

I. CHRONOLOGICAL SURVEY

A. GENERAL

to 1836 Prehistoric/Early Historic Era

1836-1860 Mission Era

1860-1902 Indian Agency Era

Establishment Period (1860-1871)—Agency Cabin

Growth & Stability Period (1872-1902)—Agent's Residence

1902-1935 Transition Period (Watson's Store)

1935-1964 Spalding Memorial Park Era—Memorial Grove/Arboredum, Picnic Area

1964-present.... National Park Era

B. DETAIL

1805 (September) Lewis & Clark come out of Bitterroots

1806 (May) Lewis & Clark pass through on return trip

1836 Spaldings, Whitmans (Waiilatpu), William Gray come out

1831 visit to St. Louis

1834 Jason Lee & Methodists come out

1836 (April) Set out from Missouri frontier. Traveled with the fur trade caravan as far as the Rockies. Rendezvous on the Green River near present-day Daniel, WY. HBC traders escorted them from rendezvous to Ft. Vancouver, where they arrive on September 12. *Narcissa Whitman and Eliza Spalding became first white women to cross the broad middle of North America.*

Women remain at Ft. Vancouver. Whitman selects site 25 mi east of Ft. Walla Walla, Waiilatpu, on the Walla Walla river. Gray remains back to build house while Whitman and Spalding, along with 20-30 Nez Perce, move east. Arrive at Clearwater River Oct 12, select site next day.

Lapwai Creek flows from Winchester Lake, approx. 22 miles south of Spalding. Lewis and Clark had noted the creek in their journals, and stated that the Cho-pun-ish (Pierced Noses) had set up several lodges nearby.

First location 2 mi up creek @ foot of a hill (historical marker on HWY 95)

1838 (summer) moved to second site; original site was too hot and had annoying mosquitoes; second site is nearer river which brings cool breezes, also has fewer mosquitoes

1846 Oregon Treaty (ends joint occupation since Treaty of 1818)

1847-62 Spaldings in Willamette

Background

1841 1st year Oregon trail; settlement in Willamette

1847 Whitmans killed by Cayuse; Spaldings head out to Willamette

Spaldings in Willamette

- 1851 Eliza dies in Brownsville, OR (1849?)
- 1853 Washington Territory formed, and with it, the Washington Superintendency
- 1855 (May 29-June 11) Treaty of 1855
 Many headmen off hunting buffalo; Lawyer selected to represent NP
 Looking Glass returns and opposes treaty
 Lawyer persuades for treaty because involves no land lost
 Each headman signs
 William Craig allowed to keep the land
- 1860 Gold discovered in Orofino Creek, tributary of Clearwater R.
- 1863 Idaho Territory formed, and with it, the Idaho Superintendency; Idaho Superintendency discontinued in 1870 and thereafter Agents report directly to Bureau of Indian Affairs in Washington, D.C. (BIA had been formed in 1849 by the Dept. of War)

1862-72?? Spalding returns as Superintendent of Schools for the Nez Perce Indian Agency

- 1863 Treaty
- 1872 (fall) Spalding moves to Kamiah
- 1874 (August 4) dies at Lapwai Mission House
- 1887 General Allotment Act (a.k.a. Severalty Act or Dawes Act): grants 160 acres of reservation lands to heads of households and 80 acres per person to orphans and unmarried adults who were enrolled members of Indian tribes. Remaining reservation lands were made available for non-Indian agricultural settlement in tracts of not more than 160 acres. Goal was to transform Indians into non-Indian farmers. Congressmen believed that, by opening unallotted reservation lands to white settlement would introduce new neighbors to Indians whose example and advice would help Indians assimilate.
- 1904 Indian Agency relocates from Spalding to Lapwai to the site of the former Ft. Lapwai
- 1913 Presbyterian churches at Lapwai and Brownsville arrange for Eliza's remains to be relocated to Lapwai; Sep 4—remains arrive; Sep 5—services led by NP Presbyterians conducted in NP and English

II. SITES

- Early Site** Giant Short-Faced Bear
- Village Sites** Pit houses

Coyote's Cradleboard

- 8-ton basalt
- Coyote's cradle board
- 1924 Daughters of the American Revolution relocated and dedicated it

Spalding Mission House

Immediate background to Henry Spalding

1836(Nov 28) Spaldings, Whitmans, William H. Gray (mechanic & carpenter), led by approx. 125 NP, arrive at Lapwai to build mission.

Context: The first location was two miles further south, up Lapwai creek, at the foot of a hill (called "Thunder Hill," cf. historical marker on HWY 95). The original site was selected on 12 October by Spalding, together with Whitman and a NP headman named Tackensuatis.

1838(summer) Spaldings relocate to second site. The original site was too hot, and this site was nearer the river, thus cooler breezes; also fewer mosquitoes.

Notes on this structure

Iron fence was erected by DAR encloses main wing of house, which stood 1.5 stories

Main wing featured an enclosed stairway, painted woodwork, two chimneys of stone and adobe, two fireplaces

Another wing extended 90 ft to the east; one large bedroom and a small "buttery"

Agency Cabin 1862Cabin built by US Government

Cabin was used as a dispensary, school and living quarters

Background

1853Washington Territory organized, creation of Washington Superintendency

1855Treaty established the Nez Perce agency at Lapwai

Treaty also provided that the US Government would build two schools, a sawmill, a gristmill, and a large house for the head chief.

