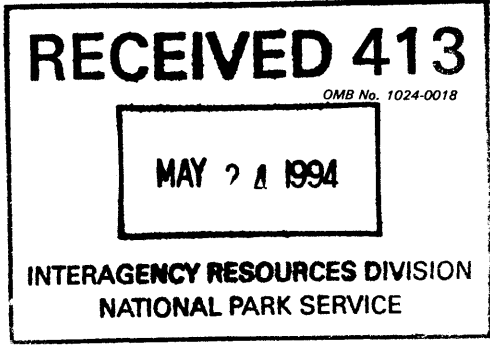


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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Hotel Bovill  
other names/site number 57-1452

### 2. Location

street & number 602 Park Street, Highway 3 n/a not for publication  
city or town Bovill n/a vicinity  
state Idaho code ID county Latah code 057 zip code 83806

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] \_\_\_\_\_ Date 12/11/94  
Signature of certifying official  
John R. Hill, State Historic Preservation Officer  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain:)

Edson H. Beall 6-23-94

[Signature] \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of ~~Special~~ Entered in the National Register Date of Action

Property Name Hotel Bovill

County and State Latah County, Idaho

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**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
		contributing	noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: \_\_\_\_\_ No. of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

\_\_\_\_\_ n/a \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Functions or Use**

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: hotel

COMMERCE/TRADE general store

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)

Cat: VACANT Sub: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.)

No style

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Materials (Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation CONCRETE

walls WOOD (drop siding)

ASBESTOS (siding)

roof COMPOSITION/METAL

other \_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Property Name Hotel Bovill

County and State Latah County, Idaho

**8. Statement of Significance**

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.) N/A

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE
ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION
AGRICULTURE (Timber)

Period of Significance

1901-1928

Significant Dates

1901
1911

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Significant Person

n/a

Architect/Builder

n/a

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Property Name Hotel Bovill

County and State Latah County, Idaho

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): n/a  
\_\_\_ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested  
\_\_\_ previously listed in the National Register  
\_\_\_ previously determined eligible by the National Register  
\_\_\_ designated a National Historic Landmark  
\_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:  
X State Historic Preservation Office  
\_\_\_ Other State agency  
\_\_\_ Federal agency  
\_\_\_ Local government  
\_\_\_ University  
\_\_\_ Other  
Specify repository:  
\_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property approx. 1 acre

UTM References

1 1/1 5/4/6/0/9/0 5/1/8/9/6/8/0 3 / / / / / /  
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

2 / / / / / / 4 / / / / / /

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Michelle Farah, revised by Lauren McCroskey, Architectural Historian  
organization Idaho State Historical Society date 12/14/93  
street & number 210 Main Street telephone (208) 334-3861  
city or town Boise state Idaho zip code 83702

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:  
Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

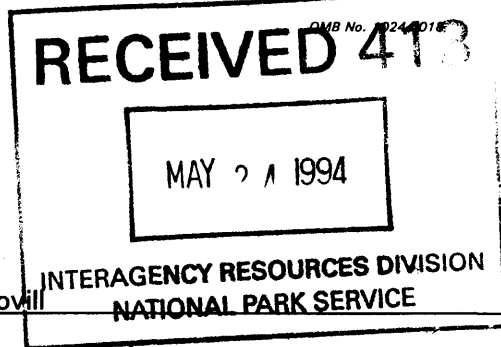
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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Name of Property Hotel Bovill

County and State Latah County, Idaho



The Hotel Bovill is located in the rural community of Bovill in Idaho's panhandle (eastern Latah County). Situated against a forested hillside, the building represents the evolution of several buildings which eventually expanded and merged into the single property that is the subject of this nomination.

The building is generally characterized as a two-and-a-half story, gabled structure with a cross-gabled section projecting from the right end of the front elevation. All construction is wood frame, with portions of the original drop siding exposed on the east and north elevations. Remaining elevations were resided with asbestos in the 1950s. Overall dimensions for the long section (hotel) are seventy-eight feet by thirty-six feet; the cross-gabled extension (store) measures roughly thirty-four feet by thirty-three feet.

The first building constructed on the Bovill townsite was a one-and-a-half story, log homestead cabin built by Francis Warren around 1891. The cabin was composed of horizontal logs and reportedly rested on tree stump footings. The Bovill site attracted the attention of Hugh Bovill, who saw the lush grasslands and nearby stream as ideal conditions for ranching. Bovill purchased the cabin in 1899 and moved it to a location east of the present hotel. Bovill and his family occupied this primitive structure until they constructed their own home shortly thereafter. Pictured in a 1903 photograph, the new home was a modest side-gabled structure with a shed-roofed porch running the length of the house, and three overhanging, gabled dormers extending through the soffit above. The dormers contained two-over-two, double-hung sash and featured decorative millwork in the gable peaks. The porch railing and columns were also ornamented with similar millwork.

In the following years leading up to 1911, construction on an adjacent building (store), as well as additions to the original home, accelerated rapidly. The store, a separate, one-and-a-half story, front-gabled building, was built to the south of the house around 1903. The front of the store featured a porch supported by narrow columns, and an overlying balcony with a simple railing. A door at the second story accessed this balcony. Interiors, depicted in historic photographs, reveal a rustic atmosphere of large, exposed ceiling joists and rough square columns. A shed-roofed attachment on the south side served as a post office.

By 1905, the original house to the north had doubled in size, reflecting its new function as a hotel. The addition to the south end repeated the established design by extending the porch and adding three identical dormer windows. Modifications made in 1911 united the previously separate house and store into a single building. The filling in of the void between the two buildings resulted in a shed-roofed dormer in the roofline. At the same time, the original store was mostly eclipsed by the addition of a lower, one-and-a-half-story, gabled extension to the front. This new space apparently took over the store and post office functions, while the original store section was converted into a kitchen, bathroom and part of the hotel dining room. The newly-formed el of the building was united by a continuous porch, which extended around the north side of the store, again repeating the design of the house's porch.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2 Name of Property Hotel Bovill  
County and State Latah County, Idaho

Remaining elevations of the building are as follows: The front (west) elevation has asbestos siding which was applied to the original drop siding in the 1950s. At an early date, a rectangular shed-roofed bay with three grouped, two-over-two double-hung sash was added to the left side. Two separate entrances with oak door leaves, as well as five, two-over-two, double-hung sash occur at the first story. The second (attic) story retains the six original dormer windows, however, decorative millwork was lost when new siding was applied. All window heads on this facade are missing the original crown moldings still found on the back elevation -- another consequence of the 1950s residing. The most pronounced change to this facade was the removal of the porch which ran the full length of the building, up to the el. Though dilapidated, a semblance of the original porch still exists on the north side of the "el" (store).

On the back (east) elevation, original drop siding is intact but weathered. Two, two-over-two, double-hung sash occur in the first story; the second story features four dormer windows identical to those on the front, and two shed-roofed dormers as well. All window sash on this facade retain their original crown moldings. A one-story, shed-roofed addition runs the full length of this facade. The addition is composed of wide horizontal boards.

The south elevation (store/post office) contains four double-hung sash and a ground-floor door. The second story features one double-hung sash contained in a shed-roofed dormer. Toward the rear (hotel section) of this facade are five double-hung sash and another ground-floor door. The second floor of this section also has five double-hung sash. The west gabled end (front) of the store retains its original windows (large, six-light windows flanking the recessed entry, and two-over-two double-hung sash flanking the second story door). The original porch and balcony are missing.

The north end features an exterior brick chimney and wood staircase which accesses the second story. This elevation was not resided and exhibits the original drop siding.

The roof of the hotel is sheathed with composition shingles, while the store section has a corrugated metal roof. A brick chimney projects through the center of the hotel portion, indicating the lobby fireplace below.

Interiors are as follows: The hotel lobby (north end) features a sealed-off brick fireplace and exposed ceiling joists painted yellow. Centrally located toward the front of the building are a dining room and ballroom. Most walls and ceilings on this floor have been altered with the application of panelling and fiber board, however, the dining room remains relatively unchanged. The rear of the building contains a kitchen pantry, refrigerator room and bathroom. A bedroom and bathroom are also found at the south end. The gabled el contains the store space, with a shed extension to the south which housed the post office.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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County and State Latah County, Idaho

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The second floor is a double-loaded corridor containing thirteen rooms varying in size, eight of which measure approximately nine feet by twelve feet. Access to these rooms was possible only by means of the north-end, exterior staircase. Roughly six of the original rooms were converted to apartments in the 1950s. Water stains on wallpaper in the smaller rooms is evident, indicating a damaged roof. This problem was arrested with the recent addition of composition shingles. Flooring upstairs consists of pine boards. The narrow hallway accesses a single bathroom, as well as a linen closet. The second floor of the store is accessed by an interior staircase and contains an apartment space.

The present condition of the Hotel Bovill is one of advancing deterioration. Tall grass, bushes and a large evergreen tree are encroaching on the building itself. Two improvements, the replacement of original foundation "stumps" with concrete blocks in the 1950s, and the relatively recent application of a composition shingle roof, are holding off further decline. Apart from physical threats to the building's structural integrity, the hotel retains many of the original qualities which convey its role as an early lodging facility. The only significant feature missing is the original porch which extended the full length of the hotel. The original porch and balcony are also missing from the store. However, the massing, basic design and fenestration of the entire structure are intact, as are the historic context and setting of the period, 1901-1928. Of particular significance are the rhythmic dormer windows which clearly associate the building with a hotel function.

The hotel presently stands vacant. Until the early 1980s, rooms were rented to loggers and others working in the nearby timber industry.

The historic additions and modifications which are evident are essential to understanding the evolution of the building from a private residence to an important lodging and general supply station. In its present context against a forested hillside overlooking the historic commercial center of Bovill, the hotel's environment has changed little from the period of its significance.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1 Name of Property Hotel Bovill  
County and State Latah County, Idaho

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The Hotel Bovill is one of the few accommodations which survives from the earliest period of outdoor outfitting and recreation in the county. The property commemorates this important pattern in the region's history and also documents an important era of timber exploration and harvesting which shaped the north Idaho economy during the early part of the century. The hotel's sponsors, Hugh and Charlotte Bovill, galvanized recreation and timber interests by making lodging rooms, supplies and outdoor guides accessible to visitors, homesteaders and lumbermen. For these reasons both the Bovills and the hotel occupy a prominent space in the development of the local community. Nomination is made under Criterion A for associations with Commerce, Entertainment/Recreation, and Agriculture (timber).

The intermountain west of the late nineteenth century was the scene of bold ventures into rugged territory. Spurred by the romantic writings of Theodore Roosevelt and others, land speculators, outdoor enthusiasts and natural resource entrepreneurs forged their way into the pristine wilderness. Eastern Latah County held a bounty of fish-laden streams, trophy wildlife and verdant pasturelands fringed by ancient forests. Western lands in the county, known as the "Palouse," had already attracted large numbers of farmers by the 1880s. Ten years later, the more mountainous region to the east was attracting a new kind of settler. Hugh and Charlotte Bovill were among the most influential.

Bovill, an Englishman of minor nobility, had been lured to the American west partly because of its limitless opportunities, and partly because of his stature as the landless, younger son of a large family. He first tried stock raising in Colorado and Nebraska. In 1884 he met and married Charlotte Robinson, the daughter of a Canon in York Minister and Commissioner of Education under Queen Victoria, who was visiting a sister living in Colorado. After their marriage, they lived in Nebraska where daughters Charlotte and Gwen were born, in 1895 and 1897 respectively. For a while Bovill participated in cattle and horse drives into Idaho and Montana. He eventually decided to move farther west and in 1899 began reconnaissance exploration of Montana and Idaho by train and horseback. He eventually selected the meadow site previously owned by Francis Warren, who had arrived in the area from Pennsylvania around 1891.

Bovill negotiated the Warren lands, settled his affairs in Nebraska and sent for his wife and children. Arriving in Moscow in late 1900, the family spent the winter in town. The Bovills acquired the Warren cabin, living there before they built their own home the following year. Hugh Bovill was initially attracted to the area because of its fine potential for grazing stock, and began a ranching operation. But growing interests in tourism, recreation and timber altered his fortunes. His shrewd assessment of the region's potential resulted in the expansion of his own home into a way station for pack and wagon trains which were probing the dense wilderness to the east.



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Hunters and anglers were well received by Bovill, who converted a portion of his home into a store for sportsmen in 1903. Native grizzly bear and fish were sought after. The intensity of outdoor sport during this period led to the importation of elk - a practice continued as late as 1928 and made possible by rail lines which connected Bovill in 1907. A shipment of approximately thirty cows and bulls from Yellowstone was introduced into the forests. With the arrival of the Potlatch [lumber] Company trucks were used to transport the elk from the railroad siding to the horse corrals near the Potlatch barns, where elk were held until they could be moved in small groups to designated areas for release.

The hotel facility was the sole supply and lodging center in the area for tourists seeking big- game sport, as well as those sizing up the vast timber lands. The Bovill's home/hotel, referred to by 1903 as "Headquarters," was to serve as centerpiece for the fledgling timber industry which came to dominate the region's economy.

Timber reserves, elsewhere played out by decimation of the white pine forests in the upper midwest, found new and seemingly unlimited resources in north Idaho's forests. The western white pine, a species prized for its straight, clean grain, dominated the building industry's door and window sash markets, and was a prime source of telegraph poles and match sticks. Timber companies in northern Wisconsin and Minnesota were exhausting their white pine territories during the first two decades of the century. By 1906, forests around Bovill were being harvested with equal vigor. Voracious lumber mills, as well as the white pine blister rust disease introduced into the Pacific Northwest after the turn of the century, practically extinguished the tree. Even today, silviculturists strive for a rust-resistant species to reclaim depleted forests.

Attractive stands of white pine in the Bovill area diversified the clientele at the hotel. Newer guests were timber cruisers and lumbermen employed by the Potlatch [lumber] Company, which eventually bought up land around the Bovill property and the larger region. In the rush to claim the white pine lands, many individuals filed homestead claims with the intent of selling the timber to a lumber company as soon as they received deeds to the land. In order to prove up the claims, the homesteaders had to convince the government that the claims were being put into agricultural use.

Many of those who took up claims were women from Moscow. In order to establish their right to the homesteads they were required by law to live on the claims. The Hotel Bovill was a convenient layover for these homesteaders. According to Charlotte Bovill, quoted in a 1954 article in the Moscow Daily Idahonian, "The Homestead Act required that the settlers live on their land. But since the community of Bovill lacked government agents to enforce the law, they found it nicer to live in civilization during the hard winters and just came for a few weeks each summer to vacation on their lots. They built cabins on their land, but many of them lived at the hotel, instead of on their own homesteads." <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>John B. Miller, The Trees Grew Tall (News Review Publishing Company, 1972), 39.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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County and State Latah County, Idaho

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Though architecturally modest, the hotel provided a degree of refinement and cultural amenity in an increasingly rough town of loggers. Dormer windows sported striped awnings and the generous front porch suggested a rustic resort catering to a more sophisticated clientele from eastern states. At Charlotte Bovill's hand the hotel became well known for its wilderness cuisine of huckleberry pie, roasted bear, venison, homemade rhubarb wine and ginger beer.

