

MINIDOKA RELOCATION CENTER WAREHOUSE
(American Falls Reservoir District Warehouse)
111 South Fir Street
Shoshone
Lincoln County
Idaho

HABS ID-131
ID-131

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY
MINIDOKA RELOCATION CENTER WAREHOUSE
HABS NO. ID-131

Location: 111 South Fir Street, Shoshone, Idaho, in Lincoln County, T 6 S, R 17 E, Section 2. The site is south of State Highway 26 at the west end of town.

Date of Construction: 1942

Architect/Engineer: War Relocation Authority

Builder: Morrison-Knudsen Company (now named Washington Group International), Boise, Idaho

Present Owner: United States Bureau of Reclamation

Present Use: Warehouse and shop for American Falls Reservoir District No. 2

Significance: This warehouse was one of six hundred buildings constructed at the Minidoka Relocation Center for the internment of people of Japanese descent after the bombing of Pearl Harbor brought the United States into World War II. Thousands of Japanese-American citizens and other Japanese people were forced to leave their homes, jobs, and towns and move to one of several hastily built centers to isolate them and prevent any potential collaboration with the enemy.

The Minidoka camp included a variety of building types: residential, communal, administrative, service, and agricultural. One of several warehouses, this and most all other buildings at the camp were demolished or moved from their original locations after the war. The site was then divided into small farm parcels and distributed to war veterans.

Since then, the National Park Service has acquired and designated part of the site as the Minidoka Internment National Monument. Although this warehouse was moved from the site and altered, it is an extant remnant of the camp. Its significance lies in the historical fact of the internment camps, where citizens were unjustly "convicted" without due process solely due to their race. Most Americans regard this as a shameful episode to be remembered so that it never happens again. The warehouse is significant as an instrument of this remembrance.

Report prepared by: Susan M. Stacy
1718 North 17th Street
Boise, Idaho 83702

Date: October 31, 2005

Minidoka Relocation Center Warehouse
HABS No. ID-131
Historical and Descriptive Data (Page 2)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Part 1	Introduction	Page 3
Part 2	Construction of Minidoka Relocation Center	Page 7
Part 3	The AFRD Warehouse	Page 10
Part 4	Conclusion	Page 19
Appendix A	Vicinity Map	Page 21
Appendix B	Photo Key Map	Page 22
Appendix C	Warehouse Numbers and Uses	Page 23
	Bibliography	Page 24

ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1	Plan of Minidoka Relocation Center	Page 6
Figure 2	Cabinet Makers Warehouse	Page 11
Figure 3	Motor Shop	Page 11
Figure 4	Construction and Maintenance Unit	Page 12
Figure 5	Motor Pool	Page 12
Figure 6	Property Office and Receiving Warehouse	Page 13
Figure 7	Construction and Maintenance Crew	Page 13
Figure 8	Irrigation and Highway Field Office	Page 14
Figure 9	Warehouse Foundation and Stem Wall	Page 15
Figure 10	Post and Beam Structure	Page 17
Figure 11	Sketch of warehouse	Page 23

Minidoka Relocation Center Warehouse
HABS No. ID-131
Historical and Descriptive Data (Page 3)

PART ONE
INTRODUCTION

After Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the United States declared war on Japan. For security purposes, the government also declared that all naturalized Japanese citizens and other Japanese persons then residing in the United States were a security threat because they could potentially "sabotage" American efforts to defeat Japan and win the war. On February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which effectively destroyed the lives of thousands of Japanese-Americans by relocating them to one of ten internment camps situated throughout the United States.

In March 1942, Lieutenant General John L. DeWitt of the United States Army began to carry out the president's order. A man later characterized by at least one historian as having "hysterical prejudices" against non-Caucasian Americans, DeWitt organized ten holding camps, called relocation centers, for Japanese people residing on the west coast.¹ One of these was at a remote site in south-central Idaho, fifteen miles north of Twin Falls and fifteen miles east of Jerome. Later in March, Executive Order 9102 created the War Relocation Authority, a civilian agency that implemented military orders to remove Japanese people from designated areas.

The Minidoka Relocation Center (MRC), also called Hunt, or "the Hunt Site," after its U.S. Post Office designation, encompassed 33,500 acres in Jerome County. The internees came chiefly from Oregon, Washington, and California. As many as 13,000 Japanese spent all or part of World War II at this place, although the peak population at any one time may have been about 9400 people.²

¹ Jeffery F. Burton, et al, *Confinement and Ethnicity: An Overview of World War II Japanese American Relocation Sites*, (Tucson, Arizona: Western Archeological and Conservation Center, Publications in Anthropology No. 74, 1999, revised July 2000), Chapters 1, 9. Found as an on-line book at www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/anthropology74/index.htm in May 2005.

² Sources differ as to total and peak population. Information provided by the Japanese American National Museum on its information page for the "Civil Liberties Archives and Study Center," reports the peak population at 9397 on March 1, 1943. See www.janm.org/clasc, "The Camps," Minidoka. Burton, et al, *Confinement and Ethnicity*, Chapter 9, page ce9, report a figure of 7,318.

Minidoka Relocation Center Warehouse
HABS No. ID-131
Historical and Descriptive Data (Page 4)

The Army contracted the Morrison-Knudsen Company to build the MRC. The work began on June 5, 1942, and the first internees arrived on August 10, 1942. The center continued in operation until October 28, 1945.³ Morrison-Knudsen built over six hundred buildings at the MRC, providing all of the functional spaces necessary to make the camp an independently operated unit within a security fence enclosure.

The MRC site plan shows how the residential, administrative, central service, and other areas were disposed. The "warehouse area" was in the southwest section of the site, accessible by road a short distance east of the main administrative area. This arrangement kept delivery trucks from passing through residential and other communal areas.

After the war, the War Relocation Authority transferred the land and buildings to the Bureau of Reclamation. Buildings were demolished or moved. The warehouse that is the subject of this report remained at the MRC site until 1952, when the Bureau permitted the American Falls Reservoir District No. 2 (AFRD) to move it to its shop area in Shoshone, Idaho. The Bureau retained title. The AFRD altered the building for use as a warehouse and mechanics shop and has used it continuously for those purposes since 1952.

Two subsequent federal initiatives have impacted the building. The first began in 1993, when Vice President Al Gore inaugurated the National Performance Review, an effort to "reinvent" federal government by making it one that "works better and costs less."⁴ The Bureau of Reclamation undertook a program to transfer title of facilities which it held and which could be managed competently by non-federal entities, provided that the facilities were not nationally important.

In the case of this MRC warehouse, the Bureau has concluded that the AFRD, a private irrigation district with headquarters in Shoshone, Idaho, possesses the required qualifications, is willing and able to fulfill legal obligations associated with ownership, and is a good candidate for title transfer. If the proposal favoring the AFRD is carried out, the Bureau will transfer all right, title and interest in the warehouse building (and certain other lands and irrigation facilities) to AFRD.

³ Burton, page ce9.

⁴ News release, "Your Toolkit to Help Reinvent Government," October 27, 1994, from office of National Performance Review. Copy found at www.interesting-people.org/archives/interesting-people/199410/msg00066.html.

Minidoka Relocation Center Warehouse
HABS No. ID-131
Historical and Descriptive Data (Page 5)

The AFRD Warehouse has been determined to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places based on its association with the MRC and the internment of Japanese-descent people during World War II, a place and event of substantial national importance in the history of the United States (National Register Criterion A). As a representative sample of "internment camp architecture" during the war, it has been argued that the property also represents a distinct architectural style (National Register Criterion C).

Secondly, in collaboration with the National Park Service (NPS), the Bureau of Reclamation reserved 72.75 acres of the former MRC as a national monument in 2001, "the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the structures and objects to be protected."⁵ The Bureau transferred the land to the NPS, which named it the Minidoka Internment National Monument. The monument commemorates the people whom the government forced to live there during the war. This perpetual memorial bestows added importance to extant buildings, such as the AFRD warehouse, once located at the site.

Because of the warehouse's several claims to historic significance, the Bureau has agreed to mitigate the potentially adverse effect of title transfer before the building leaves federal ownership. The Bureau carried out its Section 106 responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act by consulting with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the Northwest Regional Office of the National Park Service. All parties agreed that suitable mitigation would be accomplished by the preparation of a Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS).⁶

⁵ White House Press Release, "Establishment of the Minidoka Internment National Monument," January 17, 2001, Washington, D.C. Copy found at <http://clinton6.nara.gov/2001/01/-17-proclamation-on-minidoka-internment-national-monument.html>. See also U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service, *Report to the President: Japanese-American Internment Sites Preservation, Minidoka Relocation Center Idaho*, January 2001. Copy found in 2005 at http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/internment/reporta6.htm.

⁶ "Memorandum of Agreement: Transfer of Title of Reclamation Interests in Selected Irrigation Facilities and Lands to American Falls Reservoir District No. 2," signed in October, 2004, by Jerrold Gregg, Bureau of Reclamation, Snake River Office, and Susan Neitzel, Idaho State Historic Preservation Office.

Minidoka Relocation Center Warehouse
HABS No. ID-131
Historical and Descriptive Data (Page 6)

Pursuant to this agreement, this HABS report includes a current description of the building; recent large-format, 4x6-inch prints and negatives documenting the interior and exterior of the warehouse, organized, prepared, and captioned to meet HABS Photo Index standards; and a brief explanation of its connection to the MRC. The Bureau searched for historic images of the

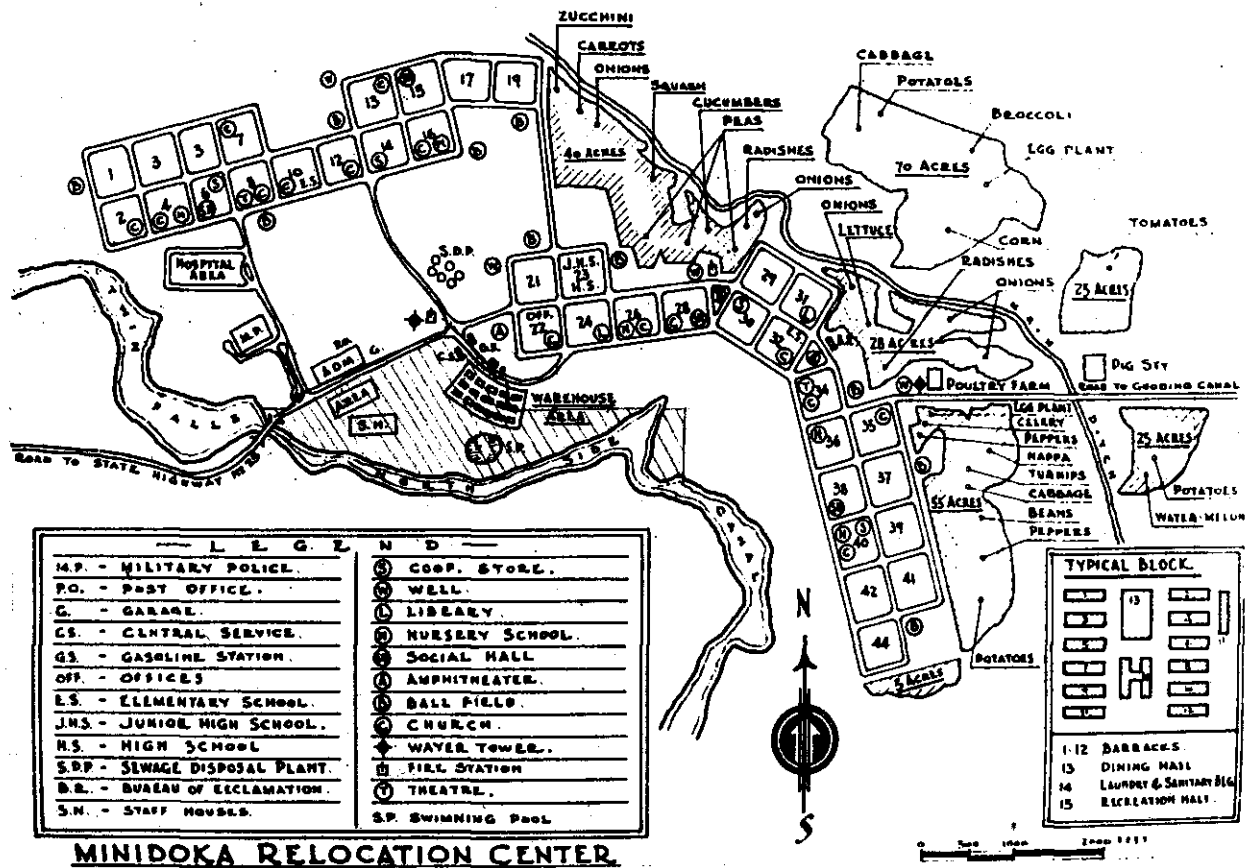


Figure 1. Minidoka Relocation Center. "Warehouse Area" is east of Administration Area near access road entering the site from State Highway 25 across the bridge over the Twin Falls North Side Canal. Source: Minidoka Irrigator "Welcome Issue," September 25, 1943, second edition, page 3.

Minidoka Relocation Center Warehouse
HABS No. ID-131
Historical and Descriptive Data (Page 7)

warehouse prior to its removal from the MRC, but the researcher, John Martinson of the Bureau's Snake River Area Office, was unable to connect the warehouse definitively with its specific location, number, or function at the camp. Nevertheless, historic images of the camp have been selected to illustrate the narrative report. I am pleased to acknowledge Mr. Martinson's substantial research in locating these images (all of which are in the public domain or published with permission), collecting other sources and information, and preparing a preliminary draft of the report.

PART TWO
BUILDING THE MINIDOKA RELOCATION CENTER

After President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 in February 1942, the plan to remove Japanese people from designated coastal regions proceeded with considerable dispatch. The U.S. Army contracted the Morrison-Knudsen Company, Inc., of Boise, Idaho, to build what the company referred to as an "Evacuee Reception Center" about fifteen miles from Jerome, Idaho. Earlier in 1942, the company already had built (with its joint venture partner, the Ford J. Twaits Company) the Tule Lake Japanese Evacuee Reception Center in northern California. This project had obliged the company to "spend \$3,500,000 in thirty days" and erect 1,439 buildings, a daunting task. In its May 1942 employee magazine, *Em Kayan*, the editor wrote that the details of the contract were "still unknown, but work has started."⁷

To accomplish the Tule Lake project on time, the company imported "new methods now employed in the shipyards," where M-K and other companies were turning out warships with unprecedented speed. Using assembly-line techniques, the company had set up a "mammoth mill" at Tule Lake, consisting of two rows of sixteen power bandsaws separated by a loading road. The lumber, 22,500,000 feet of it, left the mill pre-cut to the required length. It went to assembly platforms where it was made into pre-fabricated sections as roof trusses, gable ends, door bucks, window opening layouts, studs and blockings. Each unit was marked and sent to its proper section of the square-mile camp. Buildings went up in a work flow described as "placing first things first, second things second, etc:"

The surveyors staked and squared the corners of all buildings. Came then the plumbers and concrete men, and before their shirttails had flapped to the next building the assembled material was on the ground ready to be raised into

⁷ "It Can't Must be Done!!", *Em Kayan* (May 1942), p. 15.

Minidoka Relocation Center Warehouse
HABS No. ID-131
Historical and Descriptive Data (Page 8)

place. From then on it was a matter of "Hammer hard, brother -- but fast."⁸

After the Tule Lake experience, the company was well rehearsed as it undertook to build the Minidoka Relocation Center in June 1942.⁹ This time, the project required only six hundred buildings, but the company told its employees of the challenges brought about by difficult conditions and a difficult client. General DeWitt had...

"...deemed it essential from a military standpoint to lop off thirty days of the allotted time for building the project, and at the present writing the Japanese evacuees are arriving in groups of six hundred to begin their duration occupation of buildings almost before the last workmen leave them."¹⁰

At Tule Lake, the builders had faced "snow, freezing weather, rain, hail, wind."¹¹ This time, the setting offered "avalanches of lava rock, floating down through oceans of dust." The basaltic veneer lying over the desert required continuous blasting for utility trenches, which progressed "foot by foot."¹² Blasting and construction both proceeded at the same time in the same area. Trucks hauled all of the materials for the project from Eden, a village eight miles away, to which M-K had built the access road. This in turn required "a fleet of tank trucks employed day and night to keep the volcanic ash dust sufficiently under control to permit rapid hauling."¹³

As the project began, it had received a procurement classification that the company thought would be adequate, but as the summer progressed, other defense projects with higher priorities demanded the materials that had been called for in the Minidoka specifications. Then followed "begging, pleading,

⁸ "Keep 'Em Together," *Em Kayan* (July 1942), p. 14.

⁹ "Thousands housed at desert relocation camp," *North Side News 75th Anniversary Edition*, August 5, 1982, p. 54-55.

¹⁰ "Eden...without the Garden," *Em Kayan* (September 1942), p. 3.

¹¹ "Keep 'Em Together," p. 14.

¹² "An Idaho Town 'Goes to Town,'" *Em Kayan* (September 1942), p. 2, photo caption.

¹³ "Eden...without the Garden," p. 3.

Minidoka Relocation Center Warehouse
HABS No. ID-131
Historical and Descriptive Data (Page 9)

cajoling, and threatening which went on twenty-four hours a day over long distance telephones" to suppliers who were asked to be miracle men and "supply material which they didn't have."¹⁴ It should be no surprise that the six hundred buildings at the MRC had mostly tarpaper siding, insufficient drainage, and regimented building arrangements in identical patterns. Many buildings, such as the school barracks, were not ready for occupancy, and contained no furnishings when the internees arrived.¹⁵

The company employed the same "shipyard" methods as at Tule Lake. It set up a large mill and lumber yard and prefabricated wall sections, roof trusses, gable ends, and other assemblies. Piping and plumbing materials were stockpiled for installation, although this was not an orderly process due to the shortage of certain parts and fittings. Crews worked in progressive units to assemble the various blocks of buildings.¹⁶

Among the support buildings at the MRC were twenty-two buildings in the warehouse area.¹⁷ During the occupation, each was numbered. The buildings were used variously as receiving warehouses, for refrigerated and other storage, automotive and craft shops, or as a "co-op" warehouse. See Appendix C for a list of known warehouse building numbers and their specific use.

The successor to Morrison-Knudsen, Washington Group International, asserts that it no longer possesses any plans, photographs, blue prints or construction designs of the buildings.¹⁸ Searches in the National Archives, university libraries, National Park Service records, and other sources did not yield construction photographs or engineering/architectural drawings detailing the Minidoka warehouses.¹⁹

¹⁴"Eden...without the Garden," p. 3.

¹⁵"Thousands housed at desert relocation camp," p. 54-55.

¹⁶See photo captions in "An Idaho Town 'Goes to Town,'" and "Eden...without the Garden," in *Em Kayan* (September 1942), pages 2 and 3.

¹⁷"Thousands housed at desert relocation camp," p. 54-55.

¹⁸Ron Hunt, Washington Group International (MK), Boise, Idaho, personal communication with John Martinson, September 2004.

¹⁹War Relocation Authority photographs were deposited at the Bancroft Library, Berkeley, California, and digitized. See <http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/collections/jarda.html>.

Minidoka Relocation Center Warehouse
HABS No. ID-131
Historical and Descriptive Data (Page 10)

PART THREE
THE AFRD WAREHOUSE

When the war ended, the War Relocation Authority closed the MRC, turning its attention to the "resettlement" of the inmates. The military police left on September 14, 1945, and the camp closed on October 28, 1945.²⁰ Most of its buildings were demolished or removed. The acreage was divided into small farm plots for World War II veterans in a public land drawing. Each veteran received two of the residential barracks. The first 43 farm plots were distributed in 1947 and another 46 in 1949. The first veterans group lived in Block 30 of the relocation center until they could move their barracks to their own farms.²¹

Other buildings, such as the AFRD warehouse, eventually were moved from the site. Unfortunately, neither the government nor other entity inventoried them as they were relinquished to veterans, private non-profit groups, local communities, and other federal agencies. In 2005, only two structures remain at their original locations: Firehouse No. 1, now used as a barn, and an abandoned root cellar, reportedly in danger of collapsing.²²

Few other ruins are extant. Six acres of land at the entrance of the MRC were dedicated as a historic site on August 18, 1979.²³ The parcel includes standing basalt and concrete walls of the former guard house and waiting room, and a small area across from the guard house that was once an ornamental garden. Nearby, the AFRD owns another of the warehouses. The Bureau of Reclamation, the Japanese American Citizens League, and the State of Idaho erected historical markers and maps to interpret and memorialize the site.

Despite the paucity of warehouse construction documents, several of the Minidoka warehouses appear in *Minidoka Irrigator* (newspaper) photographs as backdrops in posed groupings of people

²⁰ See "Chronology" at www.jamn.org, "Civil Liberties and Archives Study Center." "Thousands housed at desert relocation camp," p. 54-55, reports that the last internees departed on October 23, 1945.

²¹ Burton, et al, *Confinement and Ethnicity*, Chapter 9, page ce9b.

²² Burton, et al, *Confinement and Ethnicity*, Chapter 9, page ce9c.

²³ See photos 79-5.418/c,d, Duane Garrett photo, at Idaho Historical Society Library and Archives, Boise, Idaho.

Minidoka Relocation Center Warehouse
HABS No. ID-131
Historical and Descriptive Data (Page 11)



Figure 2. People in this picture were identified and compared with a list of "cabinet makers" published in *Minidoka Interlude*. This warehouse may have been the Cabinet Makers Warehouse or Shop Warehouse. Note tarpaper-covered exterior walls, nine-pane windows in a bank of three, and glazed sliding door. Source: University of Washington Libraries, Special Collection, UW 13975.



Figure 3. Man in front row, right, wears mechanic's uniform. The building perhaps was Garage or Motor Repair and Tire Shop. Source: University of Washington Libraries, Special Collection, UW 11505.

Minidoka Relocation Center Warehouse
HABS No. ID-131
Historical and Descriptive Data (Page 12)



Figure 4. The Construction Maintenance Unit in front of its warehouse. Sliding doors are in closed position. Source: University of Washington Libraries, Special Collection, UW 11327.



Figure 5. The Motor Pool, probably in front of the Motor Repair Shop Warehouse. Man seated at left end holds an oil can. Two other men seated at right wear mechanic's uniforms. Sliding doors are in open position. Source: University of Washington Libraries, Special Collection, UW 11329.

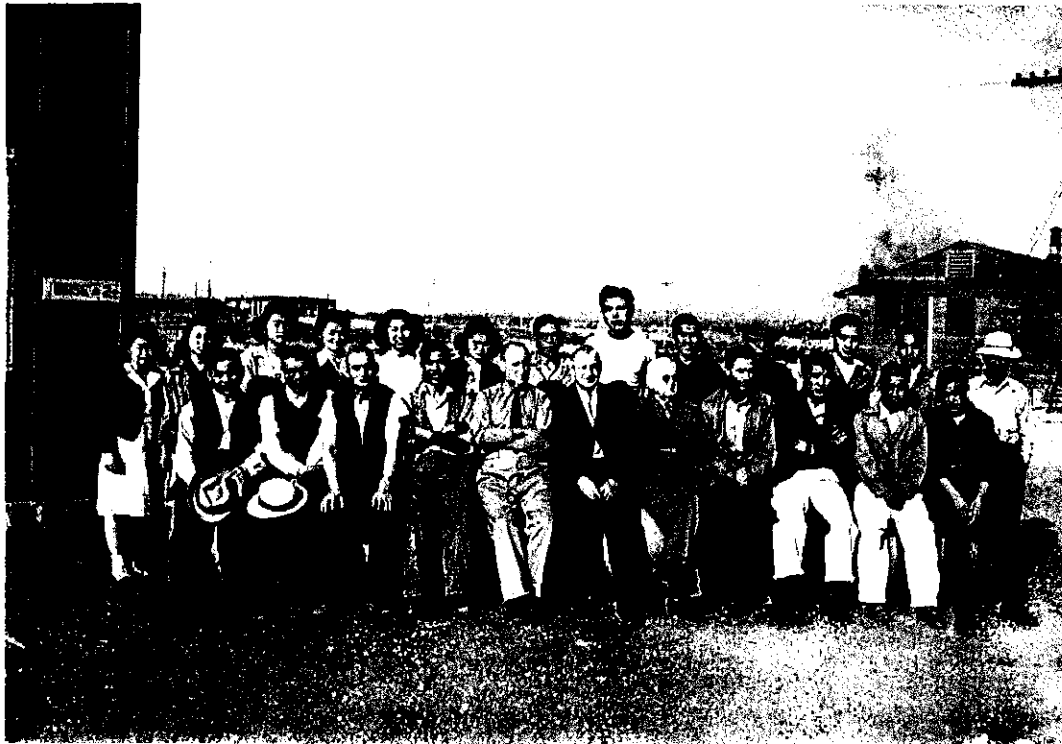


Figure 6. "WHSE No. 2" was the Property Office and Receiving Warehouse. Electric power lines run toward rear of the warehouse. All the warehouses were most likely equipped with electricity. Building at right is residential barracks. Source: University of Washington Libraries, Special Collection, UW 13971.



Figure 7. The Construction Maintenance Crew. A shroud covers the slide rail of the closed double door. Possible storage loft in view inside upper window. Source: University of Washington Libraries, Special Collection, UW 13977.



Figure 8. The sign identifies this warehouse as the "Irrigation and Highway Field Office, Public Works Div. Only." Note low angle of roof gable, two sliding door sets on the gable end wall, and the (open) glazed personnel door at the left. *Source: University of Washington Libraries, Special Collection, UW 13966.*

Minidoka Relocation Center Warehouse
HABS No. ID-131
Historical and Descriptive Data (Page 15)

associated with them. They illustrate features such as window and door design, height, and roof shapes that were common to most of the warehouses. Signs on some buildings or captions accompanying the photographs enabled Mr. Martinson to identify certain warehouse buildings and their functions, although not their precise locations. Figures 2 through 8, reproduced in this report from digitized images, illustrate such architectural details.²⁴

The AFRD Warehouse is located in Shoshone, Idaho. A now-retired employee of the AFRD, Dwain Stirton of Richfield, Idaho, recalls that the AFRD moved the building to its present location in 1952. The long building was moved in three separate units and then reassembled. The AFRD covered the tarpaper siding, affixed sheet-rock to the interior walls, improved the bathroom, updated the electrical system and heating units, and made several other alterations. It roofed the building with asphalt shingles, and in 1997 covered this material with a corrugated metal roof. It has not been moved since 1952 and has functioned continuously as a mechanics shop and warehouse.²⁵



Figure 9. Original warehouse foundation at MRC. Wood frame was bolted to six-inch stem wall. Source: Burton, page ce9c, with permission.

²⁴Figures 2 through 8 originally appeared in the *Minidoka Irrigator*, the newspaper published by Minidoka internees. The University of Washington Library now possesses the negatives in its Special Collection Division, Social Issues Collection (SOC). The images have been digitized, viewable at www.lib.washington.edu/specialcoll, "Digital Collections," "Social Issues Photographs," and "Minidoka." Each image has an SOC number and a UW negative number. They are reproduced here by permission.

²⁵Dwain Stirton, personal communication with John Martinson, October 1, 2004.

Minidoka Relocation Center Warehouse
HABS No. ID-131
Historical and Descriptive Data (Page 16)

Original Features of the Warehouse at the MRC

As it stood amongst its cadre of similar warehouses at Minidoka, the AFRD Warehouse rested on a concrete slab foundation and a six-inch stem wall. It had a concrete floor. The wood frame structure was secured to the stem wall with nuts and bolts still visible at the site.²⁶ The roof was asphalt shingle.

The frame is of standard dimension lumber fastened together with machine-made nails. This frame was covered with tar-paper and had no insulation. Mr. Martinson determined this by examining the interior of the building in 2005, where he observed holes in the sheetrock now covering the interior walls and ceiling, and verified the absence of any insulating material between it and the tar-paper. Unfortunately, the sheetrock conceals any graffiti, signs, or other marks that might help determine its precise usage and function at the MRC.

Most of the extant warehouse foundations at the MRC measure 48 feet by 112 feet, which conforms to the current dimensions of the AFRD Warehouse, strong evidence that it exists in its original size and that, as Mr. Stirton recalls, it was not reduced upon its reassembly in Shoshone.²⁷

Site maps and foundation remains at the MRC show that many, but not all of, the warehouses were oriented with their long axes lying approximately east-west. However, some were angled, so it is not possible to be sure of this warehouse's original orientation. The framing members along the outer walls were about 18.6 feet apart. Two rows of five interior posts supported the roof beams. This arrangement created six east/west structural bays and three north/south bays.

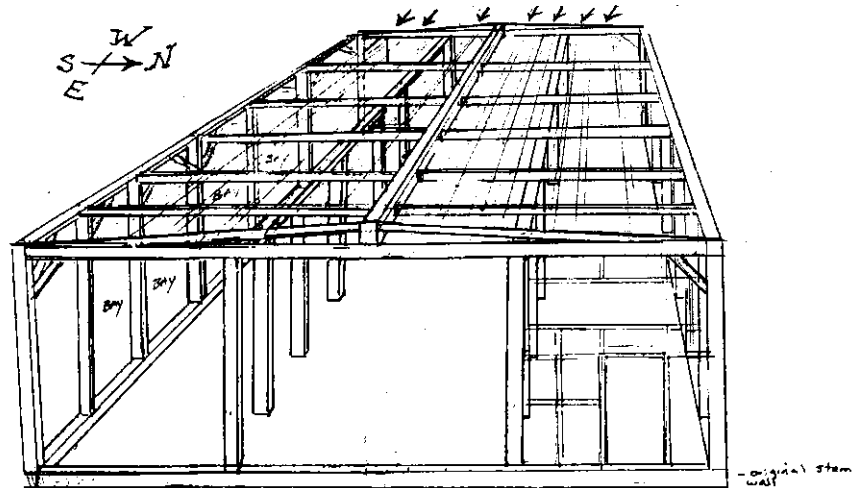
The warehouse had a nearly-flat roof, its center east/west beam forming a ridge line slightly elevated (about one foot higher than the eaves) to allow for roof drainage to either side and giving an appearance of a very low-angle gable. Photographs from the 1940s show that the warehouses had no rain gutters or any other visible means of directing water or snow melt.

Photographs show two types of doors. Personnel doors were wood frame, glazed, and single width, painted a light color, perhaps white. Double-width sliding warehouse doors also were wood frame, glazed, and light colored. Each half had two sets of

²⁶Burton, et al, *Confinement and Ethnicity*, Chapter 9, page ce9c2.htm.

²⁷Jeff Burton, personal communication with John Martinson, October 1, 2004.

eight-pane windows, arranged 4-over-4. The bottom half of these doors were made of horizontal wood boards and braced on the outside with one diagonal board. The overhead sliding rails for the doors were weather-protected by a modest cover, which projected from the tar-paper wall a few inches. The cover material is wood covered with tar-paper.



Windows, wood-framed, are seen at two elevations in the warehouses. Nine-pane windows in banks of three were at a loft or upper level, their tops at the same elevation as the top of the sliding doors. At least one photograph shows similar nine-pane windows at a lower level in either a double or triple bank. The AFRD warehouse has no lower-level windows.

Figure 10. Sketch shows main post and beam structure of AFRD Warehouse.
Source: John Martinson, with permission.

The tar-paper siding was nailed to horizontal framing members. Vertical wood strips, apparently unpainted and similar in appearance to furring strips, were then affixed at regular distances about three feet apart.

The available 1940s photographs do not show interiors. However, roof fixtures indicate the presence of heating stoves and bathrooms. The occupants of some warehouses may have built lofts and other interior partitions. The warehouse operated by the AFRD near the Hunt site, contains a pot-bellied stove believed to have been original with the building.²⁸

The AFRD Warehouse in Shoshone, Idaho, 2005

The post-Minidoka setting for the AFRD Warehouse is a flat

²⁸Jeff Burton and Mary M. Farrell, *This is Minidoka: An Archaeological Survey of Minidoka Internment National Monument, Idaho*, Publications in Anthropology 80 (Tucson: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1980), p. 71-72.

Minidoka Relocation Center Warehouse
HABS No. ID-131
Historical and Descriptive Data (Page 18)

two-acre parcel on South Fir Street in Shoshone. Two other south-facing buildings are nearby. One is an open-faced equipment storage shed about 75 feet southeast of the Warehouse. The other is the main shop, about 25 east of the Warehouse, with a concrete apron in front of the working-bay openings. A chain link fence, six feet high, identifies the north and west edges of the property. The fence on the south side is four feet high, woven wire. The property along its border belongs to the Idaho State Transportation Department (ITD). The east edge of the AFRD site abuts an ITD storage shed and is closed to access by concrete barriers and ITD's fence.²⁹

The Warehouse retains its original dimensions of 48 feet by 112 feet and is oriented with its long axis lying east/west. The foundation is a concrete slab (with no stem wall). The most obvious alteration of the original is the application of vertically corrugated sheet metal siding over the tarpaper on all four sides of the warehouse. In 1997, the AFRD overlaid the asphalt shingle roof with corrugated metal roofing.

The AFRD considers the **south** facade as the front of the building. It contains four sets of double sliding doors, all of which are probably original, as they match the doors in the 1940s photographs. Each set is 10 feet wide and 11' 10" high. The doors are evenly spaced, two each on either side of the midline of the south wall. Each door (except one) has two eight-pane windows, arranged 4-over-4, one set placed directly over the other; these are original windows. The lower section of glazing on the second door from the west has been replaced with a single pane of glass. The facade has two triple-bank windows, each positioned between a corner and the doors. The nine panes in each are arranged 3-over-3. See HABS Photo No. ID-131-1 for a general view; HABS Photo No. ID-131-2, for details of the sliding doors.

The **west** end of the warehouse contains one set of sliding doors and no original windows. The door is not functional because the AFRD used sheetrock to block its use from the interior. A panel of corrugated metal siding was added on the exterior, freezing the doors in a half-open position. The metal weather cover over the doors appears to be original. The original 8-pane window has been replaced on the door nearest the northwest corner. A bathroom located near the northwest corner has a small window opening (4" x 15") about two feet from the corner, an AFRD alteration. See HABS Photo No. ID-131-3 and ID-131-4.

²⁹Lynn Harmon, AFRD manager, personal communication with John Martinson, March 10, 2005.

Minidoka Relocation Center Warehouse
HABS No. ID-131
Historical and Descriptive Data (Page 19)

The north side, the rear of the building, lies near a chain-link fence abutting an alley adjacent to the warehouse. This facade contains five triple-banked windows, nine-pane, 3-over-3. No evidence on the inside suggests that any doors or windows have been covered or removed. See HABS Photo No. ID-131-6

The east end has been altered by the addition of a lean-to, about 25' 3" long. Not centered along the facade, it is 10 feet from the southeast corner and 13 feet from the northeast corner respectively. The lean-to roof projects from the wall at a point just beneath the bottom of the triple-bank windows. The lean-to is made of the same corrugated sheet metal as the warehouse siding. This side has no personnel or other access doors. See HABS Photo No. ID-131-8.

The AFRD modified the interior in several ways. It applied sheetrock to the walls and ceiling. Braces secure the support posts to roof beams beyond the sheetrock and out of view. Inside each of the four doors on the south-side is a garage bay. The building now has a loft, bathroom, office, and supply room. These may or may not have been part of the building during the 1940s. A wooden stairway leads to the loft, situated in the west end of the warehouse. The loft has a wood safety railing. The room below the loft is used as an office/parts room/supply room. Mr. Lynn Harmon, AFRD manager in 2005, believes that the bathroom in the northwest corner was not a feature of the building when it first arrived in Shoshone, but that the small office in the southwest corner was.³⁰ Space heating is supplied by three heaters. The largest is connected at ground level to a concrete-block chimney. Two smaller units are attached to the ceiling and vent through a metal chimney pipe. Lighting, electrical supply, and communications are substantially updated from the originals. See HABS Photo Nos. ID-131-9, -10, and -11.

When he examined it in 2005, Mr. Martinson observed that the Warehouse was in fair condition, in need of repairs other than routine maintenance. It required painting; some window panes were missing; and there was a hole in the roof.

PART FOUR
CONCLUSION

Despite its many alterations and removal from its historic location, the AFRD Warehouse retains the bulk, massing, and shape of the original. Combined with photographic images and paintings

³⁰Lynn Harmon, personal communications with John Martinson, October 22, 2004, through March 10, 2005.

Minidoka Relocation Center Warehouse
HABS No. ID-131
Historical and Descriptive Data (Page 20)

made during the occupation of the MRC, it is not hard to imagine how a closely spaced grouping of similar buildings created a unique setting for the shop and supply requirements of a town serving nearly 10,000 people forced into a communal setting.

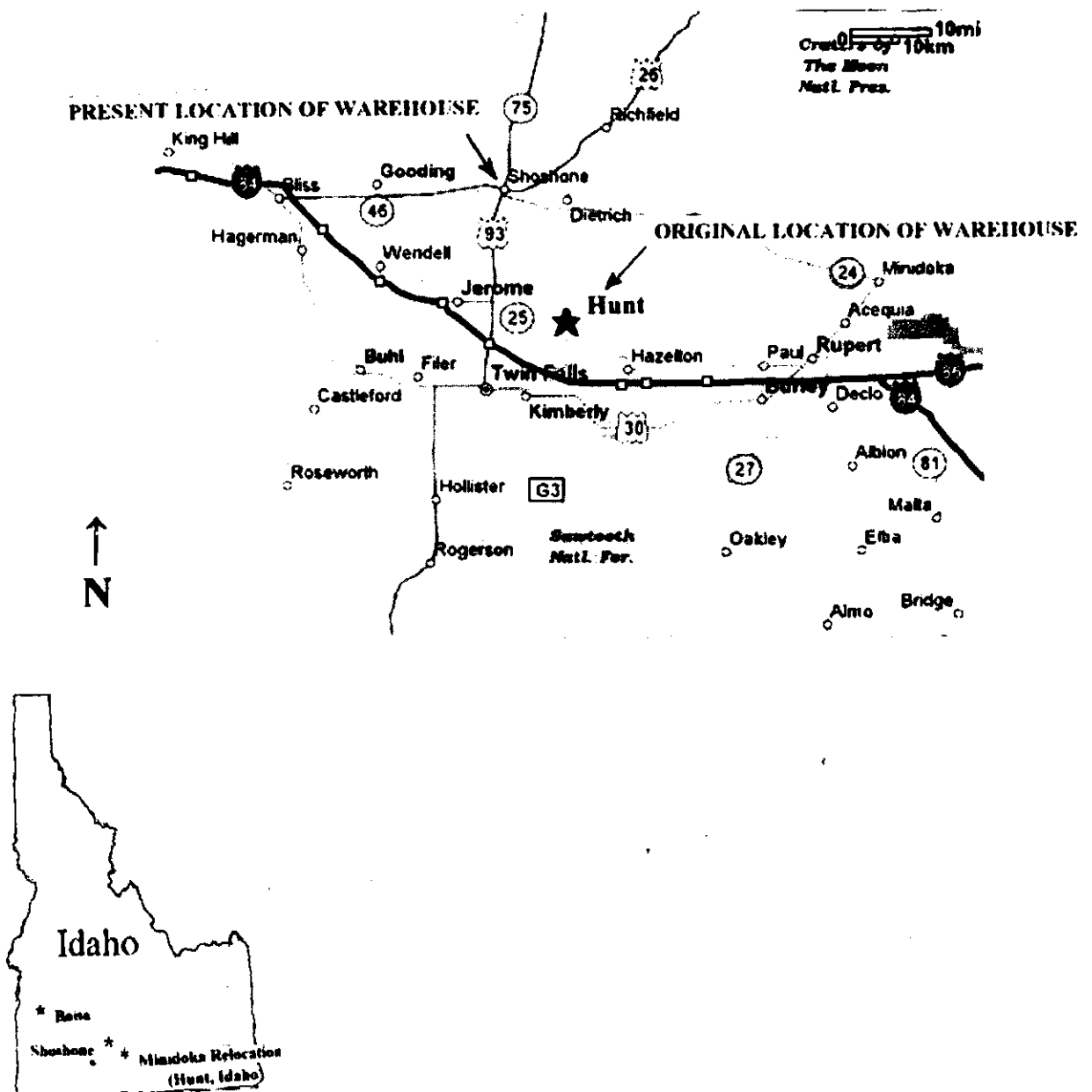
The Warehouse is a product of assembly-line construction procedures at work in a harsh desert: the buildings of the whole town were generated in massive quantities amidst severe time and materiel constraints. By its own description, Morrison-Knudsen had honed "ship-yard" methods in building the camp at Tule Lake, California, and then at Minidoka.

The camp was erected during the first year of World War II, when the impact of losses at Pearl Harbor, Wake Island, and other places were recent and palpable motivations to direct industrial metals and timber to shipyards and airplane factories. The same urgency, however unjust it is now understood, also required instant towns to appear in isolated and unwelcoming settings that previous settlers, free to choose, had not chosen. These, too, demanded metal and timber. In the ranking of priorities, ships and planes had to come first, not the comfort or convenience of Japanese "evacuees."

Thus, the architecture of Minidoka is industrially mass-produced, insufficient to the demands of the climate, and unfinished in every meaning of the word. The AFRD Warehouse is one small "unit" of production, a raw and minimalist shell which required its Japanese occupants to rise (very high) to the occasion of internment.

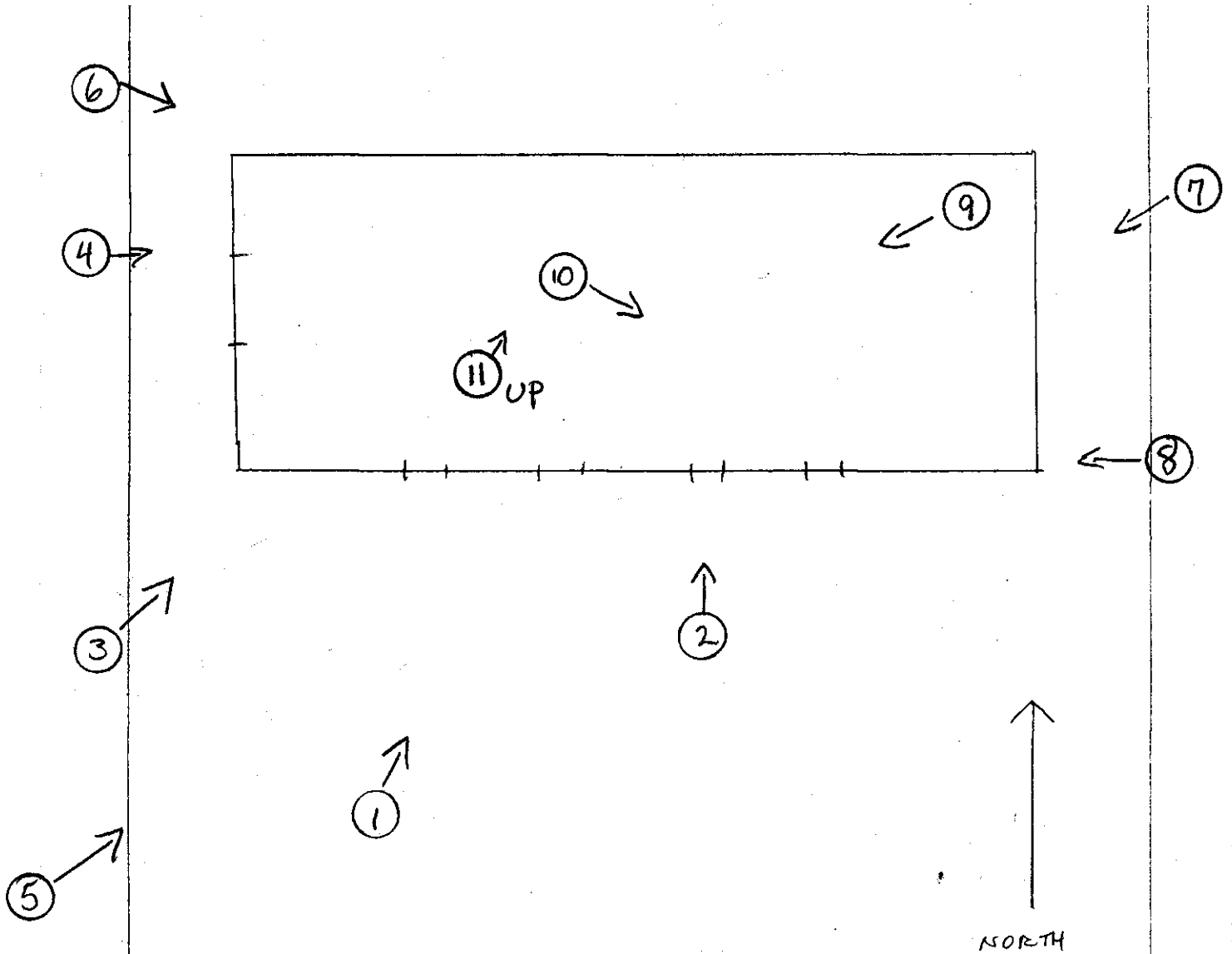
Minidoka Relocation Center Warehouse
HABS No. ID-131
Historical and Descriptive Data (Page 21)

APPENDIX A
VICINITY MAP



Minidoka Relocation Center Warehouse
HABS No. ID-131
Historical and Descriptive Data (Page 22)

APPENDIX B
PHOTO KEY MAP for HABS PHOTOGRAPHS



AFRD WAREHOUSE, SHOSHONE, IDAHO

APPENDIX C
Warehouse Building Numbers and their Uses
Minidoka Relocation Center

Jeffery Burton analyzed photographs and other documentary sources to connect some warehouse building numbers with their name or function. The MRC site plan on Page 6 of this report shows the warehouse block. Source: Personal communication to John Martinson from Jeff Burton, October 1, 2004; and Burton and Farrell, *This is Minidoka*, pages 66-78. The sketch below is reproduced by permission of John Martinson.

Building 2: Property Office and Receiving Warehouse

Buildings 3, 4, 8, 11, 15, and 16: Storage Warehouses

Building 5: Motor Repair and Tire Shop.

Buildings 6 and 7: Steward's Storage Warehouses

Building 9: Refrigerated Warehouse

Building 10: Steward's Office and Receiving Warehouse

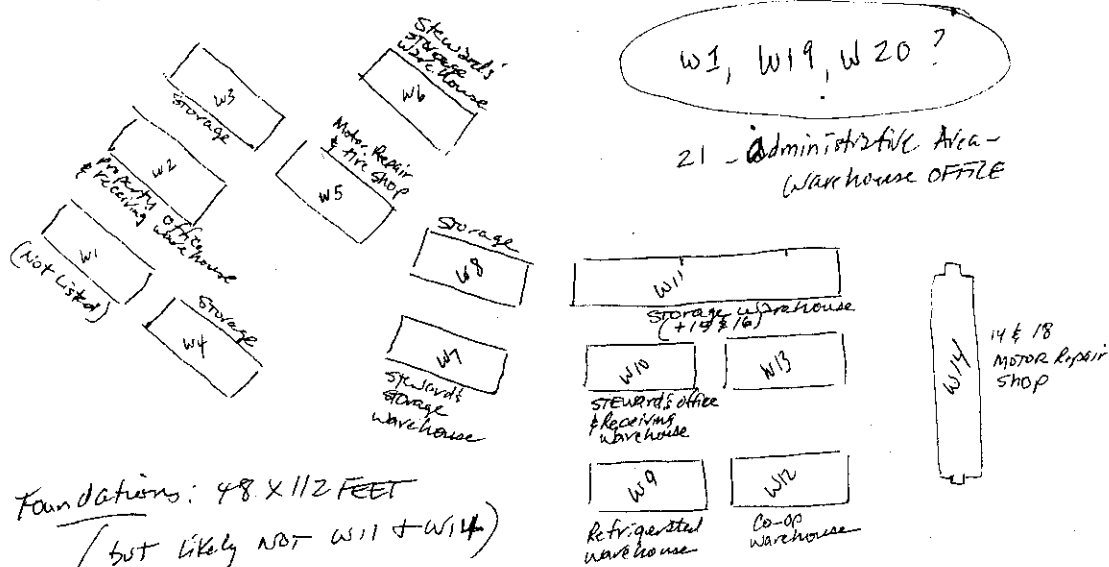
Building 12: Co-op Warehouse

Buildings 14 and 18: Motor Repair Shop

Building 19: Engineer's Warehouse

Building 20: Carpenter, Plumber, and Electrician Shops

In addition, a building in the Administration Area, 48 feet by 112 feet, served as a "Warehouse Office."



BIBLIOGRAPHY

Books and Articles

Burton, Jeffery F., Mary M. Farrell, Florence B. Lord, Richard W. Lord. *Confinement and Ethnicity: An Overview of World War II Japanese American Relocation Sites*. Tucson, Arizona: Western Archeological and Conservation Center, Publications in Anthropology No. 74, 1999, revised July 2000. Found as an on-line book at www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/anthropology74/ce9a.htm in May 2005.

Burton, Jeffery F., and Mary M. Farrell. *This is Minidoka: An Archeological Survey of Minidoka Internment National Monument, Idaho*. Publications in Anthropology No. 80. Tuscon: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2001.

"Embracing Controversy: National Park Service Faces Manzanar's Past." *Common Grounds* (Spring 2004), page 4-5.

The Environmental Company. *American Falls Reservoir District No. 2, Proposed Title Transfer, Jerome, Lincoln, and Gooding Counties: Draft Cultural Resources Survey Report*. Boise: Bureau of Reclamation, Snake River Office, 2004.

United States Department of the Interior. Bureau of Reclamation. *1946 Annual History of the Minidoka Project*.

United States Department of the Interior. Bureau of Reclamation. *1949 Annual History of the Minidoka Project*.

Newspapers

(Hunt, Idaho) *Minidoka Interlude*. Published by the residents of Minidoka Relocation Center, September 1942 - October 1943. Microfilm copies at Idaho Historical Society.

North Side News. 75th Anniversary Edition, August 5, 1982, page 54-55.

Selected Websites (per date of most recent viewing)

Boise Public Library. *Japanese-American Internment Camps in Idaho and the West 1942-1945*. <<http://www.boisepubliclibrary.org/Ref/guideinternmentcamps.shtml>>. October 13, 2005.

Minidoka Relocation Center Warehouse
HABS No. ID-131
Historical and Descriptive Data (Page 25)

Densho Website. *The Japanese American Legacy Project*. <<http://www.densho.org>>. October 13, 2005.

Derry, Ann, H. Ward Jandl, Carol D. Shull and Jan Thorman.
Guidelines for Local Surveys: A Basis for Preservation Planning. U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service., National Register Bulletin, 1985.
<<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb24/>>.
October 13, 2005.

Gallery of the Open Frontier. Harry L. Stafford, Project Director, Minidoka Japanese Internment Camp, Hunt, Idaho.
<<http://gallery.unl.edu/search.html>>. Enter "minidoka."
October 13, 2005.

Heart Relocation Center. <<http://wyoshpo.state.wy.us/heart.htm>>.
October 13, 2005.

Japanese-American Internment: Ansel Adams's Manzanar Photographs.
<<http://americanhistory.about.com/library/photos/blmanzanarmenu.htm>>. October 13, 2005.

"*'Suffering Under a Great Injustice,' Ansel Adam's Photographs of Japanese-American Internment at Manzanar.*" Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division.
<<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aamhtml/aamhome.html>>. October 13, 2005.

Minidoka Relocation Center, Hunt, Idaho. <<http://www.nps.gov.miin/>> and <http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/internment/reporta6.htm>. October 13, 2005.

Tamura, Teresa. *Minidoka Memories*. <<http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/pacificnw/2004/0815/cover.html>>. October 13, 2005.

University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections.
Japanese American Access Project. <<http://www.lib/washington.edu/exhibits/harmony/>>. October 13, 2005.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS

MINIDOKA RELOCATION CENTER WAREHOUSE

HABS ID-131

(American Falls Reservoir District Warehouse)

111 South Fir Street

Shoshone

Lincoln County

Idaho

HABS photographs ID-131-1 through ID-131-11 are large-format views of the Minidoka Relocation Center Warehouse currently owned by the Bureau of Reclamation and in use by American Falls Reservoir District No. 2 (AFRD). Historic photographs of this building and engineering or architectural drawings have not been found. For additional narrative and photographic documentation about this building, please refer to HABS Report ID-131. The photographs are arranged to show each facade and its details in turn, beginning with the south side, and ending with views of the interior.

INDEX TO BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS

Dave Walsh, photographer, September 2004

- | | |
|----------|---|
| ID-131-1 | AFRD WAREHOUSE, SOUTH SIDE. FACING NORTH. METAL AWNING ALONG LENGTH OF BUILDING AND VERTICAL METAL SIDING ARE ALTERATIONS MAD BY THE AFRD. |
| ID-131-2 | AFRD WAREHOUSE, SOUTH SIDE DETAIL, SLIDING DOORS. FACING NORTH. COMPARE WITH FIGURES 4 AND 5 IN NARRATIVE REPORT, WHICH SHOW DIAGONAL BRACES BELOW GLAZED SECTION OF DOORS. |
| ID-131-3 | AFRD WAREHOUSE, WEST SIDE, FACING EAST. NOTE PLACEMENT OF METAL SIDING BETWEEN THE TWO HALVES OF THE SLIDING DOOR. ORIGINAL 8-PANE WINDOW HAS BEEN REPLACED BY A SINGLE PANE OF GLASS. CONCRETE BRICK CHIMNEY IS AT LEFT OF VIEW. |

MINIDOKA RELOCATION CENTER WAREHOUSE

HABS ID-131

INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS

ID-131-4	AFRD WAREHOUSE, WEST SIDE DETAIL OF ALTERED SLIDING DOORS, FACING EAST. WEATHER COVER OVER RAIL IS ORIGINAL. SHEET METAL SIDING HAS BEEN INSERTED BETWEEN TWO HALVES OF SLIDING DOORS.
ID-131-5	AFRD WAREHOUSE, OBLIQUE VIEW OF WEST AND SOUTH SIDES.
ID-131-6	AFRD WAREHOUSE, NORTH SIDE, FACING EAST.
ID-131-7	AFRD WAREHOUSE, EAST SIDE, FACING WEST. NOTE LEAN-TO AFFIXED TO WALL AND THREE SETS OF TRIPLE-BANK WINDOWS.
ID-131-8	AFRD WAREHOUSE, EAST SIDE DETAIL SHOWS CONNECTION OF LEAN-TO TO WALL. FACING WEST. NOTE THE PROFILE OF THE METAL AWNING ON SOUTH SIDE. ELECTRICAL CONDUIT AND OTHER SERVICES PENETRATE WALL. POLE SECURED WITH TRIANGULAR BRACES AT CORNER IS COMMUNICATION POLE.
ID-131-9	AFRD WAREHOUSE, INTERIOR, FACING WEST. TWO ROWS OF ORIGINAL WOOD POSTS SUPPORT CEILING RAFTERS. SHEETROCK ON CEILING AND WALLS IS AN ALTERATION MADE BY THE AFRD. LOFT NEAR CENTER OF VIEW MAY HAVE BEEN PART OF THE ORIGINAL BUILDING.
ID-131-10	AFRD WAREHOUSE, INTERIOR, FACING SOUTHEAST TOWARD SOUTHEAST CORNER. SHEET ROCK ON CEILING. RAFTERS ARE SUPPORTED BY POST.
ID-131-11	AFRD WAREHOUSE, INTERIOR DETAIL OF RAFTER SUPPORT POST TIMBER AND METHOD OF BRACING. THE BRACES PENETRATE THE SHEET ROCK, SUGGESTING THAT THESE ARE ORIGINAL.



Kodak 100T MX

HABS NO. ID-131-1

Kodak 100TMX

HABS No. ID-131-2





Kodak 100T MX

HABS No. IO-131-3

H43S No. ID-131-4





Kodak 100TMX

HABS No. ID-131-5



Kodak 100T MX

HABS No. ID-131-6



Kodak 100TMAX

HABS No. ID-131-7

HABS No. ID-131-8





Kodak 100Tmx

HABS No. ID-131-9



Kodak 100T MX

HABS NO. ID-131-10



Kodak 100TMMX

HABS No. ID-131-11