Form No. 10-306 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

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

NAME

HISTORIC
Wells Springs Segment - Oregon Trail
AND/OR COMMON
Boardman Bombing Range Segment - Oregon Trail

LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER
N/A

CITY, TOWN
Boardman

STATE
Oregon

CODE
041

COUNTY
Morrow

CODE
049

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY
OWNERSHIP
X: PUBLIC

STATUS
X: OCCUPIED

PRESENT USE
X: AGRICULTURE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION
X: IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

ORGANIZATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
DATE
June 1975

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Bureau of Outdoor Recreation

CITY, TOWN
Seattle

STATE
Washington
### DESCRIPTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONDITION</th>
<th>CHECK ONE</th>
<th>CHECK ONE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X_EXCELLENT</td>
<td>_DETERIORATED</td>
<td>X_UNALTERED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_GOOD</td>
<td>_RUINS</td>
<td>_ORIGINAL SITE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_FAIR</td>
<td>_UNEXPOSED</td>
<td>_ALTERED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>_MOVED</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

The segment of the Oregon Trail crossing the Navy Bombing Range property consists of 7 miles of continuous visible wagon ruts. It is located in the buffer zone for the actual target area for the bombing practice and is not subject to bomb damage. Some bomb craters are on or near the Trail within a 2,000-foot segment. They were created as a result of practice bombing near the end of World War II when the Bombing Range was under Army control. The craters are approximately 4 to 5 feet deep and 6 feet in diameter. They have not destroyed any of the visible wagon ruts.

The area of the Bombing Range traversed by the Oregon Trail has been and is presently being leased to local ranchers for cattle and sheep grazing. The only effect of this grazing has been one of the wagon ruts is more prominent on the ground than the other one. This is due to the tendency of cattle to trail to water in single file and they have used one rut only, in most cases.

The Wells Springs segment of the Oregon Trail also contains a portion of the upper Wells Springs. This Springs is not a reliable source of water due to the deep well drilling recently done in adjacent irrigation developments. Also at this site are the remains of a stage station. These remains consist of a stone foundation and scattered lumber and metal. Some vandalism and artifact hunting has occurred at the site; however, no excavation has been done and no evaluation has been made by a qualified historian.

Near the upper Wells Springs site is an important graveyard dating back to the Oregon Trail migration. It is not known how many are buried there, but it is one of the largest emigrant cemeteries identified along the Oregon segment of the Oregon Trail. At the same graveyard, Colonel Cornelius Gilliam of the Oregon Volunteers, in the Cayuse War of 1848, was buried. His grave is marked by a granite stone with a brass plaque: The graves of the emigrants are unmarked. The graveyard is fenced and has not been grazed by cattle or excavated by artifact hunters.

At a point approximately half way along this 7-mile segment, a dirt road follows the Trail for about one mile. This road is used by the ranchers and has obliterated some of the wagon ruts. This damage extends for approximately 2,000 feet.

The westernmost 2-1/2 miles of the Trail are paralleled by a gravel country road about 1/2 mile to the south.

The corridor width, recommended for preservation, is 200 feet on each side of the Trail in order to preserve the historic appearance of the lands adjacent to the Trail, plus the stagecoach station site and the graveyard.
The portion of the Oregon Trail crossing the Navy Bombing Range property contains 7 miles of visible continuous wagon ruts. It extends from mile point 1728 to 1735 of the Oregon Trail. Along this segment of the Trail are located upper and lower Wells Springs, remnants of the stagecoach station at upper Wells Springs and the marked grave of Colonel Gilliam and numerous unidentified pioneers.

The Oregon Trail carried a quarter of a million people on the 6-month journey from Missouri to Oregon's Willamette Valley. By 1846, enough settlers had reached the Willamette Valley to give the United States a suitable basis for entering into a long sought new agreement with Great Britain for settlement of the Oregon question. Great Britain retained Vancouver Island and the northern part of the country; the United States gained the rest of the Oregon Territory south of the 49th Parallel. This division gave the United States desirable ports on Puget Sound well beyond the territory occupied by emigrants who had come over the Oregon Trail. But, without the settlements brought about by emigrant traffic over the Oregon Trail, the United States would have had little basis for such a generous agreement.

181 miles of the Oregon Trail within the State of Oregon have been identified as high potential segments. All of this 7-mile segment is included in the 181-mile total.
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

4. Sam C. McMillan The Bunch Grassers History of Lexington, Morrow County

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 389.7

UTM REFERENCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Easting</th>
<th>Northing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>11 291 5 6 4 0</td>
<td>15 0 5 9 3 1 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>11 29 9 5 6 3 9</td>
<td>5 0 5 9 1 8 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>11 28 9 1 7 8 0</td>
<td>5 0 5 7 9 8 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>11 29 9 1 6 8 0</td>
<td>5 0 5 5 6 5 7 9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A 400-foot strip of land, 200 feet on each side of the Oregon Trail. The area starts at the eastern boundary of Sec. 13, T2N., R25E. Willamette Meridian, and continues for 7.08 miles. The area ends at the western boundary of Section 19, T2N., R25E. Willamette Meridian. The area also

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State Code</th>
<th>County Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FORM PREPARED BY

Donald C. Rappel, Staff Forester, U.S. Navy
Seattle Branch WESTERN DIVISION, NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND
7500 Sand Point Way N.E., Seattle, Washington 98115
4/13/76

CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES. X

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Director, Real Property and Natural Resources
DATE 2/7/77

IN Compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is X National State Local.

SIGNATURE

For NPS Use Only

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER
R.B. Rodig
DATE 9/13/78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
DATE 5/12/1978

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM NUMBER</th>
<th>PAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1974 Morrow County Museum</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Personal correspondence Morrow County Museum Curator May 23, 1975</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

includes all of the SW 1/4 of Sec 20 T 2N R25E W.M. lying south of the Oregon Trail and north of Immigrant Road. The area of the trail alone is 339.4 acres. The stage station and cemetery comprise the additional 50.3 acres for a total of 389.7 acres.
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1965. Field checked 1968
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Oregon coordinate system, north zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 11, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines