Form No. 10-306 (Rev. 10-74)

N. H. L. - ARCHITECTURE IN THE PARKS

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
DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC: Great Northern Railway Buildings (Preferred)

AND/OR COMMON: Many Glacier Hotel, Sperry and Granite Park Chalets, and the Two Medicine Store

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER:

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN: Glacier National Park __ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 1st

STATE: Montana

CODE: 30

COUNTY: Glacier and Flathead

CODE: 035 and 029

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
X DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED (seasonally)	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
__BUILDING(S)	__PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	X BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	X YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	X OTHER: Tourist Accomodations and Camp Store

4 AGENCY (Glacier Park, Incorporated address on continuation sheet)

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: *(If applicable)*
National Park Service -- Rocky Mountain Regional Office

STREET & NUMBER:
655 Parfet Street, P. O. Box 25287

CITY, TOWN: Denver ___ VICINITY OF

STATE: Colorado

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: National Park Service - Rocky Mountain Regional Office

STREET & NUMBER:
655 Parfet Street, P. O. Box 25287

CITY, TOWN: Denver

STATE: Colorado

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE: 1) National Register of Historic Places (Many Glacier, Sperry and Granite Park)
2) List of Classified Structures

DATE: 1) 1976
2) 1975

X FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: National Park Service

CITY, TOWN: Washington

STATE: D. C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
_EXCELLENT	_DETERIORATED	_UNALTERED	XORIGINAL SITE
XGOOD Chalets and store	_RUINS	XALTERED	_MOVED DATE_____
XFAIR (Hotel)	_UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Included in this Landmark nomination are the major remaining structures left from the Great Northern Railway developments within the boundaries of Glacier National Park: The Many Glacier Hotel, Sperry and Granite Park Chalets, and the Two Medicine Chalet (now the Two Medicine Store). The hotel is used seasonally as a major tourist hotel; Sperry and Granite Park Chalets are backcountry developments used seasonally by hikers and trail riders. The Two Medicine Store is open seasonally as a campers' store. Outside the park boundaries and thus outside the scope of this project are the Belton Chalets and railroad station at West Glacier and the Glacier Park Hotel complex and railroad station at East Glacier--all part of the same Great Northern story and excellent examples of chalet style architecture. Landmark status for these structures should be pursued. The Cut Bank, Goathaunt, Sunpoint, St. Mary, Gunsight, Many Glacier Chalets and one of the Two Medicine Chalets no longer exist.

The largest structure of the entire group is the Many Glacier Hotel on the edge of Swiftcurrent Lake in the northeastern quadrant of Glacier National Park. The enormous building with its multiple wings and additions stretches a great distance along the lakeshore. The building is up to four stories in height and designed as a series of chalets. Principal building materials are stone for foundations and the basements walls of the original wing, with wood-frame superstructures. Of particular note is the stone basement walls of the basement story of the original portion of the building. The rugged texture of the rough rubble masonry and the segmentally arched openings add considerable interest to the structure. The exterior walls are finished with brown-painted wood siding. Windows are framed with moldings cut in Swiss jigsawn designs. The principal moldings and window frames are painted white with additional yellow jigsawn detailing. Considerable variation appears in the rooflines. The gable roofs often have clipped-gable ends. Multiple dormers and hip roofs add further interest to the rooflines. The roofs are all finished with wood shingles. Each wing of the hotel has balconies, many of which now serve as fire escapes. The balcony railings are wood, sawn in jigsawn patterns found in chalet architecture.

The original wing of the hotel--now the center of the hotel--was constructed during 1914 and 1915. Annex Number 1 to the north containing more guest rooms and the dining room and kitchen was constructed shortly afterwards. Annex Number 2 was constructed in 1917 south of the original section and connected to it by a spire-topped enclosed breezeway. In the 1950s the porte-cochere

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION	
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE	
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE	
__1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER	
__1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION	
X 1900-Present	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	X OTHER (SPECIFY) Tourism	
		__INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1914-15-Present 1913-14-Present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Many Glacier - Thomas D. McMahon Granite Park- Samuel L. Bartlett Sperry-Cutter and Malmgren Two Medicine-Samuel L. Bartlett

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The development funded by the Great Northern Railway in Glacier National Park is unique in National Park architecture. The Great Northern, under directions from its President Louis Hill, chose a distinct architectural style--the Swiss Chalet--and constructed all of its development within the park in that style. The buildings that remain are one of the largest collections of Swiss chalet structures in the United States. Also, Hill's ideas for his railroad's development within the park was based on a European type of system where major resort hotels were linked with backcountry chalets by a system of hiking and riding trails. This system was the first of its kind in a national park. What remains of the system is still in use. On a regional level of significance, Hill's assistance in the construction of roads and trails in the park was a substantial contribution to the development of Glacier National Park.

Granite Park chalet has additional local significance in park history and folklore as the location for some of the events of a night in August, 1967, when two young women were killed in the park by grizzlies--the first such documented incidents to happen since Glacier was established as a national park. The isolated incidents occurred at Granite Park and at Trout Lake, about ten miles apart. A grizzly killed one woman at Trout Lake. That same night a grizzly--believed to be a different bear than the Trout Lake bear--mauled a young man and killed a woman at Granite Park, within a very short distance of the chalet. Reporter Jack Olsen documented the incidents in his fast-paced, dramatic book Night of the Grizzlies.

Glacier National Park was established in 1910, pushed through the legislative process under the considerable influence of the president of the Great Northern Railway, Louis Hill. Hill's railroad ran along what became the southern edge of the new park. Following the pattern set by the Northern Pacific in Yellowstone and the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe at Grand Canyon, Hill knew that the creation of a destination resort at his park would

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheets

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Many Glacier Hotel: 4.5 acres
Sperry: 1.91 acres
Granite Park: .83 acres
Two Medicine: .7 acres

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
Many Glacier A	12	304900	5408050
B	12	296375	5405450 Granite Park
Sperry C	12	294675	5387075
D	12	345000	5372610 Two Medicine

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheets

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

The boundaries are non-contiguous and are in the immediate vicinities of the buildings. They do not overlap.

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Laura Soullière Harrison Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION
National Park Service - Southwest Regional Office

DATE

STREET & NUMBER
P.O. Box 728

TELEPHONE
(505) 988-6787

CITY OR TOWN
Santa Fe

STATE
New Mexico

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES____ NO____ NONE____

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 ____National ____State ____Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

GPO 899-214

at the entrance was built, topped again with a spire similar to that of the breezeway at the south. During that same remodelling the kitchen facilities were updated, bathrooms were added to all of the guest rooms, and the original spiral staircase that led from the lobby to the basement was removed to create a lobby space for a gift shop. The exposed ceiling in the dining room also was covered with a suspended ceiling.

The interior of the building continues the Swiss alpine theme established on the exterior. The lobby, the most impressive space of the building, has four stories of balconies surrounding its rectangular edges. The balcony railings again are patterned after Swiss designs. Enormous logs supporting the balconies and portions of the roof structure extend from the floor of the lobby to the ceiling. The peeled logs are topped with capitals that give the building a formal, classical air. A round copper fireplace with a painted metal chimney stack is at the north end of the lobby, suspended by cables from the wood structural system. The south end of the lobby space contains the gift shop, of new construction. Most of the interior walls in the public spaces have a board-and-batten wainscotting with a painted wall finish (fiberboard) battened in rectangles above. Doors to guest rooms have exposed reinforcing of X-patterned wood slats, with one "X" above the other like dutch doors. Small red and white painted crosses similar to the Swiss flag have been tacked on each door.

The building's Swiss feeling remains in the architectural elements and is reinforced by the decor. Placemats on the tables in the large dining room still promote this "...Alpine hostelry...in the Switzerland of North America...The hotel boasts a true Swiss atmosphere from the Alpine beauty which surrounds the building to the decor of the striking lobby."

The remaining chalets inside the park boundary are scattered in the central and eastern portions of the park. Note that the use of the term "chalet" refers in a general sense to the remaining buildings of the chalet complexes. However, the term is also applied to specific structures of differing functions in each of the chalet complexes at Sperry and Granite Park. The northernmost of the chalets is at Granite Park and is reached by hiking trails.

Granite Park chalet development, constructed in 1914, consists of a dormitory and a "chalet" used as dining hall, resident living

quarters, and guest rooms. Both the dormitory and the chalet are included in this nomination. The complex is below Swiftcurrent Pass at the edge of a sub-alpine meadow with scenic views of the McDonald Valley, the Livingstone Range, and the southern areas of the park.

The chalet is the largest of the two structures and is a two-story building with a gable roof. The chalet was designed by architect Samuel L. Bartlett. The building is rectangular in plan, with two additions--one of stone and one of log construction added on the back. Other additions at the rear of the building that were constructed in 1924 have been removed. The gable roof is built of pole rafters and 1" decking exposed on the interior and finished on the exterior with wood shingles. The native stone walls of the building are of random rubble masonry bonded with cement mortar. Window and door openings have keystoned lintels with slight arches. The front elevation of the building is symmetrical and overlooks the most scenic vistas. The two-story porch of log construction on the front elevation provides a shaded spot for hikers to rest on the ground floor, and access to guest rooms above. At the rear of the building another two-story porch between the two additions is used as a service porch for the kitchen while the staircase provides access to additional guest rooms above. All of the logs used in the building are of local origin. Doors into the building are tongue-and-groove set in herringbone patterns. Most of the windows are multi-light casements.

The first floor of the building houses the dining room, kitchen, bedroom, storeroom, and small bathroom. The second story contains simple guest rooms and employee quarters. Interior floors are flagstone on the first floor and wood above, and interior partition walls are vertically placed half logs. The flagstone used in the floors retains sedimentary ripple marks from the natural formation. The log joists of the second story extend through the stone walls and serve as the joists for the front and rear porches.

The dormitory is a smaller one-story structure of stone construction, built in 1913 and designed by architect Thomas D. McMahon. The rubble masonry of the walls has the same rough texture as that of the chalet. The roof is finished with wood shingles. The dormitory is divided into a series of six separate bedrooms, partitioned by interior log walls. The floors are flagstone. The ceiling is plank decking. The door and window

openings have slightly arched lintels, harking back to the character of the stonework in the adjacent chalet, in the Many Glacier Hotel and in Sperry chalet. The building has a humble, yet identifiable character.

Two changes to the historic scene are the stone-veneered comfort station (1965, 1975 addition) and a small composting pit toilet, both of more recent construction.

The two buildings of the Sperry chalet complex are the dormitory and the dining hall. The chalet development is reached only by trail, just as Granite Park is. The complex sits in a glacial cirque, surrounded by enormous peaks where the geology is readily exposed by the lack of vegetation in the steep, sub-alpine region.

The largest and most architecturally impressive structure of the two is the dormitory, covered by a large gable roof pierced by two dormers on each side of the gable that shelter small log-framed balconies. The roofs are finished with wood shingles. The random rubble masonry of the walls have some stones that extend up to a foot out from the rest of the wall in distorted shapes in the way that clinker bricks extend out from brick walls. On the corners of the structure the quoins alternate in their extensions out from the walls in the way that log ends extend. This use of materials adds a textural ruggedness. Window and door openings again have arched lintels, reminiscent of the other Great Northern buildings. One of the gable ends of this structure has the letters "G.N.Ry."--standing for Great Northern Railway--laid out in light-colored stone that contrasts with the redder stone of the rest of the structure.

The building contains 23 guest rooms, reached by a first floor lobby access and interior staircases. Interior partition walls are cedar tongue-and-groove boards set in between the structural log framing. Ceilings are the same material. Floors are wide boards, painted grey. The rustic railings of the interior staircases and exterior balconies are peeled logs. The existing balconies and the deck along the west side of the structure are not original. The original balconies deteriorated badly and were removed and replaced with the present balconies in 1978-79. The building was designed by Cutter and Malmgren and constructed in 1914. The stonework, arched fenestration, and the log detailing in the brackets and balconies give the building a quality of design and character unique to a backcountry structure.

The kitchen building for the Sperry Chalet development is a simpler stone structure that is rectangular in plan. The rubble masonry has stones of considerably smaller sizes than those used in the dormitory and lacks the exceptionally fine design quality, but it does serve its purpose in its simplicity. The gable roof of the low, rectangular structure is finished with wood shingles. A small deck of recent construction wraps around the south and west exterior walls, overlooking beautiful views toward Lake McDonald, about seven miles to the west. The window and door openings again have the gentle segmental arches which immediately identify the structure as a Great Northern building. Some of the kitchen windows are covered with "bearproofing" grates of long wood strips with the three exposed sides covered with the business ends of large nails to discourage the local grizzlies.

The interior of the building, like its exterior, is of simple design. The stone walls remain exposed on the interior, as are the simple roof trusses. The original roofing system was of peeled lodgepole pine, but it was replaced in recent years. The floors are varnished wood. Partitions for the kitchen space are of beaded tongue-and-groove siding on wood frame walls. The east wall of the building contains a fireplace. The building was constructed in 1913.

The last of the remaining chalet developments within the boundary of Glacier National Park is the Two Medicine store, formerly the dining hall for the Two Medicine Chalet complex. Unlike the other stone chalet buildings, Two Medicine was of log construction--and is the only one remaining of a series of log chalet buildings.

The enormous log structure is generally rectangular in plan. The main roof is a gable with clipped ends and shed roofs of varying angles projecting directly out of the roof ridge. The roof is finished with wood shingles. The symmetrical front elevation at the south gable end had a two-story log porch. The second story of the porch is reached only from the interior of the building. The structure's log walls are stained a deep brown. Moldings around the multi-light wood frame windows are painted white.

On the interior the building retains its original configurations and most of its original finishes. The log roof structure is exposed and the log walls retain their original light-colored cement chinking. The large open room, formerly the main dining

hall, still has one original set of table and chairs, while the other furnishings for the new snack bar are of recent origin. The small balcony overlooking the main room and with its staircase providing access to the upstairs employee rooms has a peeled log railing. The original kitchen area is used for storage and as part of the kitchen area for the new snackbar. The original wood floor is covered with linoleum tile. The building was designed by architect Samuel Bartlett and has changed very little since its construction in 1914.

tremendously increase revenues from passenger traffic on his main lines. The Northern Pacific in 1903 had funded the construction of Old Faithful Inn at Yellowstone. The Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe had financed El Tovar, Hopi House, and Hermit's Rest at Grand Canyon. What both of those railroads had done, and what Hill wanted to accomplish, was to build resorts in architectural styles that would create images--buildings that would be noteworthy and memorable in their own right. All of the railroads used architecture as a marketing strategy to enhance the visitors' stay at these scenic wonders. Distinctive architecture contributed to the sense of place, and these "places" could be reached in comfort only by rail.

