

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Swiftcurrent Auto Camp Historic District

other name/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: N/A

not for publication: N/A

vicinity: west end of Glacier Route 3; Glacier National Park (GLAC)

city/town: Many Glacier

state: Montana code: MT county: Glacier code: 035 zip code: 59417

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 36 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 X statewide ___ locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

J. D. Pritchett Signature of certifying official/Title Date 12.5.95

National Park Service
State or Federal agency or bureau

In my opinion, the property 1 meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

[Signature] Signature of commenting or other official Date SEP 29 1995

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):

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

8. Statement of Significance

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: A; C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Areas of Significance: Architecture; Recreation; Government

Period(s) of Significance: 1933-1943

Significant Dates:

Architect/Builder: Glacier Park Hotel Co; Superior Building Co.,
NPS Branch of Plans and Design

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Swiftcurrent Auto Camp Historic District is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places at the state level, with significance in architecture and history (criteria A and C). Areas of significance, as defined by the National Register, include Recreation, Government, and Architecture. The district is a component of the Economy Accommodations property type, as defined in the Glacier National Park Multiple Resource Listing.

Swiftcurrent facilities, constructed in circular "tepee" rings, are representative of the traveling public's continued fascination with the American West. Spartan and inexpensive, the facilities are also representative of a major shift in National Park Service policy and concession development made in response to external changes in the leisure patterns of the American public (criterion A). The small-scale "rustic" design and the isolated placement of the buildings constructed at Swiftcurrent also exemplify a shift in NPS policy regarding new building design and placement within a national park primarily established for its natural beauty (criterion C). The district's period of significance extends from the 1933 construction of the first cabins to 1945, the end of the historic period. Additional components of the complex, including hotel units #833, and #941-943, should be evaluated for eligibility once they are fifty years old.

The search for balance between private profit and public service dominates the history of concessions within Glacier National Park. Anticipating public demand and serving public needs was a mandate of the National Park Service and was in the best interest of those private entrepreneurs who risked federal interference, a short travel season, and constant flux in American travel patterns in hopes of realizing a profit. The nature and pace of concession development within Glacier National Park thus provides a stage for the study of the appeal of the American West, changes in travel patterns, and the ongoing debate between development and conservation interests.

As the auto tourist, independently mobile and possessing limited funds, replaced the captive and wealthy clientele that had dominated the first twenty years of park history (1910-1930), the nature of the accommodation/transportation/recreation infrastructure evolved. This evolution was prompted both by an increasingly powerful National Park Service and by the inevitable conclusion of the principal concessioner (the Glacier Park Company) that their rail network was no longer profitable. Post-1930 development clearly represented the "new" traveling public, more interested in economy and less interested in expensive European-style comfort or western nostalgia -- trademarks of Glacier's grand hotels.

Beginning in the 1920s, NPS Director Stephen Mather called for development of spartan, inexpensive facilities where tipping, dress codes and lavish furnishings were not required (Mather 1923:63). By the 1930s, tourists to Glacier National Park angrily reiterated these demands:

There should be erected at once at every camp, good substantial permanent buildings of one, two, three, and four rooms for just the "forgotten man" ... There should also be constructed at every camp a building for a restaurant or cafeteria where meals may be obtained at a reasonable price (Whipps, 1932).

In 1933, under increasing pressure from the National Park Service, the Glacier Park Hotel Company (GPHC) began construction of the Swiftcurrent Auto Camp. This facility, designed by the Hotel Company and approved by NPS Landscape Architects, consisted of a camp store, 27 spartan wood-frame cabins, and a public shower facility.

5. Classification

Ownership of Property: Public-Federal Category of Property: District	Number of Resources within Property		
	Contributing	Noncontributing	
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: None	45	1	building(s)
Name of related multiple property listing: Glacier National Park	_____	_____	sites
Multiple Property Listing	_____	_____	structures
	_____	_____	objects
	45	1	Total

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:	Current Function:
Commerce; Domestic/hotel, single dwelling; Recreation and Culture	Same

7. Description

Architectural Classification:	Materials:
Rustic (modified); Swiss (modified)	foundation: concrete
	walls: horizontal lapped siding
	roof: wood shingles; modern metal panels
	other: N/A

Narrative Description

Location and Setting

The Swiftcurrent Auto Camp is located approximately 2 miles west of the Many Glacier Hotel, near the National Park Service Many Glacier Campground. In stark contrast to the conspicuously located Many Glacier Hotel, the buildings are concentrated within an obscure wooded area that affords only rare -- and apparently incidental -- views of the surrounding mountains. The general store/coffee shop (Building #832) and associated large circular parking area provide the gateway to the complex. The 26 tourist cabins are arranged in four circular tepee configurations, linked to each other and to the public shower by a series of narrow walkways. Two nine-cabin circles are now reserved for employee use; these and the associated employee shower are segregated from the tourist cabins by the historic access road that divides the district. The single modern resource within the district boundary, employee shower #1419, is a small and inconspicuous building. Modern motel units #833 and #941-#943 are concentrated at the periphery of the historic complex. Visual intrusion is further mitigated by the mature stands of coniferous trees.

General Store/Coffee Shop (#832), 1935, 1945

The general store/coffee shop is a single-story wood- and log-frame building faced with lapped horizontal wood siding. The building consists of the general store, constructed in 1935 and now forming the east end of the building, and two large 1940s additions: the central lobby space and the coffee shop at the west end of the building; a salt-box addition to the rear elevation of the 1935 component. The L-shaped floorplan created by the 1940s additions was altered slightly with the 1955 construction of a shed-roof addition to the rear elevation. The building rests on a concrete foundation and has a partial concrete basement. A wood- and log-framed side-gable roof covers the building. All prominent roof surfaces are covered with wood shingles painted green and doubled every fifth course (as per the original design [see Drawing No. NP-GLA-3100]). Built-up roofing covers the shed roof of the 1955 addition as well as the "hidden" rear gable slopes of the historic components. Roof features include boxed-in eaves, an interior stone chimney (offset within the rear gable slope of the 1935 component) and an interior brick chimney located within the rear (north) gable slope of the 1940s addition.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Cammerer, Arno and Albert H. Good. *Park Structures and Facilities*. United States Department of Interior, National Park Service, 1935.

Good, Albert H. *Park and Recreation Structures, Part I - Administration and basic service Facilities*. United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1938.

Historical Research Associates. *Historic Context and National Register Guidelines for Concession Operations, Glacier National Park, Montana*. Report Prepared for United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1991.

Hufstetler, Mark. "Glacier Historic Structures Narrative Histories." Unpublished manuscript on file at the Glacier National Park Library and Archives, West Glacier, MT.

Mather, Stephen. *Annual Report of the Director, NPS*. United States Department of Interior, National Park Service, 1923.

United States Department of Interior, National Park Service. *News Release 40-7-27-FTH., Folder 50-9*, Glacier National Park Library and Archives, West Glacier, MT.

Whipps, C. W., "The Great Northern Wild Animal Preserve," *The Kalispell Times*, Kalispell, MT., Oct. 6, 1932.

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 (NPS, Rocky Mountain Region; Glac. NP)
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 12.24 acres

UTM References: (see continuation sheet Section 10 page 7)

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Swiftcurrent Auto Camp is shown as a dashed line on the accompanying map entitled "Swiftcurrent Auto Camp, 1994."

Boundary Justification

These boundaries incorporate all buildings and landscape elements associated with the Swiftcurrent Auto Camp's period of historic development. To a lesser degree, these boundaries also conform to topographic lines, roadways, and the visual boundaries of the district. Modern intrusions on the historic district are peripheral and are sheltered from historic resources by mature native vegetation.

11. Form Prepared By

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

Property Owner

name/title: United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
street & number: N/A telephone: (406)888-5541
city or town: West Glacier state: MT zip code: 59936

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A large front porch runs nearly the length of the building. The shed roof that protects the porch is initiated high in the gable slope and is the dominant design element of the front elevation. The porch is wood-framed with numerous 6" square columns (creating the appearance of 16 bays), 2" square railings, and decorative cross-bracing beneath the eaves. The floor and access steps are constructed of concrete and the handicapped access ramp is constructed of dimensional lumber and plywood. The three front-elevation doors are wood with large single-light windows. Front-elevation fenestration is dominated by large, single-light windows flanked by a pair of smaller, two-light windows. These window groupings are symmetrically placed in line with the "bays" created by the porch columns. The east elevation of the original (1935) component contains four three-light hopper windows. The rear elevation is now dominated by the 1955 addition; visible features within the ca. 1940 saltbox addition are limited to a boarded-over window within the gable end. (This window was boarded-over at the time of survey and sash type and pane design could not be determined). Features within the 1955 addition include a large metal two-light service door within the east elevation. The north elevation of the addition contains a number of asymmetrically placed windows of divergent sizes and a modern glazed and paneled door. Features within the rear elevation of the 1940s component include a metal two-light service door, a number of asymmetrically placed windows of divergent sizes, and a second service entry (the windows and second entry were boarded-over for the winter at the time of survey). All fenestration is wood-framed. The building is painted brown with yellow and white trim and is in generally good condition.

Only the general store interior retains a semblance of its historic (1940) appearance. The store's original open floor plan remains intact, as do the large frame columns. Rolled sheet vinyl covers the floor and the walls are finished with V-grooved tongue-and-groove vertical planks topped with a 1" x 5" horizontal board, in turn topped with decorative molding. Celotex panels, finished with 1.5" battens, cover the ceiling. Suspended ultraviolet lights illuminate the room. Fixed furnishings include the original walk-in cooler with elaborate six-panel wood door, display units with laminate counters, and painted plywood shelving units for general merchandise.

The central component of the building, containing a lobby, lounge, and two restrooms, has been remodeled in the post-historic period. Rolled sheet vinyl covers all but the restroom floors, walls are finished with a dado constructed of horizontal boards with alternating rough and smooth finishes, and sheet rock covers the ceiling. Light fixtures include a wagon-wheel chandelier. The modern doors are constructed of metal or hollow core wood and are finished with narrow, modern, surrounds. The ceramic floors within the bathrooms may date to the historic period. All other bathroom surfaces and fixtures are modern.

The coffee shop also displays few historic interior finishes. Linoleum tiles were replaced with rolled sheet vinyl in the fall of 1992. Unpainted rough-cut wood panelling (laid vertically on the lower two-thirds of the walls and horizontally on the upper third) covers the walls; this wall treatment may date to the historic period. All door and window surrounds are narrow and appear to be modern. Acoustic tiles, with inset florescent light panels, cover the ceiling. A modern one-light door leads from the porch to the coffee shop. Four one-light swinging wood doors lead from the coffee shop to the kitchen. Additional fixtures include modern fans and "air-dams" above the doors - a deterrent to flies.

The historic component of the kitchen is finished with 4" vertical tongue-and-groove on the center 1/3 of the wall, with sheetrock above and marlite below. All wall and ceiling surfaces are painted white. No-skid linoleum covers the floors, and sheetrock covers the ceiling. All lighting fixtures, the walk-in cooler, and kitchen appliances are modern.

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The employee lunch room and adjoining restrooms located east of the kitchen (within the 1955 addition) were constructed in the modern period and contain no historic fabric.

Building #832 underwent a substantial architectural metamorphosis during its first five years, changing from a small, log-framed general store to a substantial, lumber-sided building incorporating mercantile, lounge, and dining facilities. The dominant changes, however, occurred during the historical period. The current building retains much of its 1940 exterior appearance and continues to contribute to our understanding of a major shift in NPS concession development made in response to changes in the leisure patterns of the American public. The building is a contributing component of the Swiftcurrent Auto Camp Historic District. With the exception of the general store, the interior of the building has been substantially altered in the post-historic period. The general store, however, retains sufficient historic fabric -- including the central columns, tongue-and-groove paneling, original floorplan, and original walk-in cooler -- to contribute to the building's significance.

Cabin Circles

Six circular groupings, each containing nine cabins and designed to resemble a tepee ring, originally comprised the Swiftcurrent Auto Camp. Seven cabins were removed from cabin-circle I and three from circle B in the 1960s. Cabin #841 in circle A burned during the summer of 1993. All other circles retain their original configuration. An "entry" to each circle is created by two, 2-room cabins divided by the formal pedestrian access and oriented toward each other; all other cabins face the center of the circle.

Circles A and E currently provide employee housing. All but circle B contain both two and three room cabins (circle B contains only two room cabins). Three room cabins include #837 and #838 within circle A; #855, #857, #859 within circle C; #864, #866, #868 within circle D; #881, #882, #883, #885, #886, #887 within circle E. All other cabins are two-room.

Two-Room Cabins

The two-room cabins are one story with a rectangular floor plan. Rough cut 8" lapped siding covers the exterior walls; green-painted cedar shingles cover the gable ends; there are also louvered wood attic vents in the gable ends. Green modern metal panels cover the side gable roofs. The buildings rests on concrete pier foundations. The single entry doors, centered within the front elevation, are constructed of vertical boards and are paired with wooden screen doors. Circle A's fenestration is unique within the Swiftcurrent complex: windows are six-by-six light sliding windows, while all other cabins (including those constructed concurrently with Circle A) have six-over-one double-hung windows. Front-elevation windows flank the entry. The two rear-elevation windows are symmetrically placed, one at either end of the elevation. There are no windows in the side elevations. All windows are paired with wood-framed window screens and with 4" casings. The cabins are painted dark brown with yellow trim and are in generally good condition.

The two-room cabins consist of a central room flanked by a single bedroom. The multi-light windows with painted 4" surrounds form a major design element. The floors are finished with 1" x 4" tongue-and-groove floors. The bearing walls are unfinished, displaying the framing system and the interior of the exterior siding. Partition walls are covered on one side with horizontal planks. The ceilings are also unfinished, exposing the roof framing members. The central rooms are furnished with enamel sinks (incorporating both a sink and a drain board), simple wooden shelving, and a wooden picnic table with benches. Braided throw rugs adorn the floor. The single bedroom in each cabin contains

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beds of the 1950s vintage, transferred to the cabins in the 1980s. Interior doors are constructed of vertical tongue and groove planks and are secured with a latch rather than a door knob. Wall and ceiling surfaces are painted white. The floors are painted grey. Each room is illuminated by a bare bulb, hanging from wire in exposed conduit.

Three-room cabins

The three-room cabins within the Swiftcurrent Auto Camp differ from the two-room cabins only in size, fenestration, and interior configuration. Rough cut 8" lapped siding covers the exterior walls; green-painted cedar shingles cover the gable ends; there are also louvered wood attic vents in the gable ends. Green modern metal panels cover the side gable roofs. The buildings rest on concrete-pier foundations. The single entry doors, offset within the front elevation, are constructed of vertical boards and are paired with wooden screen doors. Windows are six-over-one double-hung with 4" exterior casing: two are located to the right of the entry, one is located to the left of the entry, and three line the rear elevation. The windows are paired with wood-framed window screens. The cabins are painted dark brown with yellow trim and are in generally good condition.

The three-room cabins consist of a central room flanked on either side by identical bedrooms. The floors are finished with 1" x 4" tongue-and-groove planks. The bearing walls are unfinished, displaying the framing system and the interior of the exterior siding. Horizontal planks cover the partition walls. The ceilings are also unfinished, exposing the roof framing members. The central rooms are furnished with enamel sinks (incorporating both a sink and a drain board), simple wooden shelving, and a wooden picnic tables with benches. Braided throw rugs adorn the floor. The bedrooms contain beds of 1950s vintage, transferred to the cabins in the 1980s. Interior doors are constructed of vertical tongue and groove planks, with Z cross bracing on one side, and are secured with a latch rather than a door knob. Wall and ceiling surfaces are painted white. The floors are painted grey. Each room is illuminated by a bare bulb hanging from wire in exposed conduit.

Modifications to the two three-room Swiftcurrent cabins have been limited to routine maintenance. Each of the cabins within the compound contributes to the historic district. The interiors retain sufficient integrity to contribute to the buildings' significance.

Laundry and Showers (#889), 1936

The laundry/shower building contains an original section on the southeast end (the showers/restrooms (dating to 1937), and a 1957 addition on the northwest end (the laundry room and eye-wash station/linen room). A small storage room originally located between these two sections was converted in 1993 to a handicap-accessible shower/restroom.

The exterior walls of this one-story building are sided with 8" lapped horizontal wood siding with a wood-framed, side-gable roof. Unpainted wood shingles (newly replaced on the shower/restroom end) cover the wood-frame side-gable roof. A break in the siding and eave line identifies the large addition constructed on the northwest end. The building has a concrete foundation, which extends on the southeast end to form an uncovered porch with dimensional lumber railing. Two windows within the south end of the addition have been boarded-over. The west and east windows of the shower rooms have also been filled in. Doors to the restrooms and storage are constructed of board and batten. A pair of two-light doors provide access to the linen room. Windows are wood-framed, and largely eight-light hinged (many of the windows were boarded-over for the winter and their style was indiscernible). The front (northeast) elevation, from east to west, contains two windows, two pedestrian doors, a set of double doors leading to the linen room

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and a window; five windows, symmetrically spaced, line the rear (southwest) elevation; features in the southeast elevation are limited to the entries to the men's and the women's restrooms. Both entries are accessed by the foundation extension described above; there are no features in the northwest elevation. A wooden cupola on the roof provides ventilation to the shower area. Metal and pvc flues in both slopes provide additional ventilation. The building is painted dark brown with yellow trim. It is in fair condition; substantial settling and cracking have occurred.

Interior: The shower/restroom end of the building was remodeled in 1993 with all new floor, wall and ceiling materials. Both men and women's sides have sheet vinyl floors, metal stalls for showers (4) and for toilets (3 in women's side, 2 urinals and 1 toilet for men's side). Walls and ceiling surfaces appear to be masonite. Four sinks are mounted in a formica counter in both restrooms. The interior no longer retains its historic appearance.

The storage room was remodeled in 1993 into a shower/restroom for the handicapped. The room was not accessible at the time of survey; however, all interior finishes are known to be modern.

A public laundry room with washers and dryers is located just northwest of the handicap-accessible restroom. the floor is linoleum; the ceiling is fiberboard with wood battens. Three of the walls are plywood. The remaining wall, sided with lapped 8" horizontal wood siding, with a doorway and two windows infilled with plywood, is the original exterior wall of the showers/restrooms. All walls are painted white.

The eye-wash/linen room has a floor of 6" unpainted wood planks. Unpainted fiberboard ceilings and unfinished walls of 2x4 studs and plywood are covered with graffiti left by former Swiftcurrent camp employees, or "Swifties."

The 1957 addition is architecturally compatible in style and materials with the original 1937 component. The building contributes to the historic district. All interior finishes, with the possible exception of the fiberboard walls in the linen room, are modern. Only these walls and the associated graffiti contribute to the building's significance.

Employee Shower (#1419), modern

Building #1419 is located at the northeast extreme of the cabin complex, between employee-cabin circles A and E. The building is surrounded by coniferous trees and grasses and is located northeast of the road access. The one-story wood-frame rectangular building rests on a concrete-slab foundation. Modern metal panels form the exterior wall surfaces and cover the gable roof. Windows are limited to one one-by-one sliding sash window on the north and the south elevations. Metal two-light doors, one at both the north and south elevations, provide access to the separate men's and women's facilities. Vents in the gable ends and metal flues in the gable slopes provide ventilation. The building is painted brown with yellow trim.

Not shown on a 1952 map of actual and proposed Swiftcurrent buildings, the shower (#1419) was most likely constructed in the 1960s for use by Swiftcurrent employees relocated from the dormitory (#833) to cabin circles A and E.

This building is not yet 50 years old and is not a contributing component of the Swiftcurrent Auto Camp Historic District. However, it appears to retain physical integrity and should be reevaluated once it is fifty years old.

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District Integrity

Modifications to the cabins have been limited to general maintenance. The wooded setting, tepee configurations, and network of trails leading between cabin groups and cabins and shower facilities have been disturbed only by the virtual abandonment of circle I; new construction, including the 1950s dormitory and motel units (buildings #833, 941-943), is screened from the general store and cabin complex by native coniferous trees. The district thus retains sufficient integrity to further our understanding of changes made in American recreation infrastructure in response to changes in American travel patterns and to the increased mobility of the middle class. The district as a whole also reflects an important change in the NPS's philosophy toward the tenor and tone of development in national parks. This new philosophy is most evident in the small scale and mass of the resources and in their location away from the lakeshore and from prominent vistas. The circular "tepee" design of the cabin complex also reflects the National Park Service, the Glacier Park Hotel Company, and the traveling public's continued fascination with the American West. Setting and building placement are thus important components of the district's architectural and historical significance.

Summary of Contributing and Noncontributing Buildings

Eligible (contributing) Buildings:

Coffee Shop/General Store 832:

Cabins #835-#840

Cabins #842-#845

Cabin #847

Cabin #849

Cabins #851-#870

Cabin #874

Cabin #876

Cabins #880-#888

Laundry/Shower House #889

Ineligible (noncontributing) Buildings:

Employee Shower #1419:

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These buildings conformed to established NPS principles regarding the use of rustic design and native materials:

Where wood is the material indicated for use, some of the more important structures may well reproduce faithfully pioneer log construction to create and so preserve for study, the fast disappearing construction methods of the frontier. On the other hand, minor and oft-repeated units, such as cabins, do well to utilize more economical, even if less picturesque and durable, materials, and methods (Good 1938:4).

The camp store, the primary public building and the "gateway" to the complex, displayed pioneer construction techniques, including exposed log framing, board and batten siding, and a stone foundation. The cabins and bathhouse continued the rustic theme, although on a more economical and utilitarian scale: lapped siding and shingles covered the exterior walls and the gable roofs. Each cabin provided one or two bedrooms and a sitting room with enamel sink, wood stove, and a wooden picnic table with benches.

The cabins were arranged in three circles of nine-cabins each, labeled "A," "B," and "C." A small office was established in circle "A." The circular arrangements of the cabin area was intended to emulate a ring of Indian tepees. This manipulation of the built environment continued the Indian theme frequently used in the interior designs, staff uniforms, and recreational opportunities at the grand hotels during the 1910s-1930s. (Glacier National Park officials, throughout the 1930s, hoped to continue the "Indian Council Circle" theme by building the cabins themselves in a tepee shape, but the idea was never implemented.)

The isolated placement of the general store and cabins, away from the lakeshore and the spectacular vistas, also marked a significant departure in NPS landscape design. In 1935, the NPS published a primer on its architectural philosophy:

Though a park structure exists solely for the use of the public, it is not required that it be seen from some distance. In its most satisfying expression, the park structure is designed with a view to subordinating it to its environment, and it is located so that it may profit from any natural screening that may exist.... As a rule, park structures are less conspicuous and more readily subordinated to their settings when horizontal lines predominate and the silhouette is low (Cammerer 1935:4,5).

The architecture and placement of the Swiftcurrent Auto Camp buildings continue to reflect this new NPS philosophy regarding the role and scope of buildings in a natural setting.

The new cabins proved very popular with Glacier National Park visitors, and during the spring of 1934 at least two additional cabin circles (D and I) were constructed. A sixth circle (E) was also built between 1934 and 1936. By the 1936 season, Swiftcurrent Auto Camp boasted a total of 54 guest cabins in six circles, as well as a central shower facility and general store. Plans called for construction of at least six more cabin circles.

The Heaven's Peak forest fire of August, 1936, destroyed most of the buildings in the Swiftcurrent Valley. According to Glacier's 1937 "Master Plan," the following guest cabins at Swiftcurrent were the only to survive the fire: A1-A9 (#835-#843), C1 (#853), D2 (#863), D8 (#869), E1 (#888), E2 (#887), I1 (#876), I3-I9. The shower facility (#889) and general store (#832) also survived. The 31 burned cabins were replaced in 1937 from the original plans.

In 1940, in response to tourist and park-service demands for an economical eating facility, the Glacier Park Hotel Company added a coffee shop and lobby/registration facilities to the general store. While originally planned to match

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the original building in all log and stone details, the final design perhaps marking the end of "rustic" construction in Glacier. The addition was simply sided with sawn lumber, all porch supports and decorative trim were of dimensional lumber, and few additional decorative features were added. The older building was simultaneously re-sided to match the new construction. The building largely retains its 1940 appearance today, although an addition was made to the rear of the building in 1955 to increase available food service space. This multi-use facility geared to the automobile traveler was a first for Glacier, and marked the beginning of a new era in park concession facilities.

By the 1950s, the once-popular cabins were beginning to fall into disfavor with Glacier National Park officials. Consideration was given to upgrading the cabins by adding bathroom facilities; apparently a 1952 experiment added baths to five cabins (including #853 and #861 [C1 and C9]), although plans to add baths to the remaining units were later abandoned. When the Glacier Park Company (heir to the GPHC) decided to add lodging units at Swiftcurrent in 1955, they chose to construct motels rather than cabins. New park plans also envisioned razing the cabins and replacing them with motels.

In spite of these threats, the cabin circles survived undisturbed into the 1960s. Circa 1965, ten of the cabins (including three with bath) were removed from Circles B and I; these were trucked to Lake McDonald Lodge and combined with new construction to form five employee dormitory buildings. The remaining Swiftcurrent cabins survive today, much as in 1937. Circles A and E are used for employee housing and the others continue as guest lodgings. They have regained their lost popularity with the traveling public and are now among the park's more popular accommodations.

10. Geographical Data

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing
	A 12	303470	5408375
	B 12	303555	5408360
	C 12	303590	5408270
	D 12	303525	5408260
	E 12	303560	5408205
	F 12	303420	5408220
	G 12	303420	5408260
	H 12	303375	5408310

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Swiftcurrent Auto Camp Historic District

The following information applies to all photographs listed below:

- 1) Property: Swiftcurrent Auto Camp Historic District
- 2) Location: Many Glacier, Glacier National Park, Glacier County, Montana
- 3) Photographer: Ann Hubber and Nancy Niedernhofer
- 4) Location of
Negatives: National Park Service, RMR-RC, Denver, Colorado

Photographs #1-13, 16-19, 52-54, 57-58, and 108-113 were taken September 1992. All other photographs were taken September 1993.

Photo #	Historic Building #	Direction of View
1	Cafe/Store (#832)	View to NW
2	Cafe/Store (#832)	View to SW
3	Cafe/Store (#832)	View to S
4	Cafe/Store (#832)	View to SE
5	Cafe/Store (#832)	Interior - Kitchen
6	Cafe/Store (#832)	Interior - Kitchen
7	Cafe/Store (#832)	Interior - Dining Room
8	Cafe/Store (#832)	Interior - Dining Room
9	Cafe/Store (#832)	Interior - Office
10	Cafe/Store (#832)	Interior - Office
11	Cafe/Store (#832)	Interior - Office
12	Cafe/Store (#832)	Interior - Store
13	Cafe/Store (#832)	Interior - Store
14	Employee Dormitory/ Motel (#833)	View to NW
15	Employee Dormitory/ Motel (#833)	View to SE
16	Employee Dormitory/ Motel (#833)	Interior - Room

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Photographs Page 9 Swiftcurrent Auto Camp Historic District, Glacier Co.,
MT

Photo #	Historic Building #	Direction of View
17	Employee Dormitory/ Motel (#833)	Interior - Room
18	Employee Dormitory/ Motel (#833)	Interior - Room
19	Employee Dormitory/ Motel (#833)	Interior - Maid Area
20	Cabin (# 835)	View to NE
21	Cabin (# 835)	View to SW
22	Cabin (# 836)	View to SE
23	Cabin (# 836)	View to NW
24	Cabin (# 837)	View to SW
25	Cabin (# 837)	View to NE
26	Cabin (# 838)	View to SE
27	Cabin (# 838)	View to NW
28	Cabin (# 839)	View to SE
29	Cabin (# 839)	View to NW
30	Cabin (# 840)	View to NE
31	Cabin (# 840)	View to S
32	Cabin (# 842)	View to NE
33	Cabin (# 842)	View to SW
34	Cabin (# 843)	View to NW
35	Cabin (# 843)	View to SE
36	Cabin (# 844)	View to SE
37	Cabin (# 844)	View to NW
38	Cabin (# 845)	View to SE
39	Cabin (# 845)	View to NW
40	Cabin (# 847)	View to N
41	Cabin (# 847)	View to S
42	Cabin (# 849)	View to NE

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number Photographs Page 10 Swiftcurrent Auto Camp Historic District, Glacier Co.,
MT

Photo #	Historic Building #	Direction of View
43	Cabin (# 849)	View to SW
44	Cabin (# 851)	View to SW
45	Cabin (# 851)	View to NE
46	Cabin (# 852)	View to SW
47	Cabin (# 852)	View to NE
48	Cabin (# 853)	View to NE
49	Cabin (# 853)	View to E
50	Cabin (#854)	View to NE
51	Cabin (#854)	View to SW
52	Cabin (#854)	Interior
53	Cabin (#854)	Interior
54	Cabin (#854)	Interior
55	Cabin (#855)	View to SE
56	Cabin (#855)	View to NW
57	Cabin (#855)	Interior
58	Cabin (#855)	Interior
59	Cabin (#856)	View to N
60	Cabin (#856)	View to S
61	Cabin (#857)	View to NE
62	Cabin (#858)	View to W
63	Cabin (#858)	View to E
64	Cabin (#859)	View to NW
65	Cabin (#859)	View to SE
66	Cabin (#860)	View to S
67	Cabin (#860)	View to N
68	Cabin (#861)	View to NW

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photographs Page 11 Swiftcurrent Auto Camp Historic District, Glacier Co.,
MT

Photo #	Historic Building #	Direction of View
69	Cabin (#861)	View to SE
70	Cabin (#862)	View to NE
71	Cabin (#862)	View to SW
72	Cabin (#863)	View to S
73	Cabin (#863)	View to N
74	Cabin (#864)	View to NE
75	Cabin (#864)	View to SW
76	Cabin (#865)	View to E
77	Cabin (#865)	View to W
78	Cabin (#866)	View to NW
79	Cabin (#866)	View to SE
80	Cabin (#867)	View to N
81	Cabin (#868)	View to SW
82	Cabin (#868)	View to NE
83	Cabin (#869)	View to W
84	Cabin (#870)	View to SW
85	Cabin (#870)	View to NE
86	Cabin (#874)	View to NW
87	Cabin (#874)	View to SE
88	Cabin (#876)	View to SE
89	Cabin (#876)	View to NW
90	Cabin (#880)	View to W
91	Cabin (#880)	View to E
92	Cabin (#881)	View to NW
93	Cabin (#881)	View to SE
94	Cabin (#882)	View to W

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

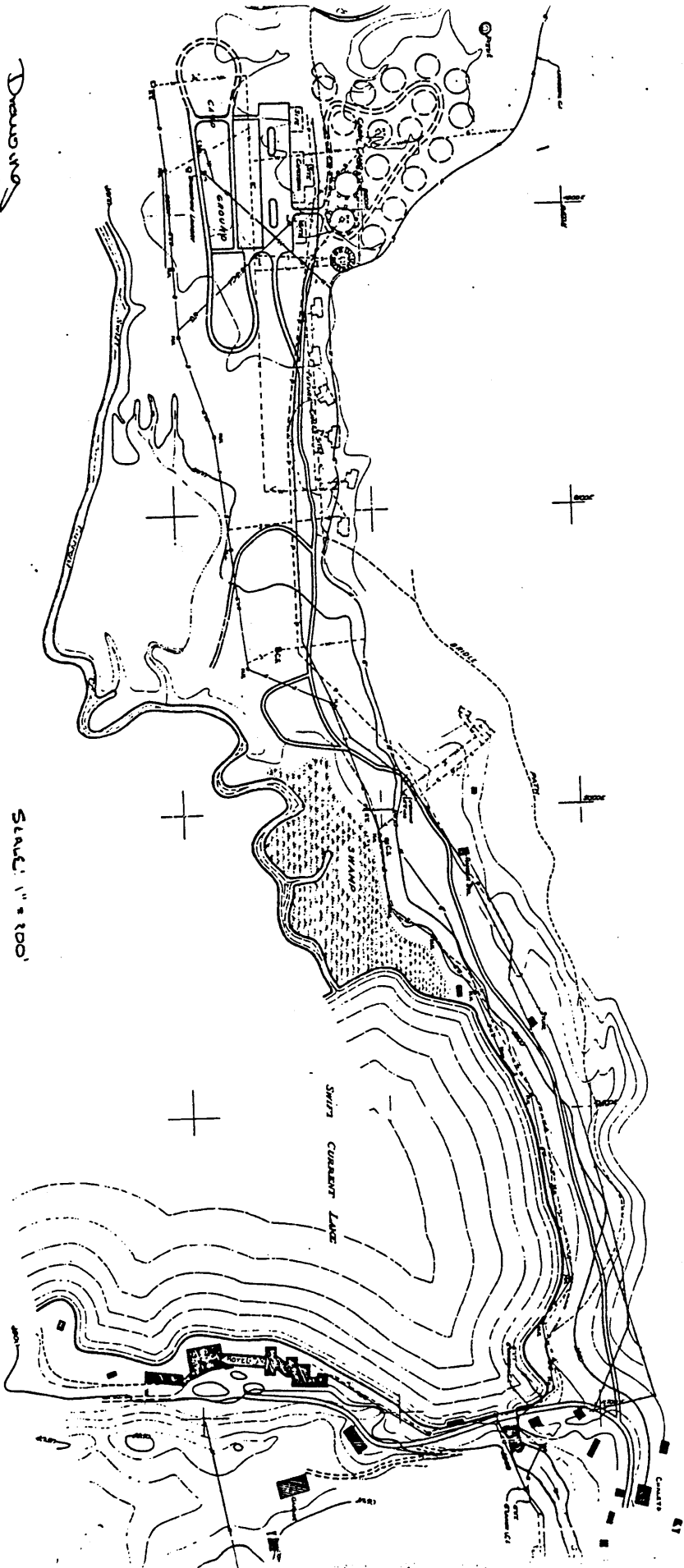
**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Photographs Page 12 Swiftcurrent Auto Camp Historic District, Glacier Co.,
MT

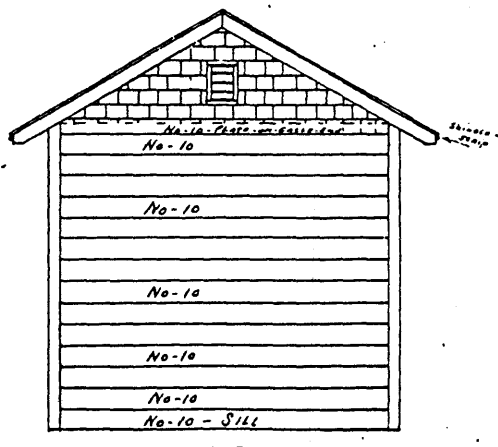
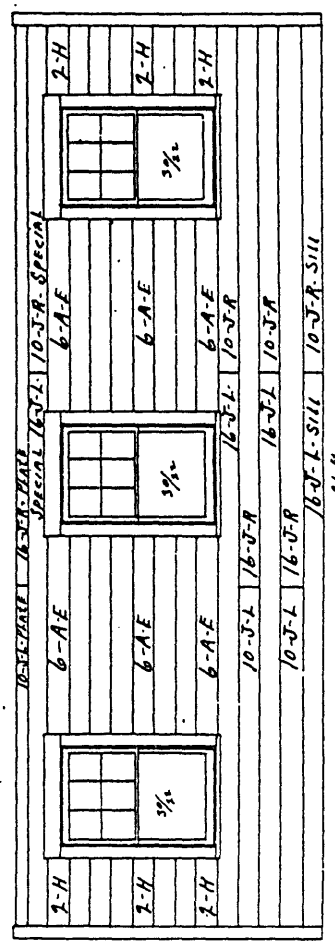
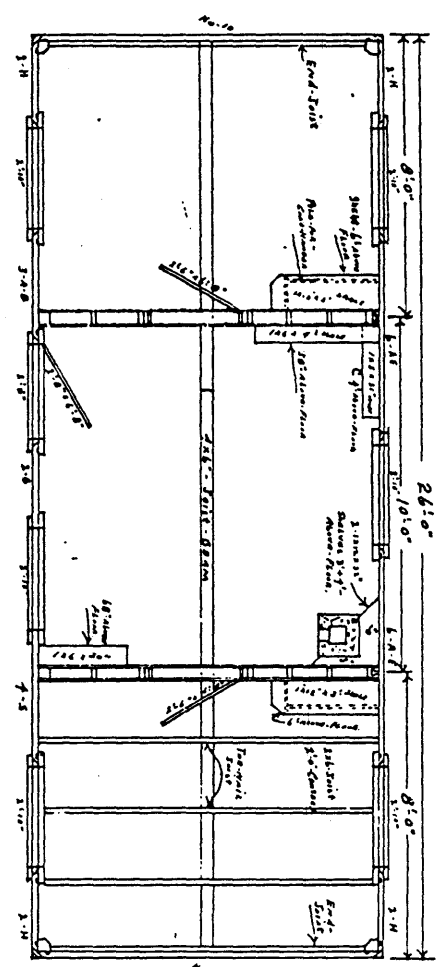
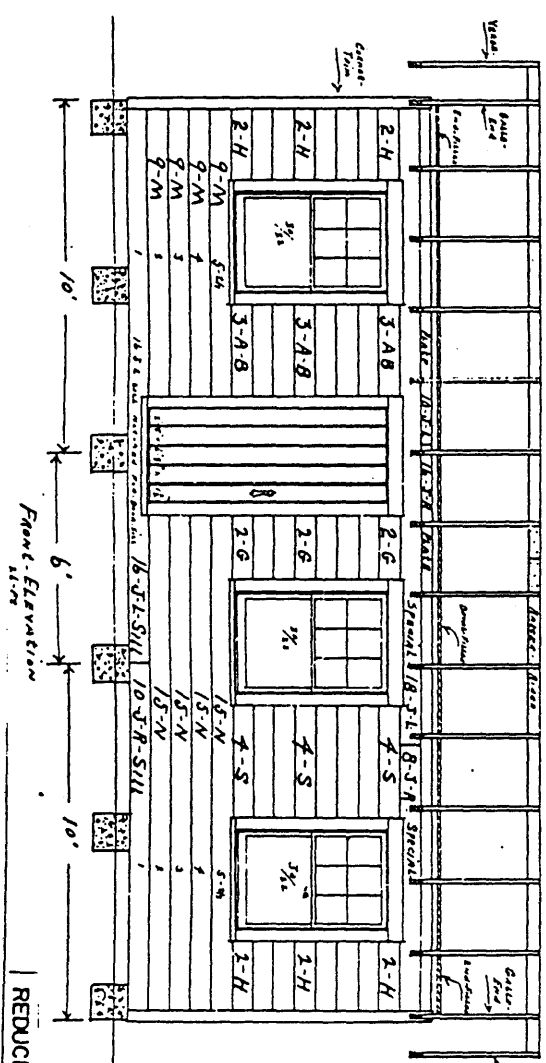
Photo #	Historic Building #	Direction of View
95	Cabin (#882)	View to E
96	Cabin (#883)	View to N
97	Cabin (#883)	View to SW
98	Cabin (#884)	View to N
99	Cabin (#884)	View to S
100	Cabin (#885)	View to SE
101	Cabin (#885)	View to NW
102	Cabin (#886)	View to E
103	Cabin (#886)	View to W
104	Cabin (#887)	View to SW
105	Cabin (#887)	View to NE
106	Cabin (#888)	View to E
107	Cabin (#888)	View to W
108	Laundry (#889)	View to SE
109	Laundry (#889)	View to SW
110	Laundry (#889)	View to N
111	Laundry (#889)	Interior - Laundry Room
112	Laundry (#889)	Interior - Women's Bathroom
113	Laundry (#889)	Interior - Women's Bathroom
114	Shower House (#1419)	View to N
115	Shower House (#1419)	View to SE
116	Shower House (#1419)	Interior - Women's Bathroom
117	Shower House (#1419)	Interior - Women's Bathroom

Additional Documentation: The following blueprints are on file at the Denver Service Center, Technical Information Center, Denver, Colorado.

DRAWING
G-5002
3/17/53



Switzerland Auto Camp - Orientation to Many Glacier Hotel



Scale 1/2" = 1'-0"

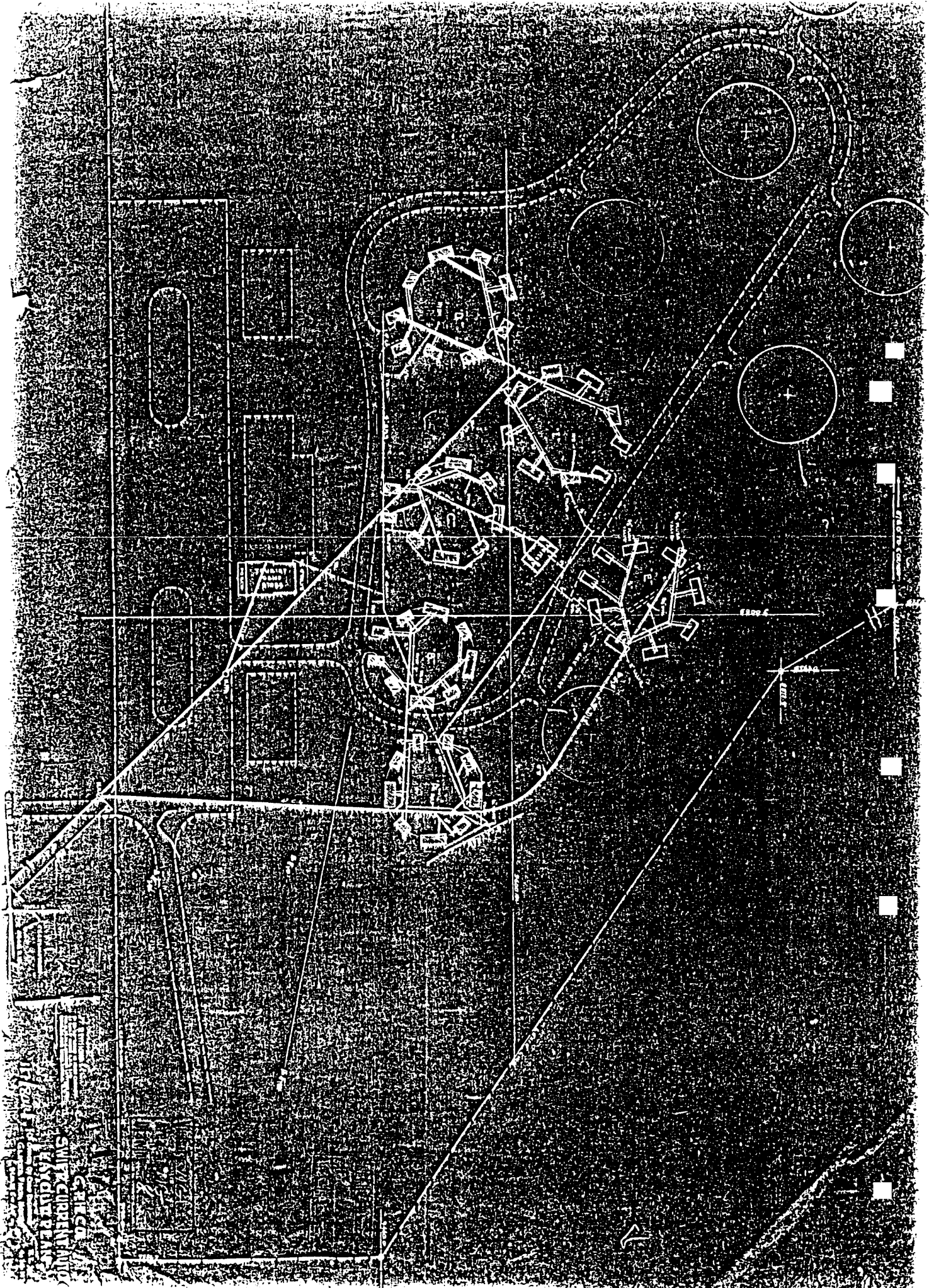
Note:
Shingles - No. 10
Sill - 2x4

1934
Chas. E. Taylor file 1690

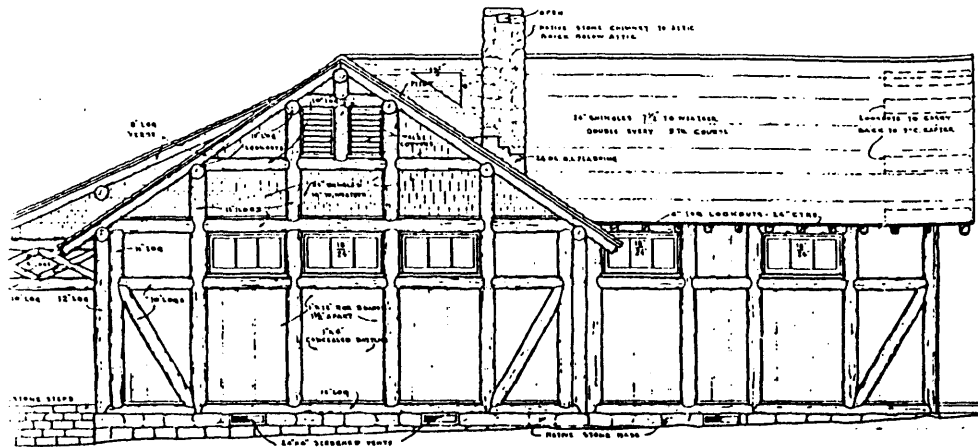
ERECTOR - MANUFACTURER
6-10 N. W. Superior Street
Chicago, Ill.
SUPERIOR BUILDINGS CO.
MANUFACTURED BY

REDUCED SIZE REPRODUCTION

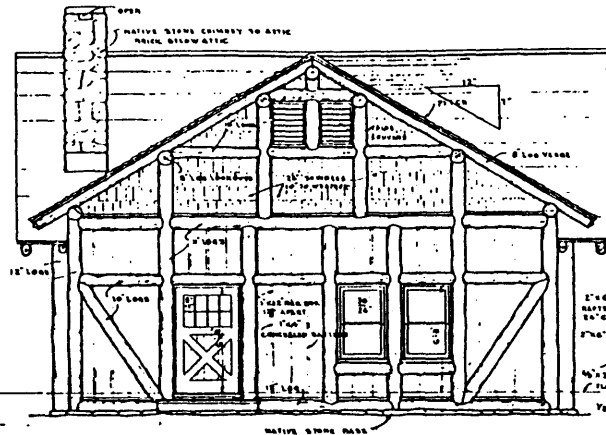
4/20/24
" B-50C
" 1000



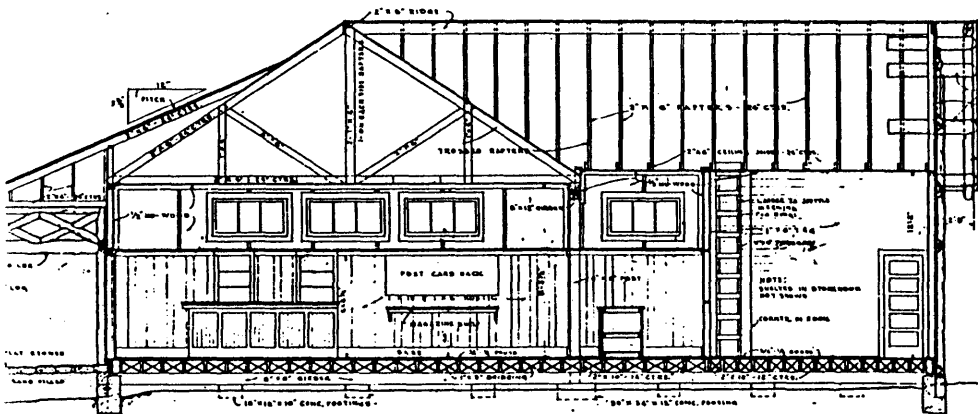
SWITCH CLIPPER AUTO
KNOXVILLE
G. P. CO.



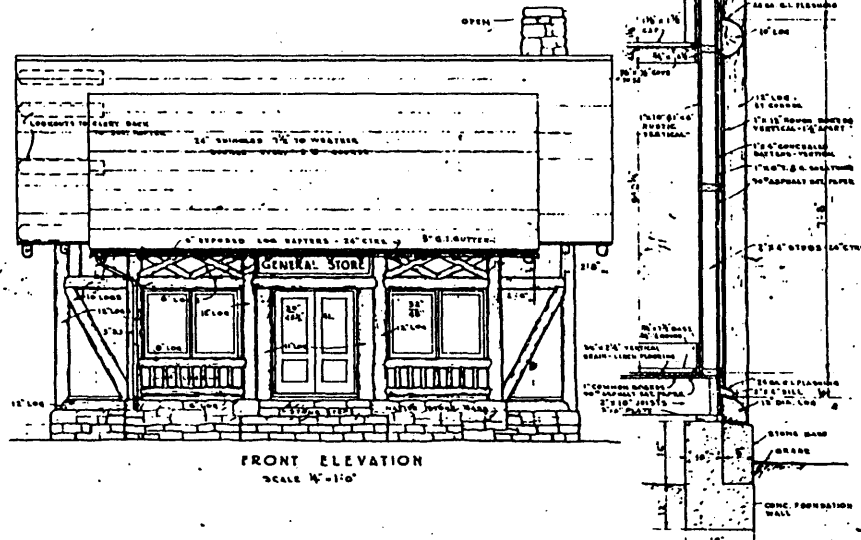
RIGHT SIDE ELEVATION
(LEFT SIDE ELEVATION SIMILAR)
SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"



REAR ELEVATION
SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"



LONGITUDINAL SECTION
SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"



FRONT ELEVATION
SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"

TYPICAL WALL SECTION
SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"

REVISIONS:
JUNE 24, 35, P.A.B. MOVES COUNTER BACK 24"
JULY 10, 35, H.W.H. ADDS BUTTER AND D.C.

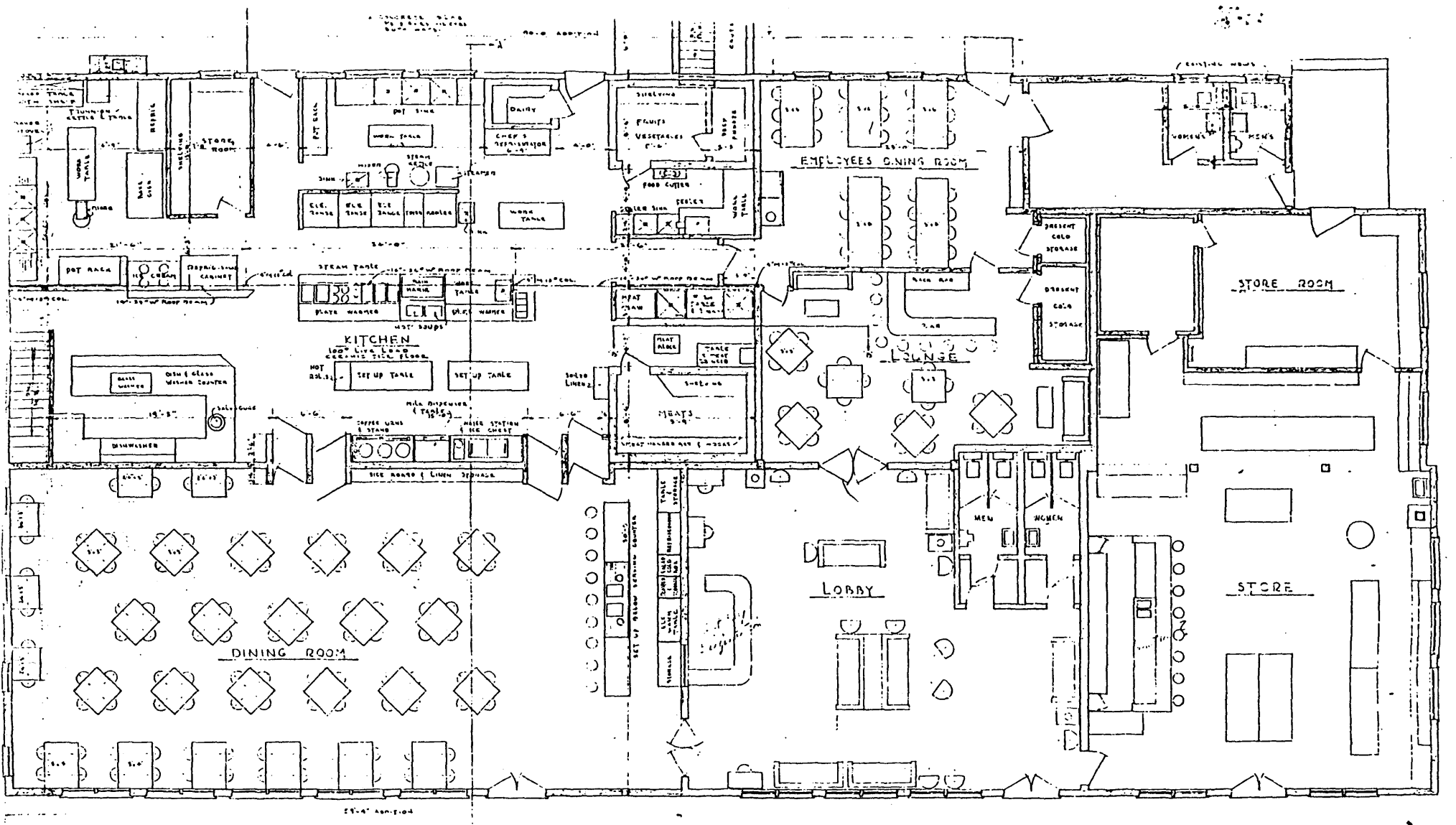
BUILT AS SHOWN, PER FIELD REPORT R.L.S.

REDUCED SIZE REPRODUCTION

GLACIER PARK HOTEL CO.
GLACIER NATIONAL PARK
SWIFT CURRENT AUTO CAMP
TOURIST GENERAL STORE
ELEVATIONS & SECTION

J. P. ...
J.P. ...

Drawing No. GL-NP 5100A
General Store Building #832



FLOOR PLAN
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

HALF-SIZE REPRODUCTION
NR-66A-8075-A-3 SHEET 1 OF 1

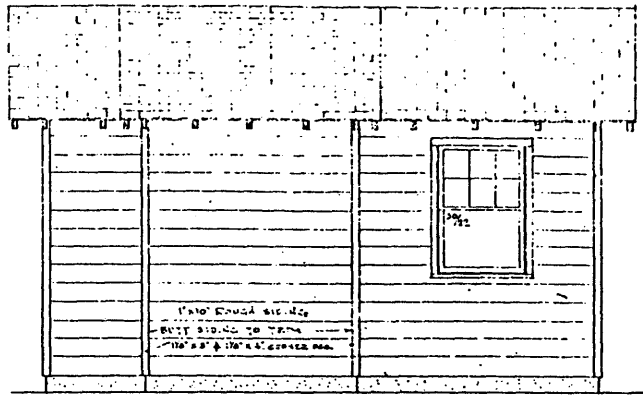
GLACIER PARK CO.
GLACIER NATIONAL PARK
SHIFT CURTENT AUTO CAMP
60' x 40' SECTION TO
KITCHEN & DINING ROOM

OFFICE COPY
DO NOT REMOVE
FROM
PARK, NORTHERN DISTRICT

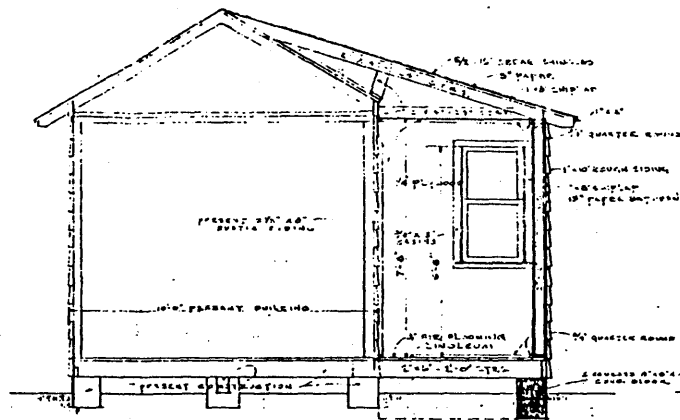
17 10

Drawing No. 1021-N.
Date: 1/19/65

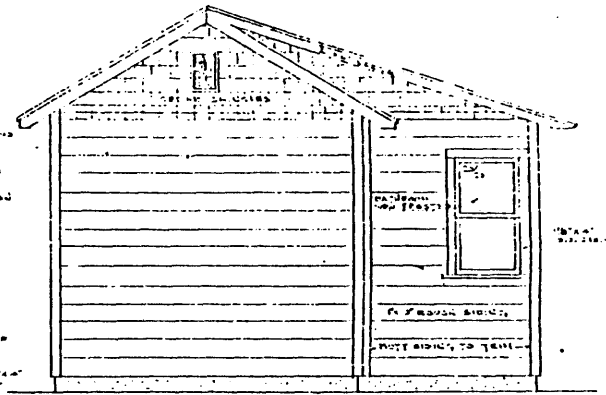
General Store
Building #832
Addition



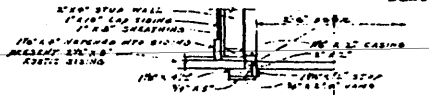
REAR VIEW OF 10'-0" x 18'-0" CABIN
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'-0"



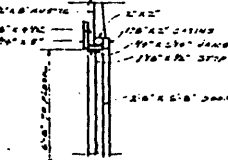
TYPICAL SECTION
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'-0"



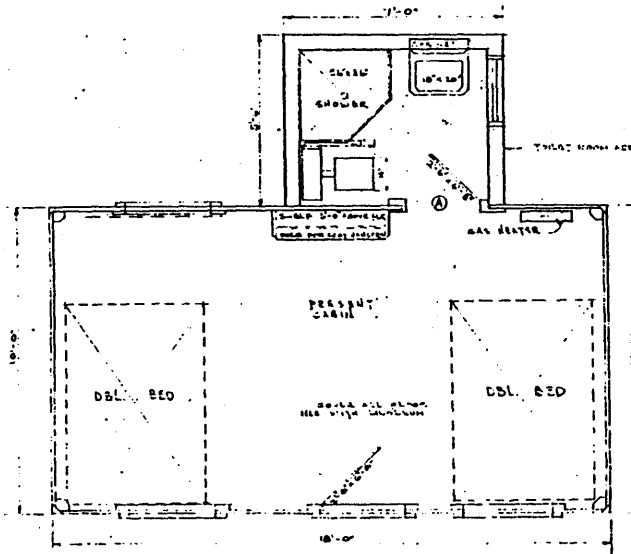
TYPICAL END VIEW OF CABINS
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'-0"



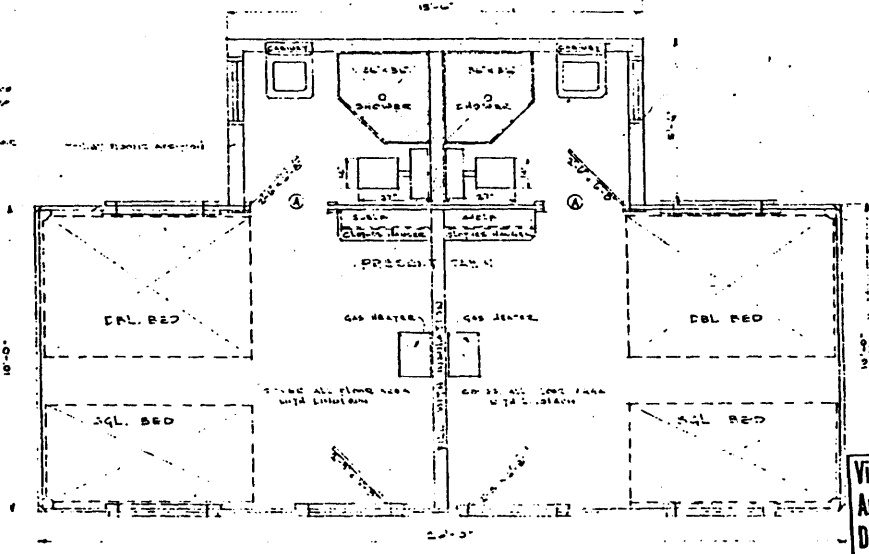
HALF PLAN DOOR (A)



