

Singer's Lake Crescent Tavern (Lake Crescent Lodge)
Barnes Point, Lake Crescent
Olympic National Park
Port Angeles Vicinity
Clallam County
Washington

HABS No. WA-186

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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY
SINGER'S LAKE CRESCENT TAVERN (Lake Crescent Lodge)

HABS No. WA-186

Location: On south shore of Lake Crescent at Barnes Point, north side of Hwy 101, in Olympic National Park, approximately 20 miles southwest of Port Angeles, Clallam County, Washington.

U.S.G.S. Lake Crescent Quad (15'), Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:

A: 10/440725/5322900
B: 10/440700/5322675
C: 10/440400/5322675
D: 10/440550/5322950

Present owner: National Park Service

Present occupant: Park visitors and concession staff

Present use: Seasonal hotel concession, managed by National Park Concessions, Inc.

Significance: Avery J. and Julia Singer began the construction of Singer's Lake Crescent Tavern in 1914, making it one of the first large resorts on the south side of Lake Crescent. During the first years of development the Singers erected the main lodge, a row of individual frame cabins, a row of temporary canvas and frame tent cabins, and substantially landscaped the resort complex. The resort gained an immediate, widespread reputation. After the Singers sold the property in the late 1920s, subsequent owners made periodic additions and alterations to the buildings and grounds, however, the complex as a whole remains largely intact. The ensemble embodies the distinctive characteristics of a resort type that was prevalent in the Lake Crescent vicinity during the early 20th century. The lodge is significant for its historical associations with the development of a major transportation route on the Olympic Peninsula, Hwy 101, and with President Franklin Roosevelt, whose 1937 overnight stay influenced legislation leading to the establishment of Olympic National Park in 1938. Lake Crescent Lodge was determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places in 1984.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical Context

The Olympic Peninsula of Washington State forms the northwestern corner of the coterminous United States. The peninsula is predominately a wilderness of glaciers, rugged mountains, dense old-growth forests, water-sculpted vegetation, numerous rivers, streams and lakes. Within its boundaries, encompassing 900,000 acres of its interior and sections of its coastline, is Olympic National Park. Located in the northernmost portion of the park is Lake Crescent. Jutting into the lake from its southern shore is a peninsula, Barnes Point, a delta formed by Barnes Creek. Lake Crescent Lodge is sited on Barnes Point, approximately one hundred yards north of Barnes Creek, overlooking Lake Crescent and numerous mountain peaks.

B. Historical Context

Except for its outer fringe, the Olympic Peninsula remained almost untouched and undeveloped by Anglo-American settlers until the late 19th century. Beginning in the 1890s settlers staked homestead claims along Lake Crescent's shores. Although only five miles separated Lake Crescent from the sea-going traffic at the small town of Port Crescent on the Strait of Juan De Fuca, the lack of substantial roads to the lake, the virgin forest of immense trees, poor soil and rugged topography surrounding the lake discouraged any serious attempts at farming.

Lake Crescent's fish and surrounding Alpine-like scenery provided the needed alternative to subsistence farming. The lake was one of the first sites in Olympic National Park to develop as a resort area. The 1895 visit of Admiral Leslie Beardslee marked the beginning of the lake's reputation as a haven for sport fishermen. America's growing idealization of the healthful, restorative qualities of wilderness settings also prompted Lake Crescent's development as an outdoor recreation area.

Visitors traveling from Seattle and Portland as well as midwestern and eastern seaboard cities before the turn-of-the-century found only the mere beginnings of resort development around the lake. In the early 1890s there were tents, cabins, and meals at Piedmont on the north side of the lake near the terminus of the Port Crescent Road. By 1895 a rustic, two-story log structure known as Log Cabin Hotel (or the Hotel Piedmont) replaced the first crude accommodations at Piedmont. On the lake's eastern shoreline at the terminus of the early road from Port Angeles, another small log cabin resort was established in the 1890s.

The earliest travelers to Lake Crescent effectively spread the word about the lake's abundant fish and untrampled, breathtaking scenery. Soon after 1900, articles appearing in popular regional and national sports and travel magazines described the wonders of the lake in glowing terms. These greatly stimulated resort development on Lake Crescent. While the hostelry at Piedmont and at East Beach continued to welcome summer guests, several other resorts appeared around the lake's wooded perimeters. In 1905 Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Ovington established a resort on the north shore of the lake. At Ovington's, the main lodge building, a few small frame cottages, and an assemblage of temporary canvas tents greeted guests who came to fish, boat, swim, hike, or play tennis on the Ovington's private tennis court. Nineteen-six saw the opening of Marymere, the first resort establishment on the lake's shaded, south shore. One year later, Piedmont received its second hotel, the Hotel Crescent. At the far west end of the lake, a modest resort at Fairholm had its early beginnings around 1910. Like the resorts at East Beach and Piedmont, the Hotel "Fairholm" was erected at a strategic point along a major cross-county transportation route. Here at Fairholm, boat traffic connected with a primitive road that led to the western reaches of the Olympic Peninsula.

The sunny exposure of the north shore of Lake Crescent attracted other entrepreneurial resort developers in the early 1910s. Not far from Ovington's, Louis Dechman built a sumptuously appointed sanitarium named Qui Si Sana ("Here Find Health") around 1913. Here he applied his theory that liberal amounts of fresh air, physical work, and moderate exercise cured all neurological ailments found among sedentary urbanites. Although less widely known than Dechman's Qui Si Sana, Sunshine Lodge and Delbarre's Lodge occupied small sections of Lake Crescent's north shoreline in the early 1910s.

Not one of these early Lake Crescent resort establishments built before 1914 remains today. Fire was a constant threat and ultimately claimed Marymere (ca. 1914), Hotel Crescent (1919), and Log Cabin Hotel (1932). Others simply fell out of vogue as resort havens and were left to deteriorate, were demolished by new unappreciative owners, or were remodeled extensively, losing any semblance of their former appearance.

Unlike the lake's sunny north shore, the rugged, precipitous southern shoreline, cast in the cool shadow of bordering high ridges, did not attract the interest of early Lake Crescent resort builders. In addition, there were no roads nearby, as there were at Piedmont, East Beach, and Fairholm, to provide extra incentive for establishing a vacation retreat. Marymere, founded on Barnes Point around 1906, stood as an exception to the general dearth of resorts on the lake's south shore.

Unquestionably, resort development on Lake Crescent was intimately linked to the existence and condition of automobile access to the lake. The poor condition or total lack of road access to the lake severely impeded early tourist traffic. In 1908 Sam Hill, father of the good road building movement in the state of Washington, visited Port Angeles and Lake Crescent, and encouraged a project of building a better road between Port Angeles and the lake. Perhaps his visit had some impact: by 1911 the county completed a new, modern automobile road to Lake Crescent from Port Angeles, which placed the lake within an hour of this growing coastal town.

Continuing in their endeavor to improve transportation across the north Olympic Peninsula, county government officials next moved to strengthen the transportation link between the east and west ends of Lake Crescent. (In the early 1910s, little more than a widened winding path existed along a portion of the south shore of Lake Crescent.) In 1914 the county commissioners authorized the construction of a ferry (the Marjory) to transport travelers across Lake Crescent, as well as to various resort establishments around the lake's edge. One year later, the county launched a second ferry, the Storm King. So popular were these ferries, that between June and August 1915 traffic across Lake Crescent increased nearly seven-fold.

With the Marjory and the Storm King in service, a continuous uninterrupted modern thoroughfare extended from Seattle to Mora on the western coast of the Olympic Peninsula. As never before, the newly completed Olympic Highway provided the new motoring tourist with easy and affordable access to the Olympic Peninsula. Resort development on Lake Crescent received new impetus for growth.

It was against this backdrop of heightened highway and ferry construction which marked the official opening of the north Olympic Peninsula to tourist traffic that Singer's Lake Crescent Tavern was founded and rapidly emerged as one of the most widely-known resorts on the Olympic Peninsula.

C. History of Site

Avery and Julia Singer, the originators of the resort, began construction of the resort complex in 1914-1915. In a large open field dotted with coniferous trees, the Singers erected a 2 1/2-story wood frame main lodge building several feet back from the water's edge. Behind the lodge, a single row of sixteen, closely-spaced cottages were built. Milled lumber used in constructing these early structures was reportedly transported to the site by barge across Lake Crescent. In the open field behind the cabins a garden was planted. Within the next five years, a row of temporary canvas tent cabins north of the lodge was replaced with a row of frame cabins similar in design to the existing row south of the lodge. Service buildings grouped together behind the lodge were erected as needed over the span of several years.

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In its early years of prosperity, Singer's Tavern was extremely popular among visitors to Lake Crescent. Before the completion of the south shore road in 1922, guests were met at East Beach, where the road from Port Angeles ended, and transported by private launch to Singer's. Through the effort of the Singers, the resort became widely known as a social gathering place and entertained many annual meetings and outing clubs. In addition to the attractive main lobby with its large stone fireplace and handsome hardwood floors, the modern conveniences of steam heat, running water and electricity, and the tasteful furnishings throughout, Mr. and Mrs. Singer saw to it that their guests were suitably entertained. Tennis, horseshoes, croquet, golf, and trapshooting were among the leisure activities offered visitors at Singer's. Boats for fishing or simply floating on the lake were also provided to tavern guests. The excellence of the tavern dining room cuisine generated early accolades of praise.

Under the astute and attentive proprietorship of the Singers, the lodge attracted an affluent and genteel clientele, which came from nearby Port Angeles and Victoria, B. C., as well as many eastern cities. Oftentimes guests arrived by ferry in chauffeur-driven cars, and stayed at the resort for a week or more. Dinners in the lodge dining room were formal affairs with busboys dressed in white jackets and black trousers. Jackets and ties were required of the male guests. Meals were lavishly prepared. In the mid-1920s evening dancing to tunes from a player piano took place on the sun porch of the main lodge. In comparison to other Lake Crescent resorts, Singer's Lake Crescent Tavern of the 1910s and 1920s had a decidedly "more classy" atmosphere.

Singer's widespread reputation outlived the tenure of Al and Julia Singer, who sold their resort in 1927. Under the ownership of the Seattle Trust Company and the management of Frank Maltby in the 1930s, Singer's Tavern continued to receive high acclaim in promotional tourist literature. It was during the 1930s, when the creation of a large national park encompassing the central mountainous portion of the Olympic Peninsula was being hotly debated in Congress, that Singer's Lake Crescent Tavern received its most notable guest. To assess the area proposed for a national park firsthand, President Franklin D. Roosevelt came to the peninsula in the fall of 1937. This event marked the first time that a U. S. president visited Clallam County. After Roosevelt was greeted in Port Angeles by an exuberant crowd and a festive parade, the presidential party proceeded to Lake Crescent Tavern where Roosevelt, his security guards, and several political leaders spent the evening of September 30th. At a post-dinner conference Roosevelt expressed his emphatic support of a large national park that included the greater portion of the Olympic Mountains, along with portions of the lower western valleys and a narrow strip along the Pacific Ocean. A Congressional bill reflecting many of Roosevelt's suggestions soon followed and ultimately provided the foundation leading to enabling legislation that created Olympic National Park in 1938.

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Under Walter and Bessie Bovee, Singer's Lake Crescent Tavern took on the signature of the next owners. Known locally as "Bovee's on Lake Crescent," the resort endured a reduction in tourist travel during the Depression and World War II, but surged back to life in the mid-to-late 1940s. As the former manager of two urban hotels, Walter Bovee applied his hotel management experience to his Lake Crescent lodge operation. Reflecting past traditions, Bovee offered a collage of civilized amenities in a rare setting of natural beauty. Guests had their choice of fishing from tavern-owned boats, tennis, horseback riding, billiards, evening dancing in an outdoor recreation building, and occasional skits and programs given by lodge employees. Park Service naturalists gave programs in the enclosed sunporch.

The changing means of transportation in the Lake Crescent area during the 1920s and 1930s altered the complexion of public resort development around the lake. After the south lakeshore road was completed (1922), ferry service was discontinued (1925), and the Olympic Peninsula loop highway connecting to the Lake Crescent segment was completed (1931), older lakeside resorts reoriented themselves physically to the highway and changed their facilities to accommodate the growing auto-oriented public. Singer's Tavern had long since installed electricity and running water, and the number of cabins had grown to thirty.

Private ownership of Singer's Lake Crescent Tavern ended in 1951 when the National Park Service purchased the property. National Park Concessions, Inc. has leased and managed the resort since then. Under the management of eight consecutive National Park Concessions, Inc. managers the lodge catered to a difficult public, and became less of a destination resort than a stopping off place for visitors to Olympic National Park.

Since Roosevelt's visit in 1937, Singer's Lake Crescent Tavern has lodged or dined several notable guests. In the late 1930s Secretary Harold Ickes frequented the lodge dining room while vacationing at Storm King Guard Station (Morgenroth Cabin). In the late 1950s the Ambassador to the Netherlands was a lodge guest. Then Attorney General Robert Kennedy and the Sargent Shriver family stayed briefly at the resort in the early 1960s, before embarking on an outing into the park. Washington politician Henry Jackson frequented the lodge often over the years. Other tavern guests include Chief Justice William O. Douglas, corporate executive Henry Ford, and singer Frank Sinatra.

PART II. DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

A. Physical development of site

Construction of the resort began in 1914. By May 1915, the Singers' 7.71-acre property had twenty one-room cottages and a few double (duplex) cabins (Buildings #668-674), and a 2 1/2-story lodge (Building #645). A 1983 inspection of the lodge revealed that the south half of the dining room was, in fact, constructed prior to the main lodge building. This portion of the building possibly served as part of (or all of) the early dining room and kitchen section of the lodge, and predates the rest of the building. Additional construction at the resort continued the following year. By August, the glass-enclosed "summer" dining room was completed and additional cabins added to the site. It is possible that in 1916, the north half of the present lodge dining room, which features a continuous band of double-hung sash windows on the north and east walls, may have been added to the existing one-story ell. Exactly which cabins were completed during the summer of 1916 is unclear.

During the next four years of Singer ownership, building construction at the resort continued. To the south of the main lodge, the Singers erected additional one-story, wood frame service buildings. Extant buildings that date from this early period of construction include the Boys' Dorm (Bldg. #657), the Sleeping Quarters (Bldg. #666), and the Storage Building (Bldg. #682). Several other wood frame buildings appear to date from the initial building phase and were located in the area south of the main lodge building.

North of the lodge building along the lakeshore, frame and canvas tent cabins were erected in the area of the row of six cabins (Bldg. #675-680). These temporary tent cabins were presumably replaced by the permanent cabins by the late 1910s. Although little photographic or written documentation precisely dates this row of lakeshore cabins and exterior remodeling has altered their original appearance, the windows and doors, design details, and certain methods of construction closely resemble those used in the initial row of cabins built 1915 (Bldg. #668-674). By 1919 or 1920 Avery and Julia Singer completed all major building construction work on their resort property.

Not content with simply building buildings, the Singers were equally interested in creating a civilized and tranquil setting within the much larger, grander context of the "Alpine Lake" environment of Lake Crescent. Even before the main lodge was completed, a May 1915 newspaper article exclaimed that the Singers' grounds were beautiful, landscaped with cultivated plants, flowers, vines, and shrubs against an evergreen forest. A big, shady lawn, and winding paths and trails added to the resort's picturesqueness.

Beautifying the grounds with exotic shrubs, trees, and flowers was an ongoing effort. Trees and shrubs were staked around the lodge and easterly row of guest cabins. Wisteria, roses and variegated holly are plantings that presumably date from the Singer era of development. A single row of apple and pear trees once standing at the west edge of the field may also have been planted by the Singers. In addition to strolling on paths on the resort grounds or through the adjoining forest, the Singers provided a golf course and a horseshoe pit for the added pleasure of tavern guests. The sale of the Singers' "Lake Crescent Lodge" corporation in 1927 marked the end of an era characterized by exuberant and robust development.

Under the brief (1927-1930), three-year ownership and proprietorship of Aime and Ermine Michaud, significant new construction on the resort site languished. In 1930, when the Seattle Trust Company acquired the twenty-nine acre lodge property by default, the resort complex was probably much as the Singers left it. In 1930 a deed record inventory of the Lake Crescent Tavern property included the main lodge, cottages, heating plant, laundry, lighting plant, bath house, store house, water plant, "floating equipment" (including canoes, row boats, and launches), and the golf course. For the next twelve years the assessed value of physical improvements to the property actually dropped below the level it reached under the Singers' ownership. As with other Olympic Peninsula resorts, Singer's Lake Crescent Tavern could not escape the economic hard times of the national depression. Following the Depression, World War II diverted human and economic resources away from recreational pursuits to the war effort.

Between 1927 and 1945, while shrubs and trees grew and matured, the only discernable building improvements made to Singer's Lake Crescent Tavern were limited to the construction of a boat house, a storage building, a shop building, and the possible construction of three or four cabins at the western edge of the large open field and behind the row of original 1915 cabins. In addition, the row of lakeshore cabins may have been resheathed and connected at the roofline in the late 1930s. Only three buildings in the present Singer ensemble, the Shop (Bldg. #656), the Storage Building (Bldg. #1268), and Cabin 43 (presently Cabin 32, Bldg. #681), date from this eighteen-year period. The complex of the 1940s was relatively unchanged from that of the 1920s.

The next six years (1945-1951) were a period of slight revival for the thirty-year-old resort. The improvement in the national and regional economy, and the infusion of new energy that came with new owners, was reflected in several physical improvements made to the property in the mid-to-late 1940s. Beginning in the mid-1940s, owners Walter and Bessie Bovee took measures to "fix-up" the grounds and buildings. Under the ownership and management of Loyal and Martha Carstensen and George Veith, three cottages were erected south of the lodge near the lakeshore (Bldg. #661, 662, 664). That same year tennis courts were built east of the main lodge at the edge of the open field.

The main lodge building received considerable attention as well. Around 1947 the kitchen area was remodeled (principally involving changes to internal wall partitions), and a small addition was constructed at the south side of the building. Two years later, in 1949, the lodge received a major addition on the south wall in the form of a cocktail lounge (first floor) and manager's apartment (second floor).

During this abbreviated revival period, promotional literature depicted Singer's Lake Crescent Tavern as a resort with a homey and comfortable atmosphere. In 1951, as the National Park Service made preparations to purchase the entire resort complex, a property appraisal noted the presence of a total of nearly thirty individual buildings. This final era in the physical history of Singer's Lake Crescent Tavern is characterized by a potpourri of maintenance work, demolition and new construction. In the mid-to-late 1950s, the main lodge building received the addition of outside stairs leading to the second floor manager's apartment on the south side of the building, as well as a small, one-story addition under these stairs.

Under the National Park Service Mission 66 program in the 1960s, the master plan for the entire resort complex called for the replacement of the original lodge buildings with a new structure. This proposal was never carried out. Minimal interior work was completed in the dining area to repair fire damage resulting from a May 1971 fire. In the mid-1970s, the Park Service expended a considerable sum on installing a sprinkler system in the lodge and elsewhere at the resort. In 1980 and 1981, plans for the lodge called for its complete interior renovation and the construction of a new foundation.

Since the Park Service acquired ownership in 1951, the cabins at Singer's have received periodic repairs and remodeling. In the late 1950s new brushed hemlock paneling replaced the shiplap wall covering on the interior of the easterly row of cabins (Bldg. #668-674). At the same time, the painted board floors in these cabins (Bldg. #675-680) likewise was the subject of periodic remodeling. In the late 1960s or early 1970s, vertical board and batten wood siding was replaced by synthetic simulated wood paneling. The flooring, steps, and roofs of both rows of cabins have been rebuilt and resingled at least once during the past thirty years of Park Service ownership.

Certain buildings in the complex have been altered since 1951 to accommodate changing needs of the resort. To the southeast of the lodge building an outdoor recreation building built over a concrete slab foundation was fully enclosed in the late 1950s or early 1960s and now serves as a maintenance shop (Bldg. #681). At about the same time, Cabin 43 (now Cabin 32, Bldg. #681) was extended approximately sixteen feet to the east.

During the Mission 66 program the Park Service planned the construction of extensive new facilities and the gradual removal of the older structures. Over a five-year period a total of \$225,000.00 was earmarked for facilities improvements at Singer's Lake Crescent Tavern. These improvements included the construction of fifty additional guest rooms, a central building to replace the lodge, and maintenance and employee buildings. In reality, only three buildings were completed during this period: a ten-unit one-story motel structure in 1959, and a two-story motel unit in 1962. An expanded parking lot was put in behind the row of lakeshore cabins upon completion of these two motel units. In 1975 the Park Service replaced the existing dock with a shorter dock.

Since the National Park Service acquired ownership, several buildings at the resort have been demolished. Early in the 1950s, a boat house on Barnes Creek, at the south boundary of the property, was dismantled. In the late 1950s, a 70' x 17' open-sided garage and storage shed was razed for the construction of an enlarged parking lot behind the lakeshore row of cabins. Additional buildings removed between 1965 and the mid-1970s included a generator house and tool shed, a chlorinator house, a wood shed and cabin, and two employees' quarters. Since the mid-1970s, no major new construction or demolition has taken place at Singer's Lake Crescent Tavern until 1985, when renovation of the lodge and demolition and reconstruction of Cabins #668-674 was undertaken.

8. Existing Conditions (1984)

Lodge

The lodge building consists of two floors and an attic story. The main floor has eleven rooms: a large lobby; a glass-enclosed sitting porch; a dining room; a kitchen; lounges; office; restrooms; and storage rooms. A stairway in the lobby leads to the second floor which has nine guest rooms, toilet and bathrooms, and a large apartment for the lodge manager. The attic is a large space, open to expose the framing and rafters.

The foundation of the lodge consists of 6 x 6 wood posts atop one-foot square pre-cast concrete pads. Many of the posts have wood shims possibly indicating earlier re-leveling attempts. Some of the posts under the later addition of the lodge are raised from the concrete pads. In general, the posts appear to be in good condition with little or no evidence of insect rot or decay. Crawl space headroom from one foot to two feet is found throughout the original building and later additions. Less crawl space is found under the existing dining room and kitchen. Settlement has occurred throughout the building.

Wall framing in the historic Singer's Tavern portion of the lodge is 2 x 6 wood frame construction 24 inches on center. Wall construction of the remaining portions of the lodge is 2 x 4s construction at 24 inches on center.

The roof structure of the original lodge portion is made up of 2 x 6 rough sawn lumber at 24 inches on center. The roof has a two foot overhang with a 1 x 6 open soffit. Two by six columns have been added in the attic to brace the rafters.

The exterior skin of the building is painted cedar shingles over 1 x 8 shiplap sheathing. A cedar shingle roof with metal flashing is laid over a 1 x 6 roof deck eight inches on center. Wood gutters are found on the original lodge portion with metal gutters on other portions of the building.

Heating in the upper floor guest rooms and bath is provided by 1500W electric baseboard heaters. The remainder of the building is heated by tube panel ray heaters, gas floor space heaters, and a LP gas suspended heater located in the main lobby of the lodge. The three fireplaces in the facility provide some heat. There is currently (1984) no central heating system. The building is completely uninsulated.

Lighting in the main lobby is by incandescent lights in suspended fixtures controlled by rotary switches beside the desk and protected by a four-unit fuse panel on the stair landing. This panel also provides protection for the second floor lighting, which consists of a single incandescent fixture in the center of each room with pull chain control. Lighting in the attic is by incandescent lamps on porcelain lampholders fed by knob and tube wiring on the roof. Supplemental lighting in the lobby is provided by wall-mounted incandescent fixtures fed from a knob and tube cable behind a wooden parapet. Dining room lighting is by six recessed fluorescent fixtures with control dimmer switches.

Visitor Cabins (#668-674)

Located east of the main lodge, the Lake Crescent Lodge tourist cabins (#668-674) are typical of early twentieth-century rustic cottages or motor camp-style buildings. Each unit consists of one room with a bath and front porch. The cabins are of simple construction with their lavatory, toilet, and shower plumbing apparently added after the initial construction. They are uninsulated, suitable for mild weather occupancy and offer a distinctly different vacation experience from the more modern motel accommodations available at Lake Crescent. The use of natural material and finishes in the cabins provides the visitor with a sense of "roughing it" without major inconvenience. Several of the units have adjoining rooms that provide more suitable accommodations for families than the typical motel unit. The repeated use of the cabins by the same families, year after year, attests to their charm and desirability.

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Foundations consist of concrete pier blocks or other masonry piers or footing, minimal supporting wood sills or beams, and floor framing. Crawl spaces are very shallow to non-existent, making access difficult or impossible. The foundation framing has some wood rot.

It is apparent that the cabins' basic framing system was chosen because it was economical and easily-built; it was not intended to be long-lived. Four by six sills and center beam support the floor framing of 2 x 4s at approximately 24". Original flooring was 1 x 8 shiplap, a material also used for wall sheathing. One by four tongue-and-groove was added later. The plate condition could not be determined, but it is assumed that there is a matching 2 x 4 plate on edge at the bottom of the wall framing. Walls are sheathed and interiors finished with 1 x 8 shiplap laid horizontally. The exterior walls are finished with painted shingles. Interior surfaces were originally painted with enamel; they are now covered with either painted or natural finished one-quarter inch plywood panels with butted and eased edges (no battens) and the "surf" or sandblasted face finish popular in the 1950s.

