

United States Department of the Interior
 National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Black Rock Site

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 2.5 mi. w. of jct. SR-202 and I-80

City or town: Lake Point State: Utah County: Tooele

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national X statewide ___ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___ B ___ C ___ D

_____ /SHPO	
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	
In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date

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Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government
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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
<u>1</u>	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	_____	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LANDSCAPE/natural feature
RECREATION AND CULTURE/outdoor recreation

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LANDSCAPE/natural feature

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

N/A

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: N/A

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Black Rock Site consists of a monolithic geological feature rising from the shores of Great Salt Lake, and the remains of concrete foundations from the historic “Black Rock Resort”. The Black Rock Site straddles Salt Lake and Tooele Counties, though the rock itself is in Tooele County, and is located approximately 15 miles west of downtown Salt Lake City, along the southern shores of Great Salt Lake and visible from Interstate 80. Black Rock itself formed nearly 250 million years ago as limestone formed under an inland sea. At some point, millions of years ago, the Black Rock monolith separated from the Oquirrh Mountain range to the south and rolled into its present location. Today, Black Rock is above the waters of Great Salt Lake, flanked by oolitic sand beaches on the west, north, and east. Black Rock measures approximately 39’ tall at its maximum height, 130’ on its longest axis (NW/SE) and 60’ in width (SW/NE). The entire site encapsulates the Black Rock itself, and also the extant features associated with the Black Rock Resort, encompassing an area of 300’ wide and 800’ long. It is unknown when the first Native peoples saw Black Rock, but by the historic period in Utah (post 1846), Europeans and European Americans started describing this noteworthy monolith, using it as a base station for nationally significant geodetic surveys and a water level measuring station. Finally, the Black Rock served as the earliest and longest-serving of Great Salt Lake bathing resorts of the 19th and 20th centuries.

Narrative Description

The story of Black Rock actually begins over 250 million years ago, before even the time of dinosaurs. During this time, which geologists call the Lower Permian and Upper Pennsylvanian Periods, limestone formed underneath a prehistoric inland sea (Solomon et al. 2007). Throughout the Mesozoic Era these layers and others were thrust up to create the Oquirrh Mountains, and the limestone and quartzite layers that would later become the Black Rock, known as the Kessler Formation (Solomon et. al. 2007), were exposed for the first time. After this period of mountain-building came the Pleistocene, and with it prehistoric Lake Bonneville which covered much of modern-day Utah and Nevada. As the lake levels fluctuated and lapped against the northern shore of the Oquirrh Mountain Range, massive landslides came crashing down into the inland sea. In one such slide, the Black Rock monolith was dislodged from its perch in the Oquirrh Mountains and fell onto the much younger sediments on the lakeshore (Tooker and Roberts 1961). Now, the Black Rock itself is millions of years older than the sediment it rests on, further adding some colorful history to this natural feature.

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Present Condition

The Black Rock Site is currently managed by the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State lands (FFSL) under its parent Department of Natural Resources. It appears that the area went from private to public ownership in the 1960s after abandonment of the final resort. Since the 1960s, all standing architecture of the resorts have been removed from surrounding the Black Rock and the environment has largely been allowed to return to natural processes. There are five remaining concrete pad foundations from the last iteration of the Black Rock Resort, ca. 1940s-1950s.

Access to the Black Rock is via a two-mile dirt road that spurs from the main access to the Great Salt Lake Marina. Due to the restrictions on using motor vehicles on the bed of the Great Salt Lake, FFSL have installed 18 concrete barriers and several warning signs to deter the public from breaking state law and driving on the bed of the Great Salt Lake.

Perhaps the most visible alteration in the condition of the site is graffiti. Over the last 20 years, the Black Rock has seen ever-increasing vandalism from individuals using the area for spray painting and graffiti activities, including covering nearly 50% of the rock's visible surface. However, in 2020, FFSL worked with a private non-profit (Wasatch Graffiti Busters) to remove over 80% of the visible graffiti through power washing, cleaning, and selective over-painting. These activities have returned the Black Rock to nearly its natural and historic appearance.

