

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_

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**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

NRIS Reference Number: 99001475

Date Listed: 6/5/2003

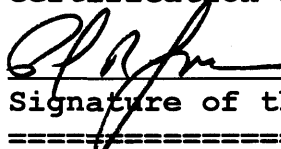
Spud Drive-In Theater  
Property Name

Teton  
County

ID  
State

**Multiple Name**

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

  
Signature of the Keeper

6/5/03  
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

**U. T. M. Coordinates:**

The correct U. T. M. Coordinates are: 12 491260 4837180.

**Photographic Documentation:**

The SHPO confirms that the 1998 photographs continue to reflect the current condition of the nominated property.

These revisions were confirmed with the ID SHPO office.

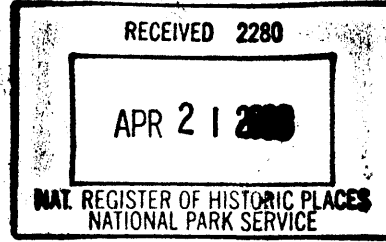
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**DISTRIBUTION:**

National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Spud Drive-In Theater

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number 231 S. State Highway 33 N/A not for publication

city or town Driggs  vicinity

state Idaho code ID county Teton code 081 zip code 83422

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Kenneth C. Reid Apr 18, 2003  
 Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
 KENNETH C. REID, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
 State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

2 Signature of the Keeper Date of Action  
B. P. [Signature] 6/5/03

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Spud Drive-In Theater  
Name of Property

Driggs, Teton County, Idaho  
City, County, and State

### 5. Classification

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>2</u>	<u>                    </u> buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>                    </u> sites
<u>1</u>	<u>                    </u> structures
<u>1</u>	<u>                    </u> objects
<u>5</u>	<u>                    </u> Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

### 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/  
  Theater  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/  
  Theater  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

No Style  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE  
walls WOOD  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof ASPHALT  
other WOOD  
METAL

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1Name of Property Spud Drive-In TheaterCounty and State Teton County, Idaho

### PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

The Spud Drive-In Theater is located at 231 S. State Highway 33, approximately one-and-one-half miles south of Driggs, Teton County, Idaho. The rectangular site encompasses 4.2 acres located on the east side of the highway. The Spud Drive-In Theater is an excellent and intact example of an outdoor automobile-oriented venue for the display of motion pictures. It comprises a unified "entertainment landscape" that was constructed between 1953 and 1955. For purposes of the National Register of Historic Places, the Spud Drive-In is considered a historic district that contains two buildings; one structure; one object; and one site (the landscape); all of which contribute to the historic character of the property. Descriptions of these individual elements are as follows:

#### 1. Drive-in theater landscape (1953)--contributing

The designed landscape of the Spud is typical for post-war era drive-ins. Access from the highway is gained via a circular driveway located at the rear of the screen tower. An entry ramp leads from the south side of the driveway past a solid wood fence to the ticket booth. This, in turn, leads to the core of the theater lot, which consists of concentric semi-circular dirt and gravel access drives and graded parking spaces that focus on the screen tower. The concession stand/projection booth is set in the center of the parking area. An exit ramp is located on the north side of the main lot, which guides patrons past another solid wood fence to return to the front circular driveway. The Ballentyne Company of Omaha, Nebraska provided sight distance and grading specifications for the lot. The Spud's lot can accommodate up to 170 automobiles. There is a small lawn at the foot of the screen tower that is separated from the parking area by a row of low stone posts. Metal stanchions, which formerly held individual speakers, are still in place in the first several rows of parking spaces. The rest were removed when the Spud Drive-in updated its sound system in 1989. An AM transmitter station was used to broadcast the soundtrack of the film. In the early 1990s, an FM transmitter was added. Lightning destroyed the AM station in 1997.

#### 2. Screen tower (built 1953, modified 1955)--contributing

The screen tower is located in roughly the center of the west side of the site. Plans for the screen tower were obtained from the Fence Company of America, Inc. in Escanaba, Michigan in July of 1950. It was initially constructed in the summer of 1953. It sits back from the road approximately 50 feet and is approximately 35 feet high and 60 feet wide. The tower consists of an unenclosed, heavy timber framework anchored by concrete pilings. The screen surface is affixed to the east side of this framework and has been replaced several times over the years. The screen tower was modified in 1955 to accommodate films made in Cinemascope. These films required a wider projection surface than traditional stock. An additional section was added to each end of the screen tower, resulting in the present dimensions. The rear of the screen tower features a large billboard designed to mimic an Idaho license plate, which advertises the Spud.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Name of Property Spud Drive-In Theater

County and State Teton County, Idaho

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### 3. Concession Stand/Projection Booth (1953)--contributing

The concession stand/projection booth is a low, single-story, rectangular structure located approximately in the center of the Spud Drive-In lot. It has a very shallow, gabled roof and is of frame construction clad with wide, clapboard siding. It contains the concession area and kitchen to the north, restrooms in the center, and the projection booth to the south. The building has a small, shed-roofed ell on the north elevation, which contains the kitchen and storage. The east elevation features an entry door leading to the concession area, a large, fixed window that allows a view of the screen from the concession area, and one large and two small openings for the projector. The rear of the building is unadorned save for a rear entry to the concession area. The south elevation is also unadorned.

### 4. Ticket Booth (1953)--contributing

The ticket booth is located to the south and east of the screen tower. It is a small, rectangular structure placed in the center of the entry ramp. It has a shallow, bow truss, arch roof and is of frame construction clad in wide, clapboard siding. There is a half-glazed door located in the front of the booth and sliding aluminum-framed windows on the other three elevations.

### 5. 1946 Ford One-Ton Truck/Gunnite Potato (1953, Potato replaced 1992)--contributing

Rather than a traditional advertising sign, the Spud has used a rather unique roadside object to draw attention to the theater. Since 1953 "Old Murphy," a 1946 one-ton Chevrolet flat-bed truck, has been parked along the highway inside the circular driveway. An oversized potato has been placed in the bed of the truck. The original "Spud" was made from wood, chicken wire and plaster of paris in 1953. This original object was vandalized and destroyed in 1992. Following this event, the Driggs Chamber of Commerce held a fund-raising drive to replace what had come to be a local icon. They raised \$1,000 to construct the present "Spud" of wood, foam insulation, and gunnite. The present frame around the truck bed was also installed at that time to prevent future vandalism.

Spud Drive-In Theater  
Name of Property

Driggs, Teton County, Idaho  
City, County, and State

### 8. Statement of Significance

#### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" on one or more lines for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

#### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" on all that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

#### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

### 9. Major Bibliographical References

#### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

#### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

#### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

#### Period of Significance

1953-1955

#### Significant Dates

1953

1955

#### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

#### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

#### Architect/Builder

Fence Company of America, Inc.

Escanaba, MI (Screentower designer);

Ballentyne Company, Omaha, NE (Concession/

Projection building)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1Name of Property Spud Drive-In TheaterCounty and State Teton County, Idaho

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### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Spud Drive-in Theater is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A at the local level for its significance in the area of "Entertainment/Recreation." It is an excellent example of an increasingly rare property type that has played, and continues to play, a substantial role in the recreational and social life of the community of Driggs and the Teton Valley.

#### Drive-In Theaters:

Inspired by his twin love of cars and movies, entrepreneur Richard Hollingshead, Jr. combined the two, and in 1933, opened the first drive-in theater in Camden, New Jersey. Hollingshead patented his design for the theater, which consisted of a screen tower and a series of ramps in a fan-shaped arrangement, and sold rights to use the design for \$1,000 and 5% of the gross receipts. A theater with a 300-car capacity required six to seven acres of land; a 600-car drive-in required twelve acres.<sup>1</sup>

The early years of drive-in theaters saw slow growth. Many were initially leery of the idea, and the Depression limited new commercial endeavors of many kinds. On average, it cost approximately \$30,000 - \$35,000 to construct a drive-in theater - no small sum in the 1930s.<sup>2</sup> The first eight years were slow enough in drive-in growth, but the WWII era saw virtually no growth at all due to nationwide limits on construction, gas rationing, and the unavailability of tires.<sup>3</sup> By 1946, only 102 drive-in theaters existed in the United States.

The post-war economic boom in the U.S. was mirrored by the drive-in theater boom. In 1947, there were 155 drive-ins; by 1949, there were 820; and by 1955, there were nearly 4,000.<sup>4</sup> Post-war drive-in construction and growth were greatly aided by technological improvements made during the war years. The previously problematic sound system was finally solved when RCA developed an in-car speaker system (thus providing great relief to surrounding neighborhoods), and projection technology improved enough to allow for larger and larger drive-ins without losing picture quality to the farther rows. These economies of scale allowed for more profitable operations.

Along with the economic boom came the post-war baby-boom, a factor that made the drive-in theater more popular than ever. Parents didn't have to worry about sitters, as the kids could come along and sleep in the back seat. And if they became a bit unruly, and cried or screamed, one needn't be worried about disturbing other patrons. The drive-in theater became a primary family recreation activity in the post-war decade. The convenience of it was hard to beat: families could dress as they liked (including small children in footed pajamas); they could eat, drink, and smoke in their cars; and there was never a problem with parking. Add to that the growing American obsession with the automobile and the result was that, even though the drive-in theaters showed mostly only B-grade or second-run movies, people flocked to them in numbers as never before.<sup>5</sup>

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Name of Property Spud Drive-In Theater

County and State Teton County, Idaho

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With the flood of families attending the drive-in came amenities designed just for them. Many drive-ins installed bottle warmers for parents who brought infants. Play areas, picnic areas, and of course, the concession stands (or even mobile refreshment carts) with a variety of foods were all drive-in features not found in the traditional indoor theater. Some theaters offered more elaborate entertainment, including miniature golf courses, driving ranges, live music and dancing, and more. The drive-in theater was not simply a movie but became an “entertainment event.”<sup>6</sup>

During the 1950s, the drive-in thrived as a new business venture. The facility was considerably less expensive to build than an indoor theater, and they boomed in contrast to their more traditional predecessor. From 1946 to 1953, 851 new indoor theaters were opened, while almost 4,700 closed their doors for good. In contrast to those figures, almost 3,000 new drive-ins were built, while only 342 closed down.<sup>7</sup> There clearly was a significant trend occurring, and as their popularity grew, many drive-ins stayed open year round.

During the early decades, great hostility existed between the owners of indoor theaters and the owners of drive-ins, though there was actually very little competition in the traditional sense. This was largely because early on, all the major studios also owned or contracted with most of the existing theaters, so they had a monopoly over the showing of A-grade movies. Drive-ins and independent theater owners were left with mostly B-grade movies and old westerns. In addition, surveys were actually conducted that clearly indicated that the drive-ins did not steal patronage from indoor theaters; in fact, those who went to drive-ins typically would not have attended traditional theaters - a whole new group of movie patrons emerged to attend the “ozone” theaters.<sup>8</sup>

The drive-in theater saw its peak in the late 1950s and from there started a steady decline. The reasons for the demise of the “ozoners” are complex and interrelated. Given the huge success of these theaters in the ‘50s, the drive-in owners made no efforts to improve the stock of films they showed. They saw no reason to worry that they had access only to B-grade or second-run films. People poured in anyway, as the novelty of the drive-in brought them flocking. Early on, there was an endless choice of these films available as the film studios poured out mediocre films in order to fill their studio-owned indoor theaters. In the late 1940s, this film studio monopoly was challenged and the studios were forced to sell their theaters. Once this occurred, they didn’t have a need to produce as many films and the number of available features dropped precipitously. At about the same time that some of the drive-in novelty was wearing off, the unavailability of new films was realized and attendance began to drop.

