

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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## 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  AND/OR COMMON  
 \* \* \* Wilhelmina Nelson House and Cabins

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: U. S. 89  
 CITY, TOWN: Saint Charles VICINITY OF: \_\_\_\_\_  
 STATE: Idaho CODE: 16 COUNTY: Bear Lake CODE: 007  
 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 2 (NOT FOR PUBLICATION)

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<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 type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: Patience Stewart Williamson and Carmena S. Dickemore  
 STREET & NUMBER: 3832 North Highway 89-91  
 CITY, TOWN: Ogden VICINITY OF: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: Utah

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Bear Lake County Courthouse  
 STREET & NUMBER: Main Street  
 CITY, TOWN: Paris 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 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

This grouping of an old home, three cabins and the surrounding out-buildings provides a good example of a typical homestead in southeastern Idaho. The Nelson house (built about in 1896) is a two-story wooden farm house built in an L-shape. The facade is dominated by the gable of the ell and the smaller gables of the two dormer windows. These and other dormers are cut through the eave line, with half the window in the dormer above and half the window in the wall below. All windows are double-hung sash, set either singly or in pairs. Placed on a cement foundation, the house is clapboard up to the eaves and shingles in the gables.

Of the three log cabins on the farm, two are similar in size and shape. The one nearest the house is the original cabin built shortly after 1876. After 1896 it became a shop for John Nelson, with a bellows, tire shrinker, and harness making equipment. The other was a granery. The logs in the walls are fairly slender, notched together at the corners with saddle notches. The gable roofs are steeply pitched, and the gable ends of one of these two cabins have vertical board construction.

The third cabin, identified by Wilhelmina Nelson of Saint Charles as the Jens Moller Hangaard Borglum residence, is in somewhat poorer condition than the other two. Built well over one-hundred years ago, it was moved onto the homestead from just a short distance away, and used for years as a chicken coop. Its low walls utilize stout logs, held together with saddle notches at the corners. The low pitched roof is supported by log purlins which are covered with rough-cut timber and slabs. These, in turn, support the remains of a sod covering.

The outbuildings complete this typical farm grouping. Several clapboard sheds are clustered behind the main house, along with the outhouses and the two log cabins. Toward the two barns and corrals is the Borglum cabin, and several more sheds are found by the barns.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
___PREHISTORIC	___ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	___COMMUNITY PLANNING	___LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	___RELIGION
___1400-1499	___ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	___CONSERVATION	___LAW	___SCIENCE
___1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	___ECONOMICS	___LITERATURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
___1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	___EDUCATION	___MILITARY	___SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
___1700-1799	___ART	___ENGINEERING	___MUSIC	___THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	___COMMERCE	___EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	___PHILOSOPHY	___TRANSPORTATION
___1900-	___COMMUNICATIONS	___INDUSTRY	___POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	___OTHER (SPECIFY)
		___INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Born in Malma, Sweden, 9 January 1854, Wilhelmina Nelson arrived in New York June 20, 1876, and settled in Saint Charles later that year. She lived next door to the J. M. H. Borglum residence, and when the old cabin could not be retained on its original site, she had it moved a short distance to a location close to her original log home. She survived to the age of 96, and took considerable pride in having maintained the Borglum structure.

The now abandoned farm of Wilhelmina Nelson outside the little town of St. Charles provides an excellent example of housing typical of the area. Retaining its integrity, the Nelson group offers a glimpse into the past. The utilitarian design of these buildings reflects two types of architecture common to the western frontier--log construction and clapboard construction. While many of these types of buildings are still in existence, few remain intact and unaltered in their integrity as a group, as the Nelson cabins do.

The Borglum home, preserved because of local interest in J. H. M. Borglum's son, Gutzon--sculptor of Mt. Rushmore--is the third of the log cabins in this group. Gutzon Borglum's unfinished autobiography stated that his father (who came to Bear Lake in 1866) dug the house half into the ground, finishing it with logs and sod.\* This description fits that of the present cabin, with its low log walls and sod roof. Gutzon Borglum, a native of Bear Lake valley, spent his first year there.

\*Information from Robert J. Casey and Mary Borglum, Give the Man Room, New York: The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Inc., 1952, p. 28. Lincoln Borglum, son of Gutzon, concurs in this identification.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Casey, Robert J. and Mary Borglum.

Give the Man Room, New York: The Boobs-Merrill Company, Inc., 1952

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

*8 or 9 acres with 2/1, 1/76*

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 10 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 2	4 6 7 9 16 10	4 6 16 1 18 3 8	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nomination includes only the house and barn, along with three cabins and small outbuildings between the house and barn.

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

January 12, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

610 N. Julia Davis Drive

TELEPHONE

208 384-2120

CITY OR TOWN

Boise, Idaho 83706

STATE

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

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

*State Historic Preservation Officer*

DATE

*14 January 76*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*acting*

*[Signature]*

DATE

*3/3/76*

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

*[Signature]*

DATE

*5/3/76*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER