LEWISTON-MOUNTAIN HOUSE WAGON ROAD

ASSESSMENT



This picture taken northwest of Cottonwood on the Lewiston-Mountain House Road Courtesy of the Idaho County Genealogy Society

Lewiston-Mountain House Wagon Road

The Mapping And Location Of The Road And Associated Sites In Idaho County

For the

Idaho County Historic Preservation Commission

&

Idaho State Historical Society

Assessment prepared by

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INTRODUCTION

Between 1867 and 1934 the General Land Office contracted with private surveyors to survey and subdivide the Townships in Idaho County. Between 1867 and 1873 the two surveyors who surveyed most of the Camas Prairie were Allen and David Thompson. In addition to recording their measurements and bearings, they also recorded other features that existed on the landscape, such as cabins, trails, wagon roads, fences and fields. I decided to plot these historic routes on modern maps in the hope that a visual record would become of interest to the public at large.

The Lewiston-Mountain House Wagon Road began in Lewiston, Idaho and ended at Mount Idaho, some 75 miles later. The route climbed out of the Snake River Canyon, crossed through the Craig Mountain area and ended at the eastern edge of the Camas Prairie. It was used by miners, trappers, gamblers, outlaws, girls of the night, immigrants, farmers, merchants, the Chinese, and the U. S. Army. The road was a major route into Idaho County from the spring of 1862 to June of 1924. This assessment deals only with the 25.6 miles of road that passed through Idaho County.

I have plotted this road where it crossed each section, based on the notes of Allen and David Thompson who surveyed a major portion of the Camas Prairie in 1867 & 1873. Allen Thompson also tied existing cabins and other features to certain points along the lines he was running in 1867, by recording the bearing and distance to those features.

METHODOLOGY

This road was plotted on contour maps by following the original survey notes of Allen Thompson (1867) and David Thompson (1873). These records can be found on the BLM home page under "survey plats and field notes." The plotting was done using a Terrain Navigator mapping program which allowed me to record the 1927 NADCON coordinates. These coordinates were then converted to 1983 NADCON coordinates using North American Datum Conversion (Version 2.11). Thus, in the future anyone wishing to locate this road, or other recorded feature can simply use a GPS unit to find these positions.

Accuracy of the coordinates is dependent on the accuracy of the map being used, as the township and range lines shift slightly depending on the year the map was produced. Coordinate position should be within plus or minus 50 feet. However an accuracy of less than 10 feet can be obtained by starting at any given corner and following the original surveyed distances up or down the section lines.

Cabins that existed in 1867 and other points of historical importance, were also located using Thompson survey notes, and descriptions found in existing historical texts, GLO township plats, and newspapers. The texts and newspapers will be noted later in this report.

PHYSICAL SETTING

The Lewiston - Mountain House Wagon Road crossed the Camas Prairie generally some three miles north of the present day U.S. Highway 95. The Camas Prairie is part of the 1700 square mile Clearwater Plateau. (Castelin, 1976). The Wagon Road crossed four major streams; the South Fork of Cottonwood Creek, Shebang Creek, Cottonwood Creek and Lawyers Creek.

The Camas Prairie is characterized by the Columbia River Basalt flows. Approximately 34-40 million years ago during the mid - Tertiary period, three basalt flows (Imnaha, Grande Ronde, and Saddle Mountain) extruded east from vents in Oregon and Washington (Castelin, 1976) resulting in a succession of faulted basalt layers.

The soils along the Wagon Road vary with topographic and elevation changes. The soils are described topographically as gently sloping to hilly uplands, moderately sloping to steep canyons and nearly level bottom lands.

Average annual precipitation on the prairie ranges from 20 inches to 24 inches, with a temperature range averaging some 44 degrees. In the mid to late 19th century the prairie was covered in bunch grass which was ideal for the grassing of the vast herds of horses owned by the local Nez Perce Indians. Today most of the prairie is being farmed, and wheat, barley, peas and canola appear to be the most popular crops. There is a small amount of pasture land in places where the soil is thin and rocky.

Elevation changes along most of the route were small. The elevation at Mount Idaho is 3600 feet, Grangeville 3300 feet, Cottonwood 3500 feet and at West Lake about 4200 feet. The lowest point along the route was 3200 feet at the crossing of Shebang Creek, while the highest elevation was 4600 feet where the road crossed a ridge some one-half mile northwest of Foster's grave.

HISTORIC OVERVIEW

The first known Euro-Americans to enter Idaho county was the Lewis & Clark expedition in 1805, and on the return trip in 1806 Lewis sent a party of three men from Kamiah to the Salmon River. ¹ Byron Defenbach believed the men skirted the south side of Lawyers Canyon and crossed the prairie and possibly went down Rocky Canyon to the Salmon River.

1811: Donald McKenzie with nine men came down the south side of the Salmon River and crossed the river at the mouth of Rock Creek, traveled up the the creek and crossed the prairie near Cottonwood. Traveling north they reached the Middle Fork of the Clearwater and camped at the place known today as Canoe Camp below Orofino.²

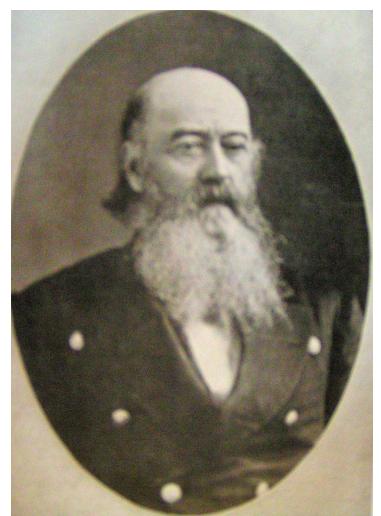
1831: John Urb and a group of Hudson Bay trappers followed Lewis & Clark's trail and passed through Idaho County at Kamiah.³

¹ Pioneer Days In Idaho County, Sister M. Alfreda Elsensojhn, Volume #1, page 3.

² Pioneer Days In Idaho County, Sister M. Alfreda Elsensojhn, Volume #2, page 462

³ Pioneer Days In Idaho County, Sister M. Alfreda Elsensojhn, Volume #1, page 3.

1832: Wm. Sublette, who owned the Rocky Mountain Fur Company, hired Joe Meek in as a hunter and trapper in the spring of 1828. In 1832 Sublette and his trappers came up the Payette River and camped at Payette Lake. From there Joe Meek led a party of four men north to the Salmon River, crossed the river and camped at the head of one of it's tributaries at what is now known as the Florence area. The party consisted of Joe Meek, Antoine Godin, Louis Leaugar and Small. *This writer believes they were camped in the head waters of Little Slate Creek*.⁴



Joe Meek Copied from the book: Illustrated History of North Idaho

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⁴ River Of The West, Francis Fuller Victor, Volume #1, pages 129 & 130.

1835: The Reverend Samuel Parker with a party of Nez Perce Indians, came over the southern Nez Perce trail in October of that year. *Based on my knowledge of having located many miles of this trail I believe this party came down the Red River Valley, crossed the divide between Red River and American River, passed through the Elk City area and camped at either Elk Summit or at Mud Springs. They then came across the Coral Hill area and crossed the South Fork of the Clearwater above Kooskia, went down river to Kamiah, and climbed up to the prairie and camped again at what is now known as Yellow Bull Springs.⁵*

1861: A group of prospectors came across the prairie and camped for a time on Whiskey Bill Creek which flows northerly through the eastern edge of Grangeville. After resting for a time they crossed the divide to the Salmon River and at Slate Creek prospected up the creek until they reached Florence where they discovered a large gold field. In October of that year the town-site of Old Florence was laid out.⁶

In the fall of 1861 Captain Francois came across the prairie and built a cabin on the White Bird Divide. This apparently was built as a way station on the Lewiston-Florence Trail.⁷

1862: In the year 1862 miners and settlers were flocking into Idaho County via the old pack trial known as the Lewiston-Florence Trail. The trail split a short distance northwest of Cottonwood, with the southern route going to Florence via the Salmon River and up Slate Creek, and the northern route going to Mount Idaho. By 1867 the route from Lewiston to Mount Idaho was known as the Lewiston-Mountain House Wagon Road. Mountain House being the name of the way station built by Moses Milner in the spring of 1862 in what is now Mount Idaho.

This was also the year that saw the building of a way station at Cottonwood, known as Cottonwood House. The station was built by a man know only as Allen. In the summer that year Hiram Lusk built a cabin on Three Mile Creek.

Seth Jones passed through the prairie in May of 1862 with his wife on their way to Florence. Jones was followed a few days later by L. P. Brown who bought Mose Milner's way station. In July of 1862 Jones returned to Mount Idaho by way of the Milner Trail. His wife got free passage as she was the first white woman to pass over the route. In August they opened a small station at Mount Idaho.⁸

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⁵ Parker's Exploring Tour, Beyond the Rocky Mountains, Rev. Samuel Parker, A.M., pages 114 – 117.

⁶ Pioneer Days in Idaho County, Sister M. Freda Elsensohn, Volume #1, pages 37 & 38.

⁷ Illustrated History Of North Idaho, Western Historical Publishing Company, 1903, page 387.

⁸ Illustrated History Of North Idaho, Western Historical Publishing Company, 1903, page 387.



L. P. Brown Courtesy of the Idaho Historical Society Copyrighted by the Idaho Historical Society

1862: The Lewiston-Mountain House Wagon Road was well established and being heavily used. The first stage line from Lewiston to Mount Idaho was established by Frances & Company in the summer of 1862. It was along this route that Lusk built a cabin and began running it as a way station. This is the same cabin that was puchased by Crooks and Shumway in 1863.

1863: Seth Jones settled on Three Mile Creek about one mile above the Lusk station. Jones planted ten acres of oats, and a considerable garden containing rutabagas, tomatoes, cabbage, turnips and potatoes. He harvested 54,000 pounds of potatoes which he sold for eight cents a pound. Durkee and George Crampton established another stage line in this year⁹

John Londsberry, who was some seventy years of age, had taken a claim next to Jones and was a partner in the potato venture. Apparently Londsberry didn't live much longer because the land he had claimed was later homesteaded by Mary & Henry Hinkley.

On June 9th of 1863 the new treaty was signed by the Nez Perces and it was this treaty that ceded the greater part of the Camas Prairie to the United States. However it took several years for congress to confirm the treaty and thus title to land could not be obtained until congress had approved the treaty. The earliest land title this writer has found was issued in 1872 on a quarter section of land about one-half mile north of Grangeville.

It was also in this year that Crooks and Shumway aquired the Lusk Station. It has been recorded that Crooks controlled some six-hundred acres, but in 1875 he only held title to160 acres. In 1880 he gained title to an additional 160 acres, far less ground than has been reported by some historians.¹⁰

1863 also saw the ownership of the Cottonwood Way Station being operated by Wheeler & Toothacher. This station would change hands several more times over next fourteen years. Other owners were John Byron in 1864-1865, and at some point in time after 1865 Joe Moore and Peter Ready were running the station. Benjamin Norton was running the station when the Nez Perce war broke out in June of 1877.¹¹

1867: In this year a large part of the Camas Prairie was surveyed by one Allen Thompson. Thompson, who divided the prairie into township, range and sections, also noted the locations of wagon roads, Indian trails, fences, fields, and cabins (houses) and an Indian village.

CABINS LOCATED BY ALLEN THOMPSON

T30N, R3E:

The cabin built by Lusk and occupied by John Crooks in 1867 was located in the NW1/4, SW1/4 of Section 20.

T. Archer had a cabin in the NW1/4, NW1/4, Section 20. Seth Jones cabin was in the SW1/4, of Section 29.

⁹ Illustrated History Of North Idaho, Western Historical Publishing Company, 1903 Page 389.

¹⁰ Illustrated History Of North Idaho, Western Historical Publishing Company, 1903, page 388 & BLM-GLO Land Patent Records.

¹¹ Illustrated History Of North Idaho, Western Historical Publishing Company, 1903, page 389.

William Fairfield had a cabin in th SW1/4, NW1/4 of Section 28 alongside the wagon road.

An unknown person had a cabin in the SE1/4 of Section 20, which was eventually homesteaded by James Robinson in 1881.

Another unknown occupant of a cabin was located in the NE1/4, SE1/4 of Section 17, this cabin was also homesteaded by James Robinson in 1892.

Mountain House, built by Milner and purchased by L.P. Bown was located in the SE1/4, SE1/4, SE1/4 of Section 28.

Fairington King had built a cabin in the SE1/4, NE1/4, NE1/4 of Section 28.

An unknown person occupied a cabin in the NW1/4 of Section 31. The land was later homesteaded by Ellenor S. Roby in 1889.

T30N, R2E:

Thomas Griton cabin was in the NE1/4 of Section 26.

An unknown person occupied a cabin in the SW1/4, NW1/4 of Section 26. This land was homesteaded by Elijah Adkinson in 1880.

An unknown person was also occupying a cabin in the NW1/4, NW1/4, NW1/4 of Section 25. This land was also homesteaded by Elijah Adkinson in 1880.

An unknown person occupied a cabin in the SE1/4. SE1/4 of Section 28. This land was homesteaded in 1889 by Mark V. Jarret.

Hyde C. Horton occupied a cabin in the SE1/4 of Section 36. He gained title to this land in 1875.

T29N, R 2E:

An unknown person was occupying a cabin in the NE1/4, NE1/4 of Section 2. This land was homesteaded by William S. Wilmot in 1882. A few feet southeast of the cabin an Indian village began that extended northeast for some 1320 feet into township 30 north.

T31N, R1E:

The cabin known as Cottonwood House was located in the NE1/4, NE1/4 of Section $8.^{12}$

¹² The information for all cabins and Indian village was found in the BLM GLO land records and survey notes.

1869: A renegade Indian known as Shumway Jim, called such because he was a friend of cattleman Shumway, was suspected in the murders of several people but there was no evidence to prove Jim was the culprit. Then some Nez Perce women reported finding the bones of a man at the mouth of Three Mile Creek. Shumway and Crooks went to visit Shumway Jim who eventually admitted to killing a prospecter, a Frenchman, at that location for his weapons, blankets, horse and \$10 in money. Shumway and Crooks captured Jim and brought him back to what is now Grangeville to face justice. Three poles were erected, in the form of a tripod on Ward Griton's ranch near Three Mile Creek. Shumway Jim was hung from the apex of the poles. A group of Nez Perce Indians eventually took his body to Horseshoe Bend on the Salmon River near Slate Creek, and buried him where he had been born.¹³

1874: The Charity Grange, under the leadership of Henry Hart Spalding, son of the Reverend Henry Spalding, sought a location for a hall in Mount Idaho, but he was turned down by Loyal P. Brown, who controlled the land. Spalding then contacted John Crooks and Crooks donated five acres on Three Mile Creek in what is now the heart of Grangeville.

1875: The Territorial Legislature changed the boundaries of Idaho County to include the Camas Prairie. The boundary was moved north to Lawyers Creek. ¹⁴ It would be adjusted again in the years, 1885, 1889 and 1891. ¹⁵

1876: The Grange Hall was constructed and the Lewiston-Moutain House Wagon Road, which had gone past Crooks' cabin, was moved north to run past the Grange Hall. This location for the road would become Grangeville's Main Street. ¹⁶

1877: April-Several friendly Nez Perce Indian stopped at the home of Charles Cone on the Salmon River and warned him that they would never go onto the reservation and would fight. Cone, Woods and Joshua Fockler prepared weapons and laid in supplies of food and ammunition.¹⁷

May 13th- Tucallacasena, a brother of Looking-glass, notified Ad Chapman and M. H. Rice that the Indians were about to go to war and warned the men to be on their guard. At this time the Indians were rendezvousing at the head of Rocky Canyon . There were two lakes at that time and it was around these lakes that they erected their teepees. Here they began killing and jerking beef and storing other supplies. They also began visiting Mount Idaho in large numbers and were purchasing all the ammunition and weapons they could secure.¹⁸

June 13th- A small group of Indians began the killings along the Salmon River by killing Ricahard Divine, a retired English sailor, for his rifle. They then proceeded down the River and killed several more whites.

¹³ Illustrated History of North Idaho, Western Historical Publishing Company, 1903, page 389.

¹⁴ Pioneer Days In Idaho County, Volume #1, Sister M. Alfreda Elsensohn, pages 30 & 31.

¹⁵ Illustrated History of North Idaho, Western Historical Publishing Company, 1903, pages 399, 400 & 402.

¹⁶ Pioneer Days In Idaho County, Volume 1, Sister M. Alfreda Elsensohn, pages 129 & 130 and Illustrated History of North Idaho, Western Historical Publishing Company, 1903, page 392.

