Form No. 10-300 REV. (9/77)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUN 8 1982
DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Long Valley Finnish Structures (Thematic Group)

AND/OR COMMON
N/A

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
An area bounded by McCall, Idaho, on the North and Donnelly, Idaho, on the South; and bounding two miles East and West of state Highway 55
N/A NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
N/A
N/A VICINITY OF
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
First

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Idaho	016	Valley	085

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	X AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
__BUILDING(S)	__PRIVATE	X UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	X BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	X PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	N/A IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	N/A BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
X Thematic Group		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Multiple (See individual inventory sheets)

STREET & NUMBER
N/A

CITY, TOWN
N/A
N/A VICINITY OF
STATE
N/A

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Valley County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
Main Street

CITY, TOWN
Cascade
STATE
Idaho

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Idaho Historic Sites Survey

DATE
1972
__FEDERAL X STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Idaho State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN
Boise
STATE
Idaho

7 DESCRIPTION

SEE INDIVIDUAL INVENTORY FORMS

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE	
N/A EXCELLENT	N/A DETERIORATED	NA UNALTERED	NA ORIGINAL SITE	
NA GOOD	N/A RUINS	NA ALTERED	NA MOVED	DATE See individual inventory forms
NA FAIR	N/A UNEXPOSED			

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The buildings nominated in this thematic group were constructed by members of the Finnish settlement in the Long Valley area between the years 1900-1930. They include log homestead cabins, houses, and saunas; log and frame barns; and the frame Elo school and Elo schoolteacher's cottage. The log structures in particular share several similarities in style, materials, and workmanship. The Finnish method of log craftsmanship, which results in logs being fit very closely together without need of chinking, and which exemplifies corner notches of the double, full-dovetail, or locking dovetail style, is discernible in these structures. Most of the buildings covered by this nomination are of hewn logs, although a few are of round logs.

The buildings date back to 1902, a few years after the first Finns came to Long Valley. They are the last physical remnants of the Finnish homesteads that dotted the valley as more and more immigrants settled here. The index to United States patents for Valley County lists 94 homestead patents issued to Finns between the years 1904-1925; few of these homesteads are intact and only a small number of homestead buildings still stand. Those that do, however, are both historically and architecturally significant and some of these deserve listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The Finns built extraordinarily sturdy structures by using a tool they called a "vara" or scribe, to measure how much wood should be grooved out of the bottom side of a log so that it would fit snugly on the curved upper side of the one beneath it. Chinking was rarely necessary in a Finnish-built log cabin, although sometimes moss or rags were placed between logs for insulation. This method dates back at least to the thirteenth century, and is so effective that it was still used on nearly all the Finn homestead buildings in Long Valley. Most of the buildings were made of hewn logs, perhaps because, as Donovan Clemson writes in his book on log cabins, "hewed logs looked a little more professional, removed the building a little from the rawness associated with the standing bush...the house, hopefully, might even be mistaken from a distance for a frame building with dressed sides."[1]

This nomination includes six homestead cabins; seven log houses of two or more rooms; four log saunas; a log barn and a frame barn of the double crib style; a log granary, goat barn, chicken house, and blacksmith's shop; a frame school building and frame teacher's cottage—twenty-five structures representing several farm activities and the typical homestead progression from the one-room cabin to a hewn log house consisting of two or more rooms and sometimes of two stories. These homes, as Michael Karni and Robert Levin point out in an article on Finnish log building, adhere to a "principle of identity of enclosing form and enclosed space. In almost all cases the plan of a Finnish log house can be read from the outside walls."[2] This is true without exception of the log houses here nominated, for the inside walls are notched into the outside timbers. Karni and Levin also note that in Minnesota "the Finns have more but smaller buildings than do most American farms,"[3] and again the Long Valley homesteads

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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are similar to their Midwestern counterparts in this respect. This nomination includes some of the small log buildings which one finds on a Finnish homestead, including a tiny goat barn, a chicken house, a blacksmith's shop, a granary and, of course, sauna houses.

Very few written records of the Finnish community in Long Valley still exist, but these buildings suggest how the Finns lived and worked in the homestead era of Valley County.

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1 Donovan Clemson, Living with Logs: British Columbia's Log Buildings and Rail Fences (Saanichton, B. C. : Hancock House, 1974), pp. 32-33.

2 Michael Karni and Robert Levin, "Northwoods Vernacular Architecture: Finnish Log Building in Minnesota," Northwest Architect, May-June, 1972, p. 95.

3 Karni and Levin, p. 93.

The survey of buildings erected by the Finns of Long Valley was conducted by Alice Koskela from December 1978 through 1980. Starting with her knowledge of the valley's concentration of Finnish settlers, Koskela explored a combination of primary documents--old maps, newspapers, and county land records--to locate the general area they occupied. About 94 Finnish homestead sites were occupied by 1925, all in the area between McCall and Donnelly, Idaho. Site visits and 45 oral history interviews produced a survey of the 44 sites still extant; about 50 buildings remain on those homesteads. The survey turned up a variety of functional building types--saunas, houses, temporary housing, outbuildings for storage and stock, and a few miscellaneous non-homestead buildings, like the Long Valley Finnish (Lutheran) Church (listed in the National Register 27 May 1980), timber-protective association buildings, and forest lookouts.

Koskela documented the extant buildings with black-and-white photography, field notes on construction details, and overall measurements. Interviews with former owners and a few Finnish builders provided valuable interpretive background.

Out of these data Koskela was able to formulate an idea of the typical homestead cabin, house, barn, sauna, and other outbuildings. The sites selected for this nomination represent those types in their most intact, least altered condition. In other words, they retain enough physical integrity to represent Finnish construction and building plans. The sites also represent the most intact homestead complexes extant in that they preserve the typical groupings of a house or cabin with associated outbuildings.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	X EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
__1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
X 1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1900-1930 BUILDER/ARCHITECT In most cases, builders were the first owners.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The surviving log homestead cabins, saunas, and barns of the Finns in Long Valley are examples of the Finns' extraordinary craftsmanship in constructing sturdy and weather-resistant log buildings. A number of these buildings are in remarkably good condition, considering that their exposure to the region's harsh winters spans, in some cases, more than seventy years. These buildings are reminders of a community's past, the homestead era in Idaho, and they have a national heritage that reaches back to 1638, when the first Finns came to this country and the first log cabins were constructed in America. Historian and archaeologist C. A. Weslager explains in his book, The Log Cabin in America, that the first colonists to build homes of "horizontally-laid logs, both round and hewn," were members of the so-called "New Sweden" community which established itself on the banks of the Delaware River between 1638 and 1640. According to Weslager, "approximately one-half (of the colonists) were actually Finns," and "the majority of log houses in New Sweden were built by Finns."[1] Many of the features that Weslager notes on the seventeenth-century cabins in the New Sweden area can be seen on Finnish-built homestead structures in Long Valley.

Idaho's Finnish log buildings have counterparts in other areas of the country where Finnish immigrant groups settled, most notably in the upper Midwest. Comparisons between the buildings described in an article entitled "Northwoods Vernacular Architecture: Finnish Log Building in Minnesota," and the log cabins, saunas, and outbuildings constructed by Finns in Long Valley reveal definite similarities in style and workmanship.[2] Likewise the Finnish-built log structures described in a book entitled Living with Logs: British Columbia's Log Buildings and Rail Fences, share many similar features with Long Valley's Finnish log buildings.[3] Thus there appears to be a Finnish method of log construction found both in the United States and Canada, wherever Finns settled in timbered areas.

Finnish homestead buildings in Long Valley are in danger of destruction and deserve the recognition of listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Long Valley is fast becoming a popular resort area, the farmland is being sold and subdivided, and homestead buildings, regarded as old shacks, are often destroyed or allowed to deteriorate. National Register listing will provide a record of these structures for future generations, and will undoubtedly spark interest in preserving some of the buildings in the thematic group. The Finnish community has by 1980 become almost completely assimilated into the

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

larger mainstream culture of Long Valley, and a record of this community should not be lost. The Elo school and teacher's cottage, named for a prominent Finnish Lutheran minister who settled in Long Valley, John William Eloheimo, are the last remnants of the Elo community in the north end of Long Valley. This predominately Finnish settlement once contained a store, post office, and dance hall, but the school buildings are all that remain of the once-thriving Elo. Together with the log and frame farm buildings nominated here, they form a tangible record of the Finnish community in Long Valley, and have a significance both historical and architectural.

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1 C. A. Weslager, The Log Cabin in America: From Pioneer Days to the Present (New Brunswick, N. J.: Rutgers University Press, 1969), pp. 150-151.

2 Michael Karni and Robert Levin, "Northwoods Vernacular Architecture: Finnish Log Building in Minnesota," Northwest Architect, May-June, 1972, p. 95.

3 Donovan Clemson, Living with Logs: British Columbia's Log Buildings and Rail Fences (Saanichton, B. C.: Hancock House, 1974), pp. 32-33.

Finnish immigrants to Idaho settled between 1900 and 1930 in Long Valley, where a close-knit rural community formed around the Lutheran church and the school at Elo, and in scattered areas of northern Idaho during the same period. The northern settlement included Finnish areas within the towns of the Coeur d'Alene Mining District, ranches near those towns, and homesteads near Cabinet, along the Clark Fork River. The information currently gathered about these communities suggests that the Finns of the mining towns used workers' halls, boarding houses, bars, dance halls, and grocery cooperatives as community centers. Socialist politics, considered by the Finns to be antithetical to the Lutheran religion, was the common concern of the town-dwelling Finn. The mining-area ranches and the homesteads near Cabinet seem to differ from Long Valley settlement in their smaller size, briefer occupancy, and weaker sense of community. The Long Valley Finnish settlement is the largest Finnish community in Idaho and the one that retains the greatest cultural identity.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Clemson, Donovan. Living with Logs: British Columbia's Log Buildings and Rail Fences. Saanichton, B. C.: Hancock House, 1974.

Karni, Michael and Robert Levin. "Northwoods Vernacular Architecture: Finnish Log Building in Minnesota." Northwest Architect, May-June, 1972, pp. 92-99.

Weslager, C. A. The Log Cabin in America: From Pioneer Days to Present. New Brunswick, N. J.: Rutgers University Press, 1969.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

See individual inventory sheets.

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY N/A

QUADRANGLE NAME N/A QUADRANGLE SCALE N/A

UTM REFERENCES N/A

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A			
B			
C			
D			
E			
F			
G			
H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See individual inventory sheets.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A		N/A	
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A		N/A	

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Alice Koskella, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Idaho State Historical Society

DATE

9 June 1982

STREET & NUMBER

610 North Julia Davis Drive

TELEPHONE

334-3356

CITY OR TOWN

Boise

STATE

Idaho 83702

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE X LOCAL ___

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE Merle Wells

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer DATE 9 June 1982

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Linda McClelland DATE 11-19-82

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: See Continuation sheet for Listings DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

GPO 921-803

NPS Form 10-900-a
(3-82)

OMB No. 1024-0018
Exp. 10-31-84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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date entered

Continuation sheet | Item number | Page 1 of 2

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Long Valley Finnish Structures Thematic Resources
State Idaho

Nomination/Type of Review			Date/Signature
1. Hill, Matt N., Homestead Barn	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byers 11/17/82
		Attest	
2. Jarvi, Thomas, Homestead	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byers 11/17/82
		Attest	
3. Johnson, John G. (Rintakangas) Homestead	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byers 11/17/82
		Attest	
4. Johnson, John S. (Sampila) Homestead	Substantive Review	Keeper	Linda McClelland 11/18/82
		Attest	
5. Korvola, John, Homestead	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byers 11/17/82
		Attest	
6. Koski, Charles, Homestead	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byers 11/17/82
		Attest	
7. Laituri, Gust, Homestead	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byers 11/17/82
		Attest	
8. Mahala, Jacob and Herman, Homestead	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byers 11/17/82
		Attest	
9. Maki, Jacob, Homestead	Substantive Review	Keeper	Linda McClelland 11/18/82
		Attest	
10. Ojala, Herman, Homestead	Entered in the National Register	Keeper	Delores Byers 11/17/82
		Attest	

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Continuation sheet | Item number | Page 2 of 2

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Long Valley Finnish Structures Thematic Resources
State Idaho

Nomination/Type of Review			Date/Signature
11. Ruatsale, Matt, Homestead	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byers 11/17/82
		Attest	
12. Wargelin, Nickolai, Homestead	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Delores Byers 11/17/82
		Attest	
13. Elo School	Entered in the National Register	Keeper	Delores Byers 7/26/1
		Attest	
14.		Keeper	
		Attest	
15.		Keeper	
		Attest	
16.		Keeper	
		Attest	
17.		Keeper	
		Attest	
18.		Keeper	
		Attest	
19.		Keeper	
		Attest	
20.		Keeper	
		Attest	