

PH0356131

**DATA SHEET**

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**  
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NP USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 7 1976
DATE ENTERED	AUG 2 1977

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  **Sperry Chalet**  
AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER: Lake McDonald Lodge Area  
CITY, TOWN: West Glacier  
STATE: Montana  
VICINITY OF:    
CODE: 30  
COUNTY: Flathead  
CODE: 029  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 1  
NOT FOR PUBLICATION

**CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)  
National Park Service, Rocky Mountain Region  
STREET & NUMBER: 655 Parfet Street, P.O. Box 25287  
CITY, TOWN: Denver  
STATE: Colorado  
VICINITY OF: \_\_\_\_\_  
CODE: 80225

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Glacier National Park (building records only)  
STREET & NUMBER: National Park Service  
CITY, TOWN: West Glacier  
STATE: Montana  
CODE: 59936

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE: None  
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY, TOWN: \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

## 7 DESCRIPTION

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

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

The Sperry Chalet buildings, of stone masonry construction, are perched on the edge of a glacier-carved cirque in Glacier National Park at an elevation of 6,500 feet in sub-alpine setting. The chalet is accessible only by trail, 6.5 miles east of Lake McDonald and provides an alpine appearance.

The dormitory (Bldg. No. 796), is the larger, 94'x34', of two buildings. It is two stories with a gabled roof and front and rear eave gables. Rolled asphalt roofing covers wood shingles on rough-sawn roof decking. The roof eaves are supported on pole brackets, which rest on corbelled wall stones. The corners of the random ashlar building are quoined.

The twenty-three room dormitory is divided into two sections, each with a first floor entrance off a narrow, more recent deck along the west side. Original balconies were removed over the years, the last in 1956, due to deterioration from heavy snowfalls. Inside, there has been no modernization, the partitions are cedar wainscoting and puncheons. Floors are wide tongue-in-groove planking. The south end of the building has been re-floored and rebraced.

The detached kitchen/dining room structure (Bldg. No. 797), is 25'x58' and is constructed in a simpler style, but has the typical rustic character. The building (Bldg. No. 797) has a gabled roof built in 1961 with trusses, replacing an original roof in which "pole trusses" supported purlins. At the east there is one doorway and at the west there are several doorways which open onto a deck similar to the dormitory deck. There are two small rooms at the south end. The kitchen is partially separated from the dining room area by a partition. The windows are 4 over 4, casement sash with segmentally arched openings.

Included in the Sperry Chalet Historic District is the talus slope from which the stone was quarried for the building, located directly behind the chalets and extending south. There is also a recently built comfort station and a small, single room, log patrol cabin.

It is expected that the Sperry Chalet will continue to function as an overnight concession activity within the park. Cyclic maintenance of the structures will continue to be performed, as well as possible restoration of the original balconies, which will respect the historical integrity of the complex.

# 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				Tourism

SPECIFIC DATES Completed in 1913 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Cutter & Malmgren

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed for the Great Northern Railway as part of the system of grand hotels and picturesque chalets in Glacier National Park soon after it was established in 1910, Sperry Chalet represents one of the unique surviving visitor facilities. Perched high in the mountains and accessible only by trail, it provides the visitor a wilderness destination point with rustic comforts.

The Chalet was completed in 1913, all work being accomplished in the few summer months of each year. The stone was taken from the nearby talus slopes and the timber from the forest below. All other material and supplies had to be packed in by stock over the mountain trails. The Great Northern Railway brought in Italian stone masons to perform the initial stone work of the structures, which, like Granite Park Chalet was built under the supervision of E. G. Evensta.

The Chalet was used in conjunction with the Glacier Park Saddle Horse Company, at one time the largest outfitter of its kind in the world with over 1,000 horses. Visitors would leave the comfort of the Going-to-the-Sun Chalet and travel by horse to the Gunsight Lake Tent Camp. They continued over Gunsight and Lincoln Passes to the Sperry Chalet. Although this route is no longer used by the Horse Company, saddle parties still come to Sperry from the Lake McDonald Lodge by horse. However, the greatest number of travelers are hikers.

Since 1913, the Chalet has provided backcountry travelers a traditional service by providing hearty meals and rustic mountain atmosphere. The complex, a living-working museum of the early park era, was turned over to the Glacier Park Hotel Company in 1915, and was donated to National Park Service in March 1954. It is currently operated on a seasonal basis by Belton Chalets, Incorporated.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Robinson, Donald H., Through the Years in Glacier National Park, Glacier Natural History Association, 1962.
2. Ober, Michael J., Enmity and Alliance: Park Service-Concessioner Relations in Glacier National Park 1892-1961. Unpublished M. A. thesis, University of Montana, 1973.
3. Mrs. Kaye Luding, Belton Chalets, Inc., West Glacier, MT. Manager of Sperry Chalets since 1955.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1   2	2   9   4   8   8   0	5   3   8   7   1   0   0	B	1   2	2   9   4   8   7   0	5   3   8   6   9   0   0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1   2	2   9   4   5   9   0	5   3   8   6   9   0   0	D	1   2	2   9   4   6   0   0	5   3   8   7   2   6   0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The district is south of Sperry Glacier, adjacent to Glacier Basin north of Lincoln Peak, and east of Lake McDonald Lodge with access from Gunsight Pass Trail.

(Above information superseded by Addendum to Item 10.)

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Edwin L. Rothfuss, Chief Park Naturalist

9/2/75

ORGANIZATION

Glacier National Park

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

National Park Service

TELEPHONE

406/888-5441

CITY OR TOWN

West Glacier

STATE

Montana 59936

# 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

Deputy Assistant Secretary

DATE JUN 3 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

ATTEST:

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

7-17-77

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AUG 2 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET    ADDENDUM                    ITEM NUMBER 7                    PAGE 1

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Building #797, the kitchen/dining room, was built in 1913 at the same time as the dormitory, Building #796, and together the two structures are known as the Sperry Chalets.

The patrol cabin was built in the 1950's as a tack room for trail crews. The frame structure has since been converted into temporary housing for trail crews. It has no historic value.

  
George C. Mackenzie  
Historian (Landmark Specialist)

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DATE ENTERED AUG 2 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET ADDENDUM

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

When the nomination for the Sperry Chalets was completed by park officials at Glacier National Park the term "chalet" was meant to express the original complex built in 1913 - the dormitory and kitchen/dining room.

  
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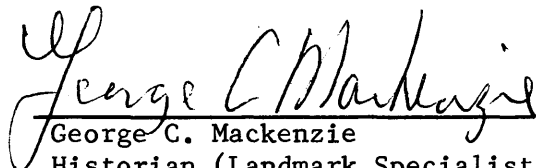
DATE ENTERED AUG 8 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET    ADDENDUM    ITEM NUMBER 10    PAGE 1

Originally the nomination for the Sperry Chalets was given 30 acres because the Glacier Wilderness Proposal had allowed that many acres for the enclave. It has been decided that only the two 1913 built structures, Buildings #796 and #797, should be represented in the nomination. The new area, comprising only the two chalets, is less than one (1) acre, and its new UTM reference is as follows:

