

United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Pacific Northwest Region
1150 North Curtis Road, Suite 100
Boise, Idaho 83706-1234

IN REPLY REFER TO:
PN-3100
WTR-4.10

NOV 23 2005

RECEIVED
NOV 28 2005
Department of Water Resources
Eastern Region

Mr. Ernie Carlsen
Idaho Department of Water Resources
Eastern Regional Office
900 North Skyline Drive, Suite A
Twin Falls, ID 83402

Subject: Snake River Basin Adjudication, Late Notice of Claim to a Water Right Acquired Under State Law, Walcott Park, Minidoka Project

Dear Mr. Carlsen:

Enclosed please find a copy of the Late Notice of Claim for Walcott Park and a copy of a report entitled "Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation Annual Project History, Report of Construction and Operation and Maintenance for Minidoka Project, Idaho, Volume XXXIII" issued in 1939. If you have any questions, please contact me at 208-378-5306.

Sincerely,

E. Gail McGarry
Program Manager
Water Rights & Acquisition

Enclosures

cc: Ms. Dala Walton
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Snake River Area Office-East
1359 Hansen Avenue
Burley, ID 83318

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

ANNUAL PROJECT HISTORY

REPORT

OF

CONSTRUCTION

AND

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

MINIDOKA PROJECT

IDAHO

Project, Minidoka Dam and Mill with Hydropower and Storage
and Flood Control, and also New for all-around Gridding.

VOLUME XXXIII

CALENDAR YEAR 1939

Dam and Headworks: During the spring months all headgates and head-gate lifts were overhauled and repaired. Three hundred new flash boards were required in the spillway section of the dam, and the walk was repaired where needed. Repairs were also made to spillway lights that were broken by shooting and throwing of rocks.

Camp Cottages and Grounds: Several old cottonwood trees were cut down to allow room for new hardwood trees that are making a good growth. Barbed wire fences around the orchard and some in the park area were dismantled, and grounds cleaned. A new 150-gallon, 100-foot head centrifugal pump was installed on the canal bank near the office building for lawn irrigation around the cottages. The two-stage, 150 gallon pump that was located at this place was moved about 100 feet down the canal, and pipe was laid from this pump to irrigate four lawns on the west side of the grounds. This relieved the demand from the camp domestic supply for this purpose. Gravel was hauled to raise the surface of all roads, and two of the septic tanks serving the cottages were reconditioned. The rooms of six of the cottages were calcimined, woodwork painted where necessary, and roofs repaired and stained.

Substations: All substations were operated the entire year except the Miller substation which was operated forty-seven minutes on July 2, to carry part of the load on the east and south side of the project, while the Idaho Power Company was repairing their 132 Kv. line at American Falls. The Miller substation is at the Burley end of the 44 Kv. line to Milner. All substations showed an increase in load and output for the year both in commercial load and in that used for drain pumps. Paul substation had the largest increase in load in comparison as to size, the increased demand being 31 per cent. All relays were

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

* * *

ANNUAL PROJECT HISTORY

* * *

REPORT OF
CONSTRUCTION
and
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE
for
MINIDOKA PROJECT, IDAHO

* * *

Vol. 54

* * *

CALENDAR YEAR 1940.

ANNUAL PROJECT HISTORY

REPORT OF
CONSTRUCTION
and
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE
for
MINIDOKA PROJECT, IDAHO

* * *

Vol. 34

CALENDAR YEAR 1940.

[illegible]

Dam and Headworks. Two new bearing caps and two new pinions were installed in the South Side canal headgate lifts and the gate stems were cleaned and given two coats of coal tar. The north and south entrances to the dam and spillway were fenced off, gates installed with locks, and no admittance signs posted above the gates to prevent visitors from crossing the dam. Repairs were made to the ice boom and about 150 new flashboards were placed in the spillway section of the dam.

Camp Cottages and Grounds. Two new cottages were built to be used as a field office and a dormitory during construction of the seventh unit. Most of the labor was supplied by construction forces, but a large part of the excavation and all of the electric wiring was performed by operation and maintenance forces. Building material was also supplied by the O&M department.

A new, 2 second-foot, vertical, centrifugal pump was installed east of the CCC camp to supply irrigation water to the camp and to the recreation areas. An extension of two feet was built on each side of the camp garage to make room for the longer, new model cars. The upper rooms in the mess house were calcimined and repairs were made to other houses where necessary.

The bay used as a swimming pool was cleaned out and excavated, and a foundation for a boathouse was constructed by CCC forces. This work was performed while the lake was at elevation 4236.

Substations. All substations were operated the entire year, except the Miller substation, which was operated for 20 minutes on May 30 to carry part of the load on the east and south sides of the project

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

1963
ANNUAL HISTORY
OF THE
MINIDOKA AREA PROJECTS

VOLUME 57

Burley, Idaho
Calendar Year 1963

Four 18-8 stainless steel inserts were received from McFee and Hogan Machine Works of Salt Lake City, Utah on June 30, for the vanes of a spare turbine runner for Units 1-5. These vanes will be installed on an experimental basis by project personnel to determine if satisfactory reconditioning of the old runners can be accomplished. If so, remaining 14 vanes will be obtained and runner made ready for replacement of Unit 2 runner next overhaul season.

Camp and Other Buildings -

Irrigation sprinkler system was extended to lawns of Houses 11 and 12.]*

Routine maintenance was performed on camp houses and buildings which included painting of roofs of Houses 11, 12, 16, 17, 18 and 19. Exterior and interior painting of Houses 11, 12, 18 & 19; replacing window putty on all buildings as required; repairing basement leaks in Houses 11 and 12; replacement of kitchen sinks and cabinet tops in Houses 11 and 12.

Warning and regulatory traffic signs were placed along access road to Minidoka Dam. Parking signs were installed along river road to help control fishermen parking along the road. Rock barriers were placed along access road near a rock cliff to eliminate the hazard of rocks falling on the road. Bridge and road repairs were made as necessary which primarily consisted of patchwork and replacing planking on the bridge.

The VHF radio base station was repaired and painted and a 220 volt circuit installed for electric heat.

A new storehouse and office building roof was installed. The interior of the building was repainted. Regrading was done around the building to improve drainage and prevent water accumulation. Fluorescent lights were installed to replace obsolete incandescent light fixtures.

Customers -

Burley Irrigation District -

Electricians replaced the station service board at 2nd Lift Pumping Plant. Insulation resistance tests were made on all pump motors and exciters. Watt-hour meters and relays were also tested.

Bureau of Indian Affairs -

All watt-hour meters were jointly tested with Idaho Power Company.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

1966
ANNUAL HISTORY
OF THE
MINIDOKA AREA PROJECTS

VOLUME 60

Burley, Idaho
Calendar Year 1966

Camp Maintenance

General -

No parking signs were installed along the camp entrance road at the "end-way" area and load limit signs were installed at the entrance road and bridge.

Camp irrigation pump No. 5 was removed for inspection and maintenance. *

Electrical service to house No. 11 was replaced.

The interior of house No. 19 was repainted.

Strong east winds blew a large tree out over the 2.3 kv. camp circuit. Resulting damage was two broken conductors and a broken cross arm which were repaired.

Six large trees were felled and removed from the camp area.

New kitchen cupboards were added to house No. 19.

A leaking water heater in house No. 18 at Minidoka Dam was replaced.

