

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REFERENCE SERIES

PRESERVATION PLANNING

Number 739

1982

Effective historic preservation planning requires a system of cultural resource management and conservation coordinated at local, regional, state, and federal levels of interest. Identification, protection, administration, and interpretation of resource areas and materials are elements essential to a modern historic preservation program. A variety of professional specialists contribute to cultural resource management planning.

Their interests and activities are coordinated through a program which assembles and organizes information provided by prehistoric and historical archaeologists, ethnologists, cultural geographers, folklorists, conservators, architectural historians, restoration and landscape architects, artists, planners, and social, economic, and a variety of other kinds of historians and museum curators. Intangible as well as material resources are of interest in any progressive historic preservation program. After plans incorporating studies from all of these sources are formulated, programs for management of cultural resources have to be administered by a variety of authorities. Interpretation of cultural resources employs a group of specialists quite different from land managers and building administrators, who are often concerned with historic materials. In order to be effective, a preservation plan has to be formulated in such a way as to be useful to program managers. On that account, this plan includes explanations of general interest as well as a variety of technical materials. Intelligent cultural resource management depends upon reliable archaeological, historical, architectural, and industrial information that can be made available to planners and managers in a usable form. As a guide to these materials, a geographical series of historic site reports deals with a set of study units defined for convenient historical coverage. An additional series of study units summarizes information concerning historical subjects of special local or state interest. These include ethnic groups (such as Chinese, Germans, Basques, or Finnish in Idaho), economic pursuits (such as mining or forestry), transportation routes, aspects of social history, and any number of relevant topics. Historic site reports for geographical areas include very brief summaries of archaeological, architectural, and industrial investigation as well as brief presentations of historical information. This material is designed to assist planners concerned with management units

(cities, counties, BLM districts, Forest Service ranger districts, and other areas administered by local government or agencies) that often do not correspond to study units but are subject to management decisions. Management units often overlap, but study units provide consistent state coverage. Idaho's coordinated cultural resource identification, evaluation, management, and protection process commences with investigation described in historic site reports. These control survey and inventory activities and provide for enlightened management decisions. Contributors and users (generally an overlapping group) are enabled to provide for a cultural resource protection program that can function without unnecessary bureaucratic delay in administration of federal historic preservation compliance procedures. Federal agencies as well as local historical societies and preservation commissions are involved at all levels of operations, as are a variety of professional specialists who contribute to state and local preservation planning. Research designs result from, and are incorporated into, Idaho's state historic preservation planning process. As a result, preservation planning meets informational needs as well as providing for protection of material and intangible cultural resources and values.

In addition to historical study units, Idaho encompasses a series of archaeological study units. These generally are larger in area and often include several historical study units. Archaeological overviews are available for these areas, and that literature is controlled by references in each historical study unit report. Cultural resource reports prepared for a number of federal management units, and these are also referred to in archaeological summaries in historic site reports. An extensive Idaho inventory of prehistoric sites is available to archaeologists who are active in cultural resource planning or management or engaged in archaeological research.

A large inventory of architectural sites also is included in Idaho's 1982 historic preservation plan. Study units in architectural history include geographical areas as well as subject investigations, such as log cabin architecture and other folklife topics. Initial geographical investigations include Lewiston, Weiser, Twin Falls, and Paris. Rural as well as urban architecture is covered in architectural history reports. Idaho's Historic American Buildings Survey entries are also indexed in this section.

Industrial archaeology comprises a fourth section of Idaho's 1982 historic preservation plan. An introductory summary and an inventory guide to appropriate sites is included. Each historical study unit report contains a section dealing with industrial archaeology. In addition, Historic American Engineering Record information is covered in this section. Study units dealing with engineering history or contributing to industrial archaeology--primarily in mining, agriculture, forest

products, communications, power, and transportation history--are incorporated into this investigation. A thorough highway bridge survey has been completed, and mining, lumbering, and irrigation subjects are well represented in studies available from a variety of sources.

Archaeological overviews, architectural survey, engineering inventory, and historic site reports provide information essential as an initial step in Idaho's coordinated cultural resource protection and planning process. National Register eligibility evaluations are facilitated, and local, state, and federal preservation planning objectives are identified. Federal agencies have special need to participate in a coordinated planning process. Historic preservation statutory compliance responsibilities include attention to sites of local significance. Cultural resource investigations of archaeological, architectural, technological, or historical materials generally does not provide useful information unless they are prepared by professionals qualified professionally under 36 CFR 60-_____ to participate in preservation planning programs.

National Register eligibility determinations, where appropriate, may be concurred in without limitation from this restriction. But having historians attempting to prepare archaeological materials, or archaeologists trying to engage in architectural history, normally produces unacceptable results. Availability of suitable professionally developed coordinated resource protection information, however, helps overcome this difficulty.