While working on establishing Glacier as a national park, Hill promoted the area as the "American Alps." To him, it was only logical that the single architectural theme befitting the new park was the Swiss Chalet style. Between 1910 and 1915 the Great Northern Railway and its wholly-owned subsidiary, the Glacier Park Hotel Company, constructed two enormous luxury hotels and a series of backcountry chalet developments. The major hotels, the Glacier Park and the Many Glacier, were the core structures. The chalets of log and stone construction, and informal tent camps were placed in the backcountry within an easy day's ride or hike of either one of the major hotels or of each other.

Following the European manner of chalet development was a new twist to railroad developments in national parks (or areas soon to be designated as national parks). The Northern Pacific's development at Yellowstone included only one architecturally remarkable structure--Old Faithful Inn. Their other hotels were, for the most part, directly out of the mainstream of contemporary American hotel design, and access to all of them was by stage from the railroad terminal. The Santa Fe pursued a tremendous variety in their architecture. They built a handsome log depot, a "Norwegian-Swiss" hotel (El Tovar), with a duplicate of a Hopi Pueblo within one hundred yards. But again access was relatively sophisticated. The Great Northern development at Glacier used one architectural theme and extensive backcountry development that encouraged the visitors to leave the luxury of the enormous hotels and experience the American alps by more rustic means. Hill's choice of not only a style, but also a system, gave an enormous architectural unity and sense of place to an entire region of immense proportions, rather than creating an identity in a single small niche of a park.

Hill's system of chalets has suffered over the years. Some of the chalets were demolished and others were destroyed by avalanches. The buildings of his elaborate system that remain within the park--the Many Glacier Hotel, the Sperry and Granite Park Chalet developments, and the Two Medicine Store--are exceptional examples of that architectural system that still create that alpine character of Glacier National Park.

Buchholtz, C.W. Man in Glacier. West Glacier, Montana: Glacier Natural History Association, 1976.

Glacier Park Foundation. A History of Many Glacier Hotel. Minneapolis: Glacier Park Foundation, 1985.

Law, Henry G. Historic Resource Study, Part II (Architectural Survey), Glacier National Park, Montana. Denver: National Park Service, 1977.

McMillon, Bill. The Old Hotels & Lodges of Our National Parks. South Bend, Indiana: The Icarus Press, 1983.

Newell, Alan, David Walter, and James R. McDonald. Historic Resources Study, Glacier National Park and Historic Structures Survey. Denver: National Park Service, Denver Service Center, 1980.

Runte, Alfred. Trains of Discovery: Western Railroads and the National Parks. Flagstaff: Northland Press, 1984.

Tweed, William C., Laura E. Soulliere, and Henry G. Law. National Park Service Rustic Architecture: 1916-1942. San Francisco: National Park Service, Western Regional Office, 1977.

Boundaries

Many Glacier. The boundary, as shown on the enlcosed sketch map, begins at the intersection of the Boat Storage Access Road approximately 90 feet south of the south wing of the hotel, then proceeds due west 100 feet to the lake shore, then follows the shoreline in a northerly direction to a point 100 feet north of the north wing of the hotel, then due east to the eastern edge of the Hotel Access Road, then following the access road to the intersection of the Boat Storage Access Road, then following the southeast edge of that road to the starting point.

Granite Park. The boundary, as shown on the enclosed sketch map, is a rectangle, measuring 150 feet x 240 feet, with its southwest corner 35 feet southwest of the southwest corner of the chalet and its northwest corner 60 feet northwest of the northwest corner of the dormitory.

Sperry. The boundary, as shown on the enlclosed sketch map, is a rectangle measuring 520 feet x 160 feet, the southeast corner of which is 100 feet from the southeast corner of the Sperry chalet dormitory and the northwest corner of which is 60 feet from the northwest corner of Sperry chalet dining room.

Two Medicine. The boundary is a rectangle measuring 150 feet x 200 feet centered on the store.

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: Great Northern Railway Buildings

Other Name/Site Number: Many Glacier Hotel, Sperry Chalet, Granite Park Chalet, Two Medicine Store, Belton Chalet

2. LOCATION

Street & Number: Not for publication:___

City/Town: Vicinity:___

State: County: Code: Zip Code:

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property		Category of Property	
Private:	X	Building(s):	___
Public-Local:	___	District:	___
Public-State:	___	Site:	___
Public-Federal:	X	Structure:	___
		Object:	___

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
5	___ buildings
___	___ sites
___	___ structures
___	___ objects
5	___ Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register: 6

Name of Related National Historic Landmark theme study: Architecture in the Parks

4. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ____ nomination ____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ____ meets ____ does not meet the National Register Criteria.

Signature of Certifying Official Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

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

Signature of Commenting or Other Official Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

5. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ Entered in the National Register
___ Determined eligible for the National Register
___ Determined not eligible for the National Register
___ Removed from the National Register
___ Other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic: Domestic Sub: Hotel

Current: Domestic Sub: Hotel

7. DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification: Swiss Chalet

Materials:

Foundation: Stone
Walls: Wood
Roof: Shingle
Other:

Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.

Summary

As defined in 1986, the nationally significant discontiguous historic district "Great Northern Railway Buildings" included six buildings divided between four sites, all located within the boundaries of Glacier National Park in northwestern Montana. Established by railroad developer Lewis Hill, the Belton Chalet, comprises five buildings located just outside the park boundaries, south of the Middle Fork of the Flathead River that were not included in the original nomination.

Belton Chalet consists of the original chalet, flanked 100 yards to the southwest by a studio building and immediately to the northeast by two four-room cottages. These four buildings front Montana State Highway 2 and the Great Northern (GN) tracks (now Burlington Northern). A large three-story dormitory is located at the rear of the complex, at the base of a steep slope. Terraced gardens and a narrow access road link the dormitory with the chalet and cottages. Although long abandoned, remains of a rock-lined path connecting the chalet and the studio remain visible.

Integrity

The chalet, dormitory, and two cottages, owned by Still Back There, LLC, have been restored to Secretary of Interior standards and are currently being used as a hotel, bar, and dining room – as originally designed. They retain remarkable integrity of material, workmanship, and design. The studio building, owned by Highland Incorporated, Inc., is currently used as a residence. It has been modified through changes in fenestration and fret-work and is stained red-brown, rather than brown. However, the building retains the wide eaves, shallow- gable roofline, front porch, and exposed rafter ends characteristic of the Swiss Chalet style; it continues to reflect the original design ethic and remains recognizable as a component of the larger complex. Moreover, by its inclusion within the site boundaries, the studio contributes to our understanding of the size and scale of the original complex, thereby protecting integrity of setting and of association of the property as a whole.

Completion of Montana State Highway 2 in 1932, running directly between the chalet and the tracks, physically broke the historical link between the chalet and rail travel and resulted in removal of much of the historic landscaping. The historic Belton Depot, once located immediately northeast of the chalet group and connected to the chalet by an 8'-wide trellis-covered path ("pergola") was moved in the modern period to a site approximately ¼ mile to the northwest. Although moved, the depot is still visible from the chalet complex, and the direct historical and architectural association between the buildings remains evident, thereby protecting the Chalet's integrity of setting, feeling, and association.

Narrative Description

As constructed in Glacier National Park, the Chalet style blends Swiss massing, roof patterns, and exterior design elements with the hallmarks of American Rustic style, particularly the use of stone and log. Both styles, in company with the Arts and Crafts movement, were founded on the

premise that there is beauty in functional elements; that these elements revealed become "an object of decoration and harmony." Traditional Swiss features evident in Great Northern Railway buildings include presentation of gable ends to the street (or, more accurately, trail or rail line); wide eaves supported by dominant corbels; liberal use of balconies; and fret-work of uncomplicated design. Interiors largely eschew Swiss detailing and incorporate, instead, vertical and gnarled unpeeled timbers, taxidermy, and American Indian elements.

Of the Swiss-style chalets and hotels in Glacier National Park, Belton Chalet shows the least appropriation of this Rustic tradition. Balustrades and structural columns are milled, as is exterior siding. There are no soaring interior spaces supported by heavy exposed timbers. Rock work, in the foundations and exterior columns, is symmetrical river rock, appropriate to the Chalet's location near the Middle Fork of the Flathead River yet in contrast to the rubble stone used with abundance in the mountain, trail-side chalets, Lewis Hotel, Many Glacier Hotel, and Glacier Park Lodge. This restrain may be owed in part to Belton's early construction, before developer Lewis Hill had fully developed his vision of the park. It may also reflect its setting distant from the mountain views that defined the other accommodations. Belton was the most purely Swiss, the most traditional, of Hill's creations.

The buildings at Belton all have shallow-pitched gable roofs and are built of milled lumber, log, and river rock. Rough-sawn clapboard, stained dark brown, sides the dormitory and chalet. The wood-frame "cottages," recently named "Lewis" cabin and "Clark" cabin, are sided with milled half-log siding, also stained dark brown. Massive, 8"- square brackets support the wide 6' to 12' overhanging eaves. Green composition (asphalt) shingles cover the roofs, which feature multiple gables (some with clipped ends). River-stone columns and footings support the cottage porches, the second-level balcony of the dormitory, and the first-level balcony/deck of the chalet. Flat, cut-out balustrades line the cottage porches and the chalet and dormitory balconies. Limited patterned stickwork decoration is located under the eave lines. Windows are most-often multiple-light casement-sash, with leaded panes. Many are original; those that are not were reconstructed, during a recent restoration, in-kind, with salvaged antique glass. The cottage windows are less elaborate and more-fitting to the buildings' smaller scale: nine-over-one, double hung.

Interiors are largely defined by this extensive fenestration and by the liberal use of fir: in five-panel or board-and-batten doors, board-and-batten wainscoting, flooring, and wide (5") window and door trim (painted or stained). Walls and ceilings are plastered, with the exception of the acoustic tile used in the lounge of the chalet. Structural beams are exposed in both the chalet dining room and the dormitory lobby ceilings. Detailed cornices, both original and modern replacements in-kind, top the door frames, window frames, and wainscoting. Traditional "rustic" interior elements are limited to the uncoursed stone fireplaces in the lobbies of the main chalet and of the dormitory. Cottage fireplaces are brick. Private baths have been added to all guest rooms, through construction of non-bearing walls that enclose a corner of each room. Base and door trim on this new construction matches the original, as do the new board-and-batten bathroom doors. The original wall-mounted porcelain sinks remain in the main rooms, outside the bathroom space.

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:
Nationally: X Statewide:__ Locally:__

Applicable National Register Criteria:	A__ B__ C__ D__
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions):	A__ B__ C__ D__ E__ F__ G__
NHL Criteria:	4
NHL Theme(s):	III. Expressing Cultural Values 5. architecture, landscape architecture, and urban design
Areas of Significance:	Architecture; Entertainment/Recreation
Period(s) of Significance:	1910-1913
Significant Dates:	n/a
Significant Person(s):	n/a
Cultural Affiliation:	n/a
Architect/Builder:	Great Northern Railway

State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.

Summary:

In 1986, the National Park Service evaluated the national architectural significance of private or federal buildings 1) within boundaries of an area of the National Park System and 2) constructed for visitor-use, interpretive, or administrative purposes. The resultant NHL theme study *Architecture in the Parks* (Soulliere Harrison 1986) concluded with the NHL designation of 30 buildings and districts, spread throughout 16 western NPS units and including Glacier National Park's "Great Northern Railway Buildings" (Many Glacier Hotel, Granite Park and Sperry Chalets, Two Medicine Store).

Belton Chalet, Glacier Park Lodge (formerly Glacier Park [or Midvale] Hotel), Belton Depot, and Glacier Park Depot lie just outside Glacier National Park and, therefore, outside the geographic boundaries of the theme study. Soulliere Harrison, however, noted that these buildings share historic association and architectural significance with the in-park Great Northern buildings and recommended that they be added to the NHL listing as funding came available.

As the earliest Great Northern building to be built at Glacier Park, Belton Chalet stands as a benchmark, marking the beginning of tourist accommodations. From this foundation, we gain a better understanding of the evolution of style and identity that took place with construction of subsequent Great Northern buildings in the park and the ways in which the Swiss style helped define visitors' perceptions of the park, and their place in that controlled "wilderness" setting.

Glacier Park Incorporated, owner of Glacier Park Lodge, declined evaluation of the lodge. Funding has not been secured to evaluate the railroad depots. This addendum addresses only the Belton Chalet property.

In her statement of significance for Great Northern Railway Buildings, Souilliere Harrison established that:

> The development funded by the Great Northern Railway in Glacier National Park is unique in National Park Service architecture. The Great Northern, under directions from its [chairman of the board] Louis Hill, chose a distinct architectural style – the Swiss Chalet – and constructed all of its development within the park in that style. The buildings that remain are one of the largest collections of Swiss Chalet structures in the United States.

Similarly, NPS historian William Tweed argued that "no national park owes more to its early concessioner than Glacier."[1] Here Hill spearheaded construction of a chain of mountain hotels and chalet groups linked by roads and trails constructed by the National Park Service, always at the Great Northern's urging, often with Great Northern funds. Great Northern promotional

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[1] William Tweed, *National Park Service Rustic Architecture, 1916-1942*, National Park Service Western Regional Office, 1977, p. 10.

literature advertised the trail/chalet network as one of Glacier Park's "most interesting features, remarkably in rhyme with this mountain land."[2]

Great Northern Railway Buildings within Glacier derive their architectural significance from this carefully constructed cadence between the natural and the cultural environments. As America's upper class turned their attention from European travel destinations toward the American West, Hill seized upon not only our cultural nostalgia --christening Glacier "America's Alps" and constructing a system of hostelries in the Swiss tradition - but also upon a growing cultural self-confidence -- urging Americans to "See America First" and blending Swiss design with Rustic (western) elements and Native American motifs. The Chalet architectural style both reflected America's European past and proceeded beyond it, to a uniquely American vernacular.[3]

In choosing a single architectural theme, Hill acted in the tradition established by the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad with construction of fantasy pueblos at Grand Canyon. Hill, however, would more effectively integrate this architectural theme into the complete park experience, fully realizing "the enormous potential for using architecture as a marketing strategy." As established in *Architecture in the Parks,* Great Northern Railway Buildings extant within Glacier National Park represent the only instance in which one distinct architectural style is used on such a massive scale for a concessions development.[4]

In *Architecture in the Parks* Soulliere Harrison writes "the identifiable landscapes of those . . . areas [west of the Mississippi], the exotic lure of the romantic west, the westward emphasis of the railroads encouraged romantic resort architecture in western national parks."[5] In Glacier National Park, on land bordered by a transcontinental railroad and by the reservation lands of the Blackfeet (who displayed "much better than the Sioux"),[6] the lure of the romantic West met a mountain landscape reminiscent of America's European cultural roots. Hill effectively manipulated this cultural/geographic fusion.

Hill appropriated Glacier National Park as the Great Northern's own and deliberately cultivated a marketable image that melded the built, natural, and cultural environments. The Blackfeet he christened "The Glacier Park Tribe," representatives of which he hired to ride the train back to Chicago and to entertain hotel guests, in full traditional regalia. ("I think," he wrote in 1923, "we ought to have two or three old Indian families at the Glacier Park Hotel grounds, for newspaper

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[2] Great Northern Promotional Division quoted in Tweed. *NPS Rustic Architecture.*

[3] See Earl Pomeroy, *In Search of the Golden West: The Tourist in Western America* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1957), for a more complete discussion of the See America First campaign.

[4] Tweed, *National Park Service Rustic Architecture*, p. 16; Harrison, *Architecture in the Parks*, pp. 3, 11.

[5] Harrison, *Architecture in the Parks*, p. 19.

[6] Fred R. Meyer to L. W. Hill, December 17, 1912, File 34, Box 2, Chairman's Files, President's Office, Great Northern Railway Collection, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, Minnesota [MHS].

men, until after July 4."[7]) In an effort to encourage traffic between Spokane and the park, particularly by those staying at the Great Northern's luxury Davenport Hotel, he urged his publicity department to select a "fine photograph of Glacier Park, of some unknown mountain, and we will name it 'Mount Davenport', and if we can find another one, we will name it 'Mount Spokane'."[8]

Working from a blueprint of Swiss building tradition, as defined in such works as *Native Houses in Switzerland* and *Characteristic Swiss Style Buildings from the 16th to the 19th Century*, Hill also manipulated the Swiss chalet style to his vision of Glacier National Park.[9] With the 1914 completion of Granite Park Chalet, accommodation links in this network included Glacier Park Hotel at the east entrance to the park, Belton Chalet at the west entrance to the park, Many Glacier Hotel at the foot of Lake McDermott, Two Medicine, Cut Bank, St. Mary, Going-to-the-Sun, Gunsight, Sperry, and Granite Park Chalets in the park interior, and tent camps at Belly River and Red Eagle Lake.[10]

In 1920, when the Glacier Park Company (the concession subsidiary of the Great Northern Railway) paid its park stenographer $87.50 per month, room and board at the hotel rooms ranged from $5 to $10 per night. Chalet rooms were $4.50, meals included.[11]

At each of the chalets and hotels (though particularly at Glacier Park Hotel), furnishings were inspired not by the Swiss but by the western Rustic/pioneer tradition: taxidermy, unpeeled logs,

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[7] Louis W. Hill to G. S. Wilson, July 18, 1923, Louis W. Hill [LWH] Personal Papers, James J. Hill [JJH] Reference Library.

[8] Louis W. Hill to G. S. Wilson, July 23, 1923, LWH Personal Papers, JJH Reference Library.

[9] Hill was not the first to recognize the appropriateness of the Swiss style to the western environment or to link Swiss and Rustic details. In 1893, at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, judges awarded architect Kirkland Cutter top prize for his "Idaho Building," a stone and log building that displayed a "type of architecture and construction which expresses the character of the state erecting it." Architectural historian Henry Matthews writes "although clearly derived from the chalets of the Bernese Oberland of Switzerland [the Idaho Building] spoke eloquently of the rugged nature of Idaho . . . ; indeed, it seemed far removed from the neat and orderly settlements of the Swiss Alps." Henry Matthews, "The Search for a Northwest Vernacular: Kirkland Cutter and the Rustic Picturesque, 1888-1920," Cheney Cowles Museum, Spokane, Washington, p. 71.

[10] There were commercial hazards to the architectural experiment: in the infant years of the marketing effort Swiss chalets remained outside the main stream of American architecture and accommodations. In 1910 the Belton manager noted the need for a sign "of some kind indicating it as a stopping place for the public as a great many of the travelling public do not comprehend the meaning of the word chalet." Superintendent Dining and Sleeping Cars, to Louis W. Hill, September 2, 1910, 132.F.2.1(B), Great Northern Railway President's Subject Files, Box 136, File 4672, MHS.

[11] H. H. Parkhouse to Noble, January 16, 1920, LWH Personal Papers, JJH Reference Library.

American Indian motifs, and open hearths provided a "forest and camp atmosphere."[12]

Employees provided not only service but also design appeal: in addition to the Blackfeet paid to grace the lobby and grounds of the Glacier Park Hotel, the cigar girls dressed in kimonos in the geisha tradition, bell boys mimicked those in urban grand hotels, in gray uniforms trimmed with green cloth and red soutache braid, waitresses at all hotels and chalets, including Belton, dressed in "Swiss-style" bodices. Years before Walt Disney, Hill deliberately created a "theme park."[13]

The chalets served those willing to venture to the backcountry and "content with less service than is found in the hotels." In its publicity literature, the Great Northern described the chalets as:

> Artistic chalet groups consist[ing] of rustic log or stone buildings, attractively grouped, in the vicinity of a central structure used for a dining and lounging room. Most of the sleeping chalets have one or more attractive lounging rooms, equipped with large stone fireplaces. The service is plain and simple, the object of the management being to furnish clean, comfortable beds, plain food, well cooked, plenty of it, and served in family style. The chalets are usually attractive and comfortable and those desiring a vacation of several weeks will find them very economical.[14]

Rudimentary access to relatively well-appointed facilities highlighted the contrast between eastern comfort and the western experience. "Dudes" embarking on one-day to two-week circle tours of the Glacier back country were guided by "cowboys," lunched near glacial lakes and then dined in comfort on chinese linen and blue-willow china.

Belton Chalet played a confused role in this ordered and deliberate system. By its location on the rail line and the road network it functioned as a hotel. Elsewhere in the park, at Lake McDonald, Many Glacier, and East Glacier, hotels offered entertainment, soaring luxury spaces, dramatic architecture and furnishings. Belton's clean comfortable beds, plain and simple service, and small unassuming spaces echoed the backcountry chalets, yet gained little through juxtaposition with remote, wild surroundings.

Belton Chalet Site-Specific Development

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[12] John Wily, "A Week in Glacier National Park," *The Hotel Monthly*, August 1915, quoted in Michael Ober "Enmity and Alliance: Park Service-Concessioner Relations in Glacier National Park." Master's thesis, University of Montana, Missoula, Montana, 1973, p. 63.

[13] L. W. Hill to Mr. Bagley, March 27, 1913, LWH Personal Papers, JJH Reference Library.

[14] United States Railroad Administration, Great Northern Railroad, "Hotel and Transportation Rates and Arrangements in Glacier National Park, June 15th to September 15, 1920, Circular No. 8227, Box 6, Glacier National Park Archives, Ruhle Library, West Glacier, Montana [GNPA], pp. 10-11.

In 1909, while lobbying for passage of the Glacier National Park enabling legislation, Louis Hill described "one of the most beautiful bodies of water to be found anywhere," Lake McDonald, "ten and one-half miles long and three miles wide, . . . in a valley surrounded on the east, west and south by virgin and unscarred forests extending up to the snow line, while the head of the lake presents a panorama of the most rugged, sharp mountain peaks."[15] Belton Station on the Great Northern line lay just three miles from the head of this remarkable lake, at the west entrance to the park. Here, in 1909, Hill constructed the central building of Belton Chalet, his first Glacier Park complex. That same year, Hill also funded construction of a rough wagon road from Belton to Lake McDonald, an improvement critical to Belton Chalet's commercial success (and a first venture in Hill's funding of much of Glacier's early road/trail system).[16]

Preliminary drawings of the main chalet, attributed to Cutter & Malmgren, show a three-story chalet similar to the current chalet (see Additional Documentation).[17] As constructed, the chalet complex appropriated these principal design features, yet deviated slightly in fenestration and footprint. There is no record in the Cutter archives, however, that Cutter & Malmgren received the commission for Belton Chalet design. As at Many Glacier Hotel, Hill appears to have rejected Cutter's proposals before proceeding to construct buildings of remarkably similar design.

By 1913, the complex consisted of a main chalet with ten bedrooms, lobby, dining room, and kitchen (37' x 42'); a studio with five bedrooms and a large upstairs work space (53' x 32'); two three-bedroom cottages, each with sitting room (26' x 27'); a dormitory with 24 bedrooms and a large lobby (104' x 35'), a pump house and tank; a lighting plant; and a septic tank. Together, these 45 bedrooms contained a total of 39 double and 40 single beds for a maximum occupancy of 118. Each bedroom had running hot and cold water. Bathrooms were communal, located "down the hall." The improvements were built on forest-service land, secured through yearly lease until 1919 when the Great Northern purchased the 5.09-acre building site for $1,274.[18]

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[15] Louis Hill to H. V. Jones, Minneapolis Journal, February 22, 1909, 132.E.17.4, Great Northern Railway President's Subject Files, Box 106, File 4325, MHS, p. 2.

[16] W. E. Ward to L. W. Hill, May 12th, 1906, File 4021, Box 73, President's Subject Files, Great Northern Railway Collection, MHS.

[17] The noted Spokane Architecture Firm of Cutter & Malmgren played a significant role in the introduction of the Swiss style to America. Kirkland Cutter developed the original plans for Hill's Many Glacier Hotel and designed the Swiss style Lewis Hotel (now known as Lake McDonald Lodge). Interestingly, the exterior of Cutter's own home in Spokane, designed in 1904, bears a striking similarity to the ca. 1908 renderings for Belton Chalet. The similarity between these 1908 renderings, and the chalet as constructed again points to the influence that Kirkland Cutter had in setting the direction for the Glacier Park's Rustic and Swiss architectural style.

[18] H. C(?). Carroll to L. W. Hill, October 16, 1913, File 91, Box 4, Chairman's Files, President's Office, Great Northern Railway Collection, MHS; H. A. Noble to H. F. Bayer, December 20, 1917, File 231, Box 21, Subject Files, GN Ry GPC Corporate Records, MHS; handwritten untitled note, ca. Oct. 1919, File 165, Box 11, "Old" Subject Files, GN Ry GPC Corporate Records, MHS; L. W. Hill to W. R. Logan, May 20th 1911, 132.F.2.1(B), Great Northern Railway President's Subject Files, Box 136, File 4672,

In company with Glacier Park Lodge, at the east entrance to the park, Belton played a unique role in the accommodations network. Its placement was defined not by scenic beauty but by proximity to the Great Northern tracks that lie less than 50 yards north of the complex and its location at the head of the rough road system leading to Lake McDonald and the park interior. The site is wooded and pleasant but void of mountain or river views; Belton Chalet was constructed as a demarcation point and staging station. Unlike Glacier Park Hotel, it was never developed beyond this pragmatic role.

Staff included to a manager, first cook, and a "yardman" who cared for the gardens while pulling double duty as bellman, meeting all trains and moving luggage to the chalet. In 1913-1914, the complex served as winter headquarters for the National Park Service. With this exception, and despite limited discussion of remaining open to local traffic during the winter season, the complex was closed from ca. October 1st until its annual opening ca. June 1.

A 1912 furniture inventory lists "rustic" rockers and chairs in all bedrooms and in the lobby areas. Additional public-room furnishings included settees, writing desks, book cases, cuspidors, Morris chairs, and a player piano. Bedrooms contained slop jars, chamber pots, and granite or willow-patterned porcelain wash basins. Beds were brass or iron (with white-iron folding cots available for children and overflow traffic), made-up with white sheets, bed felts, and quilts; at Belton, as throughout the Great Northern holdings, blankets were commissioned from a Portland, Oregon plant and were patterned after more-expensive Hudson Bay blankets determined by Hill "to go well with the country and add interest for the tourists." "Swiss" curtains dressed the casement windows. Plain white china, mixed with blue-willow, graced the tables, holding vegetables and fruits from the Flathead Produce company, milk and cream from Kelly and Biggs, Kalispell, fresh meats ordered from Spokane, non-perishables and salt meats ordered from St. Paul, all shipped along the GN line. News, periodicals, pictures, cigars, tobacco and other miscellaneous and sundry items were available for purchase at the registration desk in the main chalet.[19]

MHS; W. P. Kenney to Louis W. Hill, October 24, 1923, LWH Personal Papers, JJH Reference Library; Folder 9, Box 63, GNPA.

[19] L. W. Hill to Mr. Bagley, March 27, 1913, LWH Personal Papers, JJH Reference Library; Great Northern Railway Company, Passenger Traffic Department, "Hotel and Transportation Rates and Arrangements, Season June 15th to September 15th, 1918," March 15, 1918, LWH Personal Papers, JJH Reference Library, p. 3; Special Representative, Great Northern Railway Company, to A.B. Fisher, Acting Auditor Misc. Acc'ts, May 28, 1914, LWH Personal Papers, JJH Reference Library; Superintendent Dining and Sleeping Cars to Miss Fiammetta Fery, Manager Belton Chalet, June 1, 1911, File 165, Box 11, "Old" Subject Files, GN Ry GPC Corporate Records, MHS; T. D. McMahon to J. A. Shoemaker, February 13, 1915, File 165, Box 11, "Old" Subject Files, GN Ry GPC Corporate Records, MHS; Superintendent Dining and Sleeping Cars to Fery, May 28, 1911, File 165, Box 11, "Old" Subject Files, GN Ry GPC Corporate Records, MHS.

