

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 31 1975

DATE ENTERED APR 21 1975

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Coeur d'Alene Mission of the Sacred Heart, Desmet

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Desmet

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

Idaho

CODE
016

COUNTY

Benewah

CODE

9

3 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☐ COMMERCIAL☒ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Coeur d'Alene Tribal Council

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Plummer

VICINITY OF

STATE

Idaho

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Benewah County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Saint Maries

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

610 N. Julia Davis Drive, Boise

STATE
Idaho

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Only two of the early buildings remain, and one of these survives as only the first story of a two floor structure. The original chapel burned in a fire in 1939, leaving, in addition to the partially preserved structure, a major schoolhouse built in two phases. The larger, front section dates from about 1900. This big three-story clapboard building on a gentle slope has a truncated hip roof and a three-story ell protruding from each corner. Four evenly spaced hip-roofed dormers punctuate each side; each end of the roof has one dormer. Dard wide siding bands mark first- and second-floor window lines, a flat-roofed open portico stands over the entrance, and a smaller hip-roofed two-story brick structure, built shortly after 1877, is connected at the rear. Only this major complex of two connected buildings (not including the other early structure which has lost its upper floor) is nominated for inclusion on the National Register.

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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Originally at Mission Point on the Saint Joe (1842-1846), and then at later Cataldo (1846-1877), this important mission finally moved to its present site at Desmet. The 1877 move proved convenient to the Indians. Not only had the United States government redrawn the boundaries proposed for the Coeur d'Alene reservation so as to put the Cataldo site outside the suggested reservation; but also the increasingly agrarian Coeur d'Alenes were being forced by limited available farmland to settle farther and farther away from the mission with which they were almost all involved. For some time after the move was made to Desmet, no member of the tribe lived more than fifteen miles from the mission.

Within two years after the Desmet site was occupied, schools were opened for both boys (by the Jesuits) and girls (by the Sisters of Charity of Providence, a Canadian order). Relations with nearby white settlers were always good--the tribe began by compensating those homesteaders who had to move off the land because of the mission's move for all improvements they had made--and white girls in particular attended the mission schools.

No structure of the grace--much less the age--of the church at Cataldo has ever been constructed at Desmet. But the mission itself, in simple school buildings, church, and residence, has continued to serve the Coeur d'Alenes for nearly one hundred years.

In 1974 the Coeur d'Alene tribe assumed responsibility for the school and received title to the buildings from the Sisters of Charity of Providence. The Coeur d'Alene people, acting through their Tribal Council, are interested in preserving the early mission building as an interpretive center for their culture and traditions. Because part of the building goes back close to the time that they moved to the Desmet site, and the rest about to the turn of the century, this structure lends continuity to their long experience in their new way of life as settlers in a suitable farming region which forms part of their ancient homeland.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Idaho State Historic Preservation Plan, 1972 edition (Boise, 1974), 2 v.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 11 506550 5221175
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C 11 506550 5221175
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B 11 506550 5221175
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D 11 506550 5221175
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

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

Merle W. Wells, State Historic Preservation Officer

ORGANIZATION

Idaho State Historical Society

DATE

March 26, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

610 N. Julia Davis Drive

TELEPHONE

(208) 384-2120

CITY OR TOWN

Boise

STATE

Idaho 83706

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Merle W. Wells

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE March 26, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

4/21/75

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

4.18.75



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 31 1975

DATE ENTERED APR 21 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC Coeur d'Alene Mission of the Sacred Heart, Desmet

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Desmet VICINITY OF COUNTY Benewah STATE Idaho

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Idaho Historical Society

DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Idaho Historical Society

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.

Looking west toward school

192



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAR 31 1975
DATE ENTERED	APR 21 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Coeur d'Alene Mission of the Sacred Heart, Desmet

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Desmet

VICINITY OF

COUNTY Benewah

STATE Idaho

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Idaho Historical Society

DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Idaho Historical Society

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.

Looking East toward school

#202

#202

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER