

Amache Historical Society II Preparation Meeting for NPS Special Resource Study Virtual Public Meetings

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July 11, 2020



Present day structures at Amache



AHS 2 Amache Special Resource Study

Info Session

- What is the Special Resource Study? Kirsten
 - 4 Key Criteria
 - Most important to focus on for Amache
- Personal example of answers to the 5 questions Mitch
- Emphasizing the Physical Integrity as Unique Attribute Dana
- Resources
- Discussion Dana

What is a Special Resource Study?

- Important step to determine whether Amache qualifies to become a new National Park Service site
 - Manzanar, Tule Lake, Minidoka, Honouliuli
- These are public lands so there needs to be clearly demonstrated public support

NPS needs to hear from EVERYONE why it is important to preserve Amache for future generations

- Each NPS unit preserves unique aspects of our nation's natural and cultural heritage
- Over half the 419 areas of the National Park System preserve places and commemorate persons, events, and activities important in the nation's history.

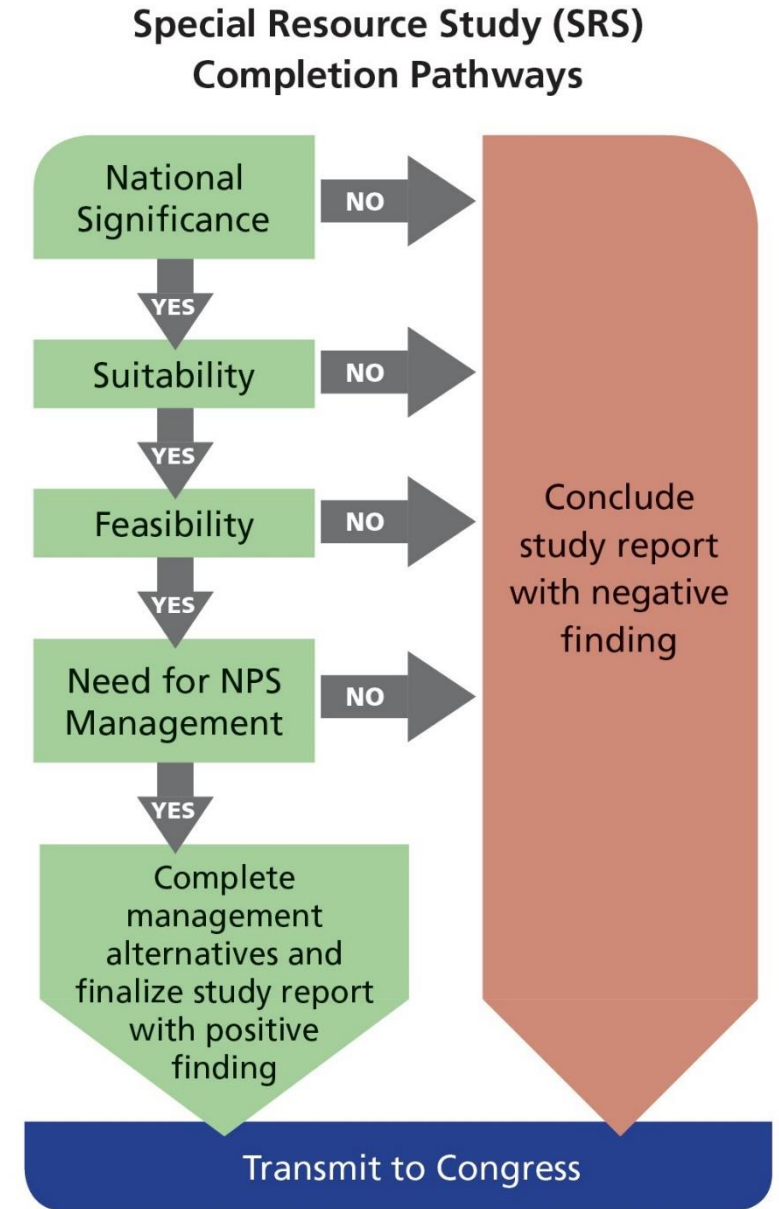
What is a Special Resource Study?

Typical process to designate a new NPS unit

- Congress signs a bill authorizing a Special Resource Study for NPS (**March 12, 2019**)
- **Special Resource Study is conducted by NPS to determine whether site qualifies – we are here!**
- If NPS finding is positive, Congress develops and signs a bill authorizing specifics for a new NPS unit
- President signs bill

Alternate process

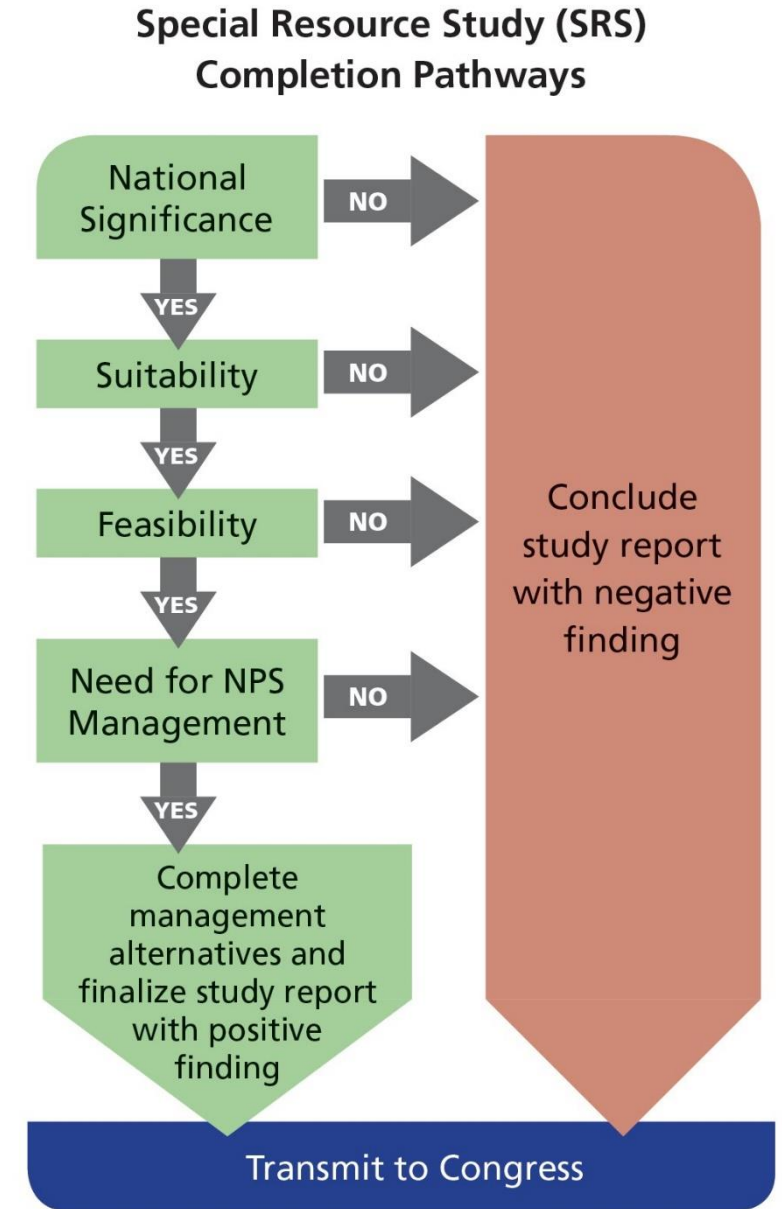
- President signs Executive Order for a National Monument
- Formal Special Resource Study conducted afterwards



