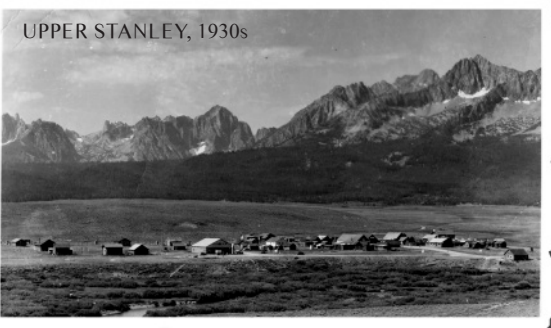


Produced by the Sawtooth Interpretive and Historical Association, in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and City of Stanley, and supported in part by a grant from the Idaho Humanities Council, a State-based Program of the National Endowment for the Humanities.



City of Stanley



UPPER STANLEY, 1930s

SAWTOOTH INTERPRETIVE & HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

POST OFFICE BOX 75, STANLEY, IDAHO 83278

WWW.DISCOVERSAWTOOTH.ORG

Stanley Idaho

In the heart of the Idaho Rockies and the Sawtooth National Recreation Area

HISTORIC WALKING TOUR



Preserving the Past. Protecting the Future.

Why did YOU come to Stanley?

Through the years, people have come to Stanley for many of the same reasons we come today: the scenery, the opportunity to make a living, and recreation. However, those who have stayed are drawn by the remoteness and harsh environment, and have demonstrated persistence and resourcefulness in thriving here. These qualities have helped build the unique spirit of Stanley.



LOWER STANLEY, CIRCA 1920

Pioneers first came to the Sawtooth Valley seeking beaver pelts. As the fur trade subsided, the gold rush occurred. Although Stanley was never a major mining town, it provided a good stopping point between mining districts. Some folks decided to build hotels, cafes, stores, and saloons to support the miners. More permanent residents followed, and cattle and sheep ranching offered them a way of life.

As word spread of the beauty of the Stanley area, fishing and other forms of recreation became the economic foundation of the community. When the road over Galena Summit was made passable for cars, more people had access to the area. Salmon fishing continued to be a powerful attraction until 1978 when salmon seasons were closed. Thereafter, people were drawn to Stanley to hike, camp, horseback ride, hunt, snowmobile, and float whitewater.

In the late 1960s, a proposal to create a national park in the area caused concern that such a designation would inhibit

essential parts of the Sawtooth culture, such as ranching, mining, and hunting.

After much discussion, the Sawtooth National Recreation Area was established by Congress in 1972. This assured preservation and protection of natural, scenic, historic, pastoral, fish and wildlife values, as well as enhancement of recreation values. The local Sawtooth culture was protected, as were values of national significance.

Each of the sites included in this walking tour tell part of Stanley's story. Glimpse into the past of this rugged mountain town that the Los Angeles Times called "one of the country's liveliest small towns."

To begin tour, park at the Community Center parking lot on Highway 21 in Stanley. The first site, the Rock Garage, is across the highway. Use care in crossing.

Did you know?

Stanley is routinely the coldest place in the lower 48 states, averaging more than 286 days each year with temperatures below freezing.

Chinook and sockeye salmon travel over 900 miles to spawn in the Salmon River and lakes near Stanley, the longest fish migration in the U.S.

The City of Stanley, less than one square mile, is embedded in the 1,100 square mile Sawtooth National Recreation Area.

The official population of Stanley is 100. About 40 hardy souls stay through the winter. However, approximately 300 stay through the summer.

The Stanley area is home to iconic or endangered wildlife including Chinook and sockeye salmon, wolves, eagles, osprey, and sandhill cranes, as well as wintering elk.

UPPER STANLEY

I. ROCK GARAGE (1938)

As the local service station, the Rock Garage provided a tow truck and mechanical services for residents. Preston Shaw managed the garage and lived nearby. He cleverly attached a mirror to the front of his house near a window to watch the station in case he had a customer.

2. DANNER'S CABINS (1930S)

The front section of the main building was built in 1908 as the Valley Creek Ranger Station, and was located near Valley Creek. It was moved here in 1933. The Danner cabins were always a place for the community to gather, especially to watch 4th of July fireworks, discharged on Fireworks Hill, just north of Valley Creek. Norma Danner was always available to feed any traveler passing through, day or night.

3. SAWTOOTH VIEW (40 MILLION BC - FOREVER)

The unobstructed views from here are no accident. Since 1974, the federal government has invested \$65 million to acquire scenic easements and land in the Sawtooth Valley and Stanley Basin to protect the intrinsic values (natural, scenic, historic, pastoral, fish, wildlife, and recreation values) of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area.

4. SHAW CABIN (1902)

An earlier generation of Preston Shaws was the second family to homestead in the upper Sawtooth Valley. Frank Shaw came to the area as a mining engineer, but determined the ore wasn't rich enough. By then, Frank and his wife had fallen in love with the area and its scenery, so they decided to stay and ranch. Their cabin was known as the "Friendly House." Mrs. Shaw kept a guest register listing

people from every state in the Union, as well as from several foreign countries. This cabin was moved to its current location in 1992 from Fisher Creek.

5. MEDICAL CLINIC (1972)

Before 1972, no certified medical aid was available to residents and visitors. That changed when Marie Osborn, one of Idaho's first nurse practitioners, witnessed a gruesome car accident in which help did not arrive for two hours. Worried that this could happen to family and friends, she opened the first clinic in Stanley with generous donations of supplies and community volunteer hours. The Pivas, a long-time ranching family, donated \$3,000 for a new clinic which was constructed on Niece Avenue in 1973.

6. GREGORY GROCERY STORE & US POST OFFICE (1951)

C.A. Gregory, prominent 1930s landscape photographer, constructed this building. It served as a store and post office through the 1970s. In the early 1970s, with the impending establishment of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area, the Nicholson family decided to leave their ranch in the Sawtooth Valley because of increasing issues with the Forest Service. Because they wanted to stay in the area, they needed to find a different way to make a living. They asked Stanley residents which services were most needed in town. In response, the Nicholsons converted the store to a laundromat, and began to manage it and the post office. The flag pole out front today is the same one that stood in front of the early post office.

7. SAWTOOTH HOTEL (1931)

The Sawtooth Hotel and Restaurant was a gathering place for the community throughout the year. Every morning around 6:30, ranchers and oldtimers would show up and tell stories over plate-sized pancakes or

biscuits and gravy. During the 1970s, most guests came to raft or snowmobile. Later, the Cole family based a successful and popular fishing guide service here.

8. BENNER HOTEL (1912 - 1942)

The Hotel was located across Meadow Creek near the present day blue-roofed cabins of Triangle C Ranch. It served Upper and Lower Stanley as a setting for meetings, dances, parties, and other social events. The Hotel housed 13 bedrooms, a music room, two large sitting rooms, central hall, dining room, and kitchen. Lace curtains adorned the windows and old-time scenes hung on the walls, making it the finest lodging in town. Mrs. Benner was the very embodiment of generous frontier hospitality, and would always outfit and care for travelers, no matter how many. In later years, the Hotel served as the Falls Family home, where community social events continued to be hosted. It was eventually torn down.

9. ROD N GUN CLUB (1936)

It is legend that the original owner of the Rod N Gun Club came to Stanley running from the law. After getting the bar up and operating, he purportedly lost it in a cribbage game. Since its reopening, it has been run by a variety of families, but has always been known as the Rod N Gun Club. It is home to the "Stanley Stomp", described as a "wild ass time," which included dancing, live music, and, not uncommonly, brawls. For years, a sign hung on the door that read "check gun and knife at door." As in many bars, a diverse and sometimes unlikely group of community members continue to meet here.

10. NIECE STORE (1919)

This site was the setting for the beginning of the Upper vs. Lower Stanley feud. Benner Hotel owner, Bartlett Falls, offered the Niece family five free acres of land if

they would move their store and post office here from Lower Stanley. This was requested in an effort to secure Upper Stanley as the primary town site. This building has remained a mercantile since its construction. It was the first building in the area to have electricity and a phone line. The store became a social hub for the community, a place to get messages and needed goods, and to convene by the wood stove. This is the oldest remaining building in Upper Stanley.

II. ACE OF DIAMONDS CLUB (1921 - 1970S)

The Ace of Diamonds Club was located where the post office parking lot is today, and served for 50 years as a dining and dance hall with live music. It was built when the local schoolhouse was condemned and the school had to move its classes into the old dance hall. Consequently, community members were motivated to raise money to build the new dance hall. The Ace of Diamonds Club eventually burned.

12. CASINO CLUB (1935)

The original owners, John and Mary Rukavina, came to the Stanley area from Eastern Europe. John worked as a "powder monkey", handling explosives for the construction of what is now State Highway 75, between Clayton and Stanley. The Rukavinas built the Casino Club-Bohemia Club (now the Kasino Club) in 1938, operating it as a bar and restaurant.

Wait, there's more! If you'd like to continue the walking tour, drive North on Hwy 75 for 1 mile and park at Jerry's Country Store for the Lower Stanley portion of the tour. On the way, you can stop at the STANLEY MUSEUM to learn more about the history of the area.

FROM MINING TO RANCHING AND RECREATION...

1880

Toll road over Galena Summit constructed.

1902

First building in Lower Stanley, "The Hotel," constructed.

1908

Valley Creek Ranger Station built; Challis National Forest established.

1926

First documented river runner floats Middle Fork Salmon River (in a canoe).

1947

Bill Harrah builds summer home in Stanley.

1954

First electric power lines come to Stanley from Challis.

1972

Stanley Medical Clinic established; Sawtooth National Recreation Area established.

1984

Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness established as the largest Wilderness in lower 48 states.

1863

First prospectors arrive in area; Stanley Basin named after group leader.

1890

Stopping place for miners and packers established between Upper and Lower Stanley near Valley Creek; first summer cattle trailed from Challis to graze in Stanley.

1906

Lemhi, Sawtooth, and Salmon River National Forests established.

1921

Fish stocking begins in Redfish Lake due to depletion of wild fish stocks caused by overfishing.

1934

Road over Galena Summit improved for passenger cars.

1964

National Wild and Scenic River Act passes, protecting Middle Fork and Main Salmon Rivers.

1978

Last year salmon fishing season open in Stanley area until 2008.

1991

Federal government lists sockeye salmon as endangered.

UPPER STANLEY MAP

1. **ROCK GARAGE**
Currently, this is an unmarked building constructed of river rock.
2. **DANNER'S CABINS**
From here, walk up Wall Street .4 miles; turn right at School Road; turn immediately left into parking spur; take gravel trail at edge of parking spur to next site.
3. **SAWTOOTH VIEW**
From here, follow gravel path to next site.
4. **SHAW CABIN**
From here, walk back down School Road and Wall Street; turn left on Ace of Diamonds Street.
5. **MEDICAL CLINIC**
Currently, this is Back Eddy's Market, also known as the "red house."
6. **GREGORY GROCERY STORE AND US POST OFFICE**
Currently, this is Papa Brune's Pizza and Subs.
7. **SAWTOOTH HOTEL**
8. **BENNER HOTEL**
Look across Meadow Creek. The site was approximately where the blue-roofed cabins of Triangle C Ranch are today.
9. **ROD N GUN CLUB**
10. **NIECE STORE**
Currently, this is McCoy's Tackle and Gift Shop.
11. **ACE OF DIAMONDS CLUB**
The site of this building was where the post office parking lot is now.
12. **CASINO CLUB**
Currently, this is the Kasino Club.



The Harrah Legacy

Bill Harrah, well known for his gambling casinos in Nevada, enjoyed Stanley's remoteness and the anonymity it afforded him and his family. Thirty years after building his vacation home in the area, he purchased over one-third of the property within the City of Stanley. Although capable of creating significant change in the community, he preferred to maintain its small, western town atmosphere. He built a dance hall, Mountain Village Motel and Restaurant, Merc, and Gas Station consistent with the community's needs. At least for now, these businesses continue to serve the area on a year round basis, 30 years after Harrah's passing.

LOWER STANLEY

Traditionally, there has been competition between Upper and Lower Stanley with each claiming to be the "real" Stanley. Both the post office and the school moved from one town to the other numerous times between the 1890s and 1930s. In 1919, during one of the moves of the post office from Lower to Upper Stanley, the existing postmaster did not want to surrender her position to the next postmaster. As a last resort, federal intervention was required. A postal inspector was sent to assist with the relocation of the post office and reassignment of the postmaster duties. This contributed to the reputation of the Stanley post office as the "post office on wheels." Purportedly, locals were never sure about which direction to travel to pick up their mail.

13. ROSE COUNTRY STORE (1920S)

Currently, this is Jerry's Country Store, also known as the Markle Store. A classic small town grocery store has been in continuous operation here since 1907. The business, originally located on the west side of the road, was relocated to its present site in the 1920s. In the early years many of the store goods were shipped via the U.S. Post Office. Look inside the store at the displays of old grocery boxes and note the affixed postage stamps. By the 1960s, the store was owned and operated by Jerry and Arlene Funderberg.

Jerry was known as a man who could repair a fishing reel and he helped out many an angler. Casting lessons were included for those in need, and salmon were smoked for customers.

14. CABIN CLUB (1932)

Currently, this is an unmarked building located 3 buildings upriver from Bridge St. Grill. This was a cafe which also offered beer and gaming. Its owner, Roland Ricks, was an early salmon fishing guide who charged clients \$15.00 per person. His services included a very easy-to-deliver guarantee that his client would hook at least one salmon.

15. BRIDGE STREET (CIRCA 1920)

The street was named after the original wooden bridge spanning the Salmon River and accessing the William Woolley Ranch on the east side of the river. Although the Woolley family first homesteaded on the shores of Redfish Lake where Redfish Lake

Lodge now sits, they relocated to Lower Stanley in 1908. Bill Woolley enjoyed numerous wild pets, including a black bear named "Roger", taken as a cub, and an African Lion named "Cleo." Cleo was received as a gift from the author, Earl Stanley Gardner, whom Bill Woolley guided in Africa. The Woolley family still resides on this property and operates the restaurant.

16. MARSHALL STORE (1907)

Currently, this is the Patrol Cabin. Herbert Marshall, one of the first miners in the Stanley Basin in the 1890s, built the first store in Lower Stanley. Lesley "Tink" Niece and his family, who first operated a ranch in the north end of Sawtooth Valley, moved to "town" to operate the Marshall Store and post office. This business (not the building) was eventually bought by the Rose family and moved across the street to become the Rose Country Store. It was purchased by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and moved to this site in 1938 where it was used as the local game warden or conservation officer's residence until 1967. It is the oldest building still standing in Lower Stanley.

LOWER STANLEY MAP