¹⁷ Illustrated History of North Idaho, Western Historical Publishing Company, 1903, page 51.

¹⁸ Illustrated History of North Idaho, Western Historical Publishing Company, 1903, page 51.

June 14th- L. P. Brown wrote a message asking for troops to be sent up from Lapwai. Lew Day volunteered to take the message, but was wounded by hostiles some 22 miles from Mount Idaho. Day returned to Cottonwood House, where the Nortons, Miss Linn Bowers, the John Chamberlins, and Joseph Moore prepared to go to Mount Idaho.

They started out at about 10:00 P.M, and when they crossed Shebang Creek they encountered Peter Ready and Lew Wilmot who had camped there for the night. Lew Day warned the two men about the Indians but Ready and Wilmot decided to stay the night.

When the Norton party was about ten miles out of Cottonwood, Indians came up on them from the rear and commenced firing. Both B.B. Norton and Joseph Moore had their horses shot from under them. The men climbed into the wagon occupied by the other members of the party and raced eastward toward Grange Hall.

Soon the wagon team was shot dead and at this point Miss Bowers and little Hill Norton escaped into the darkness. Chamberlin and one of his small sons were killed, B. B. Norton was also killed and his wife was shot through both hips. Moore was also shot through the hips and Lew Day was shot through both shoulders and one leg. The Indians withdrew at daylight on June 15th.

June 15th: Peter Ready and Lew Wilmot broke camp on Shebang Creek and started their two teams and wagons for Mount Idaho. Soon they saw Indians approaching and cut loose their lead horses, mounted them and raced across the prairie. They escaped the Indians and returned to their homes, where they got their guns and joined the party going out to bring in the bodies of the Chamberlins. (*Peter Ready had homesteaded in T30N, R3E, SW1/4 Section 3 in 1875.*)

Meanwhile, the Hill boy was picked up about daylight some four miles northwest of Mount Idaho by F. A. Fenn who was out scouting. Fenn took the boy to Crooks ranch. Crooks, C. L. Rice and James Atkison set out to the scene of the encounter. Some three miles northwest of Grangeville they found the Norton wagon and placed Mrs. Norton in the wagon, attached their horses to the wagon and started out for Mount Idaho. About this time the Indians were upon them again and another race for life began. Then a second larger party came to their relief and the Indians withdrew.

Later on this day, the party consisting of Peter Ready, Lew Wilmot, E.W. Robie, Mac Williams, and others went out and picked up Mr. Chamberlin and the others living and dead.

June 16th: Lew Day died of his wounds in the afternoon. Moore would die from his wounds some six weeks later. Mrs. Norton, Mrs. Chamberlin and her surviving child eventually would recover. ¹⁹

Colonel Perry who had left Lapwai on the night of June 15th arrived at the Grange Hall in the evening of June 16th.

After the war the Indians told Peter Ready that they attacked the Nortons believing they were the freighters. ²⁰

¹⁹ Illustrated History of North Idaho, Western Historical Publishing Company, 1903, pages 56 & 57. Pioneer Days In Idaho County, Volume #1, Sister M. Alfreda Elsensohn, pages 297, 298, 299 & 300. Northwest Fights and Fighters, Cyrus Townsend Brady, page 99. Yellow Wolf, His Own Story, L. V. McWhorter, page 47.

²⁰ Illustrated History of North Idaho, Western Historical Publishing Company, 1903, page 58.

June 18th: By the evening of June 18th, the Indians had burned ten dewellings, three stores, seven barns and one shop on the Camas Prairie and along the Salmon River. ²¹

July 3rd: Charles Blewett and William Foster are sent northwest of Cottonwood House to scout and located the Indians. Descending into Lawyers Creek they came under fire by the Indians. Blewett was killed and Foster returned to Cottonwood House. Lieutenant Rains is ordered to take Foster and ten men as an advanced party and locate the Indians while a larger party of Calvary comes up behind them. The Indians spring a trap on Rains and his men and open fire.

Foster is the first to fall and is killed in the middle of the wagon road. Rains leads his men up hill for about ½ mile where they dismount and make a stand. Only half of his men reach this point, the rest lay dead scattered along the road. While Rains is firing at Indians on his left, other Indians have circled around his west side and open fire killing Rains and the rest of his men. A few days later the bodies of Rains and his men are recovered and taken to Cottonwood House where they are buried in a mass grave. Later they were exhumed and reburied at Fort Lapwai.²²



Peter Ready Copied from the book Illustrated History of North Idaho

²¹ Illustrated History of North Idaho, Western Historical Publishing Company, 1903, page 63.

²² Yellow Wolf, His Own Story, L. V. McWhorter, pages 71-74, Northwest Fights and Fighters, Cyrus Townsend Brady, Pioneer Days In Idaho County, Volume #1, Sister M. Freda Elsensohn, pages 300-303, Illustrated History of North Idaho, Historical Publishing Company, 1903, page 63.

July 4th: Captain Perry sends John Crooks from Cottonwood House to Mount Idaho carrying a message asking for more reinforcements.²³

July 5th: Seventeen volunteers led by Lieutenant L. B. Randall were approaching Cottonwood House when they are intercepted by Indians. Randall ordered his men to charge the Indians and broke through the Indian line and found a position that was a little higher than the rest of the terrain. Here they dismounted and began a fight that lasted one and one half hours. Randall and B. F. Evans were killed in the fighting. A. B. Leland, D. H. Howser, and Charles Johnson were wounded. Howser died later from his wounds.

Others in the fight were: L. P. Wilmot, J. L. Cleary, James Buchanan, William B. Beemer, Charles W. Case, E. J. Bunker, Frank D. Vansise, C. M. Day, George Riggins, A.D. Bartly, H. C. Johnson and F. A. Fenn.²⁴

August 22nd: Captain Winters, Company "E" 1st Calvary was on scouting duty when he discovered the body of Charles Blewett. The body was brought to Cottonwood House and was buried next the fallen soldiers. ²⁵

1886: On June 9, 1886 the first legal execution in Idaho County took place when Theodore Warlick was hung for murdering Henry Savage.²⁶

1887: The town-site of Westlake was located by J. B. Rice as a preemption. Rice also started a stage stop at that location. ²⁷ Westlake was located some 9.2 miles northwest of Cottonwood, Idaho.

1890: On January 2nd, Company C, First Regiment of Idaho National Guard was formed.

After being approved by the U. S. House of Representatives on April 3rd, and by the U.S. Senate on July 1st, President Benjamin Harrison signed the Bill that admitted Idaho to the Union on July 3, 1890. ²⁸

1897: The only recorded stage hold up in Idaho County occurred on December 29th. The incoming stage from Lewiston was "held up on the flat between the Pearson ranch and town." Allie Vincent was driving the stage and was ordered to throw out the mail sacks. Charles A. Frush and Daniel Hurley were later arrested, tried, and given life sentences for the hold up.²⁹

1902: By a vote of 2637 yes & 743 no, the county seat was moved from Mount Idaho to Grangeville. 30

²³ Illustrated History of North Idaho, Western Historic Publishing Company, 1903, page 63.

²⁴ Illustrated History of North Idaho, Western Historic Publishing Company, 1903, pages 63 & 64, Northwest Fights and Fighters, Cyrus Townsend Brady, pages 125 & 126, Pioneer Days In Idaho County, Volume #1, Sister M. Alfreda Elsensohn, pages 303-312, Yellow Wolf, His Own Story, L. V. McWhorter, pages 75-77.

²⁵ Yellow Wolf, His Own Story, L.V. McWhorter, pages 70 & 71 Note: see footnote 7 on these pages.

²⁶ Illustrated History of North Idaho, Western Historic Publishing Company, 1903, page 399.

²⁷ Illustrated History of North Idaho, Western Historic Publishing Company, 1903, page 428 & Pioneer Days In Idaho County, Sister M. Alfreda Elsensohn, Volume #1, pages 475 & 476.

²⁸ Illustrated History of North Idaho, Western Historic Publishing Company, 1903, pages 76 & 401.

²⁹ Illustrated History of North Idaho, Western Historic Publishing Company, 1903, page 405.

³⁰ Pioneer Days in Idaho County, Volume #1, Sister M. Alfreda Elsensohn, page 144.

1907: The first automobile arrived in Grangeville. ³¹

1908: The first train arrived in Grangeville on December 9, 1908 and spelled the immediate destruction of the stage business between Grangeville and Lewiston. ³²

1916: On September 16th a survey of the North-South Highway was begun at White Bird and ended in Lewis County. 33

1917: A bond election that would help pay for the construction of the North-South Highway through Idaho County was passed. The people approved a \$90,000 bond.³⁴

1922: The contracts to build the North-South Highway between Cottonwood and Lewiston were let in February 1922. ³⁵ On November 9th the people in the Fenn Highway District voted down a bond that would have built the highway from Fenn to Cottonwood. This held up completion of the route for some two years. ³⁶

1923: In July of 1923 the North-South Highway was completed up the Culdesac hill, but there was no grading being done between Grangeville and Cottonwood.³⁷

1924: In February of 1924 the people of the Fenn Highway District finally passed the bond for construction of the highway. This bond covered the section beginning 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of Cottonwood and which went south 3 miles to the railroad right-of-way, thence followed the Rail Road right-of-way on the north side for 8 miles to the Grangeville Highway District line. ³⁸

On June 26, 1924 the highway was opened to through traffic between Cottonwood and Grangeville. The grading was done but the stabalization with rock would not be finished until 1925. A dedication ceremony was held in July 1924.³⁹

1925: Although the highway was open to the public. The right-of-way from Grangeville to Cottonwood was not recorded until February of 1925. ⁴⁰

This writer could not determine an exact date that the Lewiston-Moutain House Wagon Road was abandoned, but it is likely it was done piecemeal as the railroads and highways were being built. However, by the summer of 1924 the wagon road was not being used between Grangeville and Cottonwood. Today there are still sections of the original road being used between Cottonwoood and the old Westlake townsite.

³¹ Pioneer Days In Idaho County, Volume #1, Sister M. Alfreda Elsensohn, page 150.

³² Pioneer Days In Idaho County, Volume #1, Sister M. Alfreda Elsensohn, page 151.

³³ Idaho County Free Press, September 1916.

³⁴ Idaho County Free Press, June 28, 1917.

³⁵ Pioneer Days In Idaho County, Volume #1, Sister M. Alfreda Elsensohn, page 333 & Idaho County Free Press of January 9, February 2 & February 9, 1922.

³⁶ Idaho County Free Press, November 16, 1922.

³⁷ Idaho County Free Press, July 26, 1923.

³⁸ Idaho County Free Press, March 27, 1924.

³⁹ Idaho County Free Press, June 26, 1924.

⁴⁰ Idaho County Court House, ownership records index.

COORDINATES OF LEWISTON-MOUNTAIN HOUSE ROAD All Coordinate Positions Are NAD 1983 And Are Based On Surveys by AllenThompsonIn 1867 And David Thompson In 1872

T30N,	0N, R3E: North between sections 19 & 20, at 2277 feet Lewiston-Mountain House Road NAD 83: 45* 55' 25.88"N 116* 07' 08.25520"W	
	UTM Zone 11 East 568314.4	
	North between sections 28 & 29, at NAD 83 45* 54' 48.67014''N UTM: Zone 11 East 569938.5	
	East between sections 18 & 19, at 12 NAD 83: 45* 55' 55.64559N UTM: Zone 11: East 567081	
	East between sections 20 & 29, at 33 NAD 83: 45* 55' 03.15937''N UTM: Zone 11: East 570784.7	
T30N,		
	West between sections 11 & 14, at 1 NAD 83: 45* 56' 48.66189''N UTM: Zone 11: East 564782	
	North between sections 10 & 11, at NAD 83: 45* 57' 19.60976''N UTM: Zone 11: East 563475.4	
	West between sections 3 & 10, at 27 NAD 83: 45* 57' 40.52836''N UTM: Zone 11: East 562565.2	72 feet Lewiston-Mountain House Road 116* 11' 33.23015"W North 5090059.9
	South between sections 3 & 4, at 10 NAD 83: 45* 58' 22.74670''N UTM: Zone 11: East 561861.2	56 feet Lewistion-Mountain House Road 116* 12' 05.33127"W North 5091355.9
	North between sections 13 & 18, at NAD 83: 45* 56' 03.78499''N UTM: Zone 11: East 566697.8	808.5 feet Lewiston-Mountain House Road 116* 08' 22.72658"W North 5087117.1

East between sections 4 & 33, at 1039.5 feet Lewiston-Mountain House Road NAD 83: 45* 58' 33.9700"N 116* 13' 05. 9000"W UTM: Zone 11: East 560554.4 North 5091689.4

T31N, R1E:

North between sections 23 & 24, at 2805 feet Lewiston-Mountain House Road NAD 83: 46* 00' 47.27042"N 116* 17' 08.01441"W UTM: Zone 11: East 555307.6 North 5095754.5 West between sections 24 & 25, at 1171.5 feet Lewiston-Mountain House Road NAD 83: 46* 00' 18.64002"N1 16* 16' 09.51470"W UTM: Zone 11: East 556573.7 North 5094882.3 West between sections 14 & 23, at 3217.5 feet Lewiston-Mountain House Road NAD 83: 46* 01' 11.10079"N 116* 17' 53.01418"W UTM: Zone 11: East 554333.5 North 5096481.4 North between sections 9 & 10, at 313.5 feet Lewiston-Mountain House Road NAD 83: 46* 02' 06.31160"N 116* 19' 36.83374"W UTM: Zone 11: East 552086.8 North 5098166.1 West between sections 10 & 15, at 4884 feet Lewiston-Mountain House Road NAD 83 46* 02' 03.15155"N 116* 19' 31.16376"W UTM: Zone 11: East 552209.5 North 5098069.6 North between sections 8 & 9, at 4554 feet Lewiston-Mountain House Road NAD 83: 46* 02' 48.31223"N 116* 20' 51.68348"W North 5099449 UTM: Zone 11: East 550467.3 West between sections 5 & 8, at 594 feet Lewiston-Mountain House Road NAD 83: 46* 02' 55.58240"N 116* 21' 00.55343"W UTM: Zone 11: East 550275 North 5099653.8 South between sections 5 & 6, at 1386 feet Lewiston-Mountain House Road NAD 83 46* 03' 34.49299"N 116* 22' 07.44325"W UTM: Zone 11: East 548827.8 North 5100861.1 North between sections 25 & 30, at 4224 feet, Lewiston-Mountain House Road NAD 83: 46* 00' 07.72.978"N 116* 15' 53.07484"W UTM: Zone 11: East 556930.4 North 5094548.8 West on the north boundary between sections 6 & 31, at 2062.5 feet Lewiston-Mountain House Road. NAD 83: 46* 03' 48.00308"N 116* 22' 37.09323"W UTM: Zone 11: East 548187.5 North 5101273.1

 West between sections 30 & 31, Lewiston-Mountain House Road

 NAD 83:
 45* 59' 26.15"N

 116* 14' 40. 76"W

 UTM:
 Zone 11:

 East
 558497.9

 North
 5093280.1

T31N, R2E:

North between sections 32 & 33, at 330 feet Lewiston-Mountain House Road NAD 83: 45* 58' 36.17441"N 116* 13' 20.53227"W UTM: Zone 11: East 560238.9 North 5091754.3 North between sections 31 & 32, at 5115 feet Lewiton-Mountain House Road NAD 83: 45* 59' 23.89151"N 116* 14' 36.49392"W UTM: Zone 11: East 558590.4 North 5093211.3 East between sections 30 & 31, at 5214 feet Lewiston-Mountain House Road NAD 83: 45* 59' 25.63140"W 116* 14' 39.31398"W UTM: Zone 11: East 558529.2 North 5093264.4 T32N, R1E: On the west boundary of R1E, North between sections 31 & 36, at 3201 feet Lewiston-Mountain House Road NAD 83: 46* 04' 19.96366''N 116* 23' 23.60310"W UTM: Zone 11: East 547180.7 North 5102251.7 T32N, R1W: West between sections 25 & 26, at 2402.4 feet Lewiston-Mountain House Road NAD 83: 46* 04' 40.41396''N 116* 23' 57.51306"W UTM: Zone 11: East 546447.5 North 5102877.3 North between sections 25 & 26, at 3498 feet Lewiston-Mountain House Road NAD 83: 46* 05' 15.45000"N 116* 24' 39.04294"W UTM: Zone 11: East 545547.5 North 5103952 North between sections 22 & 23, at 2739 feet Lewiston-Mountain House Road NAD 83: 46* 05' 58.73000"N 116* 25' 53.38000"W UTM: Zone 11: East 543941.7 North 5105253.6 West between sections 23 & 26, at 3333 feet Lewiston-Mountain House Road NAD 83: 46* 05' 32.27461"N 116* 25' 26.64305"W UTM: Zone 11: East 544521.5 North 5104463.8 North between sections 21 & 22, at 4194 feet Lewiston -Mountain House Road NAD 83: 46* 06' 13.44456"N 116* 27' 08.93331"W UTM: Zone 11: East 542316.3 North 5105718.9 West between sections 16 & 21, at 4158 Lewiston -Mountain House Road NAD 83: 46* 06' 24.57399"N 116* 28' 22.45000"N UTM: Zone 11: East 540735.7 North 5106051.7

 North between sections 16 & 17, at 99 feet Lewiston-Mountain House Road

 NAD 83:
 46* 06' 25.07000''N
 116* 28' 22.45000''N

 UTM:
 Zone 11:
 East 540735.6
 North 5106067.1

North between sections 17 & 18, at 2329.8 feet Lewiton-Mountain House RoadNAD 83:46* 06' 47.90000"N116* 29' 38.33000"WUTM: Zone 11:East 539102.2North 5106761.1

East between sections 7 & 18, at 1947 feet Lewiston-Mounatain House Road NAD 83: 46* 07' 17.68000''N 116* 30' 23.45000''W UTM: Zone 11: East 538128 North 5107674.1

West between sectiom 7 & 12 on the West boundary of township, at 1716 feet Lewiston-Mountain House Road. NAD 83: 46* 07' 34.93000"N 116* 30' 52.95000"W UTM: Zone 11: East 537491/6 North 5108202.6



Stage coach leaving Grangeville Courtesy of Idaho State Historical Society Copyrighted by the Idaho State Historical Society

COORDINATES OF ASSOCCIATED CABINS/HOUSES As Surveyed By Allen Thompson In 1867

T30N, R3E: North between sections 19 & 20, at 2277 feet a house bears S60*E 246 feet. This was John Crooks house. NAD 83: 45* 55' 24.81765"N 116* 07' 06.08516"W UTM: Zone 11: East 568361.5 North 5085932.5 North between sections 19 & 20, at 3696 feet a house bears east 396 feet. Homesteaded by T. Archer NAD 83: 45* 55' 40.04428"N 116* 09' 03.42655"W UTM: Zone 11: East 565829.2 North 5086375 East between sections 29 & 32, at 3838 feet a house bears north 1320 feet. This was the home of Seth Jones Sr. NAD 83: 45* 54' 23.38000"N 116* 06' 13.51359"W UTM: Zone 11: East 569515.1 North 5084049 North between sections 28 & 29, at 3927 feet a house bears N80*E, 3300 feet. This land was homesteaded by William A. Fairfield in 1878. NAD 83: 45* 54' 54.97126"N 116* 05' 07.49352"W UTM: Zone 11: East 570926.4 North 5085040.1 North between sections 20 & 21, at 2640 feet a house bears S70*W, 1584 feet. This land was homesteaded by James H. Robinson in 1881. NAD 83: 45* 55' 23.83903''N 116* 06' 14.77465"W UTM: Zone 11: East 5699467 North 5085914.6 North between sections 16 & 17, at 5280 feet a house bears N75*W, 792 feet. This land homesteaded by James H. Robinson in 1892. NAD 82: 45* 56' 50.07858"N 116* 05' 42.18584"W UTM: Zone 11: East 570138.7 North 5088584.1 North between sections 33 & 34, at 5280 feet Mountain House bears N20*W. Built by Moses Milner and purchsed by L. P. Brown. Brown homesteaded in 1877. 41 NAD 83: 45* 54' 12.97263"N 116* 04' 39.96253"W UTM: Zone 11: East 571534.4 North 5083750.7

⁴¹ Homestead Records Obtained From BLM Web Page.

East between sections 28 & 33, at 3887 feet house bears north 528 feet. This land was homesteaded by James Odle in 1877. Odle was the brother-in-law of Loyal P. Brown. NAD 83: 45* 54' 16.17121''N 116* 05' 31.83307"W UTM: Zone 11: East 570415.7 North 5083836.6 North between sections 27 & 28, at 3960 feet a house bears west 660 feet. This land was homesteaded by Fairington B. King in 1881. NAD 83: 45* 54' 49.90185''N 116* 04' 48.10325"W UTM; Zone 11: East 571346.2 North 5084860.6 T30N, R2E: North between sections 25 & 26, at 2640 feet house bears S50*E 1320 feet. Homesteaded by Thomas W. Griton in 1884 NAD 83: 45* 54' 29.44411''N 116* 09' 52.89575"W UTM: Zone 11: East 564786.6 North 5084184.8 North between sections 25 & 26, at 3300 feet house due east 396 feet. Homedsteaded by Elijah Adkinson in 1880 NAD 83: 45* 54' 44.17440''N 116* 09' 32.71583"W UTM: Zone 11: East 565216.5 North 5084644 West between sections 24 & 25, at 5016 feet house bears south 99 feet. Homesteaded by Elijah Adkinson in 1880. NAD 83: 45* 55' 03.31043"N 116* 09' 34.94619"W UTM: Zone 11: East 565162.3 North 5085234.1 North between sections 27 & 28, at 0.0 feet house bears N60*W 1320 feet. Homesteaded by Mark V. Jarret in 1889. NAD 83: 45* 54' 17.89026"N 116* 12' 25.82698"W UTM: Zone 11: East 561495.3 North 5083794.6 From the corner of section 34 & 35 on the south boundary of the Township a house bears S48*E 528 feet. Homesteaded by William S. Wilmot in 1882. 116* 10' 48.45495"W NAD 83: 45* 53' 16.23384"N UTM: Zone 11: East 563612.8 North 5081913 North on the east boundary between R2E & R3E from the corner of sections 31&36, at 2640 feet house bears S50*W 1980 feet. Homesteaded by Hyde C. Horton in 1875. NAD 83: 45* 53' 32.69679"N 116* 08' 44.82411"W UTM: Zone 11: East 566271.9 North 5082449 From the aforesaid position on the east boundary of T2E a house bears N85*E 1320 feet. Homesteaded by Ellenor S. Roby in 1889. NAD 83: 45* 53' 46.18764''N 116* 08' 05.34398"W UTM: Zone 11: East 567118.2 North 5082874.5

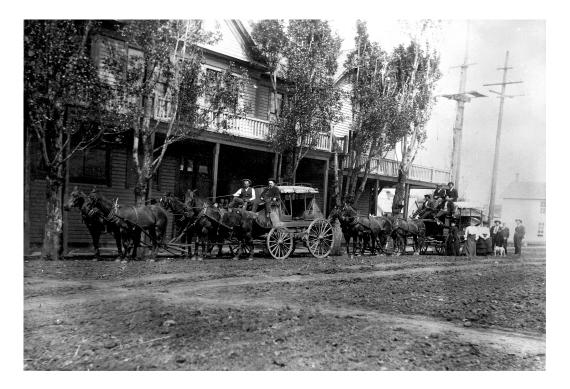
T31N, R1E:

North between sections 8 & 9, at 4554feet house bears west 132feet. This was thelocation of Cottonwood House. Homesteaded by Orrin Morrill in 1879.NAD 83: 46* 02' 47.97218"N116* 20' 53.93349"WUTM: Zone 11: East 550419North 5099438.1

COORDIANATES OF INDIAN VILLAGE

Recorded by Allen Thompson in 1867 From the corner of section 34 & 35 on the south boundary of T2E the beginning of the Village bears South 10*E, 660 feet and extends N60*E 1320 feet. Beginning Coordinates: NAD 83: 45* 53' 13.26379''N 116* 10' 52.52493''W UTM: Zone 11: East 563526 North 5081820.4

Ending Coordinates: NAD 83 45* 53' 26.14396"N 116* 10' 37.66503"W UTM: Zone 11: East 563842.2 North 5082216.8



Mr. Jackson with coach in front of Jersey Hotel, Grangeville, Idaho. Courtesy of Idaho Historical Society Copyrighted by the Idaho Historical Society

COORDIANATES OF ASSOCIATED EVENTS

Nortons Attacked-Nez Perce War 1877: T30N, R2E, SW1/4, NW1/4, S11 NAD 83: 45* 57' 16.26998''N 116* 10' 45.07926"W UTM: Zone 11: East 563609.3 North 5089321.8 Cottonwood Skirmish-Nezperce War 1877: T31N, R1E, SW1/4, SW1/4, S10 NAD 83: 45* 02' 15.91202"N 116* 19' 36.47361"W UTM: Zone 11: East 552084 North 5098462.4 William Fosters Grave: T32N, R1W, NE1/4, NE1/4, S36 NAD 83: 46* 04' 32.42387"N 116* 23' 42.63307"W UTM: Zone11: East 546769 North 5102633.2 Lt. Rains & 10 men killed-Nez Perce War 1877: T32N, R1W, SW1/4, S25 NAD 83: 46* 04' 43.34000''N 116* 24' 06.18000"W UTM: Zone 11: East 546260.7 North 5102966.3 Lew Day wounded-Nez Perce War 1877: T32N, R1W, NE1/4, SW1/4, S17 NAD 83: 46* 06' 46.10364''N 116* 29' 18.38391"W UTM: Zone 11: East 539530.7 North 5106708.4 Peter Ready's Camp on Shebang Creek-1877: T31N, R1E, NW1/4, NE1/4, S25 NAD 83: 46* 00' 18.53"N 116* 16' 22.27"W UTM: Zone 11: East East 556299.4 North 5094876.4

INTEGRITY

The Lewiston-Mountain House Road from Mount Idaho to Cottonwood has been obliterated by farming. Most evidence of the road has succumbed to the plow. However, some evidence might be found where the road crossed Shebang Creek.

There are three sections of the road that are still in use today, which total some two and three quarters miles. The first section is approximately ¹/₄ mile in length and runs from the eastern edge of section 36 to just past Foster's Grave. This section, has been widened and paved. The second section is approximately 2 miles in length and crosses through sections 21 and 22 in T32N, R1W. This section has been widened and graveled. The third existing section is approximately ¹/₂ mile in length and runs through the Westlake townsite to the Idaho-Lewis County line. This section has also been widened and graveled.

SIGNIFICANCE

The Lewiston-Mountain House Wagon Road is significant for its contribution to early Central Idaho and Idaho County history. The road contributed to the settlement of North Central Idaho and was an important route during the Nez Perce War of 1877. The road was in use for some six decades from the spring of 1862 to June of 1924, and supplied goods to miners, farmers and contributed to the overall commercial growth of Idaho County.

Although much of the route has been destroyed by farming there are surviving sections northwest of Cottonwood, which need to be surveyed by a qualified person.

RECOMMENDATIONS

(A) Those segments of the road that are still existing should be surveyed to determine the remaining values of setting, location, association, and other values that could make them eligible for NRHP considerations.

(B) The Idaho County Historic Preservation Commission should determine if any or all of the noted "associated sites" are important enough to be of historic value and/or interest to the people of Idaho and Idaho County.

REFERENCES

The following books and materials were used to produce this assessment:

Victor, Francis Fuller

1870 The River Of The West (*The Adventures Of Joe Meek*) Mountain Press Publishing Company, Missoula, 1983.

Western Historical Publishing 1903 Illustrated History of North Idaho

Parker, Rev. Samuel

1838 Parker's Exploring Tour (Beyond The Rocky Mountains) Reprinted 1967 in limited edition, Ross & Haines, Minneapolis, Minnestota.

Bernard DeVoto

1953 The Journals Of Lewis And Clark, edited by Bernard DeVoto, Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston New York. Cyrus Townsend Brady

1907 Northwest Fights and Fighters, *reprinted 1928, Doubleday, Doran & Company, Garden City, New York.*

L. V. McWhoter

1940 Yellow Wolf (His Own Story), *The Caxton Printers, Ltd. Caldwell, Idaho, fourth printing January 1986.*

Sister M. Alfreda Elsensohn

1947 Pioneer Days in Idaho County, Volume 1, The Caxton Printers, LTD. 1965 edition by the Idaho Corporation Of Benedictine Sisters.

Idaho County Free Press 1900 through 1924 editions

BLM-GLO Land Patent Records

BLM-GLO Land Survey Records and Plats

MAPS

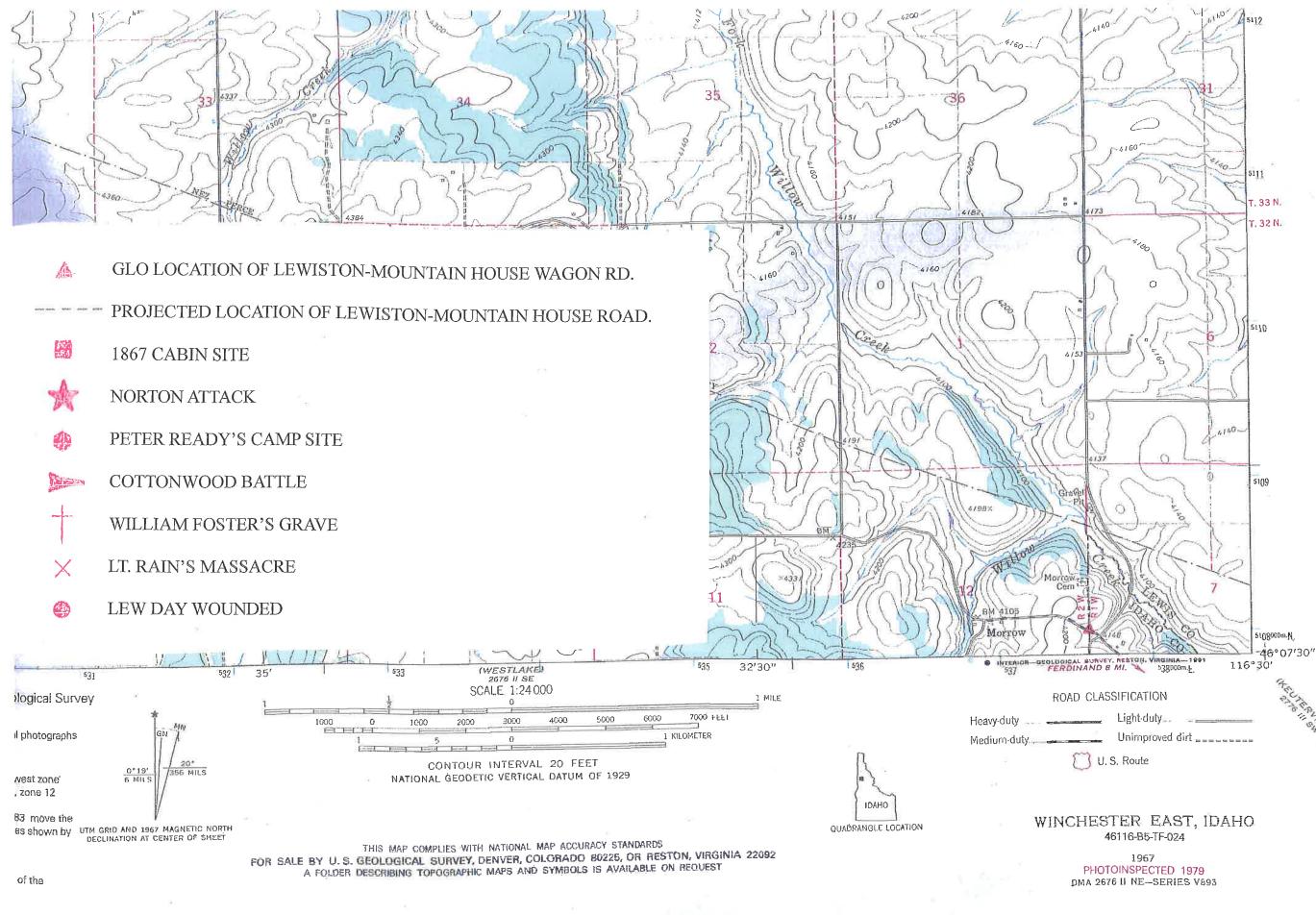
USGS. 7.5' Grangeville East, Quadrangle. T30N, R3E: Sections 27, 28, 29, 20, 19 & 18. USGS 7.5" Grangeville West, Quadrangle. T30N, R2E: Sections 13, 14, 11, 10, 3 & 4. T31N, R2E: Sections 33, 32, & 30. USGS 7.5' Fenn, Quadrangle. T31N, R2E: Section 30. USGS 7.5' Cottonwood Quadrangle. T31N, R2E: Section 30. T31N, R1E: Sections 25, 24, 23, 14, 15, 10, 9, 5 & 6. T32N, R1E: Section 31.

USGS 7.5' Keuterville Quadrangle. T31N, R1E: Section 6. T32N. R1E: Section 31. T32N, R1W: Sections 36, 25, 26, 23, 22, 21, 17 & 18. USGS 7.5' Westlake Quadrangle. T32N, R1W: Sections 18 &7. USGS 7.5' Winchester East Quadrangle. T32N, R1W:

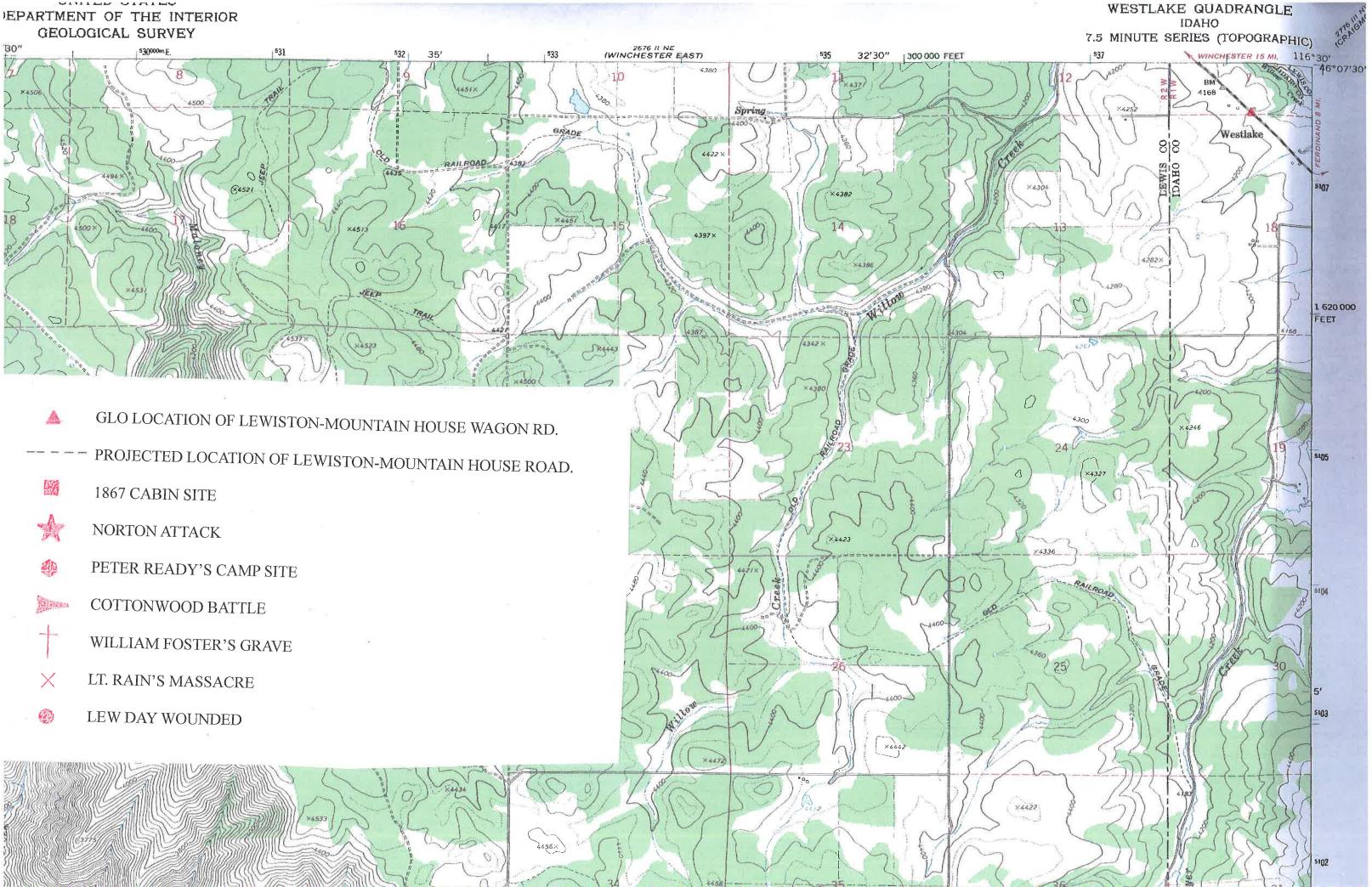
Section 7.25

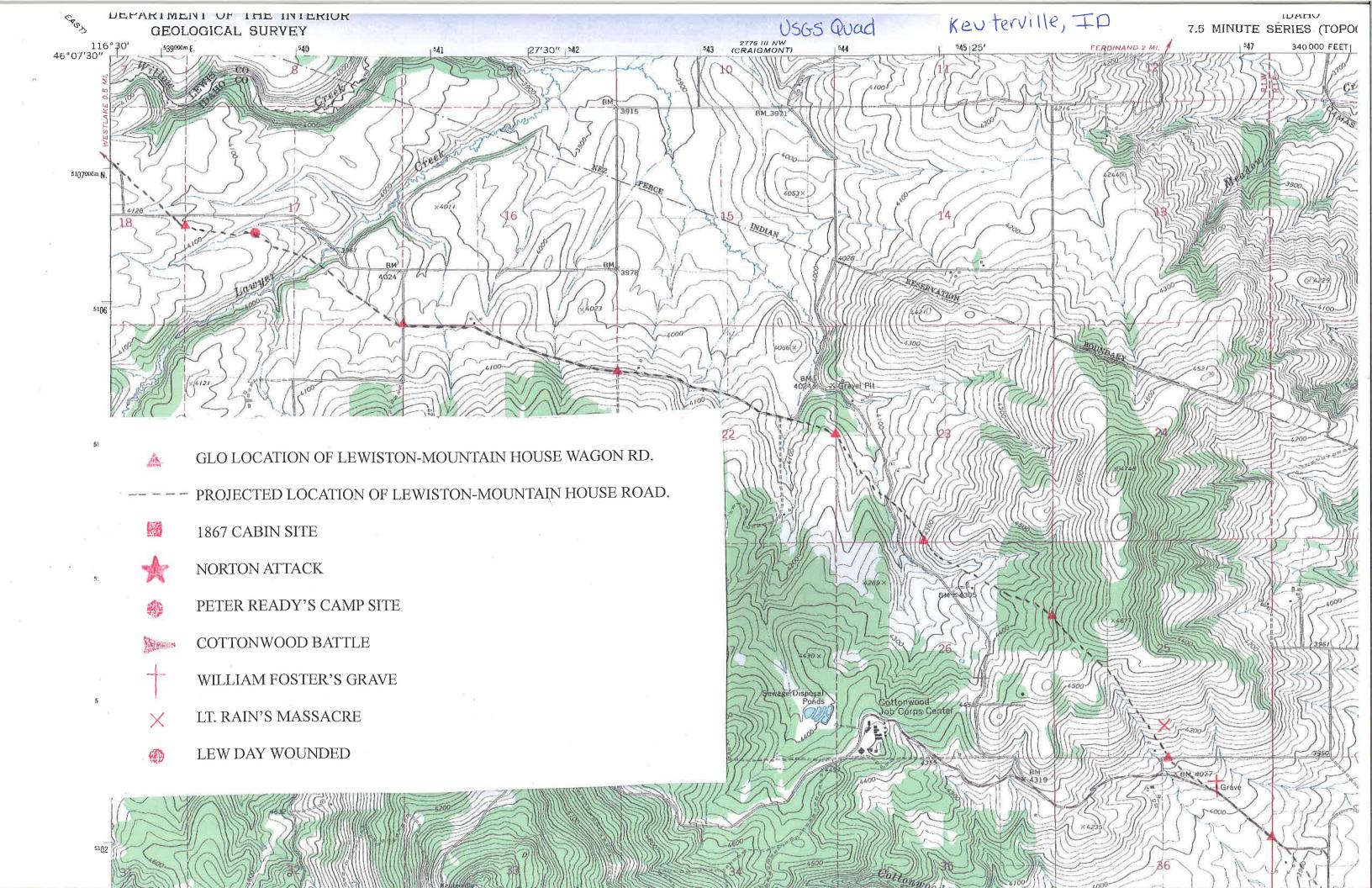


William Foster's Grave in February 2014. A James G. Huntley Photo



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GLO LOCATION OF LEWISTON-MOUNTAIN HOUSE WAGON RD. AL. PROJECTED LOCATION OF LEWISTON-MOUNTAIN HOUSE ROAD. 1867 CABIN SITE NORTON ATTACK PETER READY'S CAMP SITE COTTONWOOD BATTLE WILLIAM FOSTER'S GRAVE LT. RAIN'S MASSACRE Х US65 Quad Keuterville, ID LEW DAY WOUNDED

Keuterville

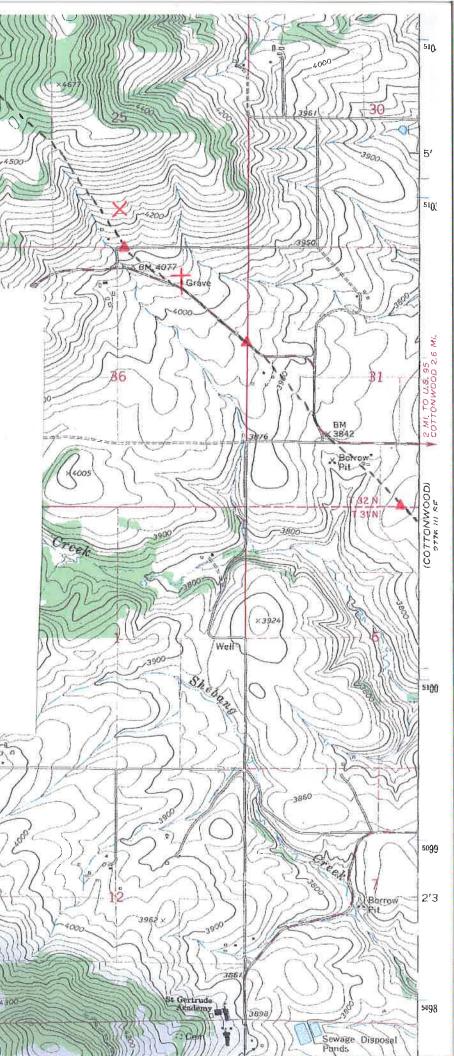
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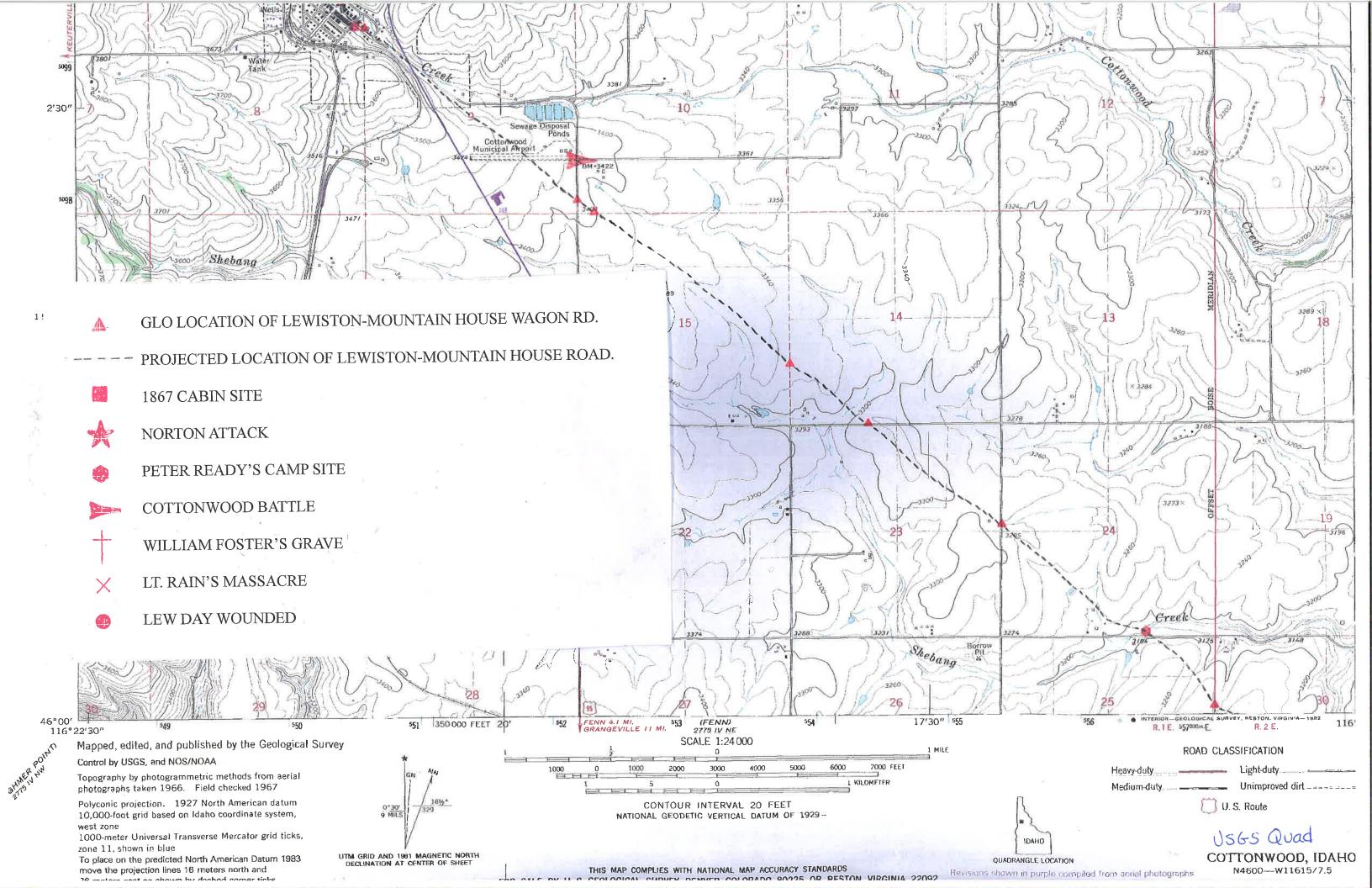
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USGS Quad CoHenwood, JD GLO LOCATION OF LEWISTON-MOUNTAIN HOUSE WAGON RD. A PROJECTED LOCATION OF LEWISTON-MOUNTAIN HOUSE ROAD. 1867 CABIN SITE 1994 - 1 1994 - 1994 - 1994 - 1994 - 1994 - 1994 - 1994 - 1994 - 1994 - 1994 - 1994 - 1994 - 1994 - 1994 - 1994 - 1994 -1994 - 1994 - 1994 - 1994 - 1994 - 1994 - 1994 - 1994 - 1994 - 1994 - 1994 - 1994 - 1994 - 1994 - 1994 - 1994 -NORTON ATTACK BM 3294 余 BESERVAT PETER READY'S CAMP SITE COTTONWOOD BATTLE Col ins and WILLIAM FOSTER'S GRAVE LT. RAIN'S MASSACRE Х LEW DAY WOUNDED æ T. 31 ZTT6 III SW T. 31 N. 1393 2 Cattonwood Cottonwood

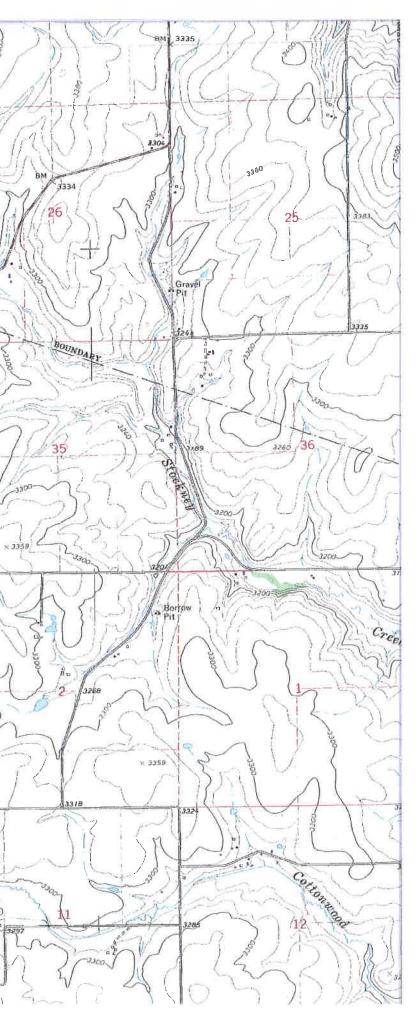
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