

# IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## REFERENCE SERIES

### ATLANTA DAM AND POWER PLANT

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The Atlanta Dam and Power Plant were constructed by the Atlanta Miners Company in 1906-1907. They are situated on the Middle Fork of the Boise River just below its junction with the Yuba river, two miles west of Atlanta. The dam, which provides a forty-six-foot head, is constructed of log cribs filled with rocks. A timber flume on the north side diverts the waters to the power plant. The power plant furnished power for lights and an air compressor and hoist at the Monarch Mine and the company's 150-ton mill. Excess power was made available for sale to other mining companies.

A. R. Jayne, a mechanical engineer from Salt Lake City, Utah, installed the power plant machinery in January of 1907. The Mountain Home Maverick of January 10, 1907, reported:

In view of the fact that the immense amount of machinery for this plant had to be carried across the mountains, its completion within the 60 days called for in the contract was a matter of congratulation, and as Daniel Kirby, local manager, said, Charles Moore & Co., of San Francisco, who furnished the machinery, made no mistake in assigning Mr. Jayne the task of erecting same. . . .

Electricity for the mine and mill was transmitted for the first time near the end of May, 1907. On October 1, 1907, the facility provided the town of Atlanta with its first electricity. The plant is still Atlanta's source of power.<sup>1</sup>

The Atlanta Dam and Power Plant are a rare and fine example of turn-of-the-century power technology. The horizontal turbines and generators are an unusual surviving example of a technology which disappeared several years after their installation. The dam is one of the few remaining log crib dams in Idaho and an excellent example of a standard construction form employed for power plants in early-twentieth-century mines.

Data concerning the turbines and generators: two 180 KW 2200 volt 47.3 amp 3 phase 60 cycle 514 rpm Westinghouse electric and Manufacturing Company alternating-current generators (serial 425007 and 425008) with patents from 1 May 1894 through 4 April 1905; two 30 KW 125 volt 240 amp 850 rpm direct current generators (serial 514 463 and 515 464) with patents from 16 January 1894 through 19 July 1904; a General Electric voltage regulator type TA 125 form P8 HC volts 100-125 and exciter volts 70-140 (serial 11722) patented 1 May 1916; and a compensating type 1901 Woodward governor Type C 17494 (serial 1929) for prime movers.

<sup>1</sup>The Atlanta Dam and Power Plant burned June 27, 1983.