

Idaho Military Posts and Camps

Number 63

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Fort Boise

Recommended by General George Wright, October 10, 1860, and by General Benjamin Alvord, October 14, 1862; authorized January 14, 1863; established in T3N, R2E July 5, 1863, to protect miners and emigrants; redesignated as Boise Barracks, April 5, 1879; abandoned 1912; part of site used for a Public Health Service hospital since 1919; some of the site transferred to the State of Idaho, March 14, 1944; additional parts of the site transferred to the City of Boise, March 2, 1948, February 28, 1950, and July 2, 1958, and 449 acres was transferred to the Bureau of Land Management, July 9, 1956; for additional information, see Reference Series 356.

Camp Boise River

Established August 15, 1855 at Hudson's Bay Company's Fort Boise at the confluence of the Boise and Snake rivers; garrisoned August 31, 1855; maintained six weeks.

Camp Buford

Established by L. H. Marshall on the Bruneau River near its junction with the Snake River in the summer of 1866 to furnish protection for settlers and emigrants.

Camp Conner

Established May 20, 1863, at Soda Springs for the protection of settlers and emigrants following the Battle of Bear River on January 29, 1863; abandoned by an order issued February 24, 1865; garrison reached Salt Lake May 8.

Fort Hall

Established May 27, 1870 in compliance with an order dated March 15, 1870; proclaimed a military reservation October 12, 1870, by U. S. Grant. Lt. Clinton B. Sears located the site

where Lincoln Creek flows out of the canyon twelve miles east of Snake River and fifteen miles from the Fort Hall Indian Agency, May 19, 1870. He conducted a survey for a post to protect the stage and freight route. Captain Putnam became the first commander. On February 27, 1883, when the soldiers were no longer needed, the barracks were transferred to the Department of Interior and utilized as an Indian school. The buildings eventually were moved to Ross Ford Creek. About 25 miles northwest of the ruins of the fur traders' Fort Hall, this post was about nine miles from the town of Blackfoot.

Camp Howard

Established July 31, 1877 at the base of the mountains two miles from Mount Idaho where the Mose Milner Trail leads down to Camas Prairie in the southwest quarter of T30N, R3E at the head of Three Mile Creek. The point of departure for Lt. Henry Catley during the Sheepster War of 1879, this post was abandoned March 23, 1881. Two other Camp Howards were also in use: One was situated on Doumecq Plain, and the other on the Lolo Trail.

Howe's Camp

Established by Major Howe on Portneuf River near Fort Hall in the middle of June 1860 to provide protection for emigrants; abandoned in late September 1860.

Camp Lander

After Cyrus H. Walker left Camp Wallace July 12, 1865 to select the site, an order to establish the camp was issued September 6. Walker located the camp October 6, at the junction of Salt Lake-Virginia City and Boise roads three miles southeast of Fort Hall on the north side of Ross Fork to protect emigrants. Ordered abandoned May 12, 1866, this camp was replaced in 1870 by Fort Hall. If the fur traders' Fort Hall had been in better shape, Camp Lander would have been placed there.

Fort Lapwai

Established July 22, 1862 and occupied by Sewell Truax and his troops October 23, 1862. Benjamin Alvord recommended a military reservation for the post, and President Lincoln issued the necessary proclamation on April 23, 1864. The post was abandoned October 15, 1865, but

reoccupied on November 23, 1866. The post and garrison played an active role during the Nez Perce War. On July 25, 1884, the Fort was once again discontinued. Located in T35N, R4W at the present town of Lapwai, the troops not only were to protect the settlers but were also supposed to prevent unscrupulous whites from taking advantage of the Indians.

Cantonment Loring

Established by Bvt. Lt. Col. Andrew Porter on August 6, 1849, about five miles above Fort Hall, to protect emigrants on the Oregon Trail; vacated about May 1, 1850, because of lack of supplies, and moved to the Dalles, Oregon.

Camp Lyon

Established June 27, 1865 where Cow Creek crosses the Idaho-Oregon boundary to garrison troops engaged in the Snake War; abandoned by order issued March 15, 1869; site of a field camp during the Bannock War; for additional information see Reference Series 357.

Camp Osburn

Occupied December 2, 1899, and garrisoned during the period of martial law which ended April 11, 1901.

Camp Reed

Established July 3, 1865 by Lt. J. W. Cullen on Rock Creek to guard the stage and emigrant road; moved to Salmon Falls Creek near Snake River by an order issued August 22, 1865; ordered vacated, May 12, 1866.

Fort Sherman

Established April 16, 1878, as Camp Coeur d'Alene on a site chosen for its beauty by General W. T. Sherman in August 1877; name changed to Fort Coeur d'Alene on April 5, 1879, and to Fort Sherman, April 6, 1887; ordered abandoned March 5, 1900 and vacated in September 1900; replaced by Fort George Wright in Spokane. Some of the buildings remain on the site in present day Coeur d'Alene.

Smith's Camp

Established in May, 1864, by Samuel P. Smith near the mouth of Raft River to protect emigrants and to give the garrison a base to search for gold.

Camp Stevenson

Established May 3, 1898 within the boundaries of Boise Military Reservation to serve as a post for the Idaho Volunteers prior to their departure for the Philippines, May 19, 1898, during the Spanish-American War; designated Camp Stevenson in honor of territorial Governor Edward A. Stevenson. A number of later summer camps, with different names, were located there also.

Camp Teton Pass

Established by an order dated August 1, 1895; founded by Major William H. Bisbee.

Camp Three Forks

Established during the Snake War on Soldier Creek at the southwestern base of South Mountain (known to the Army then as Mount Winthrop) September 26, 1866, as Camp Winthrop by Bvt. Lt. Col. John J. Coppinger; name changed to Camp Three Forks by an order of March 27, 1867; boundaries defined September 23, 1869; discontinued as an installation July 22, 1884. Auctioned off for ninety dollars, the site became a cattle ranch; for additional information see Reference Series 358.

Camp Wallace

Established by an order of June 26, 1865, by Captain Joel Palmer June 30, 1865 on Big Camas Prairie at or near the later town of Soldier north of Fairfield to protect emigrants and settlers; abandoned September 20, 1865.

Camp Wardner

Occupied May 2-December 2, 1899, during the Coeur d'Alene mine labor war; moved to Camp Osburn.

The following forts or camps which are listed as Idaho posts in Francis B. Heitman, Historical Register and Dictionary of the United States Army, from Its Organization, September 29, 1789, to March 2, 1903 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1903), are omitted from this list for the following reasons:

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| Camp Colfax | located in Oregon. |
| Fort Henry | associated with the fur trade; not a military post. |
| Fort Lemhi | Salmon River Mission founded by the Mormons; not a military post. |
| Fort Malade | located in Utah. |
| Mount Idaho | reservation for Camp Howard. |
| Camp Owyhee River | located in Oregon. |
| Camp Polk | located in Oregon. |

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