

CLASSIFIED STRUCTURE FIELD INVENTORY REPORT  
(Attach 4" x 5" Black and White Photograph)

24FH330

REGION RMRO PARK/AREA NAME GLACIER NATIONAL PARK PARK NUMBER 1430

STRUCTURE NAME MARGARET MC CARTHY HOMESTEAD STRUCTURE NUMBER HS-1205

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE NORTH FORK STUDY AREA PARK LOCATION CODE GLAC

NATIONAL REGISTER \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: (A) (B) (C) (D)

NPS LEGAL INTEREST NPS Ownership. MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

Check all of the following categories for which NPS has treatment responsibility:  
Stabilization() Cyclic Maintenance() Routine Maintenance() Approved Ultimate Treatment()

(ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION USE ONLY)

APPROVED ULTIMATE TREATMENT OR RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN, CULTURAL COMPONENT DESIGNATION:

Preservation (PP)	Restoration (RR)	Reconstruction (CC)
Adaptive Preservation (AP)	Adaptive Restoration (AR)	Adaptive Reconstruction (AC)
Neglect (NG)	Remove (RM)	No Approved Treatment (NO)

Approval Document \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) Document Date:  / /

Estimated Treatment Costs \_\_\_\_\_

Stabilization: \$ _____	Date: <u> / /</u>	Level of Estimate: (A) (B) (C)
Approved Treatment: \$ _____	Date: <u> / /</u>	Estimator: (Region) (DSC) (A&E)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Date of Construction: 1908 Date of Alterations: 1952, 1967  
Architect/Designer: Jeremiah McCarthy Historical Theme(s): Homesteading  
History of Structure: \_\_\_\_\_

---SEE ATTACHED SITE FORM---

Evaluation of Structure: Historic Theme Contributing X Non-Contributing \_\_\_\_\_  
National Register Criteria: A B C D (Include integrity statement)

---SEE ATTACHED SITE FORM---

Bibliography: \_\_\_\_\_  
---SEE ATTACHED SITE FORM---

Representation in Other Surveys: Historical Research Associates, 1980

If structure has been removed, how? n/a Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Report prepared by: Patricia L. Bick, Historian Date: 10/01/86

Condition:  
Documentation:  
Significance:  
Internal Impacts:  
External Impacts:

LOCATION: Section 9 State MONTANA USE: CURRENT INTERIOR USE (NPS 28 CODE)  
Township 35N County FLATHEAD Original Use HOMESTEAD  
Range 21W Intermediate Uses HOMESTEAD  
PERIOD OF CONSTRUCTION (NPS 28 CODE) \_\_\_\_\_

OWNERSHIP: Present Owner: NPS DRAWING NO. n/a  
Original Owner: Margaret McCarthy NEGATIVE NO. Roll NF#8, frames 19-24  
Intermediate Owner(s): multiple, see attached NF#9, frames 20-24

\*\*\*PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION\*\*\*

TYPE OF STRUCTURE (NPS 28 CODE): \_\_\_\_\_ CHIMNEYS:  
ARCHITECTURAL CHARACTER (STYLE): \_\_\_\_\_  
SITE (INCLUDE ORIENTATION OF STRUCTURE): \_\_\_\_\_ PORCHES: \_\_\_\_\_  
OVERALL BUILDING PLAN (FOOTPRINT): \_\_\_\_\_ WINDOWS: \_\_\_\_\_  
OVERALL DIMENSIONS: \_\_\_\_\_ DOORS: \_\_\_\_\_  
COMPOSITION (NPS 28 CODE): \_\_\_\_\_ ADDITIONS: \_\_\_\_\_  
STORIES: \_\_\_\_\_  
FOUNDATION: \_\_\_\_\_  
WALLS: \_\_\_\_\_ ---SEE ATTACHED SITE FORM---  
ROOF: \_\_\_\_\_ INTERIOR PLAN: \_\_\_\_\_  
INTERIOR FINISHES: \_\_\_\_\_

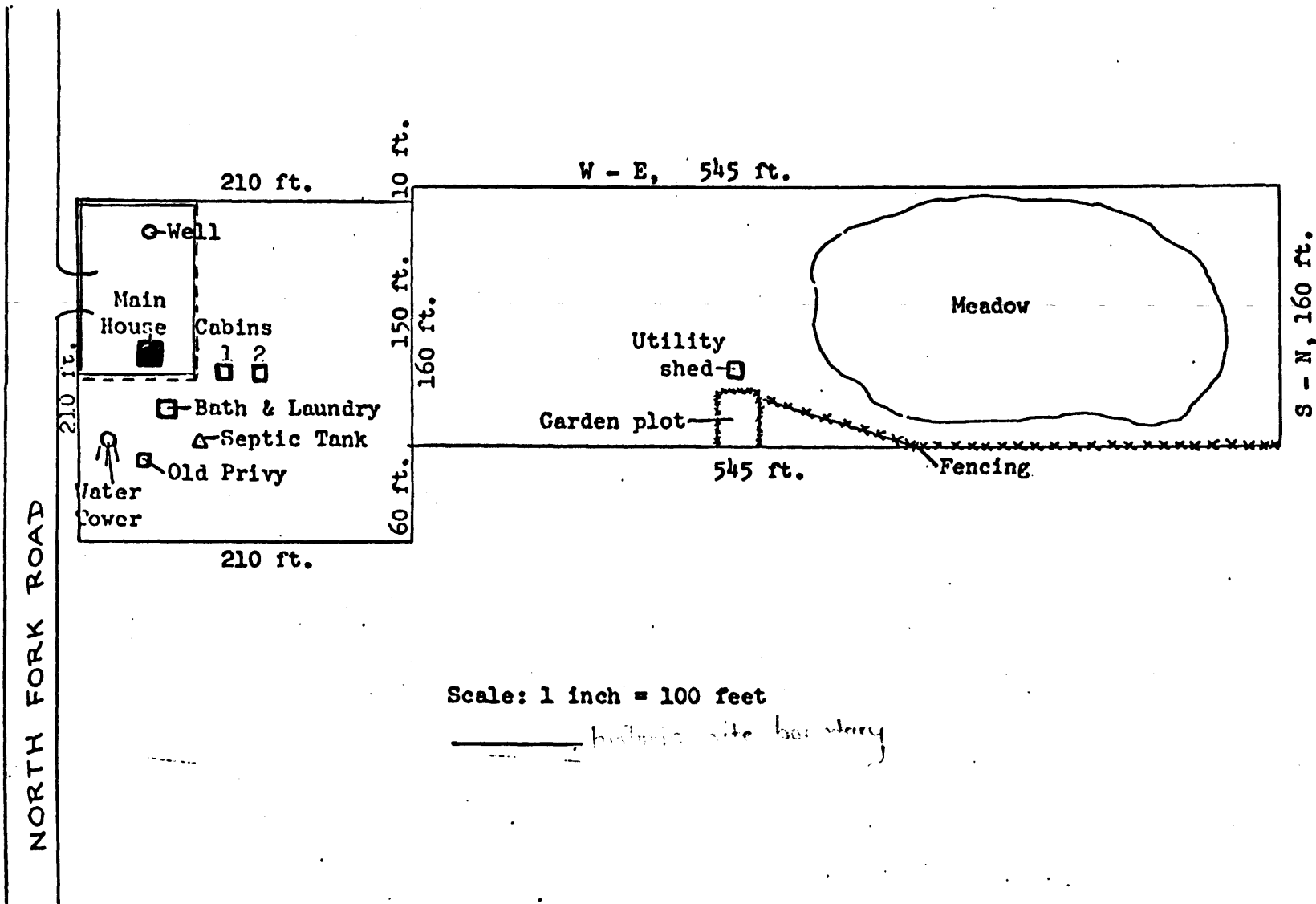
SIGNIFICANT ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES (INCLUDING INTERIOR AND SETTING) FOR PARK PLANNING PURPOSES:

---SEE ATTACHED SITE FORM---

SKETCH OF THE 3 ACRES OF LAND AND IMPROVEMENTS ASSIGNED FOR  
OCCUPANCY TO THE RAES, KANES AND ROBINSONS BY SPECIAL USE PERMIT

3.01 Ac. in Govt. Lot 7, Sec. 9, T35N, R21W, portion of old NPS-GLAC Tract #398

MARGARET MC CARTHY HOMESTEAD  
less than one acre  
Polebridge Quad

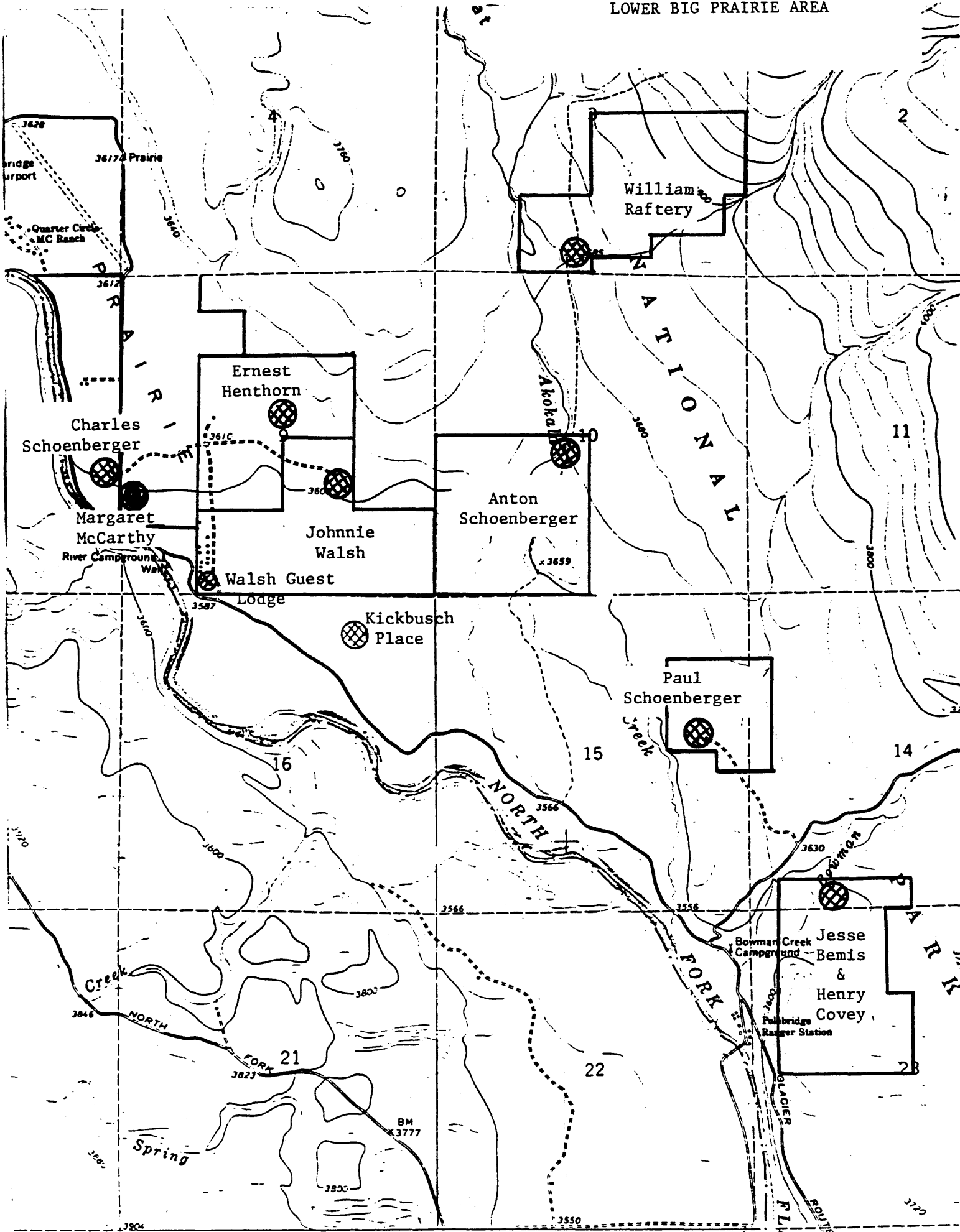


Scale: 1 inch = 100 feet

\_\_\_\_\_ historic site boundary



LOWER BIG PRAIRIE AREA



JUN 13 1988

Historic Name: MARGARET MCCARTHY HOMESTEAD

HS-1205-A

Location: T35N; R21W; NW 1/4, SW 1/4, SW 1/4, Section 9.

Acreage: Less than 1 acre.

UTM Reference: 11/5409290/696600

Ownership: National Park Service.

Access: Located on the east side of Glacier Route 7 at the south end of Big Prairie, approximately 1/4 mile to the north of the River Campground.

Evaluation of Significance and Architectural Integrity: The McCarthy Homestead residence is the only habitable homestead cabin dating from the period of initial settlement on the North Fork in Glacier National Park that retains primary historic architectural integrity. The building was determined as eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A by consensus between the National Park Service, Rocky Mountain Regional Office, and the Montana State Historic Preservation Officer in May 1984. The homestead property was one of two on the east side of the North Fork to be patented by women. Jeremiah McCarthy died shortly after the construction of the homestead residence, and his wife Margaret and five children continued to come up from Butte during the summers and fulfilled the residency requirement for final proof.

The homestead property was never developed much beyond the construction of the residence during the historic period, but the McCarthys' Big Prairie meadowland provided valuable extra hay and grazing area for neighboring homesteaders Johnnie Walsh and Charlie Schoenberger. Margaret McCarthy and her children were active members of the small North Fork community for about 25 years. Margaret McCarthy died in 1940.

During the 1950s, the homestead residence was enlarged by an incompatible addition that wraps around two secondary facades, the original door and windows were replaced, and a new porch constructed on the front facade. However, maintenance of the building over the years has preserved the essential form and original log construction detailing, lending the residence a relatively good degree of integrity.

Historical Information: Jeremiah and Margaret McCarthy located their homestead claim in the summer of 1908 and had their cabin completed by the autumn of that year.<sup>1</sup> Margaret was the cousin of Dennis Sullivan, another North Fork homesteader from Butte. Sullivan, who had escaped the Butte mines in the 1880s and bought a cattle ranch in the Flathead Valley, encouraged the McCarthys to also make the move.<sup>2</sup> During the winter of 1908-09, Jeremiah McCarthy died of pneumonia, leaving Margaret with five children:

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<sup>1</sup>National Archives, Case file #469444, Testimony of Claimant.

<sup>2</sup>Interview with Isabel Rae by Cindy Mish, 1976.

Dan, Annie, Alice, Mae, and Isabel. Margaret was 41 years old at the time and decided to go ahead and "prove up" on the homestead claim. In her testimony of proof submitted in 1913, she stated that the family had resided on the property each year from late June through early September and returned to Butte each winter in order for the children to attend school.<sup>3</sup> The annual sojourns between Butte and the North Fork took many days to complete. They raised a small garden on the homestead and kept about 15 acres in timothy and oats for their horses. During the winters in Butte, Margaret ran a boarding house and looked forward to returning to the North Fork in the spring.<sup>4</sup> She was granted final certificate on her claim in 1913.

Chain of Title:

Margaret McCarthy: final certificate 1913  
Isabel Kane, Ann Robinson, Dan McCarthy: 1939  
Conwell and Gerald Robinson: 1964  
Dan and Mary McCarthy: 1966  
U.S. Government: 1967

Physical Description: The McCarthy Homestead is located in a sparsely wooded area at the southern end of Big Prairie. The boundary for the nominated property includes only the homestead residence. The boundary begins at a point along Glacier Route 7 approximately 50 feet from the southwest corner of the house, then runs eastward approximately 100 feet, then north approximately 140 feet, and then west to Glacier Route 7 and south to the point of beginning.

The 17- by 21-foot, one-story log house (contributing) was built during the summer of 1908 by Jeremiah McCarthy with the help of Ollie Walsh and "Paintbrush" Miller. This one room log building exhibits features typical of North Fork construction, with lap notch corner timbering, a gable roof with log purlins, and log work in the gable end. The interior of the building was left open to the roof purlins, and the exposed log walls were hand hewn, with quarter pole inserts.

The McCarthy cabin was abandoned in 1935. Family members returned to the property in the early 1950s and made repairs. A new roof and a new front porch with rolled asphalt covering was built in 1951. In 1952, the frame kitchen/bedroom, and sun porch addition with a concrete sill foundation was begun. This addition wraps around the eastern and southern facades of the building. The kitchen (east) measures approximately 10 by 20 feet, the sun porch (southeast corner) measures 10 by 14 feet, and the bedroom (south) measures 14 by 17 feet. Replacement windows and a new door were installed in 1952. In 1953, a new

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<sup>3</sup>National Archives, Case file #469444, Testimony of Claimant.

<sup>4</sup>Con Robinson, personal communication, September 7, 1986.

brick fireplace was built in the original cabin portion. In 1967, a new floor was installed in the cabin. The exterior of the cabin was rechinked with cement.

A non-contributing frame privy (ca. 1930) is located to the south of the residence and a non-contributing frame tool shed (ca. 1933) that was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps was moved to the property in 1953. Five additional non-contributing structures were built on the McCarthy Homestead land after 1950, including an 8- by 8-foot frame water tower (1954), an 8- by 16-foot frame bathhouse (1953), and two log guest houses, one 11 by 19 feet and the another 12 by 32 feet (both ca. 1954). The site boundaries are drawn so as to exclude all of these later structures.

Form Prepared by: Patricia L. Bick, Historian, October 1986.





Margaret McCarthy Homestead HS-1205-A(1)

North Fork, Glacier National Park *MRA*

Residence, southeast view.

Photographer: unknown Date: ca. 1930

Glacier Nat'l Park Archives, #9725



G/AE-1205-C-1

McCarty Hineshead CUBM

Glacio MPA, RTT



61A-1205-B-1

McCarthy Hester Cabin

Glacier NRA, MT



G.IAC - 1205-A-1

McCarty Hemstead Cabin

Glacier MRA, MT