Isaac Stevens, Governor and Suptintendent of Indian Affairs, appointed William H. Tappan as resident agent and William Craig as official interpreter.

1904Bureau of Indian Affairs moves agency to present-day Lapwai, three mi. south on Highway 95, to the site of the former Ft. Lapwai

1935-36Evans family purchased structure and moved it 0.10 mi southeast of present location; served as the Evans museum

1976-77National Park Service returned it to its original site and restored the exterior to the original 1860s era.

Mill Race	1839 William Gray and two mountain men, Richard Williams and George Ebberts, completed the system with NP help Workers dug the main race for 1/3 mile, then built up an embankment in the middle of the run so that the water would glide over an earth depression. They also constructed an 80-foot waste race that was ten feet deep.
Sawmill	1839-40 <u>Construction</u> (Oct 4 '39) A.M. Blair arrives. Blair was a skilled workman and supervised construction of two mills—sawmill and gristmill. Sawmill was first. (Oct-Nov) Blair, together with James Conner (a mountain man), several NP, and Spalding (when he could) gathered timber up the Clearwater and brought it down to the mission site. (Nov 11) Workers begin to frame the mill. (Feb 18 '40) Workers raise the mill structure. Structure never had a roof. "Building stood on the right-hand side, north of the pit. The mill's water wheel turned the saw located in the center of the pit. The mission workers constructed this wheel," but the irons came 350 miles upriver from Ft. Vancouver (HBC post on the Columbia River). (April 1) Mill cut its first lumber. Within a year the mill supplied the needs of the mission, settled indians, and mountain men who had married NP women and staked out farms in the area. 1840-47 <u>Use</u>: "Here at Spalding's sawmill, logs rafted down the river were cut into boards to make buildings for the mission community...A waterwheel turned a crank that moved the saw blade up and down. Another mechanism pushed the log into the blade." 1879 Lapwai creek floods; course of the creek changed, and high waters washed away the mill structures
Gristmill	1838-40 <u>Construction</u> (Early Spring '38) In one of his trips upriver, on the third day of the trip, Spalding locates a granite outcrop of millstone quality. (Oct 4 '39) A. M. Blair arrives. (Nov '39) As sawmill work is underway, Blair heads up the Clearwater with the Rev. John Griffin (independent Congregationalist minister wintering at Lapwai) and begin to cut stones from the granite outcrop. (Dec 3 '39) Blair and Griffin have two cut stones, each with a diameter of 30 inches. They build large rafts to float the stones to the mission site. (Jan 11 '40) Blair finishes attaching water wheel and attaches to the stones, ready to grind grain. After 1847, the gristmill and sawmill deteriorated rapidly. Today, one of the original millstones is embedded in a sidewalk at the University of Idaho in Moscow.

Purpose and use: The gristmill sustained the Spaldings and associates with flour and meal. It also enabled some NP to abandon hunting and gathering in favor of sedentary agriculture. Spalding believed that keeping NP in one location was more conducive to delivering religious instruction to them, and it prepared them for the inevitable settlement by Euro-Americans.

1879Lapwai creek floods; course of the creek changed, and high waters washed away the mill structures

Nez Perce Agency—Agent's House

1891Residence constructed by the Office of Indian Affairs

Agents controlled the management, contracts, and legal decisions of many allotments. These lease payments went through his office, as did probate questions. An accurate record of all payments and disbursements was kept in a cash book. Census was necessary for verification of lineage so as to prove heirship of allotments. Record also kept of NP who lived off the reservation.

Before a Nez Perce could sell their allotment the agent had to agree to the transaction and would hold the money in escrow to be distributed later. At the direction of the Indian Office, the agent collected the money and allowed each individual to withdraw only \$25.00 per month on his or her account. In 1895 the agent either convinced some NP or at his discretion deposited money from per-capita payments or moneys from other sources in the First National Bank in Moscow, ID. Shortly afterward the bank failed. It has been estimated that the NP lost between \$200,000 and \$300,000. By 1911, many NP had lost land, money or both either directly or indirectly through severalty. The agency had cancelled over 100 allotments and many more had been sold, leased, or erroneously awarded to the wrong heirs.

1904Agency moves to town of Lapwai

Since served as a hotel, saloon, power company, private residence until 1968

1969purchased by National Parks Service

Cemetery

Henry Spalding: Earliest known burial is Henry Spalding in 1874. Presbyterian Church, Synod of Washington, erected this monument in the 1920s.

Eliza Spalding: 1849 or 51 Eliza dies in Brownsville, OR, In 1913, Presbyterian churches at Lapwai and Brownsville arrange for Eliza's remains to be relocated to Lapwai; Sep 4—remains arrive; Sep 5—services led by NP Presbyterians conducted in NP and English

John B. Monteith: Indian agent at the time of the Nez Perce war of 1877.

Josiah Red Wolf: Last survivor of the War of 1877. He died in 1971 at nearly 99 years of age. Josiah's parents pitched their tipi next to Chief Joseph's lodge. This memorial was designed and carved by NP artisan Doug Hyde.