



BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Department of History

19 November 2024

Wade M. Vagias, PhD
Superintendent
Craters of the Moon National Monument & Preserve
Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument
Minidoka National Historic Site

Dear Dr. Vagias,

We are pleased to submit the final version of the product of Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU) Task Agreement P22AC00828, “Minidoka National Historic Site Administrative History.” This letter provides a brief explanation and chronology of this project.

This cooperative agreement intended to create the foundation for future development of a complete and comprehensive Administrative History of Minidoka National Historic Site. The listed Project Director is Bob Reinhardt (Associate Professor of History, Boise State University), who oversaw Camille Daw, then a graduate student at Boise State University, who conducted all the research, analysis, and writing of this project. Daw conducted this work as part of her MA project in Public History at Boise State.

7 July 2022: CESU Task Agreement P22AC00828 awarded through GrantSolutions.gov. The expected project Statement of Work in short:

- a. Outline of Administrative History
- b. Annotated Bibliography
- c. Oral Histories: three oral history interviews and transcriptions.
- d. 15,000-word Writing Sample (misabeled “15,000 Word Sample” in agreement): an introduction and 1-2 chapters of the Administrative History.

The final due date was set at November 1, 2023.

August 2022 – August 2023: Camile Daw conducted research, oral history recording and transcribing, analysis, and writing on the project. These elements were saved in a shared Google Drive available to Project Director Bob Reinhardt and NPS staff Wade Vagias, Kurt Ikeda, and Jared Infanger. Quarterly reports submitted through GrantSolutions.gov detail progress on the project. All elements of the project Statement of Work were completed by August 2023, except for one oral history interview with Anna Tamura, which was delayed due to Tamura’s work and travel schedule.

September 2023: Due to family leave, Kurt Ikeda stepped back from the project, succeeded by Jared Infanger. At this time, it was agreed to pursue a no-cost extension/modification, extending the final completion of the project to December 24, 2024. That extension/modification was

ultimately approved in May 2024. In September, NPS staff also provided feedback on the project, including inclusion of section on Annual Pilgrimage, integration of oral history interview with Anna Tamura, and formatting/style improvements.

November 2023: Camille Daw conducted oral history interview with Anna Tamura.

December 2023: Camille Daw successfully defended her MA project, which included a version of the MA project formatted and styled for the NPS CESU project.

May 2024: Revised versions of project (based on NPS recommendations/suggestions) distributed, including transcript of Anna Tamura interview.

May 2024 – September 2024: NPS review of project.

October 2024: Project meeting (with Camille Daw, Bob Reinhardt, Wade Vagias, Jared Infanger, and Kurt Ikeda) to discuss final process and edits for the project, including further opportunities to integrate Anna Tamura’s oral history interview.

November 2024: Camille Daw revised the project to address NPS suggestions, including more integration of Tamura interview (see especially “Chapter Four: The General Management Plan (2001-2006)”). Final project submitted to NPS staff:

- Outline of Administrative History: ten chapters; 67 pages; 13,563 words.
- Annotated Bibliography: 204 primary sources; 73 secondary sources; 60 pages, 26,633 words.
- Oral Histories: Anna Tamura, Dan Sakura, Neil King.
- Writing Sample: four chapters plus introduction and conclusion; 31,648 words.

This project achieved the Task Agreement’s stipulated Performance Goals (for Boise State and Minidoka NHS to “partner... in the development of the park’s administrative history”) and Project Objectives (Research, Oral History, and Writing). We are confident that this project provides a solid foundation on which to develop a full Minidoka NHS Administrative History.

Sincerely,

Bob H. Reinhardt (Associate Professor of History, Boise State University)

Camille Daw (Public History MA 2024, Boise State University)

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Introduction

Minidoka National Historic Site sits just off Hunt Road in Idaho's Magic Valley, a place of rolling hills scattered with agriculture, livestock, farmhouses, and extensive irrigation systems. A recreated guard tower and sea of sagebrush amongst the grazing land confronts visitors within their first moments at the site. On the right side of Hunt Road and then eventually crossing underneath it, the North Side Canal flows alongside a recreated barbed wire fence. On the left side of the road, visitors pass by the recreated Honor Roll, featuring the names of those who served during World War II.

Further into the horizon, buildings come into view, hinting at Minidoka's history. The few buildings rarely tell the comprehensive stories of the over 13,000 individuals who lived behind barbed wire in the barren desert. However, each building offers opportunities for learning about many different histories. The Visitor Center at Minidoka NHS stands as a relic, rehabilitated from a historic camp warehouse built in 1942. There, visitors read through the exhibits and watch the videos that echo in the ample space. Descendants point out their family photographs and the names of their elders on the *Issei Memorial* while children peer outside the window toward the barrack and mess hall located at Block 22. The immense power of place at Minidoka NHS allows visitors to more fully understand and comprehend the importance of civil liberties in the United States's past.

Minidoka National Historic Site serves as a reminder of one of America's darkest moments. During World War II, the War Relocation Authority (WRA), an agency managed under the Department of the Interior, forcibly removed Japanese Americans from their homes on the West Coast and incarcerated 125,284 individuals in some of the most remote and desolate

areas of the United States. Minidoka confined over 13,000 Japanese American men, women, and children from August 1942 until October 1945.¹ Approximately two-thirds of those incarcerated included American-born citizens.² Designated as a National Monument by President Bill Clinton in 2001, the National Park Service manages and preserves the site, charged with teaching future generations about the legacy of the unjust incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II. As a unit of the National Park Service, Minidoka's story and significance extends beyond its survivors and descendants to all Americans, demonstrating how civil rights violations impact others outside of a racial minority group.

Minidoka differs from many other historical sites that NPS manages because the park tells a story beyond the unit's physical location. The resulting diaspora of Japanese Americans affected by the incarceration extends well beyond their former residences in Washington, Oregon, and Alaska, spanning across the United States and making the narrative a national story. Minidoka's national significance lies in the impact on all Americans through the violation of civil rights that occurred due to "race prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership," as explained by the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians.³ Issues facing Muslims in the United States following the attacks on September 11, 2001, bore a resemblance to Japanese American incarceration, demonstrating the unit's

¹ Arthur Kleinkopf, *Relocation Center Diary: 1942-1946*, Personal Diary, Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 12, Folders 23-24, Albertsons Library Special Collections and Archives, Boise, Idaho (hereafter, Albertsons Library SCA).

² Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, *Personal Justice Denied: Report of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians* (Seattle: University of Washington Press and Washington D.C.: Civil Liberties Public Education Fund, 1997), 459.

³ Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, *Personal Justice Denied* (1997), 459.

contemporary relevance. A quote from Dr. Frank Kitamoto that spans the Minidoka Visitor Center's entrance aptly summarizes how all Americans, regardless of identity, share a history with Japanese American incarceration. The quote reads, "This is not just a Japanese American story, but an American story, with implications for the world."⁴

The National Park Service manages four of the ten former concentration camps, ironically making the federal government the primary management and preservation agency over the sites. Minidoka, Manzanar, Tule Lake, and Amache serve as physical sites on the former grounds of concentration camps that educate the public about civil liberties and democracy. These four sites are among twelve different units related to Japanese American incarceration managed by NPS as of 2023. In 2006, Congress created the Japanese American Confinement Sites program, which provided up to \$38 million towards projects "to identify, research, evaluate, interpret, protect, restore, repair, and acquire historic incarceration sites."⁵ NPS administers these grants based on annual applications and appropriations from Congress. Ultimately, NPS's influence and dedication to telling the history of incarceration at Minidoka NHS demonstrates its broader commitment to preserving and interpreting the nation's significant places for future generations.

Most historic Japanese American incarceration sites under the NPS system provide immersive experiences through well-preserved buildings and landscapes, using cultural resources as testaments to the stories of those who have long since left the camp. That includes Minidoka, about which several survivors still lived to tell their stories upon the site's designation as a

⁴ Minidoka National Historic Site Visitor Center, Jerome County, Idaho, 2020.

⁵ U.S. Congress, Senate, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Preservation of World War II Japanese American Confinement Sites, 109th Cong., 2d sess., 2006. S.Rep.109-314.

National Monument, even though the U.S. government auctioned many of the buildings off after the war.⁶ Upon the establishment of the Minidoka Internment National Monument, survivors' and descendants' recollections, along with the barren landscape, overgrown weeds, sagebrush, rusty nails, and discarded Pond's Cold Cream, told visitors Minidoka's story.⁷

As NPS worked on the General Management Plan (GMP), survivors and descendants sought to see the site better preserved and interpreted through NPS management, rehabilitation, and reconstruction. NPS sought to reflect through the power of place the wishes and desires of their primary stakeholders: the Japanese American survivor and descendant communities. In 2003, a coalition of survivors and descendants formed the nonprofit advocacy group Friends of Minidoka to work alongside the National Park Service. Friends of Minidoka provided planning recommendations, funding, volunteers for projects, and a direct connection between the National Park Service and Minidoka survivors and descendants, as well as *Nikkei* (Japanese emigrants and their descendants) incarcerated at other camps and their allies.⁸ Additionally, a young landscape architect, named Anna Tamura, eager to learn her family's history, helped NPS recognize the importance of connecting the Minidoka survivor and descendant community with NPS to preserve and manage the new unit.⁹

Each step to preserve Minidoka as a historic site of national importance required people to care deeply about those confined at the camp. These included various Japanese American

⁶ Gary Bohlen, *Homesteaders*, August 29, 2010, Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 1, Folder 20, Albertsons Library SCA.

⁷ Neil King, "Neil King Interview" by Camille Daw, August 8, 2022, Albertsons Library SCA; *Minidoka National Historic Site: Long Range-Interpretive Plan* (Harper's Ferry: NPS, 2011), 6

⁸ King, "Neil King Interview" by Camille Daw.

⁹ Anna Tamura, "Anna Tamura Oral History Interview," by Camille Daw, November 10, 2023, Albertsons Library SCA.

Citizens Leagues, survivors and descendants, historians, preservationists, and lawmakers. For over four decades, survivors refused to talk about incarceration out of the shame that it brought upon them and their families. The redress movement burst open the seams of Japanese American history, and many of the activists and their descendants sought to see the hallowed grounds preserved. These individuals fervently worked in the White House to secure Minidoka's designation to guarantee their own descendants could learn about their family's history.

However, Minidoka's national relevance speaks beyond the Japanese American experience. Minidoka became a National Monument under the National Park Service in 2001, just months before the attack on the World Trade Center and Pentagon by al-Qaeda. Parallels between the Japanese American experience and the Muslim experience started to show in the rhetoric found in newspapers, mainly from United States leaders and lawmakers. These actions led survivors to recognize the importance of persistently and vigilantly telling their stories. In 2021, activists with Tsuru for Solidarity, a group of Japanese American descendants and survivors, gathered at Fort Bliss in Oklahoma to protest the use of the site for the detention of migrant children and families from Mexico and other Latin American countries, citing inhumane conditions and treatment as the cause of their protest. Military police met the activists aggressively as the group held their signs proudly declaring, "*Nidoto Nai Yoni*": Let it not happen again.

Chapter One: Minidoka War Relocation Center (1886-1952)

Japanese Immigration to the United States

Minidoka's story as a concentration camp began decades before World War II. Years of racism and xenophobia in the United States amid economic disruption and isolationist policies following World War II played into President Franklin D. Roosevelt's decision to sign Executive Order 9066. *Issei*, or the first generation of Japanese immigrants, started migrating to the U.S. during the Meiji Restoration, beginning in 1886. The Meiji Restoration marked a tumultuous time socially, politically, and economically in Japan, leading many bachelor men to pursue careers in the United States. Shortly before Japanese immigrants arrived, the United States passed the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882, prohibiting the migration of Chinese laborers for ten years. Many companies and foremen hired Japanese immigrants to fill Chinese immigrants' roles in exploitative labor systems as railroad laborers, farmhands, mechanics, fishermen, and factory workers due to the labor gap created by the Chinese Exclusion Act.

As Japanese bachelors began settling in their new homes, many started marrying women from Japan. Social, cultural, and familial pressures heightened the need for many to wed despite not having the funds to return home. Beginning in the 1910s, an exchange of letters and a single photo lured many young women's families into arranging a proxy marriage to the Japanese men living in America. Upon arrival to the United States, these "picture brides" found that their new husbands looked much less like their photos and significantly older. *Issei* women found America appeared less picturesque than they imagined. Following cultural gender norms, Japanese women ran the household, but unlike in Japan, they worked to increase their household income through domestic jobs and agriculture. One survivor recalled:

And my father went out to work. And my mother managed the apartment, with my father, but my mother was the main manager. She got the engineer's license, she ran the boiler room, she cleaned the furnace. She did all those things. And, you know, it wasn't strange at all to see her wallpapering right along with my dad, standing on a ladder and just going at it.¹⁰

Discrimination against Issei on the West Coast

After women began arriving, the Japanese population in the U.S. drastically increased, and those immigrants as well as other Asians confronted increased xenophobia and racism from whites. The Japanese population increased not only because of the arrival of women, but also their children, known as *nisei*. American migration, as explored by scholar Patricia Limerick, had just turned towards the North American West, including immigrants hailing from the East Coast. Cultures clashed, and Japanese migrants faced similar discrimination and racism as their earlier Chinese counterparts. Amidst these attitudes, many *Issei* began businesses and farms after decades of hard work, creating competition for white counterparts with racist attitudes towards *Nikkei*.

With anti-Asian racism growing, Congress and President Theodore Roosevelt barred Japanese laborers from immigrating to the U.S. with the “Gentleman’s Agreement,” beginning in 1907. The agreement ended immigration in exchange for integrating schools to include Japanese American children. The Gentleman’s Agreement slowed Japanese immigration to the United States in a way that maintained relations between the U.S. and Japan. However, in the years

¹⁰ Akikko Kurose, “Akkiko Kurose Interview,” by Matt Emery, *Densho*, Densho Visual History Collection, July 17, 1997.

following, the ties between the two countries waned as a result of racist and imperialist U.S. policies regarding immigration.

While the U.S. federal government restricted immigration and enforced anti-Asian policies nationally, individual states also passed restrictive legislation. As early as 1841 and throughout the 1920s, several western states passed “Alien Land Laws,” preventing noncitizens from owning land or property. California was the first state to pass such legislation, following intense lobbying from the Native Sons and Daughters of the Golden West, a fraternal organization that sought to discriminate and exclude Asians in California and the rest of the American West.¹¹ Seventeen states passed similar laws requiring citizenship as a qualification to own property or land. Most notably, California’s updated 1920 Land Law also restricted long-term leasing and forced noncitizens to acquire new leases every three years. Though the Supreme Court ruled against the restrictive laws in 1952, Florida upheld its land law until 2018.

Existing discriminatory policies in the United States, combined with anti-Asian sentiment, led Congress to pass racist laws that created challenges for Japanese immigrants. Nearly a century before Japanese immigration began, Congress passed the Immigration Act of 1790, which permitted only “white” Europeans to naturalize as citizens.¹² As individual states took action regarding property, Congress restricted immigration, especially from Asia, in the isolationist period after World War I. The Immigration Act of 1924 created quotas for the number of immigrants allowed to immigrate to the U.S., with virtually none permitted for Japan

¹¹ Peter T. Conmy, "The History of California's Japanese Problem and the Part Played by the Native Sons of the Golden West in its Solution," pamphlet, Native Sons, July 1, 1942. Bancroft Library, UC Berkeley, 2.

¹² 1 Stat. 103, 1st Congress, “Naturalization Act,” March 26, 1790.

and other Asian nations. The discriminatory immigration laws fed into widespread anti-Asian sentiment.

Creating Community in a New Home

Despite the legal attacks on *Issei*, Japanese immigrants created strong connections among each other. Many began establishing businesses, farms, and families in the U.S. Many white Americans perpetuated racist fears that Asians intended to take over the United States. Instead, many Asians in the United States wanted the same opportunities and successes as their white counterparts. As a result, many Japanese communities started establishing their businesses in similar areas as other *Nikkei* families. These “Little Tokyos,” often called *Nihonmachis*, resulted from the need for protection, business, and a sense of social and cultural belonging. Seattle and Portland’s *Nihonmachi* included restaurants, laundries, hotels, language schools, judo dojos, fish stalls, and grocers. *Nikkei* owned and operated several businesses in both cities, creating small and successful ethnic enclaves.

Throughout the 1920s and 1930s, most Japanese immigrants started raising their American-born *nisei* children. Many Japanese immigrants recognized the United States as their home despite being unable to naturalize as citizens primarily because their children were born and raised in the U.S. Most *nisei* attended neighborhood schools and participated in after-school activities with their peers. However, some middle- and upper-class Japanese families wanted to retain the Japanese language and culture, so their children begrudgingly attended Language School after their regular school day as a form of an after-school program. Other families sent their children, known as *Kibei*, to Japan for periods of time.

Along with cultural connections, *Nikkei* established communities and connections with their neighbors through religious institutions. The religions practiced by Japanese immigrant

communities varied. In Seattle, several churches were established within the boundaries of the city's *nihonmachi*; religious leaders offered Methodist, Baptist, Catholic, and Buddhist services in Japanese.¹³ Unlike Seattle, Methodist and Buddhist churches took prominence among Portland's Japanese American population.¹⁴

As *nisei* reached adulthood, many became politically active. In 1929, a handful of existing Japanese American organizations in Seattle, San Francisco, and Fresno merged to form the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL). The JACL's goals included expanding citizenship rights for *nisei*, encouraging their political activism, and assimilation towards American ideals.¹⁵ Though the JACL made many legislative strides towards assisting *Issei* with citizenship, the organization also restricted its membership to citizens only.

Disrupting a Community

On December 7th, 1941, the attack on Pearl Harbor by the Imperial Japanese Navy interrupted the lives of thousands forever. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) compiled a list of individuals they believed to pose a "threat" to the security of the United States. Primarily consisting of *Issei* men, this list included fishermen, grocers, community leaders, Buddhist priests, and Japanese language teachers.¹⁶ The FBI arrested over 1,500 husbands, uncles, and

¹³ Bill Hosokawa, "The Uprooting of Seattle" in *Japanese Americans: From Relocation to Redress*, ed. Roger Daniels, Sandra C. Taylor, and Harry H. L. Kitano (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1991), 18–20.

¹⁴ Eiichiro Azuma, "A History of Oregon's *Issei*, 1880-1952," *Oregon Historical Quarterly* 94, no. 4 (1993): 315–67.

¹⁵ Ronald Takaki, *Strangers from a Different Shore: A History of Asian Americans* (New York: Back Bay Books, 1998), 222-224.

¹⁶ Eric L. Muller, *American Inquisition: The Hunt for Japanese American Disloyalty in World War II* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2007).

fathers while raiding *Nikkei* homes, taking radios, cameras, and “Japanese” items with them.¹⁷ After the arrests, the FBI refused to tell families where they held the men until after they arrived at Fort Missoula in Montana.¹⁸ Some families also experienced heightened racism from their neighbors and classmates after the attack. Others reported feeling support from their community.¹⁹ Individual experiences varied, and many instead felt a sense of isolation -- that Pearl Harbor somehow negated their birthright citizenship.²⁰

Forced Removal

The United States moved quickly and quietly to incarcerate Japanese Americans, hoping to remove Japanese Americans from their homes in an orderly fashion with little protest. Several steps led to the removal, causing whispered concern among Japanese American families and communities. In March 1942, Western Defense Command General John DeWitt imposed a curfew for Japanese Americans and immediately ordered the U.S. Treasury Department to freeze all assets and bank accounts belonging to *Nikkei*. The government threatened to arrest *Nikkei* who went beyond a certain distance from their home. They were not to leave.²¹ Not even three months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order

¹⁷ Yoshimi Hasui Watada, “Yoshimi Hasui Watada Interview,” by Richard Potashin, *Densho*, Manzanar National Historic Site Collection, May 15, 2008.

¹⁸ Rae Takekawa, “Rae Takekawa Interview,” by Alice Ito, *Densho*, Densho Visual History Collection, May 8, 1998.

¹⁹ Gerald Nakata, “Gerald Nakata Interview,” by Frank Kitamoto, *Densho*, Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community Collection, February 26, 2006; Tats Kojima, “Tats Kojima Interview,” by Debra Grindeland, Densho Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community Collection, October 22, 2006.

²⁰ Watada, “Yoshimi Hasui Watada Interview,” 2008.

²¹ Sharon Tanagi Aburano, “Sharon Tanagi Aburano Interview I,” by Tom Ikeda and Megan Asaka, *Densho*, Densho Visual History Collection, March 25, 2008.

9066 on February 19, 1942.²² General DeWitt created Exclusion Zones No. 1 and No. 2 and announced that any individual of Japanese ancestry was required to relocate from this region. Initially, the government permitted “voluntary” relocation, which instructed Japanese Americans to move away from Exclusion Zones No. 1 and No. 2 from by March 30th.²³

Meanwhile, the House Select Committee Investigating National Defense Migration, otherwise known as the Tolan Committee, held four hearings along the West Coast about the forced removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans. JACL president Mike Masaoka testified and promised legislators that *Nikkei* would comply with the removal orders if needed because they avowed loyalty to the United States. Many of the testimonials provided by non-Japanese individuals argued for the removal of Japanese Americans. However, Japanese Americans and a small number of white individuals testified against the removal citing the violation of constitutional and civil rights.²⁴

While Congress debated incarceration, many Japanese American families awaited their fate, trying to sell what belongings they could. However, with frozen bank accounts and little time, only approximately 4,800 Japanese Americans of the 128,000 living in the Exclusion Zones found accommodations elsewhere. Starting on March 24, 1942, a sub-agency of the War Department, the Wartime Civil Control Administration (WCCA), nailed posters titled “Instructions to All Persons of Japanese Ancestry” on telephone poles, streetlights, and shop

²² President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Executive Order 9066, February 19, 1942, General Records of the United States Government, National Archives, Record Group 11.

²³ Aburano, “Sharon Tanagi Aburano Interview I,” by Ikeda and Asaka. 2008.

²⁴ United States Congress, House of Representatives, Select Committee Investigating National Defense Migration. 77th Congress, 2nd sess. *National Defense Migration* (hereafter Tolan Committee hearings), Part 31, 11788ff.

doors beginning with Bainbridge Island in Washington state. The JACL encouraged Japanese Americans to comply with the removal orders.

The Wartime Civil Control Administration carefully selected the first group of Japanese Americans they planned to remove. The WCCA used the small Japanese American community on Washington State's Bainbridge Island to test its ability to remove and incarcerate civilians. The concentrated ethnic community offered an opportunity for removal en masse, with a near-perfect justification at the time if anyone protested or resisted. General DeWitt cited the Bainbridge Island's proximity to naval bases, but on Hawaii, where the Japanese Navy attacked a U.S. base, only a small number of targeted individuals faced removal and incarceration. Unlike the mainland, the majority of Japanese Americans in Hawaii managed to escape confinement. In contrast, the Japanese Americans on Bainbridge Island allowed the WCCA to test their plan for removal with an isolated group that posed little threat.

On March 30, 1942, 227 *Nikkei* went quietly, almost mournfully, dressed in their Sunday best, as if attending a funeral. They left their homes on Bainbridge Island through the Eagledale Ferry Dock. With about a week's notice and with rifles pointed toward them, the men, women, and children left their homes, farms, businesses, friends, neighbors, and even pets with rifles.²⁵ After a three day journey, the group of bewildered Japanese Americans arrived at Manzanar concentration camp in California, at the time known as Owen's Valley Detention Center, on April 1st. Almost as if someone played a joke on them, the confined citizens reacted with shock,

²⁵ Joseph Conard (American Friends Service Committee), Japanese Evacuation Report #5, April 2, 1942; "Bainbridge Island," *Camp Harmony Exhibit*, University of Washington Library. <https://lib.uw.edu/specialcollections/collections/exhibits/harmony/exhibit/bainbridge/>, accessed April 23, 2022.

shame, and utter fear towards their new home in the high desert. Many later join them. Survivor Kay Sakai Nakao recalled:

I said to the person sitting next to me, I says, "Oh, I'm sure glad I don't live in a place like that." And what do you know? After a while -- I don't know how long it took after I said that -- the bus turned right in there. And I'm telling you, my heart sank down to my toes. I was just devastated.²⁶

Temporary Detention Centers

Other Japanese American communities across the West Coast soon received their removal orders. Like those initially removed from Bainbridge Island, the U.S. Army soldiers refused to tell *Nikkei* the location of their new homes. However, many quickly recognized the fairgrounds and racetracks hastily assembled into makeshift housing. As the WCCA underwent the process of removing *Nikkei* to more permanent camps that could physically accommodate thousands of people, they sent Japanese Americans to temporary "Assembly Centers," where families awaited their fate. Individuals living in Washington primarily ended up at the Puyallup Detention Center, euphemistically named "Camp Harmony." In April 1942, the WCCA also rounded up all 240 Japanese Americans living in Alaska and incarcerated them at Puyallup.²⁷ Incarcerated as a child, Marion Kanemoto, remembered the sound of the metal gate at the Puyallup fairgrounds clanging shut, symbolizing the loss of her family's freedom and future.²⁸

²⁶ Kay Sakai Nakao, "Kay Sakai Nakao Interview," by Debra Grindeland, *Densho*, Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community Collection, February 25, 2006.

²⁷ Minidoka Information Division Press Release, Sept. 28, 1942, Japanese American Evacuation and Resettlement Records (JAERR), Bancroft Library, UC Berkeley, BANC MSS 67/14 c, folder P2.16; "Minidoka Reports No. 2: Alaskan Evacuees," JAERR, BANC MSS 67/14 c, folder P3.95:1.

²⁸ Marion Kanemoto, *Children of the Camps*, dir. Stephen Holdsapple, prod. Dr. Satsuki Ina, (1999; AsianCrush).

Meanwhile, those living in Oregon found their new home at the Portland Detention Center, formerly the Portland Fairgrounds.

A few months felt like a lifetime at the detention centers for many Japanese Americans. Many recalled the horse stalls still pungently emitting odors of animals, and the springtime weather created thick mud throughout the detention centers.²⁹ Similarly, the sheer mass of people forced into an area that the U.S. Army converted into housing only weeks prior meant many facilities broke down regularly and showed significant signs of disrepair, profoundly affecting the health of incarcerated Japanese Americans.³⁰ The WCCA struggled to provide supplies and medical services to incarcerated Japanese Americans because they lacked the time to build the confinement camps as picturesque as described. Instead, health care proved atrocious, and disease ran rampant.

Minidoka War Relocation Center

While the WCCA removed and incarcerated Japanese Americans in the temporary confinement camps, the agency started building more permanent confinement camps further inland. The WCCA determined the site of Minidoka based on several factors, including access to water, proximity to military bases, and availability of public land for work opportunities.³¹ The land on which Morrison-Knudsen, an Idaho-based construction contractor, built Minidoka belonged to the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and included 18,000 acres of land dedicated solely to irrigation infrastructure, cultivation, and agriculture.³² Construction of the site boosted

²⁹ Gene Akutsu, "Gene Akutsu Interview," by Larry Hashima and Stephen Fugita. *Densho*, Densho Visual History Collection, July 25, 1997.

³⁰ Akutsu, "Gene Akutsu Interview," by Hashima and Fugita.

³¹ J.D. Wood, "Preliminary Report on Defense Area," May 6, 1942, Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 1, Folder 7, Albertsons Library SCA.

³² Wood, "Preliminary Report on Defense Area."

the local economy because Morrison-Knudsen employed over 3,000 individuals from the Magic Valley and paid seventy-two dollars to three hundred dollars a day.³³

In June 1942, the WCCA morphed into a different agency: the War Relocation Authority (WRA). Upon Minidoka's construction, the WRA forced Japanese Americans incarcerated at the Puyallup detention center to move to a completely different world in the isolated desert of Idaho. In late July, the WRA requested imprisoned Japanese Americans to finish construction on the Minidoka War Relocation Center, one of ten American concentration camps. The WRA instructed guards to board *Nikkei* on trains and keep the shades drawn shut as they transported carloads of Japanese Americans from Puyallup to Idaho.³⁴ By the middle of August, the first group of volunteers arrived, shocked by how little of their confinement camp existed amidst the dust and sagebrush.³⁵ Handfuls of mothers wept, telling their children, "This is our new home," recognizing the realities of their surroundings. After an exhausting and hot three-day train ride, hastily constructed tarpaper barracks greeted them upon arrival on August 10, 1942.³⁶ After those incarcerated at Puyallup arrived, the WRA began transporting incarcerated from Portland to Minidoka starting on September 7, 1942.³⁷

³³ Monroe E. Snyder and Arthur E. Ficke, Report of the Engineering Section, Minidoka, 1, JAERR BANC MSS 67/14 c, folder P6.00:13

³⁴ Tome Fukuyama, "Student Essay: "December 7 On," c. 1942, *Densho*, the Bigelow Collection.

³⁵ "Engineer Report," January 31, 1943, Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 1, Folder 9; "Minidoka Completion Report," 1942. Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 1, Folder 10; *Japanese Evacuation from the West Coast 1942 Final Report* (Washington, D.C.: War Department, 1943), 282–284.

³⁶ "History of Hunt," circa 1943, Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 1, Folder 1.

³⁷ "Portland Colonists Here," *Minidoka Irrigator* (Hunt, Idaho), September 10, 1942.

Minidoka shared some similarities with the other nine mass WRA incarceration camps, but several distinct aspects separated the center from the rest. Like many of the other confinement camps, the WRA confined Japanese Americans at Minidoka on public land in an isolated setting.³⁸ The region's fertile soil came from basaltic lava rock, which, in the form of large stones, became a barrier to constructing the camp.³⁹ However, engineers chose to work with the rocky landscape and constructed Minidoka in an "M" shape alongside the Northside Canal. The site incorporated over 600 buildings, including residential barracks encompassing 36 residential blocks. Like many of the other confinement camps, the barracks afforded little privacy which the WRA divided into six living quarters ranging in size from 16'x20' to 24'x20', though the thin dividers did not extend to the ceiling as nosy children frequently peeked over the walls.⁴⁰ Each block also contained a mess hall and laundry area, also used for showers and eventually bathrooms.⁴¹ The bathroom and shower area offered no stalls, thus forcing many women to tend their business at night. Eventually, women successfully petitioned the administration at Minidoka to install doorless stalls in the women's bathrooms, easing the discomfort for modest *Issei* women.

³⁸ John DeWitt to Engineer North Pacific Division, April 23, 1942, Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 1, Folder 6; R.B.S. Cossens, R.B.S. to E. R. Fryer, June 3, 1942, Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 1, Folder 6; "Memorandum of Understanding," 1942, Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 1, Folder 6.

³⁹ Joseph P. Bacca, "Minidoka War Relocation Project," Map, Circa 1942, Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 1, Folder 6.

⁴⁰ "Engineer Report," January 31, 1943, Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 1, Folder 9; "Minidoka Completion Report," 1942. Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 1, Folder 10.

⁴¹ Anky Arai, "Map of Minidoka," circa 1943, *Densho*, Tsutomu "Tom" Fukuyama Collection.

The camp's construction also disturbed the soil, creating a layer of dust that caked incarcerated and their belongings. The lack of protection inside the barracks allowed the fine particles to pierce through cracks in the greenwood. George Tokuda, originally from Seattle, cursed in his diary, "When the government had disturbed the desert of bui[ld] this village of barracks, the natural ecology had been upset. With a fury Nature wreaked its revenge upon the inhabitants."⁴² As summer waned and the cold fall nights came in October, incarcerated Japanese Americans found their barracks unheated as the WRA's coal shipment came months late.⁴³ Many incarcerated hailing from the temperate Pacific Northwest brought their spring and summer clothes in their handfuls of luggage since the WRA left out critical information such as how long *Nikkei* could expect to be gone, where the incarcerated families would end up, and what the conditions looked like. As a result, the winter hit many Japanese Americans hard, and without winter coats, the WRA provided them with World War I surplus coats, just like their army cot beds.⁴⁴

The environmental conditions at Minidoka created a prison for Japanese Americans that needed no barbed wire. Yet, in November 1942, the WRA began constructing guard towers and a barbed wire fence around the camp.⁴⁵ Incarcerated Japanese Americans tampered with the fence and cut it in some areas in protest. As a result, contractors electrified the fence to prevent its destruction. Incarcerated Japanese Americans protested even more, resulting in the WRA

⁴² George Tokuda, "Transcription of diary from Camp Harmony and Minidoka," May 8, 1942- January 7, 1943, *Densho*, Tokuda Family Collection.

⁴³ Arthur Kleinkopf, *Relocation Center Diary*, October 1942, Robert C. Sims Collection, Box 12, Folder 23-24.

⁴⁴ "Clothing issue begins," *Minidoka Irrigator*, (Hunt, Idaho) September 22, 1942:1.

⁴⁵ Arthur Kleinkopf, *Relocation Center Diary*, November 6, 1942, Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 12, Folder 23-24.

choosing not to electrify the fence.⁴⁶ The fence and the guard towers remained until the camp closed, though the WRA removed a portion of the fence in 1943 to allow for agriculture.⁴⁷ The towers loomed until the camp's closure as a reminder of forced incarceration.

Incarcerated Japanese Americans immediately began transforming the confinement site into a community. Realizing that their barracks lacked furnishings and privacy, many incarcerated individuals took scrap wood from the construction site and fruit crates from the mess halls to create dressers and nightstands.⁴⁸ George Azumano remembered in an oral history interview:

I think, like we did, I decided to make a sort of a dresser for my girlfriend at that time.

We went to steal lumber in the lumber store yards, storage area, just took the boards out.

That's where I got my lumber.⁴⁹

Similarly, many *Nikkei* hung blankets from the rafters to cover the gap between the wall and the rafters. However, few improvements helped keep the dust out of the barracks. Survivor Mary Hirata recalled:

Mom used to come home from the bathroom with toilet paper, I could never figure out what it was for. And I'd see her making little wads and plugging up the holes, so she

⁴⁶ John De Young, "Notes on the Fence," circa 1943, Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 10, Folder 13.

⁴⁷ John De Young, "Notes on the Fence."

⁴⁸ "Japanese American Making Furniture," Photo, circa 1944, *Densho*, Mitsuoka Collection.

⁴⁹ George Azumano, "George Azumano Interview," by Stephan Gilchrist, *Densho*, Oregon Nikkei Endowment Collection, September 20, 2004.

wouldn't have to clean all the time. You could see the little piles of dirt with each crack where the dust would come in.”⁵⁰

After the winters, the mud stuck to everything as the ground thawed, sinking many shoes. Flooding in the spring created even more challenging conditions for travel between the miles of camp for school and work, so incarcerated Japanese Americans made lava stone, brick, and wooden “sidewalks” for travel. In an oral history interview, survivor Shigeko Sese Uno remembered:

Yes. So she had a miserable time in camp. But in camp, if it wasn't dusty -- all this dust would come through, through the window frames, because they wasn't insulated. They would come in through everything, and lay itself on the, all over the floor, the tables, the beds, and the dining room, where the plates were. They would just be covered with dust. So we would have to clean it. And then in the winter when rains came, the same dust would turn into mud. And I remember my mother and my four-year-old were crossing pathway just made of planks, piece of wood.⁵¹

Creating Community

To face the difficult emotional and physical conditions, Japanese Americans created a sense of community through organizations, clubs, hobbies, and religion. *Nikkei* established clubs such as the Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA) and organized sports such as baseball, while adults practiced hobbies such as handicrafts.⁵² Woodworking often resulted in

⁵⁰ Mary Hirata, “Mary Hirata Interview,” by Beth Kawahara and Alice Ito, *Densho*, Densho Visual History Collection, March 27, 1998.

⁵¹ Shigeko Sese Uno, “Shigeko Sese Uno Interview,” by Alice Ito and Beth Kawahara. *Densho*, Densho Visual History Collection, September 18, 1998.

⁵² J. Wesley Johnson, “Community Activities,” November 1942, Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 8, Folder 8.

furniture for the almost barren barracks, such as dressers and nightstands, providing incarcerated individuals with a purposeful hobby.⁵³ For example, Richard Sakurai created a chair for his disabled sister at Minidoka. He explained:

The only furniture was these army cots, nothing to sit on. So I made a chair for Betty and all I had was pieces of lumber, one by fours, okay, and a hammer and some nails and a saw.⁵⁴

Art, poetry, music, and writing also played a significant role in the creative expression of incarcerated citizens.⁵⁵ Many of these community organizations and clubs experienced generational and cultural divides. *Issei* joined in writing *senryu* poetry and choir while *Sansei* (third generation Japanese Americans) and young *nisei* attended Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, drama club, and organized dances.⁵⁶ Though generational differences often dictated community organizations and clubs, incarcerated individuals of all ages regularly attended religious services held in barracks. Religious services provided to *Nikkei* included Buddhism, Catholicism, and Protestantism. Buddhism remained the most prominent religion amongst incarcerated Japanese Americans at Minidoka. However, Catholic priest Father Leopold Tibesar and Presbyterian Minister Reverend Emery Andrews moved from Seattle to minister to their incarcerated congregation at Minidoka.

Incarcerated *Nikkei* also tried to self-govern, despite cultural challenges with the JACL and WRA's perspectives and beliefs about who should be allowed to hold power. Culturally,

⁵³ Richard Sakurai, "Richard Sakurai Interview," by Richard Potashin, *Densho*, Manzanar National Historic Site Collection, July 24, 2010.

⁵⁴ Sakurai, "Richard Sakurai Interview," by Richard Potashin, 2010.

⁵⁵ J. Wesley Johnson, "Weekly Statistics," November 1942- May 1943. JAERR BANC MSS 67/14 c, folder P3.53.

⁵⁶ Johnson, "Weekly Statistics."

many Japanese Americans followed cultural traditions that respected that *Issei* held within the social hierarchy of confined Japanese Americans. The WRA's imposition of power sought to diminish this hierarchy to assimilate the *Issei*, while *nisei* still revered their elder's leadership. As a result, incarcerated Japanese Americans lacked constitutional self-government at Minidoka until 1944.⁵⁷

Initially, each block elected representatives to plan for a community government consisting of forty-two *Issei* and thirty-eight *nisei*. This larger group assigned a smaller committee of seven individuals, six of whom were *Issei*, with the task of creating a community charter, which they completed in 1942.⁵⁸ However, this charter stipulated that the WRA only permitted American citizens to hold office at Minidoka.⁵⁹ Unrest following the "loyalty questionnaire" and a downvote on the initial charter prevented incarcerated Japanese Americans from voting on establishing the Community Council until 1944. The Community Council lost support among incarcerated Japanese Americans, even those who supported self-government, because many viewed the group as beholden to the War Relocation Authority rather than to the incarcerated citizens.⁶⁰

With thousands of individuals living within a small area, Minidoka resembled a city, though behind barbed wire and with massive restrictions regarding the movement of people. Only one month after the first volunteers arrived at Minidoka, *Nikkei* established the *Minidoka Irrigator*, a camp newspaper that detailed the lives and happenings at the camp, including deaths,

⁵⁷ I. Oyama. Final Report of Chairman of Community Council, February 1945–October 1945. JAERR, MSS 67/14 c, folder P6.00:8, Bancroft Library, University of California Berkeley.

⁵⁸ James Sakoda Diary, Feb. 5, 1945, JAERR BANC MSS 67/14 c, folder R 20.81:31.

⁵⁹ "Charter of Self-Government for the Minidoka War Relocation Center," November 11, 1942, Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 8, Folder 10.

⁶⁰ Sakoda Diary, Feb. 5, 1945, JAERR, MSS 67/14 c, folder R 20.81:31.

births, celebrations, and significant events.⁶¹ In December 1942, incarcerated Japanese Americans established a consumer's cooperative in the barracks of blocks across the confinement camp. Ran entirely by incarcerated Japanese Americans, services offered to the incarcerated individuals included watch repair, barber and salon services, and dry cleaning.⁶² Though the *Minidoka Irrigator* initially operated independently, the Minidoka Consumers' Cooperative started operating the newspaper in 1943. The newspaper eventually opted to print the publication outside of Minidoka to include Magic Valley advertisements for jobs and goods.⁶³

As the WRA incarcerated children and youth, they held responsibility for educating the students. In October 1942, elementary schools Huntville and Stafford opened as incarcerated transformed barracks into classrooms.⁶⁴ In November, the Junior and Senior High Schools opened. However, the subpar materials, outdated textbooks, and prolonged periods without education made teaching and learning difficult.⁶⁵ The Superintendent of Education, Arthur Kleinkopf, noted in his diary:

⁶¹ *Minidoka Irrigator* (Hunt, Idaho) vol. 1, no.1, September 10, 1942.

⁶² Frank S. Barrett, Report of Business Enterprises Minidoka Community Consumers' Cooperative, 1944-1945. JAERR BANC MSS 67/14 c, folder P6.00:5, and Memo, A. E. O'Brien to Edwin E. Ferguson, November 20, 1942, JAERR BANC MSS 67/14 c, folder P1.09.

⁶³ Barrett, Report of Business Enterprises, April 22, 1944-November 18, 1945. JAERR BANC MSS 67/14 c, folder P6.00:5.

⁶⁴ Lawrence Ray Harker, et al., Historical Narrative Report, Community Management Division, Education Section, JAERR BANC MSS 67/14 c, folder P6.00:10; Kleinkopf, *Relocation Center Diary*, 1942-1945, October 19, 1942, Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 12, Folders 23 and 24.

⁶⁵ Kleinkopf, *Relocation Center Diary*, 1942-1945. October 19, 1942, and November 1942. Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 12, Folder 23.

Two-in planks fastened on each side of dining room tables serve for seats. There are no chairs, no blackboards, no pictures, no place to hang wraps, and not even the minimum amount of needed supplies. The rooms are barren, unfinished, unsealed, drab, and dark....

There are a few books which have been sent from the State of California. They are quite out-moded and in poor condition. Many were published in the early twenties.⁶⁶

Additionally, the WRA struggled to keep teachers because of the low wages, uncomfortable conditions, and outdated materials.⁶⁷ Incarcerated Japanese Americans worked as teaching assistants and frequently taught classes alone.⁶⁸ Their low wages made the positions challenging to fill.⁶⁹ Kleinkopf wrote in his diary:

One of the two certified colonist teachers resigned and in order to get a student teacher to agree to take charge of the room, it was necessary to move two pupils... who... were known as problem children to another room. We hate to bargain this way, but the lack of teachers makes it necessary.⁷⁰

Despite the circumstances, the curriculum at Minidoka included core subjects and elective classes. In most of the classes, the WRA attempted to re-emphasize “patriotic” education to *Nikkei* students that focused on American civics and loyalty to the United States.⁷¹ Henry Miyatake recalled not graduating high school because his civic teacher refused to accept an essay on the topic of “American Democracy and What it Means to Me.” According to his teacher, the

⁶⁶ Kleinkopf, *Relocation Center Diary*.

⁶⁷ Harker, et al., Historical Narrative Report, JAERR BANC MSS 67/14 c, folder P6.00.

⁶⁸ Harker, et al., Historical Narrative Report, JAERR BANC MSS 67/14 c, folder P6.00.

⁶⁹ Kleinkopf, *Relocation Center Diary*, September 26, 1942.

⁷⁰ Kleinkopf, *Relocation Center Diary*, April 1, 1943.

⁷¹ Dillon S. Myer, “Memorandum of Understanding Concerning School Operations at Minidoka,” March 1, 1943. Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 11, Folder 21.

essay reflected poorly on the ideals of the United States because Miyatake critiqued its failure that led to his incarceration. He explained:

...she says, "Well unless you rewrite it. I'm not going to accept it." And at that time -- going back to the school regulation -- if you had one F, you got all F's. So she said, "You know what's going to happen. If you can't, if I don't accept your term paper and I give you an F for incompleteness and unsatisfactory work, that means that you're going to get all your junior year for this semester is going to be all F's. And you're not going to graduate."⁷²

Subjects taught included history, math, literature, English, government, economics, and health.⁷³ Students also learned about farming and gardening as part of their curriculum and directly participated in agriculture during school.⁷⁴

Agriculture and Labor

Agriculture became a primary facet of life for incarcerated Japanese Americans at Minidoka. Beginning in October 1942, the administration provided rye seeds, which *Nikkei* planted to help with the dust and to grow as fodder for farm animals.⁷⁵ After a harsh winter and severe rationing in 1942, incarcerated transformed their landscape of emptiness into abundance. In the spring of 1943, George Kamaya, an *Issei* incarcerated at Minidoka, accepted responsibility for starting agricultural production at the concentration camp. He plowed the land using the

⁷² Henry Miyatake, "Henry Miyatake Oral History Interview," by Tom Ikeda, *Densho*, Densho Visual History Collection, May 4, 1998.

⁷³ "Monthly Report," November 1944, Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 11, Folder 21.

⁷⁴ Kleinkopf, *Relocation Center Diary*, March 24, 1943.

⁷⁵ "Agriculture's First Year at Minidoka," R.S. Davidson, 1943. Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 14, Folder 31.

outdated, WRA-provided equipment.⁷⁶ The land required the labor of all able bodies to burn and clear the sagebrush that grew in thick bushes across the Magic Valley.⁷⁷ Incarcerated Japanese Americans, paid a mere twelve dollars a month, continued their work and constructed irrigation that connected the Northside Canal to the agricultural section.⁷⁸ However, issues with inexperienced workers made creating irrigation systems throughout the agricultural areas of the camp challenging.⁷⁹

After tilling the soil, incarcerated *Nikkei* planted crops critical to sustaining the camp. Crops included oats, wheat, and barley, which agricultural workers fed to the chickens and pigs at Minidoka. Incarcerated Japanese Americans also planted soybeans, alfalfa, gobo, cantaloupe, onions, potatoes, carrots, tomatoes, corn, daikon radishes, napa cabbage, green peppers, beets, eggplants, celery, spinach, and other vegetables and melon fruits.⁸⁰ Incarcerated grew 2,221,512 pounds of vegetables in the first growing season.⁸¹ Agricultural operations successfully fulfilled the WRA's goal of establishing Minidoka per their agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation. Japanese Americans prepared, irrigated, and cultivated the land, supplying the concentration camp with food and readied the land for BOR use after the war. The administration at Minidoka

⁷⁶ "Agriculture's First Year at Minidoka."

⁷⁷ "Agriculture's First Year at Minidoka."

⁷⁸ Shosuke Sasaki, "Shosuke Sasaki Interview," by Chizu Omori and Emiko Omori, *Densho*, Emori and Chizuko Omori Collection, September 28, 1992.

⁷⁹ "War Relocation Authority Proposed Agricultural Production Program," 1944, Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 14, Folder 30.

⁸⁰ "Agricultural Monthly Report," 1944, Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 14, Folder 28.

⁸¹ "Agriculture's First Year at Minidoka," R.S. Davidson, 1943, Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 14, Folder 31.

shipped excess food to other confinement sites that lacked the ability to grow food. The agricultural program transformed the physical landscape of Minidoka to support the camp.⁸²

Incarcerated Japanese Americans expanded their labor to the entire Magic Valley region. Many farmers faced labor shortages due to the war and needed workers to help with planting, watering, and harvesting crops. The incarcerated Japanese Americans, conveniently located near the towns of Twin Falls, Jerome, Hazelton, and Eden, made for an inexpensive labor pool. Just weeks after they arrived at Minidoka, farmers in the Magic Valley began recruiting Japanese Americans to work in their fields. Notably, sugar beet farmers had high demands, especially as the war effort required high amounts of sugar beet production, though farmers also asked for assistance with crops such as corn, wheat, oats, and barley.⁸³

As a result, the *Minidoka Irrigator* began publishing advertisements for employers in Idaho seeking incarcerated labor. Payment for outside work averaged a much higher rate, with housing and food provided at an inexpensive rate, compared to the twelve dollars that most made by working on the Minidoka farms.⁸⁴ Incarcerated received “temporary leave clearances” from the administration to work on the outside farms, though they returned to Minidoka at the season’s end.⁸⁵ Nearly 2,000 incarcerated volunteered to work outside the camp and aid the farmers and factories in the surrounding communities.

⁸² “51 Farmers Desire Hunt Workers,” *Minidoka Irrigator*, (Hunt, Idaho) October 2, 1943: 1, Library of Congress, *Chronicling America: American Newspapers*, <https://www.loc.gov/item/sn84024049/1943-10-02/ed-1/>, accessed September 10, 2022.

⁸³ “51 Farmers Desire Hunt Workers.”

⁸⁴ “Outside Employment,” *Minidoka Irrigator*, February 27, 1943: 1, Library of Congress, *Chronicling America: American Newspapers*, <https://www.loc.gov/item/sn84024049/1943-02-03/ed-1/>, accessed September 20, 2023.

⁸⁵ “War Relocation Authority Leave Permit for Work Group,” WRA-135, April 26, 1943, Japanese American Archival Collection, California State University, Sacramento, Department of Special Collections and Archives.

Those not employed in agriculture, within or outside Minidoka, still sought employment to keep themselves occupied while earning meager funds. While agriculture employed most incarcerated Japanese Americans for only twelve dollars a month, semi-skilled positions in the sanitation crew, boilermen's crew, clerks, stewards in the mess halls, typists, and mechanics made sixteen dollars a month.⁸⁶ "Stewards," who oversaw food preparation and service, employed the most incarcerated individuals outside of agriculture, while the public works division followed shortly behind.⁸⁷ Those who worked as supervisors, doctors, and physicians, along with a handful of specialized positions, earned up to nineteen dollars a month, the same amount as a Private First Class in the U.S. Army.⁸⁸ The low pay and substandard working conditions culminated in several labor disputes. In January 1944, boilermen quit working and struck because their working hours had been increased with the same amount of pay, due to labor shortages when some Japanese Americans left for the war.⁸⁹ Those living at Minidoka went one week without hot water. Still, WRA Project Director Harry Stafford worked to resolve the issue to prevent the pipes from freezing and causing more significant problems. Eventually, the boilermen returned to work after Stafford agreed to hire additional men to help share the workload.

The Loyalty Questionnaire

⁸⁶ "The Analysis of Employment Record," 1942. JAERR BANC MSS 67/14 c, folder P4.61.

⁸⁷ J. Yakisora, Placement Office Records, September 18, 1942. JAERR BANC MSS 67/14 c, folder P4.61.

⁸⁸ "Project Employment by Divisions or Sections Cash Advancements by Sex," August 1942. JAERR BANC, MSS 67/14 c, folder P4.61.

⁸⁹ Arthur Kleinkopf, *Relocation Center Diary*, January 15, 1944, Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 12, Folder 24.

In February 1943, the United States Army recognized the need for more people in the war as well as agricultural operations. From the war's onset, the Army worked with the War Department and the JACL to allow Japanese American men into the armed forces, despite the incarceration. As a result, the WRA looked for ways to "release" incarcerated Japanese Americans either to the U.S. Army or for work. However, after incarcerating an entire population, they needed to ensure that public reactions maintained a positive perspective. As a result, the WRA created a "loyalty questionnaire," ultimately causing confusion and controversy within its concentration camps.

The WRA required any individual over the age of sixteen to answer the questionnaire. The test sought to determine one's supposed loyalty based on questions about their background, affiliations, clubs, and religion.⁹⁰ However, questions twenty-seven and twenty-eight drifted from this standard. Question twenty-seven asked individuals to serve in the U.S. Army under combat, wherever ordered, while question twenty-eight asked them to forswear their allegiance to Japan and swear total allegiance to the United States.⁹¹ The WRA refused to permit *Nikkei* to qualify their answers. For many young men and women, especially those with children, serving in the Army proved a significant sacrifice, so agreeing to do so remained a test of loyalty, especially after the U.S. put them behind barbed wire. Similarly, question twenty-eight asked *nisei* to forswear an allegiance they never had while asking *Issei* to forswear the only country that claimed them, making them virtually nationless amid war. To make matters more

⁹⁰ War Relocation Authority (WRA), "Application for Leave Clearance," 1943. *Densho*, Gentaro Takahashi Collection.

⁹¹ WRA, "Application for Leave Clearance," 1943, *Densho*, Gentaro Takahashi Collection.

complicated, the JACL urged citizens to answer “yes” to both questions, requiring additional compliance from Japanese Americans.

Despite their confinement, most incarcerated individuals at Minidoka and other confinement camps continued to demonstrate their loyalty to the same nation that put them behind barbed wire. The WRA removed those who answered “no” and separated them from the supposedly “loyal” population who answered “yes.” At Tule Lake, forty-two percent of the incarcerated population answered “no” to both questions on the loyalty questionnaire, making them supposedly disloyal. As a result, the WRA decided to confine all those that they considered “disloyal” at Tule Lake, further breaking up existing Japanese American communities by pitting individuals against each other on the basis of supposed loyalty. As a result, the WRA sent incarcerated *Nikkei* from Tule Lake to other confinement camps, Minidoka included. About 1,529 newcomers arrived at Minidoka in the fall of 1943, creating problems related to housing.⁹² Families stayed in recreation and mess halls until Minidoka’s administration found room for them.⁹³

After incarcerated Japanese Americans answered the “loyalty questionnaire,” the WRA issued “indefinite leave clearances,” permitting American citizens to leave Minidoka. To leave the confinement camps, citizens needed first to establish a reason, such as work or school, and secure housing. The Quaker-run American Friends Service Committee proved vital in helping incarcerated *Nikkei* relocate outside Minidoka and the other confinement camps. The organization headed the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council (NJASRC),

⁹² “Final Influx of Tuleans Completed,” *Minidoka Irrigator* (Hunt, Idaho) October 2, 1943:1, Library of Congress, *Chronicling America: American Newspapers*, <https://www.loc.gov/item/sn84024049/1942-10-02/ed-1/>, accessed September 20, 2023.

⁹³ “Final Influx of Tuleans Completed.”

which aimed to assist Japanese American students searching for higher education to leave the confinement camps. Finding housing and funding proved most difficult for those attempting to leave, especially for school. After securing employment, education, and housing, Japanese Americans needed proof of employment or education, a sponsor, and had to submit to FBI background checks. The process proved long and arduous, meaning many chose not to leave, especially with the anxieties surrounding their reception in a new town.

Military Service

The same day the *Minidoka Irrigator* announced that all incarcerated Japanese Americans had completed the “loyalty questionnaire,” the newspaper also reported that the United States wanted *nisei* sons and fathers on the battlefield. With the need for men fighting in both theaters, the War Department reclassified Japanese Americans from 4-C to 1-A, “eligible for military service,” and began requesting volunteers for military service.⁹⁴ The U.S. Army created the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, a segregated unit of Japanese Americans. From Minidoka, an initial 300 men, accounting for nineteen percent of eligible adults, enlisted in the United States Army.⁹⁵ In October 1943, artists Kamekichi Tokita and Kenjiro Nomura erected

⁹⁴ “Army Recruiting Team to leave Early Next Week,” *Minidoka Irrigator* (Hunt, Idaho) February 27, 1943: 1, Library of Congress, *Chronicling America: American Newspapers*, <https://www.loc.gov/item/sn84024049/1943-02-27/ed-1/>, accessed November 14, 2023; “Registration of Residents Completed in Center,” *Minidoka Irrigator* (Hunt, Idaho) February 27, 1943: 1, Library of Congress, *Chronicling America: American Newspapers*, <https://www.loc.gov/item/sn84024049/1943-02-27/ed-1/>, accessed November 14, 2023.

⁹⁵ “300 Volunteer for Combat Unit,” *Minidoka Irrigator* (Hunt, Idaho) March 6, 1943:1, Library of Congress, *Chronicling America: American Newspapers*, <https://www.loc.gov/item/sn84024049/1943-03-06/ed-1/>, accessed November 14, 2023

the Minidoka Honor Roll near the guard station and entrance to the camp, listing the names of incarcerated Japanese Americans who served in the Armed forces.⁹⁶

The *nisei* who fought and served offered their lives for the United States. After several months of training, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team landed in Europe and primarily served in Germany and Italy. The unit's motto, "Go for Broke," rang true as the men received the most decorations in United States military history for their service. In addition to the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, *nisei* men and women volunteered to serve as linguists for the Military Intelligence Service (MIS). Primarily serving in the Pacific Theater, the translators trained at the Military Intelligence Language School at the Presidio in San Francisco before receiving further training at Fort Snelling and Camp Savage in Minnesota. Unlike their European compatriots, the nearly 6,000 *nisei* who joined the MIS faced dangers from both prejudiced Americans as well as foes in Japan. Demonstrating their patriotism during the war, these linguists also proved crucial in the United States' occupation of Japan following Japan's surrender.

Then, on July 15, 1944, the mortal danger of war struck Minidoka. The *Minidoka Irrigator* reported Private Fred H. Sawada, serving in Italy with the 442nd, as missing.⁹⁷ Sawada marked the first missing soldier from Minidoka. One week later, the newspaper announced that

⁹⁶ "Hunt Honor Roll Board Set Up Near Gate," *Minidoka Irrigator* (Hunt Idaho) October 17, 1943:1, Library of Congress, *Chronicling America: American Newspapers*, <https://www.loc.gov/item/sn84024049/1942-10-17/ed-1/>, accessed November 20, 2022.

⁹⁷ "442nd Regiment Reported Attacking on Italian Front," *Minidoka Irrigator* (Hunt, Idaho) July 15, 1944:1, Library of Congress, *Chronicling America: American Newspapers*, <https://www.loc.gov/item/sn84024049/1944-07-15/ed-1/>, accessed May 23, 2022.

Italian forces killed three men, while the numbers of wounded and missing continued to rise.⁹⁸ Bill, or William Nakamura, reported as the first death, died while holding off enemy forces from advancing, allowing his platoon and company to escape. In 2000, President Clinton posthumously awarded William Nakamura the Medal of Honor. The 442nd Regimental Combat Team demonstrated the loyalty of American citizens. It became the most decorated unit in military history, receiving over 4,000 Purple Hearts and over 4,000 Bronze Medals, along with seven Presidential Citations. Twenty-one men from the 442nd also received a Medal of Honor, most posthumously. Though casualties grew throughout 1944 and 1945, the 442nd demonstrated that loyalty and patriotism depended on character rather than appearances.

Reinstating the Draft

The United States War Department tested the patience and resilience of its confined citizens again in 1944. In late January, the *Minidoka Irrigator* announced that the War Department required Japanese American men to fulfill their duties as citizens by registering for the Selective Service draft, even as their rights remained under question.⁹⁹ Sons, husbands, and brothers expected to see their names on the induction list. Most incarcerated citizens showed up to their physicals, but Hitoshi Gene Akutsu refused.¹⁰⁰ Arrested and charged with violating the Selective Service Act, Akutsu and thirty-eight other men from Minidoka appeared before federal Judge (and former Governor of Idaho) Chase A. Clark in September 1944. Prosecutors asked

⁹⁸ “Three Hunt Men Killed in Italian Fighting,” *Minidoka Irrigator* (Hunt, Idaho) July 22, 1944:1, Library of Congress, *Chronicling America: American Newspapers*, <https://www.loc.gov/item/sn84024049/1944-07-22/ed-1/?dl=all>, Accessed May 23, 2022.

⁹⁹ “Selective Service Open to Nisei,” *Minidoka Irrigator* (Hunt, Idaho) January 22, 1944:1, Library of Congress, *Chronicling America: American Newspapers*, <https://www.loc.gov/item/sn84024049/1944-01-22/ed-1/>, accessed September 23, 2023.

¹⁰⁰ Gene Akutsu, “Gene Akutsu Oral History Interview,” by Larry Hashima and Stephen Fugita, *Densho*, Densho Visual History Collection, July 25, 1997.

simple questions of the witnesses, such as “Did the defendant appear as ordered?” The witness, typically from the Jerome County Board of Inductions, replied in a single-word answer, “No.”¹⁰¹ Often tried by the same individuals, juries found a total of thirty-seven men guilty and sentenced them to up to three and a half years at McNeil Island Federal Penitentiary in Washington. Many veteran and service member families shunned the Japanese American draft resisters. The JACL also made inflammatory statements, ostracizing the draft resisters and their families from their communities. Draft resister Gene Akutsu viewed resisting the draft as essential to affirming his rights as an American citizen. Similarly, resister Akio Hoshina believed it was necessary to stand up:

And I tell the kids, "Now, when grow up to be the leaders of the country, you look after your own rights as well as look after the rights of the others." And that's the way I feel.

You have to speak up now. Speaking up is common and allowed now.¹⁰²

Closing Minidoka

As the *Minidoka Irrigator* updated incarcerated Japanese Americans about the trials throughout the summer of 1944, the newspaper also reported about the dispersal of Japanese Americans throughout the interior of the United States. On July 1, 1944, the incarceration site in Jerome, Arkansas, closed as the WRA sent its incarcerated citizens to other confinement camps.¹⁰³ Rumors started circulating that the WRA planned to liquidate the prisons and release

¹⁰¹ Eric Muller, *Free to Die for Their Country: The Story of the Draft Resisters in World War II* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003).

¹⁰² Akio Hoshino, “Akio Hoshino Interview,” by Stephen Fugita, *Densho*, Densho Visual History Collection, July 11, 1997.

¹⁰³ “Jerome Center Closes on July 1,” *Minidoka Irrigator* (Hunt, Idaho), July 8, 1944: 1, Library of Congress, *Chronicling America: American Newspapers*, <https://www.loc.gov/item/sn84024049/1944-07-08/ed-1/>. Accessed November 20, 2023.

the citizens, though the Minidoka administration maintained that this remained pure speculation. Then, on December 18, 1944, the Supreme Court ruled on *ex parte Endo*, deciding that the Western Defense Command could not incarcerate a seemingly loyal citizen of the United States without due process.¹⁰⁴ The Supreme Court ruled that a prosecutor needed to prove a citizen was disloyal before confining them. As a result of this ruling, Japanese Americans received permission to return to their homes on the West Coast on January 2, 1945, no longer needing to move to the interior of the United States to leave Minidoka.

Returning home proved daunting for many, especially for the *Issei*, many of whom had reached an elderly age. With no pension, citizenship, and health conditions, combined with the trauma of incarceration, *Issei* found working in their previous jobs difficult. While many sought to leave their confinement, most lacked the resources to resettle. Racism made finding jobs difficult and many older generations lost their livelihoods that had taken decades to build. Many sold their houses, businesses, and farms during the removal, meaning they had nothing to return to and instead stayed at hotels, working to clean rooms for their stay.¹⁰⁵ *Nisei* grew into adulthood and started professional jobs or returned to school, unable to care physically or financially for their aging parents. The majority of formerly incarcerated *Nikkei* wanted to forget the experience they went through and move on with their lives. While the WRA successfully dispersed many Japanese Americans to cities away from the West Coast in areas such as Denver, Chicago, New York, and Indianapolis, others returned to find strangers in their homes.

Though many wanted to leave Minidoka, they found themselves homeless outside the concentration camp. On August 1, 1945, nearly three years after incarcerated Japanese

¹⁰⁴ *Ex Parte Mitsuye Endo*, 323 U.S. 283, 1944.

¹⁰⁵ Alice Matsumato Ando, "Alice Matsumato Ando Interview," by Betty Jean Harry, *Densho*, Oregon Nikkei Endowment Collection, June 13, 2014.

Americans first arrived at Minidoka, administrators began pressuring *Nikkei* to leave the camp because “voluntary” resettlement took much more time than the WRA expected.¹⁰⁶ The administration made lists of individuals, classifying them based on their plans to leave. Some had plans but needed approval for housing, while others found jobs and housing but needed a place to stay while waiting to start their jobs. By September, the WRA began evicting with only a three-day notice incarcerated Japanese Americans who made no plans to leave.¹⁰⁷

While some struggled to find jobs or housing, others feared for their family’s return. In some cases, those who returned to the West Coast reported that their old neighbors greeted them with hostility that led to vandalism and violence, leaving many families uncomfortable with returning.¹⁰⁸ Meanwhile, Minidoka’s administration closed mess halls serving less than 125 people and terminated all of the white teachers' contracts, moving their old cots into makeshift hostels in Portland and Seattle.¹⁰⁹ Administrators decided that on October 23rd, Minidoka would close. As the date approached, the Minidoka administration discontinued necessary services, such as hot water, to encourage Japanese Americans to leave.¹¹⁰ The WRA provided twenty-five dollars and a one-way bus ticket to incarcerated *Nikkei*, but for many, the meager amount left

¹⁰⁶ “Administrative Notice No. 289,” Aug. 1, 1945, JAERR, BANC MSS 67/14 c, folder P2.10

¹⁰⁷ Dallas S. Newell, “Final Report of the Interviewing Section [Minidoka],” pp. 45–47, JAERR BANC MSS 67/14 c, folder P6.00:22

¹⁰⁸ Victor V. McLaughlin, “Final Report of the Relocation Division [Minidoka],” p. 2, JAERR MSS 67/14 c, folder P6.00:22.

¹⁰⁹ Relocation Division Monthly Reports, Apr. 30 and May 31, 1945, JAERR BANC MSS 67/14 c, folder P2.22.

¹¹⁰ James Sakoda Diary, September 30 and Oct. 6 and 19, 1945. JAERR BANC MSS 67/14 c, folder R 20.81:31.

few options, especially after losing their homes and businesses. The last incarcerated Japanese Americans left on October 23, 1945.¹¹¹

Not all communities welcomed back their formerly-incarcerated neighbors with open arms. Some Japanese Americans returned to find their properties essentially destroyed under the care of a friend, facing more discrimination and racism than before the war. For example, in Hood River, Oregon, the American Legion removed the names of the *nisei* who served during World War II from the Honor Roll in town. Others received warm welcomes and assistance in rebuilding their lives in their hometowns.¹¹² For example, Mary Abo recalled her family's warm welcome back in Juneau as they rebuilt their home and restaurant. Customers frequented the restaurant in support of the family, and the local grocer offered unlimited credit to Abo's father.¹¹³ Each case presented different problems based on age, sex, region, education, and land ownership.

As the now-freed Japanese Americans started their lives again, the Bureau of Reclamation began its new project: converting Minidoka into homesteads. Japanese Americans had cleared the sagebrush, installed irrigation, and successfully started farming large areas.¹¹⁴ With the land prepared and ready for farming, the BOR auctioned off buildings at the site beginning in 1946.¹¹⁵ Massive semi-trucks loaded barracks onto trucks and dispersed hundreds

¹¹¹ Kleinkopf, *Relocation Center Diary*, October 23, 1945.

¹¹² United States Commission of Wartime Relocation, *Personal Justice Denied*, (Washington, DC: United States Printing Office, 1982).

¹¹³ Mary Abo, "Betrayed Film Screening," Albertsons Library, Boise State University, Boise, Idaho. April 20, 2023.

¹¹⁴ Agriculture's First Year at Minidoka," R.S. Davidson, 1943, Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 14, Folder 31.

¹¹⁵ "The United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation Minidoka Project, Annual Project History," 1946, Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 1, Folder 14.

of buildings throughout Idaho. Many farmers and business owners throughout the Magic Valley took the BOR up on the ready supply of lumber and constructed buildings. Beginning in 1947, the BOR sold the entirety of Minidoka concentration camp in parcels to returning white World War II veterans through the Homestead Act.¹¹⁶

Despite the work completed by Japanese Americans, homesteading proved difficult for the families taking up claims on the site of Minidoka. Several of the homesteaders recall the years of hard work that went into their farms.¹¹⁷ One homesteader, John Hermann, created something of a spectacle in 1952, when he returned from the Korean War, still yet to build a house or start a farm.¹¹⁸ As a result, the Magic Valley community poured out support and assisted Hermann with plowing and planting his farm in a single day. The event, advertised as “Farm in a Day,” also provided Idaho farm equipment retailers with opportunities to promote their newest equipment to the farmer communities.¹¹⁹ By the end of the day on April 17, 1952, the Hermann family no longer slept in Fire Station No. 1, one of the buildings they received in the lottery. Instead, they slept in their new home, knowing little about the families who lived there before.

¹¹⁶ “The United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation Minidoka Project, Annual Project History,” 1946. Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 1, Folder 14; “1948 Annual Report of the Minidoka Project,” 1948, Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 1, Folder 14.

¹¹⁷ Gary Bohlen, *Homesteaders*, August 29, 2010, Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 1, Folder 20

¹¹⁸ “Idaho Veteran to Get Farm Built in a Day,” *Idaho Statesman* (Boise, Idaho) April 16, 1952:1.

¹¹⁹ “Idaho Veteran to Get Farm Built in a Day.”

Chapter Two: Resettlement, Recognition, Remembrance, and Redress (1944-1990)

In the aftermath of World War II, the Japanese American community grappled with the trauma of removal and incarceration. Over 125,000 men, women, and children needed to restart and rebuild their lives. Entire neighborhoods found themselves in new cities such as Chicago, Detroit, Denver, and New York. Young men returned from war to learn that some of their friends had not come home, while others continued serving their sentences in federal prison for protesting the selective service. The WRA's "loyalty questionnaire" caused many divisions within Japanese American communities over the way people responded under the pressures of war, racism, and trauma. Many families did not speak about their experiences, even with close family members and friends. *Nisei* focused on their education, families, jobs, and livelihoods while suppressing the emotional trauma of their incarceration in an attempt to further assimilate their identity to "American" perspectives, ideals, and values. Japanese cultural values surrounding *gaman* (to endure and persevere) and *shikata ga nai* ("it cannot be helped") prompted many *Issei* and *nisei* to turn their attention toward their future rather than their past.

Obtaining Citizenship

One of the first steps towards a brighter future included legislation to permit Japanese immigrants to naturalize as citizens. The Naturalization Act of 1790 barred *Issei* from citizenship.¹²⁰ Racist legislation also made immigration and land ownership difficult for *Issei*. Japanese culture dictated that younger generations honor their elders, so obtaining these rights for the *Issei* proved essential to Japanese culture.¹²¹ During the post-war Cold War era, legislators and federal leaders concerned with communism in Asia wrote the Immigration and

¹²⁰ 1 Stat. 103, 1st Congress, "Naturalization Act," March 26, 1790.

¹²¹ U.S. Congress. United States Code: Immigration and Nationality, 8 U.S.C. §§ -1483 Suppl. 5 1952.

Nationality Act of 1952, also known as the McCarran-Walter Act, which upheld the quotas established with the Immigration Act of 1924 and restricted immigration more significantly from countries with communist governments. However, the law also offered naturalization to foreign-born nationals, such as Japanese immigrants living in the United States, as a way to assimilate Asian immigrants. Anti-Communist leaders believed that allowing Asians to immigrate allowed the United States to combat the rise of communism in Asia.¹²² The McCarran-Walter Act also added requirements for naturalization and permitted denaturalization under the guise of national security. Despite the law's xenophobic undertones, the JACL lobbied to support the bill because it guaranteed naturalization for *Issei*. Upon passage, the act allowed ninety percent of the *Issei* population to naturalize -- a dream that many had upon building their homes in the United States. Though the act ultimately confirmed an exclusionary policy, this law also encouraged *Issei* to embrace a new sense of identity as American citizens rather than residents.

Legal changes allowed many survivors to restart their lives, especially for those along the West Coast. As naturalization laws changed, racist "Alien Land Laws" also faced scrutiny. The same year that the McCarran-Walter Act permitted Japanese naturalization, the Supreme Court overturned California's "Alien Land Law."¹²³ However, by 1942, several states had already abandoned their legal restrictions on land ownership. The legal changes offered a step in the right direction, especially as a handful of *Nikkei* returned to the West Coast. However, many *Issei* lacked the funds to purchase land and property, having their businesses foreclosed upon during

¹²² "The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952," *United States Office of the Historian*, [https://history.state.gov/milestones/1945-1952/immigration-act#:~:text=the%20full%20notice.-,The%20Immigration%20and%20Nationality%20Act%20of%201952%20\(The%20McCarran%20DWalter,controversial%20system%20of%20immigrant%20selection](https://history.state.gov/milestones/1945-1952/immigration-act#:~:text=the%20full%20notice.-,The%20Immigration%20and%20Nationality%20Act%20of%201952%20(The%20McCarran%20DWalter,controversial%20system%20of%20immigrant%20selection), accessed November 12, 2023.

¹²³ *Fujii v. California* (38 Cal 2nd 718), April 17, 1952.

the war. Regardless, overturning land laws and changing naturalization laws strengthened the social position of *Nikkei* in the West against the backdrop of their prior incarceration.

However, the new Americans gained little in terms of racial equality and recognition for their trauma. Instead, the small victories in overturning racist laws and pardoning individuals for convictions delivered by xenophobic judges and juries enacted change on an individual basis. Cases such as Dr. Thomas Noguchi's reinstatement as the L.A. County Coroner and the pardoning of Tokyo Rose highlighted the judicial system's attempts to reconcile wrongs without admitting to the sense of "wrongness" regarding the mass incarceration of Japanese Americans.¹²⁴ The United States left Japanese Americans, ashamed after their incarceration, to seek forgiveness for the injustices they experienced. For many, acknowledging the United States' offenses also meant revealing the shame of incarceration. Additionally, convincing disbelieving publics about the concentration camps' realities seemed an uphill battle. Lawmakers of the late 1940s and 1950s used race as a key factor in their decisions. Additionally, a cultural focus among *nisei* centered around rebuilding rather than remembering led to silence among the Japanese American community for the decades following the war.

Activist Beginnings

The atmosphere of activism during the Civil Rights Movement throughout the 1960s and 1970s fostered the redress movement's origins. Historian Diane Fujino argued that in the "Pre-Movement," Japanese American activists related to the Black Liberation Movement more closely than they did with Japanese American radical groups because the Black Liberation Movement aligned with their struggle and repression under the government. As activists such as Yuri

¹²⁴ Clifford I. Uyeda, *A Final Report and Review: The Japanese American Citizens League, National Committee for Iva Toguri* (Seattle: Asian American Studies Program, University of Washington, 1980).

Kochiyama directly supported Malcolm X's vision and others, such as Richard Aoki, grew as leaders in the Black Panther party, the fight for civil rights created a spirit of justice among Japanese Americans who started to recognize the battles they needed to overcome to obtain equal rights.¹²⁵

Historians frequently point to Los Angeles and San Francisco as the mixing pot between the two groups because, during World War II, many Black workers migrated to the empty houses of incarcerated Japanese Americans and stayed. So, as *Nikkei* returned "home" to Little Tokyo, they found strangers eating in their dining rooms. Before the war, Japanese American *nihomachis* thrived, though often in less-desirable areas of Seattle and Portland. During World War II, West Coast factories attracted many ethnic groups, especially those identifying as Black or Jewish. These groups moved into recently liquidated homes and stayed after the war, complicating space issues with Japanese Americans who returned after the war. However, Black Americans and Japanese Americans found themselves in similar plights and sought to support one another against the issues the communities faced. Confronting the multiethnic character of their once homogenous neighborhoods led to a spirited generation of Japanese Americans who sought to make change.

Overturing Title II of the Internal Security Act

The battle for Japanese American redress and reparations started with grassroots activists battling legislation rather than overturning individual suits. Edison Uno, a "militant" *nisei* activist, joined the JACL and worked with Raymond Okamura, also a *Nikkei* activist, to repeal

¹²⁵ Fujino, "Race, Place, Space, and Political Development," *Social Justice*, (2008): 58; Yuri Kochiyama, "The Impact of Malcolm X on Asian-American Politics and Activism," in *Latinos, and Asians in Urban America: Status and Prospects for Politics and Activism*, ed. James Jennings (London: Praeger, 1994).

legislation permitting civilian incarceration. Title II of the Internal Security Act of 1950, otherwise known as the “Emergency Detention Act,” passed under President Harry Truman at the height of McCarthyism, permitted the Attorney General to:

... apprehend and ... detain ... each person as to whom there is reasonable ground to believe that such person probably will engage in, or probably will conspire with others to engage in, acts of espionage or sabotage [in the event of] war, invasion, or insurrection in aid of a foreign enemy.¹²⁶

Though the Department of Justice denied the existence of any incarceration facilities for these purposes, the Federal Bureau of Prisons oversaw six “standby” incarceration camps, ready for immediate use, until 1957. The legislation permitted the incarceration of American citizens for any purpose, regardless of citizenship, based on presumed activities, without trial.

During the war, Uno experienced unconstitutional incarceration and lengthy confinement based on the supposed “subversive” activities of his brother, Kazumaro Buddy Uno. The Department of Justice refused to allow Uno’s father to leave Crystal City, Texas, because of his brother’s work for the Japanese Army Press Bureau. As a result, Uno also refused to leave the camp until his father left, too. In the fall of 1946, officials told Uno that he was the last American confined based on his Japanese ancestry. Uno’s experiences during the war created a strong civil liberties activist within him, informing his position to firmly oppose Title II, and encouraging fellow *Nikkei* to join his spirit.

Through grassroots support from Japanese Americans, Uno championed the crusade against Title II’s legislation. Beginning in 1967, a Japanese American Citizens League ad hoc

¹²⁶ Masumi Izumi, “Prohibiting “American Concentration Camps,” *Pacific Historical Review* 74, no. 2 (2005), 165-170.

committee of survivors and their activist descendants -- namely the third-generation *Sansei* -- took to the streets and distributed letters and pamphlets pushing for Title II's repeal.¹²⁷ Growing media pressure turned the spotlight on Japanese American political leaders such as congressional delegates and the JACL. Handfuls of Japanese American activists critiqued the JACL because the organization claimed to champion civil rights yet backed the WRA during the war and still needed persuasion to act.¹²⁸ The JACL responded to *Sanseis'* call for support by openly announcing their support for Title II's repeal.

Individuals responding to the pressure included several individuals who played essential roles in the JACL during and after World War II, including Mike Masaoka, who served as a JACL spokesperson directly to the WRA. He also urged Japanese Americans to comply with the WRA's removal and incarceration orders, though he lived in Washington D.C. throughout the war. Despite his past checkered with controversial decisions, Masaoka lobbied for the JACL to support repealing Title II with the assistance of Spark Matsunaga, a representative from Hawaii, and Senator Daniel Inouye, also from Hawaii. The three men served in the United States military during World War II, though none of the trio experienced incarceration. Their fresh political careers made them critical to the JACL's lobbying efforts in campaigning for civil rights. In 1971, Congress repealed Title II, demonstrating a shift in opinion on wartime incarceration and civil rights through the efforts of politicians and activists. Beyond the strides he made for civil rights, Masaoka redeemed the trust he had lost with many survivors based on his complacency with the WRA. Though the threat of Executive Order 9066 still loomed, repealing Title II

¹²⁷ Testimony of Congressman Spark Matsunaga, September 14, 1971, Congressional Record, House of Representatives (Washington D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1972), 317-58.

¹²⁸ Henry Miyatake, "Henry Miyatake Interview," by Tom Ikeda, *Densho*, Densho Visual History Collection, October 14, 1999.

stopped the “preventative” incarceration of United States citizens based on patriotism, loyalty, or potential subversion. Additionally, repealing Title II marked a shift for Japanese Americans, who received political representation in the US Congress for the first time since *Issei* arrived almost two centuries prior.

Gaining JACL Support for Redress and Reparations

The repeal of Title II of the Internal Security Act set the framework for the JACL to seek formal redress and reparations for the WWII incarceration of Japanese Americans. Before Title II’s repeal, the JACL considered other opportunities for advancing the civil rights of Japanese Americans. At the National Convention in 1970, Edison Uno read a proposal created by the Northern California-Western Nevada District Council that sought JACL backing to request Congress to "compensate on an individual basis a daily per diem requital for each day spent in confinement and/or legal exclusion."¹²⁹ Initially, Uno believed that the federal government should establish a communal fund for survivors and descendants needing that help to rebuild their communities and lives.¹³⁰ The JACL supported the Northern California-Western Nevada District Council’s resolution in theory. However, until the JACL created a plan for seeking redress, they refused to devote time and financial backing to the otherwise lofty ideas. Instead, they asked volunteers to contribute proposals for a plan to seek monetary redress rather than

¹²⁹ Edison Uno, "A Requitil Supplication," circa 1970, Edison Uno Collection, Special Collections, University Research Library, University of California, Los Angeles, Box 38, Folder 3.

¹³⁰ Cherry Kinoshita, “Cherry Kinoshita Interview,” by Becky Fukuda and Tracy Lai. *Densho*, Densho Visual History Collection, September 26, 1997.

forming committees or devoting staffing to the growing movement of individuals who also agreed with notions of redress and reparations.¹³¹

Leading up to the JACL's request for proposals, an ad hoc Seattle JACL committee formed. During this period, Henry Miyatake, a Seattle-born Minidoka survivor, joined efforts with Chuck Kato, a friend of Miyatake's through their shared time at *judo* dojos, to establish a Seattle Cultural Center.¹³² Tomio Moriguchi (the Seattle JACL president at the time), Ken Nakano (a Boeing engineer), the JACL, and the Seattle Dojo and language school joined Kato and Miyatake's efforts to create a proposal for the construction of a \$1.2 million Japanese cultural center.¹³³ Though their funding request remained unfruitful, the group had organized a team while also motivating the Japanese American communities in Seattle towards a common cause.

As Miyatake grew more involved in the Seattle JACL as an activist, the redress movement made its way to the Seattle JACL. At a 1973 Seattle JACL meeting, Cherry Kinoshita, a stand-in for President Ben Nakagawa, read a letter from Barry Matsumoto. In the letter, the JACL representative called for individuals to contribute a feasible plan for redress and reparations.¹³⁴ In 1973, the Seattle Evacuation Redress Committee members drafted a proposal. Miyatake volunteered to help establish a plan because he held a lot of data on Japanese American resettlement and losses after the war based on Statistical Metropolitan Area data.¹³⁵ Other

¹³¹ Henry Miyatake, "Henry Miyatake Interview," by Tom Ikeda, *Densho*, Densho Visual History Collection. October 14, 1999.

¹³² Miyatake, "Henry Miyatake Interview."

¹³³ Kinoshita, "Cherry Kinoshita Interview."

¹³⁴ Miyatake, "Henry Miyatake Interview."

¹³⁵ Miyatake, "Henry Miyatake Interview."

members included Miyatake's peers at Boeing -- Mike Nakata and Ken Nakano -- along with Shosuke Sasaki, an *Issei* and retired financial analyst.¹³⁶ Together, the group wrote the Seattle Plan, which called for \$5,000 for each surviving Japanese American incarcerated during World War II and an additional ten dollars a day for each day confined.¹³⁷ These calculations primarily came from the total loss amounts divided by individuals incarcerated and time passed -- requiring the work of the highly critical team to determine the exact amount the JACL should request from Congress to fulfill adequate reparations. In 1976, Ben Nakagawa presented the Seattle Plan at the JACL National Convention in Sacramento, California, and received full support from the JACL.¹³⁸ Miyatake believed the JACL planned to see the Seattle Plan and reparations come to fruition through Congressional legislation.

The 1970s also brought hope for redress among activists as the White House started to reconsider the prior unjust judgment placed on Japanese Americans. Symbolically, on February 19, 1976, President Gerald Ford rescinded Executive Order 9066.¹³⁹ Similarly, in 1977, Iva Toguri D'Aquino, popularly known as "Tokyo Rose," received a full presidential pardon for her treason charge. Clifford Uyeda, a Japanese American scholar who founded the Center for Japanese American Studies at the University of San Francisco, rallied behind D'Aquino, gaining JACL support in 1975. D'Aquino's pardon also activated the larger Japanese American community, who rallied behind the case to create positive media responses that led President Gerald Ford to pardon the woman for a crime she did not commit.

¹³⁶ Sasaki, "Shosuke Sasaki Interview."

¹³⁷ Miyatake, "Henry Miyatake Interview."

¹³⁸ Miyatake, "Henry Miyatake Interview."

¹³⁹ Gerald Ford, Proclamation 4417, Confirming the Termination of the Executive Order Authorizing Japanese American Internment during World War II, February 19, 1976.

Changing Courses and Redirecting Efforts

Changes within the JACL diverted the road to redress. In 1978, Clifford Uyeda became the president of the JACL and designated John Tateishi as the chair of the JACL's Redress Committee, formed that year. Uyeda viewed the financial aspect of reparations as secondary to educating Americans about wartime incarceration, though other chapters disagreed.¹⁴⁰ The Seattle chapter, disagreeing with the drastic change in plans, petitioned the JACL at the 1978 National Convention in Salt Lake City for individual compensation.

Disagreements within the JACL further separated the distinct viewpoints at the 1978 Convention. Recently elected junior Senator Samuel Ichiyé Hayakawa spoke at the sayonara banquet at the end of the conference. During his speech, he harshly criticized redress, arguing that he understood the incarceration as reasonable, echoing the perspective of the JACL in 1942, though Hayawaka did not experience confinement himself.¹⁴¹ Hayawaka's comments helped further shape the JACL's approach to redress and their attempts to work with their political allies.

Hayawaka's comments spread to media such as *The Wall Street Journal*, which publicly disapproved of redress. In 1979, after a meeting with Senator Inouye, who initially proposed the idea of establishing a commission, the JACL formally altered its goals and instructed Tateishi to pursue a federal commission designed to investigate incarceration rather than lobby for financial redress. This decision ultimately shaped the formation of the redress movement towards a different path, creating dissent among activists aiming their efforts towards redress.

¹⁴⁰ Susan Ager, "\$3 Billion, Lest We Forget," *Frederick Post*, October 27, 1978, A-3.

¹⁴¹ S.I. Hayakawa, "Second Thoughts: Incident on Southside," *Chicago Defender*, August 3, 1946.

The decision to shift from a reparations-based approach to a truth-finding and education-based perspective created factions within the Japanese American community. Japanese American veterans disliked the Seattle Plan because they felt as if it “cheapened” the experiences of those who served in the Army. Some also argued that financial compensation furthered anti-Japanese rhetoric based on economic competition.¹⁴² In an oral history interview, Miyatake explained that most leaders felt as if seeking money demeaned the character of *Nikkei*.¹⁴³ Specific cultural and individual beliefs dictated opinions surrounding redress, primarily surrounding shame, perseverance, and dignity.

As one side argued that financial reparations cheapened the trauma from incarceration, others viewed monetary payment as inadequate action, especially because the amount of losses that individuals encountered grew to such significant proportions. Estimates for the total amount of losses incurred by Japanese Americans during the war varied from individual to individual. In 1948, with the Evacuation Claims Act, Japanese Americans filed a total of 26,568 claims, which was estimated at \$148 million in 1948, though Congress only paid \$37 million. In response to the JACL’s choice, the grassroots activists took matters into their own hands to drum up approval from the Japanese American community to seek reparations.

The First Day of Remembrance

One of the first examples of grassroots activism started with playwright Frank Chin and author Frank Abe, who set out to host a Day of Remembrance to demonstrate the importance of

¹⁴² Bill Hosokawa, "Out of the Frying Pan," *Pacific Citizen* (Los Angeles, California) November 7, 1956; Mike Masaoka, "JACL in the 1970s," *Pacific Citizen*, (Los Angeles California) January 2-9, 1970: 2

¹⁴³ Miyatake, “Henry Miyatake Interview.”

reconciliation in the eyes of those affected by incarceration.¹⁴⁴ Chin wanted to make a scene for lawmakers, leaders, and media coverage that supported the Japanese American fight for redress despite the JACL's lack of support. Initially proposed for Thanksgiving weekend, Chin aimed for all Japanese Americans to protest at the Puyallup Fairgrounds. Deemed as too eccentric of an idea, Abe and other supporters convinced Chin to put on a more family friendly event that included a talent show and potluck. The event retained significant activist undertones that welcomed family and community. Posters advertising the Day of Remembrance urged residents to "Remember the concentration camps-stand for redress with your family."¹⁴⁵ On November 25, 1978, hundreds of cars lined the streets as families emerged and "registered" for the event with mock tags to commemorate the initial tags given to individuals during removal. As the groups gathered, many parents opened up to their children about their experiences, surrounded by other families who experienced the same. Artist Frank Fuji designed the "ichi-ni-san" symbol, wrapped with barbed wire, to commemorate the generational trauma of incarceration. According to Abe and Fuji, "When the truth of the Japanese American experience in the camps is restored to American history, the wire will come off the symbol ... someday."¹⁴⁶

Activists demonstrated they were more than, "*Sansei* radicals who never spent a day in camp," as Hayawaka claimed, but rather survivors and descendants. These individuals believed that the United States government needed to be held accountable for its wrongdoings against

¹⁴⁴ Frank Abe, "The First Day of Remembrance - Thanksgiving Weekend 1978," *Densho: Catalyst*. November 21, 2018, <https://densho.org/catalyst/the-first-day-of-remembrance-thanksgiving-weekend-1978/>, accessed July 23, 2022.

¹⁴⁵ Seattle Day of Remembrance, 1978, Frank Abe Collection, *Densho*, Densho Digital Repository.

¹⁴⁶ Abe, "The First Day of Remembrance- Thanksgiving Weekend 1978," *Densho: Catalyst*, November 21, 2018.

citizens. Activists organized another Day of Remembrance in Portland, also based around redress after Seattle's success. Around 1,200 people filed into the Portland Expo Center to dedicate a plaque at the site commemorating the incarceration of Portland's *Nikkei* community at the Portland Assembly Center.

Abe and Chin also asked survivors and descendants for a five-dollar donation in exchange for their signature on the "Open Letter to Hayawaka," expressing their dissent to his inflammatory remarks on redress. The donation assisted Abe, Chin, and Karen Seriguchi in placing an advertisement in *The Washington Post*. On May 9, 1979, the *Washington Post* published the letter, accompanied by news conferences in Chicago, Los Angeles, Seattle, and San Francisco. Donors who supported the *Post* advertisement letter agreed with the argument Abe and Chin presented:

And on the concentration camps and our concern for redress, you do not speak for Japanese America ... We firmly believe American law can heal itself. We look to you as one of the physicians and are saddened by your mouthing of the clichés of an ancient mob..¹⁴⁷

The National Council for Japanese American Redress

Many of the activists who assisted in organizing the first Day of Remembrance demonstrated their commitment to the cause of redress after the JACL announced its diversion from seeking monetary redress. The National Council for Japanese American Redress (NCJAR) formed in May 1979 under the leadership of William Hohri, a survivor of Manzanar and civil rights activist, with support from members of the Seattle Redress Committee -- which organized

¹⁴⁷ "An Open Letter to the Honorable S. I. Hayawaka from Japanese America," *Washington Post*, May 9, 1979.

to enact the Seattle Plan after the JACL's shift away from financial compensation. The NCJAR differed from the JACL significantly; the group critiqued the JACL for its wartime collaboration with the WRA and supported wartime resisters such as the "no-no boys," along with individual protestors against the Executive Order, fostering a spirit of outspoken activism that celebrated opposition to the wartime incarceration. Members included Frank Abe, Frank Chin, Chuck Kato, Rod Kawakami, Ron Mamiya, Mitch Matsudaira, Henry Miyatake, Tomio Moriguchi, Shosuke Sasaki, Emi Somekawa, Kathy Wong, and Karen Seriguchi. Considered vocal dissidents, many of these activists often faced criticism from the JACL and other Japanese American community members because of their resistance to complacency.¹⁴⁸ Congressman Mike Lowry introduced legislation to Congress based on the outline of the Seattle Plan after Hohri and Miyatake gained his support.¹⁴⁹ However, in Congress, the bill died in the appropriations committee. Hohri saw that the NCJAR needed a new plan.¹⁵⁰

Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaga uncovered documents written by General John DeWitt withheld from the Supreme Court that helped launch a lawsuit, led by the NCJAR, against the United States. A draft letter revealed that DeWitt argued for the incarceration based on the supposed "disloyalty" of individual Japanese Americans, which proved "too difficult" to separate from the rest.¹⁵¹ The formal lawsuit began on March 16, 1983, and sued the United States for "constitutional violations, loss of property and earnings, personal injury, and pain and

¹⁴⁸ William Hohri to Frank Abe, June 18, 1979, Frank Abe Collection, Densho.

¹⁴⁹ William Hohri, *Repairing America* (Pullman: Washington State University Press, 1988).

¹⁵⁰ William Hohri to Frank Abe, April 12, 1980. Frank Abe Collection, Densho.

¹⁵¹ "Plaintiff's Supplemental Memorandum on the Statute of Limitations," January 20, 1984, *Hohri et al. v. United States and Appeal* No. 84-5460, Hohri et al., v. The United States, United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, October 12, 1984.

suffering."¹⁵² In 1986, the Supreme Court in 1986 recommended that the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit hear the lawsuit instead. In 1988, the Court of Appeals dismissed the case, and the Supreme Court refused to permit an appeal, ending the lawsuit.

Though the lawsuit ultimately failed, the evidence uncovered by Herzig-Yoshinaga allowed legal professionals to obtain a writ of *coram nobis* for the Korematsu, Yasui, and Hirabayashi cases to vacate their convictions. The writ of *coram nobis* allowed attorneys to call the Supreme Court's attention to facts that fell outside of the court's judgment at the time of the decision. Despite the unsuccessful lawsuit, the NCJAR cultivated a community of activists who took direct action to charge the United States for its wrongdoings and ultimately succeeded in providing a way for wartime resisters to overturn their convictions.

The Commission on the Wartime Internment of Civilians

In the late 1970s, redress reached Congress and started gaining traction through Japanese American legislators. After the JACL announced its campaign for redress in 1978, the story of injustices reached newspapers and headlines across the United States. In 1979, Senator Daniel Inouye, a veteran of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, proposed a congressional commission to investigate the incarceration of Japanese Americans to the JACL. Two years later, President Jimmy Carter signed a bill introduced by 442nd veteran and Hawaiian Senator Spark Matsunaga. The law established the Commission on the Wartime Internment of Civilians (CWRIC). The Commission consisted of nine individuals appointed by President Jimmy Carter and members of Congress. The bipartisan group consisted of civil rights representatives, a lawyer, religious figures, judges, and former legislators.

¹⁵² Hohri, *Repairing America*, 223.

The CWRIC conducted eight hearings in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, Chicago, New York, Boston, and two in Washington D.C. The CWRIC heard thousands of hours of testimonies, often from people who spoke about wartime incarceration for the first time since 1945. Over 750 individuals testified, including government officials, survivors, descendants of survivors, public figures, organizations such as the JACL, and historians. In December, the CWRIC published its findings to Congress, which concluded that the forced removal and incarceration was the result of racial prejudice, wartime hysteria, and a failure of political leadership.”¹⁵³

Recommendations quickly followed Congress’s findings. In June 1983, the CWRIC recommended that the United States government provide an official recognition and apology for the traumatic removal and incarceration that Japanese Americans faced during the war. Other published recommendations included presidential pardons for those convicted based on curfew violations and the restitution of positions lost based on wartime actions. Lastly, the CWRIC also recommended that Congress establish an education fund specifically for the education on the *Nikkei* confinement experience and also recommended that Congress establish a fund to pay each survivor of WWII incarceration a \$20,000 compensatory payment. The CWRIC’s recommendations came from survivors’ and descendants’ testimonies during the truth-finding period and ultimately combined the goals of the JACL’s redress movement with those of the NCJAR to obtain reparations.

After publishing their recommendations for redress and reparations, Congress left the responsibility of obtaining reparations to Japanese Americans. Senator Inouye, Senator

¹⁵³ United States Commission of Wartime Relocation, *Personal Justice Denied*, (Washington, DC: United States Printing Office, 1982).

Matsunaga, Representative Norman Mineta, and Representative Robert Matsui drafted legislation that sought a \$1.2 billion appropriation from Congress for individual reparations and an education fund. Inouye introduced the bill for redress originally in 1983, but Congress argued that the bill forced taxpayers to own the mistakes of the generation before them. The legislation failed to gain traction until the 100th Congress in 1987 when it quickly passed through the House and the Senate.¹⁵⁴ On April 20, 1988, the Senate voted 69 to 27 in favor of the bill, effectively guaranteeing President Ronald Reagan's signature.¹⁵⁵

On August 10, 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act that established the education fund and provided a formal apology, along with the recommended \$20,000 to each survivor.¹⁵⁶ Some survivors felt the \$20,000 compensation was not enough, especially as many *Nikkei* lost homes, businesses, and farms that they never recovered. Others cared more about the apology rather than the pecuniary gain as a remission of their guilt -- a plea they never entered in courts. Quantifying a life with \$20,000 proved unimportant compared to addressing the innocence of those incarcerated made a major impact. Some individuals, especially *Issei*, remarked that they felt too old to use the money. The oldest nine *Issei* survivors received their payments first, beginning in 1990.¹⁵⁷ The Office of Redress Administration,

¹⁵⁴ Hearings before the House Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Administrative Law and Governmental Relations, *Civil Liberties Act of 1985 and the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands Restitution Act*, Part I, 99th Cong., 2nd sess. (28 April 1986), 34.

¹⁵⁵ *Congressional Record*, Senate, 100th Cong., 2nd sess. (20 April 1988), 7619–7643.

¹⁵⁶ H.R. 442 - 100th Congress (1987-1988): Civil Liberties Act, July 26, 1988.

¹⁵⁷ Ronald J. Ostrow, "First Nine Japanese World War II Internees Get Reparations," *Los Angeles Times*, October 10, 1990: A1.

created specifically to administer the payments and apologies, provided just over 82,000 *Nikkei* with the formal apology and redress appropriation.¹⁵⁸

The fight for redress and reparations ultimately opened the door for survivors to come forward and openly speak about their experiences. However, they engaged in battles on multiple fronts: against the United States government and themselves. Redress provided reparations to survivors, a Congressional investigation and report on the truths behind why and how the incarceration occurred, and an education fund designed to teach the public about the World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans.

The spirit of the redress movement also prompted survivors, descendants, and their friends to remember the legacy of the incarceration. As survivors opened up about their personal history of incarceration, *Sansei* started to preserve the physical remnants of their confinement camps. Preserving the physical sites helped to document the injustices endured and acknowledged the realities of the American concentration camps.

¹⁵⁸ U.S. Department of Justice, "Ten Year Program to Compensate Japanese Americans Interned During World War II Closes Its Doors," (February 19, 1999) <https://www.justice.gov/archive/opa/pr/1999/February/059cr.htm>, accessed November 12, 2023.

Chapter Three: Preserving Minidoka (1977-2001)

Listing Minidoka on the National Register of Historic Places

For decades after World War II, Minidoka faded into the background of American history. History textbooks vividly portrayed battles in Europe and the Pacific while telling the tragedies of the Holocaust but did not mention the camps in the United States. Magic Valley residents who spent their entire life in the region only recalled small details related to the Japanese Americans they knew. Many Japanese Americans incarcerated at Minidoka wanted to forget that story.

Despite the Bureau of Reclamation's best efforts to convert the land that once held over 9,000 Japanese Americans into salvageable farmland, about seventy-three acres remained unusable. The military police entrance and visitor reception area marked the entrance to the camp, though they showed signs of wear throughout the years.¹⁵⁹ The only places untouched by farmland contained cement and stone and remained virtually unremovable by farmers or the Bureau of Reclamation.¹⁶⁰ However, members of the Pocatello-Blackfoot JACL, many of whom were not incarcerated during World War II, sought to bring recognition to Minidoka. Hero Shiosaki, a 442nd Staff Sergeant veteran, sought to preserve and recognize Minidoka in solidarity with the Minidoka survivors, mainly fellow service members. Though funding, establishing, and building a large-scale memorial took decades, listing Minidoka on the National Register of Historic Places started Minidoka's process in becoming a National Historic Site.

¹⁵⁹ Terry Zontek, "Minidoka Relocation Center," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form (Boise, Idaho: State Historical Preservation Office, Idaho State Historical Society, 1979).

¹⁶⁰ Zontek, "Minidoka Relocation Center."

Traction for Minidoka's preservation started from conversations among Japanese Americans living near the site within the context of the redress and reparations movement. The Pocatello-Blackfoot JACL's president, Masa Tsukamoto, started conversations within the JACL to preserve and recognize Minidoka in August 1977, aiming for recognition through the annual JACL conference.¹⁶¹ Instead, the convention included discussions about goals for civil liberties activism and conversations over redress, especially with the Seattle Plan's introduction to the JACL and consequent debate. Somewhat disappointed, Tsukamoto revised his plan to preserve Minidoka by focusing on local efforts rather than national recognition.

Though survivors and their descendants kept Minidoka's legacy alive for decades after the war, several individuals who were not incarcerated also participated in this effort. The incarceration deeply affected their friends, making the site important to remember and preserve. This became especially true for those such as Shiosaki, who served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team alongside men who lived behind the barbed wire.¹⁶² Similar to Shiosaki, Tsukamoto grew up in the Pocatello Japanese American community, which began with the arrival of the Union Pacific to Pocatello in the late nineteenth century.¹⁶³ Though his family never experienced removal and confinement, several Pocatello-Blackfoot JACL constituents spent the war years at Minidoka, so in the interest of other members, the Pocatello-Blackfoot

¹⁶¹ Sanaye Okamura. "Minidoka Memorial Project," *Pocatello-Blackfoot JACL Newsletter* (December 1978), Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 50, Folder 10.

¹⁶² Hero Shiosaki, "Hero Shiosaki Interview," Hero Shiosaki Collection, Library of Congress, 2001.

¹⁶³ Kiyō Morimoto, "An Examination of the Japanese American Community in Pocatello, Idaho," 1952, Robert C. Sims Collection, Box 49 Folder 7.

JACL frequently supported events and programs that stewarded recognition of the incarceration, especially at Minidoka.¹⁶⁴

The movement to preserve Minidoka aligned with efforts to preserve Manzanar. Activists journeyed to the site for annual pilgrimages beginning in 1966 through a group known as the Manzanar Committee. Quickly, the remembrance efforts turned into formal preservation. In 1978, lobbyists first started campaigning to designate Manzanar National Historic Site after the Manzanar Committee's work to establish the site as a California State Park failed due to dissenting opinions from public servants and public audiences. The Manzanar Committee began looking to the National Park Service for preservation assistance in 1978. However, to become a National Historic Site, as the survivors and descendants wanted, Congress needed to pass legislation that authorized a theme study to research Manzanar's significance, cultural resources availability, and current preservation requirements. With eyes turned towards Manzanar at a national level, local institutions and organizations in Idaho focused their efforts towards Minidoka as an equally important site to preserve.

