UNITED STATES DAARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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#### **TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS** NAME HISTORIC Divide Sheep Camp AND/OR COMMON Niland's Cabins LOCATION **STREET & NUMBER** NE of Baggs NOT FOR PUBLICATION CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT CITY, TOWN Baggs Vicinity VICINITY OF 1 STATE CODE COUNTY CODE 07 56 Carbon Wyoming **3 CLASSIFICATION** CATEGORY OWNERSHIP STATUS **PRESENT USE** DISTRICT \_\_\_PUBLIC \_OCCUPIED AGRICULTURE \_\_\_MUSEUM X.BUILDING(S) PRIVATE XUNOCCUPIED \_\_\_COMMERCIAL ----PARK \_\_STRUCTURE WORK IN PROGRESS <u>Х</u>вотн \_\_EDUCATIONAL ....PRIVATE RESIDENCE XSITE PUBLIC ACQUISITION ACCESSIBLE \_\_\_ENTERTAINMENT \_\_\_RELIGIOUS \_IN PROCESS \_YES: RESTRICTED \_\_\_GOVERNMENT \_\_\_SCIENTIFIC \_\_BEING CONSIDERED X YES: UNRESTRICTED .....INDUSTRIAL -TRANSPORTATION N/A \_\_\_NO \_\_\_MILITARY X.OTHER: AGENCY **REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)** U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region STREET & NUMBER 11177 West 8th Avenue CITY, TOWN STATE VICINITY OF Lakewood 80225 Colorado LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Office of County Clerk, Carbon County STREET & NUMBER N/A CITY, TOWN STATE 82301 Wyoming Rawlins 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS TITLE Cultural Resource Evaluation - Divide Sheep Camp DATE FEDERAL \_\_STATE \_\_COUNTY \_\_LOCAL October 15, 1980 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS U.S.D.A. Forest Service, 11177 West 8th Avenue

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS

CITY. TOWN Lakewood

Colorado 80225

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

#### CONDITION

EXCELLENT	DETERIORATED	UNALTERED		SITE
GOOD	RUINS	XALTERED	MOVED	DATE
	UNEXPOSED			

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

### Present Physical Appearance:

#### The Cabin:

This is a log structure of one story with finished attic. The plain corner-notched round logs are hand hewn inside. The south end of the building has a portland-cement concrete foundation, while the north end rests on rock supports. The cabin measures about 25 x 40 feet, including a frame screened-in front porch. One bedroom and upstairs is plyed. The cabin has unusual multi-paned, handmade horizontal sliding windows.

John Niland, a descendant, has stated in correspondence that the cabin was built by his parents "in the early 1920's." This is borne out by the U.S.D.I., General Land Office Survey Plat, made in 1923, which calls this structure the "Niland Cabin."

#### The Bunkhouse:

This rectangular, corner-notched log structure has its one door at the east end. John Niland has stated that the structure was built around 1914, of very large quaking aspen logs.

### Other Structures:

Other structures include a 9-foot square log spring house and a roughly 4 x 8 foot generator shed.

One could not ask for a better preserved setting for an old building. The open, grassy area, the forest background, and the little pond created by the dam down the draw all make a very attractive picture. The site could, however, be cleaned up and modern trash removed.

#### Original Physical Appearance:

Mr. Niland stated that none of the original structures of the 1880's are present today. There was a log cabin across the draw from the existing one. The corral was located southwest of the existing cabin. The sheep dipping vat was located in the draw northwest of the existing cabin. A second cabin sat where the existing bunkhouse stands. A barn and a flyhouse sat where the log cabin now stands. The wood from the last dipping vat was utilized for the existing cabin floor. The site does retain its original integrity and represents the change in use the setting location, design and associations have not been altered.

# **8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD \_\_\_PREHISTORIC

----1500-1599

\_\_\_1600-1699

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X\_1900-1983

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STORIC	COMMUNITY PLA	NNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	

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#### \_\_LAW ....LITERATURE

....MILITARY

\_\_\_MUSIC

- \_\_POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
- \_\_\_SCIENCE
- \_\_\_SCULPTURE
- -SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN

Page

- \_\_\_THEATER
- \_\_\_TRANSPORTATION
  - .....OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES 1905-1974

ART

\_\_\_AGRICULTURE

\_\_\_ARCHITECTURE

\_\_COMMUNICATIONS

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BUILDER/ARCHITECT Niland Family

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE 447 그는 그는 소설

化偏分素的过去式 化乙二 where the second The significance of the Divide Sheep Camp site is its role as a summer headquarters. for a local sheep operation. The site was first utilized by the Niland-Tierney Company and later the Divide Sheep Company. Both were substantial operations on the upper middle size range of ranching for this period of time, and had important ties to other aspects of the Carbon County economy. The Divide Sheep Camp site is a significant example of the sheep industry associated with broad patterns of our history along with local level sheep camp operations. It embodies distinctive characteristics of the type period and method of construction of a high plains mountain sheep camp operations. "See continuation sheets 1 thru 9".

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9 MAJOR BIBL Nelson "The Forag Western History Co	ge of the Red	Desert", ur	npublished m	anuscript. I ramie.	File W994rd,	•
Robert A. Murray, Wentworth, "Histor History Research (	cical Phases o	f the Sheer	o Industry in	n Wvoming" ur	). Ipublished, V	Vestern
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### Basic Grazing History, The Western Sierra Madre (Taken From Murray's Cultural Resource Evaluation)

8

The attractive valley of the Little Snake River lay three days by wagon from the rail line at Rawlins, but despite this, a few hardy settlers came in early. Best-known is Noah Reader, who reportedly arrived in 1870, settling first near the mouth of Savery Creek. 1/ In the summer of 1870, the party surveying Wyoming's southern boundary found half a dozen ranches scattered along the Little Snake. 2/ Among them was the ranch of Jim Baker, the old mountain-man, who settled here in 1873, near present Dixon. 3/ Most of these early settlers had small herds of cattle. In 1880, George Baggs from New Mexico brought in still more cattle and took up a ranch site on the north side of the Little Snake near the town that bears his name. 4/

These small, back-country cattlemen were soon joined by larger-scale operators. In 1882, William Swan took over the old Hat Ranch on Pass Creek east of the North Platte. He had access to considerable eastern and foreign capital, and rapidly expanded his herds. The next year, he and his associates formed the L7 Cattle Company. Among other holdings, they bought up George Baggs ranch and used it as their main base west of the Sierra Madre. 5/

Across the Colorado line, other large cattle outfits soon grew up as well. All of these cattlemen, large and small used the same basic system. At the most, they owned a headquarters site on an acceptable water source. They turned cattle out on the open range. In this region, the cattle would drift up off the desert and into the hills as the country opened up in summer. Seasonal roundups with temporary hired help accomplished the essential work with the cattle. The paper profits of such a low-over-head industry attracted speculative capital and created a great investment boom, the story of which is too often told to dwell upon here. 6/

In contrast to many other areas of the West, sheep began to arrive in numbers in about the same period as cattle. Most of the big sheep outfits were based along the rail line, wintered their flocks on the Red Desert and other desert basins, and summered them for the short available season on nearby mountains.7/

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I. C. Miller brought some sheep into Carbon County in 1875. 8/ By 1880, there were over 11,000 head of sheep in the County. 9/ Despite the fact that the county was progressively reduced in size to nearly its present boundaries by the year 1886, sheep increased in numbers to a figure that hung around 70,000 by 1886. 10/ To give some idea of total grazing load in the county in that year, the assessment rolls show in the spring of 1886: 126,832 cattle, 7,832 horses, and 74,951 sheep! This in an area and a time when winter feeding practices were as yet undeveloped, and when cattle on the range were completely untended for most of the year. 11/ The well-known hard winter of 1886-1887 hit the overextended and poorly managed corporate cattle companies very hard. The small operators on the Little Snake fared better. But the succeeding years saw cattle decline steadily in numbers while ranchers sought a viable system of cattle raising for the region. By contrast the sheep business moved quickly into a long-lived boom, in which the outfits that used the country immediately around the site under study were deeply involved.12/ By the spring of 1889, the number of sheep in Carbon County was already up to more than twice its level of three years before, to 154,613. 13/ The largest sheep outfit in direct contact with the Study Area during the boom was the Cosgriff Sheep Company. The partners, Thomas and John Cosgriff, sent their foreman, Adrian Apodaca(referred to in one Forest Service account as "a Castillian Spaniard" to differentiate him from the other Latins that were lumped together as "Mexicans" 14/) into the Rawlins area with sheep in 1882. The brothers followed in 1883, and set up their headquarters at Rawlins, with additional shearing and loading pens at Wolcott Junction. They bought up vast tracts of railroad The Sierra Madre was but one of the ranges they checkerboard lands. utilized in the summer. 15/ The Cosgriffs at their peak of activity in the early 1900's owned more than 40 general merchandise stores, 27 banks and were financial backers of many smaller sheep operators. 16/

By 1891, increased grazing pressure brought conflict between cattlemen and sheep outfits. Litigation between some of the cattle companies and itinerant sheep outfits soon established that sheep could not be excluded from the unoccupied public domain lands. Cattlemen along the Little Snake in Wyoming and Colorado formed organizations, and proclaimed the southern boundary of Wyoming a "deadline" that sheep might not move south across. In the spring of 1894, the Edwards brothers of Rock Springs tried to move 30,000 head of sheep across the

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line, but were turned back by parties of armed men. 17/ They continued to probe the country along the line with smaller bands. J. W. Geddes of Rawlins bought out the Edwards flocks in 1899, and sent a large band south to the state line. Here on November 5, 1899, a group of forty masked men raided his camps, running off the herders, destroying wagons and camp equipment and killing perhaps 3,000 sheep. <u>18/</u> Conditions remained very tense along the "deadline" right up to the arrival of the Forest Service personnel to activate the Sierra Madre Forest Reserve, established late in 1906. 19/

### The Niland and Tierney Companies:

We are dealing from here on out in this report with what is actually a group of often overlapping and interrelated companies that are fairly typical of sheep operators on the substantial but intermediate scale. They organized and sometimes reorganized during the great sheep boom, but maintained lineal business descendants until very recent times. A moderate number of comparable outfits, along with, in the early years the giant Cosgriff company, were the companies the early Forest Service had to deal with in the area.

The earliest report we have for the Niland and Tierney organization is the statement that it was formed as a partnership in 1892. 20/ The partners were E. M. Tierney, a Rawlins merchant, and William Niland. In 1905, they incorporated the Niland-Tierney Sheep Company, Inc., and in that same year, Tierney organized the Carbon County Sheep and Cattle Company. 21/ Both men were over the years affiliated with various other companies as well.

### The Coming of the Forest Service

The Medicine Bow National Forest (comprising within Wyoming what now lies in the forest area on the Medicine Bow Range) was created by presidential proclamation in 1902. An operating staff went into action (under the General Land Office, Department of the Interior) in April of 1903. In 1904, an attempt was made to secure a count of the livestock grazing on the Forest. In 1905, the administration of this tract was shifted to the newly-created U. S. Forest Service, in the Department of Agriculture. Many of the same local staff members transferred to the new organization. Grazing permits were issued in 1905, and a lot of sheep were forced off the Medicine Bow Range.

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Lots of these sheep moved over to the country around the Sierra Madre, where the area was still unclassified public domain, except for a few homesteads and the mining claims in the copper mine areas. Arriving on the scene as the new Forest Supervisor in the spring of 1907, Jesse W. Nelson found a complex situation. In late 1906, most of the Sierra Madre range was placed in the newly-created Sierra Madre Forest Reserve, administratively under the Medicine Bow Supervisor. Nelson spent most of the season of 1907 trying to adequately assess the dimensions of the grazing problem on the Sierra Madre.

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He immediately instituted a counting system. He found over 316,000 sheep were covered by permits to let them on the forest. 22/ Grazing pressure the previous year had been so severe that the sheep were reduced to gnawing the bark from the aspen trees. 23/

Nelson met repeatedly with the sheepmen and cattlemen of the surrounding country. He found that there was surplus range available in the high country of northern Colorado. Early in 1908, he secured an agreement with sheep and cattle organizations that let Wyoming sheep make short-season utilization of some of that land. As a part of the new seasonal grazing pattern, most of the Wyoming outfits were to be issued permits to bring their flocks off the desert to lamb, starting May 16th, and then moving on to cross the Colorado line out of the Forest by July 1st each season. In July and August, cattle from specific nearby outfits could use the range vacated by the south-bound sheep. Nelson also arranged in 1909 for a sheep-driveway that would let the flocks go down off the forests of Colorado to the railroad at Steamboat Springs, if they were to be shipped out, thus reducing the returning grazing load in the fall. 24/

The Divide Sheep Camp was first authorized by a Special Use Permit in 1909 for a pasture to hold saddle horses, a small cabin and barn to be used as a sheep headquarters, a sheep corral used in separating, counting, and branding sheep and a dipping vat.

The site was a base summer camp which provided supplies to company employees herding sheep on public domain range and later on the reserved National Forest System land. Herders used sheep wagons in the lower desert country during the winter months. In the spring, they drove their charges upon higher elevation public range and stored their wagons at the camp. As many as 32 wagons were stored there. The Divide Sheep Company ran approximately 3,400 sheep, but numerous other outfits were allowed use of the facilities. When allowed on the Forest, lambing occurred around the camp.



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The herders were supplied by pack animals during the summer. Supplies purchased from the nearest general store included food, tobacco, grain for work animals and salt for the sheep.

The corrals were an important part of the operation of the camp, as it was the only suitable structure for separating mixups. It was also utilized for counting and marking ownership. During the fall, lambs were separated for shipment to market.

The dipping vat was also an important feature of the site when scabbies was a significant threat. Following their arrival in the spring, the sheep were driven through the vat containing liquid and chemicals. The primary purpose was for treatment of scabbies, but was also effective for ticks and maggots.

The log cabin(s) served to house the camp tender/owners and their guests. The herders utilized their wagons and slept under the stars.

It was in this period that the Niland-Tierney Sheep Company, Inc., received its lambing-permit on a temporary basis. The Service only issued temporary permits for this use, because of the obvious need to steadily reduce the overall grazing load on the Forest. 25/ Further negotiations steadily and voluntarily reduced the numbers of livestock permitted on the Forest. The Forest went through several changes of administrative alignment between that point and recent times when it is a set of districts of the Medicine Bow National Forest again, but these changes are not directly germane to our discussion here. 26/

Over the years, the lambing permits were treated as preference permits (but differentiated from the summer grazing permits) until 1935, when all lambing permits were changed to temporary permits with a view of eliminating lambing use of the Forest. In 1939, the Niland-Tierney Company exchanged its lambing permit for a temporary summer-use permit for the Coal Gulch Allottment. 27/

The Divide Sheep Company is an organization that arose over certain management and personnel problems within the original Niland-Tierney organization in 1919. Its name comes from the fact that E. M. Tierney and William Niland <u>divided</u> the assets and operations of the former company and Niland created the new one out of the portion he obtained. The two now-related families remained on good terms, and continued a degree of cooperation and other affiliation that only a detailed examination of several companies' records could unfold completely. <u>28</u>/

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William M. Tierney, who managed the Niland-Tierney Company after the division in 1919(the name remained the same), sold out that organization's extensive holdings to several buyers in the fall of 1958.  $\underline{29}$ / The Divide Sheep Company continued in operation until 1974. In the 1975 season, the company selected seasonal non-use on the Coal Gulch Allottment, which it now held under term permit. Then, in order to make the permit a part of the salable assets of the organization upon its planned dissolution, the company stocked the range temporarily. By the end of 1977, the company was out of business, and its principal agent, Catherine Niland McDonough agreed to the removal of the buildings at the site in question.  $\underline{30}$ / These buildings had been under special use permits in conjunction with grazing permits of the several companies since December 8, 1943.  $\underline{31}$ /

Archeologists and historians have recorded over one thousand stockherding camps in Wyoming. Very few of these however, have any architectural features. We know of only three others; the Don Stratton, the Bob Stratton, and the Rasmussen Ranch Sheep Camps, within the exterior boundaries of the Medicine Bow National Forest. These three are located on small private holdings within the Forest, and are used in conjunction with active grazing operations in the Forest.

The Niland Family has held an important role in the development of Carbon County since the turn of the century.

Externally, the structures are in a state of fair preservation, showing only normal weathering for their age and location. Internally, they have been progressively modernized, but this is not intrusive, in view of their long continued use.

In summary, the site possesses a local significance to the early grazing history of the Medicine Bow National Forest and Carbon County, Wyoming. While none of the original cabins, corral or dipping vat exist today, the existing log structures serve as local examples of sheep camp architecture covering the period of 1901 to 1975.

