

# IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## REFERENCE SERIES

### SITE REPORT - BEAR LAKE COUNTY

Number 304

December 1981

Historic-site reports contain information designed to assist in two preservation functions. One is preservation planning at the local level. The other is the work of federal agencies in carrying out their responsibilities to comply with historic-preservation requirements prescribed by federal statutes and regulations. These reports summarize local archaeological, historical, and geographical contexts; existing surveys of historic sites; architectural, engineering, industrial; and other cultural resources; and available maps and literature concerning each area. Natural geographical, rather than governmental, boundaries have been used to identify seventy-two areas that vary greatly in size. Site reports reflect a broad cultural and geographical disparity characteristic of diverse regional components found in Idaho, but the areas are designed to incorporate cultural elements of immediate local significance that need to be taken into account for preservation planning.

1. Geographical context: Bear Lake Valley is around 6,000 feet in elevation, but in a section dry enough to require irrigation. Some higher ridges are timbered, and Meade Peak rises to feet. Bear Lake (half in Utah) is southern Idaho's largest, and offers important recreational attractions. Bear River, flowing across northern Bear Lake Valley, provides a major access route from Wyoming's continental divide plains to Idaho's broad Snake plains. North of Bear River, Bear Lake County is largely mountainous with important phosphate resources.
2. Prehistory and significant archaeological sites: people have inhabited southern Idaho for fourteen thousand years or more. Until about eight thousand years ago they were noted primarily as big game hunters. Since then, they specialized more in camas, bitterroot, and other natural crops and seeds, as well as in smaller game. But they continued to hunt large game that remained after earlier elephants, camels, giant sloth, and other ice age creatures left as climatic conditions changed.
3. Cultural resource surveys and archaeological literature:

4. Historical Summary: Major historical episodes include
  1. Exploration and fur trade, 1812-1840
  2. Emigrant traffic, 1841-1862
  3. Mormon settlement, 1863-1880
  4. Railroad construction and anti-Mormon conflict, 1881-1892
  5. Mormon expansion, 1892-1905
  6. Phosphate development, 1906-1919
  7. Transportation improvements and farm depression, 1920-1932
  8. New Deal and wartime adjustments, 1933-1945
  9. Advanced farm technology, 1946-
5. Historical documentation and literature:
6. Historic sites inventory:
7. Industrial archaeological and engineering sites literature:
8. Architectural resources:
9. United States Geological Survey Maps:
  - Bear Lake North 1970
  - Border 1970
  - Boundary Ridge 1970
  - Dingle 1967
  - Egan Basin 1969
  - Elk Valley
  - Fossil Canyon 1970
  - Geneva 1970
  - Georgetown 1970
  - Giraffe Creek 1970
  - Harrington Peak 1970
  - Meade Peak 1970
  - Midnight Mtn. 1969
  - Montpelier 1967
  - Montpelier Canyon 1970
  - North Canyon 1969
  - Nounan 1970
  - Ovid 1967

Paris 1967  
Paris Peak 1969  
Pegram 1970  
Pegram Creek 1970  
St. Charles 1969  
Snowdrift Mtn. 1969  
Soda Springs (15') 1948

10. Cultural resource management recommendations: