

PH0508683

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	NOV 7 1977
DATE ENTERED	MAY 22 1978

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

\*\*

Lewis Glacier Hotel *was this*

AND/OR COMMON

Lake McDonald Lodge Historic District

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Going-To-The-Sun Road *Northwest of Glacier*

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

West Glacier

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

First

STATE

Montana

CODE

-30

COUNTY

Flathead

CODE

029

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

**PRESENT USE**

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: *(If applicable)*

National Park Service, Rocky Mountain Region

STREET & NUMBER

655 Parfet Street, P.O. Box 25287

CITY, TOWN

Denver

VICINITY OF

STATE

Colorado

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Flathead County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Kalispell

STATE

Montana

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

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

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Lake McDonald Lodge Historic District is located on the eastern shore and near the head of Lake McDonald in Glacier National Park. It consists of a large Swiss-Alpine style hotel and numerous log and frame structures forming a guest facility area.

The three-and-one-half-story, gabled roof main lodge (Building #740), provides the focus of the historic district. It was built during the winter of 1913-14, and exhibits a fine example of rustic craftsmanship and construction. With two hundred feet of frontage along Lake McDonald, the imposing structure has a U-shaped plan with a one-story gabled roof, T-plan, kitchen and dining room wing. The first floor of the lodge contains the lobby, giftshop, cocktail lounge, several guest rooms, and opens into the dining room. The upper floors of the lodge house thirty-five guest rooms. The building is of clapboard construction, painted brown with white jig saw-cut door and window trim and fascia boards, on a stuccoed masonry first floor level with segmentally arched openings. A one-story, log-columned veranda, overlooking the lake, and an entrance porch support front and rear second floor balconies with modern sawn lumber balustrading in a lozenge pattern. Accommodating French doors and typical casement windows, third floor balconies within the U-plan, are supported by braced log outlookers at the lake elevation and modern lumber, incorporating fire escapes, at the entrance elevation. Original sapling balustrading has been replaced by modern lozenge pattern balustrading. The I-plan roof has clipped gable ends. Eave overhangs are supported by large decorative brackets carrying the exposed roof purlins and plates of the rafter ends. The main entrance, a few steps below the grade, opens into the central, three-story trussed ceiling lobby with its three massive western cedar log columns in each corner. These extend to cushion blocks and support the log floor structure of balconies with rustic sapling balustrading, which extend around three sides. Two open stairways have burlled newel posts and sapling jig saw-cut balusters. The lobby, lighted by mullioned, multi-paned windows over the massive corbeled fireplace, contains taxidemic decor, Indian motif light fixtures of stretched rawhide, western paintings, natural wood and plaster wall finish, and remnants of the original rustic sapling and rushed furniture.

Within the past decade the Lodge has been remodeled to improve guest room sanitary facilities and guest services in the lobby, including the introduction of a giftshop and lounge. In 1973 the National Park Service was required to provide fire escapes from the balconies to comply with current state fire regulations. Two doorways were cut in, hallways were created to provide access, and an emergency lighting system was installed.

The following one-story, gabled roof Guest Cabins were built by John L. Lewis to augment the hotel accommodations.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1906-

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

John L. Lewis

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Lake McDonald Lodge Historic District represents the oldest visitor accommodation facility within Glacier National Park. It played a major role in the development of the park's western side visitor services at the turn of the century. Construction of the lodge was a massive undertaking for its day, since most of the building materials had to be hauled by barge on Lake McDonald from the town of Apgar ten miles away. When completed, the Swiss-Alpine style hotel provided a convenient base for people to hike or take saddle horse trips into a park that was still remote and primitive, while enjoying the comforts of civilization at the same time.

The site of the lodge, at the upper end of Lake McDonald, was first homesteaded in the early 1890's by George Snyder. He and Milo Apgar and Charlie Howe recognized the area's potential as a tourist paradise, and soon each established small facilities for visitors. The number of sight-seers to the lake increased steadily, and by 1895 Mr. Snyder found it necessary to build a small hotel to accommodate the influx of people. That same year Frank Kelly, another early homesteader, launched the first boat on Lake McDonald, the F. I. Whitney. This made it possible to transport supplies and tourists easily to the "Snyder Hotel," instead of having to use the more difficult cross-country route. It was not until the early 1920's that a road was built to the hotel area.

Between 1904 and 1906 Olive Lewis obtained title to the hotel and much of the surrounding property. Her husband, John L. Lewis, began to expand the facilities of the hotel by constructing several guest cabins. When Glacier National Park was established Mr. Lewis was issued a permit by officials to operate his cabin and hotel within the boundaries of that park.

A growing tourist trade soon convinced the Lewises that they needed a larger hotel, and the winter of 1913-14 saw Lake McDonald busy with the construction of a new hotel. It was designed by the architectural firm of Cutter and Malmgram of Spokane, Washington, and was given a European flavor to match the Alp-like appearance of the surrounding scenery. The construction of the hotel was personally supervised by Mr. Lewis. All of the buildings materials he used, except for the major timbers, had to be transported by boat to the site from Apgar at the other end of the lake. When it was completed the "Lewis Glacier Hotel" became the central feature of the visitor facilities on the Western side of Glacier National Park.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Building records, Glacier National Park, West Glacier, Montana.  
 Harrington, L., History of Apgar, Unpublished, Rocky Mountain Regional Office Library, Denver, Colorado, 1950.  
 Land record deeds, Flathead County Courthouse, Kalispell, Montana.  
 List of Classified Structure Report for Lake McDonald Lodge Historic District, Rocky Mountain Regional Office, June, 1976.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 7.5 32 SEE ABOVE REPORT FROM

UTM REFERENCES JAMES MUHN. ... 8/2/76

A	1,2	28,8	1,2,0	5,3	8,9	0,8,0	D	1,2	28,7	5,8,0	5,3	8,9	5,0,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING
C	1,2	28,8	0,3,5	5,3	8,8	5,5,5	B	1,2	28,8	2,5,5	5,3	8,8	8,1,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Northwest boundary follows the shoreline of Lake McDonald in a southwesterly direction from a point near building "A." Past the dormitories the border turns east and ends where the Going-To-The-Sun Road crosses Snyder Creek. The boundary then goes northeast until it reaches the north access road to the Historic District, and continues in a northwest direction to where it terminates.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

James A. Muhn, Park Technician

ORGANIZATION

National Park Service, Rocky Mountain Region

DATE

August 12, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

655 Parfet Street, P.O. Box 25287

TELEPHONE

303/234-2764

CITY OR TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado

## 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE *Ben Korte*

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is  National  State  Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE *Paul H. Hines*

TITLE Deputy Assistant Secretary

DATE OCT 25 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST *Clayton Cole*

DATE 5-22-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 5-17-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE One

- #722-725: These four saddle notched western red cedar log cabins (19'x29'), built in 1907, originally contained four rooms each, opening into a central hall. The cabins were remodeled between 1940 and 1947 when back entrances were closed and plumbing was installed.
- #726 & 727: Constructed on a T-plan (33'x37') in 1918, these two cedar log cabins originally contained five rooms and a bathroom opening into a central hall. The structures, with open gabled front porches facing the lake, were remodeled between 1940 and 1945.
- #728 & 731: Built in 1907 of cedar and tamarack logs, these cabins (19'x33') with rustic front porches of typical rustic detail with geometric saplings in the open gable end and sapling railings, each originally contained four rooms opening into a central hall. The cabins were remodeled in 1940 with installation of bath and toilet rooms.
- #729: Built in 1907 of cedar logs, this small cabin (13'x25') originally contained two rooms, back-to-back, each opening onto a rustic gabled porch.
- #730: This clapboard frame constructed cabin (15'x30'), built in 1907, originally contained two rooms back-to-back opening onto porches with half-hipped roofs. The cabins used for linen storage and hot water heating.
- #732: Built in 1907 of tamarack logs, this small cabin (13'x25') originally contained two rooms en suite and a front shed roofed porch.
- #733 & 734: Built in 1907 of tamarack logs, these two T-plan cabins each contain four rooms, a bathroom, and a toilet room opening into a central hall. The 30'x38' structures were remodeled in 1940.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE Two

These auxiliary buildings are part of the overall rustic appearance of the area.

✓  
#735: The gabled roof, two-story, nineteen-room, 21'x56' Garden Court was built in 1927 by John Lewis, and is now an employee's dormitory. The frame and clapboard construction rests on a concrete foundation and has a one-story end porch.

#737: The two-story, bungalow style "Cobb House" was built by John Lewis in 1918, and is presently the women employee's dormitory. It is a clapboarded structure with stone porch supports. The interior, though extensively remodeled, still has exposed log joists, handcrafted rustic balustrading, and a large stone fireplace.

✓ #738: The two-story "Snyder Hall," earlier used for dances and public assemblies, is now the men employee's dormitory. It was constructed in 1911 of double notched red cedar in a 30'x50' plan on a log foundation. The building has front balconies with sapling railings and a large interior fireplace. In remodeling the structure into a dormitory, window openings were enlarged for doorways.

#741: The "Soda Fountain" was built in 1927, and is currently used as the employee's recreation hall. Its T-plan consists of an original 42'x25' auditorium section annexed to a later frame and clapboard dining room and kitchen (80'x36'). The original section is double saddle notched western red cedar, with the bark showing on the outside and squared on the inside.

#742: The gabled roof, one-story, frame barbershop was built in 1909 by John Lewis, and was the infirmary at one time. It contains three rooms in its 18'x40' plan and is fronted by a porch.

#746: The gabled roof Caretaker's residence is a one-and-a-half-story building constructed of saddle notched cedar logs. The 37'x22' structure built in 1922 by John Lewis was remodeled between 1931 and 1945.

#749: This one-story, gabled roof, 18'x40', frame lumber shed was built in 1922.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE Three

*WHERE?*

Building #1274, while not part of the original complex, is an excellent example of the architecture discussed above. The "McDonald Cabin" was built in 1935 as a private residence, and was acquired by Glacier National Park in 1975. It is a two-story, L-plan, unpeeled western red cedar log structure sited above Lake McDonald with steps descending to the beach. The cabin has a pole framed cedar shake surfaced roof with a large battered cobblestone chimney stack. The interior is paneled with cedar, and the building has had several frame additions since it was constructed.

The stone arch bridge that crosses Snyder Creek was built in the early 1930's, and is a good example of stone ashlar construction. It is a single arched span, of stone and mortar construction (except for the footings) with stone wall railings on either side of the bridge. The abutment retaining walls angle in an introductory manner away from the road.

The following two privately owned buildings are in harmony with the Swiss-Alpine and rustic styling found in the Historic District.

~~#903~~: Built in 1934 this multiple unit, chalet style structure stands in the center of the Guest Cabin row mentioned above. It has a rectangular plan with frame and clapboard construction. The windows have decorative trim, balusters and flower boxes. The Swiss styling is carried out with decorative roof brackets.

*ALREADY MENTIONED AS BEING BUILT IN 1934*

#904: The General Store was built by the Glacier Park Company around 1937. The structure was designed in harmony with the Lake McDonald Lodge giving it Swiss-Alpine styling. The rectangular plan structure (30'x50') is of frame and clapboard construction on a coursed rubblestone foundation. The roof is moderately pitched, has cedar shingles, decorative bracketing, painted white and yellow; and has chipped gable ends, with jig saw cut verge boarding.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE Four

Miscellaneous privately owned structures on the lake front that are rustically designed and conform to the architecture of the district include:

- A: Residence (Brewer), cedar log, frame addition, one-and-a-half-stories.
- B: Residence (Ford), western red cedar log construction, one-story, built 1920's.
- C: Residence (Hummell), western red cedar log construction, one-story, built 1920's.
- D: Residence (Johnson), cedar log, frame addition, one-and-a-half-stories, 1935.
- E & F: Residences (Galvin), one-and-a-half-stories, cedar log, frame addition, circa 1935.

Miscellaneous government owned structures that exist within the Historic District, but exhibit no architectural uniqueness:

- H: Sewage lift station, frame, one-story, 1959.
- I: Garage; Caretaker's, double, frame, date unknown (concessioner operated).
- J: Coffee Shop, 1966 (concessioner operated).

Miscellaneous structures privately owned, but having no architectural value:

- K, L & M: Concessioner employee dormitories, one-story, frame, dates unknown.
- N: Gas Station, frame and clapboard construction, date unknown.
- O: Motel office (Hummell) and six units, two-story, frame and half log, painted red.
- P: Motel (Hummell), twenty units, two-story, frame and half log, painted red.

*ONLY 2 INTRUSIONS. SEE PHONE REPORT. Date 2/2/78*



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CONTINUATION SHEET    Significance    ITEM NUMBER 8    PAGE One

In 1930, John L. Lewis was persuaded by the National Park Service to sell his hotel to the United States Government. The Department of the Interior did not have the necessary funds to buy the hotel, and to provide the needed money they entered into an agreement with a subsidiary of the Great Northern Railroad, The Dakota and Great Northern Township Company. The company promised to pay half the \$225,000.00 purchase price of the hotel and 285 adjoining acres, and when funds were available the government would repay the company. In return the Great Northern would be given a twenty-year lease to operate the facilities.

In conclusion, for the forty years that the Park Service has owned the lodge it has been remodeled and modernized several times. These activities have not marred the architectural integrity of this hotel. It is still an excellent example of Swiss-Alpine styling and of American craftsmanship at the beginning of this century. The lodge, together with the original guest cabins of log and frame construction, gives the complex on upper Lake McDonald a rustic and European appearance that still holds the charm it possessed when it was known as the "Lewis Glacier Hotel."

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CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliography ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE One

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Ober, M. J., Enmity and Alliance: Park Service and Concessioner Relations in Glacier National Park, 1892-1961, Unpublished Master's Thesis, University of Montana, 1973.

Sheire, J. W., Glacier National Park Historic Resource Study, Office of History and Historic Architecture, Eastern Service Center, 1970.

Superintendent's Reports: 1911-15, Glacier National Park, West Glacier, Montana.