

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Umatilla Landing, Umatilla (preferred) (35 UM 1)

AND/OR COMMON

Old Umatilla

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER To the north of 3rd Street (secondary road)
and immediately north of modern Umatilla

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Umatilla

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

2nd

STATE
Oregon

CODE

COUNTY
Umatilla

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District

STREET & NUMBER

Building 602, City-County Airport

CITY, TOWN

Walla Walla

VICINITY OF

STATE

Washington

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Umatilla County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

216 S.E. 4th

CITY, TOWN

Pendleton

STATE

Oregon

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Smithsonian River Basin Survey of the McNary Reservoir (1947)

DATE

1947

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

University of Oregon

CITY, TOWN

Eugene

STATE

Oregon

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

counted and discarded during the excavations. Society members are apparently interested in seeing an analysis performed but funding and professional guidance has not been secured for this purpose to date. For some research objectives (e.g., faunal studies), this material may be very useful; for other kinds (e.g., lithic utilization), the collection procedures employed may limit the usefulness of the collections.

Because of ongoing collector activity and the demonstrated presence of a large prehistoric cemetery, the University of Idaho under the direction of David Rice relocated an additional 100 burials under contract with the Corps of Engineers in 1975. Again, two stratigraphically separated modes of disposing of the dead were observed and these were distinguishable by the character of mortuary furniture, degree of skeletal articulation, and positioning.

The most recent archaeological investigations on the site were conducted by the Washington Archaeological Research Center under the direction of Randall Schalk in the spring of 1979. Testing of the site was aimed at definition of the horizontal extent of the site, stratigraphic variation across the site, and the extent of disturbance to the site. Forty-seven back-hoe test pits (.8 m x 4.5 m) were excavated at 80 meter intervals to recover this information. This work not only established that the site was much more extensive than had been previously assumed but also that intact deposits predating the housepit occupations exist within it. Radiocarbon dates on these earlier deposits are not yet available.

The site, then, contains an extensive prehistoric occupation including house remains and other structures commonly associated with winter villages. It also contained a large prehistoric cemetery. Deposits which underlie the pithouse occupation are also present and may represent a seasonal fish camp. Evidence for a post-contact aboriginal occupation of the site exists in the form of two scraping tools manufactured from bottle glass and trade beads reported by local collectors or found during the most recent work at the site. Finally, historic occupation of the site is represented by two major concentrations of small cultural items (glass, ceramic, metal) - associated with the original 1860's townsite and the re-located business district of the post-railroad period. The site is a very large and complex one (see Appendix 2).

Present utilization of the site area involves primarily recreational activities by residents of the adjacent townsite. These activities include fishing, boating, hiking, drinking, and artifact collecting. Automobile access to the site area has been prohibited since the Corps of Engineers installed a "hurricane" fence around most of that area in the spring of 1979.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

The Umatilla site holds considerable potential for future studies that could evaluate these alternative hypotheses. One of the earliest dates (2,420 B.P.) on an excavated pithouse for the entire Deschutes-Umatilla Plateau comes from this site (Cole 1965). In addition, occupations which predate those containing the pithouses have been documented to be present in the Umatilla site (Schalk 1980). Also, a very large component of the site is known to contain more recent pithouse village occupation - probably spanning the entire 3,000 years of the late prehistoric record. Since faunal preservation is apparently good throughout the deposits, monitoring trends and shifts in subsistence associated with the appearance of winter sedentism should be possible with data from this site.

2) The study of late prehistoric social systems. The Columbia River offered what was once one of the most productive inland fisheries in the world and the Deschutes-Umatilla region was especially optimal in this regard. For this reason, the prehistoric social systems that evolved in such an environment are of considerable importance to theoretical questions about the relationships between resources and social complexity among foraging peoples.

There are at least three kinds of data available or potentially available from the Umatilla site which would be valuable to future studies of prehistoric social organization and investigations into the origins of social complexity among foragers. Perhaps the most obvious is the mortuary data. Although the value of mortuary practices for elucidation of social systems has been recognized for some time, minimal research along these lines has been undertaken in Plateau archaeology.

One of the largest burial populations available from a single site in the Plateau has been removed from the Umatilla site by the University of Idaho (Rice 1978). One group of the burials was interpreted as secondary interments and these have been suggested as evidence for a charnal house mode of disposing of the dead. This sort of burial practice is known ethnographically from areas west of Umatilla along the Columbia but the antiquity, geographic distribution, and social significance of the practice is not known. Ethnographically, at least, charnal houses were utilized by those groups in the Plateau which were characterized by a substantial degree of social stratification. Though descriptive information on the Umatilla burials has been published (Rice 1978), no systematic investigation has been undertaken regarding evidence for ranking, relationships between sex and age and burial furniture, burial position and orientation. In addition to this largely unanalyzed body of data, it is not improbable that more burials exist in the large portion of the site that remains intact. The unrealized potential of these data is probably one of the most valuable avenues to future studies of prehistoric social systems in this region.

The second variety of data that has been demonstrated to be available in the Umatilla site is the spatial arrangement and organization of houses, features, artifacts, and debris in the deposits of the habitation site itself. Social organization should be reflected in the size and internal structure of domestic facilities, the spatial relations of houses to one another, the patterned distribution of artifacts, features, and debris within the occupations. Previous information recovered

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

dences archaeologically. At least one area of the Umatilla site has yielded Chinese materials and future investigations might delineate the locations of Chinese dwellings within the community. Along these same lines, this site was the largest winter village of the Umatilla people during the mid-1800's and the one from which they derived their name. Cultural value is thus embodied in this site's capacity to produce knowledge about the cultural history of people living at the Umatilla Reservation today.

... rare artifacts...
... the fact that it...
... items referred...
... only occur in...
... to be geographically...
... and the Dalles...
... abundant in a few...
... the main stem...
... spatio-temporal...
... social regulation...
... associated with...
... Umatilla site is...
... quantity and...
... substance...

... the labor supply...
... this site would...
... employed in...
... dissection of...
... thinking the...
... water transport...
... clearing these...
... be employed in...
... operation...
... through...
... the John Day...
... themselves to...
... study of...

... Indian...
... four decades...
... until the 1940s...
... their own...
... these...
... are...
... the...
... (1980)...
... and other...
... would...

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Burtchard, Greg

In Press Processes of Historic Change in Umatilla and the Columbia Basin. In Archaeological Investigations for the Second Powerhouse Project at McNary Dam, Near Umatilla, Oregon. Project Report of the Washington Archaeological Research Center, Washington State University, Pullman.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 261

UTM REFERENCES

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Umatilla site is situated parallel to the Columbia River, above and below the mouth of the Umatilla River. It adjoins the northern edge of the modern town of Umatilla. Actual boundaries of the site were established in two ways. The area of the site lying above the mouth of the Umatilla was defined on the basis of artifact and debris densities in subsurface tests that were distributed systematically at 80 meter intervals (see Appendix 1). The area below the mouth of

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Oregon		Umatilla	
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Randall Schalk/Research Archaeologist

ORGANIZATION

Laboratory of Anthropology B - Glad. 207

DATE

1-4-80

STREET & NUMBER

Washington State University

TELEPHONE

509-335-1661

CITY OR TOWN

Pullman

STATE

Washington

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

David Gralber

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

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 National State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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FOR NPS USE ONLY

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DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 1

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

the Umatilla River was defined by the distribution of artifacts and debris visible on the ground surface and along the river bank. (see also Appendix 4: site form for 35 UM 14).

The prehistoric and historic remains are enclosed by a quadrangle 2,640 meters in length and varying from 350 meters width at the western end of the site to 440 meters at the eastern end. The northern side of the quadrangle parallels the present reservoir shoreline and embraces the pre-reservoir beach frontage to the site (see enclosed U.S.G.S. map). The eastern side of the quadrangle is placed so it encloses the most easterly test pit that produced prehistoric cultural material.

These areas were defined by test pits, informant testimony, old photographs, and historical records. Appendices 1 and 2 include various maps of the prehistoric and historic remains and provide the justification for the site boundaries defined here.

APPENDIX 2

TABLE 10-2. ESTIMATED TOTAL VOLUME OF UMATILLA SITE MINUS ESTIMATES OF DISTURBANCE VOLUMES

Total Volume of Archaeological Deposits in the Site	216,414 m ³
Volume Disturbed by Pot-holes (estimated from surface maps and multiplied by 5)	-7,785 m ³
Volume excavated in Previous Archaeological Projects	-2,294 m ³
Volume Disturbed in Various Earth-moving Activities (sewers, water-lines, cellars, etc.)	-30,000 m ³
Volume Excavated during Present Project	-208 m ³
ESTIMATED VOLUME OF INTACT DEPOSITS	<hr/> 176,335 m ³



FIGURE 23 . Pithouse Feature in Unit ON/80E.

APPENDIX 3

**Portions of this file have been redacted to
meet Oregon State law (ORS 192.501(11)).**

**More information may be available upon request.
Contact the Oregon State Archaeologist for details.**