

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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Iceberg Drive-Inn

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 3906 South 900 East

City or town: Millcreek State: UT County: Salt Lake

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___ B X C ___ D

_____ /Deputy SHPO						
<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">Signature of certifying official/Title:</td> <td style="width: 30%;">Date</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>Utah State Historic Preservation Office</u></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</td> </tr> </table>	Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date	<u>Utah State Historic Preservation Office</u>		State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date					
<u>Utah State Historic Preservation Office</u>						
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government						

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.						
<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">Signature of commenting official:</td> <td style="width: 30%;">Date</td> </tr> <tr> <td>_____</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Title :</td> <td>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</td> </tr> </table>	Signature of commenting official:	Date	_____		Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government
Signature of commenting official:	Date					

Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government					

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE/restaurant

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE/restaurant

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MODERN MOVEMENT/Googie

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Foundation: CONCRETE; Walls: WOOD/plywood; Roof: CONCRETE, OTHER

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Iceberg Drive-Inn, built in 1960, is a one-story structure with a concrete foundation and painted plywood exterior. The building is located at the northwest corner of 3900 South and 900 East in Millcreek, Salt Lake County, Utah. The Drive-Inn was designed by George Lamar Sorenson in the Googie style, a mid-twentieth-century romp in color, shape, and light. Overhanging eaves zigzag skyward, mimicking spiked glacier ice. Exterior walls and large single-paned windows undulate at angles, echoing the glacier aesthetic. Bright orange/red trim serves to accent the building's white plywood exterior and attract the gaze of passersby. An illuminated sign reads "ICEBERG DRIVE-INN," and a neon star shines at the apex, evoking space-age optimism. The exterior was expanded and remodeled to add interior dining space circa 1965. These alterations occurred within the period of significance, and the structure retains its historic integrity. Additionally, the Drive-Inn remains on its original corner lot surrounded by asphalt and outdoor seating. The setting aptly conveys the building's role in commercial car culture that strongly influenced post-war urban development.

Narrative Description

Exterior

The Iceberg Drive Inn consists of a single-story and is wood frame with plywood veneer construction. There is no basement. The structure rests on a concrete slab foundation. The roof is composed of a thin concrete membrane, covered by gravel. The exterior is designed in the playful and vibrant Googie style. The original 1960 structure was hexagonal with undulating angular walls and broad overhanging pointed angular eaves. The exterior is largely occupied by a variety of fixed glass panes surrounding a drive-thru on the south façade and a walk-up order window on the east facade. The building's trim and accent stripes were historically painted turquoise to attract the gaze of passersby and to invoke an arctic chill. Parking was available around the entire perimeter of the building. Circa 1965, Sorenson added interior space to the structure, which necessitated an addition to the north façade and an expansion of the east and west facades. Around this time the trim was repainted to its current bright orange/red.

East (Main) Façade

The east (main) façade (Photo 1) is formed by semi-folded walls at obtuse angles. The façade projects and retracts in identical zigzag prowlike segments before it extends to the gently sloping north addition that houses the main entrance. A pop-out bay window sits alongside the full-length glass doorway.

The current exterior is a circa 1965 replacement of the original façade which included an agglomeration of small rectangular fixed panes that surrounded pedestrian pick-up windows. Large, fixed wood panels flank the central ordering area. The current east facade likewise abounds in glass. A central band of fixed pane windows angles back and forth for much of the façade, interrupted only by occasional wood framing. The windows are framed in aluminum sash. Two sets of hinged order windows are housed within the fixed

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glass. Signage reads “ORDER HERE” and “PICK UP HERE.” A semi-folded awning, supported by narrow steel poles, overhangs the windows. Rectangular awning eaves repeat, “FAMOUS THICK SHAKES.” (Photo 8)

The east roofline is zigzag shaped with wide angles matching those of the awning and lower façade. An orange-painted wood cornice traces the roofline, culminating at the northeast corner where it angles upward toward the illuminated ICEBERG DRIVE INN sign on the north façade. (Photo 7) The east façade is interspersed with vertical wood trim, spaced every four feet along the wall and painted orange. The cornice and trim offer a technicolor contrast to the white exterior.

North Façade

The north façade is occupied by a circa 1965 addition built of plywood. The rectangular plywood exterior extends approximately twenty feet from the original structure with a gently sloping roof. Fluorescent tube-lights line the underside of narrow boxed eaves. The roof supports a metal pole that rises approximately eight feet above the roofline. It holds an illuminated sign that reads “ICEBERG DRIVE INN” and is crested by a neon star. (Photo 2) The pole sign is original to the building. Jagged eaves that once hung over the original north façade are still visible above the roofline.

The exterior wall is painted white with red/orange stripes, integrating the addition into the original structure. Large horizontal single panes of fixed glass span the façade and correspond with interior recessed booth seating. An unmarked wood door interrupts the bank of windows. The entrance leads to an interior closet. Plywood double doors extend from the northwest corner of the façade. They meet a similar plywood wall extending from the west façade to form a 90-degree angle. The open-air enclave within these walls obscures a dumpster and other industrial accoutrements.

West Facade

The west façade is a circa 1965 extension of the original exterior. No photographic evidence remains of its initial design. Plywood walls cover the majority of the façade. The surface is punctuated by a single wood entryway housing a small, square window. The plywood is painted white with the same red/orange stripes that adorn the rest of the exterior. Thin wood trim projects from the stripes, camouflaging seams between plywood boards. Large menu signage is attached to the exterior in two locations, enabling drivers to make and review their choices before reaching the drive-thru window on the south side. (Photo 3) Fluorescent lights hang from narrow eaves to illuminate their menu options.

South Façade

As one round the corner of the west-façade addition, zigzag eaves again project playfully from the south façade. Their white tongue-in-groove siding is visible on the undersurface. Exposed rafters, painted the same red/orange as the trim, add contrast and integrate the eaves into the main structure. The eaves overhang plywood walls in the same pattern as the rest of the building. A Googie-style sign announces, “ICEBERG DRIVE INN,” with projecting letters and starbursts. (Photo 4) Beneath it, several manicured shrubs cling to life in an almost invisible stretch of dry earth. However, as the façade progresses to the southeast corner, the original drive-thru aperture comes into view. The window has been altered to a projecting bay, but the location is original.

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Interior

The Iceberg Drive Inn is an irregularly shaped structure that encloses 1,160 square feet of interior space. The space is divided into three areas by function: a dining room, food prep/storage, and office/janitorial space.

Dining Room

The dining room occupies the north side of the building and includes its main entrance on the east (main) façade. (Photo 10) A pop out display window within the east façade divides the main entrance from the order counter. The window contains a flat area covered by green astroturf. A visually arresting classic black and white checkerboard concrete floor greets customers upon arrival. The pattern covers the entirety of the dining room floor and helps to distinguish the area from the nearby kitchen. The floor is overhung by a drop ceiling formed by large acoustic tiles and fluorescent tube lighting.

Along the north wall of the dining room, three booths with built-in wood benches invite customers to sit and enjoy their meal. The benches are painted a bright orange/red to match the exterior trim. (Photo 11) Each aperture with its benches, movable linoleum table, and fixed pane window, measures 6x5 square feet. The walls of each enclave are covered with artwork featuring historic cartoons and advertisements. The wall distance from one booth to the next varies, with the entire interior north façade width measuring 23 feet.

Three moveable linoleum-top tables are nestled against the south dining room wall, but they do not occupy alcoves like those on the north. Built-in padded vinyl benches straddle each table. The bright red seats are centered by a concave white stripe. Wood paneling, painted black, anchors each bench and connects it with the concrete floor. Nostalgic ads, artwork, and historic photos of the Iceberg adorn the walls. (Photo 12)

An order counter near the main (east) entrance connects the dining room with the kitchen. The counter is surrounded, above and beneath, by open space. (Photo 13) Customers can see into the work area as they order their food. A portion of the south dining room wall is cut out to reveal more of the kitchen interior. A square wood post, painted orange/red, extends from the wall to support the kitchen ceiling. The order counter extends the length of the cutout, offering napkins, straws, and condiments to diners. (Photo 14)

Food Prep/Storage Area

Looking west from the dining room counter, a portion of the kitchen is easily visible. Tube-lighting hangs from a painted (white) plywood ceiling. Terra-cotta tile covers the floor. To the left (east) the windows that form the building's main façade fill the room with light. Pedestrian customers are visible through the glass as they place their orders at the outdoor walk-up counters. Inside, three rows of shallow open shelves, painted white, are nestled below the counter. The shelves run the length of the counter and kitchen windows. Above them, the plywood countertop is painted orange. (Photo 15)

To the right (west) of the dining room counter, a half-wall encloses the food preparation area. Black and white ceramic tile covers the wall, mimicking the checkerboard pattern of the dining room floor albeit in a smaller sized tile. The wall is surmounted by a stainless-steel countertop. (Photo 17) Illuminated signs display the menu. They hang from an exposed ceiling beam, painted white, that stretches above the checkerboard wall. The signage is visible through the east windows. The food-prep area includes industrial

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
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appliances surrounding open workspace. Terra-cotta tile covers the floor. Square wood poles stretch from floor to ceiling throughout the area to support the roof.

As it nears the south façade, the kitchen floor rises a single step, offering access to both the exterior door and an adjacent drive-thru window. The drive-thru consists of two small moveable glass panels situated within a bay window. The bay is surrounded by large single panes of glass. As with the east windows, the interior of the drive-thru is lined by a countertop and open shelving. (Photo 16)

Office/ Janitorial Area

The food prep and drive-thru areas are connected to storage and office space by a large open passage lined with stainless steel flashing. The terra cotta floor spills into a passageway running from north to south. On the south, a walk-in refrigerator and freezer occupy the southwest corner. Beside them, a short passageway branches to the south, leading past an open office toward an exit on the south façade. (Photo 18) (Photo 19). To the east, another short hallway is home to a bathroom and janitorial closet. The hallway itself is lined with moveable shelving containing cleaning supplies. (Photo )

Setting

The Iceberg Drive-Inn is surrounded by asphalt and concrete, much as it was at the time of its construction in 1960. (Photo 1) The stand-alone commercial building is located at 3906 South 900 East on the northwest corner of a busy intersection in Millcreek, Salt Lake County, Utah. The property is .21 acres in size and the total area of the building measures 1,161 square feet. The Iceberg Drive-Inn is oriented to the corner, which makes it easily visible and approachable from multiple directions. (Photo 2) Heavily trafficked thoroughfares still surround the building with automobiles and their accompanying motion and sound, recalling its origin in the car-culture boom of the mid-twentieth century.

Five circular concrete picnic tables occupy the triangular space between the Iceberg Drive-Inn and the corner, where cars once pulled up in circular fashion. (Photo 8) Concrete pylons, painted red with a white stripe, delineate the border between the seating area and an asphalt driveway for the drive through along the southeast façade. (Photo 5) Weathered metal planters intermingle with flat concrete benches to create a northeastern boundary for the patio area. Strings of clear light bulbs stretch from the building, above the picnic area, and connect to slender steel poles rising from asphalt. An unmanicured park-strip surrounds the property along with curb and gutter. The assemblage is divided from the street by a sidewalk.

An asphalt parking area abuts the south and west façades. (Photo 6) An irregularly shaped trapezoidal park-strip is home to some determined scrub brush. A single old-growth elm adorns the lot's western edge. The curbed planter serves as a boundary between the parking area and a concrete drive-thru tracing the building's south façade.

Historic Integrity

The Iceberg Drive Inn demonstrates all seven aspects of historic integrity that qualify a property for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The building remains in its original location. Its historic feeling and association are reinforced by the surrounding built environment, the setting of which continues to be car-centric and commercially oriented. The building itself retains the feeling of a midcentury diner/drive-inn with its drive-thru and walk-up windows. The feeling is reinforced by the Iceberg's design, which remains in the Googie style with its peaked walls, zigzag awnings, and original neon/illuminated

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signage. The materials are indicative of the original workmanship of a quickly constructed and affordable structure (plywood) with glazing forming a large percentage of the walls for an indoor/outdoor connection that invited drivers inside. The circa 1965 north addition was constructed within the period of significance, and the added seating is original, constructed of build-in painted wood benches. The black and white checkerboard floor pattern reinforces the midcentury diner aesthetic.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes 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" 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 grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1960-1976

Significant Dates

1960

c.1965

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Lamar Sorenson/ Builder

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Iceberg Drive-Inn in Millcreek, Salt Lake County, is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Commerce and under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. Under Criterion C, the building is an excellent example of midcentury drive-in commercial development and Googie-style architecture. It is one of the few known extant buildings of this type and style in Utah and Millcreek, specifically. The building was constructed in 1960 as a roadside diner offering quick meals at the southwest corner of 900 East and 3900 South streets. Like many roadside businesses of the mid-twentieth century, Iceberg was designed to grab the attention of fast-moving traffic. The exterior was constructed in the eye-catching Googie style with a zigzag roofline, plenty of windows, and an illuminated sign on a pole topped by a neon star. Under Criterion A, Iceberg Drive-Inn is locally significant in the area of Commerce as the only surviving drive-in in the Millcreek area that retains its historic integrity. The period of significance begins with the building's construction in 1960 and ends in 1976. The period of significance ends in 1976, or fifty years ago. However, Iceberg Drive-Inn continues to serve customers in its original capacity to the present day. The building retains good historic integrity, with only a few minor non-historic alterations to interior or exterior.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criterion A Significance: Commerce

The Iceberg Drive-Inn is significant in the area of Commerce as the only surviving early drive-in in the Millcreek area that retains its historic integrity. The Iceberg represents the rapidly emerging Post-World War II auto-oriented commercial development in the form of the drive-in and drive-thru diner in Millcreek and the surrounding area during the mid-twentieth century. Millcreek's commercial development began late in the 1930s, but Utah's booming postwar suburban economy accelerated domestic construction in the 1950s and 1960s.¹ Simultaneously, widespread prosperity made car ownership a possibility for many American households. By 1960, 57 percent of American households owned a car, with over 20 percent owning at least two cars.² A growing network of paved public roads connected new suburbs like Millcreek to the urban hub of downtown Salt Lake City. A crop of car-oriented businesses rose along these thoroughfares. They included service stations, markets, motels, restaurants, diners, and drive-ins. Many such businesses appeared on 900 East and on 3900 South streets, both of which were quickly becoming commercial zones in Millcreek. 900 East ran north to south, connecting the once rural community with Salt Lake City to the north and the growing development of Sandy (White City) to the south. 3900 South connected Millcreek to State St., a major north/south thoroughfare also known as Highway 89, and another commercial corridor. 3900 South also led to residential developments further east in Millcreek, such as Canyon Rim and Olympus Cove, connecting them to the area's growing commercial core.³ The intersection of these two auto corridors was an ideal location for car-oriented commercial development.

¹ Kirk Huffaker Preservation Strategies, Millcreek Reconnaissance Level Survey, 2024, 6.

² U.S. Department of Transportation, Volpe National Transportation Systems Center, "Journey-to-Work Trends in the United States and its Major Metropolitan Area, 1960-1990,"

https://www.bts.gov/archive/publications/passenger_travel_2015/chapter2/fig2_8, accessed February 16, 2026. Also see Susan Sessions Rugh, *Are We There Yet? The Golden Age of American Family Vacations* (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2008), 17.

³ Huffaker, Millcreek Reconnaissance Level Survey, 5.

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George Lamar Sorenson, a native of Ephraim, Utah, moved to Millcreek in 1959 and selected the corner of 3900 South and 900 East to attract customers from the two heavily traveled thoroughfares. He insisted that Drive-Inn be spelled with two “n’s” to better invite customers like an “inn” rather than simply a “drive in.”⁴ Sorenson was already experienced in auto-oriented business. In the early 1950s, he managed the Surf and Turf Café and Service Station in Payson, Utah. In the late 1950s, he moved to Henderson, Nevada, to manage the Polar Queen Drive In.⁵ Sorenson marketed Iceberg as unique for its “over the top” shakes in 20 flavors for 25 cents.⁶

The Iceberg Drive-Inn was built on the southwest corner of 3900 S and 900 E. The building features a multifaceted exterior that made it highly visible from multiple angles. Autos or pedestrians approaching the intersection from any direction could easily see the structure inside and out, thanks to its myriad windows and eye-catching Googie design. Drivers could spot the glowing sign or burgers cooking through large windows, then quickly turn into a spacious asphalt parking lot, another development of the postwar car culture.

The original Iceberg Drive-Inn contained no interior seating. Orders were placed at either the drive-thru window on the south façade or exterior walk-up windows on the east façade. The entire building was surrounded by asphalt, and cars could pull right up to the structure. Circa 1965, Sorenson added interior dining space to the building’s north side. The small addition included a checkerboard patterned concrete floor and bright red benches along the north and south walls. On the north, built-in wood benches were nestled into alcoves centered by large single-pane windows. On the south, vinyl benches faced one-another across linoleum tables. Circa 1975, Sorenson added exterior seating to the northeast corner of his property. The circular concrete tables and benches were parklike in appearance. Surrounding planters and strings of overhanging lights created an inviting patio area.

Drive-ins first gained popularity in Southern California, a place with often ideal weather for a pleasant drive and outdoor meal. Cars surrounded small, sometimes circular, buildings, and servers walked out to take orders. The “In and Out” drive-in chain is credited with being California’s first. The original location opened in Baldwin Park, near Los Angeles, in 1948.⁷ The food came with paper lap mats for meals eaten in the car. Jack in the Box opened its first location soon afterward in 1951. The San Diego drive in featured a small, square, building. The order-taker, “Jack,” was literally inside the box-like structure taking orders through a speaker system.⁸ The first McDonald’s in Downey, CA, was constructed in 1953. Drive-ins quickly gained a commercial foothold in Utah, as they did throughout the West. Early examples of Utah chains include Dee’s Drive-In, opening its first location at 753 E. 2100 South in 1954 and later expanding to 50 locations throughout Utah.⁹ The original Hires Big H opened in 1959 at the corner of 700 East and 500 South in Salt Lake City.¹⁰ The Millcreek Iceberg Drive-In opened shortly afterward in 1960. It is the only remaining drive-in in Millcreek that retains its historic integrity and original use.

⁴ Author interview with Jan Malmburg, May 18, 2024.

⁵ Dawn House, “Iceberg Drive-Inn Founder Taught Generation of Teens to Work,” *The Salt Lake Tribune*, December 8, 2011, <https://archive.sltrib.com/article.php?id=53067743&citytype=CMSID>, accessed June 2024.

⁶ Cathy Free, “Drive-In Owner to Retire as Cream of the Crop,” *The Salt Lake Tribune*, July 20, 1990, 4.

⁷ Greg Lucas, “First In-N-Out Burger Stand Opens,” *Celebrate California*, www.celebratecalifornia.library.ca.gov, accessed February 15, 2026.

⁸ Smithsonian Museum of American History, “Drive Thru,” <https://americanhistory.si.edu/explore/exhibitions/food/online/new-and-improved/food-go/drive-thru>, accessed February 13, 2026.

⁹ Tyson Romero and Craig Wirth, “Dee’s Drive-In: The Story of Utah’s Original Burger Chain,” May 18, 2023, <https://www.abc4.com/news/wirth/dees-drive-in-the-story-of-utahs-original-burger-chain/>, accessed February 13, 2026.

¹⁰ Valerie Phillips, “Big Half century: Classic Utah drive-in celebrates 50 years,” *Deseret News*, Oct 14, 2009, <https://www.deseret.com/2009/10/14/20346076/big-half-century-classic-utah-drive-in-celebrates-50-years/>, accessed February 13, 2026.

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Criterion C Significance: Architecture

The Iceberg Drive-Inn is significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as an excellent example of the Googie style in Millcreek, Salt Lake County. It is the only Googie style building in Millcreek and the surrounding area that retains its historic integrity. Utah's booming postwar economy and auto-oriented growth combined to fuel suburban development in the 1950s and 1960s.¹¹ George Lamar Sorenson, a native of Ephraim, Utah, moved to Millcreek in 1960 to open a new drive-in restaurant. He selected the corner of 3900 South and 900 East to attract customers from the two heavily traveled thoroughfares. Sorenson had been exposed to the exuberance of Googie architecture Las Vegas.¹² The Googie style had arrived there from California, where it originated in the design of roadside diners and drive-ins in the late 1930s.¹³ The term was popularized by architecture critic, Douglas Haskell, in his description of a Hollywood coffee shop in 1949.¹⁴ The trend incorporated shape, color, and light in innovative designs to attract the gaze of motorists who might otherwise speed by. Exuberant forms included folded eaves, diamond and boomerang shapes, and broadly overhanging roof canopies.¹⁵ In the postwar era, starbursts, parabolas, and tailfin shapes grew in popularity, reflecting the movement and energy of the space age and atomic era.¹⁶ Above all, Googie was playful and unstuffy. The style functioned as an architectural advertisement for the average consumer who sought a cup of coffee or a hamburger in a welcoming environment.¹⁷

Sorenson designed and built the Iceberg Drive-Inn in the playful Googie style with an accordion roofline, folded canopy, and an illuminated starburst sign. The trim was originally painted turquoise to attract the gaze of passersby and invoke an arctic chill.¹⁸ Sorenson opened for business on April 12, 1960.¹⁹ An IGA grocery store soon filled the remainder of the vacant lot, paving over the Big Ditch Canal, accommodating more parking.²⁰ The Iceberg was one among many Googie style drive-ins built in Utah from the mid-1950s through the early 1970s. Others include The Top Spot, built in 1963 at 650 Main Street, Cedar City, Iron County, which is currently vacant. Pinky's Drive-in (currently Kirt's) at 1974 N. 400 East in North Ogden, Weber County, was built in 1963 and continues to function as a drive-in.²¹ The building retains good historic integrity. Scott's Drive-In was constructed in Granger, Salt Lake County at 3325 W. 3500 South, circa 1965. The building is extant but now functions as a Title-Loan business.²²

Only one Googie style building in Utah is currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Chick N Dips Diner at 408 S. Main Street in Brigham City was listed in 2023 as contributing in the Brigham City Historic District (NRIS #RS100008770). Outside of the Iceberg Drive-Inn, only one other extant Googie style building is noted by SHPO in Millcreek. The single-story office building at 1055 E. 3900 South was

¹¹ Huffaker, Millcreek Reconnaissance Level Survey, 8.

¹² Alan Hess, *Googie: Fifties Coffee Shop Architecture* (Chronicle Books: San Francisco, 1985), 109.

¹³ Wayne McAllister was a California architect often credited with inspiring the style with his Burbank design of Bob's Big Boy restaurant in 1949.

¹⁴ Bart Bryant-Mole, "Googie Architecture", *SAH Archipedia*, eds. Gabrielle Esperdy and Karen Kingsley, Charlottesville: UVA, <http://sah-archipedia.org/essays/TH-01-ART002>.

¹⁵ Bryant-Mole, "Googie Architecture."

¹⁶ Hess, *Googie*, 61.

¹⁷ Bryant-Mole, "Googie Architecture."

¹⁸ Author interview with Tony Sorenson, son of George Lamar Sorenson, via telephone, May 23, 2024.

¹⁹ Iceberg Drive-Inn, "The Iceberg Drive-Inn Story," <https://icebergdriveinn.com>, accessed January 16, 2026.

²⁰ Deseret News, March 22, 1960, 24. See Figure 4.

²¹ Roadside Attractions, "Utah Drive-Ins," <https://www.roadarch.com/eateries/utdi.html>, accessed February 16, 2026.

²² West Valley City History, "Remembering Scott's Drive In," <https://www.westvalleycityhistory.com/blogposts/2017/10/13/u2gn3ij8tpo18onn7ygh1z3tolzqbl>, accessed February 16, 2026.

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surveyed in Millcreek as part of the 2024 Reconnaissance Level Survey. However, the structure was deemed noncontributing due to alterations.²³

The Iceberg Drive-Inn is notable in Millcreek as a local example of the drive-in commercial culture that was inspired by the age of the automobile. The building is locally significant for its architecture as the only extant representation of the Googie architectural style in Millcreek. The Iceberg retains its historic integrity and functions in its original role within the community. It is significant as one of the few preserved examples of Googie architecture in Utah.²⁴

Additional Historical Information

George Lamar Sorenson, a native of Ephraim, Utah, moved to Millcreek in 1960 to open a new drive-in restaurant. He selected the corner of 3900 South and 900 East to attract customers from the two heavily traveled thoroughfares. Sorenson was already experienced in auto-oriented business. In the early 1950s, he managed the Surf and Turf Café and Service Station in Payson, Utah. In the late 1950s, he moved to Henderson, Nevada, to manage the Polar Queen Drive In.²⁵ Sorenson was already experienced in auto-oriented business. In the late 1950s, he moved to Henderson, Nevada, to manage the Polar Queen Drive-In.²⁶ Sorenson purchased the lot at 3906 South 900 East in 1960, where it was naturally subdivided from surrounding property by the Big Ditch Canal.²⁷ He insisted that Drive-Inn be spelled with two “n’s” to better invite customers like an “inn” rather than simply a “drive in.” Sorenson marketed Iceberg as unique for its “over the top” shakes in 20 flavors for 25 cents.²⁸

The original Iceberg Drive-Inn contained no interior seating. Orders were placed at either the drive-thru window on the south façade or exterior walk-up windows on the east façade. The entire building was surrounded by asphalt, and cars could pull right up to the structure. Circa 1965, Sorenson added interior dining space to the building’s north side. The small addition included a checkerboard patterned concrete floor and bright red benches along the north and south walls. On the north, built-in wood benches were nestled into alcoves centered by large single-pane windows. On the south, vinyl benches faced one-another across linoleum tables. Circa 1975, Sorenson added exterior seating to the northeast corner of his property. The circular concrete tables and benches were parklike in appearance. Surrounding planters and strings of overhanging lights created an inviting patio area.

Sorenson owned and managed the Iceberg until his retirement in 1990 when he sold the business to a Washington-based chain of restaurants, Frontier Pies, Inc. A Frontier Pies restaurant had replaced the neighboring IGA grocery store. The corporation initially planned to tear down the Iceberg Drive-Inn to create additional parking for its customers, but the restaurant’s popularity convinced them to fund, and even franchise, the business. The franchise has expanded to 22 locations in four states.²⁹ Frontier Pies later rebranded as Iceberg, Inc.³⁰ In 1996, the Christensen family, local to the Millcreek area, purchased Iceberg, Inc.³¹

²³ Huffaker, Millcreek RLS, 2024.

²⁴ Others include the Granite Furniture Sign in Sugarhouse and Kirt’s Drive-In of North Ogden Preservation Utah, Instagram, May 10, 2024.

²⁵ Dawn House, “Iceberg Drive-Inn Founder Taught Generation of Teens to Work,” The Salt Lake Tribune, December 8, 2011, <https://archive.sltrib.com/article.php?id=53067743&itype=CMSID>, accessed June 2024.

²⁶ House, “Iceberg Drive-Inn Founder.”

²⁷ Author interview with Jan Malmborg, May 18, 2024.

²⁸ Cathy Free, “Drive-In Owner to Retire as Cream of the Crop,” The Salt Lake Tribune, July 20, 1990, 4.

²⁹ Iceberg Drive Inn, “Our Locations,” <https://icebergdriveinn.com/pages/iceberg-locations>, accessed February 13, 2026.

³⁰ House, “Iceberg Drive-Inn Founder Taught Generation of Teens to Work.”

³¹ Salt Lake County Recorder’s Office.

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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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office (Utah)
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 40.6867211 N | Longitude: -111.8657196 W |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

BEG 20 FT S & 7 FT W FR NE COR LOT 10, BLK 5, TEN AC PLAT A; BIG FIELD SUR; W 93 FT; S 105 FT; E 93 FT; N 105 FT TO BEG. 0.21 AC. 6230-2728. See map for boundary detail.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries are the legal parcel, currently and historically associated with the property.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Jessica Guynn, Research Historian II
organization: Kirk Huffaker Preservation Strategies
street & number: 774 E 2100 S
city or town: Salt Lake City state: UT zip code: 84106
e-mail jessica@kirkhuffaker.com
telephone: (801) 804-3476
date: May 21, 2026

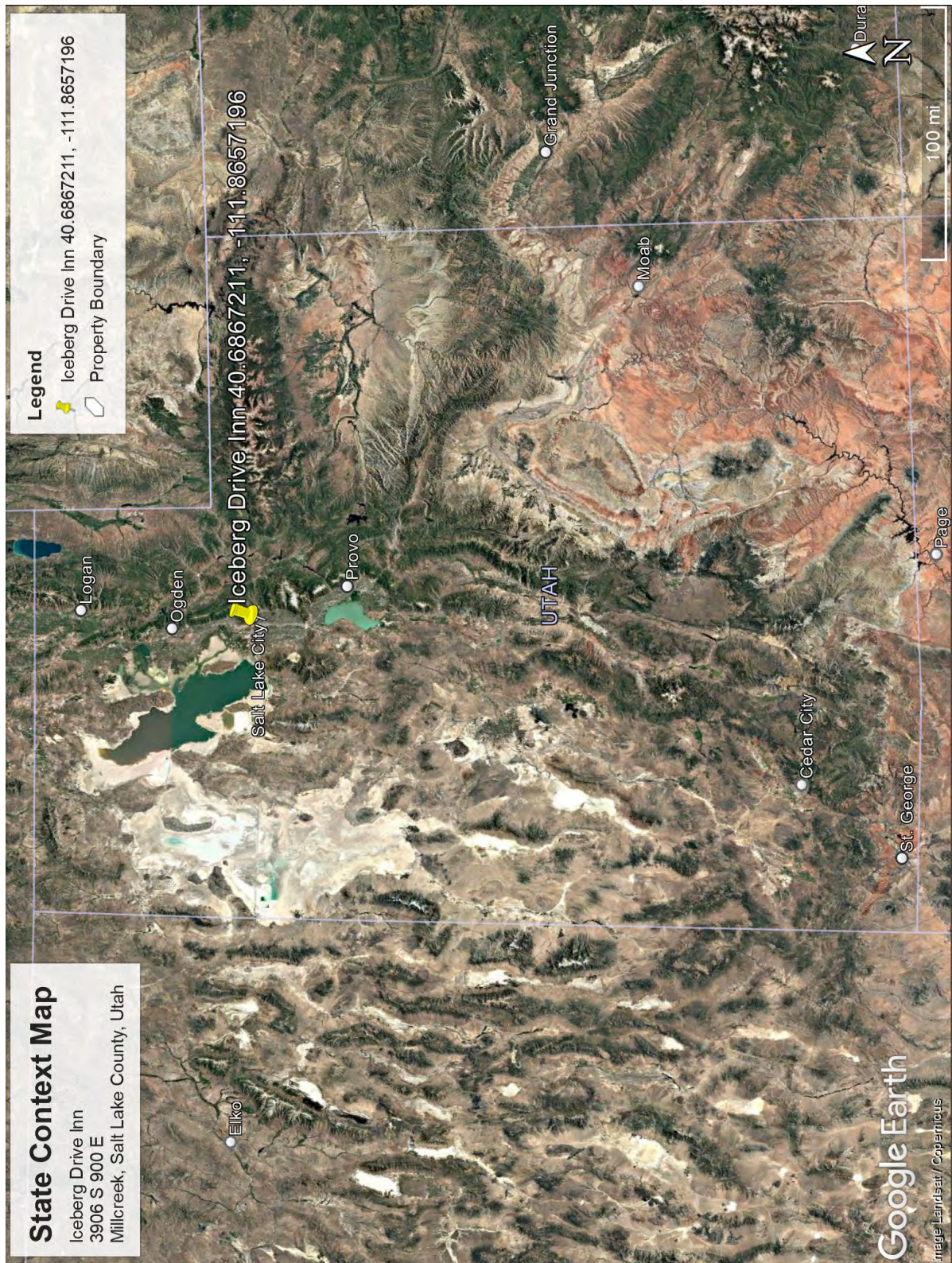
Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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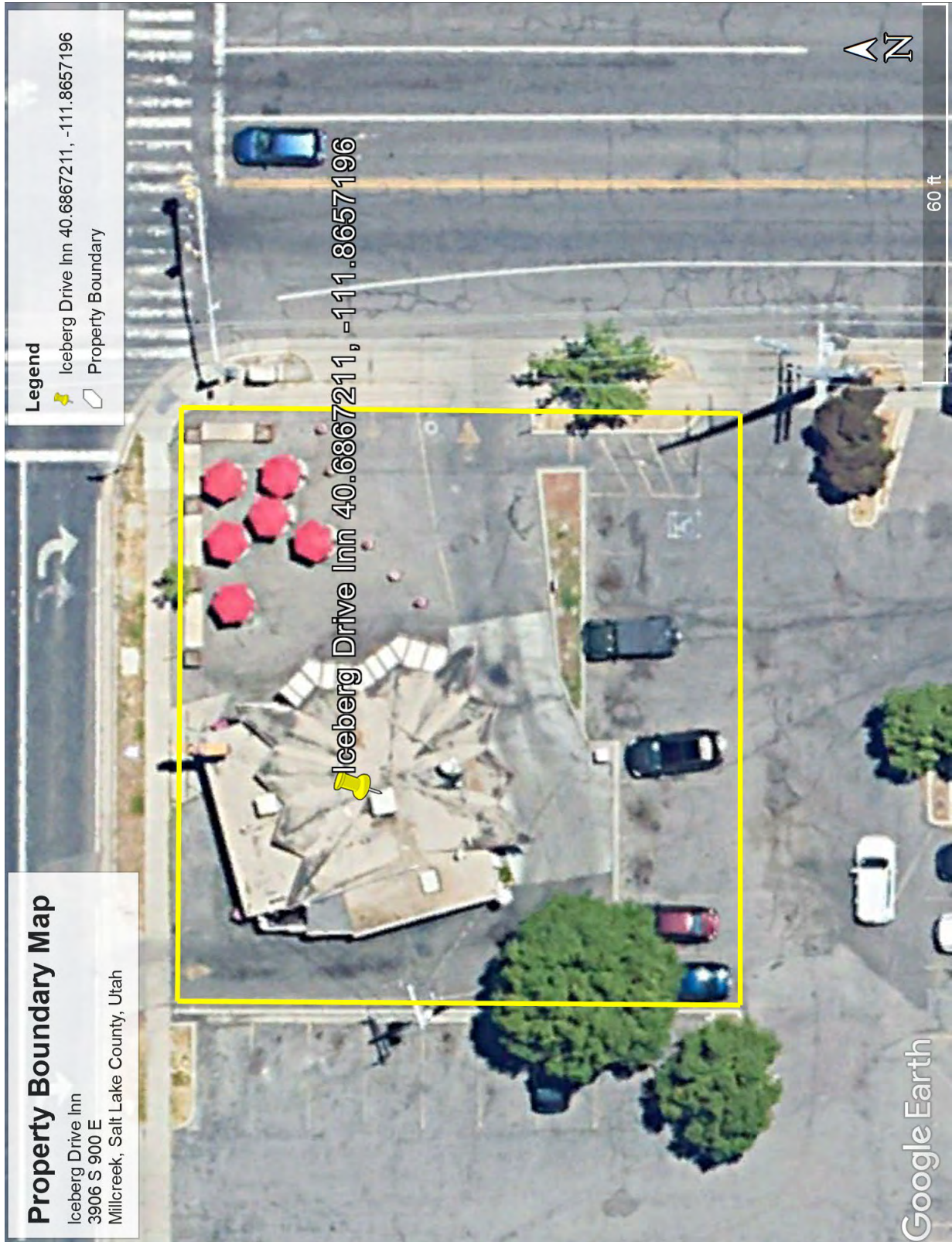
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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Iceberg Drive Inn

City or Vicinity: Millcreek

County: Salt Lake State: UT

Photographer: Jessica Guynn

Date Photographed: November 25, 2025

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo No.	Photo Description
Photo 1	Exterior, east (main) façade. Camera facing northwest.
Photo 2	Exterior, north façade. Camera facing southwest.
Photo 3	Exterior, west façade. Camera facing east.
Photo 4	Exterior, south façade. Camera facing northwest.
Photo 5	Exterior, east (main) façade and surrounding area. Camera facing northeast.
Photo 6	Exterior, south façade and surrounding area. Camera facing northwest.
Photo 7	Exterior, east (main) façade detail of eaves and sign. Camera facing northeast.
Photo 8	Exterior, east (main) façade detail of walk-up windows. Camera facing west.
Photo 9	Exterior, south façade detail of drive-thru. Camera facing north.
Photo 10	Interior, dining room. Camera facing west.
Photo 11	Interior, dining room booth. Camera facing north.
Photo 12	Interior, dining room, kitchen, and counter. Camera facing southwest.
Photo 13	Interior, detail of drop ceiling, pick-up counter, and bay window. Camera facing southeast.
Photo 14	Interior, dining room, kitchen, and counter. Camera facing south.
Photo 15	Interior, detail of sliding order and pick-up windows. Camera facing southeast.
Photo 16	Interior, detail of drive-thru window and south door. Camera facing southeast.
Photo 17	Interior, janitorial closet and bathroom. Camera facing northeast.
Photo 18	Interior, west hallway. Camera facing west.
Photo 19	Interior, office. Camera facing north.

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Photo Key

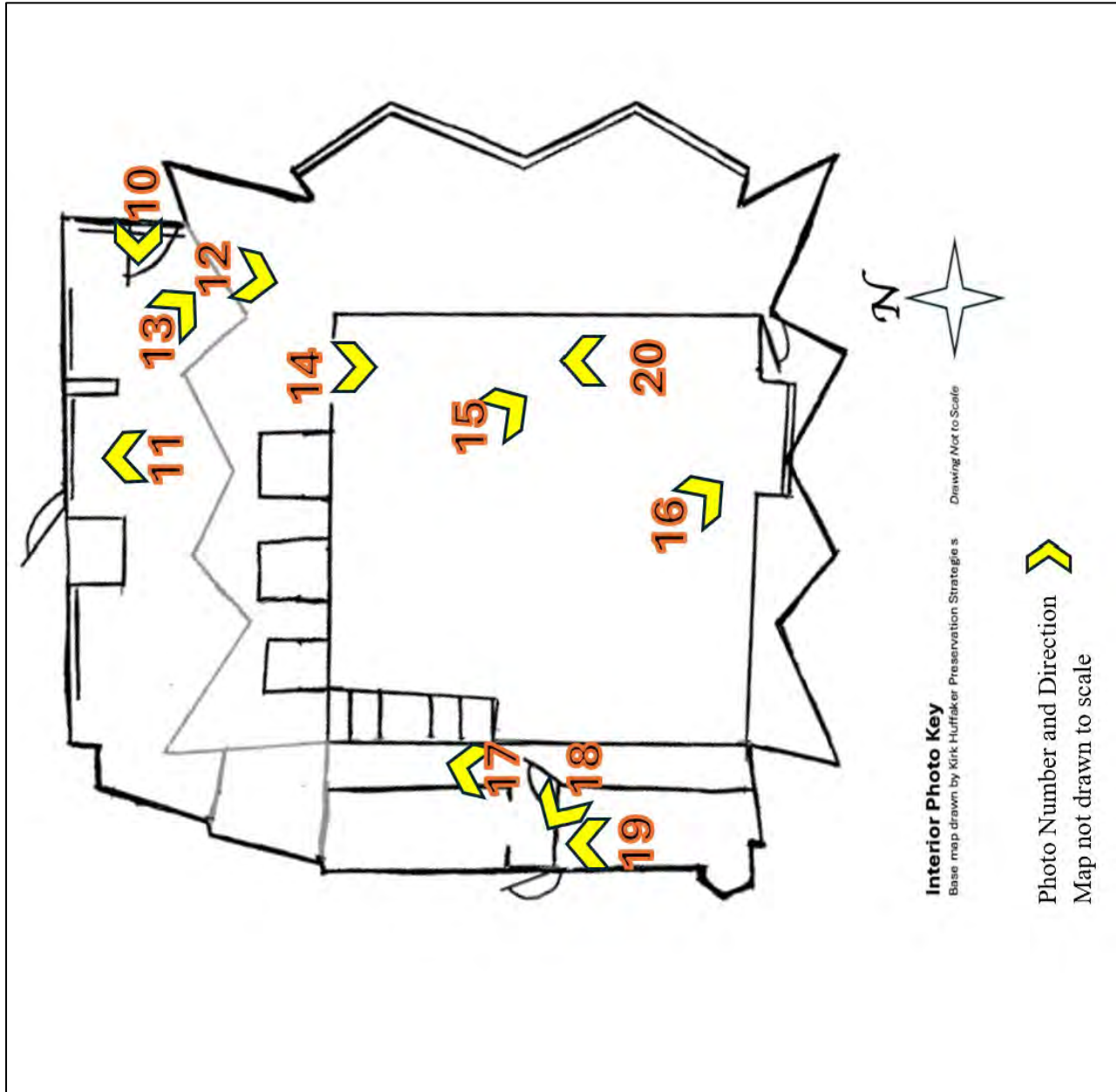


Map not to scale

Site Boundary —
Photo Number and Direction >

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Photographs



Photograph 1. Exterior, east (main) façade. Camera facing northwest.



Photograph 2. Exterior, north façade. Camera facing southwest.

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Photograph 3. Exterior, west façade. Camera facing east.



Photograph 4. Exterior, south façade. Camera facing northwest.

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Photograph 5. Exterior, east (main) façade and surrounding area. Camera facing northwest.



Photograph 6. Exterior, south façade and surrounding area. Camera facing northwest.

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Photograph 7. Exterior, east (main) façade detail of eaves and sign. Camera facing northwest.

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Photograph 8. Exterior, east (main) façade detail of walk-up windows. Camera facing west.



Photograph 9. Exterior, south façade detail of drive-thru. Camera facing north.

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Photograph 10. Interior, dining room. Camera facing west.



Photograph 11. Interior, dining room booth. Camera facing north.

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Photograph 12. Interior, dining room, kitchen, and counter. Camera facing southwest.



Photograph 13. Interior, detail of drop ceiling, pick-up counter, and bay window. Camera facing southeast.

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Photograph 14. Interior, dining room, kitchen, and counter. Camera facing south.



Photograph 15. Interior, detail of sliding order and pick-up windows. Camera facing southeast.

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Photograph 16. Interior, detail of drive-thru window and south door. Camera facing southeast.

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Photograph 17. Interior, janitorial closet and bathroom. Camera facing northeast.

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Photograph 18. Interior, west hallway and office. Camera facing northwest.

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Photograph 19. Interior, office off the west hallway. Camera facing north.

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Figures



Figure 1. Photograph of the Iceberg Drive-Inn circa 1962. Note the IGA Foodliner to the left. Camera is facing southwest. Credit: Iceberg Drive-Inn.



Figure 2. Photograph of the Iceberg Drive-Inn, 1966. Note the east façade door to the dining room addition visible at the far right. Camera is facing northwest. Credit: Salt Lake County Archives.

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Property Owner information:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

Name: Christensen Land Management / Kelly Christensen

Address: 380 W. 12300 S. # 102

City or Town: Draper State: UT Zip code: 84020

Telephone/email: (801)231-5250 Kellyc@siumgt.com

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations 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.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

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- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
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- Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.