Sack, Island Park, ID, constructed the north addition in 1953.⁶
5. Original Plans and Construction: The original one and a half story cabin is rectangular in plan, oriented in a north-south direction on the property, and measured 18'-10" in width by 31'-3" in length. The building was constructed

¹ Letters from Forest Supervisors, Targhee National Forest, July 16, 1930 and December 15, 1947. (On file with the USDA Forest Service, Island Park Ranger Station, ID.)

² Letter to Forest Supervisor, St. Anthony, ID from Dr. Gordon M. Jensen concerning a new addition to the cabin, April 1, 1953. (On file with the USDA Forest Service, Island Park Ranger Station, ID.)

³ Letter to Forest Supervisor, Targhee National Forest, St. Anthony, ID, from Mr. R. M. Whittier, February 2, 1961. (On file with the USDA Forest Service, Island Park Ranger Station, ID.)

⁴ Letter to Dr. Dean E. Call from A.F. Wright, Forest Supervisor, Targhee National Forest, U.S. Forest Service, March 1, 1961. (On file with the USDA Forest Service, Island Park Ranger Station, ID.)

⁵ Letter to Dr. Dean Call from District Forest Ranger, Island Park Ranger Station, U.S. Forest Service, February 28, 1986. (On file with the USDA Forest Service, Island Park Ranger Station, ID.)

⁶ Letter to Forest Supervisor concerning a new addition to the cabin. (On file with the USDA Forest Service, Island Park Ranger Station, ID.)

with the living room on the north end and an open area with loft above on the south end. The main entrance, now located on the east side, enters directly into the large vaulted living room. A river rock fireplace is centered on the north gable end wall. An open staircase with, located in the southeast corner of the living room accessed the once open loft area above.

6. Alterations and Additions: The cabin was enlarged in 1953 with the construction of a 1½-story addition on the building's north side. The addition, measuring 19'1" wide by 14'-3" long, contained a kitchen and indoor bathroom.⁷ The kitchen addition was constructed with wood joists, beams, and concrete piers, 2" x 4" stud walls, and 2" x 8" log siding. The steeply pitched gable roof was constructed to match the roofline of the original cabin. A new well/pump and septic system was installed on the property to accommodate the new indoor plumbing.

The cabin underwent a second alternation when the kitchen was moved to the south end of the original cabin. The original kitchen area then became a bedroom. The loft area has been enclosed with a 2" x 4" wood stud wall and serves as a second bedroom.

- B. Historical Context: A U.S. Forest Service Ranger Station was the original development in the Big Springs area. It was located on the south bank of the river below the springs and consisted of a residence, an office, and a storehouse, plus a pasture and warehouse south of the road. In the beginning, summer homes were permitted as neighbors to this early Ranger Station. The first permits were issued in 1911 with the last permit issued in 1938. The original 37 summer homes were scattered in a U-shaped area around the head of the spring and along both sides of the stream. Many of the permits have since been transferred with U.S. Forest Service approval to new owners and, in some cases through a succession of owners.⁸

In 1949, the U.S. Forest Service gave notice to the summer home owners that the riverfront property in the Big Springs area was needed for public recreation.⁹ By 1965, the 37 original lots were reduced to 28 under special-use permit. The U.S. Forest Service

⁷ Letter to Forest Supervisor, St. Anthony, Idaho, from Dr. Gordon M. Jensen, April 1, 1953. (On file with the USDA Forest Service, Island Park Ranger Station, ID.)

⁸ "Decision on Appeal of Big Springs Summer Home Owners to the Chief of the Forest Service from a Decision of the Regional Forester, Region 4, August 1965". (On file with the USDA Forest Service, Island Park Ranger Station, ID.)

⁹ "Big Springs Summer Homes – Targhee National Forest", January 1983. (On file with the USDA Forest Service, Island Park Ranger Station, ID.)

removed the Ranger Station buildings and the site and former lots have regrown to the natural forest environment.¹⁰

By 1982, 22 summer homes remained within the Big Springs Summer Home area. Today only four remain in their current location – Call Cabin, Deaton Cabin, Marriott Cabin, and Neilson Cabin. The other 18 properties have been moved to set-back lots within the Big Springs Summer Home area, relocated to other summer home areas within the national forest, or have been removed from U.S. Forest Service lands altogether. The remaining four properties are to be removed by 2002.

In the early 1980's, this river segment became the nation's first National Recreation Water Trail.

¹⁰ "Decision on Appeal of Big Springs Summer Home Owners to the Chief of the Forest Service". (On file with the USDA Forest Service, Island Park Ranger Station, ID.)

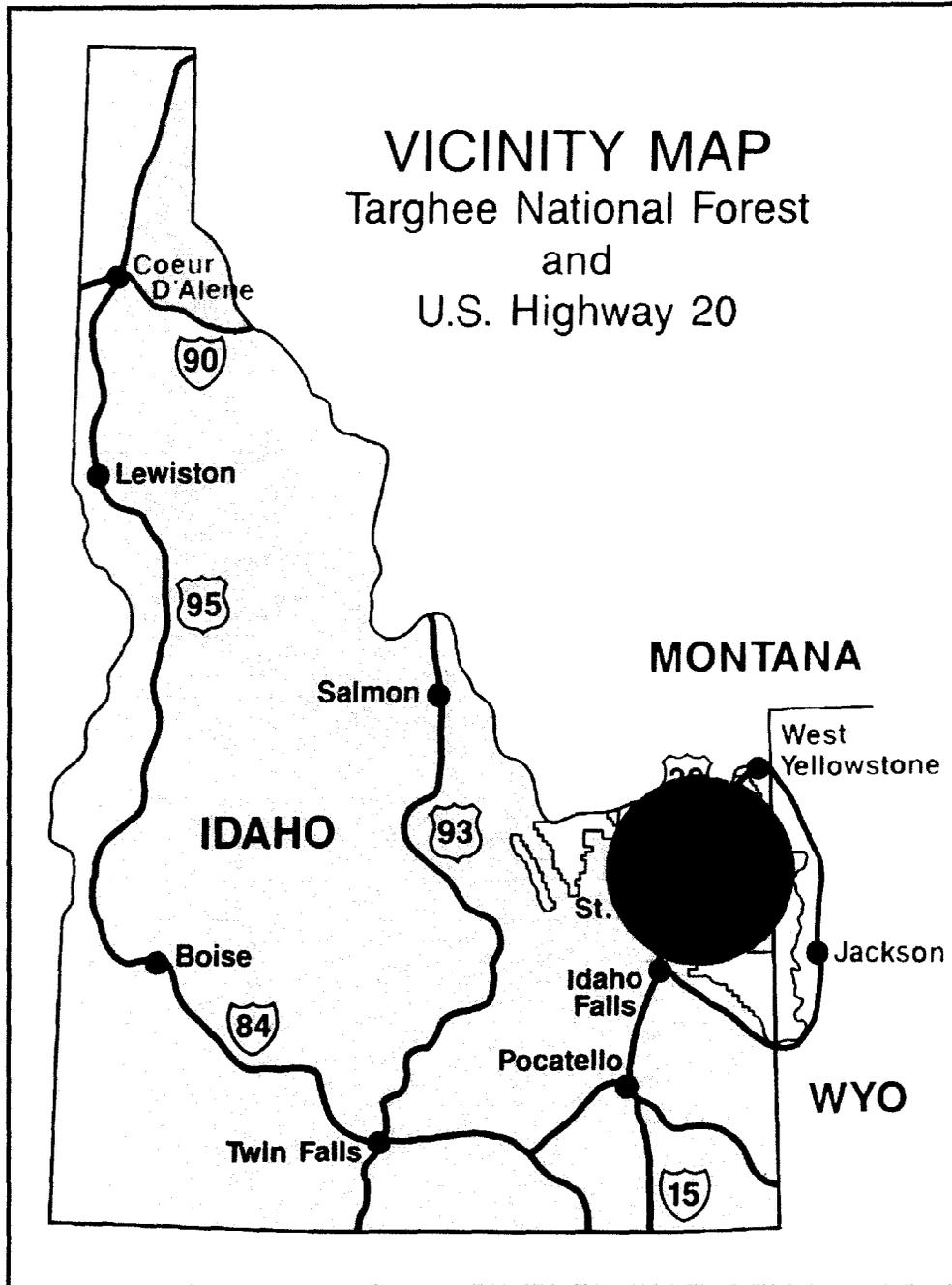


Figure 1: Vicinity map showing project area¹¹

¹¹ "Targhee National Forest Lodgepole Pine Reforestation Program", Targhee National Forest, Department of Agriculture, US Government Printing Office, 24.07.415.09/88.

