

6.27.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 27 1978
DATE ENTERED	DEC 22 1978

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Holt and Balcom Logging Camp No. 1

AND/OR COMMON

"Depot" Camp, and "McCaslin Brook Farm" Camp

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

*E of Lakewood*

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Lakewood

VICINITY OF

8th

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Wisconsin

55

Oconto

083

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

McCaslin Lions Club of Townsend-Lakewood, c/o Edward Zebrasky

STREET & NUMBER

Route 1

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Mountain

\_\_ VICINITY OF

Wisconsin 54149

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds  
Oconto County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Oconto

Wisconsin 54153

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

1978

\_\_FEDERAL  STATE \_\_COUNTY \_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

CITY, TOWN

Madison

STATE

Wisconsin 53706

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT       DETERIORATED  
 GOOD             RUINS  
 FAIR              UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

Holt and Balcom Logging Camp No. 1 is a long square rectangular building situated on a low rise of land cleared of its native white pine forest cover for the purpose of establishing a logging outpost operation of the Holt and Balcom Lumber Company. The slight elevation of its siting provides good drainage into the McCaslin Brook watershed approximately 80 feet to the north. Building orientation is with the long axis dimension of 75 feet east-west, roughly parallel to the eastward flowing brook. The original supply road into the camp from the east, passing between the camp building and the brook, remains evident as a winding trace.

In the vernacular, the building is substantially a two-pen, dog-trot structure, with integral gable roof. The east pen is the cook house, 36 1/3 feet in length, the west pen is the bunk house, 26 1/2 feet in length; between the pens, the midway or dingle measures 12 feet. The short axis dimension is a uniform 26 feet, and the peak rises 14 feet above grade.

The building is constructed entirely of on-site harvested/peeled white pine logs, in the round, with log ends deeply beveled and hewn to tight-fitting modified dovetail joining. Log diameters range from eight to sixteen inches, size-graded for appropriate placement in the structure as rafters, purlins, gable logs, and wall curtaining. Flooring throughout is on-site hand sawn, in random widths. Expert carpentry is evident in well-fitted framing of double-deck bunks, door and window framing, and sturdy planked doors. It is assumed that the six-over-six double-hung window sash was carted in from the company mills at Oconto, some fifty-odd miles to the southeast from the Lakewood camp. Entry to the building is through the dingle, and doors to either pen. The bunk house has no openings in its north wall, two windows in the south, and a door with small square transom in its west wall. The cook house features a door with flanking windows centered in the north wall, a door close to the southeast corner of the south wall (the "kitchen" door) and two windows between it and the dingle, and two "kitchen" windows in the east wall. Each pen sports a stovepipe chimney, just off-peak; that for the bunk house centered near the top of the south roof slope, that for the cook house just inside the east gable wall line near the upper corner of the north roof slope. There are no other roof appurtenances.

Present roofing is full-covering butted plank boarding with down-slope runs of tar paper, in recently contemporary style for such woods buildings, although W. A. Holt in describing another of the Holt and Balcom camps "typical of those times" (c.1883) writes, "the roof covered with Cedar or Pine shakes (split shingles, each about three feet long)," and, "There was one skylight, which served as ventilator, . . ."<sup>1</sup> It is assumed that remaining outfitting of the bunk house consists of eight bunks, as four sets of decked doubles; a hollowed-out logwash basin, a space-heating stove, and a grind-stone. In the cook house, only a massive cast iron stove with integral hot water reservoir remains.

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<sup>1</sup> A Wisconsin Lumberman Looks Backward, p. 34 et passim.

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The present site of the logging camp includes only the building itself and its "frontage" down to McCaslin Brook on about a third of an acre.<sup>2</sup> The turn-of-the-century siting was, however, an extensive 360 acres,<sup>3</sup> accomodating the camp building, a log blacksmith shop, a frame horse barn, a warehouse for central supply storage (hence "Depot" Camp), a truck garden for the cook house, spring pasture and hay fields (hence "McCaslin Brook Farm" Camp).<sup>4</sup>

The site is enclosed on three sides by the McCaslin Brook Golf and Country Club, with close peripheral encroachments by a parking lot, clubhouse, tee, and equipment area.

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2. Quit Claim Deed.
  3. Caldwell & Porter
  4. Historic Holt & Balcom Logging Camp, pp. 2, 3.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY Association with Holt lumbering enterprise.)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1880 1, 2

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Attributed to Ernest Livingston and Henderson Bateman. 2

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Holt and Balcom Logging Camp No. 1, Lakewood vicinity, Oconto County, Wisconsin is significant by its association with the Holt-Balcom Lumber Company, the office of which is a National Register Property in the City of Oconto, entered in the Register Nov. 13, 1976.

The logging camp is significant as the oldest known surviving structure of its kind still on the original site and is representative of the field operations of the logging and lumbering industry in Wisconsin.<sup>3</sup> In parallel with the lumber company office, the sole remaining structure in the City of Oconto representative of the management operations of the industry, the logging camp testifies to the American woodsman's versatility as an ad hoc planner, architect, and building craftsman in creating this unique architectural type. Both structures symbolize the determined enterprise and effective entrepreneurship of three generations of the Holt Family in the logging and lumbering industry in northeastern Wisconsin.<sup>4</sup>

Although surrounded by the McCaslin Brook Golf and Country Club, Holt and Balcom Logging Camp No. 1 retains atmosphere and feeling, structural integrity, and determined persistence as a historic presence. As it approaches its centennary, it is undergoing stabilization and restoration by the McCaslin Lions Club of Townsend-Lakewood.

Certified and designated a historic landmark by the Oconto County Historical Society in 1959, the logging camp was recognized by the Wisconsin Historical Markers Council in 1972 when a Wisconsin Official Historical Marker was erected at the northeast corner of the building.

1 Wisconsin Historical Markers

2 History of Holt & Balcom Logging Camp, p.1.

3 Ibid., p.1.

4 American Lumberman, passim.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

American Lumberman, 1938; 1847-1938 - Founder's Ideals are Continued for 91 Years (article on the Holt Lumber Company of Oconto, Wisconsin), Chicago, Illinois, Whole Number 3141, December 17, 1938, pp. 51-58, illus.  
 Caldwell & Porter, 1898, Abstract Atlas of Oconto County, Wisconsin.  
 Holt, William Arthur, 1948, A Wisconsin Lumberman Looks Backward, privately published, 82 pp., illus.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY           .33          

QUADRANGLE NAME Wheeler Lake

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24 000

UTM REFERENCES  
 A 16 382740 5016960  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B                 
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C               

D               

E               

F               

G               

H               

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION From a point 860 feet west and 220 feet north of the quarter corner between Sections 33 and 34 (T. 33 N., R. 16 E.), thence north 120 feet to McCaslin Brook, thence west along bank 125 feet, thence south 110 feet, thence east 125 feet to point of beginning.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

John W. Winn, Local Preservation Coordinator

ORGANIZATION

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

March 30, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

816 State Street

TELEPHONE

608/262-9616

CITY OR TOWN

Madison

STATE

Wisconsin 53706

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE   X  

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

*Richard M. Munn*

TITLE

Director  
State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

5/16/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Charles A. ...*  
 ATTEST: *Ruby B. Franklin*  
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 12-22-78

DATE 12-19-78

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Historic Holt & Balcom Logging Camp, 1959, Oconto County Historical Society, Oconto, Wisconsin, 4 pp., illus.

Quit Claim Deed, 1976, Oconto County Historical Society to McCaslin Lions Club of Lakewood-Townsend, Registrar's Office, Oconto County, Wisconsin, Document No. 296739, Vol. 435, Page 467.

Wisconsin Historical Markers, 1977, Historical Markers Council, State of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, 12 pp., illus., map, list of official historical markers.

Wisconsin Manuscripts, 1966, Outline History of the Holt Lumber Company, in Inventory of Papers, 1839-1944, of Holt Lumber Company, Oconto, Wisconsin, pp. 1-5; Green Bay Mss 1 (WHi/25), State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison.

Zeitlin, Richard H., 1973, Holt-Balcom Lumber Company Depot Camp, On-site field survey and structure analysis report, Field Reports, 1973, 6 pp., drwgs., State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison.