

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0666572

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED APR 10 1978
DATE ENTERED JUN 20 1980

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

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Proctor Mountain Ski Lift

AND/OR COMMON
Proctor Mountain

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Trail creek

CITY, TOWN Sun Valley VICINITY OF Ketchum CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Second

STATE Idaho CODE 16 COUNTY Blaine CODE 013

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Sun Valley Company, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN Sun Valley VICINITY OF STATE Idaho

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Blaine County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN Hailey STATE Idaho

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Idaho State Historic Sites Inventory

DATE 1972
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Idaho State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN Boise STATE Idaho

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Proctor Mountain ski lift runs from Trail Creek up the northwest slope of Proctor mountain. It is a 2,300 foot mono-cable chairlift with small frame structures at the summit to protect the machinery.

The ski lift remains completely intact, although it is no longer in service, as Sun Valley skiers now use the larger Baldy Mountain. There have been no alterations or additions.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
				Recreation

SPECIFIC DATES 1936

BUILDER/ARCHITECT James Curran

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Proctor Mountain Ski Lift is significant for its historic connection with the development of the technology associated with skiing. Built in 1936 it was the earliest known chairlift in the world, the invention of James Curran of the Union Pacific Railroad's engineering department.

Sun Valley was started in 1936 by W. A. Harriman of the Union Pacific Railroad, who felt the slopes of the western United States could rival those of Europe in attracting an increasing number of American winter sports enthusiasts. The area around Ketchum was chosen for the site of the Union Pacific's resort by Austrian Count Felix Schaffgotsch after he toured the entire west in the winter of 1935. Publicity man Steve Hannagan, known for his Miami Beach project, renamed the area Sun Valley and urged that "mechanical devices" be installed to carry people to the top of the "slides." This transportation problem was turned over to the Union Pacific's Engineers who considered several ideas including the J-bar that Fred Pabst had installed at Bromley, an up-ski tobaggan similar to that employed at Yosemite and even a cable car. Finally James Curran's chairlift idea, which at first was considered too hazardous, was adopted.

Prior to working for the Union Pacific, Curran worked for Paxton and Vierling Iron Works in Omaha, which had engineered installations for loading bananas on fruit boats. Curran took the mono cable tram idea and replaced the banana hooks with chairs. Thus he created a machine with a greater capacity than the up-ski tobaggan or cable car and more comfortable than the J-bar. His basic design is still used for chairlifts today.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

letter from Dorice Taylor of Sun Valley News Bureau
 "History of Sun Valley" in Idaho State Historical library's vertical file.
 Raymond Flower, History of skiing and other winter sports (Toronto: Methuen, 1977), 22+
 Otto Eugene Schniebs, American skiing (New York: E. P. Dutton, 1939), 189

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre.

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 1	7 1 4 7 2 0	4 8 4 2 5 0 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This nomination encompasses the ski lift and machinery.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Don Hibbard, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Idaho State Historical Society

DATE

3 April 1978

STREET & NUMBER

610 North Julia Davis Drive

TELEPHONE

384-2120

CITY OR TOWN

Boise

STATE

Idaho

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X

STATE

LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Mark Willis

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

3 April 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Sally G. Olden

DATE

1/20/80

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

Kristin O'Connell

DATE

1/17/80

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED	20

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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Exceptional significance: In 4500 years or so of skiing, modern resort facilities have been developed primarily within the past half century when a major transition occurred from practical skiing to downhill sport skiing. Really popular downhill sport skiing required provision for easy access to good slopes. Otherwise, this kind of skiing amounted to a great deal of hard work climbing hills in return for several minutes of sport. In Europe, Gerhard Muller rigged up a tow rope for which he adapted a motorcycle motor as a power source at Davos. Cable cars followed in European ski areas, and rope tows spread to Quebec in 1932 and to Vermont, where a Model T provided power for a Woodstock tow in 1934. Jackson Hole and Stevens pass enterprises brought rope tows west to Wyoming and Washington soon after that. But for the kind of resort that the Union Pacific contemplated for Sun Valley, something more comfortable than a rope tow and with a carrying capacity exceeding a cable car had to be developed. James Curran's device was tested for a jumping hill on the lower part of Proctor mountain selected by Sigmund Ruud and Alf Engen -- two of the world's foremost ski-jumpers -- which became a centre for ski competition later named for Ruud. This kind of ski lift made sports resorts popular in Europe as well as in North America, and Curran's original lift is eligible for designation as a National Historic Landmark.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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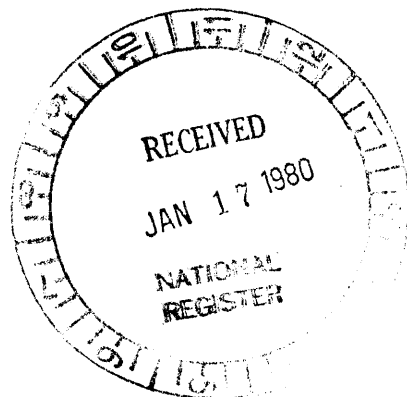
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Verbal Boundary Description continued:

The Proctor Mountain Ski Lift is located in the south half section of Section 5, T4N, R18E. It originates approximately 200 feet east of where the Trail Creek road intersects the 6000 foot contour line on the Sun Valley USGS quadrangle (1967). It then runs in a southeasterly direction 705 feet to the top of the hill.

The boundaries surround only the towers of the ski lift, which commences at a point 1020 feet east and 1500 feet north from the quarter corner of sections 5 and 8, T4N, R18E, and continue to a point 690 feet west and 200 feet north from that same quarter corner.





Proctor Mountain Ski Lift
Ketchum, Idaho

Blaine County

Duane Garrett - Photographer
1977

View from the west
Idaho State Historical Society
Site Survey collection

APR 10 1978

JAN 20 1980