

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 12 1986
DATE ENTERED MAR 21 1986

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Camp Paxson Boy Scout Camp (24M077)

AND/OR COMMON

Camp Paxson

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Seeley Lake

~~n/a~~ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Montana

030 VICINITY OF

Missoula

063

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
 - UNOCCUPIED
 - WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
 - YES: UNRESTRICTED
 - NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

USDA, Forest Service, Region 1

STREET & NUMBER

Main and Pattee

CITY, TOWN

Missoula

n/a VICINITY OF

STATE

Montana

59802

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

USDA, Forest Service, Region 1, Lolo National Forest

STREET & NUMBER

Bldg. 24, Fort Missoula

CITY, TOWN

Missoula

STATE

Montana

59801

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Lolo NF Cultural Resource Inventory Records
Site No. 24M077

DATE

June 8, 1983

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Lolo NF Cultural Resource Site Records

CITY, TOWN

Bldg. 24, Fort Missoula

Missoula, MT

STATE

59801

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>Sept.</u> 1985

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Camp Paxson (24M077) consists of 20 log structures which are comprised of the following: 1 main lodge, 3 main sleeping cabins, 12 small sleeping cabins, 2 bath houses, a pump house, and a caretaker's cabin. The complex also contains a bonfire pavilion and a boat dock.

The main lodge (building No. 1--see attached map, floor plan, and photographs) is constructed of 9- to 14-inch diameter western larch logs. It is the largest building within the complex and has always served as a kitchen, dining hall, and recreation facility. The structure measures 76 feet by 60 feet and is built entirely of logs. The log walls were originally saddle notched at the corners, and the logs extended in random lengths well beyond the roof line. This gave the structure an esthetically pleasing and rustic appearance. However, by the mid-1960's water damage had caused extensive rot and the corner notches were sawed out and replaced by large (18-inch diameter) upright posts. Likewise, in recent years an addition was constructed on the west end of the lodge, and the interior of the original kitchen was remodeled to modern standards. The addition is constructed with log slab siding which has altered the exterior appearance of the structure, yet the building still retains many of the original architectural features and design.

The main sleeping cabins or troop leaders' cabins include buildings No. 4, 9, and 14 (see attached map, floor plans, and photographs). These structures are built with 8- to 10-inch diameter saddle notched logs. The buildings sit on a concrete foundation with a brick chimney and wood heating stove inside. The roofs are built with exposed beams on the interior with four 8-inch diameter purlins and a ridge pole with 5-inch rafters built on 2-foot centers. The roof was built with sawed cedar shingles which are still in use today. Like the main lodge (building No. 1), the log ends of all four walls formerly extended at random lengths beyond the roof line, but because of rot have been cut back to within 8 inches of the corner notch. Finally, each troop leaders' cabin has a covered porch which faces the interior of the complex.

The small sleeping cabins include buildings No. 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, and 16 (see attached map, floor plan, and photographs). These structures are also built on concrete foundations and constructed with 8- to 9-inch diameter logs. Again, saddle notched logs are universal throughout this building type as well as a covered front porch.

The well house (building No. 18) is a small log structure built with 6- to 8-inch saddle notched logs. It, too, sits on a concrete foundation and has a sawed cedar shingle roof. Two upright poles, 20 feet in length, extend through the roof for hoisting the pump out of the well for maintenance or replacement.

The caretaker's cabin (building No. 17) is of the same design as the main sleeping cabins, except for the addition of a native stone fireplace inside and an exterior chimney. Also, a kitchen and bathroom have been installed to facilitate use by the seasonal caretaker (see attached map, floor plan, and photographs).

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

The bath houses (buildings No. 19 and 20) are built on solid concrete foundation and constructed with 12- to 14-inch saddle notched logs (see attached map, floor plan, and photographs). Both structures are roofed with sawed cedar shingles. The mens' bath house (building No. 20) has a native stone chimney which serves for ventilation purposes. The womens' bath house (building No. 19) has no chimney, and the roof has been replaced using rafters of dimension lumber rather than logs. However, this has not affected the exterior integrity of the structure.

The campfire circle is an excavated depression 50 feet in diameter and 10 feet deep. A large campfire ring is in the center, and log benches have been constructed in a circular fashion into the slope.

The swimming dock has been recently reconstructed (1984) and has been rebuilt periodically in the past due to rapid deterioration because of its constant exposure to water. The swimming dock is currently the only intrusion or nonconforming feature at the Camp Paxson complex. The swimming dock stands in contrast to the historical features due to the lower level of craftsmanship even though compatible materials were used in construction. Likewise, the USDA Forest Service recognizes the log corner replacement at the main lodge (building No. 1) as a loss of a distinctive architectural feature of the rustic style. However, all other rustic stylistic qualities remain well preserved making the complex appear essentially unchanged physically since its construction in 1939 and 1940.

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 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 checked="" 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 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-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1939-1940

BUILDER/ARCHITECT N/A

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Camp Paxson is a complex of 20 log buildings that demonstrates exceptional architectural values including craftsmanship, materials, and design. Current inventory records indicate it is the only rustic, high style recreation complex built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in Montana. Moreover, it is the only known CCC/WPA-constructed youth camp in the State, and thus an historically significant property.

This complex was constructed in 1939 and 1940 under the direction of Mr. Clyde Fickes, USDA Forest Service, Region 1, Improvement Engineer. It was built with labors provided by the Civilian Conservation Corps Company 591, Camp Oregon Butte F-42, and the Works Progress Administration (WPA), originally to serve as a Boy Scout camp. It was named in honor of Edgar S. Paxson, a well-known early 20th-century Montana artist.

It is significant because of its close association with the CCC, WPA, as well as Boy Scouts of America, Campfire Girls, and numerous other youth organizations. It possesses outstanding integrity of location, design, workmanship, materials, and setting. The complex of buildings is in its original location, and upon entering, the complex immediately conveys the feeling of an early 20th-century recreation complex of outstanding quality and unique design.

Camp Paxson began in 1924 as a 4-acre grant from the USDA Forest Service to the Western Montana Council of Boy Scouts. Originally, it was a tent camp with six small frame structures for administrative uses. By the late 1930's, a need had developed for a larger facility. The tent camp and frame structures were removed to make way for the present camp. The WPA and CCC provided funds and manpower to construct the present camp. The main lodge (building No. 1) was completed in 1939 and the remaining cabins by the spring of 1940. The Seeley Lake area was selected for this camp because of its central location between the major western Montana communities of Missoula, Kalispell, and Helena. Also, Seeley Lake was considered the recreation center for much of Montana since the early 1900's, and is still considered so today.

The natural log buildings were designed and arranged to fit with the site's natural manifestations. Numerous majestic old-growth western larch are scattered throughout the complex. Also, Seeley Lake lies immediately to the north and east adding a great deal to the site's natural integrity and feeling.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Building with Logs; miscellaneous publication No. 579, USDA, Forest Service, 1945.
2. Company 591, Camp Oregon Butte F-42, Superior, Montana (summer and fall 1939)
3. The Missoulian, Sunday, March 28, 1965, P. 15.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 6.7 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,2	3,0,9,2,6,0	5,2,2,8,8,3,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

From point A, located in the SE corner of the Camp Paxson parking lot, the boundary runs due east 200 feet to point B (see attached map). From point B, the boundary runs due north 1100 feet along the shoreline of the Clearwater River and Seeley Lake to point C. The boundary continues WSW along the Seeley Lake shoreline 700 feet to point D. From here, the boundary extends 800 feet along the shoreline to point E. The boundary then turns due east and runs 300 feet to point A.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
n/a		n/a	
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Kirby Matthew, Archeological Technician, C. Milo McLeod, Zone Archeologist

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Lolo National Forest

December 1985

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE FTS 585-3853

Building 24, Fort Missoula

comm. 406/329-3853

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Missoula

MT 59801

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

Maecelle Dwyer

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

Ewan J. DeLoach

TITLE

AGENCY PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE

FEB 3 1986

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

John J. ...

DATE

3/21/86

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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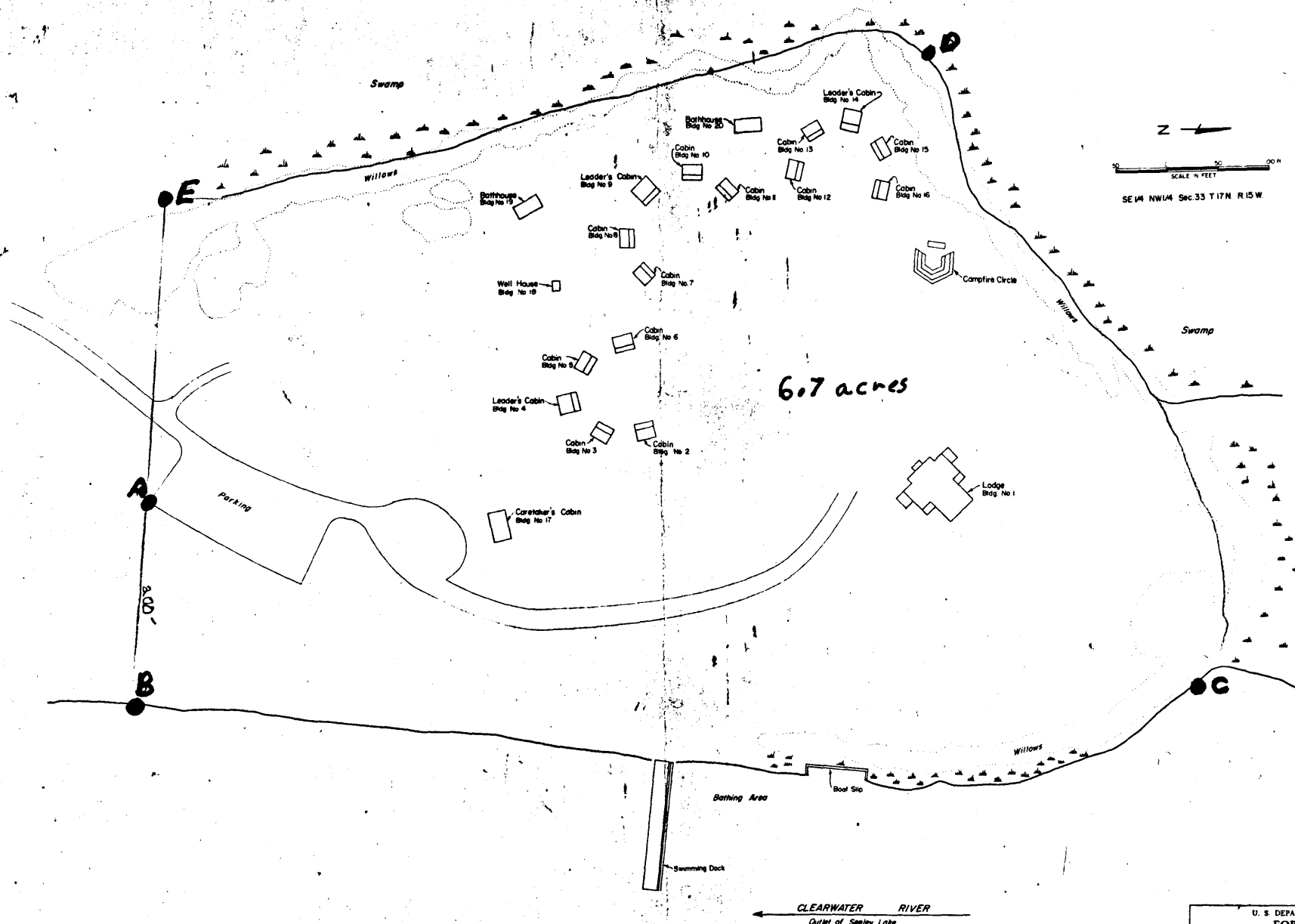
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

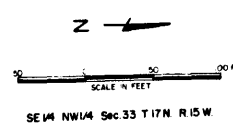
The workmanship and quality of materials used on the buildings are exceptional. Straight western larch logs, with a minimum of taper, were used for constructing the buildings. The logs are tightly fitted together with a minimal amount of caulking needed to seal the logs. The saddle notches (used universally throughout the buildings) are tight and contour to the natural form of the logs. The fireplace in the caretaker's cabin (building No. 17) and the main lodge (building No. 1) are built entirely of uncut native stone which required a high degree of skill to lay. Camp Paxson was considered a unique and very high quality construction project at the time of completion. A quote from the summer and fall 1939 yearbook of Company 591 Camp Oregon Butte F-42 states: "The men here have made a record in the quality of work done in building log cabins for the Boy Scouts of the Missoula Council." The plans and construction standards were used as examples of exceptional quality log work by the USDA Forest Service in Region 1. Clyde Fickes in his 1945 USDA Forest Service technical manual, Building with Logs, uses Camp Paxson for several examples of quality workmanship.

Since inception, Camp Paxson has furnished a summer camp for the Boy Scouts and various other youth organizations. Due to the low cost for use, as well as public ownership and support for the camp, a much more diverse group of people has experienced recreational opportunities from the camps. Consequently, many area residents have strong sentimental feelings for the camp.

Although Camp Paxson is not 50 years old, it is an outstanding product of CCC and WPA construction labors. Both organizations began in the early 1930's and played an important role in the economic recovery of western Montana and the Nation during the "Great Depression" of the 1930's. Camp Paxson is an outstanding example of the products they built and of the high standards of construction performed by these groups near the end of their existence. The majority of projects performed by the CCC in western Montana were those typical of the National Forest needs at that time. Reforestation projects, trail and road construction, as well as building fire lookouts and other functional Forest Service structures. Camp Paxson is exceptional because of the architectural style and quality of craftsmanship, as well as the function the complex served-- a Boy Scout Camp and later a recreation facility for many other youth groups, especially the disadvantaged. Finally, Seeley Lake has been an important recreation area for Montana residents since the early 1900's, as exemplified by the many summer residents and early commercial resorts scattered around the lake. Camp Paxson, however, is the only resort complex that has not undergone extensive alterations and modifications thus maintaining its historical integrity.



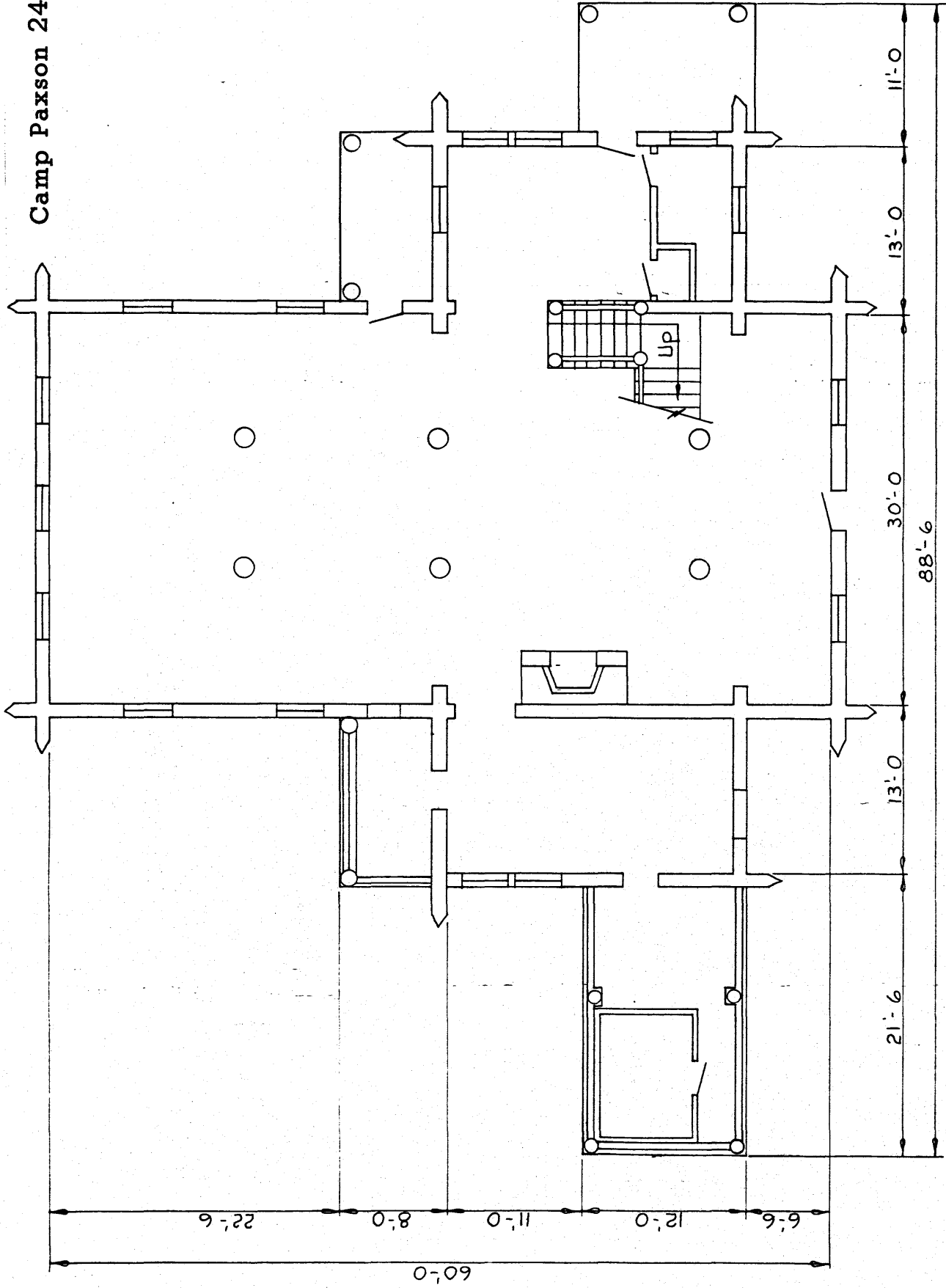
6.7 acres



← CLEARWATER RIVER
 Outlet of Seeley Lake

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE REGION ONE Seeley Lake Range District Lolo National Forest		
CAMP PAXSON 24 MO 77 National Register of Historic Places Nomination - 1985		
By	Date	REVISIONS
DESIGNED		
DRAWN C. Flinn	9-6-85	Compiled from 1938 Site Map
CHECKED		
SUBMITTED	Date	Sheet
APPROVED	Date	Of 1

Camp Paxson 24MO77



LODGE

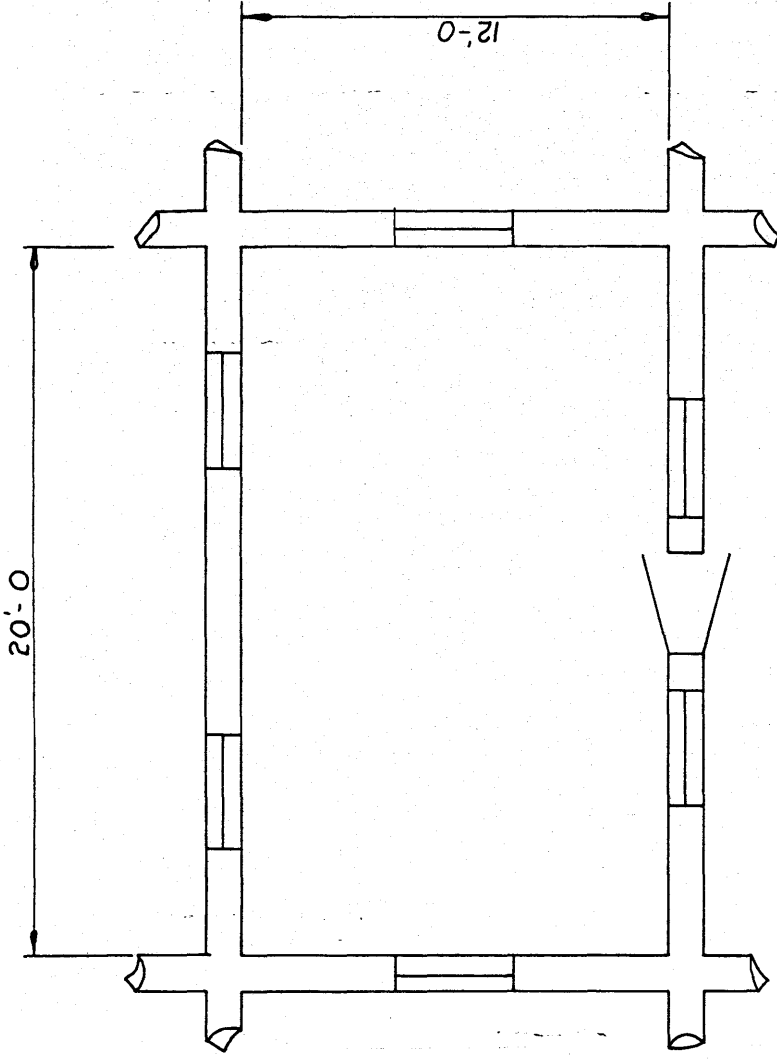
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USDA - Northern Region
Lolo National Forest
Seeley Lake Ranger District

Site No. 06-901 Facility No. 1041

Lodge Bld. No. 1

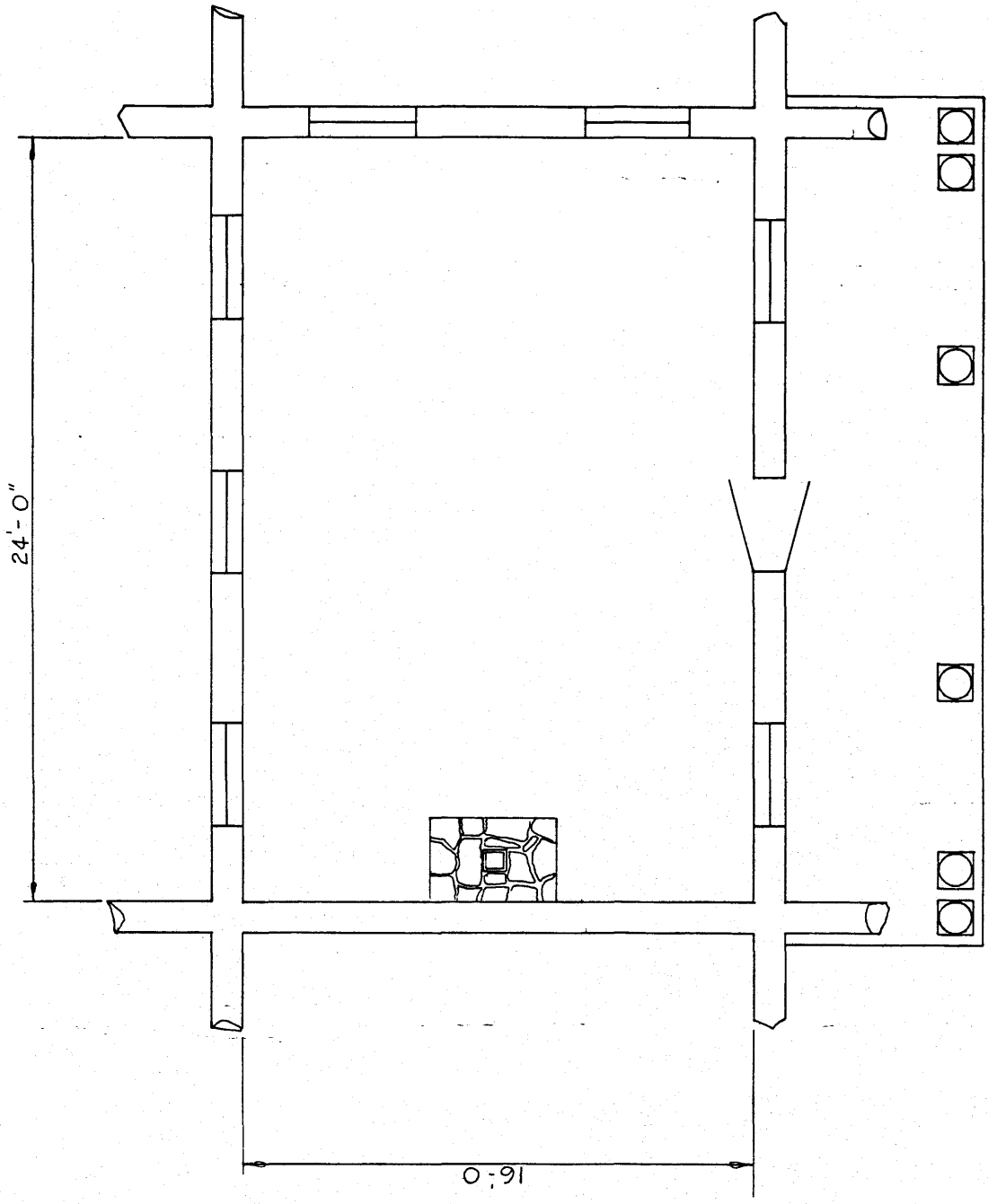
Camp Paxson 24MO77



Scale: $\frac{1}{4}'' = 1'-0$

USDA - Northern Region	Site No. 06-901	Facility No. 1042
Lolo National Forest	Cabin Blds. No. 2,3,5,6,7,8,10	
Seeley Lake Ranger District	11,12,13,15,16	

