UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Applegate-Lassen Emigrant Trail is the unifying theme of this nomination, and all of the individual sites which have been nominated under this theme are either important sites along that trail or are intimately related to that trail. (See individual inventories on Continuation Sheet 2.)

The Nevada portion of the Applegate-Lassen Trail leaves the Humboldt River and The California Trail at Lassen's Meadow (now Rye Patch Reservoir), and runs in a northwesternly direction through the Antelope and Kamma Ranges, The Black Rock Desert, The Calico Mountains, High Rock Canyon, Long Valley, and Fortynine Pass, to enter California at Surprise Valley. This entire region is composed of desert mountains, extensive desert playas, and high-desert plateau land forms. This is typical of the type of country that all emigrant trails had to traverse in the Great Basin Region, and it is a region where, due to its isolation and the lack of subsequent development, the traces of emigrant trail are best preserved. The series of hot and cold springs along this route is, of course, the reason why it was chosen as an emigrant trail. Wagon travel required that there be water and grass available to sustain the stock--and water and grass were rare commodities in this desert region.

The surveys which have established the route of the Applegate-Lassen Trail and have identifed (and in some cases marked individual sites) have been carried on by The Committee For The Emigrant Trail National Historical Monument: Thomas Hunt, California Coordinator, 950 Old Trace Road, Palo Alto, California, 94306; Dr. Robert Griffin, Nevada Coordinator, 1390 Mallory Lane, Reno, Nevada, 89511. Mr. Hunt is a writer and historian of Western Trails, and Dr. Griffen is an authority on John Fremont's western travels as well as past president of Trails West, Inc., a group involved in marking historic trails in the West. Additional surveys have been carried on by Devere and Helen Helfrich, authorities on the overland trails, Wagon-masters for Trails West, Inc., and editors of Klamath Echoes (journal of the Klamath County Historical Society) P.O. Box 1552, Klamath Falls, Oregon, 97601. All sites have been identified through actual field surveys based on extensive research of historical documents.

[It should be noted here that not only is this section of emigrant trail extremely well documented in journals and diaries, but that these written accounts are enhanced by the existence of an extraordinary collection of sketches and finished drawings and paintings done by J. Goldsborough Bruff during his journey along this route in 1849. These drawings are as good as photographs for establishing features and sites along the trail, and they have been extensively consulted in these surveys. This invaluable collection is primarily housed in the Manuscript Division of The Huntington Library in San Marino, California.]

#### PERIOD AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW X\_PREHISTORIC XARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC \_\_COMMUNITY PLANNING \_\_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE \_\_RELIGION \_XARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC \_Xconservation \_\_1400-1499 \_\_LAW \_\_SCIENCE \_1500-1599 \_\_AGRICULTURE ECONOMICS \_LITERATURE \_\_SCULPTURE \_\_ARCHITECTURE \_X€DUCATION X\_MILITARY \_\_1600-1699 \_\_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN \_\_1700-1799 \_\_ART \_\_ENGINEERING \_\_MUSIC \_\_THEATER X1800-1899 X\_EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT \_\_COMMERCE \_\_\_PHILOSOPHY **X**TRANSPORTATION \_\_INDUSTRY \_\_1900-\_\_COMMUNICATIONS \_\_POLITICS/GOVERNMENT \_OTHER (SPECIFY) \_\_INVENTION

SPECIFIC DATES 1843/1846

BUILDER Jesse & Lindsay Applegate,
Peter Lassen. John Charles Fremont

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE This Nevada section of the Applegate-Lassen Trail is the most extensive and best preserved remnant of historic emigrant trail to be found in the Far West. Long traces of the original trail are still visible, and the individual sites selected for nomination along the trail are still largely as they were in emigrant days. The total landscape is indeed, largely unchanged. This is what is unique about this region, and this is the significance of the thematic group within the context of the history of the exploration, opening, and settlement of the West.

While there are in existence some historic records for this general region (i.e. Peter Ogden's fur trading reports to the Hudson Bay Co., and Zenas Leonard's account of the Joseph Walker expedition of 1833), the first written account of this particular part of the Great Basin comes from John Fremont's official report of his expedition of 1843 and 1844 to Oregon and There is a direct relationship between Fremont's journey through this region (see his route on accompanying map) as the Applegate party is known to have available to it his report and map when they surveyed and opened their southern route into the Oregon Territory in 1846. Their route continued to carry wagons and pioneers into Oregon well into the 1860's, and it remained the main overland route into southern Oregon until the advent of railroads. In 1848, Peter Lassen followed this initial section of the Applegate Trail as far as Goose Lake in northeastern Califonia, and then opened a route from there to his rancho in the Sacramento Valley. estimated that half of all the overland emigration to California in the Gold Rush year of 1849 (perhaps in excess of 20,000 persons) followed this route to California. Because there have been so few intrusions of civilization along this portion of the historic corridor, this region is of exceptional educational value as an example of how the country was in emigrant times and of what sorts of hazards and hardships the emigrants had to overcome in their opening of the West.

The archeological importance of this region is only now being surveyed by the Bureau of Land Managemnt, but it is already known to be rich in sites related to the lakeshore culture of the Lahontan Period down to historic times. There are various Indian caves and archeological sites along the emigrant route. Soldier Meadow is of great environmental importance because the warm springs there contain a population of desert dace (Eremichthys acros) found nowheres else. Militarily, Soldier Meadow is also important because it is the site of Camp McGarry which was established there to protect the trail during the Indian troubles of the mid 1860's. The large stone horse barn at Soldier Meadow Ranch dates from this time. The importance of this representative section of overland emigrant trail in the history

of transportation is self-evident.

9 MAJOR B	IBLIOGRAPH	IICAL REFE	RENCES	3			
Historic Bachelder, San Fran Bruff, J.	Goldsborough	uarterly, Vo ournal. Typ , Gold Rush.	ol. 22, pescript Ed. b	<ul><li>p. 12 (1</li><li>, Califo</li><li>y Georgi</li></ul>	1921). Ornia His Ia Willis	st. Soc.	Library,
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OWNER OF PROPERTY

7 1 CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER PAGE

Site

- 1.) Junction of Applegate-Lassen Trail with the California Trail at Lassen's Meadow (Rye Patch Reservoir). BLM, Winnemucca District, P.O. Box 71, Winnemucca, Nevada, 89445. Possibly, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and Southern Pacific Transportation Company, One Market Plaza, San Francisco, California, 94105.
- 2.) Antelope Springs (Willow Springs). There are actually two separate springs here as indicated on map. BLM, Winnemucca District; Southern Pacific (see above).
- 3.) Rabbithole Spring. BLM, Winnemucca District.
- 4.) Mud Lake Crossing (Black Rock Desert). BLM, Winnemucca District.
- 5.) Black Rock and Black Rock Spring. BLM, Winnemucca District.
- 6.) Double Hot Springs. BLM, Winnemucca District.
- 7.) Hardin City. BLM Winnemucca District.
- 8.) Upper Black Rock Desert. BLM, Winnemucca District.
- 9.) Pahute Peak. BLM, Winnemucca District.
- 470.) Mud Meadow (Soldier Meadow). BLM, Winnemucca District: Mr. Earp, Pahute Meadow Ranch. (It is my understanding that Mr. Earp is the new owner of the Soldier Meadow Ranch properties.)
- #11.) Camp McGarry (Soldier Meadow). Mr. Earp, Pahute Meadow Ranch.
  - 12.) Fly Creek Canyon. BLM, Winnemucca District.
  - 13.) High Rock Canyon. BLM, Susanville District, P.O. Box 1090, Susanville, California 96130.
  - 14.) Stevens Spring (Upper High Rock Canyon). BLM, Susanville District.
- √15.) Emigrant Spring. Massacre Ranch ((?). Caracter and a
  - 16.) Fortynine Lake. BLM, Susanville District.

TO WE!

17.) Fortynine Spring. Nevada State Road Maintainance Station, Vya, Nevada

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Site		

18.) Fortynine Pass. Powers Ranch (?). Probably get mail at Cedarville, California.

419.) Fortynine Camp. Powers Ranch (?).

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- 1.) Junction of Applegate-Lassen Trail with the California Trail at Lassen's Meadow on the Humboldt River (now Rye Patch Reservoir). The junction of the trail is still visible, as are traces winding back and forth across the present road over to Willow Spring. The emigrants stopped at this grassy region to recruit their stock. There was a "post office" set up at this junction for the emigrants to leave messages for those following. Bruff (see biblio graphy) has drawn sketches of the trail in both directions here. (1/4 acre.)
- 2.) Antelope Springs (Willow Springs). There were actually two springs used by the emigrants here. One is now known as Willow Springs, and the other is further up the slope on the northern slope of Majuba Mountain. There are some old graves near this latter spring. These springs were hardly more than seeps and quite inadequate for the needs of the emigrants. This was their first realization of the suffering they were going to experience on this crossing to Black Rock Point. The original trail here went up the northern flank of Majuba Mountain to cross a low pass, and somewhat later a trail went more directly west from Antelope Springs over what is now called Imlay Summit. There are excellent traces along both routes, particularly impressive where they have subsequently been somewhat eroded. (1/4 acre.)
- 3.) Rabbithole Spring. This was the second inadequate source of water between the Humboldt River and Black Rock Spring. Most emigrants stopped here to rest before attempting the terrible dry crossing to Black Rock Spring. The animals suffered not only from lack of water but from lack of grass all along this section of trail. There has been much alteration of this site, first by the U.S. Army in the 1850's to improve the water supply and subsequently by mining activity in the area. The basic nature of the area remains unchanged, however. Rabbithole was named by the Applegate Party for the rabbits they followed to find it. ( | acre.)
- 4.) Mud Lake Crossing (Black Rock Desert). This was the terrible dry crossing through sand dunes and desert playa to Black Rock itself. There was much suffering and great loss of stock on this portion of the trail. It was considered to be the worst section by all who came this way. The trail goes almost straight as a bee-line across to Black Rock and the traces are particularly impressive through the dune area. This is the longest unbroken stretch of trail traces along the entire route. (20 mile stretch.)

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INDIVIDUAL INVENTORIES

CONTINUATION SHEET

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- 5.) Black Rock and Black Rock Spring. This large and impressive hot spring was the first adequate source of both water and grass in the approximately 50 miles of trail from the Humboldt River. It also meant that from here on the emigrants would always be able to find both sificient water and grass for their needs. This very large spring with its backdrop of Black Rock Point itself is one of the most beautiful and evocative sites along the trail. There has been some alteration of the area due to cattle grazing in the area and off-road vehicle activity, but essentially it retains its quality. (200 acres.)
- 6.) Double Hot Springs. These two very beautiful azure springs marked the end of a moist and grassy region which extended from Black Rock some five miles away. These springs are and were scalding hot and the site of some tragedies for unwary emigrants and their stock. From this point until the abundant waters of Mud Meadow at the head of this arm of the Black Rock Desert it was hard going over sand dunes and sage lands. It was about thirty miles to Mud Meadow. (50 acres.)
- 7.) Hardin City. This site is not actually on the emigrant trail but it owes its brief existence to the fact that a story got started by some emigrant prospectors that they had found a fabulous silver lode while passing through the region. The rumor eventually led to a silver rush to the area in 1866 and to the establishment of Hardin City with three stamping mills. No lode was ever found, however, and the town soon became a ghost town. Some ruins still remain. (10 acres.)
- 8.) Upper Black Rock Desert. In this region between Double Hot Springs and Mud Meadow much of the trail has disappeared or been pre empted by the present roads. However, there is one very beautiful section of trace still visible along the central portion. (2 mile stretch.)
- 9.) Pahute Peak. This site is included because it, too, has a direct relationship with the Trail. It was on the slopes of this mountain that Peter Lassen met his death in 1859 while out looking for Hardin's lost silver lode. He was either killed by Indians or by one of his own companions. The matter has always been in dispute. In a way it is fitting that this great pioneer of the West was to die so near to this trail which was to bear his name. (200 acres.)
- 10.) Mud Meadow (Soldier Meadow). There was a great deal of pasture at

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CONTINUATION SHEET 2 ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

- 10.) this spot due to the numerous hot and cold springs which flow out of the ground in Soldier Meadow basin. This was a welcome stop for the emigrant, and a place where many of them stopped for several days to rest themselves and their animals from what had essentially been desert country travel. (50 acres.)
- 11.) Camp McGarry (Soldier Meadow Ranch). Camp McGarry was established dur ing the Indian troubles in Northwestern Nevada in the mid-1860's to protect travelers on the emigrant trail. One of the presently used buildings at the Soldier Meadow Ranch is a large rock horse barn that was constructed at this time. (10 acres.)
- 12.) Fly Creek Canyon. In emigrant journals this is usually referred to as the beginning of High Rock Canyon. There is a very steep descent here from the plateau above into the canyon, a descent which was dangerous and required double-teaming to prevent wagons from running away. Bruff has a very accurate drawing of this descent. It seems that an alternate route was soon opened over the top of the divide to the north to avoid this difficult canyon. (1 miles stretch.)
- 13.) High Rock Canyon. This very scenic and amazing canyon extends like a welcome highway through some fifteen miles of rugged volcanic tablelands. The lower canyon narrows quite dramatically, with walls of red rhyolite rising several hundred feet. Almost all the emigrant journals mention this extraordinary physical feature as did Fremont when he first passed through it. There was water and
- grass in this canyon, and in the lower canyon is to be found one of the "register rock" areas which were a feature of the overland trails. There are emigrant names painted and carved here, both on the canyon walls and inside caves. These names are in an excellent state of preservation. All through the canyon trail traces are in evidence. ( 15 mile stretch.)
- 14.) Stevens Spring. This beautiful spring is at the entrance to Upper High Rock Canyon. The lower canyon eventually opens out into high plateau country, through which the trail comes to this spring. It was a favorite camping spot for the emigrants. Upper High Rock Canyon proved to be a very difficult road for the emigrants because it is so rocky and tree-filled, and an alternate route was soon established which detoured to the north and east to avoid it. (2 acres.)
- 15.) Emigrant Spring. This spring is right on the trail, and again it was a watering and camping place for the emigrants. It has been

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INDIVIDUAL INVENTORIES

CONTINUATION SHEET 2 ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 4

- 15.) developed as a cattle watering station. ( 2 acres.)
- 16.) Fortynine Lake. This intermittently dry alkali lake was the first water arrived at in a twenty mile stretch from Emigrant Spring. The emigrants could see it from far off in those years in which it contained water, and often headed towards it only to find it completely undrinkable. (50 acres.)
- 17.) Fortynine Spring (Vya). This spring was the first good water in the twenty-five miles from Emigrant Spring. It lies somewhat north of the obvious natural pass through the Hays Canyon Range, and thus caused the emigrants to make a detour in that direction. This spring has been much changed and developed into a stock pond. (2 acres.)
- 18.) Fortynine Pass. Instead of journeying further south to the obvious pass through the Hays Canyon RAnge, the emigrants saved some time and mileage by pushing the trail over the divide just south of Fortynine Spring at Vya. There are excellent traces here, and Bruff has a beautiful drawing of the distinctive cone-shaped rocks at the base of this climb. ( 1 miles stretch.)
- 19.) Fortynine Camp. This was the last place to camp on good water before another long, dry desert crossing to Surprise Valley and what the emigrants called the Sierra Nevada (the Warner Range) in California At this spot is a boulder with a large "49" painted on it. Local tradition has it that this "49" was painted on the rock by the Gold Seekers in 1849. This may or may not be true--none of the journals mentions seeing such a writing at the time of passing, but the numbers definitely have been there for a great many years, and all the natural features in the area take their names from the fact of their being there. (2 acres.)

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**CONTINUATION SHEET** 

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E	11/261500	/	4606200
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G	11/266100	/	4605800
H	11/279100	/	4606700
I	11/285750	/	4603900
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P	11/312100	/	4577900
Q	11/314950	/	4578350
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Y	11/348850	/	4516100
Z	11/352350	/	4512650

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"	F	280000	460620	EMIGRANT SPRING
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"	$\begin{bmatrix} -A^1 \\ B^1 \end{bmatrix}$	396600	450520	00-1, 212221 11212012
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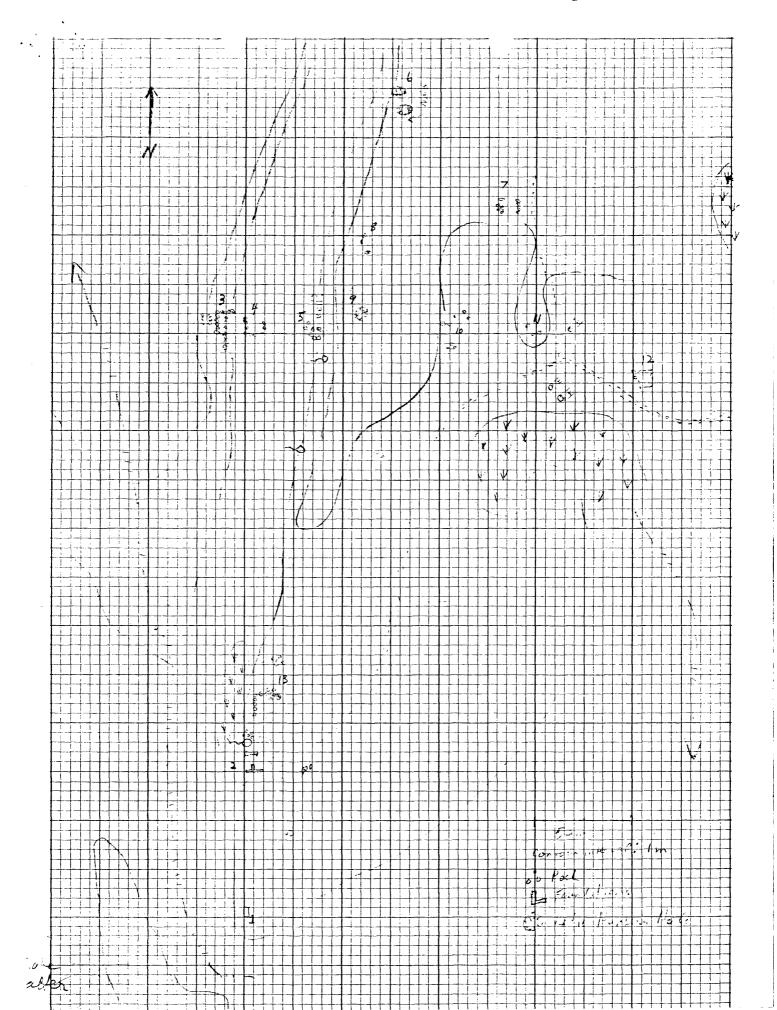
#### LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS:

- 1.) Lassen's Meadows (Rye Patch Reservoir). Looking southwest where Humboldt River flows into Rye Patch Reservoir. Applegate-Lassen Trail branches to the west just north of this spot. 1973. Pershing Co.
- 2.) Antelope Springs (Willow Springs). Looking northeast from present-day Willow Spring. This was the lower of the two springs which the emigrant called collectively "Antelope Springs." 1973. Pershing Co.
- 3.) Rabbithole Springs. Looking northwest from spring towards Black Rock.
  1973. Pershing Co.
- 4.) Mud Lake Crossing (Black Rock Desert). Looking northwest from dune area beyond Rabbithole Spring. Black Rock visible across desert playa. 1973. Pershing Co.
- 5.) Black Rock Spring. Looking northwest from spring along base of Black Rock Range. 1976. Humboldt Co.
- 5a) Black Rock. Looking southeast across Black Rock Desert playa. 1976. Humboldt Co.
- 6.) Double Hot Springs. Looking southeast towards Black Rock. 1976.
  Humboldt Co.
- 7.) Ruins, Hardin City. Looking north at Black Rock Range; ruins in foreground. 1976. Humboldt Co.
- 8.) Upper Black Rock Desert. Looking southeast along base of Black Rock Range; trail traces in foreground. 1976. Humboldt Co.
- 9.) Pahute Peak. Looking northeast from Black Rock Desert. Peter Lassen killed here. 1976. Humboldt Co.
- 10.) Mud Meadows (Soldier Meadow). Looking west at Mud Meadows. 1976.
  Humboldt Co.
- 11.) Camp MacGarry (Soldier Meadow Ranch). Looking east at Soldier Meadow Ranch. 1976. Humboldt Co.
- 12.) Fly Creek Canyon. Looking west from emigrant descent into canyon.
  1976. Humboldt Co.
- 13.) High Rock Lake Basin. Looking south towards Division Peak. 1976.
  Humboldt Co.
- 13a) Register Rocks Area, High Rock Canyon. Looking northwest up canyon. Register area to right. 1976. Washoe Co.
- 13b) Indian Cave, High Rock Canyon. Note emigrant writing on right hand side. Cave in register area. 1976. Washoe Co.
- 13c) Emigrant Names, High Rock Canyon. Register rock area. Painted in axle grease. 1974. Washoe Co.
- 13d) Emigrant Name, High Rock Canyon. Register rock area. This is a rare example of a rock carving. 1974. Washoe Co.

#### LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS, PAGE TWO:

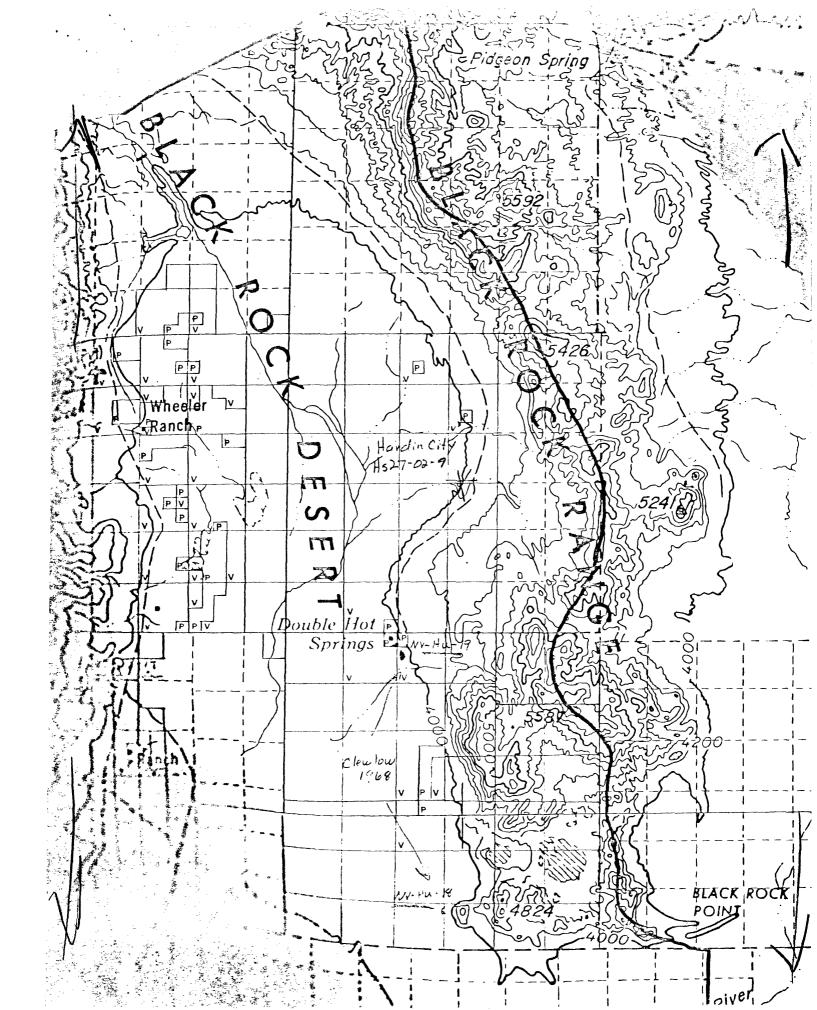
- 14.) Stevens Spring. Looking northwest towards Stevens Spring and beginning of Upper High Rock Canyon. 1975. Washoe County.
- 14a) Stevens Spring. Grassy area just below spring. Emigrant camping area. 1975. Washoe Co.
- 15.) Emigrant Spring. Looking southwest in vicinty of Emigrant Spring.
  Typical high-desert plateau country. 1975. Washoe Co.
- 16.) Fortynine Lake. Looking east over dry lake bed towards Emigrant Spring. Taken from Fortynine Pass. 1976. Washoe Co.
- 17.) Fortynine Spring (Vya). Looking northeast from Fortynine Pass. Fortynine Spring is in left center of photo. 1976. Washoe Co.
- 18.) Fortynine Pass. Looking southwest from Fortynine Spring towards distinctive conical rocks at base of pass. (Bruff drawing of these formations.) 1975. Washoe Co.
- 19.) Fortynine Camp. Numerals attributed to '49ers. 1975. Washoe Co.
- 19a) Fortynine Camp. Trail traces going westward from Fortynine Camp towards Surprise Valley and California. 1975. Washoe Co.

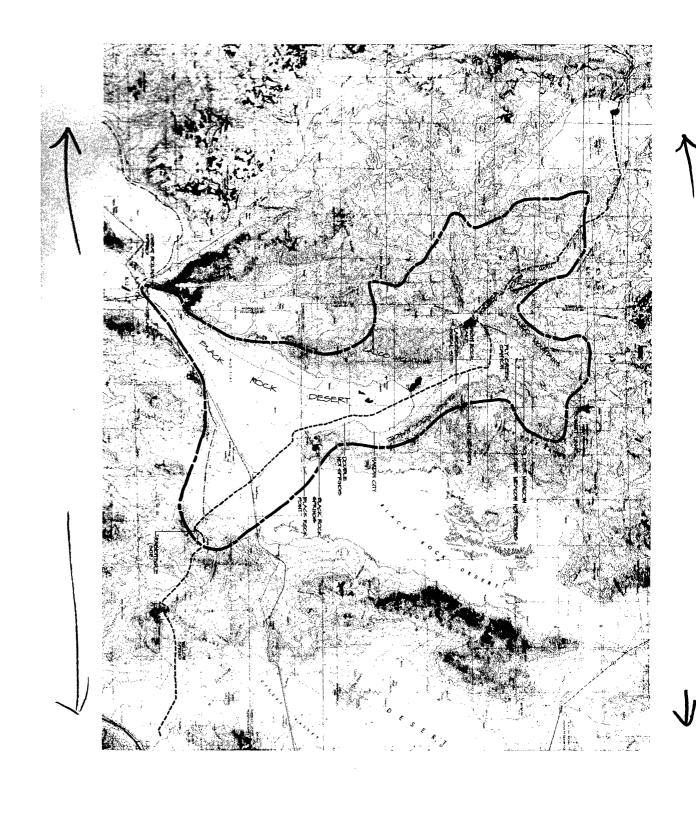




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OREGON IDAHO. VM (EA) karea of proposed CHURCH EMIGRANT-BICENTENNIAL NATIONAL HISTORIKAL HONUMENT Winns Heach GERLLER FLAC SAYE MITA LOVELOCK FEND \* FEF HLEY MEVADA CARSON CITY





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### United States Department of the Interior

IN REPLY REFER, TO

8200 (N-023.9)

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT 705 East 4th Street Winnemucca, Nevada 89445

in the same

March 11, 1980

RECEIVED

MAR 2 1 1980

NATIONAL REGISTER

Ms. Mimi Rodden
State Historic Preservation
Officer
Nevada Division of Historic
Preservation and Archeology
201 South Fall Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Ms. Rodden:

We are writing in response to your letter of March 4 concerning proper UTM coordinates for Point B-B on the Applegate-Lassen-Nobles Historic Trail District. The apparent discrepancy is between the coordinates as they are listed and as they are plotted on the map which accompanies the nomination:

As listed

11/354100/4515100

As plotted

11/355100/4514100

The difference is small, but of potential importance since a major active mine is adjacent to that part of the trail. We believe that the UTM coordinate as plotted on the nomination map is correct and that the listed coordinate is in error.

The attached map, taken from the U.S.G.S. 7.5' Advance Series, Sulphur 1SW, Nev. quadrangle, illustrates the discrepancy. Please let us know when this question is resolved and if we can be of further assistance don't hesitate to write or call.

Sincerely yours,

Robert J. Carroll

Acting District Manager

Enclosure

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SS



CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER 10 F	PAGE 2
UTM	COORDINATES (Cont.)	
AA	11/353700 / 4513900 11/355100 / 4514100 <b>&gt;</b>	old:
<b>∠</b> BB		11/354100/4515100
CC	11/356600 / 4512050	
DD	11/367450 / 4505750	
EE	11/369450 / 4506700	
FF	11/370450 / 4505600	
GG	11/374400 / 4507500	
НН	11/389500// 4507700	
II	11/394650 / 4504850	
JJ	11/397000:/ 4505300	
	SOLDIERS MEADOWS	
KK	11/319550 / 4584400	Less than 10 acres
PAHUTE PEAK - LAS	SEN BURIAL SITE - CLAPPE	R CANYON
LL	11/325400 / 4568900	
MM	11/325400 / 4568400	37 acres
NN	11/325100 / 4568400	o, acres
00	11/325100 / 4568900	
	HARDIN CITY	
PP	11/332700 / 4553450	
QQ	11/332700 / 4553050	39.5 acres
RR	11/332300 / 4553050	00.0 40105

11/332300 / 4553450