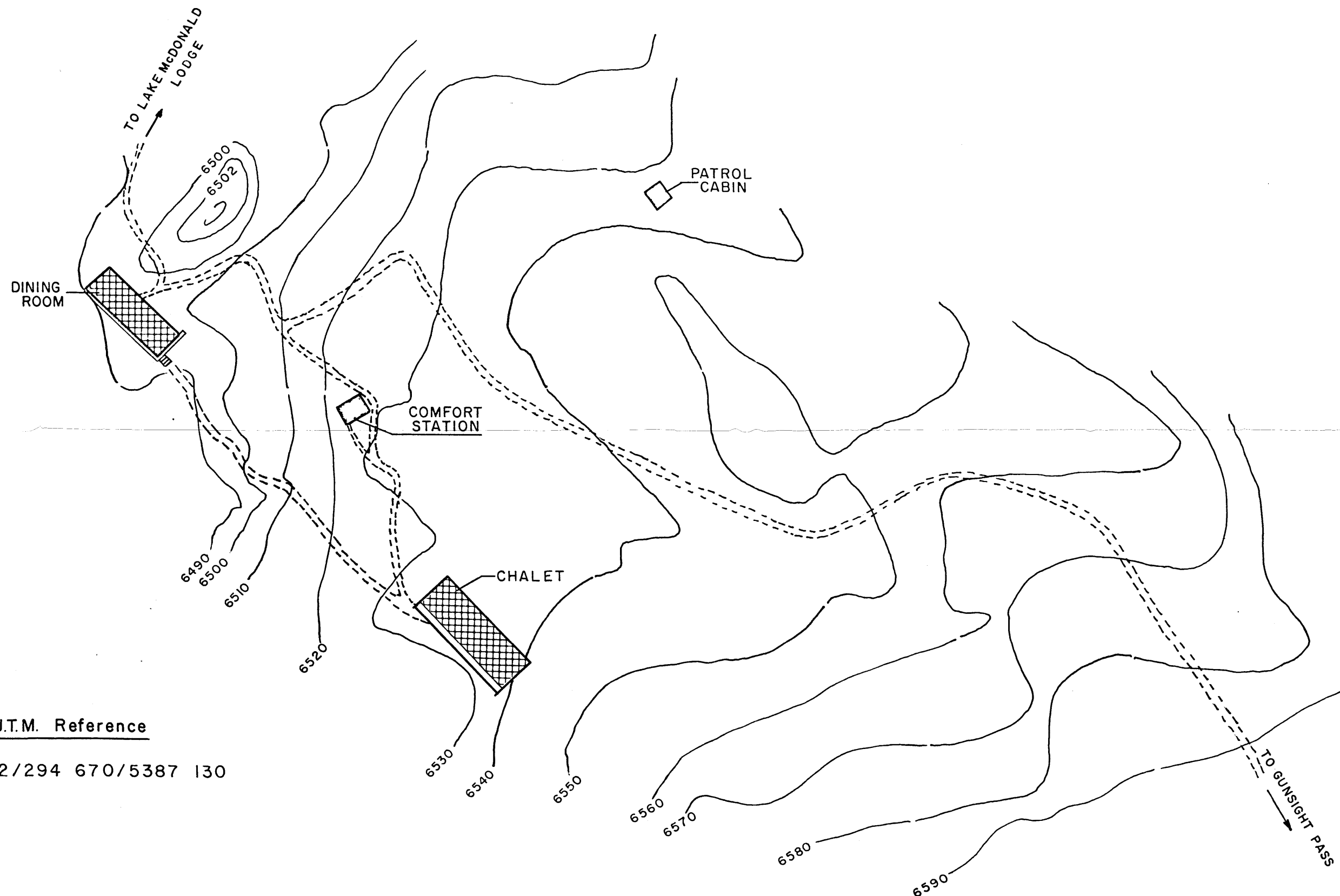
Zone 12, Easting 294 670, Northing 5387 130

The other structures included in the original nomination, the patrol cabin and comfort station, have been excluded, since they have no historic value.

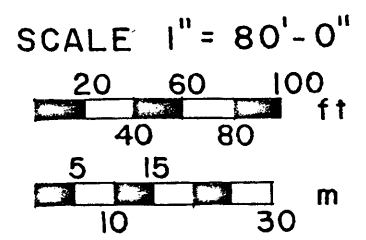
  
George C. Mackenzie  
Historian (Landmark Specialist)



AUG 2 1977



U.T.M. Reference  
12/294 670/5387 130



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

SPERRY CHALET S  
GLACIER NATIONAL PARK  
MONTANA

DRAWING NO.  
171  
80008