

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section _____ Page _____

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 08001015/
98001527


Date Listed: 10/24/2008

Wheeler Camp (Boundary Increase/
Additional Documentation)
Property Name

Flathead MT
County State

Glacier National Park MPS (Recreational Camps on Lake McDonald)
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.



Signature of the Keeper

10/24/2008

Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Location:

Location is amended to add: *North end of Lake McDonald, Glacier National Park*

Ownership:

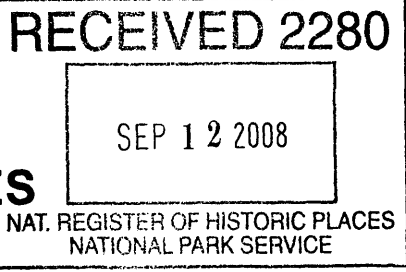
The ownership of the resource should be correctly categorized as: *Public/Federal*
The Federal government holds title to the land in fee simple ownership, while the buildings are privately held under a life estate.

These clarifications were confirmed with the NPS FPO office.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

1015



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National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Wheeler Camp (Boundary Increase and Addendum)

other name/site number: Ocqui; Burton and Lulu Wheeler Cabin

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mark F. Pomeroy / SHPO
Signature of certifying official/Title

6/5/2008
Date

Montana State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency or bureau

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

Robert L. ...
Signature of commenting or other official

9/9/08
Date

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 of the Keeper
[Signature]

Date of Action

10/24/2008

5. Classification**Ownership of Property:**

Category of Property: District

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 1

Name of related multiple property listing:

Glacier National Park Multiple Property Listing (Amended)
Recreational camps on Lake McDonald, 1892-1970

	Number of Resources		
	Contributing	Noncontributing	
	5		building(s)
			sites
			structures
			objects
	5		Total

7. Description**Architectural Classification:**

OTHER: Rustic Style

MATERIALS:**Foundation:** stone, concrete**Walls:** logs; log siding**roof:** asphalt shingles, cedar shakes**Other:** stone**Narrative Description:**

The Burton and Lulu Wheeler Cabin, built in 1942, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places [98001527] in 1998. The boathouse (ca.1950) was included within the cabin's boundaries but listed as non-contributing. The remaining three cabins and the former generator house were excluded from the boundaries of the original nomination. This amendment, among other things, changes the one previously non-contributing structure to contributing and revises the property's boundaries to include the four buildings that fall within a revised period of significance.

The Wheeler Camp occupies a 1.21-acre parcel abutting the west boundary of the Lake McDonald Ranger Station at the north end of Lake McDonald. The lot includes about 200 feet of shoreline, down to which the open, grassy site slopes from the unpaved road forming the lot's back line. The road curves gently toward the shoreline as it passes east to west behind the camp. Conifer woods frame the property on the west and north. An unpaved road runs between the Wheeler Camp and the ranger station, which is lightly wooded and includes several buildings. The camp and its buildings are partially hidden from view from the lake by trees fringing the pebble beach. The property includes four cabins, a laundry (former generator house), and a boathouse.

The already listed **Burton and Lulu Wheeler Cabin** is sited close to the shore west of the center of the lot. The boathouse is to the west with its front edge near the lake's high water mark. The other three cabins are behind the main cabin in an irregular pattern. The former generator house, now used as a laundry, is south of the space between the garage cabin and the northeast cabin.

Boat House (ca. 1950, contributing structure): The boat house is constructed with an exposed exterior log frame. The vertical-placed logs are set on a concrete foundation and horizontal logs tie them together at the top and midpoints. Vertical board siding is placed on the interior side of the logs. The frontal gable roof is covered with cedar shingles. A pair of side-hinged doors constructed of vertical boards provides access from the lake side. A block-and-tackle is used to move boats into the structure.

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Sleep Cabin (1930, contributing): The sleep cabin stands on the gentle slope northwest of the main cabin, but below the road grade. Young trees along the road shield this cabin from passing vehicle noise and sight. This single-story log cabin is composed of two side-gabled blocks adjoined on the gable ends. Built with peeled, notched cedar logs, the cabin rests on a cobblestone foundation. A prominent exterior chimney of mortared stone is centered on the south, or lake facing wall of the east (CHECK) block of the building. An open deck with a rustic log railing wraps the south, east, and west sides of the building. The fenestration plan was designed with screen windows in 1930, but more recently the openings have been filled with single-light fixed sash and casement windows. The cabin retains a cedar shake roof.

Garage Cabin (1940 and mid-1950s, contributing): The garage cabin stands nearer to the road than the sleep cabin. A short unpaved driveway with a gate leads to the garage placed under this building. The cabin is named for the two-bay garage reached by a steep ramp on the west side of the cabin. This single-story, rectangular plan, frontal gable log cabin was built in two phases, with the south, or lake end, built earlier, and the north half added in the mid-1950s. Its unpeeled log walls with notched corners and daubing stand on a cobblestone foundation. A large exterior cobblestone chimney is centered on its south, or lake-facing, gable end. An open deck with a rustic log railing spans this side of the cabin and runs alongside the east and west walls as a walkway accessing exterior doors on the east (kitchen) and west (main room) sides. A later room with large glass windows facing the lake is set under the deck. The building retains a period fenestration plan with one-over-one sash and wood doors. The roof has recently been replaced with metal roofing. The interior retains the characteristic treatment of the logs, with the curves partially hewn and cedar staves laid over the spaces to create a smooth wood wall.

Boys' Cabin (ca.1952, contributing): This cabin stands east of the garage cabin, near the northeast corner of the lot. The Boys' Cabin is a single-story, L-plan, frame building on a foundation of poured concrete and stone. Its open deck has a log railing and spans the east, west, and south sides of the cabin. The gabled roof, with recent metal roofing, has a valley at the corner of the plan. The cabin retains peeled, milled log siding and shutters on its windows. A later, two-bay frame garage is on the northeast corner of the cabin.

Generator house (ca.1925 with later addition, contributing): The generator house, now used as a laundry is a small, frontal gable frame building with a larger frame addition continuing north on the same axis. It has a poured concrete slab foundation. A factory-made paneled door opens from the south gable end.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, B, C**Criteria Considerations (Exceptions):** n/a**Significant Person(s):** Burton Kendall Wheeler**Cultural Affiliation:****Areas of Significance:** Entertainment/Recreation**Period(s) of Significance:** 1925-57**Significant Dates:** 1941-42**Architect/Builder:** Lulu Wheeler/Gus Aubert, Jean Sullivan, and Asa "Ace" Powell, Sr. (main cabin)

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Burton and Lulu Wheeler Cabin is listed in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria B and C. This amendment changes the name from the Wheeler Cabin to the Wheeler Camp, adds additional significance under Criterion A, provides additional supporting documentation for significance under Criterion C, and revises the period of significance from 1941-1948 to 1925-1956. Additionally, as discussed in Section 7, one non-contributing resource is reclassified as contributing and the boundaries are changed to include four contributing resources.

Besides the previously documented significance under Criterion B and C, the Wheeler Camp is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A as a representative example of a recreational camp on Lake McDonald in Glacier National Park, Flathead County, Montana. The amended Glacier National Park Multiple Property Document (MPD) for "Recreational Camps on Lake McDonald, 1895-1955" provides the historic context for the development of such wilderness recreational properties. Such camps exemplified a national trend in vacationing in the early decades of the twentieth century when some people sought rustic respites from working life. In 1915, Burton K. Wheeler took his family to Lake McDonald for a vacation. Before buying the former Eaton Cabin at this site, located on land leased from the federal government, the Wheelers summered at other locations around the lake. The family used the Eaton Cabin as their day cabin until it burned in 1941. To provide electric light, they added a small structure, once set well away from the buildings, to house a generator. They constructed the Sleep Cabin in 1930, to provide separate and quiet sleeping quarters. After the main cabin burned, Lulu Wheeler, Burton K. Wheeler's wife, supervised the construction of its replacement. By the mid-1950s, two more cabins, built to accommodate the Wheeler's six children's families and activities completed the built environment. The MPD also provides additional contextual information for recreational camps on Lake McDonald under Criterion C. The Wheeler Camp buildings include some of the last log cabins built around Lake McDonald by private individuals. The two post-war buildings illustrate the tendency in the early 1950s to retain the architectural tradition of the area rather than to break with it. These are both gabled buildings, one actually built of logs and the other designed to look like it is. All retain aspects of the traditional forms used in rustic architecture on Lake McDonald, and they form a harmonious group retaining integrity of design, workmanship, setting, feeling, and materials.

