

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received JUN 26 1984  
date entered AUG 1 1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Swan Lake Rock House (24LA18) Historic District

and/or common Evans' Rock House: Three Rock Point

2. Location

off MT 83

street & number SW 1/4, Section 4, Township 25 North, Range 18 West, P.M.M.  
Lake County, Montana n/a not for publication

city, town n/a Swan Lake vic. n/a vicinity of

state Montana code 30 county Lake code 047

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	n/a	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (see continuation sheet)

name USDA - Forest Service, Flathead National Forest - Region One (landowner)

street & number P.O. Box 147

city, town Kalispell n/a vicinity of state Montana 59901

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Flathead National Forest - Land Status Section

street & number P.O. Box 147

city, town Kalispell state Montana 59901

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title none has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date <u>11/01/83</u>

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Swan Lake Rock House Historic District (24LA18) is situated on a prominent rock outcrop that is locally called Three Rock Point on the west shore of Swan Lake, Lake County, Montana. The District encompasses 1.4 acres of Flathead National Forest land. There are five structures within the District, all of which date from 1930. Manmade structural features include:

F-1 A masonry residence consisting of two offset rectangular masses with a shared masonry walk. The roof superstructure consists of two gabled roof ridges parallel to the length of each rectangle and a short, cross gable covering the intersected area.

Stone walls appear to be schist or a similar material. They are 12 inches thick and except for the bedroom interior, are left exposed. The stone, ranging in color from green-blue-grey to light cream-grey with orange-red overtones, are laid up roughly squared with regular and irregular common rubble with light mortar. The stone is roughly cut, as some stones have a peen hammered or tooled surface.

The inner doors are French doors with multiple lights. The doors are covered with screen doors on the outside. The rather wide expanses of windows with sliding multiple light sash identifies the house as a product of the early twentieth century. Smaller and fewer windows with jack arch or monolithic lintels as single units would have been truer to the general Norman-French historic character of the house.

The fireplace is constructed of the same stone and coursing as the walls except for the brick lining of the firebox. A single flat slab of stone caps the vertical height of the fireplace at midpoint. A single stone acts as a lintel over the firebox. From the mantel to the underside of the roof, the fireplace walls are battered inward on three sides.

Stone slab flooring flows through the house, uninterrupted by sills, to the outdoors.

The widely spaced trusses with log top and bottom chords, vertical log webs, and two log webs perpendicular to the roof slope may act more as stabilizers to prevent spreading than as true trusses. With exposed log rafters and decking, they may be as important decoratively or symbolically as they are structurally. Log ends projecting through end walls supported with log brackets which in turn support outermost rafters and fascia.

A distinctive feature of the house is the entry. Under a smaller gable perpendicular to the main roof, log columns on stone plinths support projecting log ends braced further by a horizontal chord to resist spreading. A curved log member spans between the columns tangent to the chord. Two more log members spring from the chord and curve to a right angle intersection with the roofline.

F-2 A 20' 6" x 14' 6" wood framed bunkhouse. The exterior sheathing and roofing material are shakes.

F-3 An 8' x 12' wood framed ice house. The exterior sheathing and roofing material are wood shakes.

F-4 A 4' x 4' shed style, single-hole privy. The exterior sheathing and roof material are shakes.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 001

F-5 An 8' x 12' wood framed pumphouse. The exterior sheathing and roofing material are wood shakes.

Although all of the buildings were constructed in 1929-30, it is evident that the Rock House was meant to dominate. Much more time, effort, and money were spent constructing the residence than the ancillary buildings.

The residence is situated as to take full advantage of the eastern exposure and the view of Swan Lake and the Swan Mountains. Out buildings are placed in sparse stands of timber, presumably to obscure their presence.

The physical appearance of the historic district remains unchanged from what it was during the period when it achieved significance. Periodic maintenance (staining wood work, replacing glass, etc.) has occurred, but all structures retain their integrity. Activities associated with the district today are in character with the activities associated with its historical significance. The district was originally constructed for leisure activities and remains so today.

Use of the structures within the district also remain unchanged. The rock house is still used as a residence; the bunkhouse is used to accommodate guests; and the ice shed, privy, and pumphouse function in their respective original capacities.

The Swan Lake Rock House Historic District, accessible by watercraft, is a distinct historical example of leisure activities on Swan Lake. The architectural style of the residence remains unique in the area. There are several conventional wood-framed and log resort residence on Swan Lake but their architectural design do not compare with that of the Rock House.

There is no surface evidence of prehistoric human occupation within the Swan Lake Rock House Historic District. An unsubstantiated report indicates the area may have been occupied by local American Indian groups. Informant Art Whitney states that his mother told him the rock outcrop was called "Maidens Leap" by the Flathead Indians. Art's mother was friends with several tribal members because of her association with them when she lived on a homestead on the Flathead Indian Reservation prior to her moving to the Swan Lake area in 1902. Regardless of the disposition of the "Maiden's Leap" portrait, it is unlikely that prehistoric cultural materials have survived the impacts of development in the district.

# 8. Significance

<b>Period</b>	<b>Areas of Significance—Check and justify below</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
			*Leisure/Recreation

**Specific dates** Built 1929-1930      **Builder/Architect** Designer: Martha Evans  
 Builders: William Moose, Art Whitney

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Swan Lake Rock House Historic District is an excellent representation of the historical development of Swan Lake as a recreation area. It is significant for its association with the prominent Lewis O. Evans family and for its unique architecture.

Lewis Orvis Evans, chief council for the Anaconda Copper Mining company and the Montana Power Company, and Cornelius Kelley, President of ACM, owned the luxurious country resort known as Kootenai Lodge (listed in the National Register of Historic Places on January 17, 1984) at the north end of Swan Lake. In 1927 L.O. Evans requested that the Forest Service grant a special-use permit to build a summer home on the west shore of the southern half of Swan Lake at Three Rock Point (letter on file, Swan Lake Ranger District, Bigfork, Montana). This request was made on the behalf of L.O. Evans' son, R.O. "Bun" Evans, who was away studying at Princeton University at the time. Bun Evans was engaged to be married and the summer home was to be a retreat for him and his new wife. The request was granted with the provision that the summer home would not impinge on the scenic beauty and solitude of Swan Lake. Construction of the Rock House began in the spring of 1929.

Mrs. Martha Evans designed and oversaw construction of the Rock House. In accordance with special-use stipulations, the structures were designed and located in such a manner that they blended with the natural environment. Ward B. Whitney was the master carpenter in charge of construction. William "Billy" Moose served as the mason. Rock used to construct the residence was obtained from a large rock outcrop 3 miles south of Three Rock Point. It was barged to the site where it was lifted off with a gin pole and placed on a "go-devil" tramway. Horses then pulled the "go-devil" up the hill to the site of the residence. Most of the other construction materials were purchased at the Kalispell Merchantile. These materials were also barged to the construction site. Construction of the Rock House and associated buildings was complete by the spring of 1930 and the buildings were in use that summer.

The rustic, yet ornate Kootenai Lodge was well suited for entertaining the sizeable groups of Evans' wealthy, prominent guests and the Rock House served more as a peaceful haven from the hustle and bustle normally found at Kootenai Lodge. Apparently Bun Evans had little interest in the Rock House as the special-use permit was transferred to Martha Evans in 1932. One of the big annual events that took place at the Rock House was a party held for Evans' and Kelley's employees working at the Kootenai Lodge.

The Rock House remains as an outstanding example of an architectural style that is unique in the area. Still in use today, it is a vivid reminder of the historic use of the area by the wealthy as a rustic retreat.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

- 1981 Wetzel, Betty  
Kootenai Lodge: Wilderness Waldorf For Copper Magnates.  
in Montana Magazine, Vol. 11, No. 5
- 1983 Whitney, Art  
An Oral Historical Sketch of the Swan Lake Rock House

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.4 acres Cassette tape on file, Flathead National Forest, Kalispell, Montana  
 Quadrangle name Yew Creek Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A	<u>1</u> <u>2</u>	<u>2</u> <u>8</u> <u>3</u> <u>9</u> <u>7</u> <u>10</u>	<u>5</u> <u>3</u> <u>1</u> <u>5</u> <u>2</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>	B	<u>1</u> <u>2</u>	<u>2</u> <u>8</u> <u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u>	<u>5</u> <u>3</u> <u>1</u> <u>5</u> <u>1</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>1</u> <u>2</u>	<u>2</u> <u>8</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u>	<u>5</u> <u>3</u> <u>1</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u>	D			
E				F			
G				H			

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The District boundary is defined as the triangular shaped plat of land (1.4 acres) described in the USDA Forest Service, Flathead National Forest special-use permit #5136. Three buried witness stakes, A,B, and C denote the boundary points (see sketch map).

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	n/a	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gary A. McLean, Forest Archaeologist  
 organization Flathead National Forest date 12/83  
 street & number P.O. Box 147 telephone (406) 755-5401  
 city or town Kalispell state Montana 59901

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

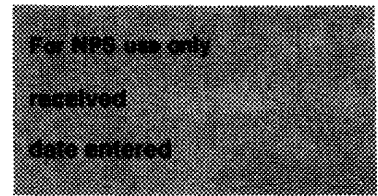
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Marcella Sheffer  
 title SHPO date 6-11-84

**For NPS use only**  
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register  
Meloria Byers Entered in the National Register date 8-1-84  
 Keeper of the National Register  
 Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 4

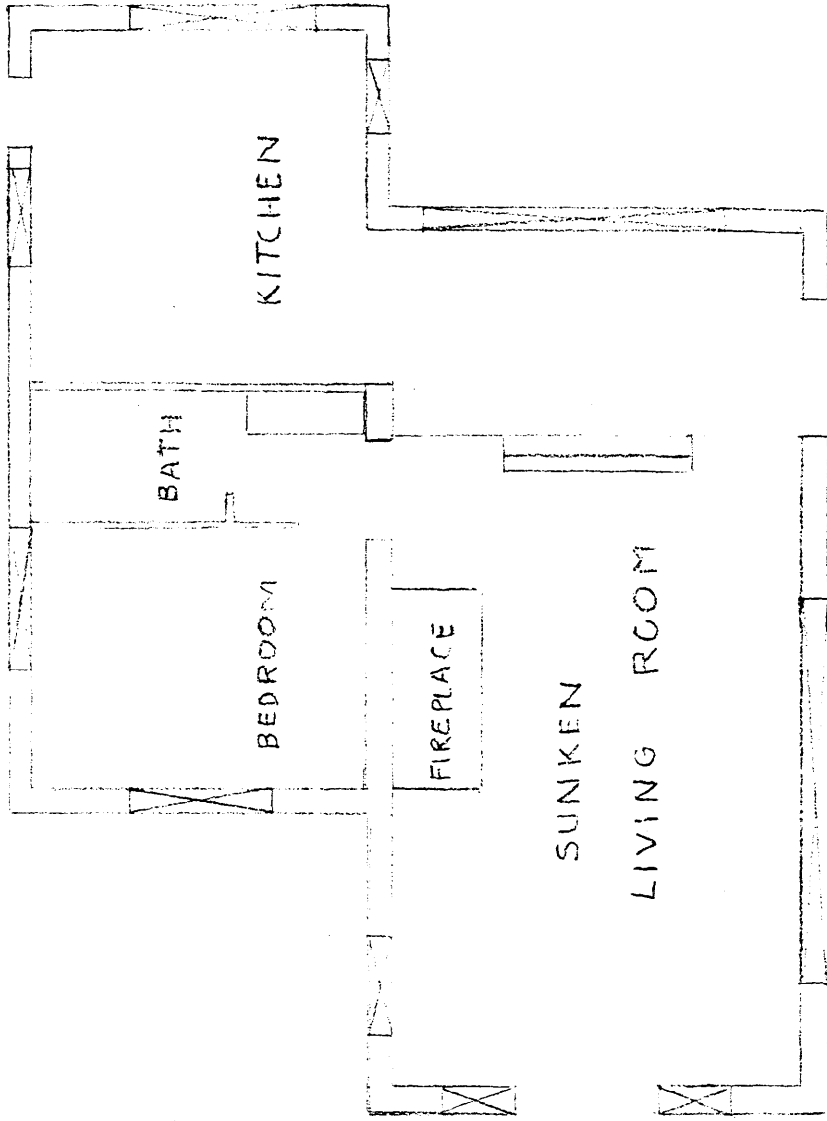
Page 001

Buildings owner:

Wilbur Watkins  
1200 Shakespeare St.  
Missoula, MT 59801

SWAN LAKE ROCK HOUSE

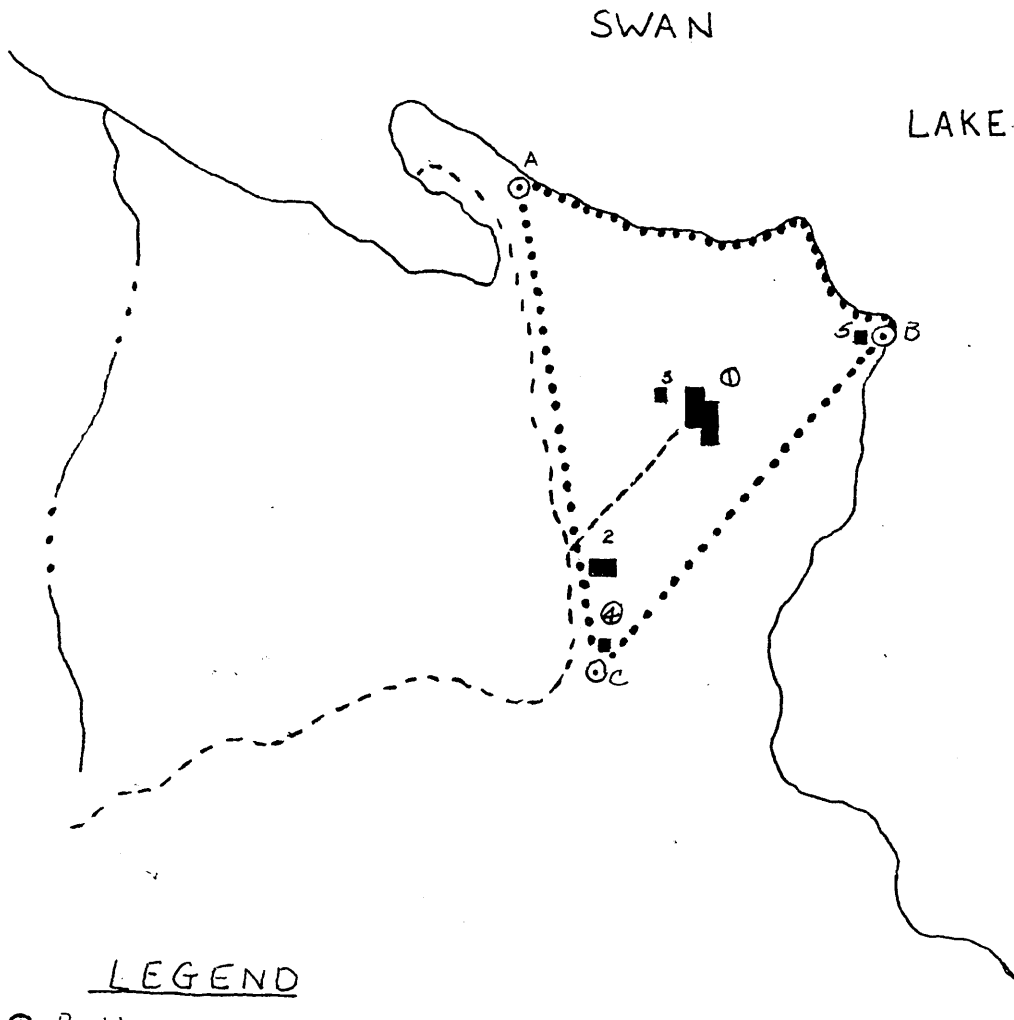
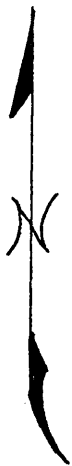
24LA18



SCALE: 1 inch = 8 ft.

# SWAN LAKE Rock House (24LA18)

Section 4, T.25 N, R. 18 W



## LEGEND

- ① Residence
  - ② Bunkhouse
  - ③ Ice shed
  - ④ Privy
  - ⑤ Pumphouse
  - Witness Stake
  - ... Special Use - Historic District Boundary
  - Trail
  - ~ ~ ~ Intermittent Creek
  - Shoreline
- Structural Features

SCALE: 1" = 165 ft.