Minidoka's historical significance lies in the stories of the people incarcerated in the high desert. Like the dust storms that plagued the concentration camp, Minidoka grew with time, each story representing a particle of dust becoming painful with the concentration of wind. When the war ended, much like a dust storm, the physical site emptied, bearing scars on the landscape. In an oral history interview, Tsukamoto and George Shiosaki, Hero's brother, explained that little

¹⁶⁴ "Land Law," *Pocatello Blackfoot JACL Newsletter*, (1959):1. Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 50, Folder 6.

remained of the concentration camp upon their initial visit to the site outside of the lava stone rubble -- what once was the military police-run entrance and reception area.¹⁶⁵

Tsukamoto and the Shiosaki brothers pursued a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) listing for Minidoka because they believed the listing offered some type of protection for the site, since the land they chose to protect belonged to the Bureau of Reclamation. This meant that the acreage listed would receive consideration in federal or federally-assisted projects.¹⁶⁶ According to NPS, which administers the NRHP list through State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs), a nominated property becomes eligible through qualifications regarding age, integrity, and significance. In each state, a SHPO reviews all nominations and selects those eligible. Minidoka fulfilled two of the three requirements: the site represented national significance because of its direct ties to World War II, and the portion nominated still included some semblance of integrity, including a handful of concrete pads and the lava stone chimney from the military police entrance and waiting room.¹⁶⁷

After working with the Bureau of Reclamation and Senator Frank Church, the BOR permitted a memorial on the land, stipulating that the Pocatello-Blackfoot JACL held responsibility for fencing and maintaining the memorial. In total, only six acres of the original 33,000-acre camp received official recognition through the National Register.¹⁶⁸ Though Minidoka didn't meet the age requirement of fifty years, Idaho SHPO made an exception based

¹⁶⁵ Masa Tsukamoto and George Shiozawa. "Masa Tsukamoto and George Shiozawa Interview with Ronald James," *Pocatello Blackfoot JACL Oral History Project*, Special Collections and Archives, Eli M. Oboler Library, Idaho State University.

¹⁶⁶ *The National Register of Historic Places in Idaho* (Idaho: Idaho State Historic Preservation Office, Idaho State Historical Society, 2022).

¹⁶⁷ Zontek, "Minidoka Relocation Center."

¹⁶⁸ Zontek, "Minidoka Relocation Center."

on the weight of the site's national significance. Terry Zontek, a regional archaeologist who worked with the Pocatello Blackfoot JACL on the nomination, argued:

...this site represents an exceptional chapter in the history of the United States that should always be remembered. Commemoration of this event should take place before memories fade and the sharpness of the event is dulled with time.¹⁶⁹

On July 10, 1979, Idaho SHPO approved Minidoka's nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Tsukamoto felt an event commemorating the designation would provide an opportunity for recognition and remembrance. On August 18, 1979, approximately 300 people crowded around the remnants of the former military police building and reception area. The small lava stone structure stood as a symbol of confinement for those gathered, many of whom had returned to the site for the first time since World War II, over thirty years prior.¹⁷⁰ The group of Minidoka survivors, descendants, and guests watched Tsukamoto place a metal plaque on the lava stone. The plaque proudly read "National Register of Historic Places," announcing Minidoka's listing on the register. Attending the ceremony required bravery from those in the audience, especially given the high-desert Idaho heat. Reporter Chris Baker wrote in the Jerome County newspaper *Northside News* that a slight drizzle from the sky matched the event's solemn atmosphere.¹⁷¹

The dedication ceremony lasted over an hour and included a presentation of colors by members of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. The segregated Japanese American unit valiantly fought during World War II and received the most decorations for any unit in American

¹⁶⁹ Zontek, "Minidoka Relocation Center."

¹⁷⁰ Chris Baker, "Dedication draws many and stirs memories," *North Side News* (Jerome, Idaho) August 23, 1979: 11.

¹⁷¹ Baker, "Dedication draws many and stirs memories."

history.¹⁷² Alice Nishianti, a Minidoka survivor from Portland, opened the ceremonial presentation with the “Star Spangled Banner.”¹⁷³ The dedication program also included speeches from local and national leaders. JACL representatives from Idaho and national chapters offered their sentiments. Idaho Senator Frank Church, who assisted the Pocatello-Blackfoot JACL with the listing, also spoke.¹⁷⁴ In his speech, Church stated, “Something was learned here out of the bitterness of this situation. It’s hard to believe, looking back, that we could be so blind.”¹⁷⁵ Church’s speech seemed in part an attempt to reconcile and apologize for his father-in-law, Governor Chase Clark, who stated that he did not trust anyone of Japanese ancestry and wanted them all incarcerated after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Clark infamously said, “We want to keep this a white man’s country,” in response to the confinement of Japanese Americans in Idaho.¹⁷⁶ To close the ceremony, Masa Tsukamoto, the chairman of the program, installed the dedication plaque on the lava stone.¹⁷⁷

Though the commemoration of Minidoka in this way offered opportunities for healing, many survivors and descendants from Seattle chose not to attend the dedication. The Seattle JACL wanted to send one hundred members to Idaho for a “Day of Remembrance” event after

¹⁷² Baker, “Dedication draws many and stirs memories.”

¹⁷³ “Final Accountability Roster of Evacuees at Relocation Centers, (1941-1946).” 1946, *Densho*, Densho Digital Repository.

¹⁷⁴ Baker, “Dedication draws many and stirs memories.”

¹⁷⁵ Baker, “Dedication draws many and stirs memories.”

¹⁷⁶ Baker, “Dedication draws many and stirs memories”; “Report on Meeting, April 7 at Salt Lake City, with Governors, Attorney General, and other State and Federal Officials of 10 Western States,” in *American Concentration Camps: A Documentary History of the Relocation and Incarceration of Japanese Americans, 1942-1945*, 9 vols. Ed. Roger Daniels (New York, 1989).

¹⁷⁷ “Dedication of ex-relocation site slated.” *Idaho Statesman* (Boise, Idaho), August 13, 1979: 5.

fundraising approximately \$15,000 in 1979. Planned for September 13, the event included a commemorative guard tower burning at the site, only a couple of weeks after the first commemorative event.¹⁷⁸ After discovering their plan, the Pocatello-Blackfoot JACL aimed to dissuade the idea. Several members expressed their discontent because they felt concerned about how their neighbors and other Magic Valley citizens might view a tower burning. In early October, the Seattle JACL postponed the event, maintaining that they planned to hold a “Day of Remembrance” event at a later date.¹⁷⁹ The tower burning never occurred, especially after Karl Nobuyuki, the Intermountain JACL president, expressed his concern about the message behind burning the guard tower.¹⁸⁰ Nobuyuki recognized why the Seattle JACL found the tower burning important, but he also echoed the opinion of the Pocatello-Blackfoot JACL, understanding their concerns.¹⁸¹

To characterize Japanese Americans as similar or different than other ethnically organized groups perpetuates many of the stereotypes that many individuals use to describe Asian Americans today. Instead, the Seattle JACL wished to oppose the “model minority” myth by taking action. Many of these actions led to overturned convictions and changing perceptions among Americans about resistance and resisters. Especially during the period and aftermath of Vietnam draft resistance, many found opportunities to celebrate the World War II draft resisters. Some survivors characterized the Seattle Japanese American community as activist-oriented,

¹⁷⁸ “Idaho Japanese-Americans reject tower-burning.” *Idaho Statesman* (Boise, Idaho) 24 September 1979; David Morrissey, “Hunt Camp Tower Burning Hotly Debated,” *Times News* (Twin Falls, Idaho) September 28, 1979: 21.

¹⁷⁹ Morrissey, “Hunt Camp Tower Burning Hotly Debated.”

¹⁸⁰ Morrissey, “Hunt Camp Tower Burning Hotly Debated”; “Idaho Japanese-Americans reject tower-burning.” *Idaho Statesman*, September 24, 1979.

¹⁸¹ “Idaho Japanese-Americans reject tower-burning.”

especially because of their involvement in the NCJAR.¹⁸² Despite its best attempts to organize a tower burning at the monument, the Seattle JACL's plan never materialized.

The dedication of Minidoka to the National Register of Historic Places marked a monumental event as survivors, descendants, and elected officials gathered to recognize Minidoka as a place of historical and cultural significance. As quickly as Morrison-Knudsen built the barracks, the Bureau of Reclamation moved them, leaving few buildings behind.¹⁸³ With little evidence of the confinement camp remaining, homesteaders started their farms, and it appeared that everyone continued with their post-war lives. Magic Valley residents recalled hearing about the camp, but they knew little about the camp's history outside of employing Japanese Americans on their farms and in their kitchens during the war. Their concern for the future of the camp was to remove the concrete slabs remaining so they could use the land for grazing and farming. Recognizing the site as a place and space of local and national importance was only the beginning of the larger narrative of Minidoka. As the Pocatello-Blackfoot JACL spearheaded initial commemoration efforts, the national JACL continued to work towards creating a space of recognition, education, and ultimately healing for survivors and descendants at Minidoka.

Idaho Centennial Project: Commemorative Event for Minidoka

Between 1979 and 1989, attention and focus on Minidoka grew. Though the site still lacked a memorial, the Pocatello-Blackfoot JACL worked locally to fundraise, plan, and establish a memorial at the military police entrance and visitor reception area at Minidoka.

¹⁸² "Minidoka Internment National Monument Alternatives Development Workshop April 9-10, 2003," April 2003, Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site, Hagerman, Idaho (hereafter MNHS Hagerman).

¹⁸³ "Dedication of ex-relocation site slated." *Idaho Statesman* (Boise, Idaho), August 13, 1979: 5.

Before construction on the memorial began, Minidoka and the other nine mass confinement sites became the center of national focus through the successful Japanese American campaign for redress and reparations. The road to redress helped bring the WWII incarceration camps to the forefront of American politics and history. Additionally, the testimonies offered opportunities for survivors to come forward with the ugly truth of what they endured. As more individuals, lawmakers, and leaders heard about the homefront history, they decided to act against the injustice that occurred. By 1989, Minidoka was on the minds of Idahoans who wanted to remember the loss of civil rights at the site. The Pocatello-Blackfoot JACL sought to establish a physical memorial at the site to include interpretation on the site's history.

Following the dedication of Minidoka to the National Register of Historic Places, the Bureau of Reclamation charged the Pocatello-Blackfoot JACL with maintaining the monument, specifically the area surrounding the commemorative plaque. With a limited budget, the Pocatello-Blackfoot JACL sought additional funding to support interpretation at the monument. Fortunately, the Idaho Legislature agreed to set aside funds raised from "Idaho Centennial License Plates" to help preserve and promote Idaho history projects in celebration of the Idaho Centennial.¹⁸⁴ One aspect of the Centennial included historical or humanities-focused interest projects and preservation. With support from its members, the Pocatello-Blackfoot JACL applied for funds to develop interpretive displays at Minidoka with the intent to build an interpretive center in the future.¹⁸⁵ Like Minidoka's initial dedication to the NRHP, members of the

¹⁸⁴ "Idaho Nears Jan. 13 Kickoff of 1,600-event State Centennial," *Desert News* (Salt Lake City, Utah) Nov. 30, 1989. MIIN 349, Series I, Folder 4, MNHS Hagerman.

¹⁸⁵ "Idaho Nears Jan. 13 Kickoff of 1,600-event State Centennial," *Desert News* (Salt Lake City, Utah) Nov. 30, 1989; "Centennial Project Proposal for Minidoka Relocation Center," *Idaho Stateman* (Boise, Idaho) December 1987: 3-4.

Pocatello-Blackfoot JACL took charge of writing, submitting, and implementing the Idaho Centennial proposal.

The proposed project for the Idaho Centennial included several features that significantly altered the visitor experience at the site. The Pocatello-Blackfoot JACL formed the Minidoka Memorial Committee to oversee the planning and implementation of the Idaho Centennial Commission grants. They created plans to add interpretive signage and plaques to the monument for visitor use of the site.¹⁸⁶ The Pocatello-Blackfoot JACL also planned to include an interpretive walking trail throughout the seventy-three acres maintained by the JACL for the monument at Minidoka. Construction began during the summer of 1989 after the Idaho Centennial Commission matched the \$5,000 that the Pocatello-Blackfoot JACL raised for the memorial.¹⁸⁷ Since the Idaho Centennial grants received state funding, they also required organizations to match the funding they received. While the total \$10,000 assisted with adding interpretive signs to the monument, the JACL required additional funds to realize its plans of including a walking trail. Lacking those funds, the Pocatello-Blackfoot JACL instead constructed a small overlook of lava stone near the Northside Canal and installed three small metal interpretive plaques along the memorial. One plaque provided a short interpretation of Minidoka's history, while another listed the names of the seventy-three service members incarcerated at Minidoka who were killed in action during the war.¹⁸⁸

¹⁸⁶ "Centennial Project Proposal for Minidoka Relocation Center."

¹⁸⁷ Maria Salazar, "Recalling Idaho's relocation camp," *Idaho Statesman*, (Boise, Idaho), September 14, 1989: 13; "Centennial Project Proposal for Minidoka Relocation Center"; "Eden," *Idaho Statesman* (Boise, Idaho), September 10, 1988: 18.

¹⁸⁸ Mark Warbis, "Japanese Americans Dedicate Hunt memorial," *Twin Falls Times* (Twin Falls, Idaho), September 27, 1980: 25, Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 16, Folder 14.

On May 26th, 1990, construction on the memorial reached completion. The Idaho Centennial Project updates and memorialization drew about 500 individuals, compared to the 300 for the NHRP dedication.¹⁸⁹ Attendees included survivors and descendants, as well as representatives from the Pocatello-Blackfoot JACL and the Intermountain District Chapter JACL. Senator Steve Symms and staff members for Senator James McClure and Congressman Richard Stallings also attended. According to the director of the Idaho Centennial Commission, Mary Peterson, “There were buses as far as the eye could see.”¹⁹⁰ As people gathered, many experienced the sense of place at Minidoka, though all that remained at the site consisted of irremovable concrete pads hidden beneath overgrown grass and weeds.

The event gathered attention from survivors and descendants, along with state representatives and several media outlets. In a newspaper article following the event, *The Twin Falls Times* reported that emotions ran high, picturing a photo of a Japanese American mother placing a wreath on the memorial in honor of her son, Soichi J. Takehara, who died in Italy while serving the U.S. Army during World War II.¹⁹¹ Several members of the Minidoka Memorial Committee, such as Hero Shiosaki and Masa Tsukamoto, served alongside Takehara’s son in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Much like Takehara, they lost friends and family, so the Minidoka Memorial Committee believed that the plaques installed needed to include a tribute to those who died while serving their country with their parents behind barbed wire.¹⁹² Including discussions about patriotism, loyalty, and military service in the Minidoka Memorial Dedication

¹⁸⁹ Warbis, “Japanese Americans Dedicate Hunt memorial.”

¹⁹⁰ Warbis, “Japanese Americans Dedicate Hunt memorial.”

¹⁹¹ “Minidoka Relocation Center,” *Japanese American Veterans Association DC*, http://www.javadc.org/minidoka_relocation_center.htm, accessed January 22, 2023.

¹⁹² Warbis, “Japanese Americans Dedicate Hunt memorial.”

set a precedent for future gatherings at the site to continue this tradition, especially by including the color guard as a central feature.

The dedication ceremony included additional elements such as songs, speeches, invocation, and an unveiling of the monument. Speakers included Boise State professor and scholar on Minidoka, Robert Sims, along with Bob Sato, who actively participated in efforts for redress and served in many leadership positions for the Seattle JACL, and Cressy Nakagawa, the former national JACL president. The dedication ended with a roll call of the individuals previously incarcerated at Minidoka who were killed in action, paying respect and tribute to their sacrifice. After the ceremony, the Intermountain District Council of the JACL hosted a reception dinner at George K's Restaurant in Twin Falls, setting a precedent for future gatherings held in Twin Falls.¹⁹³

The Minidoka Memorial Committee envisioned additional preservation work to fulfill its plans for the Minidoka memorial. Survivors recalled a rock garden that sat approximately 100 feet from the memorial. The *Times News*, a Twin Falls-based newspaper, reported on the remnants of the collection of rocks, which remained partially visible from the memorial.¹⁹⁴ John Keys, the regional director of the Bureau of Reclamation at the time of the memorial dedication, stated that restoring the rock garden remained a "top priority" for the second phase of the memorial project.¹⁹⁵ The newspaper also reported that survivors saw the garden as a symbol of tradition and inner strength to survive the confinement experience.¹⁹⁶ Restoring the garden

¹⁹³ "Minidoka Relocation Center Memorial: An Idaho Centennial Project Dedication Ceremony" May 26, 1990, Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 16, Folder 13.

¹⁹⁴ Brad Bowlin, "Dust shrouded rock garden stirs memories," *The Times News* (Twin Falls, Idaho), May 27, 1990, Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 16, Folder 14.

¹⁹⁵ Bowlin, "Dust shrouded rock garden stirs memories."

¹⁹⁶ Bowlin, "Dust shrouded rock garden stirs memories."

required an archaeological investigation to uncover the remnants that stayed onsite and creating a list of items required to reconstruct portions of the garden.¹⁹⁷ These goals required additional funding beyond the funds raised for the Idaho Centennial.

Over a decade later, archaeologists and volunteers uncovered several large basaltic rock stones, arranged in a specific order that led the archaeological team to believe they located a major cultural resource at the site. Anna Tamura, a landscape architect and intern for NPS during the investigation, argued that Fujitaro Kubota, the incarcerated Japanese American who constructed the garden, placed the rocks in a shape that resembled an eagle.¹⁹⁸ In front of the mound upon which the boulders stood, a bald eagle painted on the Honor Roll represented the patriotism of those who served in the U.S. military. In front of the Honor Roll, a V-shaped basalt rock pathway allowed individuals to walk around the back without getting mud on their shoes, though Tamura also theorized the “V” stood for “victory” as part of the war effort.¹⁹⁹ The rock garden withstood over forty years of change, development, and concealment as survivors dispersed and farmers took over the land. The garden symbolized strength then, too, demonstrating that despite the best efforts to cover up the incarceration, the land told a story that people struggled to explain. Minidoka’s designation as a unit of NPS provided crucial funding and staffing that enhanced the Pocatello-Blackfoot JACL’s existing work to provide greater

¹⁹⁷ “Minidoka Relocation Center Memorial: An Idaho Centennial Project Dedication Ceremony.”

¹⁹⁸ Anna Hopstick Tamura, “Gardens Below the Watchtower: Gardens and Meaning in World War II Incarceration Camps,” *Landscape Journal* 23 no. 1 (2001): 17-18; Anna Tamura, “Anna Tamura Oral History Interview,” by Camille Daw, November 10, 2023, Albertsons Library SCA.

¹⁹⁹ Tamura, “Gardens Below the Watchtower,” *Landscape Journal*, (2003): 18.

access, additional preservation, land acquisition, and interpretive development to tell the Minidoka story.

Minidoka Internment National Monument's Designation

The Pocatello-Blackfoot JACL maintained the “Minidoka Memorial ” for just over a decade before the National Park Service (NPS) stepped in to manage the site. Initial interest in designating an additional unit of NPS related to the WWII incarceration of Japanese Americans came after Manzanar’s designation in March 1992.²⁰⁰ Dan Sakura, a *Sansei* Minidoka descendant and senior policy advisor to the Council on Environmental Quality, advocated for Minidoka’s preservation after witnessing President Clinton’s interest in the Japanese American confinement sites’ preservation status.²⁰¹ Conversations followed that considered potential reactions from Magic Valley locals towards the president’s actions and the immense time crunch of only two months to research, write, and enact recommendations. The designation of Minidoka Internment National Monument ultimately demonstrated the importance and reach of Minidoka’s story at a national level.

Early Federal Interest in Japanese American Confinement Sites

The beginnings of designating Minidoka as an NPS unit began just a few years after the Idaho Centennial Project. These early ideas about Minidoka’s potential protection started with Sakura, who was working in the Secretary of Interior’s office in 1993. After witnessing Manzanar’s designation in 1992, Secretary of the Interior George Frampton wanted to know more about the requirements to designate Minidoka as a National Historic Landmark (NHL).

²⁰⁰ Theodore Catton and Diane Krahe, *Sands of Manzanar* (Organization of American Historians, 2018), 116.

²⁰¹ Dan Sakura, “Oral History Interview with Dan Sakura,” by Camille Daw. September 15, 2022, Albertsons Library SCA.

Enlisting the assistance of Sakura, the two men started proposing an NHL status for Minidoka. The NHL designation recognized the property and cultural resources within as representative of United States heritage and culture. National Historic Landmark status provided the units with federal recognition, protected the historic resources from any federal alterations or changes, and assisted with applying for grants and tax credits.

Other Japanese American confinement sites started their own journeys to preservation. This ultimately made the narrative surrounding the *Nikkei* experience in the United States more prominent at the federal level. For example, in 1992 Congress designated Manzanar, located in northern California, as a National Historic Site. That same year in Arkansas, the remnants of another Japanese American confinement camp – specifically, Rohwer cemetery, preserved by survivors after World War II -- received National Landmark designation. Manzanar contained significant historic and cultural resources at the physical site, demonstrating the need for preservation by the federal government. Similarly, the Rohwer cemetery illustrated cultural heritage through a monument to those from Rohwer who served in the 442nd.

However, at Minidoka, the lack of maintenance over the sagebrush and weeds prevented the federal government from painting a clear picture of the potential for the site. *Confinement and Ethnicity*, a National Historic Landmark Theme Study, commissioned through the legislation designating Manzanar as a National Historic Site, sought to remedy this issue for the other concentration camps.²⁰² This study provided NPS a more comprehensive understanding of the history and existing cultural resources remaining at each Japanese American confinement camp

²⁰² Jeffrey F. Burton, Mary M. Farrell, Florence B. Lord, Richard W. Lord, Eleanor Roosevelt, Ronald J. Beckwith, and Irene J. Cohen, *Confinement and Ethnicity: An Overview of World War II Japanese American Relocation Sites* (Tucson AZ: United States Department of the Interior National Park Service Western Archeological and Conservation Center, 2000).

throughout the interior of the United States. The authors, Jeffrey Burton and Mary Farrell, conducted noninvasive archaeological investigations at each former camp site. Their findings concluded that Minidoka still contained significant cultural resources, piquing the interest of President Clinton, who at the time sought to designate another national monument, especially one related to Japanese American incarceration.²⁰³

Minidoka's Designation in the White House

In late 1999, a handful of factors created the conditions for Minidoka's designation. Around the same time that Jeffrey Burton and Mary Farrell presented leadership in Washington D.C. with *Confinement and Ethnicity*, President Bill Clinton's last budget initiative landed on his desk.²⁰⁴ The budget initiative included several actions to preserve World War II confinement sites, including funds for Manzanar National Historic Site's visitor center, the publication of *Confinement and Ethnicity* for public audiences, and the designation of Minidoka National Historic Site.²⁰⁵ *Confinement and Ethnicity* proved pivotal in Clinton's choice to move forward with steps toward designating Minidoka as a National Monument, because the report surveyed the existing resources and development of the site. The knowledge of existing resources of historical significance helped justify Clinton's designation under the Antiquities Act of 1906. Additionally, the document explained the historical significance of Minidoka, which was used to bolster the use of the Antiquities Act to designate the unit.²⁰⁶ Dan Sakura recalled that individuals serving the National Chapter of the JACL such as Floyd Mori, John Tateishi, and

²⁰³ Sakura, "Oral History Interview with Dan Sakura."

²⁰⁴ Sakura, "Oral History Interview with Dan Sakura."

²⁰⁵ JAMP, "The Origin Story of Minidoka," Youtube Livestream. January 17, 2021. 1:44:55; Sakura, "Oral History Interview with Dan Sakura."

²⁰⁶ JAMP, "The Origin Story of Minidoka," January 17, 2021. 1:44:55; Sakura, "Oral History Interview with Dan Sakura."

Christine Minami successfully lobbied for the approval of the budget initiative. Jerry Lewis, the Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, previously supported Manzanar's designation, and knowing the broader narrative, also supported Minidoka's designation.²⁰⁷

The budget initiative was approved, but Minidoka's designation remained in the distance. Another Japanese American memorial, however, received recognition which increased the White House's support for further federal investment. On November 9, 2000, the National Park Service dedicated the Japanese American National Memorial to Patriotism during World War II in the Capitol Mall. The memorial resided at Louisiana Avenue and D Street in Washington D.C. and served as a reminder of the sacrifice, loyalty, dedication, and patriotism that Japanese Americans displayed during World War II with their military service in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and in the 100th Battalion. Though President Clinton did not attend the unveiling ceremony, staffers Sakura and Laura Effert prepared a memorandum for Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt to provide recommendations on the preservation of Japanese American confinement sites.²⁰⁸ The memo encouraged Babbitt to develop recommendations to preserve the existing World War II confinement sites and to provide opportunities for the public to learn about the incarceration experience.²⁰⁹

The Final Push for Designation

²⁰⁷ Sakura, "Oral History Interview with Dan Sakura."

²⁰⁸ Secretary Bruce Babbitt, "Report to the President: Japanese American Internment Sites Preservation," January 9, 2001; William J. Clinton, "Memorandum for the Secretary of Interior: Subject: Preservation of Japanese American Internment Sites," November 9, 2000, Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 365, Box 1 Folder 18.

²⁰⁹ Clinton, "Memorandum for the Secretary of Interior: Subject: Preservation of Japanese American Internment Sites"; Stephanie Toothman, "Next Step," November 25, 2001, MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 16, MNHS Hagerman.

With only 60 days of Clinton's presidency remaining and the holidays quickly approaching, Dan Sakura and other White House staff worked with the National Park Service to dedicate the site quickly. The memo released on November 9, 2000, by President Clinton directed NPS to consult with federal agencies, state governments, tribal governments, members of Congress, local officials, and landowners surrounding Minidoka.²¹⁰ These consultations, primarily a formality to provide all parties with advance notice of Minidoka's designation, also helped NPS develop foundational partnerships with entities they planned to work with in the future to preserve the site and develop interpretation about Minidoka. Sakura held responsibility for consulting with individuals and organizations in Idaho, including local Jerome County officials. In January 2000, Dan Sakura met Neil King and representatives from the Jerome County Historical Society, Francis Egbert, and Ralph Peters, at Minidoka for a site visit. Neil King worked as the superintendent of Craters of the Moon National Monument but was asked by Jonathan B. Jarvis, the Regional Director of the Pacific West Region of the National Park Service, to represent NPS at the site visit.²¹¹ King recalled this visit to Minidoka distinctly:

The first time I visited the old Hunt Camp was on a cold, overcast day in late December 2000 or January 2001. It was a postage-stamp-sized area with a couple of decaying lava stone structures struggling against nature to retain some integrity against the ravages of wind and extreme temperatures. Some of the most magnificent high-desert big sagebrush

²¹⁰ Clinton, "Memorandum for the Secretary of Interior: Subject: Preservation of Japanese American Internment Sites."

²¹¹ Neil King, "Neil King Interview" by Camille Daw, August 8, 2022, Albertsons Library SCA.

I had ever seen was growing up right against the structures, making a statement about the neglect and the passage of time.²¹²

In the midst of winter, with bitterly cold winds, the experience of incarceration at Minidoka became real, impacting those at the site visit. Few individuals visited Minidoka in the winter because of the difficulty of traveling on rural roads with feet of snow.

After the site visit and with the assistance of Robert C. Sims, the eminent scholar on Minidoka, Sakura visited with Magic Valley officials to obtain their support. Bipartisan political approval eased the designation, especially in terms of local reactions to the new monument. Sims reached out to the South Central Idaho Tourism and Recreation Development Association, the Jerome County Historical Society, and other organizations to help promote the monument. Similarly, local JACL chapters contacted the Idaho Human Rights Education Center in Boise and the Four Rivers Cultural Center in Ontario, Oregon, for their support of the new unit as well.²¹³ The Idaho Human Rights Education Center sought to educate Idahoans on human rights, directly correlating to the theme of Minidoka's violation of civil rights through incarceration.²¹⁴ The Four Rivers Cultural Center provided NPS with more direct ties to survivors. Many survivors settled in Ontario during and after the war to work in the agricultural industry. Both organizations demonstrated interest in and commitment to seeing the president establish Minidoka as an NPS unit, and they offered to partner with NPS. Organizations located in the Magic Valley grew excited at the opportunity and prospect of partnering with the new site.

²¹² Neil King, "Place 6/1462," 1-2 (unpublished manuscript, July 26, 2-17).

²¹³ Stacy, "Minidoka National Historic Site," in *An Eye for Injustice*, (2020): 170.

²¹⁴ Now known as the Wassmuth Center for Human Rights; "History of Human Rights in Idaho," *Wassmuth Center for Human Rights*.

As Sakura and others garnered support for Minidoka, the president's office also took an interest in gauging the potential for Minidoka as a National Monument, as well as the opportunities to preserve other Japanese American confinement sites across the country. President Clinton and thirty other individuals and institutions conversed about existing efforts to preserve and interpret the confinement camps, education and outreach programs to include partnerships among organizations and institutions, and the prospects of future legislation.

After the site visit in January 2001, Sakura went back to Washington D.C. and drafted recommendations to include in a report. The Department of the Interior report included Sakura's findings on the local community and existing partnerships, along with the support that he gathered from meeting with officials, in a larger document that provided recommendations for each of the ten mass confinement sites. The report included details about existing interpretation, management, and preservation for each site and concluded that two sites fit the qualifications for designation as National Monuments under the Antiquities Act of 1906: Minidoka and Tule Lake.²¹⁵

The Department of the Interior pursued the designation of Minidoka as a National Monument in its report. The report explained that existing resources housed at the Jerome County Historical Society and at the site itself offered significant opportunities for further research on the site.²¹⁶ Additionally, the document included ideas on potential projects such as oral history interviews with survivors and educational programs on the confinement experience. Lastly, the report explained land transfer requirements if the president designated Minidoka.

²¹⁵ "Report to the President: Japanese -American Internment Sites Preservation," *National Park Service*. Washington D.C., Department of the Interior: January 2001.

²¹⁶ "Report to the President: Japanese -American Internment Sites Preservation," *National Park Service*.

Sakura recalled that *Confinement and Ethnicity* contained evidence of archaeological significance at Minidoka, permitting the designation under the Antiquities Act. Minidoka met all the requirements of designation, but many lawmakers felt that White House staff had no time to move the proclamation with all of the other proclamations, especially with the other competing priorities that the President had on his plate.²¹⁷ However, John Podesta, the White House Chief of Staff, grew up in Chicago, where many Japanese Americans resettled in Chicago during and after the war.²¹⁸ Podesta advocated and pushed for Minidoka's position in the final package of proclamations for President Clinton to sign.

With the recommendations provided in the report, Sakura sought input from survivors and descendants, especially from one close to him: his father. Dan Sakura wanted to make sure that this designation truly remained in the best interest of the Japanese American community, especially in the eyes and perspectives of survivors. During a YouTube livestream video, Sakura explained that his father grew up at Minidoka, and he called his father to ask his thoughts on designating Minidoka as a National Monument. His father agreed that the president should designate the site. Dan recalled that his parents instilled in him a "low tolerance for injustice," and preserving Minidoka sought to rectify the injustices that occurred at the site.

Between November 2000 to January 2001, the initiative to designate Minidoka transformed into a reality. Tireless efforts from a coalition of individuals, organizations, and representatives moved the process faster to obtain the designation before President Clinton left office. Sakura noted that most proclamations required much more time to write, but the urgency

²¹⁷ Sakura, "Oral History Interview with Dan Sakura."

²¹⁸ Sakura, "Oral History Interview with Dan Sakura."

with Minidoka only permitted two months.²¹⁹ Before President Clinton officially signed the designation, Regional Director Jon Jarvis asked Neil King to lead as the superintendent of Minidoka Internment National Monument, making him the superintendent of three units within NPS. These units included the City of Rocks, Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument, and Minidoka Internment National Monument.²²⁰ Though new to this park, King previously assisted with the foundational elements of several other parks, including Indiana Dunes National Park, Craters of the Moon, and Hagerman Fossil Beds.²²¹

The work to designate Minidoka reached its end in January. On January 17, 2001, President Bill Clinton signed Proclamation 7395 which officially designated seventy-three acres of the original footprint of the Minidoka War Relocation Center as a unit of the National Park Service.²²² The land, managed by the Bureau of Reclamation at the time, required a transfer to the management of the National Park Service, effective immediately.²²³ Though Manzanar already existed within the NPS system, Minidoka's designation marked an increased awareness and response to the World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans.

Unlike other designations, the local JACL did not host a reception or gathering to recognize the dedication. Similarly, the news of the site's designation received little attention from local newspapers, while prior events such as the National Register listing, garnered several

²¹⁹ Sakura, "Oral History Interview with Dan Sakura."

²²⁰ King, "Neil King Interview."

²²¹ King, "Neil King Interview."

²²² William J. Clinton, "Proclamation 7395—Establishment of the Minidoka Internment National Monument," January 17, 2001.

²²³ Kenneth R. Pedde, "Transfer of 72.5 Acres of Land, More or Less, for the Minidoka Internment National Monument, Formerly Part of the Minidoka Project, Idaho," (official memorandum, Seattle, Washington: Department of the Interior, 2001), MIIN 349, Series I Folder 1, MNHS Hagerman.

newspaper articles while Minidoka’s designation only included a couple. Anna Tamura recalled that NPS kept the designation relatively private until January 17, 2001.²²⁴ She explained that King expressed concerns about safety regarding the amount of debris and weeds covering the site, combined with the winter conditions.²²⁵

The Public Reaction to Minidoka’s Designation

Not all Magic Valley residents shared the sentiments of descendants and survivors. One week after the designation, the Twin Falls *Times-News* published an editorial written by Wayne De La Motte, a Boise citizen, that argued against the designation of Minidoka and included a couple of reasons why he believed the monument should not have received the designation.²²⁶ One of his arguments was that Clinton attempted to establish six national monuments, taking federal land from the public without their input or involvement.²²⁷ He also argued that the purposes behind the designation resulted from “revisionist” historians and conspiracy theories that made the image of the incarceration experience worse than reality.²²⁸ Additionally, De La Motte claimed that the designation process excluded certain individuals and groups from commenting on their perspective.²²⁹ The editorial concluded with De La Motte stating that the future of Minidoka’s preservation ought to remain in the hands of locals and local politicians, demonstrating his dislike of federal agencies.²³⁰

²²⁴ Anna Tamura, tour, Minidoka Pilgrimage 2023, Jerome County, Idaho, July 8, 2023.

²²⁵ Tamura, tour.

²²⁶ Wayne De La Motte, “Clinton’s aim for Hunt Camp misses the mark on all fronts,” *Times News* (Twin Falls, Idaho), January 25, 2001, Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 16, Folder 15.

²²⁷ De La Motte, “Clinton’s aim for Hunt Camp misses the mark on all fronts.”

²²⁸ De La Motte, “Clinton’s aim for Hunt Camp misses the mark on all fronts.”

²²⁹ De La Motte, “Clinton’s aim for Hunt Camp misses the mark on all fronts.”

²³⁰ De La Motte, “Clinton’s aim for Hunt Camp misses the mark on all fronts.”

The *Times-News* editorial struck a nerve among many and sparked another ongoing battle over the interpretation of Minidoka's history. The Japanese American community told their stories about losing their homes, businesses, livelihoods, and sons, while others allowed their limited knowledge surrounding Minidoka to shape their perspective. Upon reading the editorial, several local citizens argued against De La Motte's point and wrote letters to the *Times-News*.²³¹ Similarly, individuals who agreed with De La Motte also wrote in and explained their reasons for supporting his opinion. Like De La Motte, many held strong opinions and explained that they disagreed with the designation for personal reasons. Letters from a small group of WWII veterans echoed the rhetoric of leaders during the war that equated the U.S.-born Japanese American citizens to the Imperial Japanese enemy.²³² For example, one individual from Oakley, Idaho, commented:

Living conditions at Hunt were harsh, even pathetic, but "war is hell" -- everyone suffered. Many families who had sons, brothers, fathers and husbands in the war zones suffered a mental anguish which was more severe than the physical discomfort endured by the occupants of the Hunt Camp."²³³

Another wrote:

I am tired of all these people saying the U.S. government put them in internment camps, took them away from their comfortable homes. Yes, Executive Order 9066 forced the Japanese-Americans into camps. It was for their own good, and I am against a national

²³¹ De La Motte, "Clinton's aim for Hunt Camp misses the mark on all fronts."

²³² Kent Hale, "Concentration Camps Justified," February 6, 2001, *Times News* (Twin Falls, Idaho), January 25, 2001, Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 16, Folder 15.

²³³ Hale, "Concentration camps were justified," correspondence, February 6, 2001. MSS 356, Box 16, Folder 15.

monument to these camps. But 1942-1946, the returning soldiers -- Marines and sailors returning from combat in the Pacific Islands -- would have killed these Japanese. I know, I was one of them. So internment saved their lives. End of story.²³⁴

The Twin Falls *Times-News* received responses to the editorial for weeks following Wayne De La Motte's editorial. Scholars on Minidoka and WWII incarceration argued that the editorial ignored aspects of the forced removal and incarceration that drastically violated civil liberties. Robert C. Sims, for example, explained that De La Motte's editorial proved very misinformed.²³⁵ Sims explained in his letter that De La Motte misunderstood the designation process and the realities of incarceration for those at Minidoka. Sims argued:

...the most egregious errors in the editorial have to do with the writer's characterizations of several key elements in this important story. It is not, as the writer claimed, an effort to "exalt America's misguided focus on group victimization." While victimization is part of the story, the issues that grow out of that fact are the important ones that have to do with liberty and constitutional guarantees....²³⁶

Responses from local white residents outnumbered the responses from Japanese Americans, though a handful of descendants wrote strongly about the importance of Minidoka's memorialization by the federal government. For example, Micki Kawakami wrote:

It is precisely because some... feel it is only revisionist historians who acknowledge that Japanese-American and Japanese internment occurred during World War II that such

²³⁴ Richard Anderson, "Internment camp saved lives," correspondence, February 4, 2001. Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 16, Folder 15.

²³⁵ Robert C. Sims. "Response to Hunt Editorial," 2001, Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 16, Folder 15.

²³⁶ Robert C. Sims. "Response to Hunt Editorial."

sites need to be memorialized. Only when seen in its barren, stark, actual circumstances - or heard from an internee -- does the full impact and the enormity of the site become truth for some. For that reason and or many others, making the Hunt Camp a national monument is necessary and true.²³⁷

Greg Lanting, a Twin Falls resident, wrote:

...You spoke of the camp being a model of civility. I think the internees get credit for that. They were plucked from their cozy homes and moved to quite possibly the most desolate portion of Idaho or any other state. Several families were placed in the open barracks, privacy limited to blankets strung up by the internees, bitter cold, sweltering heat, and barbed wire fences with guard towers. Yet, they were models of civility. This is a tribute to the patriotism of these Japanese-American citizens...many of who had never been to Japan. I also strongly disagree about whether racism played a role. It was all about racism.²³⁸

Despite the controversy, Jerome County citizens reacted mostly positively to the decision. Many local institutions and individuals spent years working to preserve Minidoka in some capacity, inspiring others to learn about Japanese American incarceration. Several letters argued that the editorial needed more research and the claims remained baseless, which demonstrated the importance of federal funding towards the education and preservation of the site.²³⁹ As stated by Scott Williams, a local Jerome County citizen, in a letter to the editor of the

²³⁷ Micki Kawakami, "Research Editorials more thoroughly," Letter to the Editor in response, *Times News*, (Twin Falls) February 7, 2001, Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 16, Folder 15.

²³⁸ Greg Lanting, "Research editorials more thoroughly," *Times News*, (Twin Falls) February 4, 2001, Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 16, Folder 15.

²³⁹ Lanting, "Research editorials more thoroughly."

Times-News, “If contemporary Idahoans could not protect this site in the 50 years since the end of the war, I am glad that the outgoing president did in the final hours of his administration.”²⁴⁰

Clinton’s actions in his last month of presidency certainly inspired comments from the public, especially those in the American West. On November 10, 2000, Clinton formally expanded the boundaries of Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve by 661,000 acres. The same day, President Clinton also expanded the Vermillion Cliffs in Northern Arizona.²⁴¹ Though some individuals felt as if the president ignored their comments and opinions, others expressed excitement for the federal protections.²⁴² The same day that news about Craters of the Moon’s expansion broke, the Twin Falls *Times-News* announced that Clinton also signed legislation that designated over 18,000 acres of wilderness near La Veta, Colorado, that contained the Spanish Peaks.²⁴³ For example, the *Times-News* explained that several Republican legislators who previously opposed the expansion of federal lands welcomed the Spanish Peaks wilderness designation to boost tourism in the region.²⁴⁴ More individuals expressed discontent about the mechanisms used to designate Minidoka and other federal lands, but felt that the designations remained important. Representative Mike Crapo stated that he agreed that designation was the “right thing to do,” but he wished that Clinton made more careful

²⁴⁰ Scott Williams, “Hunt Camp was racist,” 2001, Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 16, Folder 15.

²⁴¹ “Clinton Expands Craters of the Moon,” *Times News* (Twin Falls, Idaho) November 10, 2000: 1.

²⁴² “Clinton Expands Craters of the Moon.”

²⁴³ “Clinton signs Wilderness Designation,” *Times-News* (Twin Falls, Idaho) November 10, 2000: 3.

²⁴⁴ “Clinton signs Wilderness Designation.”

use of the Antiquities Act.²⁴⁵ Many Idahoans such as Rep. Crapo believed Clinton's designation of Minidoka and, more so, the expansion of the federal presence in Idaho land overreached his powers.

At the start of his presidency, President George Bush put a moratorium on all of the final actions of President Clinton, threatening Minidoka's designation. Immediately following the site's designation, survivors and descendants fought to protect the new site. Idaho representative Mike Simpson and the JACL worked to legally maintain the monument. John Tateishi, lead of the JACL's redress campaign, and president of the JACL in 2001, stated, "One thing is clear. And that is that the Idaho congressional delegation... support naming Minidoka and protecting it."²⁴⁶

Though a handful of individuals disagreed with Clinton's decision, many more survivors and descendants met the designation with hope. The JACL established education on civil liberties as a goal of the organization beginning in the late 1960s.²⁴⁷ Many JACL chapters and members felt that recognizing Minidoka through the president's use of the Antiquities Act helped with their mission to educate and promote awareness of civil liberties.²⁴⁸ Federal funding provided the site with the financial capabilities to not only fulfill the goals set out by the Pocatello-Blackfoot JACL in 1989, but also exceed these goals tenfold.

²⁴⁵ Tim Woodward, "Clinton to name Idaho site a national monument today." *Idaho Statesman* (Boise, Idaho), January 17, 2001: 1.

²⁴⁶ Martha Nakagawa, "JACL Works to Keep National Monument Designation for Minidoka," *Pacific Citizen* February 2 - 15, 2001: 1.

²⁴⁷ "JACL Plan," Pocatello JACL Newsletter. 5, no. 2. February 1960. Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 50, Folder 6.

²⁴⁸ Bob Sato, "Minidoka Internment National Monument," *Nisei Veterans Committee*. 2001. 5.

Chapter Four: The General Management Plan (2001-2006)

After Minidoka Internment National Monument's designation, the president charged NPS with planning the new unit's management. NPS needed to develop and maintain its relationship with the survivor and descendant community. Neil King, the first superintendent of the site, understood that to right the wrongs, the Japanese American community also needed to talk about their loss of rights and permit themselves to voice their feelings about Minidoka concentration camp. King's decade of prior experience working at new parks positioned him to understand the process of creating a General Management Plan. Additionally, King's background of growing up in Durango, Colorado, near the Southern Ute Tribe, exposed him to communities with legacies of trauma and distrust towards the federal government. During World War II, the Department of the Interior held responsibility for removing and incarcerating Japanese Americans. Now, NPS was responsible for telling the story of Japanese American incarceration at Minidoka, and the only appropriate way to tell it was to listen -- closely.

King spent decades working for the National Park Service before becoming the superintendent of Minidoka. He began his career at Mesa Verde National Park as a seasonal interpreter before transferring to Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, where he witnessed the park staff, interpretation, and amenities grow expansively in his short tenure. After Indiana Dunes, King and his family moved to Craters of the Moon National Monument (CRMO) in Eastern Idaho where he began the fee collection program for overnight camping and an extensive resource management program.²⁴⁹ In 1990, King left CRMO to work as the Unit Manager of a new unit: Hagerman Fossil Beds (HAFO). After developing the park's GMP, he increased the

²⁴⁹ King, "Neil King Interview."

unit's presence and helped to establish the “Fossil Council,” a philanthropic group that assisted with fundraising and significant decisions affecting the unit.²⁵⁰ As King created new programs and foundations for each unit, he gained valuable experience and knowledge on the inner workings of planning and managing new NPS units.

Neil King’s expertise in planning and prior experience throughout the planning process of Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument demonstrated his ability to effectively plan NPS units. Shortly after President Clinton designated Minidoka as a unit, Destry Jarvis, the Director of the National Park Service, asked King to serve as the superintendent. He argued that King’s experience and relationships made him a great candidate for a site that engaged with a diverse group of visitors that included descendants, survivors, tourists on their way to Yellowstone, and local citizens.²⁵¹ In *An Eye for Injustice*, editor and author Susan M. Stacy explained that King hesitated to accept the superintendent position. King felt that he was too old to develop a new unit, especially one with such importance, scrutiny, and national attention.²⁵² However, he also reflected that his age and experience worked to his benefit because the two factors allowed King to make decisions that other NPS staff shied away from.²⁵³ In early 2001 King accepted the position and began developing relationships with Minidoka’s survivor and descendant community.

Surveys, Studies, and Planning

²⁵⁰ King, “Neil King Interview.”

²⁵¹ King, “Neil King Interview.”

²⁵² Susan M. Stacy, “Minidoka National Historic Site,” in *An Eye for Injustice: Robert C. Sims and Minidoka*, ed. Susan M. Stacy, (Washington: Washington State University Press, 2020), 171.

²⁵³ King, “Neil King Interview.”

To complete Minidoka's GMP, NPS needed to learn more about Minidoka and the cultural resources existing at the site. Units designated through legislation, such as the Manzanar National Historic Site, conducted feasibility studies before designation. However, scholars and archaeologists outside of the Japanese American community generally neglected Minidoka until Jeffrey Burton and Mary Farrell published *Confinement and Ethnicity* in 1999. This initial study of the ten mass confinement camps, commissioned by Manzanar's designation as an NHS, contributed to Minidoka's designation because it provided an overview of the existing resources at the site. Other scholars researched the Japanese American confinement experience, but very few published material specifically on Minidoka. In order to preserve the site and offer authentic and accurate interpretation, NPS sought to learn more about the Minidoka concentration camp and the people who were incarcerated there during World War II.

Initial Archaeological Investigations

NPS began their research on Minidoka by inventorying the site through archaeological investigations. In May 2001, a team of NPS employees and volunteers conducted an initial archaeological survey of the seventy-two acres that made up Minidoka Internment National Monument. The team included Neil King, Jim Thompson, an archaeologist of the Columbia Cascades Office (CCO), and George Tieg, the Director of the Western Archaeology Center. Additionally, *Confinement and Ethnicity* authors Jeffrey Burton, Florence, and Richard Lord joined the team and invited Anna Tamura, a third-generation *Sansei* and descendant of Minidoka internees, who previously worked on Manzanar's Cultural Landscape Report to the first archaeological investigation.²⁵⁴ She visited Minidoka for the first time almost six months prior

²⁵⁴ "Minidoka Internment National Monument Notes," May 2001, MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 8, MNHS Hagerman; Anna Tamura, "Anna Tamura Oral History Interview."

to the site's designation while traveling through Idaho to Manzanar. In an oral history interview, she explained:

... I drove around and I tried to understand, like the layout of what had been the camp there. And that was in, like, July 2000 and in, you know, January of 2001, Minidoka is named a new National Monument. And so because of my experience starting to work on Manzanar's cultural landscape report I was -- and my background in archaeology -- I was asked to be part of the first team that went out to do an archaeological survey of Minidoka with Jeff Burton.... And it was, you know, there's such things as, like kismet or when things are kind of meant to be, and it was just, you know, the beginning of my work on Minidoka.²⁵⁵

On the first day, the group met with Neil King and Hagerman Historical Society representatives, who guided a site tour, marching through the weeds and sagebrush that covered most of the land. Archaeologists found many archaeological sites, including the historic rock garden, a trash dump, and several concrete foundations, as well as numerous artifacts.²⁵⁶ During this investigation, the team also mapped the features of interest, including the military police entrance and the rock garden, intending to return for future archaeological investigations in 2002.²⁵⁷

²⁵⁵ Anna Tamura, "Anna Tamura Oral History Interview."

²⁵⁶ "Minidoka Internment National Monument Notes," May 2001. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 8, MNHS Hagerman.

²⁵⁷ "Minidoka Internment National Monument Notes," May 2001. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 8; *Archeology at the Gate*; Jeffrey F. Burton *Archeological Investigations at the Entrance of the Minidoka Relocation Center*. (Tucson AZ: United States Department of the Interior National Park Service Western Archeological and Conservation Center, 2003).

Additional federal land near the new national monument offered opportunities for future investigations. The concentration camp's former landfill, located on Bureau of Land Management land beyond the borders of the monument, intrigued the team of archaeologists. The landfill contained many Japanese ceramic dishes, metal pitchers, bricks, and other items from Minidoka.²⁵⁸ However, BLM managed the area of the historic dump, demonstrating the need and potential to expand the unit's boundaries.²⁵⁹ According to the archaeologists, other trash disposal areas on the monument's property contained fewer artifacts from the World War II era.²⁶⁰

John Herrmann, the monument's neighboring homesteader, became a valuable resource for the archaeologists. Herrmann offered information and insight for the team to learn more about the post-war years and use of the site during the homesteading period. During this period, many individuals picked up objects, transformed former barracks into homes, and divided the camp's historic footprint into individual homesteads. He also offered information about his parcel of land, which contained an original building from Minidoka War Relocation Center in its original place.²⁶¹ After World War II, Herrmann and his family received Fire Station No. 1 in the allotment of buildings and land the Bureau of Reclamation provided them under the Homestead Act. Another outbuilding on Herrmann's property also came from the camp: a former barrack that Herrmann used as storage for farming equipment. However, the archaeologists' explorations

²⁵⁸ Jeffrey F. Burton and Mary M. Farrell, *This is Minidoka: An Archeological Survey of Minidoka Internment National Monument*, Idaho (Tucson, AZ: Western Archeological and Conservation Center, 2001), 102-104.

²⁵⁹ Burton and Farrell, "Recommendations," *This is Minidoka*. (2001).

²⁶⁰ Burton and Farrell, "Recommendations."

²⁶¹ "Minidoka Internment National Monument Notes," May 2001, MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 8, MNHS Hagerman.

around Hermann's property remained noninvasive, since NPS did not manage Hermann's land.²⁶²

As the group continued their work at the site over the course of three days, they also met with scholars Ronald James and Robert C. Sims. James lived in the Magic Valley area and studied Chinese American history, though the overlap with Japanese American history permitted him also to research Minidoka. James created a list of resources related to Minidoka together for research on the site and explained his interest in the historical interpretation of the unit.²⁶³ Meeting with James allowed NPS to establish a relationship with a scholar who worked near the unit, giving them credibility and opportunities for outreach.²⁶⁴

The team also met with Robert C. Sims in Boise. Like James, Sims worked as an educator. He began his work and research on Minidoka in the early 1970s after attending a lecture from scholar Roger Daniels, who dedicated decades of research to Japanese American incarceration until his death in 2022. Sims learned about the unjust incarceration of Japanese Americans for the first time at this lecture and made it his life's mission to educate others on the civil liberties violations that took place. Sims offered additional historical information on Japanese Americans in Idaho and the longstanding cultural traditions that affected their responses to incarceration and redress.²⁶⁵ Robert Sims and Ronald James became almost instantly involved in the foundations of Minidoka NM as historical experts on the site and devoted themselves passionately to educating others about Minidoka.

²⁶² "Minidoka Internment National Monument Notes."

²⁶³ "Minidoka Internment National Monument Notes."

²⁶⁴ "Minidoka Internment National Monument Notes."

²⁶⁵ "Minidoka Internment National Monument Notes."

After approximately a week, the investigation concluded and Jeffrey Burton and Mary Farrell compiled the group's findings into a report titled *This is Minidoka*. The team found over 200 features, including buildings, concrete pads, Minidoka's historic trash dump, pathways, and a root cellar built entirely by incarcerated Japanese Americans.²⁶⁶ The report provided recommendations for NPS use of the structures and resources at the site. These recommendations emphasized NPS intervention at the site to retain the historical integrity of the buildings and structures as much as possible.

The Cultural Landscape Study

NPS wanted to learn more about Minidoka and existing relevant scholarship, allowing them to determine the significance of cultural resources at the site. In 2001, Anna Tamura, a historic landscape architect intern for the National Park Service, conducted a cultural landscape study on Minidoka to provide recommendations for education and preservation of the site.²⁶⁷ The cultural landscape study documented the existing landscape of the unit in 2001 including items on the existing cultural landscape, such as physical structures, vegetation, and soil.²⁶⁸ She aided her research on the cultural landscape by examining existing scholarship and literature on Minidoka, noting that Bureau of Reclamation documents proved exceptionally helpful.

During Tamura's walkthrough of Minidoka National Monument to prepare the Cultural Landscape Inventory in 2001, her uncle, a Minidoka survivor, joined her and helped her fill in key gaps of her knowledge. She experienced the meaning of a survivor returning to the site firsthand and quickly developed an understanding for the place's relationship and significance to

²⁶⁶ Burton and Farrell, *This is Minidoka*.

²⁶⁷ Anna H. Tamura, *Minidoka Internment National Monument Cultural Resource Inventory*, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. (Seattle: Columbia Cascades Support Office, 2002).

²⁶⁸ Tamura, "Anna Tamura Oral History Interview."

former incarcerated and their descendants, being one herself. In an oral history, she explained, “meanwhile, I’m doing the documentation, and he was walking around just kind of reconnecting with this place, it was so significant for him. Because he was a teenager at the time.”²⁶⁹

After conducting the fieldwork, Tamura created a comprehensive history of Minidoka from the years of 1942-1945 to place the inventory in the landscape’s historic context. Most of her research came from existing documentation available at archives, and secondary literature and scholarship. Most written material came from Japanese Americans incarcerated at Minidoka who published their memoirs about their experience. However, only a handful of memoirs exist because many survivors chose not to speak about their experiences.²⁷⁰ The lack of much scholarship, combined with a lack of access to primary source materials, created gaps in Minidoka’s historical record. Tamura noted that “this history is in many ways incomplete” because she gained access to only a few primary sources, including diaries, letters, photographs, and reports.²⁷¹ Tamura’s recommendations advocated for further study on Minidoka’s history, including a comprehensive annotated bibliography of all Minidoka related sources. Tamura also wanted to locate primary source documents such as maps and blueprints of the camp.

With potential growth for the unit in mind, Tamura suggested additional research around the Magic Valley to locate all of the former Minidoka buildings and structures still standing in the area. Additionally she hoped to obtain a map with all of the modern landholdings of the former residential area of Minidoka. Water also played a role in Anna Tamura’s recommendations. She advised NPS to map and research the history of the Milner-Gooding

²⁶⁹ Tamura, “Anna Tamura Oral History Interview.”

²⁷⁰ Tamura, *Minidoka Internment National Monument Cultural Resource Inventory*.

²⁷¹ Tamura, *Minidoka Internment National Monument Cultural Resource Inventory*.

Canal and the Northside Canal because the Bureau of Reclamation made significant changes to the irrigation system after Minidoka closed.²⁷² The initial research from Tamura provided a sense of the existing resources, connections, and avenues for preservation and education in 2001, leaving NPS with a major task to fulfill while needing to fill a gap in historical knowledge. In an oral history, she explained:

... I really appreciated -- and I think it was really beneficial -- both for the site to have that documentation, but also for my own knowledge. Because then that also helped me be extremely knowledgeable about the site in being able to do tours and then, you know, leading the General Management Plan. And really be kind of the expert with the most knowledge about the actual features within the National Monument.²⁷³

Establishing Relationships with the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community

In the summer of 2001, NPS also considered expanding their network to include a sister unit of Minidoka on Bainbridge Island. Dr. Frank Kitamoto invited Keith Dunbar, the Team Leader of Planning and Partnerships for the Pacific Northwest Region of NPS, to meet with residents of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community (BIJAC) in July 2001.²⁷⁴ The Bainbridge Island World War II Nikkei Exclusion Memorial Committee sought support from the NPS to establish a memorial to the removal of Bainbridge Island Japanese Americans during World War II. The Committee planned to establish the memorial on the Eagledale Ferry Dock, where the U.S. Army forced Japanese Americans onto a ferry leaving Bainbridge Island for

²⁷² Tamura, *Minidoka Internment National Monument Cultural Resource Inventory*.

²⁷³ Tamura, "Anna Tamura Oral History Interview."

²⁷⁴ Dr. Frank Kitamoto to Keith Dunbar, July 2, 2001, MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 15. MNHS Hagerman.

Manzanar.²⁷⁵ While NPS kept Bainbridge Island in mind and moved towards designating and creating a unit utilizing the Eagledale Ferry Dock, their priorities at Minidoka required attention to the site's preservation and potential expansion, including cultural resources found during initial archaeological investigations.

Additional Archaeological Investigations

During the summer of 2002, NPS staff and volunteers acted upon the recommendations in *This is Minidoka* and conducted an archaeological investigation of the entrance of the unit that included the remnants of two buildings, a rock garden, and landscaping elements.²⁷⁶ The investigation accomplished three goals:

- (1) exposing and mapping the entrance garden; (2) excavation of an area just east of the extant entrance building to determine the location of a building depicted on WRA blueprints; and (3) limited testing to locate the foundations of a guard tower known to be at the entrance.²⁷⁷

Jeffrey Burton and Mary Farrell published the archaeological findings in an NPS document titled *Archaeology at the Gate*. Structures and artifacts helped the team determine the location of the military police, further helping to determine the location of specific parts of Minidoka included in the new monument.²⁷⁸ Anna Tamura participated in the excavation and explained in an oral history that the team's discovery of a V-shaped lava stone pathway helped the archaeologists

²⁷⁵ Dr. Frank Kitamoto to Keith Dunbar, July 2, 2001.

²⁷⁶ Jeffrey F. Burton, "Trip Report, Minidoka Internment National Monument," August 2002, MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 5, MNHS Hagerman.

²⁷⁷ Burton, "Trip Report, Minidoka Internment National Monument," August 2002.

²⁷⁸ Burton, Bergstresser, Tamura, and Western Archeological and Conservation Center (U.S.) *Archeology at the Gate*, (2003).

find the former location of the Honor Roll and incarcerated-made rock garden within the monument's boundaries. She explained:

Now we just started excavating and realized, oh you know there's another rock oh there's another rock you know and it just -- we excavated that entire pathway and uncovered that and we, you know, we have no idea that even existed, before that -- before that excavation. And then, they also did excavations around the entry guard station because there were some other attached buildings and so understanding, you know, what were the remains there.²⁷⁹

The investigation garnered the attention of local media outlets, which supported NPS's growing presence and relationship with the unit's stakeholders. Dorothy Hirai, a Minidoka survivor who lived in the Magic Valley area, visited the site during the investigation to speak to the news crew about her experiences.²⁸⁰ The media's involvement with the site gathered the attention of local citizens and Minidoka survivors and descendants.

The seventy-three acres of Minidoka Internment National Monument represented a very small fraction of the original camp and ironically the areas that signified incarceration. The site included a few structures, but properties surrounding the site indicated additional resources that NPS could utilize if legislation allowed for boundary expansion. During the archaeological survey 2002, John Hermann permitted the crew to document the historic Fire Station on his land. The building and land attracted NPS because of the building's location in its original spot.²⁸¹ Additionally, during the 2002 archaeological survey, NPS found a two-acre portion of land

²⁷⁹ Tamura, "Anna Tamura Oral History Interview."

²⁸⁰ Tamura, "Anna Tamura Oral History Interview."

²⁸¹ Burton, "Trip Report, Minidoka Internment National Monument."

managed by the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) that contained Minidoka's historic trash dump. An additional four-acre parcel of BOR land had a historic warehouse and concrete slabs that comprised the rest of the warehouse area.²⁸² Transferring land from one federal agency to another typically proved more straightforward than the process required for obtaining the Hermann Farm. Regardless, the researchers highly encouraged NPS to include legislation for land transfer in the General Management Plan.

Additionally, the recommendations included a note about the use of proper terminology to describe Minidoka's historic significance. In November 2001, as NPS started initial scoping sessions with select individuals, primarily survivors. In these discussions, many stakeholders expressed differing views about changing the name of the monument. Debates over using the word "internment" began to flare as several individuals felt it minimized the experience. In contrast, others felt that "internment" inaccurately described Minidoka's conditions as worse than history revealed. As a result of these controversies, combined with the desire to expand the physical boundaries and not knowing the outcome of the GMP, several NPS staff and community members sought to understand the designation conventions of NPS units further. They examined the process to change Minidoka Internment National Monument's name to Minidoka National Historic Site.

Planning, Writing, and Creating the General Management Plan

Upon completing early archaeological investigations and cultural resource studies, NPS solidified its understanding of Minidoka to form the basis for the monument's General Management Plan. While each NPS unit followed different practices to create a GMP, each

²⁸² Christopher Smith, "Bill would add land to WWII monument," *Associated Press* circa 2003, Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 16, Folder 18.

adhered to a general process that began with scoping sessions. In Minidoka's case, external scoping sessions proved especially important to guarantee that the Japanese American community remained represented in the unit's plan and process.²⁸³ These scoping sessions produced alternatives that then shaped the draft GMP and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The draft GMP and EIS consisted of both reports in a published document written by a team of consultants, scholars, and NPS employees directly involved with planning the unit.²⁸⁴ After the draft GMP/EIS opened for public comment, citizens and organizations commented on their preferred alternative for the monument's future, ranging from no change to extensive onsite and offsite NPS presence.²⁸⁵ Consultants took the most agreed-upon alternative and assisted NPS in writing the final document. Many drafts, comments, and revisions came out of the five-year-long process. With a deep respect for the Minidoka survivors and descendants, Superintendent Neil King wanted to ensure that NPS managed the creation of the GMP/EIS rather than influencing the direct outcome. King especially emphasized the importance of sharing authority over the planning of Minidoka with the Japanese American community to prevent more wrongdoings to a community already affected by the federal government. Anna Tamura used her connections as a descendant of Minidoka survivors to connect NPS with survivors to bridge a gap between the federal government and Minidoka survivors and descendants. Though not everyone openly shared their stories, many shared their opinions, which

²⁸³ Neil King, "Neil King Interview."

²⁸⁴ *Minidoka Internment National Monument: Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement*, Department of the Interior, 2005, Robert C. Sims Collection, Mss 356 Box 18, Folders 4-8.

²⁸⁵ *Minidoka Internment National Monument: Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement*.

opened the eyes of Tamura and others on the NPS team to the array of experiences within the one monument. In an oral history, Tamura discussed:

...there was a lot of learning for... the National Park Service and myself included, about the diversity of the Japanese American community and the different community groups and within the community, how those different groups relate to each other. You know, the Nissei Veterans and the Japanese American Citizens League.... And then there was also folks related to Tule Lake and, you know, geographically -- you know, the religious communities within the Japanese American community. And then also recognizing that a lot of people who were incarcerated at Minidoka didn't return to the West Coast, and so... the diaspora of Japanese Americans throughout the country. They also went to Alaska, because of, you know, all the Japanese Americans in Alaska were incarcerated at Minidoka. We went down to California, in Los Angeles, because there are a lot of Japanese Americans in California who you know either at that time, or they moved to California later on..²⁸⁶

Creating a Team

The National Park Service needed help to manage the GMP creation and document. NPS hired consultants to assist with compiling and writing the GMP. The consultants decided on the most-selected alternative and could utilize the responses and input NPS received to write the GMP. This allowed NPS to focus on learning during the planning process rather than shaping the outcome..²⁸⁷ King encountered difficulty immediately after finding that Shapins and Associates

²⁸⁶ Tamura, "Anna Tamura Oral History Interview."

²⁸⁷ "Minidoka Internment National Monument: General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement Core Team Meeting," June 2002, MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 8, MNHS Hagerman

charged \$500,000 for its services -- twice NPS's budget for consultants.²⁸⁸ To make matters more complex, King discovered that Warren Brown, an NPS planner from the Washington Support Office denied MIIN staff \$20,000 of planning funds to begin the process of writing the GMP.²⁸⁹

King presented several solutions to Keith Dunbar, the Pacific West Region (PWR) Chief of Park Planning, for advice on fulfilling the goal despite the budget limitations. The first, and perhaps most challenging, was formally making the case for additional funding to develop the GMP. Travel between three different states proved expensive, lengthy, and challenging, yet necessary to receive adequate community input.²⁹⁰ Another less desired option involved dropping the development concept plan. The group could also require NPS to complete more of the work, lowering the costs of the consultant team.²⁹¹ In the end, a mix of options occurred. NPS took on some of the workload from Shapins and Associates, which incorporated individuals from regional NPS offices. Additionally, the regional NPS office provided additional funds to support the GMP.²⁹²

To manage the process, NPS needed to identify a team and delineate roles, responsibilities, and expertise. In early June 2002, NPS held a Core Team Meeting and outlined the GMP's significant contributors. Internally, several different NPS offices provided support, including the Columbia Cascade Support Office (CCO), the Pacific Great Basin Support Office

²⁸⁸ Neil King, "Thought," February 4, 2002, Email, MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 8, MNHS Hagerman.

²⁸⁹ Neil King, "Planning Funds," February 13, 2001, Email, MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 8, MNHS Hagerman.

²⁹⁰ King, "Planning Funds."

²⁹¹ King, "Planning Funds."

²⁹² King, "Thought."

(PGBSO), and the Pacific West Region (PWR) office. Minidoka Internment National Monument (MIIN) remained the primary contact for the public to answer questions and provide information about the status of the GMP.²⁹³ Consultants included Shapins Associates, who worked as the project coordinator to conduct meetings, establish deadlines, and assist as the primary writer for several parts of the GMP. Working with NPS, Shapins developed the draft and final renditions of the GMP. The other consulting company, Jones and Jones, helped edit, prepare, and finalize the draft and final copies of the GMP. NPS also created concept plans through collaboration with the University of Washington and held responsibility for writing sections of the GMP related to the concept plans.²⁹⁴

The list of individuals who contributed to the GMP remains impressive, and each individual offered their expertise. The GMP listed thirty-seven preparers and countless other organizations and individuals that lent work to the Minidoka GMP.²⁹⁵ During the Core Team meeting, the group provided key contacts for each office and organizations. Neil King led the group, with support from Anna Tamura, Keith Dunbar, and Fred York, all from CCSO.²⁹⁶ Ann Moss from Shapins Consultants served as the project manager, while Bob Walsh, also from Shapins Consultants, worked as a landscape architect alongside Anna Tamura. Several others provided insight and assisted with writing the GMP/EIS based on experience. For example, Jeffrey Burton and Jim Thompson from the NPS Western Archaeology Center collaborated with other team members to produce sections on archaeological evidence, while Mike Wissenbach's

²⁹³ "Minidoka Internment National Monument," June 2002.

²⁹⁴ "Minidoka Internment National Monument," June 2002.

²⁹⁵ *Minidoka General Management Plan* (NPS: 2006), 237-239

²⁹⁶ *Minidoka General Management Plan*.

expertise as a Natural Resource Specialist made him an excellent candidate to write sections of the Environmental Impact Statement.²⁹⁷

Public Involvement and Scoping

To plan the new unit, NPS sought input from individuals on their ideas and visions for the park. In 2002, NPS held nine public scoping workshops and met with survivors, descendants, former WRA employees, students, and organizations with ties to Minidoka, such as the Nisei Veterans Committee and the Wing Luke Museum, located in Seattle, Washington. Similarly, NPS met with members of the Magic Valley community who directly faced the impacts of Minidoka's designation.²⁹⁸ Neil King and Anna Tamura played key roles in organizing and meeting with individuals to learn more about their ideas, opinions, and ultimately, stories related to the Japanese American incarceration at Minidoka. NPS reported that over 400 individuals participated in the public scoping sessions, with 245 joining in person and 225 providing comments through email, letters, and newsletter questionnaires.²⁹⁹ The scoping sessions revealed to King and Tamura that the Japanese American community felt a deep distrust towards the federal government, especially the Department of the Interior.³⁰⁰ However, a number of individuals also showed support and interest in Minidoka's future preservation, demonstrating the GMP's importance.

Developing Alternatives

²⁹⁷ *Minidoka General Management Plan*.

²⁹⁸ "General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement," February 4, 2003, MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 2, MNHS Hagerman.

²⁹⁹ "NPS Receives Public Comment on Management Plan," *General Management Plan Newsletter* no. 2. (March 2003), 1.

³⁰⁰ Anna Tamura, "Alternatives Development Workshop," April 7, 2003, MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 2, MNHS Hagerman.

King created a model for Minidoka survivors to provide their input without feeling shame or distrust. Many survivors rarely spoke about their experiences, even with their own children, let alone strangers. To build trust and transparency, Neil King directly communicated and connected with Minidoka survivors and descendants through email, correspondence, phone calls, and in-person meetings when feasible. Working with the Wing Luke Asian Museum based in Seattle, WA, King asked several individuals to lead a scoping session that asked survivors to help decide the future of Minidoka without the presence of NPS staff, including Tamura. From this, the Wing Luke Museum created an advisory committee to fulfill a set of objectives NPS laid out regarding the treatment of Minidoka NM's cultural resources and interpretation. Several individuals played key roles in expressing their experiences and opinions to convey the importance of certain interpretive themes.³⁰¹ These individuals included Yosh Nakagawa, who worked with members of the Seattle Japanese Baptist Church; Beth Takegawa, the Deputy Director of the Wing Luke Museum; and Karen Yoshitomi, a contact for the JACL's Northwest Region. surrounding Minidoka's GMP.³⁰² King explained in an oral history that establishing a clear purpose and specific objectives worked well to guide the discussions between NPS and Wing Luke advisory committee members, allowing the Wing Luke Museum to conduct the meetings with their own process, allowing whatever emotions and opinions that needed to surface.³⁰³

In her notes and an oral history, Tamura explained that the most critical issue discussed during the scoping session revolved around how NPS planned to tell the Minidoka story through

³⁰¹ King, "Neil King Interview."

³⁰² Tamura, "Anna Tamura Oral History Interview."

³⁰³ King, "visit," January 11, 2002, Email, MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 8, MNHS Hagerman.

interpretation. NPS gained a sense for the Japanese American experience in the United States, but still needed to learn more about individual circumstances and nuances that made Minidoka significant to their families. Anna Tamura explained:

... during those meetings, we got so much information and learned so much about Minidoka. Like the time that the guard tower during World War II burnt down, you know, just gathered so much information and- and I think for me personally it was so kind of mind blowing, and that... I hadn't heard anything about Minidoka from my family, except for my uncle who started, you know, telling stories. And so it was almost like, through all of these other people's histories of Minidoka, I learned about how, what my family must have experienced during World War II.³⁰⁴

Many survivors felt that the interpretation needed to reflect the wrongdoings of the United States government, portraying Minidoka accurately.³⁰⁵ She described one interaction with a survivor:

...I remember there was a man named Henry Miyatake who was part of the redress movement. Kind of an instigator, and it was at the Seattle Buddhist Temple meeting, you know, we were talking about, well, what, what were people's different visions for Minidoka. And I remember him getting up and saying that if it wasn't done right then he wanted to make sure that the whole thing was just gonna be paved over, because it needed to be told. The histories needed to be honest and true. And needed to represent what actually occurred in the injustices experienced by Japanese Americans.³⁰⁶

³⁰⁴ Tamura, "Anna Tamura Oral History Interview."

³⁰⁵ "NPS Receives Public Comment on Management Plan," (2003), 2

³⁰⁶ Tamura, "Anna Tamura Oral History Interview."

Similarly, *Nikkei* argued that telling the incarceration story needed to begin before the war to describe the racism and discrimination that built up.³⁰⁷ Tamura also reported that survivors wanted NPS to include interpretation on loyalty, patriotism, and the paradoxes of the loyalty questionnaire.

Scoping sessions held with citizens from the Magic Valley area focused heavily on Idaho history. Through these scoping sessions, King understood that the post-war experience of homesteaders living on the remains of the concentration camp helped tell the broader story of the site. Responses from non-Japanese Americans also wanted NPS to explore the deep-rooted history of the Magic Valley and the relationship between Magic Valley citizens and incarcerated Japanese Americans.³⁰⁸ Some individuals shared stories about their families hiring Japanese American farmhands from Minidoka during and after the war.³⁰⁹

King and Tamura prioritized discussions on cultural resources and visitor use of the remaining structures at the site. Scoping respondents insisted that Minidoka NM must offer visitors an immersive experience that left them with a new understanding of what Japanese Americans experienced emotionally, socially, and physically while incarcerated.³¹⁰ Discussions surrounding historical reconstructions frequently came up during the scoping sessions. Many survivors suggested that NPS reconstruct a historic block for visitors' experiences. Individuals also wanted NPS to construct a visitor center that staff operated year-round with multimedia

³⁰⁷ “NPS Receives Public Comment on Management Plan.”

³⁰⁸ “NPS Receives Public Comment on Management Plan.”

³⁰⁹ “NPS Receives Public Comment on Management Plan.”

³¹⁰ “NPS Receives Public Comment on Management Plan,” 5.

displays and exhibits. This building also allowed NPS staff to host school groups.³¹¹ Tamura explained:

They wanted to make sure that there was a barrack at the site so people can see how they lived... You know, reconstruction of a historic fence... having a trail along the historic fence so that it could be more of a contemplative distant experience from the visitor center, and so a place where people could think about issues of confinement and imprisonment and separation and injustice.³¹²

In terms of collecting objects and artifacts related to Minidoka, the public also wanted NPS to develop a long-term collection plan for artifacts related to Minidoka. Survivors asked that NPS prioritize collecting oral histories from those still living. Preserving the recorded histories allowed younger generations to gain a more accurate understanding of Japanese American experiences in the United States before, during, and after World War II.³¹³ Luckily, many institutions, such as Densho, the Wing Luke Museum, the Japanese American National Museum, and the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center collected oral histories from survivors. Partnering with these institutions allowed NPS to utilize their resources without duplicating efforts. Many of these museums also collected artifacts and photos from individuals incarcerated at Minidoka, including objects from Minidoka. Many of these institutions began before Minidoka was designated and included a focus on items before and after incarceration to tell the full story of the Japanese American experience in the U.S. Minidoka National Monument

³¹¹ “NPS Receives Public Comment on Management Plan,” 8.

³¹² Tamura, “Anna Tamura Oral History Interview.”

³¹³ “National Park Service Minidoka Internment National Monument Former Minidoka Internees Liaison Meetings,” Notes, April 7, 2003. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 2, MNHS Hagerman; King, “Neil King Interview.”

focused their cultural resources more specifically to the site and period of incarceration, following federal guidelines for National Park Service collections.³¹⁴

NPS and survivors started shaping the alternatives soon after NPS formalized its partnerships with the Wing Luke Museum and their consultants. On April 9th and 10th, 2003, NPS met with about twenty individuals to draft the alternatives for the draft GMP/EIS.³¹⁵ This group included Japanese American community leaders and members, representatives from the Wing Luke Museum, NPS staff, and hired consultants.³¹⁶ On the first day of the workshop, the group met at Minidoka NM and toured the site with Anna Tamura and Ron James. After touring the site, the team immediately dove into its work as Ann Moss presented the scoping results, offering the Wing Luke Museum an opportunity to explain the results from meeting with survivors.³¹⁷

Jim Sipes, who worked for Jones and Jones, introduced issue topics and management zones for the core NPS team. Management zones dictated the physical and immaterial areas that NPS needed to treat, enhance, interpret, or plan. Deciding on management zones allowed NPS to create a plan for each, mainly if the zone contained cultural resources. NPS developed alternatives for interpretation surrounding the treatment of cultural resources in each zone.

³¹⁴ “NPS Receives Public Comment on Management Plan,” 5.

³¹⁵ “Draft Schedule for Minidoka Internment National Monument Draft Alternatives Workshop,” April 9, 2003, MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 2, MNHS Hagerman.

³¹⁶ “Minidoka Internment National Monument Alternatives Development Workshop April 9-10, 2003,” April 2003. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 2, MNHS Hagerman.

³¹⁷ “Draft Schedule for Minidoka Internment National Monument Draft Alternatives Workshop.”

Additionally, their discussion on management zones expressed overarching interpretive desires beyond what NPS could represent with cultural resources.³¹⁸

While NPS established goals, the priority of the Alternatives Workshop rested on establishing alternative planning and management options. The second day of the meetings consisted of creating the draft alternatives based on the topic issues for each management zone.³¹⁹ As is typical with most management plans, the draft alternatives needed to include an option for “no action” -- “Alternative A” -- in which NPS would devote little funding and work towards the site. However, outreach and education remained a priority for the National Park Service even if the majority of people voted on this option.³²⁰ Neil King wanted to explain the alternative and its inclusion in the GMP to stakeholders, especially Japanese American community members, because he wanted to guarantee that they understood that NPS included Alternative A as a formality since the public still needed to vote on the alternatives.³²¹ NPS maintained responsibility for creating the General Management Plan as part of a formal federal process, as Tamura noted in an interview: “...we came up with a range of alternatives because it was also a National Environmental Policy Act process.”³²² At the end of April 8th, the group formalized their alternatives and began outlining the draft alternatives for Minidoka’s GMP. The

³¹⁸ “Draft Schedule for Minidoka Internment National Monument Draft Alternatives Workshop.”

³¹⁹ “Draft Schedule for Minidoka Internment National Monument Draft Alternatives Workshop.”

³²⁰ “Alternative A- No Action,” MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 2, MNHS Hagerman.

³²¹ “Draft Schedule for Minidoka Internment National Monument Draft Alternatives Workshop.”

³²² Tamura, “Anna Tamura Oral History Interview.”

draft alternatives still required public comment and review before NPS made their final decision on how to manage Minidoka.

Receiving Public Input on the Draft Alternatives

After developing the draft alternatives, NPS presented them to the public for feedback. An essential aspect of this process included continuing to reflect on Minidoka's purpose and significance, especially concerning decisions regarding interpretive themes. NPS narrowed the scope of the interpretation to Minidoka due to the cultural resources at the site and policies governing the site's preservation. As noted by Neil King in a newsletter, "You will see that your ideas, combined with ours, are the basis for these Draft Alternatives."³²³

NPS regularly published a newsletter to keep the public updated on the status of Minidoka NM's General Management Plan and asking for public input on various stages of the project. The newsletter was distributed amongst stakeholders -- Japanese Americans, Magic Valley residents, and interested individuals such as scholars.³²⁴ The comprehensive plan maintained that Minidoka NM's purpose was:

...to provide opportunities for public education and interpretation of the internment and incarceration of *Nikkei* during World War II. The monument protects and manages resources related to the Minidoka Relocation Center.³²⁵

During the Alternatives Workshop, NPS repeatedly returned to the purpose statement to define and restrict its goals. King also presented the public with significant statements and interpretive themes to help develop the draft alternatives. NPS stated that the national

³²³ Neil King, "NPS Develops Preliminary Alternatives," *General Management Plan Newsletter* no. 3. (July 2003), 1.

³²⁴ King, "NPS Develops Preliminary Alternatives," 1.

³²⁵ King, "NPS Develops Preliminary Alternatives," 2.

significance of Minidoka revolved around civil liberties, the individuals incarcerated at the site, the unique sense of place that the unit preserved, and overarching World War II history, as explained through the Significance Statements.³²⁶ The Significance Statements told the core elements of Minidoka's history focused on people and place through the lens of injustice.

Significance Statements formed Interpretive Themes. Each theme further explained how the Significance Statements created a cohesive narrative for understanding the Japanese American World War II incarceration. Interpretative themes regarding civil liberties explained that war hysteria, race prejudice, and a failure of political leadership formed the basis of incarceration. Despite the incarceration, Japanese Americans demonstrated deep loyalty to the United States, both through their enlistment in the U.S. Army and resistance to the 1944 draft.³²⁷ People also created a key interpretive theme. Survivors and descendants insisted that NPS represent the long legacy of incarceration rather than the small snippet of time.³²⁸ The place itself also proved an important theme, especially as many incarcerated *Nikkei* came from the lush and green West Coast to the high desert of Idaho. Lastly, NPS argued that World War II proved essential because "Minidoka Relocation Center was set within a world at war, characterized by personal sacrifice and hardship experienced by all Americans."³²⁹

The eleven-page newsletter delved into the different management zones NPS identified and planned to develop. The planning team created five management zones based on the types of treatment and use available, focusing on the future potential for Minidoka. Proposed zones included: Cultural Resources- Historic Features Zone, Cultural Resources- Historic Open-Space

³²⁶ King, "NPS Develops Preliminary Alternatives," 3-4.

³²⁷ King, "NPS Develops Preliminary Alternatives," 2.

³²⁸ King, "NPS Develops Preliminary Alternatives."

³²⁹ King, "NPS Develops Preliminary Alternatives."

Zone, Special Use/Park Development Zone, Canal Zone, and Off-site and Partnership Strategies Zone. Proposed actions focused on the future resource conditions, visitor experience, interpretation and education, and the type of facilities within each.³³⁰

The Historic Features Zone consisted of several historic structures and landscapes that NPS sought to preserve and rehabilitate, specifically the Entry and Warehouse areas. Visitors' use primarily depended on interpretation, but NPS wanted to provide opportunities for a better understanding of the site with additional opportunities for reflection and contemplation.³³¹ The management zone offered interpretive qualities that allowed visitors to understand the loss of civil liberties, especially with a confrontation of confinement through the gate. Similarly, the rock garden in the area of the original honor roll also created space for interpretation, discussing the contradictions surrounding citizenship and patriotism.³³²

The second zone, the Cultural Resources-Historic Open-Space Zone, provided NPS with very few cultural artifacts; however, the openness of the space itself reflected the historic nature of the site. Historically, the area served as a barrier between the entrance of the camp and the residential barrack areas. NPS sought to maintain the area with minimal interpretation, rather than providing an area for visitor reflection.³³³

Similarly, the Northside Canal Zone offered space for visitor reflection along the water that carved the camp's residential blocks. However, in this zone, NPS emphasized more interpretation and education than in the Historic Open-Space zone. For example, maintaining the visual connection to the canal and swimming hole connected visitors to the sense of normalcy

³³⁰ King, "NPS Develops Preliminary Alternatives."

³³¹ King, "NPS Develops Preliminary Alternatives."

³³² King, "NPS Develops Preliminary Alternatives."

³³³ King, "NPS Develops Preliminary Alternatives."

incarcerated Japanese Americans tried to create for themselves at Minidoka through activities such as swimming.³³⁴ Developing trails, restoring the historic fence, and the swimming hole allowed visitors to understand the experience through their senses.

The third zone, referred to as the Special Use/Park Development zone in the heart of the monument, presented unique challenges to planning. It was not yet under NPS's jurisdiction and included two separate Bureau of Reclamation units consisting of three acres and nine acres outside of MIIN's boundaries.³³⁵ Eventually, the BOR planned to permit a land transfer, though transfer also required federal legislation. Regardless, NPS conducted archaeological surveys of the land in 2002 and included the space in planning documents that included several former buildings and structures from the Minidoka concentration camp.³³⁶

In 2003, the Bureau of Reclamation planned to move the buildings, changing their historic nature significantly.³³⁷ However, John Herrmann asked his local Bureau of Reclamation acting deputy area manager to intervene on his behalf, knowing the transfer impacted his land as well.³³⁸ Senators Larry Craig and Mike Crapo prevented the building transfer and, in 2005, introduced H.R. 5665, which authorized the federal land transfer to MIIN. The bill passed and expanded the monument's boundary before the final print of the GMP came out.³³⁹

³³⁴ King, "NPS Develops Preliminary Alternatives," 4.

³³⁵ King, "NPS Develops Preliminary Alternatives," 4.

³³⁶ King, "NPS Develops Preliminary Alternatives," (2003); John Martison, letter to Neil King, May 20, 2005, Correspondence, MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 16, MNHS Hagerman.

³³⁷ Bob Easterbrook, letter to Neil King, March 13, 2003, Correspondence, MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 16, MNHS Hagerman.

³³⁸ Robert L. "Hap" Boyer, letter to Senator Larry Craig, April 2, 2003, Correspondence, MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 16, MNHS Hagerman.

³³⁹ Christopher Smith, "Bill would add land to WWII camp monument," *Idaho Statesman*.

The last management zone also presented unique circumstances as the zone included partnerships, outreach efforts, and other physical features outside the monument. Regardless of physical alterations to the current status of the site in 2003, NPS and survivors believed that preserving the existing resources remained of crucial importance.³⁴⁰ Oral history interviews, especially, proved essential to collect. NPS needed to capture and record interviews before survivors passed away, creating a significant loss of knowledge and lived experience.³⁴¹ NPS sought to collect artifacts that directly related to Minidoka's history as they truly presented visitors with life of the past.³⁴² However, the gateway to the past lay in the Japanese American community, who attempted to preserve their families' stories, despite the *nisei*'s silence. NPS needed to maintain a relationship of respect and good intention with the Japanese American community.³⁴³

After the newsletter explained the management zones, the rest of the document explored the draft Alternatives. Federal agencies develop sets of options in many planning documents, referred to as draft Alternatives. Regardless of which plan the public wished NPS to select, all alternatives shared commonalities. The unit remained under the protection of the National Park Service and adhered to all federal, DOI, and NPS policies, along with protection for endangered species and significant natural resources.³⁴⁴ NPS planned that visitor use would continue both

³⁴⁰ King, "NPS Develops Preliminary Alternatives," 4.

³⁴¹ King, "NPS Develops Preliminary Alternatives," 4.

³⁴² King, "NPS Develops Preliminary Alternatives," 4.

³⁴³ King, "NPS Develops Preliminary Alternatives," 4.

³⁴⁴ "Common to All Alternatives," *General Management Plan Newsletter* no. 3. (July 2003), 5.

on-site and off-site by developing educational programs, interpretation, and outreach programs that could reach individuals beyond the unit, which was almost isolated in rural Idaho.

The Alternatives, listed A through D, varied in onsite presence and interpretation. Alternative A, “No Action,” provided few changes towards developing the site regarding operations, staffing, visitors’ services, or facilities. Alternative B emphasized outreach and partnerships with other organizations to tell Minidoka’s history, primarily focusing on off-site resources and education. Alternative D focused almost entirely on on-site education and interpretation, heavily emphasizing visitor contact at the site rather than off-site. Alternative C opted to preserve, restore, rehabilitate, and reconstruct features to enhance on-site interpretation, allowing visitors to gain a sense of life at the Minidoka War Relocation Center. Interpretive walkways and waysides provided information but remained minimal in development. Alternative C also offered NPS the potential to continue developing off-site partnerships.³⁴⁵ Unlike any of the other alternatives, Alternative C also included a plan for NPS to change the unit’s name from Minidoka Internment National Monument to Minidoka National Historic Site.

Though seemingly the most labor-intensive of the options, Alternative D contained many of the same on-site offerings as Alternative C regarding historic preservation, reconstructions, and rehabilitations. However, Alternative D also sought much more development to the existing conditions. For this alternative, NPS proposed building new facilities, including a visitor center, administrative area, space for research and education, and an entirely new memorial and garden.³⁴⁶ This alternative also proposed to expand the boundary through the combined 10 acres

³⁴⁵ “Preliminary Alternatives,” *General Management Plan Newsletter*, 5-6.

³⁴⁶ “Preliminary Alternatives,” *General Management Plan Newsletter*, 6.

of BOR land alongside a barrack for restoration.³⁴⁷ Alternative D remained focused on on-site presence, but off-site educational programs and partnerships aimed to complement the offerings available at MIIN.³⁴⁸

With national, regional, and local attention on the unit and the sensitive topic, maintaining a well-informed public and stakeholder base was necessary to continue the planning process. At the end of the newsletter, NPS also included an option for the public to add comments for each Alternative.³⁴⁹ While mailed comments provided thoughtful and helpful opinions, in-person discussions proved essential because individuals explained their thought processes and answered follow-up questions. Through the end of July and throughout August 2003, NPS planned eleven Public Alternative Workshops to present, define, and refine the draft alternatives.³⁵⁰ At each workshop, NPS asked the same questions that focused on visitor use of the site, rehabilitating and reconstructing historic features, and creating outreach partnerships for education and collection acquisition. Managing local relations with neighbors to the monument also came up as a question for stakeholders, reminding workshop participants that the unit operated under some limitations.³⁵¹ To aid conversation and conceptualization, as individuals contributed their responses during the workshops, a presenter also put up posters with each alternative and pointed to the selection that best corresponded with the comment.³⁵²

³⁴⁷ “Preliminary Alternatives,” *General Management Plan Newsletter*, 6.

³⁴⁸ “Preliminary Alternatives,” *General Management Plan Newsletter*, 6.

³⁴⁹ *General Management Plan Newsletter* no. 3. (July 2003).

³⁵⁰ “Public Workshops Schedule for Preliminary Alternatives,” *General Management Plan Newsletter* no. 3. (July 2003), 12.

³⁵¹ “Minidoka Internment National Monument GMP Alternative Summary,” December 4, 2003. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 18, MNHS Hagerman.

³⁵² “Minidoka Internment National Monument GMP Alternative Summary.”

One of the first Public Alternative Workshops took place during the Minidoka Reunion at the Red Lion hotel in Seattle in 2003. Over 700 individuals, including Minidoka survivors and descendants, NPS, and survivors of other concentration camps participated in the weekend-long event.³⁵³ Event attendees participated in workshops, shared stories with survivors and descendants, viewed exhibits on display, and ultimately gained a sense of healing and community, demonstrating the significance of the reunion events.³⁵⁴ For survivors and descendants, the reunions offered a time and place to confront the past and what their parents went through. In an article for the *Seattle Post Intelligencer*, descendant and organizer Gloria Shigeno stated, "Our parents never talked about it. This is one way to find out more about the camp or camps. It's part of our way of honoring our parents and older *Nikkei*," demonstrating the importance of the gathering.³⁵⁵ During the Minidoka Reunion, NPS formed deeper connections with individuals they frequently worked with and developed new relationships with many Minidoka survivors and descendants. NPS previously worked with trusted individuals that others relied on, thus providing them with credibility for its work with survivors and descendants. Additionally, the Minidoka Reunion demonstrated to survivors that NPS sought their opinion, regardless of any emotionally charged responses. Tears, difficult conversations, mourning, celebrations, anger, and anxiety were all things the National Park Service would need to become accustomed to.

The First Minidoka Pilgrimage

³⁵³ John Iwasaki, "Internees and their children look back on Minidoka," *Seattle Post Intelligencer* (Seattle, Washington) July 29, 2003.

³⁵⁴ John Iwasaki, "Internees and their children look back on Minidoka"; "World War II Internment Camp Reunion Draws Hundreds," *The Spokesman Review* (Spokane, Washington) August 14, 1995.

³⁵⁵ Iwasaki, "Internees and their children look back on Minidoka."

One of the critical ways survivors and descendants connected with Minidoka and the National Park Service occurred through annual organized pilgrimages to the site. The first organized pilgrimage to any of the camps took place at Manzanar on December 27, 1969. Much like the first Day of Remembrance, the journey to the former camp held symbolic and political purposes. The Organization of Southland Asian American Organizations and student activists initially organized the pilgrimage as an opportunity to clean up the Manzanar cemetery, after being contacted by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, which owned the property. Known as the Manzanar Project, organizers Sue Kunitomi Embrey and Warren Furutani, aimed to educate individuals about the incarceration and to document the concentration camp's existence and impact.³⁵⁶ After garnering the attention of reporters and news outlets, the *Sansei* activists also used it as an opportunity to speak about their campaign to repeal Title II of the Internal Security Act because of its similarity to Executive Order 9066.³⁵⁷ With the success of the first pilgrimage, Sue Kunitomi Embrey and Warren Furutani became co-chairs of the Manzanar Committee, which organized annual pilgrimages and pushed for the preservation and recognition of Manzanar concentration camp.³⁵⁸

Given the Manzanar's organization infrastructure, the pilgrimages continued annually, growing in the number of participants each year. Survivors and descendants of other concentration camps also attended the annual pilgrimage to Manzanar. However, Anna Tamura remembers making her first pilgrimage alone. In an oral history interview, she explained how

³⁵⁶ Diana Meyers Bahr, *The Unquiet Nisei: An Oral History of the life of Sue Kunitomi Embrey* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007), 123-129.

³⁵⁷ Martha Nakagawa, "Camp Pilgrimages," Densho Digital Repository, December 13, 2023. https://encyclopedia.densho.org/Camp_pilgrimages/, accessed January 14, 2024.

³⁵⁸ Bahr, *The Unquiet Nisei*, 126; Nakagawa, "Camp Pilgrimages," Densho, December 13, 2023.

like many people, she thought the concentration camp was in Minidoka County and got lost trying to find the site. At the time, only the lava stone from the military police entrance gate and waiting room to the camp, among other small archaeological features, remained at the camp. She explained that during her visit, she sensed something of enormous change.

Two years after Tamura went with her uncle to survey Minidoka for the Cultural Landscape Survey she completed in 2001, she returned on another pilgrimage with a much larger group of Minidoka survivors and descendants. Initially organized by active Seattle JACL Board Members Anna Tamura, Emily Momohara, and survivor May Namba in 2003, Minidoka's annual pilgrimages offer survivors and their families an opportunity to visit the site and reflect on the incarceration experience, joined by a community of fellow survivors and descendants that understand the deep wounds caused by the incarceration.³⁵⁹ Inspired after attending the Manzanar and Tule Lake pilgrimage, Tamura, Momohara, and Namba felt that Minidoka needed a pilgrimage too. Tamura explained that they thought enough people showed interest in a pilgrimage that Minidoka needed its own, especially now that the site received NPS protections. The three women started organizing the event in a small hotel room in Lone Pine, California, taking notes from their experience at Manzanar in April 2002.³⁶⁰

Seeking to reconnect the Pacific Northwest Japanese American communities with the newly designated Minidoka National Monument, Tamura and Momohara believed that the pilgrimage might offer a powerful opportunity for healing. During the Seattle JACL's board retreat in January 2003, Momohara, Namba, and Tamura presented the proposal. Tamura recalled receiving near unanimous support from the other board members, who eagerly offered

³⁵⁹ Tamura, "Anna Tamura Oral History Interview."

³⁶⁰ Tamura, "Anna Tamura Oral History Interview."

assistance. In only four months, Namba and Momohara organized most of the three-day pilgrimage, including transportation, meals, and pamphlets, and coordinated with NPS to provide tours at the site.³⁶¹

On June 27, 2003, about 120 individuals, consisting of Minidoka survivors, descendants, and National Park Service staff, gathered to journey back to the site that incarcerated over 13,000 individuals during World War II. Since the first pilgrimage in 2003, all other pilgrimages take place the weekend following the Fourth of July. Still, Tamura explained that the weekend they selected happened to be the same weekend that the Northwest District JACL planned its annual convention, which also happened to be in Twin Falls. As a result, buses would be already traveling from Seattle to Twin Falls, making the logistical planning regarding bussing participants to the site much more straightforward.³⁶² Additionally, this meant that many survivors and descendants would already be in the region for the convention, so many opted to stay for the pilgrimage.

Reactions to the first pilgrimage proved overwhelmingly positive. The *New York Times* attended the event and covered the story of survivor's journeys to the site. Many survivors reflected on their experiences during and after camp. Some never thought they would return to the place that brought them so much pain. However, sharing their stories with others who endured similar experiences brought healing. Survivor Sylvia Kobayashi explained, "I closed the door to that part of my life because it was so sad and upsetting. It brought back too many bad memories. Life goes on, and we must go on with our lives and find happier times, which I

³⁶¹ Tamura, "Anna Tamura Oral History Interview."

³⁶² Tamura, "Anna Tamura Oral History Interview."

did.”³⁶³ Yet, for the first time, Kobayashi, amidst relatives and other families, revisited the site, bringing back the emotions that many bottled up for decades. Neil King recalled, “As a park service person, I remember getting on that bus, just the layers of feelings of how important it was.”³⁶⁴ Tamura, who helped organize the pilgrimage and led tours, noted, “This is really important to me. I wanna make sure that our survivors have the opportunity to go back with community.”³⁶⁵

Though 2003 represents the first organized pilgrimage, many individual descendants and survivors made their pilgrimages before the site became a National Monument. For those who made the trip before NPS began implementing developments at the site, the isolation, a couple of lava stone structures, and concrete pads marked the thousands of memories created at the site locked behind the walls survivors built. Jim Azumano, a descendant, recalled:

The first time I came here, there was nothing. It was before it was a national monument. It was just desert, a couple of concrete pads. It was hard to find because local people didn’t know it was here. My first impression was, what a desolate place. There’s no story, and you get curious.³⁶⁶

In the aftermath of the first Minidoka pilgrimage, NPS and Minidoka survivors and descendants created a relationship of trust and respect united behind the preservation of

³⁶³ “Japanese Americans Relive Barbed Wire Era,” *New York Times*, June 30, 2003, <https://www.nytimes.com/2003/06/30/us/japanese-americans-relive-barbed-era.html>, accessed September 22, 2023.

³⁶⁴ JAMP. “The Origin Story of Minidoka,” 2021, 1:44:55

³⁶⁵ Tamura, “Anna Tamura Oral History Interview.”

³⁶⁶ Jim Azumano, “Minidoka Pilgrimage,” July 2, 2019, Oregon Public Broadcasting. Youtube Video, 7:24, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=THjgT6i4hKM>, accessed September 22, 2023.

Minidoka. In the years following, the Minidoka pilgrimages grew in size and length, shifting to the weekend following the Fourth of July annually. As NPS continued developing the GMP and implementing the document, the pilgrimages offered the opportunity for NPS to connect with survivors and descendants about the status of the unit. Anna Tamura explained in an oral history interview, "...showcasing the development of the site and what the Park Service is doing has been really amazing ... to each year have dedications or ground breakings, at the pilgrimages to demonstrate that the Park Service is caring for the site."³⁶⁷

Revising the Alternatives

As the planners received comments during the workshops, they also provided draft Alternatives to regional and national NPS offices for comments and recommendations. The Core Team offered its own highlighted comments and edits to clarify, change, and reflect the comments they heard from descendants, survivors, and Magic Valley citizens during the Public Alternative Workshops.³⁶⁸ Tamura, King, and Keith Dunbar worked extensively to clarify the Alternatives Matrix, making the differences between the alternatives more apparent, and helping reshape others to better fit the descriptions they received from the Alternatives Workshops.³⁶⁹ The Alternatives took different shapes, ultimately creating more distinct differences between Alternatives C and D.³⁷⁰

³⁶⁷ Tamura, "Anna Tamura Oral History Interview."

³⁶⁸ Neil King, "NPS Comments," to Anna Tamura and Keith Dunbar, Email, November 12, 2004, Correspondence, MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 16, MNHS Hagerman.

³⁶⁹ Tamura "Minidoka Internment National Monument Draft Alternatives Matrix," notes, MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 19, MNHS Hagerman.

³⁷⁰ "Minidoka Internment National Monument GMP Alternative Summary," December 4, 2003, MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 18, MNHS Hagerman.

During the Public Alternative Workshops, NPS heard many comments from the over 200 individuals who participated in the Minidoka GMP process. These conversations concerned several topics, including Education and outreach, Cultural Resources, Visitor Use, and Access and circulation. NPS received fewer comments concerning Land Protection and boundaries, Partnerships and outreach, and Operations and management. Though King previously started conversations at the federal level about the boundary expansion, the public's attention remained on other aspects of the site. Many individuals showed that they cared much more about preserving the legacy of Minidoka for their families and friends than preserving all parts of the physical site.³⁷¹

While the comment period remained open through September 2003, Seattle's survivor and descendant community members provided NPS with a Statement of Concern in December 2003, explaining several issues they found with the GMP/EIS. Signed by Cassie Chinn, Lilly Kodama, Charlene Mano, Yosh Nakagawa, Bob Sato, and Beth Takekawa, the group laid out a total of seven areas of improvement for the alternatives to create a more cohesive suggestion.³⁷² Most of these suggestions centered around issues regarding terminology, education and interpretation, and collections management.³⁷³ The group highlighted issues that NPS could never truly understand about the incarceration experience without comment from survivors. One

³⁷¹ "Minidoka Internment National Monument GMP Alternative Summary."

³⁷² Cassie Chinn, Lilly Kodama, Charlene Mano, Yosh Nakagawa, Bob Sato, and Beth Takekawa. "Statement of Concerns: Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for Minidoka Internment National Monument," January 14, 2005, MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 20, , MNHS Hagerman..

³⁷³ Chinn, et al. "Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for Minidoka Internment National Monument."

example from the letter emphasized the diversity of individual's responses to incarceration.³⁷⁴

The letter suggested that NPS change the phrase, "Utilize the garden area and Honor Roll to convey a response to the confinement and to understand how internees used Japanese American culture to express their loyalty and commitment as American citizens," to include the addition of, "acknowledge the diversity of internee responses to incarceration."³⁷⁵ The letter explained that each individual had their reaction to this ultimate test of loyalty, patriotism, citizenship, and rights.

As explained by descendants and survivors in the letter, NPS's technical language muddled the interpretation and plan. Based on the letter, NPS's job was to interpret and enact the public's wishes. Doing so through education meant that visitors experienced immersive experiences at the site and learned through the power of place and the power of people. As a result of this educational goal, NPS needed to consider options for preserving and obtaining cultural resources such as structures, artifacts, and oral histories. Similarly, NPS needed the land -- a crucial part of the puzzle with plenty of opportunities for rehabilitating, restoring, and reconstructing parts of the original camp to meet the public's desires for place-based interpretation.³⁷⁶ Additionally, as members of the public sought a museum-like visitor center, NPS needed the space to build or rehabilitate a building for the interactive exhibits, kiosks, and

³⁷⁴ Chinn, et al. "Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for Minidoka Internment National Monument."

