

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Fort Lane Military Post Site
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Gold Ray Dam Road at Tolo, or Tolo Road not for publication
city, town Central Point vicinity
state Oregon code OR county Jackson code 029 zip code 97502

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site		buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		sites
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		structures
		<u>1</u>	objects
			Total
			<u>2</u>

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official [Signature] Date August 4, 1988
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Defense/military post

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture/outdoor recreation/
commemorative park

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A

walls N/A

roof N/a

other stone/granite (cairn)

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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The Fort Lane Site, occupied by the United States Army from 1853-1856, is located approximately 3.5 miles northwest of Central Point, Oregon, and 1.5 miles northwest of the intersection of Tolo Road and Blackwell Road. The broad pasture that once contained the fort's log buildings commands a wide view of the valley, the Rogue River and Lower Table Rock. Although Fort Lane's structures disappeared more than 100 years ago, clusters of stones and an historic marker erected in 1929 are visible on the site. Used only for grazing, the land that comprises the Fort Lane Site retains its integrity of location, setting, feeling and association.

Located in the northeast corner of Section 19, Township 36 South, Range 2 W, the Fort Lane Site is comprised of 25.77 acres, more or less, and includes one contributing site and one contributing object--the historical marker. Fort Lane was built to support the United States military during a period of Indian-white hostilities in the Rogue Valley and also served as a center for management of Indian affairs. The Fort Lane Site is the precise location where these activities occurred.

The site is situated on a hillside that slopes gently toward Tolo Road, a county route bordering the property on the north. A barbed wire fence runs the length of the site's frontage on the road. The Fort Lane Site is surrounded on the west and south by hills that rise to an approximate 1800 foot elevation. Lower Table Rock stands about 1.5 miles north of the site and the Rogue River runs in a westerly direction about one-half mile away. Access to the Fort Lane Site is possible by motor vehicle from Tolo Road and may be gained from the east or west along a stock/maintenance road. Entry to the land on foot is possible from any direction.

The Fort Lane Site comprises a small portion of the original 640 acre military reserve set apart by the United States government in 1853. The land contained in the site's boundaries has never been plowed or developed. A map of Fort Lane, drawn in August, 1855, by U.S. Army Inspector J.K.F. Mansfield, indicates eighteen log structures.(1) The fort compound, oriented in a northerly direction, included officers' quarters, a hospital, guard house, store, commissary, smith's shop, soldiers' quarters and kitchens. The flag staff stood at the northern edge of the grounds. No physical remains of these structures remain although clusters of stones on the ground's surface may

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indicate original building locations. A portion of the road that led from Jacksonville to Fort Lane is visible on the parcel. This road crossed west of the historic marker, ran in a westerly direction through a draw and followed the creek bottom to the present Blackwell Hill Road. (2)

In addition to the approximate ten-acre area that contained formal fort improvements, the site includes land where pertinent auxiliary military activities took place. The area nominated is large enough to include all important features of the Fort Lane Site. Mansfield's report cites activities that took place on the periphery of the fort -- gardening, stock grazing and hay production. Other functions might include wood cutting, lookouts, practice firing ranges, and areas of Indian encampment or confinement. The boundaries of Fort Lane were not clearly defined in 1855, and the parcel that was recently purchased to protect the historic site includes land visually and functionally related to Fort Lane's core.

The Fort Lane Site offers substantial opportunities for archaeological investigation. Various amateur explorations have yielded military belt buckles, possible dump sites, brass forks, utensils, and leaden balls. Ravines, apparently cut by surface water flows, border the site on the east and west and may yield additional evidence. Realizing the archaeological potential of the property, the Southern Oregon Historical Society invited Oregon State University's David Brauner to view the site. Brauner reported, in part:

Historically, Fort Lane is one of the most significant sites in Jackson County. . . I have visited a number of pre-Civil War sites throughout the Pacific Northwest and directed excavations at the site of Fort Hoskins. Based on my observations, Fort Lane appears to be one of the least disturbed early military sites in Oregon. . . (3)

Accepting responsibility for further study, the Southern Oregon Historical Society plans eventual archaeological exploration of the site.

A commemorative monument was erected in 1929 a short distance from the site of the fort buildings and composed of granite

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rocks gathered from the site. The marker is pyramidal in shape, measures five feet at the base, two feet at the top and stands seven feet high. A wooden sign, a replacement of the original, bears an abbreviated inscription. The original bronze plaque, in place until recently stolen, bore the following inscription:

Site of Fort Lane/ Built by Order of the Government/ 1853-4/
Occupied by Troops of the Regular Army for 3 Years./
Placed by Crater Lake Chapter, D. A. R. 1929.

