

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See Instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the Instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Mickelson, Ole, Cabin
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Lot 46, south shore Lake Quinault not for publication
city, town Quinault vicinity
state Washington code WA county Grays Harbor code 027 zip code 98575

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>2</u>	— buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	—	— sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	—	— structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>2</u>	— objects
			<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Mary M. Thompson 7/24/92
Signature of certifying official Date
Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Evan D. DeStrois, Historic Preservation Officer 3/23/93
Signature of commenting or other official Date
Forest Service
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. Burton Lee 5/6/93
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

for Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Rustic Style

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete, wood
walls Wood: log siding

roof
other other: composition shingles

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Ole Mickelson Cabin is a wood frame residence located on the south shore of Lake Quinault on the Olympic National Forest. Constructed in 1927 for a Hoquiam family, the cabin is sited in a grove of second growth fir on a bluff that slopes steeply to the water's edge. Several other cabins (partially hidden from view by dense foliage and heavy tree cover) are located in the immediate vicinity, but the Mickelson house is distinguished from others in the area by its half-round cedar log siding which evokes the Rustic Style idiom of the era.

The Mickelson Cabin is a rectangular structure built on three levels, and sheltered by gable roofs. The house rests on solid rock overlooking Lake Quinault. The main body of the house is side gabled with a footprint that measures about 40 feet across the south facade and north waterfront elevation and about 25 feet along the east and west sides. A front-facing gabled second story rises from the center of the main roof and provides additional bedroom space. A two story wing projects on the first story of the waterfront elevation and includes a full height lower ground story level, reflecting the precipitous drop in elevation towards the rear of the lot.

The house is constructed of standard wood frame construction and originally rested on a wood post and pier foundation (now replaced with concrete blocks). The structure is faced in Western red cedar siding (three inches thick by eight inches high) with a rounded profile to simulate the appearance of log construction. The length of the rounded boards varies but ranges up to 20 feet. Each board is fitted to the boards above and below by tongue and groove joints, and the boards are nailed to the frame. The foundation is skirted by long cedar shingles.

The house is lighted by original wood frame double-hung windows. The windows feature an upper sash with five narrow lights and a lower sash with a single light. Windows are paired on the first floor and basement level, banded in groups of three on the upper level, and banded in a group of eight on the waterfront elevation of the rear wing. The windows are framed with plain wood surrounds and sills. The main entry to the house is provided through a single leaf paneled door set in the center of the facade and sheltered by a gabled canopy. The canopy is supported by large knee braces, and features overhanging eaves with molded fascia trim.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Section number 7 Page 2

The roof of the house is sheathed in composition shingles (added in the 1960s) and the eaves overhang the walls below, trimmed with a molded fascia trim. A brick chimney rises from the juncture of the rear addition.

The interior floor plan of the house features a broad living area on the first floor, flanked by two narrow bedrooms on the east and west. The walls are faced in clear cedar panelling and the living area features a central fireplace with a concrete hearth and wire-cut brick surround. The ceiling has been faced in acoustical tile, and the original fir floor has been covered with carpeting.

A narrow fir stairway leads to the second floor bedroom, which is lighted by banded windows on the north and south walls. The room features beaded siding and fir floors. The rear wing features an enclosed sun porch at the first floor level, lighted by a continuous band of double hung windows along the perimeter wall. The inside wall is unfinished, and the 2 x 12 studs are exposed. A deck, constructed in the 1960s, projects off the sunroom. Beneath the sunroom is a full height ground level story that includes the kitchen and a rear storage room. The kitchen is finished with beaded cedar siding and fir floors.

In addition to the house, the Mickelson property includes a garage and a shed contemporaneous with the house. The garage was constructed in 1929 and is a simple frame structure that served as a living quarters for the carpenters while the main house was under construction. The garage is sided in cedar shingles. The shed is a simple structure built of vertical boards.

The property also includes extensive Rustic Style landscape elements, primarily composed of river rocks from the Quinault River arranged to form a variety of elements including retaining walls and borders for walkways. The most notable landscape features include a concrete star-shaped bird bath atop a pedestal embedded with small stones; two planters flanking the entry; and a bench built into a retaining wall in the front of the house.

8. Statement of Significance

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

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Architecture

1927

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

N/A

Mickelson, Ole

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Built in 1927 on the south shore of Lake Quinault on the Olympic Peninsula, the Ole Mickelson Cabin is a well preserved example of a vernacular Rustic Style summer residence faced in novel log siding that simulates traditional log construction. The cabin, which reportedly "excited much favorable comment" at the time of its construction, was designed by its Norwegian immigrant owner, who complemented the rustic idiom of the house with a variety of river rock landscape features. In 1928, the house was illustrated as an example of log siding; nearly 65 years later, the house retains excellent exterior integrity and is an example of the Rustic Style as adapted to building techniques of the 1920s.

Background: The Mickelson Cabin was designed and built by a Norwegian immigrant who worked for a Grays Harbor logging firm. Ole Mickelson came to the United States from Norway as a boy in 1907, and arrived in Hoquiam several years later. For 35 years, Mickelson worked for the Polson Logging Company of Hoquiam, serving as a foreman in charge of surveys for the company's logging railroads. In 1926, Mickelson received a federal lease for a lot on the south shore of Lake Quinault hoping to build a cabin where his family could live while he worked in the nearby forests.

Lake Quinault, located in the remote Olympic rain forest in northwestern Washington, was first settled by Euro-Americans in the late 19th century but not widely accessible until 1915 with the opening of an automobile road from Hoquiam. By 1931, the so-called Olympic Loop Highway was complete and the 4 1/2 mile long lake was a well established vacation area. The arrival of automobile travel led to recreational development on the Lake and in the Quinault River valley (which was mostly under Forest Service jurisdiction). The Lake Quinault Lodge, built on the south shore of the lake, was completed in 1926. In the late 1920s, a Grays Harbor company sought permits to build wilderness cabins on the Quinault River and in 1930 built a large log chalet located at the head of the North Fork of the Quinault River. In 1931, a competing log lodge was built in the Enchanted Valley, 13 miles up the east fork of the Quinault valley.

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Section number 8 Page 2

The Mickelson cabin was built on lot 46 of the Lake Quinault Survey, and was one of the first private residences on the south shore, begun the same year that the lodge opened. The land, located on a wooded bluff above the lake, was cleared with pick and shovel, and the cabin was built on solid rock overlooking the lake. Plans for the house were drawn by Mickelson himself; the actual construction was completed by Mickelson and carpenter Ben Brunstead of Hoquiam. The cabin was sheathed in a cedar siding left rounded on its outer face to simulate log construction. The rustic appearance of the cabin was underscored by extensive rock work landscaping designed by Mickelson using stones hauled from the upper Quinault River.

The use of a log cabin motif in the Mickelson cabin pre-dated by several years the large log lodges built later in the Quinault valley. But it modestly reflected a long standing tradition for the design of recreational buildings in the United States. The popularity of log construction for recreational homes began in the late 19th century when great log and stone lodges or "camps" were built in the Adirondack mountains of upstate New York. The houses, built of huge hand hewn logs and massive boulders, evoked a rustic quality associated with the natural environment and the pre-industrial age.

From the Adirondacks, the Rustic Style spread throughout the country, and log cabins became fashionable for vacation retreats across America. Even early 20th-century plan books, like those of Gustav Stickley, featured log-cottage designs. The National Park Service and Forest Service further promulgated the style when they adopted the rustic idiom, constructing log buildings that ranged from the grand-- Old Faithful Inn at Yellowstone (1904), for example-- to countless small cabins and shelters. The tradition received new life in the Great Depression through the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Works Progress Administration.

Examples of rustic log construction in early 20th century Washington also ranged widely, and included such diverse non-residential structures as a remarkable log bridge in Tacoma's Point Defiance Park (1906), a log church in Chelan (St. Andrews, 1898), a log lodge on the route to Mount Rainier (Mineral Lake Lodge, 1906), and a variety of structures in the national parks and forests, highlighted by Paradise Lodge with its interior log structural elements (1917).

Although far removed from these prototypical examples in both scale and material--after all, the Mickelson Cabin is not even a true log house--the Mickelson Cabin is an interesting example of adapting elements of the rustic tradition to the building methods of the 1920s and the limited budget of a middle class family. The house was sheathed in log siding produced by the E. C. Miller Cedar Lumber Company of Aberdeen, a novelty

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Section number 8 Page 3

product that was "attracting widespread attention throughout the nation" according to the Aberdeen newspaper which, in 1928, illustrated the Mickelson cabin as an example of the technique.

To its promoters, the log siding was a practical and affordable alternative in keeping with the great tradition of rustic log construction. According to the newspaper, "the new siding, which gives the exact effect of logs, is being used largely in summer homes, mountain and woods resorts, and all other places where a log cabin effect is desired." But, unlike heavy log construction, the siding was easy to transport to the building site, easy to apply (laid up as regular siding, without notching or chinking), and did not require hand hewn craftsmanship or complex joinery. In addition, the cedar was free of pitch and sap and "its natural qualities permit it to be used without painting."

According to the Aberdeen report, the Mickelson house "gives the impression of a large log cabin and has excited much favorable comment from visitors." Other structures using the same siding were reportedly built by that date at a second cabin on the Lake, a summer home in Tokeland, a house in Eugene, Oregon, and a shelter house on the golf course at the Grays Harbor Country Club. Moreover, the company claimed that "heavy orders have been received from the Great Lakes and the Adirondacks."

No survey material is available to ascertain the number of extant houses sided with the same material, although it is likely that the Mickelson Cabin was one of the first using the Miller product (judging by the newspaper article and its reference to a "new" siding product). According to Jim Ingram, grandson of the founder of the E. C. Miller Company and son of its second president, the log siding was a specialty product developed by the company to complement its principal business of cedar shingles and clear cedar bevelled siding.

Although never achieving a high sales volume, production of Miller log siding began in the late 1920s and continued through the 1960s, although it declined in popularity in the later decades. Mr. Ingram also indicated that the company sold the product as far east as the Midwest (corroborating the Aberdeen Daily World report of 1928). Log siding was neither the most important nor popular of the firm's products, according to Ingram, but did reflect the search for products manufactured from parts of cedar timbers not utilized in the production of siding or shingles.

The E. C. Miller Cedar Company was founded by E. C. Miller in 1906 and operated mills and owned stands of timber in the Grays Harbor area. The firm principally produced cedar shingles and bevelled cedar siding and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Section number 8 Page 4

even some lumber; the products were shipped nationally, including the East Coast, upstate New York, and the Midwest. E. C. Miller's son-in-law, Robert Ingram, served as president for many years and was a leader in the national lumber industry, serving as an officer of several important trade associations. The firm went out of business in 1982.

Today, a third generation of the Mickelson family owns the cabin and continues to maintain it as a good example of its type and period of design.

9. Major Bibliographical References

"New Log Siding Proves Popular," Aberdeen Daily World, June 11, 1928.
"Attractive New Home at Lake Quinault," Aberdeen Daily World, June 11, 1928.

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property .8 acres

UTM References

A 1 0 4 3 5 7 0 0 5 2 5 6 9 5 0

Zone Easting Northing

C Zone Easting Northing

Zone Easting Northing

B

Zone Easting Northing

D

Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Lot 46 Lake Quinault Lot Survey, Olympic National Forest.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel leased by Ole Mickelson.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title Denise Mickelson, edited by L. Garfield
organization _____
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city or town Bellevue

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Mickelson Cabin
Lake Quinault,
Grays Harbor Co, WA
UTM References:
10/435700/5256950