Key points to work into your public comments

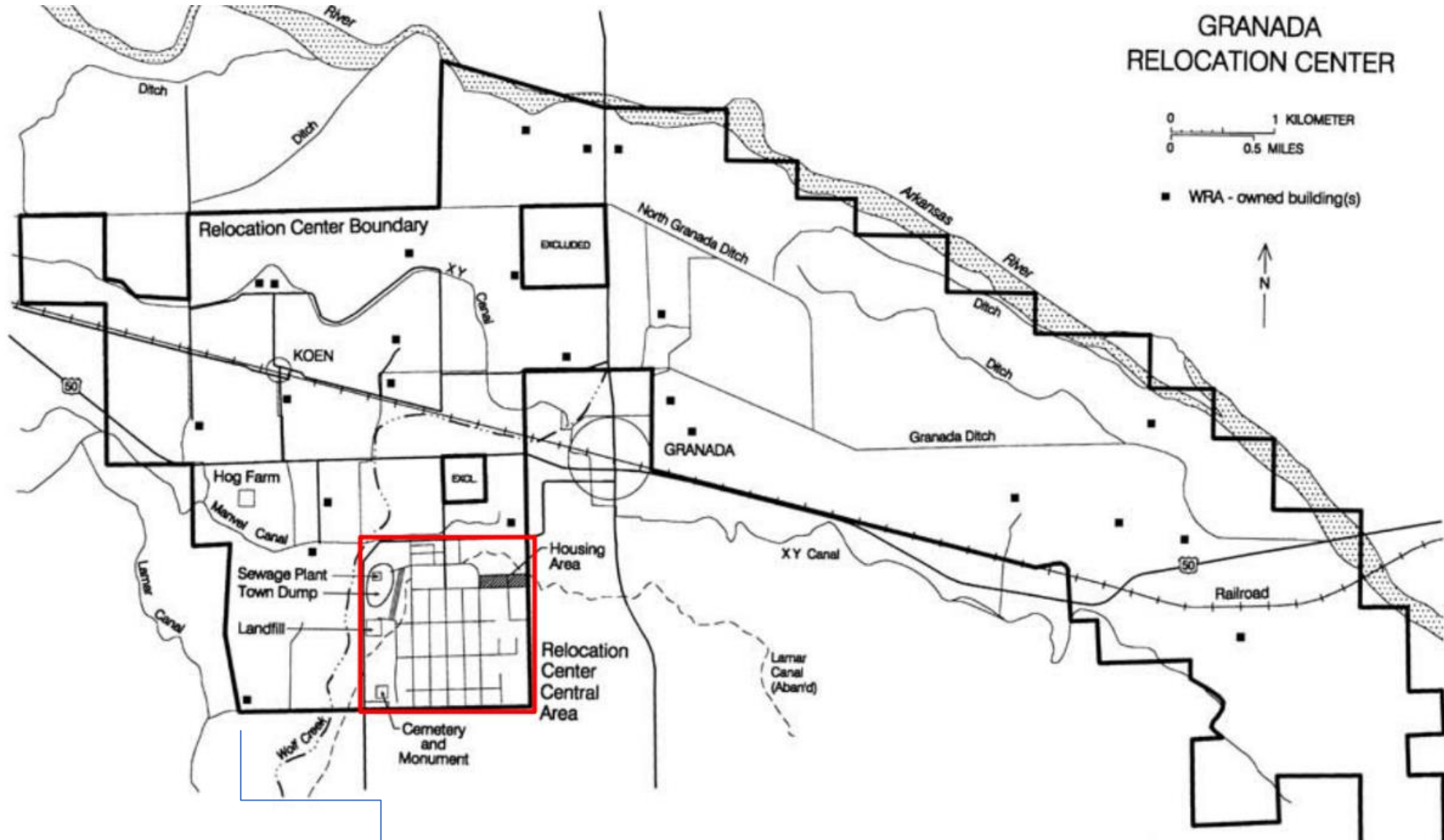
The more your public comments speak to the criteria, the stronger a case there will be for Amache to qualify as a new NPS unit.

- Amache meets the National Significance criteria because it is on the National Register of Historic Places and is a National Historic Landmark
- **Amache adds unique aspects of the incarceration story that would not be told without its preservation**
- Amache is relatively easy and cost-effective for NPS to administer efficiently
- Current management of Amache is not sustainable. NPS management would ensure the site is preserved in perpetuity.



Amache Special Resource Study Area

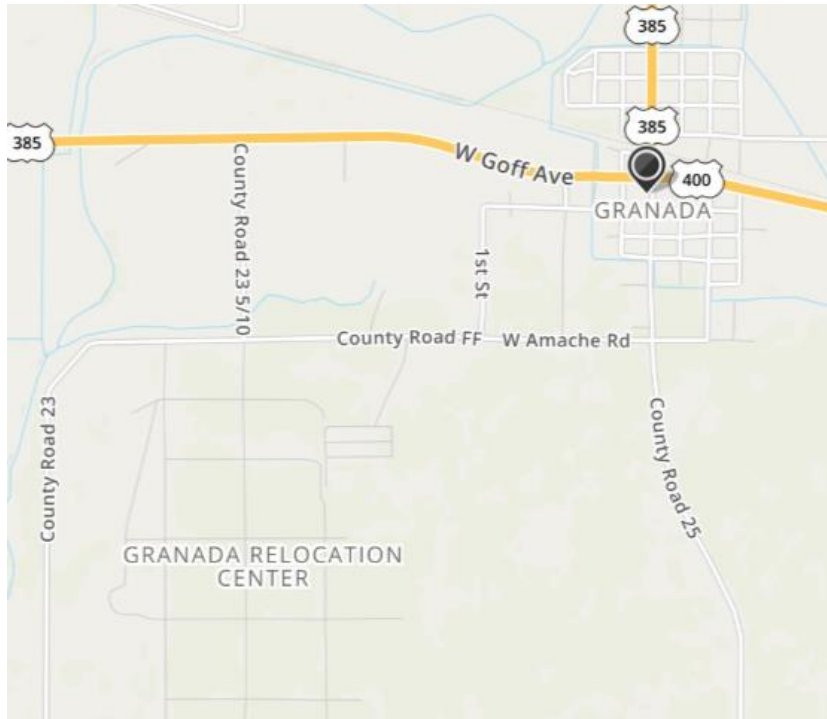
Managed by Amache Preservation Society



Special Resource Study area is the 1 sq. mile (~ 640 acres) developed living area of Amache

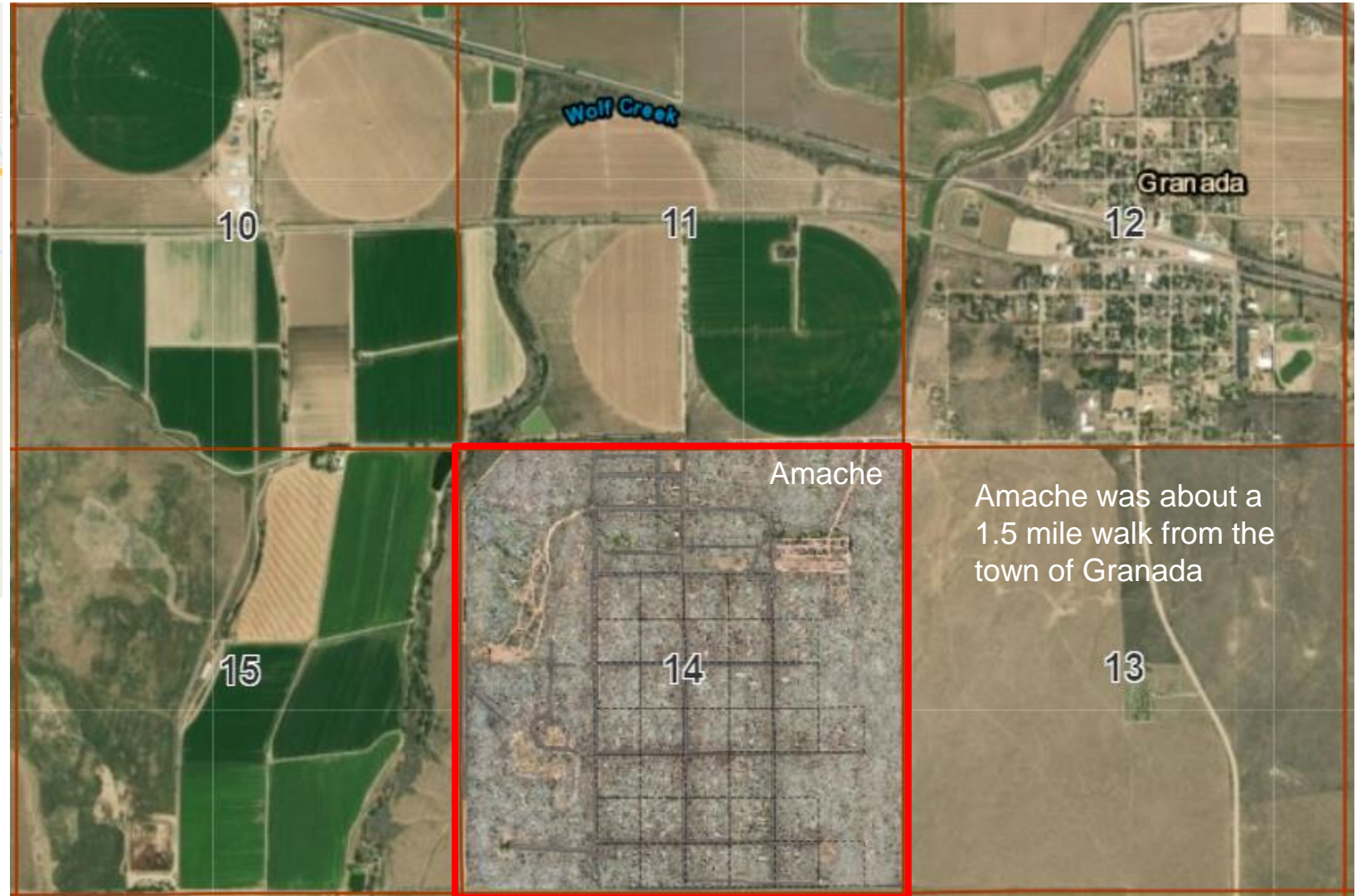
Amache Special Resource Study Area

Managed by Amache Preservation Society



Link to the interactive Amache Camp Directory Map, where you can find your family's barrack location:

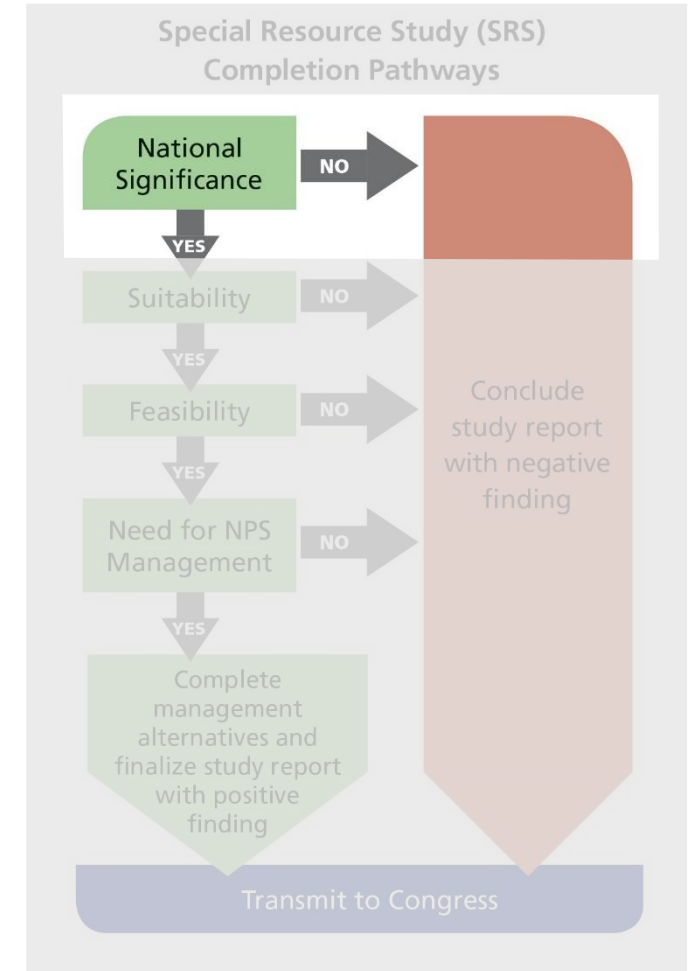
<http://arcg.is/1Oae1f>



Criterion 1 - National Significance

Amache meets the National Significance criteria because it is on the National Register of Historic Places and is a National Historic Landmark

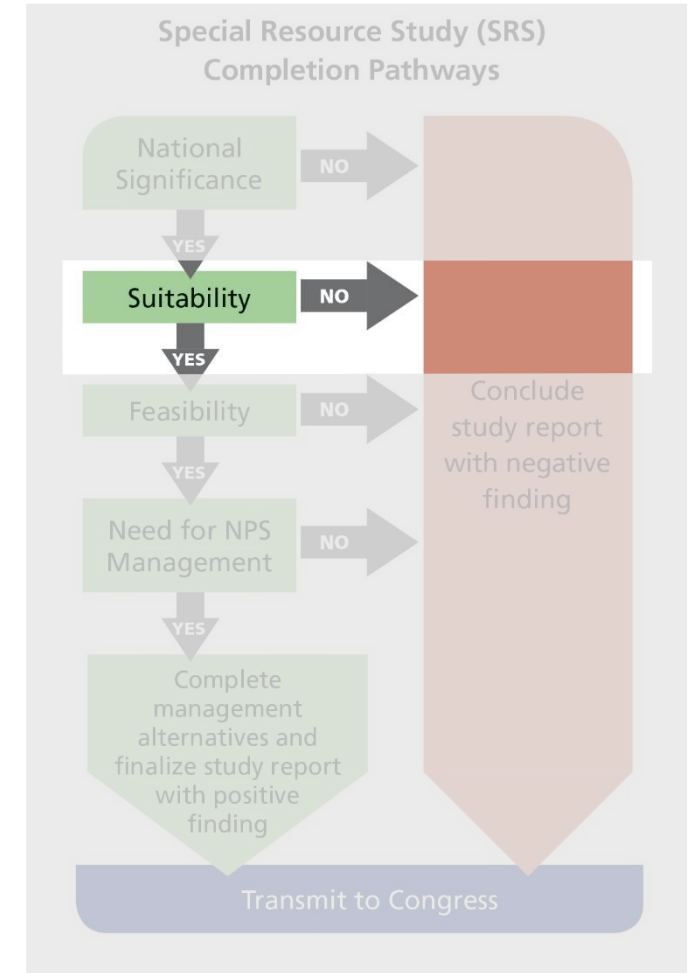
- National Register of Historic Places on May 18, 1994
- Designated a National Historic Landmark on February 10, 2005
- National Historic Landmark includes Japanese



Criterion 2 - Suitability

1. The represented resource type is **not already adequately represented** in national park system or not represented and protected for public enjoyment by other federal agencies, tribal, state, or local governments, or the private sector
1. Will resource **duplicate, enhance, or expand** visitor opportunities and resource protection?

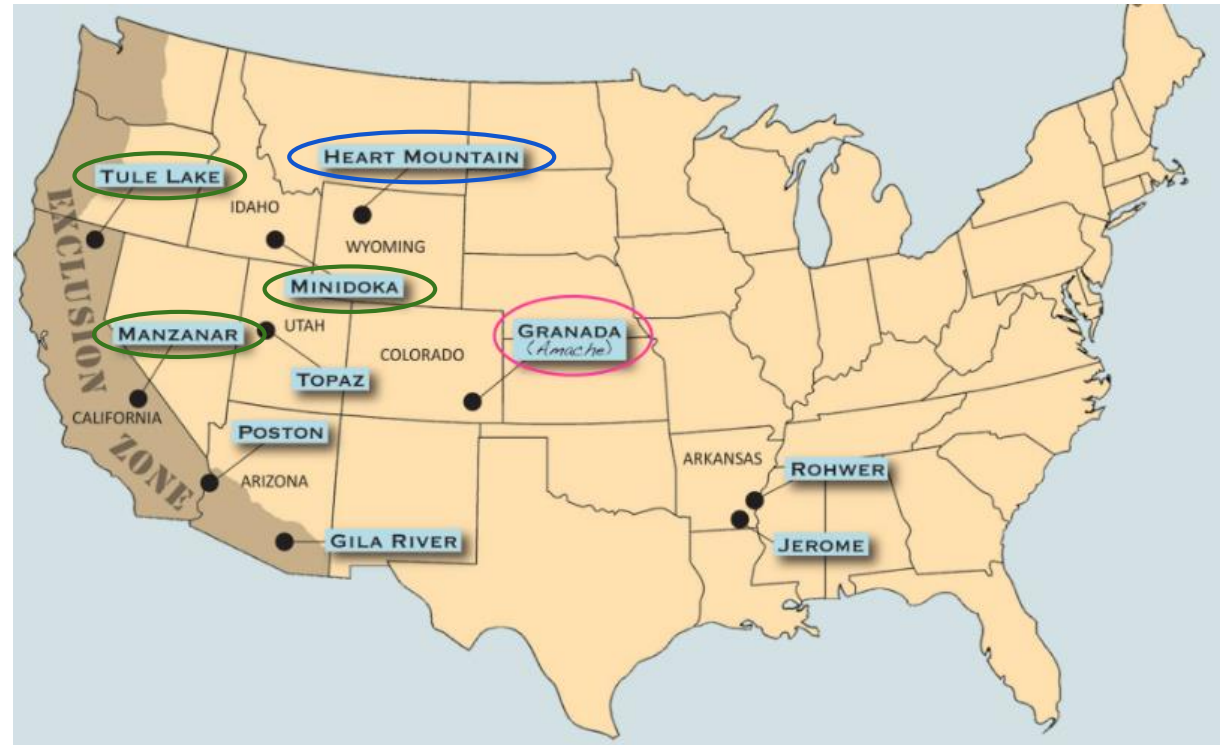
Amache adds unique aspects of the incarceration story that would not be told without its preservation



Criterion 2 - Suitability

Preservation of multiple sites is needed to tell the full history of incarceration.

- Many families were dispersed among different confinement sites, or moved among them at various times
- Each site had its own unique characteristics, e.g. Amache was the only site welcomed by the state Governor and established on all private land



Sites circled in green are already NPS units, site circled in blue is well managed by a non-profit foundation

Criterion 2 - Suitability

Amache is one of the best preserved sites: almost the entire living area is still recognizable, with evidence of daily life and adaptations made by inmates.



1942



2008



Trees transplanted from the Arkansas River Valley, 3 miles away, purchased from a local nursery, or mail order seeds.

Many still exist today.

1944



At Amache, the barracks had a continuous concrete foundation which are still in place so you know the exact locations of buildings.

The doorways have lower thresholds, so visitors can find the exact entry points.

2007

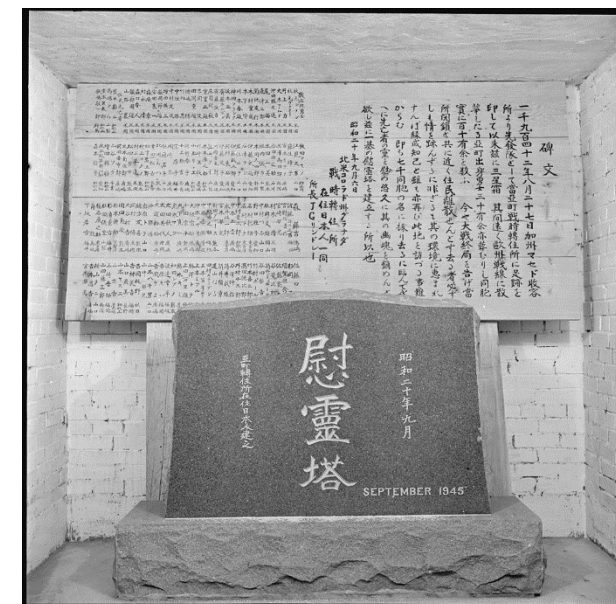
Criterion 2 - Suitability

Amache is one of the best preserved sites: almost the entire living area is still recognizable, with evidence of daily life and adaptations made by inmates.



Criterion 2 - Suitability

Amache is one of the best preserved sites: one of only three surviving cemeteries, with continuous commemoration since 1945



Criterion 2 - Suitability

Amache was 1.5 miles from Granada, there was considerable movement between the two by Amache inmates and people from Granada and the surrounding area

- The proximity of Amache to the town of Granada created a situation unique among the WRA sites. Internees were close enough to Granada that walking into town to shop or even just visit a soda fountain was a common occurrence. The positive effect this had on the Amacheans morale was noted by the WRA.

Copyrighted photo by George Ochikubo with use permission by Denshō: The Japanese American Legacy Project



Families from Amache would walk to town.

Copyright is held by the Japanese American National Museum. Short-term educational use with limited circulation is permitted



Granada Fish Market run by an Amache inmate and shopped at by Amacheans and Granada townspeople

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Copyrighted photo by George Ochikubo with use permission by Denshō: The Japanese American Legacy Project



Families from Amache would walk to town.

Sites of Newman's Drugs and Granada Fish Market in 2012. Photo by Kirsten Leong



Granada Fish Market run by an Amache inmate and shopped at by Amacheans and Granada townspeople

Criterion 2 - Suitability

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- In 1943 the Amache Cooperative Enterprise was developed and operated by the inmates who had purchased shares in the venture. The Co-op was one of the largest organizations of its kind in Colorado. It became one of the most popular shopping areas in southern Colorado.
- Townspeople would go see movies at Amache since there was no movie theater in town, and come for sports

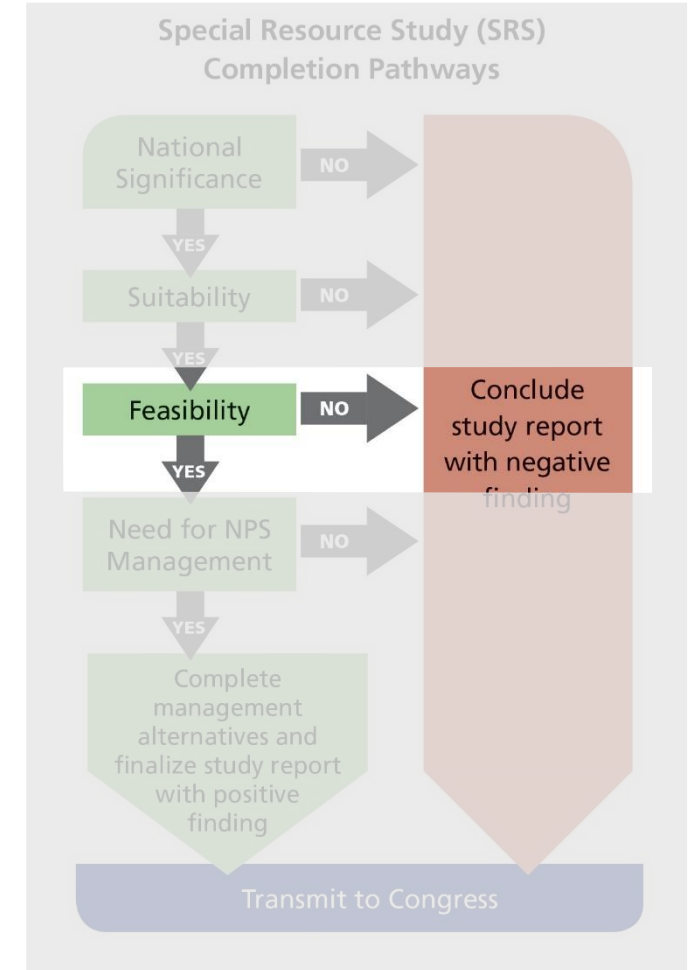


Criterion 3 - Feasibility

To be feasible as a new unit of the National Park System an area's natural systems and/or historic settings must be

1. of sufficient size and appropriate configuration to ensure long-term protection of the resources and visitor enjoyment,
2. capable of efficient administration by the National Park Service at a reasonable cost; important feasibility factors include land ownership, acquisition costs, life cycle maintenance costs, access, threats to the resource, and staff or development requirements.

Amache is relatively easy and cost-effective for NPS to administer efficiently



Criterion 3 - Feasibility

Considerable preservation and interpretation work has already been completed

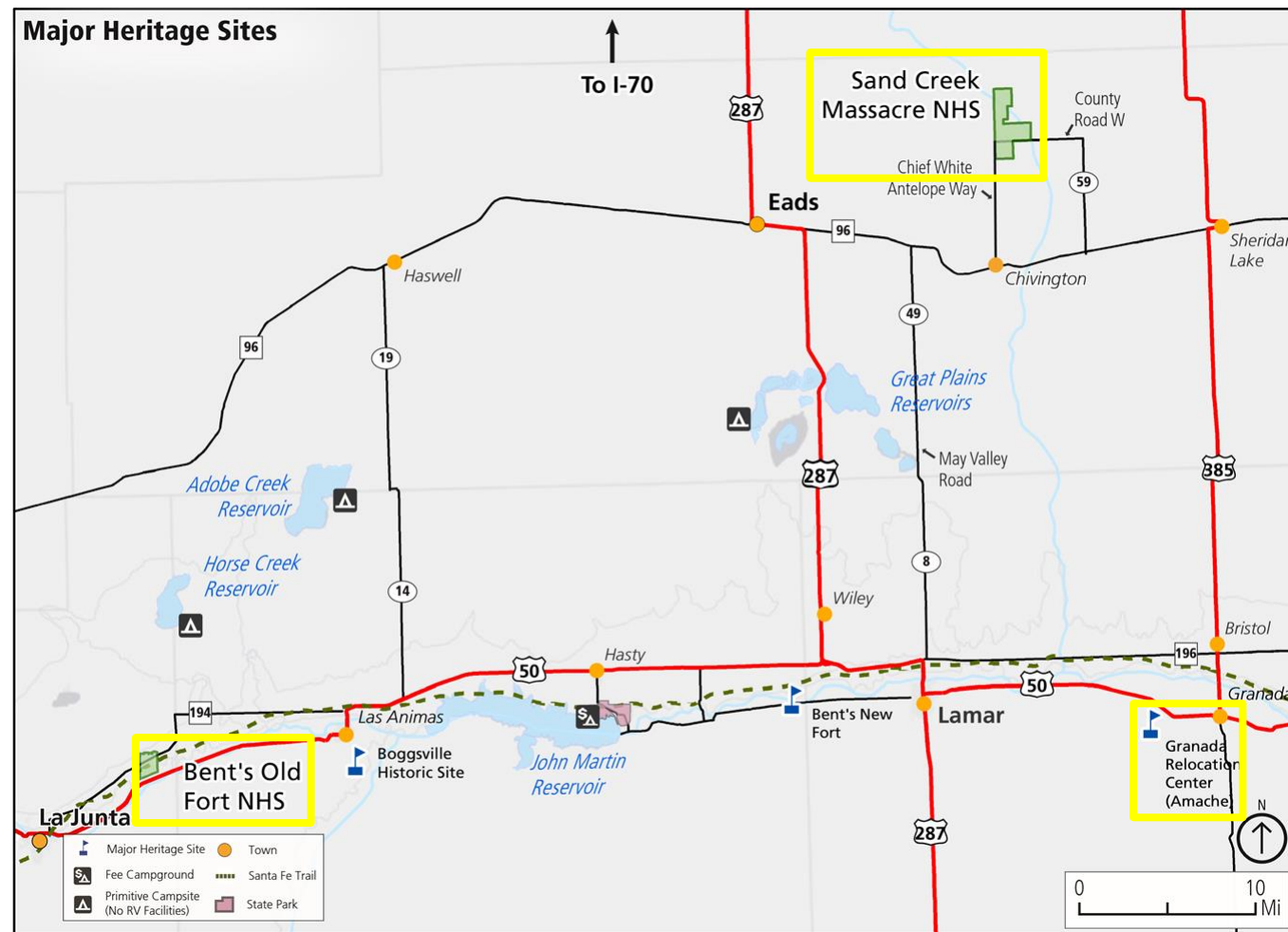
- The site is currently preserved, accessible for public enjoyment, and sees regular visitation
- The town of Granada supports preservation; Amache Study Area is on a 99 year lease to the Amache Preservation Society from the Town of Granada



Criterion 3 - Feasibility

There are already strong ties to NPS

- Amache is located on the [Santa Fe National Historic Trail](#)
- The two other National Park Service sites in the area, [Bent's Old Fort](#) and [Sand Creek Massacre](#) National Historic Sites, are already managed together by NPS
- Sand Creek Massacre has already been helping Amache with maintenance
- There are historic ties between the two sites via the name Amache and themes of racial prejudice



Criterion 4 - Need for NPS Management

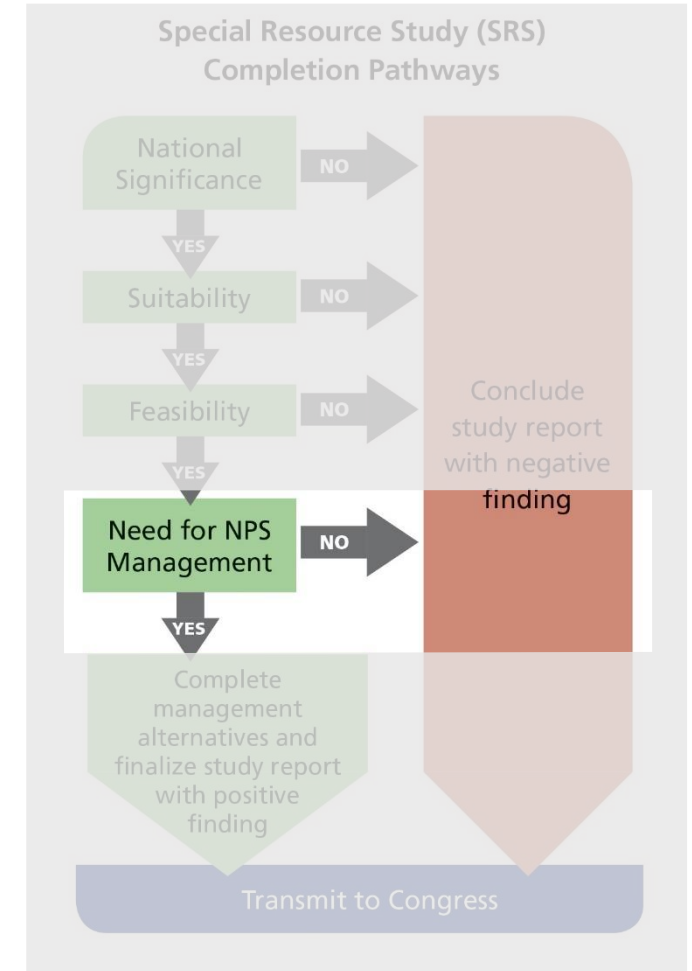
Site requires direct NPS management that is clearly superior to other management approaches

1. Compare management options:

- Continue current management
- Management by another entity (private, nonprofit, state, federal)
- NPS programs
- NPS management

2. Determine whether NPS management is optimal

Current management of Amache is not sustainable. NPS management would ensure the site is preserved in perpetuity.



Criterion 4 - Need for NPS Management

Management by NPS is superior to existing options and would ensure long-term protection for the resources and more thorough interpretation of the historic site

- Current management is piecemeal by a handful of dedicated individuals without clear succession plans
- Other private or non-profit organizations do not currently have the capacity for coordinated management



University of Denver Amache Project

Colorado Preservation Inc.



Amache
Preservation
Society

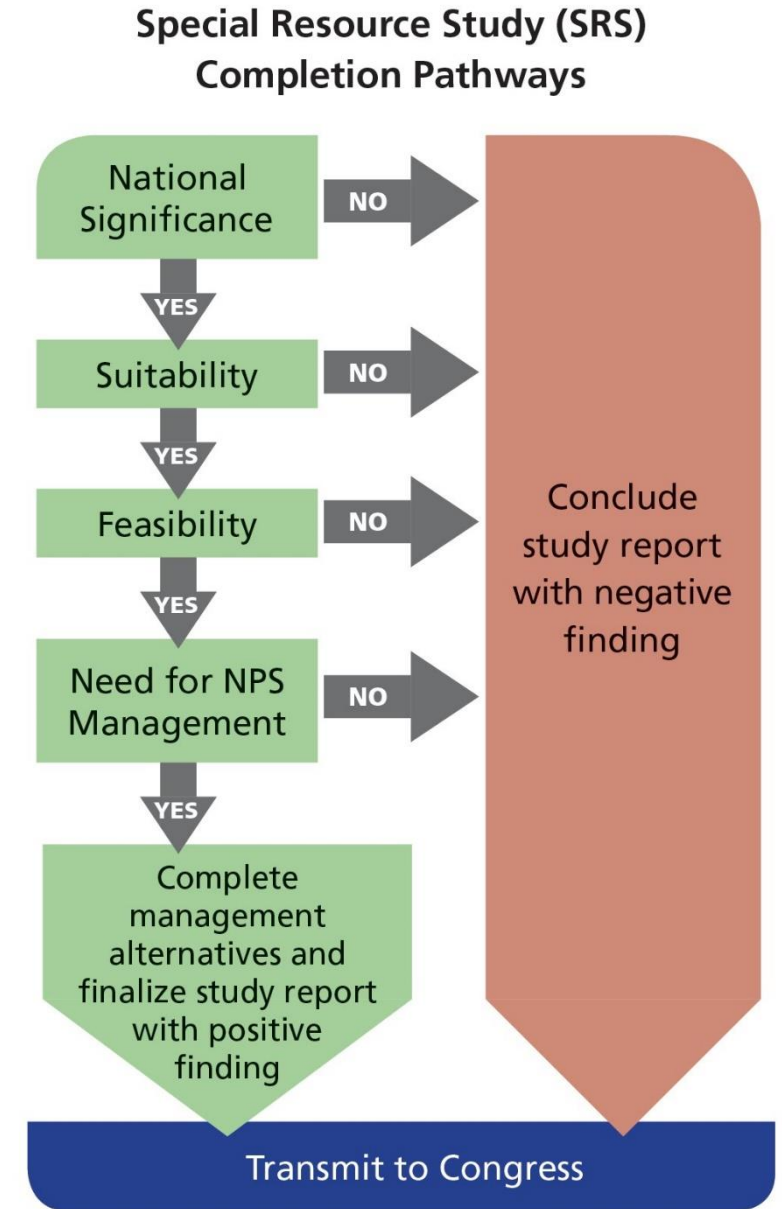


Amache Historical Society II (Amache Historical Society I, Amache Club, Friends of Amache, Japanese American Association of Colorado)

Key points to work into your public comments

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Questions?

<https://amache.org/> (see Historical Significance section)

amachehistoricalsocietyii@gmail.com



NPS Virtual Public Meetings and Public Comments

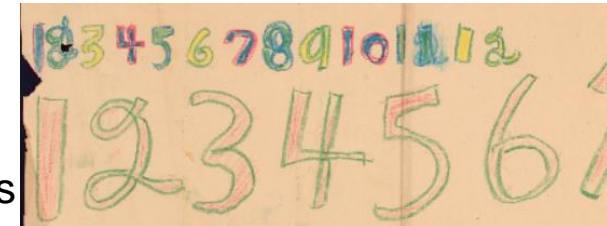
- Each of the three 2-hour meetings will follow the same format, beginning with a short presentation to introduce the Amache special resource study process, followed by smaller breakout groups to gather thoughts and information on the sites' potential for inclusion in the NPS system.
- There are five questions listed in the newsletter that will form the backbone of the discussion. The next section of this presentation will walk through the questions.
- **It is important to use your own words and experiences in your responses. Petitions and copied and pasted responses only count as one “substantive response”**
- We encourage you to share photos and personal stories to bring your testimony to life. You can hold them up to show on the screen and submit digital copies of pictures.
- **You should also submit comments online, even if you attend one or more meetings:**
<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/commentForm.cfm?documentID=101266>

Amache Special Resource Study

Public Comment Questions 1 of 5

Question 1: What is your vision for preserving Amache? How would you like to see the site managed? What types of activities and experiences do you want to see as part of Amache's future?

- Vision - Interpret Amache's physical features for educating future generations
 - Utilize the Amache site resources - building foundations, trees planted by Amache internees, remnants of koi ponds, baths, gardens, and cemetery - to connect to the memories and stories
 - Amache's artifacts and resources can be used to educate about the harsh conditions the internees endured along with their efforts to improve their environment
- Management - National Park Service managing the site with support from APS and DU Amache Project
 - Continue to have educational organizations focus on hands-on learning and research like the DU Amache Field School
 - NPS management is a long term solution for resource protection
- Future Activities and Experiences
 - Tell the story the people of Granada and surrounding area
 - Amache sports teams used the Granada school gyms
 - People from Granada went to Amache to shop and see the movies
 - Utilize the restored Rec Hall as a teaching classroom



Amache Special Resource Study

Public Comment Question 2 of 5

Question 2: Do you have any ideas or concerns that the National Park Service should be aware of and/or address in the study process?

- At present, there are no on-site managers affiliated with Amache stakeholder groups located at the Amache study area site. Although the Amache Preservation Society offers guided tours of the site, visitors can access the site unattended and without direct supervision.
- An existing Comprehensive Interpretive and Conceptual Development Plan was prepared by the NPS Intermountain Region for the town of Granada and stakeholder groups. Many of the projects to enhance the visitor experience have been successfully completed with NPS involvement.
- Amache stakeholder groups are planning to updating the Comprehensive Interpretive and Conceptual Development Plan.



Amache co-op store concrete storage unit

Additional protection:

The crumbling concrete is made worse by the deep pits created by pistol and rifle rounds. Many spent shell casings were found within range of the structure.

The original Amache memorial also has bullet damage. The wood panels are charred but were saved and at the Japanese American National Museum in California.



Original Amache granite memorial stone

Amache Special Resource Study

Public Comment Question 3 of 5

Question 3: What objects, buildings, remaining features, values and stories do you believe are most important and why?

- While you can tell the story with a few structures and video recreations, National Parks exist to immerse the visitor's senses.
- The surviving original roads and the concrete building foundations give a clear picture of the original layout and design of the site. Retracing my father's steps with him and his siblings while they were recalling memories was overwhelming, especially when you heard nothing growing up.
- A 1945 granite memorial dedicated to those who died at Amache is located in a small brick building adjacent to the cemetery. My grandfather, dentist, passed away at Amache at the age of 44 long with 147 others.

WW2-era garden and pond



Garden and pond artifacts



Then
<=
Now
=>



Homma Children at the Memorial their Grandfather designed

Amache Special Resource Study

Public Comment Question 4 of 5

Question 4: What do you think differentiates Amache from the other nine Japanese American incarceration camps?

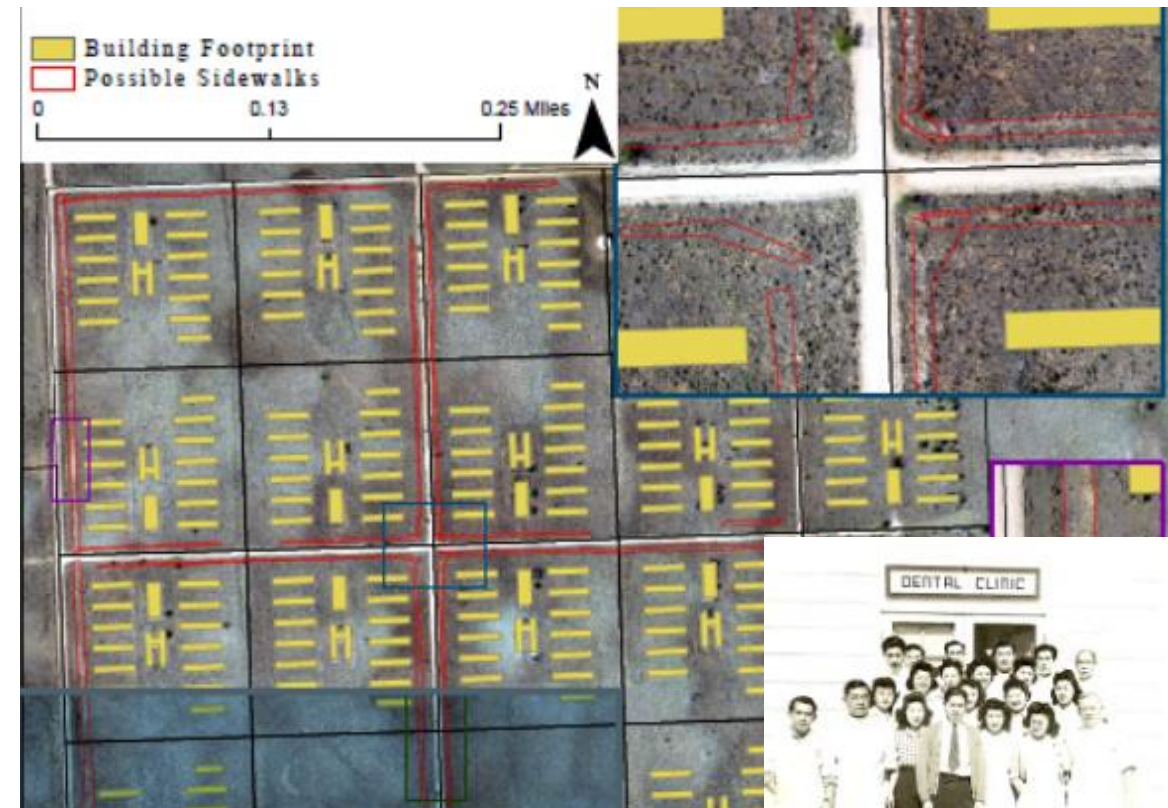
- The people... Amacheans used trees, gardens, sports fields, furniture, and sidewalks to add to physical integrity. These physical artifacts connect to personal stories of life behind barb wire.
- In addition to the physical aspects – the people, region, and town comprise the uniqueness.
- Since the complete living area is within the Special Resource Study, every descendant has the opportunity for a first hand experience to stand at their family's living areas.



Homma Family at 12K – 12E



2008: Homma Family at 12K – 12E



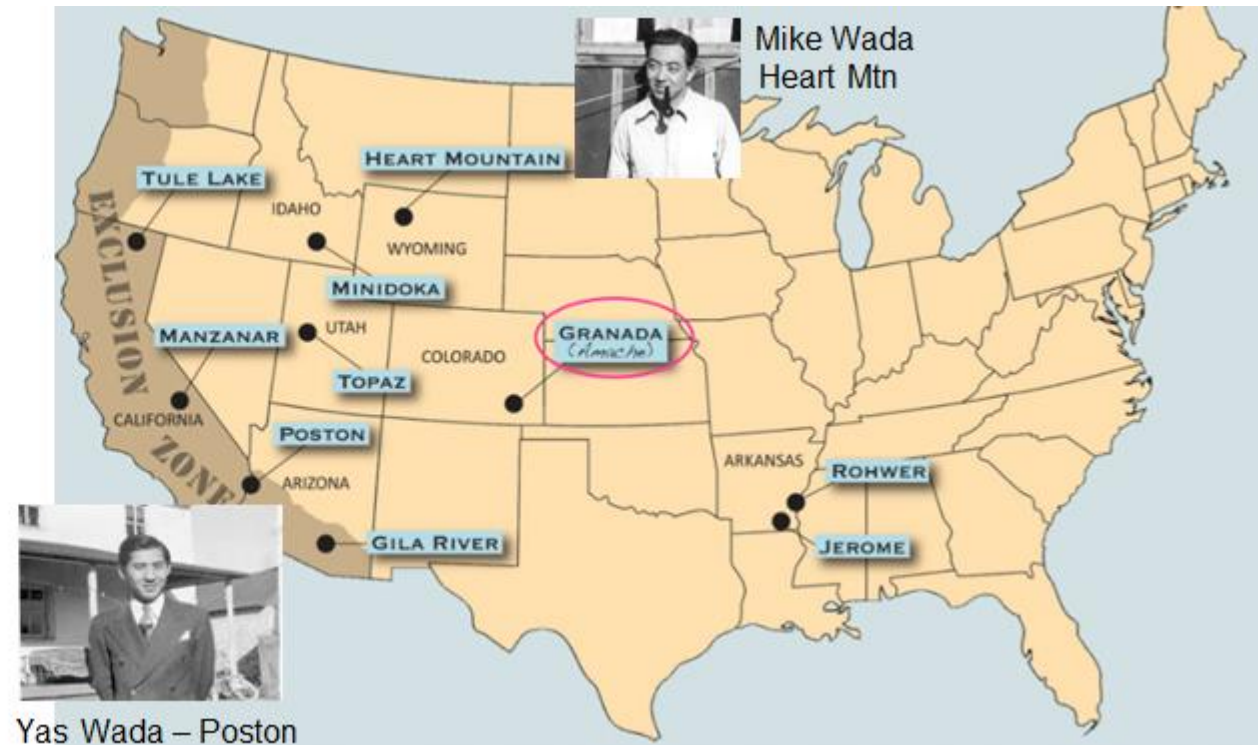
Original roads and building foundations at Amache. Research is being conducted on the sidewalks.

Amache Special Resource Study

Public Comment Question 5 of 5

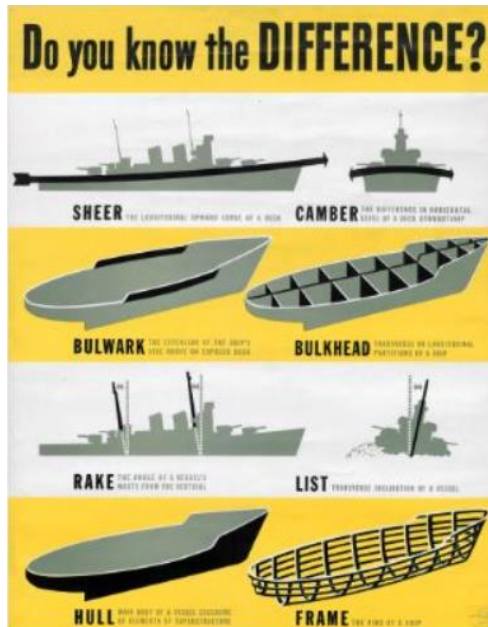
Question 5: Do you have any other ideas or comments you would like to share with us?

- Like many others, my family's story spans several WRA and DOJ sites
- My grandmother's siblings were split up and sent to Amache, Heart Mountain, and Poston. Her parents, my great grandparents, were both arrested by the FBI and sent to Santa Fe, NM and Seagoville, Texas



Amache – Silkscreen Shop in Block 6E and Wartime production

- Although many of the WRA sites had war-related industries, Amache was the only site with a successful silkscreen shop.
 - At the time, silkscreening was one of the best ways to crisply print in color, something required by the U.S. Navy for their training materials.
 - Established in June of 1943, the Amache silkscreen shop produced over 250,000 color posters under a contract with the navy.
 - The staff also created many prints for use within the site, including calendars, programs for events, even souvenirs for the yearly carnival.
 - Provided valuable vocational training for workers who subsequently relocated to use their new-found skills



"Center Silk Screen Shop Expands to Fill Navy Order," *Granada Pioneer*, November 6, 1943

"1944 Calendars Distributed by Silk Screen," *Granada Pioneer*, December 24, 1943

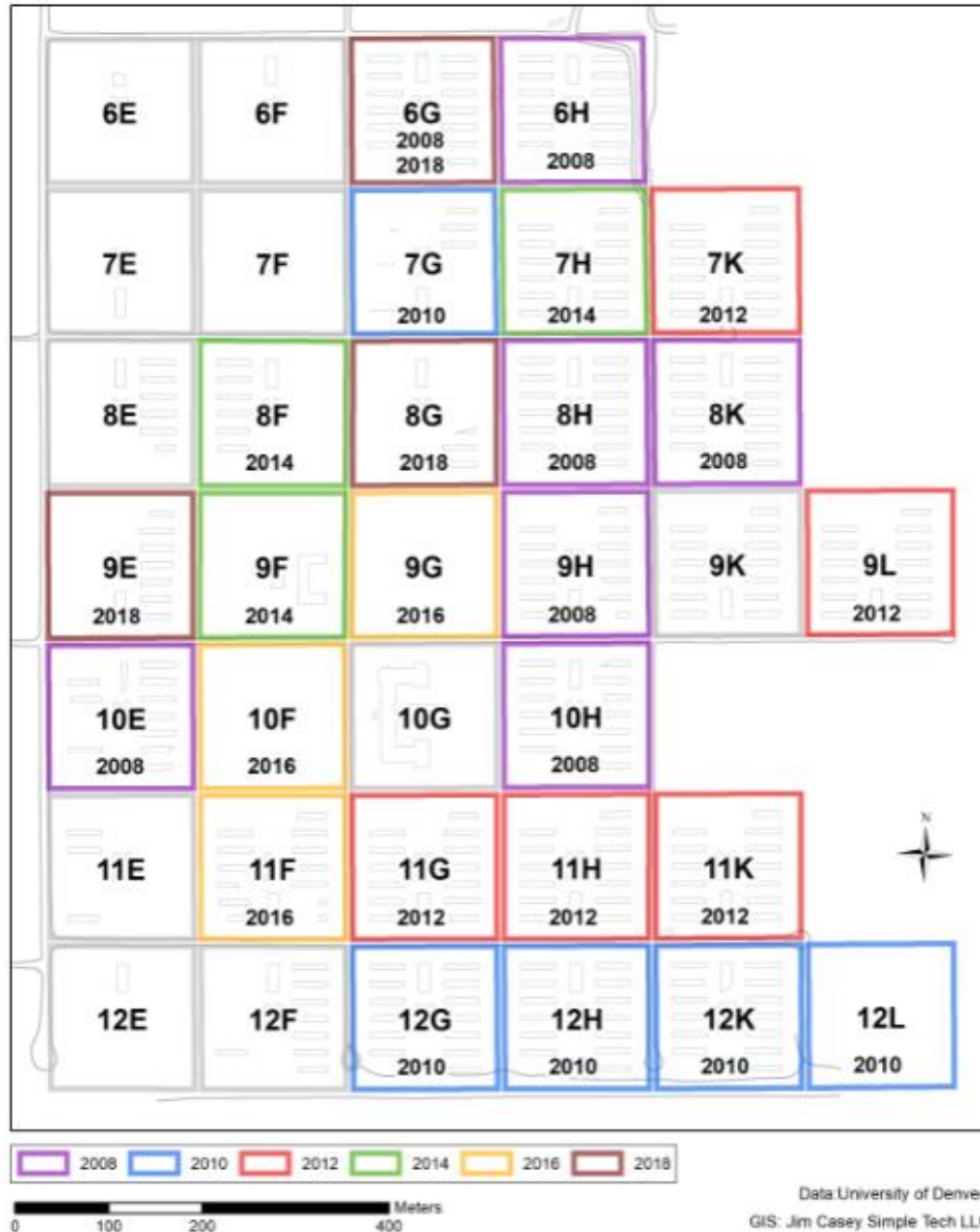


Questions?

<https://amache.org/> (see Historical Significance section)

amachehistoricalsocietyii@gmail.com





Archaeological work has been happening at Amache since 2005

Most of Amache is preserved compared to many other sites where residential areas were destroyed

Most of Amache has been surveyed reducing work for the NPS

Concrete barrack foundations help visitors visualize the space - other sites don't have these.

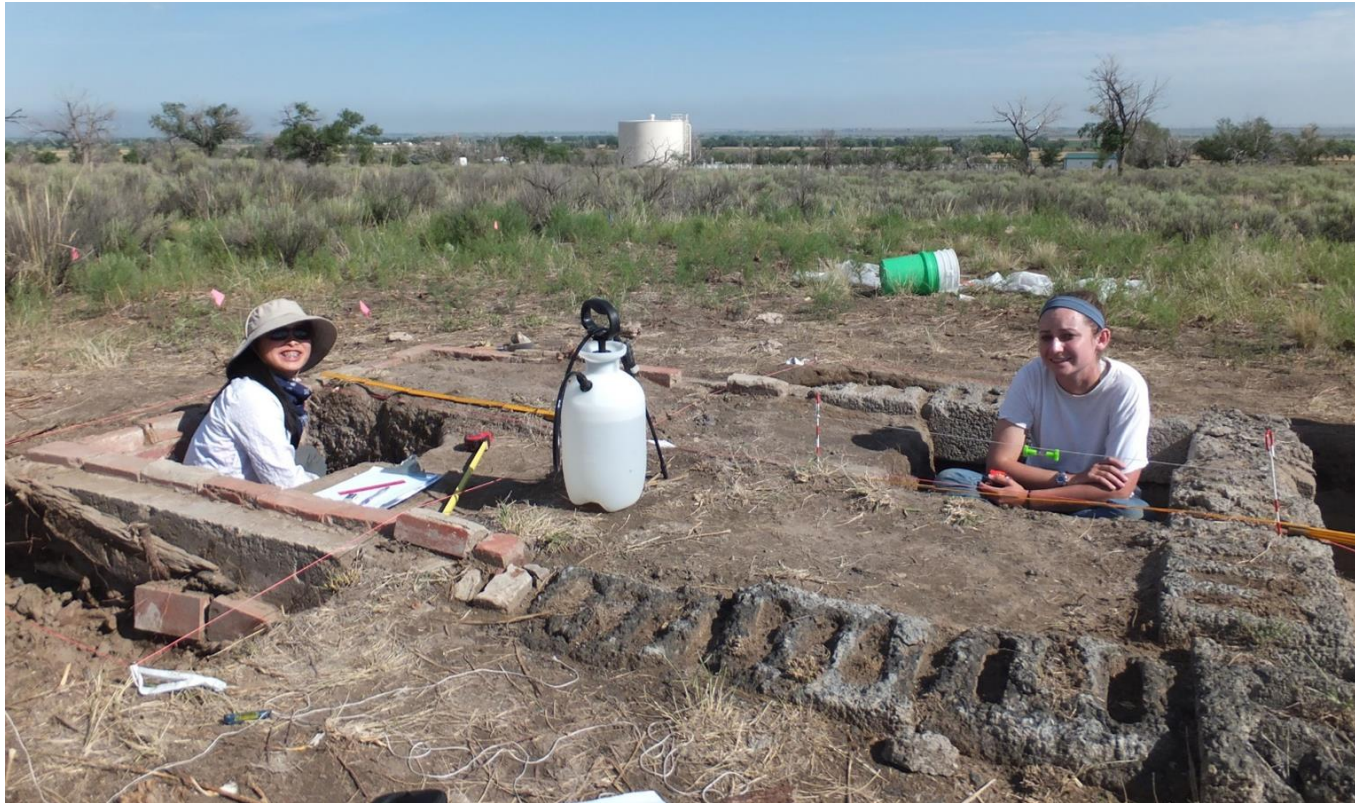


Map created by Jim Casey

Right: Garden example



Amache has evidence of daily activities that are not well recorded or documented.



Students excavating an ofuro, traditional Japanese bath.



A sake bottle and evidence of brewing are activities banned by the WRA but done by internees

Visits to the site help members of the community remember and share the history of incarceration



Community members share stories and visit the site during an open house



A marble found in a garden reminds visitors of these young boys playing marbles.



The physical remains of Amache enforce lessons about injustice and oppression that are still important.



Additional Background

Criterion 2 - Suitability

The represented resource type is **not already adequately represented** in national park system

- Existing NPS National Historic Sites

- **Honouliuli National Historic Site**, Hawaii (**Not open to the public yet**)
 - US Army & DOJ run civilian internment camp and prisoner of war camp - population of ~400 internees and 4,000 prisoners
- **Manzanar National Historic Site**, California
 - First WWII War Relocation Authority (WRA) managed site with an orphanage
- **Minidoka National Historic Site**, Idaho
 - WWII War Relocation Authority (WRA) managed site
 - **Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial**
 - Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, Seattle, WA, provides National Park Service administrative assistance.

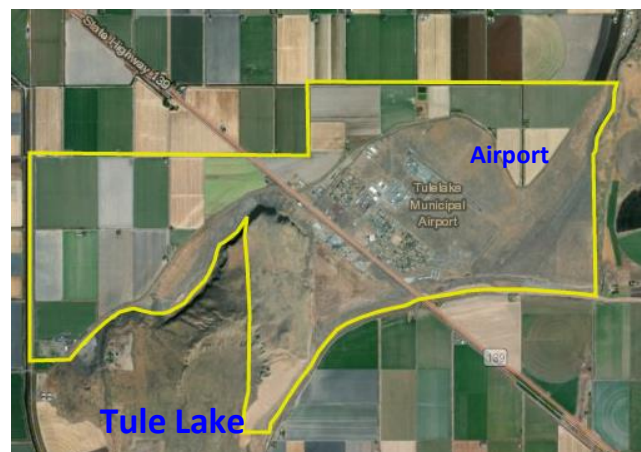
- Existing NPS National Monument

- **Tule Lake National Monument**, California
 - WRA managed site with the only stockade for the “disloyal”

Similar to Amache: Living area & cemetery is preserved



Tule Lake Airport occupies a lot of the area



72 acres preserved ~16 miles from Jerome



Criterion 2 - Suitability

The represented resource type is **not represented and protected for public enjoyment by other** federal agencies, tribal, state, or local governments, or the private sector

Examples of privately managed sites (not a complete list):

- **Granada Relocation Center (Amache), CO managed by Amache Preservation Society**
- **Heart Mountain** National Historic Landmark, WY by Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation
 - Visitor center, barrack, root cellar, hospital, Honor Roll
 - Most of the living area has long been reclaimed for agriculture
- **Rohwer** Relocation Center Memorial Cemetery and National Historic Landmark, AK
 - Most of the area was sold and is now farmland, housing, and a high school.
 - Only the cemetery and a few other features remain; there is a museum in McGee, Arkansas
- Central Utah Relocation Center (**Topaz**) National Historic Landmark, UT managed by the Topaz Museum
 - Museum recently opened, working on acquiring land and how to manage
- **Poston** Elementary School, Unit I National Historic Landmark, AZ by Poston Community Alliance
 - Poston and a Memorial Monument are on Colorado River Indian Tribal lands

Criterion 2 - Suitability

- The site exists today as it did when the War Relocation Authority selected the site in 1942 – a generally treeless prairie dominated by sagebrush, sunflowers, and prickly pear cactus. It retains an intact tangible historic archaeological resources that include foundations of buildings, brick floored barracks, trees planted by former Amache internees, the original roads, and evidence of daily life.



2010 with the original trees, roads and foundations. Restored water tower, barracks, guard tower

Amache was the only relocation center established on all private land acquired for the WRA.

Criterion 2 - Suitability

Will resource duplicate, enhance, or expand visitor opportunities and resource protection?

- Enhance
 - Preservation of multiple sites is needed to tell the full history of incarceration
 - Amache is one of the best preserved sites: almost the entire living area is still recognizable, with evidence of daily life and adaptations made by inmates.
 - Included in the boundary are the building foundations, restored landmarks, original roads, cemetery, and living areas that reflect the living conditions more clear
 - Amache was 1.5 miles from Granada, there was considerable movement between the two by Amache inmates and people from Granada and the surrounding area
- Expand visitor opportunities
 - APS students travel throughout Colorado and into Kansas and Oklahoma to speak about the World War II internment and specifically Amache.
 - Amache educates a different region than other similar sites. For example, Manzanar's permanent exhibit that tells the stories of the transportation to Manzanar, the Owens Valley Paiute Indians, local ranchers, and the role that water played in shaping the history of the Owens Valley.
- Resource protection
 - Archeology has identified and cataloged the location of many artifacts at Amache
 - Under NPS management, Amache would provide an educational opportunity for visitors in a different region and further preserve the historic site and artifacts

Criterion 3 - Feasibility

Considerable preservation and interpretation work has already been completed

- The site is currently preserved, accessible for public enjoyment, and sees regular visitation
- The town of Granada supports preservation; Amache Study Area is on a 99 year lease to the Amache Preservation Society from the Town of Granada
 - Note: There are ways to ensure that the Town of Granada preserves water rights if the site is administered by NPS
 - Granada would benefit from any NPS positions created and increased visitation to the area
- Many restoration projects, including reconstructions of a barrack, recreation hall, guard tower, and iconic water tower have been completed through the [NPS JACS Grant Program](#)
- Amache Preservation Society has secured facilities in Granada for a Museum and Research Facility, and hold many Amache artifacts, which would be easy to convert to NPS exhibits
- Amache Preservation Society has developed ongoing daily programming, including in-person site tours, an online self-guided driving tour, and museum exhibits that could be easily adapted by NPS
- Existing annual programming would be easy to convert to NPS events, including the annual Pilgrimage in partnership with the Japanese American Association of Colorado, Day of Remembrance programs in partnership with the History Colorado Museum, and DU Archaeology Field School Open Houses

Criterion 3 - Feasibility

Amache's unique eight-sided guard towers

Completed restoration projects



2012



1945

Rehabilitation and reconstruction of the landmark water tower, which rose high above the camp, was completed in the spring of 2012. A barracks building and guard tower have also been restored to the same area.

The 25,000 gallon water tower stands 72-foot high and still is a visible landmark. The 800-ft water wells still supply water to the surrounding area. Initially, drinking water had to be trucked in from the nearby town of Granada.



1944



Criterion 3 - Feasibility

There are already strong ties to NPS

- Amache is located on Mountain Route of the [Santa Fe National Historic Trail](#) (along Hwy 50), which is part of the NPS's National Trail System
- Amache is located in the same broad area as two other National Park Service sites, [Bent's Old Fort](#) and [Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Sites](#), which are already managed together under one NPS Superintendent
- Sand Creek Massacre has already been helping Amache with maintenance and there are historic ties between the two sites via the name Amache and themes of racial prejudice.
 - Amache was named after the daughter of a Cheyenne chief who was killed at Sand Creek Massacre
 - Sand Creek Massacre NHS commemorates the November 29, 1864, unprovoked attack by the U.S. military on a village of about 700 Southern Cheyenne and Arapaho men, women, and children. They had had registered with the military that they were not hostile to the government and followed instructions to relocate near military posts.

Criterion 4 - Need for NPS Management

Current management is piecemeal by a handful of dedicated individuals without clear succession plans

- John Hopper started Amache Preservation Society when he was the Granada High School Social Studies teacher. He is now Principal for Granada High School. He and the high school students maintain the site, respond to requests for in-person tours, and staff the museum, in addition to their regular school responsibilities
- Other organizations coordinate regular events such as the DU Amache Archaeology Field School and Pilgrimage but are not able to take on additional management of the site
- The website and newsletter are maintained by a handful of volunteers with the Amache Historical Society II who hold other full-time jobs

Other private or non-profit organizations do not currently have the capacity for coordinated management

- APS cannot be added to the job description of future Social Studies teachers of Granada High School
- No non-profit options exist; people active with the associated groups (Friends of Amache, Amache Club, Amache Historical Society I, Amache Historical Society II) are a small handful of people and none of the organizations have official non-profit status
- No other state or federal agencies have been involved

Management by NPS is superior to existing options and would ensure long-term protection for the resources and more thorough interpretation of the historic site

Resources

- [Amache.org](https://amache.org/) - <https://amache.org/>
- National Park Service Amache Special Resource Study - <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/90d109e897284c9b91e48d492140a823>
- Univ. of Denver Amache Project - <https://portfolio.du.edu/amache>
- Augmenting Amache - <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/c256b7ed97cb403aaf107742fc895f85>
- History Colorado - http://exhibits.historycolorado.org/amache/amache_home.html#
- Densho Encyclopedia - [http://encyclopedia.densho.org/Amache_\(Granada\)/](http://encyclopedia.densho.org/Amache_(Granada)/)
- Mapping Amache with online directory - <http://www.mappingamache.com/>
- JANM Discover Nikkei Amache Stories - <http://www.discovernikkei.org/en/search/?q=Amache>
- Japanese Internment Camp Silk Screeners - <https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/japanese-internment-camp-print-shop>
- National Park Service Confinement and Ethnicity Chapter 5 - <http://npshistory.com/series/anthropology/wacc/74/chap5.htm>

Questions?

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