

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

PH003 7583

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

DEC 24 1974

1. NAME	
COMMON: Fort Boise (Hudson's Bay Company) and Riverside Ferry <i>later</i>	
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

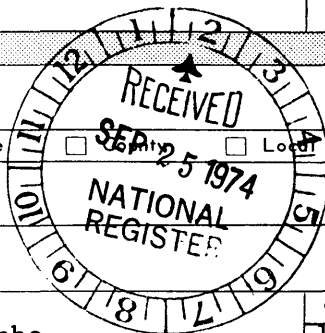
2. LOCATION	
STREET AND NUMBER: <i>NW 1/4 Sec 26, T6N, R6W, B.M.</i>	
CITY OR TOWN: <i>Parma</i> Congressional District: <i>District 1</i>	
STATE Idaho	CODE 16
COUNTY: Canyon	CODE 027

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☐ Building ☒ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☒ Public ☐ Private ☐ Both	☐ Occupied ☒ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☐ Restricted ☒ Unrestricted ☐ No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
☐ Agricultural ☐ Commercial ☐ Educational ☐ Entertainment	☒ Government ☐ Industrial ☐ Military ☐ Museum	☐ Park ☐ Private Residence ☐ Religious ☐ Scientific	☐ Transportation ☐ Other (Specify) ☒ Comments <i>Wildlife Management Area</i>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY	
OWNER'S NAME: Idaho State Department of Fish and Game	
STREET AND NUMBER: 600 South Walnut Street	
CITY OR TOWN: Boise	STATE: Idaho
CODE 16	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION	
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Canyon County Courthouse	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN: Caldwell	STATE: Idaho
CODE 16	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS	
TITLE OF SURVEY: Idaho State Historic Preservation Plan	
DATE OF SURVEY: 1970, 1972	☐ Federal ☒ State ☐ 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	



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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

The site of Hudson's Bay Company Fort Boise, on the east bank of the Snake River near the mouth of the Boise, has been partially inundated at times. In 1853, a flood destroyed most of Fort Boise, and the ruins were further obliterated by the great flood of 1862. These, together with a repeatedly shifting (towards the east) river channel, have left no visible sign of the fort.

The site of the Riverside ferry adjoins the fort on the south. The only ruins there are sets of the old ferry cable anchors, visible in the brush on the bank of the Snake. Both sites are now part of the Fort Boise Wildlife Management Area which has left the area in a more natural state than the commercial farms around it.

Thomas J. Farnham, who visited the fort in 1839, reported that it consisted of a parallelogram one hundred feet square, surrounded by a stockade of poles about fifteen feet in height. The entrance was on the west (river) side, and the main building ran north-south. This structure was made of logs and contained a large dining room, a sleeping apartment and a kitchen. The store was on the north side and the servants dwellings on the south side. Behind the main building was an outdoor oven, and the bastion was on the northeast corner. An adobe wall was then being constructed around the fort.

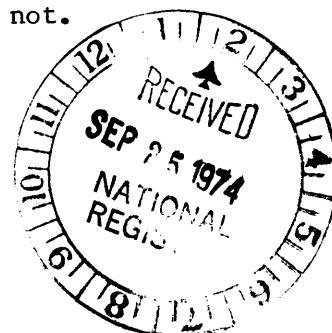
According to the claim filed by the Hudson's Bay Company against the United States, the fort contained the following buildings in 1851:

- 1 adobe dwelling, 42 x 15 ft.
- 1 adobe Indian dwelling, 15 x 10 ft.
- 1 range of 3 adobe dwellings, 47 x 10 ft.
- 1 kitchen, 12 x 10 ft.
- 1 milk house, 12 x 8 ft.
- 2 two-story bastions, each 12 x 12 ft.

About 400 ft. of adobe wall enclosing the establishment, 12½ ft. high and 1½ ft. thick.

From three to five square miles of land around the fort were used for cattle and horses, and a two-acre garden was also grown.

Some of the fort site has been eroded, and some has not. Archaeological investigation is proposed, and the primary purpose for nomination to the National Register is to protect important resources (fort and ferry) for historical archaeology.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. 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) Ft. Boise: 1834-1862; Riverside Ferry: 1863-84

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| ☐ Aboriginal | ☐ Education | ☐ Political | ☐ Urban Planning |
| ☐ Prehistoric | ☐ Engineering | ☐ Religion/Philosophy | ☒ Other (Specify) <u>historical archaeology</u> |
| ☒ Historic | ☐ Industry | ☐ Science | _____ |
| ☐ Agriculture | ☐ Invention | ☐ Sculpture | _____ |
| ☐ Architecture | ☐ Landscape Architecture | ☐ Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| ☐ Art | ☐ Literature | ☐ Theater | _____ |
| ☒ Commerce | ☐ Military | ☒ Transportation | _____ |
| ☐ Communications | ☐ Music | | _____ |
| ☐ Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Even before the white trappers invaded the Pacific Northwest, the area around Fort Boise was a strategic one. Each year, bands of Shoshoni, Nez Perce, Umatilla, Cayuse and Paiute Indians would congregate to trade and fish in the general area where the Boise, Weiser and Payette Rivers empty into the Snake.

In 1813, John Reid came from Astoria to acquire pack horses for the planned overland retreat of John Jacob Astor's collapsing Pacific Fur Company. Deciding to winter at the mouth of the Boise, he built a temporary post there, presumably across the river from the final Fort Boise site. The Indians resented this invasion of their traditional camping area, and a Bannock band wiped out his post in January, 1814. In 1819, Donald MacKenzie, who developed the Snake country fur trade for the North West Company, decided to erect a post at Reid's previous site. It was to be a central rendezvous for his scattered Snake brigade trappers. The Indians did not agree with MacKenzie, however, and his plans were abandoned.

It was fifteen years before another settlement was attempted. Fort Boise was begun in 1834 by Thomas McKay under the auspices of Hudson's Bay Company. It was a venture in competition with Fort Hall, 300 miles to the southeast, which was built by the enterprising Nathaniel J. Wyeth. Fort Boise was intended to drive Wyeth out of business and keep his mountain men confined to the Snake River lands and beyond, thus protecting the British company's important beaver preserves farther to the northwest. Hudson's Bay Company was to cover any losses which McKay might accrue by trying to compete in a region already close to being trapped out. Wyeth, unable to attain success for long, finally sold out to Hudson's Bay Company, and by 1838, both Fort Hall and Fort Boise were in service to that company. Surprisingly, annual profits from both forts' fur operations rose from £250 in 1838 to £2400 in 1842.

In 1835, Francois Payette was assigned to join McKay, and for most of the next nine years, he was in charge of Fort Boise. Oregon Trail pioneers were always well received and provided for by the likable Payette. Members of the Whitman and Spalding mission party, as well as others through the years, left accounts of praise for the hospitality of Payette and of James Craigie, who succeeded him in 1844. With the decline of the fur trade, Fort Boise developed into

continued

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Annie Laurie Bird, Old Fort Boise (Parma, 1971), 90 pp.

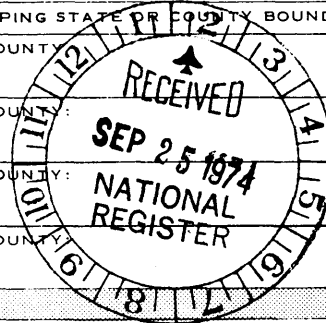
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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			
NW	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
NE	43°	49'	55"	117°	01'	16"		
SE	43°	48'	19"	117°	00'	47"		
SW	43°	48'	19"	117°	01'	16"		

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 174

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: Thomas B. Renk, Site Survey Staff	
ORGANIZATION Idaho State Historical Society	DATE 13 Feb. 1974
STREET AND NUMBER: 610 N. 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 W. Wells

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date 1 April 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Albert M. [Signature]
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 12/24/74

ATTEST:
Wm. [Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date 12.24.74

NW 11/498360
4752 010
0681584/068264/113N
SW 1584/068264/113N

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Idaho	
COUNTY Canyon	
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(Number all entries)

8. ~~██████████~~ FORT BOISE (HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY) AND
RIVERSIDE FERRY

a regional center for salmon fishing. A notable start was also made by 1840 in the development of a livestock industry revolving mostly around sheep. Early irrigated farms in the region greatly expanded the small gardening attempts at the fort.

In 1846, the southern half of the Oregon country, including Fort Boise, became part of the United States. The Hudson's Bay Company kept up its American posts primarily to have a good compensation claim from the United States. Craigie retired in 1852, and the next spring, the great flood of 1853 washed away the fort. In order to obtain a good settlement from the United States, reconstruction was under way in 1854 when the Ward Massacre occurred about twenty miles away from the fort. Retaliation by the United States so infuriated the Indians that even the British were unsafe at Fort Boise. The unfinished post was abandoned in 1855, and a larger flood in 1862 all but completely destroyed any remaining evidence of the old fort.

The Oregon Trail ferry service began at Fort Boise with the use of the fort's canoe. With the gold rush, thousands of men flocked to the back country and a need for a permanent transportation system across the river was felt. In 1863, Jonathan Kenev, a former mountain man, began the operation of the Riverside Ferry, located about ten feet from the old fort. In an effort to improve the transportation, travel by steamboat was even tried when, in 1866, the steamboat Shoshone was built on a landing near Riverside Ferry. The results were disappointing, however, and the Fort Boise shipyard shut down permanently as soon as the first boat was built.

SNAKE RIVER FINE GOLD also was recovered in the immediate Fort Boise area. A little panning was done there in the summer of 1855, and larger operations were attempted, without conspicuous success, toward the end of the century.

As an early Indian and fur trade center, with later stock raising, irrigated farming, mining and transportation significance, Fort Boise brings together most of the important elements of early Idaho history. Such a diversity of interest rarely is found at a single important site.





NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

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DEC 24 1974	

INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Fort Boise Fort Boise (Hudson's Bay Company) and Riverside Ferry			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Section 26, T6N R6W B.M.			
CITY OR TOWN:			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Idaho	16	Canyon	027
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT:			
DATE OF PHOTO:			
NEGATIVE FILED AT:			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
View west and south of fort Boise site showing Snake river also. # 1 of 1			

