

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM  
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Oregon
COUNTY: Malheur
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE 087 23 1972

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Oregon Trail Historic District (Lytle Pass Area)

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
4-7 miles southeast of Vale, Oregon on Lytle Boulevard

CITY OR TOWN:  
Section 10, 14, 23, 24, 25, T19S., R45E

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
2nd

STATE: Oregon      CODE: 41      COUNTY: Malheur      CODE: 045

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____ _____

**4. AGENCY**

Bureau of Land Management

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)  
Vale District Office

CITY OR TOWN:  
Vale

STREET AND NUMBER:  
365 "A" Street West

STATE:  
Oregon

CODE:  
41

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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

STREET AND NUMBER:  
251 "B" Street West

CITY OR TOWN:  
Vale

STATE:  
Oregon

CODE:  
41

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic Sites along the Oregon Trail

DATE OF SURVEY:  
 Federal     State     County     Local

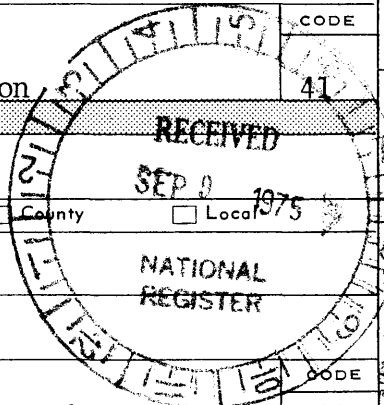
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
National Park Service - Service Center

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Denver Federal Center

CITY OR TOWN:  
Denver

STATE:  
Colorado

CODE:  
08



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Oregon

COUNTY: Malheur

ENTRY NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

FOR NPS USE ONLY

**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This historic district includes a segment of the Oregon trail approximately 4 miles long. Portion of the trail is unaltered. Portion is overlaid by the Lytle Boulevard, a paved county road, while some of the trail area has been seeded to range grass.

Portion of the trail segment ascending Cow Hollow has been reseeded to range grasses, however the area is quite stable. The portion of the trail descending Lytle Pass westward is over open range land, covered with sagebrush and native grasses. This portion also is stable.

Lytle Boulevard cuts across the trail segment as Lytle Pass, exposing deep cuts. The panoramic views from the summit of the pass would have changed little from the original view.

The area within the rectangle shown on the map proposed for nomination includes a corridor 660 feet on each side of the centerline of the Oregon Trail as traced on the attached map. No private lands within the rectangle are to be included. Land ownership is also indicated on the attached map.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**B. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1843-1860

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal                | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric               | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Settlement</u> |
| <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation              |   |  |   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Oregon Trail was the overland route for the emigrants bound for Oregon and Washington. Although this route was opened by the fur traders in 1810-1840 and by the missionaries in 1836, it was not until 1843 when wagons were taken through to the Dalles on the Columbia. This was the year of the great Migration and 875 people crossed the trail. During the 1840's and 1850's approximately 500,000 people crossed the country by this overland route. The Oregon Trail was most important to Oregon statehood. It is the longest wagon road in the United States and the largest cemetery with burials averaging one for every 0.1 miles.

Undisturbed traces of this trail are not common in Eastern Oregon. This district includes one of the best examples which is located on public lands and is paralleled by a paved county road affording a large number of people the opportunity to observe and drive along the original transportation route with unrestricted access.

Associated with the trail are John D. Henderson's grave and the Hot Springs on the Malheur River at Vale.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Aubrey L. Haines, Historic Sites along the Oregon Trail. (1973)  
 Gregory M. Franzwa, The Oregon Trail Revisited, (1972)  
 W. J. Ghent, The Road to Oregon (1929)  
 Jay Monaghan, The Overland Trail (1947)

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	43° 56' 18"	117° 12' 17"				
NE	43° 56' 18"	117° 11' 05"				
SE	43° 53' 05"	117° 08' 29"				
SW	43° 52' 42"	117° 09' 34.5"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY **800 Acres Historic Corridor**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: **Percy J. C. Brown, Natural Resource Specialist** DATE: **12-4-1973**

BUSINESS ADDRESS: **Bureau of Land Management**

STREET AND NUMBER: **729 Oregon Ave. (P. O. Box 2965)** PHONE: **234-3361 Ext.4164**

CITY OR TOWN: **Portland** STATE: **Oregon 97208** CODE: **41**

**12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

State Liaison Officer recommendation:  
 Yes  
 No  
 None  
*Laura B. Talbot*  
 State Liaison Officer Signature

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Liaison Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The recommended level of significance is  National  State  Local

*Percy J. C. Brown* SEP 5 1975  
 Federal Representative Signature Date  
 Deputy Assistant Secretary  
 Title

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

*[Signature]*  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date                     

ATTEST:  
*[Signature]*  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date **OCT 23 1975**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



# PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NPS Number 10-29-75

Title: Oregon Trail

Malheur City, Oregon

Loc. Oregon Trail Ruts

Ascending Lytle Pass.

View, looking SE



# PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NPS Number 10-29-75

Title: Oregon Trail

Malheur City, Oregon

Loc.: View of Oregon Trail

Ruts descending West  
side of Lytle Pass, looking SE



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NPS Number

10-29-75

Title:

Oregon Trail

Malheur Co., Oreg.

Loc.

View of Oregon Trail  
Crossing Lytle Blvd at  
Summit of Lytle Pass,  
Looking NW