Others needing accommodation during their journeys into the area were engineers and surveyors working for the railroads. The Potlatch Company railroad reached Bovill by 1907, at which time the town was incorporated with capital stock valued at \$50,000, owned mainly by Hugh and Charlotte. The novel platting of the townsite by Mr. Fosberry, a Canadian friend of the Bovills, resembles the state of Idaho. Railroad crews completed construction of the Washington, Idaho and Montana Railway through the area in 1910. New businesses including several saloons and two bawdy houses sprang up along the railroad tracks, serving the demands of railroad workers and loggers employed by the seven logging camps in the area. Charlotte Bovill herself served as nurse at a nearby tent hospital that treated injured workers.

The Bovills responded to these developments by building a store and post office. Hugh himself acted as postmaster. This expansion culminated in 1911 in the large, el-shaped structure that exists today. Hugh Bovill, in a 1934 interview published in the Moscow Daily News, recalled that the enlarged resort facility catered to approximately fifty to seventy-five people during the summer season. Excellent fishing in nearby streams attracted out-of-state vacationers, who hired guides and pack trains to go into the woods for several days. The hotel was also popular with residents of Moscow and other nearby towns.

The Bovills began to eye the boisterous town and ravaged forests with dismay. The wilderness that had attracted tourists was being transformed into a landscape of clearcuts and logging debris. Observing that the refined clientele at the hotel was being replaced by loggers and laborers, the Bovills decided to move to the more gentele Coeur d'Alene after 1911. They left behind \$150,000 worth of property. In the 1930s, the Bovills returned briefly in an unsuccessful attempt to re-open the hotel during the CCC era. This was their last contact with the community. They apparently continued their pattern of living in various parts of the west. Hugh died in 1935 at Newport, Oregon; Charlotte in 1946 in Santa Cruz, California.

Subsequent changes in Bovill saw the meadow in front of the hotel become a park. The native Indians who had previously camped in the meadow and dug camas, moved on to other areas, thereby severing another link with the site's heritage. Surviving a fire which burned six major downtown businesses in 1912, the hotel station continued to serve as an important supply post for outdoor guides and outfitters well into the 1920s. The role of outfitters and guides in Idaho's recreational economy is mostly a post-World War II phenomenon, making the Bovill property a rare entry in the early chronicles of this industry.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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County and State Latah County, Idaho

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Of the twenty way stations documented in Latah County during this era, the Hotel Bovill is possibly the best preserved of the genre. Few early tourist accommodations in the area attempted the relative elegance of the hotel. Most, like Willard Trumball's way station at Elk River (approximately fifteen miles southeast), were simple cabins lacking amenities.

The physical decline and somewhat diminished architectural values of the Hotel Bovill are far exceeded by its still-visible historical role in the larger community. It is certainly the single, most important property of its type in the local area. Hugh and Charlotte Bovill's vision and service to the commercial and recreational interests in the area were unprecedented. What began as a graceful, tourist interlude, grudgingly aided the aggressive logging industry which remains a strong force in the region today.

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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1 Name of Property Hotel Bovill  
County and State Latah County, Idaho

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Boone, Lalia Phipps. From A to Z in Latah County, Idaho. (1983) Copy at the Latah County, Idaho, Historical Society.

Davis, Homer. Idaho Wildlife Review. (Article regarding the introduction of elk into Latah County.) July 1971.

Eggars, Karen. "Bovill Old Timer's Trivia Tour." Unpublished tour notes held at the Latah County, Idaho, Historical Society.

Lawrence, Gwendolyn Bovill. "A Long Way from Piccadilly and a Top Hat." (1978) Copy at the Latah County, Idaho, Historical Society.

Miller, John B. The Trees Grew Tall. (1972) News Review Publishing Co.

Otness, Lillian. A Great Good Country: A Guide to Historic Moscow and Latah County. Moscow, Idaho: Latah County Historical Society, 1983.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1 Name of Property Hotel Bovill  
County and State Latah County, Idaho

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### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Hotel Bovill is located on Block 20, Lot 001A (1003), of the original townsite in the northwest corner. The western boundary is Park Avenue, and the city park to the west. The lot measures one hundred and fifty feet back from state highway 3.

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary encompasses the lot that has been historically associated with the property.