

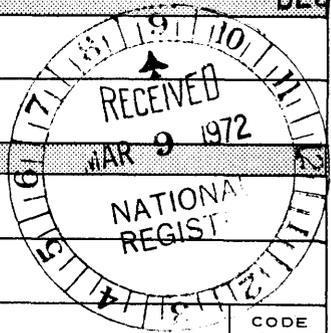
PH0037877

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Idaho	
COUNTY: Owyhee	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 3-9-72-309	DATE 3-10-72

15 19



1. NAME

COMMON: **Camp Three Forks**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **SE corner Section 23, T8S, R6W**

CITY OR TOWN: **Silver City, N.M.**

STATE: **Idaho** CODE: **16** COUNTY: **Owyhee** CODE: **073**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" 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
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" 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 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) _____ _____ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____ _____			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: **Simon Corta**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Jordan Valley** STATE: **Oregon** CODE: **41 16**
~~Idaho~~

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: **Owyhee County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Murphy** 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: **Owyhee**

ENTRY NUMBER: **DEC 15 1972**

DATE: _____

FOR NPS USE ONLY

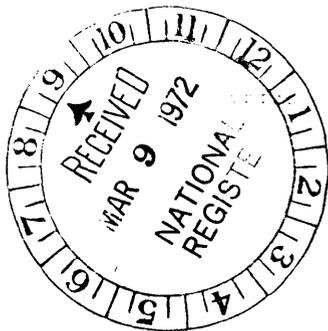
7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input checked="" 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

One of the main early buildings still stands (in a dilapidated condition) on the original site, and some others have been preserved on a nearby ranch. The site of the post looks much as it did before the camp was built, although traces of other buildings can be found. Located close to South mountain, this camp has an attractive natural setting.

The principal structures are of logs, one with the bark still on after more than a century. Stone work is also present in one building and will bear further investigation. Historical archaeology should greatly clarify original locations of buildings which have been moved and shed light on construction methods.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

6. SIGNIFICANCE

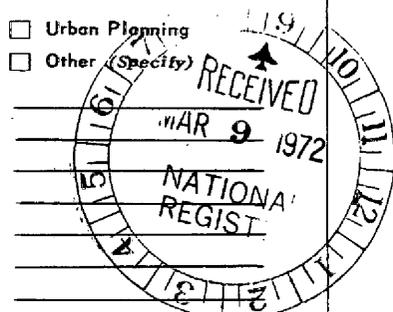
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1866-1871

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 Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

While inspecting the Owyhee Country during the Snake War in the Fall of 1866, Major General Frederick Steele authorized the installation of two additional camps as bases for guarding the new Minear road from Silver City via Three Forks to Nevada and California. Choosing a site on Soldier Creek at the southwestern base of South Mountain, he directed his Bvt. Lt. Col. John J. Coppinger to establish a winter camp there, "and to build a block house at the Three Forks." Following these orders, Coppinger established Camp Winthrop on Steele's Soldier Creek site, September 26, 1866. Somehow he did not get around to building the block house at Three Forks across the Oregon line about sixteen miles south of Camp Winthrop. Since Minear's grade up the canyon wall immediately south of Three Forks proved to be entirely impractical--except, legend has it, for stages lowered down over the cliff with ropes, a cumbersome system tried only one--the lack of a block house at Three Forks scarcely bothered the road users. A stage line or two operated for a time through Three Forks and up the river in the canyon instead of up the impassable canyon wall, but the route never was too popular. In any event, the demand for a post at Three Forks location was solved quite neatly the next April, simply by renaming Camp Winthrop as Camp Three Forks. More than a little confusion eventually rose from this change in name, particularly because the post finally called Three Forks turned out to be quite a distance from the site for which it was named.

Camp Three Forks on Soldier Creek proved to be a useful military base during the Snake War even if there was not too much traffic requiring protection on the road. Almost a year after he had established the camp, Coppinger went out on a successful raid against the Indians, August 12-14, 1867. Wiping out a village his scouts found after chasing some Indians down Soldier Creek to the Owyhee, Coppinger gained a considerable reputation around Silver City. (Later he went on to become commanding general of the department of the Platte, and finally a major general in Cuba during the Spanish-American War.) After the Snake War came to an end, June 30, 1868, Camp Three Forks continued to function as a military prison for six months more. Then the Indian captives held there were transferred to Fort Boise where supplies were more readily available. With hostilities largely concluded, Camp Three Forks continued with a rather small force: by March 1870 only eighty men were stationed there. At last, the army disregarded local protests and closed Camp Three Forks entirely, October 23, 1871. The whole installation was auctioned off for ninety dollars, and became a cattle ranch. Although the buildings are abandoned, a cattle ranch still is to be found on Soldier Creek only a mile below the old camp. The one standing building has been altered somewhat, and is in poor repair. Yet it still bears an identifiable resemblance to a picture taken in May, 1868, by a Silver City photographer--although the cannon (on which Colonel Coppinger was seated in the 1868 picture) together with the soldiers and other things which gave the post a military appearance in 1868, are long since gone.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Reference Series #358, Idaho State Historical Society, July, 1965.



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		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	42°	42'	24"	116°	59'	58"				
NE	42°	42'	24"	117°	01'	32"				
SE	42°	42'	48"	117°	01'	32"				
SW	42°	42'	48"	116°	59'	58"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 392.6 acres

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 Wells, State Liaison Officer

ORGANIZATION: Idaho State Historical Society DATE: Feb. 24, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: 610 North Julia Davis Drive

CITY OR TOWN: Boise STATE: Idaho CODE: 16

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 Liaison Officer

Date February 24, 1972

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert Van Ytterley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 12/15/72

ATTEST: [Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date 12/8/72

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

WJ
UTM
HF

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Idaho	
COUNTY Owyhee	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
DEC 15 1972	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Camp Three Forks
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

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SE corner Sec. 23, T8S, R6W

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: Idaho

CODE
16

COUNTY: Owyhee

NATIONAL REGISTER

CODE
073

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE: Bureau of Land Management

SCALE: 1"=1mile

DATE: 1965

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

