

REBECCA S. MARRIOTT CABIN
Caribou-Targhee National Forest, Big Springs Summer Home Area
Lot 1, Block L
Island Park
Fremont County
Idaho

HABS No. ID-127

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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

REBECCA S. MARRIOTT CABIN HABS No. ID-127

Location: Lot 1, Block L, 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 cabins is east from Highway 20 onto the South Big Springs Road #59 at Mack's Inn. Follow this road approximately 4.5 miles, turn northeast onto Big Springs Summer Home Road 061. The Big Springs summer home can be accessed from this general location. The Rebecca S. Marriott cabin is located on Lot 1, Block L.

Present Owner: Rebecca S. Marriott

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 1921. Exact date is not known.
2. Architect: Unknown
3. Original and Subsequent Owners: No documentation lists the original owner of the property. The US Forest Service, Island Park has a copy of a transfer letter on file to the Forest Supervisor, dated September 7, 1949, stating the transfer of the special use permit from Mrs. Fred G. Caldwell to Mr. S. E. Brady.

A subsequent letter to the Forest Supervisor, dated August 5, 1954, requests the transfer of the special use permit from Mr. S. E. Brady to Mrs. Rebecca S. Marriott

Mrs. Marriott continues to hold the special use permit for this property.

4. Builders, Contractors, Suppliers: Unknown

Original Plans and Construction: The building retains much of its original 1920s exterior appearance. It is not known exactly what constituted the original cabin footprint however, based on the construction technique and use of different materials throughout the building, it would suggest that the original cabin footprint was located on the north end of the building. The single pen floorplan, now the living room, is oriented in the north-south direction. The foundation was constructed with log beams and joists on concrete piers. The original main cabin walls were constructed with 2-sided horizontal pine logs (approximately 8" wide x 6" high) lapped at the corners with "clipped" ends on the unfinished sides. On the interior of the single large room, the horizontal pine logs were left exposed as was the ceiling. The ceiling was constructed with an exposed log ridge beam, purlins, cross beams, and horizontal pine tongue and groove planking. Carpet covers the original pine plank floor. A rough-cut stone chimney is centered on the north gable end wall and extends up the height of the wall and through the gable roof. The main living area retains much of its original integrity.

5. Alterations and Additions: Again, based on construction techniques and materials, it suggests that an addition was constructed on the south side and perpendicular to the original cabin. This addition now contains a bedroom, bathroom, and small hallway. The foundation for the bedroom/bath addition was constructed with log beams and joists supported by concrete piers. As in the original cabin, the exterior walls were constructed with 2-sided horizontal pine

logs (approximately 8” wide x 6” high) lapped at the corners. However, unlike the main cabin logs, all four sides of these logs were “clipped” on the ends. The ends of the logs also bear a “US” stamp and are less precise in their milled profile than the original cabin logs. Also, the log ends of the bedroom/bathroom addition do not extend beyond the face of the cabin as far as on the original cabin. The interior walls and ceilings of the addition were finished with knotty pine tongue and groove boards. Carpet now covers the floors.

A second addition, containing the kitchen, was constructed on the west side of the building and adjacent to the bedroom/bathroom addition. The construction date of this addition is not known. The kitchen addition is clearly delineated as newer construction than the original cabin and bedroom/bath addition because of its construction materials. The kitchen was constructed with wood joists and beams on a concrete foundation. The walls were constructed with 2” x 4” wood studs with 8” horizontal log siding and medium pitched gable roof.

In 1971, a breezeway and second bedroom with bathroom were constructed at the southwest corner of the building and perpendicular to the kitchen. This addition was removed in 2000.

- 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.¹

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.² By 1965, the 37 original lots were reduced to 28 under special-use permit. The U.S. Forest Service removed the Ranger Station buildings and the site and former lots have regrown to the natural forest environment.³

¹ “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.)

² “Big Springs Summer Homes – Targhee National Forest”, January 1983. (On file with the USDA Forest Service, Island Park Ranger Station, ID.)

³ “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.)

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.

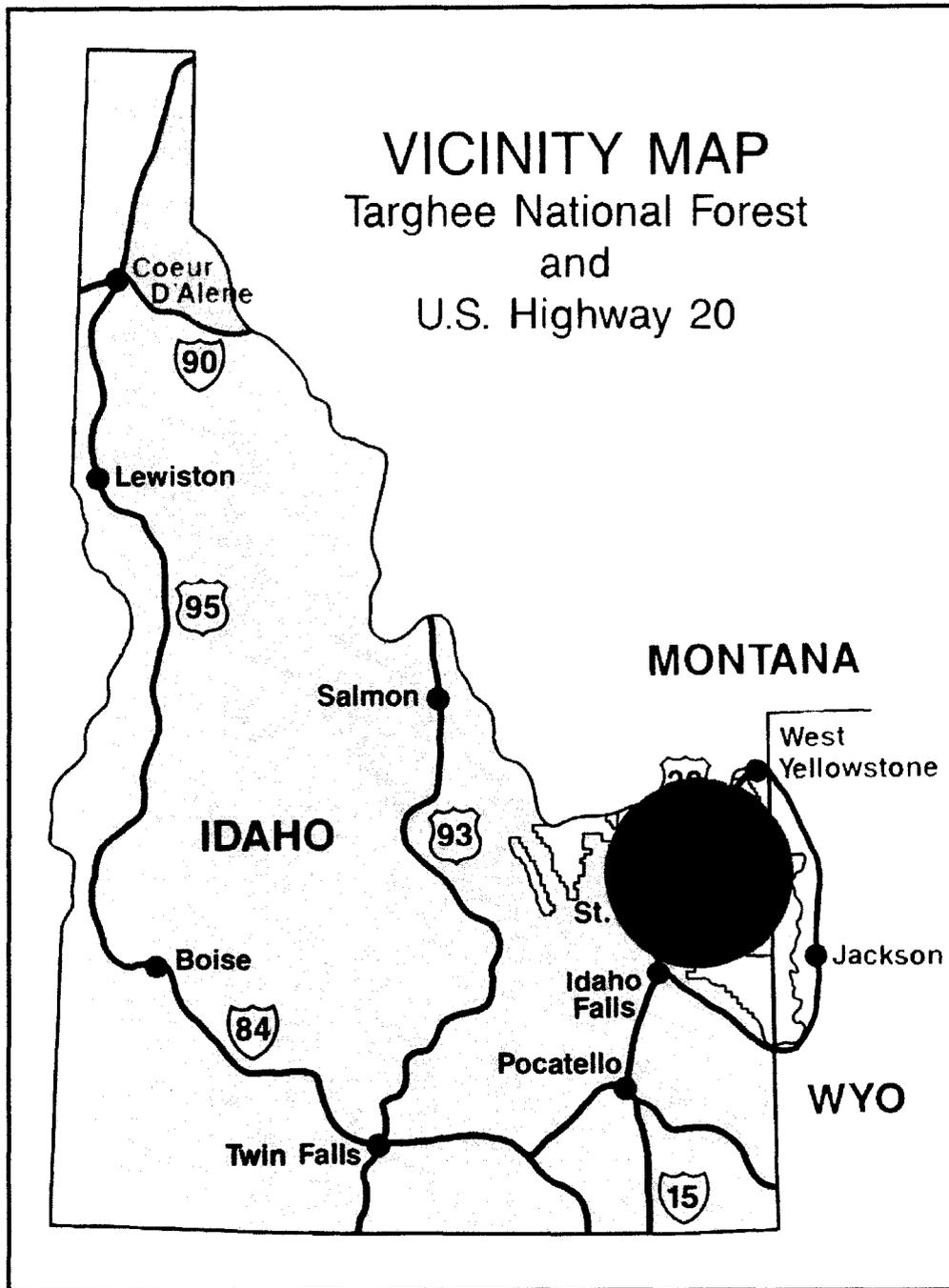


Figure 1: Vicinity map showing project area⁴

⁴ "Targhee National Forest Lodgepole Pine Reforestation Program", Targhee National Forest, Department of Agriculture, US Government Printing Office, 24.07.415.09/88.

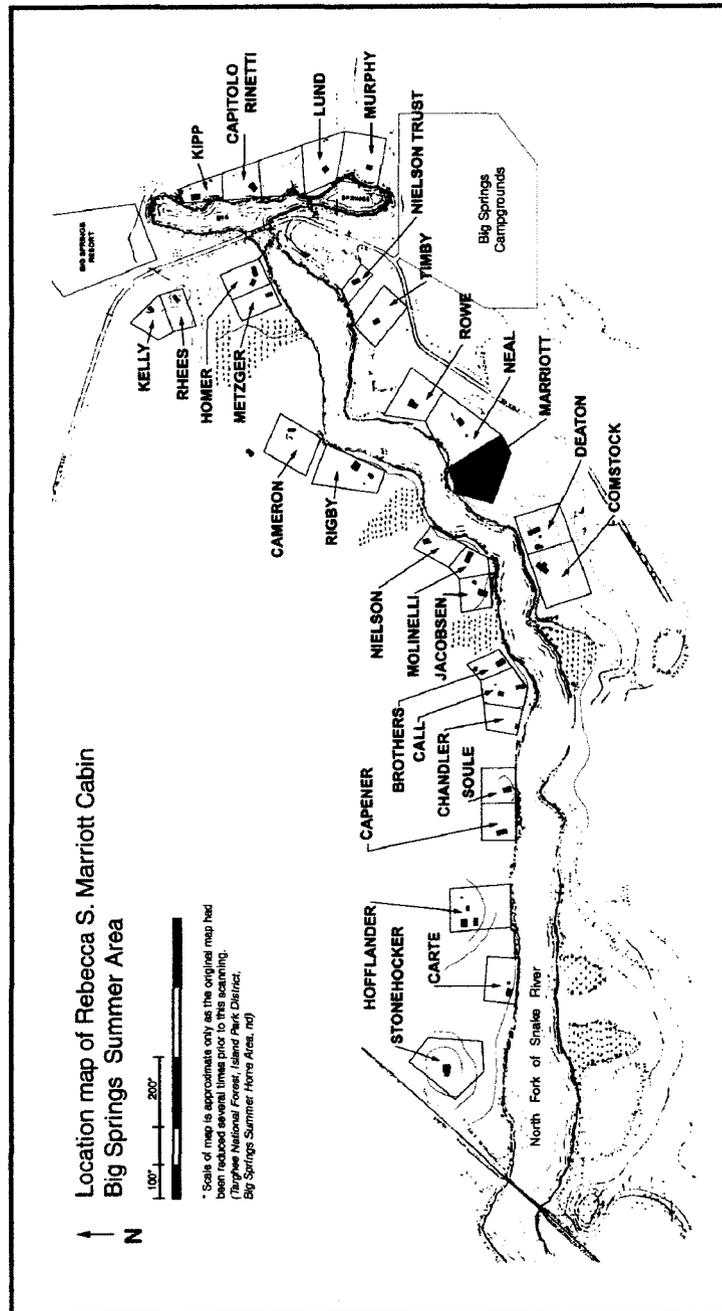


Figure 2: Location map of Rebecca S. Marriott cabin⁵

⁵ Modified from Big Springs Summer Home Area location map, Targhee National Forest, Island Park District, US Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, date unknown.

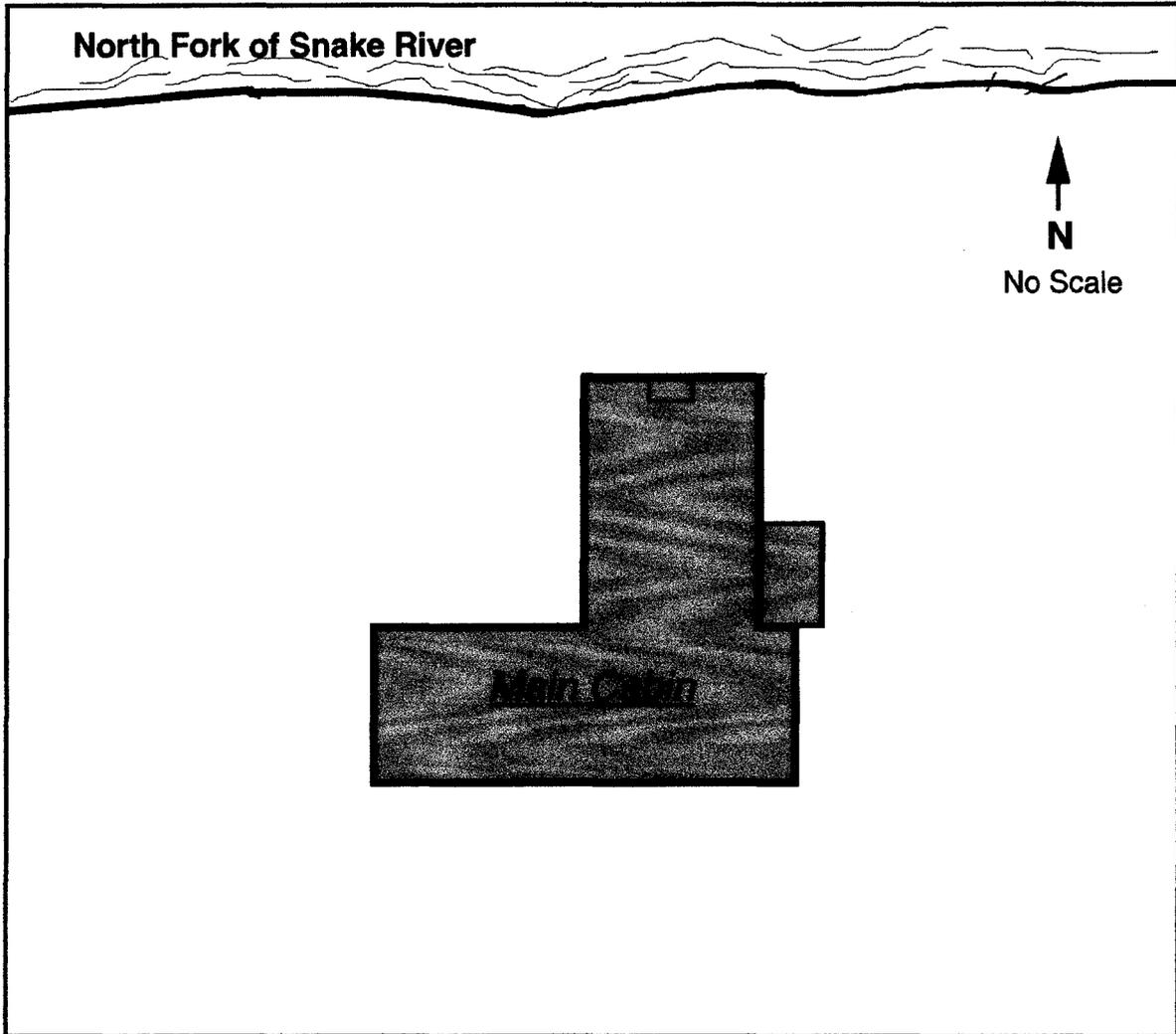


Figure 3: Sketch map of Rebecca S. Marriott Cabin

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

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

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall Dimensions: The building, as it is today, approximates a "T" in plan. The original cabin area, located on the north side of the building is rectangular in plan. Two additions (the bedroom/bath and kitchen) were constructed at a right angle to the cabin forming the "T". The overall footprint measures 38'-10" x 44'-3".
2. Foundations: The foundation is constructed with concrete piers with log beams and joists. The kitchen addition foundation is also constructed with concrete piers, however wood floor joists are used to frame the foundation in lieu of logs.
3. Walls: The original main cabin walls are constructed with 2-sided horizontal pine logs (approximately 8" wide x 6" high) lapped at the corners with "clipped" ends on the unfinished sides. The bedroom/bath addition is constructed with horizontal pine logs milled on all four sides with "clipped" ends. The logs measure approximately 8" wide by 6" high. Knotty pine tongue and groove boards cover the interior walls and ceilings of this addition. The kitchen addition is constructed with 2" x 4" wood studs and 8" log siding. The interior walls and ceiling of the kitchen are finished with knotty pine tongue and groove boards.
4. Structural System, Framing: The original main cabin was constructed with 2-sided log beams on a concrete pier foundation. The bedroom/bath addition also used a log beam and concrete pier foundation system. The kitchen addition was constructed with wood studs on a concrete pier foundation. The walls are 2" x 4" wood studs with log siding applied to the exterior.

The roof structure of the original main cabin is wood log purlins, a ridge beam and cross-tie bracing. The bedroom and kitchen additions were constructed with wood rafters.

5. Porches, Stoops, Balconies, Bulkheads: A screened-in porch is located on the east side of the cabin at the junction of the main cabin area and the bedroom addition. The porch is constructed with log posts and 2" x 4" framing with a tongue and groove floor. A shed roof with exposed rafter ends covers the porch.
6. Chimneys: A stone fireplace and chimney is centered on north gable end wall of the original main cabin. The stone fireplace measures 5'-5" wide by 9" deep and extends through the exterior wall. The chimney extends up the wall and terminates approximately 3' above the gable roof.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and Doors: The main entrance, located on the east side, consisted of a 3-panel wood door with glass and a screen door. A second entrance, located on the south side, accessed the kitchen. This door is constructed with vertical pine planks and a large window.
 - b. Windows and Shutters: The building has several different types of windows. The original main cabin has five fixed-glass wood frame windows ranging in size from 46" x 45" to 60" x 45". Two fixed glass windows flank the fireplace on the north end. The west side of the room has two fixed-glass windows while the east side has a single fixed-glass window and the front door.

The bedroom contains 4-lite hopper windows (27" x 34") and a two over two double-hung wood frame window (34" x 55"). The bathroom also contains a 6-lite wood frame hopper window. The kitchen has both fixed-glass wood frame windows and a pair of wood frame casement windows.
8. Roof:
 - a. Shape, Covering: The roof is a series of medium-pitched gables with both framed eaves and exposed rafter ends. The roof at the north end of the original cabin was constructed as a jerkin-head with the stone chimney extending through it. The log purlins extend through the north wall of the original cabin room. The original split wood shingles have been covered with asphalt shingles. A continuous medium pitched gable roof with exposed rafter ends covers the bedroom/bath and kitchen additions. A low pitched shed roof with asphalt shingles covers the entry porch on the east side.
 - b. Cornice, Eaves: The original cabin has framed eaves with no exposed rafter ends. The two additions have exposed wood stud rafter ends.

c. Dormers, Cupolas, Towers: None.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plans:
 - a. Describe Floors: The cabin is a modified "T" in plan. It is a one-story structure. The primary entrance is on the east side and enters into the original cabin area, now the living room. A separate entrance, located on the south side, enters into the kitchen.
2. Stairways: None
3. Flooring: The original tongue and groove plank floor has been covered with carpet. The kitchen addition retains the original linoleum floor covering.
4. Wall Finishes: The walls of the original cabin room are exposed horizontal pine logs. The bedroom and bathroom were finished with vertical tongue and groove knotty pine boards. The kitchen was constructed with horizontal tongue and groove knotty pine wainscoting 4' high with vertical tongue and groove knotty pine boards above.
5. Ceiling Finishes: The main cabin room has a vaulted ceiling with exposed log purlins, a ridge beam and 2" x 6" tongue and groove horizontal boards. Four cross beams form two "Xs" down the center of the ceiling. The bedroom and bathroom ceiling are knotty pine tongue and groove boards. The kitchen also has knotty pine tongue and groove boards with boxed beams.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and Doors: The interior doors were constructed with vertical pine planks. The openings were framed and trimmed with pine.
 - b. Windows: No interior windows
7. Decorative Features and Trim: The exposed log walls, purlins, ridge beam, cross bracing, and knotty pine boards are significant to the interior character of the cabin. The full-height stone fireplace in the main cabin room retains its original pine bark mantel. The original wood floors have been covered with carpet.
8. Hardware: The interior wood doors and windows retain their original handles, latches and bolting hardware.

9. Mechanical equipment:
- a. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation: Heat was provided by electric wall units and the fireplace in the main cabin area. The cabin does not have air conditioning or ceiling fans.
 - b. Lighting: The main cabin area has a single incandescent pendant light fixture attached to one of the cross-braces. The bedroom does not have a ceiling mounted light fixture. Lighting would have been provided using floor or table lamps. The kitchen has two fluorescent strips.
 - c. Plumbing: Originally, the bathroom was an outhouse on the property. A bathroom was installed when the cabin was enlarged to include a bedroom. The bathroom contains a shower/tub combination, toilet, and wall-mounted sink.
10. Original Furnishings: The kitchen addition retains the knotty pine cabinets and linoleum flooring installed when the kitchen was originally constructed.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation:⁶ 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: None

⁶ Ibid.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Original Architectural Drawings: None available

B. Early Views: None available

C. Interviews: None

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”, January 1983. (On file with the USDA Forest Service, Island Park Ranger Station, ID.)

Letters to 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.)

“Standard Inspection of Summer Homes on the Targhee National Forest”, Inspection Forms. (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.