As attendance dropped at the drive-ins, the first things to go at the outdoor facilities were the “extras.” The playgrounds (also affected by sharp increases in liability insurance costs), the shuffleboard courts, and the diaper stations and bottle warmers, all slowly disappeared. As these extras disappeared, the theaters were less appealing to families - the mainstay of the drive-ins. Family drive-in attendance was also frustrated by the permanent installation of daylight savings time in 1967. The pushing back of sunset meant pushing back the start time of the movies. In some northern areas, movies could not start



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

Name of Property Spud Drive-In Theater

County and State Teton County, Idaho

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until well past nine o'clock at night, making it less appealing for families with young children who did not want to be out so late.

Meanwhile, teenagers found new places to meet and socialize. The rise of the mall had a significant impact on drive-in attendance. Indoor theaters survived by going multi-plex, and building smaller theaters. This was an effective remedy to the decreasing numbers of movie-goers. It was very difficult for drive-ins to follow suit. Some drive-ins did divide into 2-, 3- or even 4-screen theaters, but still, they were too large for the number of cars that passed through the gates.

While the advent of television actually had little impact on the drive-in, later television-related developments did. Cable television, video cassette recorders, home entertainment centers, all participated in the decline of the popularity of the drive-in. The family room at home with its comfortable seating, and easy access to bathrooms and snacks provided a more convenient and comfortable place to watch a movie. Add to that the changing nature of the automobile in America; no longer a huge gas-guzzler with roomy bench seating front and back, the newer cars were compact with little room for comfort or cuddling.

A final, but not insignificant, factor in the demise of the drive-in was the sheer size of the typical facility and the fact that the land often became too valuable. As communities continued to grow and sprawl, they began to encroach on the theaters that were once located well outside the city limits. Drive-in owners could continue to struggle with diminishing sales and revenues, or they could sell the 20-30 acres the theater sat on for sometimes millions of dollars for commercial or residential development. Adding to the incentive to sell out was the fact that most of the facilities were reaching 20, 30, even 40 years of age, and maintenance costs were beginning to grow; the incentives to invest significant amounts of money into a failing industry were pretty small.<sup>9</sup>

All of these factors have helped to speed the demise of the drive-in theater as a popular entertainment venue. In addition, along with the loss of the existing facilities, it is extremely unlikely that a new drive-in theater will ever be built in the United States, making the remaining properties increasingly important examples of the historic American landscape.

### **The Spud Drive-In:**

Located on the eastern edge of the State of Idaho, Teton County is, and always has been, fairly sparsely populated. The county has maintained a population of generally less than 3,000, while the population of Driggs, the county seat and largest town, has consistently hovered around 900. The primary economic base is agricultural, so the county population is widely dispersed.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

Name of Property Spud Drive-In Theater

County and State Teton County, Idaho

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Prior to the opening of The Spud, the recreation options were limited in Teton County. Newspapers from the early 1950s show a fairly clear lack of entertainment options. Traditional indoor theaters in Driggs, Teton, and Victor were virtually the only regular recreation options. School plays, summer baseball leagues, and local band concerts provided occasional diversions, but little else was available for a weekend date or family outing.

The Spud Drive-In Theater was opened by A. C. "Ace" Wood in the early 1950s, and it provided an exciting new entertainment option. Wood was owner and operator of the indoor movie house in Driggs (the Orpheum), and he had contemplated building a drive-in venue since sending for plans for a screen tower in 1950. The design/plans for the screen tower came from the Fence Company of Michigan, based in Escanaba, while the concession/projection booth plans were obtained from the Ballentyne Company, out of Omaha, Nebraska.

While Mr. Wood obtained the plans three years earlier, he did not commence construction on the facility until 1953. That April, the county newspaper noted the project and commented on page 1 that work on the drive-in theater was underway.<sup>10</sup>

On July 2, 1953, a photograph of the screen tower ran in the center of the front page of the newspaper with a caption indicating that

*A distinct addition to the entertainment facilities in Teton Valley goes into operation this week with the opening of the new Spud Drive-In Theater... about ½ mile south of Driggs.*<sup>11</sup>

The Spud quickly became a local success, drawing crowds from all over the county to the 170-car theater. The theater had separate speakers for each car and "a snack counter... where sandwiches and refreshments [could] be obtained."

The love of the automobile extended even into the far reaches and corners of the country. The *Teton County Register* was prolific with front-page stories about new Fords, Chevys, and Oldsmobiles being unveiled in Detroit. In addition, the paper was rife with large, half- and quarter-page ads for various automobiles, and in a state with only 175,000 families, there were reported to be over 200,000 cars.<sup>12</sup>

The Spud Drive-In benefitted from this love of the automobile and lack of copious entertainment options. The theater thrived in its early years, and even as drive-ins lost much of their early appeal, the Spud continued to operate. In 1968, Wood retired and Leo and Gladys Davis took over the operation of the Spud Drive-In. It was at this time that the concession stand added the "Gladys Burger" (now called a Spud Burger) for which the Spud became locally famous.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

Name of Property Spud Drive-In Theater

County and State Teton County, Idaho

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The Spud came under the ownership of Richard Wood and his wife, Dawnelle, in 1986. Richard is the great-nephew of Ace Wood, the Spud's first proprietor. The Woods have made some technical improvements to the Spud. They switched from a carbon-arc system projection to Xenon bulb technology. The carbon-arc only allowed 20 minutes of bright light requiring two projectors and trained personnel to coordinate the film segments. The Xenon bulb eliminated segmented film and the cost of an operator. The original projectors, dating to before World War II, were updated and remain in working order.

The Spud has become a local institution and icon in Teton County. According to Wood, patronage continues to grow. He attributes this to tourist traffic from near Jackson, Wyoming and to the fact that generations of Teton Valley residents have made going to the movies at the Spud a summer tradition. Although limited entertainment options in Driggs might also be a factor, no clearer demonstration of the central role the Spud plays in the community could be found than local reaction to an incident of vandalism in 1992. The huge potato, which had rested in the bed of a 1946 Chevy truck named "Old Murphy" parked in front of the drive-in since 1953, was destroyed by vandals. The community responded quickly. The Driggs Chamber of Commerce raffled a hot-air balloon ride to raise \$1,000 to replace the Big Spud. A new gunnite potato was placed in the bed of Old Murphy, which remains a local landmark today.

The Spud Drive-In Theater has also received kudos from national experts. In the July 6, 1992, issue of the *San Francisco Chronicle*, Joe Bob Briggs, infamous and nationally renowned drive-in movie critic and advocate, called the Spud "one of the three best drive-ins in the country."<sup>13</sup> However, regardless of its national notoriety, the Spud derives much of its significance from the fact that from the moment it opened in Driggs, in Teton County, Idaho, it has been a significant and important recreation facility for the citizens of the area. In this very isolated and sparsely populated area in eastern Idaho, the culture and recreation options were, and are, somewhat limited; the Spud continues to provide a place for residents and visitors to pass a few enjoyable hours. The Spud Drive-In reflects a period of post-war growth and optimism, when families in big cars made the American drive-in an icon of mid-century entertainment.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

Name of Property Spud Drive-In Theater

County and State Teton County, Idaho

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### ENDNOTES

1. Chester H. Liebs, Main Street to Miracle Mile, (Boston: Little, Brown and Company., 1985), p. 153-154.
2. Kerry Seagrave, Drive-in Theaters, (Jefferson, NC: McFarland and Co., 1992), p. 28.
3. Ibid., p. 32-33.
4. Ibid., p. 33.
5. Liebs, p. 157-158.
6. Seagrave, p. 65.
7. Ibid.
8. Ibid., p. 76.
9. Liebs, p. 164-167.
10. "Drive-in Theater in Progress," Teton Valley News, 2 April 1953, Sec. 1, p. 1.
11. "New Drive-in Theater to Open," Teton Valley News, 2 July 1953, Sec. 1, p. 1.
12. "Idaho's 175,100 Families Own 208,900 automobiles," Teton Valley News, 30 July 1953, p. 5.
13. "An Interview with Joe Bob," San Francisco Chronicle, 6 June 1992, p. 22-23.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

Name of Property Spud Drive-In Theater

County and State Teton County, Idaho

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### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Briggs, Joe Bob. Joe Bob Goes to the Drive-In. New York: Delacorte Press, 1987.

