

D-567

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Glacier Park Villas Sites Historic District

other name/site number:

2. Location

street & number: SW side of Lake McDonald Lodge Rd; Glacier National Park (GNP)

not for publication:  
vicinity:

city/town: Lake McDonald

state: Montana code: MT county: Flathead code: 029 zip code: 59921

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency or bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

Montana State Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

entered in the National Register  
 see continuation sheet

determined eligible for the National Register  
 see continuation sheet

determined not eligible for the National Register  
 see continuation sheet

removed from the National Register  
 see continuation sheet

other (explain)

5. Classification

<b>Ownership of Property:</b> Public-federal	<b>Number of Resources within Property</b> 5		
<b>Category of Property:</b> District	<b>Contributing</b>	<b>Non-contributing</b>	
<b>Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register:</b> 0	4		<b>building(s) site(s)</b>
		1	<b>structure(s) objects(s)</b>
<b>Name of related multiple property listing:</b> Recreational camps on Lake McDonald, 1892-1970	4	1	<b>TOTAL</b>

6. Function or Use

<b>Historic Functions:</b>	<b>Current Function:</b>
DOMESTIC: Camp	DOMESTIC: Camp

7. Description

<b>Architectural Classification:</b>	<b>MATERIALS:</b>
OTHER: Rustic Style	<b>Foundation:</b> log, concrete
	<b>Walls:</b> log, frame
	<b>Roof:</b> cedar shakes, asphalt shingles
	<b>Other:</b> cobblestone

**Narrative Description:**

The Glacier Park Villas Historic District is located south of the point projecting from the east shore of Lake McDonald occupied by the Lake McDonald Lodge in Glacier National Park, Flathead County, Montana. This is roughly a mile and a half south of the head of the lake. The district embraces a cluster of four recreational camp properties, each with a cabin. Three of the cabins occupy lots with lake frontage, while the fourth cabin's lot is immediately across the south access road to the Lodge from the first three cabins. The road is an original portion of the Going-to-the-Sun Road and became a secondary entrance after the main road was re-routed to the south in the 1930s. The district encompasses less than two acres of land with about 300 feet of shore frontage. The entire area is lightly wooded, mainly with conifers framing the cabins and coming right down to edges of the road and to edge of the pebble beach, where the trees give way to deciduous shrubs. The middle and southernmost cabins on the lake side of the road are linked by small footpaths lined with cobblestones. Both of these cabins have small parking areas at road grade set off by retaining walls behind them. The northernmost shore cabin has a parking platform set below grade and north of the cabin. The cabin across the road stands on a slight rise and a short driveway angles away from the road to reach it. None of the camps has outbuildings dating to the period of significance.

The individual descriptions of these cabins start with the northernmost on the shore, work south along the shore, and then cross the road.

See continuation pages for Section 7

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria: A and C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): n/a

Significant Person(s):

Cultural Affiliation: European-American

Areas of Significance: Entertainment/Recreation;  
Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: ca.1916-1956

Significant Dates: 1916

Architect/Builder: unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Glacier Park Villas Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C as a representative example of recreational camp development on Lake McDonald in Glacier National Park, Flathead County, Montana. The Glacier National Park Multiple Property Document (MPD) for "Recreational Camps on Lake McDonald, 1892-1955" provides the historic context for the development of such wilderness recreational properties. The four cabins in this district exemplify one type of property division and camp development that occurred around Lake McDonald in the first half of the twentieth century, from before the formation of the park in 1910 until just after World War II. Like all of the recreational properties around the lake, the four properties originated with a homestead claim made in the 1890s and patented before the park was set aside. George Snyder acquired the patent in this area and established a hotel on the point in 1895. When he sold the 168.65-acre homestead property *in toto* to John and Olive Lewis in 1906, they devised several schemes to develop the property, including rebuilding the hotel and selling house lots. In 1916, the Lewises formed the Glacier Park Land Co. with H.D. Apgar and E.E. Day, a Kalispell business man, as an intermediate company for selling land in the Glacier Park Villa Sites subdivision platted and filed in Flathead County in 1916. These four cabins were built on lots in that subdivision.

The MPD also describes the architecture associated with such properties on Lake McDonald. This district retains two log cabins built using local timber and stone and augmented with stock mill work and two frame cabins representative of pre- and post-World War II recreational buildings around Lake McDonald. As a group, these properties retain high degrees of integrity of feeling and setting. They also retain integrity of design, workmanship, and materials.

Summary Development History

George Snyder first came to Lake McDonald in the fall of 1894. He took up his homestead claim in Sections 14 and 23 of Township 33 West, Range 18 North, in the spring of 1895.<sup>1</sup> He built the frame Glacier House hotel with about a dozen rooms soon after. The following February, Snyder described his property as a "ranch, hotel, boat [the steamer "F.I. Whitney"], and everything," all available for \$10,000.<sup>2</sup> A decade later, in May 1906, he sold the entire property to Olive Lewis, wife of Kalispell lawyer, entrepreneur, and land speculator John E. Lewis for \$8,500.<sup>3</sup>

As wilderness recreation tourism gained popularity around Lake McDonald, at the time part of a national forest, some of the six homesteaders on its shores began selling off small waterfront parcels to individual families as cabin sites. The Lewises followed suit in a limited way in 1907 when they sold 2.06 acres northeast of the hotel to F.P. Thorne of Waterville, Kansas, for \$500.<sup>4</sup> In 1908, they began building a row of rustic log housekeeping cabins overlooking the water between the hotel and the Thorne property. In 1913-1914, they replaced Snyder's frame hotel with the Swiss Chalet-style Glacier Hotel designed by the prominent Spokane architectural firm of Cutter and Malmgren. The earlier frame buildings were mostly reused as ancillary structures to house staff and store supplies.

See continuation pages for Section 8

<sup>1</sup> *Book of Deeds 74/148.* (Flathead County Clerk and Records Office. Kalispell, Montana)

<sup>2</sup> Snyder to Vaught, 19 February 1906. L.O. Vaught Papers, Box 1, Folder 18. (GNPA)

<sup>3</sup> *Book of Deeds 89/387.* (Flathead County Clerk and Records Office)

<sup>4</sup> *Book of Deeds 99/615.* Flathead County Clerk and Records Office)

9. Major Bibliographic References

See continuation pages

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 Glacier National Park Archives

Local government

University

Other – National Archives, Denver

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: .18 acres

UTM References:

Zone

Easting

Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary encompasses Lots 1 through 4 of Block 17 and Lot 23 in Block 16 in the Glacier Parks Villa Sites subdivision carved from the former Lewis hotel property south of the hotel and flanking the Lake McDonald Lodge Road. Three cabins stand on the lake side of the road, while the fourth is opposite.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to encompass the portion of the Glacier Park Villa Sites subdivision, platted in 1916, which retain recreational cabins built for individual family use during the period of significance. The boundary includes open lots between those with the cabins as visual context.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Jessie A. Ravage

organization: date: 10 February 2006

street & number: 34 Delaware Street

telephone: 607-547-9507

city or town: Cooperstown

state: New York

zip code: 13326

Additional Documentation

See continuation pages, photographs, and maps

Property Owner

name/title: U.S.A.

street & number:

telephone:

city or town:

state:

zip code:

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register Of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7

Glacier Park Villa Sites Historic District  
Flathead County, Montana

Page 1

### Ewing Cabin (Artist-in-Residence Cabin, VIP Cabin) (ca.1920, contributing)

This is a single-story, L-plan log cabin built on log piers composed of a frontal gable main block and a slightly lower, gable-roofed wing on the main block's northwest wall. The log walls have notched corners, and the spaces between the logs are daubed. The wing has windows in the gable end for a sleeping loft above the main floor. On the front, or lake side, of the main block, there is a small open-decked porch with a heavy log railing reached by steps from beach level. A wooden door enters the main living area from the porch. A second heavy wood door with strap hinges is located near the back of the cabin. A large, mortared stone, exterior chimney rises on the southeast wall, near the south corner of the cabin. A second stove or water heater chimney projects above the back of the main block. The fenestration plan is partially altered. On the road side, or back, and the southeast wall, where the chimney dominates, the cabin retains a regular plan using four-light sash and six-light casements dating to the building's construction. On the sides with lake views—the northwest and southwest walls—the windows have been replaced. A single-light "picture" window now overlooks the lake on the front. The remaining windows on these sides now have windows with three horizontal muntins dating to the 1940s or 1950s. The roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles.

This property's lot is an elongated triangle with the hypotenuse paralleling the lakeshore. Northwest of the cabin, the bank is retained by a three-tiered system of retaining walls. The parking area occupies the top tier, and a path descends between the walls and the house to beach level, where the path meets the steps to the cabin's front porch.

### Graham-Roberts Cabin (ca.1950, contributing)

FMS 89985

This is a single-story, L-plan, frame camp composed of a frontal gable block and slightly lower gable-roofed wing on the main block's northwest wall. An asymmetrical open deck spans the entire lake side of cabin and also wraps along the southeast side as a walkway connecting the front and back of the building outdoors. The deck and walkway have a simple railing composed of dimensional lumber. A screened porch extends from the frontal gable block of the cabin onto deck and also encloses the main center entrance on the lake side. This is flanked by large windows with plain board frames. The rest of the fenestration plan is also regular, but the windows are covered so details of sash and casements are unavailable. A small brick chimney is centered on the ridge of the main block. The cabin has drop siding, which is notched at the corners, creating an unusual exterior finish resembling squared dovetails. Vertical battens cover the meetings between siding lengths. The gable ends are sheathed in vertical boards with scalloped lower edges. The cabin rests on wooden piers. A poured concrete retaining wall runs along the back wall of the cabin. The roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles.

### Johnson Cabin (Graham Cabin, Buttrey Cabin) (ca.1925, contributing)

FMS 89987

This is a single-story, frontal gable, frame cabin with clapboard siding and a steeply pitched roof sheathed in cedar shakes. It is composed of two older cabins from the site placed gable end to gable with a later added glazed porch and open deck. The siding and scalloped eaveboards date to joining of the cabins in the post-World War II period. The shed-roofed dormers with wood shingled walls span both roof faces to allow light into the sleeping loft above the main floor also date to the remodeling. The ribbon of three windows with multi-light casements spans the front gable end overlooking the lake was incorporated into the remodeling, as was the small cobblestone chimney is set at the center of the ridge. An irregular plan open deck spans the lake, or northwest, side of the cabin. This has a simple railing composed of dimensional lumber with nylon twine lattice in place of a railing. A glazed vestibule is added to the front of the main block and extends over the deck. Both this and the deck date to the early 1970s. Otherwise, the cabin retains its regular fenestration plan of windows with plain board frames and paired or single six-light casements. A poured concrete retaining wall, about two feet high, runs along the back of the cabin.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register Of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7

Glacier Park Villa Sites Historic District  
Flathead County, Montana

Page 2

---

A small, gambrel-roofed, pre-fabricated shed (non-contributing, ca.1980) with textured plywood siding stands southwest of the main cabin.

**Hunter Cabin** (Boat concessioner's cabin) (ca.1920, contributing)

This is a single-story, L-plan, log cabin with notched corners and daubing between the logs. The main, or northwest, block has a foundation of irregular stones, while the south block is supported by poured concrete piers. The cross-gabled roof has attic windows in the gable ends of the southeast wing. A large, exterior stone chimney is centered on northwest wall of the main block. Even though this cabin's lot has no lake frontage, the building has an open porch set under a shed-roofed extension of the main roof over the interior corner of the L-plan. This has a flagstone floor. A single-light "picture" window, a later replacement, looks out to the lake over this porch. A frontal gable entrance porch resting on log posts is set near the back line of house on southeast of the cabin. Except for the later "picture" window, the cabin retains its fenestration plan, including its unusual fixed, single-light sash flanked by fixed louvers. The roof has recently been replaced with modern sheet metal roofing.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register Of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8

Glacier Park Villa Sites Historic District  
Flathead County, Montana

Page 1

In 1916, they laid out and sold six additional 50-foot lake frontage parcels northeast of Thorne's. The legislation designating Glacier National Park in 1910 barred further homestead entries. Ensuring one's choice of a seasonal residence through ownership appealed to some people who had summered in the region during the 1900s and early 1910s. With most of the region's wilderness protected by federal law, one required no more than a parcel large enough for a cabin with a view. The Lewises were one of three landowners around Lake McDonald who filed subdivisions appealing to this potential market between 1914 and 1920.

The Lewises mortgaged for \$28,970 the 285.59 acres of land they owned on the east shore of Lake McDonald to James A. Talbott, a banker in Columbia Falls on the 17<sup>th</sup> of December 1915.<sup>1</sup> On the 12<sup>th</sup> of July 1916, they executed two contracts with partners Robert R. Sidebotham and J.G.G. Wilmot of Great Falls, for the incremental purchase of all of the mortgaged land exclusive of a 42.5-acre parcel located in the south half of Lot 1 and the south half of the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 23 in Township 33 West, Range 18.<sup>2</sup> The excluded acreage was platted and dedicated as the Glacier Park Villa Sites on the 7<sup>th</sup> of September 1916.<sup>3</sup> The long, narrow, rectangular plat included 36 blocks in four rows which abutted the shoreline at the west end. Thirty-one of the blocks were divided into 24 lots measuring 25' x 70' and platted in two ranges of twelve each. These were laid out in four ranges of eight blocks each, with a 32<sup>nd</sup> block divided into two 150' x 150' lots, numbered Blocks 22 and 23. These two lots were in the third range, near the center of the plat, suggesting that they were set aside for other uses. At the west end, three irregular blocks (17, 18, and 19) with varying numbers of lots followed the shoreline. A street measuring 40 feet wide ran east-west between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> ranges, and four additional streets of the same width ran north-south between every other block. Remaining streets were 25 feet wide. The streets were given Blackfoot Indian names, including Nitosi (sun), Kokomokison (moon), Omo kottiyo (mountain lion), and Omkokiyo (grizzly bear).<sup>4</sup> The shoreline was designated Geseckse matsum (Glad-to-see-you Park). According to the option contract from the Lewises to Sidebotham and Wilmot, the "lands [were] to be used for summer homes and enjoyment of the lake and surrounding attractions. Each deed shall also contain a grant of the right and easement to the parties of the second part, their heirs and assigns, to use the Hotel docks of the parties of the first part."<sup>5</sup>

In advance of filing the subdivision, John Lewis incorporated the Glacier Park Land Company with H.D. Apgar from the foot of Lake McDonald and E.E. Day—listed as dealing in real estate, loans, and insurance in Kalispell in 1915<sup>6</sup>—on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July 1916. Each man, also one of the company's three directors, subscribed \$100. The company was to have \$50,000 of capital stock, to be sold in five hundred shares of \$100.<sup>7</sup> Its objects and purposes allowed the company to make virtually any kind of "improvement," carry on virtually any business, and to divide and transfer land. The Lewises used the land company as an intermediate owner in for all transfers in the subdivision, but not for other property within their tract. Apgar may have considered using the land company to sell lots in his 1914 Apgar's Glacier Park Cottage Sites subdivision as he refiled his plat late in 1916, but he never did. By the end of 1918, John Lewis had transferred 46 of the 783 lots in subdivision to the Glacier Park Land Co. for sale to individuals. The percentage suggests a less than successful venture, and the land company probably dissolved long before its 40-year expiration if the lack of post-1919 transactions is any indicator. Other Lake

<sup>1</sup> Mortgage, Olive Lewis and John E. Lewis, 17 December 1915, *Book of Mortgages 130/570*. (Copy in Box 211, Folder 7, GNPA). This mortgage included land in addition to the Snyder homestead property.

<sup>2</sup> Option Contract, *Book of Miscellaneous 144/121*, and Contract of Purchase, *Book of Miscellaneous 144/122*. (Copy in Box 211, Folder 7, GNPA).

<sup>3</sup> Plat and Dedication, 6 September 1916. (Copy in Box 211, Folder 7, GNPA).

<sup>4</sup> Plat map accompanying abstract for property in the subdivision. (Cultural Resources Office, Glacier National Park)

<sup>5</sup> Option Contract, *Book 144 of Miscellaneous/134*. (Box 211, Folder 7, GNPA)

<sup>6</sup> *Polk Directory*, Kalispell, Montana, 1915. (Montana Historical Society, Helena, Montana)

<sup>7</sup> Articles of Incorporation of Glacier Park Land Co. (File No. 1478, Office of the Secretary of State Helena, Montana)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register Of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8

Glacier Park Villa Sites Historic District  
Flathead County, Montana

Page 2

McDonald landowners successfully sold virtually all of the land they put up for sale; the Glacier Park Villas' lack of lake frontage and potential for crowded conditions may have discouraged likely buyers. Lots near the lake sold best, although roughly thirty of the 744 identical interior lots did sell. The standard price was \$300 for an interior lot. All of the lots sold from the subdivision by 1918 transferred individually rather than in groups. Except for H.D. Apgar, who received a single lot in 1917, and E.E. Day, the third company partner, the names of those who bought lots in John Lewis's Glacier Park Villas subdivision do not appear in land transactions in other areas around the lake.

In July 1929, John Lewis transferred 40 or so Glacier Park Villas lots to Flathead County in a single transaction.<sup>8</sup> Lewis's wife, Olive, then purchased these lots from the county on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 1930 along with a few lots that other owners had lost via tax deeds in July 1929. In two further transactions, in March and May 1930, the Lewises consolidated their remaining holdings in the subdivision in Olive Lewis's name. She, in turn, sold all of this property in a single transaction to the Dakota and Great Northern Townsite Co. on the 16<sup>th</sup> of July 1930. On the 25<sup>th</sup> of June 1932, the townsite company sold the same property to the federal government.<sup>9</sup>

This was part of a complicated process executed by the federal government with cooperation from the Great Northern Railway's management to extinguish the Lewises' land and hotel ownership around Lake McDonald. The Great Northern's subsidiary Glacier Park Hotel Company operated most other visitor facilities in the park and its franchise was scheduled to expire in 1933. To get around a law that required federal funds be matched equally by funds from another source when acquiring private properties within national parks, the National Park Service had agreed to issue a new 20-year franchise to the Hotel Company in exchange for selling the property to the park at one-half its purchase price. By early 1929, a representative of the Great Northern Railway offered Lewis \$275,000 for his Lake McDonald holdings, including the hotel.<sup>10</sup>

The Lewises resisted all offers until after the Half Moon Fire of 1929. J.R. Eakin, the park superintendent, wrote to W.P. Kenney, vice president of the Great Northern Railway, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January 1930, that he thought the Lewises would be more receptive. Adding to the pressure, Congress withheld the 1930 appropriation to continue building the Trans-Mountain Highway pending the purchase of private land with commercial potential near the route.<sup>11</sup> Further, the Great Northern planned to reopen the Belton Chalets that year and threatened to eliminate several tours using the Lewises' hotel.<sup>12</sup> The Lewises succumbed, and on March 1, 1930, sold their property for \$275,000 to the Dakota and Great Northern Townsite Company. This was another subsidiary of the Great Northern Railway established in 1906 to found towns along the line.<sup>13</sup> Further complications arose when the Comptroller General of the United States ruled that the National Park Service could not tie the donation of one-half the purchase price and the new franchise agreement together. While still retaining ownership of the Lewises' property, the hotel company applied for and the National Park Service approved an extension of its franchise. With that in hand, the Dakota and Great Northern Townsite completed the sale of the Lewis property to the federal government in June 1932.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Title chains recorded in *Subdivision Book "G"*, Plat Room, Flathead County Courthouse, Kalispell, Montana.

<sup>9</sup> *Subdivision Book "G."*

<sup>10</sup> Correspondence in Box 76, Folder 9, GNPA, between W.P. Kenney of the Great Northern Railway and Horace Albright, Director of the National Park Service.

<sup>11</sup> Eakin to Kenney, 2 January 1930. (Box 76, Folder 9, GNPA)

<sup>12</sup> This was an ongoing discussion in January 1930. (Box 76, Folder 9, GNPA)

<sup>13</sup> The townsite company was a division of the Great Northern Railway incorporated in 1906 in St. Paul, Minnesota, to establish towns along the railway's route. In 1908, it filed papers to allow it to appoint an agent and do business also in Montana. For much of its existence in Montana, from 1908 until its withdrawal in March of 1944, it recorded a deficit in Montana. Papers related to the Dakota and Great Northern Townsite Co. Office of the Secretary of State, Helena, Montana.

<sup>14</sup> Correspondence in Box 76, Folder 9, GNPA, between directors of the Great Northern Railway and Horace Albright, Director of the National Park Service.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register Of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8

Glacier Park Villa Sites Historic District  
Flathead County, Montana

Page 3

The 46 lots in the Glacier Park Villa Sites sold previously through the Glacier Park Land Co. remained in private ownership.<sup>15</sup> While lakefront lots had sold best, no detectable pattern suggests why some interior lots and not others had sold. Most owners held a single lot. Access was rough as the streets were never laid out. Most owners used their lots for tenting.<sup>16</sup> Near the water, however, three owners built cabins typical of Lake McDonald recreational camp buildings in the pre-World War II era. Two of these are L-plan log cabins. The third is a frontal gable frame building. All are modest buildings partially hidden within the surrounding forest. They stand on Lots 1 and 4 in Block 17 and Lot 23 in Block 16 at the western end of the subdivision's main grid. A fourth, built soon after the war and using characteristic post-war cabin construction materials, stands on Lot 3 of Block 17. These survivors may be the only buildings ever constructed within the subdivision.

In Glacier Park, few private people built log cabins after the Half Moon Fire of 1929. Subsequent regulations made it difficult for anyone but the park to acquire logs within the park, so after 1930, private owners tended to construct frame buildings. These circumstances suggest that the log cabins on Lot 23, Block 16, and Lot 4, Block 17, predate 1930. W.C. and Helen Hunter bought the first lot in October 1917 from the Glacier Park Land Co. and owned it until June 1929, when they sold it to Mabel Helen Wetch. These ownership dates suggest that the Hunters probably built the L-plan cabin. Unlike most other recreational camps around the lake, this one's main (and only) building is not contiguous to the beach. The cabin's open porch set within the corner of the cabin's plan is nevertheless oriented toward the water, and a later owner replaced the windows on that side with large single-light fixed sash to take in the view. The cabin's L-plan with a slightly higher main block is one form popular on Lake McDonald in this period. Like most cabins built for individual family use rather than within a cabin resort, the Hunter Cabin has a prominent exterior stone chimney rather than a stove chimney. It retains unusual windows with a single fixed light flanked by fixed louvers. The lights may be later replacements, but the louvers appear to date to the construction period.

The second lot transferred to the Glacier Park Land Co. in 1916 and was excluded from the Dakota and Great Northern Townsite purchase in 1930. It transferred to Flathead County in August 1932, suggesting that the taxes were unpaid, but there is no recorded owner in the subdivision book.<sup>17</sup> A map drawn by the park showing ownership about 1930 notes this lot belonging to Dr. Fred Ewing.<sup>18</sup> The county did not sell the property until 1938, after the log cabin building period, suggesting that Ewing built the cabin but never filed his deed. Like the Hunter Cabin, this L-plan cabin typifies the modest family cabins of the period in plan and construction. Sited on the shore, it is set back among the trees, with its windows oriented to the lake. Its porch appears to have been altered in the late twentieth century, but the cabin retains much of its fenestration plan and the prominent stone chimney typical of family cabins.

