

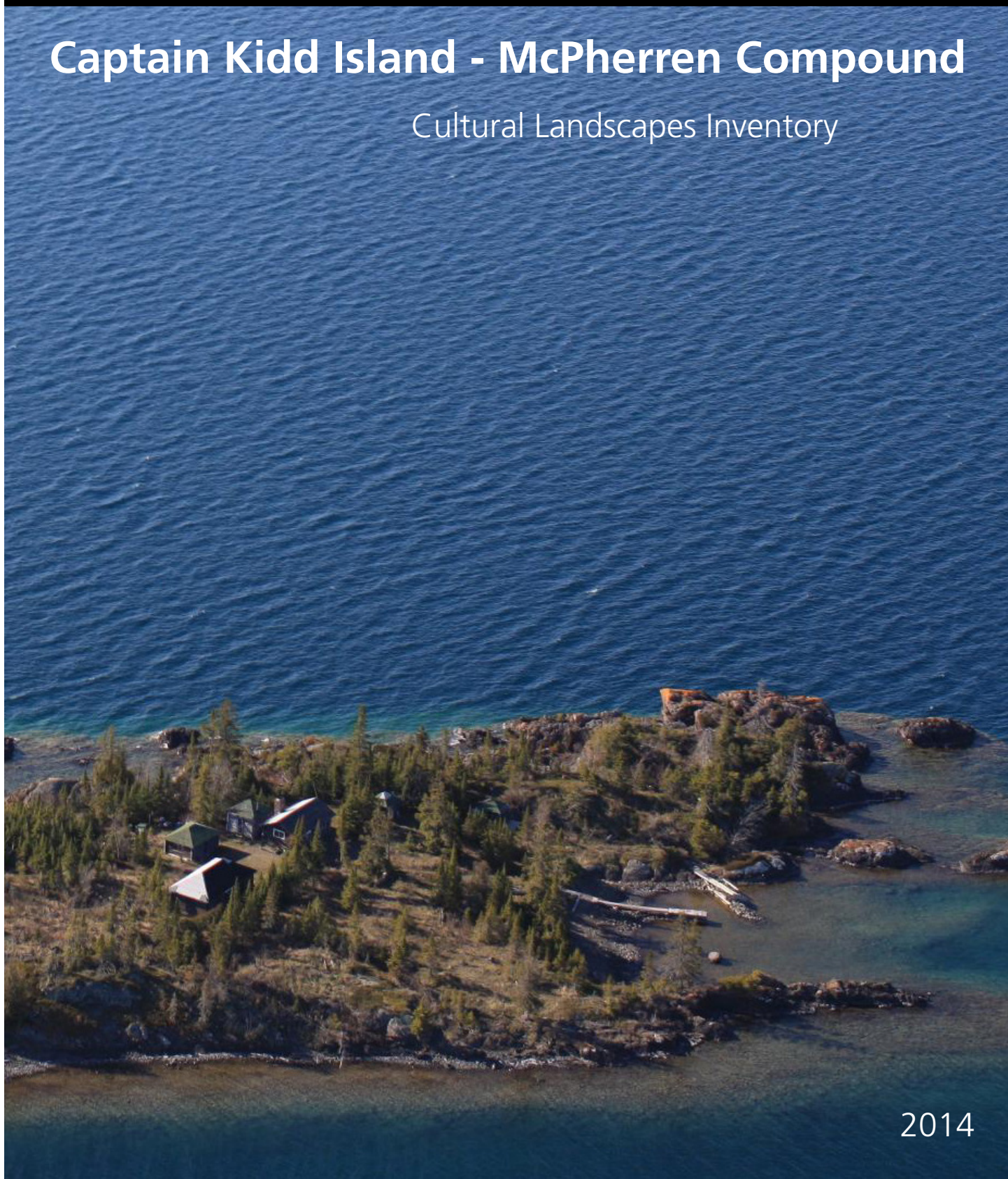
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Isle Royale National Park
Michigan



Captain Kidd Island - McPherren Compound

Cultural Landscapes Inventory



2014

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The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

CLI General Information

Purpose and Goals of the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) is an evaluated inventory of all significant landscapes in units of the national park system in which the National Park Service (NPS) has, or plans to acquire any enforceable legal interest. Landscapes documented through the CLI are those that individually meet criteria set forth in the National Register of Historic Places such as historic sites, historic designed landscapes, and historic vernacular landscapes or those that are contributing elements of properties that meet the criteria. In addition, landscapes that are managed as cultural resources because of law, policy, or decisions reached through the park planning process even though they do not meet the National Register criteria, are also included in the CLI.

The CLI serves three major purposes. First, it provides the means to describe cultural landscapes on an individual or collective basis at the park, regional, or service-wide level. Secondly, it provides a platform to share information about cultural landscapes across programmatic areas and concerns and to integrate related data about these resources into park management. Thirdly, it provides an analytical tool to judge accomplishment and accountability.

The legislative, regulatory, and policy direction for conducting the CLI include:

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 USC 470h-2(a)(1)). Each Federal agency shall establish... a preservation program for the identification, evaluation, and nomination to the National Register of Historic Places... of historic properties...

Executive Order 13287: Preserve America, 2003. Sec. 3(a)... Each agency with real property management responsibilities shall prepare an assessment of the current status of its inventory of historic properties required by section 110(a)(2) of the NHPA... No later than September 30, 2004, each covered agency shall complete a report of the assessment and make it available to the Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Secretary of the Interior... (c) Each agency with real property management responsibilities shall, by September 30, 2005, and every third year thereafter, prepare a report on its progress in identifying... historic properties in its ownership and make the report available to the Council and the Secretary...

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Federal Agency Historic Preservation Programs Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, 1998. Standard 2: An agency provides for the timely identification and evaluation of historic properties under agency jurisdiction or control and/or subject to effect by agency actions (Sec. 110 (a)(2)(A).

Management Policies 2006. 5.1.3.1 Inventories: The Park Service will (1) maintain and expand the following inventories... about cultural resources in units of the national park system... Cultural Landscape Inventory of historic designed landscapes, historic vernacular landscapes,... and historic sites... Cultural Resource Management Guideline, 1997, Release No. 5, page 22 issued pursuant to Director's Order #28. As cultural resources are identified and evaluated, they should also be listed in the appropriate Service-wide inventories of cultural resources.

Responding to the Call to Action:

The year 2016 marks the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service. A five-year action plan entitled, “A Call to Action: Preparing for a Second Century of Stewardship and Engagement” charts a path toward that second century vision by asking Service employees and partners to commit to concrete actions that advance the agency’s mission. The heart of the plan includes four broad themes supported by specific goals and measurable actions. These themes are: Connecting People to Parks, Advancing the NPS Education Mission, Preserving America’s Special Places, and Enhancing Professional and Organizational Excellence. The Cultural Landscape Inventory relates to three of these themes:

Connect People to Parks. Help communities protect what is special to them, highlight their history, and retain or rebuild their economic and environmental sustainability.

Advance the Education Mission. Strengthen the National Park Service’s role as an educational force based on core American values, historical and scientific scholarship, and unbiased translation of the complexities of the American experience.

Preserve America’s Special Places. Be a leader in extending the benefits of conservation across physical, social, political, and international boundaries in partnership with others.

The national CLI effort directly relates to #3, Preserve America’s Special Places, and specifically to Action #28, “Park Pulse.” Each CLI documents the existing condition of park resources and identifies impacts, threats, and measures to improve condition. This information can be used to improve park priority setting and communicate complex park condition information to the public.

Responding to the Cultural Resources Challenge:

The Cultural Resources Challenge (CRC) is an NPS strategic plan that identifies our most critical priorities. The primary objective is to “Achieve a standard of excellence for the stewardship of the resources that form the historical and cultural foundations of the nation, commit at all levels to a common set of goals, and articulate a common vision for the next century.” The CLI contributes to the fulfillment of all five goals of the CRC:

- 1) Provide leadership support, and advocacy for the stewardship, protection, interpretation, and management of the nation’s heritage through scholarly research, science and effective management;
- 2) Recommit to the spirit and letter of the landmark legislation underpinning the NPS;
- 3) Connect all Americans to their heritage resources in a manner that resonates with their lives, legacies, and dreams, and tells the stories that make up America’s diverse national identity;
- 4) Integrate the values of heritage stewardship into major initiatives and issues such as renewable energy, climate change, community assistance and revitalization, and sustainability, while cultivating excellence in science and technical preservation as a foundation for resource protection, management, and rehabilitation; and
- 5) Attract, support, and retain a highly skilled and diverse workforce, and support the development of leadership and expertise within the National Park Service.

Scope of the CLI

CLI data is gathered from existing secondary sources found in park libraries, archives and at NPS regional offices and centers, as well as through on-site reconnaissance. The baseline information describes the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in the context of the landscape’s overall significance. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features, and allows for an evaluation of the landscape’s overall integrity and an assessment of the landscape’s overall condition. The CLI also provides an illustrative site plan that indicates major features within the inventory unit and generates spatial data for Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The CLI also identifies stabilization needs to prevent further deterioration of the landscape and provides data for the Facility Management Software System.

Chapter 1: Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan

Inventory Unit Description

The McPherren Compound is located on Captain Kidd Island, within Isle Royale National Park in Keweenaw County, Michigan. The 20.6 acre island is located to the northwest of the northeastern portion of Isle Royale. The cultural landscape occupies an approximately 1.72-acre area at the northeastern tip of the island. The landscape comprises a complex of buildings adjacent to a small, sheltered cove on the eastern side. The compound is accessed by boat, with the cove providing the entry point. Captain Kidd Island is designated wilderness, and the remainder of the land is undeveloped.

The McPherren Compound includes seven extant buildings and two docks. There are essentially two eras of development. The first dates to circa 1920, when Emil Anderson built the private resort at Crystal Cove and the associated employee housing complex on Captain Kidd for George Megeath. Structures built at Captain Kidd during this period include McPherren Sleeping Cabin II, McPherren Tool Shed, and the non extant privy. It is currently unknown if additional structures were built at this time and later removed. The docks originated circa 1920 and were likely rebuilt a number of times over subsequent decades. The second layer dates to the early McPherren era of ownership and occupation, primarily between 1935 and 1940. Buildings added during this period include McPherren Cottage, McPherren Sleeping Cabin I, McPherren Boat House, McPherren Bath House, and the non extant woodshed. McPherren Sleeping Cabin III is noncontributing, as its presence postdates the end of the period of significance by twenty years.

The McPherren Compound is significant at a local level under Criterion A for its role in the early twentieth century tourism movement on Isle Royale as a private resort complex. It is also significant under Criterion C as it is an example of the Rustic architectural style integrated into island vernacular. The period of significance spans from 1920, when George W. Megeath began construction of the property in conjunction with his private complex on Amygdaloid Island, until 1940, following acquisition by the National Park Service for inclusion in Isle Royale National Park. The property was determined eligible for the National Register on August 3, 1999.

The cultural landscape retains integrity in location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and association. However, the advanced structural deterioration that afflicts all of the structures has degraded the landscape condition to poor. The property is currently under a residential special use permit by Jack and Sally Orsborn (the daughter of Wayne McPherren).

Site Plan



2013 site plan of the McPherren Compound cultural landscape using Google Earth satellite imagery (Jackson/NPS).



Site plan of McPherran Compound. Drawing by Dena Sanford, 1995.

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name:	Captain Kidd Island - McPherran Compound
Property Level:	Landscape
CLI Identification Number:	500471
Parent Landscape:	500471

Park Information

Park Name and Alpha Code:	Isle Royale National Park - ISRO
Park Organization Code:	6310
Park Administrative Unit:	Isle Royale National Park

CLI Hierarchy Description

The 1999 study written by Kathryn Franks and Arnold Alanen, “Historic Structures at Isle Royale National Park: Historic Contexts and Associated Property Types,” applied five major cultural themes to the identification and evaluation of historic properties at the park. The context themes include Historic Mining, Navigation and Maritime History, Commercial Fishing, Conservation and National Park Service Administration, and Resort and Recreational Development. The Resort and Recreational Development theme was further subdivided into four categories: small scale rustic resorts, large scale full service resorts, private recreational camps, and private resort colonies and compounds. The McPherran Compound was identified as a private resort.

Private resort colonies and compounds are defined as properties “created by one wealthy individual who exerted control over building style, design, materials, workmanship, and location, which resulted in a unified cluster of recreational buildings.” The Megeath Compound at Crystal Cove and the McPherran Compound on Captain Kidd Island – both built by George Megeath – have been compared to “the ‘wilderness camps’ created by rich industrialists in Upper Michigan at the turn of the century” (Franks 1999, 147-148).

The Cultural Landscape Inventory uses the established hierarchy and nomenclature to identify the McPherran Compound as a private resort. However, while it was certainly established as part of a highly designed private resort, over the course of subsequent decades enough building were removed and added that much of the original unity of design was diminished. In many ways, the extant cultural landscape exhibits the characteristics more commonly associated with the “private recreational camp” category.

Chapter 2: Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Complete

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative

Initial research was conducted by seasonals Kathleen Fitzgerald and Richard Radford in 1999. Cultural Landscapes Program Leader Sherda Williams and Historical Landscape Architect Marla McEnaney reviewed the landscape hierarchy. In 2010 a site visit was conducted by Historical Landscape Architect Kim Shafer and Landscape Historian Dan Jackson. Initial research and data entry was then begun by Shafer. In 2011, NCPE intern Danielle Meiners continued the research and data entry. The final draft document was completed by Jackson and the park provided concurrence on 8/7/2013.

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence: Yes

National Register Concurrence: 08/07/2013

National Register Concurrence: Eligible - SHPO Consensus Determination

Date of Concurrence Determination: 10/02/2013

Concurrence Graphic Information

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL: NO HARD COPY TO FOLLOW

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
ISLE ROYALE NATIONAL PARK
800 East Lakeshore Drive
Houghton, MI, 49931-1895

H3023 (MWR/CR-HAL)

August 7, 2013

Memorandum

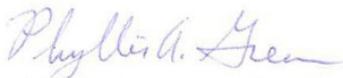
To: Regional Director, Midwest Region Office
Attention: Chief, Historic Architecture and Landscapes
Bill Harlow

From: Superintendent, Isle Royale National Park

Subject: McPherran Compound Cultural Landscapes Inventory

This memorandum serves as general concurrence provided to the Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) for the McPherran Compound on Captain Kidd Island. Park staff reviewed the CLI document and we concur with the general findings. The McPherran Compound CLI document accurately reflects the current condition of "Poor" and the management category of "May Be Preserved and Maintained." We feel that the appropriate Integrated Management Resources Applications (IRMA) category for this document is "reference viewable to public."

We understand that the information in the CLI and LCS databases can be amended in the future by contacting the CLI coordinator and requesting an update.



Phyllis Green - Superintendent

Park concurrence, 8/7/2013



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Candice S. Miller, Secretary of State

Lansing, Michigan 48918-0001

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
Michigan Historical Center
717 West Allegan Street
Lansing, Michigan 48918-1800

August 3, 1999

DOUGLAS A BARNARD
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
ISLE ROYALE NATIONAL PARK
800 E LAKESHORE DRIVE
HOUGHTON MI 49931-1869

RE: ER-2191 Historic Structures at Isle Royale National Park: Historic Contexts and
Associated Property Types, Isle Royale National Park, Keweenaw County
(NPS)

Dear Mr. Barnard:

We have reviewed the Isle Royale National Park historic structures report dated January 1999 and have the following comments concerning the national register eligibility of the properties presented in the report:

National Register Listed:

Minong Mine Already listed in NR as archaeological site.
Edisen Fishery Already NR listed.

National Register Eligible:

Island Mine We think that the entire mine site, not just the powder house ruins, forms the eligible historic property.
Rude Fishery/Fisherman's Home Entire complex appears NR-eligible with all buildings contributing.
Sivertson/Ekmark/Singer Property Entire complex appears NR-eligible with all buildings contributing.
Mattson Fishery Entire complex appears NR-eligible with all buildings, structures, and other identified resources contributing.
Farmer Camp Entire camp appears NR-eligible with all buildings contributing.
Davidson House House appears NR-eligible.
Barnum Colony Entire colony appears NR-eligible; district includes entire island.
McGrath Compound Entire compound appears NR-eligible, with all buildings and structures contributing.
McPherran Compound Entire compound appears NR-eligible, with all buildings and structures contributing except the renovated dock.

Does Not Meet NR Criteria

Cemetery Island Cemetery Does not appear to meet NR criteria.
Holte, Anderson, and Bangsund Fisheries Given the deteriorated condition of parts of these complexes and the fact that several far more intact fishery

HS 211

Andrew/Scotland Camp

complexes have survived, we do not find any of these complexes NR eligible; nor do we believe any of the buildings and structures appear individually eligible.

We concur that the complex does not appear NR-eligible, but do not concur that the two log buildings appear eligible. They are two of numerous log buildings in the park, and larger and better preserved complexes have survived at the McGrath Compound and McPherren Compound.

Belle Isle Resort and Minong Island Lodge

What is left in both cases are merely small remnants of once much larger complexes. Neither appears to meet NR criteria.

**Ralph House
Warren Camp/Rock Harbor
Ranger Station
Windigo**

Does not appear NR eligible.
Does not appear NR eligible.

We do not believe Buildings 123 and 125 appear NR eligible on their own. We do not believe any part of the complex appears NR-eligible.

More Information:

Rock Harbor Lodge: It is impossible to review the eligibility of the entire complex or portions of it without a site plan and photos of the remainder of the buildings. We request both plus some general views of the entire complex.

Daisy Farm Root Cellar: We find no photographs of the root cellar which to review.

NPS Headquarters, Mott Island: The map reproduced in the report is unreadable, and we request a clearer copy. As with the Rock Harbor Lodge complex, we request general views and photos of the newer buildings to help us in evaluating the complex's overall historic significance.

Rock Harbor District: The report names a district here but does not provide a clear recommendation as to whether a NR-eligible district is present and which properties it includes. There is no map of the district showing the boundaries or properties included or general views, all of which we would need to offer comments on such a district.

Tobin Harbor District: The report suggests that the camps and other properties around the harbor form a historic district eligible for the NR, but the report contains no treatment of this area as a whole, and there is no map or any general views of the proposed district. This makes evaluating the potential for such a district impossible. However, if there is such a district, the following properties with all their buildings and structures would appear to contribute to the area's historic significance:

Stack/Wolbrink Camp, Snell Camp, Siefert Camp, Connolly Camp, Kemmer Camp, Beard Camp, Edwards Camp, Gale Camp, Merritt Camp, How Camp, Dassler Camp, and Savage Camp. The Holger Johnson Resort and Trading Post is described as part of this district. We find no photographs of this property, and request them for our review.

Sivertson/Ekmark/Singer Property: The report provides little information about what survives of this complex upon which we can make an evaluation.

If you have any questions, please contact Martha MacFarlane, Environmental Review Coordinator, at (517) 335-2721. Thank you for this opportunity to review and comment.

Sincerely,



Brian D. Conway
State Historic Preservation Officer

BDC:ROC:krj



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
MICHIGAN STATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
LANSING

SCOTT WOOSLEY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

October 2, 2013

DAN JACKSON
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
MIDWEST REGION
601 RIVERFRONT DRIVE
OMAHA NE 68102-4226

RE: ER-2191 Isle Royale National Park - Captain Kidd Island McPherren Compound Cultural
Landscape Inventory (CLI), Isle Royale, Keweenaw County (NPS)

Dear Mr. Jackson:

Under the authority of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended, we have reviewed the Cultural Landscapes Inventory for the Captain Kidd Island – McPherren Compound at Isle Royale National Park. In general we do concur with the general content and findings of the report, but we do have the following comments:

We wish to note the prospect for archaeological features that could be part of the McPherren Compound cultural landscape. The description of buildings and structures includes mention of a privy that probably dates to 1920. The structure is no longer extant, but the privy is an archaeological feature that has the potential to provide information about life at the compound during the early part of the 20th century. In addition, the 2013 site plan based on an aerial photo indicates a dock ruin in the cove. This is another archaeological feature that should be documented as part of the historical landscape. We suggest that an archaeological survey of the compound property would be useful to document any other cultural features that are now archaeological remains. Such a survey would also be important for determining whether there are pre-contact Native American archaeological deposits on the property.

We concur with the Type of Feature Contribution status as defined in the list of Character-defining Features except for the McPherren Sleeping Cabin III. This structure appears to fit into the Resort and Recreational Development context. It was built by Emil Anderson, who had strong ties with Isle Royale and built other structures there, including ones at Crystal Cove, during the context's overall period of significance. Its design reflects Isle Royale's recreational architecture traditions during the defined period of significance for recreational development. And its removal from one location to another fits into a broad long-time pattern of moving and reuse of older structures at Isle Royale. For all of these reasons we view this building to be a contributing resource.

We look forward to reviewing recommended treatments for the McPherren Compound in the future. We would very much like to see NPS explore working toward preservation and rehabilitation of the compound's resources through cooperative agreements such as with residential special use permit holders that provide some security for the permit holder's interest and use in return for meeting specified rehabilitation and maintenance requirements during the life of the permit.

If you have any questions, please contact Brian Grennell, Cultural Resource Management Specialist, at (517) 335-2721 or by email at GrennellB@michigan.gov. **Please reference our project number in all communication with this office regarding this undertaking.** Thank you for this opportunity to review and comment, and for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Brian G. Grennell
Cultural Resource Management Specialist

for Brian D. Conway
State Historic Preservation Officer

SAT:ROC:bgg



STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
702 WEST KALAMAZOO STREET • P.O. BOX 30740 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-8240
www.michigan.gov/shpo (517) 373-1630 FAX (517) 335 0348



MI SHPO DOE, 10/2/2013

Chapter 3: Geographic Information & Location Map

State & County:

State: Michigan
County: Keweenaw County

Size (Acres): 1.72

Boundary Description:

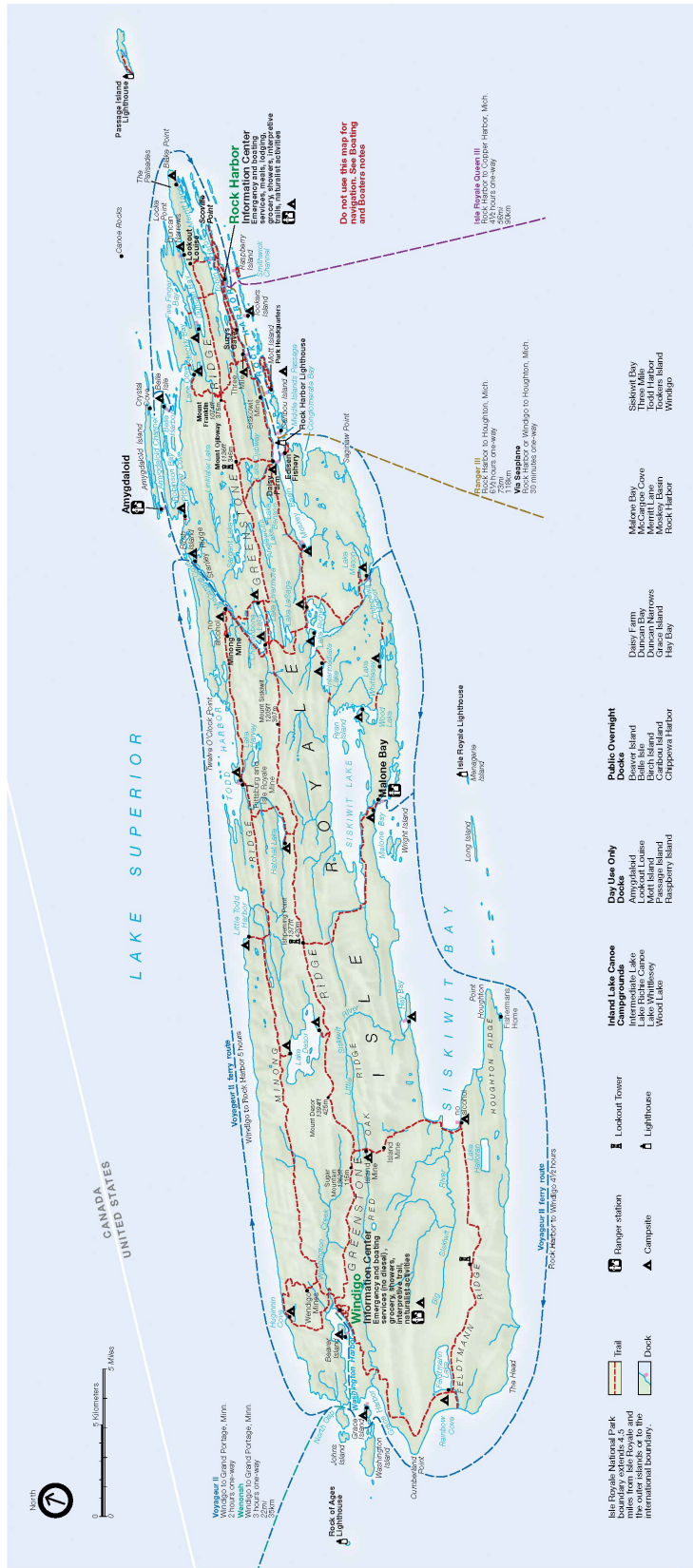
Begin at a point on the coastline approximately 21 meters 140.57 degrees southeast from the southeast corner of the McPherren Sleeping Cabin II. Then proceed approximately 299.43 degrees northwest for 62 meters to a point on the northwest coastline. The entire tip of Captain Kidd Island to the north of these two points, an area of about 1.72 acres, constitutes the McPherren Compound cultural landscape.

Boundary UTM's

Source: GPS - Uncorrected
Point Type: Area
Datum: NAD 83

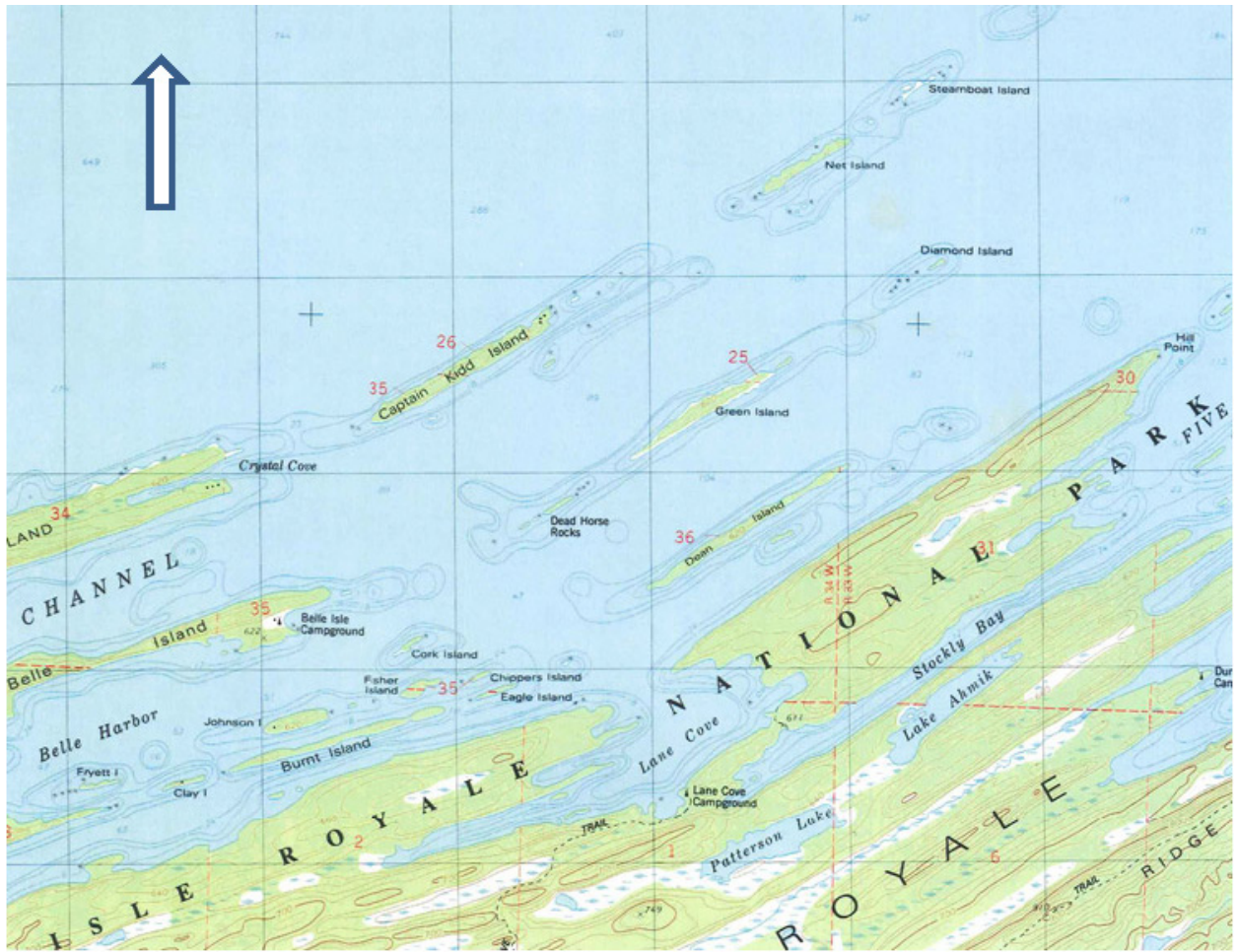
Map Point	UTM	Easting	Northing
1	16	383,442	5,335,925
2	16	383,395	5,335,958
3	16	383,482	5,336,053
4	16	383,482	5,336,024

Location Map



Map of Isle Royale National Park. Found in the northeastern quadrant, Captain Kidd Island is located east of Amygdaloid Island (Image from Harpers Ferry/NPS 2007).

Captain Kidd Island - McPherran Compound
Isle Royale National Park



Captain Kidd Island shown above the northeastern area of Isle Royale (USGS Map).

Regional Context: Cultural

Isle Royale traces its first visitors to prehistoric peoples who utilized the island's vast resources. Later, Native Americans traveled to the island seasonally to gather berries, hunt, fish, and mine copper in the abundant deposits (Franks 1999, v). The island was abundant with wildlife, plants, and minerals, making it an ideal resource in a small physical area. Although bearing plentiful resources, it has historically been a difficult place to inhabit due to its isolation in Lake Superior and harsh weather conditions.

During European exploration in the 17th century, French fur traders profited from the island's rich wildlife population. Animals such as beaver, muskrat, otter, mink, hare, coyote, fox, and lynx attracted the trappers to return again and again (Franks 1999, v). This continued until the 19th century, in which fur trading companies set up a new commercial operation: fishing, which proved to be initially successful on the island. By the early 20th century, exploitation of the resources and concurrent economic crises elsewhere in the country ended the primacy of commercial fishing operations at Isle Royale, yet small groups of fishermen remained.

Another commercial venture that endured for most of the 19th century involved the island's copper deposits. Three separate phases of extraction occurred: 1843 1855, 1873 1881, and 1889 1893. The first phase saw the emergence of companies such as the Smithwick, the Ohio and Isle Royale, the Pittsburgh and Isle Royale, and the Siskowit Mining Company. Although these groups were primarily speculators who constructed shafts, they also established at least two stampmills and one smelter for the proper production of copper. Because of the low production of the mines, the companies could not cover their expenses. This, combined with other factors, brought the end of the first phase. The second phase emerged to support a demand for copper in a post Civil War industrial boom. New technologies renewed interests temporarily, but these ventures failed to last even ten years. The last phase occurred in the decade before the 20th century, in which a large British firm funded an exploratory effort comprised of prospect trenching and diamond drilling. However, they failed to locate a significant copper source or produce a single ounce of copper. The company finally sold its land for the creation of tourist homes and resorts (Little 1978, 14). This ended the mining phases on the island.

Tourism on Isle Royale took root by the late nineteenth century. Rustic summer lodges and tourist homes were established on the north, west, and east sides of the island. Isle Royale was an ideal place to escape hay fever, and eventually the island became a destination for travelers seeking adventure and relaxation. For those with greater wealth, summer estates and properties were established, creating small personal complexes that brought cultured living into the secluded island wilderness. Transportation was provided by large passenger ships that provided entertainment during the journey. The resort destination tourism industry thrived well into the 1930s, "when the idea for an Isle Royale National Park was initiated" (Franks 1999, vi).

The booming success of the 1920s and 1930s resort era gradually subsided. Some commercial fishermen and some summer residents who enjoyed their isolated vacation homes sold their property outright to the government in order to protect the island from future commercial development. Some owners sold their property outright, while others were more reluctant. In return, life leases and special use permits were granted to allow them to stay. Isle Royale National Park was formally established in 1931. This allowed the federal government to begin acquiring lands from island property owners. National Park Service administration began in 1935 and the last of the land purchases were finalized in 1940. Following the close of World War II, Isle Royale National Park was officially dedicated in 1946.

The 1950s brought administrative changes to the park that increased the appeal to visit the Isle Royale National Park, along with other national parks. The “Mission 66” program introduced new ways to combine recreation and wilderness, and Isle Royale’s natural rugged quality became a perfect embodiment of that ideal. The program united all national parks under a similar theme of construction through the ‘Park Service Modern’ style. Isle Royale’s popularity increased on the heels of the Mission 66 program. A new era of tourism turned toward wilderness, where emphasis was on natural settings as opposed to the resort conveniences enjoyed during the early 20th century.

In 1976, 99% of Isle Royale was designated as Wilderness, and is currently managed as such. The remainder of the archipelago consists of potential Wilderness and non Wilderness areas that include park facilities, visitor services, and other non compatible uses such as life leases. The park is open from May to September and closed during the winter season.

Regional Context: Physiographic

The following is adapted from “Historic Structures at Isle Royale National Park: Historic Contexts and Associated Property Types” (Franks 1999).

Isle Royale is an archipelago composed to more than 200 islands in northwestern Lake Superior, 14 miles from the Canadian border of Ontario and 18 miles from the American mainland of Grand Portage, Minnesota. The main island of Isle Royale is 45 miles long and nine miles wide at its widest point. There are 83 lakes in its interior, along with a number of small ponds. It has an area totaling 210 square miles, and has approximately 200 smaller islands scattered about the periphery of the island. Isle Royale’s topography is characterized by ridge and swale contours that are oriented southwest northeast, along the lines of uplifted geological features. The highest elevation on the island is Mt. Desor, which stands 794 feet above Lake Superior and 1,394 feet above sea level.

The geology of Isle Royale is dominated by Keweenaw volcanics. Imbedded sediments are exposed in the unwarping of the deposits that tilt towards the southeast, and mirror the formations in the Keweenaw Peninsula. The southwestern end of the island is comprised of sedimentary deposits that also have corresponding features on the south shore of Lake Superior as sandstones and conglomerates. The entire island is a series of parallel ridges and valleys that give it a washboard effect from the air (Huber 1983, 5).

Fissure deposits of copper on the island were located in transverse faults (those which cut across the beds), and copper on the island also occurred in lodes in sedimentary deposits. Most of the copper obtained by both prehistoric and historic miners was extracted from these fissures.

Soils throughout Isle Royale are very thin and poorly developed, although they are somewhat more developed on the southwestern end. There are two major upland forest types on Isle Royale: the southern boreal forest, dominated by spruce, fir, and birch, and a temperate deciduous community of sugar maple, yellow birch, and red oak. In the lowland areas of the island, communities of cedar and spruce can be found.

The climate of Isle Royale is very similar to the general Upper Great Lakes region. Daily lows in winter are often six degrees Fahrenheit warmer than mainland temperatures, and summer temperatures are much lower than those on the mainland.

Regional Context: Political

Isle Royale has been accessed and utilized by many different groups spanning thousands of years. Native American cultures were the first to take advantage of the island and its resources. Beginning with the late Archaic (approximately 4,500 ybp), early prehistoric cultures fished, hunted and mined for copper seasonally through the Terminal Woodland period. Eventually the island was ceded by regional tribal groups under the Treaty of 1843. Native use of the island significantly decreased after the treaty was passed; however, fishing and hunting did still occur through the second half of the 19th century.

Euro-Americans likely visited the island as early as the 17th century when fur trapping and trading were prominent endeavors. More significant use occurred in the 19th century, when fishing and mining interests were relatively active. The American Fur Company established fisheries on the island as early as 1837, which operated until the early 1840's. Private fisheries sprung up island wide and continued to operate through Park establishment until a lamprey invasion decimated the trout population in the 1950s.

Following the Treaty of 1843, American copper mining interests sprung up throughout the island. Focus was given first to fissure deposits, which were located primarily around the shorelines. Related mining efforts were largely speculative, usually failing after a year or two of exploration and limited development. Production at this time was fairly minimal. Eventually this practice gave way to more systematic endeavors, where attention was turned to lode deposits such as those found at the Island and Minong mine locations. Although production levels were significantly higher, the Island's copper resource was not abundant enough to justify continued operations. After a final exploration effort in the early 1890s, copper mining on Isle Royale came to a close with very little to show for the fifty years of effort and expense.

The tourism movement in the early 20th century brought summer travelers to the island, as it was a popular destination to seek relief from illnesses such as hay fever. Some fishermen on the island converted their complexes (such as Johns Hotel) to house residents, or built a separate lodge while continuing to operate a fishery (Minong Lodge and Mattson Fishery), transforming the landscape into public and private resorts dotting the many coastlines of the island. Before long, resort lodges expanded from small, rustic complexes to ones featuring finer accoutrements. Collectively, the Singer, Belle Island and Rock Harbor lodges offered recreational activities such as bowling, golf and tennis. Those with greater means constructed private retreats for themselves and acquaintances. The Barnum Island and Crystal Cove complexes are good examples of this rare practice. Increased transportation opportunities permitted relatively convenient travel to the island. The summer months of the 1920s and 1930s saw visitation numbers grow as the tourism industry expanded.

In the late 1920s, actions were taken to begin transforming the island into a national park, in order to protect the island's vast resources and scenic beauty. Isle Royale National Park was authorized in 1931 and as acquisition of land began, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) provided men with jobs to facilitate the transition of the island into a functioning national park. The CCC played an integral role in establishing trails and park facilities on the island and it provided many jobs during the Great Depression (Franks 1999, vi). By 1940, the National Park Service acquired all of the deeds on the island and the Isle Royale National Park was officially dedicated in 1946.

Following two decades of facility and infrastructure development, the Park incorporated the Mission 66 program ideal to "modernize, enlarge, and even reinvent the park system by 1966" at its fiftieth anniversary (Carr 2007, 3). This included extensive construction projects that could accommodate the post war boom of visitors. On Isle Royale, new administrative and lodging structures appeared in Rock Harbor off of the cove of Snug Harbor, along with Mott Island. Through Mission 66, the National Park Service standardized and unified its operations through encouraging public access and creating interpretive exhibits that

facilitated the visitor's experience. The creation of the Visitor's Center became an integral piece of Mission 66 philosophy as a central component to all national parks. Moreover, the architecture of the Mission 66 building types that utilized similar materials, more modern designs, while attempting to blend in with the natural scenery also unified the national park system.

Today, Isle Royale is under the management of the National Park Service which operates seasonally in order to protect the island's resources and wildlife. There are still some private residents of the island who retain Life Leases and Special Use Permits, but the number has dwindled to a very few since the Park acquired the island.

Tract Numbers 06-101

Chapter 4: Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: May be Preserved or Maintained

Management Category Date: 08/07/2013

Management Category Agreement Narrative:

Although the McPherren Compound meets National Register criteria, its remote location within a designated wilderness area potentially limits the preservation and maintenance options considered viable by park management. An Isle Royale Cultural Resources Management Plan is currently (as of 2013) in development. The completed document will articulate management alternatives for Captain Kidd Island.

Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access

Management Agreement:

Type of Agreement: Special Use Permit

Expiration Date: 12/31/2014

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

Sally Orsborn (McPherren), Residential SUP, 1977 Agreement, permit issued 2003.

Public Access: Some restrictions

Public Access Explanatory Narrative:

The public has unrestricted access to most of Captain Kidd Island. The buildings at the McPherren Compound are privately used under a special use permit. Public access to the compound is limited.

NPS Legal Interest:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Description:

Dating to circa 1920, the Captain Kidd Island property was owned by George Megeath. The buildings were housing for the employees who worked at his private resort on Amygdaloid Island at Crystal Cove. Both properties were later sold to George Nixon, who eventually sold the Captain Kidd complex to his friend Wayne McPherren. The McPherren family began using the Captain Kidd location in 1934. Nixon sold the Crystal Cove complex to the federal government around this time.

FMSS Location Numbers

51003, 51004, 51005, 51006, 51007, 51008, 51009

Chapter 5: National Register Information

Existing National Register Status

National Register Explanatory Narrative:

The McPherren Compound property was first evaluated for National Register eligibility in the 1999 “Historic Structures at Isle Royale National Park: Historic Contexts and Associated Property Types”, a study completed by Kathryn Franks and Arnold Alanen. This resulted in an August 8, 1999 Michigan SHPO consensus determination of eligibility. The Captain Kidd CLI was completed in 2013. Following park review and concurrence, the CLI document was submitted to the Michigan SHPO for review, which resulted in an updated consensus DOE on 10/2/2014.

National Register Eligibility

National Register Concurrence:	Eligible - SHPO Consensus Determination
Contributing/Individual:	Individual
National Register Classification:	District
Significance Level:	Local
Significance Criteria:	Criterion A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history Criterion C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values
Period of Significance:	1920 CE - 1940 CE
Areas of Significance:	Architecture - The structures at the McPherren Compound embody distinct characteristics of Rustic style architecture integrated into island vernacular traditions. Other - The McPherren Compound is significant for its role in the recreation movement on Isle Royale in the early 20th century as a private resort complex.

Statement of Significance

The McPherron Compound is significant at a local level under Criterion A for its role in the early twentieth century tourism movement on Isle Royale as a private resort complex. It is also significant under Criterion C as it is an example of the Rustic architectural style integrated into island vernacular. The period of significance spans from 1920, when George W. Megeath began construction of the property in conjunction with his private complex on Amygdaloid Island, until 1940, following acquisition by the National Park Service (NPS) for inclusion in Isle Royale National Park.

Criterion A

Since the early 1890s, Isle Royale has been a destination for summer recreationalists from Midwestern states and elsewhere. Beginning in 1892 with the opening of the first official Isle Royale “resort,” up to the 1930s, when the federal government began land acquisitions for the creation of Isle Royale National Park, five different types of resort and recreational developments arose on the island. These included small-scale, “rustic” resorts run by commercial fishermen; large-scale, full-service resorts; private sporting clubs; private “camps”; and private resort “compounds” and “colonies.” Some types of recreational development prevalent in other Great Lakes locations and northern states did not exist on Isle Royale. For example, there were no grand, high-style seasonal estates or opulent “wilderness camps” designed by architects and built by the very wealthy. There were also no formal summer community associations, organizational group camps, or hunting shacks. All developed areas on Isle Royale were accessible only by water, either by private boat or excursion ship.

Isle Royale summer vacationers could pursue a variety of activities, from very organized social pursuits to rugged outdoor activities. Isolation, recuperation, outdoor recreation, and sport fishing were common goals for Isle Royale summer vacationers. The most refined activities offered at the larger resorts were tennis, shuffleboard, and croquet. The resort at Belle Isle went so far as to develop a small golf course.

Resorters on Isle Royale ranged from the very wealthy to those of more modest professions such as ministers, teachers, and writers. One millionaire created a summer “colony” on a small island and invited friends and business associates to build summer homes and cottages. Another business magnate created his own private resort compound on an isolated island, and housed his servants in another compound on a nearby island. A group of elite Duluth businessmen initiated a private and exclusive sporting club, dedicated to the “Art of Angling.” Others purchased property in Isle Royale’s protected harbors (especially Rock and Tobin Harbors), and created less extravagant seasonal “camps.”

Most of the surviving recreational structures compose the private camps, which include cabins, cottages, houses, and associated outbuildings built between the early 1900s to the 1930s. Recreational camps were often informally grouped in a harbor, creating a community. The buildings are mostly simple frame construction. The other surviving recreational types are resorts, both small-scale “rustic,” and large-scale “full-service.” A compound can perhaps best be seen as an increment between a private camp and a commercial resort. The log buildings at the Crystal Cove and Captain Kidd compounds, for example, are more substantial than the frame constructed cottages of the Tobin Harbor camps. And while the building complexes have the capacity to house several families at a time, there is still the intimacy of a private residence.

The McPherron Compound on Captain Kidd Island is a good example of an Isle Royale private compound. It was built by George W. Megeath in the early 1920s at the height of the Isle Royale tourist industry to house employees who served the family and their guests at Crystal Cove. The compound came into its own following Wayne McPherron’s purchase in 1934. The McPherrons expanded the accommodations, constructing a main cabin and a boat house, and bringing in additional buildings from other islands. Unlike neighboring Crystal Cove, which housed a commercial fishing operation for a time during the park era, the McPherron Compound has continuously been used as a private summer resort by the McPherron family into present day.

Criterion C

The establishment of the Megeath Compound at Crystal Cove and the associated employee housing complex on Captain Kidd coincided with a larger national trend of increased outdoor recreation. The rise of the automobile coupled with the burgeoning national park system contributed to more Americans actively seeking natural settings that reflected an idealized concept of wilderness. This, in turn, fostered the development of the Rustic style of architecture, in which “for the first time in the history of American architecture, a building became an accessory to nature. [...] Early pioneer and regional techniques were revived because it was thought that a structure employing native materials blended best with the environment” (Wilson 1976, 4-5). While this style is most prominently associated with the National Park Service of the 1920s and 1930s, it was popularly featured in private developments as well. Thought to have been designed by George Megeath and built by local fisherman Emil Anderson, the compound is notable as a cohesively designed complex in which an emphasis was placed on the presentation of a uniform Rustic style of architecture, with cost and expediency apparently secondary considerations.

The McPherran Compound, because it initially played a supporting role to operations at Crystal Cove, was not as highly designed as the other. Accommodations were far more basic and utilitarian. The Rustic style is primarily evidenced through the log buildings constructed by Anderson, including two of the sleeping cabins, the bath house, and the non-extant privy. The historic log structures display a superior level of craftsmanship. The peeled logs are tightly joined with saddle notching and quarter-round chinking. The dimensional uniformity of the selected logs is quite striking, and implies that they were ordered to specification and shipped to the site rather than felled locally. Additionally, care was taken to alternate the direction logs were laid, so that the taper of the tree trunks received incremental corrections. With the exception of the main lodge, all of the buildings feature hipped roofs, likely intended to minimize the potential impact of high winds.

Likewise, McPherrans followed the Rustic style in the construction of their main cottage, although the craftsmanship is not quite equal to Anderson’s. However, a cohesive style is diluted somewhat by the other structures they added to the landscape. Similar to other island communities, Isle Royale occupants frequently constructed their buildings of recycled materials, whether using timber from an old boat or another building. Often, the buildings were relocated from camp to camp and island to island in their entirety. Thus, many of the camps display vernacular styles subject to what construction materials were on hand or could be repurposed. In this manner, the McPherrans acquired a sleeping cabin and the bath house from Crystal Cove, and another sleeping cabin from Clay Island (all three structures believed to have been built by Anderson). The boat house and a woodshed (non-extant) were constructed from available materials.

Conclusion

The McPherran Compound, which began as a designed landscape and developed a more vernacular character, has consistently retained integrity as a significant example of the Isle Royale summer resort tradition. It continues to convey the 1920-1940 period of significance, and contributes to our understanding of early twentieth century tourism and development on Isle Royale.

Chapter 6: Chronology and Physical History

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape type: Historic Vernacular Landscape

Current and Historic Use/Function:

Primary Historic Function: Recreation/Culture

Primary Current Use: Recreation/Culture

Current and Historic Names:

Name:	Type of Name:
McPherren Compound	Both Current And Historic
McPherren Private Camp	Both Current And Historic
Captain Kidd Island	Both Current And Historic
Megeath Property	Historic

Cultural Landscape Physical History Narrative

How Captain Kidd Island came by its name is open for debate; it has alternately been attributed to the McPherrens or the Schofields (the family that developed the resort on Belle Isle). According to Marjorie McPherren, “Mr. and Mrs Schofield homesteaded this island [Captain Kidd] along with Belle Isle. And one day she was reading a story about Captain Kidd, so they decided that that would be a good name for this island. At that time the Belle Isle resort was going full-force” (Oikarinen 1979, 95). If Marjorie McPherren’s account is accurate, it would indicate the likelihood that the Schofields at least established some rudimentary structures on the island between 1910 and 1920. It would also suggest that George Megeath then acquired the island from the Schofields.

The property on Captain Kidd Island that is now known as the McPherren Compound was owned by George Windsor Megeath as early as 1920, when he hired Emil Anderson to construct a number of buildings at the site. Little is known of potential use or occupation of the island prior to 1920. It is possible that it could have been utilized by fishermen, given the shelter of the small bay at the northeastern end.

Megeath, a resident of Omaha, Nebraska, was born in 1857. He was an enterprising businessman in the coal industry who rose from working as a coal dealer in 1900 to become president of the nationally prominent Sheridan Coal Company in 1918. In 1920 he commissioned local fisherman and carpenter Emil Anderson to construct a Rustic-style private resort at Crystal Cove on the northeastern end of Amygdaloid Island. A small complex to house the Crystal Cove employees was also built on the northeastern end of what later became called Captain Kidd Island. These first structures included a cabin, tool shed, and privy. There was also a central lodge that was destroyed by fire.

The Megeath family probably actively used Crystal Cove for about a decade at the most. By 1930, George and Ida Megeath had retired and George died the following year at the age of 73. Although Ida lived another 11 years, it appears that the family began dividing and selling portions of the estate. The properties on Amygdaloid Island and Captain Kidd Island were sold to John Nixon “in the early 1930s for about \$2,500” (Gale 1995, 132).

Like Megeath, John Alfred Nixon was a businessman from Omaha. He was born in 1892 and married Mary Craig McCullen in 1917. Nixon owned a successful wholesale feed business, Nixon & Company. Following his acquisition, in 1934 Nixon sold the Captain Kidd property to Wayne and Sally McPherren. Ultimately, the Nixons’ tenure at Crystal Cove was short lived. Isle Royale National Park was formally established in 1931, and the federal government soon began acquiring lands from island property owners. On November 8, 1938, John Nixon sold his 41.1 acres of property on Amygdaloid Island to the federal government for \$12,430.37.

Wayne Byron McPherren was born on March 20, 1897. He married Marjorie Irene Jones (born 1905) on August 4, 1928. They had three children – two daughters and a son. The McPherrens were also from Omaha. At the time of the property transaction, Wayne McPherren worked as an accountant for John Nixon.

The McPherrens owned Captain Kidd Island for six years. Like many others, the McPherrens came to Isle Royale in part so that Marjorie could seek relief from hay fever in the summer. Working to improve upon the rudimentary complex, they built their main cottage in 1937. The stone fireplace and chimney was a standing remnant of an earlier lodge that burnt down (Oikarinen 1979, 92). Prior to construction of the cottage, a “canvas portable kitchen” was attached to the chimney (Willemin 1936). Wayne McPherren built the cottage as acquisition negotiations with the Isle Royale National Park Commission were ongoing, giving the impression that McPherren intended to leverage the value of his property prior to closing a deal (Willemin 1938). During that period a small shed was also added to the property. In 1940 the McPherrens moved two additional building to the site – a second sleeping cabin and a bath house. Both are believed to have been built by Emil Anderson and relocated from Crystal Cove. Around that same time, they also constructed a boat house down at the cove. In addition to adding new structures, the family also boated in loads of dirt to build up a yard around the cabins.



1937 overview of the McPherren complex (ISRO Property Files).



The newly constructed McPherren Cottage in 1937 (ISRO Property Files).

The National Park Service purchased Captain Kidd Island in 1940, with the McPherrens accepting a reduced payment of \$430.63 in exchange for a life lease. Following the transition of ownership, subsequent property alterations appear to be relatively minor. A third sleeping cabin was moved to the compound from nearby Clay Island circa 1960. Of the same style log construction as the original buildings, the cabin is also attributed to Emil Anderson with a construction period of 1916-1917. In 1975, the McPherrens altered the sleeping cabin they had moved from Crystal Cove, adding a second shed addition to the structure. (It is assumed that the first shed addition was added sometime after they relocated the structure.)

Wayne McPherren died in 1984 and Marjorie McPherren died in 2001. A special use permit negotiated in 1977 ensured Jack and Sally Orsborn continued use. The Orsborns have since utilized the compound on a seasonal basis, although it would appear that structural and landscape maintenance has been minimal under their stewardship.



1997 view of the McPherren Cottage (NPS/CLI).

1997 view of McPherren Sleeping Cabin I
(NPS/CLI).



1997 view of McPherren Sleeping Cabin II
(NPS/CLI).

1997 view of McPherren Sleeping Cabin III
(NPS/CLI).





1997 view of the McPherren Boat House (NPS/CLI).

1997 view of docks (NPS/CLI).



1997 view of the McPherren Tool Shed (NPS/CLI).



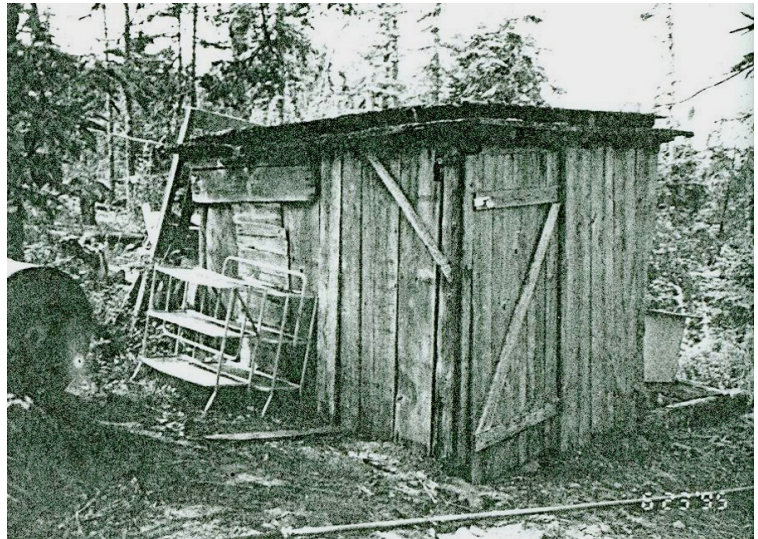
1997 view of the McPherren Bath House (NPS/CLI).

1997 view of the McPherren Privy, which is no longer extant (NPS/CLI).



1997 view of fallen totem pole carved by ISRO Ranger Fred Young (NPS/CLI).

1995 view of a shed, which is no longer extant (NPS).



Chronology

Year	Event	Annotation
CE 1910-1920	Settled	Captain Kidd Island may have been homesteaded by the Schofields (who built the resort at Belle Isle) circa 1910-1920.
CE 1920	Built	The first sleeping cabin, the bath house, and the docks are built. Emil Anderson, a nearby fisherman, is said to be the builder since he built similar structures on nearby Amygdaloid Island for the Megeath Compound.
CE 1920-1933	Inhabited	Employees of the Megeath residence at Crystal Cove on Amygdaloid Island lived at Captain Kidd.
CE 1931-1946	Established	On March 3, 1931, Isle Royale National Park was authorized by the U.S. Congress. It was established on April 3, 1940, and formally dedicated in 1946.
CE 1934	Purchased/Sold	John Nixon purchased George Megeath's property which included the complex at Captain Kidd Island.

Year	Event	Annotation
CE 1934	Purchased/Sold	John Nixon sold the Captain Kidd parcel to Wayne (Mack) McPherren from Omaha, Nebraska to use as a summer retreat.
CE 1937	Built	Wayne McPherren built the McPherren Cottage in the middle of the building cluster.
CE 1940	Purchased/Sold	Wayne and Marjorie McPherren sold the property to the National Park Service and a life lease was obtained.
CE 1940	Developed	Following the 1940 NPS acquisition, the bath house and a sleeping cabin were relocated from Crystal Cove to Captain Kidd.
CE 1975	Altered	In 1975, a second shed addition was added to the Sleeping Cabin I by the McPherrens.
CE 2001-2010	Removed	Sometime between 2001 and 2010, the woodshed deteriorated and was removed. A privy identified as extant in 1995 was also removed by 2010.

Chapter 7: Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity

Summary:

LANDSCAPE INTEGRITY

Integrity is the ability of a property to convey its historic identity or the extent to which a property evokes its appearance during a particular historic period, usually the period of significance. The National Register of Historic Places recognizes seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Aspects of integrity deemed most important for evaluation are based on a property's significance under National Register criteria. Retention of these aspects is essential for a property to convey its significance, though not all seven aspects of integrity need to be present to convey a sense of past time and place. Collectively, these aspects help foster an understanding of the landscape's historic character and cultural importance.

LOCATION

Location refers to the place where the cultural landscape was constructed or where the historic event occurred. The location of the McPherren Compound on Captain Kidd Island remains unchanged from the historic period.

Evaluation: *Retains location*

DESIGN

Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a cultural landscape. The McPherren Compound retains the historic form that it developed by 1940. The site for the complex was originally chosen because of the close proximity to Crystal Cove and the presence of the small cove. Built as employee quarters, the compound designed to provide basic accommodations, with little of the luxuries found at Crystal Cove. However, the buildings at both sites were constructed in a Rustic style by Emil Anderson to the same high standard of quality and craftsmanship. After the compound became a private camp under the McPherrens, it developed more of the ramshackle and eclectic appearance that is a common characteristic of camps at Isle Royale.

Evaluation: *Retains design*

SETTING

The aspect of setting refers to the physical environment of a property, or how the site is situated and its relationship to surrounding features and spaces. At the McPherren Compound, the extant setting still conveys the many of the attributes of the historic period. The physical isolation and wilderness character of Isle Royale that has compelled generations of families to return to summer retreats remains unimpaired. The physical remoteness of the park and surrounding wilderness management has prevented a proliferation of modern intrusions. However, these same factors have also contributed to a degradation of the compound's immediate setting. The expense and logistical challenges of maintenance, stabilization, and repair work are significant. In addition, the property has been virtually abandoned since the mid 1980s. As a result, the aging structures have edged into varying stages of dilapidation (with some collapsed into ruin) and overgrown vegetation has encroached into formerly open spaces, giving the landscape an unkempt look.

Evaluation: *Retains setting*

MATERIALS

Materials are the physical elements that were combined or deposited during the historic period. All types of construction materials and other landscape features are included under this aspect of integrity. All of the buildings which date to the historic period retain a significant amount of their original materials. However, it must be noted that said materials are rapidly approaching unstable conditions.

Evaluation: *Retains materials*

WORKMANSHIP

Workmanship refers to the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular period. Buildings dating to the historic period generally retain their original designs. The high quality log construction that is a feature of the buildings is a defining characteristic of the cultural landscape. The use of uniformly sized logs and the care taken to alternate the direction of each log for evenness exhibits a level of craftsmanship and quality of construction materials that exceeds what is found many of the smaller camps and fisheries. The structures built or moved to the site by the McPherrans are reflective of the Isle Royale island tradition of recycling, repurposing, and reusing building materials.

Evaluation: *Retains workmanship*

FEELING

Feeling is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular time period. The McPherran Compound retains the spatiality, setting, and traditional use of the historic period. However, with extant structures moldering and unmanaged vegetation growth, there is now a pervasive feeling of decline and disuse.

Evaluation: *Diminished feeling*

ASSOCIATION

Association refers to the direct link between the historic event and the cultural landscape. First built to support another summer recreation operation and later becoming its own recreational destination, the traditional use of the McPherran Compound has continued through descendants of the McPherran family.

Evaluation: *Retains association*

INTEGRITY OF THE PROPERTY AS A WHOLE

The historic district retains integrity in location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and association. The feeling is diminished. According to National Register guidelines, a property either does or does not retain its overall integrity, and does or does not convey its significance. Although encroaching vegetation and structural decline have negatively impacted its historical integrity, overall the landscape retains the characteristics, physical attributes, and historic associations it had during the period of significance as a private resort, from 1920 to 1940.

Aspects of Integrity:

- Location
- Design
- Setting
- Materials
- Workmanship
- Association

Landscape Characteristic: Buildings and Structures

The McPherran Compound includes seven extant buildings and two docks. There are essentially two layers of development. The first dates to circa 1920, when Emil Anderson built the private resort at Crystal Cove and the associated employee housing complex on Captain Kidd for George Megeath. Structures built at Captain Kidd during this period include McPherran Sleeping Cabin II, McPherran Tool Shed, and the non-extant privy. It is currently unknown if there were additional structures built at this time and later removed. The second layer dates to the McPherran era of occupation and is focused on the period between 1935 and 1940. Buildings added to the landscape during this period include McPherran Cottage, McPherran Sleeping Cabin I, McPherran Boat House, McPherran Bath House, and the non-extant woodshed. McPherran Sleeping Cabin III is the only building evaluated to be noncontributing, as its presence postdates the end of the period of significance by twenty years. The dock complex originated circa 1920 and likely developed and evolved over subsequent decades. The docks are evaluated as contributing.

The McPherran Cottage (HS-300) was built between 1935 and 1936 by Wayne McPherran and his son William as the main summer residence for the family. It is a 24' x 14' one story gable rolled asphalt roofed structure with exposed pole rafter tails, peeled log walls of spruce and tamarack that feature tight saddle notching. The door is centered on the front eave with a gutter above it and there are six light casement windows in pairs. There is an exterior stone chimney centered on the west elevation. There is a small plank and board porch at the front entrance. One of the porch steps is poured concrete with greenstones embedded in the surface for decorative effect. The structure is generally stable although many of the logs are beginning to show substantial deterioration.

The McPherran Sleeping Cabin I (HS-301A) was built by Emil Anderson circa 1920. It is a one story frame structure with a central pyramidal hipped asphalt shingled roof and two opposing shed additions on the east and west elevations. The original pyramidal section measures 8' x 8', features shiplap siding, and two large one-over-one windows to the right of the entry. This structure is believed to have been originally built as part of the Megeath Compound at Crystal Cove and then relocated to Captain Kidd Island in 1940 following NPS acquisition of Amygdaloid Island. The two additions were built following the relocation, with one dating to circa 1975. A 2010 site visit documented that the eastern shed addition had collapsed. The slab foundation and roof are still present but no longer functional.

The McPherran Sleeping Cabin II (HS-301) was built by Emil Anderson in 1922. It is a one story, two room duplex rectangular structure with a hipped roof, peeled log walls with tight saddle notch construction that is quarter round at the interstices. There are two entrances on the north façade to each room. The room divider is constructed of logs with ends that project through the outer facades. The doors are of panel construction and there are six over six double hung windows.

The McPherran Sleeping Cabin III (HS-301B) was built by Emil Anderson circa 1916-1917. It is a one story, 12' x 12' log structure with a pyramidal hipped roof covered with rolled asphalt. The log walls feature tight saddle notch construction that has quarter round joints at the interstices. There is an eight-panel door centered on the eave and pairs of six-light windows with screen additions on both the north and south facades. The cabin was originally located on nearby Clay Island and was moved to Captain Kidd Island circa 1960. Because the structure was added to the landscape around twenty years after the end of the period of significance, it is not considered to be a contributing feature. However, because it was built by Anderson slightly before his Megeath constructions and it is of a conforming design, it does not overtly detract from the historic landscape.

The McPherran Boat House (HS-301C) was built by Wayne McPherran circa 1940. The one story frame structure features a gable roof with asphalt shingles. It is built of salvaged vertical board siding, includes a side shed addition and horizontal board doors with rope pulls. It functions as a storage facility and housing for the winch equipment. The associated winch is tied to a tree uphill from the rear of the boat house.

The light attached to the exterior southeast corner was salvaged by Wayne McPherren from the wrecked steamer Emperor in 1947 (Oikarinen 1979, 91).

The McPherren Bath House (HS-301D) was built by Emil Anderson in 1920. It is a one story, one room square structure with a pyramidal hipped roof with pole rafters. The roofing is a combination of shingled and rolled asphalt. It partially rests on two log sills and has peeled log walls with saddle notching that is quarter rounded at the interstices. There is a paneled door on the south elevation with two over two windows on the north elevation. There are tile pipes that run from under the building to the lake. This structure is believed to have originally been part of the Megeath Compound at Crystal Cove and later relocated to Captain Kidd Island in 1940 following NPS acquisition of Amygdaloid Island.

The McPherren Tool Shed (HS-302) was built circa 1920, likely by Emil Anderson. It is a one story, one room, square structure that features an asphalt shingled pyramidal hipped roof with pole rafters. The structure is of peeled log walls with saddle notching that is quarter round at the interstices. The opening is on the rear wall and may have been larger historically, but has been later replaced with a smaller six light window with a mismatched six light screen. The sills are deteriorating and the walls are sagging while the structure as a whole is set directly onto the ground.

The McPherren Docks (HS-303C), originally built in the 1920s and 1930s, are of wooden planks on log crib construction and located in the shallow cove off the northern tip of the island. One of the docs was a heavy wooden platform formerly used in logging operations that Wayne McPherren salvaged from Little Todd Harbor and towed home (Oikarinen 1979, 91). Due to environmental conditions, including the destructive force of ice during the harsh Isle Royale winter months, the docks have been repaired and rebuilt multiple times over the decades. There have been as many as three docks. Currently only two are extant, while the crib ruins of the third remain visible in the water.

The privy, no longer extant, was a one story square plan structure featuring horizontal peeled log walls with saddle notching and a vertical board door. It was located to the west of sleeping cabins II and III. Photographic evidence of the privy shows it to be of a similar style of log construction to other structures built by Emil Anderson. It likely dated to 1920, as part of Megeath's employee housing complex. The privy was observed to be in poor condition as late as 2000. A 2010 site visit documented the structure to no longer be standing.

The woodshed, also no longer extant, was a one story, one room, rectangular plan structure with a shed roof and exposed rafter tails. The walls featured vertical board siding with some horizontal board overlay and the door was of vertical board construction with a z brace. The shed is estimated to have been built between the 1930s and 1940s. The structure was observed to be in fair condition as late as 2000. A 2010 site visit documented the structure, like the privy, to no longer be standing.

Character-Defining Features:

Feature: McPherren Cottage
Contributing? Yes
LCS Structure Name: Captain Kidd Island - McPherren Cottage
LCS ID Number 73204
LCS Historic Structure Number: HS-300

Locational Data:

UTM Source: GPS - Uncorrected Datum: NAD 83 Point Type: Point
Zone: 16 Easting: 383,428 Northing: 5,335,936



McPherren Cottage (Shafer/NPS 2010).

Feature: McPherren Sleeping Cabin I
Contributing? Yes
LCS Structure Name: Captain Kidd Island - McPherren Sleeping Cabin I
LCS ID Number 73205
LCS Historic Structure Number: HS-301A

Locational Data:

UTM Source: GPS - Uncorrected Datum: NAD 83 Point Type: Point
Zone: 16 Easting: 383,443 Northing: 5,335,995



Sleeping Cabin I (Shafer/NPS 2010).

Feature: McPherren Sleeping Cabin II
Contributing? Yes
LCS Structure Name: Captain Kidd Island - McPherren Sleeping Cabin II
LCS ID Number 73206
LCS Historic Structure Number: HS-301

Locational Data:

UTM Source: GPS - Uncorrected Datum: NAD 83 Point Type: Point
Zone: 16 Easting: 383,433 Northing: 5,335,951



Sleeping Cabin II (Shafer/NPS 2010).

Feature: McPherren Sleeping Cabin III
Contributing? Yes
LCS Structure Name: Captain Kidd Island - McPherren Sleeping Cabin III
LCS ID Number 73207
LCS Historic Structure Number: HS-301B

Locational Data:

UTM Source: GPS - Uncorrected Datum: NAD 83 Point Type: Point
Zone: 16 Easting: 383,429 Northing: 5,335,962



Sleeping Cabin III (Shafer/NPS 2010).

Feature: McPherren Boat House
Contributing? Yes
LCS Structure Name: Captain Kidd Island - McPherren Boat House and Winch
LCS ID Number 73208
LCS Historic Structure Number: HS-301C

Locational Data:

UTM Source: GPS - Uncorrected Datum: NAD 83 Point Type: Point
Zone: 16 Easting: 383,459 Northing: 5,335,995



McPherren Boat House (Shafer/NPS 2010).

Feature: McPherren Bath House
Contributing? Yes
LCS Structure Name: Captain Kidd Island - McPherren Bath House
LCS ID Number 73209
LCS Historic Structure Number: HS-301D

Locational Data:

UTM Source: GPS - Uncorrected Datum: NAD 83 Point Type: Point
Zone: 16 Easting: 383,425 Northing: 5,335,960



McPherren Bath House (Shafer/NPS 2010).

Feature: McPherren Tool Shed
Contributing? Yes
LCS Structure Name: Captain Kidd Island - McPherren Tool Shed
LCS ID Number 73210
LCS Historic Structure Number: HS-302

Locational Data:

UTM Source: GPS - Uncorrected Datum: NAD 83 Point Type: Point
Zone: 16 Easting: 383,440 Northing: 5,335,981



McPherren Tool Shed (Shafer/NPS 2010).

Feature: McPherren Docks (2)

Contributing? Yes

LCS Structure Name: N/A - Not Listed

Locational Data:

UTM Source: GPS - Uncorrected Datum: NAD 83 Point Type: Point

Zone: 16 Easting: 383,477 Northing: 5,335,989



Dock on the north side of the cove (Shafer/NPS 2010).



Dock on the westside of the cove, near the boat house (Shafer/NPS 2010).

Landscape Characteristic: Circulation

Circulation patterns throughout the McPherran Compound are limited to minimal footpaths. Boats provided to sole means of access to the island, establishing the sheltered cove with its docks as the entry point to the landscape. Two footpaths, on either side of the boat house, run up the hill from the cove to the main cluster of buildings. Within the complex of structures, worn pathways developed naturally as the most expedient routes from point A to point B. Pathways also led to points of interest. For example, a trail leads out of the complex to the south where a wooden bench is set atop a scenic overlook of the Amygdaloid Channel.

It is likely that the landscape was generally better kempt than it is currently and paths were better defined. There is no evidence, however, that there was much additional supporting infrastructure such as stair systems, railings, or boardwalks. The extant patterns of circulation are evaluated to essentially retain their historic integrity.

Character-Defining Feature:

Feature: Path from Cottage to Boathouse

Contributing? Yes

LCS Structure Name: N/A - Not Listed

Locational Data:

UTM Source: GPS - Uncorrected Datum: NAD 83 Point Type: Linear

1. Zone: 16 Easting: 383,439 Northing: 5,335,969

2. Zone: 16 Easting: 383,462 Northing: 5,335,980



East-facing view of the path from the cottage to the boat house (Shafer/NPS 2010).



West-facing view of the path from the cottage to the boat house (Shafer/NPS 2010).

Landscape Characteristic: Small-Scale Features

There are a few small scale features extant on the McPherren Compound at Captain Kidd Island. There is a bronze ringing bell located north of the McPherren Cottage that appears to be in good condition. Standing at about two feet tall, this bell could have been used to signal others at the complex to come together for meals or gatherings. The bell originally came from Belle Isle and most likely arrived at Captain Kidd in the 1940's. It contributes to the landscape because of its function and retains high integrity.

The Flagpole (HS-302B) is a steel pole attached to a seven-foot tree base. There is a pulley at the top, with the rope, chains, and clips still attached. During a 2010 site visit however, the pole was no longer standing upright but instead leaning at an extreme angle. It is considered to be in poor condition but retains high integrity as part of the complex.

Other small scale features include a boat winch that is attached to the rear of the boat house. Due to weatherization and deterioration, the winch is in fair condition. Another small feature is the small box garden that is located next to the McPherren Cottage. This indicates that the McPherrens grew plants close to the house that varied from the vegetation elsewhere on the island. The garden is overgrown, but in overall fair condition.

Feature: McPherren Flag Pole
Contributing? Yes
LCS Structure Name: Captain Kidd Island - McPherren Flag Pole
LCS ID Number 73213
LCS Historic Structure Number: HS-302B

Locational Data:

UTM Source: GPS - Uncorrected Datum: NAD 83 Point Type: Point
Zone: 16 Easting: 383,453 Northing: 5,336,000



McPherren Flag Pole (Shafer/NPS 2010).

Feature: McPherren Boathouse Winch
Contributing? Yes
LCS Structure Name: Captain Kidd Island - McPherren Boat House and Winch
LCS ID Number 73208
LCS Historic Structure Number: HS-301C
Locational Data:
UTM Source: GPS - Uncorrected Datum: NAD 83 Point Type: Point
Zone: 16 Easting: 383,453 Northing: 5,335,982



Winch to the rear of the boat house (Shafer/NPS 2010).

Feature: McPherren Cottage Box Garden

Contributing? Yes

LCS Structure Name: N/A - Not Listed

Locational Data:

UTM Source: GPS - Uncorrected

Datum: NAD 83

Point Type: Point

Zone: 16 Easting: 383,428

Northing: 5,335,963



Box garden next to the McPherren Cottage (Shafer/NPS 2010).

Feature: McPherren Stone Fire Pit

Contributing? Yes

LCS Structure Name: N/A - Not Listed

Locational Data:

UTM Source: GPS - Uncorrected

Datum: NAD 83

Point Type: Point

Zone: 16 Easting: 383,445

Northing: 5,335,974



Stone fire pit to the front of the McPherren Cottage (Shafer/NPS 2010).

Feature: McPherren Bell
Contributing? Undetermined
LCS Structure Name: N/A - Not Listed

Locational Data:

UTM Source: GPS - Uncorrected Datum: NAD 83 Point Type: Point
Zone: 16 Easting: 383,450 Northing: 5,335,976



McPherren Bell (Gladstone/NPS 2010).

Feature: McPherren Boats

Contributing? Undetermined

LCS Structure Name: N/A - Not Listed

Locational Data:

UTM Source: GPS - Uncorrected

Datum: NAD 83

Point Type: Point

Zone: 16 Easting: 383,461

 Northing: 5,335,972



McPherren Boats (Shafer/NPS 2010).

Landscape Characteristic: Spatial Organization

The spatial organization of the Captain Kidd complex centers in a very tight area at the tip of the island. Access to the water was key, thus all of the structures are no more than 50 meters away. The cluster entails the McPherren Cottage and sleeping cabins near the center of the cluster, whereas the outbuildings surround them in close proximity. The historic cluster includes all of the remaining structures, and although some buildings including the bath house, sleeping cabins I and III were moved to the island, it does not detract from its integrity since they were from the same builder for the same family, and reveals how a historic private camp functioned.



Satellite image of the McPherren Compound at Captain Kidd Island (Google Earth 2011).

Landscape Characteristic: Topography

The Isle Royale archipelago topography is patterned as “a series of long parallel ridges and valleys” that run northeast southwest (Huber 1983, 5). Amygdaloid Island follows this larger pattern. The McPherran Compound is at the northeast point of a narrow ridgeline that runs the length of the island. The bedrock of the immediate landscape is an alluvial mix of clay, silt, gravel, and sand deposits (Huber 1983, 30-31). The terrain of the point is rugged and rocky, lending to a dramatic coastline. The McPherran Compound is at the most advantageous location for a camp, as it is next to the only sheltered cove to be found on the island.



View of the northeast end of Captain Kidd Island from the Amygdaloid Channel (Shafer/NPS 2010)

Landscape Characteristic: Vegetation

The vegetation of Captain Kidd Island is a defining characteristic of the landscape. White spruce and balsam fir cover much of the island and tall stands of the trees are predominant natural features of the McPherran Compound. Cleared areas are generally covered with a mixture of scrub and tall grasses.

Due to a lack of documentation, the degree to which the current vegetation reflects the historic landscape is unknown. While it is most likely that the grounds received regular maintenance during the period of significance, vegetation growth now appears to be almost entirely unchecked. A weed-filled wooden garden box adjacent to the McPherran Cottage indicates that at least some level of horticultural activity was once a summer pursuit.



The landscape exhibits a mixture of fir tree stands, tall grasses, and scrub brush (Shafer/NPS 2010).

Landscape Characteristic: Views and Vistas

The location of the McPherren Compound along the crest of a ridge at the northeastern end of Captain Kidd Island allows for stellar views across Lake Superior from a number of vantage points. To the north is the open expanse of the lake with the Canadian mainland visible along the horizon. To the east and south is the Isle Royale archipelago across the Amygdaloid Channel. Rocky outcrops and fir trees often frame the viewsheds. The expansive views of Isle Royale's surrounding natural landscape reinforce the enduring appeal of the area's isolated wilderness character. The scenic qualities that attracted families such as the Megeaths, Nixons, and McPherrens remain preserved intact.



Northeast-facing view from the dock area (Shafer/NPS 2010).



North-facing view from the flagpole area (Shafer/NPS 2010).

Chapter 8: Condition and Treatment

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Poor

Assessment Date: 6/27/2013

Condition Explanatory Narrative

The landscape is evaluated to be in poor condition because every structure exhibits evidence substantial deterioration. This is generally the result of buildings that have lasted beyond their intended life expectancy, but not received adequate routine maintenance or preservation efforts. For most of the structures, replacing all of the rotten wood would essentially result in entirely new buildings. Comprehensive impacts include exposure to elements, structural deterioration, and encroaching vegetation.

Treatment

Treatment of the McPherran Compound cultural landscape will be determined by park management, based on the identified preferred alternative in the finalized Cultural Resource Management Plan.

Bibliography

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Supplemental Information

Title: Warranty Deed, 01/29/1940.

Description: Warranty Deed transferring the 20.6 acres of Captain Kidd Island from Wayne and Marjorie McPherren to the United States of America for the price of \$430.63.

Office of County Treasurer,
Keweenaw County,
Eagle River, Mich. Jan 31 1947
I hereby certify that there are no
claims or other titles held by
any person against the same, and
that the same are free from all
taxes and other charges, and
that the same are in full payment
of all taxes and other charges
due and owing to the State of
Michigan, A. D. 1947
and shown in the records of this office.

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and that they will, and their heirs, executors, administrators, shall, warrant and defend the same, against all lawful claims whatsoever.

In witness whereof, the said parties of the first part have hereunto set their hand and seals, the day and year first above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of
W. P. Cunningham }
Lucius Jones }
Wayne McPherron [l. s.]
Marjorie J. McPherron [l. s.]

STATE OF NEBRASKA,
COUNTY OF DOUGLAS ss.

On this 29 day of January in the year one thousand nine hundred and forty before me, a Notary Public in and for said county, personally appeared Wayne McPherron and Marjorie J. McPherron, husband and wife

to me known to be the same person described in and who executed the within instrument, who have acknowledged the same to be their free act and deed.

E. L. Jones
Notary Public, Douglas County, Nebraska
My commission expires Dec 31 1947


WARRANTY DEED
State of Nebraska
WAYNE MCPHERRON and
MARJORIE J. MCPHERRON, husband
and wife of 4209 Cal. Street,
Omaha, Nebraska.
TO
The United States of America.
REGISTRY'S OFFICE,
Keweenaw County, m.
This instrument was presented and
received for record this 31st
day of January A. D. 1947
at Omaha of Nebraska, and
recorded in Liber 11 of Ureda,
on page 221 as a proper certifi-
cate was furnished in compliance with
Section 3037, Compiled Laws of 1897.
W. J. Williams
Register of Deeds.
T. J. B. & Co.
LITHO. IN U.S.A. REGISTERED
CERTIFICATE

For Sale by
Edward F. Bush Co. Civil
EN 1-78

WARRANTY DEED

This Indenture, made this twenty-ninth day of January
in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and forty
Between Wayne McPherran and Marjorie J. McPherran, husband and wife of 5205
Calif. Street, Omaha, Nebraska
parties of the first part, and
the United States of America,
party of the second part,
Witnesseth, that the said parties of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of
Four hundred thirty and sixty-three hundredths dollars,
to them in hand paid by the Isle Royale National Park Commission of Michigan, the receipt whereof is hereby
confessed and acknowledged, do by these presents grant, bargain, sell, remise, release, alien and
confirm unto the said party of the second part, and its assigns forever, all
this certain piece or parcel of land situate and being in the Township
of Toughton County of Keweenaw and State of Michigan, and
described as follows, to-wit:
Lot 1, Island No. 4 of Section 26, T8N, R34W----- 1.84 acres
Lot 2, Island No. 4 of Section 26, T8N, R34W----- 10.36 acres
Lot 4, Island No. 4 of Section 35, T8N, R34W----- 8.40 acres
Total (with improvements)----- 20.60 acres

This deed is executed and delivered with the distinct understanding
that the United States of America, by the Secretary of the Interior,
will execute and deliver to the grantors above a lease of the lands
described herein in accordance with the provisions of an option exe-
cuted by the grantors to the Isle Royale National Park Commission of
Michigan on March 20, 1939.



Together with all and singular the hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in any
wise appertaining: To have and to hold the said premises, as herein described, with the appurtenances,
unto the said party of the second part, and to its assigns forever,
And the said Wayne McPherran and Marjorie J. McPherran, husband and wife
parties of the first part, for themselves, their heirs, executors and administrators,
do covenant, grant, bargain and agree to and with the said party of the second part, its
assigns, that at the time of the sealing and delivery of these presents they are well
seized of the above-granted premises in fee simple; that they are free from all incumbrances whatever

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