Form 10-300 (July 1969)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Situated in southeastern Idaho about ten miles north of the Idaho-Utah border and several miles west of Hwy. 191, the small town of Samaria remains isolated from the mainstream of modern society. It is a predominately Mormon community, with the local economy based on agriculture. The population has declined greatly over the years because of lack of jobs, and many of the houses and other buildings in town are now vacant.

Log and brick buildings predominate, with a few frame structures also standing. The log buildings are probably typical of early dwellings and outbuildings in the town. Most are rather small, one-story buildings of rough-hewn logs, some with sod roofs. As the town became more prosperous, brick homes were built, and most of these are also one-story dwellings of modest size. Wooden gingerbread trim and handsome chimneys decorate these brick homes.

The boundaries of the Samaria Historic District are as follows: latitude 42° 07' 26" on the north, latitude 42° 06' 14" on the south, longitude 112° 19' 43" on the east and longitude 112° 20' 25" on the west.

A few of the more interesting buildings are described below:

Ben Waldron's Store (1888): By 1888, Ben Waldron's mercantile business had grown so much in volume that he moved from his log room into a new two-story brick building which he built. The store still stands today, weathered but basically unchanged. It is a tall, blocky building with the facade divided into three bays by raised brick pilasters. On the first floor, large-paned windows fill the two side bays with double doors in the central bay. On the second story, a single, four-paned, double-hung sash window is set in each bay, topped with a shallow arched brick lintel. A projecting cornice divides the first floor from the second, and a simple pattern of brick dentils decorates the top of the facade below the flat roofline.

Bishop Daniel Price House: This small, one-story red brick house is built in an L-shape and is topped with a gable roof. A front porch with shed roof nestles between the two wings of the building. As is very typical of these small brick homes in Samaria, this building has elaborate gingerbread trim along the porch and bargeboards, culminating in four-pronged decorations at the peaks of the gables.

Eliza Jones House: This small, one-story log cabin utilizes hewn lock-notch corners, multi-paned, double-hung sash windows and a sod roof. The low-pitched roof consists of eight log purlins and a ridge pole to support the overlapping one-inch milled boards running from ridge to eaves. Sod was placed directly on top of these boards, and some sod still remains.

continued

PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
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☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	XX 19th Century	
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Communications	☐ Military	Theater	
Conservation	Music	☐ Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The town of Samaria was colonized in 1868 by Mormon converts from Wales. John Evan Price and his two sons came first in February 1868, with more settlers arriving in May of that year. By November, there were enough people there to organize a branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. A school district was established in the fall of 1869 and a meetinghouse was completed not long afterwards.

In the spring of 1869, the settlers built the first canal to begin irrigation of farmlands in the area, and Samaria soon developed into a trading center for a prosperous agricultural region, with cattle and sheep being raised along with wheat and hay. A four mill and sawmill helped to boost the local economy which included the usual stores, livery stable, hotel, barber shop and other small businesses.

The town of Samaria grew from a few families in 1868 to nineteen families by 1870. The peak in population was reached around 1890 when at least 800 people were reported living there. The town has declined in size since then, and today there are approximately 150 residents.

The town has not changed greatly over the years and the buildings still remain, with many dating from the early days. The townsite was laid out in the spring of 1869, with ten-acre blocks and streets six rods wide. Most of the early buildings were log, but by 1900 more than a dozen substantial and stylish brick houses had been built. The character of these buildings, derived from their shapes, texture and ornamentation, makes Samaria a rich display of early architecture in an attractive rural setting.



9.	MAJOR	BIBLIOGRA	PHICAL RI	FERENC	ES								
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Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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7. SAMARIA

Billy Price House: This small, rectangular one-story house is also typical of the red brick houses in Samaria. Carved lintels project outward above the rectangular windows and door, each with a carved pendant design at either end. The simple gable roof is trimmed with carved bargeboards which culminate in four-pronged decorations with scroll motifs at the gable peaks.

Frank Huntsman Dwelling: This simple, one-story log structure has very low walls and a very low-pitched gable roof, with one side longer than the other. The roof is supported by heavy purlins and is covered with sod. The log walls are tied at the corners with saddle notches.

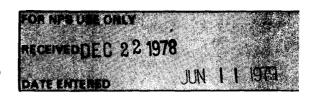
This one-story stuccoed brick house has a gable Maria Anderson House: roof and a lean-to addition at the rear. Two tall windows flank the paneled front floor with transom, and both door and windows have carved wooden lintels with pendant decorations at either end. Pairs of similar windows with identical lintels grace both sides of the house. Bargeboards are elaborately carved in an openwork circular pattern.

Dan Williams House: This large, blocky, two-story log house is set on a native stone foundation. Tenon corners tie the log walls together, and clapboards finish the gables. The windows are tall, with second-story ones derectly above the first-story ones, creating a vertical effect. A small, one-story addition of board-and-batten construction abutts the rear wall of the log house, with its gable roof running at right angles to that of the main house.

David Jenkins House: This one-story red brick house has two wings set at right angles to each other. A wide front porch with shed roof runs the width of the front. As is typical of the brick houses in Samaria, the large rectangular windows are topped with carved lintels with pendant decorations.at each end. Other elaborate gingerbread trims the top of the porch supports and the barge boards, with short, lathe-turned wooden spires rising from the peaks of the gables.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



CONTINUATION SHEET

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PAGE 1

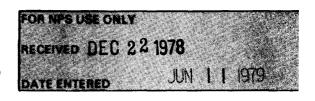
The boundaries of the Samaria Historic District embrace the original platted townsite with the exception of the three northernmost blocks which originally were pastureland but now contain several modern intrusions.

The percentage of intrusion within the district is minimal, less than 5%.

Inventory:

- 1. This one-story salt-box brick residence built for the Williams family has a centere entry flanked by a double hung sash window on each side. Interior chimneys are at eith end. A rear concrete block addition continues the angle of the salt box.
- 2. Built for the Williams family, this two-story frame saltbox house has a left of center entry and contains double hung sash windows of various sizes. Again interior chimneys are at either end.
- 3. This one-story brick cottage has a front facing gable extending from a shallow hipped roof with overhanging eaves with exposed rafters. A number of log buildings including a modest barn are southeast of the house.
- 4. Another Williams family home, this one-story brick colonial bungalow is distinguished by an inset front porch supported by Tuscan columns. The windows on either sid of the entry have leaded glass transoms. Diamond shaped windows of four lights are in the porch and house gables.
- 5. This one-story frame residence, built for Joseph L. Williams at the turn of the century, is an I-house with a central brick chimney.
- 6. The Bowen residence, built near the turn of the century is a one-story 1-shaped frame house with a right of center hipped roofed porch. The porch retains its turned columns and brackets. Interior chimneys are at the intersection and right side. Several outbuildings are to the rear.
- 7. Fronting First Avenue South is a one-story log cabin with a gabled roof. It employs saddle notch construction. Several sod roofed outbuildings in varying states of deterioration are behind this cabin to the south.
- 8. To the east of Number 7's outbuildings is a modest frame cottage with a front facing abled roof.
- 9. The Daniel T. Williams residence is a two-story log cabin employing log lap construction. It is described in original nomination.
- 10. A modern metal machine shed is at the other end of the pasture behind the Daniel T. Williams residence. It is an intrusion.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



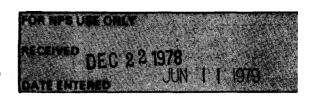
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

- 11. The Eliza Jones residence was described in the original nomination. There are numerous log outbuildings to the west, as well as a coral. These structures are in various states of deteriotation.
- 12. At the corner of First Avenue and Third Street North stands a modest brick bungalow. Several outbuildings, including a log barn, stand behind the house.
- 13. This T-shaped residence has composition siding which mimetically perpetuates brick It has a centered, outset, gabled entry porch and is distinguished by its three chimneys, all interior, at the gable ends. A number of log and frame out buildings remain behind the house.
- 14. At Second and First North is the bungalow built for Evan Kenkins in the early teens. It is of frame construction with a front facing gable and an inset porch.
- 15 The modest one-story log cabin built for Dave Jenkins, has a shingled gabled roof and employs log lap construction. A picket fence separates it from the road. To the west are a number of frame out buildings, including one of Samaria's best board and batten barns.
- 16. This hipped roofed cottage has been aluminum sided. This was built for the Mansfield family.
- 17. This is a modest one-story frame cabin.
- 18. This is another modest frame residence of one-story with a gabled roof. Several out buildings stand to the east of it. Originally the Billy Price residence stood on the far corner but it was destroyed by the earthquake.
- 19. This Queen Anne style cottage is built with clapboards.
- 20. This is a crude log dugout with a sod roof.
- 21. The Bishop Daniel E. Price residence has already been described in the original nomination.
- 22. This is an extremely modest stuccoed cottage with a gabled roof.
- 23. At the corner of First Street and Second Avenue South is a modest bungalow of frame construction with a front facing gable.
- 24. This is a modest log cabin with a gabled roof and containing only one room.
- 25. To the north is another one room log cabin built for Frank Huntsman. It is describ in the original nomination. A playground is to the north.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



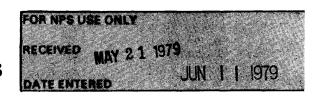
CONTINUATION SHEET

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- 26. The William E. Morris residence is a two-story frame house with a cruciform gabled roof. Each gable contains a double hung sash window. A hipped roof front porch with turned columns, and brackets runs the length of the facade. Interior chimney ornament the ends of the roof. Several log out buildings are north of the house.
- 27. The stuccoed service station has a hipped roof with a carriage porch extending from the facade. Originally it was a butcher shop. The Waldron store stood to the east of this building but was destroyed following an earthquake. Several log out buildings are to the near.
- 28. The John Jenkins residence is a one-story log cabin with a gabled roof. The David R. Jenkins residence stood to the east of this cabin, but also was a victim of the earthquake.
- 29. This is a one room bungalow with a lateral running gabled roof. Several log and frame out buildings are behind it to the east.
- 30. This is a modern ranch house and is an intrusion. A log stable is to the south.
- 31. This Maria Morris Anderson residence is already described in the original nomination
- 32. The William John residence is a one-and-one-half story frame residence with a truncated hipped roof with north and east gabled wings. A right of center porch is supported by turned columns.
- 33. This is a one-story log cabin with a shingled gabled roof with interior chimneys at either end. It employs log lap construction.
- 34. The Ike Evans furniture store is a frame, one-story building with a false front. A small addition of similar construction is to the south.
- 35. The L.D.S. church is a simple two-story frame structure with a gabled roof. A T-shaped floor plan results from a hall extending from the east side. It is the largest building in town.
- 36. This one-story brick residence has a hipped roofed proch which runs the length of the facade. Hand hewn posts and fan-like brackets ornament the porch. It has a single central chimeny in its lateral running gabled roof. The original picket fence and out house remain.
- 37. This frame livery stable has a false front body with a lean-to like wing on each side. It is in bad repair.
- 38. The W. R. Thomas is a two-story frame residence with a hipped roof.

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Samaria Historic District
Supplemental information - April 1979

- 7. Samaria's isolation, which has allowed an unusual rate of survival of 19th century structures combined with an unusually low rate of intrusion, also makes it unusually difficult to ascribe dates to the buildings. The usual documentary sources—newspaper and title search—are not available. The oldest residents still living were born around the turn of the century and cannot be expected to date early structures with much accuracy. The one written source (itself based on oral sources) deals with buildings, when it deals with them at all, in such terms as "We lived in a two-room log house for a number of years. Then we built a red brick house." (The Samaritans, p. 275.) In general, it may be said that log construction was used, at first exclusively and then with decreasing frequency, from the time of settlement in the late 1860s until the turn of the century, when lumber was more readily and easily available than the timber that had to be hauled from the mountains. Brick structures began to appear in the 1880s.
- 8. The architectural significance of Samaria is as an unusual display of nineteenth- and turn-of-the-century southeast Idaho architecture which, because of the town's isolation and economic dormancy, has been disturbed for the most part only by time and attrition, not by intrusion. Samaria is not a ghost town, a good share of its houses are occupied. But the population is very substantiall smaller than it was at the turn of the century. And while such important buildings as the brick school and Waldron store and hotel have been lost, little new construction has occured.

