

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 7 1977

DATE ENTERED MAR 22 1978

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Bernard's Ferry

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

N of Murphy 16-2278

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF Murphy

First

STATE

Idaho

CODE
16

COUNTY

Owyhee

CODE

073

CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**

☐ DISTRICT
☐ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☒ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC
☐ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED
☒ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☐ YES: RESTRICTED
☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Ed Muller

STREET & NUMBER

Star Route

CITY, TOWN

Melba

VICINITY OF

STATE

Idaho

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Owyhee County Office Building

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Murphy

STATE

Idaho

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Idaho State Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1972

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Idaho State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Boise

STATE

Idaho

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT

☐ DETERIORATED

☐ GOOD

☐ RUINS

☒ FAIR

☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED

☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE

☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Bernard's Ferry buildings were located on the southwest bank of the Snake River in 1 North, 3 West, Section 35. Many no longer stand although a barn, silo, and two outbuildings remain. The barn, of stud construction with shiplap siding, is the major surviving structure. It is distinguished by an octagonal shingled cupola placed at the intersection of the four gables. The gables all have returns and double doored entries. A hooded hay door and loft entry are in the west gable, and the south gable has a door to the left as well as a triangular window with bowed sides. The north gable is no longer extant. A pair of framed diamond windows are in each gable and three similar windows are found on both sides of the east and west gables. The barn stands on a stone foundation overlooking the Snake River.

The frame silo is octagonal with a flat roof. The two outbuildings are simple gabled stone and frame structures.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION	
☐ 1400-1499	☒ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE	
☐ 1500-1599	☒ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE	
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER	
☒ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☒ TRANSPORTATION	
☐ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		☐ INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

1884

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Bernard's Ferry is architecturally significant with its good late nineteenth century horse barn. The barn is one of the finer stylistic examples of its period in Idaho with its octagonal cupola, gable returns, and diamond windows.

The Ferry site is also significant in the history of transportation. For almost 35 years Bernard's Ferry and roads provided an important supply link between the mines of Silver City and the business houses of Nampa and Caldwell. In January, 1884, J. C. Bernard began operating the ferry in conjunction with completion of his road between Silver City, the primary mining town in the area, and Caldwell, the newly established railhead for the recently completed Oregon Short Line. The barn and hotel were erected to service the stage and freight lines which used the road and ferry. This venture proved prosperous until 1920 when a bridge was constructed at Walter's Ferry. Bernard died the following year, and in 1931 his widow sold the property.

This site also has historical archaeological significance with its narrow time frame providing future data base for study of transportation and ranch life of the period.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Idaho Avalanche, January 26, 1884, p. 3. c. 1; March 8, 1884, p. 3, c. 2;
Thomas Vaughan and Virginia Ferriday, Space, Style and Structure,
Portland: Oregon Historical Society, 1974, 1:249-50.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY LESS THAN ONE

UTM REFERENCES

A 11 527240 48103390
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Don Hibbard, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Idaho State Historical Society

DATE

2 November 1977

STREET & NUMBER

610 North Julia Davis Drive

TELEPHONE

384-2120

CITY OR TOWN

Boise

STATE

Idaho

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE X 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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Merle Wells

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

2 November 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

Walter Cole

DATE

5-22-78

DATE

5-12-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



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Bernards Ferry

Owyhee County

Photographer - Arthur A. Hart
1976

Idaho State Historical Society

General view from the west.

Slide collection

NOV 7 1977

MAY 22 1978



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Bernards Ferry

Barn

Photographer - Dwight Williams

1976

Owyhee County

From the south.

Private collection.

NOV 7 1977

MAY 22 1978