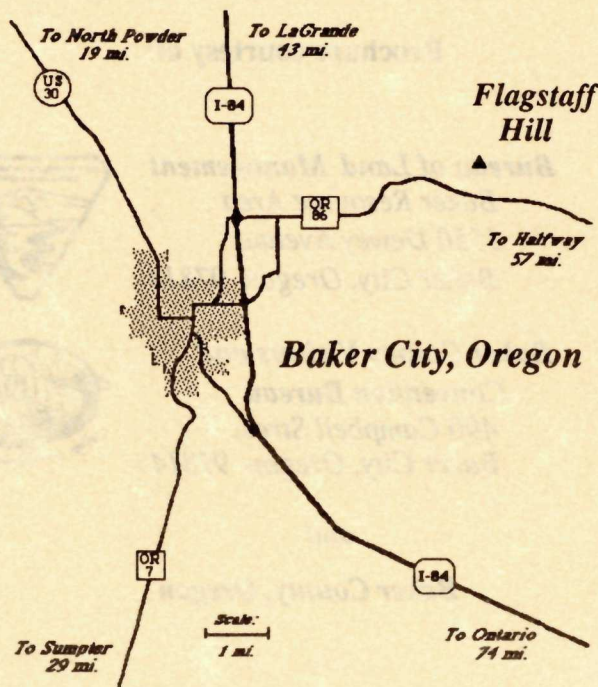


National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center at Flagstaff Hill

Baker City, Oregon

*Grand Opening
May 25, 1992*

In recognition of the historical significance of the Oregon Trail, the Bureau of Land Management, the State of Oregon, and Baker County are cooperatively developing the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center at Flagstaff Hill, 5 miles east of Baker City on Oregon Route 86. From the interpretive center's location on the summit of the hill, visitors will have a 15-mile view of the Trail's remaining traces.



The interpretive center will be designed to help visitors understand the Oregon Trail migration and pioneer era. Six major themes will be stressed:

- The Oregon Trail Experience
- Mining in the West
- Explorers and Fur Traders
- Natural History of Northeast Oregon
- Native American History
- The General Land Office.

The interpretive center will be operated by the Bureau of Land Management as a year-round facility. The visitor complex, totalling over 20,000 square feet, will include permanent indoor displays of historical artifacts and replicas that will illustrate the Oregon Trail journey and pioneer life in the Northwest. A theatre will feature videos and stage productions, and a large multi-purpose room will be used for travelling exhibits and educational classes.

Outside, two living history areas will depict a wagon train encampment and a lode mining operation. People dressed in period costume will demonstrate pioneer arts and skills. Stage productions and outdoor programs will be presented in an amphitheatre near the indoor facilities.

A system of footpaths will lead to scenic overlooks and stops where visitors will learn about the environment along this section of the Trail and the history of those who lived in or passed through the area. Visitors can walk alongside the actual wagon ruts of the Oregon Trail, in the footsteps of the pioneers.



the **OREGON TRAIL**



National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center

Baker City, Oregon

2000 Hard Miles to the Oregon Territory...

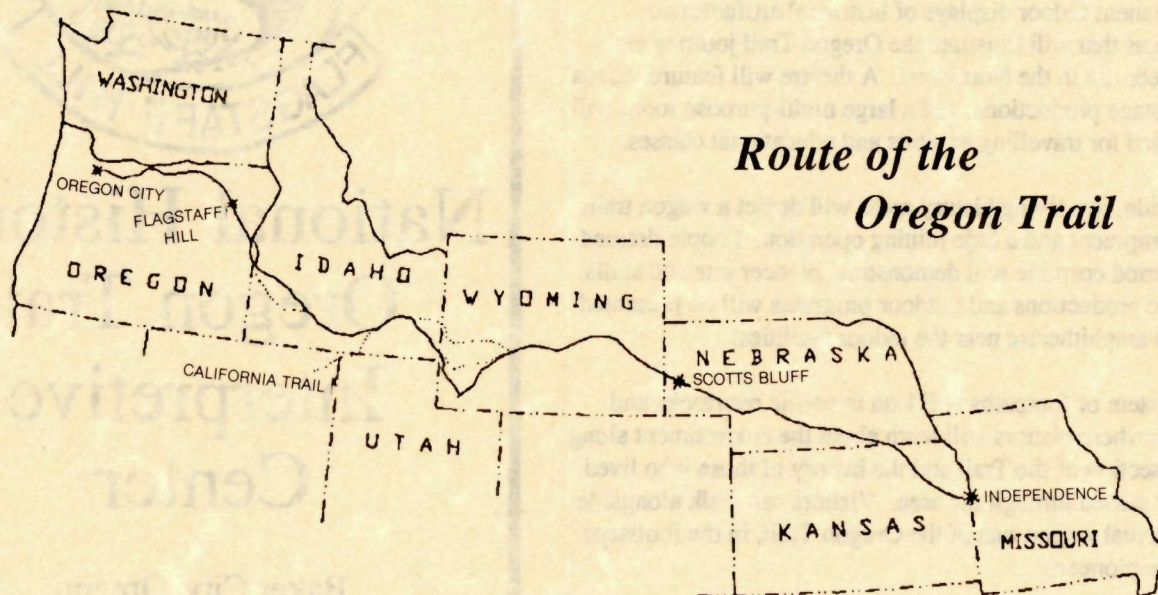
The trek began, officially, at Independence, Missouri. The long, arduous route stretched, seemingly endlessly, across dry sagebrush flats, steep mountain passes, and rough river crossings. Through blistering heat, choking dust, and, at times, miring mud, the settlers found their way across the American continent in wagons that rode so rough that most preferred to walk the 2,000 miles of the passage.

The destination: The Oregon Territory.

The route: The Oregon Trail.

There's a small knoll outside of Baker City, Oregon, along that route. This knoll has witnessed the passing of thousands of settlers who followed the Oregon Trail in search of a new beginning on the Oregon frontier. A dramatic transition takes place at this point on the Trail. To the east, one looks back on the bleak, dusty sagebrush plain known as Virtue Flat. To the west is the lush Powder River Valley, with the pine-clad Elkhorn Mountains as its backdrop. This is the point where the settlers first saw the promise of the Oregon Territory. Finally, their dreams had the look, taste, and feel of reality.

With bright hopes and an immense amount of courage, close to 250,000 Americans made the journey from Independence, Missouri, between the years 1841 and 1869. With determination, blood, and muscle these settlers of the Oregon Territory welded the Northwest to the rest of the Nation. These past generations of Oregonians have left us with a heritage of courage and determination that is a vital part of the American experience.



Brochure courtesy of:

Bureau of Land Management
Baker Resource Area
1550 Dewey Avenue
Baker City, Oregon 97814



**Baker County Visitors and
Convention Bureau**
490 Campbell Street
Baker City, Oregon 97814



and
Baker County, Oregon