United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Fish Creek Bay Boathouse
other name/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: N/A
not for publication: n/a
city/town: West Glacier
county: Flathead
code: 29
state: Montana
code: MT
zip code: 59936
vicinity: at Fish Creek Campground, west shore Lake McDonald; Glacier National Park (GLAC)

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 80. In my opinion, the property X meets _ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _ nationally _ statewide _X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature]
National Park Service
Date: 12.5.95

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

[Signature]
Montana State Historic Preservation Office
Date: SEP 29 1995

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]
[Entered in the National Register]
[Date of Action]

[Signature]
[Entered in the National Register]
[Date of Action]

[Signature]
[Entered in the National Register]
[Date of Action]
The Fish Creek Bay Boathouse is located at the edge of the Fish Creek Campground, immediately adjacent to the west shore of lower Lake McDonald, and is accessed by a gravel road diverting from loop C of the campground. A heavy growth of fir, ponderosa, larch, and cedar shield the boathouse from adjacent camp sites.

The boathouse is a one-story wood-frame building oriented perpendicular to the lakeshore. Only a shed-roofed addition running 3/4 of the length of the north elevation alters the simple rectangular footprint. Due to the partially excavated slope of the beach, the lakeside (south) elevation is higher than the rear (west) elevation. Lapped horizontal siding covers all exterior walls. A front-gable roof covers the primary component; the shed-roof of the addition originates just under the eave of the north gable slope. Metal sheeting covers all roof surfaces. Dimensional-lumber rafter ends are exposed. Both gable ends contain metal vents.

Boarded-over windows are symmetrically placed across both side elevations (two within the north elevation; three within the south elevation). The side-hinged plywood "shutters" sit within the window opening; there are no window surrounds. Features within the rear elevation of the primary component are limited to a pedestrian door constructed of vertical tongue-and-groove planks. The rear elevation of the addition also contains a door opening boarded-over from the interior.

An enormous set of side-hinged boat doors (each half constructed of four sheets of plywood) dominates the lakeside elevation. These doors extend from the beach to the widest point of the gable eave. A set of double doors is centered within the lakeside elevation of the addition. The south half of the door is covered with lapped siding and the north half is covered with unlapped planks (no joint); these doors appear to have been cut out of the elevation after construction.
The Fish Creek Bay Boathouse is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A, at the local level, for its association with park recreational development. The building is a component of the World Class Accommodations property type, as defined in the Glacier National Park Multiple Resource Listing.

The first tour-boat operation on Lake McDonald began in 1895 and a number of boats served area visitors each summer until the 1930s and the completion of the Going-to-the-Sun Road along the east shore of the lake. One of the most successful tour boat concessioners, Captain Billy Swanson, constructed a number of boats still in operation throughout the park, among them the *De Smet*, which ran from the foot of Lake McDonald to the Lake McDonald Lodge. Boathouse #940 was constructed ca. 1928 to house the *De Smet* during the winter months. It has been in use since construction in that capacity.

The boathouse remains as a tangible reminder of an era in which boats provided a primary means of transportation along Lake McDonald as well as a popular means of recreation. The addition is of similar style and materials and appears to have been constructed during the historic period; it does not adversely affect the building’s integrity.
9. Major Bibliographic References

Bruce Fladmark, "Fish Creek Bay Boathouse, Determination of Eligibility," Glacier National Park Headquarters maintenance office, West Glacier, Montana.

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
- Local government
- University
- Other - Specify Repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: less than 1 acre

UTM References:
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<th>Zone</th>
<th>Easting</th>
<th>Northing</th>
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<tr>
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<td>280090</td>
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Verbal Boundary Description

Boundaries encompass only the building, its immediate, wooded surroundings, and the boat track/lake shore - comprising an area approximately 40' x 40' centered on the building.

Boundary Justification

The Fish Creek Bay Boathouse is most directly associated with the broad expanse of Lake McDonald, rather than with the adjacent Fish Creek Campground. These boundaries acknowledge that association and encompass the tree screen that shields the boathouse from the campground.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Ann Hubber/Historian
organization: Historical Research Associates, Inc.  date: 6/1995
street & number: P.O. Box 7086  telephone: 406 721-1958

city or town: Missoula  state: MT  zip code: 59807-7086

Property Owner

name/title: National Park Service
street & number: Park Headquarters  telephone: (406) 888-5411

city or town: West Glacier  state: MT  zip code: 59936
7. Narrative Description, continued

The boat cradle, extending from the interior of the original component into the lake, is constructed of hewn-logs topped with a metal rail.

Appropriate to its function, the boathouse interior is unfinished and dirt-floored.

A new concrete foundation was installed ca. 1992 and it is unlikely that the boat doors within the primary component are original. The materials and design of the addition suggest that it was constructed during the historic period. The addition appears to have been constructed during the historic period and thus does not adversely affect the building's physical integrity. The modern boat doors, the dominant feature within the front elevation, adversely affect integrity of design and of material but do not alter the building's mass, scale, or ready association with park boathouses. The modern campground is well screened from the boathouse by heavy vegetation and does not adversely affect integrity of setting.

Photographs

Fish Creek Bay Boathouse (#940)

Date of Photographs: September 1993
Photographer: Ann Hubber

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PHOTO NUMBER</th>
<th>STRUCTURE NAME AND NUMBER</th>
<th>DIRECTION OF VIEW</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Fish Creek Bay Boathouse #940</td>
<td>View to SW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Fish Creek Bay Boathouse #940</td>
<td>View to S</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Fish Creek Bay Boathouse #940</td>
<td>View to SE</td>
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</table>
Fish Creek Bay Boathouse

Based on Fish Creek Campground Wastewater Map prepared by Morrison - Maierle, Inc. for the NPS, n.d.
Fish Creek Bay Boathouse H3940

View to SW

Miscellaneous

GNA Flathead Co, MT

Photo #5
Fish Creek Bay Boathouse HS 940
Detail of蟹
View to S
Miscellaneous

GNP, Flathead Co., Mt
Photo # 60
Fish Creek Bay Boathouse HS940
YUM ROSE

MT	GNP Flathead Co. MT

Photo # 7