

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 10 1979
DATE ENTERED	APR 9 1980

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Rice Meeting House

AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

McCall

\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Idaho

\_\_ VICINITY OF  
CODE

16

COUNTY

Valley

CODE

085

**CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Pilgrim Cove Foundation

STREET & NUMBER  
415 Purdue Street

CITY, TOWN

Boise

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Idaho 83704

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Valley County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Cascade

STATE

Idaho

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
Idaho State Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1972

\_\_ FEDERAL  STATE \_\_ COUNTY \_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS Idaho State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Boise

STATE

Idaho

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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#### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Rice Meeting House is a modest log cabin situated on the east shore of Payette Lake and is surrounded by mature evergreens. The rectangular building is approximately 60' by 35' and has a gabled roof. Built by volunteer labor, it was constructed entirely by hand, employing hand hewn logs and hand whittled pegs. The logs, with their squarred ends, are joined with saddle notches, which is typical of the Finnish style of building.

Long, horizontal windows with log frames are on the north and east sides. These have no glass and interior shutters protect the interior from the elements. A door is located in the center of the southside.

The interior is one large open space and the ceiling is open. The large log trusses which support the roof are a major decorative, as well as functional, element.

There are no additions or alterations.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1928

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Gus Gustafson

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Rice Meeting House is architecturally, significant as a good example of Finnish log cabin architecture in Idaho. The use of logs as a building material has been typical in the Payette Lake and Long Valley areas from at least the 1890's, a period which saw a heavy settlement of Finns in the region, due to its similar geographical and climatic conditions and availability of good farm land.

The use of hand hewn logs and pegs, to the exclusion of nails, reflect the work of a craftsman and distinguish this structure from many of its more recent log neighbors. Finnish carpenter Gus Gustafson supervised the construction of this meeting house and the logs were placed so skillfully under his direction that no chinking was necessary. Gustafson migrated to America from Finland and resided in Wisconsin and Wyoming prior to moving to Idaho. Although the name is Swedish, this man was definitely of Finnish ancestry, having come from a town close to the Swedish border.

The Rice Meeting House was built by the Idaho Conference of Congregational Churches as the center of a summer retreat camp. The church still maintains the property for the purpose. After its completion the camp was named "Pilgrim Cove," an appellation which has since been applied to the entire area. As such the meeting house is a local landmark, as well as one of the better crafted and preserved log buildings in the southwest Idaho.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

letter from Doug Lindley, July 25, 1978.

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre.

McCall, Idaho Quadrangle

7.5 scale

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 1	5 7 3 8 7 0	4 9 7 5 3 1 5
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This nomination includes Rice Meeting House and the land owned by the Idaho Association of Congregational Churches in 1978 at Pilgrim Cove on Payette Lake.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Don Hibbard, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Idaho State Historical Society

DATE

26 June 1979

STREET & NUMBER

610 North Julia Davis Drive

TELEPHONE

384-2120

CITY OR TOWN

Boise

STATE

Idaho

**12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE     

LOCAL XX

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Merle Wells*

TITLE

Idaho State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

4 July 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*W. Ray Juce*

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

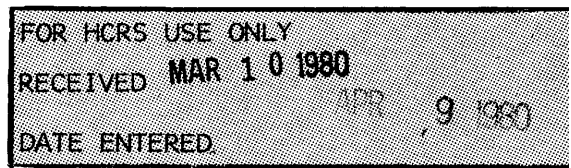
4/9/80

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

4-8-80



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Supplemental information - Rice Meeting House, McCall, Idaho  
Nomination submitted 4 July 1979

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Two architectural traditions seem to have been at work in the construction of the Rice Meeting House, a log assembly hall which is the original, and still the most important structure at the Pilgrim Cove Congregational Camp at the edge of Payette Lake in Central Idaho. One of these traditions was that of Finnish log building in Long Valley. The other was a "rustic" taste, frequently though not exclusively associated with recreational architecture, which had been waxing with the rise of auto travel throughout the 'twenties and would continue at least through the depression era.

Log building among the Finnish immigrant population in Long Valley is a phenomenon visible even today on the still-rural landscape. The preponderant surviving building types are log barns and houses, among which some patterns of shape and configuration can be discerned. Rice Meeting house, a simple rectangle in plan with a gabled roof of bungaloid pitch, cannot be described as particularly Finnish in profile; the saddle-notch corner joining system is also common to log buildings constructed by a wide variety of ethnic groups. The characteristic which reflects the fact that Rice Meeting House was built by a Finn is the lateral fitting of the logs. Alice Koskella, a Preservation Office grant participant engaged in sites survey of Long Valley Finnish structures, writes that she considers this building Finnish in technique because

. . . the one technique which I've become pretty certain is Finnish, since doing this sites survey work, is a process called "scribing" . . . The process results in logs fitting tightly together, with no need for chinking. The tool used to do this is called a vara. The builder used this tool to etch lines inside and out, the length of each log, that corresponded to the outline of the log already set in the wall beneath it.<sup>1</sup>

This description is consistent with the observable characteristics of Rice Meeting House, and also with an informal account of builder Gustafson at work:

He could take cut a straight edge along a sixty-foot log without using a line. No chinking was necessary when under Gust's direction <sup>2</sup> a log was put in place without benefit of even block and tackle . . .

The construction technique of the Rice Meeting House, then, relates to locally available material and a folk-based technology. However the impetus for the building, and probably in part for its picturesque "log cabin" style, was the construction not of a Finnish building but of a rustic retreat. In that sense the site clearly relates to the picturesque recreational architecture described by Elisabeth Walton in a useful article on 20th century auto accommodations. As Walton observes, this

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architecture arose in direct response to "the development of statewide and interstate road systems for automobile traffic and the improvement of road-building technology in the 1920's [which] ushered in an era of unprecedented public mobility across the country;" it was associated with a decided "taste for storybook themes and novelties." In the Northwest, as Walton demonstrates, the picturesque taste was often enough expressed through use of log or log slabs: Nostalgic Log Cabin Revival, another member of the Idaho sites survey staff has called it. The St. Georg Hotel in Ketchum, and nearer by, the Payette Lake Inn in McCall, are two Idaho examples of the genre illustrated by Walton. The much more modest Rice Meeting House is another, built for a church camp and similiarly aligned both with the increasing use of family cars and the fashion for rustication. The founder of Pilgrim Cove Camp expressed both these trends in his account of his first summer in the woods, at a campsite rented by Congregationalists for three years before the permanent location on Payette Lake was found.

Our trusty Ford, with bedding, food and clothing for six tied on wherever we could find a place for it, bumped and swayed over the road up the Payette River canyon, the good old Ford engine never missing a beat. Our youngest, then less than two years old, slept in the lid of our steamer trunk that month. The rest of us made our beds out of fir branches and slept under canvas. We cooked over an open fire and drew our water from the river.<sup>4</sup>

The meeting house was the first and for some years the only building on the camp grounds. Campers still arriving by family car or rented bus slept in tents and cooked outdoors. Small cabins were eventually built, but it was not until the fifties that bunks were installed, showing that the picturesque, rustivating taste of the 'twenties and 'thirties was well-received and long-lived in Idaho.

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<sup>1</sup>Letter from Alice Koskella, 10 September 1979, on file at Idaho State Historical Society, Boise, Idaho.

<sup>2</sup>The Reverend Claton Rice, quoted in The Idaho Daily Statesman, 1 September 1979, page 5B, col. 2.

<sup>3</sup>Elisabeth Walton, "Auto Accomodations," in Space, Style and Structure: Building in Northwest America, Vol. 2 Thomas Vaughn, Ed., (Portland, 1974), pp. 518, 525.

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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<sup>4</sup>The Reverend Claton Rice, quoted in the Idaho Daily Statesman, 1 September, 1979, page 5B, col. 2.