³⁷⁵ Chinn, et al. "Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for Minidoka Internment National Monument"; "Preliminary Alternatives," *General Management Plan Newsletter* no. 3. (July 2003), 6.

³⁷⁶ Preliminary Alternatives," *General Management Plan Newsletter* no. 3. (July 2003), 6; Neil King, "NPS Releases Draft General Management Plan," *General Management Plan Newsletter* no. 4 (June 2005), 1.

research areas that such a center required.³⁷⁷ However, survivors hoped NPS would explain that most descendants and survivors focused less on the property that NPS sought to transfer from BOR. Since the area initially held the administrative area, survivors felt that the land inaccurately reflected the experience that incarcerated Japanese Americans underwent.³⁷⁸

After public comment on the draft alternatives, NPS spent nearly a year revising, editing, and altering the draft Alternatives. This period also required significant research into Minidoka's history as a confinement camp, along with the feasibility of each alternative proposed.³⁷⁹

Internally and initially, the group of planners, consultants, and NPS staff reviewed the Alternatives Summary and the Alternatives Matrix, adding their comments and suggestions for edits. Most of these edits provided additional historical context and information to better inform the interpretation, education, and management of cultural resources.³⁸⁰ While editing the alternatives remained critical, the law also required NPS to develop an Environmental Impact Statement, primarily examining the potential consequences of each alternative on the surrounding natural environment. Though the impacts remained minimal, the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) required the statement as a formality. In addition to these tasks, NPS needed internal review to guarantee the alternatives followed NPS policy and procedure, especially concerning the treatment of historic structures and land acquisition.

Submitting the Draft General Management Plan for Comment

³⁷⁷ King, "NPS Releases Draft General Management Plan."

³⁷⁸ Chinn, et al. "Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for Minidoka Internment National Monument."

³⁷⁹ Tetsuden Kashima, "INTERNAL REVIEW-MIIN Alternative and Public Comment Summary," Email, December 19, 2003, MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 20, MNHS Hagerman.

³⁸⁰ Kashima, "INTERNAL REVIEW-MIIN Alternative and Public Comment Summary."

By December 2004, NPS sent a first draft copy of the Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement to the Washington Support Office (WASO), requesting their input. Though WASO offered many comments on the draft alternatives and earlier iterations of the document, Neil explained that the team chose not to incorporate all of them, as many elements remained necessary to reflect the vision of survivors and descendants of Minidoka.³⁸¹ The Pacific West Regional Director and Deputy Regional Director backed the decision to maintain the boundary expansions and preservation work as part of the GMP, so when the product went to WASO, regional offices already agreed to the GMP despite the challenges posed.³⁸²

WASO acknowledged that key issues for the GMP's included the high visibility of the project and the need for civic engagement in the planning process. Additionally NPS needed to ensure the preferred alternative met NPS's feasibility for historic reconstruction. WASO offered suggestions for specific policy actions to aid with some of these challenges.³⁸³ For example, the GMP called for the reconstruction of historical features, but neither NPS Management Policies nor the DOI's Treatment Standards for Reconstruction explained best practices to reconstruct elements of the site.³⁸⁴ Similarly, the preferred alternative discussed recreating a historic block by moving former barracks to the site, which also required further Management Policy details

³⁸¹ Neil King, "Minidoka Internment National Monument Draft GMP/EIS In House Review," December 2, 2004, Correspondence, MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 16, MNHS Hagerman.

³⁸² King, "Minidoka Internment National Monument Draft GMP/EIS In House Review."

³⁸³ Jonathan B. Jarvis, "Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for WASO Policy Consultation," 2003, Correspondence, MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 16, MNHS Hagerman.

³⁸⁴ "Draft Policy Review of Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement, Minidoka Internment National Monument," 2005, Correspondence, MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 16, MNHS Hagerman.

because the action lay outside of typical NPS policy.³⁸⁵ Terminology also caused concern with NPS policy because several preservation treatment standards appeared incorrect in the GMP. The memo sent to Jonathan Jarvis of the Pacific West Region from WASO used the example of restoring historic landscapes rather than rehabilitating them.³⁸⁶ Jarvis, King, and the rest of the team understood these issues and their challenges in terms of cost, funding, and labor. Though WASO's comments highlighted these areas as issues of concern, the regional and local NPS offices saw the issues as opportunities.

Public Review of the Draft General Management Plan

After review from WASO and many internal reviews, NPS published the Minidoka Draft General Management Plan for public review in June 2005, keeping the comment period open until September 2005. NPS curated each Alternative to accurately reflect the description of the management, with emphasis on Alternative C as the preferred alternative. The National Park Service considered Alternative C as the preferred alternative because the public expressed its desire to see most of the plans related to Alternative C occur within the management plan during the Public Alternative Workshop.

Neil King and Anna Tamura received letters from individuals who opposed the designation for a variety of reasons. Some individuals and self-identified scholars, such as Lillian Baker, attempted to argue that America's concentration camps never existed. The United States government justified the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II, so a handful of comments argued that the memorialization and interpretation of the site through Alternative C

³⁸⁵ "Draft Policy Review of Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement, Minidoka Internment National Monument."

³⁸⁶ "Draft Policy Review of Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement, Minidoka Internment National Monument."

presented “revisionist” history.³⁸⁷ Many veterans and their family members opted for Alternative A based on the reasoning that Japanese Americans deserved incarceration for atrocities committed by the Imperial Japanese Army during World War II, specifically citing the Bataan Death March.³⁸⁸ Like the War Department in 1941, these individuals equated the Imperial Japanese military to loyal Japanese American citizens, with the only similarity between the two groups being their race. Comments opposing the monument asked NPS to select Alternative A-No Action, maintaining that they did not want the federal government using funds to preserve or develop MIIN into anything more than the existing cultural resources. Despite the jarring accusations, based on nonexistent evidence, the comments asking NPS to choose Alternative A remained a small handful.

Instead, over 200 individuals wrote favoring Alternative C, which emphasized onsite and office education and cultural resource protection through rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction. NPS opted for this alternative as its preferred choice, which would “involve the development of visitor education programs, adaptive re-use of historic structures for interpretive facilities, and the establishment of partnerships for education and outreach purposes.”³⁸⁹ The combination of outreach and onsite presence allowed NPS to reach its constituents in Seattle and Portland -- primarily Minidoka survivors and descendants -- while also serving visitors with interpretation through preservation and reconstructions at the site.

³⁸⁷ Daryl Keck, “Daryl Keck to Neil King.” September 2003, Correspondence, MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 16, MNHS Hagerman.

³⁸⁸ Ralph Walker-Willis, “Ralph Walker-Willis to Evelyn Simon,” May 5, 2004, Correspondence, MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 8, MNHS Hagerman.

³⁸⁹ *Minidoka Internment National Monument: Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement*. Department of the Interior. 2005, Robert C. Sims Collection, Box 18, Folders 4-8..

Publishing the Draft General Management Plan

The last comment period for the final draft of the GMP/EIS reflected earlier comments about the best ways to tell the Minidoka story. Representing the public's wishes proved crucial and offered rich educational and interpretive opportunities. After receiving the public comments, NPS implemented the few necessary changes and began looking to publish and enforce the GMP, attempting to meet its deadlines. Though Clinton charged NPS with developing the GMP within three years of 2001, the process took over five years due to the need for preliminary research through studies and archeological investigations in the first year. Similarly, the need to travel to Seattle and Portland frequently created additional challenges and a lengthier timeline for the team. Lastly, the extent of the public's desires and need to permit opportunities for public input created a longer timeline than expected. However, in early 2006, the final color copy of the Minidoka GMP went to print.

In 2005, Neil King received an email from Karl Endo about including the contributions of the Pocatello-Blackfoot JACL in the General Management Plan, acknowledging its efforts to preserve the Minidoka concentration camp before 2001. While connecting with *Nikkei* communities in Seattle and Portland, the National Park Service appeared to have forgotten to mention in the 2005 GMP the individuals who started conversations in Idaho about Minidoka.³⁹⁰ To rectify the situation, King vowed to include comments about the contributions of the Pocatello-Blackfoot JACL in the color version, detailing the length of measures individuals went through to help recognize the site.³⁹¹ King also sent a letter to Alyce Sato, President of the

³⁹⁰ Karl Endo, "Karl Endo to Neil King," June 2005, Email, MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 20, MNHS Hagerman.

³⁹¹ Neil King, "Message from Hero," June 15, 2003, Email, MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 16, MNHS Hagerman.

Pocatello-Blackfoot JACL, and apologized for the oversight.³⁹² Additionally, King offered to provide an update on several developments at the unit at the Pocatello-Blackfoot JACL's October banquet to make sure that the chapter felt seen and connected to the site.³⁹³

In the "Background" chapter of Minidoka Internment National Monument's General Management Plan, NPS included a half-page notation about the contributions of the Japanese American Citizens League, Pocatello Blackfoot Chapter. NPS stated:

More than any other entity, the Pocatello Blackfoot Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League was an advocate for the site and pursued site protection and state and national recognition... When the site was being considered for national monument designation, the chapter provided information and invaluable Idaho support for the designation and management of the site by the National Park Service.³⁹⁴

With proper recognition and attributions, NPS published the final version of the Minidoka Internment National Monument General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement in 2006. The purpose of the monument, according to the document:

...is to provide opportunities for public education and interpretation of the internment and incarceration of *Nikkei* (Japanese American citizens and legal resident aliens of Japanese ancestry) during World War II. The national monument protects and manages resources related to the Minidoka Relocation Center."³⁹⁵

³⁹² Neil King, "Neil King to Alyce Sato," June 16, 2006, Correspondence, MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 16, MNHS Hagerman.

³⁹³ King, "Message from Hero."

³⁹⁴ *Minidoka Internment National Monument: General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement*, 2nd ed. Department of the Interior (Seattle, National Park Service, 2006), 45.

³⁹⁵ *Minidoka Internment National Monument General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement*, 50.

The unit proved significant because of its ties to World War II history and civil rights violations. However, the power of place and people also demonstrated the importance of Minidoka's development and interpretation as well.³⁹⁶ With these two essential foundations spelled out, the GMP continued to describe the interpretive themes, based on the monument's listed significant themes of civil and constitutional rights, World War II, people, and place, noting that a long-range interpretive plan offered better descriptions of educational and interpretive offerings.³⁹⁷

The General Management Plan listed NPS's duties and responsibilities over resource management and interpretation. Additionally, the plan offered ideas for future goals. The document aimed to educate individuals, including school-aged children as well as adults, about the incarceration of Japanese Americans, seeking to relate to contemporary events and personal experiences.³⁹⁸ Additionally, NPS acted as a resource for educators and offered to become a

...valuable source of information and materials about the internment and incarceration experience of the *Nikkei* and the local community, as well as civil and constitutional rights, racism, and discrimination in the United States, and the fragility of democracy in times of crisis.³⁹⁹

The GMP lacked specific plans regarding visitor usage and facilities available on the site, primarily stating that the monument needed to attract visitation and offer areas for reflection and education, including research, specifically designed to assist descendants and survivors with

³⁹⁶ *Minidoka Internment National Monument General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement*, 50.

³⁹⁷ *Minidoka Internment National Monument General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement*, 50-55.

³⁹⁸ *Minidoka Internment National Monument General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement*, 55.

³⁹⁹ *Minidoka Internment National Monument General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement*, 55.

learning more about their familial ties to the site.⁴⁰⁰ Though NPS already acquired land managed by the Bureau of Reclamation before the monument's designation and the Hermann "Farm-in-a-Day" property, the immersive experience depended on the vast, isolated character of the space Minidoka NM rested upon.⁴⁰¹

⁴⁰⁰ *Minidoka Internment National Monument General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement*, 56

⁴⁰¹ *Minidoka Internment National Monument General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement*, 56 and King, "Message from Hero."

Conclusion

As Minidoka NM continued to implement the GMP, more developments, threats, and partnership opportunities confronted the site. The unit experienced significant changes since 2001 due to efforts to enhance the visitor experience and understanding of the civil liberties violations that took place at Minidoka concentration camp. The GMP outlined many additions, reconstructions, rehabilitations, and interpretive qualities. However, Minidoka NM needed a strong partner connected to the Japanese American communities impacted by the incarceration at Minidoka. In the summer of 2002, a mix of National Park Service employees and volunteers met at the unit's entrance. They did not know it then, but the group of descendants, artists, archaeologists, and local scholars continued for years as close working partners.⁴⁰² In the blazing heat of the high desert, the group worked alongside each other, demonstrating the partnership that sprung from a conversation between Neil King, Ronald James, and Emily Momohara.⁴⁰³ The trio openly discussed the Park Service's need for an organization that connected the unit with the Japanese American community. King felt that NPS needed to integrally include survivors and descendants in Minidoka's management for perpetuity.⁴⁰⁴ Unlike other philanthropic "Friend" organizations to NPS, this organization supported Minidoka NHS through continued efforts in research education, and input on projects, interpretation, and events.

Creating an organization partnered with the federal government proved challenging, especially obtaining a 501 c(3) recognition. Fortunately, Neil King already established a

⁴⁰² Jeffrey F. Burton, "Trip Report, Minidoka Internment National Monument," August 2002, MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 5, MNHS Hagerman.

⁴⁰³ JAMP. "The Origin Story of Minidoka." Youtube Livestream. January 17, 2021, 1:44:55; "Trip Report, Minidoka Internment National Monument," August 2002.

⁴⁰⁴ Neil King. "Neil King Interview"; Susan M. Stacy, "Minidoka National Historic Site," in *An Eye for Injustice* ed. Susan M. Stacy, (Washington: Washington State University, 2020). 173.

relationship with key individuals to ease the process. Momohara recalled that Dan Sakura's experience working with other NPS units helped Friends of Minidoka (FOM) become established as a philanthropic organization partnered with the National Park Service in 2003.⁴⁰⁵

Emily Momohara, one of the FOM founders, recalled that the organization required assistance from other individuals and groups in the early stages of development. Specifically, she mentioned that advice from Sue Embry and Rose Ochi, who assisted with Manzanar NHS's designation, also helped her as a fresh college graduate.⁴⁰⁶ Another major contributor included renowned artist Roger Shimomura, who attended the archaeological investigation and helped Momohara found FOM.⁴⁰⁷ While Momohara acted as the organization's administrator, many others provided support through outreach, answering questions for the *Nikkei* community, and shaping Friends of Minidoka to support NPS.

In January 2021, Japanese American Memorial Pilgrimages hosted a YouTube Livestream commemorating the 20th anniversary of Minidoka's designation. The discussion brought current and former NPS employees together with descendants and individuals involved in creating Minidoka NHS. Titled "The Origin Story of Minidoka," the panelists included National Park Service staff such as Minidoka NHS superintendent Wade Vagias, Honouliuli superintendent Hanako Wakatsui, Landscape Architect and NPS Planner Anna Tamura, Founder of Friends of Minidoka Emily Momohara, retired Minidoka NHS superintendent Neil King, and descendant of Minidoka survivors Dan Sakura. In this discussion, each panelist explained their part in helping to designate, plan, and develop Minidoka. The group shared thoughtful memories

⁴⁰⁵ JAMP, "The Origin Story of Minidoka," Youtube Livestream, January 17, 2021, 1:44:55; Dan Sakura, "Dan Sakura Oral History Interview."

⁴⁰⁶ JAMP, "The Origin Story of Minidoka."

⁴⁰⁷ JAMP, "The Origin Story of Minidoka."

of the site and the work required to manage it, tears brimming in each eye as pilgrimage experiences came up. In the end, Neil King asked Wade Vagias, the superintendent of Minidoka, about his vision for the future, much like he was asked when planning the unit. Wade's response spoke to the legacies of Minidoka in the twenty-first century. He explained that he wanted the state curriculum to include Minidoka, mainly because the unit's relevancy grew amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. His second vision spoke of connecting Minidoka to the *Nikkei* community by creating an endowed position for descendants to work at the site, simultaneously representing the National Park Service and Minidoka's significance. Lastly, Vagias said that he aimed to leave his position to a descendant of survivors. He acknowledged the time that this process and goal might take but ultimately admitted that the site needed the presence of Japanese Americans to tell their own story of incarceration.⁴⁰⁸ In an oral history interview recorded in 2023, Tamura remarked:

I think that being part of the Park Service and being able to... share with my Park Service colleagues... what Minidoka means to the community, or to know families and descendants, that has really helped the Park Service, understand that it's really such an important place for so many people. And I think on a bigger scale... why is Minidoka even a National Park? You know, and the lessons of Minidoka, I think that it's continually evolving, and it's the interpretation... being able to communicate the nuances of the site as well as the big "so what?" questions like the big themes for the site.⁴⁰⁹

⁴⁰⁸ JAMP, "The Origin Story of Minidoka."

⁴⁰⁹ Tamura, "Anna Tamura Oral History Interview."

Minidoka's legacy inspires hope and healing for all who visit. A somber and reflective place, the site demonstrates the trauma of incarceration through the physical surroundings in the isolated high desert. Historic reconstructions such as the guard tower and barbed wire fence greet visitors with a stark impression of imprisonment. At the same time, the baseball field offers a sense of normalcy and humanity, reminding visitors that the government perpetuated stereotypes and hysteria by incarcerating children, claiming they also showed signs of threats. As Karen Hirai Olen, a survivor born at Minidoka, remarked at a speaking event, "I was a bad*ss even in the womb!"⁴¹⁰

The remaining structures provide insight into the conditions that incarcerated Japanese Americans experienced, and a visitor center allows people to read, watch, and learn more about the moment democracy died. However, the sense of place is more powerful at the site where individuals understand how American citizens struggled and endured unbearable circumstances with myriad identities, questions, and conflicts resting on their shoulders. When visiting the site, survivor Fujiko Gardner expressed, "The spirit is here for me. You hear about *gaman*, the endurance of people here. I feel that spirit even today."⁴¹¹

⁴¹⁰ Karen Hirai Olen, unpublished speech. April 20, 2023. Boise, Idaho.

⁴¹¹ Fujiko Tamura Gardner, "Minidoka Pilgrimage," July 2, 2019, Oregon Public Broadcasting, Youtube Video, 7:24.

Minidoka National Historic Site Administrative History Outline for Chapters Six through Ten

Note: this document suggests an outline for chapters six through ten of the Minidoka Administrative History as a continuation of chapters one through five provided in the “Writing Sample” document (included as part of this project). Continuation of the Administrative History will require additional research, which will likely lead to changes in structure and content.

Chapter Six: Survivors and Descendants Help to Manage Minidoka (2001-2023)

Purpose: This chapter aims to explain the relationship between the National Park Service and the Minidoka survivor and descendant community. After Minidoka became a National Monument, Superintendent Neil King understood the importance of connecting the two groups. He strived to maintain a healthy and positive relationship between the National Park Service, survivors, and descendants. Many survivors and descendants cared deeply about Minidoka’s interpretation and preservation, volunteering their time and funds to see the site preserved.

1. The National Park Service needed a connection between their agency and the Minidoka survivor and descendant community. The Friends of Minidoka was established to serve this function.
 - a. NPS approached the Japanese American community, looking for an organization that would act as a connector
 - b. The National Park Service needed to work with the community organizations already established.

- i. These organizations included the Wing Luke Museum, Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, eventually Densho, Four Rivers Cultural Center, and various JACL offices and chapters.
 - c. Neil King and Ronald James approached Emily Momohara about founding a Friend's organization that could directly link NPS and the Japanese American descendant and survivor community without providing too much power to NPS.
 - d. The Friends of Minidoka (FoM) was formally established under the leadership of Emily Momohara and Ron James and with an executive board of directors who primarily resided in Idaho, Washington, Oregon.
2. Many descendants and survivors cared about Minidoka's legacy but remained distrustful of the federal government after their experiences left lasting scars on the community.
 - a. One additional reason for the distrust of the National Park Service was because the NPS is an agency in the Department of the Interior; and the WRA during World War II was also an agency within the Department of the Interior.
 - b. Many individuals didn't want to or know how to talk about their confinement experiences.
 - c. Japanese Americans formed organizations that already worked towards preserving and promoting the legacy of the incarceration
3. Survivor and descendant groups collaborated with the National Park Service to host community events at the site, helping both groups gain trust.
 - a. Annual pilgrimages began in 2003 after Anna Tamura and Emily Momohara attended a pilgrimage to Manzanar. They proposed to the Seattle JACL Chapter to

host a pilgrimage, and along with May Namba, organized the first annual pilgrimage.

- i. During these pilgrimages, survivors and their descendants travelled from their homes, mostly in Seattle and Portland but also from throughout the United States and Japan, to Southern Idaho and the Minidoka site.
- ii. The pilgrimages often included food, performances, speeches, and lectures among survivors and descendants
 1. These pilgrimages offered healing and reflection for survivors and descendants, many of whom felt a sense of community and safety by returning as a group rather than as individuals.
 2. Many survivors share their stories for the first time during the pilgrimage.
 - a. Many descendants travelled to the site to honor and remember their family.
 - b. The pilgrimage also provided a sense of closure for those who lost loved ones.
- iii. The 2003 was not the first pilgrimage to the site, but the 2003 pilgrimage began a consecutive pilgrimage annually, except for 2020-2022 during the pandemic. During these years, the Minidoka Pilgrimage Planning Committee hosted a virtual pilgrimage with support from the Japanese American Memorial Pilgrimages.
- b. The Civil Liberties Symposium, originally hosted at the College of Southern Idaho as an educational component of the Minidoka Pilgrimage, focused on

education on Civil Liberties and the injustices at Minidoka and the other ten confinement sites.

- i. The Civil Liberties Symposium included scholars such as Roger Daniels and Robert C. Sims, along with community-led performances such as plays, dancing, and music. Most of them addressed a specific theme.
 1. The early years of the Civil Liberties Symposium were conducted at the same time as the Minidoka Pilgrimage so that pilgrims could attend the lectures as part of the pilgrimage.
 2. After 2015, Boise State University hosted the Civil Liberties Symposium, not associated with the Minidoka pilgrimage.
- c. Other events hosted by the survivor and descendant community included the annual Day of Remembrance (DOR) and Minidoka “Reunions.”
 - i. The first Day of Remembrance began in 1978 in Seattle with grassroots activists who organized behind the Japanese American redress and reparations movement.
 1. These Day of Remembrances soon spread to other states, including Idaho.
 2. Separate communities now recognize the Day of Remembrance in different ways. Idaho’s proclamation is the longest-running statehouse Day of Remembrance in the United States.
 3. These DORs frequently brought people together and sparked conversations about projects, community engagement, and education.

- ii. Survivors and descendants also frequently held “Reunions” after the Redress Movement. The Reunions brought survivors together into a community of people who wanted to connect and remember the legacy of Minidoka.
 - 1. The Reunions offered an opportunity to discuss topics about the preservation of Minidoka.
 - a. Ex. During the 2003 Minidoka Reunion, the National Park Service presented survivors and descendants with alternatives for the General Management Plan.
 - 2. The Reunions were an alternative to the pilgrimage for individuals who could not physically travel to Minidoka.
- 4. The Japanese American survivor and descendant community shaped the General Management Plan based on their wishes for the site.
 - a. Interested individuals included their perspectives but also brought the ideas of their friends, families, and ancestors.
 - b. In this unconventional planning, NPS provided the different groups with deliverables and stepped out of the picture.
 - i. Bob Sato recommended that no one associated with the federal government remain in the room while they completed the assigned objectives.
 - ii. King received some pushback from the regional director, but Minidoka’s site remained unconventional. He followed best practices for public involvement.

- iii. The autonomy of survivors and descendants in the planning process allowed for Minidoka as a site to develop according to the wishes of those whom the government wronged. By asking descendants and survivors to help plan the site's future, NPS truly focused on the cultural and historical aspects of the site.
 1. This shaped management as well. While NPS remains dedicated to conserving resources and educating on the environment, Minidoka NHS focuses primarily on the experience of survivors.
 - a. Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial, the satellite unit of Minidoka NHS, also developed and established as an NPS site. However, the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community oversaw this new site.
 - c. Throughout the process, survivors and descendants offered their opinions, which became especially important during the comment period.
 - i. Many had big dreams for the site, such as reconstructing a historic block, and shared their personal experience with NPS.
 - ii. The broad audience for the comment period- survivors and descendants voted on the alternative they wished NPS to go with.
 1. Many said they wished to see NPS develop according to the preferred Alternative C.
5. Survivors and descendants supported Minidoka National Monument and NPS through on-site projects.

- a. Survivors and descendant supported the National Park Service through education and outreach projects
 - i. Supported the reproduction of the *Minidoka Interlude* for research and commemorative purposes
 - ii. Supported the research, writing, and publication of *Images of America: Minidoka National Historic Site* for educational purposes.
 - iii. In collaboration with the Idaho State Museum and NPS, FoM assisted in revising the Idaho State Museum’s “Traveling Trunk” for Minidoka to reflect the experiences of incarcerated *Nikkei* more accurately.
 - iv. Hosts educational and outreach events through already established programs and in partnership with institutions throughout the Pacific Northwest.
 - v. Digitized the Robert C. Sims Collection at the Albertsons Library Special Collections and Archives to provide researchers and NPS with direct access to Minidoka War Relocation Center records. Funded through a Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant and supported by FoM and Boise State University.
 6. In 2022, the National Park Service and Friends of Minidoka welcomed new staff, including those identifying as Japanese American.
 - a. Hanako Wakatsuki served as the Director of Education and Interpretation until October 2020. Her aunt wrote *Farewell to Manzanar*, and Hanako supported Minidoka’s preservation and legacy since the 2000s.
-

- b. Kurt Ikeda, a Yonsei poet and educator, became the new Director of Education and Interpretation in 2021. In February 2022, NPS announced that Emily Teraoka, also a descendant of survivors, was a ranger at Minidoka NHS.
- c. Friends of Minidoka welcomed their new Executive Director, Robyn Achilles, in 2022.

Themes:

1. The Nikkei community distrusted the National Park Service to tell their story because the same federal government incarcerated them sixty years prior.
2. NPS needed the Japanese American community to provide their input on the management of the park and sought to create an authentic and long-lasting relationship with survivors and descendants.
3. Many survivors and descendants became actively involved in Minidoka's preservation by providing their input during the General Management Plan process, participation in the pilgrimages, and through their advocacy with organizations such as Friends of Minidoka.
4. Friends of Minidoka aimed to support the National Park Service by raising funds for projects like recreating the historic Honor Roll and a historic guard tower.
5. The Minidoka Pilgrimage Planning Committee has led annual pilgrimages to Minidoka since 2003 and required the coordination of the National Park Service, fostering to heal the wounds created by the incarceration.

Purpose: This chapter describes the relationship between Minidoka National Historic Site and the Bainbridge Island Japanese Exclusion Memorial, which was added as a unit of Minidoka National Historic Site in 2008. After recognizing the connection between the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community (BIJAC) and Minidoka through their research and meeting with members of the community, BIJAC members notified NPS about a place on the island where they hoped NPS could help preserve a critical location to Japanese American history. The Eagledale Ferry Dock was the first place where the U.S. government forcibly removed Japanese Americans, who were first incarcerated in Manzanar, then later at Minidoka. This chapter explains how the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial became a unit of Minidoka National Historic Site.

Story:

1. In 1942, the United States government forcibly removed 227 Japanese Americans from their homes on Bainbridge Island. The U.S. government decided to remove this group of individuals first, sending them initially to Manzanar and then later to Minidoka. The U.S. Army forced individuals to board the ferry, which awaited them at the Eagledale Ferry Dock, which would transport them from Bainbridge Island to Seattle, then aboard a train that took them to Manzanar.
2. In 1987, the Environmental Protection Agency established the Wyckoff Superfund Site, consisting of nearly 100 acres of the former Wyckoff Creosote Company near Eagle Harbor on the east side of Bainbridge Island.
 - a. In 1997, the Wyckoff Zoning Advisory Committee determined clean-up processes for the Superfund site.

- b. In 2001, the Bainbridge Island Park and Recreation District acquired the Superfund site after establishing a citizen committee, changing the cleanup process and how the municipality planned to use the site.
 - i. Members of the citizen committee, known as the Wyckoff Acquisition Committee, included individuals from the Wyckoff Zoning Advisory Committee and BIJAC, who thought that utilizing cleanup efforts to create a memorial to the history of Japanese American removal and incarceration better fit potential purposes for the area and offered opportunities to clean up the site while preserving a place important to Japanese American history.
 - ii. The Wyckoff Acquisition Committee sought to purchase 50 acres of the site for the Bainbridge Island Parks and Recreation. The municipality of Bainbridge Island passed resolutions in March and May to support the public acquisition of the site.
- c. In February and March 2002, the Washington State Legislature requested Congress and President Bush to take action in purchasing the land and establishing a unit of the National Park Service.
 - i. The Pacific Sound Environmental Trust, which oversaw the Wyckoff property, appraised the 50 acres under consideration by the Wyckoff Acquisition Committee at 8 million dollars in March 2002.
 - 1. The Kitsap County Board of Commissioners petitioned the Washington State Legislature and Congress in March 2002 to establish the site as a National Memorial.

2. In June 2022, Bainbridge Island adopted a resolution that called for Congress to support public park acquisition through funding after demonstrating the ongoing local fundraising efforts.
 - ii. In December 2002, Congress authorized the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial Study of 2002, which asked the National Park Service to conduct a feasibility study determining the eligibility of the Eagledale Ferry Dock for consideration as a National Park Service unit.
- d. In June 2003, Bainbridge Island purchased the fifty-acre area, including parts of the Eagle Harbor Wyckoff site, intending to dedicate part of the newly formed Joel Pritchard Park and the Japanese American WWII Exclusion Memorial Project. Part of the park would be used for the memorial.
 - i. The Trust for Public Lands assisted Bainbridge Island in purchasing the property.
 - ii. Of the fifty acres, approximately twelve acres on the east end belonged to the Wyckoff Superfund Site.
 - iii. In May 2004, the Bainbridge Island City Council authorized the mayor to purchase an additional twenty-two acres of the Wyckoff Property.
- e. In June 2004, the Bainbridge Island City Council and Mayor approved the funding and joint agreement with BIJAC.
 - i. \$1.5 million came from the State of Washington, which covered the costs of the first phase of the memorial's development.
 - ii. The Bainbridge Island Land Trust and the Trust for Public Land jointly raised \$400,000 in private funds.

- iii. The city assisted in raising a total of \$4.9 million of the total needed to acquire the site.
 - iv. The Friends of the Pritchard Park raised \$3.1 million for the remaining portions not funded by the city.
- 3. The National Park Service released a newsletter for the BIJAC and Bainbridge Island communities, notifying citizens that NPS planned a Special Resource Study.
 - a. NPS explained the existing work done to identify properties and sites related to the Japanese American experience and explain the process for NPS designation.
 - b. The newsletter also provided public notice of the Eagledale Ferry Dock's preservation planning process. It introduced the study team consisting of consultants, National Park Service Staff, descendants of incarceration survivors, and survivors.
 - c. In November 2003, NPS held two separate public scoping meetings, one on Bainbridge Island and the other in Seattle.
- 4. In April 2005, NPS published the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial Study of Alternatives, which determined that the memorial fit the criteria for a new unit under the National Park Service.
 - a. Though intended for release in 2003, the study took significantly longer because NPS needed to decide between different types of designation for their differing alternatives.
 - i. NPS considered different alternatives for the site's designation. They explored designating the unit as a National Heritage Area, National Historic Reserve, or an NPS satellite unit of Manzanar and Minidoka

before deciding that their single best proposal would be as a satellite unit of Minidoka.

- ii. By developing a wide range of alternatives with the contributions of BIJAC, NPS ensured the study explored all possible options before opening the alternatives up for public review.
- b. The study also explained that the study team developed three draft alternatives for the monument.
- i. The memorial, proposed by BIJAC, would be constructed and operated through the local support of the BIJAC and Bainbridge Island community.
 - ii. The Memorial Committee split the project plan into two phases, which would first create the space for the memorial, and then focus on constructing the memorial.
 - iii. Much like other NPS documents, Alternative A meant no federal action, meaning the unit would not become part of the National Park Service.
 - iv. Alternative B and C proposed federal action from NPS. In Alternative B, the memorial would become an affiliated unit of NPS, and under Alternative C, it would be a sister unit of Minidoka.
 1. With Alternative B, the Memorial Committee would manage the memorial with support and partnerships from NPS.
 2. With Alternative C, it would become a unit of the National Park System, which would function as a satellite unit of Minidoka.
 - a. NPS would provide interpretation, funding, and support for the memorial.

- c. The study explored opportunities for interpretation, education, and national historic significance of the site, determining that the Eagledale Ferry Dock fit NPS criteria because of its significance to the history of Japanese American forced removal and incarceration.
 - i. NPS specifically pointed to the strong and tight-knit Bainbridge Island Japanese American community before and after the war, arguing that the ferry dock represented “where it began and where it concluded.”
5. Following the study’s publication, NPS opened the document for public in May 2005.
- a. The NPS received over 1,300 public comment letters about the memorial.
 - b. In May 2005, NPS held two public workshops to explain the alternatives and obtain the public’s feedback.
 - c. Most comments, especially those from Minidoka and Manzanar survivors, petitioned NPS to take the action outlined in Alternative C.
 - i. Based on the public comment letters, the memorial became a satellite unit of Minidoka and Manzanar, with no federal ownership or NPS management of the site.
 - 1. NPS would focus on interpretation and education, looking for the local community to manage and maintain the memorial.
 - d. In July 2005, NPS leaders Neil King and Stephanie Toothman, with support from regional director Jonathan Jarvis, submitted the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial Study and Assessment of Alternatives to the director of the National Park Service for review. Designation would require an act of Congress.

6. As NPS still followed the public process, the Memorial Committee began working on the memorial immediately after obtaining approval and permits.
 - a. Since parts of the Eagledale ferry dock still contained trace contaminants, the Bainbridge Island Department of Planning and Community Development set specific criteria for the memorial's plan to prevent harm to the environment, humans, or wildlife.
 - b. The Memorial Committee developed plans for the memorial, consisting of a 276-foot wall representing all individuals forcibly removed from their homes. Additionally, they planned to reconstruct a 150-foot pier to represent the 150 Japanese Americans who returned after the war.
 - c. On March 3, 2004, Bainbridge Island held a commemorative groundbreaking ceremony at the Eagledale Ferry Dock.
 - d. The ceremony consisted of nine Bainbridge Islanders, including six survivors.
 - i. One survivor who spoke at the event was Dr. Frank Kitamoto, who was only two and a half years old when the U.S. government removed him from his home.
7. In May 2008, Congress passed Public Law 110-229 to expand Minidoka's boundaries to include the Bainbridge Island unit.
 - a. At the time, they also changed the name to Minidoka National Historic Site rather than Minidoka Internment National Monument after receiving feedback from the Japanese American survivor and descendant community.
 - b. BIAS managed by KLSE

8. In 2008, phase two of the memorial construction began, much to the excitement of survivors, descendants, and NPS staff.
 - a. The project received additional funding from the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant program.
 - i. NPS received funding for interpretive waysides in the Spring of 2009.
 - b. NPS administered the unit through Klondike Gold Rush unit in Seattle, Washington, because of the unit's proximity to Bainbridge Island compared to Minidoka.
9. In 2014, Public Law 113-171 renamed the unit to the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial because "Exclusion" was not included in the original designation and was a key word in the memorial's title.
 - a. Structure of BIJAEMA, Klondike Gold Rush, NPS,

Themes:

1. The Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial came together as a result of grassroots efforts led by the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community in cooperation with the City of Bainbridge Island and the National Park Service.
2. While developing relationships with survivors and descendants of Minidoka, NPS specifically established close relationships with Bainbridge Island's Japanese American residents.
3. Studying the feasibility of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial took several years of meetings and analysis.

4. Bainbridge Island became a satellite unit of Minidoka NHS in 2008, demonstrating the memorials' national significance and deep-rooted local ties to the Bainbridge Island community.
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Chapter Eight: Implementing the General Management Plan (2006-2020)

Purpose: This chapter explains how the National Park Service implemented the General Management Plan through interpretation, education, development, and management of the site. NPS partnered with organizations, such as Friends of Minidoka, to create historic reconstructions at the site while expanding the park's boundary to include the Hermann property and other sites.

Story:

1. NPS worked alongside various partners, including survivors, descendants, local university staff and students, and various non-profit organizations, to implement the General Management Plan
 - a. NPS staff operated Minidoka NM interpretive activities and an interpretive exhibition at Hagerman Fossil Beds Visitor Center about Minidoka until temporary Minidoka Visitor Center opened onsite.
 - b. The Conservation Fund purchased the Herrmann Farm and historic Block 22 for interpretation and education at Minidoka National Historic Site in 2006, donating critical tracts of land for this purpose.

- i. Part of Minidoka’s GMP included securing the farm and expanding the boundary to include the Hermann Property and the historic camp dump site on BLM land.
 - 1. This boundary modification was authorized in 2008 with the passage of P.L. 110-229, which also renamed Minidoka Internment National Monument to Minidoka Historic Site after survivors and descendants raised concerns about the use of the term “internment.”
 - 2. After this boundary modification, superintendent Wendy Janssen looked to amend the General Management Plan to account for the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial.
- c. In 2008, NPS commissioned a study with Boise State University graduate student, Patrick Taylor on existing barracks and buildings from the camp still located in the Magic Valley region.
 - i. This study sought to find buildings available for interpretive purposes at Minidoka NHS.
 - 1. A barrack used for migrant labor housing and a mess hall used as a canning facility at the Jerome County Fairgrounds proved stable and suitable for purchase.
 - ii. In 2008, NPS purchased two buildings and, with the assistance of Friends of Minidoka, worked to relocate them to Block 22.
- 2. 2011 brought major changes to the site, whereby the NPS implemented major projects identified in the GMP to provide basic visitor amenities and services.

- a. NPS designed and built the 1.3-mile gravel trail for visitors to circumnavigate the site;
 - b. Began efforts to stabilize the root cellar, barrack, mess hall, and fire station;
 - c. Reconstructed part of the historic fence along the North Side Canal;
 - b. Worked with consultants to develop concept designs for the interpretation, management, and visitor experience when visiting the historic buildings moved to the site;
 - d. Unveiled the reconstructed Minidoka Honor Roll at the 2011 pilgrimage;
 - i. Tribute to service members who served at Minidoka, funded by a grant received by Friends of Minidoka.
 - e. Began long-term interpretive planning for the site.
3. In January 2013, Minidoka NHS published its Long-Range Interpretive Plan.
- a. This process began in 2011 and consisted of multiple meetings with survivors and descendants and significant research conducted by Anna Tamura, Tetsuden Kashima, and Jeffrey Burton.
 - i. They worked with Densho to obtain oral history interviews from survivors.
 - b. Based on the research and information provided, NPS envisioned that this plan would dictate their interpretation of the site for the following seven to ten years based on the research and information provided.
 - i. This plan guided exhibits, visitor experience, and educational programs at the site based on the interpretive themes developed originally in the

General Management Plan, which NPS expanded upon in the Long-Range Interpretive Plan.

- ii. This plan also followed the history of Japanese Americans in the United States from the beginning of *Issei* immigration through the Japanese American Redress and Reparations movement.

c. In 2015, NPS worked with the staff at Harper’s Ferry Center to develop a park unigrid brochure for visitors to the site.

- a. Additionally, NPS staff created their first exhibit on the role of the 442nd and the military to be displayed at the Hagerman Fossil Beds Visitor Center.

d. In 2015, NPS completed stabilization efforts for the Minidoka Visitor Center, to be constructed from a historic warehouse building at Minidoka NHS.

- a. Construction on the Visitor Center began in 2016.

e. In 2017, NPS began construction to adaptively rehabilitate the historic Hermann House.

- d. The rehabilitated house provided staff offices and a temporary visitor center on-site at Minidoka NHS starting in 2018. It was the first time NPS had an onsite presence.

- i. Previously, staff worked out of Hagerman Fossil Beds Visitor Center in downtown Hagerman, Idaho.
- ii. The temporary visitor center offered a place for visitors to engage with Park Service rangers and interns, cool off from their walk along the trail,

learn more about Minidoka NHS through pop-up exhibit banners, and receive their National Parks Passport stamp.

4. Friends of Minidoka supported the National Park Service with several projects that followed the interpretive themes outlined in the Long-Range Interpretive Plan.
 - a. Many of these projects included reconstructions of historic features that aided in interpreting Minidoka NHS.
 - b. With the work of Hanako Wakatsuki and Robert C. Sims, FOM obtained funding for the reconstruction of a historic guard tower at the site through a Japanese American Confinement Sites grant.
 - i. FOM, Boise State University, and NPS completed the work.
 - i. Dedicated at the 2014 Pilgrimage.
 - c. In 2016, Friends of Minidoka board members and volunteers gathered with survivors and descendants at the park to create the baseball field.
 - a. Inspired by Hermann’s “Farm-in-a-Day” property, the group sought to create a baseball field in a day.
 - i. Friends of Minidoka raised funds and supported the management of reconstructing the baseball field in Block 22.
 - ii. NPS dedicated the field at the 2016 pilgrimage with a game of baseball.
 - iii. “Field in a Day” Historic Baseball Field reconstruction also helped the interpretation of NPS.
 - b. In 2016, Friends of Minidoka and NPS staff created a contract to produce a park film.

- i. In 2019, the film aired at the 2019 annual pilgrimage at Minidoka NHS.
- ii. Friends of Minidoka produced a one-hour documentary, while NPS created the condensed 30-minute park film.

1. Both films also include interviews with survivors and descendants who describe the story of Minidoka in their own words.

Themes:

1. The National Park Service began to implement the General Management Plan following the document's publication in 2006 with the help of survivors, descendants, and organizations.
2. Implementing the GMP required time, funds, organization and collaboration between the National Park Service, Friends of Minidoka, and other partnering organizations.
3. NPS required additional research and documentation on the site to locate the site's former buildings for onsite tours, interpretation, and visitor experiences.
4. In addition to relocating buildings to Minidoka NHS, Friends of Minidoka and NPS created many reconstructions of onsite features that supported the GMP's implementation and onsite interpretation.
5. NPS staff began working onsite at Minidoka NHS before a permanent visitor center became available, demonstrating the need and desire for onsite interpretation, education, and tours.
6. Since the General Management Plan's publication in 2006, NPS, Friends of Minidoka, and other partners worked tirelessly and rapidly to develop interpretation, reconstructions, rehabilitations, and other projects related to preserving Minidoka's legacy at Minidoka NHS.

Chapter Nine: Controversies and Challenges at Minidoka NHS (2007-2013)

Purpose: To explain some of the challenges and controversies that the NPS Staff at Minidoka NHS faced in preserving and interpreting the site. Though some of the challenges and controversies arose from the lack of protections at Minidoka NHS, others came up as a result of miscommunication and a focus on priorities not fully aligned with the goals and objectives that the survivor and descendant community foresaw in the development of the GMP.

1. In 2007, Big Sky Farms LLC, under the ownership of Don McFarland, applied for a feedlot permit in Jerome County to construct a 160-acre, 13,000 animal feedlot facility, known as a confined animal feeding operation (CAFO) approximately 1 ¼ mile from Minidoka NHS.
 - a. Friends of Minidoka, along with a coalition of supporters such as Dean Dimon, sought to prevent the feedlot's construction.
 - i. Noise and air pollution, especially from the smell, would cause issues for Minidoka NHS and local ranchers in the area.
 - ii. In an air quality study conducted by Friends of Minidoka, they found that the smell and air pollution would blow directly toward Minidoka NHS.
 - b. In October 2008, the County Board of Commissioners denied Big Sky's permit.
 - i. After this denial, a judge forced the Commissioners to rehear the permit hearing, not considering zoning ordinances.

- ii. After this second hearing, the commissioners approved the permit, much to the dismay of Friends of Minidoka and Minidoka NHS's neighbors.

Themes:

1. Superintendents at Minidoka NHS have faced threats to the site's visitor experience and immersive interpretive experience.
 2. Friends of Minidoka and Magic Valley locals supported the park's preservation by engaging in legal battles against the Big Sky Farm's CAFO.
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Chapter Ten: Staffing the Site (2001-2022)

Purpose: As Minidoka NHS grew in size, annual visitation, and visibility, the need for additional staff became more apparent. Additionally, as superintendents with long careers of service with NPS retired from Minidoka NHS, new superintendents informed decisions made on the development and management of the park. This chapter highlights the role of each superintendent and their work to develop Minidoka in accordance with the General Management Plan.

1. Each superintendent of Minidoka played a critical role in defining the development of the park.
 - a. Neil King (2001-2008) assisted with the designation of Minidoka as a new unit of the National Park System by providing on-the-ground support and information, including the early visit by Dan Sakura during the time of research for the presidential proclamation.
-

- i. King recalled knowing little about Minidoka yet understood the core story.
 - ii. At the site visit, he witnessed evidence of the stories of survivors through the cultural resources remaining at the site.
 - b. King continued his work on Minidoka to support early archaeological and cultural landscape investigations that assisted the site's planning.
 - i. Anna Tamura joined the team during these initial archaeological investigations as an NPS intern, but from 2002-2018, she worked as a Landscape Architect and regional planner for the National Park Service, dedicating part of her work to the preservation of Japanese American incarceration sites.
 - c. Neil King helped lead the development of the General Management Plan and early implementation of the plan.
 - i. King began relationships between the Minidoka survivor and descendant community and the National Park Service, which proved critical to Minidoka's project success.
 1. After his retirement, King served on the board of directors for Friends of Minidoka.
 - d. In addition to the General Management Plan, King also worked to stand up the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial a satellite unit of Minidoka NHS with BIJAC and the City of Bainbridge Island.
2. Wendy Janssen (2008-2013) served as the Superintendent of Minidoka NHS and Hagerman Fossil Beds NM and worked to implement the General Management Plan,

overseeing the early development of Minidoka NHS and the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial.

- a. Coming from a 20-year career of service with NPS, Janssen worked on implementing parts of Minidoka's GMP, including proposing, administering, and overseeing projects at the site.
 - i. Janssen also helped the formation of the Long-Range Interpretive Plan.
 - ii. She worked to establish a gravel walking trail throughout the site and reconstruct the historic fence along the North Side Canal.
 - iii. Commissioned the study of locating former Minidoka buildings so the Conservation Fund could purchase them for interpretive use at Minidoka NHS.
 1. Helped Friends of Minidoka move the buildings to Minidoka NHS.
 - iv. Janssen also oversaw the expansion of Minidoka NHS and the early stabilization and preservation efforts of structures at Minidoka NHS.
- b. Janssen left Minidoka NHS in 2013 to become the Appalachian National Scenic Trail Superintendent.

3. Judy Geniac served as the Superintendent of Minidoka NHS and Hagerman Fossil Beds NM when Minidoka NHS approached more significant completion of the GMP to include a permanent visitor center and historic buildings relocated to the site.

- a. Geniac, alongside Friends of Minidoka, worked to establish a temporary visitor center and build an onsite staff presence.
 - i. Several interpretive projects, such as exhibits and grants for exhibits, began during Geniac's service.

- ii. Geniac managed the park through the CAFO proposal on land close to Minidoka, as well as through early developments at the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial.

4. Wade Vagias was the acting Superintendent of Minidoka NHS and Hagerman Fossil Beds in addition to his position as the Superintendent of Craters of the Moon Fossil Beds NM and Preserve.

- a. Vagias witnessed the work of previous superintendents come to fruition in January 2020 when NPS officially opened the Minidoka Visitor Center.
 - i. Vagias also served as the site's superintendent when additional onsite programs began, including educational tours and internships.
 - ii. Vagias served as the Superintendent throughout the COVID-19 pandemic

5. Interpretation and Education Divisions at Minidoka NHS began in 2015 when Carol Ash became the director of Education and Interpretation for Hagerman Fossil Beds and Minidoka NHS.

- a. This began onsite interpretive and educational programs.
 - i. Carol Ash retired in 2016, but in her two years of service, she assisted in authoring an NPS newsletter, started developing a volunteer educational program, and developed onsite tours of Minidoka NHS.
- b. Hanako Wakatsuki-Chong, a long-time supporter of Minidoka NHS and Friends of Minidoka, became the Director of Interpretation and Education at the site in 2016 until 2021, when she became the Superintendent of Honouliuli NHS.
 - i. Wakatsuki-Chong's family was incarcerated at Manzanar during World War II. Her aunt Jeanne Houston Wakatsuki wrote *Farewell to Manzanar*.

- ii. During her years of service, Wakatsuki-Chong oversaw the construction and opening of the Minidoka visitor center, helped to create and revise the Minidoka Junior Ranger booklet and the Minidoka Traveling Trunk, and updated interpretation at Minidoka to include guided tours from rangers and interns. Additionally, Wakatsuki-Chong began updating the wayside interpretive signs.
 - iii. Annette Rousseau, the Educational Specialist of Minidoka NHS and Hagerman Fossil Beds, also worked at Minidoka NHS from 2016 until 2021. She worked on aspects of the Minidoka Honor Roll project, the Minidoka Junior Ranger booklet, alongside onsite field trips at Minidoka.
- c. In 2021, Kurt Ikeda became the new Director of Education and Interpretation at Minidoka NHS.
- i. Much like Wakatuski-Chong, Ikeda had family connections to the incarceration experience, though was not directly tied to Minidoka.
 - ii. Ikeda oversaw the opening of Minidoka NHS after the COVID-19 pandemic and oversaw additional youth internships.
 - iii. Lead Ranger Emily Teraoka joined Minidoka NHS staff in 2021. She worked to provide onsite interpretation and worked to complete an additional update of the Minidoka Honor Roll in 2023.
6. With additions and developments at Minidoka NHS, the onsite staff presence grew to include operations and maintenance divisions dedicated to Minidoka NHS beginning in 2018.
- a. Sam Bowlin started as the Chief of Maintenance for Minidoka NHS in 2018. Coming from NPS sites in Dayton, Ohio, Bowlin took excellent care of maintaining Minidoka's landscape.

- i. This included wayside and trail maintenance, regular mowing, weeding, and assisting in creating safe access for visitors.
- ii. Bowlin also created several pieces of metalwork and artwork, permanently displayed at the Minidoka NHS Visitor Center.

1. Bowlin left Minidoka NHS in 2022.

- b. Outside of the operations and maintenance divisions located onsite at Minidoka NHS, staff from Hagerman Fossil Beds NM and Craters of the Moon NM frequently assisted with the annual pilgrimage at Minidoka NHS.

7. Minidoka NHS developed a cultural resource management program after initial archaeological investigations.

- a. As survivors and descendants also started donating photos and collection items, the responsibilities of the resource manager expanded.

- i. Beginning in 2012, JoAnn Balack served as the Chief of Integrated Resources Management, overseeing collections and items related to Minidoka NHS, Hagerman Fossil Beds NM, and Craters of the Moon NM and Preserve.

1. In 2019, Balack left her position. In 2020, NPS restructured the position to expand to several different positions.

- a. In 2020, Jared Infanger became the Cultural Resource Manager for Minidoka NHS, Hagerman Fossil Beds NM, and Craters of the Moon NM and Preserve.

- i. In 2021, Alexander Kim started as an intern curator for the three parks. In 2022, he became the curator for all three.

