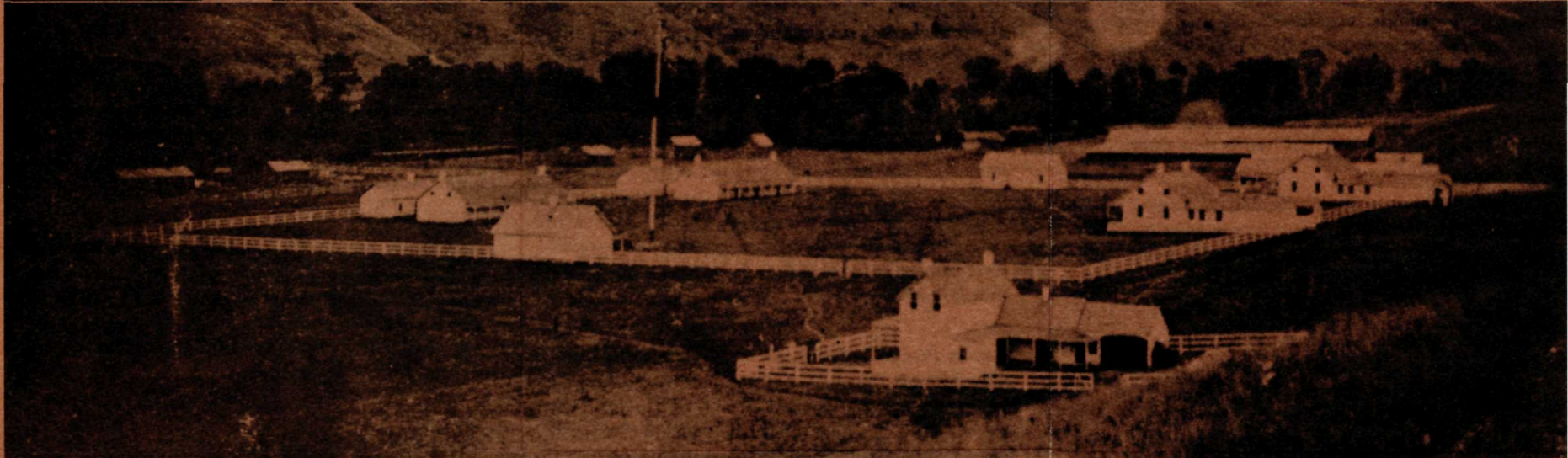
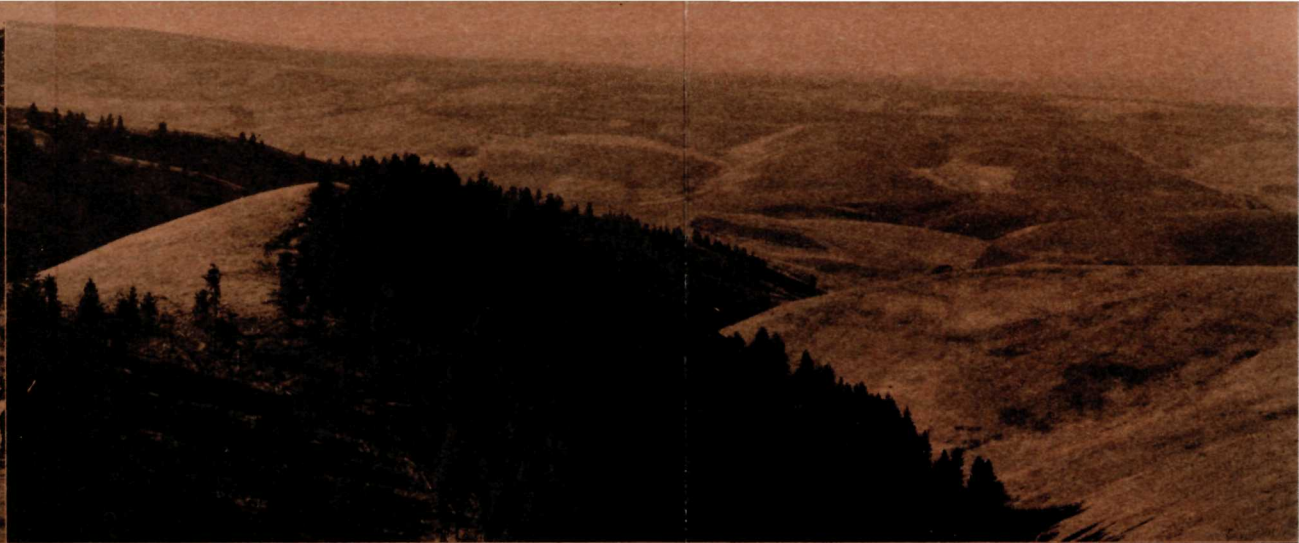


Nez Perce

NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK
IDAHO



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FOR YOUR SAFETY

We have made efforts to make your visit a safe one, but there still may be hazards that require your alertness and vigilance. Be cautious and use common sense.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering the wisest use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interests of all our people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.

