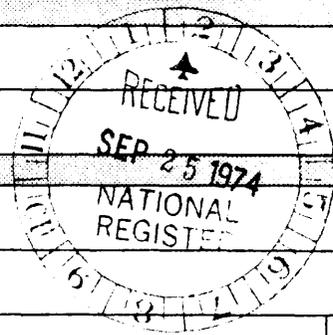


140037745

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Idaho	
COUNTY:	Jerome	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
	NOV 21	1974



1. NAME

COMMON: Wilson Butte Cave (10 JE 6)

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: [REDACTED]

CITY OR TOWN: [REDACTED]

STATE: [REDACTED] CODE: [REDACTED] COUNTY: [REDACTED] CODE: [REDACTED]

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: [REDACTED]

STREET AND NUMBER: [REDACTED]

CITY OR TOWN: [REDACTED] STATE: [REDACTED] CODE: [REDACTED]

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: [REDACTED]

STREET AND NUMBER: [REDACTED]

CITY OR TOWN: [REDACTED] STATE: [REDACTED] CODE: [REDACTED]

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Idaho State Historic Sites Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1972  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: State Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER: 610 North Julia Davis Drive

CITY OR TOWN: Boise STATE: Idaho CODE: 16

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Idaho

COUNTY: Jerome

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER: NOV 21 1974

DATE: 16

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Wilson Butte cave is located in the desert environ [redacted]. The cave, a lava blister formed by expanding gas or steam within the cooling lava, was most likely formed during the Early or Middle Pleistocene. The butte itself is about [redacted], and [redacted]. It rises very gradually above the surrounding plain to a maximum elevation [redacted] above sea level, affording good vantage points from which one can see for miles on a clear day.

The mouth of the cave, [redacted] measures about two meters in height and six meters in maximum width. The interior cavity is mostly below ground surface level. The walls have a relatively smooth surface but are fissured. Extensive streaks of calcium carbonate deposit on the walls indicate that percolation of ground water has taken place through the roof and sides.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |                                       |                                       |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century             | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) - 15000

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal             | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic               | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture            | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture           | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce               | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications         | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation           |   |  |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although prehistoric human occupation at Wilson Butte cave was sporadic and discontinuous, excavations in 1959-1960 did yield evidence of a number of occupations, the lowest of which has been radiocarbon dated at about 15,000 years ago, or 13,070 B.C. Two of these dates (15,000 and 14,500 B.P.) are about the earliest established in North America.

The sequence of sedimentary deposits, with their distinctive physical properties and associated faunal remains, permitted a reconstruction of past environments and climatic fluctuations in the western part of the Snake River Plain from the time of the last major glacial advances to the present. Distinctive assemblages of artifacts were found in the different deposits. Interpretation of the function of these artifacts in relation to contemporary ecological conditions has enabled a partial reconstruction of the characteristics of the occupation which these material remains represent.

Comparison of the assemblages at Wilson Butte cave with archaeological material from other sites in the adjacent culture areas of the Plateau, Great Basin, and Plains, show desert cultural relationships between southern Idaho and each of these three areas in different time periods; and it was found that the extent of cultural affiliations with each area varied through time in conjunction with major changes in environmental conditions in southern Idaho. This information from Wilson Butte cave [redacted], together with that now available from other sites in the South Hills and the foothills of the central mountains, has permitted construction of a tentative model of the culture history of southern Idaho.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Gruhn, Ruth  
1961 The Archaeology of Wilson Butte Cave South-Central Idaho. Occasional Papers of the Idaho State College Museum, No. 6. Pocatello.

Gruhn, Ruth  
1965 Two Early Radiocarbon Dates from the Lower Levels of Wilson Butte Cave, South-Central Idaho. Tebiwa, Vol. 8, No. 2, p. 57. Pocatello.

HR  
[Redacted]

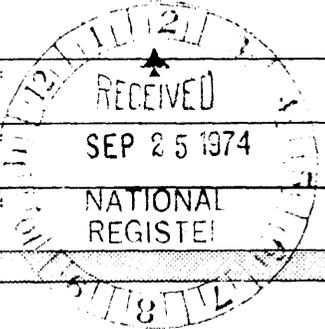
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		[Redacted]	[Redacted]	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than 1 acre.

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Earl Swanson

ORGANIZATION: Idaho State University Museum DATE: 6 Sept 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Pocatello STATE: Idaho CODE: 16

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Merde W. Wells

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date May 6, 1974

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

A. H. [Signature]  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 11/21/74

ATTEST:

[Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register

Date 11-13-74



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE	Idaho
COUNTY	Jerome
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	NOV 21 1974 <sup>TE</sup>

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Wilson Butte Cave (10 Je 6)  
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
NE 1/4 Sec. 27 T7S R19E  
CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Idaho	16	Jerome	053

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Idaho State University Museum  
DATE OF PHOTO: 1959  
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Idaho State University Museum

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.  
Excavation of cave.

# 181



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER