

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 18 1987

DATE ENTERED APR 1 1987

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Baldwin Estate

AND/OR COMMON McGonagle Estate

**LOCATION** Approx. 2.5 mi. NW of intersection of U.S. 50 and Calif. State 89,  
on north side of Calif. State 89. Estate occupies portions of  
**STREET & NUMBER** A 1/2 of Sec. 25, Lot 1&2, T13N, R17E, and N 1/2 of Sec. 36, Same T&R.  
NOT FOR PUBLICATION

**CITY, TOWN** South Lake Tahoe VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 14th

**STATE** California **CODE** 06 **COUNTY** El Dorado **CODE** 017

**CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable) United States Forest Service--Pacific Southwest Region

**STREET & NUMBER** 630 Sansome Street

**CITY, TOWN** San Francisco **STATE** California 94111  
VICINITY OF

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. El Dorado County Recorder's Office

**STREET & NUMBER** County Administrative Building

**CITY, TOWN** Placerville **STATE** California

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

**TITLE** USDA - Forest Service Site Number 05-19-46

**DATE** 2-7-75

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

**DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS** Forest Supervisor's Office, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

**CITY, TOWN** 870 Emerald Bay Road, South Lake Tahoe, CA 95731 **STATE**

## 7 DESCRIPTION

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

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

The former Baldwin Estate contains the following structures: Main House I, Caretaker's House II, Guest Cabin V, Guest Cabin VI, Boathouse VII. (Roman numerals correspond to location of structure on the Estates Map).

#### Main House I

The Baldwin house is a wood frame log structure built approximately 1920-21. The structure is U-shaped with an interior court open to the south. It is approximately 70 feet wide, with an east wing 85 feet in length and a west wing approximately 100 feet in length. The exterior walls are cedar half-logs covered with bark. End gables are surfaced with vertical half-logs and decorative log brackets extend beyond the log fascia. The roof is shingled and the foundation is concrete.

The base of the "U" contains a two-story great hall with a full height stone fireplace, dressed log beams forming open trusses to support the massive roof, and hanging, circular wrought iron light fixtures. The walls are wide, hand-adzed wooden planks, overlaid with half-round dressed poles, to form a pattern of panels throughout this main room, the office and the dining room. Poles with larger diameters are used to frame larger openings like doors and windows. Lower rooms are ceilinged with halved dressed logs and 1 x 6 planking. The main hall truss system is tied together with metal straps. At the east end of this room, a stairway and a patterned, dressed pole balustrade leads to a balcony, dormer- ceilinged bedroom and bathroom. The two-story fireplace of the main hall has a hearth in the sitting room/den behind it. Detailing here is a little different and the natural woods are stained grey-green, as in the office.

The front entry leads directly into the main hall from the covered stone-floored porch that faces the Lake. The front door is massive, approximately 4' wide and 3" thick, with large decorative hand wrought metal straps.

The wings contain pantry areas, bedrooms and baths. These rooms were largely remodeled in the 50's and do not reflect the original interior character of the house. Four-foot wide stone walks, covered by roof overhang flank the rear entry court. Bark covered logs supported by round rock and cement piers create two colonnades leading to the main hall. A stone fountain with decorative iron work stands in the center of the court. A path defined by rows of stones leads to the west wing walkway.

Unfortunate are some later changes by the owner: the painting of the fireplace and wrought iron lighting fixtures white, the "modern" window valance in the den, the poor interior remodeling of bedrooms and bath in the southern portions of the wings. The remodeling, however, has not affected the exterior in any way and the house appears essentially as it did when built.

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Caretaker's House II

The Caretaker's House is a shingled wood frame structure, approximately 25' x 75'. It was built later than the main house, perhaps as late as 1930. Gables of the north portion face both east and west. The south portion has a gable facing west only and a small hipped and gabled roof configuration that may indicate an alteration. The north end of the building once was a garage and now serves as tool storage and work area. The central portion of the building contains stored material.

A small shed-like addition protrudes on the east side of the building. A portion of the porch has been partly enclosed to enlarge the entryway. The interior has been remodeled and the spaces ineptly divided.

Guest Cabin V

This log structure is approximately 25' x 38' and is the southernmost of the two log structures on the west side on the McGonagle property. The building is constructed of full-rounded barked logs and has a gabled roof. The spaces between the logs are filled with mortar and long, slender bark-covered poles, secured with round nails. Exposed exterior beam ends have been hand-worked on both surfaces. A gabled and shed roof entry canopy once sheltered the front door. Vestiges of tin flashing and old openings indicate its former location.

The cabin contains one bedroom, kitchen, bathroom, back porch hall and a small pantry or breakfast room. The interior ceiling and walls are covered with V-grooved wood paneling material, lightly stained and varnished. This material and the door and window frame molding detail tend to indicate an early 20th century interior date.

Guest Cabin VI

This structure is a log cabin, approximately 30' x 44' containing four bedrooms, two baths, and a central "common" area. The interior finish is lightly stained and varnished V-grooved paneling, with narrower spacing than that of Cabin V. Although the building is similar in materials to V, it has a squarer form and quite different interior room configurations.

The foundation is rock and concrete, and the roof hipped with composition shingles. Exterior log beam ends are hewn on one surface and sawn on the other. Construction techniques here are a little different from those in V, with smaller logs being used and spaces between them filled with bark-covered strips of logs rather than poles. Also, beam ends in V are hewn on both of their end surfaces. The structure has no kitchen or fireplace.

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Alterations appear to have occurred at both front and rear entries. The rear entry (facing south) was probably once a series of windows, with the door cut in later and the windows on either side closed in. Log work patching of these spaces occurs on each side of the current doorway. The original porch to the north has been enclosed, the stairs removed, the building extended and a picture window added. The alterations have been very poorly executed on both the exterior and interior, using left-over and "available" lumber scraps. Part of the original log-covered wall on each side of the porch still exists behind the current temporary plywood sheets. The porch alteration also closed the two individual entrances on each side of the porch leading to two separate units, with two bedrooms each and a bath between. These units shared a common area in the middle, a format reminiscent of the Pope and Heller Twin Cabin constructions, where the communal area is outdoors. Each of the four bedrooms in Cabin VI had its own exterior entrance.

It is possible both cabins came from Tallac. They may have remained in their original locations at the fringes of Tallac and become incorporated into the McGonagle Estate. One or both could have been moved to new foundations at their current sites. Such a move for Cabin V would probably have required the reconstruction of its massive stone fireplace.

Inasmuch as both cabins appear to be older than 1920 and were not built on their current sites before 1920 (no construction took place before that time on the Baldwin Estate), it seems unlikely either of them could have come from anywhere else than Tallac.

Comparing the two, Cabin V appears to be older and perhaps more interesting architecturally, due to its form, fireplace and interior detailing.

Boathouse VII

This structure is a small wood frame building with wide shiplap siding, cornerboards, and a corrugated metal roof. It has a simple gable roof and rectangular form, approximately 18' x 32'. Metal boat rails lead from the house to the lake, where an old boat carriage lies on the sand.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1920's	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES      1920-21 and later                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      M.A. Hollenbeck/unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architectural Significance

The Baldwin estate is both architecturally and historically significant. It is an important example of early rustic 1920 architecture of the Tahoe Basin. The design of the house appears to combine rustic traditions already expressed in the earlier Tallac cabin and complex, with the picturesque forms of medieval Scandinavian architecture--both forms well suited to this setting.

The U-shaped form of the building, creating a secluded inner court yard, is unusual and suggests medieval Scandinavian stronghold forms which served not only as defendable "forts" but as self-sufficient living complexes. The structure's impressive massing, steep gables, and the appearance of massive log construction, add substance and authority to the statement. The setting of the house is appropriate and the structure picturesque, evoking strong images of a hardy and mysterious "forest culture" of another time and place.

Its reference to European origins predate the area's ultimate example of recreated Scandinavia--Vikingsholm--by several years. As such it may be one of the earliest architectural examples of a Scandinavian tradition whose adaptations have pervaded much of the architecture of the Tahoe Basin.

The large space created within the main hall, and dominated at one end by a two story stone fireplace is impressive architecturally. However, the scaling of details and handling of decorative elements provide a transition and reference point that allows one to relate to the space and feel comfortable within it, rather than overwhelmed by its size.

The wide hand-adzed planks overlaid with dressed poles to form a decorative system of panels is unusual and serves to provide a comfortable sense of scale. The interior finishes, though rustic in theme, are carefully executed and create a fine interior. The structure is reported to have been the work of a young architect friend of Mr. Winters from the office of a well-known Los Angeles architectural firm. The work was unsupervised and the builder was M.A. Hollenbeck of Auburn.

The Baldwin house conveys a strong sense of sophisticated rustication, a mood reflecting a period when the upper class was seeking to demonstrate a lack of interest in displays of ostentatious ornateness. A "rustic retreat" of the rich such as the

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Altrocchi, Julia Cooley, The Spectacular San Franciscans  
 Anderson/Moore/Winter: California Design 1910, California Design Publications 1  
 Bancroft, Hubert H., Chronicles of the Builders, The Historical Co., 1891  
 Boghosian, Paula, McGonagle, Pope, & Heller Estates Architectural & Historical Rpt '78  
 Condition Survey of Valhalla, Pope and McGonagle Estate, USFS 1971  
 Peterson, Dan, Ala & Assoc., Cost Estimates for Preservation SLT Estates, USFS '79  
 Townley, John, South Lake Tahoe Estates: A Historical Study, 1973

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 14.43  
 UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>11</u>	<u>755945</u>	<u>4374100</u>	B	<u>11</u>	<u>756100</u>	<u>4374015</u>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<u>11</u>	<u>75591610</u>	<u>4373605</u>	D	<u>11</u>	<u>756145</u>	<u>437351610</u>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The southeast corner of the Baldwin Estate starts at a point 1675 feet west/northwest of Pope Beach Road and Hwy. 89, on the Old Placerville-Tallac Point Road. From this point it runs 650 feet west/northwest along the Old Placerville-Tallac Point Road. From there it runs 1600 feet north to the shoreline of Lake Tahoe. Then 550 feet east along the shoreline to the property line of the Pope Estate. The boundary then follows the western property line of the Pope Estate for 1625 feet south to the beginning point.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A			

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Paula Boghosian; Frank A. Magary, Pam Smith, and Richard Kraushaar

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Historic Environment Consultants; U.S. Forest Service September 30, 1985

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

2306 J Street; 870 Emerald Bay Road (916)446-2447; (916)544-6420

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Sacramento; South Lake Tahoe California 95816; 95731

# 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

### STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES  NO  NONE

*W. J. ...*  
 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

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

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

*William B. Bushong*

TITLE

AGENCY PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE

JAN 23 1987

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*William B. Bushong*  
 for DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
 ATTEST:

DATE

4/1/87

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Baldwin Estate

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Baldwin house, provided a fulfilling contrast to their more opulent urban environments. However, as much as the wealthy cherished their rustic hideaways, they refused to abandon comfort to enjoy them. Their demand for comfortable rusticity accounts to some degree for the sophistication and "finished" quality of their rural dwellings-- "elegantly rustic" dwellings insulated them to a certain degree from the sometimes brutal wilderness qualities of the site.

Caretaker's House

Architecturally, the form of the Caretaker's House is pleasant. Its three steep gables relate it stylistically to the main house. Some decoration is provided by the application of sections of pole under the eaves. This treatment is similar to that of Guest Cabin VI of the same estate. Sections of pole also extend outward at gable ends.

While the structure itself is not highly significant as an architectural work, it is attractive and gains importance as an adjunct of the main house, blending well with it in terms of style and materials.

Cabin V and Cabin VI

The age and origins of these two cabins remain unsure. Only one individual maintains they came from or were part of the Tallac complex, and his information contains conflicts. Architecturally, Cabin V's construction date appears to coincide with that of its present interior, probably late 19th or early 20th century.

The cabins are significant if they are proved to have associations to Tallac. In any event, they relate well in materials and style to the main house.

The Boathouse

As an architectural work the boathouse is not significant. Because its materials are unlike any other on the estate, it may possibly be an older remnant of either early Tahoe resort, Cascade House or Tallac.

Historical Significance

In the evaluation of the historic significance of the Baldwin estate, the importance of individuals directly associated with the properties must be reviewed and assessed. Additionally, important earlier settlements in the region should be noted due to the part they played in contributing to the existence of the present estates.

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Elias J. "Lucky" Baldwin

The Baldwin Estate bears strong ties to Elias J. "Lucky" Baldwin, wealthy 19th century business and society figure. The logs of its two guest cabins very probably came from his own earlier Tallac complex, and the impressive house was built by his granddaughter, Dextra Baldwin Winter. (Mrs. Winter later became Mrs. McGonagle, thus giving the estate its current name).

"Lucky" Baldwin was one of California's earliest and most successful entrepreneurs. His large profits from Nevada mining operations established him as a leading figure in investment circles by the 1870's. By 1875, he had purchased the large Santa Anita Rancho in San Gabriel, been elected first president of the Pacific Stock Exchange, and begun construction on his opulent San Francisco hotel. He also owned and operated a theatre there.

Baldwin's first appearance at the Lake seems to have been primarily to foreclose the mortgage on an already established modest hotel resort at Tallac Point in 1877, although he had begun buying land in the area several years earlier. In 1881 Baldwin decided to enlarge the Tallac Point House. He purchased additional land and expanded the resort until by the turn of the century, Tallac House, now an elegant resort complex, had achieved a widespread, reputedly international reputation. It appears to have become one of the west's equivalents to wealthy eastern resorts in the Catskill and Pocono Mountains, and along the eastern coast.

Visitation to the lake dwindled after the first world war and the Tallac structures were removed in the 1920's by Anita Baldwin McClaughry, Baldwin's daughter.



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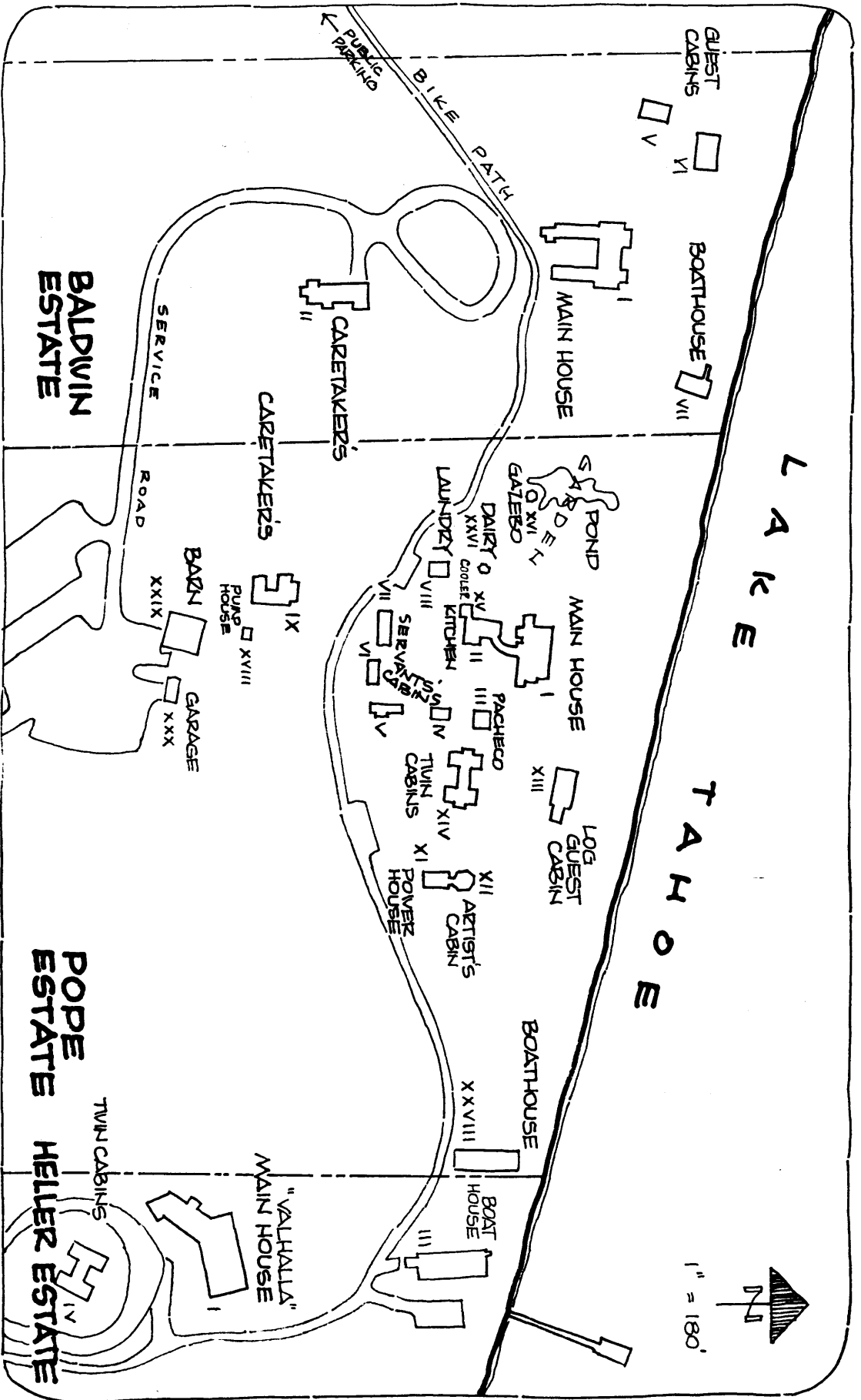
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This boundary description coincides with that portion of the larger Baldwin family holdings which were held by Anita Baldwin McClaury and her daughter Dextra Baldwin McGonagle until coming into public ownership in 1969. The boundaries retain historic integrity, although the construction of present-day Highway 89 apparently resulted in fences being moved across the old Placerville-Tallac Point county road out to the new roadway. The proposed National Register boundary reflects the situation which existed during the early years of the property.



THE TALLAC HISTORIC SITE • U.S. FOREST SERVICE • LAKE TAHOE BASIN

Baldwin Estate  
 UTM References  
 A-10/N4,314,100; E755,945  
 B-10/N4,314,055; E756,100  
 C-10/N4,313,605; E755,960  
 D-10/N4,313,560; E756,145

