

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCERS use only  
received  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Carson River Diversion Dam

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Fallon  vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district at-large \_\_\_\_\_

state Nevada code 32 county Churchill code 001

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Mid-Pacific Region

street & number Federal Building, 2800 Cottage Way

city, town Sacramento \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state California

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Churchill County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Fallon \_\_\_\_\_ state Nevada

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Nevada Historic Engineering Site \_\_\_\_\_ has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
Inventory

date 3-25-79 \_\_\_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records History of Engineering Program, Texas Tech University

city, town Lubbock \_\_\_\_\_ state Texas

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Carson River Diversion Dam is a small concrete gate structure built in 1904 and 1905, to divert water into the canal system used to irrigate the farms in the Newlands Project. Located on the Carson River 5 miles northeast of Lahontan Dam, this diversion dam performs a vital water distribution function for hundreds of farms in the Newlands Project.

Detailed specification are as follows:

Carson River Diversion Dam

Type: Concrete Gate Structure

Construction period: 1904-1905.

Dimensions (feet):

Structural height.....	23
Hydraulic height.....	14
Crest length.....	241
Crest elevation (spillway).....	4024.0
Volume (cubic yards).....	2,700
Spillway: Twenty-one 5 by 10 foot double leaf slide gates and one 15 by 10 foot gate.	
Capacity (cubic feet per second).....	30,000
Headworks: Three double leaf slide gates, each 5 by 15 feet, for V Canal heading. Two wood gates 7 by 5 feet for T Canal heading.	
Diversion capacity (cubic feet per second):	
V Canal.....	1,500
T Canal.....	450

See attached Bureau of Reclamation drawings.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1904,1905 **Builder/Architect** Bureau of Reclamation Service

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

As one of the first diversion dams in the Truckee-Carson Project (later renamed the Newlands Project), the Carson River Diversion Dam began operation in 1907 and continues to divert irrigation water into the canal network in the area of Fallon, Nevada. It is an important feature of one of the first federal irrigation projects.

The Newlands project conserves and diverts water from the Truckee and Carson Rivers to irrigate over 70,000 acres in western Nevada east of the Sierra Nevada. Other project features include Lahontan Dam and Reservoir, outlet works at Lake Tahoe, Derby Diversion Dam, Lahontan Power Plant, 104 miles of main canals, 504 miles of laterals, and 335 miles of open drains.

The Truckee River flows from Lake Tahoe in California into Nevada and empties into Pyramid and Winnemucca Lakes, while the Carson River flows from the slopes of the Sierra Nevada into the plains and into the Carson Sink. Water made available by storage in Lake Tahoe and Boca Reservoir is diverted from the Truckee River at the Derby Diversion Dam, about 20 miles east of Reno, Nevada, into the Truckee Canal. Land along the canal receives some of the water, but the greater amount is discharged at the canal terminus either directly into the Carson River through the penstock of Lahontan Power Plant or through a chute into the Lahontan Reservoir for storage and use on lands of the Carson division.

Lahontan Dam impounds direct flow of the Carson River as well as water diverted from the Truckee River. Releases from Lahontan Reservoir are diverted into the T and V Canals at the Carson River Diversion Dam, whence they are carried to the largest area of project lands in the vicinity of Fallon, Nevada.

The early settlers of the project area irrigated their lands by simple diversions, relying on natural flow for their water supply. Prior to the authorization of the project in 1903, 20,000 acres of land having natural flow water rights were under cultivation.

The first investigations in the Truckee and Carson River Basins were started by the Geological Survey in 1889, and were continued intermittently until the newly organized Reclamation Service commenced investigations in the summer of 1902. These investigations consisted of surveys for storage reservoirs, including Lake Tahoe and the present Lahontan Reservoir on the Carson River, and the canal system. The project was among the first five projects recommended by the Director of the Reclamation Service.

The project was authorized by the Secretary of the Interior on March 14, 1903, as the Truckee-Carson Project. Construction began the same year. The Truckee River Diversion Dam (as Derby Diversion Dam was originally named), for diversion of water to the Carson River, was completed by June, 1905. By September, 1905, the Carson River Diversion Dam and main distributing canals for the Carson division had been completed. The Truckee Canal and a timber chute to the Carson River (the Chute was later replaced by one of concrete which discharges into Lahontan Reservoir) were completed in November, 1906. This permitted the diversion of Truckee River water for use in the Carson division for the first time in 1907. Construction began on

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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**CONTINUATION SHEET** significance      ITEM NUMBER      8      PAGE      1

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Lahontan Dam in January, 1911, and aided by the installation of the Lahontan Power Plant, finished November 11, 1911, was completed in June, 1915. Construction of a dam for the control of storage in Lake Tahoe was completed in 1913 under an agreement with the Truckee River General Electric Co., which provided for the cooperative use of such storage. The United States assumed control of the dam and apartment lands at the outlet of Lake Tahoe on July 1, 1915, pursuant to a decree of the United States District Court dated June 4, 1915.

The project was renamed February 27, 1919, in honor of the late Senator Francis G. Newlands of Nevada, who worked for the passage of the original Reclamation Act and for reclaiming the lower Carson Valley lands from recurring floods and drought. The Omnibus Adjustment Act of May 25, 1926, contained a provision to reduce the original scope of the Newlands Project. This act determined certain specific repayment adjustments including the areas affected thereby.

The care, operation, and maintenance of the project were transferred to the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District on December 31, 1926, under terms of the contract of December 18, 1926.

This project has assured the production of crops on what was once desert territory and thus has made possible the establishment of profitable farming and livestock enterprises.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Economic History of the Newlands Irrigation Project, Nevada Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin. Reno: University of Nevada, September, 1931, and April, 1932.  
Hardman, George and Howard G. Mason, Irrigated Lands of Nevada. Nevada Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin 183, Reno: University of Nevada, August, 1949. (cont)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.2

Quadrangle name Fallon, Nevada

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

### UMT References

A 

1	1	3	2	8	1	0	0	4	3	7	3	6	5	0
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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The proposed boundaries of the nominated property included the area within a 130 foot radius of the center of the dam.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Donald Abbe, Research Assistant

organization History of Engineering Program

date 9-18-79

street & number Texas Tech Universtiy, P.O. Box 4089

telephone (806) 742-3591

city or town Lubbock

state Texas

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature \_\_\_\_\_

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date \_\_\_\_\_

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliography

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 1

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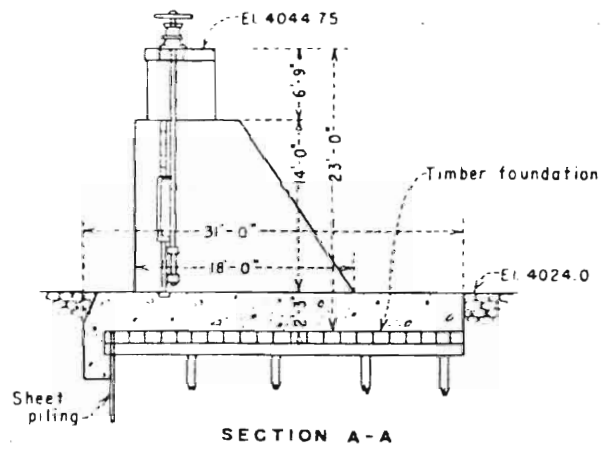
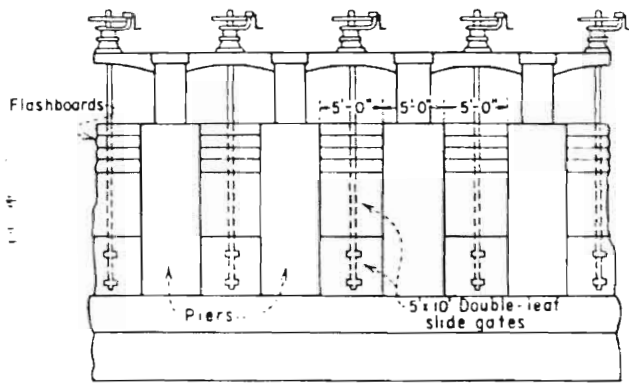
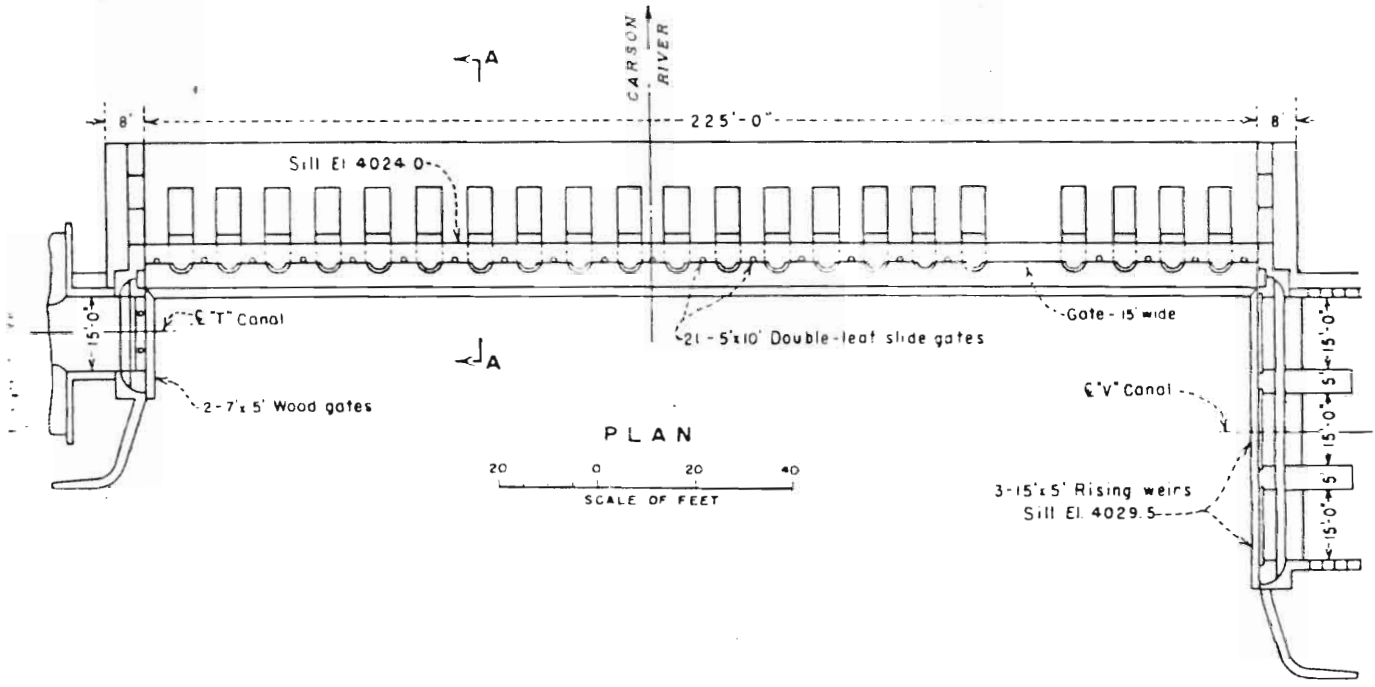
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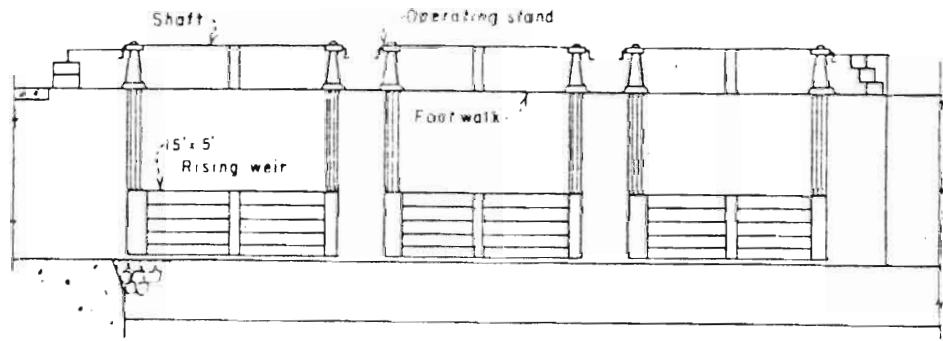
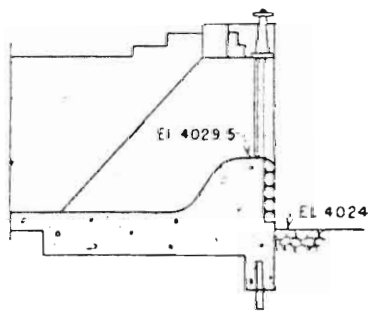
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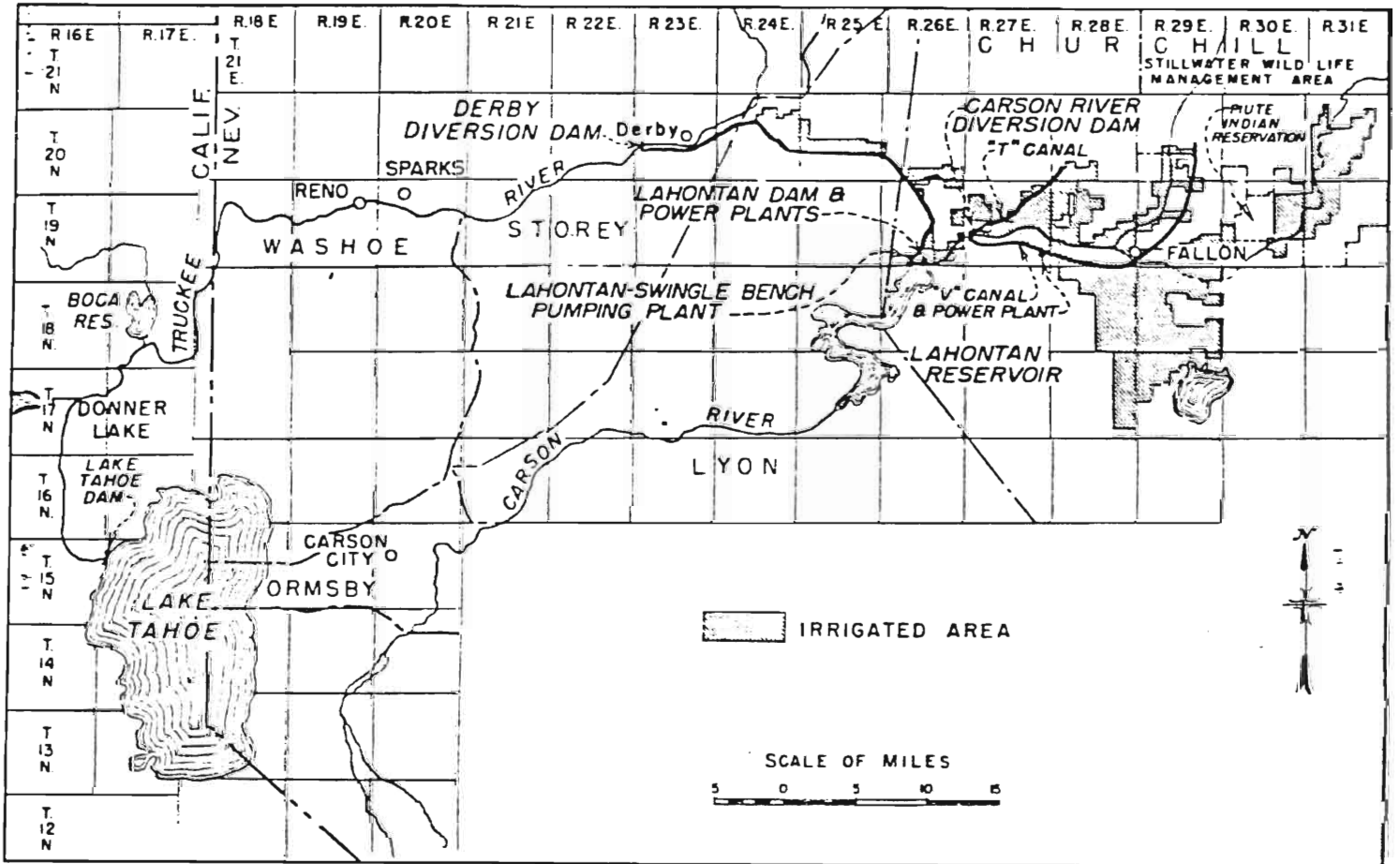