Historic Setting

At the time of the first European and European-American visiting Black Rock, it was likely a monolithic island surrounded by waters of Great Salt Lake. Scientists are still studying the fluctuating water levels of Great Salt Lake, but historic photographs from the 1850s demonstrate that at that period Black Rock was nearly ¼ mile from dry land. Over time, and due to ever-decreasing average lake levels, the Black Rock has been above water line for at least the 20th and 21st centuries. This promontory of earth with a high limestone monolith creating a natural beach on Great Salt Lake, made a perfect location for recreational resorts for over 100 years. By the mid-1870s major wagon roads and railroads passed the southern boundary of the Black Rock Site. By the early 20th century, these same wagon road alignments transitioned into the nation's major transcontinental "Lincoln Highway".

Historic Integrity

The Black Rock Site is unusual as the geological feature itself is as much part of the historic resorts as any human-made construction. The Black Rock lent not only its name and image to each iteration of the resort, but also the top of the monolith was used variably as a flag post for advertising and recreational overlook for tourists and visitors. While the beach resorts have been removed, the Black Rock itself has remain largely unchanged since the beginning of recorded history in Utah. Perhaps the most significant aspects of integrity are location, setting, and association, given the rock's prominence as a triangulation station and beach resort. These aspects have remained largely unchanged though obviously the introduction of Interstate 80 in the 1980s did alter the setting slightly given that through its entire historic period there were

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travel corridors passing in the same location. Cleanup efforts in 2020 have resulted in a significant improvement to aspects of feeling by removing non-historic graffiti and of workmanship and design by allowing the natural geology to be at the forefront of visitor experience, much as in historic periods.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION
EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

Period of Significance

1846-1959

Significant Dates

1846

1847

1850

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Euro-American

Architect/Builder

N/A

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Black Rock Site in Salt Lake and Tooele Counties, is a geologic feature of limestone and quartzite that was formed by geological processes over 250 million years ago but has been a fixture in recorded history since the mid-1840s. The site is significant under Criteria A in the Areas of Exploration/Settlement and Recreation/Entertainment for connections with multiple threads of statewide significance. In 1850, during the first federally sponsored mapping of Great Salt Lake, Captain Howard Stansbury erected a triangulation station upon the top of Black Rock to facilitate his mapping efforts. Sir Richard Burton visited Black Rock in 1862, and bathed at the site during his cross-country travels. By 1875, Black Rock Site also became home to the first-ever efforts to monitor the changing depths of Great Salt Lake and that data plays a significant role in our understanding of changing lake levels even today. Finally, from 1847, Black Rock Site has featured prominently as a place of recreation for residents of Utah, with near-constant recreational resorts surrounding the Black Rock from the 1860s through 1959 when the last resort closed. All of these significant historic events date between 1847 and 1959, and this forms the Period of Significance for this nomination. Due to the Black Rock Site's use as a base station for triangulation surveys and depictions in travel journals, it is significant under the area of Exploration/Settlement and for its long-term recreational facilities it is significant under Entertainment/Recreation. Finally, the Black Rock Site retains significant integrity to convey association with these significant events and pattern of events in National and Utah history, thus significant under Criteria A.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criterion A Significance: Exploration/Settlement

Under Criteria A, for Exploration/Settlement, the Black Rock Site is one of the most prominent geological features along the southern shores of Great Salt Lake, and received its European-American name by the ill-famed Donner Party in August of 1846. Further, within days of arriving in Great Salt Lake Valley in July 1847, the highest leadership of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints first ventured to bathe in the waters of Great Salt Lake at Black Rock, becoming the first documented European-American recreational use of the lake's salty waters. This group included Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints leader Brigham Young, along with prominent names such as Heber C. Kimball, Willard Richards, Orson Pratt, Erastus Snow, Wilford Woodruff, George Albert Smith, and six others. By 1851, a yearly pilgrimage to Black Rock started on July 4th started for residents of Salt Lake Valley to celebrate that holiday. In 1850, Black Rock was utilized as a base triangulation station for Captain Howard Stansbury's survey and mapping of the region and Great Salt Lake. And finally, Sir Richard Burton's world famous travelogue "The City of the Saints and Across the Rocky Mountains to California", prominently features Black Rock as a gateway to discuss Great Salt Lake and its environments

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At this time, we do not have any Native American names or perspectives on the Black Rock, though archaeological information does provide some context for use of the area by various Native groups over hundreds and potentially thousands of years. Located only approximately a mile above the Black Rock itself, Black Rock Cave provided archaeologists the most significant archaeological assemblage in the local area. Famed Utah archaeologist, Julian Steward, first excavated the cave in 1931 and used the resulting data to better understand the sequence and pattern of behavior of Native American peoples before the arrival of European and European American explorers and settlers. While there is no direct archaeological information at the Black Rock itself from the prehistoric period, the close proximity of Black Rock Cave suggests that Native Americans used this area's rich wetlands and springs for seasonal hunting and gathering, along with a movement corridor between the Salt Lake Valley to the east and the vast expanses of the Great Basin to the west. (Madsen 1983:1)

It is likely that the first European Americans to encounter the Black Rock were the Bryant-Russell party in 1846, the first travelers of the infamous Hastings Cutoff. While they do not specifically mention the Black Rock itself, they do describe crystalline springs just to the east, and the natural landscape would have forced them to travel within a few hundred yards of the geologic feature on their way westward (Madsen/Fuller 1983: 87).

It is more noteworthy however, that the English name of "Black Rock" has two points of origin, but both are connected to prominent patterns of American Western history. According to James F. Reed in 1871, the ill-fated Donner Party named "Black Rock" as they passed that location during their journey along the Hastings Cutoff in August of 1846. From the *Pacific Rural Press* (1871:188), Reed notes "We then followed [Hasting's] road around the Lake without incident worthy of notice until reaching a swampy section of the country west of Black Rock, the name we gave it. Here we lost a few days on the score of humanity."

In opposition, according to Edward William Tullidge's "History of Salt Lake City", Black Rock likely first received its English name in 1847, when on July 27, 1847, members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints visited the Great Salt Lake and this geological uplift only three days after arriving in the valley. Under the direction of Church President Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball, Willard Richards, Orson Pratt, Erastus Snow, Wilford Woodruff, George A. Smith, and six others visited the rock and for the first time engaged in recreational bathing in the Great Salt Lake (Tullidge 1886:724).

Regardless of the true origin of the English name "Black Rock", by 1847 it had cemented an official moniker that continues to this day. Four years after its first visit from President Young and other Church Leaders, the Black Rock was the scene for Salt Lake City's Fourth of July Celebration in 1851.

"On Friday morning, at day break, a salute of three round of cannon ushered in, to the sleeping inhabitants of Great Salt Lake City, the glorious Fourth of July; and whose peaceful slumbers were disturbed by the reverberating sound of the roaring artillery, commissioning them to prepare themselves for their chivalrous march to the shores of the Great Salt Lake—the world's ninth wonder. A response from

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Black Rock on the Lake at the same time, (though twenty miles from the city,) gave the assurance that it was prepared to receive its numerous and distinguished guests." Guests of this celebration spent the day climbing the northern end of the Oquirrh Mountains to get panoramic views while many others took the opportunity to swim in the lake. (Deseret News, "The Celebration of the Fourth of July", July 12, 1851, pg. 3).

From 1851 forward Black Rock became a destination for recreational pursuits that morphed into a formal series of resorts in the 1860s.

Before shifting into the brief history of recreational resorts at the Black Rock, it is important to underscore some additional important events in the history of this geological oddity. First and foremost is the use of Black Rock as a mapping station for Captain Howard Stansbury's expedition to map Great Salt Lake and its environments. Stansbury's 1849-1851 expedition to Utah Territory was the first formal federally supported scientific expedition to this area, and provided the first formal descriptions of flora and fauna of Great Salt Lake and yielded the most accurate map of hundreds of square miles of the Great Basin up to this time.

Part of Stansbury's effort was the need to establish base stations throughout the region from which to make measurements to generate this detailed map. For the stations along the southern shore of the Great Salt Lake, Captain Stansbury and crew sailed from Antelope Island to Stansbury Island in mid-April, and then returned eastward via the Black Rock on Saturday, April 20, 1850.

"Setting the foresail, we ran to Black Rock, a distance of more than twenty miles, in a little more than three hours. A station was framed from timbers which had been previously cut in the mountains and hauled to the spot for the purpose; but the force of the party was not sufficient to raise it.... The station was raised the following day (April 21), and we started for the City, leaving the boat's crew encamped on the shore of the lake." (Stansbury 1852:170)

Upon returning from the Great Salt Lake City to the Black Rock on April 26, 1850, Stansbury used the waters at Black Rock for an experiment on the preservation of meat, which was now freshly purchased.