The ceilings are finished similarly to the walls, having sloping side areas and a flat center section. Ceiling framing is assumed to match the wall/floor framing, 2 x 4s at 24" centers. Floors are varnished wood.

Roofs are framed with 2 x 4 rafters 24" on center, have an 8:12 pitch, and are sheathed with 1 x 6 boards 8" on center and cedar shingles. Unpainted galvanized sheet steel flashing and aluminum sheet flashing are used in valleys and joints. There is no drip or edge flashing. Roofing conditions are generally poor and will require complete replacement.

Porches are original or similar to the original (periodic replacement of structural elements is evident). The porch roof/cabin roof eave joints are poorly detailed and cause water damage. Deck foundations are inconsistent in construction and in poor repair.

Rooms have wall-mounted lavatory fixtures, a wall-mounted mirror in a wood frame, and a wood shelf. This lavatory placement was typical of early hotel and motor court accommodations. The existing toilet-shower rooms are additions to the original cabins. There is ample evidence of continuing maintenance problems and frequent repairs. Their concrete floors are cast on wood frames; typically, the frames are rotted, uneven, and evidence the various make-shift repair techniques which have been tried in previous efforts to stabilize.

Site

The grounds of Lake Crescent Lodge have several remnant landscape materials and structures that survive in form, material, and intent from the original layout of the site. The overall spatial organization of the site remains intact. The grounds slope approximately six percent from Highway 101 down to the lakefront, some 400 feet north. Primary vehicular access to the site is off Highway 101 with major parking at the end of a short access road that ends directly behind lakefront cottages #676-680. Additional parking is provided behind cabins, #668-674 for overnight guests.

Many of the original plant materials remain on the site, though many are decayed or in poor condition because of neglect. While some new plant materials have been incorporated over the years, the original structure of planting areas and massing has been maintained.

As a whole, the complex displays relationships and fundamental patterns of land use, circulation systems, building clusters and use that have remained consistent through time without significant spatial alteration. The original site design provided a variety of experiences for the visitor. In a very small area the guest had a range of spatial experiences from very public spaces--the entry path and front lawn--to semi-private areas in front of the individual cabins, to very private areas on the porches of the cabins and in the cabins themselves. This pattern and gradation of spaces is still evident and contributes much to the experiential quality of the site today. In addition, most landscape and structural elements considered primary to the character of the complex are intact, including the entry and parking areas, path, building clusters and vegetation. Finally, it is evident that the lodge and surrounding components provide a special link to the past. There is a continuity and ambience that creates a quality and sense of place and sets the complex apart from similar resort developments.

C. Alterations

In 1984-85, Olympic National Park undertook the complete renovation of Lake Crescent Lodge and adjacent cabins (#668-674). Work on all buildings included health and life safety work, as well as rehabilitation for functional use. Health and life safety work included building foundations, structure, electrical and mechanical code adherence, and life safety code compliance. Handicapped access for the complex was provided and energy conservation measures permitting year-round use of the buildings was included.

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The original 2 1/2-story portion of the lodge remained intact, as did the 2-story lounge/manager's apartment building addition (1949) to the southwest of the main lodge and the 1-story wing addition to the southeast of the original structure (now housing the dining room). Sections removed from the lodge included the link connecting the two 2-story structures, the southwest section of the dining room, and the kitchen (including support spaces).

The new uses accommodated in the renovated lodge include: a dining room, porch and lounge; cocktail lounge/bar; kitchen; employee dining room; souvenir shop; storage; restrooms; manager's office and apartment; guest registration space; guest rooms; guest bathrooms; and support/janitorial spaces.

Cabins to the west of the lodge (#661, 662, and 664) were rehabilitated for their intended purpose, overnight visitor use. Duplex cabins to the east of the lodge (#668-674) were all removed from the site. Replacement units are of the same genre as the original cabins, retaining the scale, materials, and historic and architectural qualities of the originals. The new units are approximately the same square footage as the old. All cabins now meet health, life safety, electrical, and other appropriate codes. The designs are based on energy conservation measures that provide year-round occupancy should the need for this use arise.

Cabins within the historic complex (#656, 657, 663, 666, 681, and 682) were used by the lodge concessioner as support buildings. Numbers 656, 657, 663 and 681 were removed from the site. Cabins numbered 675-680 were also removed. Building #666 and 682 are scheduled for removal.

APPENDIX A: A Chronology of Singer's Lake Crescent Tavern Property
Ownership Transactions*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Transaction</u>
1897	Paul Barnes filed for homestead claim.
1908	Nettie R. Barnes, wife of Paul Barnes, sold to Walter L. Patterson.
1908	Paul Barnes and Nettie Barnes sold to Helen G. Burkhardt.
1911	Walter L. Patterson sold a portion of his Barnes property to Helen G. Burkhardt.
1914	Helen G. Burkhardt sold to Avery J. Singer.
1915	Lake Crescent Tavern, a corporation, created with Avery Singer, president and Julia Singer, his wife, secretary.
1927	Lake Crescent Tavern (corporation) sold to Aime G. Michaud and Ermine Michaud, his wife.
1928	Aime G. Michaud sold to Lake Crescent Company.
1930	Lake Crescent Company, Aime and Ermine Michaud, and the Jewell Agency, Inc. versus the Seattle Trust Company in Washington State Superior Court.
1930	Judgement against Lake Crescent Company in favor of Seattle Trust Company.
1930	Property sold at sheriff's sale to Seattle Trust Company.
1931- 1941	Frank Maltby served as manager for Seattle Trust Company.
1933	Lake Crescent Tavern trust estate created by Seattle Trust Company.
1939	Contract made between Seattle Trust and Savings, and Walter and Bessie Bovee.
1941	Seattle Trust and Savings Bank conveyed property to Walter G. and Bessie C. Bovee, shareholders in the property.
1945	Contract of sale made between Walter G. and Bessie C. Bovee and Loyal and Martha Carstensen, and Horatio and Elizebeth Sabin.
1947	Horatio and Elizebeth Sabin conveyed their share of the property to Loyal and Martha Carstensen.
1947	George Veith purchased a substantial share of the property.

- 1949 Loyal Carstensen conveyed his share to Martha Carstensen, his wife.
- 1951 Walter B. and Bessie C. Bovee conveyed Lake Crescent Tavern property to the United States of America.
- 1951 Contract for a lease between the National Park Service and National Park Concessions, Inc.

Managers of the property since 1951:

1951-1952	Angie Gibbons
1952-1955	Edward Halterman
1955-1960	Ozzie E. Atwell
1961-1966	Bedford T. Estehere
1966-1971	Buell De DeMunbrun
1971-1977	Bedford Esters
1977-1979	Robert T. King
1979-pres.	Gary Wood

* This chronology was compiled from property records at the Land Title Company of Clallam County and oral history informants George Veith, John W. Boyd, Eva DeMunbrun, and Garner Hansen.

APPENDIX B: Building Improvements on Singer's Lake Crescent Tavern
 Property*

<u>Year</u>	<u>Value of Bldg. Imp.</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Owner</u>
1897	0.	94.25	Paul Barnes
1908	0.	7.69	Walter L. Patterson
1910	75.	21.87	Helen Burkhardt
1911	100.	29.58	" "
1912-15	100.	29.25	" "
1915	100.	29.25	Avery J. Singer
1916	2,250.	29.25	Avery J. Singer (Lake Crescent Tavern, Corp.)
1917-19	2,950.	29.25	" " " "
1920-28	4,000.	29.25	" " " "
1918-31	4,000.	29.25	A. G. Michaud (Lake Crescent Company)
1932-42	3,600.	29.25	Seattle Trust Company
1943-44	3,640.	29.25	Bessie C. Bovee
1944-47	3,640.	29.25	Seattle Ambassador, Inc.
1948	4,004.	29.25	" " "
1949-51	4,424.	29.25	" " "
1951	-	-	United States of America

* This building improvement data was compiled from tax assessment records at the Clallam County Courthouse. Customarily, there is a time lag of one to two years from the time improvements were made and the record assessed valuation.

APPENDIX C: Construction Dates of Buildings on Singer's Lake Crescent
Tavern Property

<u>Bldg. No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Const. Date*</u>
654	Lake Crescent Main Lodge	1915 2
"	Lodge Addition	1949 5
656	Outdoor Recreation Building (Shop)**	1942 1
657	Boy's Dorm; Employees Dorm (Storage Building)	1918 1
661	Duplex 37/38	1947 5
662	Cabin 36	1947 5
663	Cabin 34	1945 1
664	Cabin 35	1947 5
666	Sleeping Quarters (Workshop/Paint Shop)	1916 1
668	Cabins 3 & 4	1915 2,3
669	Cabins 5, 6 & 7	1915 2,3
670	Cabins 8 & 9	1915 2,3
671	Cabins 10, 11 & 12	1915 2,3
672	Cabins 14 & 15	1915 2,3
673	Cabins 16, 17 & 18	1915 2,3
674	Cabins 19, 20 & 21	1915 2,3
675	Cabins 22 & 23	ca. 1919 4
676	Cabin 24	ca. 1919 4
677	Cabins 25 & 26	1919 4
678	Cabins 27	1919 4
679	Cabins 28 & 29	1919 4
680	Cabins 30 & 31	1919 4

681	Cabin 43 (Cabin 32)	1936 1
682	Storage (Generator/Tool Shed)	1922 1
940 941	Ten-unit motel (N.C.)	1959 1,6
947	Two-story motel unit (N.C.)	1962 6
1268	Storage building/garage	1930

* Superscripts denote the source of information, noted below.

** Names in parentheses refer the building's present name if different than the building's historic, or original name.

(N.C.) N.C. denotes structures that are non-contributing to the original Singer building ensemble.

Sources

- 1 Olympic National Park Building Inventory List.
- 2 Olympic-Leader (Port Angeles, Washington) 7 May 1915, p. 6, col. 3.
- 3 Seattle, Port Angeles & Western Railway co. 1915 (photo).
- 4 Clallam County Courthouse (Port Angeles, Washington), tax assessment records.
- 5 Veith, George. Personal communication with author, 22 February 1984.
- 6 Atwell, Ozzie. Personal communication with author, 22 February 1984.

APPENDIX D: Major Resource Locations for Historic Photographs of
Singer's Lake Crescent Tavern

Olympic National Park, Port Angeles, Washington

The Pioneer Memorial Visitor Center and the Administration Building house a limited number of mostly black and white photos of the lodge and grounds dating from the 1950s and later.

Bert Kellogg Collection, Port Angeles, Washington

This private collection contains a number of negatives of black and white photos taken in the early years of the lodge's existence. The quality of the negatives varies. Kellogg produces the prints upon request.

Washington State Historical Society, Tacoma, Washington

The extensive collection of early black and white photos of the main lodge, cabins and grounds exist at the historical society. Most of the photos date from the 1920s and are of excellent quality. These photos are in the Asahel Curtis Collection.

University of Washington, Seattle, Washington

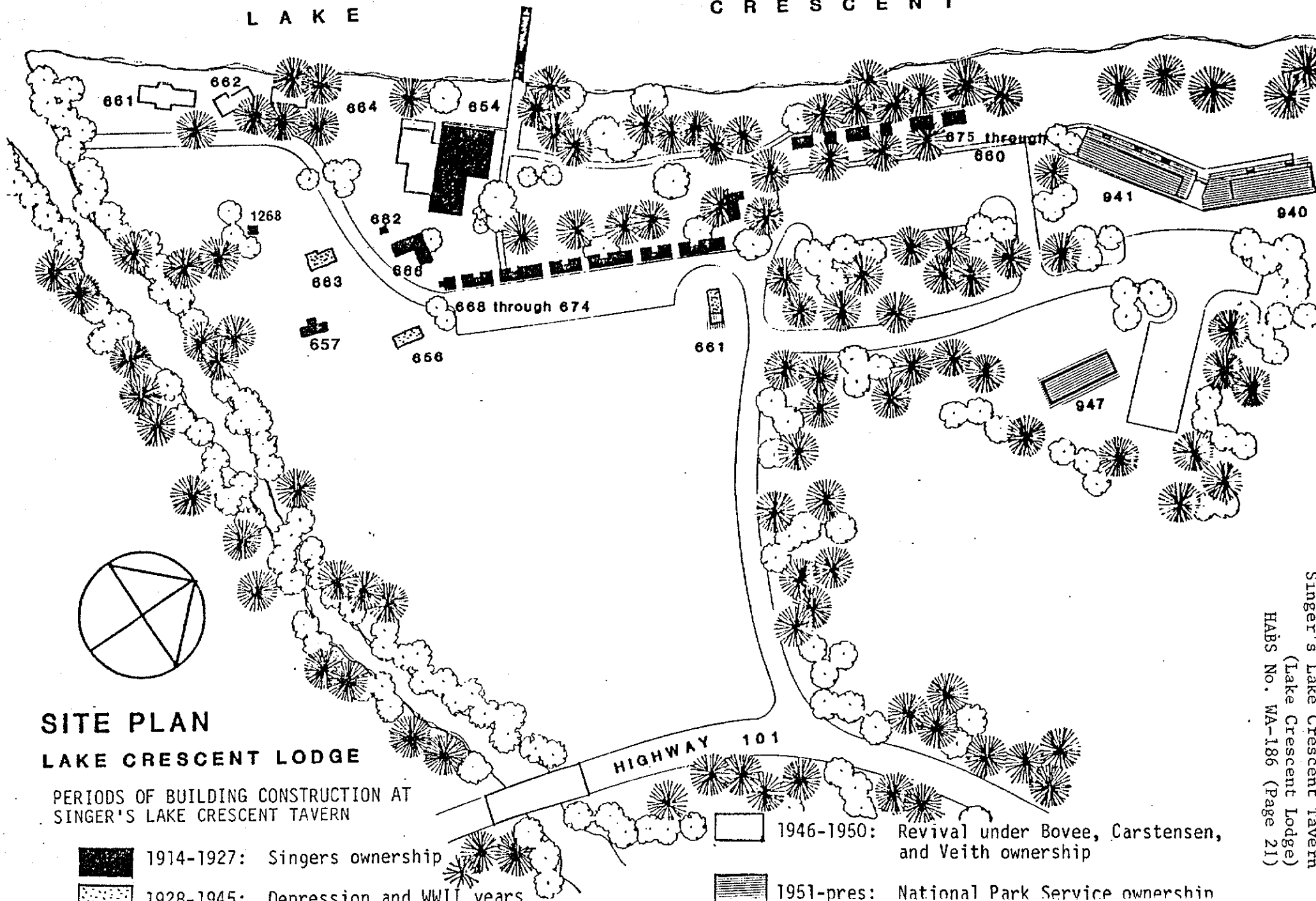
The Pacific Northwest Collection at the university contains only three of four postcards of the interior and exterior of the lodge. The dates range from the 1920s to the 1950s.

Ellis Studio and Post Card Company, Arlington, Washington

The Ellis father and son team photographed and produced postcards of Olympic Peninsula natural and cultural scenes beginning in the 1920s. Many pre-1940s postcards of Singer's Tavern no longer exist. Although negatives for earlier tavern scenes may outnumber the postcards, many are in deteriorated condition. Existing negatives and actual postcards of the resort are principally from the 1940s and later.

L A K E

C R E S C E N T



SITE PLAN

LAKE CRESCENT LODGE

PERIODS OF BUILDING CONSTRUCTION AT
SINGER'S LAKE CRESCENT TAVERN



1914-1927: Singers ownership



1928-1945: Depression and WWII years



1946-1950: Revival under Bovee, Carstensen,
and Veith ownership



1951-pres: National Park Service ownership

PNR-100 6/82

PNRO INVENTORY

National Park Service
Pacific Northwest Region
Cultural Resources Division

Westin Building, Room 1920
2001 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98121

1. SITE I.D. NO		2. NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE 654-682, 1268 SINGER'S LAKE CRESCENT TAVERN DISTRICT (LAKE CRESCENT LODGE)		5. ORIGINAL USE Resort		7. CLASSIFICATION		9. RATING	
3. SITE ADDRESS (STREET & NO.) Barnes Point; Lake Crescent; Highway 101		6. PRESENT USE Resort						10. DATE 1914- 1936	
4. CITY/VICINITY Approx. 20 miles S.W. of Port Angeles, Clallam, Washington		8. UTM ZONE See Item No. 21		EASTING 1 24		NORTHING (1625)		11. REGION PNR	
12. OWNER/ADMIN ADDRESS Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Olympic National Park, 600 East Park Ave., Port Angeles, WA 98362		SCALE OTHER:		QUAD NAME Lake Crescent					

13. DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND HISTORY INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION DATE(S), PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS, MATERIALS, MAJOR ALTERATIONS, EXISTANT EQUIPMENT, AND IMPORTANT BUILDERS, ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS, ETC.

Avery J. and Julia Singer began the construction of Singer's Lake Crescent Tavern in 1914 making it one of the first large resorts on the south side of Lake Crescent. During the first years of development the Singer's erected the main lodge, a row of individual frame cabins, a row of temporary canvas and frame tent cabins, and completed landscaping much of the grounds surrounding the resort buildings. The resort gained an immediate widespread reputation for its good food, comfortable lodging, the cordiality of its hosts, and the scenic splendor of its surroundings. Guests arrived by ferry or private launch for the first seven years of the resort's operation. Road access came in 1922. After the Singer's sold the property in the late 1920s, subsequent owners made periodic additions and alterations to the buildings and grounds, however the main lodge and original row of cabins to the east, as well as the overall spatial arrangement of buildings, has remained largely intact. President Franklin Roosevelt was a guest at the lodge in 1937 and conducted meetings there that influenced legislation leading to the establishment of Olympic National Park in 1938.

Singer's Lake Crescent Tavern Group is a resort ensemble comprised of 27 wood-frame, shingle-clad buildings. Situated only a few yards from the shore of Lake Crescent on a partially shaded, grassy slope, the 2 1/2 story main lodge is the primary focal point in terms of size, scale, design, siting, and social history. Modest, 1 story, gable and gambrel roof resort cabins are aligned in two rows with their principle facades oriented to the lake. The modest

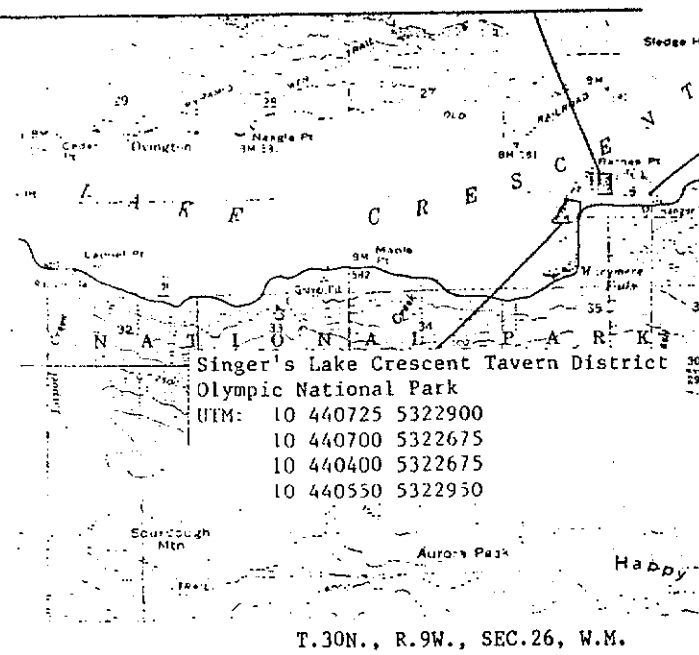
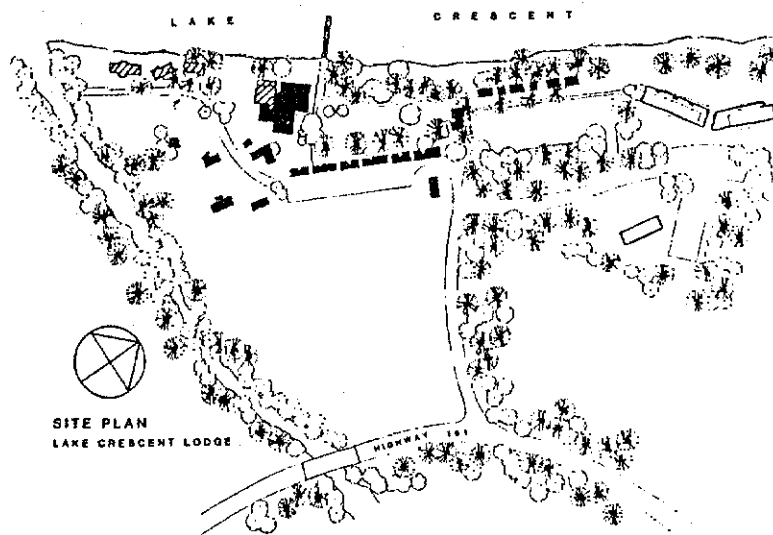
14. CONDITION ☐ EXCELLENT ☒ GOOD ☐ FAIR ☐ DETERIORATED ☐ RUINS 15. DANGER OF DEMOLITION? (SPECIFY THREAT) ☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ UNKNOWN

~~XXXXXXXX~~ (Item No. 13 continued) guest cabins, as well as the main lodge, exhibit design features characteristic of the Bungalow style of architecture.

16. SIGNIFICANCE

Singer's Lake Crescent Resort Group is eligible for the National Register because it possesses integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, and association. The ensemble embodies the distinctive characteristics of a resort type that was prevalent in the Lake Crescent area during the early part of this century. Furthermore, Singer's Lake Crescent Resort has historical associations with the development of a major transportation route on the Olympic Peninsula, Highway 101. Lastly, President Roosevelt's sojourn at the lodge links the resort with a significant person in our nation's past.

17. PHOTOS AND SKETCH MAP OF LOCATION



☒ CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

18. LOCATED IN AN HISTORIC DISTRICT?		☐ YES	☒ NO	☐ NAME
19. PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY		☒ YES, LIMITED	☐ YES, UNLIMITED	
		☐ NO	☐ UNKNOWN	
20. EXISTING SURVEYS		☐ NR	☐ MHL	☐ HABS
		☐ COUNTY	☐ LOCAL	☐ OTHER
			☐ HAER-1	☐ HAER
			☒ NPS	☐ STATE

21. REFERENCES—HISTORICAL REFERENCES, PERSONAL CONTACTS, AND/OR OTHER

Evans, Gail E. H. with T. Allan Comp. 1983. Historic Resource Study: Olympic National Park. Seattle: National Park Service, Pacific Northwest Region.

Florence, Hank, Cathy Gilbert and Gail Evans. 1984. "Historic Structures Report: Lake Crescent Lodge." National Park Service, Pacific Northwest Region.

Item 8: UTM 10 440725 5322900
 10 440700 5322675
 10 440400 5322675
 10 440550 5322950

22. INVENTORIED BY	Gail E. H. Evans	AFFILIATION	NPS	DATE	9/82, 1984
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Singer's Lake Crescent Tavern
 (Lake Crescent Lodge)
 HABS No. WA-186 (Page 23)

PNR-100 6/82

**PNRO
INVENTORY**National Park Service
Pacific Northwest Region
Cultural Resources DivisionWestin Building, Room 1920
2001 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98121

1. SITE I.D. NO.		2. NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE 654-682, 1268 SINGER'S LAKE CRESCENT TAVERN DISTRICT (LAKE CRESCENT LODGE)		3. ORIGINAL USE		7. CLASSIFICATION		8. RATING	
3. SITE ADDRESS (STREET & NO.)		6. PRESENT USE		9. UTM ZONE		10. EASTING		11. NORTHING	
4. CITY/VICINITY		COUNTY		STATE		SCALE		12. QUAD NAME	
12. OWNER/ADMIN ADDRESS									

13. DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND HISTORY INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION DATE(S), PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS, MATERIALS, MAJOR ALTERATIONS, EXISTANT EQUIPMENT, AND IMPORTANT BUILDERS, ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS, ETC.

(Item No. 16 continued from page one)

Operating under the name Singer's Tavern, Lake Crescent Resort opened in ca. 1916, close to the completion date of Highway 101. This location on the highway helped ensure the resort's survival in the ever increasing automobile oriented society. Guests arrived in their chauffeur driven vehicles, coming from the Seattle/Tacoma area, or as far away as the eastern states. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt stayed at Singer's Tavern on his tour of the Olympic National Forest in 1937.

In the early years of the 1900s, Lake Crescent was the scene of a large number and variety of resorts. In all there were eleven resorts around the lake. Several of these resorts have experienced major fires, while others have been altered dramatically. Singer's Lake Crescent Resort Group is the only operating resort to retain its original character with shingle siding, wood interiors and sensitive landscaping.

14. CONDITION					15. DANGER OF DEMOLITION (SPECIFY THREAT)				
☐ EXCELLENT	☐ GOOD	☐ FAIR	☐ DETERIORATED	☐ RUINS	☐ YES	☐ NO	☐ UNKNOWN		

16. SIGNIFICANCE

Singer's Lake Crescent Tavern
(Lake Crescent Lodge)
HABS No. WA 186 (Page 24)