



# IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CECIL D. ANDRUS, Governor

Dr. David L. Crowder  
Director  
210 Main St.  
Boise, Idaho 83702  
208-334-3890

5-31-90

Archaeology  
210 Main St.  
Boise, Idaho 83702  
208-334-3847

Mr. Lee Dillion  
Boise Planning and Zoning Commission  
150 N. Capital Blvd  
Boise, Idaho

Education  
610 N. Julia Davis Dr.  
Boise, Idaho 83702  
208-334-2120

Dear Mr. Dillion:

Genealogical Library  
610 N. Julia Davis Dr.  
Boise, Idaho 83702  
208-334-2305

The purpose of this letter is to alert the Boise Planning and Zoning Commission that the Castle Rock area is the location of an Indian burial site. This site was well known to late nineteenth and early twentieth century Boise residents.

Historic Preservation  
210 Main St.  
Boise, Idaho 83702  
208-334-3847, 3861

In 1893 the Idaho Statesman reported that convicts working in the stone quarries above the penitentiary had uncovered a number of human bones. This area is on the ridge just to the east of Castle Rock. The same article quotes I.N. Costin, a Boise resident at the time, and unidentified "old timers" as saying that it was common knowledge that Indians were buried on the hillsides near the penitentiary.

Library and Archives  
610 N. Julia Davis Dr.  
Boise, Idaho 83702  
208-334-3356

Since that time there have been references to other localities both east and west of Castle Rock where Indian graves have been found. In one area west of Castle Rock dirt was placed over a grave to protect it. We have reports of other areas west of Castle Rock where grave robbers dug up graves and stole items that were buried with the dead.

Museum  
610 N. Julia Davis Dr.  
Boise, Idaho 83702  
208-334-2120

Because of this information, the site was recorded in 1976 as site number 10-AA-102 in the Idaho Archaeological Survey records. However, I want to stress that you can not walk up on the hill and see graves. The graves are old and are not marked, and the vegetation and dirt has changed over the years.

Old Idaho Penitentiary  
2445 Old Penitentiary Rd.  
Boise, Idaho 83712  
208-334-2844

Oral History  
210 Main St.  
Boise, Idaho 83702  
208-334-3863

Publications  
610 N. Julia Davis Dr.  
Boise, Idaho 83702  
208-334-3428

I also want to mention that the site is more than an archaeological site and more than a burial site. It is also



a sacred site to the decedents of the people who are buried there. While the Boise Valley Shoshone peoples are now located at Fort Hall and at Duck Valley the site still has importance to them.

In 1984 the Idaho Legislature passed the Idaho Unmarked Grave Act (Idaho Code, 27-501 to 27-504). The purpose of the act is to protect unmarked graves, both Indian and non-Indian, from grave robbers. It has not been used to stop development. However, the law states quite clearly that the willful destruction of unmarked graves is prohibited.

Because of the unmarked graves and the sacred nature of Castle Rock, I do not think the subdivision should be permitted. However, if it is, a great deal of work needs to be done to find and relocate the people who are buried there.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas J. Green". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Thomas J. Green  
State Archaeologist