

DRAFT

HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS GUIDE
to Museums and Libraries
with Materials Pertaining to the Nez Perce Indians,
the U.S. Military, and the Conflict of 1877

Compiled and written in part by

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Project Assistant
Nez Perce National Historic Trail
1995



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Funded in part by

USDA Forest Service
USDI National Park Service

Purpose:

This draft historical collections guide has been compiled in order to assist the Trail Manager, interpreter, or novice researcher in locating materials relevant to the history and culture of the Nez Perce people, 19th-century U.S. military forces and the events surrounding their 1877 campaign against the nontreaty Nez Perce, Nez Perce/white relations, Nez Perce National Historical Park, and the Nez Perce National Historic Trail. Because this list is a draft version it is hoped that interested and knowledgeable readers will offer thoughts and suggestions concerning these research locations, as well as others not included on this list.

Acknowledgments:

A portion of the information found in this guide is drawn from a report titled, "Nez Perce National Historic Park Archives Completion Report, 1443-PX9000-94-133." The report, researched and written under contract for the National Park Service and Nez Perce National Historical Park (NPNHP) by Rachel Maines, Ph.d, of Maines and Associates, 237 Langmuir Lab, Cornell Research Park, Ithaca, NY 14850, was published in December, 1994. Those entries not drawn from the Maines report were researched by myself.

I wish to thank several people for their assistance in the preparation of this document. First, to Rachel Maines, for allowing me to draw freely from her 1994 Archives Completion report. Secondly, my sincere appreciation for review and critique by Sue Buchel, Unit Manager, Big Hole National Battlefield, and Chrisanne Brown, Librarian, Spalding Unit, Nez Perce National Historical Park. Their ideas and suggestions were invaluable.

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National Park Service
Nez Perce National Historical Park
Spalding Unit
P.O. Box 93
Spalding, ID 83551
(208) 834-2261 ext. 142

Comments: This facility focuses on materials pertaining to Nez Perce history and culture. The library collection supports the primary themes of NPNHP, which include: Nez Perce culture, prehistoric and historic; Nez Perce contact with missionaries and the influence of Christian beliefs on their life patterns; the Nez Perce War of 1877. Secondary park themes included in the library are: the effect of European and American ventures upon the Nez Perce and their country; the relationship of the factors to westward expansion in the U.S.; natural resource management of area associated with NPNHP.

Collection consists of approximately 3,000 items including books, dissertations, periodicals, reprints, videos, tapes, microforms, and maps. There is also a 4,000 image photographic file containing staff-generated and copy historical photographs. Appointments for on-site visits are needed. Contact: Chrisanne Brown at 208-843-2261 ext. 142 or Linda Paisano at ext. 141.

National Park Service
Northwest Regional Office
909 First Avenue Seattle, WA 98104
(206) 220-4160

Comments: Materials on hand amount to approximately 1 cubic foot related to proposals for NPNHP sites not implemented. Maines & Associates copied this material and it is available at NPNHP-Spalding.

Federal Records Center
6125 Sand Point N.E.
Seattle, WA 98115
(206) 526-6501

Comments: 24 record series from this location pertain to Federal, state and local management of NPNHP sites within a date range of 1946-1990. Maines & Associates also copied this material, which is available at NPNHP-Spalding.

National Archives Branch, Seattle
6125 Sand Point N.E.
Seattle, WA 98115
(206) 526-6507

Comments: Holdings consist of approximately 50 cubic feet of materials related to NPNHP sites in ID, WA, OR, and MT. Material pertains primarily to Bureau of Indian Affairs Lapwai Agency, as well as U.S.F.S. records of timber within NPNHP. The Archives has compiled a "Preliminary Inventory of Records of the Northern Idaho Indian Agency, 1905-1967. This inventory identifies records produced by the Coeur 'd Alene and Fort Lapwai Agencies (before consolidation), Fort Lapwai Indian Industrial School, Fort Lapwai Sanitarium, and Northern Idaho Agency archives. Also includes records of the Umatilla Agency which contain material relevant to the Nez Perce.

Bureau of Indian Affairs
Umatilla Agency
P.O.Box 520
Pendleton, OR 97801
(503) 278-3786

Comments: There are no holdings pertaining directly to the Nez Perce tribe or associated sites at this facility. They do have extensive collection of material related to the Umatillas, Cayuse and Walla Walla tribes.

Clearwater County Historical Society
315 College Avenue
Orofino, ID
(208) 476-5033

Comments: Interesting holdings pertaining to the designation of the Lewis and Clark Canoe Camp as an historical site as well as the push for designation of the Lewis and Clark Highway. Other information pertains to the Lapwai Indian Agency and Spalding Mission. This material has been copied and is housed at NPNHP-Spalding. Hours are Tuesday - Saturday, 1-4 p.m. Contact: Evelyn Walters

Blaine County Historical Society
P.O. Box 1176
Chinook, MT 59523
(406) 357-2590

Comments: Most of the materials found here have been copied and are also held at NPNHP. The museum houses an interesting collection of artifacts from the Bear Paw Battlefield and offers an excellent audiovisual program on the battle.

National Park Service
Big Hole National Battlefield
P.O. Box 237
Wisdom, MT 59761
(406) 689-3155

Comments: The BHNB has a small, but thorough, collection pertaining to the history of the 1877 conflict, as well Nez Perce history and culture. Resources pertain to military personnel involved in the Battle of the Big Hole, Nez Perce participants, and local history. Photograph collection contains approximately 500 prints. Work is planned to develop an administrative archives on management of the Battlefield by various agencies. Some of the material pertaining to the Nez Perce can also be found at NPNHP-Spalding. Contact: Sue Buchel

Montana State Historical Society
P.O. Box 201201
Helena, MT 59620
(406) 444-4774 (archives)
(406) 444-2681 (library)

Comments: Extensive collection of material pertaining to NPNHP sites in Montana and Idaho, including manuscript accounts of the 1877 war and other historical events, U.S. government documents relating to Nez Perce land claims, USFS Bitterroot NF documentation, and records of Montana's role in Native American relations, including the Nez Perce. Maines and Associates copied all pertinent materials under a cubic foot in volume and sent them to NPNHP-Spalding.

Washington State University
Holland Library
Pullman, WA 99164
(509) 335-6272

Comments: WSU's holdings include the extensive collection of Nez Perce historian, Lucullus V. McWhorter, as well as various materials related to the Nez Perce Indians. In addition, they hold a small collection pertaining to the Colville Indian Agency. Miscellaneous photos available. Contact: Bob Matouzzi - Manuscripts, Archives and Special Collections.

Presbyterian Historical Society
425 Lombard
Philadelphia, PA 19147
(215) 627-1852

Comments: Repository contains significant records pertaining to the Spalding Mission and its successors. Also contains various Nez Perce artifacts. Contact: Susan Miller, Archivist, Presbyterian Historical Society.

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
Cultural Resources Program
P.O. Box 638
Pendleton, OR 97801
(503) 276-3629

Comments: Located on the Umatilla Indian Reservation at Mission, this small facility houses an impressive collection of research material. Eighteen archives categories include, Management Plans; Cultural Resource Information; Ethnographic Research; Historic Information; Sensitive Areas; Reports on Ceded Areas; Treaty Related Rights; Traditional Plants & Foods; Linguistics; CTUIR Legends; Rock Art, and current topical files. Primary focus of the holdings here is towards archaeological sites and information. In addition, an extensive oral interview collection is housed on site. Contact: Jeff Van Pelt, Cultural Resources Program Manager.

Latah County Historical Society
327 E. 2nd
Moscow, ID 83843
(208) 882-1004

Comments: Considerable holdings pertaining to NPNHP, including USFS material not found elsewhere. Also contains information about the north-south highway in Latah and Nez Perce counties, family histories and personal narratives of the 1877 conflict, and material related to tourism on the Nez Perce Trail in the 1930's. Contact: Joanne Jones.

University of Idaho
U of I Library
Rayburn Street
Moscow, ID 83844
(208) 885-6559

Comments: The U of I library contains vast resources pertaining to numerous Nez Perce related topics. According to Maines & Associates, the inventory list runs 38 pages. Because of the extensive size of this collection, please contact library archivist Terry Abraham for specific information.

Yellowstone Park Library & Archives
National Park Service
P.O. Box 168
Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190
(307) 344-7381 ext. 2261

Comments: YPL&A holdings pertinent to the Nez Perce consists primarily of library materials. Research materials include a thorough collection of major and minor newspaper articles related to the Nez Perce flight through Yellowstone Park. Contact: Lee Whittlesey at ext. 2261.

Penrose Memorial Library
Whitman College
Walla Walla, WA 99362
(509) 527-5922

Located at the Northwest and Whitman College Archives, the materials here center around the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM), which Marcus and Narcissa Whitman and Henry and Eliza Spalding were members of. Also found here are the Indian Land Claims materials (not indexed) pertaining to the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. Contact: Larry Dodd