

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Idaho	
COUNTY: Ada	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: Fort Boise (U.S. Army)

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Sec. 2, T3N, R2E

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE Idaho	CODE 16	COUNTY: Ada	CODE 001
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____
		<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Veteran's Administration

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Ada County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Boise STATE: Idaho CODE: 16

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Some of the early buildings of 1864 still stand, and at least one is still in use. A number of later buildings of the military post also are in use, and although a Veteran's Hospital has been built next to them, enough of the old fort still can be seen to make this a site of unusual interest.

The site has architectural interest, especially due to the early date of the U.S. Quartermaster's building and the one remaining house of the original "officers' row", both constructed of native sandstone quarried nearby. These two 1864 structures are massive in character; they afford an unusually good opportunity to observe stone construction of the period. Early photographs extant allow study of later alterations, although these are minor.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Indian hostility against immigrants moving westward over the Oregon Trail prompted the United States Army to authorize the establishment of Fort Boise. Massacre of the Ward party in Boise valley in 1854 brought military retaliation against the local Indians. Increased native restlessness which naturally followed these incidents forced the Hudson's Bay Company to abandon Fort Boise, a fur trade post located where the Boise River discharges into the Snake. Army escort units came out for several seasons to meet the annual immigrant parties and to protect them through the dangerous Snake country. Yet the need still was felt for a permanent military post in the vicinity of the fur traders' earlier Fort Boise. Numerous attacks in 1858 and 1859 made the situation worse. Finally, after hearing of the Otter massacre (which certainly showed the futility of the Army escort system), General George Wright formally recommended, October 10, 1860, that the United States Army erect another Fort Boise. Before this proposal could be acted upon, though, the Army got involved in the Civil War. During that conflict, national concern with the Indians of the Snake country diminished somewhat. With the gold rush to Boise Basin underway late in 1862, however, solution of the Boise Indian problem could be deferred no longer. General Benjamin Alvord suggested, October 14, 1862, that the need for Fort Boise had increased tenfold since 1860. The Governor of Washington, whose territory included all of the later Idaho, firmly endorsed the request, and General Wright continued to urge immediate action. Finally, on January 14, 1863, the Secretary of War authorized the new post. General Alvord decided upon a site about forty miles up the river from the Hudson's Bay Company's earlier Fort Boise, and Major Pinckney Lugenbeel left Fort Vancouver, June 1, to put the orders in effect.

Arriving in the vicinity of the new post, June 28, Lugenbeel spent several days choosing an exact site. Then he celebrated July 4 by formally locating Fort Boise. While a detachment of Oregon cavalry was working on the original log structures of Fort Boise, a town sprang up next to the post. Both the Fort and the town were intended to be permanent; aside from some settler's 1863 log cabins preserved as relics, the oldest buildings in Boise are some of those constructed for the Fort. A sandstone quartermaster's building erected September 1, 1864, still is in use as an office building more than a century later, and at least one of the other really early fort buildings has survived.

(Con't)

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(Continuation Sheet)

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(Number all entries)

8. Significance (Con't)

Serving as a community center as well as a military base, Fort Boise was the scene of theatrical performances, religious services, band concerts, and Christmas festivities in Boise's early days. The Fort Boise Varieties were presented for a number of years, and the soldiers stationed at the post contributed much to the community life and development. The Fort's primary purpose, though, was to control the Indians. An extended campaign in 1863 proved to be an unproductive search for Indians to fight. Then in 1864, Indian outbreaks over a wide area of southern Idaho and eastern Oregon set off a four year Snake war, and the headquarters of the First Oregon Cavalry under Colonel R.F. Maury was transferred to Fort Boise, August 28, 1864. Finding the offending Indians generally proved to be an insoluble problem although exploration of a Jacksonville-Fort Boise military road by Colonel C.S. Drew during the summer of 1864 opened up a route to connect the major areas of military operations during that long struggle.

Governor Caleb Lyon held a major Indian council at Fort Boise, October 10, 1865, in an effort to bring the Indian troubles to an end. The United States Senate declined to ratify his treaties, and hostilities continued. Pressure and complaints from settlers over southwestern Idaho led to designation of Fort Boise as headquarters for a new military district of Boise, March 2, 1866, with Major L.H. Marshall in command. Camps Alvord, Lyon, Reed, and Lander were assigned to the new district, which Marshall reorganized by establishing Camp C.F. Smith and Camp Three Forks during 1866. Marshall's Indian campaigns failed, though, and General George Crook arrived at Fort Boise, December 11, 1866, to straighten things out. Crook set out on a winter campaign almost immediately, and most of the rest of the Snake war was fought in eastern Oregon and points beyond. The military district of Boise was discontinued, January 29, 1867, and with the end of the Snake war, June 30, 1868, there was talk of closing the Fort. Soldiers from Fort Boise, however, had proved useful to Governor Ballard early in 1867 when they responded to a call to protect government lamps and furniture--and incidentally, the territorial governor and secretary--from legislative displeasure which was threatening to become violent. In April, 1868, Governor Ballard employed help from the Fort to suppress the Owyhee war--a violent mining claim fracas which required the presence of soldiers in Silver City. Ballard suggested Fort Boise might be converted into a good territorial capitol or penitentiary both of which then were needed. His political adversaries proposed that the Fort (already equipped with a school anyway) was highly suitable for a campus for the University of Idaho--an institution which seemed to be less in demand just then. In response to demand from the settlers, however, Fort Boise continued as a useful military post.

During the Bannock war of 1878 and the Sheepeater campaign of 1879, Fort Boise served as a base of operations in Idaho's final Indian wars. On April 5, 1879, however, the Fort was redesignated Boise Barracks, where Army units were stationed until 1912. More than one notable military figure was stationed at Fort Boise, including General Jonathan Wainwright who served there early

(Con't)

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8. Significance (Con't)

in his military career. Soldiers returned there in 1916 preparing for the Mexican border campaign, and the barracks saw military use again from 1942 through 1944. In the meantime, a veterans hospital occupied the main part of the grounds from 1920 on; finally, on March 14, 1944, the property not needed for the hospital was ordered turned over to the State of Idaho.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	43° 37' 41"	116° 11' 41"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	43° 37' 41"	116° 10' 20"		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	43° 36' 53"	116° 10' 20"		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	43° 36' 53"	116° 11' 41"		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **440 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Merle Wells, State Liaison Officer**

ORGANIZATION: **Idaho State Historical Society** DATE: **Feb. 24, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER: **610 North Julia Davis Drive**

CITY OR TOWN: **Boise** STATE: **Idaho** CODE: **16**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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 National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Merle Wells

Title State Liaison Officer

Date February 24, 1972

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

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3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE: U.S.G.S.

SCALE: 1:24,000

DATE: 1954

4. REQUIREMENTS

- TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
1. Property boundaries where required.
 2. North arrow.
 3. Latitude and longitude reference.



1954 USGS
Map
?