Meals were served "family style" and, in 1911, consisted of breakfast with fruits, cereal with cream, a choice of ham, bacon, steak, or fish, eggs, potatoes and griddle cakes. Dinner consisted of soup, fish or meat entrée, relish, potatoes and second

Historic photographs and correspondence show that landscape elements were a critical component of Belton design. In 1912, Hill ordered that the west end of the building site be filled and graded, at the same contour as the main chalet and the depot. This work was completed by an "Italian Extra Gang" of 18 men ("Italians are all we could furnish on account of the present condition of the labor market"), furnished with mattocks, axes, shovels, picks, and wheelbarrows with which they hauled the twelve railroad cars of "good, black soil brought in from the Kalispell Stock Yards."[20] By October 1912, a "beautiful lawn ha[d] been laid out and seed[ed] to grass, creating "a delightful spot.[21] A trellis-covered, 8'-wide, stone-lined path linked the Chalet with Belton Depot and the tracks of the Great Northern. Hill took personal responsibility for the design and maintenance of all gardens and for the integration of native and exotic plants in chalet decorations. The task was not always an easy one. In 1923, he complained "formerly we had plenty of flowers and evergreen trees in the buildings - all of which cost us practically nothing to furnish. . . . . We have [decorations] for the cost of gathering, but our people are too negligent to make use of the advantages at hand."[22] By 1914, Holm and Olson, florists, had planted "a lot of shrubbery," Beta grape vine along the arbor, and unidentified flowers - "not . . . too many varieties." Shipping orders, to Belton and Glacier Park Hotel, included Peonies, Iris, and Eidelweiss seed.[23]

In the first year of chalet operation "the bulk of travel" to Glacier National Park came through the west entrance where Belton Chalet "met with the universal satisfaction" of the "high-class travel" patrons.[24] Drawbacks were limited to the lack of sufficient rooms to accommodate the potential demand; at the conclusion of the inaugural season Great Northern's Superintendent of Dining and Sleeping cars recommended construction of an addition or of cottages in the vicinity of the central chalet.[25] The two cottages, the studio, and the large dormitory were completed in 1912

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vegetable, and pie. Supper was less elaborate with potatoes steak, and/or cold meats and/or eggs. Within these general guidelines the chef was granted certain discretion but was ordered to see that the food was well prepared, well served, and provided in sufficient quantity to satisfy all guests (Superintendent Dining and Sleeping Cars to Miss Fiammetta Fery, Manager Belton Chalet, June 1, 1911).

[20] Anonymous to Louis W. Hill, October 6, 1912, 132.F.2.1(B), Great Northern Railway President's Subject Files, Box 136, File 4672, MHS.

[21] Superintendent Dining and Sleeping Cars, to Louis W. Hill, September 2, 1910, 132.F.2.I(B), Great Northern Railway President's Subject Files, Box 136, File 4672, MHS.

[22] Louis W. Hill to W. P. Kenney, July 21, 1923, LWH Personal Papers, JJH Reference Library.

[23] L. W. Hill to J. A. Shoemaker, February 26, 1914, ; W. R. Mills LWH Personal Papers, JJH Reference Library.

[24] William R. Logan, Annual Report to the Secretary of the Interior, 1912, Superintendent's Annual Reports, GNPA, p. 9.

[25] Superintendent Dining and Sleeping Cars, to Louis W. Hill, September 2, 1910, File 4672, Box 136, Great Northern Railway President's Subject Files, MHS.

and 1913. However, by 1914, with completion of Glacier Park Station on the opposite side of the park, the inner-park trail/chalet network, and Lewis Hotel (Lake McDonald Lodge) on the northeast shore of Lake McDonald, tourists foreswore Belton in search of more spectacular scenery.[26]

The Great Northern acquiesced in this abandonment, advertising circle tours from "Glacier Park Station" on the east side of the park. From here, tourists embarking on the most complete and recommended circle tour proceeded by auto coach to Many Glacier; by saddle-horse across Swiftcurrent Pass to Granite Park, to Lewis' Hotel on Lake McDonald, across Lincoln Pass to Sperry Chalet, Gunsight Pass to Going-to-the-Sun Chalets; by launch down St. Mary Lake to St. Mary Chalets; by saddle-horse across the Triple Divide to Cut Bank Chalets, thence to Two Medicine, returning by auto coach to Glacier Park Lodge. Belton, isolated at the west edge of the park, outside the boundaries of this circle tour, languished as forgotten "stepsister," relegated to the less profitable task of entertaining local residents who used the lounge and dining room, to a limited amount of spontaneous traffic from those disembarking at Belton Station, and to the infrequent arranged party.

In July of 1925, 6137 passengers disembarked at Glacier Park Station, compared to 516 at Belton. That same month, Glacier Park Hotel entertained 7993 guests, compared to Belton's 704. In June of 1925, Belton entertained only 114 guests, down from 204 guests in June of 1923.[27] Increasingly, Belton was excluded from all promotional discussions of the park's chalet system and, as importantly, from maintenance orders.[28] By the early 1920s, Hill and others described the chalet and attendant gardens as "in quite a run down condition." The carefully planted lawn and shrubbery were dry, brown, and weed-ridden; irrigated gardens were limited to a "small bed of flowers" near the main chalet. The buildings needed to be stained, windows needed to be painted, floors needed to be painted, roofs demanded repair.[29]

In June 1925, Hill recommended that in lieu of further capital investment the Great Northern lease the complex to a private party, pending completion of the auto road "when it should be profitable for us to operate ourselves."[30] Offers were limited to an unsuccessful bid of $10,000 from Belton Mercantile Inc, representing 10 cents on every dollar that the Great Northern had

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[26] "Report July 14 – 20, 1914," Folder 1, Box 76, GNPA.

[27] House Counts, 1919-1925, File 199,

[28] See, for example, Hill to A. J. Dickinson, February 4, 1921, Hogeland to Hill, Sept. 16, 1921, and Hill to Hogeland, September 18, 1921, LWH Personal Papers, JJH Reference Library.

[29] George W. Dishmaker to C. O. Jenks, June 27, 1925, LWH Personal Papers, JJH Reference Library.

[30] Louis W. Hill to W. R. Mills, June 25, 1925, LWH Personal Papers, JJH Reference Library.

invested in Belton to date.[31] Belton Chalet was either closed or leased to a private party in 1927 and 1928, when company records include no revenue totals for the complex. Beginning in 1930, no meals were served.

The much-anticipated completion of Montana State Highway 2, running directly between the chalet and the tracks, physically broke the link between the chalet and rail travel, a link that in fact had failed much earlier. Completion of the highway, however, coincided with Depression-era decrease in park traffic and Belton Chalet continued to operate at a loss. In company with the entire backcountry chalet system, Belton was closed during WWII. Following the armistice and the return of economic prosperity, in a trend begun in the 1930s, those who traveled to the national parks traveled by car. In large numbers these auto tourists chose campgrounds and low-cost cabin courts over the Great Northern's expensive Swiss hostelries. The Great Northern abandoned the Swiss waitress costumes, closed the backcountry tent camps, discontinued the circle tours, razed Cut Bank, St. Mary, and Going-to-the-Sun Chalets, and sold Belton to Belton Chalet, Inc. thereby dismantling the hotel-chalet-trail network.[32] Belton and East Glacier train stations, Glacier Park Hotel, Many Glacier Hotel, Sperry, Granite, Belton, and Two Medicine chalets, however, remain as largely-unaltered examples of Hill's interpretation of the Chalet style and as evidence of Glacier's history as a Swiss theme park, in America's Alps.

