

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
APR 30 1976
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED MAY 24 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC *pk*
* * * The Wasden Site (Owl Cave) 10-Bv-30
AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER [REDACTED] NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CITY, TOWN [REDACTED] CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
STATE [REDACTED] VICINITY OF [REDACTED] COUNTY [REDACTED] CODE [REDACTED]

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME [REDACTED]
STREET & NUMBER [REDACTED]
CITY, TOWN [REDACTED] VICINITY OF [REDACTED] STATE [REDACTED]

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. [REDACTED]
STREET & NUMBER [REDACTED]
CITY, TOWN [REDACTED] STATE [REDACTED]

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Idaho State Historic Preservation Plan
DATE 1972 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Idaho State Historical Society
CITY, TOWN 610 N. Julia Davis Drive, Boise STATE Idaho

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located on the [REDACTED] Snake River Plain [REDACTED] of Idaho Falls, Idaho Wasden site (10 Bv 30) consists of three lava rockshelters formed beneath the [REDACTED] edges of depressions resulting from the collapse and gradual filling of a lava tube. The rockshelters are situated to [REDACTED] Kettle Butte, a local landmark and extinct volcanic cone. Archaeological research and excavation has been concentrated in the central rockshelter, Owl Cave; the [REDACTED] rockshelter (Coyote) has been tested and Dry Cat [REDACTED] is untested. Access to the site is by [REDACTED] road from [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and by trail across private land.

Owl Cave is 10-12 meters wide and varies 10-20 meters from the dripline to the back wall. Archaeological work at Owl Cave has been underway since 1965 and has resulted in the excavation of the east half, from floor fill level to a depth of 3-5 meters, including a formerly buried alcove which probably represents the connecting tube of the system. Fill in the rockshelter consists of basalt blocks, wind and water deposited sediments and cultural material; all three rockshelters open to the south/southwest.

Efforts have been made to preserve for future study the west half of Owl Cave and to maintain the east half for current excavation against annual water damage from snow and spring rain accumulation.

The area surrounding the rockshelters is presently planted in crested wheat grass and utilized for spring grazing.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Investigations at Owl Cave have yielded information reflecting the culture history and paleo-environment of the ██████████ Snake River Plain. The site is of considerable depth, well-stratified, and undisturbed, and contains a sequence marked by a period of aboriginal utilization and slow fill rates from ca. 3000 B.P. to late prehistoric time, an extensive bison kill ca. 8200 B.P., and the remains of extinct megafauna, including proboscidean, bison, horse and camel, ca. 12,500 B.P. Major depositional features include varying rates of silt infilling and basalt waster from the rockshelter, a layer of Mt. Mazama ash at 7000 B.P., and the presence of soil formations indicative of periglacial conditions above and below the bison layer. The sediments, cultural materials, microfauna and megafauna of Owl Cave have received the attention of geologists, archaeologists, paleontologists, and biologists interested in the late Pleistocene/Holocene prehistory of the region.

Studies are underway on the depositional history of Owl Cave; the special geology of lava tube systems; environmental events represented in the microfauna and sedimentary sequence; taxonomy, evolution and cultural utilization of the megafauna; and cultural and environmental adaptations of the former inhabitants.

Work at Owl Cave was initiated in 1965 by the Upper Snake River Prehistoric Society (USRPS), a local archaeological society, under the direction of B. Robert Butler of Idaho State University Natural History Museum (ISUMNH) from 1965-1971. The work has been conducted by the Society since that time, under the direction of the late Dr. Earl H. Swanson (ISUMNH), 1972-1975, and currently by Susanne J. Miller (ISUMNH).

In addition to scientific papers and conference reports, the site has received much local popular attention and has been the subject of informal presentations to civic and school groups by the directors and Society members, including several conducted field trips and media releases. Work at the site has been greatly supported by the ISUMNH and by volunteer efforts of the Society members and area residents in the form of labor, materials, equipment and services. In addition to educational efforts involving the local residents, Owl Cave served as the location for the ISUMNH Archaeological Field School during the 1968 and 1974 field seasons. Work at the site is currently (1975-1977) being supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation and a radiocarbon grant from the Idaho Nuclear Energy Commission.

