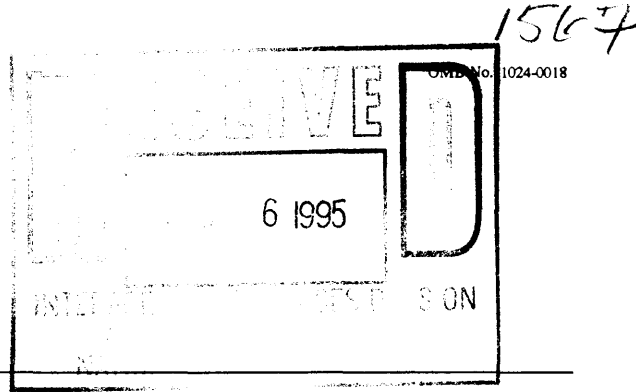


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM



1. Name of Property

historic name: Fish Creek Bay Boathouse

other name/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: N/A

not for publication: n/a

vicinity: at Fish Creek Campground, west shore Lake McDonald; Glacier National Park (GLAC)

city/town: West Glacier

state: Montana code: MT

county: Flathead code: 29

zip code: 59936

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 38 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_ statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  
[Signature] 12.5.95  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
National Park Service  
State or Federal agency or bureau

In my opinion, the property meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.  
[Signature] SEP 29 1995  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
Montana State Historic Preservation Office  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register  
see continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register  
see continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register  
see continuation sheet
- removed from the National Register  
see continuation sheet
- other (explain)

for Signature of the Keeper Entered in the Date of Action  
National Register  
[Signature] 1/19/96

Name of Property

County and State

**5. Classification**

<b>Ownership of Property:</b> Public: Federal	<b>Number of Resources within Property</b>	
<b>Category of Property:</b> Building	<b>Contributing</b>	<b>Noncontributing</b>
<b>Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register:</b> N/A	<u>1</u>	<u>      </u>
<b>Name of related multiple property listing:</b> Glacier National Park Multiple Property Submission	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
	<u>1</u>	<u>      </u>
		<b>building(s)</b>
		<b>sites</b>
		<b>structures</b>
		<b>objects</b>
		<b>Total</b>

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions:**  
Recreation and Culture; Transportation/boathouse

**Current Function:**  
Same

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification:**  
Rustic

**Materials:**  
**foundation:** concrete wall  
**walls:** lapped horizontal siding  
**roof:** metal sheeting  
**other:** boat cradle

**Narrative Description**

The Fish Creek Bay Boathouse is located at the edge of the Fish Creek Campground, immediately adjacent to the west shore of lower Lake McDonald, and is accessed by a gravel road diverting from loop C of the campground. A heavy growth of fir, ponderosa, larch, and cedar shield the boathouse from adjacent camp sites.

The boathouse is a one-story wood-frame building oriented perpendicular to the lakeshore. Only a shed-roofed addition running 3/4 of the length of the north elevation alters the simple rectangular footprint. Due to the partially excavated slope of the beach, the lakeside (south) elevation is higher than the rear (west) elevation. Lapped horizontal siding covers all exterior walls. A front-gable roof covers the primary component; the shed-roof of the addition originates just under the eave of the north gable slope. Metal sheeting covers all roof surfaces. Dimensional-lumber rafter ends are exposed. Both gable ends contain metal vents.

Boarded-over windows are symmetrically placed across both side elevations (two within the north elevation; three within the south elevation). The side-hinged plywood "shutters" sit within the window opening; there are no window surrounds. Features within the rear elevation of the primary component are limited to a pedestrian door constructed of vertical tongue-and-groove planks. The rear elevation of the addition also contains a door opening boarded-over from the interior.

An enormous set of side-hinged boat doors (each half constructed of four sheets of plywood) dominates the lakeside elevation. These doors extend from the beach to the widest point of the gable eave.

A set of double doors is centered within the lakeside elevation of the addition. The south half of the door is covered with lapped siding and the north half is covered with unlapped planks (no joint); these doors appear to have been cut out of the elevation after construction.

**8. Statement of Significance**

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**Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:**

**Applicable National Register Criteria:** A

**Criteria Considerations (Exceptions):** N/A

**Significant Person(s):** N/A

**Cultural Affiliation:** N/A

**Areas of Significance:** Recreation and Culture

**Period(s) of Significance:** 1928-1945

**Significant Dates:** 1928

**Architect/Builder:** Captain Billy Swanson of the Swanson Boat Company

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**Narrative Statement of Significance**

The Fish Creek Bay Boathouse is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A, at the local level, for its association with park recreational development. The building is a component of the World Class Accommodations property type, as defined in the Glacier National Park Multiple Resource Listing.

The first tour-boat operation on Lake McDonald began in 1895 and a number of boats served area visitors each summer until the 1930s and the completion of the Going-to-the-Sun Road along the east shore of the lake. One of the most successful tour boat concessioners, Captain Billy Swanson, constructed a number of boats still in operation throughout the park, among them the *De Smet*, which ran from the foot of Lake McDonald to the Lake McDonald Lodge. Boathouse #940 was constructed ca. 1928 to house the *De Smet* during the winter months. It has been in use since construction in that capacity.

The boathouse remains as a tangible reminder of an era in which boats provided a primary means of transportation along Lake McDonald as well as a popular means of recreation. The addition is of similar style and materials and appears to have been constructed during the historic period; it does not adversely affect the building's integrity.

**9. Major Bibliographic References**

Bruce Fladmark, "Fish Creek Bay Boathouse, Determination of Eligibility," Glacier National Park Headquarters maintenance office, West Glacier, Montana.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Location of Additional Data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository:

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property: less than 1 acre

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing
	A 12	280090	5381620

**Verbal Boundary Description**

Boundaries encompass only the building, its immediate, wooded surroundings, and the boat track/lake shore - comprising an area approximately 40' x 40' centered on the building.

**Boundary Justification**

The Fish Creek Bay Boathouse is most directly associated with the broad expanse of Lake McDonald, rather than with the adjacent Fish Creek Campground. These boundaries acknowledge that association and encompass the tree screen that shields the boathouse from the campground.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Ann Hubber/Historian  
 organization: Historical Research Associates, Inc. date: 6/1995  
 street & number: P.O. Box 7086 telephone: 406 721-1958  
 city or town: Missoula state: MT zip code: 59807-7086

**Property Owner**

name/title: National Park Service  
 street & number: Park Headquarters telephone: (406) 888-5411  
 city or town: West Glacier state: MT zip code: 59936

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7, Photographs

Page 1

Fish Creek Bay Boathouse, Flathead  
Co., MT

### 7. Narrative Description, continued

The boat cradle, extending from the interior of the original component into the lake, is constructed of hewn-logs topped with a metal rail.

Appropriate to its function, the boathouse interior is unfinished and dirt-floored.

A new concrete foundation was installed ca. 1992 and it is unlikely that the boat doors within the primary component are original. The materials and design of the addition suggest that it was constructed during the historic period. The addition appears to have been constructed during the historic period and thus does not adversely affect the building's physical integrity. The modern boat doors, the dominant feature within the front elevation, adversely affect integrity of design and of material but do not alter the building's mass, scale, or ready association with park boathouses. The modern campground is well screened from the boathouse by heavy vegetation and does not adversely affect integrity of setting.

### Photographs

#### Fish Creek Bay Boathouse (#940)

Date of Photographs: September 1993

Photographer: Ann Hubber

PHOTO NUMBER	STRUCTURE NAME AND NUMBER	DIRECTION OF VIEW
5	Fish Creek Bay Boathouse #940	View to SW
6	Fish Creek Bay Boathouse #940	View to S
7	Fish Creek Bay Boathouse #940	View to SE