[31] General Manager [Glacier Park Hotel Company] to W. P. Kenney, Vice President Building, January 14, 1925 and Comptroller to H. A. Noble, January 27, 1925, File 356, Box 25, Subject Files, GPC Corporate Records, GN Ry Collection, MHS.

[32] LWH Personal Papers, JJH Reference Library, passim.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Pomeroy, Earl. *In Search of the Golden West: The Tourist in Western America.* New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1957.

Rinehart, Mary Roberts. *Through Glacier Park: Seeing America First with Howard Eaton.* New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1916.

Soulliere Harrison, Laura. *Architecture in the Parks: National Historic Landmark Theme Study,* "Great Northern Railway Buildings," USDI NPS, November 1986.

Tweed, William. *National Park Service Rustic Architecture, 1916-1942,* National Park Service Western Regional Office, 1977.

Archival Collections

Concessions, Glacier National Park Archives, Ruhle Library, West Glacier, Montana.
Belton Chalet Inc. owned Sperry, Granite Park, and Belton Chalets. Because Belton Chalet is located outside the park boundaries, there is little information available in park files; with rare exceptions, park files address administrative matters related to NPS oversight of Sperry and Granite Park operation.

Great Northern Papers, Glacier Park Hotel Co. Papers, , Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, Minnesota.
Record groups reviewed include "Old" Subject Files; Subject Files; President's Subject Files; Chairman's Files. Belton Chalet's status as "stepsister" is readily apparent upon review of this voluminous collection. Detailed construction information and maintenance orders on the other hotels and chalets is extensive. Information on Belton is limited.

Louis H. Hill Personal Papers, James J. Hill Library, St. Paul, Minnesota
Hill's personal papers reveal that he directed construction, furnishing, and management of the Glacier National Park hostelries, paying attention to small details such as lighting fixtures, the brand of tea served, and the type and location of flowers planted. This collection does not, however, include correspondence identifying the Belton Chalet architect, builder, or design/construction details. The collection is arranged chronologically rather than thematically, complicating site-specific review of the enormous collection.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

__ Preliminary Determination of Individual Listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
_X_ Previously Listed in the National Register.
__ Previously Determined Eligible by the National Register.
__ Designated a National Historic Landmark.
__ Recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey: #
__ Recorded by Historic American Engineering Record: #

Primary Location of Additional Data:

_X_ State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State Agency
___ Federal Agency
___ Local Government
___ University
___ Other (Specify Repository):

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of Property:

UTM References:	**Zone**	**Easting**	**Northing**
	A12	279180	537560

Verbal Boundary Description:

Lot 11, Section 36, Township 32 North, Range 19W Lying southeasterly of the southeasterly boundary line of US Highway 2 and Northeasterly of a line parallel with and 165 ft distant northeasterly from the southwesterly line of said lot 11

Boundary Justification:

These boundaries conform to the original land transfer between the United States Forest Service and Glacier Park, Inc., minus the US Highway 2 right of way. They incorporate all buildings that historically comprised the Belton Chalet complex: the chalet, the dormitory, the studio, and the two cottages.

The historic Belton Depot, not evaluated in the course of this study, was moved in the modern period to a site approximately ¼ mile to the northwest. At a later date, the depot should be evaluated for NHL significance.

11. FORM PREPARED BY

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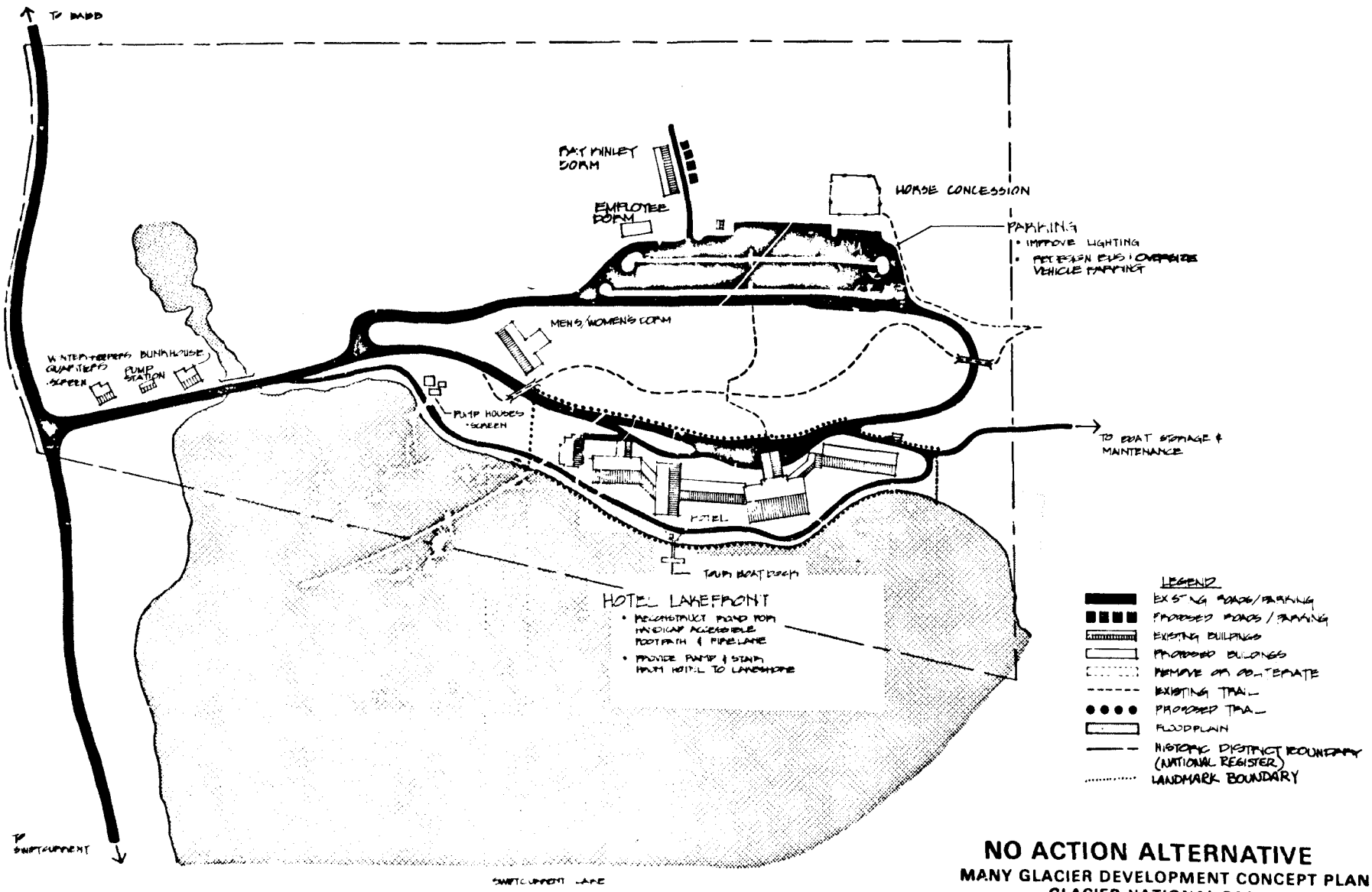
NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS SURVEY
February 1, 2000



NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

MANY GLACIER DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT PLAN
GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

N 100 0 100 200 FEET