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The Wasden Site (Owl Cave) 10-Bv-30

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Owl Cave is one of the most important Idaho archaeological sites and is an invaluable resource for the reconstruction of the cultural and environmental record of eastern Idaho and the Snake River Plain. Nationally, the Wasden Site has attracted the interest of several disciplines concerned with prehistory and paleo-environments. It serves as a valuable and continuing archaeological resource and a focus for informal and formal educational use in the area. Acquisition of the site area is under consideration by the Bureau of Land Management to protect the current and future investigations and the future utilization of the site as a potential locality of scientific, historic and educational interest.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Attached.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 10 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	B	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	D	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Wasen Site consists of the 10 acres of the [REDACTED], [REDACTED]. This encompasses three rockshelters of the site which are situated on a lava and sagebrush knoll and are formed by the collapse of a lava tube of the Kettle Butte system.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Susanne J. Miller Research Associate

ORGANIZATION

Idaho State University Museum of Natural History

DATE

1 March 1976

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

208-236-3780

CITY OR TOWN

Pocatello,

STATE

Idaho 83209

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Merle Wells

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

April 20, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

5/24/96

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

Charles [Signature]

DATE

5-20-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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ITEM NUMBER 9

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Butler, B. Robert

- 1968 An introduction to archeological investigations in the Pioneer Basin locality of eastern Idaho. Tebiwa 11:1:1-30
- 1969 More information on the frozen ground features and further interpretation of the small mammal sequence at the Wasden Site (Owl Cave), Bonneville County, Idaho. Tebiwa 12:1:58-63.
- 1971 The origin of the Upper Snake Country buffalo. Tebiwa 14:2:1-20.
- 1972a The Holocene in the Desert West and its cultural significance. In Fowler, Don D. (ed.) Great Basin Cultural Ecology: A Symposium. Desert Research Institute Publications in the Social Sciences, No. 8, Reno.
- 1972b The Holocene or postglacial ecological crisis on the eastern Snake River plain. Tebiwa 15:1:49-63.

Butler, R. Robert, Helen Gildersleeve, and John Sommers

- 1971 The Wasden Site Bison: Sources of morphological variation. In Styr, A. J. and R. A. Smith (eds.) Aboriginal Man and Environments on the Plateau of Northwest America. Proceedings of the Third Paleo-environmental Workshop. University of Calgary.

Dort, Wakefield, Jr.

- 1968a Paleoclimatic implications of soil structures at the Wasden Site (Owl Cave). Tebiwa 11:1:31-38.
- 1968b Environmental implications of cryurbation features, Owl Cave, Idaho. Abstract Papers, Great Basin Anthropological Conference. p. 1.
- 1969 General evidence of frequent climate changes endured by Idaho Paleo-Indians. Abstract Volume, Annual Meeting, Society for American Archeology. p. 11.

Fosberg, Maynard A., Glenn C. Lewis, and Robert McDole

- 1968 Analyses of three sets of soil samples collected at the Wasden Site. Tebiwa 11:1:27-30.

Guilday, John E.

- 1969 Small mammal remains from the Wasden Site (Owl Cave), Bonneville County, Idaho. Tebiwa 12:-!47-57.

Ore, Thomas

- 1968 Preliminary petrographic analysis of the sediments at the Wasden Site (Owl Cave). Tebiwa 11:1:37-47



1. The Wasden Site ("Owl Cave") 10-Bv-30
2. Bonneville County, Idaho
3. R. P. M. Gildersleeve
4. 1967
5. 830 N. Skyline Dr., Idaho Falls, Ida. 83401
6. Looking northward at Owl Cave
7. 1

APR 5 1976