SECTION THRU HEAD DOOR (B)
SCALE: 1" = 1'-0"



10'-0" x 18'-0" CABIN
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'-0"
IF REQUIRED



10'-0" x 26'-0" DOUBLE CABIN
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'-0"
IF REQUIRED

Vicinity MG
Area MG
Drawing # 37

I 17 92

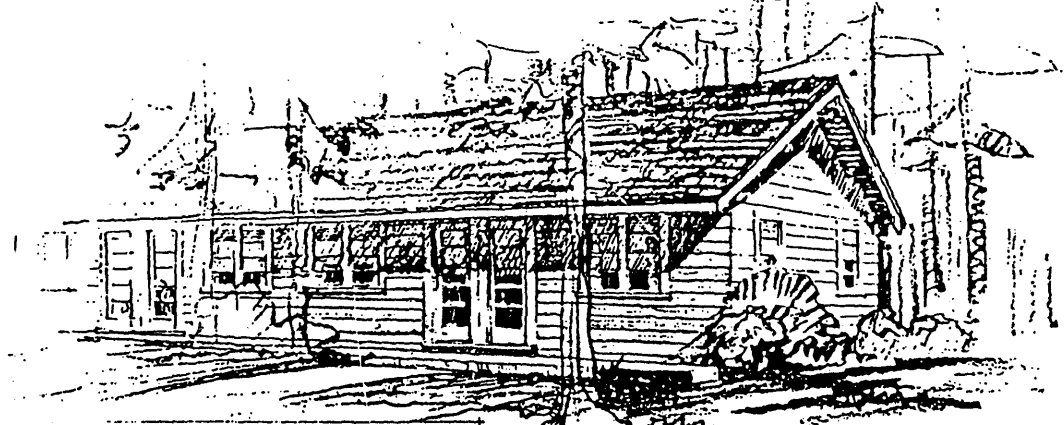
OFFICE COPY
DO NOT REMOVE
From
PARK ENGINEER'S OFFICE

DESIGNED BY
DRAWN BY
CHECKED BY
APPROVED BY
DATE

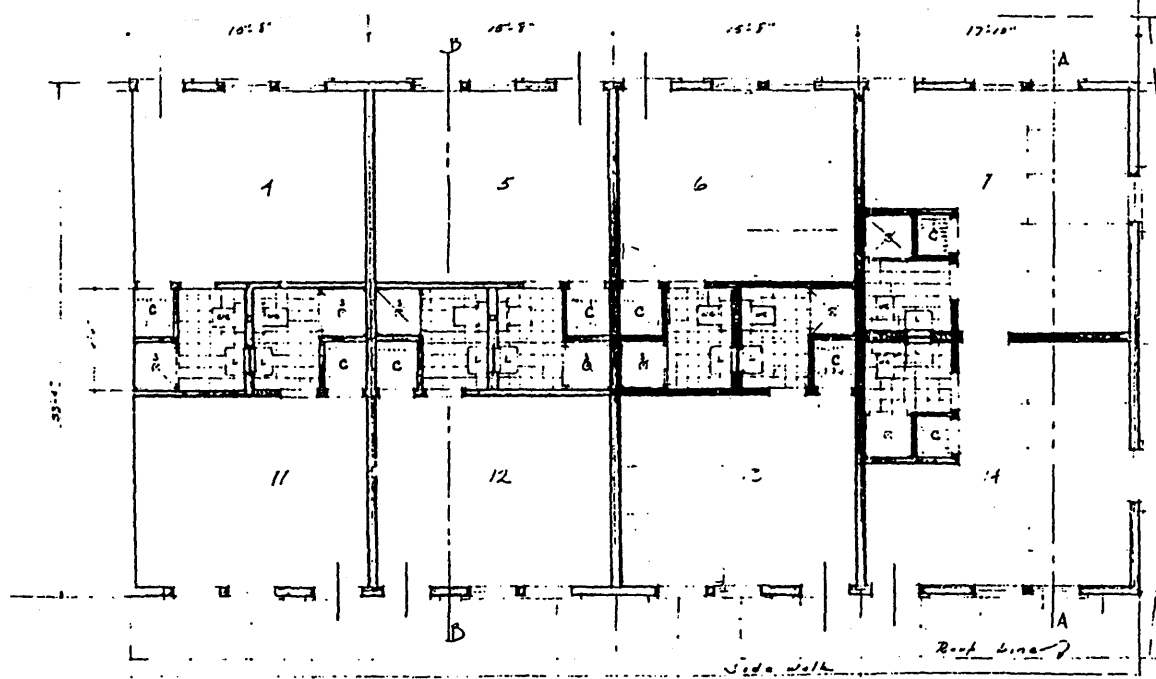
GLACIER PARK COMPANY
300 WASHINGTON AVE
MONTICELLO, N.Y.
MANUFACTURERS AND DISTRIBUTORS
OF CABINS

(REDUCED SIZE REPRODUCTION)

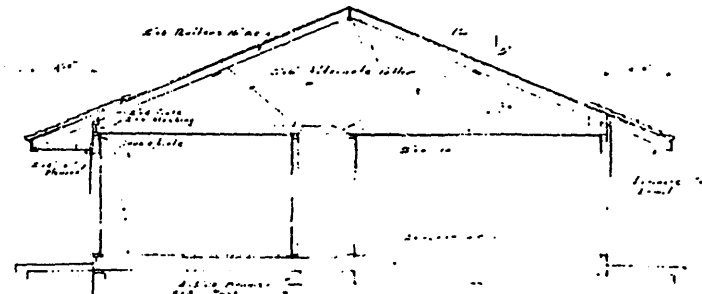
Cabins



PERSPECTIVE STUDY



PARTIAL FLOOR PLAN 1/2" = 1'-0"



SECTION DD SECTION AA

ROOF FRAMING 1/2" = 1'-0"

Note this drawing supplements Concession Drawing NP-GLA-0075A - 2 sheets, was

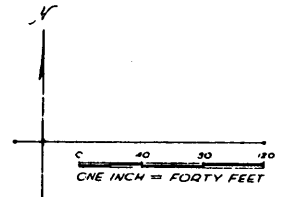
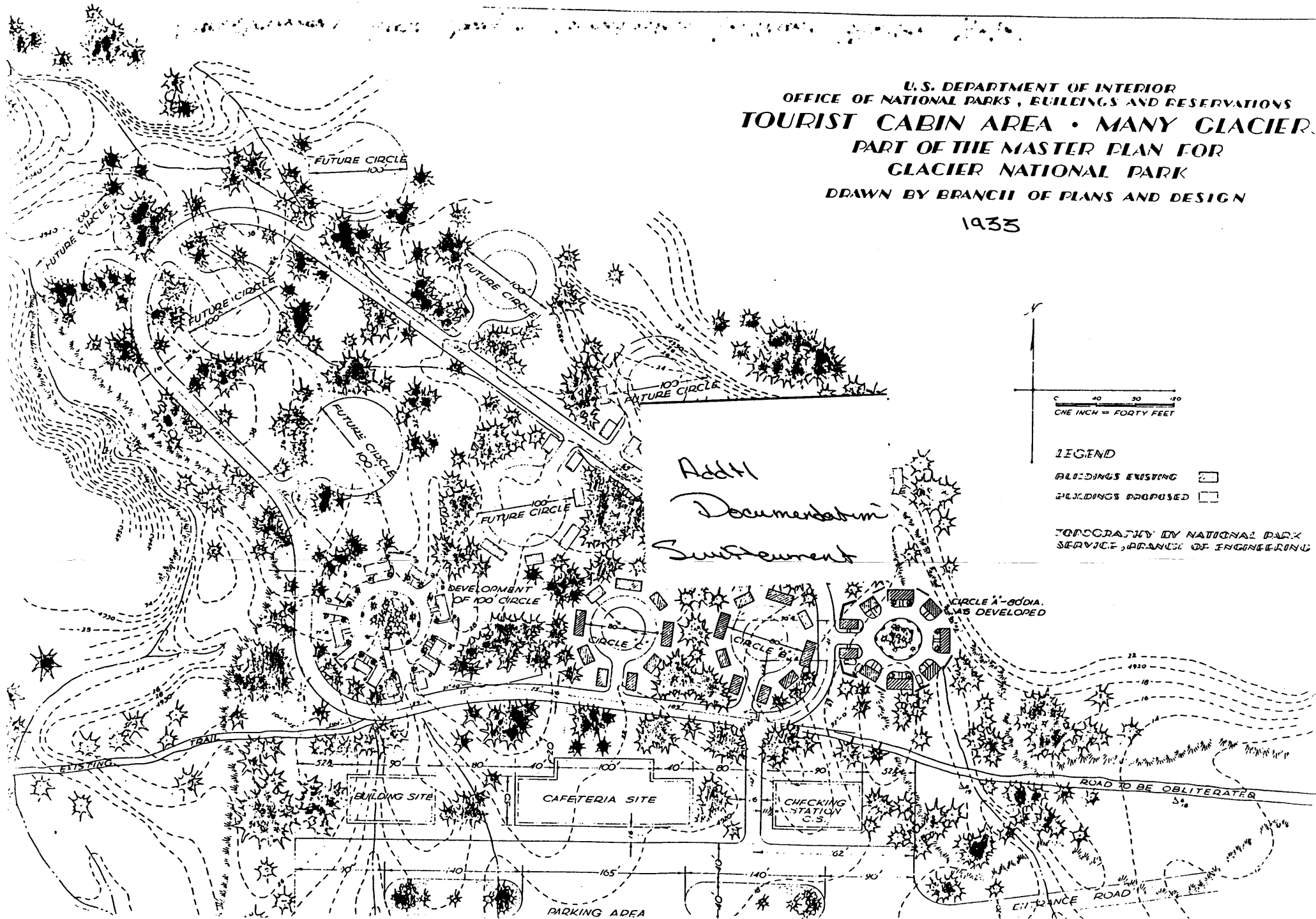
DRAWN BY P. E. J. L. H. ARCH. ENGR. & B.D.C.	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE W.D.C.	REGION 2
		SHEET NO. NP-GLA
PROJECT SWIFT CURRENT HOTEL		DRAWING NO. NP-GLA
APPROVED BY [Signature]		LOCATION GLACIER NATIONAL PARK



HALF-SIZE REPRODUCTION

Building #833

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
 OFFICE OF NATIONAL PARKS, BUILDINGS AND RESERVATIONS
TOURIST CABIN AREA • MANY GLACIERS
 PART OF THE MASTER PLAN FOR
 GLACIER NATIONAL PARK
 DRAWN BY BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN

1935



LEGEND
 BUILDINGS EXISTING 
 BUILDINGS PROPOSED 
 TOPOGRAPHY BY NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, BRANCH OF ENGINEERING

*Add
 Documentation
 Supplement*

CIRCLE A - 600 DIA.
 HAS DEVELOPED

BUILDING SITE

CAFETERIA SITE

CHECKING STATION C.S.

PARKING AREA

ROAD TO BE OBLITERATED

ENTRANCE ROAD

FUTURE CIRCLE 100'

FUTURE CIRCLE 100'

FUTURE CIRCLE 100'

FUTURE CIRCLE 100'

FUTURE CIRCLE 100'

FUTURE CIRCLE 100'

DEVELOPMENT OF 100' CIRCLE

CIRCLE C

CIRCLE B

EXISTING TRAIL

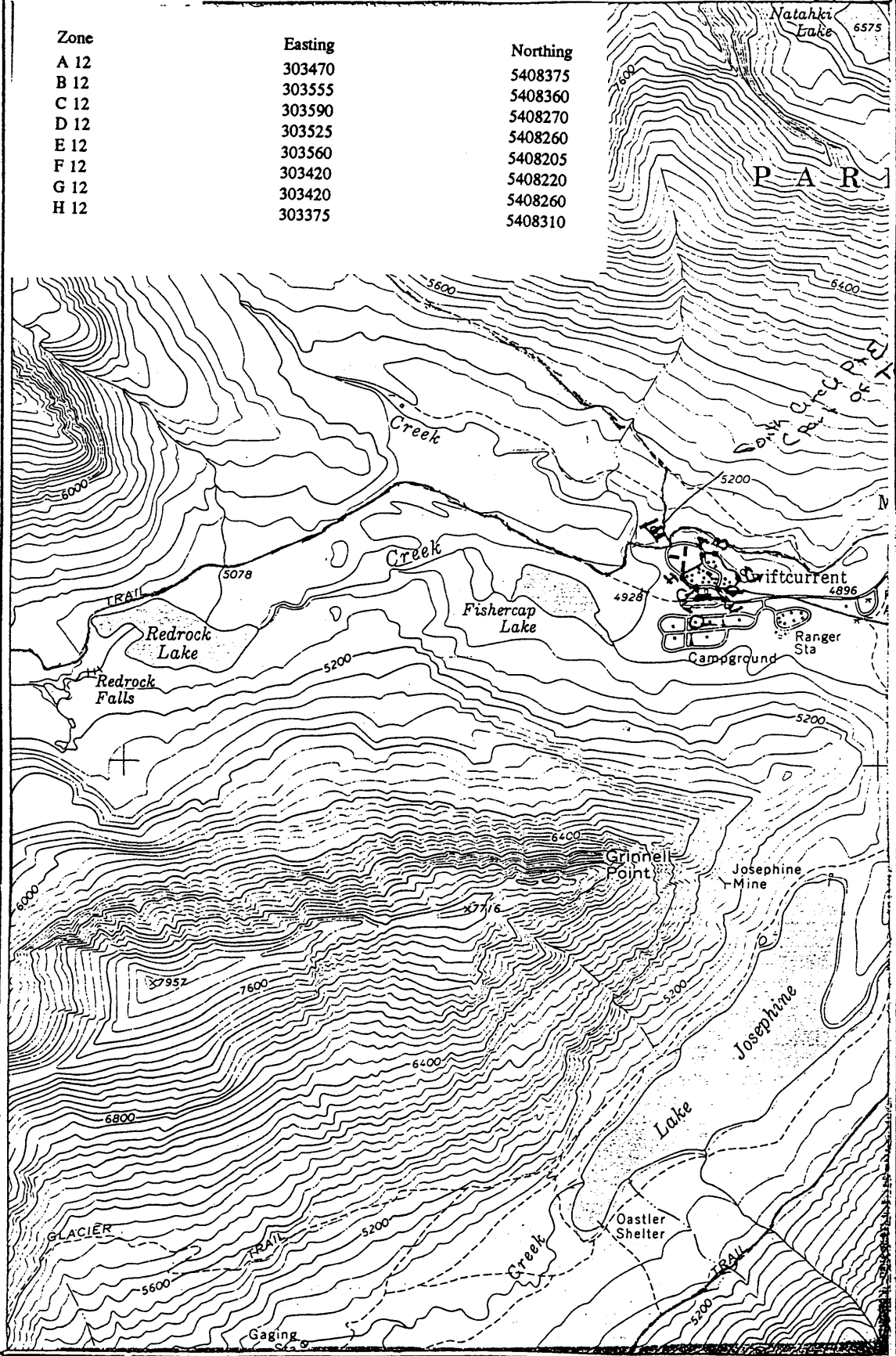
TRAIL

ENTRANCE ROAD

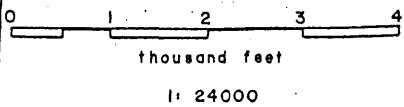
UTM References:

Swiftcurrent Auto Camp Historic District

Zone	Easting	Northing
A 12	303470	5408375
B 12	303555	5408360
C 12	303590	5408270
D 12	303525	5408260
E 12	303560	5408205
F 12	303420	5408220
G 12	303420	5408260
H 12	303375	5408310



Historic Trails District



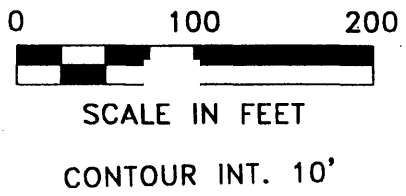
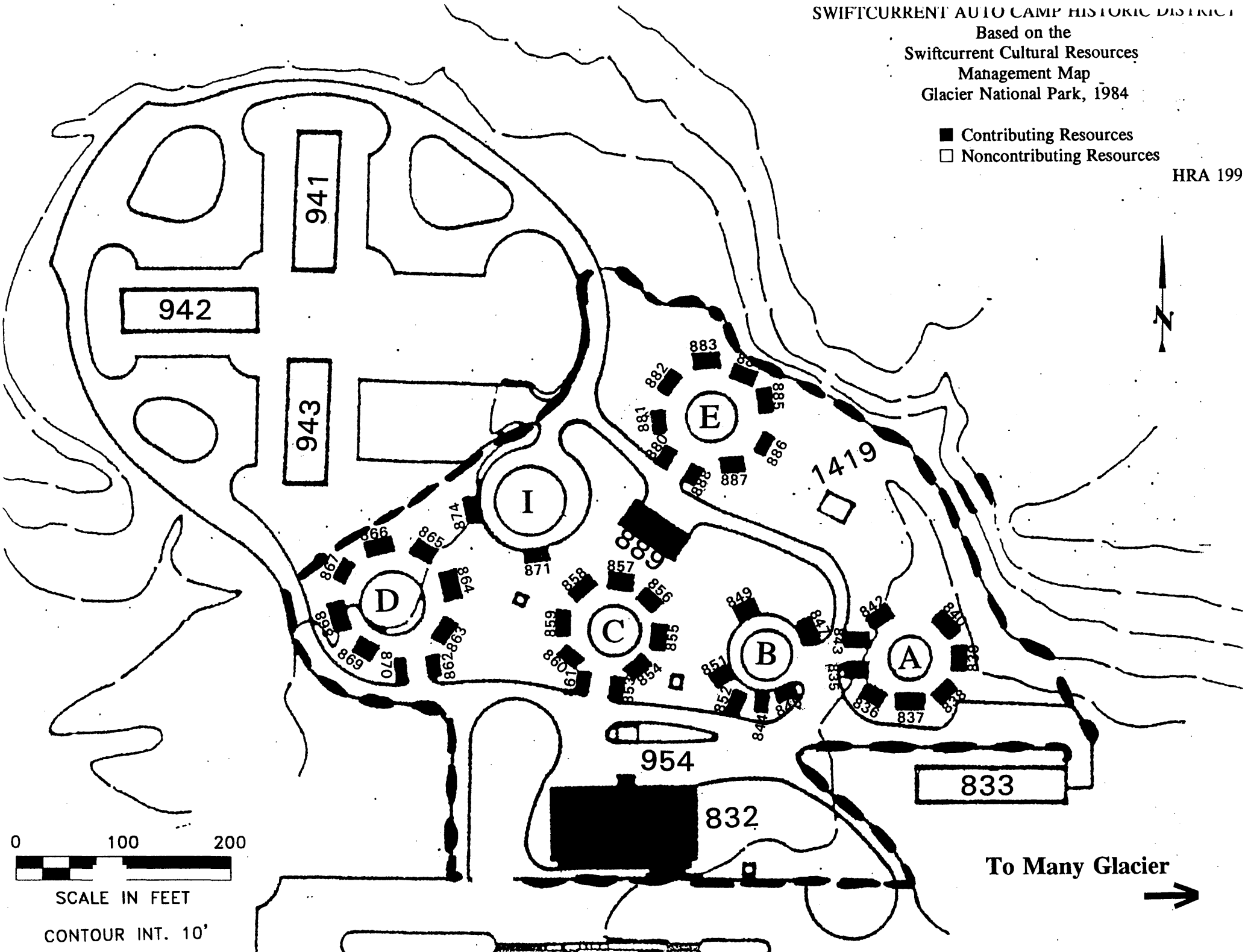
USGS 7.5' Quad *Many Glacier*
 Sec. T R
 County *Glacier*

SWIFTCURRENT AUTO CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT

Based on the
Swiftcurrent Cultural Resources
Management Map
Glacier National Park, 1984

- Contributing Resources
- Noncontributing Resources

HRA 199



To Many Glacier
➔