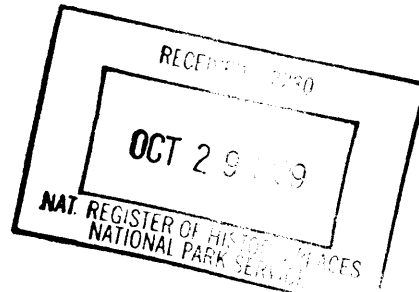


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



1415

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 O'Farrell, John A., Cabin

other names/site number IHSI #01-1016

2. Location

street & number North side of W. Fort Street between N. 4th & N. 5th streets N/A not for publication

city or town Boise N/A vicinity

state Idaho code ID county Ada code 001 zip code 83702

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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.)

Susan P. Neitzel

10/19/99

Signature of certifying official/Title
SUSAN P. NEITZEL, Deputy 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 certifying official/Title 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:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Carl R. Jung

12/3/99

O'Farrell, John A., Cabin
Name of Property

Boise, Ada County, Idaho
City, County, and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: monument

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: log cabin

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
walls WOOD: log

roof WOOD: shingles
other _____

Narrative Description

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

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

O'Farrell, John A., Cabin
Name of Property

Boise, Ada County, Idaho
City, County, and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" on one or more lines 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" on all that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or 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)

CONSERVATION

Period of Significance

1911-1949

Significant Dates

1911

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

John A. O'Farrell

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Hummel Architects, Boise, ID
Idaho State Historical Society Archives

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

O'Farrell, John A., Cabin
Name of Property

Boise, Ada County, Idaho
City, County, and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of property less than one acre

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A 1/1 5/6/5/0/9/0 4/8/2/9/6/8/0
Zone Easting Northing

B / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

C / / / / / / / / / /

D / / / / / / / / / /

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jessica Rodriguez, Intern
organization Idaho State Historic Preservation Office date 3/30/98
street & number 210 Main telephone 208-334-3861
city or town Boise state ID 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/or 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

name Boise Parks & Recreation Department
street & number 1104 Royal Blvd. telephone 208-384-4240
city or town Boise state ID zip code 83706

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1 Name of Property O'Farrell, John A., Cabin
County and State Ada County, Idaho

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The John A. O'Farrell cabin is a single-pen log building originally built in June of 1863. In 1911 it was moved to its present location in the 400 Block of Fort Street from its original location, approximately 100 yards to the east on 4th Street. The O'Farrell cabin faces south on Fort Street in front of the Federal Building and southwest of the Boise Army Reserve Training Center. It is rectangular in shape and has a simple side-gabled roof clad in hand-split shakes. The cabin is crudely constructed of horizontal cottonwood logs. The logs are knotty and irregular in shape, ranging from 5" to 12" in diameter. The corners of the cabin are joined by a steeple-notched technique. The chinks between the logs are of variable widths caulked with a base chinking of soft sand and lime-based mortar that dates to 1911 or earlier. The older chinking has been patched and repaired with a variety of materials including rough-cut cottonwood battens, dimension timber battens, metal lathe and cement mortar. The cabin rests upon a poured concrete pad which dates from the 1911 move. The floor boards, which measure 1" x 6" and 1" x 8", are nailed to 4" x 4" joists which are set directly into the concrete foundation.

The south (front) elevation faces Fort Street. This elevation features the main entry to the cabin located at the western end of the elevation. It features a board and batten door constructed of 1" x 8" tongue and groove boards and "Z" pattern battens. To the east of the door is a six-over-six, double-hung window placed within a fixed casement and protected by iron bars. A bronze plaque is mounted above the door, donated by the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) in 1915. It bears the following inscription: "This was the first home in Boise to shelter women and children. Restored and preserved by the Pioneer Chapter, DAR."

The east gabled end wall has no openings. It features a log wall and vertical board and batten siding in the gable end. There is a brick chimney at the east end of the cabin. This element was reassembled from original materials as part of the 1911 relocation and renovation. The north wall (rear) of the cabin has only one opening, a small doorway which has been enclosed with modern materials. The west gabled end wall contains the second of two windows, a four over four light, double-hung sash within a fixed casement. As with the east elevation, the west gabled end is infilled with horizontal board and batten siding.

The cabin's interior walls consist of vertical 1" x 12" sawn planks that have been nailed directly to the exterior logs. The ceiling rafters are constructed of similar planks. Currently, due to the deteriorated state of the cabin, several wall planks and ceiling rafters are down. Existing furnishings that once stood in the cabin have since been removed for safekeeping. The brick fire-place and chimney which remain in the cabin were rebuilt with both old and new bricks at the time of the move in 1911.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2 Name of Property O'Farrell, John A., Cabin
County and State Ada County, Idaho

The log cabin was completely "restored" in 1911 following relocation to the present location. The DAR's primary objective was to strictly maintain the cabin's historical integrity in regards to its restoration. On the exterior of the cabin, only a few logs were replaced. The logs were obtained from a cottonwood tree that was cut for the cabin's new location. The shingles applied to the new 1911 roof were also composed of local wood and handmade to duplicate those from the original roof. The interior was decorated with antique furnishings from the pioneer period, obtained by the DAR through donations. The plank walls were painted white and lined with burlap. After this initial restoration by the DAR in 1911, the O'Farrell Cabin was simply maintained by the organizations responsible for its care (1911-1956, DAR; 1956-1993, Sons and Daughters of the Idaho Pioneers; 1993-present, Boise City Parks and Recreation Department. There has been no further significant restoration of the O'Farrell Cabin since 1911.

The alterations and repairs made over the years on the cabin are not well documented and must be inferred from the limited evidence available in the archival records and physical evidence found in the cabin. Although most alterations appear to have been executed at the time of the move, well over eighty-six years ago, the minimal nature of subsequent documentation must, by necessity, temper these assumptions.

Over the years, protective measures were necessitated by ongoing vandalism and extreme weather conditions. Iron bars were installed over windows. In 1958 a "temporary" protective roof, made of logs and timbers with both galvanized and plastic roof panels, was constructed over the entire cabin, funded by the Sons and Daughters of Idaho Pioneers. It remains to this day. In 1995, to offset further damage and vandalism, a chain-link fence was erected entirely around the cabin by the City of Boise through a grant from the Idaho Heritage Trust. These protective measures were well-intended efforts taken to preserve the building. While these measures have had a negative impact on the visual characteristics of the O'Farrell Cabin, they have not constituted significant alterations to the building *itself* but to its immediate surroundings. Despite these measures, the O'Farrell Cabin retains sufficient integrity of location, association, and materials to convey its post-1911 significance.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1 Name of Property O'Farrell, John A., Cabin
County and State Ada County, Idaho

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The John A. O'Farrell Cabin, located in the 400 block of Fort Street in Boise, Idaho, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A. This building is significant as an early manifestation of the historic preservation movement in Boise. It was one of the first projects undertaken in the capitol city of Idaho to preserve the structural legacy of the past. The techniques and circumstances surrounding the preservation of this pioneer log cabin are typical of preservation efforts in the early 20th century and serve to illustrate the early history and importance of the historic preservation movement in the area. It should be noted and emphasized that despite this building's construction in 1863 and subsequent preservation because of its associations with the early pioneer history of Boise, it is significant for purposes of the National Register of Historic Places only from the time it was moved and restored until the end of the historic period--1911 to 1949. This property also falls under National Register Criteria Consideration F as a commemorative property. The O'Farrell Cabin meets the standards for listing because it is an early and significant example of local historic preservation. As such, it has achieved significance independent of its commemorative associations.

The historic preservation movement in America can trace its roots to the mid-19th century. It is generally held that the first true effort to preserve a significant place dated back to the Mount Vernon Ladies Association's attempts in the 1850s to secure the preservation and interpretation of George Washington's now famous plantation on the banks of the Potomac River in Virginia. This effort was followed in the late 1870s by the Centennial celebration and a renewed interest in the colonial past. Organizations such as the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities and the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities began to work in earnest to identify, protect and "restore" buildings associated with the colonial past.¹

To begin, these activities were limited to organizations located in the east and south--those areas with the longest history of Euro-American occupation. In the newly settled west, the preservation and commemoration of the pioneer past did not receive concerted interest until the end of the 19th century. By 1900, however, groups such as the Old Oregon Trail Pioneers Association and the Daughters of Utah Pioneers were actively campaigning to commemorate the history of western immigration and to preserve the built legacy of that past.

The pioneers of Boise and all those who are now enjoying the fruit of the labors of the trail blazers in the new country, are indebted to the Pioneer Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution of Boise, for the preservation of the first permanent residence ever built in the city, the home of Mr. and Mrs. John A. O'Farrell.²

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2 Name of Property O'Farrell, John A., Cabin
County and State Ada County, Idaho

Thus proclaimed the Idaho Statesman in the fall of 1911. The DAR chapter in Boise was organized in November 1908. From its inception the DAR's objectives were as follows:

Objects of this chapter shall be to perpetuate the memory of the founders of the republic and of this state; to encourage historical research; to preserve records and relics relating to the individual services of the patriots and the history of this state; to mark places of historical interest and to promote the celebration of patriotic anniversaries.³

John A. O'Farrell was the first permanent settler in Boise. O'Farrell was the first large-scale farmer in the Boise valley, had extensive property holdings, and was a leader in promoting local irrigation systems. The O'Farrell Cabin, constructed in June of 1863, was and is the oldest extant building in the city of Boise. It was the first "home" building to house women and children in the area and served as the site of the first Catholic religious services held in Boise. From 1863 until 1870 local Catholics gathered for services in the cabin that also served as the residence for O'Farrell and his family until 1872.⁴

John A. O'Farrell was historically significant in the pioneer development of Boise, and his cabin was deemed a worthy candidate for the DAR to preserve. According to DAR meeting minutes the acquisition of the O'Farrell Cabin and its subsequent move to a suitable spot were first mentioned in April 1911; by September of the same year the relocation had been accomplished. The cabin was donated by O'Farrell's daughters and was moved in order to avoid demolition resulting from new construction. The DAR was responsible for securing from the Boise Army Barracks the .02 acres of land on which the cabin now sits.⁵

For two years after the move the DAR remained actively involved in the cabin's restoration. The DAR set up a separate O'Farrell fund, receiving donations from both DAR members and families of pioneers. They acquired antique furnishings from the pioneer period and painted interior plank walls white and then lined them with burlap. There were donated materials and labor added to the exterior; a few logs were replaced with cottonwood logs indigenous to the area. Shakes for the new roof were also made of local wood and handmade to duplicate those from the 1860s.⁶ This level of reconstruction is typical of early preservation efforts. The practice of "restoring" historic structures to their "original" appearance, based on often vague notions of such an appearance, is a hallmark of early historic preservation activities throughout the nation. These alterations can be considered part of the historic fabric of the building, dating as they do from the historic period and directly relating to the significant preservation effort.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3 Name of Property O'Farrell, John A., Cabin
County and State Ada County, Idaho

After their initial restoration project was completed in 1913, the DAR simply maintained the cabin. The cabin functioned as a static museum, illustrating Boise's pioneer past. Also, from time to time, the DAR used the cabin for various social activities commemorating the organization's achievements. The DAR maintained the cabin in order to "dedicate the building to the memory of the pioneers who made Boise the Beautiful a glorious possibility." The group's hope was that the city would call the little plot of land with the little log cabin "Pioneer Park."⁷

The preservation of the O'Farrell Cabin is a significant and early effort in the Boise area to retain an important piece of the historic built environment for appreciation by future generations. It was followed by other preservation efforts in the city undertaken by such groups as the Idaho State Historical Society and the Boise Parks Department. These efforts became increasingly more sophisticated, eventually evolving into the large-scale preservation efforts in the 1970s which resulted in the preservation of historic districts (such as Old Boise) and individual buildings (such as the Egyptian Theater). As the preservation movement enters into the 21st century, it is important to recall the origins of historic preservation in Boise and to include such early efforts in the National Register of Historic Places.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4 Name of Property O'Farrell, John A., Cabin
County and State Ada County, Idaho

ENDNOTES

1. *see generally*. Rhoads, William B.: The Colonial Revival. New York, Garland Publishers, 1977.
2. _____, Idaho Statesman, 11/22, 1911. sec.2, p.4.
3. *Daughters of the American Revolution, Boise Chapter*, meeting minutes, November, 1908, Idaho State Historical Society, Boise, Idaho.
4. Hart, Arthur: Historic Boise. Boise, Historic Idaho, Inc. 1979, p.58.
5. *Daughters of the American Revolution, Boise Chapter*, meeting minutes, April 1911, Idaho State Historical Society, Boise, Idaho.
6. *Daughters of the American Revolution, Boise Chapter*, meeting minutes, May 1911 through May 1913, Idaho State Historical Society, Boise, Idaho.
7. _____, Idaho Statesman, 11/22, 1911. sec.2, p.4.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1 Name of Property O'Farrell, John A., Cabin
County and State Ada County, Idaho

BIBLIOGRAPHY

French, Hiram: History of Idaho. Chicago, Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1914.

Gallagher, Joseph: Restoration of the O'Farrell Cabin. Idaho Heritage Preservation Resources, Boise, 1995.

Hart, Arthur: Historic Boise. Boise, Historic Idaho, Inc., 1979.

Hawley, James: History of Idaho. Chicago, S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1920.

Hummel, Charles, AIA: The John A. O'Farrell Cabin Rehabilitation Report. Boise City Historic Preservation Commission, Boise, 1979.

Kelly, Edward J.: History of the Diocese of Boise. Caldwell, Idaho, Caxton Printers, 1953.

Rhoads, William B.: The Colonial Revival. New York, Garland Publishers, 1977.

Daughters of the American Revolution, Boise Chapter, meeting minutes from November, 1908 to May, 1913, Idaho State Historical Society, Boise, Idaho.

_____, Idaho Statesman, 11/22, 1911. sec. 2, p.4.

_____, Idaho Statesman, 12/15, 1994. sec. B, p.2.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1 Name of Property O'Farrell, John A., Cabin
County and State Ada County, Idaho

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description:

A tract of land lying in Section 11, Township 3 North, Range 2 East of the Boise Meridian, Ada County, Idaho, said tract being more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at United States stone monument in the northwest quarter of Section 11, marking the southwest corner of the Main Reservation of Boise Barracks; thence North 22 12' West, 2050.33 feet to the southwest corner of the Boise Army Reserve Training Center; thence continuing North 22 12' West, a distance of 140 feet, more or less, to the point of intersection with westerly extension of a line drawn parallel to and 3 feet southerly from the southerly side of the O'Farrell cabin site (Sons and Daughters of Idaho Pioneers historical log building) and the TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING; thence North 22 12' West to a point on the westerly extension of a line drawn parallel to and 20 feet northerly from the northerly side of said building; thence easterly along said line to a point on the northerly extension of a line drawn parallel to and 3 feet easterly from the easterly side of said building; thence along said line to a point on the easterly extension of a line drawn parallel to and 3 feet southerly from the southerly side of said building; thence westerly along said line to the point of beginning.

The tract of land above described contains 0.02 of an acre, more or less.

Boundary Justification:

The above described property constitutes all the land traditionally associated with the John O'Farrell Cabin.