

DEER CREEK DAM, CCC GOVERNMENT CAMP, CHICKEN COOP
386 feet/300° from Brick Residence No. 1
Charleston vicinity
Wasatch County
Utah

HABS UT-137-G
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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

**HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
DEER CREEK DAM, CCC GOVERNMENT CAMP,
CHICKEN COOP**

HABS No. UT-137-G

Location: 386 feet/300° from Brick Residence A (UT-137-A), Charleston vicinity, Wasatch County, Utah.

Quad: Aspen Grove, Utah:1993; Charleston, Utah:1993.

UTM: Zone 12, 454699mE 4472590mN

Date of Construction: unknown

Present Owner: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Provo, Utah.

Present Use: The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation leases the camp area to the State of Utah for the purpose of housing employees engaged at state recreational sites in the Deer Creek Reservoir area, such as the Wasatch Mountain State Park.

Significance: The government camp for Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) workers was established southwest of the Deer Creek Dam site in 1938 and was disbanded in 1941 with the completion of the dam's construction. The CCC was a federal work program introduced by President F. D. Roosevelt's historic New Deal plan in 1933 as a response to massive unemployment spurred by the Great Depression. The CCC workers housed at the Deer Creek camp played a major role in the construction of the Deer Creek Dam and the Provo River Project at large. They provided labor for railroad and highway reconstruction; dismantling of the old railroad grade and structures; clearing of the damsite and other project lands; and manual labor on the construction projects themselves, such as hand excavation and form building at the dam. The Deer Creek Dam was constructed as the key structure of the Bureau of Reclamation's Provo River Project, the largest water resource development project undertaken in Utah. It was the second largest earth fill

dam constructed by Reclamation at the time, and Reclamation's first project intended to provide domestic water. The Provo River Project followed a precedent of 40 Federal reclamation projects that had been or were nearly completed by 1930. Its construction was during a significant period of accelerated American infrastructure development founded on technological investment intended to make the West a sustainable, viable, and profitable landscape. The CCC workers housed at the Deer Creek camp played a significant role toward these ends. For additional information regarding the construction of the Deer Creek Dam, refer to "Deer Creek Dam," HAER No. UT-93.

Project Statement:

This HABS project was undertaken by the Utah Department of Transportation in order to document the historic features of the camp prior to the realignment and improvement of U. S. Highway 189 in the area. Preparation for construction of the project's Deer Creek portion has been underway since the 1980s, and the work is expected to begin in 2004. The field work, site plan, historical reports, and photographs were prepared by Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc., Montrose, Colorado. Jonathon C. Horn served as the Principal Investigator, and Gianfranco Archimede conducted the fieldwork, historic research, large-format photography, and report preparation.

Historian:

Gianfranco Archimede, Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc., April 2003.

The chicken coop is one of several structures and historic features within the 625-foot-long by 300-foot-wide fenced corral area of the camp, oriented east-west, including the chicken coop, a pump house, three animal sheds, a stone oven, a rock alignment, and remains of a concrete sidewalk (see HABS Nos. UT-137-F through M). An 8 by 23-foot chicken coop, oriented east-west is situated against the north fenceline, near the northeast corner of the corral area. It consists of two independent 6 by 8-foot chicken houses (oriented north to south) on the east and west ends of an 11-foot-long coop area still covered with chicken wire fencing on a 2 by 4-inch board framework. Both wood frame sheds are identical in their construction. They have 9 to 11-inch-wide board siding and shed roofs covered with cedar shingles. The door on the west shed is constructed of vertical tongue and groove boards. The floors of the sheds are tongue and groove boards set on 2 by 6-inch joists. The sheds have no windows. From each chicken house are small openings centered at the base of the walls facing into the coop area that enabled chickens to pass to and from the coop. Although the structure has been abandoned for some time and its construction date is unknown, it is unlikely that it was part of the original camp.