Although no above ground structures are extant, the setting of Fort Lane effectively illustrates the character of the place that was sited and constructed for specific military purposes. Fort Lane was located for its position on a hillside overlooking the Rogue River and the Table Rock Indian Reservation, and for ease in observing movement in the valley below. Its lack of substantial intrusions allows the Fort Lane Site to powerfully convey its historic associations.

Vegetation patterns enhance the integrity of the Fort Lane Site. The hilly terrain that surrounds the property on the west, north and south is undeveloped and retains vegetation consistent with the period of Fort Lane's existence. The field that once contained the fort structures is covered with grass. Black oak, White oak and pine trees predominate on the site.

Natural features visible from the Fort Lane Site retain their ability to convey the associations with which the military post was intimately linked. Donation Land Claims clustered east and south of the military reserve and the majority of that land remains in agricultural use. Lower Table Rock, a basaltic flat mesa that stands 800 feet above the valley floor, functioned practically and ceremonially in Indian life and the Treaty of 1853 was signed at its base. Lower Table Rock is included in the Oregon Statewide Inventory as a notable natural feature and an important part of the short-lived Table Rock Indian Reservation.

In 1979 both Lower and Upper Table Rock were included in a preserve and are now cared for as a natural area. The Nature Conservancy and the Bureau of Land Management cooperatively manage 2,820 acres to protect special biologic, geologic, historic and scenic values. The preserve adjoins an additional 300 acre parcel on the Rogue River at Kelly Slough--a resource that is

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managed by Jackson County and by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Two houses are situated near the Fort Lane Site. The major intrusion, a modest home on the easterly edge of the pertinent parcel, is clearly visible from the site. The second house is unobtrusively located on a hillside southwest of the property. A power line crosses the site in a north-south direction and a stock or maintenance road traverses the land in an east-west direction.

Despite the absence of original log buildings, the Fort Lane Site retains its ability to convey its historic associations. Its integrity of feeling--the ability that the property has to evoke the historic sense of a mid-nineteenth century military post--is amply evident. The direct link between Fort Lane and the activities that took place there is intact. The fort's historic military and governmental associations, with both the protection and confinement of Indians, are dramatically reflected in its location, setting and feeling. The field where dragoons paraded and quartered retains its expanse and the surroundings upon which the men once intently gazed retain much of their original character. The relationship of the Fort Lane Site to the hills, to the Rogue River, and to Lower Table Rock remains intact. The integrity of this relationship allows the Fort Lane Site to clearly evoke the post's purpose and experience.

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NOTES

1. J.K.F. Mansfield, Report, Fort Lane, August 10-12, 1855. MS, (Photocopy) Southern Oregon Historical Society Files.
2. Road location determined by surveyor Thomas Newcomb. This route was changed in 1855 and re-routed along the south bank of the Rogue River.
3. David Brauner to Robert Butler, January 7, 1987.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Military-Indian Affairs
Ethnic Heritage/Native American
Exploration/Settlement

Period of Significance

1853-1856

Significant Dates

1853

Cultural Affiliation

Takelma bands, Upper Rogue River Indians
19th Century Anglo-American

Significant Person

Joseph Lane, General (1801-1881)

Architect/Builder

N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Fort Lane was included in the Military and Indian Affairs volume of the National Park Service's National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings published in 1963 under the title Soldier and Brave. The site of Fort Lane, a strategic military post established by the U.S. Army Department of the Pacific in 1853 in the third year of the Rogue River Indian Wars, is located on Tolo Road 3 1/2 miles northwest of Central Point in Jackson County, Oregon. The nominated area, encompassing approximately 25.77 acres, occupies the northwesterly end of the townsite of Tolo, which was platted in 1888 but never was developed. The historic site was acquired by Jackson County in 1986 for protective purposes.

Of statewide significance under Criterion A in the categories of military affairs and Native American heritage, the fort site was garrisoned three years and helped bring to a conclusion hostilities between Indian and settler communities in the Rogue Valley. Before its abandonment by the military in 1856, it had served as a sentinel for travelers, many of them miners flocking to Jacksonville after gold was discovered there in 1852.

The post was named in honor of Joseph Lane, Governor of the Oregon Territory and Territorial delegate to Congress. Lane was a veteran of the Mexican War, during which he had been brevetted Major-General. He also was a seasoned negotiator. It was he who had secured surrender of the perpetrators of the Whitman massacre which initiated the Cayuse War in the upper Columbia Basin. Lane arrived in the Rogue Valley late in the summer of 1853 and took command of volunteers and a small force of U.S. Army regulars sent from posts in northern California, the southern Oregon coast and from Fort Vancouver to contain the hostilities, then in the third year. Lane negotiated a truce, and a treaty council was held at Table Rock in which Lane, Joel Palmer, Superintendent of Indian Affairs for Oregon, U.S. Army Captain Andrew Jackson Smith of Fort Orford, and James Nesmith participated on behalf of the settler community with Takelma chieftains.

As a consequence of the treaty, the military post which Lane had urged the Army to establish in the Rogue Valley was set up as a 640-acre reservation by Captain Smith and his company. Its purpose was to protect the Table Rock Indian Reservation similarly established by treaty, and to maintain the peace.

See continuation sheet

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Hostilities continued to flare up until 1856, when the federal government moved the Indians of southwestern Oregon to the Coast Reservation. The abandoned buildings of Fort Lane gradually decayed. Today, little evidence of the military's occupation of the site remains above ground. The bounds of the publicly-owned site were drawn to include all areas of highest probability for deposition of cultural materials during the period of occupation. The site's potential to demonstrate significance under Criterion D has not been formally documented to date but is strongly suggested by surface surveys.

In 1929, private land owners deeded the 10-acre nucleus of the military post to the Oregon Daughters of the American Revolution for commemorative purposes, and a cairn-style granite monument with bronze plaque was dedicated by Crater Lake Chapter, D.A.R. The plaque was removed by vandals or thieves after 1970. Because it was never cultivated or significantly developed, the site retains its capacity to evoke the feeling of the historic period. The gently-sloping hillside, dotted with oaks and pine trees, commands a view of the prominent landform known as Table Rock to the northeast, which was the setting of the momentous treaty council thought to have produced the first binding agreement between the U.S. Government and Indians in the Pacific Northwest. The only intrusions in the nominated area are a power line traversing the site and a section of unimproved maintenance road. On the key-shaped parcel presently excluded from the nominated area stand a small dwelling, or shack, and a pump house for a well. These are not counted as non-contributing features because, technically, they do not lie within the bounds of the nominated area, although they do lie within the visual field. Jackson County is exploring the possibility of bringing this modest private in-holding into public ownership as soon as may be practicable.

Fort Lane is significant also under Criterion B. Apart from his burial place in the old Masonic cemetery in Roseburg, there is no property in Oregon more importantly associated with General Joseph Lane than the military post which was established as a direct result of his decisive leadership in the Rogue River Indian Wars. While Lane was associated indirectly with the house of his son-in-law, Creed Floed, an historic house museum in Roseburg, his own places of residence are no longer standing.

Lane had an established military and political career before coming to Oregon in 1849. Born in North Carolina in 1801, he resided in Kentucky until 1821, when he moved to Indiana. He married Polly Hart and settled in Vanderberg, Indiana, where he became a farmer and state legislator, serving in both houses from 1822 to 1846. When the Mexican War began in 1846, he was commissioned Colonel in the Second Regiment of the Indiana Volunteers. He was brevetted Major-General the next year and saw distinguished service at the Battle of Buena Vista under Zachary Taylor. Afterwards, Lane and 3,000 men under his command were sent to

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join General Winfield Scott. After several months and many battles, Lane joined Scott and was actively engaged in the closing conflicts of the war. He was customarily referred to as the "Francis Marion of the Mexican War" for his courage and resourcefulness. After his discharge in 1848, he returned briefly to Indiana before being named Oregon Territorial Governor by President James Polk. Arriving in San Francisco in February of 1849, he sailed to Oregon City, disembarking on the second of March, 1849. He served as Governor until June, 1850, when he was elected a delegate to the 32nd and 33rd Congresses. He served as Territorial delegate until 1859, when Oregon became a state, and then was Oregon's first state senator, from 1859 to 1861. In 1860 he was Democratic vice-presidential candidate with presidential candidate John C. Breckenridge, who was later Confederate Secretary of War. Lane's political career waned owing to his pro-slavery and strong Southern sympathies. He retired to Roseburg, Oregon, never to re-enter public life. His son, Lafayette, became an Oregon state legislator and United States Congressman.