9. Major Bibliographic ReferencesHarrington, Leona, *et al. History of Apgar*. n.p., n.d. (GPA)

Scott, Marion Wheeler. Interview by author. 22 and 31 July 2005.

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 Glacier National Park Archives Local government University Other – National Archives, Denver**10. Geographical Data****Acreeage of Property:** the original NR boundary encompassed 0.6 acres, the boundary increase area encompasses 0.61 acres for a total of 1.21 acres.**UTM References:**

(NAD27)

Zone

12

Easting

288059

Northing

5391288

Verbal Boundary Description

The Wheeler Camp is bounded on the east by the Lake McDonald Ranger Station, on the north by the Kelly's Camp Road, on the west by forest land owned by Glacier National Park, and on the south by Lake McDonald. The property is listed in the Flathead County Tract Book as parcel A in Section 11, Township 33 North, Range 18 West.

Boundary Justification

The revised boundary includes the entire Wheeler Camp property, leased from the federal government since 1916.

11. Form Prepared By**name/title:** Jessie Ravage (amendment)**organization:** _____ **date:** 10 February 2006**street & number:** 34 Delaware Street**telephone:** 607.547.9507**city or town:** Cooperstown**state:** New York**zip code:** 13326**Additional Documentation**

Please see continuation pages, photographs, map

Property Owner**Land:****name/title:** Superintendent, Glacier National Park**street & number:** _____**telephone:** _____**city or town:** West Glacier**state:** MT**zip code:** 59936**Life Estate:****name/title:** Marion M. Wheeler LE, Richard B. Wheeler LE, Edward K. Wheeler LE, Susan K. and Leslie A. Wheeler, Elizabeth Wheeler LE, Francis L. Wheeler LE, Lulu M. Wheeler LE

c/o Mrs. R.M. Scott

street & number: 11021 Rosemont Drive**telephone:** _____**city or town:** Rockville**state:** MD**zip code:** 20852

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Summary History of Development

Burton K. and Lulu Wheeler brought their three children to Lake McDonald for a three-week visit in 1915 and stayed in a platform tent at Fish Creek as the guests of Park Commissioner Clarence Davidson. In 1916, they had the use of the Colonel Nolan camp just east of the Lake McDonald Ranger Station at the head of Lake McDonald.¹ Nolan was a former Montana Attorney General. There, the Wheelers learned of a hunting cabin built for Wyoming dude rancher Howard Eaton before the park was designated in 1910.² Eaton was a friend of John E. Lewis and a regular at his Glacier Hotel. Each summer, Eaton would bring a party up to Lake McDonald to camp at "Jacksonville," a campsite leased from the park near Sprague Creek. Before the park was established, Eaton had leased land at the head of the Lake from the government and built a cabin for use during the fall hunting season. In the 1910s, the Eaton party's visit was considered a high point for people at the head of the lake, whose social life revolved around the hotel.³ Hunting was prohibited in the park once it was designated, and Eaton had sold the cabin to Lewis. Under Lewis's ownership, it laid unused so that when the Wheelers bought it in 1916, the woods had closed in around it.⁴