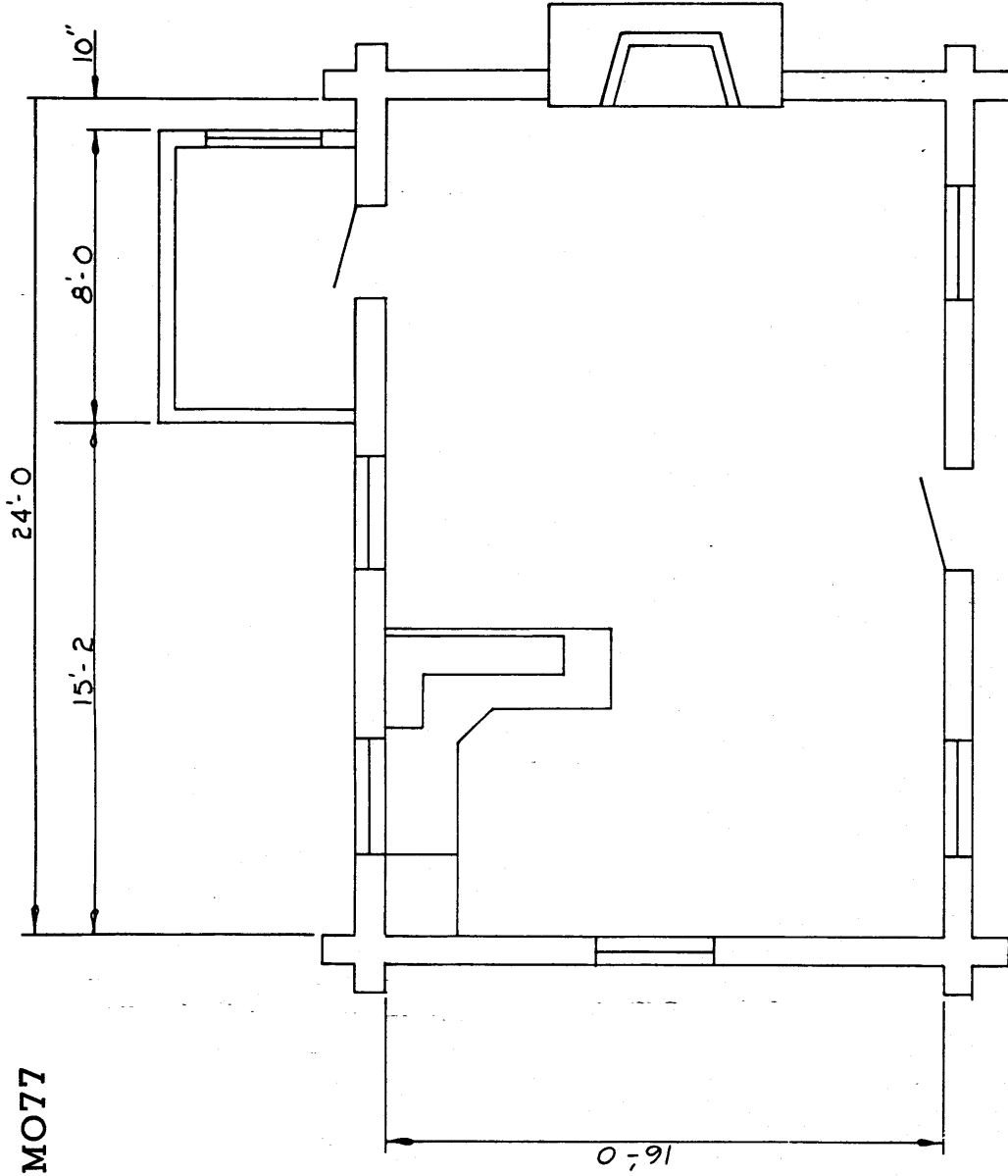
Camp Paxson 24MO77



Scale: 1/4" = 1'-0"

Site No. 06-901	Facility No. 1040
USDA - Northern Region	
Lolo National Forest	
Seeley Lake Ranger District	
Leaders Cabin Blds. No. 4,9,14	

Camp Paxson 24MO77



CARETAKERS CABIN

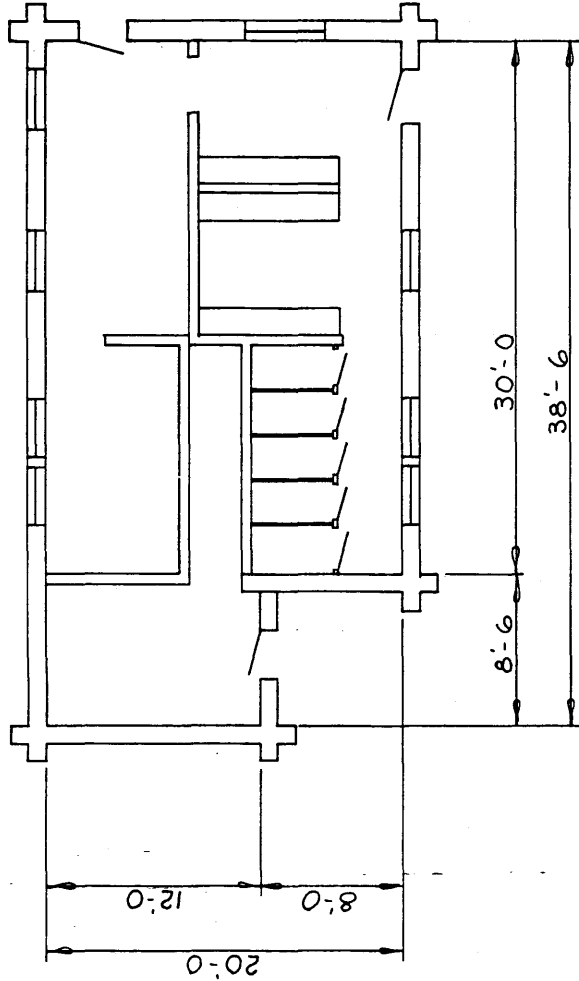
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USDA - Northern Region
Lolo National Forest
Seeley Lake Ranger District

Site No. 06-901 Facility No. 1056

Caretaker's Cabin Bld NO. 17

Camp Paxson 24MO77



Scale : 1/8" = 1'-0

USDA - Northern Region Lolo National Forest Seeley Lake Ranger District	Site No. 06-901 Facility No. 1111 Bath House Blds. No. 19,20
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