

1-1-2007

Cultural Resource Reports No. 3 - Archaeological Investigations at Cow Hollow Park (35-ML-1416), Nyssa, Oregon

Center for Applied Archaeological Science

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The Center for Applied Archaeological Science (CAAS) is a research and contract archaeology program established in 1986 and housed within the Department of Anthropology at Boise State University. The university, founded in 1932, is a metropolitan university having an enrollment of over 19,000 students. Situated in the state capital, the university offers a wide range of undergraduate majors, masters, and doctoral degrees. CAAS has conducted research throughout Idaho and other western states. Its offices conduct small and large-scale cultural resource surveys and excavations and have the ability to manage multiple projects and tasks simultaneously. Since its inception, CAAS has developed a broadly-based physical plant and staff structure that allows rapid-response actions within the greater scope of its programs.

Cultural Resource Reports

This series disseminates the results of cultural resource investigations resulting from contract and small grants activities of the Center for Applied Archaeological Science (CAAS).

Published by

Center for Applied Archaeological Science
Boise State University
1910 University Drive
Boise, ID 83725-1950
U.S.A.

Printed in the U.S.A. by Boise State University Printing and Graphics Services, Boise, Idaho
83725-1220

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Copy editors: Faith Brigham and Barbara Valdez

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We extend a special thanks to John Lytle, Burley District BLM archaeologist. We also extend our thanks to the field school students who participated in the 2007 Boise State University archaeology field school—Chris Carpenter, Choya Davis, Jessica Dougherty, Suzanne Humphrey, William Knowlden, Niki Nickoloff, Joshua Preminger, Brian Wallace, and Rachel Wong.

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INTRODUCTION

Known regionally as a location of one of the Owyhee Dam construction camps, one of Oregon's first CCC camps and a later Japanese-American internment camp, Cow Hollow is located roughly three miles east of Nyssa, Oregon (Figure 1). Since the 1960s, the site has served as a local area park with picnic facilities, tennis courts, and baseball diamonds. The park is administered by the Bureau of Reclamation and the Bureau of Land Management. To evaluate existing remnants of the camps, Boise State University was contacted regarding its availability to conduct a cultural resource evaluation of the area. In June 2007 Boise State University undertook archaeological evaluation of the Cow Hollow Park. This report documents the results of historical documentation of the site and survey and archaeological testing of the location.

EARLY HISTORY OF THE COW HOLLOW AREA

The first Europeans to exploit the area near and around southeastern Oregon and the Snake River valley were fur traders, after Lewis and Clark had opened the Pacific Northwest and the Oregon territory: "In the early 1800's small bands of fur traders trapped along the Snake River including the area that is now known as Nyssa, Oregon" (Nyssa Historical Society). The following years saw many early pioneers pass through Nyssa as they made their way to the fertile Willamette Valley. Many of these pioneers, not wanting to cross the Snake River at Fort Boise, took the safer South Alternative route that joined with the main section of the Oregon Trail after it crossed the Snake River between Adrian and Nyssa where the trails met near Cow Hollow. This section of the South Alternative of the Oregon Trail is located within half a mile of Cow Hollow and some historians believe that the area

was large enough that settlers used it as a resting area before climbing Keeney Pass and continuing into Vale.

The U.S. Reclamation Service (later renamed the Bureau of Reclamation) withdrew the tract of land on September 2, 1914, in preparation to building the Owyhee Dam. In addition, in March of 1929 two other sections were withdrawn for the Owyhee project, including the ten acres known as Cow Hollow. The Bureau of Reclamation contends that the entire area may have been utilized from 1927 to 1932 as a camp location in the construction of the historic Owyhee Dam. The 417-foot tall dam, largest in the world at the time, employed engineering and construction techniques used to construct the Hoover Dam.

CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS AND NYSSA, OREGON

In the 1932 Presidential election, the nation turned to Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Democratic Party to end the rampant unemployment and economic chaos that gripped the country during the Great Depression. The country was not disappointed. Accepting the Presidential nomination on July 1, 1932, New York Governor Roosevelt designed a plan to address the problems of soil erosion and declining timber resources, providing employment for the mass of unemployed young men in large urban areas. President Roosevelt wasted no time in calling an emergency session of the 73rd Congress on March 9, 1933, to hear and authorize his program. He planned to recruit thousands of young men, sign them into a peacetime army, and send them into battle against devastation and erosion of our natural resources. Before the program ended, over three million young men had engaged in a massive salvage operation, the most popular and successful experiment of the New Deal.

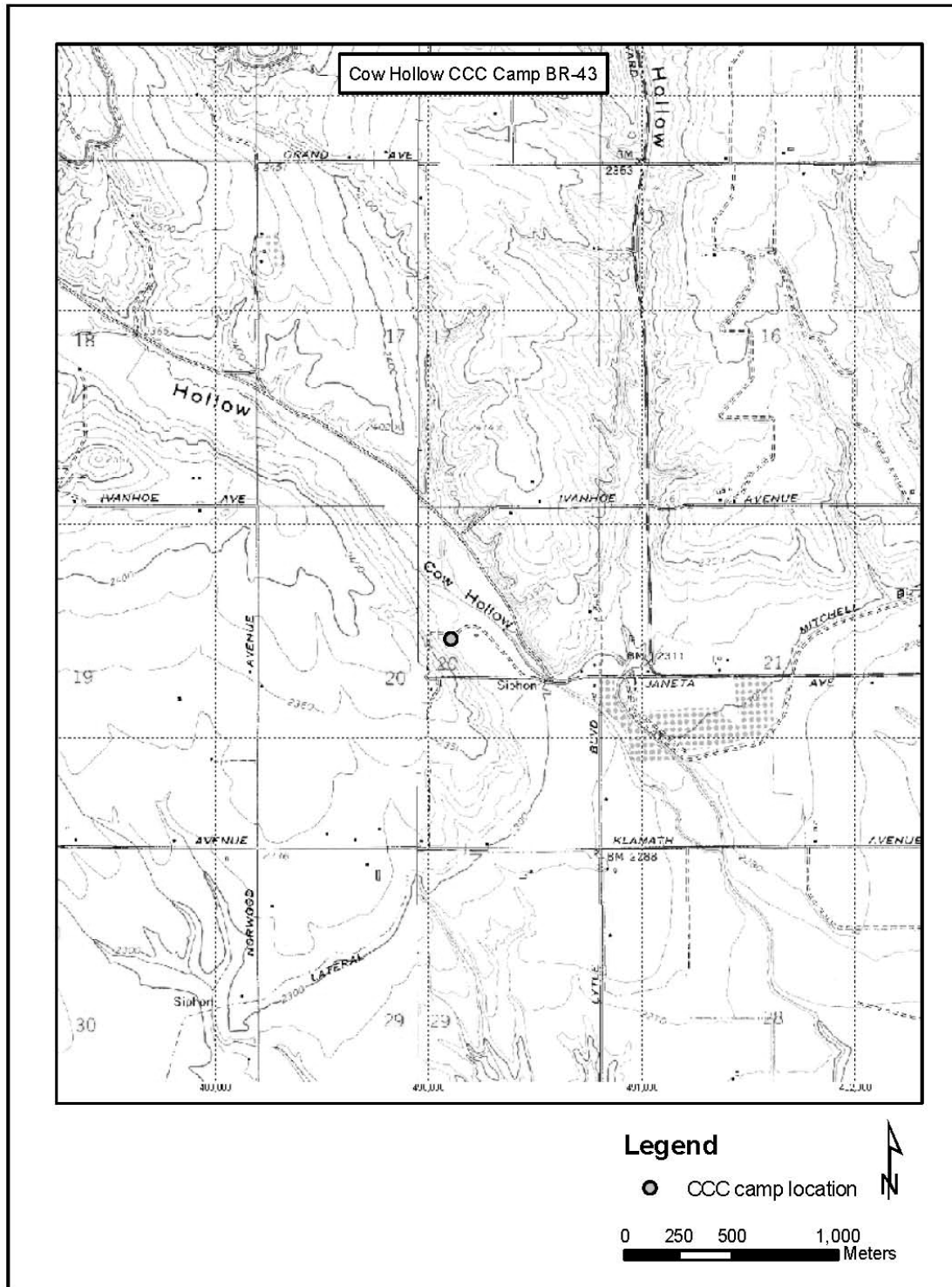


Figure 1. General Location of Cow Hollow Park.

The strongest reaction to the proposed CCC program came from organized labor unions. Union leaders feared a loss of jobs to their members. They also looked with alarm at the involvement of the army, believing it might lead to labor being regimented. However strong the opposition, both houses of Congress passed Senate Bill 5.598; it was on the President's desk on March 31, 1933. The result of the passage of the bill was the establishment of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). (www.cccalumni.org/history1.html).

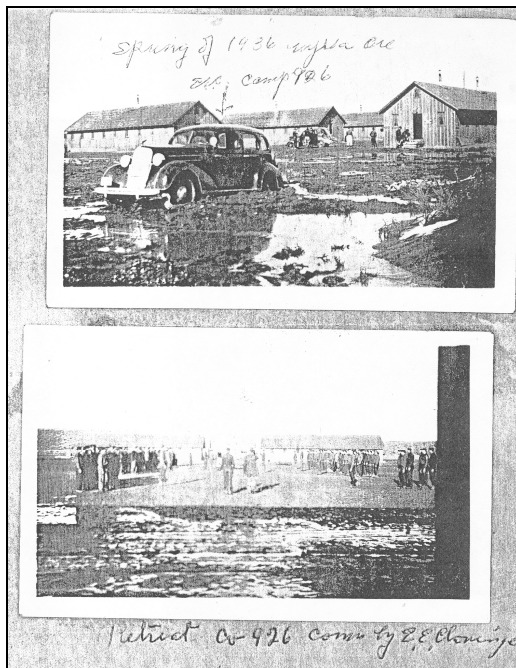


Figure 2. Photographs Showing CCC Camp Facilities in 1936 (above) and Camp Assembly (below).

By 1935, two CCC camps were created in southeastern Oregon, Camp No. BR-42 located four miles south of Ontario and Camp BR-43 located 8.5 miles southwest of Nyssa, Oregon within the Cow Hollow area (Figure 2). Construction of Camp BR-43 on withdrawn public land began on June 6, 1935 and ended July 22, 1935 with CCC enrollees occupying the camp on October 19, 1935. Permanent camp BR-35 buildings were constructed. The buildings were wood

frame structures and included eight barracks, a headquarters and recreation building, a mess hall and kitchen, officers' quarters, a technical services building, an infirmary, a bathhouse and laundry, an educational building, two portable and one permanent garage, a latrine, a bakery, and several varied storage facilities and auxiliary buildings (Bureau of Reclamation).

According to the Bureau of Reclamation Civilian Conservation Corps study, CCC personnel at Camp BR-43 were engaged in rehabilitating the irrigation system, erecting telephone lines, constructing and maintaining roads, lining several of the existing larger irrigation canals, excavating and constructing significant canals, placing concrete pipelines and riprap on canal banks, planting trees, and controlling rodent and predatory animals. In 1939 CCC Camp BR-43 personnel salvaged the Owyhee Dam Railroad and constructed a highway on the old railroad bed. They also realigned the Ontario-Nyssa Canal, lined portions of the North Canal, and constructed new lateral canals on the South Canal System.

Although residents of Nyssa feared the closure of the CCC camp in late 1935, according to several articles in the Gate City Journal the camp remained in place, eventually closing in May, 1942. President Roosevelt visited CCC Camp in 1936 (Figure 3).



Figure 3. President Franklin D. Roosevelt (Seated Left in Rear) Visiting the Camp in 1936.

THE NYSSA JAPANESE-AMERICAN INTERNMENT CAMP

As CCC Camp BR-43 was preparing for closure, the country was gearing up its military forces for World War II. On February 19, 1942, President Roosevelt would again have an impact on the small parcel of land located near Nyssa, Oregon, by signing Executive Order 9066, providing for the relocation and internment of thousands of Japanese-American citizens. President Roosevelt, supported by officials at all levels of the federal government, authorized the internment of tens of thousands of American citizens of Japanese ancestry and resident aliens from Japan, giving the U.S. military broad powers to ban any citizen of Japanese ancestry from a fifty to sixty-mile-wide coastal area stretching from the state of Washington to California and extending inland into southern Arizona. The order also authorized transporting these citizens to assembly centers hastily set up and governed by the military in California, Arizona, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho (Figure 4).



Figure 4. View of Japanese Internment Tent Camp.

The induction of millions of American men into the military caused by the United States' entry into World War II created a severe shortage of farm laborers. To solve this acute labor problem, temporary labor camps such as Cow Hollow were constructed. Many Japanese-Americans forced behind barbed wire chose to accept the opportunity to work in the fields rather than stay confined in the internment camps (Figure 5). In 1943 the CCC camp located near Nyssa, Oregon was turned over to the Farm Security Administration and filled with Japanese-American internee farm laborers, and the area became the Nyssa Japanese-American Internment Camp.



Figure 5. Field workers at the Internment Camp Facility.

Movement of evacuees into the sugar beet fields started on May 20, 1942 when a small contingent of 15 recruits from the Portland Assembly Center arrived on farm lands controlled by the Amalgamated Sugar Company in Oregon. The movement of evacuees to the sugar beet fields continued during May and June, slacked off slightly in midsummer, and then was resumed in preparation for the fall harvest. Altogether more than 10,000 Japanese-Americans left the War Relocation Administration centers for seasonal work, principally in Idaho, Montana, Colorado, and Eastern Oregon. By conservative estimates, the work of the evacuees harvested enough beets to make nearly 250,000,000 pounds of sugar (DOI). The camp at Cow Hollow was the only place in Oregon where Japanese-Americans were allowed to live temporarily outside the

internment camps. After the war, many Japanese-American internees elected to remain in and around Nyssa. According to the 1960 Census, more than 1,100 of the former internees were living by then in Malheur County, Oregon.

In the 1960s, management of the Cow Hollow area passed from the Bureau of Reclamation to the North Board of Control (NRC). During this period the foundations of the existing buildings were bulldozed and tennis courts, baseball diamonds, and an undeveloped RV park were constructed when the NRC entered into a formal lease agreement with the Cow Hollow Park and Recreation Association. On November 5, 2004, Cow Hollow Park became the responsibility of the Bureau of Land Management when the Secretary of the Interior revoked the withdrawal of the area held by Bureau of Reclamation (Personal communication, John Martinson, Bureau of Recreation 2007). However, the land was determined unsuitable to return to the public domain, and remains under the administration of the Bureau of Reclamation.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL SETTING

Cow Hollow Park is situated on a relatively flat terrace above Cow Creek and is surrounded by stands of trees thought to have been planted by the CCC that grow around the edge of the park's "horse-shoe"-like perimeter. The area enclosed by the park access road is a grass field which encircles tennis courts, fireplaces with picnic tables, public restrooms, and a baseball field (Figure 6). On the western perimeter are maintenance and water pump station facilities. To the north, east, and west of the roadway are tall grasses and noxious weeds overgrowing what appears to be a recent dumping area on the northern perimeter of the park. Indeed, it is suspected that this area contains fill from an earlier removal of depression/war-era structures.



Figure 6. Looking East Across Grassed Park Area.

The remaining structure from the CCC era is, as noted, located on the northeastern corner of the park and overlaps a parcel of private land. In addition, a stone foundation is present opposite the structure to the south. At the time of investigation much of the area was covered by thistle and heavy leaf fall with aspen and locust trees intruding into and uprooting the foundation (see Figure 7).



Figure 7. Northeast Corner of Foundation Showing Intrusion.

METHODS

Prior to initiating the field evaluations, a datum was established along the north side of the park access road, three meters from the southeast corner of the existing structure. Mapping the structure and foundation, auger locations, and excavation units was established from this point.

DOCUMENTATION OF STRUCTURE

Constructed in 1935, the building is an historic rectangle plan, wood frame structure with a concrete foundation (Figure 8). The roof has a front and back gable, the south half of the roof constructed of wood shake shingles and the north half with wood shake shingles covered with asphalt shingles. The building, clad in wood siding, has some deteriorating sections of composite fiberglass siding added since its original construction. The windows are of wood frame construction and are a combination of casement and picture windows. There are two single wood door entryways, one at the eastern end of the south elevation and one on the northern elevation. There is a combination brick and concrete block chimney at the east elevation of the building.



Figure 8. Photograph of Historic Wooden Structure Facing North.

The interior of the building includes several alterations enhancing the original building. Bathroom and kitchen areas were added and the fireplace appears to have been

improved since the original structure was constructed (Figure 9). The original wood flooring has also been removed and replaced with vinyl linoleum.



Figure 9. Interior View of Kitchen Area.

The condition of the building is rapidly deteriorating. Additionally, there have been numerous alterations to the building including changes of materials to the roof and the cladding material as well as the aforementioned interior changes. This site was considered under Criterion A because it is associated with events that have significantly contributed to the broad patterns of history. However, the site has lost integrity of design, materials, setting, feeling, and workmanship which make the site ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Furthermore, this site is not associated with any known important person in history, it is not an exceptional example of architecture, and it is not likely to yield additional information for the historic record.

Archaeological Survey

As a preliminary step in evaluating the ten acre Cow Hollow site, a pedestrian survey examined all areas within and adjacent to the park. Transects were conducted using 10 meter transect intervals. Areas north and east of the park lying beyond the access road are extremely overgrown, and as with the interior park area, visibility was extremely low (Figure 10).



Figure 10. Area Surveyed Southwest of the Park. Photo Facing Northeast.

Evaluation of Historic Foundation

Leaf litter and branches, grass clippings, and trash from what appears to have been hearth fill dumped onto the foundation from historic fireplaces located throughout the park had accumulated to a thickness of 8-12 inches with weeds growing from cracks in the foundation floor. Upon removal of this debris, the foundation was measured and mapped. A recent fire-ring composed of concrete blocks was exposed on the east side of the foundation as were foundation footings, a rectangular room division, a possible boiler or heater area, and locations of the water drains (Figure 11).

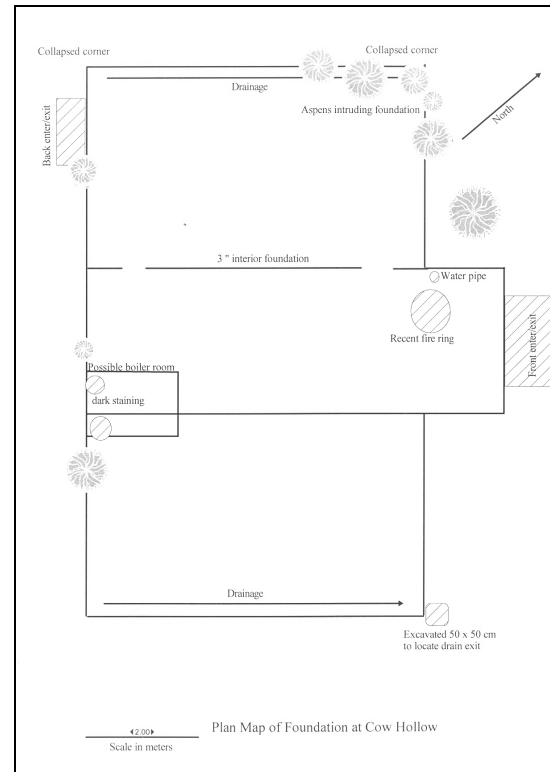


Figure 11. Plan Map of Foundation.



Figure 12. (Upper) Recent Historic Fire Ring; (Lower) Interior Foundation Enclosure.

CORE AND SHOVEL PROBES

In addition to documenting the historic structure and exposing the foundation area, 50 core/auger tests were conducted across the interior park area (approximately 800 square meters). Cores were placed at the 20-meter intervals across the park from the site

datum located on the northeast corner of the park near the existing structure. Unit depths ranged between 80-100 cm (Figure 13 and Table 1). Sediments were compact, uniform silts with consistent color and texture. None of the 50 cores produced cultural material.

TABLE 1. DESCRIPTION OF CORING RESULTS

Auger	Depth	Sediments	Color	Cultural Materials	Comments
1	80-100 cm	Compacted Silt	2.5 YR 5/3	None	gravels at 10 cm
2	80-100 cm	Compacted Silt	2.5 YR 5/3	None	gravels at 10 cm
3	80-100 cm	Compacted Silt	2.5 YR 5/3	None	gravels at 10 cm
4	80-100 cm	Compacted Silt	2.5 YR 5/3	None	
5	80-100 cm	Compacted Silt	2.5 YR 5/3	None	
6	80-100 cm	Compacted Silt	2.5 YR 5/3	None	
7	80-100 cm	Compacted Silt	2.5 YR 5/3	None	
8	80-100 cm	Compacted Silt	2.5 YR 5/3	None	
9	80-100 cm	Compacted Silt	2.5 YR 5/3	None	Rootlets
10	80-100 cm	Compacted Silt	2.5 YR 5/3	None	
11	80-100 cm	Compacted Silt	2.5 YR 5/3	None	
12	80-100 cm	Compacted Silt	2.5 YR 5/3	None	
13	80-100 cm	Compacted Silt	2.5 YR 5/3	None	
14	80-100 cm	Compacted Silt	2.5 YR 5/3	None	
15	80-100 cm	Compacted Silt	2.5 YR 5/3	None	
16	80-100 cm	Compacted Silt	2.5 YR 5/3	None	
17	80-100 cm	Compacted Silt	2.5 YR 5/3	None	
18	80-100 cm	Compacted Silt	2.5 YR 5/3	None	
19	80-100 cm	Compacted Silt	2.5 YR 5/3	None	
20	80-100 cm	Compacted Silt	2.5 YR 5/3	None	
21	80-100 cm	Compacted Silt	2.5 YR 5/3	None	Rootlets
22	80-100 cm	Compacted Silt	2.5 YR 5/3	None	
23	80-100 cm	Compacted Silt	2.5 YR 5/3	None	
24	80-100 cm	Compacted Silt	2.5 YR 5/3	None	
25	80-100 cm	Compacted Silt	2.5 YR 5/3	None	
26	80-100 cm	Compacted Silt	2.5 YR 5/3	None	
27	80-100 cm	Compacted Silt	2.5 YR 5/3	None	
28	80-100 cm	Compacted Silt	2.5 YR 5/3	None	
29	80-100 cm	Compacted Silt	2.5 YR 5/3	None	
30	80-100 cm	Compacted Silt	2.5 YR 5/3	None	
31	80-100 cm	Compacted Silt	2.5 YR 5/3	None	
32	80-100 cm	Compacted Silt	2.5 YR 5/3	None	
33	80-100 cm	Compacted Silt	2.5 YR 5/3	None	
34	80-100 cm	Compacted Silt	2.5 YR 5/3	None	
35	80-100 cm	Compacted Silt	2.5 YR 5/3	None	

36	80-100 cm	Compacted Silt	2.5 YR 5/3	None	
37	80-100 cm	Compacted Silt	2.5 YR 5/3	None	
38	80-100 cm	Compacted Silt	2.5 YR 5/3	None	
39	80-100 cm	Compacted Silt	2.5 YR 5/3	None	
40	80-100 cm	Compacted Silt	2.5 YR 5/3	None	
41	80-100 cm	Compacted Silt	2.5 YR 5/3	None	
42	80-100 cm	Compacted Silt	2.5 YR 5/3	None	
43	80-100 cm	Compacted Silt	2.5 YR 5/3	None	
44	80-100 cm	Compacted Silt	2.5 YR 5/3	None	
45	80-100 cm	Compacted Silt	2.5 YR 5/3	None	
46	80-100 cm	Compacted Silt	2.5 YR 5/3	None	
47	80-100 cm	Compacted Silt	2.5 YR 5/3	None	
48	80-100 cm	Compacted Silt	2.5 YR 5/3	None	
49	80-100 cm	Compacted Silt	2.5 YR 5/3	None	
50	80-100 cm	Compacted Silt	2.5 YR 5/3	None	

TABLE 2. DESCRIPTION OF SHOVEL PROBE RESULTS

Shovel Probes	Depth	Sediments	Features	Artifacts
1	0-50 cm	silt	none	none
2	0-50 cm	silt	none	none
3	0-50 cm	silt	none	none
4	0-50 cm	silt	none	none
5	0-50 cm	silt	none	none
6	0-50 cm	silt	none	none
7	0-50 cm	silt	broken drain pipe	nails = 2
8	0-50 cm	silt	none	glass fragment
9	0-50 cm	silt	none	none

EXCAVATION

A primary datum was placed on the western edge of the foundation south of the existing structure (Figure 13). A secondary datum was positioned 13 meters, 130 degrees southeast, and a north-south baseline was established. Based on the initial survey and auger tests, three 1 x 1 meter test units were established and excavated 2-3S, 0-1W, 2-3E, 0-1N, and 14-15E, 9-10N of the baseline. Each unit was excavated to a depth of 50 cm. Units 2-3S, 0-1W and 2-3E, 0-1N contained

road fill, gravels, and larger cobbles below 10 cm. The units were largely sterile beyond the upper lens. Excavations employed standard methods of subsurface data recovery, including shovel shaving, hand-trowelling with all sediments passed through a 1/8-inch hardware mesh, and artifacts and ecofacts bagged separately by unit and level. Artifacts and level bags are currently being curated at the Center for Applied Archaeological Science, Boise State University.

TABLE 3. ARTIFACT DISTRIBUTIONS

2-3E, 0-1N	Artifacts	Features	Sediments	Non-historic Intrusions	Comments
0-10 cm	none	none	silts, sand and gravels from road bed		sterile
10-20 cm	none	none	silts, sand and gravels from road bed	Foil, yellow plastic	sterile
20-30 cm	yes, rusted wrench	none	silts, sand and gravels from road bed	Green plastic	rocks, cobbles
30-40 cm	none	none	silts, sand and gravels from road bed	none	rocks, cobbles
40-50 cm	Yes, rusted misc metal	none	silts, sand and gravels from road bed	none	rocks, cobbles
2-3S, 0-1W	Artifacts	Features	Sediments	Non-historic Intrusions	Comments
0-10 cm	yes, bottle cap, concrete	none	silts, sand and gravels from road bed		
10-20 cm	none	none	silts, sand		sterile
20-30 cm	yes, rusted nail	none	silts, sand		charcoal, briquette
30-40 cm	none	none	silts, sand		increasing gravel
40-50 cm	none	none	silts, sand		decreasing gravels
2-3E, 0-1N	Artifacts	Features	Sediments	Non-historic Intrusions	Comments
0-10 cm	yes, glass, metal,	none	silts, sand		
10-20 cm	none	none	silts, sand		sterile
20-30 cm	yes, glass, metal fragments	none	silts, sand		Drain pipe located 34 cm
30-40	none	none	silts, sand		sterile

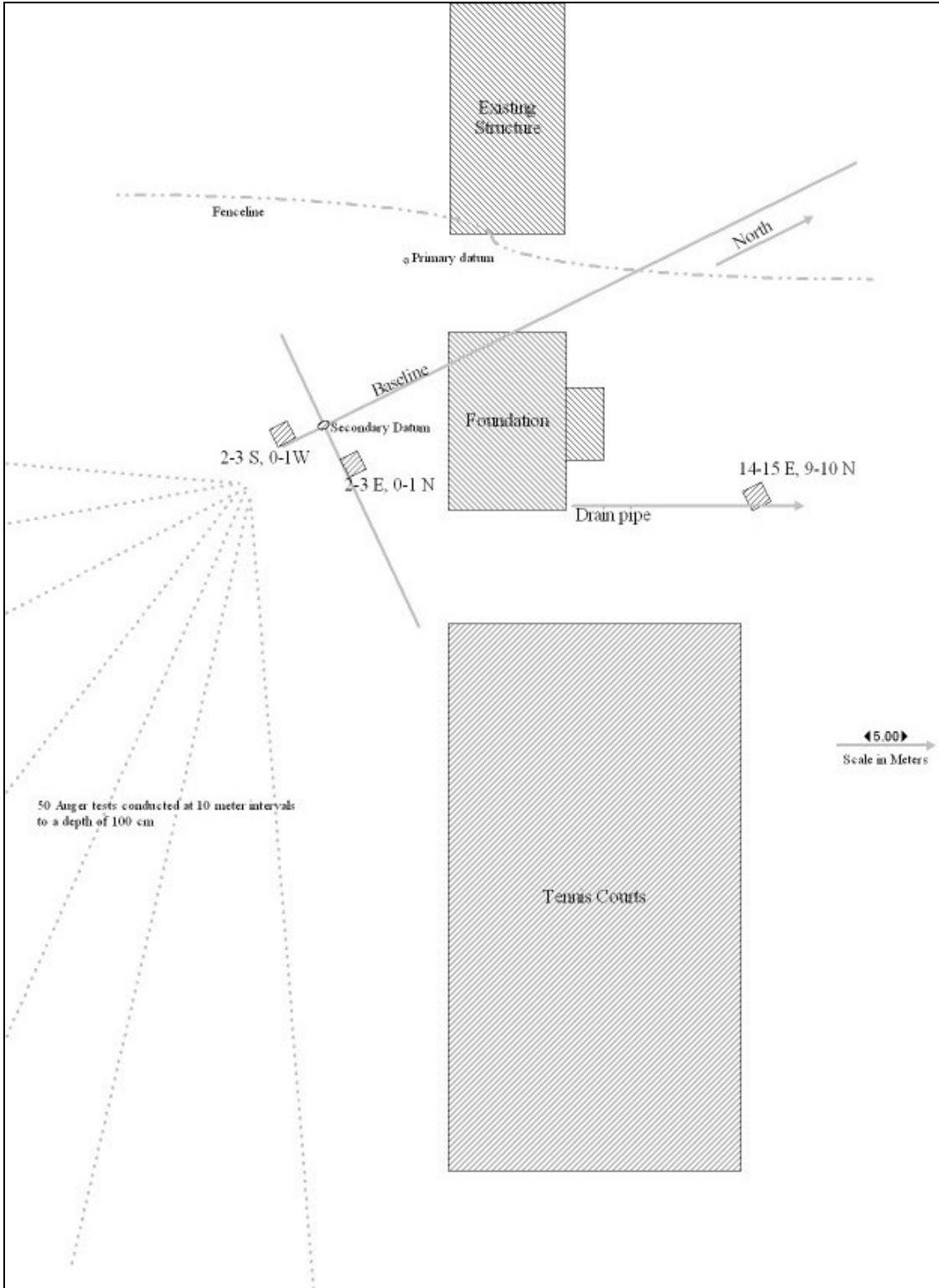


Figure 13. Plan View of Excavation and Core Tests.

The third test unit, 14-15E, 9-10N, contained a few glass and rusted metal fragments. A drain pipe that bisects the southeastern corner at a depth of 34 cm connects to the interior drain of the foundation area (Figure 14). With the exception of the drain pipe, very few cultural items were recovered and no diagnostic items were located.



Figure 14. Drain Pipe Connecting to Southeast Corner of Foundation.

STRATIGRAPHY

The general stratigraphy is compacted silts intermixed with sand. The upper lenses (surface to 10 cm) contain organic materials such as degrading leaf litter and rootlets from weeds and grasses. In units 2-3E, 0-1N, and 2-3S, 0-1W, the sediments are gravels and cobbles, likely from road construction and maintenance. These units are largely sterile of any cultural items. Unit 9-10E, 14-15N was comprised of sterile silts, compacted and intermixed with sand. Munsel readings (10YR-3/3) observed at all levels suggest a uniform deposition.

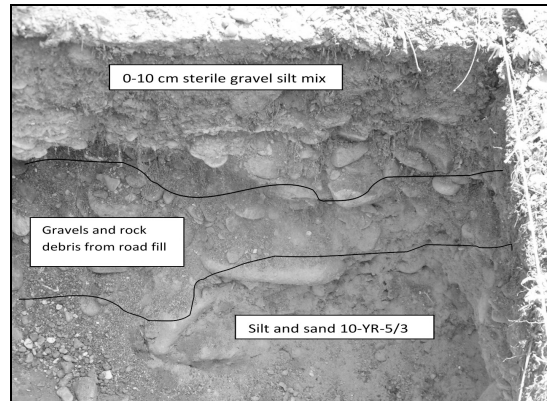


Figure 15. Stratigraphy, Unit 9-10 East, 14-15 North.

MATERIAL CULTURE

A total of 29 artifacts were recovered near the foundation area, including drain pipe fragments, miscellaneous metal and glass fragments, and bottles dating from the 1970s. A 1977 Oregon license plate was located in the foundation debris (Figure 16). Coal and charcoal fragments were noted on the surface but are likely associated with more recent activities such as the cleaning out of campfires and BBQ pits, which are located throughout the park. Other recovered items appear to have resulted from recent use of the area and appear not to be associated with historic use of the site.



Figure 16. License Plate.

The artifacts recovered during the investigation cannot be directly associated with either the CCC camp or the internment camp. Of the 29 artifacts recovered, 25 were recovered on the surface adjacent to the foundation. It is likely that most of these artifacts result from recent use of the area and subsequent dumping as evidenced by trash that included plastic bags, aluminum cans, and items dating no earlier than the 1970s. Drain pipe fragments (n=4) recovered on the surface in unit 14-15N, 9-10E, and in shovel probe 7 are thought to be associated with shower or laundry drainages (Figure 17).

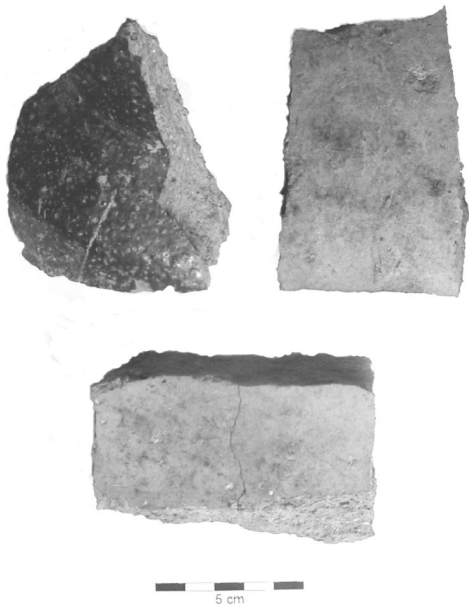


Figure 17. Drain Pipe Fragments.

Two marbles were recovered both on the surface and near the foundation and have no diagnostic features. These items using the functional scheme of the Oregon SHPO have been described under “pastimes.” Additionally, two metal pipe fragments were recovered on the surface, and a single C-sized battery was located near the south entrance to the foundation (Figure 18).

Metal items include fixtures, a light shade, a car jack base, and a toilet flange (Figure 19). Two nails, a rusted bolt, a metal spike, and miscellaneous rusted metal objects were

recovered as well as a single tool described as an open-ended wrench with a 2 cm opening, which is bent and highly rusted (Figure 20).



Figure 18. Battery Size “C”, Inner Workings of a Pocket Watch, Melted Glass, Two Marbles.



Figure 19. Shower/Toilet Flange.



Figure 20. Wrench, Nails, and Metal Spike.

The inner workings of a pocket watch (Figure 18) and an interior of an automobile thermostat were located on the road six meters southwest of the foundation. Several recent trash items were noted but not collected; these include plastic, bag fragments, a bread bag, bottle tops, aluminum cans, and paper. Glass items including four cola bottles dating to the 1970s were located together along the western edge of the foundation (Figure 21).



Figure 21. Coke bottle base.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based upon the results of our evaluation of the Cow Hollow locality we offer the following conclusions and recommendations:

- Based upon historical records we cannot determine whether the existing structure is associated with the CCC camp or the internment camp. We believe, however, that given its size, construction, and intended permanence, it is most likely associated with the CCC camp. Evaluation of the structure suggests that it is not eligible for the National Register and that photographic documentation should adequately meet any mitigative requirements.
- The historic foundation appears to be a shower or laundry facility. We cannot determine if it is associated with the CCC camp or the internment camp.
- We found no evidence of sub-surface structures or cultural materials that could be associated with the CCC camp or the internment camp. In fact, the limited

material culture recovered was found in exclusive association with the concrete foundation. It is our conclusion that structural materials dumped on the north edge of the park represent an accumulation of infrastructural materials removed from the site over a number of years. We believe these would be associated with the CCC camp and not with the tent camp used for internees.

- We recommend no further evaluation of the area and no mitigative actions be taken to protect the site features. It is our conclusion that limited as it is, our greater knowledge of the locality is based upon a few meager historical records relating to the area. We believe with relative certainty that additional field investigations would not increase our knowledge of the site.
- We recommend that a kiosk documenting the historical significance of the location be placed at the site.

APPENDIX I

**Historical Architectural Investigation
Site 35-ML-1416
Cow Hollow Park, Nyssa, Oregon**

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2007

Summary of site: *This site consists of an historic building constructed in 1935 that was associated with a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp. Cow Hollow Park and the building do not exhibit any of the elements of historical integrity, making it not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.*

Previous recording: This site has not been previously recorded.

History: This site is the location of historic CCC and Japanese internment camps. The Bureau of Reclamation withdrew the ten acres known as Cow Hollow in March of 1929 and state that the area was utilized from 1927 to 1932 as a camp location for construction of the historic Owyhee Dam. Construction of CCC Camp BR-43 began on June 6, 1935 and was finished on July 22, 1935 with CCC enrollees occupying the camp on October 19, 1935. Camp BR-43 consisted of buildings that were constructed as permanent rather than portable type buildings. The buildings were wood frame structures and included eight barracks, a headquarters and recreation building, a mess hall and kitchen, officers' quarters, a technical services building, an infirmary, a bathhouse and laundry, an educational building, two portable and one permanent garage, a latrine, a bakery, and several varied storage facilities and auxiliary buildings. In all, the camp contained 35 buildings (Bureau of Reclamation). As CCC Camp BR-43 was preparing to close, the country was gearing up its military forces for World War II and the CCC camp was turned over to the Farm Security Administration. In 1943 the CCC camp was filled with Japanese-American internee farm laborers and the area became the Nyssa Japanese-American Internment Camp. Movement of evacuees into the sugar beet fields started on May 20, 1942, when a contingent of 15 recruits from the Portland Assembly Center arrived on farmlands controlled by the Amalgamated Sugar Company in Oregon. The camp at Cow Hollow was the only place in Oregon where

Japanese-Americans were allowed to live outside of internment camps. After the war many of the Japanese-American internees elected to remain in and near Nyssa. According to the 1960 Census, more than 1,100 of the former internees were living in Malheur County, Oregon. In the 1960s, control of Cow Hollow area passed from the Bureau of Reclamation to the North Board of Control (NRC) for management of the area. During this period, the foundations of the existing buildings were bulldozed into a pile, and tennis courts, baseball diamonds, and an undeveloped RV park were constructed when the NRC entered into a formal lease agreement with the Cow Hollow Park and Recreation Association. On November 5, 2004, Cow Hollow Park became the responsibility of the Bureau of Land Management when the Secretary of the Interior revoked the withdrawal of the area held by Bureau of Reclamation. However, the land has since been determined unsuitable to return to the public domain, and remains under Bureau of Reclamation administration.

Building description: This site consists of an historic building constructed in 1935. The structure is a one and a half story, rectangular floor plan, wood frame building with a concrete foundation. The roof has a front and back gable with exposed rafter tails. The southern slope of the roof is clad in cedar shake shingles and the north half of the roof has cedar shake shingles covered with asphalt shingles. There is a brick and concrete chimney positioned on the east gable, and a large iron chimney flue located on the roof's centerline near the west gable. The structure is clad in cedar board and batten siding with some deteriorating sections of composite fiberglass and composite siding that was added during the intervening years since its original construction. The windows in the structure are of wood frame construction and are a combination of casement and picture windows.

Elevation descriptions: The west elevation of the building consists of a single wood door entryway on the lower level, a large rectangular casement window frame situated on the upper story, and a large outdoor light positioned near the top of the gable. There is an unusual metal

fascia placed on the board and batten siding next to the roofline of the gable and the remnants of fiberglass siding located on the south side of the west elevation. The north elevation is composed of one large rectangular fixed window positioned in the center of the elevation and is flanked on both sides by two double hung sash windows. All of the windows on the north elevation are boarded over and missing most or all of the glass. The east elevation consists of a brick and concrete block chimney. The original chimney was composed of brick and appears to have been enhanced or fortified with large concrete blocks. There is an addition to the chimney on this elevation with a covering made of a wood frame construction clad in board and batten siding with a small gabled roof. There is also a rectangular casement window positioned to the south of the chimney. The south elevations consist of a large rectangular fixed window and two rectangular double hung sash windows with a single wood door entryway positioned in between. Please note that the entryway appears to have been altered to fit a sliding glass door at one time and then converted back to fit the single door entry; one side of the opening is boarded over with a large piece of plywood.

Associated outbuildings: There are no outbuildings associated with this site.

Landscaping: The landscaping immediately surrounding the building is composed of exotic and native grasses and a large stand of aspen trees. An access road and a four-wire, barbed wire fence surrounds the building on the east elevation with an open agricultural field to the west. The outer perimeter of the site consists of a recreation park with several baseball diamonds and fields, a tennis court, and an undeveloped RV park.

Condition and integrity: This historic building is in poor physical condition and falling into a state of disrepair in as much as the materials are showing signs of severe

decay. The integrity of materials has also been diminished by the addition of fiberglass composite cladding material to large areas of the structure and the change of the roofing material from cedar to asphalt shingles. The original design of the building has been altered several times over the years, including a change in the entryway on the south elevation including the building of a chimney on its east elevation with a concrete block and a wood cladding structure that modified the original floor plan and roofline. The alterations and additions to the structure also detract from the integrity of workmanship. The location of the building remains the same as the time when it was first built; however, the design and setting has changed considerably from that of a CCC and Japanese internment camp to that of a city recreation park. The original setting and design for the site included 35 permanent military-style buildings all of which, except the building in question, were demolished and bulldozed into piles in various locations around the park circa 1965. The site has also lost integrity of feeling and association due to the complete alteration of the design and setting of the camp.

Eligibility: This site was considered for eligibility under Criterion A because of its association with events significantly contributing to the broad patterns of Depression and World War II history. However, the site has lost integrity of materials, workmanship, design, setting, feeling, and association, which makes the site ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Although the President of the United States, Franklin D. Roosevelt, visited the site in 1936, the site does not convey to the common citizen the feeling and association of the earlier CCC and internment camps. Additionally, the building is not an exceptional example of architecture, and it is not likely to yield additional information for the historic record.



Historic Building Looking East at the North Elevation.



Historic Building Looking Northwest at the South and East Elevations.



Historic Building Looking Southwest at the North and East Elevations.

REFERENCES CITED

Civilian Conservation Corps
2007 www.cccalumni.org/history1.html

Martinson, John
2007 Personal communication, Bureau of Reclamation.