National Park Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Scattered over 12,000 square miles of northern Idaho are 23 historic sites which preserve the history and culture of the Nez Perce Indians and of the people who eventually engulfed them—explorers, fur traders, missionaries, soldiers, settlers, gold miners, loggers, and farmers. A joint venture between the several governments, the Nez Perce tribe, and private organizations, Nez Perce National Historical Park commemorates an epic chapter in the history of the American Northwest.

The beguiling landforms of central Idaho have been the setting for many of the storied figures of the American West. It is an area in which many of the people who have shaped the territory have come into fateful contact with one another. The contacts between the conflicting cultures of the settlers and Indians have generally been peaceful. But as time passed, these encounters came to be marked by human tragedy for the Nez Perce Indians.

This proud people lived in the well-watered valleys of north-central Idaho, northeastern Oregon, and southeastern Washington. The Nez Perce maintained good relations with the explorers and settlers from the beginning. In 1805, Lewis and Clark passed through the area on their way to the Pacific Ocean and found them "among the most amiable men we have seen." For the next 50 years, the Nez Perce remained at peace while other Indian tribes waged war with the growing number of settlers. In 1855, they signed a treaty at the

Walla Walla Council which reserved for them much of their homeland.

Prompted by the discovery of gold in 1860, however, the Government negotiated a new treaty which took over 7 million acres and left the Indians with the Lapwai Reservation of 757,000 acres. Many Nez Perce accepted the treaty and continued to follow their tribal customs, adopting those ways of the settlers which they wished or which were forced upon them.

Some Nez Perce bands, however, declined to sign the treaty, and became known as the "Non-Treaty" Nez Perce. In 1877, the Government, acting on settler's demands, decided to force these bands onto the reservation. The Indians began a 1,700-mile fighting retreat toward Canada, but they were stopped just 30 miles short of the boundary and Chief Joseph surrendered his followers. In the end, the "Non-Treaty" Nez Perce were placed on a reservation in northern Washington, not even within the limits of their ancestral lands.

With the Indians removed from the scene, the settlers were free to begin the mining, logging, and agricultural operations which have become the mainstay of the local economy. Today the descendants of the settlers and the Nez Perce live side by side, both mindful of their heritage.

Your guide to the park is the map on the reverse side. The sites are briefly described in the order in which they will be reached if you drive eastward from Lewiston on U.S. 95 and return via Idaho 13 and U.S. 12, with several side trips. Some sites are merely scenic views which recall significant events; others are natural formations which figure in the religion and legends of the Nez Perce. A few consist of historic buildings.

In the upper left is St. Joseph's Mission and at the upper right is a view over the hills and prairies of central Idaho. Directly above is Ft. Lapwai as it appeared about 1865.

Chief Joseph in 1901.
Smithsonian Institution



1
Donald MacKenzie's Pacific Fur Co. Post, a State site, the first in this area, was established in 1812.

2
Coyote's Fishnet, a State site on the south side of U.S. 95-12, is a natural formation which, to the Nez Perce, resembled a fishnet. It figures prominently in a legend about Coyote, a principal character in their mythology.

3
Ant and Yellow Jacket, a State site on the north side of U.S. 12, is a rock formation on the hillside that gave rise to the Nez Perce legend about the fight between Ant and Yellow Jacket which so annoyed Coyote that he turned both into stone.

4
Spalding, headquarters for the park, is where the principal visitor center and museum will be located. Here, in 1838 Rev. Henry H. Spalding built his second mission, then called Lapwai. From 1860 to 1904 it was also the site of the old Nez Perce Indian Agency. A small museum is now open.

5
Spalding Home, a State site called "Lapwai Mission," was the first mission home, built in 1836, of Rev. Henry H. Spalding. It is at Thunder Hill, about 2 miles south of Spalding.

6 and 7
Northern Idaho Indian Agency and Fort Lapwai Sites are 4 miles south of Spalding on U.S. 95. The fort was established by volunteers in 1862 to prevent clashes between pioneers and Indians on the Nez Perce reservation. It was occupied by the U.S. Army until 1884, and is now the site of the active Northern Idaho Indian Agency. These two sites are jointly administered by the Nez Perce Tribe, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the National Park Service.

8
Craig Donation Land Claim is a State site south of Lapwai on U.S. 95. William Craig, a mountain man, settled here in 1840 on 630 acres given him by the Nez Perce, thus becoming the first permanent settler in Idaho. His grave is in their cemetery at Jacques.

9
St. Joseph's Mission is 4 miles south of Jacques. This church, outpost of Roman Catholic missionary activities among the Nez Perce, was dedicated in 1874. (The church is private property and may be visited only at the discretion of the owners.)

10
The Cottonwood Skirmishes took place about 2½ miles southeast of Cottonwood on U.S. 95. During the Nez Perce War of 1877, a small group of volunteers, riding to reinforce a U.S. Army command nearby, was ambushed by the Indians and forced to take refuge on a low ridge until rescued by the Army. This is a State site.

11
Weis Rockshelter, a private site on Graves Creek Road, is reached from U.S. 95 south of Cottonwood. Archeological excavations in this cliff recess in Graves Creek Canyon have revealed an almost continuous human occupation from about 5500 B.C. to A.D. 1400.

12
Camas Prairie, a State site southwest of Grangeville on U.S. 95, was once a vast sea of blue-flowered camas and grass—the heart of the Nez Perce country. Here each summer the Indians gathered to dig the camas roots which were an important part of their food supply.

13
White Bird Battlefield is 20 miles southwest of Grangeville along U.S. 95. On June 17, 1877, among

a series of low ridges directly east below the State marker, the U.S. Army and the Indians clashed in the opening engagement of the Nez Perce War. One-third of the troops were killed and the rest fled in panic. But the Indians' victory proved their eventual undoing. White Bird Battlefield, the largest of the federally owned areas, contains more than 1,900 acres. A museum will be constructed here.

14
Clearwater Battlefield is on Idaho 13, about 7½ miles north of Harpster. Less than 1 month after the decisive defeat at White Bird Canyon, the U.S. Army again fought the Nez Perce. The battle ended in a draw, but the Nez Perce decided to leave their homeland and move toward the Great Plains. A State historical marker identifies this site.

15
East Kamiah. This site, administered by the National Park Service, contains a volcanic rocky hump called the *Heart of the Monster*—the legendary "place of beginning" of all Indians, including the Nez Perce. Plans have been made for a small museum here.

16
Asa Smith Mission is on U.S. 12, about 1 mile northwest of Kamiah. This pasture is the traditional location of the mission started in 1839 by Asa and Sarah Smith. When they left 2 years later, all missionary effort on the upper Clearwater ceased for three decades.

17
Lewis and Clark Long Camp is on U.S. 12, about 1½ miles north of the highway bridge at Kamiah. The sawmill on the north bank of the Clearwater occupies the site of Lewis and Clark's month-long encampment during the spring of 1806 on their homeward journey. Historic markers at a State

site here describe both the Asa Smith Mission and the Long Camp.

18
Canoe Camp is about 5 miles west of Orofino in a National Park Service-administered area on U.S. 12. In the autumn of 1805 Lewis and Clark camped here on their westward journey to the Pacific. After building dugout canoes, caching supplies, and entrusting their horses to the Nez Perce, they proceeded downriver.

19
Weippe Prairie is 18 miles east of U.S. 12, on Idaho 11. For untold generations of Nez Perce, this has been a favorite place to gather camas roots. When Lewis and Clark descended the Bitterroot Mountains on their way west in September 1805, they had their first encounter with the Nez Perce on this prairie. A national landmark, this prairie is seen from a State parking area.

20
Pierce is 12 miles northeast of Weippe on Idaho 11. The first significant gold discovery in Idaho was made here in 1860 by a prospecting party headed by E. D. Pierce. This event started the gold rush which led to an invasion of Nez Perce lands and, within 3 years, the creation of Idaho Territory. Both State and private sites tell the story.

21
Musselshell Meadow lies 15 miles east of Weippe alongside the Forest Service's Lolo Trail Road. It is the site of the last active gathering spot of the wild camas for Indian people of northern Idaho.

22 and 23
Lolo Trail and Pass. The Idaho section of the Lolo Trail extends through rough country for about 90 miles from Weippe to 5,187-foot-high Lolo Pass over the Bitterroot Mountains. A dim track through a primeval land, this route was developed by the Nez Perce to reach the buffalo country in Montana. In 1805 Lewis and Clark used the trail and pass to breach the Bitterroot range on their westward journey. The hostile Nez Perce traveled this path in their famous trek of 1877. Some 700 Indians with several thousand horses left their homeland by way of this trail, followed by Gen. O. O. Howard's army with artillery and supply trains. Today U.S. 12 parallels the historic trail for about 4 miles west of the Montana line. The Forest Service has provided informational signs at 26 points along the Lolo Trail. Further information on these points is available at the Forest Service's Lolo Pass Visitor Center and at National Park Service headquarters at Spalding.

ADMINISTRATION

Nez Perce National Historic Park is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. Its many detached historic sites, under a variety of ownerships, are managed under agreement with the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture; the Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior; Idaho Department of Highways; Idaho State Historic Society; the Nez Perce Tribe of Idaho; and several private organizations. A superintendent, whose address is Rt. 1, Box 104, Lapwai, ID 83540, is in immediate charge.