“The Drive-In Lives!,” *New York Times Magazine*, 7/6/97, p. 22-23.

“An Interview With Joe Bob,” *San Francisco Chronicle*, 7/6/92, p. D-2.

Liebs, Chester H. Main Street to Miracle Mile. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1985.

San Francisco Chronicle, 6 July 1992.

Seagrave, Kerry. Drive-in Theaters. Jefferson, NC: McFarland and Co., 1992.

“Stars and Cars,” *Entertainment Weekly*, 6/28/91, p. 26-28.

Teton Valley News, 2 April 1953; 2, 30 July 1953; 14 August 1991; 4 October 1991.

Spud Drive-In Theater  
Name of Property

Driggs, Teton County, Idaho  
City, County, and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 4.2 acres

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A 1/2 4/9/1/2/6/0 4/8/3/9/1/8/0 B 1 1/1/1/1 1/1/1/1  
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

C 1 1/1/1/1 1/1/1/1 D 1 1/1/1/1 1/1/1/1

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Tax Parcel #3612, Section 11, Township 4 North, Range 45 East of the Boise Meridian, Teton County, Idaho.

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The above described property contains all the land historically associated with the Spud Drive-In Theater.

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Bert Bedeau and Tricia Canaday, Architectural Historian

organization Idaho State Historical Society date 8/3/99, 1/31/03

street & number 210 Main Street telephone 208-334-3861

city or town Boise state ID zip code 83702

## Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Continuation Sheets**

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and/or properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

- **Photographs:** Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

- **Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

## Property Owner

name Richard and Dawnelle Wood

street & number 231 S Hwy 33 telephone 208-354-2803

city or town Driggs state ID zip code 83422

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page 1 Name of Property Spud Drive-In Theater

County and State Teton County, Idaho

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Spud Drive-in Theater  
Driggs, Teton County, Idaho  
Photos by Michael "Bert" Bedeau  
August 24, 1998  
Original negatives on file at the Idaho SHPO

Photo 1 of 11	Screen tower - view looking east
Photo 2 of 11	Screen tower - view looking south
Photo 3 of 11	Screen tower - view looking west
Photo 4 of 11	Screen tower - view looking south
Photo 5 of 11	Truck - view looking south
Photo 6 of 11	Truck - view looking west
Photo 7 of 11	Ticket booth - view looking east
Photo 8 of 11	Ticket booth - view looking north
Photo 9 of 11	Concession/projection building - view looking northeast
Photo 10 of 11	Concession stand - interior view
Photo 11 of 11	Projection room - interior view

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page 1 Name of Property Spud Drive-In Theater

County and State Teton County, Idaho

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## PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION

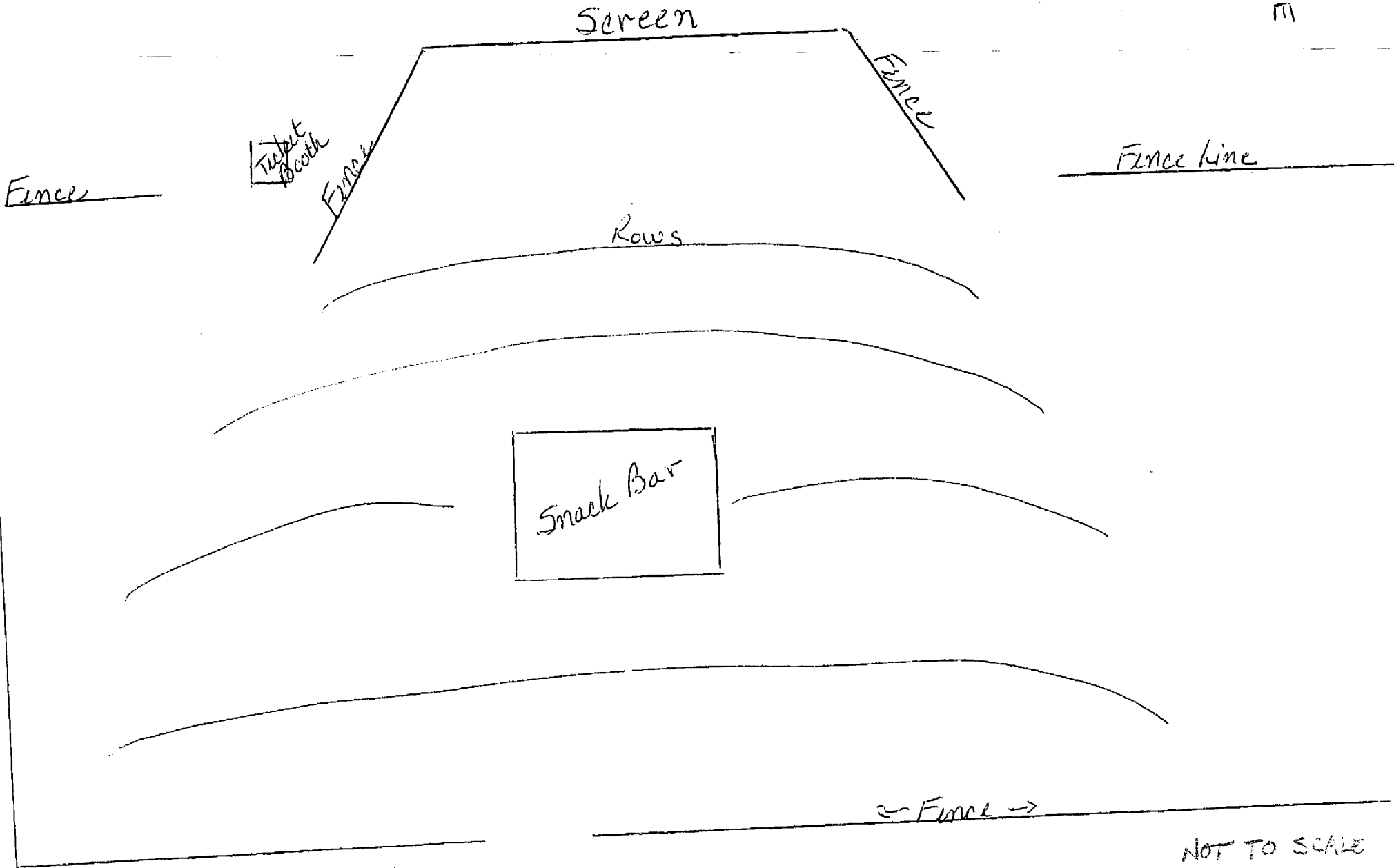
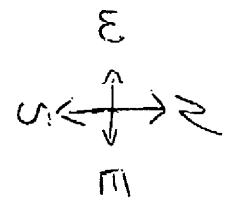
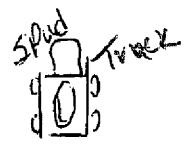
Spud Drive-in Theater  
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Original negatives on file at the Idaho SHPO

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Photo 1 of 11  | Screen tower - view looking east                        |
| Photo 2 of 11  | Screen tower - view looking south                       |
| Photo 3 of 11  | Screen tower - view looking west                        |
| Photo 4 of 11  | Screen tower - view looking south                       |
| Photo 5 of 11  | Truck - view looking south                              |
| Photo 6 of 11  | Truck - view looking west                               |
| Photo 7 of 11  | Ticket booth - view looking east                        |
| Photo 8 of 11  | Ticket booth - view looking north                       |
| Photo 9 of 11  | Concession/projection building - view looking northeast |
| Photo 10 of 11 | Concession stand - interior view                        |
| Photo 11 of 11 | Projection room - interior view                         |

Note: Although the photographs were taken in 1998 and the nomination is being submitted in 2003, a conversation with the owner of the Spud, in the Spring of 2003, verified that no substantive changes (beyond natural weathering) have occurred on the site in the interim.



SPUD DRIVE-IN  
DRIGGS, TETON CO., IDAHO



NOT TO SCALE