"A large piece of fresh beef was suspended by a cord and immersed in the lake for rather more than twelve hours, when it was found to be tolerably well corned. After this, all the beef we wished to preserve while operating upon the lake, was packed into barrels without any salt whatever, and the vessels were then filled up with the lake-water." (Stansbury 1852:171)

The last visit to Black Rock by the Stansbury expedition was made by Lt. Gunnison on June 22, 1850, where a small group ignited a beacon fire while Stansbury and the main group were exploring Stansbury Island. Finally, it was Stansbury who suggested that the best possible alignment of a future railroad through Utah Territory would follow along the south shore of the

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Great Salt Lake, and he used the Black Rock as a major landscape feature to identify the route in his expedition report (Stansbury 1852:265).

Over the next few decades prominent national and international personalities described Great Salt Lake and some of its features as they traveled throughout the Intermountain West, including a description in Crofutt's "New Overland Tourist and Pacific Coast Guide" in 1880. Perhaps the most famous of these individuals was Sir Richard Burton, whose famous 1862 travelogue "The City of the Saints and Across the Rocky Mountains to California", prominently features Black Rock as a gateway to discuss Great Salt Lake and its environments. In his travels, Burton stopped at Black Rock and noted in colorful details the environment and mention of recreational accommodations:

The black mud of peculiar drift before alluded to proves to be an Aceldama of insects: banks a full foot high, composed of the larvae exuviae, and mortal coils of myriads of worms, musquitoes, gnats, and gallinippers, cast up by the waves and lining the little bay as they ferment and fester in the burning sun or pickle and preserve in the thick brine. Escaping from this mass of fetor, I reached the farther end of the promontory where the Black Rock stood decorously between the bathing-place and the picnic ground, and in a pleasant frame of curiosity descended into the new Dead Sea. (Burton 1862: pg. 329)

Later, Fitz Ludlow in his widely published 1870 book entitled, "The Heart of the Continent", he provides a more positive review of this landscape at Black Rock by saying:

A fifteen minute ride, and Black Rock rose grim and ugly, like the foundation of some ruined tower...we had expected a grim and desolate landscape; a sullen waste of brine, stagnating along low ready shores, black as Acheron, gloomy as the sepulcher of Sodom. Never had Nature a greater surprise for us. The view as one of the most charming which could be imagined." (Ludlow 1870:385)

A final note on Black Rock's association with the areas of significance of Exploration and Settlement was the erection of a pillar at the site in 1875 to measure the rise and fall of Great Salt Lake's widely fluctuating levels (Sloan 1884: 187). This 1875 pillar was the first scientific instrument installed to measure the lake's depth, and is still used as the earliest reconstruction of historic lake levels.

Criterion A Significance: Entertainment/Recreation

Under the area of significance Entertainment/Recreation for Criteria A, the Black Rock has a long and complicated history with being a center of recreational activities. On July 27, 1847, only three days after arriving in Great Salt Lake Valley, leaders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints traveled from modern-day Salt Lake City to Black Rock to bathe in the waters of Great Salt Lake. While there is dispute whether the Donner Party in 1846 or this vanguard group of Latter-day Saints, gave Black Rock its English name, from this 1847 period forward, the area became a major recreational hotspot. By the 1880s, the Black Rock Resort was the

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biggest of all Great Salt Lake resorts and catered to hundreds of visitors each year. With small ups and down, Black Rock hosted recreational resorts all the way to 1959 when the last formal resort closed down due to lack of interest, and fresh water.

As mentioned in Sir Richard Burton's 1862 travelogue, the Black Rock already possessed some recreational accoutrements by the time of his arrival. History confirms that by 1851 residents of Salt Lake City ventured to Black Rock for 4th of July celebrations, and by 1857 even now-Governor of Utah Territory, Brigham Young, moored his personal yacht "The Timely Gull" at Black Rock harbor and was carrying, "a 'general cargo' mainly composed of cedar wood, fine salt, and flagging for sidewalks, yards and cellar floors, which articles he offers for sale at Black Rock..." (Deseret News, "Operations on the Great Salt Lake", March 11, 1857, pg. 5). It does appear that the formality of a resort at Black Rock started soon after Heber C. Kimball, who was part of the original 1847 party to bathe there, built a large stone home just above the water line adjacent to Black Rock in 1860 (Kimball 1986: 222).

By the mid-1870s, the development of a full scale resort at Black Rock caught major energy, especially with the arrival of railroad service nearby. The *Salt Lake Herald-Republican* announced:

We learn that the Black Rock property on Great Salt Lake, has been leased by responsible parties, and will be immediately fitted up as a summer resort. The necessary arrangements have been made with the Utah Western railroad company, and Black Rock will be made a dinner station. The steamboat, General Garfield, will also be removed from Lake Point to the new resort, where a pier is to be built. (Salt Lake Herald-Republican, "Summer Resort", March 17, 1876, pg. 3).

By 1880, 609 acres of property in and around the Black Rock transferred into the hands of Alonzo E. Hyde and David John Taylor, and they immediately initiated plans to improve the weather-worn and dilapidated resort. As noted by a visiting reporter in May of 1880:

"There are no tumble-down fences, stables, corral and stack [stock?] yard, as of yore...In place thereof, has erected a commodious bowery, which will be roofed In a few days, and in which will be ample room for picnic parties...Close by, a couple of 21-foot high swings have been erected on which Rosa Nell and her young fellow can indulge in their favorite pastime to their hearts' content. Below these accessories to a well-regulated pleasure resort, on the sea-best shore, are seventy-two well built, 5x5 bath houses, firmly pinned to a frame-work in the ground, which will resist considerable wind—it not more. West of the house are twenty-eight others, large, roomy and supplied with spring water for rinsing purposes; making in all a full hundred. The fresh water arrangement now is very good, but is thought will be improved upon by next season by pipes being laid from one of the large springs to the eastward, and the insertion of sprinklers in every dressing room. Good lumber platforms and walks have been laid all around

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the shore, over the small rocks and into the water, so that bathers will experience no difficult nor discomfort in moving about.” (Salt Lake Herald-Republican, “Black Rock”, May 22, 1880, pg. 3)

In 1881, a new and improved Black Rock Resort opened to public bathers, with a row of double cottages, a dancing hall, and a pier. With more details the Salt Lake Herald reported:

Quite an assortment of pleasure boats are also on hand...There are 100 bath houses properly supplied. Seventy-five permanent boarders can be accommodated; terms, \$2 per day, with privilege of using the bath houses included. There is room for parties of almost any number up to 500 persons. City Creek water is furnished to visitors for drinking purposes; a bicycle track is being made, and almost everything that can contribute to the pleasure of visitors seems to be provided.” (Salt Lake Herald, “The Bathing Season”, June 10, 1881, pg. 8)

Throughout the 1880s, Black Rock Resort witnessed much success, but by the 20th century, the resort had again fallen into disrepair. In 1906, the fortunes again rose as unnamed promoters sought to make ‘the first of the resorts by the lake side’ to be ‘the finest place of the kind in the west’ through partnership with an interurban trolley line ((Salt Lake Herald-Republican, “Plan New Resort at Black Rock”, October 8, 1906, pg. 10). During the high water years of Great Salt Lake in the 1910s-1920s, Black Rock and its many competitors (Saltair, Sunset Beach, Lake Point Resort, etc.) witnessed great success and high visitation. In 1934 the majority of the resort burned, but quickly reopened the next year with a new feature, large flood lights mounted to the top of the Black Rock. That same year the owners installed stairs and protect railings to allow visitors to reach the top of Black Rock, which these concrete footers still exist today. (Salt Lake Telegram, “Black Rock Beach Opens on Saturday” June 28, 1935, pg. 9).

After the end of World War 2, there was a short-lived resurgence in the Great Salt Lake beach resorts, including Black Rock Beach. In 1947, a new eight-year land lease to A.J. Teece of Western Service Company lead to the modernization of the resort in hopes of turning the aging facility into a “Model Atlantic City”. According to the newspaper report, even “the rock itself has been utilized in the new resort plan,” as “the midway will run east of the rock along the shore line, with a large platform north of the rock from which the pier will extend into the lake.” On July 27th, 1948, the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers of East Pleasant Green Camp in Manga unveiled a monument at Black Rock to dedicate the events 101 years earlier, when early LDS leaders first bathed in the Great Salt Lake and gave the rock its formal name. (The Magna Times, July 23, 1948, pg. 1)

Efforts to restore the Black Rock resort in the late 1950s included a \$300,000 investment to build a fresh water swimming pool directly north of the rock and an open-air dance pavilion. Even with all these improvements the resort never really flourished again. (Ogden Standard Examiner, “Will Improve Resort”, May 13, 1958, pg. 10). Virigina L. Zambukos, owner of the lease for the Black Rock Resort during the 1950s-1960s, claimed that the closure of the resort was a direct result of the drilling by Kennecott Copper Company that subsequently dried up the fresh water springs necessary to its operations. Even after winning a court decision in 1965, Zambukos was

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never able to restart the faltering operation and the site fell into disrepair. ("Black Rock is Dry", The Salt Lake Tribune, September 3, 1965, pg. 16)

Additional Historical Context

By the mid-1960s, Black Rock was newsworthy only as a backdrop to traffic accidents, train derailments and perhaps one of the largest youth fights in Utah history. On May 5, 1966, over 400 teenagers from nearby High Schools and Colleges descended upon the abandoned Black Rock Beach resort after school was let out early. Salt Lake County Sheriff dispatched 38 deputies, 15 Salt Lake City policeman, and 4 highway patrol officers to disperse the group fighting in and around the Black Rock, taking only names of 30 juveniles and confiscating alcohol and glue. ("57 Officers Nip Fighting by 400 Teens at Beach", Salt Lake Tribune, May 5, 1966, pg. 4B). After this point Black Rock slowly fell into increasing obscurity, and during this time the lands comprising this nomination transferred

Finally, the history of Black Rock would be remiss without highlighting this feature's use as an artistic subject of multiple mediums of engravings, watercolors, oil painting, and photographs. As noted by Poulton and Swanson (2009:77):

It might be said of the first pioneer artists and second generation of Utah landscapists that the chief icon subject was Black Rock, a well-known promontory on the Great Salt Lake. In fact, one was hardly allowed into the fraternity of Utah artists, it seems, until one such picture was painted. Some artists like Lambourne, made it a specialty.

There is no more famous artist of Great Salt Lake than Alfred Lambourne, who painted numerous scenes of the islands and geological features of the lake, including an oil painting of "Black Rock" in 1890 and another depicting the Black Rock in a work entitled "Great Salt Lake". James Taylor Harwood, another early landscape artist of Utah, painted Black Rock in 1898, and is important as this piece was the first purchased by the State of Utah for the state's art collection sponsored by Alice Merrill Horne. Harwood has another "Black Rock" painting in the collections of Brigham Young University Museum of Art. Other important art pieces include G.M. Ottinger's "Garfield, Black Rock" and Waldo Midgley's "Black Rock" in the Snow, Christensen & Martineau Collections. Many of the above pieces have been exhibited throughout the United States and likely beyond, carrying this unique geological features' representation around the globe. Perhaps, one of the more unique pieces is an engraving completed by French scientist, Albert Tissandier, who published a French-language 1886 book on travels through the United States (Tissandier 1886). Utah-related Tissandier engravings are held at the Utah Museum of Fine Arts.

Integrity Discussion

Black Rock Site retains significant integrity for most of the seven aspects to convey significance under Criteria A. While the introduction of Interstate 80 to the south of the Black Rock Site has diminished some aspects of integrity, particularly feeling and setting, visitors to the site can still

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understand and appreciate the association of the feature to Great Salt Lake, its exploration and study and the foundations still express connection to the resort period. As primarily a geological feature, the location, materials, design, and workmanship remain unchanged with small modifications through natural erosion and attachment of concrete posts to the top of the Black Rock for a flag pole and fencing within the period of significance. For the historic resort component of the site, the lack of standing architecture has diminished many aspects of integrity but all of the various recreational activities that occurred on this site are reflected in the Black Rock itself, not in its various and sundry resort constructions.

The Black Rock Site reflects a significant era in American and Utah history, from its connections with the ill-fated members of the Donner Party, to the first formal federal mapping of Great Salt Lake and region, to the more statewide significance as a place of recreation and entertainment by thousands of visitors to the various resorts. Forever memorialized in written and artistic expression, the Black Rock Site conveys association with these early explorers and subsequent European and European-American settlers of Utah, along with the boom and bust of the lake's resorts. As such, the Black Rock retains significant integrity of location, materials, design, workmanship, and association though with modern intrusions has lost some aspects of feeling and setting. However, there is an unobstructed viewshed of Great Salt Lake from Black Rock, which means it is unchanged from its first description by Europeans.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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1852 An Expedition to the Valley of the Great Salt Lake of Utah: Including a Description of its Geography, Natural History, and Minerals, and an Analysis of Its Waters. Washington Printing Office.

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1886 *Six mois aux États-Unis. Voyage d'un touriste dans l'Amerique du nord suivi d'une excursion a Panama.* G. Masson, Paris.

Tooker, E.W. and R.J. Roberts
1964 Preliminary geologic map and sections of the north end of the Oquirrh Range (Mills Junction, Garfield and Magna 7 1/2-minute quadrangles), Tooele and Salt Lake Counties, Utah. Miscellaneous Field Studies Map 240. U.S. Geological Survey, Washington D.C.

Tullidge, Edward W.
1886 History of Salt Lake City. Star Printing Company, Salt Lake.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 6.81

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 12 | Easting: 396207 | Northing: 4509002 |
| 2. Zone: 12 | Easting: 396307 | Northing: 4508815 |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: 396418 | Northing: 4508866 |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : 396286 | Northing: 4509047 |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Boundary for the Black Rock Site is a rectangular shape that encompasses not only the physical Black Rock feature itself but the remaining concrete platforms and foundations that are associated with the resort in later time. From the northwest corner along the shores of the Great Salt Lake, the southwest corner is at the Union Pacific Railroad right-of-way, then eastward to another point of departure at the Union Pacific Railroad right-of-way, and finally northwards to the final northeast corner also in the Great Salt Lake.

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Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This boundary encompasses all remaining features reflecting the historical use of the Black Rock Site.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Christopher W. Merritt, Ph.D., State Historic Preservation Officer
organization: Utah Division of State History
street & number: 300 S. Rio Grande St.
city or town: Salt Lake City state: Utah zip code: 84101
e-mail: cmerritt@utah.gov
telephone: 801-246-7263
date: January 21, 2021

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Black Rock Site

City or Vicinity: Magna

County: Salt Lake and Tooele

State: Utah

Photographer: Cory Jensen

Date Photographed: August 2020

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 9. Close-up of west face of Black Rock. Camera facing east.



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2 of 9. Northwest face of Black Rock. Camera facing southeast.



3 of 9. Northeast face of Black Rock. Camera facing southwest.



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4 of 9. Southwest face of Black Rock. Camera facing northeast.



5 of 9. South face of Back Rock showing human scale. Camera facing north.



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6 of 9. Concrete flagpole and fence bases on top of site. Camera facing east.



7 of 9. View from top of Black Rock. Camera facing south.



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8 of 9. View from top of Black Rock. Camera facing north toward Antelope Island on the Great Salt Lake.



9 of 9. Example of concrete building pads at base of Black Rock. Camera facing northwest.



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Figure 1. Blackrock Beach, ca. 1870s, C.W. Carter. Utah Historical Society.



Figure 2. Black Rock Beach Ruins, G.M. Ottinger, 1900-1925. Utah Historical Society.



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Figure 3. Black Rock, G.M. Ottinger, 1910-1940. Utah Historical Society.



Figure 4. "Black Rock Beach", date unknown, Utah Historical Society.



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Figure 5. James Taylor Harwood, "Black Rock", oil on canvas, 26" x 58", 1898. Utah Division of Arts & Museums.



Figure 6. Albert Tissandier, 1886.



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Figure 7. Drawing showing the extensive integration of Black Rock into the resort. Salt Lake Tribune, March 16, 1947. Pg. 17.



Figure 8. Advertisement showing use of the Black Rock's façade as part of the marketing scheme. Salt Lake Tribune, July 24, 1944, pg. 11.

Utah's Finest Bathing Resort

BLACK ROCK BEACH

For Your Holiday Outing—
by "A" Card — or by Bus

Lv. Salt Lake	Lv. Beach
11:00 a. m.	1:33 p. m.
3:00 p. m.	4:20 p. m.
4:00 p. m.	6:15 p. m.
5:30 p. m.	7:35 p. m.
9:00 p. m.	9:39 p. m.

Historic
**BLACK ROCK
BEACH**

BUSSES LEAVE FROM
TEMPLE SQUARE HOTEL

*Bring the Family—
Spend the Day*

City Prices on Sandwiches, Soft Drinks, Beer, Ice Cream

HUNDREDS OF BATH HOUSES

FREE SHOWERS, PLAYGROUNDS, BOWERIES, PARKING

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Figure 9. Advertisement depicting the Black Rock Resort and marketing schemes. Salt Lake Tribune, May 27, 1956.



Owner Contact Information

name/title: Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands
street & number: 1594 W North Temple, Ste 3520
city or town: Salt Lake City state: Utah zip code: 84114-5703

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.