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CONTEXTUAL BACKGROUND

Established in 1853 and abandoned in 1856, the Fort Lane site is eligible under Criteria A for its association with activities that occurred during a period of intense hostility between Indian and white residents of western Oregon Territory. The resource is significant in the area of military and Indian affairs and effectively represents the theme of Indian-white relations between 1851 and 1856. It is significant in the historic development of Oregon as the second of five military posts to be established by the U.S. government between 1851 and 1856 in the western part of the territory.

The Fort Lane Site is associated with events that made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of Oregon history. It was a key site during a period of heavy settlement of southwestern Oregon by both miners and farmers -- a time when clashes between Indian residents and the newcomers focused political, military, and journalistic attention on the Rogue Valley. The hostilities encouraged the construction of important military roads, sent prominent territorial leaders to the area, and provided topics of constant interest in Oregon newspapers.

As the guarding establishment for an Indian reservation, the resource is locally significant as the only United States fort to be built in the Rogue Valley. The Fort Lane Site enables us to better understand the history of Southern Oregon by revealing significant aspects of settlement in this place. The site distinctly relates to the military activities that occurred here between 1853 and 1856.

Emigrants began regular use of the Oregon-California Trail in 1841 and by 1846 traveled the new Applegate Trail into Southern Oregon. Takelma and Shasta Indians regularly attacked settlers in the Rogue River Valley and hostilities were particularly severe during the summer of 1851. On June 1, men were attacked 20 miles south of the Rogue River Ford and the next day Dr. James McBride and 32 miners were ambushed on the trail. Within two weeks Major Philip Kearny and his soldiers were attacked near Table Rock.(1) Captain James Stuart died in this battle and was buried near a major tributary of the Rogue River. (This creek, first named in Stuart's memory, was later called Bear Creek.) (2) In September, 1851, Lt. Powel T. Wyman established Fort Orford on the southern-

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coast--the first military post within the present state of Oregon. (3)

The discovery of gold near Jacksonville in January, 1852, brought miners to the new diggings. At the same time settlers took up the first Donation Land Claims in the Rogue River Valley. The miners and farmers drove Indians from their living and fishing areas, eroded hunting land with plows and organized "volunteer" companies to combat them. (4) In 1852, after a violent summer, the United States Army established Fort Jones west of Yreka, California. Soldiers were now on permanent duty and could support the regular passage of soldiers over the Oregon-California Trail. (5) Joel Palmer, Superintendent of Indian Affairs for Oregon, appointed agents in Southern Oregon. Alonzo Skinner assumed duties in the Rogue Valley and Samuel Colver went to Fort Orford. (6)

August, 1853, brought new conflicts between Indians and miners. Soldiers were transported from Fort Orford, Fort Jones and from Fort Vancouver to quell the hostilities. (7) General Joseph Lane, who had resigned the governership of Oregon Territory and been re-elected as delegate, came from his home at Roseburg to review conditions in the Rogue Valley. (8) Reaching Army headquarters on Stuart Creek, Lane took command of 200 volunteers and a small number of regulars. After several days of intense fighting, Lane negotiated a truce with the Indians. They agreed to assemble at Table Rock and the treaty council began on September 1. On the meeting's fourth day James Nesmith arrived with volunteers from the Willamette Valley and a twelve-pound mountain howitzer from Fort Vancouver. On the same day Captain Andrew Jackson Smith and his dragoons from Fort Orford arrived as reinforcements. In spite of his much larger force, Lane abided by his agreement to arrange a treaty with the Indians. (9) Twenty-five years later, Nesmith recalled the meeting -- held on September 10, 1853. Lane, Palmer, Smith, Nesmith, and others went out early in the morning to meet the Takelma chiefs Aps-er-ka-har (Joe), To-qua-he-ar (Sam) and Ana-chah-a-rah (Jim).

[We] came to the foot of the mountain where it was too steep for horses to ascend. We dismounted. . . and scrambled up for half a mile over huge rocks and through brush and then found ourselves in the Indian stronghold, just under the perpendicular face of Table Rock. (10)

After long negotiations the two sides signed the treaty, the

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first binding agreement between the United States government and Indian tribes in the Pacific Northwest.(11)

A 640 acre military reserve was established and Captain A.J. Smith, with dragoons from Fort Orford, began construction of Fort Lane. From the new post he would oversee maintenance of the treaty and management of the Indian reservation. (12) The fort was a direct result of Joseph Lane's urging the Army Department of the Pacific to establish a permanent post in the Rogue Valley. Captain Smith hoped to name the post in Lane's honor. He wrote:

If I have the naming of it . . . it will be called Fort Lane as you are particularly identified with this Rogue River War.(13)

In 1884 an historian recalled the post's physical appearance:

. . . The new military post reared its imposing front. Appropriately named Fort Lane, it was commodiously and even handsomely built, and in a manner well adapted to the uses of such a post. A stockade enclosed quite a spacious area in which there was a parade ground, together with barracks for private soldiers, houses for officers, an armory, hospital, and other necessary buildings, all of logs. It continued to be the headquarters of the military forces in this region for three years.(14)

In a letter to General Lane, dated December 18, 1853, Captain A. J. Smith described the fort's completion and stated that three companies of dragoons and one company of infantry were comfortably situated. (15)

1854 was a relatively peaceful year in the Rogue Valley and most of the Indian hostilities occurred nearer the coast. (16) In 1855 tension built as whites increasingly attacked Indians clustered in small villages off the reservation. Volunteers met in May at a schoolhouse on Wagner Creek and forced pacifist John Beeson to flee when he decried the butchering of Indians. Beeson and his young son left home late on May 24, 1855 and rode all night to Fort Lane. The next day Welborn Beeson recorded in his diary, "I parted with Father at the lieutenant's headquarters at Fort Lane about 9:00 a.m." (17)

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That spring the Department of the Pacific sent Inspector General J.K.F. Mansfield to tour western posts in order to determine their eligibility for permanence.(18) Excerpts from Mansfield's August visit to Fort Lane describe its condition and appearance:

The command here has suffered much by recent desertions. Company C lost 22 by desertion in July last, and Company E, 12 since last April and all of them recruits but two. There is no reason given for this except the desire to go into the gold diggings, and the facility of escape among the gulches and miners. . .

The quarters of officers, soldiers, hospital and structures are all of logs erected by the men, and as comfortable as could be expected and the public property well cared for. There is abundant grazing for the horses and hay and wood are had by the cutting. A good garden is attached to the post, but the grasshopper is very destructive and almost destroys it. There is also good bathing for the men in the river. . .

Supplies are at present obtained by packing from Crescent City 110 miles over mountains at a cost of 13 cents the pound. This post however should be supplied by wagon route to Scottsburg as before stated. . .

At this post there is one 12 pound . . . field howitzer and one 12 pounder mountain howitzer and 144 rounds of ammunition for the same. Also 14,000 ball cartridges for small arms. The carriage of the howitzer requires painting and one new wheel. . .

The Indian Agent . . . Colver resides here and manages the Indians well. He has planted several fields of potatoes on their reservation for them to encourage them to settle quietly. By the treaty the government agreed to put up several buildings for them which has not yet been done. . . . (19)

In October volunteers attacked Indians in a village on Little Butte Creek and killed most of the residents. On October 9, in fear and revenge, Indians escaped from the Table Rock Reservation and fled down the Rogue River killing settlers as they went. Volunteers organized at several informal "fort" sites

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throughout Southern Oregon including Wagner, Hays, Lamerick, Vannoy, and Bailey. (20) Intense fighting occurred during the fall, but with the conclusion of the battle at Hungry Hill near Grave Creek, the Army withdrew from the field. Winter was approaching, supplies were short, and manpower was low. (21)

In January, 1856, several hundred Indians in the Rogue Valley surrendered and in February began the long trek to the Grand Ronde Reservation. Although scattered bands continued fighting in the hills, the end of the war came in May when U.S. Army regulars challenged Indians in the Rogue Canyon. Between January and June, 1856, the government moved over 2000 Indians from southwestern Oregon to reservations. (22) Military posts were closed in Southern Oregon. Fort Lane was occupied until fall, 1856, but abandoned by the onset of winter weather. (23) After Fort Lane was abandoned the land remained part of the government military reserve but the buildings were allowed to decay. A.G. Walling noted:

. . . At the end of the last Indian war being abandoned, a quarter of a century has seen the old fort fall into ruins, and today scarcely a vestige of what was once a lively encampment remains. . . (24)

The sites of other military forts in western Oregon are all extant, although part of the Fort Orford site has been destroyed. Most of the fort sites are archaeologically intact. (25) The names and dates of establishment of pertinent forts are: Fort Orford (Curry County), September 14, 1851; Fort Lane (Jackson County), September 28, 1853; Fort Hoskins (Benton County), September 26, 1856; Fort Umpqua (Douglas County), August 28, 1856; and Fort Yamhill (Yamhill County) August 30, 1856. (Fort Jones in northern California was closely associated with the activities of Fort Lane and Fort Orford). Forts Umpqua, Yamhill and Hoskins were established to guard Indians at the Grande Ronde and Siletz Agencies. (Fort Umpqua was abandoned in 1862, Fort Yamhill and Fort Hoskins in 1865). (26)

Many references to Fort Lane appear in early local records. Surveyors journals and road documents frequently tie points to the post's flag staff. A major valley route ran directly through the Fort establishment,

"which follows along the trail as now and formerly travelled through the enclosure of Hughes, Newton, and

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Penninger [and others to Fort Lane, thence to the military road afore said at a point near T'Vaults place." (27)

Road patterns have changed throughout the area but impressions of the old road are visible on the Fort Lane Site. (28)

The Oregon and California Railroad was constructed through the area in 1883. Anticipating economic growth, Charles Kahler purchased much of the military reserve property, (including the Fort Lane Site), from the United States Government.(29) In August, 1888, Kahler and a neighbor sold their land to incorporators of the Tolo Townside and Milling Company. The Ashland Tidings described the venture:

Tolo Townsite and Mill co. have bought 200 acres of land at the site of old Fort lane. New uses for the land were suggested by the arrival of the railroad. The railroad has accepted 1/2 the land. . . The land is from the farms of C.H. Kahler and Mr. Ragsdale. A mill planned will run logs down Rogue River. (30)

The town of Tolo was platted and subdivided, but existed only on paper. Forty blocks of lots, ranging in size from 25' x 100' to 50' x 100', comprised the plat and depot grounds were reserved for the Oregon and California Railroad. (31) Tolo was eventually abandoned and the Gold Ray Realty Company purchased the townsite in 1912. (32) The Ray family provided capital to construct Gold Ray Dam, (1903-1904), to furnish power to the Rogue Valley and the plant was known as the Conder Water and Power Company. The merger of this company and Siskiyou Power and Light Company in 1913 formed the California-Oregon Power Company, predecessor of Pacific Power and Light.

The Ray family owned 10,000 acres of farm land in the Tolo-Gold Hill vicinity --much of it purchased to avoid damage suits which might develop from mining tailings or dam overflows. All the farms continued under the names of the owners from whom the Rays purchased the acreages. The Fort Lane Site remained undeveloped during their ownership and was used only for grazing. (33)

In 1929 the Rays deeded ground to the Oregon Daughters of the American Revolution for a Fort Lane historic marker. On October 31, 1929 the Crater Lake Chapter dedicated the monument. A local newspaper reported that the marker would be " unveiled under the shadow of the flag pole pine on Tolo Road." (34) The same article continued:

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The rectangle around which the buildings were grouped and which evidently was used as a parade ground, can clearly be traced and piles of granite rocks mark the creation of fireplaces which have fallen and been all but forgotten. The marker is built of these granites. (35)

In August, 1949, the Medford Mail Tribune reported:

The historic battle scarred pine tree at the Fort Lane Monument was reported aflame last night during the fire which swept over an estimated 300 acres in the Blackwell Hill and Tolo districts. (36)

In July, 1957, the Gold Ray Realty Company sold land, including the Fort Lane Site, to T.R. Parker whose family again sold the land in December, 1984. (37) Surveyors Ronald Frost and Thomas Newcomb examined the Fort Lane Site in early 1985, tying it in with old surveys. They established the precise location of the fort and defined the approximate boundaries of the area where original buildings stood. In May, 1985 Frost and Newcomb learned of imminent plans for a substantial building development on the site and appealed to the Southern Oregon Historical Society. Cooperation between county officials, historians, and the owner, resulted in the county's purchase of a portion of the developer's land and title to the Fort Lane Site. (38)

Jackson County is committed to the protection of the Fort Lane Site. Aware of the resource's potential archaeological importance, the county plans to assess that aspect of the site's significance. Historian Stephen Dow Beckham states that official Fort Lane records are quite complete. Held in Washington D.C. they include post returns, correspondence and documents -- all materials that yield specific information regarding staff, clothing, food, supplies, and equipment employed at the Fort. These records would substantially support field archaeological explorations. (39)

The Fort Lane Site effectively conveys the feelings and associations of a center of military operations and Indian affairs in the Rogue Valley between 1853 and 1856. Although the log improvements have disintegrated, the setting remains intact. Used primarily for grazing in the past 130 years, the Fort Lane Site remains undeveloped. The broad field where the buildings stood retains its relationship to Lower Table Rock, part of the 1853 Indian reservation. The hillside where the

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resource played its historic role retains its topographical features and oaks and pines still cover the hills surrounding the site. The relationship of the Fort Lane Site to the open space around it remains intact.

The resource successfully evokes the historic sense of the period during which it flourished and provides a direct link to the activities that occurred in Southern Oregon during the period of settlement.

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NOTES

1. Stephen Dow Beckham, LAND OF THE UMPQUA: A HISTORY OF DOUGLAS COUNTY, OREGON (Roseburg, Ore.) Douglas County Commissioners, 1986, p. 92.
2. Lewis A. McArthur, OREGON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES (Portland, Ore.) Oregon Historical Society, 1984, p. 115.
3. Beckham, LAND OF THE UMPQUA, p. 95.
4. Ibid., p. 93.
5. Ibid., p. 154.
6. Ibid., pp. 94-95.
7. Ibid., p. 95.
8. Sr. M. Margaret Jean Kelly, THE CAREER OF JOSEPH LANE, FRONTIER POLITICIAN (Washington D.C.) Catholic University of America Press, 1942, pp.31-32. Lane was appointed brigadier general in 1846 from volunteer service and served in the Mexican War. He was appointed governor of Oregon Territory in March 1849 by President Polk and served until June, 1850 when he resigned. He was elected territorial delegate in 1851. In May, 1853 he was appointed governor by President Pierce and served only three days, resigning to become a delegate and later a senator.
9. James E. Hendrickson, JOE LANE OF OREGON; MACHINE POLITICS AND THE SECTIONAL CRISIS, 1849-1861 (New Haven) Yale University Press, 1967, pp. 75-76.
10. James W. Nesmith, "A Reminiscence of the Indian War, 1853," OREGON HISTORICAL QUARTERLY Vol.7, (1906), p. 217.
11. Beckham, LAND OF THE UMPQUA, p. 96. Details of the treaty are recorded in U.S. Statutes At Large, Vol. 10, p. 1020.

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12. Hendrickson, JOE LANE OF OREGON, p.78; Thomas Prosch, "Notes on Oregon Conditions in the Fifties," OREGON HISTORICAL QUARTERLY, Vol.8, (1907), p. 194.
13. Hendrickson, JOE LANE OF OREGON, P.78; Ezra J. Warner, GENERRALS IN BLUE; LIVES OF THE UNION COMMANDERS, Louisiana State University Press, 1964, p. 454.
14. A.G. Walling, HISTORY OF SOUTHERN OREGON, COMPRISING JACKSON, JOSEPHINE, DOUGLAS, CURRY AND COOS COUNTIES, COMPILED FROM THE MOST AUTHENTIC SOURCES (Portland, Ore.) A.G. Walling, 1884, p. 231. An early survey of the township (1854) indicates that a sawmill stood near Fort Lane on the Hughes donation land claim. It may have been used in the construction of Fort Lane.
15. McArthur, OREGON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES, p.289
16. Walling, HISTORY OF SOUTHERN OREGON, p.232.
17. Welborn Beeson, Diary, Jackson County Library, Talent Branch, Talent, Oregon.
18. Hubert Howe Bancroft, HISTORY OF OREGON Vol.II, 1848-1888 (San Francisco): The History Company, 1888, p.345; Warner, GENERALS IN BLUE, p. 309. Joseph K.F. Mansfield was born in Connecticut in 1803 and graduated second in the class of 1922 at West Point. He saw extensive western duty and was appointed a colonel in the inspector general's department in 1853. Mansfield died in the Civil War at Sharpsburg, September 18, 1862.
19. J.K.F. Mansfield, Report, MS (photocopy) Southern Oregon Historical Society, Jacksonville, Ore., pp.64-66. Mansfield was at Fort Lane from August 10 to August 12, 1855.
20. McArthur, OREGON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES, pp. 282 ff. There were many temporary "forts" set up for protection of settler families. These included Birdseye and Wagner in Jackson County; Bailey, Briggs, Hay, Flournoy, Leland and Vannoy in Josephine County, Kitchen and Rowland in Coos County,

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Miner and Lamerick in Curry County, and Smith and Gordon in Douglas County. Although they were frequently referred to as forts, they had no formal attachment to the U.S. military.

21. Beckham, LAND OF THE UMPQUA, p.101.
22. Ibid., pp.103-104.
23. Ibid.
24. Walling, HISTORY OF SOUTHERN OREGON, p. 231.
25. Stephen Dow Beckham, May 28, 1987.
26. Beckham, May 28, 1987; McArthur, OREGON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES, p. 288 ff.; Robert Carleton Clark, "Military History of Oregon, 1849-1859," OREGON HISTORICAL QUARTERLY, 36, (1935) p. 31.
27. Jackson County Commissioners' Journal, Volume 1, p. 28.
28. Jackson County Commissioners' Journal, Volume 1, June 22, 1855.
29. Jackson County Deeds, Volume 12, p. 13.
30. Ashland Tidings, August 10, 1888, p. 3:1.
31. Southern Oregon Historical Society, Report of the Fort Lane Ad Hoc Committee, March 1987.
32. Jackson County Deeds, Volume 93, p. 580.
33. Medford Mail Tribune, Septmeber 1, 1963.
34. OREGON HISTORICAL QUARTERLY 30,(1929), p. 407; Medford Mail Tribune, October 27, 1929.
35. Medford Mail Tribune, October 27, 1929.
36. Medford Mail Tribune, August 7, 1949; August 8, 1949.

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Undocumented reports identify this tree as one used at Fort Lane as a signal tree. This extensive fire destroyed two homes, the Tolo School, and burned over 600 acres.

37. Jackson County Deeds, #430384; #84-19489.
38. Jackson County Deeds, #86-05512.
39. Stephen Dow Beckham, May 28, 1987

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Southern Oregon Historical Society,
PO Box 480, Jacksonville OR 97530

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property approximately 25.77 acres Sams Valley, Oregon 1:24000

UTM References

A 110 50119410 4169171110
Zone Easting Northing

B 110 50222000 4169169000
Zone Easting Northing

C 110 501201010 41691661410

D 110 50118110 4169169160

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Verbal Boundary Description The nominated area is located in NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 19, Township 36 S, Range 2W, Willamette Meridian, in Jackson County, Oregon. It encompasses Blocks 49, 32, 31, 48, 33, 30, and the westerly 200 feet of Blocks 47, 34 and 29, and, in addition, the intervening rights of way of 10th, 9th and 8th streets and H, G and F streets in the Tolo Subdivision at said location. Excluded from the nominated area are Lots 22, 23 and 24 of Block 30 and a 300-foot section of 8th Street at the northerly edge of the area. The metes and bounds of the nominated area are as follows.

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Boundary Justification The nominated area of ca. 25.77 acres encompasses the functional core of the strategic military reservation established in Oregon's Rogue River Valley by the U.S. Army Department of the Pacific in 1853 and garrisoned until the conclusion of Indian-settler hostilities in 1856. With the exception of the small key, as noted above, the area is wholly owned by Jackson County as was drawn to include the historic site of the post buildings, parade ground, hay field, and ancillary activity areas. The power line and maintenance road are non-contributing features of

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the property.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kay Atwood
organization Southern Oregon Historical Society date July 1987
street & number PO Box 480 telephone (503) 899-1848
city or town Jacksonville state Oregon zip code 97530

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- Corning, Howard McKinley, ed., DICTIONARY OF OREGON HISTORY (Portland: Binford and Mort, 1956), 142, 211.

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METES AND BOUNDS DESCRIPTION

Beginning at most Southerly corner of Lot 12, Block 34, Town of Tolo, located in Sections 19 and 20, Township 36 South, Range 2 West of the Willamette, Jackson County, Oregon; thence South 36 47'30" West 420 feet to a point on the Southwesterly line of said Town of Tolo; thence North 53 12' 30" West along said Southwesterly line to the Southwesterly corner of said Town of Tolo; thence North along the Westerly line of said Town of Tolo to an angle corner in said Westerly line; thence North 36 47'30" East along said Westerly line 495 feet, more or less to a point on the Southwesterly line of Tolo Road; thence south 53 12' 30" East 920 feet, more or less, to the most Easterly corner of Block 30 in said Town of Tolo; thence South 36 47'30" West 160 feet to the most Easterly corner of Lot 24 of said Block 30; thence North 53 12'30" West 150 feet to the most Northerly corner of Lot 22 of said Block 30; thence South 36 47' 30" West 140 feet to the most Westerly corner of said Lot 22; thence South 53 12' 30" East 150 feet to the most Southerly corner of Lot 24 of said Block 30; thence South 53 12'30" East 60 feet to a point on the Southeasterly line of 8th Street; thence North 36 47' 30" East along the Southeasterly line of 8th Street 300 feet to the most Northerly corner Block 29, said Town of Tolo; thence South 53 12' 30" East 200 feet to the most Easterly corner of Lot 9, said Block 29; thence South 36 47' 30" West 660 feet to the point of beginning.