

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

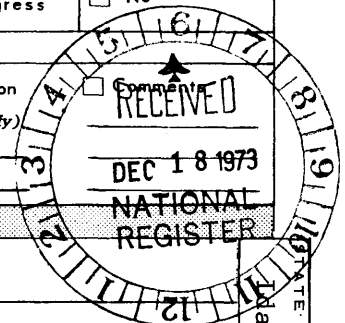
(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

PH0037427

STATE:	Idaho
COUNTY:	Ada
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	JUL 17 1974

1. NAME			
COMMON: Old Idaho State Penitentiary			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Idaho Territorial Prison			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 2200 Warm Springs Avenue			
CITY OR TOWN: Boise		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: District #2	
STATE Idaho	CODE 16	COUNTY: Ada	CODE 001
3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS
☒ District ☐ Site ☐ Object	☒ Public ☐ Private ☐ Both	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC			
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) Penal
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: Board of Corrections, State of Idaho			
STREET AND NUMBER: 2220 Warm Springs Avenue			
CITY OR TOWN: Boise		STATE: Idaho	CODE 16
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Ada County Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER: 525 West Jefferson			
CITY OR TOWN: Boise		STATE: Idaho	CODE 16
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Idaho Historic Preservation Plan			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1970 ☐ 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

STATE: Idaho
COUNTY: Ada
ENTRY NUMBER: 14
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FOR NPS USE ONLY

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 buildings of the old Idaho State Penitentiary to be incorporated in this historic district are virtually all built of locally-quarried rusticated sandstone. They are Romanesque in character, and surrounded by a turreted sandstone wall, with the exception of a women's prison with its own wall outside the main yard, a warden's house, guard house, and two large stone barns.

Photographs in the collection of the State Historical Society indicate that the buildings are virtually unchanged since their erection. A listing follows:

1. 1870 stone building 70'5" x 40'4". The original prison, most recently used as a chapel. The flat roof was burned in a prison riot last year. The rest of the structure is still sound, and can be restored to its original appearance, which featured a mansard roof. This is a simple rectangular building with segmental arch windows and door. The sandstone is rough-cut, without bulging rustication.
2. 1889 stone building 67½' x 32½'. Massive rustication, with tall barred windows on the long axis. Mansard roof. Two stories.
3. 1894 administration building. Rusticated two-story Romanesque with square three-story tower in the manner of English Gothic churches. Four corner finials. 50' x 80' overall. Giant round-arched entrance leads into a tunnel which carries through to interior gates of the prison. Smaller windows in the tower are also round-arched. Gray sandstone.
4. 1894 turreted wall. Encloses yard 480' x 360'. Height is 17'; thickness is 28"; buttressed every 28' on exterior. Turrets at four corners are capped with stone beehive-shaped conical roofs. Gray sandstone.
5. 1898 stone dining room and kitchen. 80' x 53', with average height of 25'. Arched truss ceiling of timber rested on a single stone column in the center of the upstairs dining hall. Full basement includes the kitchen and many small rooms with outside access via a moat. Steps lead down to this moat, which is paved with sandstone. The prison riot last year led to the burning of the roof of this building, but with minor damage to the rest.
6. 1899-1911 cell house. Now separated into two buildings by removal of the central block. These cell blocks are each 67½' x 45', identical in appearance. Three levels of steel cells are lit by tall, narrow barred openings corresponding to those of the 1889 building next door. These blocks, like

Continued

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) 1870 thru 1953

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☐ Education

☐ Political

☐ Urban Planning

☐ Prehistoric

☐ Engineering

☐ Religion/Phil-

☐ Other (Specify)

☐ Historic

☐ Industry

☐ Philosophy

☐ Agriculture

☐ Invention

☐ Science

☒ Architecture

☐ Landscape

☐ Sculpture

☐ Art

☐ Architecture

☒ Social/Human-

☐ Commerce

☐ Literature

☐ itarian

☐ Communications

☐ Military

☐ Theater

☐ Conservation

☐ Music

☐ Transportation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The old Idaho State Penitentiary will be vacated about December 1, 1973, after continuous use since 1870. Its historic significance arises from the picture of penal practices over the past century revealed in its design and construction. For example, there is still a subterranean stone-walled dungeon with rings in the wall; a solitary confinement block made up of solid concrete walls, floors and ceilings, without light, water, plumbing or furniture; a "death row" and gallows; a women's prison with narrow cage-like cells of steel strap-iron.

An interpretation of the site will permit display of prison industries, agriculture, and biographical information on famous lawmen and convicts associated with the prison.

Architecturally, the site has great interest due to the use of available local material in a striking way. Eclectic structures suggest a medieval environment and create a picturesque ensemble that is not all grim. Adaptive uses now contemplated will both preserve and enhance this Romanesque complex of buildings.

An archaeological reconnaissance of the district was made and one site was found. This is located on the top of Table Rock in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 18, T3N, R3W. An open site, it encompasses approximately a half acre and contains only scattered chert and obsidian flakes. Deposition is slight and any complete artifacts have long since disappeared as this area is used fairly heavily for recreation. No other sites were located within the district, but a more substantial chipping station was found a quarter of a mile outside the boundaries.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Wardens' Biennial Reports to the State Board of Prison Commissioners, 1893-1973.

Newspaper files of the Idaho Statesman, 1970-1973.

Donaldson, Thomas, Idaho of Yesterday, Caldwell, Idaho, 1941.
(Donaldson was superintendant of construction in 1870.)

HR
NO
UTM

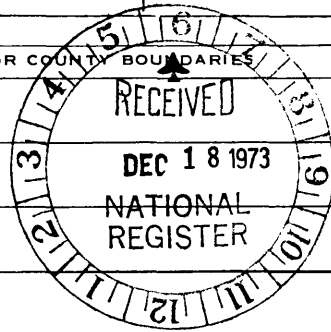
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	43° 36' 28"	116° 10' 03"				
NE	43° 36' 28"	116° 08' 36"				
SE	43° 35' 28"	116° 08' 36"				
SW	43° 35' 28"	116° 10' 03"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 510

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



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mr. Arthur A. Hart, Director, Idaho State Historical Museum

ORGANIZATION: Idaho State Historical Society

DATE: October 15, 1973

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 W. Wells
Merle W. Wells

Title: State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: 13 December 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Arthur A. Hart
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 7/17/74

ATTEST:
W. H. H. H.
Keeper of the National Register

Date: 7.16.74

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Idaho	
COUNTY Ada	
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Old Idaho State Penitentiary

most of the other buildings, were built with prison labor, using stone quarried nearby.

7. 1902 Warden's House. A two-story hip-roofed stone mansion with wide front porch. This basically cube-shaped house has swooping eaves supported with brackets in the Italianate manner. Dormer windows pierce the roof on its four sides, and are also swooping. Stone is rusticated.
8. 1906 Women's Ward, 116' x 82'. This stone-walled enclosure is a miniature of the big one a few yards away. Old wooden buildings, including the former warden's house, were used until 1920, when a crude concrete cell house was built for the women prisoners. This still stands within the ward.
9. 1907 Heating, Lighting and Pumping Plant. This old stone structure still stands some distance outside the walls, but has not been used for years.
10. 1911 stone barn. A superb slate-roofed sandstone barn with finely fitted smooth-finished stones in an intricate series of vari-sized courses. 75' x 70'. A gambrel roof is decorated with a graceful cupola, octagonal in shape.
11. 1912 Guard House. This two-story rusticated stone building is outside the walls facing the main gate. It has a wide verandah across the entire front, supported by massive stone piers.
12. 1912 Captain's Office. 50' x 15'. This and the next building form a row of stone false-gable structures reminiscent of a Western frontier town, except for their massive rusticated stone construction. Round arches and ox-eye windows decorate the facades.
13. 1912 Hospital, barber shop and library. 70' x 52'.
(See above for description.)
14. 1920 stone barn. A tall rusticated sandstone barn with a gambrel roof. The loft space in this barn is its most striking feature, spanning an area 75' x 40' and over 30' high with a minimum of internal bracing at the joints of the gambrel. Sited on a steep slope, the barn has a wagon entrance into the loft, as well as a lower one on the downhill side at the first story level.

Continued

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(Number all entries)

7. Old Idaho State Penitentiary

15. 1923 Laundry, shirt factory, gymnasium. This large open warehouse-like building has been adapted to many uses over the years. It encloses a substantial 247' x 80' area.

16. 1951 Cell House. Concrete and steel construction, two stories high. A very severe utilitarian structure without grace or style. The roof is flat.

17. 1953 Cell House. Very similar to above in general appearance. Contains death row and execution chamber with trap door.





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

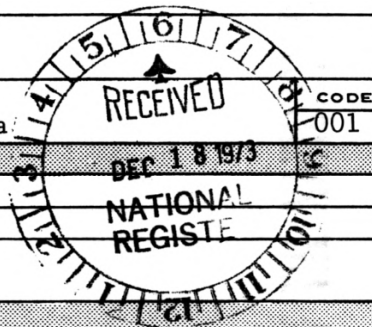
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

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3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT: Idaho State Historical Society		
DATE OF PHOTO: December 1973		
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Idaho State Historical Society		
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Guard tower at southeast corner of wall, looking east.		





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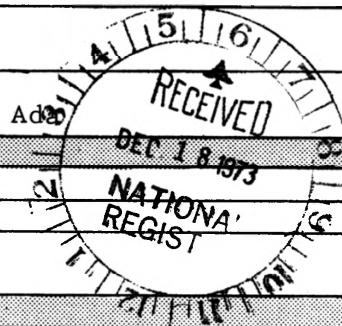
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4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Looking north from yard at Administration Building outside wall and #4 Cell House inside wall.			





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NEGATIVE FILED AT: Idaho State Historical Society			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Looking northeast, with hospital, barber shop and library in foreground; captain's office in center; and dining room at left in background.			

