

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: IDAHO	
COUNTY: POWER	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
MAR 20 1973	

1. NAME

COMMON:

OREGON TRAIL HISTORIC DISTRICT (REGISTER ROCK AREA)

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

SouthWest of American Falls along U.S. 30N

CITY OR TOWN:

Section 26, T9S, R28E and Sections 28-29, 32-33, T8S, R30E
~~American Falls, ID.~~

STATE

Idaho

CODE

16

COUNTY:

Power

CODE

077

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☒ District ☐ Site ☐ 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 ☐ Commercial ☐ Educational ☐ Entertainment	☐ Government ☐ Industrial ☐ Military ☐ Museum	☒ Park ☐ Private Residence ☐ Religious ☐ Scientific	☐ Transportation ☐ Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____
☐ Comments _____ _____ _____			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

State of Idaho Highway and Parks Department; Bureau of Land Management

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Boise

STATE:

Idaho

CODE

16

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Power County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

American Falls

STATE:

Idaho

CODE

16

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:

☐ Federal☐ State☐ County☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
IdahoCOUNTY:
PowerFOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER
MAR 20 1973
DATE

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

This historic district includes two segments of unaltered (except for natural erosion) Oregon Trail in the Register Rock area. One of these, east of Register Rock, extends for about half a mile. Here the trail winds down into a ravine where emigrant wagons had difficulty in crossing. The other, ascending a grade out of Snake river shoreland west of Bonanza Bar, includes a small ridge covered with tracks where wagons encountered difficulty getting up a hill. On the side of the ridge, a grade identified as a construction project of the Lander road (the Fort Kearney, South Pass, and Honey Lake Wagon road) gave easier access to emigrants who came after 1859.

The western segment is a triangle containing 13.26 acres more or less, described as follows:

Commencing at the North 1/4 corner of Section 26, Township 9 South, Range 28 East, Boise Meridian; thence S. 12°38'45" (Idaho Plane Coordinate System) W. 1276.12 feet to a U.S. Government triangulation station identified as Ida. 15W-9; thence S. 80°33'09" E. 636.32 feet to a point located 200 feet southerly from centerline of U.S. 30N Project F.I.1024 (2) highway survey; thence S. 89°42'13" E. 115.90 feet to a point highway R/W marker located 250 feet southerly from centerline of said highway 30N Project F.I. 1024 (2) highway survey and being opposite Station 271+82.76 and being the REAL POINT OF BEGINNING; thence running N. 64°46'04" E. 1864.08 feet to a corner; thence S. 23°59'48" W. 315.15 feet; thence S. 6°44'35" W. 518.68 feet to an iron pin in said fence line; thence N. 89°40'28" W. 1497.16 feet to the REAL POINT OF BEGINNING.

extending The other segment includes the southern 1040 feet of the scenic corridor 3080 feet east of the proposed Oregon Trail visitor center, ~~plus the remaining triangle of the east end of the corridor.~~ It also includes a strip 1/2 chain from the center of a small part of the trail which extends into BLM land south of the scenic corridor.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

5. 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)

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

Both the Oregon Trail and the original California Trail came near Snake river through this historic district, and F.W. Lander's work on the California route (which came back into use for California traffic after his improvements were made) also can be seen in the western segment. Undisturbed traces of these trails along Snake river are not common, and this district includes two of the best available examples. They are located in a state park area, where the Oregon Trail is interpreted for large numbers of visitors who come along the interstate highway that follows this old route.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

W. J. Ghent, The Road to Oregon (1929)
Jay Monaghan, The Overland Trail (1947)

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	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	42°	41'	25"	113°	08'	37"			
NE	42°	41'	25"	112°	56'	38"			
SE	42°	37'	07"	112°	56'	38"			
SW	42°	37'	07"	113°	08'	37"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 86

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Merle W. Wells, State Historic Preservation Officer	
ORGANIZATION Idaho State Historical Society	DATE 2-24-73
STREET AND NUMBER: 610 North Julia Davis Drive	
CITY OR TOWN: Boise	STATE Idaho

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 2-24-73

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

Robert M. Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 3/20/73

ATTEST:
W. M. Smith
Keeper of The National Register

Date 3.14.73

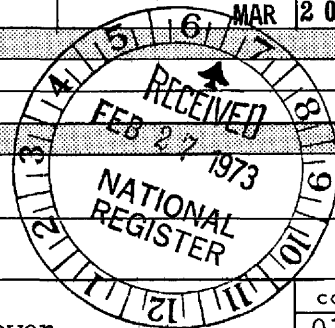
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

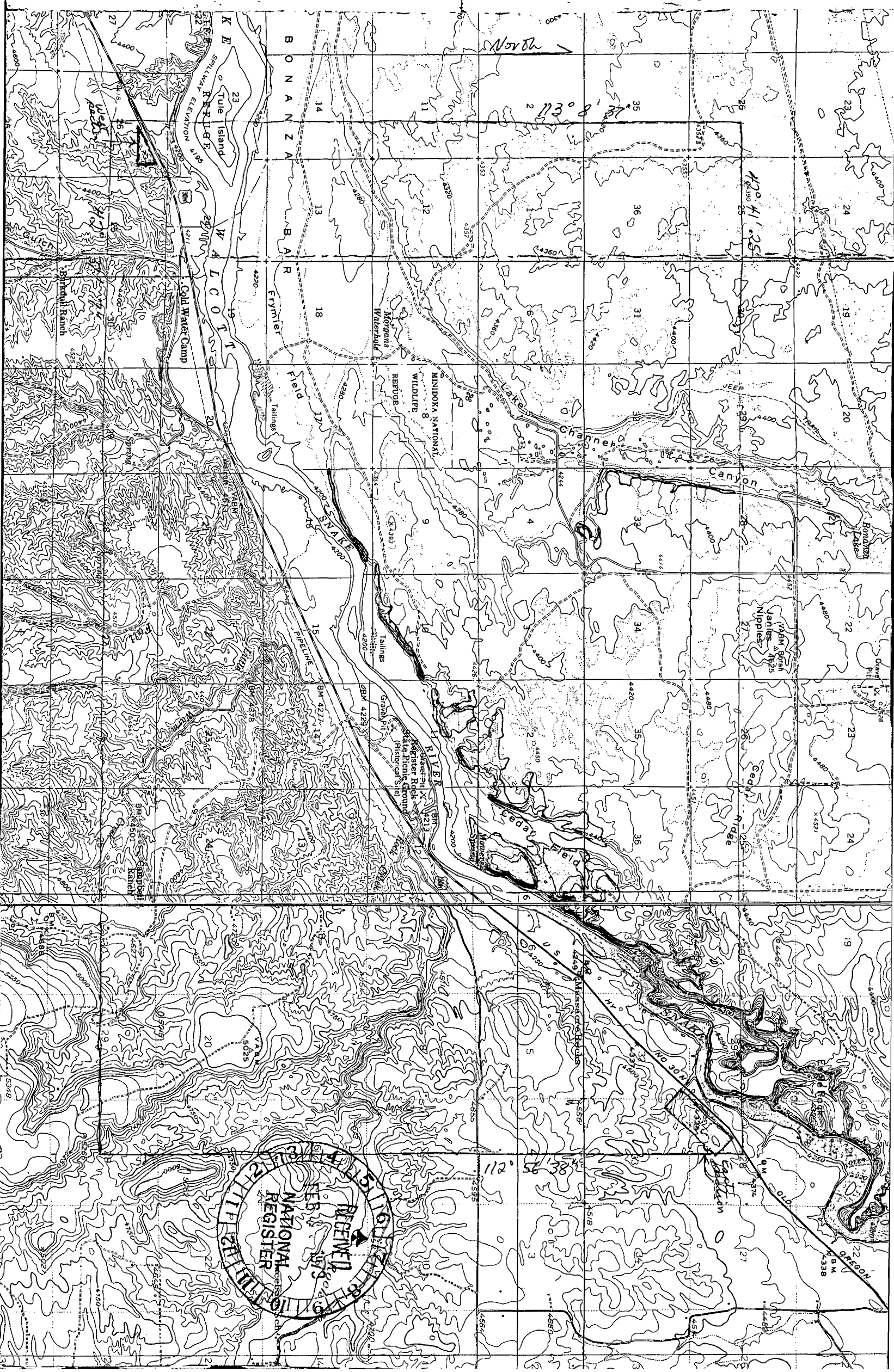
STATE Idaho	
COUNTY Power	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE MAR 20 1973



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON:		Oregon Trail	
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
South West of American Falls			
CITY OR TOWN:			
STATE:		CODE	COUNTY:
Idaho		16	Power
			CODE 077
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
United States Geological Survey			
SCALE: 1:24000 62 500			
DATE: Rockland sheet (1937) and Yale sheet (1959)			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

Oregon Trail Historic District (Register Rock area)
USGS 1:24,000





NPS Number 3/20/73

Title: Oregon Trail

Loc. Power, Idaho

view to south east

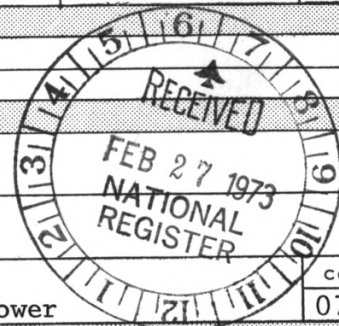
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

STATE Idaho	
COUNTY Power	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAR 20 1973



1. NAME		
COMMON: Oregon Trail		
AND/OR HISTORIC:		
2. LOCATION		
STREET AND NUMBER: West of American Falls		
CITY OR TOWN:		
STATE: Idaho	CODE 16	COUNTY: Power
		CODE 077

3. PHOTO REFERENCE	
PHOTO CREDIT:	Idaho State Historical Society
DATE OF PHOTO:	1973
NEGATIVE FILED AT:	Idaho State Historical Society

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

View to the south east: The ravine in the center of the picture is the track of the Oregon and California Trails, where emigrant wagons cut down several feet into the ground.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS