

STATE OF OREGON INVENTORY  
OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
State Historic Preservation Office  
Oregon State Parks, Salem, OR 97310

County Baker Malheur  
 Theme 6e  
 Name  
 (Common) Amelia, Oregon  
 (Historic) " "  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Present Owner BLM  
 Address Baker, Oregon  
 Original Use Mining  
 Date of Construction ca.1878

Place Photo Here

Physical description of property and statement of historical significance:

Amelia townsite is located in the north end of Malheur County about 200 yards south of the dirt road between Mormon Gulch and Malheur City in an area of grass, sagebrush and poplars. Property location is SE1/4 NW1/4 SW1/4 T.13S, R.42E., Sec.31.

First settled about 1878 by miners leaving nearby Auburn as its placer workings petered out, what was to become Amelia soon had a population of over 1000 white and Chinese miner, laborers, gamblers, store-keepers and assorted citizens who would set up hotels, stores, saloons and other enterprises to meet the needs of this new, booming mining community.

Among the settlers was a Reverend Koontz, a strict and earnest minister, whose daughter Amelia would elope with a young miner against her father's stern objections. This romantic adventure provides one version of how the town came to be named. Local citizens were so inspired by the elopement in the face of a formidable obstacle and since the town needed a name anyway chose to call it Amelia.

A second origin of the town's name is said to have been an attempt to perpetuate the name of Brigham Young's favorite wife, Amelia.

(see back) continue on back if necessary

Recorded by Morfitt, Hunsaker & Phillips Date 10-28-76

For \_\_\_\_\_ Sources Consulted:

Mc Arthur, Lewis A., Oregon  
Geographical Names  
Oregon Historical Qtrly., Vol. XL111, p.228

Please enclose map. Township 13 <sup>N</sup> <sub>(S)</sub> 42 <sup>E</sup> <sub>W</sub> Section 31

136

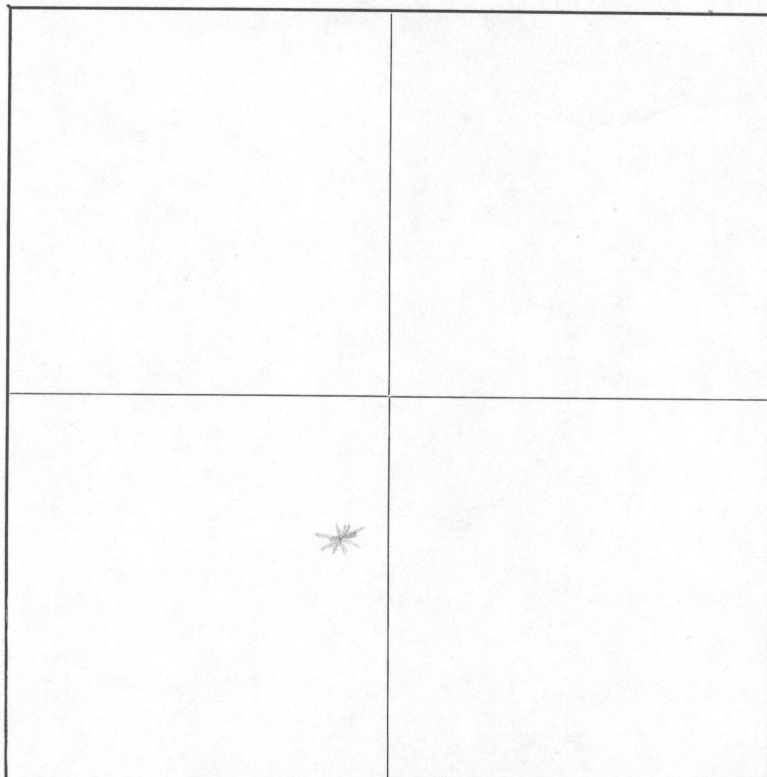
37

Oregon Archaeological Survey  
University of Oregon, Museum of Natural History

O-BK-ML-1

Site No. \_\_\_\_\_ County Baker \_\_\_\_\_ Cultural Area Columbia Plateau \_\_\_\_\_  
Type of Site Historic town site - Amelia, Oregon \_\_\_\_\_  
Property Location SE 1/4 NW 1/4 SW 1/4 Sec. 31 T. 13S., R. 42E. Bridgeport Quad. 15' topo \_\_\_\_\_  
series. \_\_\_\_\_  
Site Location The site is located by City Gulch in Sec. 31 about 200 yds. south of \_\_\_\_\_  
the dirt road that runs between Mormon Basin and Malheur City. Site is \_\_\_\_\_  
marked on the Bridgeport quad. map. \_\_\_\_\_  
Site Description There are several stone foundations, one stone high with one pit \_\_\_\_\_  
house cabin remaining. Broken parts of Iron Stoves, tubular iron bed frames, \_\_\_\_\_  
and glass litter a 1-2 acre area. \_\_\_\_\_  
Area of occupation 1.2 acres \_\_\_\_\_  
Depth and character of fill alluvium \_\_\_\_\_  
Vegetation cover Grass, sagebrush and poplars \_\_\_\_\_  
Present condition Disturbed by looting. Potholes are found in some of the house \_\_\_\_\_  
foundations. \_\_\_\_\_  
Material collected or observed Broken glass, purple and thick green noticed. \_\_\_\_\_  
Tubular iron bed frames and parts of stoves noted. \_\_\_\_\_  
Recommendations for future work \_\_\_\_\_  
Owner and address BLM Baker Oregon \_\_\_\_\_ Attitude toward excavation \_\_\_\_\_  
Present use Mining \_\_\_\_\_

N.



Photograph Nos. \_\_\_\_\_  
225A-1-9 \_\_\_\_\_

Scale \_\_\_\_\_  
(when square represents a section 1" = 1/4 mi. [402 m])

Recorded by Morfitt, Hunsaker \_\_\_\_\_  
& Phillips \_\_\_\_\_  
Date 10-28-76 \_\_\_\_\_