

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>IDAHO</b>	
COUNTY: <b>POWER</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
<b>16</b>	<b>MAR 20 1973</b>

**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:  
**American Falls, Idaho**

STATE: **Idaho** CODE: **16** COUNTY: **Power** CODE: **077**

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

**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: **Idaho**

COUNTY: **Power**

ENTRY NUMBER: **MAR 20 1973**

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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.

The other segment includes the southern 1040 feet of the scenic corridor extending 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

**6. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

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				O R	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
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
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      CODE:     

**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. D. Muntz  
 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

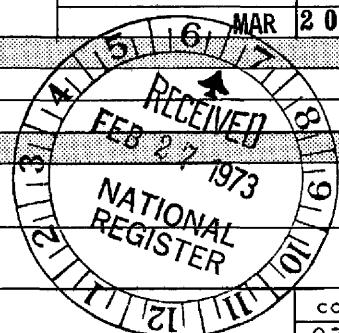
CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: Idaho

CODE  
16

COUNTY: Power

CODE  
077



**3. MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE: United States Geological Survey

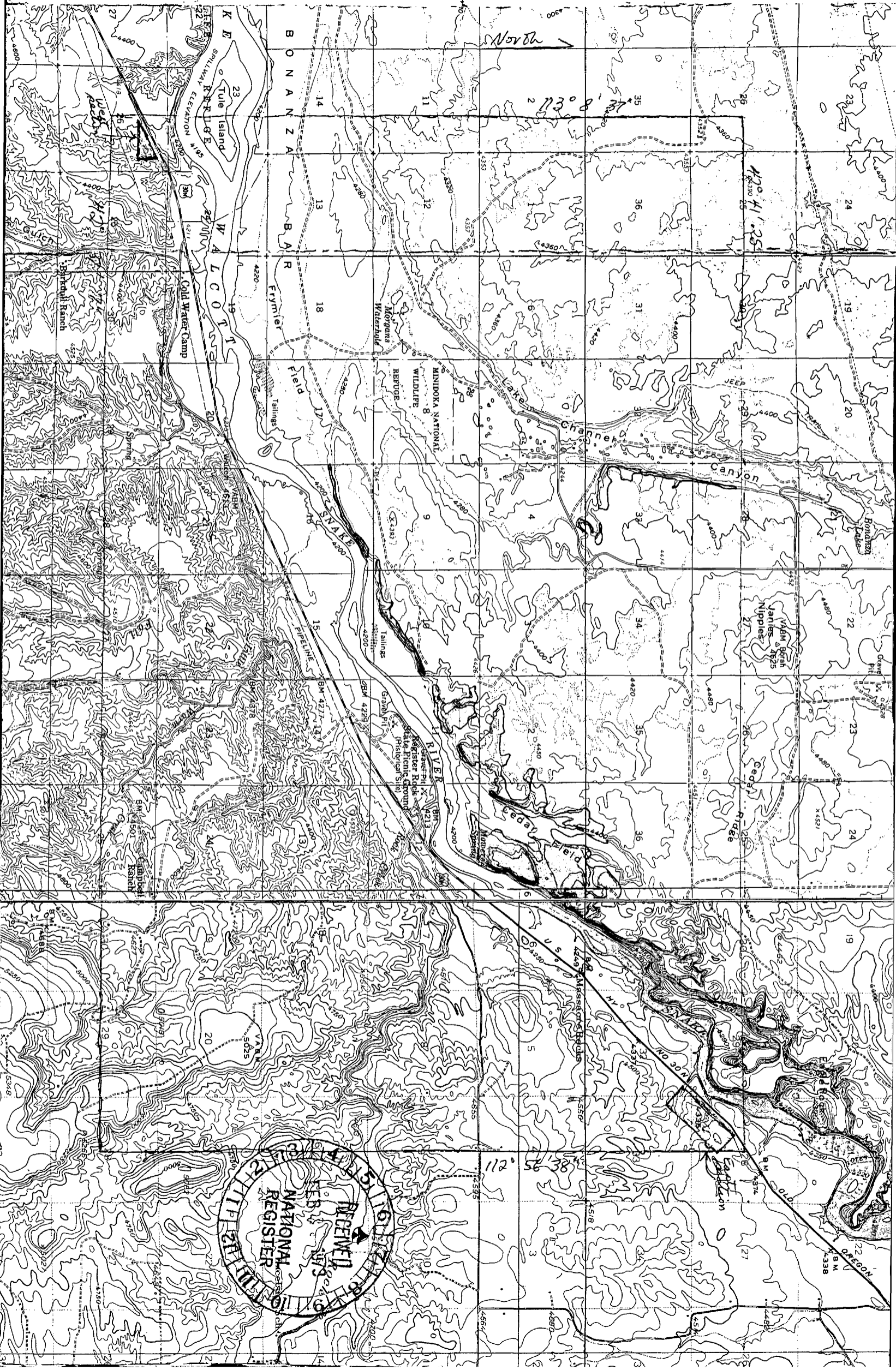
SCALE: 1:24000 62 500

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



RECEIVED  
NATIONAL REGISTER  
FEB 14 1975