The Ewing Cabin along with three other lots—Lot 1 in Block 17 and contiguous Lots 10 and 11 in Block 19—were sold in August 1938 by Flathead County to Edward Neitzling, who had grown up on his mother's (Anna Neitzling) homestead west of the lake's outlet, and James Lee.<sup>19</sup> These and an additional interior lot had transferred to the county six years earlier, and it is unclear why the county waited to sell them. On the 6<sup>th</sup> of September, Neitzling and Lee sold the latter three lots to Otis H. Alderson suggesting an advance agreement. This probably provided the latter with a frame lakefront cabin and a modicum of additional lakefront to the south. The three lots had been individually transferred until 1938. Peter Johnson acquired Lot 1 in January 1923 and probably built one or both of the gable-roofed cabins that were later combined to make the current frontal gable frame cabin. While

<sup>15</sup> The deed from the Lewises to the Dakota and Great Northern Townsite Co. provides a list of excluded lots correlating to those previously sold.

<sup>16</sup> Robert Lucke, Telephone interview with author, 24 October 2005.

<sup>17</sup> In this period, properties with delinquent taxes transferred to the county in the second half of August, based on numerous title chains.

<sup>18</sup> Glacier National Park Drawing No. GLAC-2875, Microfiche. (Ruhle Library, Glacier National Park: West, Glacier, Montana)

<sup>19</sup> *Subdivision Book "G"*.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register Of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8

Glacier Park Villa Sites Historic District  
Flathead County, Montana

Page 4

log buildings were popular throughout the 1920s, some people constructed frame cabins. This building's style owes much to the prevailing taste in cottages of the 1910s and 1920s with its steeply pitched roof, shed-roofed dormers, and variety of sash and openings. While its porch has been altered, it retains its shake roof, a feature uncommon in post-Depression-era privately built cabins around Lake McDonald.

Alderson sold the Johnson Cabin and two additional lots to Jane Buttrey in November 1944.<sup>20</sup> She and her husband Frank Buttrey were prominent Montana retailers, known for a high level of service and innovation in their Havre-based businesses.<sup>21</sup> Mrs. Buttrey sold Lot 1 with the Johnson Cabin to her friend and fellow Have resident, Cornelia T.[immons] Clack, in 1947. Mrs. Clack's daughter, Cornelia Clack Graham, remembers that her mother drove Mrs. Buttrey places because the latter did not drive. Mrs. Clack was the sister-in-law of H. Earl Clack, a prominent Montana businessman who developed gas stations cum small stores. He bought the former Nolan Camp, built by Senator Walsh's former law partner at the head of the lake, in the early 1930s, and his brother and sister-in-law had spent short periods of time during some summers there. Although Mrs. Buttrey may never have visited, Mrs. Clack especially liked the respite Lake McDonald provided from the heat of Havre, so she was very pleased to have a place of her own there.<sup>22</sup> Jane Buttrey retained the other two lots until 1958, when they transferred to Harry E. Buttrey.

Soon after Cornelia T. Clack acquired the Johnson property in 1947, she and her children combined two older cabins on the lot into the single frontal gable cabin still on the site today. Her daughter, Cornelia (b.1912), who married Robert Graham in 1943, continues to use the cabin today. Robert Graham worked as a seasonal ranger in the park during this period. In the early 1970s, the Grahams enclosed the front porch in glass and added a large open deck to the cabin. In 1975, Cornelia Clack Graham sold this property to the government on a life lease.<sup>23</sup> This cabin is visually linked with the Graham-Roberts Cabin on Lot 3 by paths lined by cobblestones. Mary Agnes Roberts, daughter of Edna Graham and sister-in-law to Cornelia Clack Graham, sold this property to the government in 1975, also on a life lease.

Neitzling and Lee bought Lot 3 in Block 17 from the county in August 1942. S. Florence and Mabel C. Miller had bought this lot from the Glacier Park Land Co. in 1917, and relinquished it for back taxes to the county in 1941. On the 6<sup>th</sup> of September 1946, Neitzling and Lee divided their remaining shore property between them. James and Cena Lee retained Lot 3 while Edward and Ella Neitzling took Lot 4, the Ewing property. The half-interest agreement suggests the properties were of similar value. There might have been cabins on both lots, but the cabin now on Lot 3 dates to the post-World War II era. In 1949, the Lees sold Lot 3 to Edna S. Graham, Robert Graham's mother. She and her daughter built the existing cabin, which retains the spare, low-slung lines of the taste emerging in domestic architecture during the late 1940s and early 1950s. While sited in the traditional manner of earlier cabins, it uses building materials more popular around Lake McDonald in the later period, including drop siding and dimensional lumber for its asymmetrical open deck. Unlike most family cabins, this one has a stovepipe chimney rather than a cobblestone fireplace.

Acting alone, Edward Neitzling bought the Hunter Cabin on Lot 23 in Block 16 from Mabel Helen Wetch in September 1948. This was the last of the lots in the Glacier Park Villa Sites owned by the Neitzlings or the Lees.

<sup>20</sup> *Subdivision Book "G"*.

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.lm.havre.k12.mt.us/magera/buttery.html> and [www.missoulian.com/specials/100montanans/list/030.html](http://www.missoulian.com/specials/100montanans/list/030.html)

<sup>22</sup> Cornelia [Clack] Graham, Interview with author, 25 July 2006. Taped for GNPA.

<sup>23</sup> Jane Buttrey sold the property to Cornelia T.[immons] Clack on 21 May 1947. Title chain as recorded in *Subdivision Book "G"* follows: To Merritt N. Warden, 7 June 1955; to Cornelia T. Clack [mother], [her children] Worth M. Clack, John Raymond Clack, and Cornelia Clack Graham, 7 June 1955; to John Raymond Clack, Worth M. Clack, and Cornelia C. Graham, 26 March 1964; to Cornelia C. Graham and Cornelia Kay Graham, 23 October 1964; to U.S.A. 10 October 1975. Genealogy from *Grits, Guts, and Gusto. The History of Hill County, Montana*. 1976.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register Of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Section number 8**

**Glacier Park Villa Sites Historic District  
Flathead County, Montana**

**Page 5**

---

In November, the property transferred to Edwin and Wilma Marken. Both the Ewing and Hunter properties were transferred to the federal government by Neitzling and Marken respectively in 1962.



# MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

225 North Roberts ♦ P.O. Box 201201 ♦ Helena, MT 59620-1201  
♦ (406) 444-2694 ♦ FAX (406) 444-2696 ♦ www.montanahistoricalsociety.org ♦

March 27, 2007

LON JOHNSON  
CULTURAL RESOURCE SPECIALIST  
GLACIER NATIONAL PARK  
WEST GLACIER, MT 59936

Dear Lon,

Thank you for the opportunity to review the National Register of Historic Places nomination form for the **Headquarters Historic District (Boundary Increase I)**. The State Historic Preservation Review Board and I enjoyed touring the increase area last summer. Our office concurs that **Glacier National Park Residences 41, 77, and 80**, which comprise the boundary increase, are eligible for listing in the National Register under Criteria A and C.

The Montana State Historic Preservation Office concurs that **Logan Pass Visitor Center** is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A and C.

This office also concurs that **Apgar's Glacier Park Cottage Sites HD, Alice Beck Cabin, Blair's Cottage Sites HD, Glacier Park Villas Sites HD, Greve's Tourist Cabins HD, Head of the Lake HD, Howes' Lake McDonald Cottage Sites HD, Kelly's Camp HD, Lewis' Cabin Lots HD, Sherwood Lodge, and Wheeler Camp** are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under the contexts outlined in the **Recreation Camps on Lake McDonald Multiple Properties Documentation Form**.

Finally, we would like to confirm that on August 8, 2005, Josef Warhank of this office concurred that **Porcupine Fire Lookout (Smithsonian Number 24GL1114)** is eligible for listing in the National Register under the contexts identified in the Glacier National Park Multiple Properties Documentation Form.

Thank you again for your documentation of and dedication to these outstanding places. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kate Hampton  
National Register Historian and  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