- b. Involvement of Regional Staff at Minidoka NHS

i. Pacific West Regional Offices

1. Fred York
2. Anna Tamura
3. Charles Beale

Themes:

1. Superintendents informed different periods of the park, implementing their ideas alongside the wishes of the survivor and descendant community.
2. Most of Minidoka NHS's staff and operations functioned at the Hagerman Fossil Beds visitor center until 2017, when the temporary visitor center opened.
3. Developing Minidoka as a site with staff took two decades, but as of 2022, the site remains staffed, including maintenance, operations, and cultural resources staff.
4. Minidoka NHS, Craters of the Moon NM and Preserve, and Hagerman Fossil Beds NM share staff to reduce the financial requirements of each park's dedicated cultural resources and operations staff for each park.

Minidoka National Historic Site Administrative History
Annotated Bibliography

Primary Sources

Books

Gruenewald, Mary Matsuda. *Looking Like the Enemy: My Story of Imprisonment in Japanese-American Internment Camps*. Troutdale: New Sage Press, 2005.

Based on the experiences of author Mary Matsuda Gruenewald, this memoir recalls the removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans at Minidoka during World War II. Gruenewald, removed at 16, explores the difficult conditions she encountered during her teenage years. Though a handful of memoirs exist, Gruenewald's became available when few memoirs from survivors existed and grew as part of the historiography on Minidoka.

Hohri, William. *Repairing America: An Account of the Movement for Japanese-American Redress*. Pullman: Washington State University Press, 1984.

William Hohri spearheaded the National Council for Japanese American Redress's (NCJAR) lawsuit against the United States to gain redress and reparations for the incarceration of Japanese Americans. This book explores the NCJAR's position on redress and reparations alongside the council's different attempts to gain recognition. The NCJAR sought reparations, while the JACL sought a truth-finding commission. Ultimately, this book discusses the controversies and the different approaches of activists in the redress and reparations movement.

Maki, Mitchell T. Harry H. L. Kitano, and S. Megan Berthold. *Achieving the Impossible Dream: How Japanese Americans Obtained Redress*. Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1999.

Written by a group of activists who participated in the Japanese American redress and reparations movement, this book explores the methods and processes Japanese Americans underwent to obtain redress. The publication explains the motivations behind redress while also describing the organization of grassroots activists to rally behind the redress movement.

Uyeda, Clifford I. *A Final Report and Review: The Japanese American Citizens League, National Committee for Iva Toguri*. Seattle: Asian American Studies Program, University of Washington, 1980.

Written by the JACL representative overseeing the Iva Toguri case, Clifford Uyeda's report explains the Japanese American Citizens League's involvement in overturning her treason sentence. Viewed as a crucial case that prompted further JACL involvement in social justice alongside the redress and reparations movement, this publication provides information and insight into the case, its complexities, and its resolution.

Yamaguchi, Jack. *This Was Minidoka*. Tacoma: Pollard Printing Group, 1992.

Memoir from Jack Yamaguchi, who was incarcerated at Minidoka, about his wartime experience of being removed and confined at Minidoka. While not the earliest publication about Japanese American incarceration, Jack's publication was one of the earliest, specifically about Minidoka from a survivor's perspective. Additionally, this memoir details key conditions such as the weather, barracks, and daily life.

Correspondence

Azumano, Jim. "Proposed Dairy Farm." December 5, 2006. Email. MSS 356, Box 16, Folder 18. Albertsons Library Special Collections and Archives. Boise, Idaho.

Email correspondence between Jim Azumano, a descendant of a survivor of Minidoka, and Robert C. Sims, the eminent scholar on Minidoka, regarding the proposed feedlot farm near Minidoka. The email correspondence discusses the feedlot and the speed of the process to approve the zoning. The two also discuss comments from NPS, Dan Sakura, and Neil King, who explained the feedlot's implications on Minidoka National Monument.

Boyer, Robert L. Hap. "Robert L. "Hap: Boyer to Senator Larry Craig," Draft Letter. April 2, 2003. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 16. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

Draft of a letter to Senator Larry Craig from Robert Boyer regarding negative consequences caused by the Bureau of Reclamation's decisions to relocate buildings and projects after the designation of Minidoka National Monument on Bureau of Reclamation land. Hermann was concerned about buildings, operation relocations, and financial costs caused by damage to his land and holdings.

Chinn, Cassie. Lilly Kodama, Charlene Mano, Yosh Nakagawa, Bob Sato, and Beth Takekawa. "Statement of Concerns: Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for Minidoka Internment National Monument." January 14, 2005. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 20. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

This letter contains a list of comments from the Minidoka survivors, descendants, and stakeholders about the draft Minidoka General Management Plan. The comments discuss the ultimate importance of including specific interpretive themes in the GMP. Other comments include logistics surrounding collections and renaming Minidoka National Monument. This correspondence also demonstrates the continuing feedback from other community stakeholders and input regarding Minidoka's GMP.

Endo, Karl. "Karl Endo to Neil King," Correspondence. April 15, 2004. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 20. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

Karl Endo, the president of the Pocatello-Blackfoot Japanese American Citizens League, wrote to Neil King about adding the term "concentration camp" when describing Minidoka as a confinement site and with the naming of the national monument. The letter explains the purposes behind the desired naming conventions based on terminology and its reflection of academic scholarship.

Feller, Laura. "MIIN Draft." March 2005. Email. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 17. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

Email from Laura Feller, an NPS historian, to Dennis Schramm, Washington State Support Office Park Planning staff, regarding the Minidoka National Monument's draft GMP and EIS, specifically looking at media alternatives to reconstructing buildings and moving historic buildings onto the site. The source provides one of the many suggestions to compromise on facets of the GMP that survivors, descendants, and NPS foresaw within the financial limitations. Gregg, Jerold D. "Jerold D. Gregg to Bob Esterbrook." March 13, 2003. Correspondence. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 16. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

Correspondence between Jerold Gregg and Bob Esterbrook regarding two buildings that the Bureau of Reclamation utilized while occupying the space of Minidoka National Monument. The letter proposes moving the buildings as they pertain little to the history of Minidoka and remain irrelevant to Minidoka National Monument. Gregg offers a couple of different locations for the buildings in this letter.

Hamaka, Joe "Joe Hamaka to Anna Tamura." 2002. Correspondence. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 15. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

Letter from Joe Hamaka providing support and interest in establishing tours at Minidoka National Monument for the Nikkei community. Hamaka explained his experience of incarceration at Minidoka and expressed the need for a space of healing for the Minidoka survivors, as a museum specifically about Minidoka did not exist.

Hays, Frank. "MIIN GMP Comments." June 4, 2006. Email. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 20. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

Comments from Frank Hays, the NPS Superintendent of Manzanar National Historic Site, regarding Minidoka National Monument's GMP. The comments revolve around legislation requiring specific analysis. He also notes issues with authorship and cultural landscape management. Hays asks about the maintenance costs of reconstructing a block at Minidoka versus constructing a few buildings with a robust interpretive center. The comments provided by Hays reflect suggested changes made by other NPS officials utilizing lessons learned from Manzanar's GMP.

Ikeda, Tom. "Camp website & interview updates." Email. July 8, 2004. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 16. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

Email from Tom Ikeda, founder and director of Densho, to Neil King regarding a Minidoka "Camp Website" and funding issues for the website. Ikeda describes the interviews of non-Japanese Americans who played a role or observed the confinement of Japanese Americans during World War II. Ikeda's work of establishing Densho with an encyclopedia and space to provide access to digitized research materials directly affected research conducted by Minidoka NM staff on the site's history. Additionally, oral history interviews with survivors and individuals affiliated with Minidoka's history provided NPS staff with research materials and greater context for other projects. Tom's letter provides information about the foundation of Densho and Densho's relationship with Minidoka NM.

Ikeda, Tsugou "Tsugou Ikeda to Anna Tamura and Fred York." Circa 2002. Correspondence. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 15. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

Email from Tsugou Ikeda to Anna Tamura and Fred York regarding input for the Minidoka General Management Plan. Tsugou asked for NPS to include barbed wire around the perimeter of the site and recreate a historic barrack with retrofitted decorations of greasewood, dust, and other living materials that incarcerated used. Ikeda also relayed a personal story about missing grass during his incarceration and suggested that NPS create a small garden or lawn outside of the barrack and include a barrack with classroom materials to demonstrate the educational experience of incarcerated. Other comments included making the bathrooms as private as possible, recreating an honor roll and guard tower, and including artifacts, such as the sign that Tsugou donated to the Wing Luke Museum. NPS eventually fulfilled several of Tsugou's wishes, but his email demonstrates the desires of survivors and the desired visitor experience.

Inouye, Howard. "Growing Appreciation for My Parents. June 6, 2003. Correspondence. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 16. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

Howard Inouye's letter describes his appreciation for his parents, who were incarcerated at Minidoka. In his email, he explains his desire to be involved in developing Minidoka's GMP and working with the National Park Service as a survivor. He explains the struggles they overcame moving to the United States and facing the uncomfortable experiences of being an immigrant, then the loss of removal. The letter demonstrates the significance of including the *issei* experience in Minidoka's GMP as a central to the interpretive theme.

Jarvis, Jonathan B. "Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for WASO Policy Consultation." 2003. Correspondence. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 16. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

Letter from the Pacific West Region NPS director, Jonathan Jarvis, regarding the key issues for Minidoka National Monument's General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. The concerns included Minidoka's position as a unit responsible for providing civil discourse and engagement with monument's plans, along with the desire to make boundary changes that required legislation. Jarvis also notes that historic preservation requires critical concern, especially in reconstructing, preserving, and moving historic buildings at Minidoka. Jarvis's letter also highlighted some of the methods of preservation. The letter outlined the key concerns NPS requested the WASO staff address to assist with Minidoka's GMP.

Kashima, Tetsuden. "Comments on DGMP/EIS." February 3, 2005. Email. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 20. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

Comments and recommendations from Tetsuden Kashima, a Japanese American scholar, regarding Minidoka's GMP/EIS. His recommendations include the use of terminology and seek to include additional historical information surrounding the incarceration of *issei* men at Department of Justice camps. Kashima also addressed the issue of reconstructing a guard tower being allowed as the preferred alternative. The email demonstrates ongoing efforts to engage with historical experts, especially those of Japanese ancestry, surrounding Minidoka's planning.

NPS's work with Tetsuden Kashima demonstrates NPS's efforts to recognize survivors, descendants, and those affected by Japanese American incarceration as the authority experts on the topic.

Keck, Daryl. "Daryl Keck to Neil King." September 2003. Correspondence. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 16. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

Letter to Minidoka superintendent disagreeing with Minidoka National Monument's proposed general management plan based on wartime security and "disloyalty" of Japanese Americans. Expresses disdain regarding the opinion of wartime veterans, arguing that their wartime experience was one of fighting the Japanese, and comments about the perspective of Vietnam War veterans who disagree with the proposed GMP. The email argues that the experience of confinement was not unpleasant for incarcerated Japanese Americans, maintaining that the United States makes mistakes but remains a great country.

King, Neil. "GMP Concerns," June 20, 2003. Email. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 16. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

Correspondence about concerns regarding the comments and letters opposing Minidoka's GMP because the GMP is not factually correct and does not contain the "full story." King includes the comments in the email.

King, Neil. "Neil King to Art Brown." December 1, 2006. Letter. Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 16, Folder 18. Albertsons Library Special Collections and Archives. Boise, Idaho.

Comments from Neil King, the superintendent of Minidoka National Monument, to Art Brown, the Jerome County Planning and Zoning Administrator, regarding the proposed permit for the Big Sky Farms. King provides specific comments about the permit. These comments include the lack of essential information about the implications of the feedlot, the lack of public comment from individuals living close to the proposed feedlot, the lack of process utilized for the application, and the lack of examination of exhibits for the application. The letter provides requirements for the application that the Jerome County Commissioners and Big Sky Farms had not undertaken, demonstrating the significance of these requirements in applying for the zoning permit.

King, Neil. "Message from Hero." June 15, 2003. Email. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 16. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

Email from Neil King to Karl Endo following up on suggestions and recognizing the work other individuals and organizations have completed to preserve Minidoka's legacy. King apologizes for the lack of communication with crucial individuals and iterates that anyone could be involved. He also explains that NPS completed the scoping phase of Minidoka's process of creating a General Management Plan and iterated the next projects and plans for the Monument.

King, Neil. "MIIN Barracks Costs." May 19, 2006. Email. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 16.

Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

Email from Neil King to other NPS staff regarding the costs associated with moving barracks to Minidoka for the use of educational and interpretive opportunities. King also addressed the historic dumpsite for Minidoka and the plans to utilize the dump, with concerns regarding public access and looting. He also notes that The Conservation Fund worked on a survey of the Farm-In-A-Day property as an expansion of Minidoka National Monument. King's comments are rooted in email correspondence with Jack Williams, who emailed King questions regarding moving historic buildings, updates with the Hermann property, and NPS's role and responsibilities.

King, Neil. "Neil King to Alyce Sato." June 16, 2006. Correspondence. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 16. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

Letter to Alyce Sato, president of the Pocatello-Blackfoot JACL, recognizing the efforts of the Pocatello-Blackfoot JACL in preserving Minidoka National Monument before the National Park Service stepped in. King also extends invitations for continued partnership with the Pocatello-Blackfoot JACL.

King, Neil. "Neil King to Gail Lee Dubrow." October 6, 2003. Correspondence. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 16. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

Neil King discusses the potential for revitalizing Seattle, Washington's sense of place by restoring the city's historic Nihonmachi by establishing a community center in the historic Nihomachi area. King specifies the significance of the revitalization project following Minidoka's history related to the forced removal, incarceration, and dispersal of Seattle's Japanese American community during World War II. King iterates that many of his comments pertain to reflections from Seattle's existing Nikkei community, many of whom experienced incarceration at Minidoka.

King, Neil. "MIIN GMP Comments." November 12, 2004. Email. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 20. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

Email correspondence between Neil King, Anna Tamura, and Keith Dunbar regarding Minidoka National Monument's General Management Plan. Neil attached his comments regarding the GMP to the email and addressed other concerns. He raises the notion of addressing opposition to the monument as still important from citizen's perspectives. King also raised the concern of transferring land ownership of Minidoka's historic landfill to the ownership of NPS rather than BLM. The email demonstrates the many iterations of Minidoka's GMP and explains how NPS respectfully handled public comments opposing the monument.

King, Neil. "MIIN GMP Concerns." June 20, 2003. Email. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 8. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

Neil King encloses an email regarding the Minidoka GMP, iterating concerns over the interpretation presented by the National Park Service. Neil explains that he is concerned about

the opinions of local citizens influencing the GMP, especially because the opinions of local citizens were rooted in opinion rather than historical fact and had little to do with the incarceration of Japanese Americans at Minidoka, but rather continued with false information about the root of the incarceration experience.

King, Neil. "MIIN GMP PMIS." February 26, 2001. Email. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 8. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

In this email, Neil King explains the difficulties of managing Minidoka National Monument, developing planning, and management documents to Keith Dunbar. King also expresses the potential for growth at the site, both physically and in terms of partnership and visitation rates.

King, Neil. "Minidoka Internment National Monument Draft GMP/EIS In House Review." December 2, 2004. Correspondence. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 16. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

Letter from Neil King to individuals on the Minidoka National Monument Planning Team requesting final reviews from team members before opening the draft for public review and comment.

King, Neil. "Planning Funds." February 13, 2001. Email. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 8. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

This source is an email from Neil King explaining to Warren Brown the importance of utilizing the planning money received from the National Park Service for Minidoka National Monument. This email discusses the potential of the Bush Administration overturning the designation and the Idaho Legislature restricting the use of the Antiquities Act of 1906 for future NPS designations.

King, Neil. "Neil King to Sylvia Kobayashi," 2003. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 16. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

Letter from Neil King to Sylvia Kobayashi regarding Minidoka National Monument's ongoing projects and goals. King explains that NPS completed an archaeological survey of the site and worked on stabilizing the root cellar. He also notes that the Minidoka pilgrimage was undergoing planning and continued working on the Minidoka General Management Plan. King also explains that NPS staff transcribed the Kleikopf diary digitally.

King, Neil. "Thought." February 4, 2002. Email. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 8. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

Neil King email to Keith Dunbar about the Minidoka General Management plan budget. King explains that travel costs incurred account for the need for more funds to finish the GMP and offers three different alternative plans for completing the GMP without the additional funds. King suggests that NPS could request more funds when needed, ask Anna to complete much of the work in Seattle, drop a portion of the GMP, or request more funding and make the case to

obtain the full amount required from NPS. The source ultimately explained some of the difficulties NPS experienced when scoping and writing the GMP about funds for Minidoka.

King, Neil. "Neil King to Tsuguo Ikeda and Aiko Yanagihara." 2002. Correspondence. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 15. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

Correspondence between Neil King, Tsuguo Ikeda, and Aiko Yanagihara about their plan to record the individual stories of Japanese Americans incarcerated at Minidoka and publish them in a booklet. Includes potential costs and expenses of printing the publications, titled "Minidoka Stories," which features several individuals incarcerated at Minidoka and their stories.

King, Neil. "visit." January 11, 2002. Email. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 8. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

Email from Neil King that explains plans for Minidoka National Monument's General Management Plan in coordination and collaboration with the Japanese American community. King explained NPS planned workshops and meeting sessions with the survivors and descendants to receive their input on the interpretation and development of Minidoka NM.

Kitamoto, Frank. "Frank Kitamoto to Keith Dunbar." 2001. Correspondence. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 15. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

In this email, Frank Kitamoto, a Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community member, expressed gratitude to Keith Dunbar, NPS Pacific Northwest Region Chief of Planning and Environmental Compliance, for his visit to Bainbridge Island World War II Nikkei Exclusion Memorial. Kitamoto provided a brief itinerary for the visit, including meetings with the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community for the potential of establishing an NPS memorial on Bainbridge Island.

Kobayashi, Sylvia. "Sylvia Kobayashi to Neil King." March 30, 2003. Correspondence. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 16. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

Letter to Neil King regarding the Minidoka Reunion planned for August 1-3 in Seattle. Sylvia Kobayashi demonstrated interest in NPS's presence at Minidoka and asked King to include her in all correspondence. Neil King later responded to her letter, providing information about updates and projects at Minidoka.

Linse, Kim. "MIIN GMP Comments." Email. June 4, 2004. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 20. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

Email from Kim Linse to Frank Hays, Richard Potashin, and Alisa M Lynch, all NPS employees, regarding Minidoka National Monument's General Management Plan. Linse provides their comments about Minidoka's GMP, specifically looking at specific assumptions made in Alternative A with the lack of provisions and staffing at the site. They also raise issues with the other alternatives presented for clarity's sake. The email demonstrates the primary comments and concerns that NPS staff recognized with Minidoka National Monument's GMP.

Medrud, Mariagnes. "MIIN DGMP/EIS." February 2, 2005. Email. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 17. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

Email from a stakeholder regarding using the term "concentration camp" to describe Minidoka, following the comments from the Wing Luke Museum. The email demonstrates the significance of historical terminology when describing Minidoka.

Moss, Ann. "Comments Minidoka." April 15, 2004.. Email. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 20. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

Email from Ann Moss regarding her comments to the Minidoka National Monument GMP. She argued that the workshops ought to help NPS edit and adjust the alternatives while retaining the sense of the input so survivors and descendants feel respected. She also provides technical recommendations regarding the headings and order of the topics discussed. Ann's comments demonstrate the technical suggestions required for Minidoka's GMP, whereas many other comments provided by other reviewers are more focused on content.

Moss, Ann. "Minidoka Internment National Monument GMP/EIS Revised Costs/Excel Chart." January 29, 2002. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 8. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

The budget breakdown for the costs of researching, writing, and implementing Minidoka National Monument's General Management plan. The budget describes the expected costs per deliverable.

"Permit denied for dairy near internment camp." *Idaho Statesman*. October 10, 2007: 8. Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 16, Folder 18. Albertsons Library Special Collections and Archives. Boise, Idaho.

Newspaper article describing the Jerome County commissioner's decision to vote against a large feedlot near Minidoka National Monument. The article explains one commissioner's decision to vote for the feedlot because it met the guidelines, though the commissioner agreed that the guidelines were very relaxed. Idaho Statesman reporters describe the benefit to Minidoka National Monument as allowing the monument to continue its operations. The newspaper also reports that the National Trust named Minidoka one of the most endangered historic sites in the United States. The article provides information about the outcome of the application for a zoning permit and the outcome of the potential threat.

"Responses to WASO Comments from PWR Planning Division on MIIN Draft GMP/EIS." April 4, 2005. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 17. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

Memorandum regarding Minidoka's GMP/EIS reviewing the comments received from the Washington Support Office of the National Park Service. The comments specifically address policy-level issues such as reconstructing features of the site. The other policy-level issue addressed is moving a historic barrack to the National Monument, as proposed by two alternatives. This source provides context for the decisions made regarding the alternatives Minidoka National Monument's GMP/EIS proposed.

Sakura, Dan. "Minidoka Pilgrimage." July 13, 2006. Email. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 16. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

Email from Dan Sakura to Jon Jarvis and Stephanie Toothman regarding the annual Minidoka Pilgrimage 2006. Sakura acknowledges the work of Friends of Minidoka and the National Park Service to create an opportunity for survivors and their descendants to heal and reflect on the incarceration experience. The source demonstrates the significance and importance of the Minidoka pilgrimages and the work of the National Park Service in cooperation with other organizations and groups to guarantee that the pilgrimages occur annually.

Sims, Robert C. "To the Editor, Wood River Journal." Nov. 8, 2001. Letter. Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 16, Folder 18. Albertsons Library Special Collections and Archives, Boise, Idaho.

Letter to the Wood River Journal editor about a publication containing misinformation about Minidoka. The journal's editor published a letter from a local citizen, James A. Kennedy, who disagreed significantly with a presentation from the eminent scholar on Minidoka based on personal opinions. Robert C. Sims explains that the characterization of the camp by the journal makes Minidoka appear as a "country club" rather than a confinement site. The letter demonstrates the rhetoric in the local Idaho community at the time of Minidoka's designation as a national monument.

Schmierer, Alan. "internal draft MIIN fmp/deis." February 1, 2005. Email. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 20. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

An email surrounding the final draft for the Minidoka GMP. Schmierer suggests including additional locations for the public review period. He also raises the issue of the Eagledale Ferry dock as an incorporated unit of Minidoka National Monument. He also addresses issues of alien/invasive plant species. The email addressed more technical elements regarding Minidoka's GMP, raising concerns within NPS about edits made.

Tamura, Anna. "MIIN GMP Comments." Email. November 17, 2004. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 20. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

Email from Anna Tamura to Neil King regarding final Minidoka National Monument GMP edits. Anna addresses key comments regarding terminology and quotes, along with minor comments. In this email, she highlighted the remaining issues NPS must address before circulating the final document.

Thresher, June. "June Thresher to Gov. Dirk Kempthorne," March 30, 2004. Correspondence. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 8. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

Letter from June Thresher, a Hailey, Idaho citizen, about the development of Minidoka National Monument as a National Park unit. The letter complained about reports of 'MAGIC' intelligence supporting Japanese espionage on American soil. The letter also argued against the words "incarceration" and even "internment," citing that Japanese Americans could resettle outside the

camp. She also argues that the WRA provided incarcerated Japanese Americans with health care and food; therefore, the National Park Service should not preserve and commemorate Japanese American incarceration. This letter is one of many that complain about preserving the WWII Japanese American confinement sites.

Thresher, June. "June Thresher to Fran Mainella." Correspondence. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 17. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

Letter from June Thresher to Fran Maila, NPS Director in 2004, about the funds dedicated toward developing and improving interpretation at Manzanar National Monument. June argues that individuals should not compare the concentration camps used to incarcerated Japanese Americans in Guantanamo Bay. She writes inflammatory remarks regarding 9/11 and Pearl Harbor. This letter demonstrates the type of discussion and perspectives of Idahoans and other citizens across the country with the announcement of funding towards Manzanar and Minidoka

Toothman, Stephanie. "Next Step." November 25, 2001. Email. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 16. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

Stephanie Toothman's email discusses potential studies at Minidoka National Monument as a unit of the National Park Service, requiring Congressional legislation approving the conduct of the study. It also explains steps regarding public scoping sessions utilizing community input for Minidoka's GMP. Toothman also explained the different naming conventions for National Park Service units with historical and cultural significance and provided recommendations for Minidoka's name as a unit.

Wada, Sharon. "Minidoka Testimony." September 28, 2007. Email. Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 16, Folder 18. Albertsons Library Special Collections and Archives. Boise, Idaho.

An email providing testimony about the proposed feedlot near Minidoka National Monument from a survivor of Minidoka -- Augustus M. Tanaka. The email provides biographical information about Tanaka and his experiences incarcerated at Minidoka. He explains the significance of Minidoka as a monument to civil rights and the connection between the Minidoka incarceration and the incarceration of Muslims following the attack on 9/11. Tanaka proposes that Big Sky and Jerome County Commissioners use their "enlightened judgment" in placing a feedlot near Minidoka. The email addresses the frustrations of the Nikkei community at the proposal and their feelings regarding the consequences of the feedlot on Minidoka.

Wagner, Rick. "CORE TEAM workshop and MIIN GMP /EIS writers." Email. June 22, 2004. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 16. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

Email Neil King, Anna Tamura, and Keith Dunbar regarding boundary changes to Minidoka National Monument and the levels of legislation required to add additional lands to Minidoka NM. The email describes the relationship between NPS and the Hermann family while detailing some of the challenges of expanding Minidoka National Monument's boundaries based on zoning. Wagner provides greater details about the Hermann farm and the costs of purchasing the land. He also proposed utilizing the Conservation Fund as a temporary holder of the land, which

the Conservation Fund could sell to NPS. Ultimately, the source provides a comprehensive study of the Hermann Farm and the possibility of NPS acquiring the property before publishing the GMP

Walker-Willis, Ralph. "Ralph Walker-Willis to Evelyn Simon," May 5, 2004. Correspondence. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 8. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

Letter discussing the Minidoka General Management Plan with proposed edits concerning the use of the term "internment." The letter also argues that schools were not segregated between Japanese and white children, rationing at Minidoka did not occur, and the Navy did have evidence of espionage to support the removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans. The letter is one among many that debate the proposed interpretive themes of the National Park Service based on historical misguidance.

Williams, Jack. "MIIN Barracks Cost." May 18, 2006. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 16. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

Email Neil King and Keith Dunbar regarding the costs of moving Minidoka barracks to the site. Williams also sought estimates and updates regarding Minidoka's historic landfill, located on BLM land, specifically looking for the costs of cleaning up the landfill. He also asks for clarification regarding the Hermann Farm purchase.

Wissenbach, Mike. "DRAFT GMP/EIS." June 3, 2004. Email. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 20. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

Email from Mike Wissenbach regarding edits and revisions to Minidoka's GMP/EIS. He argued that his concerns revolved around the Affected Environment chapter and additional material not necessary in the section. He defines the requirements of the National Environmental Protection Act and other legislation. Wissenbach included sections required by NEPA and DO-12 and argues that sections must be more standardized. The email highlights Wissenbach's reviews of Minidoka's GMP/EIS.

Wissenbach, Mike. "Mike Wissenbach to Keith Dunbar, Anna Tamura, and Neil King." June 4, 2004. Email. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 20. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

Comments received from Mike Wissenbach about Minidoka National Monument's General Management Plan and EIS. Wissenbach stated his concerns related to the "Affected Environment" chapter and argued that much of the material in the section was irrelevant to Minidoka National Monument's environment. He also indicated that a few sections should be added to the Alternatives chapter, as required by NEPA and DO-12. The comments outline the different progressions of Minidoka National Monument's GMP and how the ideas proposed changed over time.

Legislative Acts and Proclamations

Clinton, William J. "Memorandum for the Secretary of Interior: Subject: Preservation of

Japanese American Internment Sites.” November 9, 2000. Memo. Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 365, Box 1 Folder 18, Albertsons Library Special Collections and Archives, Boise, Idaho.

Memo for the Secretary of the Interior regarding the recommendations provided in *Confinement and Ethnicity* about preserving World War II confinement sites. Clinton reports that preserving the confinement sites was coupled with the 2001 budget initiative. He urges the Secretary of Interior to consult with government stakeholders such as Congress, State government, Federal and tribal agencies, and local officials. The memorandum demonstrates Clinton’s focus and intent to work on preserving several of the confinement sites, as recommended *Confinement and Ethnicity*.

Clinton, William J. “Proclamation 7395—Establishment of the Minidoka Internment National Monument” January 17, 2001. *The American Presidency Project*. Accessed April 15, 2022. <https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/proclamation-7395-establishment-the-minidoka-internment-national-monument>

Presidential Proclamation designating Minidoka Internment National Monument as the 385th unit of the National Park Service. Though President Bill Clinton formally signed and officially authorized the document, Dan Sakura wrote much of the legislation. Later, legislation changed the size and name of the NPS unit. The legislation also provides historical context as to why Clinton felt designating Minidoka as an NPS unit was necessary.

Foley, Thomas. “H.R. 442 - 100th Congress (1987-1988): Civil Liberties Act.” July 26, 1988. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/100th-congress/house-bill/442#:~:text=Title%20I%3A%20United%20States%20Citizens,because%20they%20refused%20to%20accept>

The Civil Liberties Act of 1988 officially recognized the forced removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II. The act established a position within the United States Treasury Department that dispersed funds to survivors of the World War II confinement sites. The legislation provided \$20,000 as reparations to those confined in the camps. The bill also established an education fund for educating students on the confinement experience.

Friends of Minidoka, Dean & Eden Dimond, Harold & Carolyn Dimond, Wayne Sloan, The Idaho Rural Council, Idaho Concerned Area Residents for the Environment v. Jerome County, Joseph Davidson, Charles Howell, Diana Obenauer, members of the Jerome County Board of Commissioners, and South View Dairy, William Visser, William De Jong, and Ryan Visser. Docket no. 38113 (July 6, 2012). <https://law.justia.com/cases/idaho/supreme-court-civil/2012/38113.html>

Idaho Supreme Court ruling regarding the constitutionality of the Jerome County Board of Commissioner’s zoning decision for the Big Sky Farm’s application for a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation. The plaintiffs argued that Jerome County violated the procedural process by not following the county’s zoning ordinances when the original permit was approved. The plaintiffs specifically stated that Jerome County Commissioners did not provide a comment period or public hearing for individuals living within one mile of the proposed CAFO, under Idaho Code section 67-6529. The Idaho Supreme Court ruled in favor of the defendants. However, the land originally purchased for the CAFO was later sold, according to an oral history interview with Neil King, so the CAFO did not come to fruition. However, the Supreme Court

case demonstrates one of the many challenges and threats that Minidoka NM/NHS faced, and has overcome through assistance from Friends of Minidoka and other local stakeholder partners.

"H.R.1931 - 117th Congress (2021-2022): Japanese American Confinement Education Act Norman Y. Mineta Japanese American Confinement Education Act." September 27, 2022. <http://www.congress.gov/>.

This bill increased the authorization of appropriations for the Japanese American Confinement Sites (JACS) grant program, which supports preserving U.S. confinement sites used to detain Japanese Americans during World War II (i.e., internment camps). It also establishes a program within JACS to provide grants to Japanese American nonprofits to educate individuals about the historical significance of these events. This legislation is important and appropriate to include because the legislation supports funding opportunities and projects for the continued preservation, interpretation, and education related to the confinement experience.

"H.R. 3747-107th Congress (2001-2002): Bainbridge Island Japanese-American Memorial Study Act of 2002." February 13, 2002. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/107th-congress/house-bill/3747/text>

House bill introduced by Senator Jay Inslee to authorize a study by the National Park Service to determine the feasibility of establishing a National Memorial on Bainbridge Island. The bill would permit the National Park Service to study the s Eagledale Ferry Dock at Taylor Avenue, ultimately determining if the site contained cultural resources and historical significance that permitted Congress to designate the area as a unit of the National Park Service. The House bill came only a year after the designation of Minidoka as an NPS unit, and ultimately demonstrates the work of the Japanese American community to preserve and protect the history of confinement that many faced during World War II. This bill also indicates a trend within the National Park Service to preserve the Japanese American confinement sites as they become available to the protections of the National Park Service.

Public Law 107-363 Bainbridge Island Japanese-American Memorial Study Act of 2002. December 19, 2002. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/107th-congress/house-bill/3747/text>

Congress passed Public Law 107-363 to authorize a study by the National Park Service to determine the feasibility of establishing a National Memorial on Bainbridge Island. Upon Congress passing the law, NPS conducted a feasibility study and found that the site was historically significant, later designating the unit as a sister unit of Minidoka National Historic Site. The House bill came only a year after the designation of Minidoka as an NPS unit, and ultimately demonstrates the work of the Japanese American community to preserve and protect the history of confinement that many faced during World War II.

Public Law 110-229 Establishing Minidoka National Historic Site (Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008). <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/PLAW-110publ229/pdf/PLAW-110publ229.pdf>

Legislation passed by Congress providing for the expansion of Minidoka National Monument to include the Bainbridge Island Eagledale Ferry Dock for Bainbridge Island National Exclusion Monument. Additionally, the law provided for the expansion of Minidoka National Monument to include 229 additional acres of land for education, interpretation, and continued farming on the property by farmers living in the region to continue to protect and promote the historic viewshed

while providing funding to the National Park Service for their continued educational, operational, and interpretive goals. Lastly, the law renames Minidoka Internment National Monument to Minidoka National Historic Site, better reflecting updated terminology and the site's significance

S. 1647 *Commission on the Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians*, U.S. Congress, Senate. *Congressional Record* 130 96th Congress, 1st sess. October 1, 1979. Vol. 125 Legislation formed a special commission to study the World War II conditions that led to the unconstitutional incarceration of Japanese Americans. This commission reviewed hundreds of interviews and testimonies from the remaining survivors of the camps and their descendants. The outcome of their findings, published in a book titled *Personal Justice Denied*, stated that “racism, wartime hysteria, and a failure of political leadership” ultimately led to incarceration. Though small movements to recognize the carceral experience took place before the establishment of this commission, this was the first national recognition and step toward reparations for the Japanese American community.

U.S. Congress, Senate, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, *Preservation of World War II Japanese American Confinement Sites*. 109th Cong., 2d sess., 2006. S.Rep. 109-314. <https://www.congress.gov/congressional-report/109th-congress/senate-report/314/1> Legislation enacting the Japanese American Confinement Sites program, which provides federal funding for projects related to the education and preservation of the World War II Japanese American confinement sites. The legislation ultimately provided for many of the projects that Minidoka National Monument undertook to preserve the site and provide historical interpretation for visitors.

Oral History Interviews

Endo, Kay. “Kay Endo Interview” by Richard Potashin. Manzanar National Historic Site Collection, Densho Digital Archive. *Densho*. July 24, 2010.

<https://ddr.densho.org/media/ddr-manz-1/ddr-manz-1-104-transcript-8c2b16eccc.htm>

In this oral history interview, Kay Endo expressed his return to Minidoka after the war in 1945, then later, during Pilgrimages. He also explains the community relationship of the Nikkei community, sharing their experiences during the war and the sense of bonding that came from their experience. The interview demonstrates the significance of the annual pilgrimages for the survivor and descendent community. In addition, Kay's interview also demonstrates the change over time to Minidoka National Historic Site as the National Park Service acquired buildings and supported interpretation and outreach.

Ikeda, Tom. “Tom Ikeda Interview” by Bob Young. Densho Visual History Collection, Densho Digital Repository. *Densho*. February 20, 2020.

<https://ddr.densho.org/media/ddr-densho-1000/ddr-densho-1000-484-transcript-081eb990e0.htm>

Tom explains the founding of *Densho* and his reasons for beginning the organization. After discussing his parent's incarceration at Minidoka, he wanted to preserve and document the incarceration experience for future generations. His father, however, pushed back and argued that the type of work Tom wanted to achieve by founding *Densho* would bring up bad memories for many people, causing reluctance. This oral history interview provides insight into the status

of the Japanese American sense of community and commemoration of their incarceration experience during the late twentieth century through the early twenty-first century. Tom's interview also provides insight into commemorating different events and themes that fall under the broad incarceration experience. These themes include the significance of the 442nd to the Nikkei community, the debates surrounding loyalty, and the conflict between the JACL and the Nikkei community when the U.S. government started forcing individuals from their homes. Tom also expressed his strategy and methodology for collecting oral history interviews.

Ikeda, Victor. "Victor Ikeda Interview" by Richard Potashin. Densho Visual Archive Collection, Densho Digital Repository. *Densho*. November 6, 2007.

<https://ddr.densho.org/media/ddr-manz-1/ddr-manz-1-23-transcript-8f69d5e15b.htm>

Victor explains his experiences before, during, and after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, which led to the signing of Executive Order 9066 in which the U.S. Army forcibly removed him and his family from the West Coast, and incarcerated them in Minidoka. In his segment describing his life after the forced removal, he discusses commemorative experiences such as class reunions.

King, Neil. "Neil King Interview" by Camille Daw. Albertsons Library Special Collections and Archives. August 8, 2022.

Oral history interview with Neil King, the first superintendent of Minidoka National Monument, regarding his experiences as the first superintendent. King described his pathway and career in the National Park Service leading up to working at Minidoka. He also explained the projects and controversies he worked on at Minidoka. King described scoping and writing Minidoka's General Management Plan, developing Bainbridge Island as a unit, and establishing the Friends of Minidoka group. He also explained how Minidoka National Monument grew through land acquisition, controversy with the CAFO farm, and working on a fundamental archaeological project at the site that ultimately led to locating the original location of the Minidoka honor roll and historic rock garden. King's oral history interview crucially explained the establishment of Minidoka National Monument, and the first several years of the unit's operation, where important planning and legislative processes took place.

Kino, Joe. "Joe Kino Interview" by Hisa Matsudaira. Segment 8. Densho Visual Archive Collection, Densho Digital Repository. *Densho*. August 3, 2007.

<https://ddr.densho.org/media/ddr-densho-1001/ddr-densho-1001-33-transcript-b37f918259.htm>

Oral History interview with Joe Kino, who discusses the Eagledale Ferry Project begun by the National Park Service. Interviewer Hisa Matsudaira asks the narrator, Joe Kino if he has any input on the project. Kino responds that the sentiment of humanity and equality should be included as a facet of interpretation. This statement demonstrates the type of projects that the National Park Service utilized during the development of the GMP for Minidoka and in acquiring the Bainbridge Island Eagledale Ferry Dock as a satellite unit of Minidoka National Monument.

Kitamoto, Frank. "Frank Kitamoto Interview" by John Dechadendes. Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community Collection, Densho Digital Repository. *Densho*. April 14, 2007. <https://ddr.densho.org/media/ddr-densho-1001/ddr-densho-1001-25-transcript-7ff2694cbc.htm>

Frank discusses his experiences of the U.S. Army removing him from Bainbridge Island to Manzanar, then Minidoka during World War II. At the end of his interview, he explains how the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community was founded. His segment describing their founding is critical to further explaining the influence and significance of the Bainbridge Island *Nikkei* community in establishing the Bainbridge Island Eagledale Ferry Dock memorial and the larger narrative related to establishing the Minidoka National Monument.

Matsudaira, Hisa. "Hisa Matsudaira Interview" by Debra Grindeland. Segment 11. Densho Visual History Collection, Densho Digital Repository. *Densho*. April 14, 2007. <https://ddr.densho.org/media/ddr-densho-1001/ddr-densho-1001-27-transcript-8c01d92e38.htm>

Hisa Matsudaira explains the significance of establishing the Bainbridge Island Exclusion Memorial to her personally, arguing that the memorial symbolizes the liberty taken from Japanese Americans. Her oral history interview explains the monument's importance to Bainbridge Islanders and the Bainbridge Island *Nikkei* community's support of the memorial. The source relates to the planning and establishment of the Bainbridge Island Exclusion Memorial as a unit of the National Park Service.

Nakao, Kay Sakai. "Kay Sakai Nakao Interview" by Debra Grindeland. Segment 18. Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community Collection, Densho Digital Repository. *Densho*. February 26, 2006. <https://ddr.densho.org/media/ddr-densho-1001/ddr-densho-1001-3-transcript-a79a633314.htm>

After being asked what the Bainbridge Island exclusion memorial should represent, Kay Nako replies that the memorial should educate on the removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans to prevent something similar happening again in the future. Nakao and the interviewer discuss the several former camps listed on the National Register of Historic Places and their significance to the Japanese American community, with hopes that the Bainbridge Island Exclusion Memorial will uniquely address the issues that the *Nikkei* community on Bainbridge Island faced. The oral history interview relates to the planning and establishment of the Bainbridge Island Exclusion Memorial as one among several NPS units dedicated to preserving and interpreting the history of World War II incarceration.

Sasaki, May K. "May K. Sasaki Interview" by Lori Hoshino and Alice Ito. Densho Visual History Collection, Densho Digital Repository. *Densho*. October 28, 1997. <https://ddr.densho.org/media/ddr-densho-1000/ddr-densho-1000-79-transcript-eaac39bb7b.htm>

May Sasaki describes the commemorative events of the World War II incarceration put on by the Japanese American community. She explains how several events assisted with Minidoka's designation as a unit of the National Park Service. Describing these events and their importance provides context for the events leading up to the designation of Minidoka as a national monument.

Newspapers/Newsletters

"2009 Minidoka Pilgrimage," *Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community News*. Spring 2009. Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 18, Folder 17. Albertsons Library Special Collections and Archives.

Newsletter article in the Bainbridge Island Japanese American community newsletter about the 2009 Minidoka Pilgrimage. The article describes the plans for the upcoming pilgrimage to Minidoka and the site's history. The Minidoka pilgrimage coincided with the annual civil liberties symposium at the College of Southern Idaho, and the article explained that interested individuals could attend both. The article demonstrates the significance of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American community in working with the National Park Service to remember, commemorate, and preserve Minidoka as an NPS unit.

“A Burning Reminder,” *Idaho Statesman*, (Boise, Idaho). September 28, 1979: 6. *Idaho Statesman* article describing the 1979 dedication of Minidoka to the National Register of Historic Places. The dedication almost included the burning of a guard tower, orchestrated by the Seattle JACL, creating controversy between the Seattle and Blackfoot-Pocatello JACLs over the most appropriate ways to commemorate the confinement experience at Minidoka during the dedication event. The newspaper article explains the event's significance and provides evidence for the early beginnings of preserving Minidoka as a site of historical significance.

Allen, Lee. “Bainbridge Island Japanese Memorial Ignores Realities.” Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 18, Folder 17. Albertsons Library Special Collections and Archives.

Mailer sent to Bainbridge Island residents regarding the proposed memorial related to the forced removal and confinement of Japanese Americans on Bainbridge Island. The mailer argues that too many resources in education and public programming are devoted to recognizing the confinement of Japanese Americans as wrong. Allen also argues that threats of spying, criminal activity, and espionage were found on Bainbridge Island and justify the incarceration. However, the letter doesn't list who found the threats or what they were. The source is related to the Bainbridge Island Exclusion memorial and explicitly opposed to establishing a memorial. The mailer attempted to garner support for their cause from other sympathetic Bainbridge Islanders.

“Application Resubmitted for S. Idaho Feedlot Near Minidoka Monument.” *Associated Press*. Circa 2005. Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 16, Folder 18. Albertsons Library Special Collections and Archives, Boise, Idaho.

Newspaper article about the application to build a large feeding lot near Minidoka National Monument. The article detailed the situation, including zoning requirements and the lack of discussion with the local neighbors. The article also includes reactions from residents and the potential impact on Minidoka. The source demonstrates the varied reactions to the proposed feedlot.

“Artist will be featured at Jerome Library,” *North Side News*, (Jerome, Idaho). April 4, 2002: 2. https://jerome.advantage-preservation.com/viewer/?k=%22minidoka%22&i=f&d=01011908-12312008&m=between&ord=k1&fn=north_side_news_usa_idaho_jerome_20020404_english_2&df=31&dt=40.

Jerome County newspaper article describes a temporary exhibit at the Jerome Library featuring photos taken by Teresa Tamura. The article explained that Tamura was a third-generation Japanese American. While she did not experience incarceration, the WRA incarcerated her parents and grandparents at Minidoka during World War II. Tamura explained to the *North Side*

News staff that her lithographs' inspiration came from her grandmother's diary. The article also highlights Tamura's career experience as a journalist and explains that she wanted to continue her research and publication of the experience at Minidoka through photos. The source highlights one of the early art displays and early research into the incarceration experience at Minidoka by an individual with familial and ethnic connections to the site.

Baker, Chris. "Dedication draws many and stirs memories," *North Side News*, (Jerome, Idaho). August 23, 1979: 11. https://jerome.advantage-preservation.com/viewer/?k=%22minidoka%22&i=f&d=01011908-12312008&m=between&ord=k1&fn=north_side_news_usa_idaho_jerome_19790823_english_11&df=11&dt=20

This article describes the National Register of Historic Places dedication at Minidoka's former military police station and the memories of descendants and survivors gathered at the site. Ceremonies included speeches by Frank Church, Bill Hosowaka- editor of the Denver Post who faced incarceration at Heart Mountain during World War II; Ed Yamamoto, a representative of the Seattle JACL, and Karl Nobuyuki, the executive director of the National JACL. The article highlights the lessons and legacies of the speeches about civil liberty violations at Minidoka. The source highlights one of the early and pivotal moments for Minidoka receiving recognition as a piece of national history that bolstered the opportunities for the site to obtain additional recognition and preservation. Ultimately, the dedication of Minidoka to the National Register helped strengthen the site's designation.

Baker, Chris. "Mrs. Ogata recalls Japanese internment," *North Side News*, (Jerome, Idaho). August 23, 1979: 11. https://jerome.advantage-preservation.com/viewer/?k=%22minidoka%22&i=f&d=01011908-12312008&m=between&ord=k1&fn=north_side_news_usa_idaho_jerome_19790823_english_11&df=11&dt=20

Interview between writer for *North Side News* and a survivor of Minidoka who recalls her memories of incarceration at the site. Alice Ogata recalled her experiences of living in Japan briefly, making her a Kibei but ultimately preferring the "American" style of life. The article explained her work as a 'waitress' at the Block Thirty-Six Mess Hall, though she managed to leave camp and restart her life in Twin Falls as a houseworker. She explained how incarcerated persons at Minidoka "made due" by improving their desert surroundings. This interview is one of the earlier interviews completed by survivors of Minidoka. It demonstrates the public interest in the incarceration experience in the late 1970s as local communities discovered that their Japanese neighbors often experienced harsh conditions during WWII.

Barr, Miriam. "Ex-internees recall Idaho camp." *Idaho Statesman* (Boise, Idaho), August 13, 1979: 2. <https://infoweb-newsbank-com.libproxy.boisestate.edu/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=image/v2%3A114CF38DF1A90B10%40EANX-NB-1683748C1805A535%402444099-1682ABA514DD3371%400>.

Idaho Statesman article describing Minidoka and the experiences of the Oyama family's incarceration at the Minidoka War Relocation Center. The article highlights Jim Oyama's father's incarceration at an older age and the difficulties he experienced. Barr also explores the personal stories of other individuals and families incarcerated at Minidoka.

Barr, Miriam. "War Camp Dedicated as Memorial," *Idaho Statesman* (Boise, Idaho), August 19, 1979: 9. NewsBank: Access World News – Historical and Current. <https://infoweb-newsbank-com.libproxy.boisestate.edu/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=image/v2%3A114CF38DF1A90B10%40EANX-NB-168374B18C060C00%402444105-1682ABB68D778637%408-1682ABB68D778637%40>.

Idaho Statesman newspaper article explaining the dedication of Minidoka to the National Register of Historic Places. The article details the dedication event to include speeches from Senator Frank Church. Barr also explained Bill Hosokawa's disagreement with Senator Frank Church's remarks because of a Supreme Court case that attempted to justify the incarceration based on military order. Hosokawa argued that the United States government needed to recognize why the incarceration of Japanese Americans was wrong and that citizens must learn "lessons" from the incarceration to prevent a repeat in American history. The source demonstrates the conflicting views among political leaders and Japanese Americans regarding interpreting Japanese American history. The source also briefly explains the dedication event and those attending the ceremony.

Binion, Andrew. "Internment Mailer's Timing Stirs Controversy." *Bainbridge Islander*. March 6, 2007. Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 18, Folder 17. Albertsons Library Special Collections and Archives.

Online newspaper article about a physical mailer sent to Bainbridge Island residents that claimed that the Bainbridge Island memorial ignored the facts of history related to the incarceration of Japanese Americans. The article highlighted that the mailer was sent at a painful time for survivors and their descendants, coinciding with the sixty-fifth anniversary of the forced removal and incarceration. The article detailed the mailer's contents and explained the author of the mailer's purpose in distributing their views. The article ends by explaining the proposed ceremony for the dedication of the first phase of the Bainbridge Island memorial. The source demonstrates that while many within Bainbridge Island and the Japanese American community supported the park, dissenters also voiced their opinions.

"Boise State opens Sims collection on Minidoka incarceration camp," *Idaho Statesman*, (Boise, Idaho) February 11, 2017: 20.

This *Idaho Statesman* newspaper article highlights the opening of the Robert C. Sims collection at Boise State's Albertsons Library Special Collections and Archives. The opening of the Sims collection meant scholars and students could access critical records about Minidoka and other confinement sites for Japanese Americans during World War II. Robert C. Sims was an eminent scholar on Minidoka, so his collection contained many records related to Minidoka.

"Center for the Arts tours Minidoka internment Camp in Hunt," *Northside News* (Jerome, Idaho) November 8, 2001: 2. https://jerome.advantage-preservation.com/viewer/?k=%22internment%20camp%22&i=f&d=01011908-12312008&m=between&ord=k1&fn=north_side_news_usa_idaho_jerome_20011108_english_2&df=1&dt=10

Newspaper article describing one of the early tours provided to a group, at Minidoka National Monument. Explains the interest of the Center for the Arts group in the topic of Minidoka. Also provides resources where interested visitors can learn more about the confinement experience. The source demonstrates the public's interest in the story of Minidoka as a confinement site.

“Clinton Expands Craters of the Moon.” *Times News* (Twin Falls, Idaho) November 10, 2000: 8. https://ia801207.us.archive.org/35/items/The_Times_News_Idaho_Newspaper_2000_11_10/The_Times_News_Idaho_Newspaper_2000_11_10.pdf

Explains the 661,000 acres expansion of Craters of the Moon National Monument by President Bill Clinton. The article reports bipartisan and local support for the federal designation and protections over historical, cultural, natural, and scenic resources. At the same time as this expansion, Clinton designated 18,000 acres of wilderness in Colorado and began designating Minidoka National Monument. News articles announcing these designations appeared in the same edition of the Twin Falls newspaper, *Times News*, and demonstrate the sense of controversy and politics regarding public and federal lands at the time of Minidoka National Monument's designation.

