

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Idaho
COUNTY: Bonneville
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE JUN 7 1974

1. NAME

COMMON: Eagle Rock Ferry
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Section 12, T3N, R37E N of Idaho Falls, on Bonneville			
CITY OR TOWN: Idaho Falls, Idaho		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: District #2	
STATE: Idaho	CODE: 16	COUNTY: Bonneville	CODE: 019

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: State of Idaho		
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN: Boise	STATE: Idaho	CODE: 16

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Bonneville County Courthouse		
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN: Idaho Falls	STATE: Idaho	CODE: 16

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Idaho State Historic Preservation Plan			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1972 ☐ Federal ☒ State ☐ County ☐ Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Idaho State Historical Society			
STREET AND NUMBER: 610 North Julia Davis Drive			
CITY OR TOWN: Boise	STATE: Idaho	CODE: 16	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

☐ Excellent ☒ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated ☐ Ruins ☐ Unexposed

(Check One)

☐ Altered ☒ Unaltered

(Check One)

☐ Moved ☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Eagle Rock is a lava rock jutting out of the Snake River. The ferry site originally was in arid country.

Eagle Rock, located a short distance below the ferry, still projects out of the river and has not changed much over the years. Irrigated farming has come to the valley adjacent to the ferry, but otherwise the site has not changed too much in appearance since the time the ferry was replaced by Taylor's Bridge at Idaho Falls. Because it was a ferry, the site is in the river.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

2. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian

☐ 16th Century

☐ 18th Century

☐ 20th Century

☐ 15th Century

☐ 17th Century

☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1863-1865

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☐ Education

☐ Political

☐ Urban Planning

☐ Prehistoric

☐ Engineering

☐ Religion/Phi-

☐ Other (Specify)

☐ Historic

☐ Industry

losophy

☐ Agriculture

☐ Invention

☐ Science

☐ Architecture

☐ Landscape

☐ Sculpture

☐ Art

Architecture

☐ Social/Human-

☐ Commerce

☐ Literature

itarian

☐ Communications

☐ Military

☐ Theater

☐ Conservation

☐ Music

☒ Transportation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

During the gold rush to Bannock and Virginia City, Eagle Rock ferry offered access from the Oregon Trail and from Salt Lake to these major new mines. The resulting Montana road was one of the important routes in the history of the west. In May 1863, Harry Rickard and William Hickman began the construction of a ferry across the Snake River a few miles above the present town of Idaho Falls. They hoped to gain the upper Missouri gold miners' traffic by opening a new and shorter trail to the Montana gold fields, and they also thought that they might receive a portion of the westward emigrant traffic. Hickman was left to complete the ferry while Rickard explored a new route to Soda Springs on the Oregon Trail. He was successful and soon returned with three wagon trains that he had induced to try his new route. Two of the trains were emigrants while the other was freighters. James Stuart, a well-known Montana pioneer, came along as a guide. The group arrived at the ferry on June 18, 1863. The ferry was not yet completed, however, and the initial crossing was delayed until June 20 when over 200 persons crossed on the new ferry.

In the summer of 1864, James Madison Taylor came through building stage stations for Ben Holladay's Overland Stage Line, a branch of which ran from Salt Lake City to Virginia City, Montana. He located a station at the Eagle Rock Ferry, which he purchased from Rickard and Hickman. At this point, Taylor joined with Edgar M. Morgan and William F. Bartlett to form the Oneida Road, Bridge, and Ferry Company. They were granted a bridge and ferry franchise by a legislative act of December 10, 1864.

The next summer, J. Matt Taylor constructed a bridge over the Snake River at Idaho Falls, as authorized by his legislative franchise. The bridge was always known as Eagle Rock Bridge, named after the ferry it had replaced. Toll rates on the bridge were the same as on the ferry.

Although it was soon replaced by Taylor's Bridge, the Eagle Rock Ferry was the key to the early success of emigrant and freight traffic on this route to the Montana gold fields from Soda Springs. It also aided the growth of the town of Eagle Rock which later became Idaho Falls, now Idaho's third largest city and an important nucleus of a large irrigated farming area.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Reference Series #71, Idaho State Historical Society,
January, 1972.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	43 °	36 '	29 "	112 °	03 '	35 "		
NE	43 °	36 '	29 "	112 °	03 '	12 "		
SE	43 °	36 '	02 "	112 °	03 '	12 "		
SW	43 °	36 '	02 "	112 °	03 '	35 "		

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 39.15 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, Director		
ORGANIZATION Idaho State Historical Society	DATE 24 Feb. 1972	
STREET AND NUMBER: 610 North Julia Davis Drive		
CITY OR TOWN: Boise	STATE Idaho	CODE 16

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 Historic Preservation
Officer

Date _____

22 January 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Ernest Allen Cornwall

Associate Director, Professional
Services

Date _____

JUN 7 1974

ATTEST:

Charles Affenberg
Acting Keeper of The National Register

Date

6.4.74

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NE
12/415000
4828640
SE
12/414980
4827840
SW
12/414480
4827850
NW
12/414490
4828652



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

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COUNTY Bonneville	
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CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: Idaho

CODE
16

COUNTY: Bonneville

CODE
019

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Idaho State Historical Society

DATE OF PHOTO: 1972

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Idaho State Historical Society

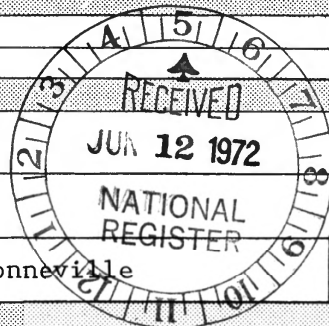
4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Looking west onto Eagle Rock

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

#1 of 1 photo



SEE INSTRUCTIONS