

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED APR 30 1976	
DATE ENTERED	MAY 13 1976

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  **Delamar Historic District**

AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

6 Miles West of Silver City

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Silver City

VICINITY OF

1st

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Idaho

016

CODE

Owyhee

COUNTY

CODE

073

**CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH <b>Multiple</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Bureau of Land Management and Earth Resources

STREET & NUMBER

5920 MacIntyre Rd. Box 270

CITY, TOWN

Boise, Idaho

Golden  
VICINITY OF

STATE

Colorado 80401

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Owyhee County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Murphy

STATE

Idaho

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Idaho State Historic Preservation Plan

DATE

1972

\_\_FEDERAL  STATE \_\_COUNTY \_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Idaho State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

610 N. Julia Davis Drive, Boise

STATE

Idaho

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located just a few miles west of Silver City along Jordan Creek between Wagontown and Dewey, Delamar's town site was located in a narrow creek bottom with the buildings strung along both sides of the road and well up on the steep hillsides. Delamar began its growth in 1889 with the start of Charles Knapp's residence and a boarding house, spurred by construction of a new ore mill. A telephone line had been completed by July 1889, and electricity followed soon. By the summer of 1890, M. B. Gwinn's mercantile house, several saloons, a barbershop and a drugstore were added. Captain J. R. DeLamar, the town's namesake, later donated a \$4500 brick schoolhouse, and a newspaper, the Nugget soon began operation. The town prospered until the early twentieth century, but began to decline with the suspension of mining. Now, all the mine buildings are gone, and only part of the old livery stable and the old boardinghouse still stand, along with an assay office and a few other houses.

The DeLamar Hotel Annex, across the street from the site of the DeLamar Hotel, was built as dormitory-style housing for miners at a lower cost than the individual rooms of the hotel itself. The annex is a two-story, wood structure, basically rectangular in plan, with a two-story addition on one long side. Walls are covered with horizontal clapboard siding, with round cut shingles in the gable ends. The gabled roof is shingled and each gable end has hand sawed-wooden ornamentation. An interesting feature of the structure is a square cupola centered on the interesection of the roof gables. This cupola has a peaked roof, shingled with round cut and diamond cut shingles, and it actually serves as a skylight for the second floor hallway. A former covered front proch has been removed.

The district commences in the center of section 33 T4S, R4W, and the boundary runs south a mile to the center of section 4, T5S, R4W; then 2 1/2 miles west to the quarter corner of sections 6 (T5S, R4W) and 1 (T5S, R5W); then north to the quarter corner of section 36 (T5S, R5W) and section 31 (T4S, R4W); then east 2 1/2 miles to the point of origin.

Wagontown was an early placer camp, now useful only for historical archaeology.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Twelve years after gold was discovered on Jordan Creek near Wagontown, six miles west of Silver City, J. W. Stoddard located an important lode close to that old camp. Little was done for a decade after this 1875 discovery, however, until Joseph R. DeLamar came from Leadville Colorado, in May, 1886, to investigate the lode. When rail service became available nearby and large scale lode mining became feasible, this property (along with others in Silver City, Rocky Bar, and similar camps which flourished in southern Idaho after 1884) could be developed profitably. DeLamar figured out a suitable recovery process and introduced investment capital from Chicago to purchase and develop that property. After buying the Wilson mine in September, 1886, DeLamar immediately acquired a mill in Silver City. By spring, he had his new lode developed in preparation for major production. For the first time since 1875, the Wilson and other mines in the area were being worked systematically, and people were bringing their ore to DeLamar's mill. Then, in 1888, he decided to install a large stamp mill at his mine, rather than to continue hauling ore six miles up Jordan Creek to Silver City. In the summer of 1889, after bringing in a large boiler, he moved his mill down from Silver City. Production commenced in October and reached the level of \$2600 a month during December. A \$2300 foot tram was erected in the summer of 1890, and the new town of Delamar was already well developed. One of the first structures was a large fifty-room bunkhouse. In January, 1890, DeLamar bought out the Wahl brothers who held the remainder of the interest in the property. By the end of the year, with his improvements putting the property in fine shape, DeLamar sold the whole operation to British investors. The Delamar Mining Company, Ltd., after several months of negotiations finally acquired the great DeLamar property for two million dollars. DeLamar had already realized \$1,400,000 in production and received \$463,000 in cash and the rest of the two million dollar purchase price in stock in the British company. This venture was the only profitable British investment in the Idaho mines, and was able to turn out enough gold and silver to make up for all the losses elsewhere. The mine has long since been worked out, but the old boarding house and a few other buildings remain as a reminder of Joseph R. DeLamar's great Owyhee enterprise. The surviving buildings and mine dumps are important reminders of a major Idaho mining camp, and as a ghost town and valuable site for historical archaeology. The area provides a significant resource that requires protection.

In 1974 further development of three ore bodies on the south side of Delamar mountain, with approximately \$200,000,000 in gold and silver, brought new prospects of fifteen years additional work in the camp. With work scheduled to begin in 1976, and with the company anxious to preserve historic values in the old camp, registration of Delamar assumes special importance.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

G. W. Barrett, "When Big Money Came to Owyhee," Idaho Yesterdays (Spring 1969), 13/1:2-9.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1600 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,1	5,1,0	8,1,0	4,7,6,4	1,7,5	B	1,1	5,1,4	9,5,0	4,7,6,4	1,8,0
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING	
C	1,1	5,1,4	9,8,0	4,7,6,2	5,4,0	D	1,1	5,1,0	8,2,0	4,7,6,2	5,8,0
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING	

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The district commences in the center of section 33 T4S, R4W, and the boundary runs south a mile to the center of section 4, T5S, R4W; then 2 1/2 miles west to the quarter corner of sections 6 (T5S, R4W) and 1 (T5S, R5W); then north to the quarter corner of section 36 (T5S, R5W) and section 31 (T4S, R4W); then east 2 1/2 miles to the point of origin. 525

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Merle W. Wells, State Historic Preservation Officer

ORGANIZATION

Idaho State Historical Society

DATE

24 December 1974

STREET & NUMBER

610 N. Julia Davis Drive

TELEPHONE

208-384-2120

CITY OR TOWN

Boise

STATE

Idaho 83706

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE X

LOCAL     

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Merle Wells*

TITLE Idaho State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 24 December 1974

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE *01/13/96*

ATTEST: *Charles [Signature]*  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE *5.12.76*