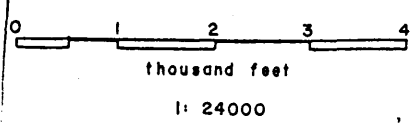
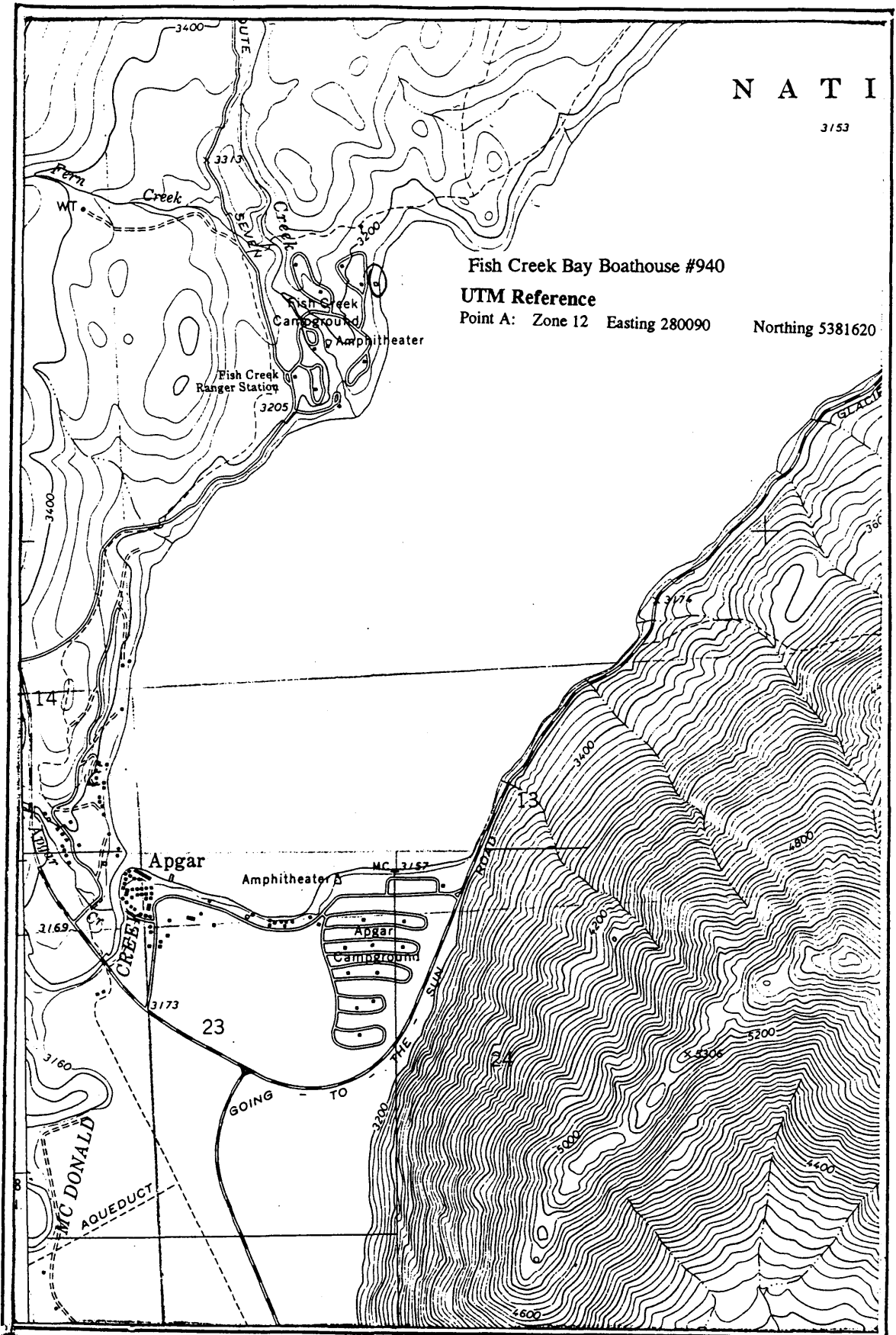
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3153

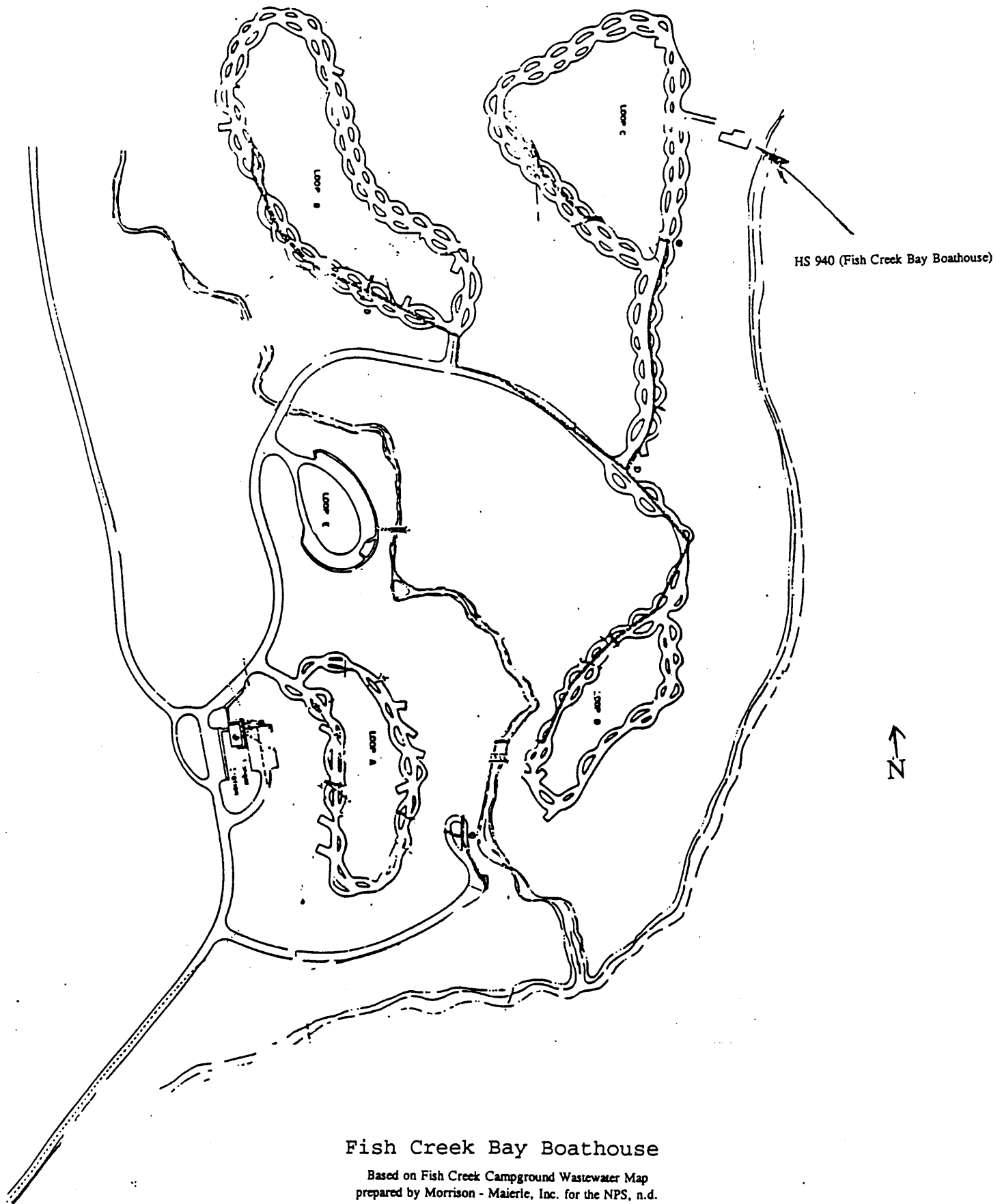
Fish Creek Bay Boathouse #940

UTM Reference

Point A: Zone 12 Easting 280090 Northing 5381620



USGS 7.5' Quad Lake McDonald West  
 Sec. 11 T 32N R 19W  
 County Flathead



Fish Creek Bay Boathouse

Based on Fish Creek Campground Wastewater Map  
 prepared by Morrison - Maierle, Inc. for the NPS, n.d.