The remaining structures, mostly log, frame and brick dwellings, provide fine examples on several continums; first, the evolution in building materials abailable to settlers in an isolated and necessarily self-sufficient region; second the response to styles current in the wider society through which successive waves of settlers moved on their way to Samaria or observed on their visits out of it: reflected, on two ends of the time scale, in the Victorian "gingerbread" decorative treatment of a structure like the Bishop Price house (#21), and the adoption of the bungalow mode in a structure like the Williams house (#4).

The Samarian dwellings also offer eamples of the tendency for emigrants to approximate the house-types of their country of origin. The most widespead instances of this, in Samaria as in southeast Idaho generally, (though particularly prominent in this village so largely settled by

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Samaria - Supplemental - April 1979 - 2

Welsh Mormon emigrants) is in the distinctive proportions of the rectangular one-story Welsh cabin type, with its end chimneys and lateral-running gables, rendered in log (#33), or frame, or brick (#1). One may speculate too that the use of the salt-box shape for additions to the Williams family houses (#'s 1, 2) reflect that family's sojourn in the northeast U.S. before coming on to Utah and thence to Samaria.

10. The Samaria Historic District embraces nearly the entirety of the nine central blocks of the originally-surveyed 19, along with the contiguous margins of ajacent blocks where appropriate and an extension to the south and east of the grid system which also contains architecturally significant structures and their associated grounds.

The resulting boundaries, which are expressed graphically on the attached sketch and USGS maps, extends from the southeast corner of 1st Ave. N. and 3rd St. east to include the home grounds of site # 12; from the northeast corner of those grounds south to the southeast corner: east to 2nd St.; north to include the home grounds of site #14; east to the northeast corner of the farmyard of site #29; south to a point due east of the intersection of Main St. and 2nd Ave.; west to a point due north of the southeast corner of the farmyard of site #3; east to Main St. and south to include the home grounds of site # 38; southwest to the northeast corner of the home grounds of site #2; south to the southeast corner of the home grounds of site #5; north to 2nd Ave.; west to a point opposite the western boundary of the farmyard of site #7; north to the northwest corner of the home grounds of site #9; west to 3rd St.; north to Center; west to a point opposite the southwest corner of the farmyard of site #13; north to a point directly west of 1st Ave. N.; and east to the point of departure at 1st Ave. N. and 3rd St.

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DATE ENTERED JUN 1 1 1979

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(Revised statement of significance - Samaria)

The town of Samaria was colonized in 1868 by Welch Mormon converts from Utah. They followed by four years the first taking up of claims in what is now Malad City, the first and still the only major settlement in Malad Valley. Malad, in turn, postdated by only one year the Mormon colonization of Paris in Bear Valley and by four years that of Franklin in Cache Valley, which are likewise the primary pioneer communities along the extreme southeastern 'margin' of present-day Idaho. Samaria, therefore, was a part of that expansion northward from Salt Lake in the 1860s which was to establish a "Great Basin kingdom" for the L.D.S. church, and which resulted in the first permanent agricultural settlements in Idaho. Because the population and density of Samaria have decreased rather than increased in the last century of its existence, its amalgam of early domestic architecture and open space in a planned grid remain unusually evocative of the physical character of those settlements.

The first settler to establish a permanent homestead in Samaria was John Evan Price, who came with his two sons in February of 1868. More settlers arrived in May of that year. By November, there were enough settlers to organize a branch of the Malad ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. A school district was established in the fall of 1869 and a meetinghouse was completed not long after.

The townsite was laid out in the spring of 1869, with ten-acre blocks and streets six rods wide. In that same spring the settlers built the first canal to begin irrigation of farmlands in the area, and Samaria soon developed into a trading center for a prosperous agricultural region, with cattle and sheep being raised along with wheat and hay. A flour mill and sawmill helped to boost the local economy which included the usual stores, livery stable, hotel, barber shop and other small businesses.

The town of Samaria grew from a few families in 1868 to nineteen families by 1870. The peak in population was reached around 1890 when 574 people were reported by the census, making the town one of Idaho's major population centers. The town has declined in size since then, and today there are approximately 150 residents. A number of important buildings have been lost, several in recent years. Both the schoolhouse and the Ben Waldron store, for example, were so damaged in a 1975 earthquake as to require demolition. Many structures remain, however, with most dating from the early days. The earliest were log, but by 1900 more than a dozen substantial and stylish brick houses had been built. Examples of both of these types survive, along with several frame buildings which recall the original commercial structure of the town. The character of these buildings, derived from their shapes, texture and ornamentation, and historic function, makes Samaria a rich display of early architecture in an attractive rural setting.

832.52

Melvin Joe Davis Samaria, Idaho

Robert Waldron Samaria, Idaho

Wm. E. Morse 1207 Lincoln Boise, Idaho 83706

David Atkinson 78 N. 150 E. Malad, Idaho

Mrs. Clifford Mansfield Samaria, Idaho

Esther Williams 16 Bush Avenue Malad, Idaho

Ralph Martin Samaria, Idaho

James T. Hall Samaria, Idaho

D. Khalil Price 2211 N. Center Street Mesa, Arizona 85201

Marjean Hansen RFD 2 Box 638 Preston, Idaho 43243

J. Jenkins Samaria, Idaho

Mary Zundell 197 Bannock Samaria, Idaho

Mrs. Ray Hill Samaria, Idaho

Arthur Smith Holbrook Route Malad, Idaho

Levi P. Waldron c/o Ernest Waldron Samaria, Idaho List of Owners

William S. Waldron Samaria, Idaho

Mary E. Tolman 333 N. 450 E. Bountiful, Utah 83010

Dennis Gerald Atkinson Samaria, Idaho

Raymond E. Martin

Larry O. Peterson Samaria, Idaho

Clyde Chugg 136 N. 100 W. Samaria, Idaho

Spencer Atkinson Samaria, Idaho

Glispy T. Waldron Samaria, Idaho

Mrs. Carl A. Evans Samaria, Idaho

Lester Atkinson Samaria, Idaho

Mabel Davis Samaria, Idaho

Rachel F. Williams Samaria, Idaho

Carl Evans Samaria, Idaho

John Evans Samaria, Idaho

Wm. W. Price 395 N. 400 W. Samaria, Idaho

Ruth Martin Lewis 625 N. Hayes Pocatello, Idaho 83201 Steven T. Hughes 651 N. 200 W. Samaria, Idaho

Sandra Lee Fullmer 1208 Percy Salem, Ohio 44460

Merrill Price 809 7th Street Ogden, Utah 83303

Evan Price Samaria, Idaho

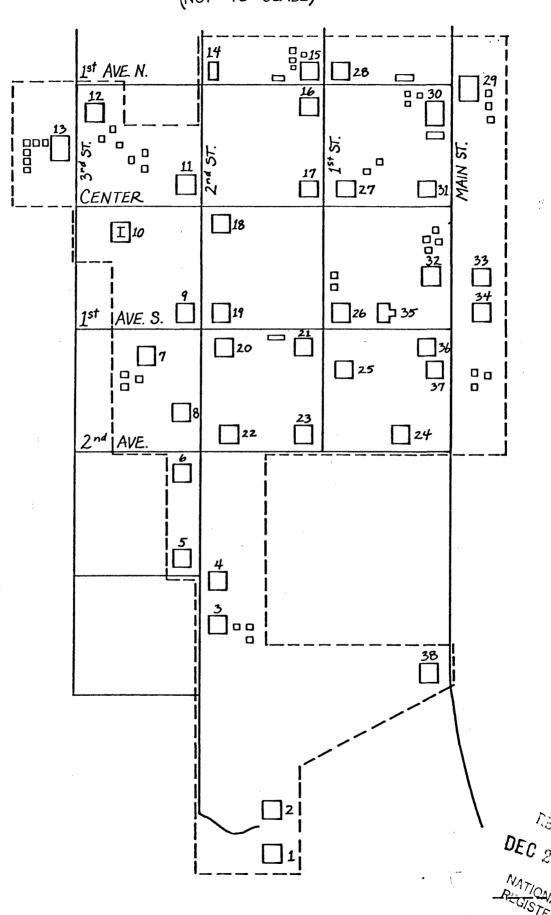
Willard Anderson 48 E. 100 N. Malad, Idaho

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NATION 11

SAMARIA, IDAHO (NOT TO SCALE)



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CG/STEADOUNDAR