The Wheelers spent their first summer in the cabin in 1917, now with four children. They spent much of that summer clearing the land around the cabin.⁵ This established the open lawn that still sets the Wheeler Camp property apart from the surrounding forest. Such lawns, often with scattered trees, were typical at recreational camps and resort hotels of the period. Practically, the open area allowed light into the cabins in a time before electric lights were used in these buildings. More important, however, the surrounding lawn was an aesthetic tendency with a legacy in the naturalistic park designs of the romantic period of the nineteenth century. The lawn was a small buffer, a middle landscape between the domesticity of the cabin, however rustic, and wilderness of the surrounding forest. The Wheeler lawn was cropped short by two riding horses they kept during the 1930s and 1940s.⁶

By 1924, the Wheelers had six children, and the cabin felt small. Burton Wheeler stated that they built the Sleep Cabin in 1927⁷, but his daughter, Marion Wheeler Scott, says it was after the Half Moon Fire of 1929, when salvage logs were available, that this cabin was built. The Sleep Cabin had a bunkroom with screened windows at each end, one for the three boys and one for the three girls, and a screened sleeping porch projecting from the front wall for Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler. There was a small sitting room with a hearth for Lulu Wheeler's piano on the back wall. In addition to the main cabin and sleep cabin, there was a privy set behind the main cabin and up the hill. This was later added to and put on a concrete foundation to house the DC generator that Mrs. Wheeler bought from the Great Northern Railway to power electric lights for the camp about 1925. Mrs. Wheeler never liked the noise the generator made, so she would have the generator turned off fairly early in the evenings. Once power lines reached the ranger station and Wheeler Camp, the generator was replaced with laundry machines used in common by all of the Wheeler descendants at camp.⁸

The Wheelers were one of a group of families who owned recreational camps at the head of the lake during the 1920s and 1930s, including the Clacks, the Aronows, the Walshes, and the LaDows. Among them, there were many children ranging in age from toddlers to college students, who spent their summers hiking, fishing, and

¹ Lulu Wheeler, *History of Apgar* (n.p., n.d.): 22. (Glacier National Park Archives (GNPA): West Glacier, Montana)

² Burton K. Wheeler, *History*, 44.

³ Caroline Scott, *History*, 16; and Margaret Lindsay, *History*, 15.

⁴ Burton K. Wheeler, *History*, 22.

⁵ Burton K. Wheeler, *History*, 22.

⁶ Marion Wheeler Scott, Interview with author, 21 July 2006. Taped for GNPA.

⁷ Burton K. Wheeler, *History*, 45.

⁸ Marion Wheeler Scott, Interview with author, 22 July 2005.

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swimming together. A well-worn path ran through the woods connecting the camps. The Wheelers kept two horses for riding, and Richard Wheeler owned one of the early sailboats on the lake. By about 1930, they also kept a motorboat. Even during his 24 years as a United States senator, Burton K. Wheeler spent time on Lake McDonald each summer. Descendants of all of these families continue to use the same camps. Some still hold the deed to their properties. Others hold life leases from the federal government. Burton and Lulu Wheeler's children hold a lease negotiated by their parents in 1946 to 1947.

Many topics of national importance were discussed on the telephone lines strung through the trees on the west side of the park. The lookout at Mt. Brown, Mr. Stanley, related that when he heard the telephone ring, he would watch to see whether the senator would walk across from his cabin to the ranger station. If he did, Stanley would pick up to listen in. Until 1940, Wheeler was Chairman of the Senate's Indian Affairs Committee, and many times, the Wheeler Camp hosted meetings and ceremonies with members of the Blackfeet Tribe.⁹ The phone was also used to eavesdrop more locally. Until the early 1930s, when the Lewises sold the hotel and Emmeline Kelly at Kelly's Camp died of pneumonia, everyone knew they could catch up on the latest Lake McDonald news at 9:00 a.m. when one telephoned the other.¹⁰

Like several inholders who had been visiting Lake McDonald for many years, the Wheelers' six children were growing up. With two of the older boys working for the park, Lulu Wheeler built a third cabin at the northwest corner of the property to provide additional bunk space. Called the "Garage Cabin" for the two-bay garage underneath, Jean Sullivan of Apgar built the two-room log cabin in 1940. Asa "Ace" Powell, Sr. built the large stone fireplace. As Lulu Wheeler's health began to fail in the mid-1950s, an additional room and a kitchen were added to the east wall to provide a separate space for the Wheelers' youngest daughter, Marion Wheeler Scott, and her growing family, as she acted as her mother's caretaker. Mrs. Scott continues to use this cabin.

The year after the Garage Cabin was built, the original main cabin burned. Lulu Wheeler immediately undertook plans to replace it. She designed a one-and-a-half-story log cabin with a cross-gabled roof. The overhanging gable end on the lake side was supported by log posts the full height of the structure. Apgar bulders Gus Aubert, Jean Sullivan, and Asa "Ace" Powell, Sr., as well as a fourth man, possibly Austin Weikert, worked on the new cabin.¹¹

After 1947, when the Wheelers' life lease was settled, Mrs. Wheeler added one more cabin at the back of the camp in 1952. The "Boys Cabin" is unlike the other buildings on the property as it was constructed using modern building materials and framing practices by an outside builder following the pattern of post-war building by inholders around Lake McDonald. The cabin was meant to be shared by Richard, John, and Edward Wheeler. Richard and Edward added the garage to the road side of the cabin later, but the cabin is otherwise much as it was built. More recently, about 1980, John Wheeler remodeled the "Sleep Cabin" for his family's use. He replaced the screens in the windows with glass and reorganized the interior walls to accommodate indoor plumbing, a kitchen, and bedrooms. The main entrance is a sliding glass door.

Elizabeth Wheeler Colman, the eldest of the six Wheeler children, inherited use of the Main Cabin. Lulu Wheeler died at the camp over Labor Day weekend in 1962. Burton K. Wheeler died in January 1975 at age 92.

The Wheeler Camp retains integrity of design, setting, and feeling as a whole dating to the early 1950s, when the property achieved its final configuration with satellite cabins to accommodate Burton and Lulu Wheeler's six children and their families. Each of the cabins and outbuildings was designed individually, each to serve a purpose. Even though the buildings have changed use over the years, they generally retain high degrees of integrity of design,

⁹ Marion Wheeler Scott, Interview.

¹⁰ Marion Wheeler Scott, Interview.

¹¹ Marion Wheeler Scott, Interview.

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materials, and workmanship dating to their periods of construction. As a group they form a harmonious group retaining integrity of setting in keeping with a recreational camp used by the same family for ninety years on Lake McDonald.

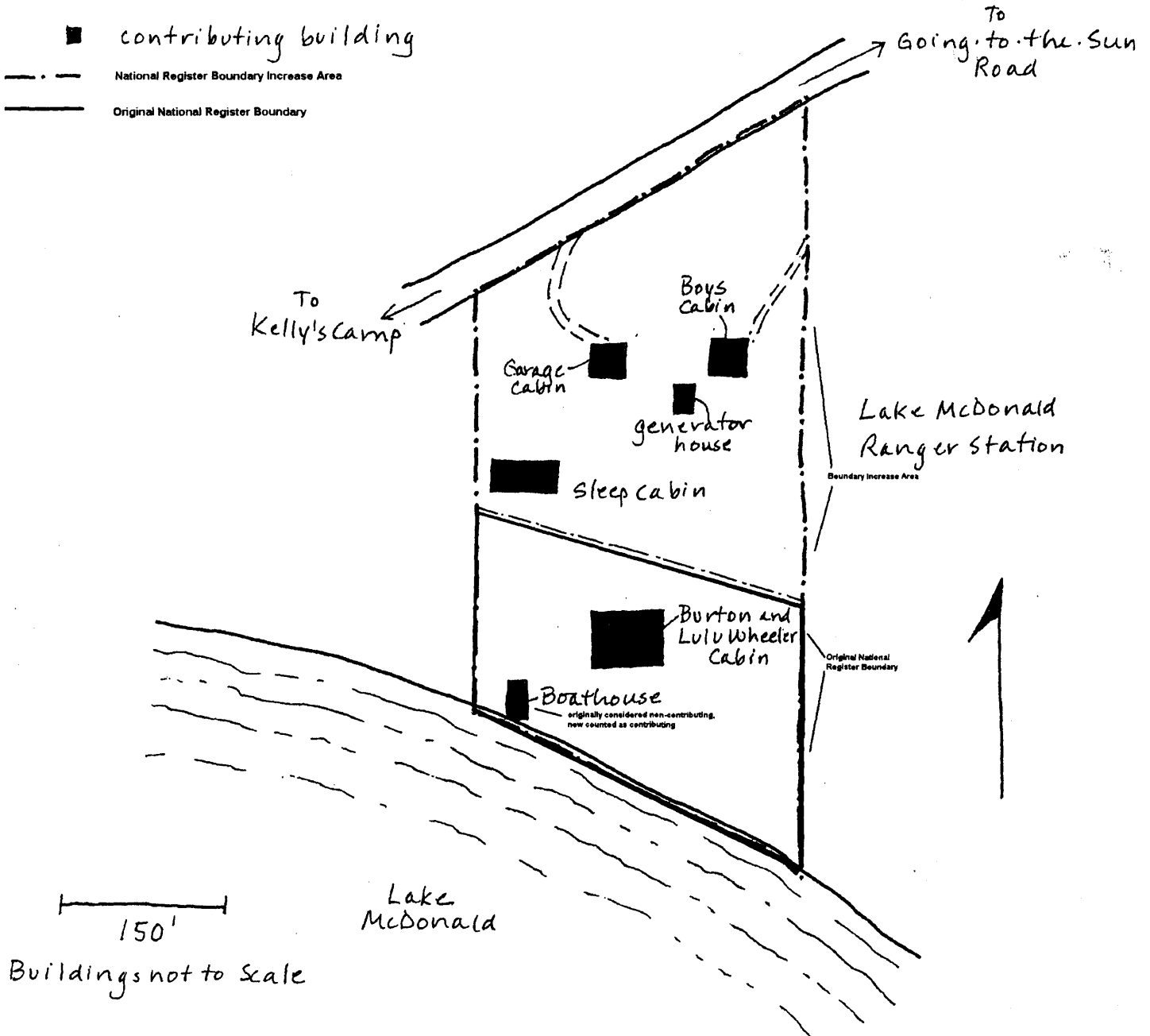
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Photographs

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Photographs

The following information applies to all photographs listed below:

Name of property: Wheeler Camp
County and State: Flathead County, Montana
Photographer: Jessie Ravage
Date of photograph: July 2005
Location of negative: Glacier National Park Archives

Burton K. and Lulu Wheeler Cabin (main cabin)

View of north (front) and east sides of main cabin from Lake McDonald
Photograph No.1

Boathouse

View of east side and north (back) of boathouse from lawn between main cabin and boathouse
Photograph No.2

Sleep Cabin

View of south (front) and east sides of Sleep Cabin from lawn behind main cabin
Photograph No.3

Garage Cabin

View of south (front) of Garage Cabin from lawn behind main cabin
Photograph No.4

Boys Cabin

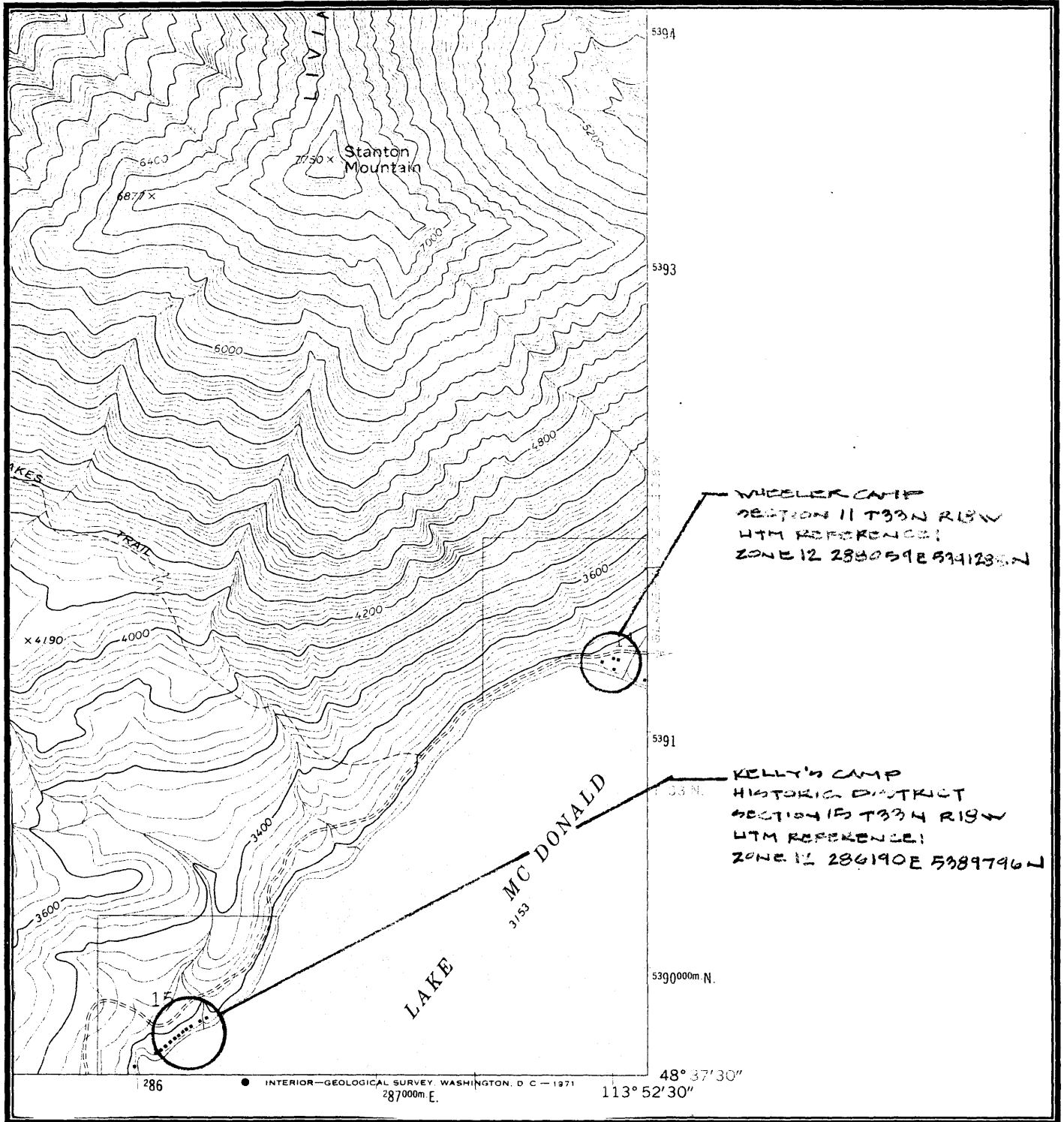
View of south (front) of Boys Cabin from Lake McDonald
Photograph No.5

Boys Cabin with generator house

View of south (front) and east sides of Boys Cabin with generator house to left
Photograph No.6

Generator house

View of south (front) and west sides generator house with Boys Cabin to right and roof of Garage Cabin to left
Photograph No.7



Wheeler Camp (Boundary Increase and Addendum)
 Recreational Camps on Lake McDonald MPD
 Flathead County, MT
 UTM's (NAD 27): Zone 12, Easting 288059 Northing 5391288
 Section 11, Township 33 North, Range 18 West (Montana Prime Meridian)
 Camas Ridge East Quadrangle