UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME


PH 0037734



7 description


DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

While irrigated farming has transformed the land above Snake river gorge around Caldron Linn, the canyon interior, and Caldron Linn itself, remains unchanged except for vegetation. An inconspicuous narrow road reaches the valley floor at Caldron Linn, and at the site itself, little modern agricultural change is visible over the cliffs above.
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8. SIGNIFICANCE


STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Wilson Price Hunt, leader of the Overland Astorians, thought in the fall of 1811 that canoes could descend from the upper Snake to Astoria. His Pacific Furfompany expedition got by Idaho Fałls and American Falis without too much trouble. Below the present Milner Dam they encountered rough water. In the gorge of the Snake about two miles past Milner on October 28, 1811, Hunt lost one of his most experienced and valuable voyageurs, Antoine Clappine, whose canoe hit a partly submerged rock. Four miles farther down, the river was compressed into a tumultuous whirling vortex in a narrow rock chute and falls. This they called Caldron Linn. At Dry creek, another mile downstream, they were able to get out of the rocky gorge of the Snake. Near this site, they cached their supplies and divided into three parties prepared for a long walk to the Pacific Ocean. Almost a year later, on September 29, 1812, Robert Stuart and a few other Astorians returned to reclaim their goods. He reported:

Of all the Canoes left here by the Party last Fall, only three remain and those too much shattered to be good for any thing.... at the Caldron Linn the whole body of the River is confined between 2 ledges of Rock somewhat less than 40 feet apart \& here indeed its terrific appearance beggars all description--Hecate's Caldron was never half so agitated when vomiting even the most diabolical spells, as is this Linn in a low stage of water $\&$ its bearing in idea such a proximity of resemblance to that or something more infernal....

To the Overland Astorians, the Caldron Linn symbolized the misfortunes associated with their journey. Based on the Astorian's experience, trappers and other travelers avoided canoe trips through Caldron Linn--Shoshone Falls gorge of the Snake river.
W.P. Hunt's expedition overland to Astoria, a Pacific Fur Company post at the mouth of the Columbia, explored much of southern Idaho and eastern Oregon. John Jaç6 Astor's Pacific Fur Company failed two years later, but Washington Irving's account of the enterprise in Astoria became a fur trade classic. Many of Astor's partners and men remained in the Pacific Northwest, where they had a leading part in the development of the fur trade.


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