

Baratz Subdivision

Ada County, Idaho



2025-02

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Prepared for: United States Army Corps of Engineers

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Abstract

Lennar Homes of Idaho, LLC proposes to develop a single-family residential subdivision on 80.3 acres immediately south of W. McMillan Road and west of N. Black Cat Road in an unincorporated area of Ada County near Meridian, Idaho. On January 18, 2025, Hallam Historical Consulting, LLC (HHC) conducted an architectural survey of the proposed project's Area of Potential Effects (APE). Along the northern edge of the APE, the proposed project involves realigning a contributing segment of the NRHP-eligible Lemp Canal (10AA6408) to an underground 60-inch reinforced concrete pipe, leading to HHC's recommended finding of Adverse Effects.

CERTIFICATION OF RESULTS

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



Signature of Principal Investigator

February 6, 2025

Date

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Project Description

Lennar Homes of Idaho, LLC proposes to develop a single-family residential subdivision on 80.3 acres immediately south of W. McMillan Road and west of N. Black Cat Road in an unincorporated area of Ada County near Meridian, Idaho. The proposed project involves realigning a segment of the Lemp Canal located along the northern edge of the APE to an underground 60-inch reinforced concrete pipe. This action requires a United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Section 404 Permit. Additionally, the project involves demolishing an abandoned remnant of the Creason Lateral (10AA6292) and demolishing farmsteads at 4375 W. McMillan Road (10AA7529) and 4023 W. McMillan Road. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires federal agencies to identify and assess the effects that their actions or involvement in projects may have on historic properties. The USACE determined that the proposed project's environmental conditions necessitated an architectural survey. Per the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards, identification of historic properties, evaluations of properties' eligibility for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and findings of effects on eligible historic properties must be made by a qualified professional. Lennar Homes of Idaho, LLC hired HHC for that purpose.

Project Area of Potential Effect (APE)

The APE (Figure 12) overlaps the proposed project's footprint, which includes 10 Ada County Assessor parcels: S0434223150, S0434212957, S0434212917, S0434212965, S0434212920, S0434212922, S0434212923, S0434212976, S0434212975, and S0434212971. The APE begins at the southeast corner of the N. Black Cat Road-W. McMillan Road intersection and proceeds 2,640 feet east along W. McMillan Road, 1,330 feet south, 2,640 feet west, and 1,330 feet north along N. Black Cat Road to the starting point.

Environmental Setting

The APE is situated in the Boise Valley of southwestern Idaho (Figure 12), a subcomponent of the Snake River Plain. The Snake River Plain formed roughly 12 million years ago when the Idaho Batholith and Owyhee Mountains stretched apart, creating a broad basin. Gradually the basin filled with a body of water called Lake Idaho. Between 2 and 4 million years ago, Lake Idaho burst through its northern barrier and drained to the Columbia River. Over time, the Boise River, which drained mountain ranges to the north and east, cut through sediments deposited by Lake Idaho, forming the Boise Valley's river-cut terraces, or benches, through a process called river entrenchment (BLM 2017). The APE is situated on the Meridian Bench above the Boise River, which flows 2 miles to the north.

The APE consists of farmland irrigated under the Lemp Canal. The easternmost 1,985 feet of the APE's northern edge fronts farmland opposite W. McMillan Road; the easternmost 334 feet of the APE's southern edge also fronts farmland. Otherwise, the APE is entirely surrounded by recent residential subdivisions. W. McMillan Road, a paved two-lane road with telephone and utility poles built along its southern shoulder, forms the APE's northern edge. N. Black Cat Road, a paved two-lane road with underground irrigation facilities built along its eastern shoulder, forms the APE's western edge (Figures 1-6).



Figure 1. APE Overview showing Lemp Canal (10AA6408), View East, 1/18/2025.



Figure 2. APE Overview showing McMillan Road W-Farmstead 4375 (10AA7529), View East, 1/18/2025.



Figure 3. APE Overview, View Southeast, 1/18/2025.



Figure 4. APE Overview showing Creason Lateral remnant (10AA6292), View South, 1/18/2025.



Figure 5. APE Overview, View Southwest, 1/18/2025.



Figure 6. APE Overview showing Lemp Canal (10AA6408), View West, 1/18/2025.

Cultural and Historic Context

For centuries, Native American groups including the Shoshone, Bannock, and Northern Paiute made the Boise Valley part of their traditional homelands. The region offered an abundance of fish and game, manageable winter temperatures, and ample forage for horses (Murphy 1960). Native American traditional patterns of life prevailed until the arrival of non-indigenous settlers in the early 1860s. After establishing Fort Hall Indian Reservation in 1868 and Duck Valley Reservation in 1877, the United States forcibly excluded the region's Native Americans from the Boise Valley.

During the early 1860s, gold and silver discoveries in the Boise Basin and Owyhee Mountains drew thousands of prospectors to southwestern Idaho. Mining rushes coincided with the Homestead Act of 1862, which made 160-acre tracts of unclaimed lands available to settlers. Eager to establish farms and ranches in the vicinity of mining districts where hay and grain fetched high prices, homesteaders filed claims on arable lands in the Boise Valley. Irrigation became the region's lifeblood. To compensate for low annual rainfall, settlers who established farms and ranches along the Boise River built ditches that diverted surface water to nearby fields. Beginning in the 1880s, larger capital-intensive irrigation projects such as the New York Canal, Phyllis Canal, Ridenbaugh Canal, and Settler's Ditch sent greater volumes of water farther into the Boise Valley's bench lands, reclaiming the high desert for farming (ISHS).

After 1900, responsibility for maintaining canals and supervising water deliveries in the Boise Valley fell to irrigation districts. The Settler's Irrigation District, established in 1904, acquired the Settler's Ditch and its laterals, including the Lemp Canal. Similarly, the Nampa and Meridian Irrigation District, established in 1904, acquired the Ridenbaugh Canal and its laterals, including the Creason Lateral (Stevens 2015). Irrigation in the vicinity of Meridian transformed the area's high desert landscape. By 1920, the Meridian area thrived as "a rich agricultural and fruit growing section of Ada County" that annually produced "several hundred carloads" of cheese along with other varieties of farmed goods and livestock (Hawley 1920:785).



Figure 7. Overview of the Baratza Subdivision APE in 1981.

Pre-Field Research

Previous Cultural Resources Studies

Previous cultural resources studies in the immediate vicinity of the APE include 2021/77, a 321-acre architectural survey conducted in 2020 that covered areas immediately south of the APE and resulted in the identification of 8 previously recorded resources: 4 farmsteads and 4 linear agricultural irrigation resources. 2018/203, a 2013 reconnaissance survey of 169 properties in the vicinity of Meridian, included an evaluation of McMillan Road W-Farmstead 4375 (10AA7529); the study found the property not eligible for listing in the NRHP. 2019/495, a 1989 reconnaissance survey of Ada County historic resources, did not identify any historic properties within the APE. Other previous cultural resources studies include thematic overviews of projectile points, freshwater crustaceans, and regional geological history.

Table 1: Previously Cultural Resources Studies

Survey Number	Year	Title	Author
2021/77	2020	Quenzer Farms Subdivision Cultural Assessment. Frontier Historical Consultants.	Gray, Dale M. & William P. Statham
2018/203	2013	Final Report: SH-16 - I-84 to SH-44 Mitigation. Prepared for Idaho Transportation Department. TAG Historical Research & Consulting.	TAG Historical Research & Consulting
2019/495	1989	Ada County Historic Resources: A Reconnaissance Survey. Prepared for Ada County Historic Preservation Commission.	Davis, Belinda and Barbara Perry Bauer
1998/963	1998	Freshwater Crustaceans as an Aboriginal Food Resource in the Northern Great Basin. In Journal of California and Great Basin Archaeology, Vol. 20, No. 1, pp. 72-87	Henrikson, Lael Suzann, Robert M. Yohe II, Margaret E. Newman, Mark Druss
1986/2	1986	Common Projectile Points of the Intermountain West. In Anthropology of the Desert West: Essays in Honor of J.D. Jennings.	Holmer, Richard N.
1963/3	1963	A Geologic History of the Snake River Country of Idaho. Idaho Historical Series, Number 8	Walker, Eugene H.

Expected Cultural Resources

Expected cultural resources within the APE include farmsteads and linear agricultural irrigation resources built after 1890, when capital-intensive irrigation projects began delivering irrigation water to the Boise Valley's bench lands.

Table 2: Previously Recorded Cultural Resources

Smithsonian Number	Site Name	NRHP Eligibility	Proximity to APE
10AA7529	McMillan Road W-Farmstead 4375	Not Eligible	Within APE
10AA6408	Lemp Canal	Eligible	Within APE
10AA6292	Creason Lateral	Eligible	Within APE
10AA1804	Lemp Canal Diversion	Not Eligible	Within APE

Consultation Summary

USACE will conduct the project's Section 106 consultation. That responsibility has not been delegated to HHC.

Field Methodology

Linnéa Hallam of HHC visited the Baratza Subdivision APE on January 18, 2025. Linnéa Hallam meets the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards for History and Architectural History; the Idaho SHPO has her current resume on file. HHC conducted an architectural survey of the APE to identify buildings and structures that exceed 45 years of age. After completing field work, HHC consulted published historical literature and online archival repositories. Using this research, HHC developed an historic context to provide a frame of reference for evaluating properties located within the APE.

Results

Within the APE, HHC identified 0 previously unrecorded resources and 4 previously recorded resources: 1 farmstead, 2 irrigation canals, and 1 irrigation structure. HHC also identified 1 farmstead built in 2001 that does not exceed 45 years of age. Resources within the APE correspond with the agricultural development of the Meridian area after 1890, when irrigation projects such as the Ridenbaugh Canal and Settler's Ditch began delivering irrigation water to Meridian's bench lands, resulting in an agricultural landscape of farms, ranches, fields, and orchards.

Table 3: Cultural Resources Within the APE

Smithsonian Number	Resource name/type/temporal designation	Individual NRHP Eligibility	District NRHP contributing/non-contributing status (if applicable)
1. 10AA7529	McMillan Road W-Farmstead 4375	Not Eligible	N/A
2. 10AA6408	Lemp Canal	Eligible	Contributing
3. 10AA6292	Creason Lateral	Eligible	Non-Contributing
4. 10AA1804	Lemp Canal Diversion	Not Eligible	N/A
5. N/A	Farmstead at 4023 W. McMillan Road	Does not exceed 45 years of age	N/A

10AA7529: McMillan Road W-Farmstead 4375

Resource No. 10AA7529, McMillan Road W-Farmstead 4375, is a farmstead with 7 features: (1) a 1946 house with clinker brick exterior, (2) a partially open wood-frame grain house, (3) a concrete silo, (4 and 5) two circular Butler metal grain bins, (6) a modern metal machine shed, and (7) a wood-frame outbuilding/shop. McMillan Road W-Farmstead 4375 was recorded in 2014 and found individually not eligible for inclusion in the NRHP. HHC revisited the resource on 1/18/2025 and found the site materially unchanged (Figure 8). The property remains not eligible for inclusion in the NRHP.



Figure 8. McMillan Road W-Farmstead 4375 in June 2014 (right) and January 2025 (left).

10AA6408: Lemp Canal

Resource No. 10AA6408, the Lemp Canal, is a linear agricultural irrigation resource that facilitates water deliveries for the Settler's Irrigation District. An open segment of the structure, located along the northern edge of the APE, measures approximately 20 feet wide and 8 feet deep with rounded earthen berms mounded up on the north and south sides of the structure's earthen canal bed (Figures 1 and 6). Another segment, located along the western edge of the APE, was demolished in late 2021 or early 2022 and realigned to an underground 60-inch reinforced concrete pipe (Figure 9).

The overall Lemp Canal resource was recorded in 2010 and found individually eligible for inclusion in the NRHP. The segment located along the northern edge of the APE contributes to the resource's overall eligibility. It remains an open canal in its original location, surrounded by irrigated farmland (Integrity of Location and Setting). The structure's earthen construction remains evident (integrity of Design, Materials, and Workmanship), and as an active water delivery structure it adequately conveys the aesthetic of an early-twentieth-century lateral canal associated with the development of an agricultural landscape in the Meridian area (Integrity of Feeling and Association).

The segment located along the western edge of the APE is not extant and does not contribute to the Lemp Canal's overall NRHP eligibility.



Figure 9. Lemp Canal in the northwest corner of the APE in September 2021 (left) and June 2022 (right).

10AA6292: Creason Lateral

Resource No. 10AA6292, the Creason Lateral, is a linear agricultural irrigation resource that facilitates water deliveries for the Nampa and Meridian Irrigation District. The segment within the APE, however, no longer facilitates water deliveries and presents a remnant of the original Creason Lateral. An open, earthen structure, the Creason Canal remnant has a rounded berm mounded up on the western side of its canal bed; the berm on the eastern side of the bed is non-extant (Figure 4). Thick brush obscures much of the resource. Elsewhere in the APE, where the Creason Lateral historical paralleled W. McMillan Road and the Lemp Canal, the resource is not extant. Realignment of the Creason Lateral

within the APE occurred in late 2021 or early 2022 (Figure 10). It now flows through an underground 48-inch reinforced concrete pipe located along the southern and western edges of the APE.

The overall Creason Lateral resource has been previously recorded on multiple occasions and found individually eligible for inclusion in the NRHP. The remnant located within the APE, however, does not contribute to the resource's overall eligibility. It was abandoned by the Nampa and Meridian Irrigation District in late 2021 or early 2022 and realigned along the southern and western edges of the APE in an underground 48-inch reinforced concrete pipe. The Creason Lateral remnant that bisects the APE's interior remains partially extant, although the berm on the eastern side of the canal bed is not extant (Figure 4). On the northern edge of the APE, where the Creason Lateral historical paralleled W. McMillan Road, the structure is not extant.

Although the Creason Lateral remnant that bisects the APE's interior remains in its original location surrounded by irrigated farmland (Integrity of Location and Setting), the structure lacks sufficient integrity of Design, Materials, Workmanship, Feeling, and Association to convey the Creason Lateral's significance achieved during its period of significance (1914-1970), making it a non-contributor to the overall NRHP-eligible Creason Lateral resource.



Figure 10. Creason Lateral in the northwest corner of the APE in September 2021 (top) and May 2022 (bottom).

10AA1804: Lemp Canal Diversion

Resource No. 10AA1804, Lemp Canal Diversion, is a Nampa and Meridian Irrigation District structure that historically facilitated the intersection of Lemp Canal and Creason Lateral. HHC revisited the resource on 1/18/2025 and found it not extant. The resource was demolished in late 2021 or early 2022 (Figure 11).



Figure 11. Creason Lateral Diversion Structure in September 2021 (left) and June 2022 (right).

Management Recommendations

Lennar Homes of Idaho, LLC proposes to develop a single-family residential subdivision on 80.3 acres immediately south of W. McMillan Road and west of N. Black Cat Road in an unincorporated area of Ada County near Meridian, Idaho. The proposed project involves realigning a contributing segment of the NRHP-eligible Lemp Canal (10AA6408) to an underground 60-inch reinforced concrete pipe. Additionally, the project involves demolishing a non-contributing remnant of the NRHP-eligible Creason Lateral (10AA6292), demolishing a non-eligible farmstead at 4375 W. McMillan Road (10AA7529), and demolishing a farmstead at 4023 W McMillan Road that does not exceed 45 years of age.

Determination of Effects

Due to the proposed realignment of a contributing segment of the NRHP-eligible Lemp Canal (10AA6408), HHC recommends a determination of Adverse Effect.

Avoidance, Minimization, or Mitigation Options

Considering the low likelihood of project modifications or avoidance, HHC recommends that the USACE, the Idaho SHPO, and other interested parties formalize mitigation measures through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).

Conclusions

Lennar Homes of Idaho, LLC proposes to develop a single-family residential subdivision on 80.3 acres immediately south of W. McMillan Road and west of N. Black Cat Road in an unincorporated area of Ada County near Meridian, Idaho. On January 18, 2025, HHC conducted an architectural survey of the APE and identified 3 previously recorded resources within the APE: McMillan Road W-

Farmstead 4375 (10AA7529), an extant farmstead; Lemp Canal (10AA6408), a partially extant linear agricultural irrigation resource; and Creason Lateral (10AA6292), a partially extant linear agricultural irrigation resource. A fourth previously recorded resource, the Lemp Canal Diversion (10AA1804), was not extant. Additionally, HHC identified 1 resource that does not exceed 45 years of age, a farmstead at 4023 W. McMillan Road, built in 2001. The proposed project involves realigning a contributing segment of the NRHP-eligible Lemp Canal to an underground 60-inch reinforced concrete pipe, leading to HHC's recommended determination of Adverse Effect. HHC holds the survey project notes and original photographs derived from the architectural survey.

References

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Appendix A: Maps

Project Location and Area of Potential Effects

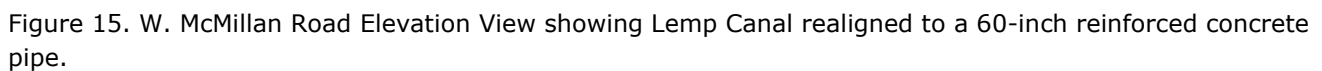
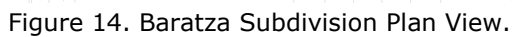


Figure 12. Project Location and Area of Potential Effects, *USGS, Star 1953 (1976)*.

Resources and Photo Key



Figure 13. Resources and Photo Key.



Appendix C: Consultation Letters

USACE will conduct the project's Section 106 consultation. That responsibility has not been delegated to HHC.

Appendix E: Resumes

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., History, Arizona State University, 2017.

M.A., History, Arizona State University, 2009.

B.A., International Studies, University of Arizona, 2005.

EXPERIENCE

Hallam Historical Consulting, LLC, Boise, ID.

Principal, 2021-current.

PUBLICATIONS

Becoming 'America's Pompeii': A Historic Resource Study of Casa Grande Ruins National Monument, 1539-1918. National Park Service, 2013.

The National Trails System: A Grand Experiment. With Steve Elkinton and Janelle Hoeflschweiger. National Park Service, 2008.

RECENT PROJECTS

2025. "Southwestern National Monuments Administrative History." Prepared for the National Park Service and the National Council on Public History.

2024. "National Register Nomination: Sunnyside School, Washington County, Idaho." Prepared for the Washington County Historic Preservation Commission.

2023. "Meadow Creek and Boulder Creek: An Owyhee Ranching History." An article-length history of ranching properties in Owyhee County, Idaho. Prepared for a private property owner.

2021. "Roads, Ranching, Wilderness: A History of Willow Creek." An article-length history of Willow Creek in Camas County, Idaho. Prepared for a private property owner.