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Lake McDonald Lodge Historic District
Flathead County, Montana

LAKE McDONALD LODGE HISTORIC DISTRICT ADDENDUM No. 2

5. Classification

Ownership of Property: Public-Federal		
Category of Property: Historic District	Contributing <u>29</u>	Number of Resources within Property Noncontributing <u>17</u> buildings
	<u>3</u>	_____ sites
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 32	<u>1</u>	_____ structures
	_____	_____ objects
Name of related multiple property listing: Glacier National Park Multiple Property Listing	<u>32</u>	<u>18</u> Total

7. Description

Architectural Classification: **Modern Movement Formalism**

Materials:
foundation: **Concrete**

walls: **Steel frame, wood frame, stucco, glazing in wood frames**
roof: **Asphalt shingle**
other: **Wooden Glu-lam roof structure**

Narrative Description

Introduction

Within Glacier National Park, Lake McDonald Lodge Coffee Shop was constructed in 1965 within what is now the Lake McDonald Lodge Historic District/Lewis Glacier Hotel Historic District, listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. The present district boundaries were established January of 1995 through Addendum 1. The low profile, one-story, 40' x 100' rectangular plan Coffee Shop was designed to reflect the nearby historic Swiss Chalet style structures. It is located just east of the historic Lake McDonald Lodge and the adjacent buildings that comprise the Lake McDonald Lodge Historic District., which is approximately nine miles from West Glacier and US highway 2 and the beginning of the Going-to-the-Sun Road entrance to the park. The district is on the northeastern shore of Lake McDonald near the head of the lake and straddles Snyder

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Creek. The Coffee Shop is located north of the main entrance boulevard into the Lake McDonald area from Going-to-the-Sun Road and is approximately 125 feet from the intersection.

The Coffee Shop represents one phase of Glacier National Park's development during the Mission 66 program of the National Park Service (NPS) between 1956 and 1966 and which ended in 1972 as the Parkscape program. Because of the proposed expansion of overnight accommodations at Lake McDonald Lodge area it was deemed that a new restaurant should be constructed to provide additional dining room space.

As an associated property type within the established context of NPS Mission 66, the Coffee Shop has a high level of integrity reflecting its original location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. While it has been repainted several times and the interiors have been redecorated, the building remains essentially as it was built in 1965.

Mission 66 Architecture

The Lake McDonald Lodge Coffee Shop was built as part of the Mission 66 program that was a major effort funded by Congress to help the NPS meet the demand for expanded visitor services following World War II. The Mission 66 era changed attitudes regarding park architecture for new construction including park concession buildings. Traditional NPS Rustic style "Parkitecture" of the 1920s and 1930s gave way to structures that were modernist in design and to materials that were appropriate. Modernist architecture was deemed, even by the pre-war architects of the National Park Service, to better meet the new centralized management philosophy of the NPS Design and Construction offices. Ethan Carr, in *Mission 66: Modernism and the National Park Dilemma*, noted that with the Design and Construction Offices, in place in 1954, it was possible to provide efficient planning for buildings and other projects that could be constructed more economically by taking advantage of postwar materials and construction techniques, but still allowing for color, texture, and materials that blended with the environment. This was the case of the Lake McDonald Lodge Coffee Shop. Like much of the construction program at Glacier, the Coffee Shop exemplifies the contracting with a private architectural and engineering firm, Brinkman and Lenon of Kalispell, Montana, to augment the NPS design workload. Within the firm, the unique Coffee Shop structure was envisioned and designed by Burt L Gewalt.

Setting

Lake McDonald Lodge Coffee Shop was built on a site selected by the National Park Service that had originally been open space separating the Going-to-the-Sun Road from the historic hotel complex. The triangular Coffee Shop site, designated in 1963 master plan as a "Grill" location, is on a knoll with elevations of 3179 to a high of 3190 of the southwest side, 3178 to 3182 on the north side, and 3182 to 3190 east side. The finish grade around the building foundation is 3190. The site is bounded on the south by the wide entrance boulevard into the Lake McDonald Lodge area. The boulevard, with parking along the north side and south sides, has a landscaped median strip and terminates in a circular drive at the southeast elevation of the lodge. Forming the northern

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boundary is a secondary roadway (formerly part of Going-to-the-Sun Road) that provides access to other buildings and services in the area, including the historic General Store. Behind are motel units and cabins along the lake shore. Directly west of the Coffee Shop is a slightly arced plan parking area that spans between the two roadways and has access to each at the north and south. The circular turning radii and sides are formed within log curbing. Parking and sidewalks are located on the east and west. The sidewalks connect to an existing sidewalk along the entrance road. Subsequently, a walkway was extended through the triangular area in front of the Coffee Shop, which connects it directly to the lodge walkways. In front of the Coffee Shop ten-foot wide, double asphalt walkways, within 2x6 headers, connect the parking area to two pairs of double front doors at the west entrance to the building. The low concrete entrance stoops are separated by a concrete planter. At the southwest, an asphalt walkway provides access to a south doorway into the original Employees' Dining Room; a later diagonal walkway connects the parking area to the southwest stoop. Most of the vegetation was removed, except for a few large conifers and several birch trees on the periphery, prior to construction. Presently, the Coffee Shop, in a grassed area, only has a row of small conical Alberta spruce between the pair of front walkways. At the east elevation a parallel asphalt rear service road extends from the north roadway to the north service vestibule. At the west entrance is a log "torii" gate feature awkwardly trying to make the building more rustic.

Architecture

Lake McDonald Lodge, built as the Lewis Glacier Hotel in 1913-14, was designed by Architect Kirkland Cutter of Spokane in a Swiss Chalet style with a massive clipped gable roof structure. This and other Swiss styled details were intended to mirror Great Northern Railway's new structures for Glacier National Park, which J. J. Hill called, "the Alps of America." This theme was continued with the design and construction in 1937 of the General Store with its clipped gables and Swiss-esque details.

Burt Gewalt recalled that he drew on the theme of the Swiss Chalet style of the General Store for the Coffee Shop. Burt incorporated a low gabled roof with clipped end gables that form a modified hipped roof creating a modern interpretation of the Swiss Chalet style of the Lake McDonald area. A continuation of the west roof slope extends over the main entrance into the building; a smaller eave extension is over the east service vestibule. A louvered roof monitor extends along the main ridge and conceals mechanical and ventilation equipment. Below the roof, the walls are clad in cedar battens on plywood with wooden framed glazing and stucco panels. At the east and west end elevations, pairs of doors open between the windows. The concrete foundation is only minimally visible above grade.

The predominant feature of the Coffee Shop is the clipped gable, or "jerkin head," roof structure. Originally a built-up and gravel roof, the gabled roof with its clipped gables now has dark charcoal gray asphalt shingles with defined ridges. The eaves around the building have an inward canted fascia that masks the ends of Glu-lam rafter tails that support the roof decking. The roof surface above the roof deck has been thickened and a galvanized metal stop masks the increased depth. Originally, rafter tails of the north and south elevations were added onto the ends of the Glu-lam beams that form purlins above the east and west walls and at the ridge.

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Spanning between the 20-foot on center purlins are Glu-lam rafters, ten feet on center. The rafter tails are trimmed to be perpendicular with the walling. Exposed 3x6 roof decking with bull-nose edging forms the soffits of the eaves between the rafter tails. The roof structure was supported on 3-inch square section steel columns set in front of the dining room window mullions and on a similar steel column in the main Dining Room space; elsewhere the steel columns forming a grid are enclosed in walls.

Centered on the ridge of the roof is a long narrow monitor, approximately 50 feet long, constructed of galvanized louvers built in a battered configuration at each elevation. The monitor floated above the roof and the galvanized ridge cap on "pitch pockets." It was completed with a 6-inch wide cap all designed to mask necessary roof vents and other mechanical equipment in an open well. However, snow accumulation dictated setting a long narrow wooden gambrel roof structure over the monitor at a later date.

Below the roof structure, the walling extends from the top of the concrete foundation, exposed 4" to 8" high, to the eave soffits approximately 13 feet above grade. The west façade, somewhat symmetrical as defined by the central extension of the main roof eave, was designed to reflect the hierarchy of the interior spaces. To the north, under the eave extension, are two sets of double aluminum framed doors each with fully glazed sidelights and set below a glazed transom panel. The two pairs of doors have center lock rails. Set between the two pairs of entry doors is a stuccoed panel designed to contain signage announcing, "Lake McDonald Coffee Shop," which no longer exists. To the east of the entry doors is a large stuccoed panel set with a metal wall sculpture designed by Burt Gewalt to suggest Glacier National Park's mountains, valleys, and lakes. The composition is outlined in one-inch, square section steel tubing and given substance in relief by trapezoidal steel panels mounted onto the tubing. It projects from the stuccoed wall. The tubing was originally painted black, and the various panels were painted "Deep Sea" suggesting water, and "Gray Stone," and "Copperglow" suggesting mountains. Behind this feature are the restrooms. The side elevations of the façade projection also are stuccoed.

To the north of the projecting entrance feature, are two window units set into walling of vertical 2x4 cedar decking battens set 3/4" apart on exterior fir plywood. The siding is capped just below the eave soffits and overhangs the concrete foundation. Typically, each window unit consists of two fixed panes of glass set within a wooden frame and each has a center mullion. At the bottom of each window unit is a pair of operable hopper style windows with screens. South of the entrance projection is one window unit set into similar walling of cedar battens on plywood.

The rear, east elevation is similar with an off center projecting vestibule opening into the kitchen which has high, ribbon window openings above stucco panels. A single window unit is located on the south end clad in cedar battens on plywood. To the north of the kitchen vestibule and ribbon windows are three window units set into cedar batten and plywood walling. The north and south end elevations are a variation utilizing narrower window units, though elongated to fill the space below the raised soffits of the clipped gables. Innovatively, at each elevation the window units are spaced with four sets of tall, narrow pairs of doors that can be opened outward to provide additional ventilation for the interior dining room spaces. Burt Gewalt recalled that the

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doors were originally designed to open onto decks to be used for dining at each end of the Coffee Shop. These were not included in the construction documents and were never constructed. Interior screens are set into the doorways. At each end of the north and south elevations, accommodating the transitioning from the lower west and east elevations, the end glazing is raked to reach the height of the central openings. A glazed pair of doors with a glazed transom on the south elevation, near the west corner, provided access into the original Employee's Dining Room, now office and storage space.

Original wall finish included the staining of the cedar battens and plywood to match the soffits. The Glu-lams were painted a shade of green and the fascias were painted an off-white or cream to match the wooden window frames and panels, stucco, and doors giving it a more rustic appearance. The building's walling is currently painted very dark and the trim and stucco is stark white below the dark roof; rafter tails are grey. The winterizing panels over the doors and windows, designed as part of the project, are off-white or cream, apparently the original color.

Interior Architecture

The 40' by 100' rectangular plan contains three main spaces, the Dining Room in the north end, the Kitchen in the center, and the Employees' Dining Room in the south end. Fronting the Kitchen is the main entrance with its two pairs of double doors opening into what was a Lunch Counter Area with stools. Restrooms are to the south, which were originally a pair of public restrooms back to back with a pair of employee restrooms. They were remodeled in 1999 to be fully accessible and the employee restrooms were reduced to a single restroom. Existing tile work consists of small one-inch white tiles in the entrance vestibule set with colorful confetti random tiles. The interiors have similar flooring and larger white tile on the walls set with random colored tiles. The restrooms as secondary spaces are non-contributing.

The Kitchen space with two walk-in coolers and a freezer has a small entrance vestibule on the east elevation that contains a storage area and garbage area. The exposed roof deck ceiling is painted off-white; the rafters, walls, and trim are painted white. The kitchen fixtures are stainless steel and some wall surfaces are clad in stainless steel. Sheet vinyl flooring is installed over the original vinyl asbestos tile on a wooden floor system. This is a non-contributing secondary space. Fronting the Kitchen, the Lunch Counter Area was reconfigured at a later date by removing the nearly square, 32-inch high counter and stools and replacing it all with a long lineal counter to provide more circulation space to the restrooms and the Cashier Booth set between the pairs of entrance doors. Since 2002, the Counter Area has been completely renovated into a buffet serving line with a mobile food cart set parallel with it. The serving counter is clad in red laminate. The cedar batten wall behind original counter remains in place, but typically is painted beige. The Cashier Booth originally opened to the north; presently the red laminate clad original counter, with its glass enclosed display shelving, and extends partway across the opening. The alcove of the Cashier Booth, originally set with shelving units behind the counter, and the wall separating the public areas from the restrooms currently has black and white harlequin wall covering that masks architectural detail such as the wooden panel over the archway of the open entry into the restroom vestibule. The walls were originally clad in a vinyl wall covering.

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Like the former Counter Area, the Dining Room, now called "Jammer Joe's," has harlequin black, beige, and red vinyl tile flooring that sets the red bus theme for the space. The ceiling typically is the exposed underside of the roof deck, stained brown, and the Glu-lam rafters are painted black. The exterior walls are cedar battens set on plywood, all painted beige. The Kitchen wall is also painted beige including the wooden panel over Kitchen exit door. Adjacent trim is painted red. A later service area was constructed at the southeast corner of the main Dining Room at the entrance into the Kitchen. A single steel column extending to the ridge purlin remains in the middle of the Dining Room space. The original Employees' Dining Room, which is accessed by way of the Kitchen, has been subdivided into an office and storage space utilizing sheetrock walls and chain-link fencing. It appears that much of the original finishes remain in the space. The south entrance doorway near the southwest corner into the space remains opening onto a concrete stoop.

The primary spaces of the interiors were originally stained cedar battens on plywood that extended from a vinyl base at the vinyl asbestos tile floor to the open ceiling; the exposed beams and rafters supporting the roof decking. The structural system was painted green and the roof decking was stained to match the walling. Plywood panels, set over the window units and over the interior doorways, were finished to match the wooden flush panel doors. Existing cascading five-light cluster light fixtures by A. W. Pistol are symmetrically placed in the dining rooms and entrance. The white sphere shades are graduated in size.

Alterations

The exterior design of the Coffee Shop remains basically unchanged, though it has been painted several times over the original finish, has been reroofed with asphalt shingles, and has had a wooden cover installed over the roof monitor. While the structure's relationship to adjacent buildings was ignored, all of this is reversible. Within the interior the function of the Employees Dining Room has changed to office and storage space. The Dining Room décor was changed significantly in the primary spaces after 2002, though all the original architecture remains in place. All of the existing post 2002 décor is reversible. At the time of redecoration, the lunch counter was removed in the Counter Area and the space was converted into a buffet serving area. This alteration changed the building's historic function from counter and table service to a self service restaurant that is no longer in the tradition of a "coffee shop." The restrooms were altered in 1999 to provide adequate accessibility and the elimination of one employee restroom all within the footprint of the original restroom area. These secondary spaces were retiled.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria: **A and C**
Entertainment/Recreation, Community

Areas of Significance:

Planning and Development;

Architecture

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): **G, less than 50 years old**

Period(s) of Significance: **1956-1966**

Significant Person(s): *n/a*

Significant Dates: **1964-1965**
Architect/Builder, **Brinkman and Lenon,**
Architects and Engineers: Burt L.
Gewalt Principal Designer; Oystein
Boveng, Principal Engineer

Cultural Affiliation: *n/a*

Narrative Statement of Significance

Designed and constructed in 1965, the Lake McDonald Lodge Coffee Shop, meets National Register Criterion A as an associated property type of the National Park Service (NPS) Mission 66 planning and design programs from 1956-1966. The Lake McDonald Lodge Coffee Shop is an exceptional representation of the Mission 66 program that was a significant change in NPS planning, management, and architecture. Within the national park system, Mission 66 resulted in the construction of Park Service Modern style headquarters buildings, visitor centers, employee housing, maintenance/utility areas, entrance stations, comfort stations, and concession buildings. Lake McDonald Lodge Coffee Shop falls into the later category for which fewer buildings were designed and constructed, particularly in parks that had an established infrastructure of visitor services such as Glacier National Park. More typically, concession buildings were constructed in new parks such as Big Bend National Park, Texas, or at Glacier Bay National Park, Alaska, to provide a full range of services based on the early Mission 66 development of Canyon Village Lodge designed by Welton Becket and Associates of Los Angeles. Throughout the Park Service, construction of new concession facilities walked a fine line of using public funds for privately owned operations especially in older parks where there were established concessioners who had proprietary interests in the building complexes they managed. This dilemma was much easier to solve at Glacier's Lake McDonald Lodge where the Park Service owned the facility and leased it to Glacier Park, Inc. Nevertheless, construction of concession facilities was necessarily limited by property ownership and the need for more important development such the construction of over 100 visitor centers and housing. Thus, Mission 66 concession buildings are very rare and, like Lake McDonald Lodge Coffee Shop, were built in anticipation of the concessioner adding additional overnight accommodations.

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The Lake McDonald Lodge Coffee Shop also meets National Register Criterion C as an exceptional example of Mission 66 design by a local architectural and engineering firm under contract with the NPS. Like several other important Mission 66 buildings in Glacier National Park, the Coffee Shop was designed by Brinkman and Lenon, Architects and Engineers of Kalispell, Montana. Working for the firm, Burt L. Gewalt was the principal designer for the project. In an interview on May 24, 2007, Gewalt noted that he developed several preliminary designs for the Coffee Shop. The National Park Service and Don Hummel, president of Glacier Park Inc., approved the final design that Gewalt said reflects the nearby historic General Store Swiss chalet style. Gewalt clipped the gable ends to form "jerkin heads," giving the appearance of a hipped roof. Gewalt went on to provide a stain and paint finish schedule that further reflected the surrounding buildings stained dark brown and trimmed in cream color. The end result of this historicizing of the Park Service Modern design to reflect a park style provided an even rarer example of Mission 66 architecture. While a few visitor centers, such as that at Sitka National Monument, designed to reflect a native Alaskan "long house," or the Spanish Colonial inspired visitor center at Coronado National Monument in Arizona, were in a "local" style, concession buildings reflecting local style were nearly nonexistent with a very few exceptions such as the Morefield Campground buildings at Mesa Verde National Park designed as a modernist interpretation of puebloan architecture.

Although the Lake McDonald Lodge Coffee Shop is less than 50 years old, it is eligible for the National Register under Criterion G as an exceptional example of NPS Mission 66 planning and Park Service Modern style architecture in Montana. It is a rare example of a concession building from the program, which was designed in a modified Swiss chalet style that was intended to blend with the historic buildings of the Lake McDonald Lodge area. It was designed and built within the period of significance for the Mission 66 program, has distinguishing characteristics, possesses physical integrity, and is a reflection of the principles of the Park Service Modern style. The Coffee Shop possesses all these characteristics developed by Sarah Allaback in her book, *Mission 66 Visitor Centers: the History of a Building Type* that provides a prototype for evaluating Mission 66 buildings. In addition, the Coffee Shop also has some connection with Southern California "Coffee Shop Modern" style, as defined below on continuation page 12.

Mission 66

Mission 66 was a large-scale effort by the NPS to upgrade the nation's parks in the period following World War II. Sarah Allaback notes that "Neglected since the New Deal era improvements of the 1930s, the national parks were in desperate need of funds for basic maintenance, not to mention protection for an increasing number of visitors." Contributing to the growth in the number of visitors after World War II was the post-war economic boom and the ability of more and more Americans to purchase personal automobiles. The new mobility enabled Americans to visit the national parks particularly those of the west noted for natural beauty. The NPS needed new facilities to accommodate the crowds and it needed those facilities to be designed in way that would protect the parks for resource damage and to be cost effective.

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NPS Director Conrad L. Wirth first conceptualized the idea of modernizing the parks through a massive, multi-year redevelopment program after the centralization of NPS planning into the Eastern and Western Offices of Planning and Design in Philadelphia and San Francisco in 1954. Wirth planned a 10-year budget rather than submitting a yearly budget and request decade funding. As envisioned, "Mission 66 would allow the Park Service to repair and build roads, bridges, and trails, hire additional employees, construct new facilities ranging from campsites to administrative buildings, improve employee housing, and obtain land for parks...to elevate the parks to modern standards of comfort and efficiency, as well as an attempt to conserve natural resources.." Wirth introduced the program to the Secretary of the Interior in February of 1955 and set about establishing pilot projects. By January 27, 1956, the program was presented to President Eisenhower and his cabinet where it received favorable approval. Subsequently, the Mission 66 was introduced to Congress and the American public. Congressional funding for the program was made available for Fiscal Year 1956 starting in July.

In addition to a new strategy for management, Mission 66 also resulted in a distinctive new type of NPS architecture that reflected the new ideas. Sarah Allaback calls it "Park Service Modern." Modern architecture was the prevalent style in the postwar period and Mission 66 brought that design ethic to the national parks. Modernist architecture utilized new inexpensive materials and laborsaving techniques, many of which were developed by the military during the war. The assemblage of materials became the focus of designs. The flexibility of modern architectural design also allowed for open interiors and expansive circulation to meet the "visitor flow."

At Glacier National Park, Mission 66 planners addressed the fact that the park, established in 1910, had limited facilities except for the hotel complexes. First, a new headquarters building was constructed at the west entrance. This project introduced Brinkman and Lenon, Architects and Engineers, Kalispell, Montana, to the park construction program when they were contracted by the Western Office of Design and Construction to provide design, construction documents, and supervision for the project. Because of the enormous workload, it was often necessary, particularly in more remote parks, to contract out such services. Brinkman and Lenon, Architects and Engineers, then under the partnership of William Heinecke and Harry Schmautz, was founded after World War II as a partnership between Frederick A. Brinkman and Percy H. Lenon. Though, both partners died in 1961, the name continued until the firm was sold to the Architects Design Group in the early 1990s.

Brinkman and Lenon went on to design and provide construction documents for St. Mary Visitor Center and Logan Pass Visitor Center during the Mission 66 program in the park, which also included the construction of employee housing at West Glacier and Saint Mary, maintenance buildings, campgrounds, comfort stations, roads, and other developments including a new restaurant at Rising Sun designed by Oystein Boveng of Brinkman and Lenon.

Mission 66 at Lake McDonald Lodge Area

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In the vanguard of future Mission 66 construction activity at Glacier National Park a new master plan for the Lake McDonald Lodge Area was developed in 1955. In this scheme, new Park Service facilities were to be built to the east of the main roadway bypassing the lodge area. The Lewis Glacier Hotel/Lake McDonald Lodge was to remain, but all other buildings were to be removed, including the private residences north of the lodge. In their place there were to be a series of 50-room and 20-room motel units set along the lake shore in a zigzag pattern. They were to be one- and two-story. To the north of the lodge there was to be a large two-story wing with 70 rooms. Most of the rooms in the lodge were to be removed and it was to be used for only lobby and dining space. Because of the increase in guest rooms, it was deemed necessary to consider construction of additional dining in the area. A Grill-Recreation building was to be built on the south side on the entrance boulevard utilizing building No. 741 that was to be moved to the site. Two new dormitories were to be constructed east of the existing dormitories, the Johnson and Hydro Dormitories were to be removed.

NPS Architect Cecil J. Doty was dispatched to Glacier to assist with planning in September of 1955 and designed buildings that were more in line with the expectations of Great Northern Railway Company, the park concessioner. Doty pared down the master plan to keep the present guest room capacity and add 50 additional rooms. Great Northern President, John M. Budd wrote to Director Wirth in November that they were concerned about the new development proposed at Lake McDonald and had no intention of making a five million dollar commitment. Nor were they then or later interested in moving the concession to new development at Apgar at the foot of Lake McDonald. Director Wirth replied that it was the intent to add a new dining room and kitchen wing to the hotel and suggested other considerations.

In January of 1956, Mr. Budd rejected the Park Service's proposal that included lodge alterations, new buildings and removal of other structures. Great Northern felt that it was too costly and that many of the buildings slated for demolition were still serviceable. The Park Service put the planning on hold and Great Northern continued to cry poor not wishing to make substantial financial commitments. By May, it was reported by Thomas C. Vint that the Director was inclined to remove all facilities at Lake McDonald and move the concession to Apgar at the south end of the lake. Essentially, Director Wirth gave Great Northern an ultimatum that included leaving Lake McDonald Lodge as it is, moving to Apgar, or scaling down the development substantially at the lodge area. Great Northern replied that they wanted to continue to operate with the same number of room that existed, not less, as had been proposed, and wanted to keep the General Store. By early 1957, Great Northern was retracting their commitment of funds, which put all plans at a stalemate. Director Wirth noted the impasse in June. In 1960 the Master Plan for the Preservation and Use of Glacier National Park, stated that "As existing hotels become obsolete they will be replaced with motel-type units for greater flexibility and visitor satisfaction." This replanning reflected the fact that Great Northern Railway, as they had long desired, sold their Glacier concessions to Don Hummel's Glacier Park, Inc. in 1960.

Another new master plan was completed in 1962 that showed the remodeled hotel and three motel units replacing the old Lewis Glacier Hotel cabins along the lake front north of the lodge. The General Store was also to be retained as were a few other structures. Though Director Wirth had suggested complete removal of the facilities at the Lake McDonald area, and on several occasions Great Northern had reminded that increased

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overnight facilities would require increased facilities, the 1962 master plan made no provisions for ancillary dining. I was all to be accommodated in the new dining room wing of the lodge. This was revised in 1963 to meet the needs of Glacier Park Inc., and included the retention of most existing buildings, keeping the lodge in its current configuration, and adding a "Grill" in the approximate location of the existing building with the current parking lot clearly delineated. Clearly, it was considered that any increase in accommodations at the site, including the Stuart's Motel shown in the 1962 and 1963 plans, would necessitate increased dining facilities.

Glacier National Park and the Lake McDonald Lodge Coffee Shop

The existing Coffee Shop project was conceptualized in 1964 with the preparation of preliminary designs prepared by Burt L. Gewalt, an architectural designer in the firm of Brinkman and Lenon, Kalispell, Montana, who had already designed the Saint Mary Visitor Center and was working on its Entrance Station and Checking Stations. In an interview on May 24, 2007, Gewalt recalled that he had prepared several schemes for presentation to new park concessioner, Glacier Park Inc., and National Park Service personnel. One has survived dated 1964 (drawing No. GLAC 9191). Entitled, "Food Service Building, Lake McDonald," the drawing plan and single elevation show an extensive use of Glu-lam beams extending to the ground in the manner of Welton Beckett and Associates' Canyon Village Lodge at Yellowstone National Park, which has long been a favorite design convention of Gewalt, an acknowledged admirer of the Los Angeles firm's work. However, the 1964 preliminary design does show that the general rectangular form of the final plan with dining rooms at opposite ends and a kitchen in the center, all sheltered by a widely overhanging gabled roof, was already established. Gewalt recalled that the NPS personnel in the park, including Superintendent Dodd and the, WODC representatives, and Don Hummel, Glacier Park, Inc., ultimately selected the final design which Gewalt recalled was patterned after the Lake McDonald General Store located near the proposed site. The primary feature was the utilization of a low clipped gable, or "jerkin head" roof in the manner of the Swiss Chalet style of the Lake McDonald Lodge and elsewhere in the park. Gewalt specifically recalled his design source and the fact that there was a conscious effort to blend the new structure, though it was a modernist design.

Once the design was approved, construction drawings were completed by March 1965 (drawing No. GLAC 3610-A). In addition to Gewalt designing the building, Oystein Boveng was the project's structural designer and provided the details for foundation work, roof structure, and kitchen design. Jim Stephens provided assistance on the plumbing and electrical which was overseen by Brinkman and Lenon principal owner, William Heinecke, an electrical engineer. Surviving structural calculations are in Jim Stephen's hand. Collins Construction Co. of Kalispell, Montana, was awarded the contract for construction and the building, which was completed September 17, 1965, and opened with the lodge for the 1966 season. C. R. McKendry provided NPS supervision. The total cost of construction was estimated to cost approximately \$107,000, with site work estimated at approximately \$17,000; the final cost was a total of \$140,130.24 according to the final payment document.

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Change Order No. 1, June 14, 1965, requested that the contractor was to provide the Howard Miller Clock. Brinkman and Lenon was asked for their advice in substituting other woods for unavailable fir, larch, and Western Red Cedar. Decking would be Western Coast Hemlock and Western Red Cedar 2" x 4" battens would be Inland Red Cedar. "As Constructed Drawing" (GLAC 3610-B) does not indicate these changes. Acting Project Supervisor, C. Richard Steeves, of the NPS, selected porcelain enamel bases for the Chicago Hardware Foundry counter steel stool bases and they were to be upholstered with Naugahyde in "Parchment" color. On August 27, 1965, Change Order No. 2, requested the change that the, "...color of glu-lam beams from blue to green as per the Superintendent's orders." In addition the roof monitor was reinforced to resist snow loading by bolting vertical channels to the outside of the louvers. Finally, of note, "Findings of Fact" for Change Order 2, related that the paint "...color change was requested...after the painting was started on the beams.... The blue did not harmonize with the concessioner's furnishings which had been specially manufactured."

Oystein Boveng was an architect who was originally from Norway. He had received an architectural degree from Montana State University in 1956 and worked for the Brinkman and Lenon firm from 1965 to 1985. Boveng designed the Rising Sun Restaurant in 1965 in addition to providing structural engineering work for the firm's Glacier projects along with Jim Stephens, who was a 1951 graduate of Montana State's architecture program.

Brinkman and Lenon's architectural designer, Burt L. Gewalt, was born in Breckenridge, Minnesota, in 1915 and attended McCallister College and went on to attend the University of Michigan, where, according to Gewalt, there was much interest in modernism. After 1945 Gewalt worked for J. G. Link and Co. in Billings and Butte, MT, before starting a career with the Montana State Parks Commission. In 1953, Gewalt joined the architectural firm of Foss and Company of Fargo, North Dakota, and Morehead, Minnesota, a Midwest leader in modernist design. There, before leaving to join the Brinkman and Lenon firm from 1960 to 1969, Gewalt became a specialist in church design. He was hired as a project supervisor to oversee the construction of the Park Administration Building at West Glacier, designed by Harry Schmautz. Subsequently, he was assigned to provide construction documents for the Logan Pass Visitor Center in 1962-1963 and then designed the St. Mary Visitor Center in 1963-1964. With other members of the firm, he went on to complete the design and construction documents of the Lake McDonald Lodge Coffee Shop in 1964-1965. Gewalt recalled that he had "a free hand" in the design with no preconceived ideas from the Park Service, his firm, or Glacier Park, Inc.

Relationship with "Coffee Shop Modern" Architecture

Though Glacier Superintendent Dodd once said to Burt Gewalt that, "Everything you design looks like a church!" the Lake McDonald Lodge Coffee Shop also has some characteristics of what was known as "Coffee Shop Modern" that was popularized in the 1950s and 1960s in Southern California. Referred to as "Googie" architecture at the time, Burt Gewalt did not acknowledge any design relationship with the name as he considered the style to be "fake" and not in good taste where form did not follow function. However, there are several connections including the very name of the building, "Coffee Shop" that begins to define the style where a lunch counter with stools was a focal point at the entrance in front of a "closed" kitchen, such as at

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Lake McDonald, or open as was often the case with many California examples. Patrons sitting at the counter, looking into the kitchen, were an advertisement in themselves. A pass-through from the grill to the counter at Lake McDonald Lodge Coffee Shop filled this need. In nearly all coffee shop designs the cashier booth near the entrance was given much prominence as it is at Lake McDonald Lodge Coffee Shop dramatically located between the pairs of entrance doors in an alcove.

While the use of magnificent signing was banned in a National Park, the Lake McDonald Lodge Coffee Shop displays the three characteristics that author Alan Hess, in *Googie Redux, Ultramodern Roadside Architecture*, quantified for Coffee Shop Modern. The buildings had to be abstract; the roof should appear to be floating over the walls; and, designers could mix structural systems. In a much more conservative design idiom, Gewalt abstracted the predominant style of the Lake McDonald Lodge Swiss Chalet style by employing clipped gables. Further abstraction links the Coffee Shop to Glacier with the steel sculpture of mountains and lakes set on the stuccoed wall adjacent to the of entrance. He went on to float the roof with its wide overhanging eaves over the glazed window units that provided the only hint of a structural system where their mullions fronted the interior 3-inch square section columns that supported the roof rafters. The floating roof appears more prevalent at the north and south elevations where the dining rooms opened out to nature, as many California coffee shops did. In a surprise design twist, the window units were spaced with pairs of tall, narrow doors making the end walls nearly totally transparent when the doors were open. Structural systems were mixed to create the large open space of the Counter Area linked to the main Dining Room. The wooden Glu-lam roof structure is set on the three-inch square section steel columns, one of which is in the middle of the Dining Room and at the window mullions. Finally, Gewalt furnished the building with modernist cascading sphere light fixtures. He further emphasized modernist design with the specified installation of a Howard Miller clock, No. 4755, with multi-colored balls, that is above the lunch counter.

Relating to Lake McDonald Lodge Coffee Shop, author Hess went on to describe that Coffee Shop Modern "...required a building that would advertise itself effectively in an [automobile] environment." The Lake McDonald Lodge Coffee Shop, adjacent to the boulevard-like entrance to the Lake McDonald area, effectively calls attention to itself and conveniently has its own parking area directly in front of it. Certainly, one of the best examples in the national park system from the Coffee Shop Modern period was Welton Becket and Associates' design for Yellowstone National Park's Canyon Village Lodge (1955-1956) set on the east side of a parking lot centered in the Canyon Village development. Based on Becket's innovative work in Southern California, Canyon Village displays sweeping Glu-lam beams that extended from ridge of the ground, an asymmetrical roof structure, and sculptural furnishings elements. Burt Gewalt acknowledged in his interviews, including those relating to his design work on the visitor centers, that Canyon Village was a major influence on his work at Glacier National Park.

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9. Major Bibliographic Reference

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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other (Brinkman and Lenon Archive)
- Specify Repository: Architects Design Group, Kalispell, Montana

Bibliography

Archival

National Park Service, Denver Service Center, Technical Information Center; Denver, Colorado, Glacier National Park documents including construction drawings GLA-3610 A and B and the "Concessioner Grill" document.

National Park Service, Glacier National Park Archives, West Glacier, Montana, including preliminary design drawing, GLA-9191 and correspondence relating to Lake McDonald Lodge development and master planning.

Brinkman & Lenon Archive, Kalispell, Montana; Architects Design Group, 1 Sunset Plaza. Included are construction documents and correspondence.

Manuscripts

Assessment of the Condition and Historic Contexts of Facilities at Seven Concessioner Locations in Glacier National Park, Lake McDonald, Volume III. Albuquerque, NM: Architectural Research Consultants, Inc., 2002.

"Concessioner Grill, Lake McDonald Lodge Area, Glacier National Park, Montana." Kalispell, MT: Brinkman & Lenon-Architects and Engineers, February 1965.

Condition Assessment of the Lake McDonald Lodge and Associated Buildings in Glacier National Park. Albuquerque, NM: Architectural Research Consultants, Inc., 2002.

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Interviews

Interview (March 6, 2007) and correspondence with Oystein Boveng, Kalispell, MT, by Rodd L. Wheaton; notes and correspondence available at Glacier National Park, West Glacier, Montana.

Interview (May 24, 2007, and July 7, 2007) and correspondence with Burt L. Gewalt, Yachats, Oregon, by Rodd L. Wheaton; notes and correspondence available at Glacier National Park, West Glacier, Montana., as are previous interviews with Gewalt of May 2006.

Publications

Allaback, Sarah. *Mission 66 Visitor Centers: The History of a Building Type*. Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office, 2000.

Carr, Ethan. *Mission 66, Modernism and the National Park Dilemma*. Amherst, MA: University of Massachusetts Press.

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

Hess, Alan. *Googie Redux, Ultramodern roadside Architecture*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2004.

11. Form Prepared By

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Property Owner

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August 15, 2007

Lon Johnson
Cultural Resource Manager
Glacier National Park
PO Box 128
West Glacier, MT 59936

Dear Lon,

I received your draft addendum to the Lake McDonald Lodge Historic District identifying the Mission 66-era Coffee Shop as a property eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The Montana State Historic Preservation Office (MTSHPO) **concurs** that the Coffee Shop at Lake McDonald Lodge is significant and **eligible** for listing under Criteria A and C.

I also received the Montana Historic Property Record for the former Swiftcurrent guest cabins moved to Lake McDonald in 1962. These ten cabins were reconfigured as Girls' Dormitories 1 and 2 (GLAC Bldg. Nos. 1401 and 1402), Boys' Dormitories 1 and 2 (GLAC Bldg. Nos. 1403 and 1404) and the Jammer Dormitory (GLAC Bldg. No. 1408). MTSHPO **concurs** that these five buildings are **non-contributing** resources within the Lake McDonald Lodge Historic District. The buildings do not meet Criteria Consideration G (moved buildings) and are not associated with the historic and architectural contexts associated with the district.

Similarly, the "Johnson" and "Hydro" dormitories lack sufficient integrity and historical associations to contribute to the district. Therefore, MTSHPO **concurs** that the Martin Johnson Dormitory/Glacier Hotel Laundry and the Hydro Dormitory/Glacier Hotel Power House are **non-contributing** resources within Lake McDonald Historic District.

Thank you again for your thorough documentation and analysis, and please let me know if you require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Kate Hampton
National Register Program Coordinator and Deputy SHPO