Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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7.	DESCRIPTION							
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	CONDITION	☐ Excellent	☐ Good	X Fair	☐ Det	eriorated	Ruins	Unexposed
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Interlaken Hotel: This is a two story log structure, built roughly in a cruciform. The front facade is faced with board and batten. There are two fine brick chimneys placed on the center of each wing. The structure sits foremost on the resort grounds, and an once elaborate fountain stands out among the trees in front. The windows and doors are placed fairly symmetrically, are plain and quite large. On the rear a two story outdoor privy was added to give winter guests the luxury and convenience of indoor facilities.

Servant's Quarters/Boarding House: This is a one story board and batten/ lapsided structure added when James Dexter took over operation of the Hotel. It's gable roof and simple lines are accented only by the slightly Gothic style attic window over the entry door. The twelve rooms are arranged somewhat like a dormitory, opening onto one long hall running the length of the center of the building.

Laundry: This structure looks much like the servant's quarters in style and construction method. It housed the laundry facilities for the hotel and possibly for the guests.

Barn: This structure is constructed of hewn logs and has one door and hay loft window at each end. It is floored with logs and once had room for sixteen stabled horses. A tackle room and office were also included.

Privy: This spacious privy contains six seats and is shaped in a sextagonal manner to accomodate each comfortably. It is topped by a cupola which serves as a vent and the shingles are nicely carved. It sits between the servants quarters and the hotel and was probably available for use by both.

Livestock Barn: This structure looks more like a rude log cabin than a barn. However, on the interior milking stanchions are still in evidence, though the whole structure is sadly deteriorated.

Dexter-Bond cabin: This cabin was the summer home of James Dexter. It is perfectly square, constructed of hewn logs and surrounded on all sides by an open veranda. The bellcast mansard roof, housing the second floor, is symmetrically punctuated by gabled dormers. The whole is topped by a glassed in cupola, flanked at each of two sides by chimneys. To the rear, stand two identical out buildings, each oversized and each topped by a ventilating cupola. The whole effect of the cabin is very nautical, reflecting the early seafaring background of Dexter. The interior was elaborately furnished and appointed. It is still maintained in its original state by it's present owner, Eugene Bond.



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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Interlaken Resort was probably one of the most seenic and most popular resort areas in the mountains of Colorado. Its unique setting and year round recreational program drew many visitors from Denver, Colorado Springs. Leadville, and from out of state. Located across from the town of Twin Lakes, it began operations in 1879 as a small and unpretentious hotel called the Lakeside Resort on the smaller of the two lakes at the foot of Mt. Elbert. In 1881 James V. Dexter, the wealthy and well-known Leadville miner, bought the hotel and 80 acres for \$3,250.00. Between 1883 and 1890 he turned the hotel into a unique mountain hostelry adding on significantly to the structure and building a servant's quarters, ice and wash house, a 16 horse stable, and a dance pavillion shaped like a ship. Blue grass lawns and fountains, as well as a driveway around the entire perimeter of the lower lake, made the resort pleasant for summer vacationers. A steamship, yacht, rowboats and canoes were available for the guests as were billiards and pool tables. In the winter, ice skating, skiing, and sleighing were very popular.

James Dexter turned over the management of the resort to his brothers, building an elaborate two story cabin complete with cupola outlook for his The interior was done in walnut and maple with personal use in 1895. birdseye maple furniture. Dexter was a man of many interests and talents. Born in Massachusetts, he travelled to Illinois where he became involved in banking and married the daughter of the greatest Falstaff on stage, Ben de Bar. Four children resulted from the marriage. The family relocated to Colorado at the height of the silver mining boom. Most of Dexter's Colorado involvement was in Leadville, however, in 1881 he bought the Lakeside Resort, renamed it the Interlaken, and began the building of one of Colorado's most unusual mountain hosteleries. The Interlaken was located right on the staging road and was well-placed for tourist traffic. Dexter expanded his Twin Lakes area holdings to include the townsite of Twin Lakes, which he resurveyed and replatted. The hotel operated with great success through the early 1900's. In 1896 the development of the area as a whole as a popular summer home resort came to an abrupt end when reservoir rights were claimed by the government. Finally, the enlargement of the Twin Lakes took place in 1950. The Interlaken was cut off from the town and access was possible only by boat. The hotel closed, and with it an era.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Griswold, Donald V. "Historical significance of Twin Lakes, Lake County" manuscript at the State Historical Society of Colorado.

Healy House-Dexter Cabin State Historical Society publication

Inventory Sites files

Place Names file of Colorado

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Form No. 10-301 Rev. 7-72

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

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