

WARM RIVER SHELTER
Caribou-Targhee National Forest, Warm River Campground
Ashton
Fremont County
Idaho

HABS No. ID-129

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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

WARM RIVER SHELTER HABS No. ID-129

- Location: Caribou-Targhee National Forest, Warm River Campground, Ashton, Fremont County, Idaho
- Warm River Campground is located approximately 9 miles northeast of Ashton, Idaho on State Highway 47 (Mesa Falls Scenic Byway) in the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. The meadow-like campground is located in a canyon on the banks of the Warm River in northeast Idaho and surrounded by a willow and pine forest.
- Present Owner: U.S. Forest Service
- Present Use: Day-Use Shelter
- Significance: The shelter is locally significant due to its association with the original development of recreation and tourism in the area. The shelter embodies the characteristics of the vernacular architecture typical of the region and time period that it was built.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION¹

A. Physical History:

1. Date(s) of erection: Unknown.
2. Architect: Unknown
3. Original and Subsequent Owners:
4. Builders, Contractors, Suppliers: Unknown
5. Original Plans and Construction: Unknown
6. Alterations and Additions: None

B. Historical Context:

The shelter has served as a day-use picnic shelter since its construction in the 1930s.

¹ No information was located on the construction of the shelter

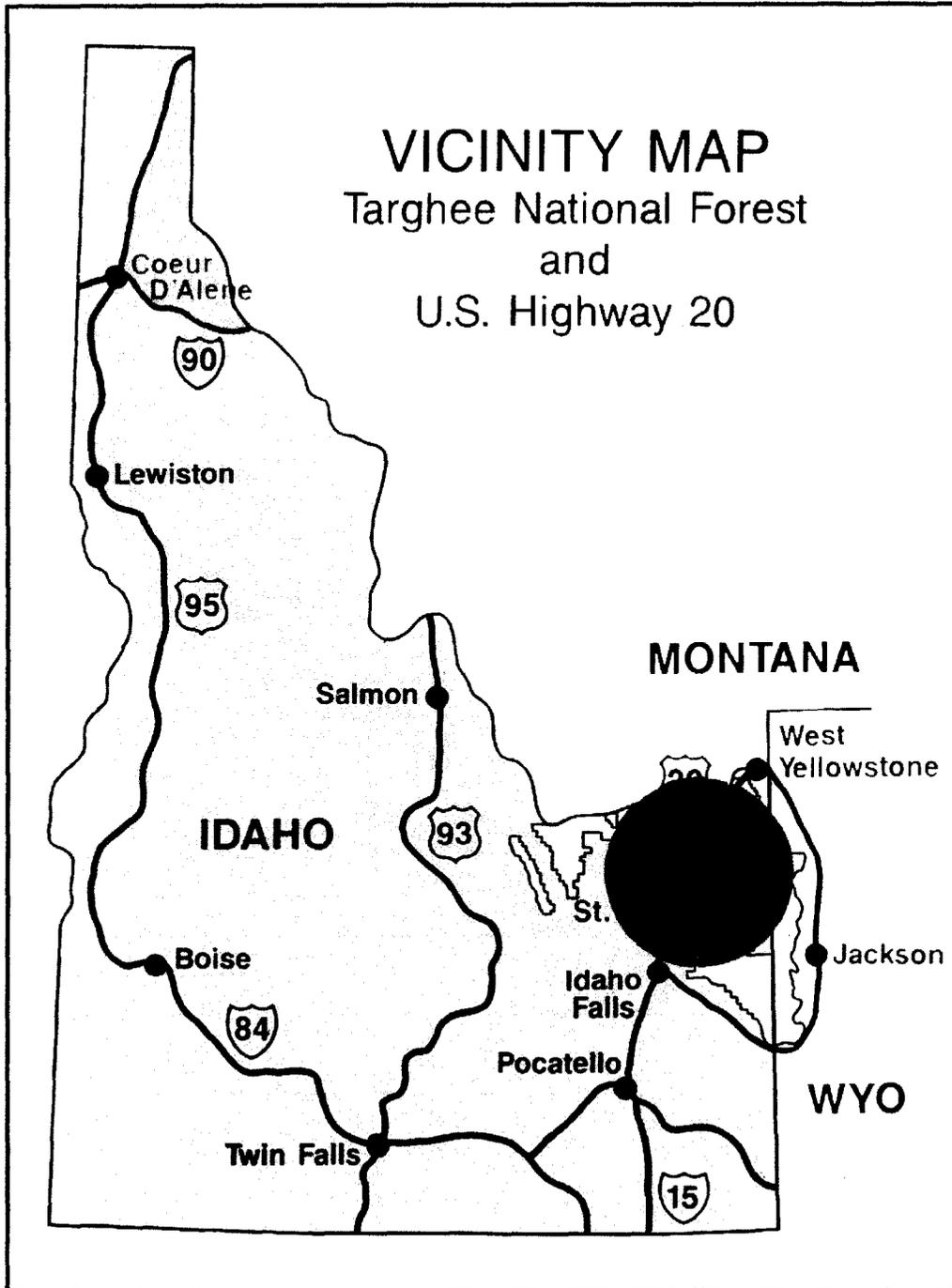


Figure 1: Vicinity map showing project area²

² "Targhee National Forest Lodgepole Pine Reforestation Program", Targhee National Forest, Department of Agriculture, US Government Printing Office, 24.07.415.09/88.

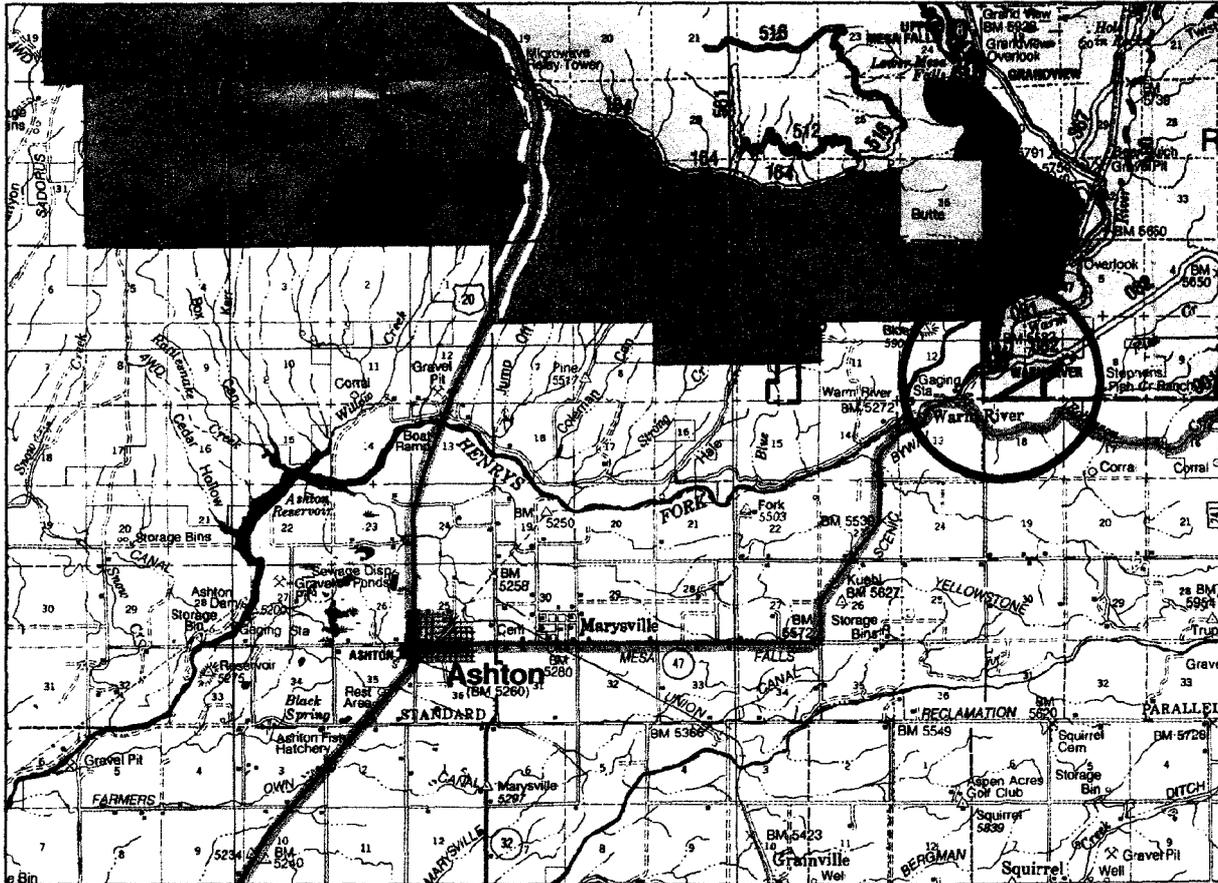


Figure 2: Location of Warm River Campground³

³ “Caribou-Targhee National Forest Map, Ashton/Island Park Ranger District”, Idaho, US Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture, 2000.

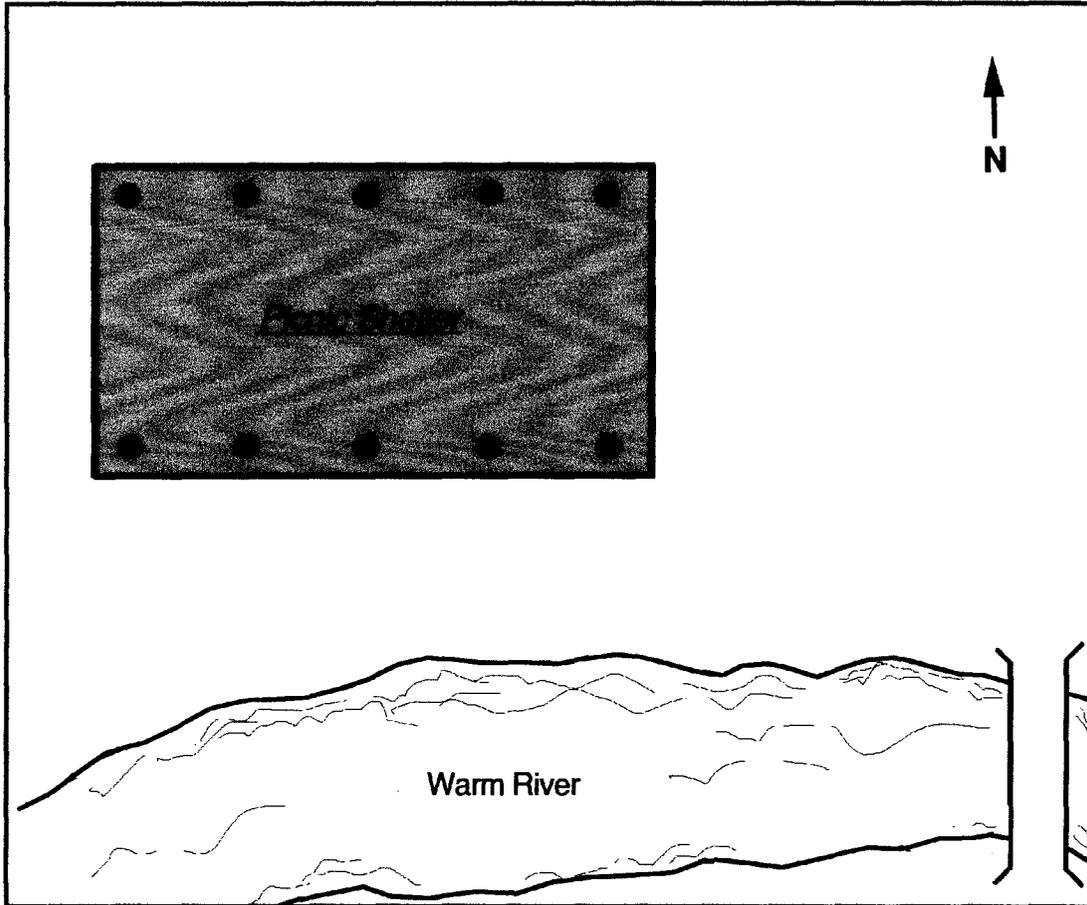


Figure 3: Sketch Map of Warm River Shelter

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The shelter is a rustic log structure in a vernacular style evident in the heavy log and cross-bracing construction.
2. Condition of fabric: The shelter is in fair to poor condition. The concrete foundation is cracked and uneven due to water infiltration and numerous freeze-thaw cycles. The shelter retains its original finish and character.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall Dimensions: The shelter, rectangular in plan, measure 40' long by 11' in width. The height from the concrete floor to the log cross beams is 8'-8". The shelter is divided into eight bays – four bays in length and two bays in width. Each bay measures 10' x 5'-5 1/2".
2. Foundations: Poured concrete slab divided into eight bays measuring 10' x 5'-5 1/2". The vertical log poles supporting the shelter roof are supported on 8" trapezoidal concrete piers measuring 14" at the top and 16" at the bottom.
3. Walls: The shelter is constructed with open bays consisting of 12" diameter log columns supported by concrete piers. The log columns are located 10' apart for a total of five log columns per side.
4. Structural System, Framing: The structure is constructed with 12" diameter vertical pine logs supported on 8" high trapezoidal concrete piers. Three log brackets consisting of 6" diameter logs extend 2'-6" out from the main log column and support the cap logs and the king post trusses. The king post trusses support the gable roof.
5. Porches, Stoops, Balconies, Bulkheads: None
6. Chimneys: None
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and Doors: None
 - b. Windows and Shutters: None

8. Roof:
 - a. Shape, Covering: The shelter is covered with a medium pitched gable roof with exposed log rafter ends. It is constructed with five king post trusses, 6" diameter rafters, and 1x8 wood decking covered with shake shingles. The bottom log of the king post trusses are 8'-8" above the concrete foundation.
 - b. Cornice, Eaves: Exposed eaves with log rafter ends.
 - c. Dormers, Cupolas, Towers: None

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plans:
 - a. Describe Floors: One floor, rectangular in plan, divided into four bays in length and two bays in width.
2. Stairways: None
3. Flooring: Exposed concrete
4. Wall Finishes: Open bays with log columns
5. Ceiling Finishes: The shelter's ceiling consists of exposed log rafters, beams and tongue and grove pine decking.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and Doors: None
 - b. Windows: None
7. Decorative Features and Trim: The exposed heavy timber log poles, bracing and trusses provide could be considered decorative features of the structure.
8. Hardware: None
9. Mechanical equipment:
 - a. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation: None
 - b. Lighting: None
 - c. Plumbing: None
10. Original Furnishings: None

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation:

The Warm River is a shallow, slow moving river that was given its name due to the fact that it flows out of the ground at approximately 50^o F. Warm River Campground is situated on a grassy bench at the bottom of the Warm River Canyon.

Topography of the campground area is generally level along the river banks with steep canyon walls on both sides. The meadow-like campground is surrounded by willow and pine trees with an occasional marshy spot. The area supports a variety of low-growth vegetation.

2. Historic Landscape Design:

3. Outbuildings: None

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Original Architectural Drawings: Not available

B. Early Views: None

C. Interviews: 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.