

HABS No. ID-76

Nez Perce Indian Agency--Agency Log Building
Nez Perce National Historical Park
Spalding
Nez Perce County
Idaho

HABS
ID
35-SPALD,
4-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

NEZ PERCE INDIAN AGENCY--
AGENCY LOG BUILDING

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- LOCATION:** Nez Perce National Historical Park. Near the south bank of the Clearwater River, about 100 yards from the former location of the U.S. Highway Route 95 bridge, in the town of Spalding, Nez Perce County, Idaho.
- PRESENT OWNER:** National Park Service
- PRESENT USE:** Vacant; exterior exhibit.
- SIGNIFICANCE:** In 1861, the Nez Perce Indian Agency was formally established in Lapwai (renamed Spalding), Idaho, as one of the provisions of the 1855 treaty between the U.S. government and the Nez Perce tribe. The agency was created to administer the reparations of the treaty. The Nez Perce were promised money, teachers and schools, houses and jobs in exchange for the traditional lands they agreed to cede so white settlement and development could proceed. The agency was a complex comprised of residences, offices, barns, grist and sawmills, other service-related structures, and fenced agricultural fields and irrigation ditches.
- This ca. 1862 structure is the oldest building in the Spalding area. Though its original use is not known for certain, it probably served as an office or a residence for agency employees. In 1936 the building was moved to the east of its original location, and incorporated into a private museum complex owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Joe Evans. It served in this capacity until 1959. The Nez Perce tribe acquired the building and sold it later, in the 1970s, to the National Park Service. In 1974 this structure was documented and restored and relocated back to its approximate original location. The board and batten siding, wood roof, and windows were replaced, and the building was placed on a concrete pad.
- DESCRIPTION:** The building is 35' x 16'-6", with a gable roof approximately 13' high. The walls are constructed of split logs about 5-1/2" thick and 9" to 12" high, half-dovetailed at the corners. The walls are sided with boards and battens.