United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Page		
SUPPLEMENTARY 1	LISTING RECORD	
NRIS Reference Number: 95000667	Date Listed:	6/12/95
Niece Brothers' Store Property Name	<u>Custer</u> County	<u>ID</u> State
<u>N/A</u> Multiple Name		
This property is listed in the Na Places in accordance with the att subject to the following exception notwithstanding the National Park in the nomination documentation.	ached nomination do	cumentation amendments,
Signature of the Keeper	4/12/95 Date of Action	on
Amended Items in Nomination:		

Level of Significance:

The appropriate level of significance is: LOCAL

This information was confirmed with Carrie Scupholm if the ID SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

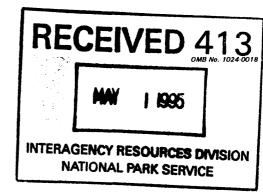
National Register property file Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

low.

NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 10/90)

United States Department of the InteriorNational Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any 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.

other names/site number McCoy's Tackle and Gift Shop				
2. Location				
street & number Ace of Diamonds Street		N/A	not for p	ublication
city or town Stanley			vicinity	
state Idaho code ID county Custer			zip code	
3. State/Federal Agency Certification		-		
forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the propertymeets _x does not I recommend that this property be considered significant _nationally _statesheet for additional domner(s.) Signature of certifying official	tewide _locally.	(<u>x</u>	<u>(</u> See con	tinuation
Signature of commenting or other official Date				
Signature of commenting or other official Date State or Federal agency and bureau				
			<u>-6/14</u> 	2/95

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Section number 3 Page 1

Name of Property Niece Brothers' Store

County and State Custer County, Idaho

RECEIVED 41300

MAY 1995

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Brothers' Store

The Idaho Historic Sites Review Board recommended eligibility of this building under Criterion A at their March 3, 1995, meeting. I do not concur with the recommendation of the Idaho Historic Sites Review Board. It is my opinion that the Niece Brothers' Store does not meet the National Register criteria due to a cumulative loss of historic integrity. Specifically, the wood shingle roof has been replaced with a corrugated metal roof, the original wood shingles in the faces of the gables were replaced by shiplap siding, a large sliding window as added to the face of the gable on the main facade, a roof was installed over the porch, and a dormer was added to the roof on the west elevation. This modern loss of historic integrity is of such extent that the building no longer reflects its historic appearance.

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration For	m			
Property Name <u>Niece Brothers'</u>	Store			
County and State Custer Count	y, Idaho		Pa	ge <u>2</u>
5. Classification Ownership of Property X private public-local	Category of Property <u>X</u> building(s) district	,	No. of Resources	within Property noncontributing buildings
public-State public-Federal	site structure object			sites structures objects Total
Name of related multiple prope			ng resources previous onal Register:	
6. Functions or Use				
	gories from instructions.)		department store	
Current Functions (Enter categ	ories from instructions.)	Sub: <u> </u>	specialty store	
7. Description Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instruc	tions.)	foundation		•
			AL: steel	

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

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form		
Property Name Niece Brothers' Store		
County and State <u>Custer County, Idaho</u>	Pas	ge <u>3</u>
8. Statement of Significance Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in a National Register listing.)	one or more boxes for the criteria qua	alifying the property for
<u>x</u> A Property is associated with events that have our history.	ve made a significant contribution to	the broad patterns of
B Property is associated with the lives of per	rsons significant in our past.	
C Property embodies the distinctive characteri or represents the work of a master, or posse and distinguishable entity whose components	esses high artistic values, or represe	construction ents a significant
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield,	information important in prehistory	or history.
Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes	that apply.)	
A owned by a religious institution or used for	religious purposes.	
B removed from its original location.		
C a birthplace or a grave.		
D a cemetery.		
E a reconstructed building, object, or structu	ıre.	
F a commemorative property.		
G less than 50 years of age or achieved signif	icance within the past 50 years.	
Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions.)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
Exploration/Settlement	1919-1943	
	Cultural Affiliation N/A	
Significant Person	Architect/Builder	

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

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form		
Property Name Niece Brothers' Store		
County and State Custer County, Idaho		Page <u>4</u>
9. Major Bibliographical References		
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources us	ed in preparing this fo	rm on one or more continuation sheets.)
Previous documentation on file (NPS):		Primary location of additional data:
preliminary determination of individual lis	ting	X State Historic Preservation Office
(36 CFR 67) has been requested		Other State agency
previously listed in the National Register		Federal agency
previously determined eligible by the Nation	nal Register	Local government
designated a National Historic Landmark		University
recorded by Historic American Buildings		Other
Survey #		Specify repository:
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #		
10. Geographical Data		
Acreage of property <u>less than one</u>		
UTM References 1 1/1 6/6/4/7/1/0 4/8/9/7/7/6/0 Zone Easting Northing	3 / / //// Zone Easting	/ //// Northing
2 / _ / / / / _ / / / /	4_/_////	
		tinuation sheet
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the bound	aries of the property o	n a continuation sheet.)
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundar	ies were selected on a	continuation sheet.)
11. Form Prepared By		
name/title Susan M. Stacy, Consulting Historia	n	doto
organization <u>Double Eagle History</u> street & number <u>1718 North 17th Street</u>		date
city or town Boise		state <u>Idaho</u> zip code <u>83702</u>
city of town borse		State Italio 219 code OSTO2
Additional Documentation		
Submit the following items with the completed f	orm:	
Continuation Sheets		
Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indic A sketch map for historic districts and pr		
Photographs Representative black and white photographs	of the property.	
Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO fo	r any additional items.)
Property Owner		
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO		
name		
street & number		
city or town		

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Section number 7 Page 1	Name of Property	Niece Brothers' Store
	County and State	Custer County, Idaho

The Niece Brothers' Store, now named McCoy's Tackle and Gift Shop, is located at the corner of Niece Avenue and Ace of Diamonds Street in the town of (Upper) Stanley. Built in 1919, it is a one-and-a-half story, log building with boxed corners. The main portion is rectangular in plan set on a concrete foundation with a front-gabled corrugated metal roof. The faces of the gables are sheathed in shiplap siding which replaced wooden shingles. A wooden porch, covered with a shed roof dating from the 1940s, extends across the main facade. In 1940, a one-story addition was constructed on the rear elevation of the building. In addition, an enclosed utility porch was added to the northern bay of the west elevation after 1943.

<u>Setting</u>. Stanley Basin is a valley at an elevation of about 6,100 feet, trending southwest along the lower course of Valley Creek to its confluence with the Salmon River. The Salmon River Mountains rise to the north and northeast. This range was the site of gold mines at places like Seafoam, Loon Creek, and Kelly Creek. Prospectors who followed the Salmon River to the north and east to the Yankee Fork made strikes at Custer and Bonanza. To the east are the White Cloud Mountains. South of the Basin, the Sawtooth Range presents a view of Mt. Heyburn and its sister peaks. Redfish, Pettit, Alturas lakes and scores of other lakes take their waters from the snows of the Sawtooths.

Its high elevation, distance from lower and larger settlements, heavy snows, and frigid climate have all conspired to isolate Stanley Basin, particularly in the harsh winter months. Yet its splendid mountain views, proximity to crystal lakes and streams, and abundant fish and game resources attract a summer population of hunters and anglers. The surrounding forests consist primarily of lodgepole pine, traditionally offering ample material for log buildings.

General Description. Amidst this high-mountain setting is the townsite of Stanley, a town with a 1994 population of about seventy people. Niece Brothers' Store, now named McCoy's Tackle and Gift Shop, is a log building located on one of the lots in the original townsite. Lots in Stanley were platted with dimensions of 142' to 155' deep with 50' of street frontage. The streets are not paved. Niece Brothers' Store, built in 1919, is on the corner of Niece Avenue and Ace of Diamonds Street and faces south. Next door to the west is Casanova Jack's Bar and Rod and Gun Club. Across Ace of Diamonds Street is a vacant lot. The post office parking lot is on the other side of Niece Avenue. Further up and down Ace of Diamonds Street can be seen a variety of other commercial buildings, including the Sawtooth Hotel on the west end.

The store is a one-and-a-half story, front-gabled structure that faces south. Glass doors and windows fill most of the main facade. A wooden porch, covered with a shed roof projecting from the wall above the windows, extends across the front. At the rear of the building, an addition projects from the original building. The foundation is concrete. Fourteen courses of round logs form the walls between foundation and roof. The corners are joined by the box method. (A box corner, sometimes called a

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trough corner, is formed by nailing to each set of log ends a long board that extends the height of the log wall. The two boards forming this "hog trough" at each corner are usually covered with two additional boards that hide the corner framing and form the "box." Chinking material is a dark cement putty. The roof is corrugated steel. Originally the roof was wood shingle.

