

SITE

Timeline of Whitman Mission NHS

Whitmans arrived 1836

Whitmans killed 1847

Fort Waters established 1848-1849

Squatters use the buildings 1850

Donation Land Act was implemented in 1850. Almost 30,000 settlers made use of it until it expired in 1855.

Oregon Territory established 1848

Cayuse destroy the buildings 1850

Washington Territory established 1853

Oregon becomes a state in 1859

Old Fort Walla Walla abandoned 1855

Cushing Eells buys the mission site for \$1000.00 from the Boston Missionary Board and gets the charter for Whitman Seminary in 1859. He moves his family to the site in 1862 and builds on a log room in fall of 1863 for the school. Thirteen students enrolled in Dec 1863 and it lasted 3 months-too far from town. He had to move to the present day location on Mill Creek and raises enough money to build a school-establishing the Whitman Seminary on October 15, 1866 with 36 students. The school becomes Whitman College in 1882 under the auspices of the Congregational Education Society. (Whitman Seminary/Academy 1866-1912)

Homestead Act 1862

Cushing Eells quitclaims the land to Charles Moore in 1872.

Baker Railroad was completed in 1872.

Mission site sold to Montraville Fisk in February 1878

Mission site sold to Charles Swegle in April 1880

In 1901, a move was made for the State of Washington to control Whitman Mission.

Land owner Swegle donated 7 acres (grave and hill) to the Oregon Pioneer Historical Society. Then his son gave 8 more acres in 1897 for the Monument and grave event.

In 1908 Swegle family gave one acre for the Whitman-Eells Memorial church built in 1908 and used for 16 years.

Kiwanis Club cleared the title to the Mission site in 1926.

In 1930, Swegle family gave J. C. Fentress the 37.5 acres containing the mission buildings.

Fentress sold the site for \$10,000 to the Whitman Centennial Incorporated, other titles had to be cleared and then a total of 45.84 acres were given to the National Park Service on 1-20-1940.

In 1958, 46.71 acres added by condemnation and purchase.

Became a National Park on May 31, 1962