SLUICEWAYS



HEADWORKS "V" CANAL

Carson River Diversion Dam—Plan and sections.

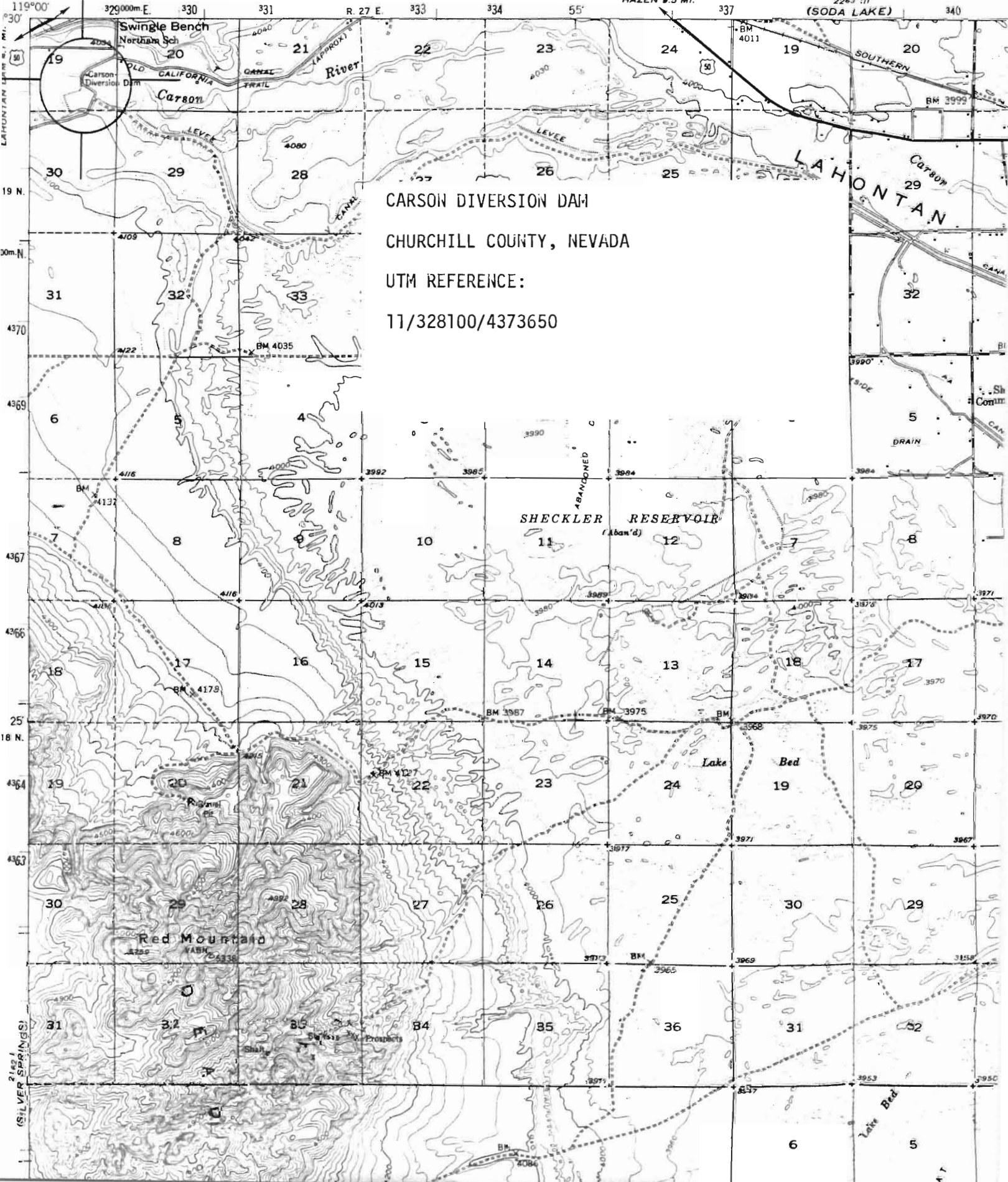


Newlands project.

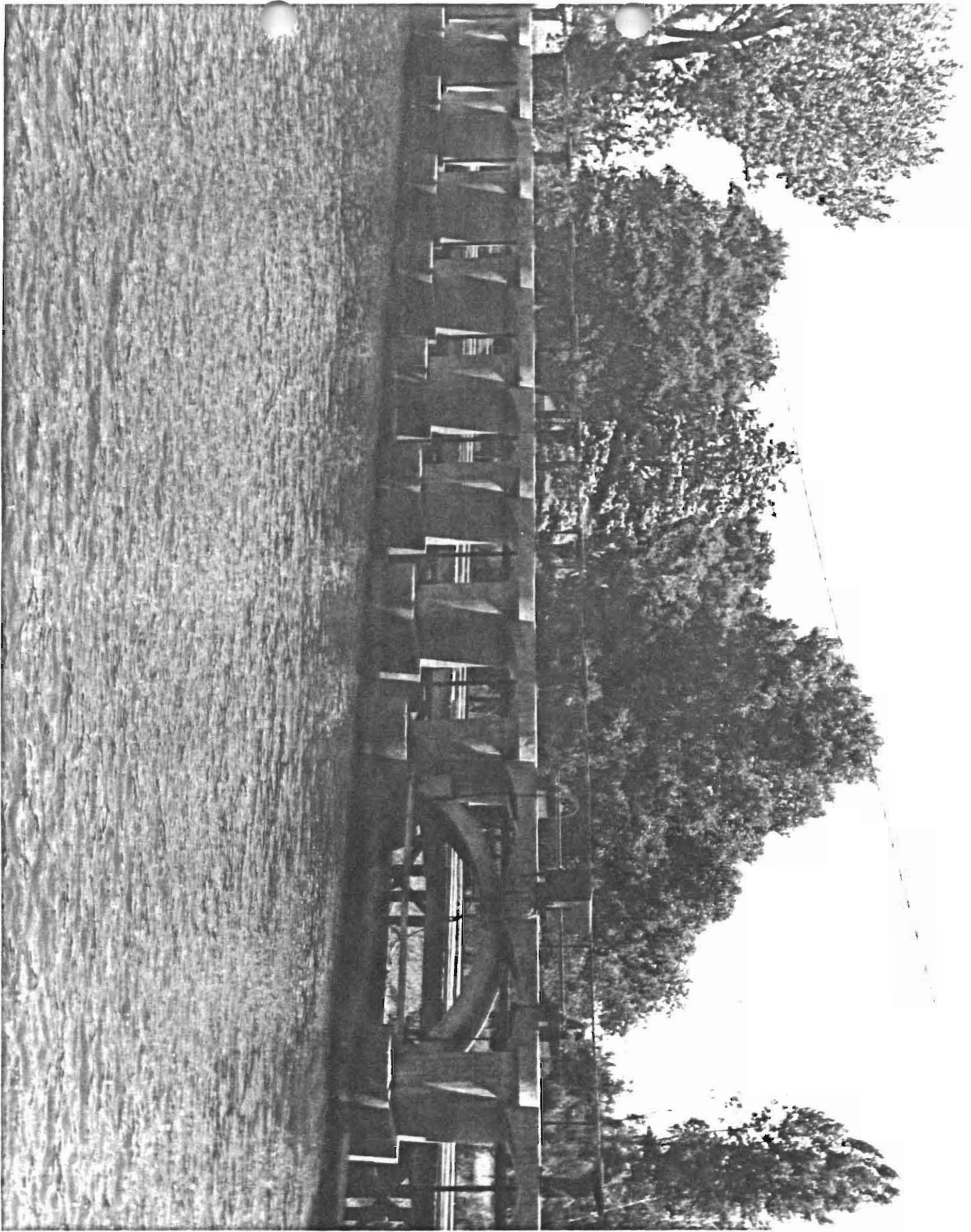
UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

FERNLEY (JUNC. U.S. 40) 19 MI.  
HAZEN 9.5 MI.

2263 III  
(SODA LAKE)



CARSON DIVERSION DAM  
CHURCHILL COUNTY, NEVADA  
UTM REFERENCE:  
11/328100/4373650



Carson Diversion Dam  
Churchill County, Nevada  
View Looking NorthEast  
photographer Wendell Bell  
History of Engineering Program  
Texas Tech University  
June 5, 1979



Carson Diversion Dam  
Churchill County, Nevada  
View Looking North  
Photographer Wendell Bell  
History of Engineering Program  
Texas Tech University  
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