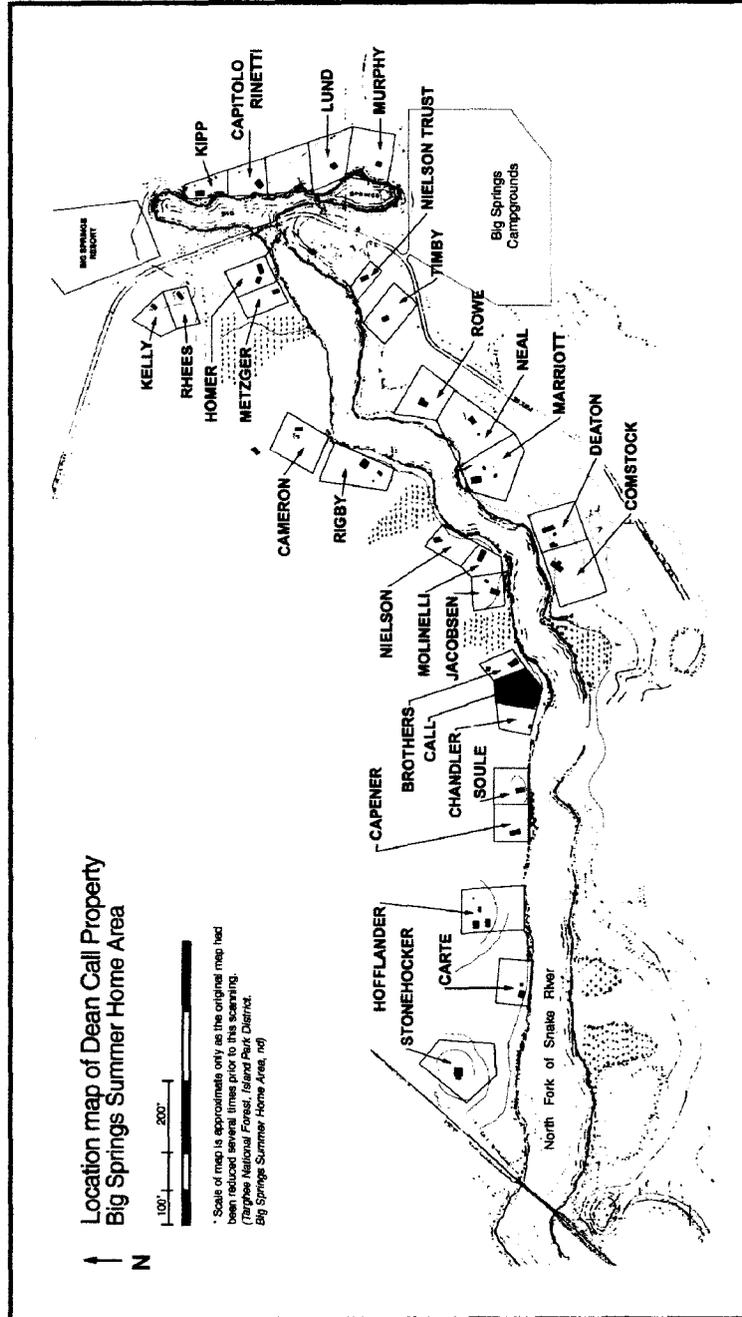


Figure 2: Location map of Dean E. Call property¹²

¹² Modified from Big Springs Summer Home Area location map, Targhee National Forest, Island Park District, US Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, date unknown.

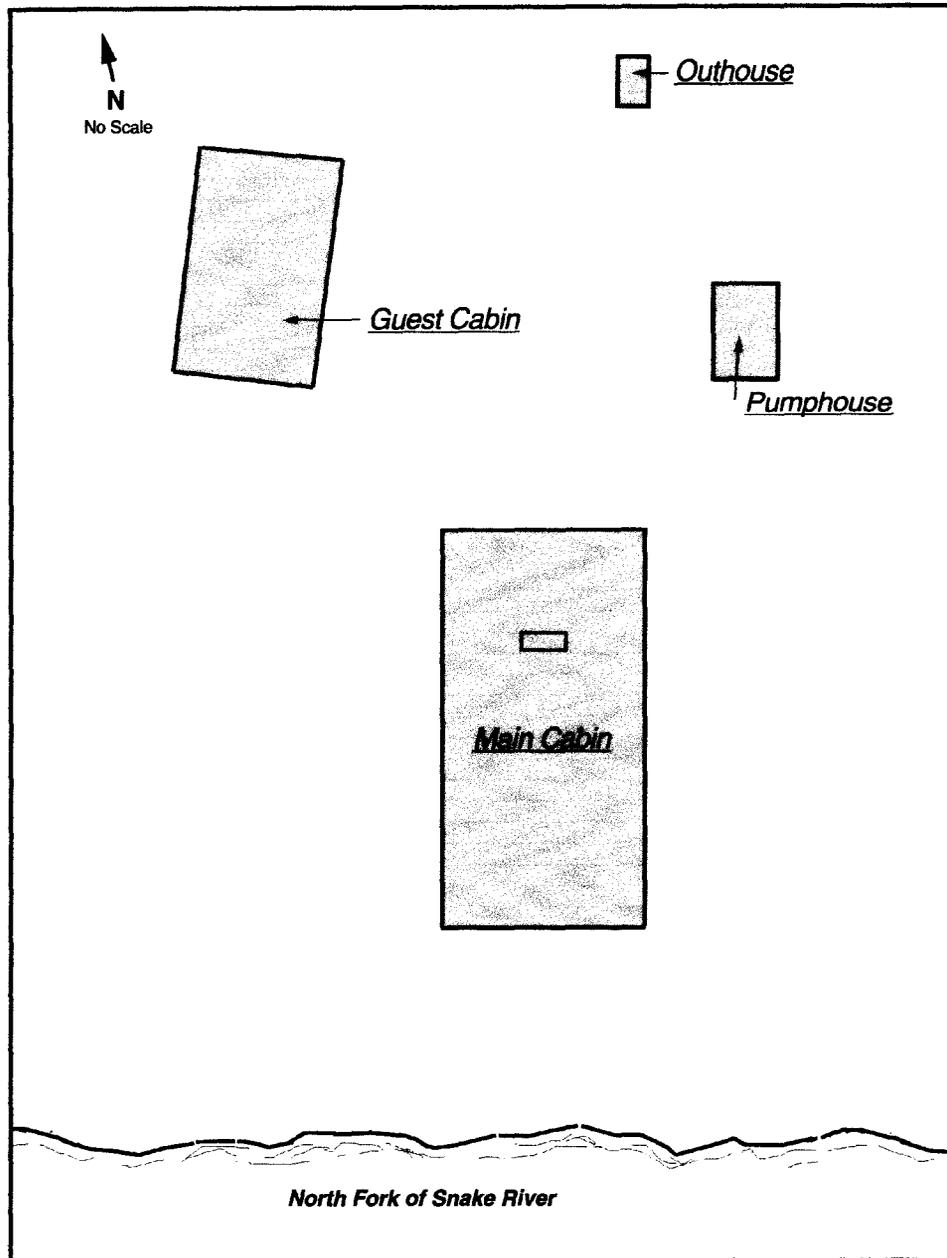


Figure 3: Sketch map of Dean E. Call property

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. The building was constructed in a log cabin style. The style is evident in the building's massing, original floorplan, construction technique, and building materials.
2. Condition of fabric: The exterior of the building is in good condition. The interior, in spite of being modified and updated over the years, has retained much of its original finish and character.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall Dimensions: The 1½-story building is oriented in the north-south direction and measures 46'-2" long by 19'-1½" wide.
2. Foundations: The foundation is constructed with log beams and joists supported on trapezoidal concrete piers. The north side addition foundation was also constructed with concrete piers. However, wood floor joists and beams were used to frame the foundation in lieu of logs.
3. Walls: The walls of the original cabin were constructed with 7½" to 10" diameter pine logs saddle notched at the corners and stained with a natural colored wood oil. The bottom five logs at each of the original cabin corners and the kitchen living room junction slope out from the remaining log ends. Typically, the log ends extend out from the face of the cabin wall by approximately 5½" to 6". The "top course", of the sloping logs, extends out approximately 7½" and the bottom course extends out approximately 18" on average. The north side addition was constructed with 2" x 4" wood studs with 2" x 8" log siding with mitered corners.
4. Structural System, Framing: The foundation of the original cabin consists of log beams and joists supported by trapezoidal concrete piers. Horizontal pine logs (7½" to 10" in diameter) and saddle notched at the corners were used for the walls. Exposed log rafters, purlins, a ridge log, and cap logs support the steeply pitched gable roof. The north side addition was framed with wood studs on a concrete foundation. Rafters support the gable roof.
5. Porches, Stoops, Balconies, Bulkheads: The cabin does not have a porch however, the front and north side doors have wooden stoops. The 5" high front entrance stoop is 6'-3" wide and was constructed with pine planks supported by a pine log foundation resting directly on grade. The north side addition stoop measures 3'-2" wide x 1'-9" deep with two steps totaling 9" above grade. The storage area above the bedroom addition is accessed by a straight-run exterior

staircase. The 2'-2" wide stairs have an 8" rise, 4'-6" high twisted pine log newel posts, 4½" diameter log banisters, and a 4' deep x 6'-4" wide balcony with 3' high railing.

6. Chimneys: The cabin has a single fireplace and chimney centered on the north end wall of the original cabin. The rubble stone chimney extends above the gable roof line by approximately 18" with a curved aluminum flue cap.

On the interior, the 7' wide fireplace, constructed with polished river rock, measures 7' wide by 2' deep. The top of the fireplace narrows and slopes back towards the log wall and terminates at 6'-4" above the finished floor. The firebox measures 3'-4" wide. Two 8" x 8" steel grates are located above and to either side of the firebox. The original 4¼" thick pine bark mantel spans the width of the fireplace.

The fireplace and chimney extend through the north end wall before terminating 3'-3" beyond the face of the wall. The "exterior" chimney was constructed of rubblework stone instead of river rock. The two shoulders measure 1'-6" wide and have been enclosed for storage space with knotty pine boards.

7. Openings:

- a. Doorways and Doors: The front door is located on the east side of the cabin and consists of a 32" vertical pine plank door with steel cross battens, thumb-latch hardware, and exterior screen door. The north side door, accessing the bedroom addition, is also a 32" vertical pine plank door with forged strap hinges, matching decorative thumb-latch hardware and door knocker. The exterior door above the bedroom addition is 21" wide and constructed with vertical pine planks. A fourth door is located on the west side and provided accesses into the kitchen at one time. This door is also constructed of pine planks with cross battens and a small sliding window.

- b. Windows and Shutters: Several different types and sizes of windows are used throughout the cabin. The living room has two large sliding wood frame windows measuring 5'-6" x 2'-4" on the west side and 9'-6" x 4' on the east side. The kitchen contains fixed three-panel multi-lite wood frame windows on the south and west sides and measure 8' x 4'. Flanking the kitchen door is a small 1'-1½" x 4' fixed window and a double-hung 3' x 3'-4". The west wall of the north side addition has a sliding 3'-10" x 2'-6" and the bathroom window measures 2'-1" x 2'-5". The loft bedroom has a small 1-8" x 2' window with screen. The trim used throughout the cabin is 1" x 6" milled pine.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, Covering: The one and a half story cabin has a steeply pitched gable roof with exposed open eaves. It was constructed with 3" diameter exposed log rafters, tongue and groove pine plank decking and covered with asphalt shingles.
- b. Cornice, Eaves: The original cabin has 3" diameter exposed log rafter ends. The north side addition has exposed 2" x 6" exposed rafter ends.
- c. Dormers, Cupolas, Towers: None.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plans:

- a. Describe Floors: The 1½-story cabin is rectangular in plan with the primary entrance now on the east side. The original cabin consisted of a single large living room on the north end and the kitchen and loft area on the south end. Open stairs and balcony access the loft area. The loft area has been enclosed with 2" x 4" wood studs and 2" x 8" log siding on the living room side of the wall. The interior side of the wall was left unfinished. The bedroom measures 18'-5" wide by 9'-5" deep.

The cabin was enlarged with the construction of a 1½-story addition on the north end of the original cabin. The addition, measuring 14'-3" in length, currently contains a bedroom, bathroom, closet and a second floor storage area accessed from the exterior.

2. Stairways: A single L-shaped staircase, located in the southeast corner of the living room, provides access to the loft area. The stairs treads measure 2'-4" and 2'-8" wide, 9" deep, and 7" high on average. The face of the stringer retains its original pine bark. The banister diameter is 2½".

Two 8" log beams, 6'-8" above the finished floor, span the width of the cabin and support the loft area. The loft balcony is 3' deep with ¾" thick wood planks over ¾" thick diagonal decking. The balcony railing height is 2'-10". The balustrade consists of a 4" diameter top railing and 2" diameter horizontal rails spanning between 3" diameter balusters that intersect two 8" log columns.

3. Flooring: The original wood flooring is visible in the living room, loft area and north side addition. Area rugs are used throughout the cabin. The kitchen and bathroom floors are covered with sheet vinyl.

4. Wall Finishes: The walls in the living room, kitchen, and loft area are the exposed horizontal pine logs used for the construction of the exterior walls of the cabin. The walls of the north side addition are vertical knotty pine boards.
5. Ceiling Finishes: A vaulted ceiling in the living room and loft area was constructed with exposed log rafters, purlins ridge beam and tongue and groove pine boards. The ceiling in the current kitchen was constructed with angled tongue and groove pine boards and log joists. The north side addition ceiling was constructed with angled tongue and groove pine boards.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and Doors: The north side addition has a 32” flush panel hollow core door with pine trip. The bathroom door is 24” wide. The loft bedroom door is also a flush panel hollow core door.
 - b. Windows: No interior windows
7. Decorative Features and Trim: The exposed log walls, purlins, ridge beam, cross beams, and knotty pine boards are significant to the interior character of the house. The living room has a river rock fireplace with bark-trimmed mantel. The original wood floors are exposed throughout the house except in the kitchen and bathroom which have been covered with sheet vinyl.
8. Hardware: The front door has a thumb latch door handle. The back wood plank door has black strap hinges, door handle, and door knocker.
9. Mechanical equipment:
 - a. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation: The cabin is heated by the fireplace and a space heater. The cabin does not have air conditioning and the numerous windows provide ventilation.
 - b. Lighting: The living room contains the most unique light fixture in the cabin. It is a large “wagon wheel” with six globes suspended from the ridge beam. The north side addition has a ceiling mounted incandescent light fixture.
 - c. Plumbing: Originally, the bathroom was an outhouse on the property. In 1953, both a septic tank and well were installed on the property. A full bath was installed inside the cabin with access from the first floor bedroom (north side addition). The bathroom measures 9’-4” x 5’-2” and contains a bathtub – shower combination, toilet, and wall-hung sink. The water heater is located in the northeast corner of the bathroom.

10. Original Furnishings: The river rock fireplace retains the original pine bark mantel as does the open staircase to the loft area.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation:¹³ The cabin is located in the Big Springs Summer Home Area on the north side of the North Fork of the Snake River. The original cabin was oriented in the east west direction.

The Big Springs Summer Home Area derives its name from a large spring that is the major source of water for the North Fork of the Snake River. The spring flows at a rate in excess of 160 feet per second from under a hill and gives rise to a stream about 100 feet wide with depths up to four feet. The spring is recognized as a unique geological feature in the state of Idaho. The original 37 summer homes were scattered in a U-shaped area around the head of the spring and along both sides of the stream. By 1965, 28 summer homes remained in the area.

The topography of the Big Springs Summer Home Area is generally level to gently sloping along the river banks. The area is heavily timbered with lodgepole pine, with an understory of shrubs, pinegrass and ground huckleberry and other wildflower plants. Marshy spots are interspersed with dry sites along the river. The stream itself supports a growth of green aquatic vegetation.

2. Historic Landscape Design: None

3. Outbuildings:

Guest Cabin: The Guest House is located north and east of the main cabin. The one story rectangular in plan building was constructed with a log beams and joists supported by concrete piers raised approximately 2' above grade. The walls were constructed with 6" diameter saddle-notched pine logs with the log ends extending approximately 7" beyond the face of the walls. The chinking was covered with wood strips. The steeply pitched gable roof is constructed with exposed 3" diameter log rafters, 6" diameter purlins and a center beam with pine tongue and groove decking covered with split shake shingles. A double pane wood window measuring 7'-6" x 3'-3" and two sliding aluminum 3'-10" x 3' windows enclose the front seating area of the cabin. A 6-lite sliding wood window, measuring 5'-8" x 2'-5" is located on the east side of the cabin with a small sliding aluminum window adjacent to it to the north. A 2'-8" pine plank door is located on the south side of the guest house.

The interior description of the guest house is limited due to lack of access to the building. However, a view through a side window revealed the interior of the guest cabin has

¹³ Ibid.

exposed horizontal log walls, and a vaulted ceiling with exposed log trusses and a tongue and groove plank ceiling.

Pumphouse: This small one-story rectangular in plan building is located north of the main house. The pumphouse, measuring 6'-3" x 8'-2", was constructed with a log foundation and exposed dirt-packed floor, 2x4 wood framed walls with 2" x 8" log siding, a low pitched shed roof with exposed rafter ends, and plywood decking. A single 2'-6" flush panel door is located on the north side of the building.

Outhouse: The outhouse is a small building located north of the main cabin. The building, measuring 5'-3" x 5'-4", was constructed with 8" diameter saddle-notch pine logs with curved chinking. The cap logs extend beyond the face of the walls and support the medium pitched gable roof. The roof was constructed with an exposed center beam, 3" diameter log rafters, 1" x 8" tongue and groove decking covered with wood shake shingles. A single 2' wide plank door is located on the south side of the small building. The interior of the outhouse has a tongue and groove wood plank floor and a single bench seat. Ventilation is provided in the gable end walls.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Original Architectural Drawings: None
- B. Early Views:



Figure 1: South side, main cabin (Photographer unknown, USDA Forest Service, Island Park Ranger Station, ID, 1987)

C. Interviews: Dr. Dean E. Call

D. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

“Decision on Appeal of Big Springs Summer Home Owners to the Chief of the Forest Service from a Decision of the Regional Forester, Region 4, August 1965”. (On file with the USDA Forest Service, Island Park Ranger Station, ID.)

“Big Springs Summer Homes – Targhee National Forest”. (On file with the USDA Forest Service, Island Park Ranger Station, ID.)

Letters to and from the Forest Supervisor. (On file with the USDA Forest Service, Island Park Ranger Station, ID.)

Special Use Fee, Bill for Collection, Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (On file with the USDA Forest Service, Island Park Ranger Station, ID.)

2. Secondary and published sources: None

E. Supplemental Material: None

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION:

The project was sponsored by the USDA Forest Service. Documentation was coordinated through Mr. Ali Abusaidi, Archeologist, Caribou-Targhee National Forest, Idaho Falls, Idaho, and Ms. Kaye Olpin, Recreation Forester, Caribou-Targhee National Forest, Island Park Ranger Station, Island Park, Idaho. The project was completed through the U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service, Midwest Archaeological Center, Lincoln, Nebraska. Ms. Sheila McCarthy served as project architect. Mr. Martin Stupich produced the large-format photographs included in the report.

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