The following description begins at the front of the building and proceeds around it to the east, rear, and west walls. Alterations made since 1919 are mentioned.

<u>Detailed Description</u>, <u>Exterior</u>. In the front of the store, which is about 27' wide, are six one-over-one double-hung sash windows, arranged in a triple bank on each side of the centrally placed double doors. Around the windows is a surround of dimensional lumber. The eastern door is not presently used as a door, but is covered by a sign. The other door opens toward the interior of the building. Above each door is a transom window. One is blocked and equipped with a ventilating fan. The other contains one pane of glass.

Up to about 1943, the store did not have a porch roof.² This was added in the late 1940s. The existing porch was modified slightly in 1994. After an automobile damaged and weakened one of the two upright logs supporting the porch's shed roof, the present owner replaced the two logs with four new logs. The porch extends across the front of the building and is approached by one step. An earlier porch foundation is visible under the step. It was about 16' wide and centered. Historic photographs of the house show that an unsheltered porch originally extended the full width of the building as it does today. Mr. Clyde Gillespie, who owned and operated the store between 1927 and 1943, said that patrons would pull up and park their vehicles or wagons in front and that the merchandise to stock the store came in the same way.³ The porch flooring is dimensional lumber arranged perpendicular to the front wall and runs about 6'-6" between the front edge of the porch and the wall. On the east end of the porch is a sloped ramp, also of dimensional lumber, designed for wheelchair access. The porch roof is corrugated steel similar to that of the main roof. Mr. Gillespie said that during his years at the store, at least two small fires caused by creosote build-up in the chimney threatened the store. He was not surprised to hear that steel eventually replaced the wood shingles he used to maintain.

¹ Jennifer Eastman Attebery, "The Diffusion of Folk Culture as Demonstrated in the Horizontal Timber Construction of the Snake River Basin" (Ph.D. dissertation, Indiana University, 1985.), p. 50.

² Clyde Gillespie, interview with Susan Stacy in Boise, August 14, 1994.

³ Clyde Gillespie, August 14, 1994.

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The front walls of the store consist of logs up to the gable, which is sheathed in shiplap siding. This replaced the original gable siding of wood shingles. In the upper story, a new sliding-glass window is trimmed by a simple wood framed-surround. This window was added by more recent owners who occasionally used the upstairs loft for residential use. Today, the upstairs is used for storage and other store-related activities.

On the east side of the store, sixteen courses of logs reach from the foundation to the edge of the roof. The taper of each log was significant from one end to the other, so the logs were laid with their top and bottom ends alternating. Since the logs were not long enough to extend the entire length desired by the builder, the wall was laid in two sections. A vertical piece of dimensional lumber covers the joint. Large nails can be seen fixing the lumber to the logs. In the south section is cut space for one one-over-one double-hung sash window, the same size as the windows in the front of the store. Another space contains a fixed window about 33 inches square.

Clyde Gillespie built a rear addition to the store about 1940 to serve as living quarters for his family. The addition was divided into a kitchen, living room, and two bedrooms. It also had a basement, which the store does not have. The basement was the location of the food cellar.⁴ Also of logs, with a front-gabled roof, the one-story addition is inset about three feet from the original rear wall. One picture window is in this section, 4'-8-1/2" wide and 3'-2" high. A second window opening contains a pair of sliding-glass windows with screens. These are placed one above the other and have a total dimension of 4'-4" high and 3'-0" wide.

The rear of the original building contains a second-floor casement window, similar to the other windows on the side. The gable end contains shiplap siding. On the first floor of the projection is a sliding-glass window with screens, 36 inches square. At the northwest end of the rear projection is a six-light hopper window.

On the west wall of the building, at the north end, is a once-open utility porch. Mr. Gillespie did not build this, so it was added some time after 1943.⁵ It has been enclosed with horizontal board-and-batten siding. Rafters support the shed roof of this section; the rafter ends project beyond the wall. A plywood door gives entry to the porch. Inside the porch, the log wall has obviously been protected from weathering. A red brick chimney projects from the roof of the rear addition.

In the rear section of the original building is a one-light fixed window which replaced an original

⁴ Clyde Gillespie, August 14, 1994.

⁵ Clyde Gillespie, August 14, 1994.

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one-over-one double-hung sash window. A pair of functioning wooden shutters is attached to the wall beside the window. An opening has been cut in the wall near the roof to provide for an Amana air conditioner.

The building is situated near the east and south boundaries of its lot. The remainder of the yard is fenced. A privacy fence runs along the front and west sides, and a pole fence extends along the east side. A gate provides entry to the yard. Various parts of the yard are grass or gravel or pads of concrete. A few small lodgepole and aspen trees grow just inside the fence. A prefabricated metal utility shed sits on concrete blocks in the rear yard. A propane tank also sits in the yard. A wooden boardwalk, installed by the McCoys, is adjacent to the east side of the building. Two wooden benches sit on the boardwalk.

General Description, Interior. The first floor of the original portion of the building and part of the rear addition is occupied by merchandise such as sporting goods, clothing, and gifts. The rest of the rear addition is used for office space and storage. The McCoys (and previous occupants) used to live in this portion of the building and had the kitchen installed along the east wall. This is no longer present. A first-floor bathroom has also been removed. A stairway to the second floor is located towards the north end of the original section. The second floor is partitioned for bedrooms.

The log walls are covered on the interior with a wallboard surface. Mrs. McCoy has observed that in the rear addition the logs are milled flat. The floor is covered with carpet. Mr. Gillespie says that the wood floor is tongue-in-groove planks. He also recalls that during his ownership, no wallboard covered the logs inside, and that they were round.⁶

The general condition of the property is excellent.

⁶ Clyde Gillespie, August 14, 1994.

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The Niece Brothers' Store is significant under Criterion A as the first structure erected in the town of (Upper) Stanley, Idaho. It represents the birth of the town. Around 1919, Bartlet Falls--an individual with land holdings at (Upper) Stanley--decided to establish a townsite at his location. He offered Leslie Niece, who was operating a store and post office in the as-yet unplatted (Lower) Stanley five acres "free and clear" if he would move the store and post office to Fall's townsite location. Niece accepted the offer, moved to his new property, built a store and, soon after, a house for his family right behind it. The store is an intact example of the log building carpentry of the era, having been designed and built by Arthur Wright, a man described by some as the "best carpenter in the area." Clyde Gillespie, the owner of the store after 1926, continued to run the post office until he left in 1943. The Niece Brothers' Store has remained in continuous operation as a store since 1919, under several subsequent ownerships.

The Early Settlement of the Stanley Basin: 1824-1900. Its high elevation, distance from lower and larger settlements, heavy snows, and frigid climate have all conspired to isolate Stanley Basin, particularly in the harsh winter months. Nevertheless, its variety of resources have lured several waves of pioneers to try and make them the basis of an economy. Fur, gold, forage grasses, and scenic splendor have each in turn brought travelers or settlers to the Basin.

Trapper Alexander Ross is credited as the Euro-American to have first "discovered" the Stanley Basin. He and a group of trappers visited and explored the country in September 1824. They were interested in the upper part of the Middle Fork of the Salmon River. Other trappers followed, but made relatively little permanent impact in the Basin.

In 1869, several years after the first gold strikes had brought miners from the Nevada and California fields into Idaho, a group of prospectors found their way into the Stanley region. They found placers on Loon Creek in the Salmon River Mountains north of the basin and the boom was on. One legend is that they named the basin after the oldest member of the party, a man named Stanley.⁸ Another story is that a "Captain" Jack Stanley led a group of twenty-three prospectors into the valley and built a saloon as its first building.⁹

⁷ Merle Wells, "Alexander Ross in the Snake Country," <u>Idaho Yesterdays</u> 14 (Spring 1970, No. 1), p. 13.

⁸ Ferris Weddle, "Stanley in the Wilds," Salt Lake Tribune, June 17, 1951, p. 4 M.

⁹ See Charles Hillinger, "Stanley, Idaho," <u>Idaho Statesman</u>, October 10, 1976, p. C 1; and Esther Missman Foley (as told to Ferris Weddle) "Feuding Towns," <u>Scenic Idaho</u> 12 (No. 3, 1958), p. 13.

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While miners worked the placers, others decided to exploit the lush grasslands in the valley as range for cattle and sheep. Stanley-area ranches provided meat and fish to the miners. The demand for other supplies inspired the development of wagon routes to Ketchum and Hailey, the site of a railroad depot after 1883.¹⁰ The Stanley area became a convenient commercial exchange and transfer center because it was the junction of two roads: the road along the Salmon River to the mines on the Yankee Fork and a road to the mines further west up Valley and Stanley creeks. Food, building, and other supplies could be obtained at Hailey and freighted back to Stanley.

Pack trains loaded with ore from the Seafoam mines would stop in the Basin and unload. Later, the ore was freighted south to the smelter in Ketchum. After the mines played out, sheep and cattle ranching continued; other markets were available via the rail connection at Hailey. After 1893, a road connected Stanley Basin through Bear Valley and to Boise to the west.¹¹ The settlement at Stanley eventually became the site of a post office, polling station, stores, lodges, and boarding houses.

The Establishment of Upper and Lower Stanley and their Competition: 1900-1925. Up to World War I, the slowly growing commercial center in Stanley Basin that had been developing along the Salmon River was located at what is today known as "Lower Stanley." After 1900, partly because of improved access, new homesteaders entered the basin environs and took up ranching on Fourth of July Creek and in other nearby areas. In 1905, when the United States Forest Service was created, a new district forest office was built at Stanley and added to the general business and population of the area. At the time, the area that was to become the (Upper) Stanley townsite was a headquarters area for the Benner ranch and hotel and was not regarded as a townsite area at all.

In the absence of town surveys, the practice among Stanley settlers was to "squat" on unoccupied land. In 1916 residents of (Lower) Stanley took steps to have a fifty-eight acre area withdrawn from what had been designated as National Forest land for the purpose of establishing a townsite. Action was slow and a survey was not completed until 1921. The sale of lots at public auction did not occur until 1922. A lot purchased by one of the settlers in the name of the School District for a school was

¹⁰ "Hailey," Wood River Journal Centennial Edition, July 1, 1981, p. 7.

¹¹ E.R. McGown, The Far Side of the Mountain (Stanley, Id: McGown, 1983), p.67-89.

¹² Weddle, p. 4.

¹³ Author unknown, <u>History of the Challis National Forest</u> (Unpublished manuscript, date unknown, located at Forest Supervisor's Office, Challis National Forest, Challis, Idaho), p. 1.

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done without appropriate authorization and had to be relinquished.¹⁴

Meanwhile, Bartlett Falls, an individual with land holdings at (Upper) Stanley decided around 1919 to establish a townsite at his location. He offered Leslie Niece, who was operating a store and post office in the as-yet unplatted (Lower) Stanley five acres "free and clear" if he would move the store and post office to Fall's townsite location. Niece accepted the offer, moved to his new property, built a new store and, soon after, a house for his family right behind it. With the construction of the store, a feud between settlers in the two towns began. (The feud, now long since grown cold, is still part of the local lore.) The house had two stories, a fireplace, a pressure tank upstairs, and a kitchen range that heated water. It was regarded as the most modern house yet built in the Basin. Niece set up a Delco generator for electricity and built an ice house and vegetable cellar elsewhere on his land.¹⁵

Bartlett Falls reserved lots for a school house in his plat, donated the streets and alleys to the public, and named the townsite "Stanley" despite the fact that the lower settlement customarily had been using that name. Neither settlement ever gave up its name; however, the "upper" townsite today is referred to simply as "Stanley," while the "lower" settlement is called Lower Stanley.

The elements of the rivalry between the two towns consisted of competition for the siting of the post office and the public school and a few fist fights. These stories are narrated in detail in Yarber and McGown's Stanley-Sawtooth Country. The post office ended up in Niece Brothers' Store. Clyde Gillespie, the owner of the store after 1926, continued to run the post office until he left in 1943. 18

The Growth of the Stanley Basin Tourist Industry, 1925-Present. With the widespread use of the automobile by Americans of the middle classes and the improvement of roads into the Stanley Basin,

¹⁴ Esther Yarber, <u>Stanley-Sawtooth Country</u> (Salt Lake City: Publishers Press, 1976), p. 112-113.

¹⁵ Edna Niece McGown, July 13, 1994.

¹⁶ A copy of the Stanley Plat is at Custer County Courthouse, Challis, Idaho.

¹⁷ In Yarber's <u>Stanley-Sawtooth Country</u>, see chapter "Stanley--Two Towns, Feuds, Fights, and Post Offices," p. 107-130.

¹⁸ Clyde Gillespie, August 14, 1994.

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it became more possible to develop a modest tourist industry.¹⁹ The stupendous beauty of Stanley Basin inspired efforts to attract recreational visitors. Promoters touted the area as the Switzerland of America and built hotels and lodges to accommodate guests.²⁰

Events such as the paving of the road from Boise in 1970 brought thousands of additional visitors to Stanley.²¹ It also brought the press, which became fascinated in the 1970s with Stanley's customary Saturday night dance, dubbed the Stanley Stomp, and helped to attract more visitors.²² William Harrah, a wealthy casino owner from Nevada, began to purchase real estate in Stanley around 1972 and made changes such as converting bars to pizza parlors. Other new buyers from outside Idaho purchased other properties and went so far as to request that local people not frequent them in favor of tourists.²³ New motels and other facilities closer to the Highway 21/Highway 75 junction has spread the focus of commercial activity beyond the original townsite.²⁴

The creation of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area in 1972 reduced the availability of private land and opportunities to expand private development in the Stanley region. It also markedly increased the appeal of the area to visitors. Sawtooth National Recreation Area officials estimated a total of 1,137,700 visitor days in the area in 1978.²⁵ More recently, the decline of ocean-migrating salmon

¹⁹ For general discussion of tourism in the West, see Earl Pomeroy, <u>In Search of the Golden West, The Tourist in Western America</u> (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1957.)

²⁰ "Stanley Basin, the Switzerland of America," New West Magazine 7 (June 1916), p. 35.

²¹ Annette Jenkins, "Highway 21 Brings Change to Mountain Village," <u>Idaho Daily Statesman</u>, July 29, 1970, p. 10.

²² Charles Hillinger, "Stanley, Idaho," p. C 1.

²³ See "Casanova," <u>Twin-Falls Times News</u>, November 30, 1978, p. E 6; and John Accola, "Stanley, Playground for Idaho's Outdoorsmen," <u>Idaho Statesman</u>, April 10, 1977, p. 13 C.

²⁴ "Harrah Buys Land in Stanley; Residents Speculate on Motive," <u>Idaho Statesman</u>, June 20, 1977, p. __.

²⁵ "Stanley," <u>Twin Falls Times-News</u>, November 26, 1978. A Total of "visitor days" is the number of days each visitor or tourist remains within or visits some part of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area during a specified period of time.

OMB No. 1024-0018

NPS Form 10-900-a

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has contributed to restrictions on fishing and a subsequent threat to the tourist industry in Stanley.²⁶

Growth in tourist facilities to accommodate the summer population has occurred in both of the Stanley settlements. Niece Brothers' Store has remained in continuous operation as a store since 1919, under several subsequent ownerships. Each owner has given the store the family name and adjusted the stock of merchandise to meet contemporary needs. Mr. Gillespie described his stock as "everything anybody needed," which meant hardware, construction supplies, food, ranch supplies, tourist goods. He said that about 80% of his business was on credit, except for the tourist trade.²⁷ The house behind the store burned in 1941.²⁸

The town of Stanley has sought to preserve the spirit of the sturdy pioneers--like the Niece brothers--who built the town and economy of Stanley. It requires by city code that all new construction use the "rugged" construction style of the early settlers. In general, this has translated into log buildings. Niece Brothers' Store was by no means the first log structure in the Basin. Rather, log buildings were common for mining cabins, houses, lodges, tourist cabins, commercial, and administrative uses. When built, they were intended to be permanent, not temporary dwellings for use until a family or business began to prosper. However, Niece Brothers' Store was the first in the townsite and continues to be the oldest building in its original location--a pioneer building that well represents the Stanley pioneers who built it.

²⁶ "Tourism Drops in Stanley," <u>Twin Falls Times News</u>, August 1, 1993, p. E 1.

²⁷ Clyde Gillespie, August 14, 1994.

²⁸ Edna Niece McGown, July 13, 1994.

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	County and State Custer County, Idaho	

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United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

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United States Department of the InteriorNational Park Service

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	County and State	Custer County, Idaho

Verbal Boundary Description:

The nomination includes the Niece Brothers' Store and the property on which it stands, Lot 6, Block 5, Stanley Original Townsite. Legal description is on file at the Custer County Courthouse, Challis, Idaho.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary description is based on the legally recorded boundary lines of the property. The boundary includes the building and the immediate area. The original five-acre parcel has not been included in its entirety because it has since been subdivided and is under the ownership of several parties.