“Clinton signs Wilderness Designation,” *Times News* (Twin Falls, Idaho) November 10, 2000: 8. https://ia801207.us.archive.org/35/items/The_Times_News_Idaho_Newspaper_2000_11_10/The_Times_News_Idaho_Newspaper_2000_11_10.pdf

Explains Clinton's designation of over 18,000 acres of wilderness area in Colorado, known as the Spanish Peaks. The article explains the importance of the designation to protect the wilderness area for natural and scenic importance. At the same time, Clinton began designating Minidoka National Monument. News articles announcing these designations appeared in the same edition of the Twin Falls newspaper, *Times News*, and demonstrate the sense of controversy and politics regarding public and federal lands at the time of Minidoka National Monument's designation.

“Clinton to preserve Internment camp sites,” *Times News* (Twin Falls, Idaho) November 10, 2000: 8.

https://ia801207.us.archive.org/35/items/The_Times_News_Idaho_Newspaper_2000_11_10/The_Times_News_Idaho_Newspaper_2000_11_10.pdf

Jerome County newspaper article describing President Clinton's plan to preserve the Japanese American confinement sites in the interior of the United States. Explains that a plan to acquire federal land in Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming was underway. It also describes Clinton's dedication of a memorial to the Japanese American soldiers who served during World War II. The source demonstrates the changing dynamics and increased efforts to preserve the Japanese American confinement sites in the early 2000's.

Crapo, Mike. “Internment was a big mistake,” *North Side News*, (Jerome, Idaho). July 13, 2006:

4. https://jerome.advantage-preservation.com/viewer/?k=%22minidoka%22&i=f&d=01011908-12312008&m=between&ord=k1&fn=north_side_news_usa_idaho_jerome_20060713_english_4&df=41&dt=50

Newspaper article detailing Senator Mike Crapo's visit to Minidoka and his reflections on the forced removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans at the site.

Dean, John. "Report reveals Japanese Americans' suffering." *Idaho Statesman* (Boise, Idaho). February 24, 1983: 12. https://infoweb-newsbank-com.libproxy.boisestate.edu/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&t=favorite%3A114CF38D%21Idaho%20Statesman%20Collection&sort=YMD_date%3AD&fld-base-0=alltext&maxresults=20&val-base-0=%22minidoka%20camp%22&fld-nav-1=YMD_date&val-nav-1=1970%20-%201999&docref=image/v2%3A114CF38DF1A90B10%40EANX-NB-168CFFA5E8A1E947%402445390-168CCC2D5C713821%4020-168CCC2D5C713821%40.

The newspaper article describes the findings of the Commission on the Wartime Internment of Civilians, which collected hundreds of interviews and testimonies, along with historical evidence, to understand the causes behind the unconstitutional incarceration of Japanese. The *Idaho Statesman* article makes a specific reference to Minidoka. Though the CWIC was not focused solely on the experiences of those confined at Minidoka, the efforts to study the confinement experience reveal the Japanese American community's understanding and efforts to recognize the U.S. government's wrongdoings on a national level.

"Dedication of ex-relocation site slated." *Idaho Statesman* (Boise, Idaho), August 13, 1979: 5. <https://infoweb-newsbank-com.libproxy.boisestate.edu/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=image/v2%3A114CF38DF1A90B10%40EANX-NB-1683748C1805A535%402444099-1682ABA58F91C06E%404>.

Newspaper article describing the dedication of Minidoka to the National Register of Historic Places. The report details Minidoka's history as a confinement site and the site's affiliation with the Bureau of Reclamation after the war. The chief archaeologist, Jerry Zontek, explains the significance of Minidoka's relationship with the Bureau of Reclamation after the war, which he claims differed from the other ten mass confinement sites throughout the rest of the United States. The article also describes the reception ceremony, citing the responsibility of the dedication to the Pocatello-Blackfoot Japanese American Citizens League.

"First Pilgrimage to Minidoka Internment Camp," *InsideNPS*. July 8, 2003. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 7. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

This article describes the first pilgrimage of Minidoka survivors and their descendants back to Minidoka National Monument. Explained the purposes, significance, and importance of the annual pilgrimage. The article addresses one of the many ways that Minidoka survivors and their families commemorate the experience on the physical grounds of Minidoka and some of the challenges and opportunities for the National Park Service to engage with the Nikkei community directly.

"Final Plan for Minidoka's Future." Circa 2007. National Park Service, Department of the Interior. Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 18, Folder 9. Albertsons Library Special Collections and Archives, Boise, Idaho.

Newsletter from the National Park Service announcing the completion of the Minidoka General Management Plan. The newsletter highlights aspects of the GMP of importance, such as the focus on on-site interpretation and education, the expansion of the site through federal

legislation, and the reconstruction of historic elements, along with the construction and development of areas for visitor use. The newsletter ultimately outlines the final decisions of the National Park Service.

Flala, Brandon. "Hunt camp barracks to be restored," *Times News* (Twin Falls, Idaho) June 26, 1999: 16.

https://ia801205.us.archive.org/10/items/The_Times_News_Idaho_Newspaper_1999_06_26/The_Times_News_Idaho_Newspaper_1999_06_26.pdf

Describes the "return" of two Minidoka barracks to the Idaho Farm and Ranch Museum for public educational purposes on the forced removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans at Minidoka. The barracks, refurbished at IFARM, were some of the only physical pieces of the camp that could be returned and revitalized for public education. For many Minidoka pilgrimages, survivors and descendants returned to these barracks until Minidoka NHS obtained a barrack and mess hall. This article provides evidence of the ongoing efforts by the Southeastern Idaho community and survivors and descendants to protect and preserve the history of the incarceration experience at Minidoka.

Flala, Brandon. "Jerome Celebrates its history." *Times News* (Twin Falls, Idaho) June 13, 1999: 17 & 19.

https://ia601208.us.archive.org/31/items/The_Times_News_Idaho_Newspaper_1999_06_13/The_Times_News_Idaho_Newspaper_1999_06_13.pdf

Describes the "live history" event in Jerome County at the Idaho Farm and Ranch Museum (IFARM). Explains the origin of the IFARM and the museum's work to integrate the story of Japanese Americans, especially through the original barracks on-site at the IFARM. The article also explains other buildings onsite at the IFARM. Demonstrates early efforts to preserve and provide interpretation related to the confinement experience in Idaho.

Fullerton, Andrea. "New Park Planned for Bainbridge, WA." *The Trust for Public Land*. May 8, 2003. Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 18, Folder 17. Albertsons Library Special Collections and Archives.

Online article about preserving the Eagledale Ferry Dock as a monument recognizing the forced removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans. The article announced that the National Trust for Public Land anticipated working with the City of Bainbridge Island to establish a park and memorial at the site. The article also explains that a feasibility study, authorized by Congress, was conducted by the National Park Service. The source provides information about the participants, stakeholders, and parties involved in establishing the Bainbridge Island Exclusion Memorial. The source also explains the work of the Trust for Public Land in assisting with purchasing land for a memorial.

Davila, Florengela. "Internment Debate Lingers." *Seattle Times*. September 6, 2004. Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 18, Folder 17. Albertsons Library Special Collections and Archives.

Newspaper article about the school curriculum regarding Japanese Americans' forced removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans. The article primarily interviews one parent who sought to justify the incarceration based on unfounded theories of espionage and argued that the classroom curriculum was inaccurate and did not represent the full picture. The source

demonstrates the controversies in teaching about the history of Japanese American incarceration and explores how teachers taught the Japanese American incarceration in classrooms.

Gilmore, Susan. "Bainbridge Internees: 'We Didn't Know our Future.'" *Seattle Times*. March 31, 2007: B1. Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 18, Folder 17. Albertsons Library Special Collections and Archives.

Article regarding remembering Japanese Americans' forced removal and incarceration from Bainbridge Island. The newspaper article includes quotes from survivors and highlights the Bainbridge Island Exclusion Memorial's dedication from the Washington governor. The source ultimately demonstrates the significance of the memorial project and explains the Bainbridge Island community's work in establishing the memorial.

"Hunt Camp ceremony called off," *Times News* (Twin Falls, Idaho) October 6, 1979: 8.
https://ia902604.us.archive.org/10/items/The_Times_News_Idaho_Newspaper_1979_10_06/The_Times_News_Idaho_Newspaper_1979_10_06.pdf

News article announcing that the Seattle JACL postponed their ceremony for recognizing Minidoka's addition to the National Register of Historic Places after controversy surrounding the proposition of burning a replica guard tower at the site. The Seattle JACL and the Blackfoot-Pocatello JACL refused to agree on whether the Seattle JACL should burn the guard tower. Hence, the Seattle JACL persuaded most of their constituents to boycott the initial dedication and attend a later "Day of Remembrance" ceremony in which they planned to burn the guard tower. Ultimately, the burning never occurred, but the controversy demonstrates tension within the Nikkei community over the commemoration of Minidoka and the WWII confinement experience.

"Idaho Commissioners Mull Over Proposed Controversial Feedlot." *Pacific Citizen* (Seattle, Washington), October 5, 2007: 3. Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 16, Folder 18. Albertsons Library Special Collections and Archives, Boise, Idaho.

Newspaper article regarding the proposed feedlot near Minidoka National Monument. The article details the public hearings heard by Jerome County Commissioners and the proceedings of the application process. The article also notes that survivors of Minidoka and local citizens of Jerome County protested the application because of the potential impacts on Minidoka National Monument. The newspaper article ultimately demonstrates the significance of the proposed feedlot on the Nikkei community.

"Idaho World War II-era internment camp opens visitor center." *Spokesman Review*. May 30, 2017. <https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2017/may/30/idaho-world-war-ii-era-internment-camp-opens-visit/>

This newspaper article describes the opening of Minidoka National Historic Site's temporary visitor center for NPS staff to engage with visitors on the interpretation of Minidoka's history. The article describes the temporary visitor center for visitor and ranger engagement, noting that NPS planned to open a permanent visitor center soon.

"Input Needed for Planning of Minidoka National Monument." *Seattle JACL Newsletter*. (November 2002).

Article seeking the contributions from Seattle JACL members for Minidoka National Monument's General Management Plan. The article is evidence of the strong sense of community and work with the Nikkei community in developing the GMP.

“Islamic Center Vandalized with Spray Paint,” *Idaho Statesman* (Boise, Idaho), December 9, 2015: 5. <https://infoweb-newsbank-com.libproxy.boisestate.edu/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=image/v2%3A114CF38DF1A90B10%40EANX-NB-1843520681D9B538%402457366-18434FABC61A9324%40-18434FABC61A9324%40>.

An *Idaho Statesman* article described vandalism to the Islamic Center in Twin Falls, Idaho. The property was defaced with the phrase “hunt camp?” which journalists thought might connect the Islamic Center and the events of 9/11 with the forced removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Iwasaki, John. “Bainbridge Island Memorial to Internment Planned,” *Nisei Veterans Committee Newsletter* 53, no. 11 (December 2003). Accessed October 10, 2022. <https://www.nvcfoundation.org/newsletter/2003/12/bainbridge-island-memorial-to-internment-planned/>

Explains the experience of Hisa Matsudaira and other Japanese American Bainbridge Islanders who were the first group of Japanese Americans forced from their homes and confined during World War II. The article discusses planning a memorial on Bainbridge Island to commemorate the Bainbridge Islanders' experiences of removal and incarceration. This article demonstrates the original motivations behind a monument on Bainbridge Island. The article also explains some of the original plans for the monument, contrasting to the monument established by the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community in conjunction with the National Park Service.

“Japanese American brothers relive past,” *Idaho Statesman* (Boise, Idaho), November 7, 1990: 36. <https://infoweb-newsbank-com.libproxy.boisestate.edu/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=image/v2%3A114CF38DF1A90B10%40EANX-NB-169CE6F7E0E0DF92%402448203-169CDA0B4038FF60%4035-169CDA0B4038FF60%40>.

A newspaper article discussing the personal histories of Mike and Hero Shiosaki, who enlisted in the U.S. Army upon hearing the declaration of war after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. The two brothers lived in Pocatello at the time, so they were not incarcerated. However, Hero instrumentally worked to educate and preserve the history of the incarceration experience at Minidoka through his role as president of the Pocatello-Blackfoot Japanese American Citizens League. His role is instrumental in nominating Minidoka to the National Register of Historic Places and in the Idaho Centennial Project to establish some interpretive panels at the Military Police station and waiting room at the entrance of Minidoka.

Kershaw, Sarah. “Japanese Americans Relive Barbed Wire Era.” *Yurica Report*, June 14, 2004. Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 17, Folder 8. Albertsons Library Special Collections and Archives, Boise, Idaho.

News article describing the second annual Minidoka Pilgrimage with survivors and descendants of survivors visiting Minidoka National Monument. The article describes the somber feeling of

the event and the experiences of the incarcerated. This source provides information about the changes to the pilgrimage over time and demonstrates the significance of the annual pilgrimages.

King, Neil. "Congress Directs National Park Service to Study Eagledale Ferry Dock Site."

Public Scoping Newsletter, National Park Service. No. 1, 2003.

This newsletter is the first of several public newsletters and announcements from NPS about the efforts of NPS to preserve the Eagledale Ferry Dock site as ordered by Congress. These newsletters provide updates about the unit's scoping process by NPS at the dock and with the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community (BIJAC) to determine the feasibility of the unit as a memorial. Many public scoping reviews NPS conducted with BIJAC sought to determine the unit's interpretation, purpose, and development.

King, Neil. "NVC Letter from Neil King." Vol. 57, Issue 9. October 2007.

<https://www.nvcfoundation.org/newsletter/2007/10/nvc-letter-from-neil-king/>

Letter from Neil King to the Nisei Veterans Committee announcing the vote of the Jerome County Commissioners to deny the Big Sky Feedlot permit application. The letter thanks everyone who worked to assist with denying the application. The source demonstrates the significance of the feedlot on descendants and survivors of Minidoka and their input as stakeholders of the monument.

Kuhl, Sara. "Around the State." *Idaho Statesman* (Boise, Idaho) June 27, 1999: 26.

<https://infoweb-newsbank-com.libproxy.boisestate.edu/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=image/v2%3A114CF38DF1A90B10%40EANX-NB-16A83B725B30ABEF%402451357-16A7992D8F4017CF%4025-16A7992D8F4017CF%40>.

Describes the historic barracks that the IFARM obtained and restored in Jerome County to educate local citizens about the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II. The article demonstrates that while Friends of Minidoka, the National Park Service, and various Japanese American Citizens Leagues were interested and involved in preserving Minidoka's legacy, other groups, such as the Jerome County Historical Society, expressed interest and assistance. Though *nikkei* tell Minidoka's history, other historians and organizations also demonstrated concern and interest.

Litz, John R. "How to Save and Revitalize Japantown." *North American Post* 20 no. 25. (2003).

The newsletter article explores the potential for preserving Seattle's historic Japantown with revamped programs to serve as a center for Seattle's Japanese community while attracting others to the community and maintaining a sense of Japanese culture. During World War II, Seattle's Nihonmachi, or Japantown, suffered as all Japanese from Seattle experienced confinement, ultimately disrupting the sense of community in the area. In the early 2000s, several of Seattle's Japanese citizens sought to revitalize many businesses and the sense of community in Seattle.

Matsudaira, Martin. "Going Home to Minidoka Camp," *Idaho Statesman* (Boise, Idaho)

September 24, 1979: 12. <https://infoweb-newsbank-com.libproxy.boisestate.edu/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=image/v2%3A114CF38DF1A90B10%40EANX-NB->

1662C45CC0EAAC6F%402444141-16605671799DF3C4%4011-16605671799DF3C4%40.

Reflections from Martin Matsudaira, incarcerated at Minidoka as a child, about his experiences during World War II. Matsudaira explains the terrifying experiences his family and others faced after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, in which the FBI arrested *issei* men and questioned them. He also explores the naiveness he expressed as a child during the war. At the beginning of his article, he describes the viewshed of the camp in 1979, with farmers John Hermann and T.C. Robison managing several acres of the former remnants of the camp. Matsudaira also expresses his plans to build and burn a guard tower at the site to commemorate the confinement experience.

“Milestone News in favor of Internment camp improvement at Hunt,” *The North Side News*, (Jerome, Idaho). April 17, 2008:2. https://jerome.advantage-preservation.com/viewer/?k=%22minidoka%22&i=f&d=01011908-12312008&m=between&ord=k1&fn=north_side_news_usa_idaho_jerome_20080417_english_2&df=1&dt=10

Jerome County newspaper article explaining the expansion of Minidoka National Monument to include land originally purchased by the Conservation Fund then sold to the National Park Service. Congress needed legislation to expand the park boundary and authorize the land purchase. Idaho Senator Mike Crapo introduced the bill, which would also rename the site to Minidoka National Historic Site.

Miller, Ken. “Governor Pays Tribute to Internees,” *Idaho Statesman* (Boise, Idaho). February 20, 2002.

Newspaper article about the earliest statehouse Day of Remembrance, held on February 19 annually, to recognize and remember the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II. This article explains the event and Gov. Dirk Kempthorne’s speech honoring those incarcerated at Minidoka. This Day of Remembrance also occurred only one year after the National Monument was designated, bringing additional awareness to the site’s existence

“Minidoka.” Circa 2008. National Park Service, Department of the Interior. Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 18, Folder 10. Albertsons Library Special Collections and Archives. Boise, Idaho.

Newsletter from NPS staff about improvements and developments at Minidoka National Historic Site. The newsletter includes an announcement about educational outreach opportunities through Densho and creating and constructing a park entrance sign. The newsletter ultimately reveals the continued developments and improvements at Minidoka National Historic Site based on the 2006 General Management Plan.

“Minidoka Internment National Monument,” *Seattle JACL Newsletter*. (November 2002). Newsletter reaching Seattle JACL members about Minidoka National Monument’s designation as a unit of the National Park Service. The notice also includes a call for community input and scoping sessions on the General Management Plan (GMP). The newsletter section ultimately reveals the significance of Minidoka’s designation in the National Park Service to members of the Japanese American community and their desire for NPS to include community input on the management of the NPS unit.

“Minidoka Internment National Monument and Historical Archaeology,” *The Fossil Record*, (Spring 2002).

Newsletter for Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument about the historical archaeological project at Minidoka National Monument. Volunteers with expert archaeologists conducted the archaeological survey. They ultimately revealed the historic footprint of Minidoka, including a rock garden, which prompted Anna Tamura and other archaeologists on site to believe that near the rock garden was the original location of the Minidoka honor roll. The archaeological survey was an initial study of the site after President Clinton designated the area as a national monument.

“Minidoka Internment National Monument: General Management Planning Underway.” *The Fossil Record*. 12 no. 1 (Spring 2003).

The newsletter for Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument was written and published by the National Park Service and updated Minidoka’s General Management Plan. The newsletter states that NPS had received public comments, which NPS used to shape a set of alternatives for the General Management Plan. The newsletter also points readers toward receiving updates about Minidoka National Monument, specifically the General Management Plan. This source provides context and a record of writing, editing, and altering Minidoka’s GMP over several years.

“Minidoka Internment National Monument is 385th in NP System.” *Arrowhead* 9 no. 1 (Winter 2002).

This article briefly describes the designation of Minidoka National Monument and the historical significance of the designation. It also explains the planning projects NPS undertook to manage the unit. *Arrowhead* is a NPS publication for other NPS employees.

“Minidoka Internment National Park Service Seeks Community Input,” *Nisei Veterans Newsletter*. (August 2002).

Advertisement seeking input from Nisei Veterans about Minidoka National Monument’s General Management Plan. The advertisement provides dates for scoping sessions. Informs on the work of the National Park Service to incorporate the Nikkei community for the General Management Plan.

“Minidoka visit, memorial coming up.” *Idaho Statesman* (Boise, Idaho) April 23, 2010: 5. Idaho Statesman article describing the annual Minidoka pilgrimage and Civil Liberties symposium. The article explained the purpose of the Civil Liberties Symposium and provided contact information for interested readers to attend the event.

“Minidoka Monument Open House.” *Snake River Valley JACL Newsletter*. (November 2002).

Newsletter article designed to reach Japanese Americans in the Snake River area about providing an open house scoping session with input from the Snake River JACL community on Minidoka National Monument’s General Management Plan. The article provides dates for the open house sessions and informs on the work of the National Park Service to incorporate survivors and descendants in the General Management Plan.

“The Minidoka Monument: NPS Receives Public Comment on Management Plan,” *General Management Plan Newsletter*, no. 2, 2013. Marilyn T. Shuler Collection, MSS 364, Box 5. Albertsons Library Special Collections and Archives, (Boise, Idaho).

Newsletter for individuals interested in the status of Minidoka’s General Management Plan concerning the updates. This newsletter explains the GMP process to stakeholders, especially survivors and descendants of Minidoka. Additionally, this newsletter explains the phase the NPS reached in the planning process.

“Minidoka Pilgrimage, Civil Rights Symposium begins on Thursday in Eastern Idaho,” *Idaho Statesman* (Boise, Idaho). June 28, 2011.

Newspaper article explaining the annual Civil Liberties Symposium in Twin Falls, Idaho, that took place in conjunction with the annual Minidoka Pilgrimage. The article explained the purpose and concept of the Civil Liberties Symposium and highlighted Robert C. Sims’ contributions to the event. The article also mentioned that Sims was writing a book about Minidoka. The book remained unpublished, though in 2020, Susan M. Stacy collaborated with other partners to edit a collection of Sims’ essays into a publication. The newspaper article, however, highlights the reach and statewide significance of Minidoka’s legacy and lessons.

“Minidoka Planning Meeting,” *Portland JACL Newsletter*, (2002).

JACL Newsletter for Nikkei living in Portland that explains the planning process for the Minidoka General Management Plan. Minidoka National Monument sought input from the Portland Japanese American community in interpreting and developing Minidoka National Monument as the Portland Japanese American community experienced incarceration at Minidoka during World War II. The source provides context for the Minidoka GMP planning process and the efforts of the National Park Service to work alongside the Japanese American community in reflecting their stories accurately and with sensitivity to their experiences.

“Minidoka Remembered Set for Seattle, August 1-3.” *SeattleNVC.org*. (2003).

This article provides details regarding the 2003 Minidoka survivor reunion in Seattle. It includes program highlights such as keynote speaker Roger Shimomura and exhibits by Nikkei community groups such as Densho, the Japanese American National Museum, and the Wing Luke Museum. The article also explains the goals of the National Park Service to seek community input regarding Minidoka National Monument’s General Management Plan.

Mochizuki, Ken. “Pilgrims Return and Others Learn of Former Minidoka Camp Site.” *International Examiner*. July 19, 2006. Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 50, Folder 11. Albertsons Library Special Collections and Archives.

A newspaper article about the 2006 annual pilgrimage to Minidoka National Monument. The source detailed the history of incarceration and the efforts by the Pocatello-Blackfoot JACL and the National Park Service to preserve the site. The article also explains the experience of traveling back to the site for pilgrimage attendees and the concerns that Friends of Minidoka held regarding the age of survivors. Mochizuki also explained the potential that NPS would reconstruct an entire block and described the process required to undertake such a large project. Ultimately, the source demonstrates the importance of pilgrimages for survivors and descendants and provides a brief history of efforts to preserve and interpret the site.

Momohara, Alan. "Issei Memorial." *Friends of Minidoka Newsletter*. Spring 2008.

This article in the Spring 2008 gives Friends of Minidoka constituents an update on the *Issei* Memorial project. Friends of Minidoka, recognizing the importance of the memorial to survivors, completed initial designs for the memorial in 2008 and planned to submit the design plans to the National Park Service for review.

Moriwaki, Clarence. "Building the Wall, Telling the Story." *Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community News*. Spring 2009. Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 18, Folder 17. Albertsons Library Special Collections and Archives.

This source is an article for a newsletter produced for and by the Bainbridge Island Japanese American community. The article explains the finishing of the Bainbridge Island memorial wall that recognized the forced removal of the Japanese American community from Bainbridge Island. The source explains the Japanese American community's reactions to the memorial's plans. The article fits into the narrative of Minidoka as the Bainbridge Island Memorial was designated as a National Memorial as a satellite unit of Minidoka National Historic Site, expanding the boundaries of the site.

Moriwaki, Clarence. "Memorial Update." *Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community News*. Winter 2007-2008. Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 18, Folder 17. Albertsons Library Special Collections and Archives.

Newsletter article describing a dedication and memorial ceremony at Eagledale Ferry Dock to remember the Japanese Americans who were forced from their homes on Bainbridge Island, commemorating the removal and confinement experience. The article also provided information about the memorial's feasibility to become a National Memorial. Moriwaki states that the memorial awaited a signature from the president to authorize the site as a National Memorial and a unit of the National Park Service. The source ultimately assists in creating a timeline for establishing a national memorial on Bainbridge Island as a sister unit of Minidoka.

Morrissey, David. "Hunt Camp Tower Burning Hotly Debated," *Times News* (Twin Falls, Idaho) September 28, 1979: 21.

https://ia600900.us.archive.org/26/items/The_Times_News_Idaho_Newspaper_1979_09_28/The_Times_News_Idaho_Newspaper_1979_09_28.pdf

Twin Falls newspaper article explaining controversies surrounding a symbolic burning of a guard tower at a Day of Remembrance ceremony at Minidoka. The article highlights the two sides of the controversy where the Seattle JACL wanted to utilize the burning to symbolize the destruction of the camps and what the camps represented, citing hundreds of Seattlites traveling to witness the ceremony. The Pocatello-Blackfoot JACL opposed the tower burning because they argued the burning would lose sight of why the Day of Remembrance was significant. The source demonstrates the controversies within the Japanese American community over acts of commemoration and preserving confinement sites.

Morrissey, David. "Japanese American visit, this time willingly," *Times News* (Twin Falls, Idaho)

August 18, 1979: 1.

https://ia804604.us.archive.org/7/items/The_Times_News_Idaho_Newspaper_1979_08_18/The_Times_News_Idaho_Newspaper_1979_08_18.pdf

Twin Falls newspaper article about the dedication of Minidoka as a National Register of Historic Places listing. The article begins by describing George and Kim Simba's journey to the site and the experiences that survivors encountered by returning to Minidoka for commemorative events. The article also expressed some memories survivors shared about their experiences incarcerated at Minidoka. Morrissey also highlights the history of incarceration and survivors' displays of loyalty and patriotism. The source ultimately explains the early efforts of the Japanese American community to recognize and preserve the confinement experience nearly thirty years after their incarceration, despite the hurdles both from the community and from the lack of buildings at the former confinement site.

Morrissey, David. "Japanese relocation site to be memorialized." *Times News* (Twin Falls, Idaho)

August 17, 1979: 11.

https://ia802802.us.archive.org/18/items/The_Times_News_Idaho_Newspaper_1979_08_17/The_Times_News_Idaho_Newspaper_1979_08_17.pdf.

Twin Falls newspaper article describing the small memorialization of Minidoka based on efforts of the Pocatello-Blackfoot JACL who worked with the Bureau of Reclamation, land owner of the area the JACL sought to dedicate. The article explains the dedication of a plaque at the site to provide information for those living in the area and those who happen upon the site. The source demonstrates the work of the local JACL to preserve Minidoka's physical remnants and the legacy of Minidoka.

Morrissey, David. "The relocation: why did it happen?" *Times News* (Twin Falls, Idaho) August 20, 1979: 13.

https://ia902606.us.archive.org/5/items/The_Times_News_Idaho_Newspaper_1979_08_20/The_Times_News_Idaho_Newspaper_1979_08_20.pdf

Twin Falls newspaper article describing the return of Japanese Americans to Minidoka for the dedication ceremony that added plaques to the military police area and dedicated Minidoka on the National Register of Historic Places. The article provides context about Japanese Americans' forced removal and confinement at Minidoka and aims to understand why the incarceration occurred. *Times News* published the article nearly a decade before the Commission on the Wartime Internment of Civilians published their findings that "wartime hysteria, racism, and a failure of political leadership" were among the central reasons for the incarceration. The article explains the work of the Japanese American community to preserve Minidoka's legacy.

"National Park Service wants public input on Minidoka," *WLAM Newsletter* (2002).

An announcement in a Washington state newsletter asking for input on the planning process for the Minidoka General Management Plan. The advertisement announces the times and locations for individuals to participate. The ad also explains the purposes of the planning.

"Never Again," *Idaho Statesman* (Boise, Idaho) August 23, 1979: 5. https://infoweb-newsbank-com.libproxy.boisestate.edu/apps/news/openurl?ctx_ver=z39.88-2004&rft_id=info%3Aid/infoweb.newsbank.com&svc_dat=WORLDNEWS&req_dat=0F2584031CD7C37A&rft_val_format=info%3Aofi/fmt%3Akev%3Amtx%3Actx&rft_dat=document_id%3Aimage%252Fv2%253A114CF38DF1A90B10%2540EANX-NB-

[16837562CDB8CBF7%25402444109-1682ABABDDB9B5BD%25404-1682ABABDDB9B5BD%2540/hlterms%3A%2522never%2520again%2522%2520](https://www.baltdigitalsun.com/16837562CDB8CBF7%25402444109-1682ABABDDB9B5BD%25404-1682ABABDDB9B5BD%2540/hlterms%3A%2522never%2520again%2522%2520).

Article about the listing of Minidoka on the National Register of Historic Places. The editorial describes the experiences of a couple of individuals incarcerated at Minidoka to explain the realities of the confinement experience. The editorial also provides a glimpse into an interview conducted with Bill Hosokawa, a fellow editor at the Denver Post. Hosokawa also spoke at the dedication ceremony on August 18, 1979. Hosokawa's interview urges readers not to allow it to happen again.

Niedowski, Erika. "Return to Minidoka: An American Journey, A Search for Place, Pride" *The Baltimore Sun* (Baltimore, Maryland), December 5, 2004. MSS 356, Box 17, Folder 11.

Albertsons Special Collections and Archives, Boise, Idaho.

First of a three-part series about survivors and descendants of those incarcerated Minidoka attending the 2003 Minidoka pilgrimage. This series specifically focuses on Jeni Yamada and her family's journey during the 2003 Minidoka pilgrimage. The article explains the Yamada family's experiences of incarceration at Minidoka, drawing from other survivors and descendants. The publication also describes the impacts of trauma on survivors and their descendants, along with the impacts of returning to Minidoka after the war. Ultimately, this source demonstrates the community organizing efforts in preserving and remembering Minidoka's legacy through annual pilgrimages to the site.

Niedowski, Erika. "Return to Minidoka: An American Journey, From the bitter landscape of war emerge healing ground, Peace." *The Baltimore Sun* (Baltimore, Maryland), December 5, 2004. MSS 356, Box 17, Folder 11. Albertsons Special Collections and Archives, Boise, Idaho.

The article is the last of a three-part series about survivors and descendants of those incarcerated Minidoka attending the 2003 Minidoka pilgrimage. This series specifically focuses on Jeni Yamada and her family's journey during the 2003 Minidoka pilgrimage. The article explains the Yamada family's experiences of incarceration at Minidoka, drawing from other survivors and descendants. The publication also describes the impacts of trauma on survivors and their descendants, along with the impacts of returning to Minidoka after the war. Ultimately, this source demonstrates the community organizing efforts in preserving and remembering Minidoka's legacy through annual pilgrimages to the site.

Niedowski, Erika. "Return to Minidoka: An American Journey, Prisoners of their Heritage." *The Baltimore Sun* (Baltimore, Maryland), December 5, 2004. MSS 356, Box 17, Folder 11.

Albertsons Special Collections and Archives, Boise, Idaho.

This source is the second of a three-part series about survivors and descendants of those incarcerated Minidoka attending the 2003 Minidoka pilgrimage. This series specifically focuses on Jack Yasutake and his FBI arrest after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. The article describes the irony of Jack working for the Immigration and Naturalization Service, while being detained by the FBI at the same building. The publication describes the Yasutake family's forced removal and incarceration at Minidoka. Ultimately, this source demonstrates the community organizing efforts in preserving and remembering Minidoka's legacy through annual pilgrimages to the site.

Oberman, Mira. "SeaTac reunion brings together former internees from WWII camp." *The*

Seattle Times. August 3, 2003.

<https://archive.seattletimes.com/archive/?date=20030803&slug=minidoka03m>

Explains the 2003 reunion of Minidoka survivors and their descendants in Seattle organized by Gloria Shigeno. Describes the purposes of the reunion and the different exhibitions attendees visited. The article also notes that the National Park Service influenced the reunion with their presence, seeking input from survivors and descendants to plan Minidoka National Monument's General Management Plan. This source explains how survivors commemorated the incarceration and the involvement of NPS in this remembrance.

Okamura, Sanaye. "Minidoka Memorial Project." *Pocatello-Blackfoot Newsletter*, December 1978. Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 50, Folder 9. Albertsons Library Special Collections and Archives, Boise, Idaho.

Article published in the Pocatello-Blackfoot JACL newsletter describing the plans for the Minidoka memorial and dedication with the listing of the site on the National Register of Historic Places. The article describes the original plan to commemorate all confinement sites at the national JACL convention, but renewed efforts led to a proper commemoration of Minidoka. Okamura also explains that the Bureau of Reclamation planned to rope off five and a half acres for a memorial. The article demonstrates the significance of the dedication to the Pocatello-Blackfoot JACL and the work the organization completed to recognize the confinement experience in collaboration with the Idaho State Historical Society and Senator Frank Church.

Palmer, Joshua. "Civil liberties meeting ends as pilgrimage starts," *North Side News*, July 13, 2006: 10. https://jerome.advantage-preservation.com/viewer/?k=%22minidoka%22&i=f&d=01011908-12312008&m=between&ord=k1&fn=north_side_news_usa_idaho_jerome_20060713_english_10&df=81&dt=90/

Jerome County newspaper article about the annual Civil Liberties Symposium and the Minidoka Pilgrimage. The article explains the purpose of both events and connects the message of the Civil Liberties Symposium to civil rights and liberties in contemporary society.

Sato, Bob. "Minidoka Internment National Monument." *SeattleNVC.org* (2001). 5. Newsletter for Japanese American veterans living in Seattle announcing the designation of Minidoka as a unit of the National Park Service. The announcement in the newsletter suggests that nisei veterans were an important stakeholder for the National Park Service.

Shigeno, Gloria. "2004 Minidoka Pilgrimage Coming in June!" *Nisei Veterans Committee Newsletter* 53 no. 11. (December 2003). Accessed October 10, 2022. <https://www.nvcfoundation.org/newsletter/2003/12/2004-minidoka-pilgrimage-coming-in-june/>

Announcement in the Nisei Veterans Committee newsletter about a second Minidoka pilgrimage, after survivors and descendants experienced healing and strengthening of community from the first Minidoka pilgrimage in 2003. The news suggests that the Nisei Veterans Committee remained an important stakeholder in the Minidoka Pilgrimage. The newsletter also demonstrates that the Minidoka pilgrimage proved successful enough during its first year to have a second and continued annual event at Minidoka.

Smith, Christopher. "Bill would add land to WWII monument," *Associated Press*. Circa 2003. Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 16, Folder 18. Albertsons Library Special Collections and Archives, Boise, Idaho.

Newspaper article describing the transfer of approximately 10 acres from the possession of the Bureau of Reclamation to the National Park Service for the use of Minidoka National Monument. The article explains that Idaho senators introduced a bill for the transfer into Idaho legislation. This article provides information about the expansion of the Minidoka National Monument.

"Spring 2013 Newsletter." *Friends of Minidoka*. May 26, 2013.

<http://npshistory.com/publications/miin/newsletter-friends/spring-2013.pdf>.

Electronic newsletter published by Friends of Minidoka about updates to Minidoka National Historic Site. Many of the newsletter's readers are descendants, survivors, and stakeholders involved in interpreting and preserving Minidoka NHS. The newsletter describes staffing changes, grants acquired, registration for the annual pilgrimage, and current projects. This source best describes the process of reconstructing the historic guard tower and unveiling the honor roll.

Song, Sora. "The Japanese Camps: Making the 9/11 Link," *TIME*. February 16, 2004.

Online article explaining the connection between 9/11 and the bombing of Pearl Harbor. The two articles explain the similarities between the racism and discrimination that Japanese Americans faced compared to Muslim and Arab Americans, who also faced discrimination and racism after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Strauss, Gary. "Idaho Japanese-Americans reject tower-burning." *Idaho Statesman*, September 24, 1979: 15.

Idaho Statesman article explaining the controversy between the Pocatello Blackfoot JACL and the Seattle JACL during the ceremony listing Minidoka on the National Register of Historic Places in which the Seattle JACL proposed to burn a guard tower. The Seattle JACL wanted a symbolic representation to commemorate their confinement and intended to utilize a replica of the Minidoka guard tower.

Todo, Tak. "Minidoka Remembered." 53 no. 7 (August 2003). Accessed October 10, 2022.

<https://www.nvcfoundation.org/newsletter/2003/8/minidoka-remembered/>

Describes the successful "Minidoka Remembered" reunion between survivors and their descendants in Seattle. This newsletter announcement highlights some of the key parts of the reunion, including the workshop and scoping sessions with the National Park Service to obtain community input for Minidoka National Monument's General Management Plan.

Tsukamoto, Masa. "President's Message." *Pocatello-Blackfoot Newsletter*. August 1978:1.

Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 50, Folder 9. Albertsons Library Special Collections and Archives. Boise, Idaho.

Tsukamoto announced the progression of the Minidoka dedication project, announcing that the site would likely be listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979. They also explained that the memorial would likely have interpretive plaques describing the incarceration experience to memorialize the site. The newsletter reveals that individuals from the Pocatello-

Blackfoot JACL assisted in establishing the plaques as part of the National Register dedication at Minidoka.

Turner, Denise. "Seattle Author writes of Hunt Camp, baseball." *Times News* (Twin Falls, Idaho).

May 1, 1994:16.

Twin Falls, Idaho newspaper article about *Baseball Saved Us*, a book by Ken Mochizuki, a Japanese American incarcerated at Minidoka. The article highlights the book's theme and explains baseball's centrality to children's experiences at Minidoka. Though other writers published books and literature about the incarceration experience, few books focused on Minidoka, children, and recreation, demonstrating how *Baseball Saved Us* fit into a niche for young readers.

Warbis, Mark. "Japanese Americans Dedicate Hunt memorial," *The Times News* (Twin Falls, Idaho) September 27, 1980.

Article from a Twin Falls, Idaho, newspaper describing the dedication of Minidoka to the National Register of Historic Places. The article highlights the dedication's significance and recounts the speech by Senator Frank Church given at the dedication ceremony.

Webb, Anna. "Idaho Supreme Court backs Jerome County's approval of factory farm near historic Minidoka site." *Idaho Statesman* (Boise, Idaho) July 8, 2012.

The newspaper article reported that the Idaho Supreme Court found no reason to disallow the large Big Sky confined feeding operation farm proposed next to Minidoka National Monument. The article expressed reactions from Friends of Minidoka and local farmers in the area who the feeding operation also impacted. This source explains that local farmers and Friends of Minidoka disagreed with building a feeding operation near the site.

Webb, Anna. "Minidoka 70 Years later," *Idaho Statesman* (Boise, Idaho). June 22, 2012: 1.

Newspaper article explaining the annual Civil Liberties Symposium in Idaho, which discussed issues of civil liberties in the past and present. The article includes details about the 2012 Civil Liberties Symposium, including speakers present. The *Idaho Statesman* also listed projects and reconstructions at the site to enhance the interpretive experience for visitors.

Webb, Anna. "Minidoka Internment project will rebuild the internment camp baseball field."

Idaho Statesman (Boise, Idaho) May 10, 2016: 15.

Newspaper article highlighting the reconstruction of a historic baseball field at Minidoka National Historic Site. The article explains that Friends of Minidoka, Minidoka NHS's nonprofit and fundraising organization, led the efforts to reconstruct the historic baseball field. The project stemmed from the significance of baseball and recreation at Minidoka as an interpretive theme for the National Park Service. In the article, Friends of Minidoka lists requirements for supplies, equipment, and volunteers to construct the baseball field in a single day, naming the event after the Herrman Farm-in-a-Day event from 1952.

Woodward, Tim. "Clinton to name Idaho site a national monument today." *Idaho Statesman*

(Boise, Idaho). January 17, 2001: 1. <https://infoweb-newsbank-com.libproxy.boisestate.edu/apps/news/document-view?p=WORLDNEWS&docref=news/0F661D63A4170306>.

A newspaper article describing Minidoka Internment National Monument's designation as a unit of the National Park Service. Using reflections from individuals incarcerated at Minidoka, Woodward explains the significance of recognizing Minidoka as a national monument. The article also described the positive reaction from the Magic Valley community and from representatives who pushed for the designation in Congress. This source also explored Minidoka's history as a confinement site and homesteading land for returning white veterans after the war. The article provides evidence and narratives surrounding the involvement of the National Park Service in preserving Minidoka's physical remnants and the work of the NPS to preserve Minidoka's local and national legacy.

Yockey, Roger. "Aiko Yanagihara Recalls His WWII Internment Days." *Local UFCW 1105 Outlook* (Seattle, Washington). 49 no. 12. December 1997.

Published article about Aiko Yanagihara and his incarceration at Minidoka during World War II with his family. The article describes the overall incarceration experience and Yanagihara's reflections on the confinement, specifically at Minidoka. Explains the significance of dedicating the site to incarcerated individuals and their families.

NPS Memos and Orders

National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. Director's Order #53: Special Park Uses. Approved by Robert G. Stanton. Washington D.C. 2000.

This memorandum authorized the study of the ten mass confinement camps throughout the United States, including Minidoka. This study researched the existing conditions of cultural resources and the existing preservation at each site. This memo came only a month before the designation of Minidoka National Monument.

Pedde, Kenneth R. "Transfer of 72.5 Acres of Land, More or Less, for the Minidoka Internment National Monument, Formerly Part of the Minidoka Project, Idaho." (official memorandum, Seattle, Washington: Department of the Interior, 2001), MIIN 349, Series I Folder 1. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

Official memorandum across the Department of Interior announcing the transfer of seventy-two and a half acres of land from the Bureau of Reclamation's holdings to the National Park Service for the purpose of Minidoka National Monument.

Planning Documents

Amache Special Resource Study. Department of the Interior: National Park Service, 2022.

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5c732170e666695baf28f625/t/634b0731b82adb4257606f1c/1665861447742/Amache_SRS_508_2022-1004.pdf

Special resource study conducted by the Department of Interior to understand the potentials for Amache to become a NPS unit. Amache became the fourth of ten World War II Japanese American concentration camps to become a National Park unit and is a sister unit of Minidoka National Historic Site.

“Bainbridge Island Exclusion Memorial Fact Sheet.” Circa 2007. Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 18, Folder 17. Albertsons Library Special Collections and Archives. Fact sheet about the development of a memorial at the Eagledale Ferry Dock on Bainbridge Island. The sheet detailed the history of the forced removal of Japanese Americans off Bainbridge Island and made a case for the significance of the memorial. The source also provides planning phases and estimated costs for the establishment of the memorial. Ultimately the source provides significant context and detail for the history of Bainbridge Island Exclusion Memorial becoming a unit under the National Park Service as a sister unit of Minidoka. The sheet also demonstrates the Japanese American survivor and descendant community’s efforts to construct the memorial alongside the National Park Service.

Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial: Nidoto Nai Yoni Study of Alternatives.
Department of the Interior, National Park Service, June 2005.

Commissioned by Public Law 107-363, the special resource study seeks to analyze the Eagledale Ferry Dock and part of Pritchard Park on Bainbridge Island. The study determines the site’s feasibility of becoming a unit under the National Park Service and a satellite unite of Minidoka. The summary of alternatives presents different options for individuals to select and base the formation of Bainbridge Island’s memorial on public input.

“Block 22.” NPS Staff. 2009. Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 18, Folder 17.
Albertsons Library Special Collections and Archives.

Map produced by the National Park Service showing the historical footprint of Block Twenty-Two at Minidoka. The map displayed the historic buildings superimposed with archaeological findings from the archaeological survey completed by Jeffrey Burton and Mary Farrell. The image demonstrates the planning process for NPS staff who relocated a former barrack and mess hall to Minidoka National Historic Site.

“Centennial Project Proposal for Minidoka Relocation Center.” December 1987. MIIN 349, Series I, Folder 4. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

Initial proposal for the Pocatello-Blackfoot JACL to receive funding through the Idaho State Centennial Project to preserve the military police entrance and reception area. The proposal also includes adding interpretive plaques about the site’s history.

Foundation Document Overview: Minidoka National Historic Site. National Park Service, Department of the Interior, 2014.

This document explains the significance and purpose of Minidoka National Historic Site, explaining in a concise matter, the interpretive goals of NPS at Bainbridge Island at Minidoka. This document also explores the existing cultural resources at each site to include historic and reconstructed features. Primarily created for public audiences seeking to understand more about Minidoka and Bainbridge Island’s development, purpose, interpretive themes, and cultural resources, this document also offers insight into NPS’s organization of the two units, though hundreds of miles separated the two.

Minidoka Internment National Monument: Draft General Management Plan and

Environmental Impact Statement. Department of the Interior. 2005. Robert C. Sims Collection, Box 18, Folders 4-8. Albertsons Library Special Collections and Archives, Boise, Idaho.

Minidoka National Monument's draft general management plan with proposed alternatives for public comment. The document addresses public comments to correct historical inaccuracies and misrepresentations while also providing clarity on alternative plans.

Minidoka Internment National Monument: General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. Department of the Interior. Seattle, National Park Service, 2006.

The published Minidoka Internment National Monument General Management Plan (GMP), which details the unit's history as a concentration camp and explains the plans that NPS hoped to fulfill. The document describes the various visitor uses at the site, along with plans for interpretation, education, and outreach. Additionally, the General Management Plan highlights the surrounding environment and how natural resources would be affected by the plan's implementation. Minidoka's GMP formed as a result of extensive public input and consultation, primarily from Minidoka survivors and descendants, which is detailed in the GMP.

“Minidoka Internment National Monument: General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement Core Team Meeting.” June 2002. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 8. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

This document lists the offices, organizations, and individuals involved in creating Minidoka's GMP/EIS. Under each corresponding office, organization, and name, the notes list the duties and responsibilities. The notes come from the first meeting that team members when starting Minidoka's GMP/EIS. This workplan ultimately provides insight into the involved parties and their primary goals and responsibilities with the GMP.

Minidoka Internment National Monument: General Management and Environmental Impact Statement Planning Workshop. Department of the Interior. Seattle, National Park Service, April 2003. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 3. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

Notes and agenda from a planning workshop about Minidoka NHS's General Management Plan (GMP). This workshop took place in Seattle with Minidoka survivors and descendants. The group of individuals needed to select certain alternatives that would shape Minidoka's future, but did so with NPS assistance, who explained what each alternative meant. During the meeting, survivors and descendants explained their vision and hopes for Minidoka's preservation and interpretation based on the alternatives presented.

“Minidoka National Historic Site Barrack Condition Assessment.” Fletcher Farr Ayotte Inc. 2010. Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 18, Folder 10. Albertsons Library Special Collections and Archives, Boise, Idaho.

Condition assessment to determine the historic and structural integrity of a former Minidoka barrack. The report detailed the contemporary use of one former barrack from Minidoka and provides information on the required preservation methods for the barrack to be used at Minidoka NHS. NPS included relocating or reconstructing historic buildings from the camp back to the historic site as part of Minidoka's GMP, so determining the feasibility of doing so is one

step in fulfilling the GMP. The report ultimately demonstrates the challenges, both physical and economic that NPS faced in developing onsite interpretation as they attempted to relocate historic buildings.

Minidoka National Historic Site Long Range Interpretive Plan, Harpers Ferry Center, and Minidoka National Historic Site Staff. Department of the Interior. National Park Service, 2013.

The Minidoka National Historic Site Long Range Interpretive Plan describes the interpretive themes and subcategories related to each based on the existing cultural resources available at Minidoka NHS and Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial. The interpretive plan, created through discussions with survivors and descendants, breaks the two units apart and explains the short term and long term recommendations for interpretation based on the interpretive themes and goals for visitor experience.

“Minidoka National Historic Site Mess Hall Condition Assessment.” Fletcher Farr Ayotte Inc. 2010. Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 18, Folder 10. Albertsons Library Special Collections and Archives, Boise, Idaho.

Condition assessment to determine the structural integrity of a mess hall to be relocated at Minidoka National Historic Site. The report details requirements and suggestions for additional stability support to increase the projected years of use for the mess hall. NPS included relocating or reconstructing historic buildings from the camp back to the historic site as part of Minidoka’s GMP, so determining the feasibility of doing so is one step in fulfilling the GMP. The report ultimately demonstrates the challenges, both physical and economic that NPS faced in developing onsite interpretation as they attempted to relocate historic buildings.

“Minidoka National Historic Site Root Cellar Condition Assessment.” Fletcher Farr Ayotte Inc. 2010. Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 18, Folder 10. Albertsons Library Special Collections and Archives, Boise, Idaho.

Condition assessment to determine the historic and structural integrity of Minidoka’s root cellar located at the site. The structure did not require relocation, but required preservation to maintain the structure’s contemporary integrity intact for visitor interpretive purposes. The root cellar, however, showed little evidence of safe public access and required significant preservation efforts to maintain the existing structural integrity.

“Minidoka National Monument Notes.” May 2001. Agenda. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 15. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

Agenda and scheduled plan for Minidoka National Monument’s archaeological investigation. The agenda explained the archaeological investigation’s itinerary and goals of investigating Minidoka National Monument. The agenda also includes names of crew members participating in the work.

“Minidoka Relocation Center: Surviving Barracks Research Project.” National Park Service Staff. March 2006-December 2008. Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 18, Folder 15. Albertsons Library Special Collections and Archives. Boise, Idaho.

Published research locating and determining the structural integrity of remaining barracks from the Minidoka War Relocation Center. The published report sought to document the surviving barracks and their contemporary conditions. NPS conducted research using WRA archival research to locate the barracks and understand construction process of the buildings at Minidoka. The report listed the barracks' current owners and provided a sense of feasibility in relocating the barracks back to Minidoka. The document ultimately demonstrates the National Park Service's goal in fulfilling the GMP by relocating or reconstructing historic buildings at the National Monument.

"PWR-Dictorate and MIIN Planning Team Substantive Comments to DGMP/EIS." February 9, 2005. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 20. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

Comments from the Minidoka National Monument Planning Team to the Minidoka draft General Management Plan and EIS. The commenters include scholars and community institutions such as the Wing Luke Asian Museum and Boise State University. Their notes reflect edits regarding costs of moving buildings and the feasibility of reconstructing a guard tower. Other comments also regard content issues such as the use of terminology and the *issei* experience. The cumulative comments reflect the major changes required to the Minidoka GMP/EIS.

"Report to the President: Japanese -American Internment Sites Preservation," *National Park Service*. Washington D.C., Department of the Interior: January 2001.
<http://npshistory.com/publications/manz/internment/index.htm#:~:text=On%20February%2019%2C%201942%2C%20President,%2C%20Colorado%2C%20and%20other%20states.>

A report ordered by President Bill Clinton mapped the ten concentration camps' preservation statuses to understand the feasibility of potentially designating Minidoka as a unit of NPS. The report researched each site's history, existing legislation, existing partnerships, preservation, and interpretation. Additionally, the report provided recommendations based on these categories. The publication's appendix includes additional opportunities to recognize and preserve sites associated with the larger narrative of removal, such as the Santa Anita Racetrack. The report's recommendations urged President Clinton to designate Minidoka National Monument and serve as a basis for the increased awareness of Japanese American concentration camps. With the increased awareness of the narrative and the different sites, the United States looked at preservation and interpretive opportunities for sites that did not receive NPS status.

Wissenbach, Mike. "Mike Wissenbach MIIN GMP/EIS Review Comments." December 28, 2004. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 20. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

Review comments for Minidoka's GMP and EIS from Mike Wissenbach, an NPS employee. The comments provide information on terminology and support for honoring former incarcerated, especially the *issei*. Wissenbach also argued that the Education and Interpretation section required more detail and highlighted the edits for each section within the GMP. The review comments demonstrate the substantive reviews and changes made to Minidoka's GMP to ultimately reflect historical accuracy and input from stakeholders, especially the Nikkei community incarcerated at Minidoka.

Poetry, Art, Performances, Brochures, and Speeches

Friends of Minidoka, College of Southern Idaho, Minidoka National Historic Site. "Civil Liberties Symposium VI: Patriotism, Honor, and Sacrifice." June 30 and July 1 2011. Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356,

Box 18, Folder 9. Albertsons Library Special Collections and Archives, Boise, Idaho. Program brochure for the Civil Liberties Symposium hosted at the College of Southern Idaho. The program highlights speakers and topics discussed at the Symposium related to the theme of race, the United State Constitution, inequality, diversity, education, and the World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans. The Civil Liberties Symposium first organized to educate students, community members, and interested parties about civil liberties and issues related to civil liberty violations. Several Civil Liberties Symposiums were arranged in coordination with the annual Minidoka pilgrimage. The brochure highlights NPS's educational efforts to fulfill goals outlined by the GMP related to education.

"Family Tag." *Expo Center MAX Station* (Portland, Oregon). MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 11. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

Replica personal identification tag given to all Japanese Americans during their forced removal from their homes in 1942. This artifact was used in the 2000's to commemorate the experience in Portland.

King, Neil. "Seeking Understanding through Our Legacy." February 19, 2002. Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 17, Folder 5. Albertsons Library Special Collections and Archives, Boise, Idaho.

Remarks from Neil King, the first superintendent of Minidoka National Monument on the annual Day of Remembrance in 2002. His remarks asked attendees to consider the lessons and legacies of Japanese American incarceration at Minidoka. He also acknowledges the history of removal from Bainbridge Island and explains that legislation was underway to establish a National Memorial at Bainbridge Island as a sister unit of Minidoka National Monument. King's speech demonstrates the significance of preserving Minidoka to the Japanese American community, as well as the national history that Minidoka represents. The speech also demonstrates the National Park Service's direct engagement, inclusion, responsibility, and collaboration with the Japanese American community.

Matsuda, Larry. "For All that the government took," (poem). 2004.

Poem by Larry Matsuda, a survivor born at Minidoka, about his parent's experience of being forced from their homes and incarcerated at Minidoka. He explains the significant loss of funds, livelihoods, and even pride as the U.S. government incarcerated Japanese Americans without trial.

"Minidoka Dedication Ceremony Program." August 18, 1979. Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 16, Folder 13. Albertsons Library, Special Collections and Archives, Boise, Idaho.

Ceremony program from the 1979 dedication of Minidoka to the National Register of Historic Places. Lists the speakers and the events within the dedication program. Speakers included

Senator Frank Church. The program provides information as to the dedication ceremony's significance for the Japanese American community confined at Minidoka and in regard to the larger Idaho and United State's narrative.

"Minidoka National Historic Site." Pamphlet. National Park Service, Department of the Interior. Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 18, Folder 9. Albertsons Library Special Collection and Archives. Boise, Idaho.

The National Park Service produced this pamphlet for visitor education on the wartime incarceration experience. As the offices for NPS staff were located in Hagerman, nearly forty-five minutes away from Minidoka National Monument, the staff presence at Minidoka remained relatively low, with the exception of tours, field trips, and annual pilgrimages until 2010 when onsite presence increased with the Hermann house as a temporary visitor center. Prior, interpretation for visitors was limited to the visitor center in Hagerman, so to mitigate the problem while providing interpretive information, the National Park Service provided pamphlets, brochures, and booklets about the WWII incarceration experience for visitors to expand their knowledge.

Shimomura, Roger. *Roger Shimomura, an American Diary*. (Art Collection).

Series of art prints by Roger Shimomura, a Japanese American artist who faced incarceration at Minidoka as a child. The prints in *An American Diary* consist of a mix of pop art and Japanese style to demonstrate the feelings of being both Japanese and American in a space of incarceration. Many prints also reflect the confinement and incarceration experienced by Japanese Americans at Minidoka. Roger Shimomura also remained a prominent figure at Minidoka's pilgrimages, and donated several of his prints to the pilgrimages, so his art collection represents Minidoka's past as a confinement site and in the public memory of commemoration through art.

Vaughn, Bill. 2005. Speech. Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 17, Folder 7. Albertsons Library Special Collections and Archives. Boise, Idaho.

Speech delivered by Bill Vaughn at the 2005 Minidoka pilgrimage reflecting on his experiences growing up in the Magic Valley area during World War II. He cites that Japanese American workers from Minidoka helped his family tremendously during the war, ultimately making the war years profitable for his family. Vaughn also explained his connection to George Nakashima, a prolific woodworker who was incarcerated at Minidoka. The speech provides context for the connections that Minidoka made between local citizens, and the sense of appreciation for Japanese Americans that local citizens held during and after the war.

Surveys and Cultural Resource Studies

Bergesser, Laura. "Main Gate House Excavations: Minidoka Internment National Monument," 2002. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 5. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

This document describes the findings of an archaeological investigation at Minidoka's Main/Entrance gate as a piece in early investigations into the existing cultural resources and artifacts at Minidoka National Monument. The report describes the findings simply and provides historic context for the resources uncovered at the site. The results from this archaeological survey influenced NPS's alternatives developed for the GMP.

Burton, Jeffery F. and Mary M. Farrell. *An Archeological Survey of the John Herrmann "Farm-In-A-Day" Property, Jerome County, Idaho. Publications in Anthropology* ,95. Tucson, Arizona: Western Archeological and Conservation Center, 2006

This report provides results and findings from the “Farm-in-a-Day” property’s archaeological survey which including buildings in original locations from Minidoka War Relocation Center, the home, and adjacent farm constructed in 1952.

Burton, Jeffrey F. “Trip Report, Minidoka Internment National Monument.” August 2002. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 5. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

The trip report explains the archaeological surveys and evidence collected at Minidoka National Monument in the year following the site’s designation. The report focused on the stone garden at the monument’s entrance, which provided the Minidoka Honor Roll’s location. The report also highlights the Military Police structures and evidence of a guard tower. Burton also explains the methods used by volunteers, students, and archaeologists during the survey to reveal the structures and archaeological evidence present at the site. One method involved cutting down grass and sagebrush that reached almost three feet tall. The report reveals the archaeological survey’s findings in a written format, providing evidence of specific buildings and structures in their original locations. Additionally the report demonstrates the types of materials used by incarcerated and the WRA to construct the site and features within the site.

Burton, Jeffrey F. and Mary M. Farrell. *This is Minidoka: An Archeological Survey of Minidoka Internment National Monument*, Idaho. Tucson, AZ: Western Archeological and Conservation Center, 2001.

Early archaeological survey at Minidoka early after the unit was established. Describes areas of cultural significance and cultural resources of interest uncovered during the archaeological survey. As the first NPS sponsored investigation at Minidoka National Monument, this report provides critical information about the existing cultural resources at the site and offered solutions to mapping Minidoka National Monument in alignment with the concentration camp’s historic features.

Burton, Jeffery F., Laura S. Bergstresser, Anna H. Tamura, and Western Archeological and Conservation Center (U.S.) *Archeology at the Gate; Archeological Investigations at the Entrance of the Minidoka Relocation Center*. (Tucson AZ: United States Department of the Interior National Park Service Western Archeological and Conservation Center, 2003).

The Minidoka National Monument’s entrance’s landscape archeological report. The extensive archaeological report follows up on previous investigations and includes findings from the military police and reception area as well as the rock garden and pathways laid at the former Minidoka Honor Roll, helping archaeologists piece together the camp’s key locations.

Japanese Americans in World War II: National History Landmarks Survey and National Register of History and Education, ed. Barbara Wyatt. National Park Service: Department of the Interior, 2004.

As directed by P.L. 102-248, approved by Congress in 1992, this Historic Landmark Survey seeks to identify key sites in the experience of forced removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II. The study, while identifying these landmarks, also assisted in determining their National Register of Historic Places listing eligibility, if an organization sought to nominate the property. In addition to expanding on previous works such as *Confinement and Ethnicity*, the Historic Landmark Survey also sought to increase public awareness and knowledge on the existing sites.

Merger, Amy Lowe. *Minidoka Internment National Monument Historic Resource Study*, Seattle: National Park Service, 2005.

Authored by consultant Amy Merger, hired by the National Park Service to assist on aspects of Minidoka's General Management Plan (GMP), the Minidoka Historic Resource study explores the history of forced removal and incarceration at Minidoka to assist NPS planners working on the GMP with identifying themes for the site's interpretation. The study expands beyond the site and frames it within the context of ethnic, Idaho, and military history.

Tamura, Anna H. *Minidoka Internment National Monument Cultural Landscape Inventory*. National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. Seattle: Columbia Cascades Support Office, 2007.

Created following the General Management Plan, Minidoka's Cultural Landscape Inventory sought to determine the National Monument's key physical features in need of preservation. The inventory assessed the contemporary conditions of each feature and the time period of cultural significance. Additionally, they provided management recommendations for each existing feature. As each unit became under NPS's management, federal law required NPS to complete a Cultural Landscape Inventory that contributed to a larger database. This inventory provided important information that allowed NPS to prioritize projects and components of implementing Minidoka's GMP.

Wing Luke Asian Museum Group. "Minidoka Internment National Monument, Alternatives Matrix and Alternatives Summary, Statement of Concerns." December 2003. MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 18. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

List of comments and notes from the Wing Luke Asian Museum regarding Minidoka National Monument's General Management Plan. Focuses on the legacy of Minidoka as significant to the interpretational planning for the site. Comments also raise the crucial concept surrounding terminology and clarifying the correct and historically factual terminology. The comments also seek to strengthen education and interpretation, especially with outreach. Specifically, the museum asks to emphasize on the broader educational themes addressed in the interpretive plan.

Zontek, Terry. "Minidoka Relocation Center." National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form. (Boise, Idaho: State Historical Preservation Office, Idaho State Historical Society, 1979).

The National Register of Historic Places nomination form to add Minidoka concentration camp to the list. The nomination included the military police entrance and visitation room along with several acres of public land. The public land, managed by the Bureau of Reclamation, provided little opportunity for farming as much of it still contained cement from the camp's operation. The

nomination of Minidoka to the National Register also marked the first sign of commemoration and recognition of Minidoka's past and historical significance from federal and state governments.

Wartime/WRA

"Memorandum for Mr. Eisenhower and Karl Bendetsen." 1942. Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 1, Folder 5. Albertsons Library Special Collections and Archives. Boise, Idaho. This memo describes the potential locations for Minidoka War Relocation Center based on criteria of remoteness, transportation, access to water, availability of public land, and potential for agriculture and reclamation project work.

Kleinkopf, Arthur. Relocation Center Diary: 1942-1946. Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 356, Box 12, Folders 23 and 24. Albertsons Library Special Collections and Archives. Boise, Idaho.

Diary written by Arthur Kleinkopf, the original superintendent of education at Minidoka War Relocation Center. Though many incarcerated also kept personal diaries, the Kleinkopf diary specifically explored the living conditions and the educational conditions at Minidoka. Kleinkopf also recorded aspects of daily life that incarcerated and staff experienced. The unique aspect of his diary, however, is that Kleinkopf remained at the site after all incarcerated left and witnessed the camp's liquidation and ultimately explained how the WRA transformed the former camp immediately after the war. Kleinkopf's diary remains a vital resource for current researchers because his writing reveals the experiences of incarcerated from someone who had insight knowledge into the WRA's perspective as well.

"Tule Lake Japanese to Arrive Soon," *North Side News*, (Jerome, Idaho). September 9, 1943:

6. https://jerome.advantage-preservation.com/viewer/?k=%22minidoka%22&i=f&d=01011908-12312008&m=between&ord=k1&fn=jerome_northside_news_usa_idaho_jerome194309_09_english_6&df=81&dt=90

Newspaper article from Jerome County describing the arrival of Japanese Americans transferring from Tule Lake War Relocation Center to Minidoka after the sorting of "loyal" Japanese Americans with the so-called "loyalty" questionnaire. The newspaper article describes the opinion of local white citizens regarding forced removal and confinement.

U.S. War Relocation Authority, "The Fence at Minidoka," Community Analysis Section, Project Analysis Series No. 4. Robert C. Sims Collection, MSS 365, Box 1 Folder 21, Albertsons Library Special Collections and Archives, Boise, Idaho.

Details the controversy of erecting a fence at Minidoka War Relocation Center and the fence's eventual electrification. This report also explains incarcerated Japanese American's reaction to the fence.

Secondary Sources

Commemoration

Bostwick, Erin Ruth. "Expanding a Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places: Minidoka Japanese Relocation Center in Jerome County, Idaho." Thesis. Sacramento California: California State University, 2015.

M.A. Thesis arguing for the expansion of Minidoka's National Register listing to incorporate the original 1979 listing into a "Minidoka National Historic District" encompassing the current National Park Service Unit and the "Farm-in-A-Day Property." Bostwick argues that the expanded boundaries for the historic district meet the criteria through historical significance with the Bureau of Reclamation's Soil Conservation work and the historic "Farm-In-A-Day" event of 1952, along with the forced removal and confinement of Japanese Americans. They maintain that the National Register listing of 1979 does not reflect the contemporary significance, additions and expanded boundaries of Minidoka National Monument to include the Hermann Farm property and the Robison property, purchased by the Conservation Fund, then purchased by the National Park Service for unit use after the passage of legislation. Bostwick also provides nomination forms for the site's expanded boundary, if passed by Congress.

"Bainbridge Island WWII Nikkei Exclusion Memorial." (Brochure) MIIN 349, Series II, Folder 7. Administrative and Resource Management Records Collection, Minidoka National Historic Site. Hagerman, Idaho.

Brochure for the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial. The brochure explains the purposes behind the memorial and educates visitors to the site about the removal of Japanese American from Bainbridge Island. The source demonstrates the significance of commemorating the confinement experience, but also the ways that the Japanese American community on Bainbridge Island partnered with the National Park Service to designate a memorial towards remembering the forced removal from the island.

Confinement

Books

Austin, Allan W. *From Concentration Camp to Campus: Japanese American Students and World War II*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2004.

Though widely discussed, but rarely researched, Allan Austin explores the history of Japanese American students that the WRA removed from their homes and incarcerated at concentration camps during World War II. This book explores the "leave" system by which a handful of students managed to leave the camps through, while also shedding light on the extremely difficult process of resettling outside the concentration camps before the war's end.

Austin, Allan W. *Quaker Brotherhood: Interracial Activism and the American Friends Service Committee, 1917-1950*, Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2012.

Through his research on Japanese American students, Austin Allan uncovered organizations and groups that assisted Japanese Americans resettle outside the concentration camps. In this book, published eight years later, he explores how Quakers, through the American Friends Service, worked to secure housing, education, and employment for Japanese Americans looking to leave the concentration camps.

An Eye for Injustice: Robert C. Sims and Minidoka, ed. Susan M. Stacy. Pullman, Washington State University Press: 2020.

This collection of essays and speeches by Robert C. Sims, the eminent scholar on Minidoka, examines the Japanese American incarceration at Minidoka and Governor Chase Clark's involvement in the incarceration. Additionally the book looks at the 442nd Regimental Combat

Team's formation and military achievements during the war. The publication's second explores Minidoka's preservation as a historic site and Sims' contributions to Minidoka's legacy.

Ash, Carol, Hanako Wakatsuki, Mia Russell. *Images of America: Minidoka National Historic Site*. Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2018.

Part of Arcadia Publishing's *Images of America* series, this book provides an overview of Minidoka concentration camp, beginning with the attack on Pearl Harbor, and ending with Minidoka NHS's contemporary preservation by the National Park Service. Filled with historic photos carefully curated by its authors, this book provides a site overview for a general audience.

Blankenship, Anne M. *Christianity, Social Justice, and the Japanese American Incarceration during World War II*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2016.

In this book, Religious historian Anne M. Blankenship presents the history of religion and Japanese American incarceration, seeking to explain how Christian organizations frequently acted with kindness and aid to their Japanese American communities. She argued that the Japanese American incarceration changed Christian institutions to work towards social justice and humanitarian aid. This book provides extensive information on the work of Christian ministers at Minidoka and the work they provided to their congregation.

Chiang, Connie Y. *Nature Behind Barbed Wire: An Environmental History of the Japanese American Incarceration*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2018.

Connie Y. Chiang's book *Nature Behind Barbed Wire* examines the Japanese American incarceration history through the lens of environmental history, pointing the several aspects in which the environment played a key role in shaping the incarceration experience. Though many scholars focused on agriculture and the isolation that the environment created, few scholars investigated the sense of "patriotic" environmental engagement. Connie's extensive research provides information about key themes related to the incarceration of Japanese Americans and contributes to Asian American history and environmental history through her analysis on the changed and changing environment.

Daniels, Roger. *Concentration Camps: North America, Japanese in the United States and Canada during World War II*. Florida: Krieger Publishing Company, 1981.

Written by Daniel Rogers, one of the most popular and well known scholars on Japanese American incarceration, this publication details the history of Japanese in the United States and Canada beginning with the immigration of Japanese during the Meiji Restoration until the early 1900s, up through the end of World War II. This book, published in 1981, came out before the Commission on the Wartime Internment of Civilians (CWRIC) finished recording testimonies and publishing them in *Personal Justice Denied*, yet includes research also used by the CWRIC during their investigation.

Daniels, Roger. Taylor, Sandra C. and Kitano, Harry H.L. (eds), *Japanese Americans from Relocation to Redress*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1986.

Published shortly before President Ronald Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act, this edited work examines the history of Japanese Americans in the United States from the time of immigration through the battle for redress. Works include essays from scholars on Japanese

American history and the intersections of psychology and sociology within Asian American studies.

Fiset, Louis, *Imprisoned Apart: The World War II Correspondence of an Issei Couple*.

Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1997.

After arriving in Seattle in 1919 with his bride, the FBI arrested teacher Iwao Matsutisha shortly following Pearl Harbor. His distraught wife, Hanaye, found out that the FBI incarcerated Iwao at Fort Missoula in Montana and began sending letters to him despite the potential dangers that lie in their Japanese correspondence. This book provides insight into the experiences that many families faced during World War II, especially as the government separated many *issei* from their families, leaving older women, such as those in Hayane's position, entirely alone amid wartime uncertainty. This book provides direct insight into these experiences, often not explored within Japanese American historiography because of language barriers.

Irons, Peter. *Justice at War: The Story of the Japanese American Internment Cases*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993.

As a legal scholar, Peter Irons wrote several books about the Supreme Court, court systems, social justice, and the American criminal justice system. In this book, Irons presents key evidence illuminating the Supreme Court's knowledge of documents that could have ended the incarceration. This book explores the debates surrounding the incarceration's constitutionality and constitutionality and the Supreme Court's reaction during and after the incarceration.

Kashima, Tetsuden. *Judgment Without Trial*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2003.

In this book, Tetsuden Kashima, who worked as a consulting scholar on Minidoka's General Management Plan, explores the long legacy of anti-Asian racism in the United States, arguing that this long-standing racism led to forced removal and incarceration. Kashima also examines underrepresented topics within the Japanese American incarceration historiography by looking at the unique circumstances of Alaskan, Hawaiian, and Latin American Japanese. Through his examination of letters, diaries, and oral histories, Kashima's work provides a deep history of Japanese and Japanese Americans in the United States and nearby areas.

McNoughton, James C. "Japanese Americans and the U.S. Army: A Historical Reconsideration." *Army History*, (2003).

Considered a journal of military history, this article, produced by a World War II military historian, asks other military historians to reconsider the loyalties of Japanese Americans during World War II. McNoughton analyzes the history of Japanese Americans serving in the Armed Forces during World War II, noting the 442nd Regimental Combat Team's military contributions. This article explains the 442nd Regimental Combat Team's history and their ties to Minidoka, seeking to reconsider how the United States portrayed Japanese Americans during the war.

Muller, Eric. *Free to Die for Their Country: The Story of Japanese American Draft Resisters from World War II*. University of Chicago Press: 2001.

Legal scholar Eric Muller's book explores the men who refused the draft reinstatement upon Japanese Americans after their forced removal and incarceration. Muller provides a brief overview of the forced removal and military status of Japanese Americans after the attack on

Pearl Harbor. Through extensive research, he explores how organized groups, such as the Fair Play Committee at Heart Mountain, differed from the individual resisters, such as those incarcerated at Minidoka. As a generally understudied topic, this book contributes to the scholarship significantly.

Muller, Eric. *An American Inquisition: The Hunt for Japanese American Disloyalty During World War II*. North Carolina: University of North Carolina Press, 2007.

Eric Muller's book on the U.S. government's goal to find "disloyalty" during the forced removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II provides extensive insight into the documents and intelligence that proved the incarceration unnecessary. In this book, Muller explains how President Roosevelt received documents from the Office of Naval Intelligence proving Japanese Americans as loyal citizens. Muller's book also researches the so-called "loyalty questionnaire," which created tensions and debate between WRA administration and incarcerated Japanese Americans.

Niewert, David. *Strawberry Days: How Internment Destroyed a Japanese American Community*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005.

Written by journalist David Niewert, this book explores how the forced removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans essentially destroyed a once-thriving Japanese American community in Bellevue, Washington. Bellevue produced several successful Japanese American farms that specialized in strawberries. However, after the U.S. government removed Japanese Americans from their farms and homes, competitive white farmers moved in, taking their land and, with it, their opportunity. This book ultimately explores Japanese American families' challenges in returning to their previous lives following World War II.

Robinson, Greg. *A Tragedy of Democracy: Japanese Confinement in North America*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2009.

Greg Robinson's book on the forced removal and incarceration of individuals of Japanese ancestry in North America explores the complex story in the United States, Canada, Alaska, and Hawaii. Most scholars relegate their work to the circumstances unfolding in the United States, but Robinson describes the similarities and differences between the removal and incarceration in the different regions. In addition to the incarceration process, Robinson, as a legal scholar, discusses the full and complex history, including the issues of military service, legal challenges, the loyalty questionnaire, and resettlement.

Tamura, Linda. *Nisei Soldiers Break their Silence: Coming Home to Hood River*. Washington: University of Washington Press, 2012.

As a descendant of incarcerated Japanese Americans, Linda Tamura explores the experiences of individuals serving in the United States military despite their incarceration. Specifically, her book examines Japanese Americans previously living in Hood River, Oregon, who, when returning to Hood River, faced discrimination. Tamura explores how this discrimination manifested in the American Legion chapter, which took down the names of Japanese Americans on their Honor Roll. This book helps to explain the experiences of individuals who returned to unwelcoming communities.

United States Commission on the Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians. *Personal Justice Denied*. Washington, DC: United States Printing Office, 1982.

After President Jimmy Carter created the Commission on the Wartime Internment of Civilians in 1980, he charged them with finding the causes behind wartime incarceration. After hundreds of testimonies in several cities throughout the United States, the Commission concluded their findings in *Personal Justice Denied*, arguing that the incarceration was caused by “racial prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership.” In the publication’s second part publication, they provided recommendations for reparations for incarceration, as proposed by the Japanese American Citizens League proposed. This report reveals the government’s findings on the incarceration and their note of what happened after extensive research and oral history interviews.

Unrau, Harlan D. *The Evacuation and Relocation of Persons of Japanese Ancestry During World War II: A Historical Study of the Manzanar Relocation Center*. United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1996.

This historic study researched Manzanar to complete a report for the National Park Service in 1996. This historical study seeks to understand the extensive history of Manzanar as a concentration camp. As the first former concentration camp designated under NPS, this survey provides extensive information on the wartime removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans. Though not related to Minidoka, this survey provides information on the forced removal and incarceration of Bainbridge Islanders, who were eventually incarcerated at Minidoka.

Articles

Austin, Allan W. “Eastward Pioneers: Japanese American Resettlement during World War II and the Contested Meaning of Exile and Incarceration.” *Journal of American Ethnic History* 26, no. 2 (2007): 58-86.

Authored by a scholar of Japanese American incarceration, specifically focusing on the topic of resettlement, Allan Austin’s article explores the process of Japanese Americans working to resettle during and after the war. This article also explores the meanings of incarceration and exile, which became a permanent reality for Japanese Americans. Austin’s article argues that Japanese Americans experienced exile through the government’s program to resettle them outside of the concentration camps.

Azuma, Eiichiro "Brokering Race, Culture, and Citizenship: Japanese Americans in Occupied Japan and Postwar National Inclusion." *The Journal of American-East Asian Relations* 16 no.3 (Fall 2009): 183-211

In the post-war occupation of Japan, several Japanese Americans confronted their identity through the acceptance of Japanese Americans by Japanese, including those working for the military. Azuma’s article explores the history of Japanese American service members in the reconstruction of Japan following World War II. This article describes with the preconceived notions that Japanese Americans held about Japanese and how these attitudes changed over time.

Azuma, Eiichiro, “A History of Oregon’s Issei, 1880-1952,” *Oregon Historical Quarterly* 94, no. 4 (1993): 315-357.

As an Asian American Scholar, Eiichiro Azuma’s article examines the immigration of Japanese to Oregon, their treatment in Oregon and their forced removal and incarceration. This article explores the types of jobs many first generation Japanese, also known as *issei* took in Oregon,

especially with the railroad's advancements and Euro-American migration to the American West. Azuma also explains the Japanese immigrants that started businesses, churches, and farms in Oregon before World War II. Azuma ends his narrative in 1952 because in that year, Congress passed the Immigration Act of 1952 which permitted Japanese immigrants to naturalize as citizens.

"Camp Harmony Exhibit." *University of Washington Library*, (accessed September 7, 2022).

<https://www.lib.washington.edu/specialcollections/collections/exhibits/harmony/exhibit>
Virtual exhibition published by the University of Washington Library about Camp Harmony at Puyallup fairgrounds. The exhibit explains the forced removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans from Washington and the conditions at the Puyallup fairgrounds that *Nikkei* endured.

Chiang, Connie Y. "Imprisoned Nature: Toward an Environmental History of the World War II Japanese American Incarceration." *Environmental History* 15, no. 2 (2010): 236–67.

In this article, environmental historian Connie Y. Chiang explores the environmental history of Minidoka and two other Japanese American concentration camps from World War II. Chiang's article discusses the isolation incarcerated *nikkei* experienced through their environmental surroundings at the concentration camp. The article also explores how the WRA purposefully selected the camps based on the environmental conditions and opportunities to change the landscape through agriculture.

Daniels, Roger. "The Exile and Return of Seattle's Japanese." *Pacific Northwest Quarterly* 88, no. 4 (1997):166-173.

This article, by Roger Daniels, describes the forced removal of Japanese Americans residents from Seattle. He describes their incarceration at the Puyallup detention center and Minidoka concentration camp. Daniels also explores the conditions surrounding Japanese Americans who returned to Seattle after the war and the circumstances of resettlement outside the concentration camps.

Fiset, Louis. "Thinning, Topping, and Loading: Japanese Americans and Beet Sugar in World War II," *Pacific Historical Quarterly* 90 no. 3, (Summer 1999): 123-135.

Louis Fiset, a dentist serving Alaskans and Aleuts, researched the forced removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans for decades, published a dozen peer-review essays and three books on the topic. This article explains the importance of sugar beets to the war effort and the ways in which incarcerated and "resettled" Japanese Americans proved themselves as a valuable labor source to harvest the necessary crop at a time when the United States faced extensive labor shortages. This article also analyzes the wartime agricultural production that many Japanese Americans contributed to.

Griffin, Tom. "The Stolen Years." *Columns- University of Washington*. (March 2006). 26-35.

This article, produced by the University of Washington *Column* student staff, seeks to explore the forced removal and incarceration of UW Japanese American students during World War II. Titled "The Stolen Years," the article examines how the incarceration impacted young individuals, ultimately disrupting their lives and planned trajectories. This article provides information about young individuals and the impact of incarceration on their lives.

“Interrupted Lives: Japanese American Students at the University of Washington, 1941-1942,” *University of Washington Library*, (accessed September 7, 2022).
<https://www.lib.washington.edu/specialcollections/collections/exhibits/harmony/interrupted>
[ed.](#)

Much like Tom Griffin’s article, this online exhibit explores the Japanese American students studying at the University of Washington before and after the attack on Pearl Harbor. The exhibit explores how the forced removal and incarceration interrupted the lives of individuals. By examining a handful of students, the exhibit becomes personalized and helps visitors understand the realities of incarceration on young individuals.

Langowski, Eric. “Education Denied: Indiana University’s Japanese American Ban, 1942 to 1945.” *Indiana Magazine of History* 115, no. 2 (2019): 65–115.

This article explores the challenges that many Japanese American students faced in trying to move outside of the American concentration camps. Individuals incarcerated at the concentration camps could leave after the 1943 “loyalty questionnaire” for school, given that the university accepted the student. However, many universities in the east created difficulties by not accepting Japanese American students. This article explores the Indiana University ban as a case study for the challenges Japanese Americans faced.

Lillquist, Karl. “Farming the Desert: Agriculture in the World War II-Era Japanese-American Relocation Centers.” *Agricultural History* 84, no. 1 (2010): 74–104.

When the War Relocation Authority created criteria for determining the Japanese American concentration camp’s future location, they also hoped that through these criteria, they could create work for Japanese Americans in “reclaiming” the desert by placing the concentration camps on Bureau of Reclamation land. This article explores the agricultural programs that the concentration camps managed, ultimately transforming many desert landscapes into arable farmland by implementing irrigation, removing sagebrush, and cultivating the land. Critical to Minidoka’s historic and contemporary interpretation, this article explores the concentration camps’ impact on agriculture.

Lee, Erika “The Chinese Exclusion Example: Race, Immigration, and American Gatekeeping, 1882-1924,” *Journal of American Ethnic History* 21 no. 3 (2002): 36–62.

Erika Lee, a scholar of U.S. Immigration explore the role of politics in excluding immigrations through the Chinese Exclusion Act and the Immigration Act of 1924. This article seeks to understand the implications of race in policy regarding immigration to the U.S. and how the United States wanted “gatekeep” or prohibit Asians from permanent settlement in the United States.

Lee, Erika “The ‘Yellow Peril’ and Asian Exclusion in the Americas.” *Pacific Historical Review* 76 no. 4 (2007): 537-562.

In her article, Erika Lee examines the supposed fear of Asians in the American continents and conversations taking place internationally about Asian immigration. Specifically looking at North and South America, she seeks to explore the discussions surrounding immigration and xenophobia that supported the national histories of countries in North and South America. Her article highlights the often underexplored topic of Asian immigration to South America and the

ways that Southern American countries also maintained exclusionary practices, much like the United States and Canada.

Limerick, Patricia Nelson. "Disorientation and Relocation: The American Landscape Discovered from the West," *Journal of American History* 79: 3, December (1992).

As a scholar of western and environmental history, Patricia Limerick explores the American West's landscape as discovered from the perspective of Asian immigrants, altering the traditional colonial settler narrative that romanticization of the American West perpetuates. This article describes this experience, including the less-than-lovely landscapes of incarceration throughout World War II as the United States forcibly removed and incarcerated Japanese Americans. In seeking to understand the American West's complexities Limerick's article offers insight into new framework of understanding.

Liu, Michael and Kim Geron "Changing Neighborhood: Ethnic Enclaves and the Struggle for Social Justice." *Social Justice* 35, no. 2 (112) (2008): 18-35.

This article, focused on issues in Social Justice, looks to describe how many Japanese American homes, vacated during the removal, found new owners in Jewish and Black communities. However, when some Japanese Americans returned after World War II, they found a diverse community in their once monolithic community.

McGovney, Dudley O. "The Anti-Japanese Land Laws of California and Ten Other States," *California Law Review* 35 no. 1 (1947): 7-60.

Written only two years after World War II ended, this article extensively explores the anti-Asian land laws created by western states as a response to Japanese immigration in the United States. In this article, McGovney looks at California's land law's legal implications and illustrates how many states restricted property rights to citizens based on race.

McNoughton, James C. "Japanese Americans and the U.S. Army: A Historical Reconsideration." *Army History*, (2003).

This article produced by World War II military historian James C. McNoughton, asks other military historians to reconsider the loyalties of Japanese Americans during World War II. McNoughton analyzes the history of Japanese Americans serving in the Armed Forces during World War II, noting the 442nd Regimental Combat Team's contributions. This article connections the 442nd Regimental Combat Team's histories ties to Minidoka and reconsiders the how the United States portrayed Japanese Americans during the war.

Montero, Darrel. "The Japanese Americans: Changing Patterns of Assimilation Over Three Generations." *American Sociological Review* 46, no. 6 (1981): 829-39.

This article, published in a sociological journal, seeks to understand the changes in attitudes toward assimilation that Japanese American families experienced. Published in 1980 as many *sansei* began having children, this article examines how Japanese Americans retained their Japanese culture while also seeking to assimilate within the United States based on the incarceration experience.

North, Hart H. "Chinese and Japanese Immigration to the Pacific Coast," *California Historical Society Quarterly* 28 no 4. (1949): 334-350

This article explores the immigration of Chinese and Japanese from Asia to the United States during the nineteenth century. Written only four years after the end of World War II, North explains how Japanese immigration followed Chinese immigration due to the lack of Chinese labor following the Chinese Exclusion Act.

Sakamoto, Taylor. "The Triumph and Tragedies of Japanese Women in America: A View Across

Four Generations." *The History Teacher* 41 no. 1 (2007): 97-122.

Taylor Sakamoto's article explores the history of Japanese women in the United States beginning with the *issei*'s immigration to the United States through the fourth generation, frequently known as the *yonsei*. This article discusses the gendered perspectives of immigration, identity, and culture from a generational lens. Sakamoto explores the meanings of incarceration and its impact on her family and her identity as a fourth generation Japanese American herself.

Sims, Robert C. "'A Fearless, Patriotic, Clean-cut Stand': Idaho's Governor Clark and Japanese-American Relocation in World War II," *Pacific Northwest Quarterly* no. 2 70, (April 1979): 75-81.

Considered the eminent scholar on Minidoka, this article explores the connection between Idaho Governor Chase Clark and the Japanese American incarceration at Minidoka. When the War Relocation Authority turned to Idaho as a location for the concentration camps, Gov. Chase Clark made publicly racist statements and expressed dissent towards immigrant labor in Idaho. After losing the 1942 Idaho election, Chase Clark became a federal judge and acted as the judge overseeing the draft resisters from Minidoka cases. This article explains the circumstance's irony and Gov. Chase's influence on the decision to incarcerate Japanese Americans in Idaho. Sims produced this article at a time in which Japanese American history started forming, and when the incarceration experience remained seldom discussed.

Sims, Robert C. "The Japanese American Experience in Idaho." *Idaho Yesterdays* 22 (1978): 2-10.

This article, published before Minidoka's National Register of Historic Places listing, explores the history of Japanese Americans in Idaho. Contemporary scholars, more aware of Minidoka, often fail to also recognize the strong Japanese American communities of Idaho Falls, Blackfoot, and Pocatello that sprung up through the railroad industry's growth in Idaho, and continued to remain active. Unlike their peers on the West Coast, the WRA didn't remove Japanese Americans living inland, primarily because they represented a small number. This article explores the overarching experience that Japanese Americans in Idaho underwent.

Sims, Robert C. "You Don't Need to Wait to Get Out: Japanese American Evacuees as Farm Laborers During World War II." *Idaho Yesterdays* 44 (Summer 2000).

Considered the eminent scholar on Minidoka, this article explores how incarcerated Japanese Americans at Minidoka worked as farm laborers as a way to leave the camps. Published in an Idaho historical journal, this article explores the contributions of Japanese Americans to agriculture during World War II.

Takai, Yukari. "Asian Migrants, Exclusionary Laws, and Transborder Migration in North America, 1880-1940." *OAH Magazine of History* 23, no. 4 (2009): 35-42.

Yukari Takai, a scholar of Asian immigration, explores the history of Asian immigration to North America and the exclusionary laws created to prevent migration. His article discusses the complicated “Gentlemen’s Agreement” between the United States and Japan that sought to prevent Japanese laborers from migrating, which in turn prompted a migration of Japanese women. This article helps to explore the causes and subsequent effects surrounding the Gentlemen’s Agreement on immigration in the United States.

Tamura, Anna Hosticka. “Gardens Below the Watchtower: Gardens and Meaning in World War II Japanese American Incarceration Camps.” *Landscape Journal* 23, no. 1 (2004): 1–21.

A descendant of Minidoka survivors, Anna Tamura worked as an intern for the National Park Service as Minidoka became a unit of NPS. As a landscape architect, she studied several units related to the Japanese American concentration camps including Minidoka and Manzanar, specifically focusing on ornamental rock gardens, which are among the concentration camp’s remaining features. This article specifically focuses on the ornamental rock gardens created at Minidoka and Manzanar, which she uncovered during initial archaeological studies at the site.

Taylor, Sandra. “Leaving the Concentration Camps: Japanese American Resettlement in Utah and the Intermountain West,” *Pacific Historical Review* 60 no. 2 (1991). 169-194.

Sandra Taylor’s article discusses the ways that Japanese Americans resettled in the United States interior, specifically in places such as Montana, Wyoming, Utah, and Colorado. Taylor specifically explores how early resettlers left the incarceration camps before the removal orders ended in 1945, explaining how work and school prompted resettlement. A relatively underexplored work, Taylor’s article explains the difficulties Japanese Americans faced in leaving the concentration camps which led to the War Relocation Authority evicting Japanese Americans from the incarceration facilities.

Villazor, Rose Cuison. “Rediscovering *Oyama v. California*: At the Intersection of Property, Race, and Citizenship,” *Washington University Law Review* 87 no. 5 (2010): 979-1042.

Rose Cuison Villazor examines the intersections of privilege in citizenship and race regarding property in this article. She looks at how race and citizenship informed property rights for Asians before 1952 through a legal perspective, specifically using the *Oyama v. California* case as a study. This article helps to explain the complications in the land laws that states created that prevented noncitizens from owning land.

Yamada, Jeni. “Legacy of Silence, II.” in Erica Harth, (ed.) *Last Witnesses: Reflections on the Wartime Internment of Japanese Americans*. New York: Palgrave MacMillan Press, 2003.

Essay of personal reflections from a descendant of a Minidoka survivor. Jeni Yamada explains how the incarceration of Japanese Americans affected her life, and how the incarceration experience impacted her family, especially her mother. For many descendants, their family members rarely, if ever, spoke about their World War II experiences, so Jeni reflects on learning from her mother about the confinement, and how it impacted several generations in their family.

Yamada Mitsuye. “Legacy of Silence, I.” in Erica Harth, (ed.) *Last Witnesses: Reflections*

on the Wartime Internment of Japanese Americans. New York: Palgrave MacMillan Press, 2003.

Personal essay from a survivor of Minidoka who reflected on her experiences of incarceration. She writes about the generational impact that the incarceration had both on her and her family, specifically speaking about her mother and the difficulties her mother experienced when speaking about their family's confinement.

Yasui, Barbara. "The Nikkei in Oregon, 1834-1940." *Oregon Historical Quarterly* 76, no. 3 (1975): 225–57.

Written by the daughter of Minoru Yasui, one of three men who protested against the incarceration of Japanese Americans by resisting the curfew, this article explores the history of Japanese in Oregon before World War II. Yasui explores the immigration of Japanese bachelors, their wives, who frequently immigrated as picture brides, and their settlement in Oregon. She also describes the communities that Japanese Americans created as their families grew and expanded.

Young, Morgen. "Russell Lee in the Northwest: Documenting Japanese American Farm Labor Camps in Oregon and Idaho." *Oregon Historical Quarterly* 114, no. 3 (2013): 360–64.

Russell Lee, hired by the United States government documented different Farm Security Administration camps throughout the United States as a governmental push to document the camps. In this article, Morgen Young explores how Russell Lee's documented the FSA camps, specifically those that housed incarcerated and formerly incarcerated Japanese Americans in Oregon and Idaho.

Redress and Reparations

Articles

Choi, Anne Soon "The Japanese American Citizens League, Los Angeles Politics, and the Thomas Noguchi Case," *Southern California Quarterly* Summer 2020, Vol. 102, No. 2 (Summer 2020), pp. 158-192.

This article explores the Dr. Thomas Noguchi Case with the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in which Noguchi appealed his dismissal on the basis of racism. This article explores postwar politics and the beginnings of the Japanese American redress and reparations movement, arguing that Dr. Thomas Noguchi's case essentially started the movement.

Cotter, Cornelius P. and J. Malcolm Smith. "An American Paradox: The Emergency Detention Act of 1950," *Journal of Politics* 19 no. 1 (1957): 20.

Written only seven years after the passage of the Emergency Detention Act, this article explores how the supposedly "democratic" and "free" nation also arbitrarily incarcerates their citizens through the Emergency Detention Act. Written by political scientists, this article explains how the United States Congress failed to understand the theoretical and practical implications of incarcerating citizens without trial and due process.

Fujino, Diane C. "Race, Place, Space, and Political Development: Japanese American

Radicalism in the “Pre-Movement” 1960s.” *Social Justice* Vol. 35, No. 2 (112), (2008): pp. 57-79

Diane Fujino, a Japanese American scholar who studies Japanese American resistance and activism, examines the post war activism of Japanese Americans during the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s. She argues that the battle for civil rights prompted many young activist who continued their work throughout the 1970s and 1980s fighting for Japanese American redress and reparations. By focusing on Yuri Kochiyama, Richard Aoki, and Mo Nishida, she explores three different geographical regions and the activist’s work in tregions that eventually united behind the JACL’s push for redress in the late 1970s and 1980s.

Hong, Jane. “A Cross-Fire between Minorities”: Black-Japanese Relations and the Empire Quota in the Postwar Campaign to Repeal Asian Exclusion.” *Pacific Historical Review* 87 no. 4 (2018): 667- 701.

This article examines the experiences of Japanese Americans interacting with Black Americans, who moved into the neighborhoods once consisting of primarily Japanese Americans. Additionally, this article explores activists sought to obtain the ability for Japanese to naturalize as citizens following World War II as the rise of communism contributed to U.S. immigration laws during the Cold War. Though Hong covers multiple topics in this article she also explores how Japanese Americans fought for their rights, causing tension with Black citizens in their own fight against injustice.

Izumi, Masumi. “Prohibiting “American Concentration Camps.” *Pacific Historical Review* 74, no. 2 (2005): 165–94.

This article explores the role of public memory in overturning Title II of the Internal Security Act which permitted the unauthorized search, seizure, and detention of American citizens on the basis of supposed espionage. Specifically, Izumi explains how Japanese American activists sought to repeal the act on the basis that the legislation mirrored similar language to that they witnessed during World War II.

Jenks, Hillary. “Bronzeville, Little Tokyo, and the Unstable Geography of Race in Post-World War II Los Angeles.” *Southern California Quarterly* Vol. 93, No. 2 (Summer 2011): 201-235.

Much like Hong’s article, Hillary Jenk’s article seeks to explore the changing dynamics of interracial and intercultural neighborhoods in the postwar period. This article argues that despite experiencing similar struggles, Jewish, Japanese, and Black citizens all struggled to understand the diverse and nonhomogenous neighborhoods of Los Angeles.

Nagata, Dorothy Jackie H. J. Kim, and Teresa U. Nguyen “Processing Cultural Trauma: Intergenerational Effects of the Japanese American Incarceration,” *Journal of Social Issues*, Vol. 71, no. 2. (2018): 356-367.

Written by social scientists, this article explores the ways that individuals process cultural trauma through generations, explaining how trauma manifests in the generations following those who experienced incarceration. This article also describes how silence played a role in the perpetuity of trauma that followed the incarceration through a family line. This article helps to explain why individuals might not have spoken about the incarceration to their family and how this manifests in the Japanese American descendant community today.

Okamura, Raymond. "Background and History of the Repeal Campaign." *Amerasia Journal* 2, no. 2 (Fall 1974): 73–94.

Raymond Okamura, a key participant in the campaign to repeal Title II of the Emergency Detention Act, explores the campaign's background. This article describes other key individuals who participated and the ultimate struggle to repeal the act during the Cold War, ultimately contributing to the foundations of successful Japanese American political activism against injustice.

Tateishi, John and William Yoshino. "The Japanese American Incarceration: The Journey to Redress." *Human Rights* 27, no. 2 (2000): 10-11.

Written by the JACL representative for the Redress Campaign, John Tateishi, this brief article explores the journey to redress and the many conversations required to gain JACL backing for redress. Additionally, Tateishi and Yoshino's article describes the specific approach that the JACL took in presenting the request for redress to Congress by basing their argument on the violation of constitutional rights.

Books

NPS History

Burton, Jeffrey F., Mary M. Farrell, Florence B. Lord, and Richard W. Lord. *Confinement and Ethnicity: An Overview of World War II Japanese American Relocation Sites*. Seattle, WA: University of Seattle Press, 2002.

This book set off a wave of federally-sponsored research into the Japanese American concentration camps from World War II after the publication's findings. This archaeological study also produced information on Minidoka, which led to the site's designation in 2001. Chapter 9 focuses on Minidoka and provides recommendations for the future development at Minidoka and the interpretation of the site.

Catton, Theodore and Diane L. Krahe. *The Sands of Manzanar: Japanese American Confinement, Public Memory, and the National Park Service*. (National Park Service, 2018).

Administrative history for Manzanar National Historic Site. Details Manzanar National Historic Site's history. The historic background explores the causes and consequences of the Japanese American incarceration at Manzanar, which operated as the first concentration camp in 1942. Congress designated the site as a National Historic Site in 1996, representing the first of ten Japanese American concentration camps established as a Historic Site under the National Park Service.

King, Neil and Fredrick F. York, "Close to Eden in Idaho, the Minidoka Internment National Monument." *Cultural Resource Management Bulletin: A National Park Service Technical Bulletin* 24 no. 5 (2001).

A National Park Service publication describing the establishment of Minidoka National Monument. King and York detailed the community involvement required for the designation, and the individuals and organizations who aided in establishing the park.

Louter, David. *Craters of the Moon Administrative History*. Seattle: National Park Service, 1992. Administrative History of Craters of the Moon National Monument detailing the history of the unit from designation up to the late 1980's. This publication offers insight into how Congress established National Parks in Idaho. The Administrative History also explains why the unit's geological and scientific properties helped propel it to National Park status.

Mackintosh, Barry. "The National Park Service: A Brief History." Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1999. (Accessed September 7, 2022).
http://npshistory.com/publications/brief_history/index.htm

A brief history surrounding the ideas that shaped the National Park Service and the National Park Service's foundations as a federal agency. This publication also includes the history of federal protections, funding, and establishment of parks before the National Park Service was created, including those designated under the Antiquities Act.

Western History

Pitzer, Paul. "A 'Farm-in-a-Day': The Publicity Stunt and the Celebrations that Initiated the Columbia Basin Project," *Pacific Northwest Quarterly* 82, no.1 (Jan. 1991): 2-7.

In this article, Paul Pitzer explores one of many publicity stunts, such as the "Farm-in-A-Day" event that gathered over 300 volunteers near Moses Lake, Washington. The project's end goal aimed to highlight the importance Grand Coulee Dam's importance. Located in Washington, the ad specifically makes claim to the Dam's significance with agriculture. Though located in Washington, this project highlights one of many "Farm-in-A-Day" events that took place in the 1950s as advertisement, trying to gather support for federal water projects. This article investigates these events and the ways in which they gathered support for such projects.

Hayashi, Robert T. *Haunted By Waters: A Journey through Race and Place in the American West*. University of Iowa: 2011.

In this book, Robert T. Hayashi investigates the history of race and religion in Idaho, through his study of how water shaped Idaho history. As a descendant of an individual who incarcerated, and ultimately passed away at Minidoka, Hayashi explores the role of water in shaping the incarceration of Japanese Americans at the site. Though his book explores the experiences of ethnic, racial, and religious minorities in Idaho, he devotes significant time to Japanese Americans in Idaho, placing the Idaho landscape in the forefront of his investigation of place.

Videos

Harpers Ferry Center, "Minidoka: An American Concentration Camp." Youtube. June 16, 2020. 30:01. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m0xBBXSdONY>

Minidoka National Historic Site's Park Film addresses issues of racism, removal, and incarceration. The video discusses facets of the incarceration experience specific to Minidoka such as the removal of Bainbridge Island Japanese Americans, the many baseball fields at Minidoka, along with themes of patriotism and loyalty surrounding the so-called "loyalty questionnaire" and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. As this video is Minidoka's park film, the source plays into outreach and interpretation at the site and demonstrates the various themes which NPS aims to address in their interpretive programming.

JAMP. "Minidoka Survivors Panel." Youtube Livestream. January 17, 2021. 1:37:35.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pH2iNqT1hEQ&list=PLymHxJdGKJOC9G7o88YsftmGkcOpOl-r>

Survivors of Minidoka, with moderator Erin Aoyama, discuss their memories of Minidoka. Survivors explain their background, their family, and their childhood experiences of confinement at Minidoka. Survivors describe the prejudice and racism they faced after the attack on Pearl Harbor, and after being released from Minidoka. Video also addresses the sense of community among survivors and NPS preservation at Minidoka NHS.

JAMP. “The Origin Story of Minidoka.” Youtube Livestream. January 17, 2021. 1:44:55.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rwfKmOwvyXM&list=PLymHxJdGKJOC9G7o88YsftmGkcOpOl-r_&index=2

In this video, panelists discuss the origin story of Minidoka National Historic Site and their memories related to the site’s designation in 2001. NPS representatives, past and present also explore the park’s planning and engagement with the Minidoka survivor and descendant community. Additionally, several panelists explain their involvement in annual pilgrimages to the site, directly connecting the survivor and descendant community with the National Park Service..

JAMP. “The Origin Story of the Minidoka Pilgrimage.” Youtube Livestream. January 17, 2021. 1:42:20.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=twy7r_W3gvI&list=PLymHxJdGKJOC9G7o88YsftmGkcOpOl-r_&index=3

In this video, panelists discuss the Minidoka Pilgrimage’s origins and their involvement in establishing, planning, and conducting the annual pilgrimages. Much of the video contains questions from viewers and answers from the panelists. Ultimately recognizes the sense of community and the significance of the annual pilgrimages to Minidoka National Historic Site as an act of commemoration, learning, and healing. This video also addresses the sense of community in the story of Minidoka National Monument.

Websites

Minidoka Guard Tower Reconstruction. Accessed November 1, 2022.

<https://minidokaguardtower.weebly.com/minidoka-history.html>

Website created by Boise State Construction Management students to detail the plans and phases of their guard tower reconstruction project at Minidoka National Historic Site. The website explains the modeling process and the construction process. The website also provides the names of individuals and organizations involved in the process of reconstructing the historic guard tower, including both construction management students and history students.