

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION, GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

REGION: Rocky Mountain PARK/AREA NAME: Glacier National Park PARK NUMBER: 1430

STRUCTURE NAME: Two Medicine General Store STRUCTURE NUMBER: 891

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: East shore Two Medicine Lake QUADRANGLE NAME: Squaw Mountain, MT

Zone Easting Northing
UTM A: 12 324948 5372698

QUADRANGLE SCALE: 7.5-minute

CLASSIFICATION:

NUMBER OF RESOURCES:

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY:		CATEGORY:	CONTRIBUTING	NONCONTRIBUTING	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building(s)	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Buildings
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public-Local	<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sites
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Structures
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Objects
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mixed/private & public	<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	TOTAL

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

The Two Medicine General Store is on the east shore of Two Medicine Lake at the edge of a large, level area reached by Two Medicine Road. The area once supported a large resort built by the Great Northern Railway in 1913. The structure originally housed the dining room and kitchen for the nearby hotel, but is presently used as a gift shop/snack bar. This large log building is the only remaining structure of the Two Medicine Chalet. The Park Service removed the other structures. The Two Medicine General Store is a rectangular, two-story log building with double saddle notching, cement chinking, gable roof with slightly hipped gable ends, log purlins and rafters, and two shed dormers. There are two stone chimneys and double covered porches on the south wall. The building is most impressive on the interior, with a spacious lobby area set off by a large stone fireplace and lit by skylights on the roof. A unique type of truss allows this lobby section to be moderately uncluttered with superstructure up to the roof. Interior walls are a combination of square-hewn logs, beaded lumber (original), and paneling (west wall, 1964). Enclosed interior lofts align either side of the lobby and a pole balcony runs along southern loft. Exterior siding was applied over the west side logs in 1973 because of deterioration from wind and lake water.

The Two Medicine Chalet/General Store is significant as the only remaining building of the Great Northern's Swiss-inspired chalet group at Two Medicine Lake. Featured in this building are the design and material characteristics that would influence and become the nucleus from which "Park Service Rustic" architecture would evolve.

Built by the Great Northern Railway in 1912 as a dining room, the store is the only remaining structure of the camp that also contained a 28x84-ft. dormitory, two chalets measuring 18x18 and 28x28 ft., "all of the Swiss type." The scale, log construction, timber-supported porches with log railings, multilight windows with decorative wood trim, low-clipped gable roof, and massive stone chimney all add to the architectural importance of the Two Medicine Store.

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HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1912

Two Medicine Lake, one of the major glacier-fed lakes in the park, was accessible by a four-mile road from the park boundary, a road which the Great Northern helped Glacier to build and to maintain. Two Medicine Chalet's accommodation plan featured eight connecting rooms with four baths and four private sitting areas with fireplaces. The centrally located dining room (18x60 ft.) offered meals for all guests and a place to gather and to socialize.

Seventy years ago, Glacier had seven other chalet groups. Today, only Sperry and Granite Park remain, and they are both of stone construction and accessible only by trail. The Two Medicine Store is a rare reminder of the early days of Glacier Park when the Great Northern Railway brought tourists to the "Switzerland of America" and provided them with a variety of well-planned, comfortable accommodations. In 1975, the Glacier Park Hotel Company razed all buildings of the Two Medicine Chalet group except the main Chalet and toilet facilities.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The significance of the Two Medicine General Store derives from its association with persons, events, and themes important to Glacier's history, as well as its architectural design, materials, craftsmanship, and rarity. Therefore, this structure is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A, B, and C.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCE:

Newell, Alan, David Walter, and James R. McDonald, "Historic Resources Study, Glacier National Park, and Historic Structures Survey." Report prepared for National Park Service by Historical Research Associates, Missoula, Montana, 1979.

U.S. Dept. of the Interior, National Park Service, "Glacier National Park, Montana," 1935.

_____. "Glacier National Park, Montana." 1932.

Superintendent's Monthly Report, August 1955, p. 4, Glacier National Park.

FORM PREPARED BY:

DATE: June 1984

NAME/TITLE:

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