

PH0672858

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 26 1977
DATE ENTERED	JAN 30 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

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Pedro Anchustegui Pelota Court

AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

West 2nd North Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Mountain Home

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

Idaho

VICINITY OF

CODE  
16

COUNTY

Elmore

CODE

039

**CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Sports

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mrs. Mercedes Bicandi

STREET & NUMBER

1713 Cleveland

CITY, TOWN

Caldwell

VICINITY OF

STATE

Idaho

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Elmore County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Mountain Home

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		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Pedro Anchustegui's Pelota Court is a simple two-sided structure constructed of local lava rock. Scale and architectural character is provided by three blind windows on each "story." These have concrete lintels which contrast in tone with the basaltic wall fabric. The interior walls are finished with concrete as is the floor. On the front wall is a three inch wide metal strip, a txapa, the top of which is one meter from the base of the wall.

The fencing on the top of the walls is a later addition which was erected to prevent the ball from going out of the court.

The court is still occasionally played on.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Sports	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES                      1908                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT                      Pedro Anchustegui

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Pedro Anchustegui Pelota Court is the finest existing outdoor pelota court in Idaho, and stands as a significant reminder of the Basque culture in the state.

The majority of the Basques came to Idaho between 1890-1925. Concentrating in the Boise-Mountain Home area these people initially found employment as sheep herders. When not tending the flocks the men came to town and lived in Basque boarding houses, as almost all of them had left their families in Europe. Coming from a rural, tight community, large family heritage, the Basques found the boarding house to be an excellent transitional institution which softened their adjustment to an otherwise foreign environment. The fronton, or pelota court, was one of the major features of several of the boarding houses, of which this is the sole outdoor survivor.

The Basques' traditional forms of recreation were dancing and pelota, a form of handball. Finding no American sports with which they could readily identify, the Basques retained their own sport, which has since served as an important cultural link with their European heritage. The game is played barehanded, with bats, or with the basket-like cesta. The ball is similar in size and hardness to an American baseball with a handsewn goatskin cover. The rules fairly well follow those of American handball, with the ball being served and having to be returned in the air or after the first bounce. There is no winning of the serve as straight points are counted, and there is no "kill" shot as the ball must always hit above the meter high txapa. Any ball on the line is out and traditionally all boundary lines were of metal to avoid arguments. The game usually is played to 22 points. Points usually result from hitting the ball close to the left wall, caroming the ball from the left wall to the front and then out of bounds on one bounce, or by hitting the ball too far back for the opponent to return it. The game requires much strength and stamina as often a player will hit the ball as many as fifty times per volley.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Elmore Bulletin, November 12, 1908, p. 8, c. 3  
 Interview with Pat Bieter January 24, 1977.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 1	6 0 6 0 4 0	4 7 9 5 4 5 7 5 1 9 0 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

20 May 1977

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 X STATE \_\_\_\_\_ 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

*Merle Wells*

TITLE

*State Historic Preservation Officer*

DATE

20 May 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*W. Smith*

DATE

1-30-78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

*Charles A. ...*

DATE

1-29-78