

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

170666305

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RECEIVED APR 10 1978

DATE ENTERED

J1 1978

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

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Register Rock

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

W of American Falls on US 30

CITY, TOWN

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Idaho

VICINITY OF

American Falls

Second

CODE

16

COUNTY

Power

CODE

077

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:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

State of Idaho

STREET & NUMBER

Department of Parks

CITY, TOWN

Boise

VICINITY OF

STATE

Idaho

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Power County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

American Falls

STATE

Idaho

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Idaho State Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1972

FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Idaho State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

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

Register Rock is a large basaltic rock polished by the Bonneville flood. Approximately 7' high and 15' in diameter, the rock has a multitude of names inscribed by California and Oregon Trail travelers. These inscriptions are both incised and painted, with some names painted in axle grease in 1849 still visible.

The State has erected a wooden, open-air, pavillion to shelter the rock and protect it from erosion and vandalism.

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 1840-1900

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Register Rock is an important site along the California and Oregon trails. Similar to Independence rock--but on a lesser scale--it is one of several rocks along the route used by emigrants as a place to inscribe their names. It is the best preserved site serving this function in Idaho.

In this vicinity, the Oregon trail was originally developed by trappers. After 1840 emigrants on their way to the Willamette Valley in Oregon or to California's central valley travelled over it. The trail was the major route to the Pacific Northwest until the completion of the Oregon Short Line in 1884. However, even after this date numerous settlers employed the trail in their quest for a new home.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre.

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	2
---	---

3	3	4	7	3	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	7	2	5	0	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

B

ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This site includes the rock and the land it sits on.

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

Don Hibbard, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Idaho State Historical Society

DATE

3 April 1978

STREET & NUMBER

610 North Julia Davis Drive

TELEPHONE

384-2120

CITY OR TOWN

Boise

STATE

Idaho

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

W. Wells

TITLE

State historic preservation officer

DATE

3 April 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

7-24-78

ATTEST:

W. Wells

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

7-6-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Register Rock:

Power Co. FD.

'82

~~REGISTER BOOK~~

WHILE BOOING FIRE SHOOK AND DIVE TOOK
WATERS AND GRAZED THE EARLY PIONEER
TOOK TIME TO ETCH HIS PASSION ON THIS AND
OTHER ROCKS IN THE AREA

DESIGNER ROCK FOR A SCHEDULES SERVING
WEST ALONG THE OREGON TRAIL AND HAS
BEEN PROVIDED BY THE IDAHO DEPARTMENT
OF PARKS TO INCLUDE THE VINTAGE A CHANGE
OF THE EXPERIENCE OF THE PAST.

Register Rock
American Falls, Idaho
Power County, Id.
Photographer - Merle W. Wells
1976
Idaho State Historical Society

View from the south

Site survey collection.

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APR 10 1978

JUL 24 1978