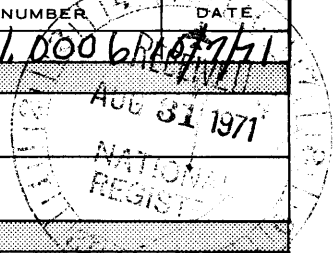


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Oregon
COUNTY:	Klamath
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
71.10.41.0006	7/10/71



1. NAME

COMMON:

AND/OR HISTORIC: Fort Klamath Site
(Fort Klamath Military Reservation)

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: c. 1.25 m SE of Fort Klamath

CITY OR TOWN: Fort Klamath vicinity

STATE	Oregon	97626	CODE	41	COUNTY:	Klamath	CODE	035
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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 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 type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>County Park</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Klamath County

STREET AND NUMBER: Klamath County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:	Klamath Falls	97601	STATE:	Oregon	97601	CODE	41
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Klamath County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	Klamath Falls	STATE	Oregon	97601	CODE	41
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings

DATE OF SURVEY: ca. 1960 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: National Park Service

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	Washington	STATE:	D. C.	20240	CODE	
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Oregon

COUNTY: Klamath

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER: 71.10.41.0006

DATE: 7/10/71

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The military post occupied by militia and U. S. Army regulars on the northern boundary of the Klamath Indian Reservation between 1863 and 1890 was located on Fort Creek in the Wood River Valley. Including hay reservation, the site embraced more than 1,000 acres of bottom land. Today, most of the site is under private ownership and is used for farming and grazing. Property nominated to the National Register (8 acres), compassing the former parade ground, is owned by Klamath County and is being developed and maintained as Fort Klamath County Park.

The County Park is adjacent to Oregon Highway 62. Extending beyond the site to the west is a view of open meadows and, in the far distance, the Cascade Range. Typical vegetation of the area includes Ponderosa and Lodgepole Pines, Quaking Aspen, willows and an undercover of native grasses.

A pine grove marks the approximate location of the Cavalry Barracks and Guard House. Graves of Captain Jack and fellow leaders of the Modoc uprising of 1872-1873 were once marked and enclosed nearby. They are no longer evident. In the years before its acquisition by the County in 1966, the site was superficially combed by relic-seekers, but the area has never been under cultivation.

At the height of troop occupation of the post, in 1885, there were as many as 40 separate structures. None of these features remains on the site. However, location of the structures has been accurately plotted on the basis of scaled plot plans from records in the National Archives and from bearings taken from remains of the flagstaff mount and five dressed basalt monuments which delimited the military and hay reservations. The County has fenced a portion of its holdings and has constructed a replica of the Guard House which is to house an interpretive exhibit. Plans call for outlining and identifying the location of other post structures within the Park.

The appearance of the post in its later period is documented in photographs. Accommodating requirements for cross ventilation and ambulatory space, the two-story Hospital had a double veranda extending around all sides. The Hospital and Officers' and Commander's Quarters had vertical board and batten siding. Buildings on a larger scale, such as the Cavalry Barracks, were covered with horizontal weather boarding. The Barracks had a porch with deck extending the length of its facade and a cross gable marking the entry.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

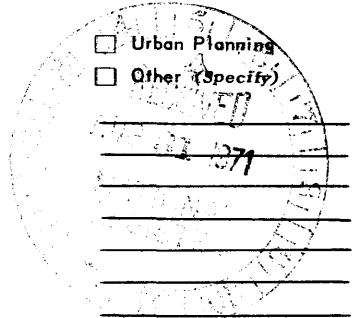
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1863-1890**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <input checked="" 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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Fort Klamath was one of the major posts established to protect immigrants in hostile Indian territory east of the Cascades, and it was, after Fort Stevens, the longest-occupied military post in the state. It remained in service throughout 26 years in the final decades of westward expansion.

Although the Southern Immigrant Route into Oregon's Willamette Valley crossed the Klamath Lakes region, only a few immigrants stayed to settle prior to 1860, and those who did were isolated and in danger of Indian attack. The volunteer First Oregon Cavalry was organized when regular troops were transferred to duty in the War Between the States. The militia patrolled immigrant routes and wagon roads. The authority for establishing a military post for such operations in Southern Oregon came in 1863. General Benjamin Alvord, commander of troops in the Department of Oregon, dispatched Lt. Col. Charles S. Drew to locate an appropriate site. After a reconnaissance which ranged across Southeast Oregon, a site was selected in the Wood River Valley in the Klamath Basin. Construction was begun in the summer of 1863 under the supervision of Captain William Kelly, commanding C Troop, First Oregon Volunteer Cavalry. A primitive sawmill was erected on Fort Creek for the purpose of squaring pine timber. Civil contractor was David Linn, a builder and furniture manufacturer of Jacksonville, the gold rush town and County seat to the west.

The Klamath Indian Reservation was established by Federal order following the treaty of October 15, 1864, during which time Superintendent of Indian Affairs for Oregon, J. W. P. Huntington signed a grant of 1,125,000 acres to representatives of the Klamath, Modoc and Yahooskin Snake tribes. An Agency was set up in 1865 five miles south of Fort Klamath, from which point Indian affairs were directed with assistance from the troops as required.

Meanwhile, a network of military posts developed around Fort Klamath. Fort Bidwell, established in California 150 miles to the southeast in 1865, was to become another base of operations in later uprisings of the Bannocks, Piauxtes, Snakes and Modocs. Camp Warner, 130 miles east of Fort Klamath, was active from 1866 to 1874, and at Fort Harney, further to the east, reconnaissance and punitive expeditions were organized between 1867 and 1880.

In the establishment of supply routes to the Fort, there occurred significant incidents of discovery and settlement. Following the arrival of reinforcements to the Oregon Volunteer Infantry in 1865, Captain Franklin B. Sprague, commanding a contingent from Company I, searched for a new, northerly route to Jacksonville which would penetrate the Cascades along

(Continued)



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Stone, Buena Cobb, Fort Klamath, Frontier Post in Oregon 1863-1890 (Dallas, Texas: Royal Publishing Co., 1964).

Corning, Howard McKinley, Dictionary of Oregon History (Portland: Binford and Mort, 1956), 88-89, 136.

Soldier and Brave, Indian and Military Affairs in the Trans-Mississippi West, Including a Guide to Historic Sites and Landmarks, Vol. XII, The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior (New York, Evanston and London: Harper and Row, 1963), 217-218. Fort Klamath listed among "Other Sites Considered."

UHM file
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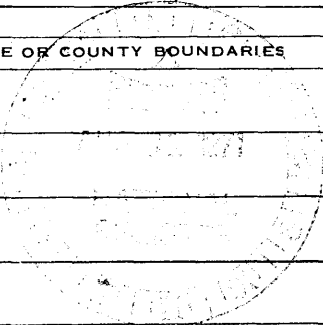
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			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 ' 31 "	121 ° 58 ' 22 "
NE	° ' "	° ' "			
SE	° ' "	° ' "			
SW	° ' "	° ' "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **8 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



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Elisabeth Walton, Park Historian**

ORGANIZATION: **Oregon State Highway Division** DATE: **August 1971**

STREET AND NUMBER: **State Highway Building**

CITY OR TOWN: **Salem** STATE: **Oregon 97310** CODE: **41**

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 *S. L. Patten*

Title State Highway Engineer

Date August 23, 1971

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

Ernest A. Connelly
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date **OCT 7 1971**

ATTEST: *William J. ...*
 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

✓
✓

SEP 13 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Oregon
COUNTY	Klamath
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
71.10.41.0006	10/9/71

(Number all entries)

FORT KLAMATH SITE

8. Significance (continued)

Annie Creek and follow Union Creek into the Rogue River Valley. In the process of locating his improved connection to Jacksonville (now the course of Oregon Highway 62), Sprague rediscovered the lake in the crater of an ancient volcano, Mt. Mazama, and designated it "Lake Majesty." Sprague wrote the first published description of the feature now known as Crater Lake. In 1867 former Fort sutler George Nurse established a ferry where an older trail to Jacksonville crossed the Link River 36 miles south of the Fort. Here Nurse founded the community of Linkville which evolved as Klamath Falls.

Following the Civil War, in 1867, U. S. Army regulars arrived at Fort Klamath to relieve the Oregon Volunteers, and a period of post enlargement ensued. Fort Klamath was a center of operations during an Indian war of national consequence. The Modoc campaign of 1872-1873 absorbed resources of the entire Department of the Pacific and drew upon the country's ranking military figures.

From the beginning of the joint occupation of the Klamath Reservation, relations between the Modocs and Klamaths were strained. The Indian Agent acquiesced at an early date and gave the Modocs a separate section on Upper Klamath Lake. This concession notwithstanding, Captain Jack and his Modoc followers were off the reservation after 1870 and ensconced in the newly settled Lost River country in California. Settlers petitioned the Department of Indian Affairs to remove the renegades to a reservation. After several attempts at peaceably returning Captain Jack and his band to the reservation had failed, forty troops from Fort Klamath were dispatched to Jack's camp on the Lost River in 1872. It was the beginning of a difficult and prolonged campaign waged in the lava beds on the northern California border. On successful capture of the Modoc band, a military trial was carried out at Fort Klamath and six of the renegade leaders were found guilty of murder and sentenced to hang in October 1873.

After the Modoc War the regular duties of the U. S. troops stationed at Fort Klamath resumed. In addition to protecting lives and property of settlers during Indian alarms, the various units provided escorts, built bridges and constructed telegraph lines. Under a general program of retrenchment applied by the War Department, the military and hay reservations were reduced in 1881. The post was finally released by the military in 1889, and the last troops moved out in 1890.

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Oregon	
COUNTY	
Klamath	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
76.10.41.0006	10/9/71

(Number all entries)

FORT KLAMATH SITE

2. Location

Property nominated to the National Register comprises 8 acres under County ownership in the SW 1/4 of sec. 23, T. 33 S., R. 7 1/2 E., of the Willamette Meridian, in Klamath County, Oregon.

Oregon Second Congressional District.

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings

1970

Parks and Recreation Section
Oregon State Highway Division
Salem, Oregon 97310

Code: 41