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<u>1</u> /	Local sources have usually said Reader came in 1871, but the boundary surveyors found him there in 1870. See: John F. Gooldy, "Early Day History of the Little Snake River Valley," unpublished manuscript, Western History Research Center, University of Wyoming, Laramie.
<u>2</u> /	W. A. Richards, "Diary <u>Annals of Wyoming</u> ", v. 7, #4, (April 1931), pp. 467-482.
<u>3</u> /	Mumey, op.cit., p. 166.
<u>4</u> /	Herbert O. Brayer, "The L7 Ranches," <u>Annals of Wyoming</u> , v. 15, 31, (January, 1943), pp. 4-36.
<u>5</u> /	ibid. Also: Carbon County Journal, July 8, 1882.
<u>6</u> /	Ernest S. Osgood, <u>The day of the Cattleman</u> , Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1970.
	Gene M. Gressley, Bankers and Cattlemen, New York: Knopf, 1963
<u>7</u> /	Aven Nelson, "The Forage of the Red Desert," unpublished manuscript, file W994rd, Western History Research Collection, University of Wyoming, Laramie.
	also: H. A. Heath, "The Sheep Industry in Wyoming, Colorado, and Utah," <u>House Miscellaneous Document #105</u> , 52nd Congress, 2nd Session, (serial 3124), Washington, D.C., GPO, 1892, pp. 771-786.
<u>8</u> /	Edward N. Wentworth, <u>America's Sheep Trails</u> , Ames: Iowa State College Press, 1948, pp. 308-329.
<u>9</u> /	Carbon County Assessor's Report, Wyoming State Archives, Cheyenne.
<u>10</u> /	<u>ibid</u> .
<u>11</u> /	<u>ibid</u> .
<u>12</u> /	T. A. Larson, "The Winter of 1886-87 in Wyoming," Annals of Wyoming, v. 14, $\#1$ , January 1942.

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<u>13</u> /	Assessor's Reports, op. cit.
<u>14</u> /	Louis E. Coughlin, unpublished autobiographical sketch of his first two years in the Forest Service, included as "Appendix C," in Robert K. Bruce, <u>op.cit.</u>
<u>15</u> /	Wentworth, <u>op.cit.</u> , also, Wentworth, "Historical Phases of the Sheep Industry in Wyoming," unpublished manuscripts at Western History Research Center, University of Wyoming, Laramie.
<u>16</u> /	<u>ibid.</u>
<u>17</u> /	Evanston News-Register, March 31, 1894.
<u>18</u> /	Edward N. Wentworth, "Sheep Wars of the Nineties in Northwest Colorado," <u>Denver Westerners' Brand Book</u> , Denver: Denver Westerners, 1946, pp. 131-139
<u>19</u> /	J. W. Nelson, "My Early Days in the Forest Service," unpublished manuscript, Shoshone National Forest Historical File, Cody, Wyoming.
<u>20</u> /	"Rawlins Ranger Set to Sell Vast Holdings," <u>Denver Post</u> , November 5, 1958.
<u>21</u> /	<u>ibid.</u>
	also: Ed Tierney of Rawlins, Wyoming, has the original corporation records of the Niland-Tierney Company, 1905-1958, plus other company business papers.
<u>22</u> /	Robert K. Bruce, <u>op.cit.</u> J. W. Nelson, <u>op.cit.</u>
<u>23</u> /	Coughlin, <u>op.cit.</u>
<u>24</u> /	Nelson, <u>op.cit.</u> also; J. W. Nelson, letter to G. D. Pickford, May 2, 1949, in file I, Information, Routt, Historical, in Medicine Bow National Forest Files, Western History Research Center, Laramie

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also: agreement between the Carbon County Woolgrowers Association and the Snake River Stockgrowers Association, January 24, 1908, cited in "History of Lambing on Forest as given in our Files," November 2, 1944, in Medicine Bow National Forest Files, Western Research Center, Laramie.

- also: Coughlin, op.cit.
- 25/ "History of Lambing...." op.cit.
- 26/ Robert K. Bruce, op.cit.
- 27/ John C. Miller, "Memorandum for Forest Advisory Board (S&G)," January 22, 1948, in Hayden Ranger District Files, Encampment.
- 28/ Interview with Ed Tierney, Rawlins, Wyoming, Oct. 4, 1980.
- 29/ Denver Post, November 5, 1958.
  - Rawlins Times, January 26, 1963.
- 30/ Coal Gulch Allotment file and Special Use Permit file, Hayden Ranger District Files, Encampment.
- 31/ ibid.