Miscellaneous Maintenance

1. Semi-annual fire extinguisher maintenance.

2. Domestic water pump No. 2 was removed for inspection and bearing replacement.

3. The steel derrick hoisting equipment in the 34.5 kv. switchyard at Minidoka Dam was inspected and lubricated.

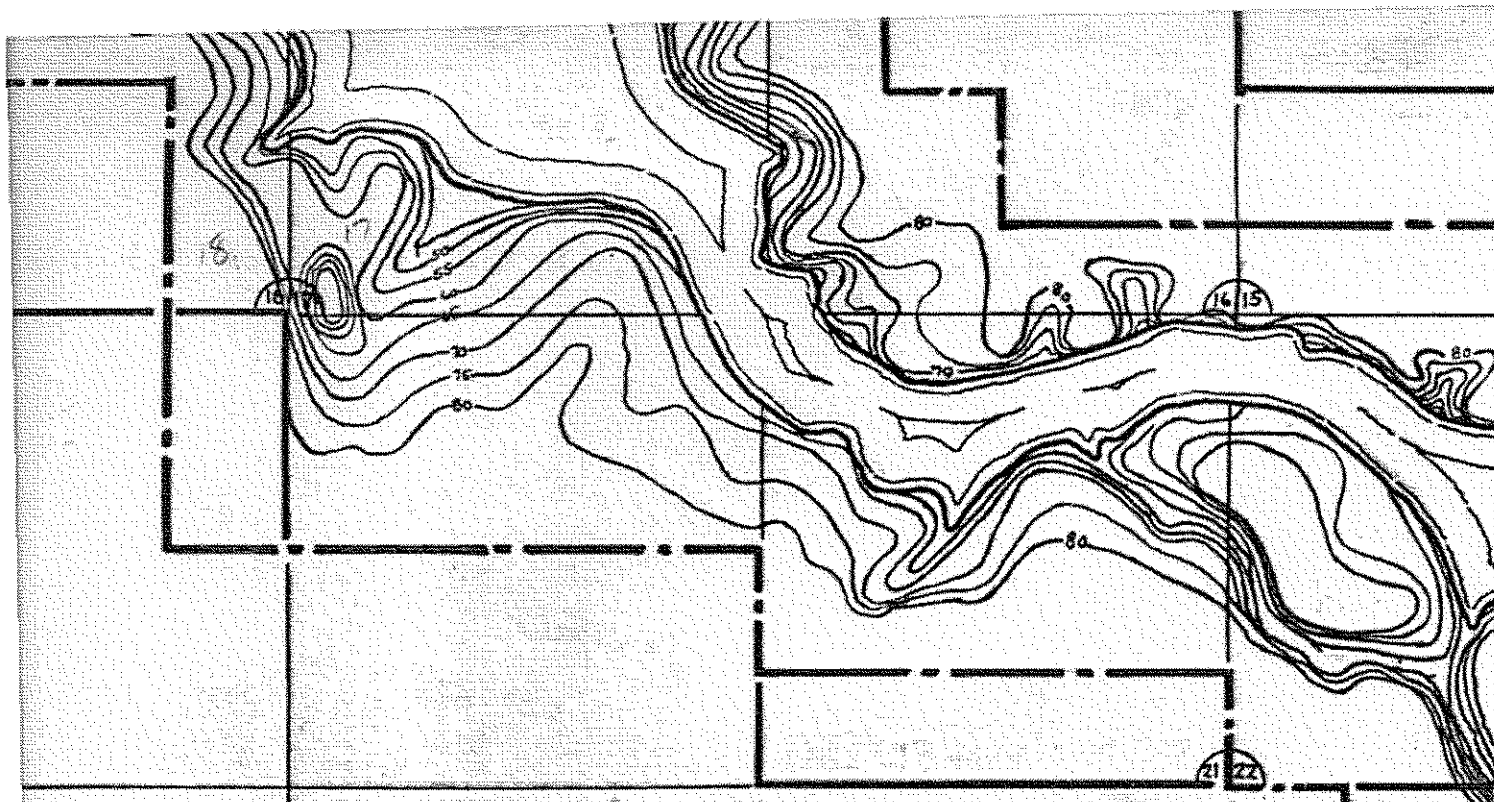
4. Replacement of circuitry for units 1-6 transformer temperature alarms was started in December and will be completed this winter as time permits.

5. A short section of conduit and wiring for the 138 kv. switchyard 10 volt, a-c lighting system was replaced when the circuit became grounded in the conduit.

6. The pneumatic governor pressure switch for Interconnection Bank No. 1, 5 kv. OCB 1742 was replaced.

7. Weathered warning signs in the plant and switchyard areas were replaced with new signs.

8. A barrier was installed in the security fence at Minidoka Dam in place between the canal entrance gate and fence which was large enough for a small person to slip through.



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
MINIDOKA PROJECT, IDAHO
**WALCOTT PARK
RESERVED AREA MAP**

DRAWN BY: R. G. Redell LA SUBMITTED BY: _____
TRACED BY: R. G. R. RECOMMENDED BY: _____
CHECKED BY: _____ APPROVED BY: _____

CCC CAMP DR9 GUERNSEY, WYO. 17-107-374
MARCH 9, 1938

MINIDO
BLAIN

WALCOTT PARK
ADMINISTRATIVE AREA
OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

L

A

R. 25 E.B.M.

R. 26 E.B.M.

BOUNDARY

OF B.





Historic American Buildings Survey

W A L C O T T P A R K

HABS No. ID-103; Minidoka County, Idaho

submitted to:

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Pacific Northwest Regional Office
150 North Curtis Road
Boise, ID 83706

produced by:

FRASERdesign
P.O. Box 6025
Loveland, CO 80537

and:

Hess Roise and Company
100 North First Street
Minneapolis, MN 55401

March 1998

the slope at approximately ten-foot intervals. They then tied strings to the batter boards and ran them horizontally across the face of the embankment, thereby establishing a guide for both the angle of the slope and the depth of the riprap. After these preparations, they dry-laid the lava rock in random courses on the embankment, placing the first course in a toe trench at the foot of the incline so as to provide a stable base for the rest of the wall. The size of the stone varied from about one to two feet in diameter. The enrollees finished the work by hand-filling the joints between the riprap with loose gravel.¹¹

The CCC also built a stone retaining wall for a parking area at the north end of the Old Park. In the late 1970s, however, this feature was partially demolished by the Young Adult Conservation Corps [YACC], a federally funded youth-training program established by Congress in 1977 along the lines of the CCC. From 1978 to 1980, YACC enrollees completed a number of minor improvement projects at Walcott Park, including the construction of an open-air picnic shelter in the Old Park's north parking area in 1978.¹²

The YACC picnic shelter rests on a concrete slab, measuring about 60 feet east-west by 20 feet north-south. The shelter itself is roughly 20 feet square, with a wood-shingle-clad, hipped roof supported on wood posts, four to a side. Within the shelter is a massive, rectangular-plan, rubble, lava-rock fireplace with barbecue grates on the north and south sides. Rising from the fireplace is a broad, rectangular chimney that pieces the ridge of the roof.

On the south and east, the picnic shelter overlooks a rubble, lava-rock retaining wall, approximately 150 feet in length and three feet in height.¹³ The wall has a slight batter, reminiscent of stonework built by the CCC for parking areas in the vicinity of the New Park. The individual stones, however, are laid in relatively recent mortar, suggesting that the CCC's original retaining walls at the site were extensively reworked during the picnic shelter's construction.

NEW PARK

Between 1938 and 1941, the CCC expanded the recreational area at Walcott Park by filling and leveling land for new picnic areas located along the shore to the north and south of a small peninsula, which was being developed during this same period as a headquarters compound for the Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge.¹⁴ To provide vehicular access to the "New Park," as it was called,

¹¹See HABS Photos ID-103-27 and 28.

¹²See HABS Photos ID-103-27 and 28.

¹³See HABS Photos ID-103-32 through 36 for views of the New Park area.

The lane has double-battered walls, which are about two feet thick at the roadway level and one-foot-thick at the parapet.^a According to a photograph of the wall under construction, the CCC masons achieved a uniform slope on both sides of the wall by using free-standing, A-frame batter boards.^b The parapet course consists of well-worked, oblong, lava-rock blocks, approximately ten inches by four inches by four inches.^c The blocks are mortared in place in pairs, longitudinally, side-by-side, with the outer edges tilted slightly upward in a "V". Below the parapet, the walls are mortared, randomly laid stone, with individual pieces measuring about six to nine inches in diameter in the plane of the wall. Mortar joints are one to two inches wide. With its double batter and ornamental parapet, the stone-walled lane represents Walcott Park's most elegant expression of the CCC rustic aesthetic.

Compared to the Old Park, the New Park is lightly wooded: a few solitary, mature cottonwoods shade the picnic lawns, while a variety of younger deciduous growth fringes the shoreline. The area's verdure, however, is in sharp contrast with the sagebrush desert that encroaches from the north and northwest. From 1940 to 1942, the CCC constructed an irrigation system for the New Park that drew water from a lakeshore pump installed in a cove just to the north of the Wildlife Refuge Headquarters.^d The pump boosted water into a stone-walled ditch, located about 300 feet east, on the west side of the lakeshore drive. Running northwesterly for approximately 250 feet, the ditch gravity fed an unlined lateral looping northeast to irrigate the new lakeshore picnic areas.^e

Although obscured by brush, the stone-walled irrigation ditch still survives. It is approximately 2½ feet deep, with vertical, rubble, lava-rock walls. Although the stonework was originally dry laid, patches of the wall have been mortared to increase stability. The bottom of the ditch is earthen and measures about 2½ feet in width. In addition to watering the New Park, the CCC irrigation system also served portions of the Old Park. Water was diverted southward to this area by means of an underground concrete pipe connected to a concrete turnout at the head, or south end, of the stone-walled irrigation ditch.^f

^aSee HABS Photos ID-103-22 through 25.

^bSee HABS Photo No. ID-103-117.

^cSee HABS Photo ID-103-29.

^dSee HABS Photo ID-103-43.

^eSee HABS Photo ID-103-44.

^fSee HABS Photo ID-103-45.

either been developed by private individuals or state and municipal agencies. Some had no public facilities at all, but were receiving public use nevertheless. Walcott Park was one of the few sites developed by Reclamation itself.¹¹⁴

Despite Reclamation's willingness to promote its "pleasure resorts" from time to time, the agency did not consider recreation to be one of its responsibilities. As defined by the Reclamation Act of 1902, Reclamation saw itself as a single-purpose agency: its mission was to provide water for irrigation. Recreational development, although widely demanded, was outside its jurisdiction. That Walcott Park existed at all was strictly fortuitous—the result of geographic circumstance and local good will. Originally the park had been developed as a small garden for the government housing camp at the dam. The decision to maintain it and enlarge it for public use was made independently by Minidoka Project officials, and did not reflect an official Reclamation policy to develop recreational resources.

This situation was to change dramatically in the 1930s. In the last half of the decade, New Deal legislation suddenly provided Reclamation with the manpower and funding to develop recreational facilities. Walcott Park, in need of expansion since the 1920s, became a target for improvement. Even more significantly, Reclamation re-examined its list of priorities by the end of the decade. Responding to public demand, New Deal philosophies, and an emerging doctrine of "mixed use," the agency eventually added recreational development to its list of responsibilities.

5

1935-1942: WALCOTT PARK AND THE CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS

More than any other period, the years from 1935 to 1942 had a profound affect on the appearance of Walcott Park. Other than a few random improvements, the park had remained relatively unchanged since the 1910s. With the advent of the New Deal, however, the park underwent a major and systematic transformation within only a few years. The agent of this metamorphosis was the Civilian Conservation Corps [CCC].

The CCC was in the vanguard of New Deal relief programs established by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Created on March 31, 1933, and reorganized in 1937, the CCC was responsible for employing men between the ages of 17 and 23. The youths were to perform conservation work, often on federal land, serving for six-month "enrollment periods." Each state was allowed to enroll one youth for every 400 residents. After 1937 the total number of enrollees was limited to 315,000 and service restricted to two years.¹¹⁵

This turnover was typical of most CCC camps, and BR-27 generally received a new contingent of men, as well as a new commanding officer, at least once a year. BR-27 continued to draw enrollees from the Fifth Corps area, as well as the Second Corps area, which included New York and New Jersey. A small number of local men, usually no more than ten at a time, also served at BR-27 during each enrollment period.¹²²

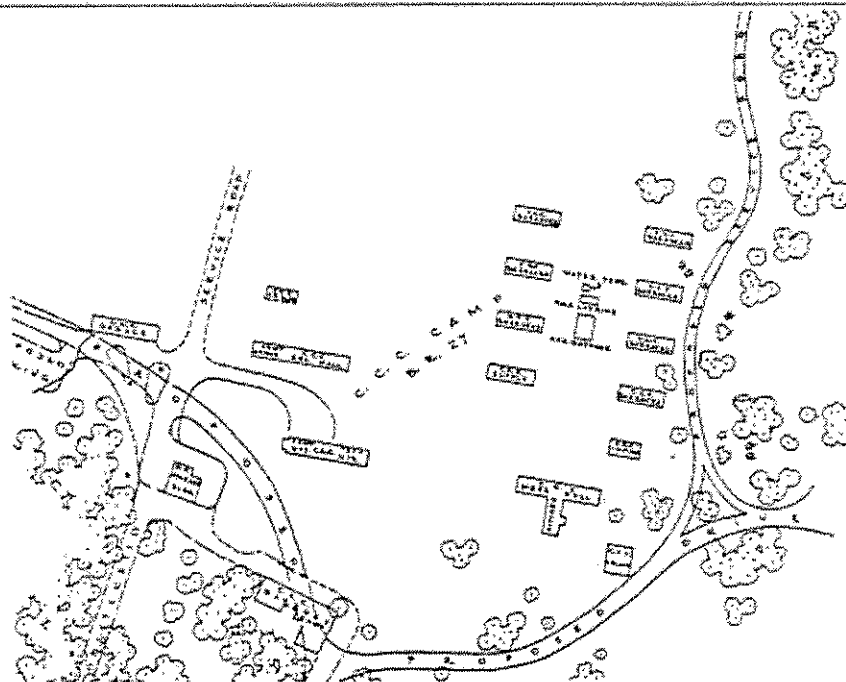


Figure 14. Site plan of C.C.C. Camp, excerpted from drawing by Bureau of Reclamation, February 1936.

Although the commanding officer was responsible for the care of the men and the maintenance of the camp, he had little authority over the work performed by the enrollees. On the Minidoka Project, as on other Reclamation irrigation projects, the reigning Project Manager drew up the CCC work plan as part of his general duties, and a camp superintendent and foremen, assigned by the CCC, supervised the men at work. At BR-27, Louis Petzoldt served as camp superintendent from 1936 until the camp closed in 1941, assuring a continuity of authority despite the routine turnover of camp commanders.

Darlington, the Minidoka Project Manager, submitted his first work program for BR-27 in March 1935, outlining 15 projects ranging from the "improvement of the sewer system for public recreational grounds at Minidoka Dam" to "hauling rock and riprapping lateral banks in Burley Irrigation District." Riprapping and other canal improvements eventually proved to be the CCC's main task on

the Minidoka Project.* According to written estimates, the enrollees of the two camps performed over 400,000 man-days of labor, at least 62 percent of which was spent working on the canals. Park improvements were also a high priority. From the opening of BR-27 to the time the last camp closed on the Minidoka Project, the CCC devoted over 100,000 man-days, or 25 percent of its total time, to landscaping and making other improvements in Walcott Park.¹²³

The remainder of the CCC's time on the Minidoka Project was spent on various small projects (e.g., excavating an access road to the lower level of the powerhouse). The CCC also undertook a modest work program for the U.S. Biological Survey, an agency within the Department of Agriculture. With Reclamation's approval, the Biological Survey used CCC labor to improve the Minidoka Wildlife Refuge. This work included fencing parts of the refuge, creating feeding and nesting areas for migratory birds, and building a headquarters for refuge personnel. Located adjacent to Walcott Park, this headquarters became, for all practical purposes, part of the park landscape.

CCC enrollment dropped after 1937, as the nation's economic outlook began to improve. Sensing the program was no longer needed, Congress reduced the CCC's budget after 1938 and began discussing disbanding the agency. Due to budget reductions and enrollment shortages, Reclamation closed Camp Minidoka in July 1941. BR-56, located in Paul, remained in operation until May 1942, closing only a few months before the end of the CCC program. The Minidoka Project Manager chose to close BR-27 before the camp at Paul specifically because of its proximity to the Reclamation housing camp and Walcott Park, although these facilities had originally been key reasons for opening the camp in that location. As the Project Manager explained, the CCC's improvements to the park no longer made the site suitable for an enrollee camp:

Discharge from [BR-27's] sewage system empties into the lake at several points where recreationists at the park desire to swim... The enrollees interfere with the pleasure and privacy of residents and recreationists at that place and ignore the restrictions regarding firearms in the game refuge and on the dam. The presence of the buildings and activities of the camp are a hindrance to the park development.¹²⁴

Reclamation and the Army demolished most of the BR-27 buildings soon after the camp's closure. The Army originally wanted to preserve the structures, but during World War II Reclamation was concerned that they represented a security risk to the power plant by providing potential cover for saboteurs.¹²⁵ The CCC's work in Walcott Park was among its most significant accomplishments on the Minidoka Project. The following sections will examine this undertaking in greater detail, beginning with Reclamation's plans to improve the park.

*See HABS Photos ID-103-103 through 106 for views of CCC canal construction.