

**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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

**1. Name of Property**

Historic name: Payette Lakes Club  
 Other names/site number: Payette Lake Club/Payette Lakes Inn  
 Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A  
 (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

**2. Location**

Street & number: 1585 Warren Wagon Road  
McCall State: ID 83638 County: Valley 85  
 Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_ the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national      \_\_\_ statewide      X local  
 Applicable National Register Criteria:  
X A      \_\_\_ B      X C      \_\_\_ D

_____ <b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b>	_____ <b>Date</b>
_____ <b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ the National Register criteria.	
_____ <b>Signature of commenting official:</b>	_____ <b>Date</b>
_____ <b>Title :</b>	
<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>	

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**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
1	0	Total

**Name of Related Multiple Property Listing** N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register** N/A

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic: Hotel  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions.)

Vacant/Not in Use

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

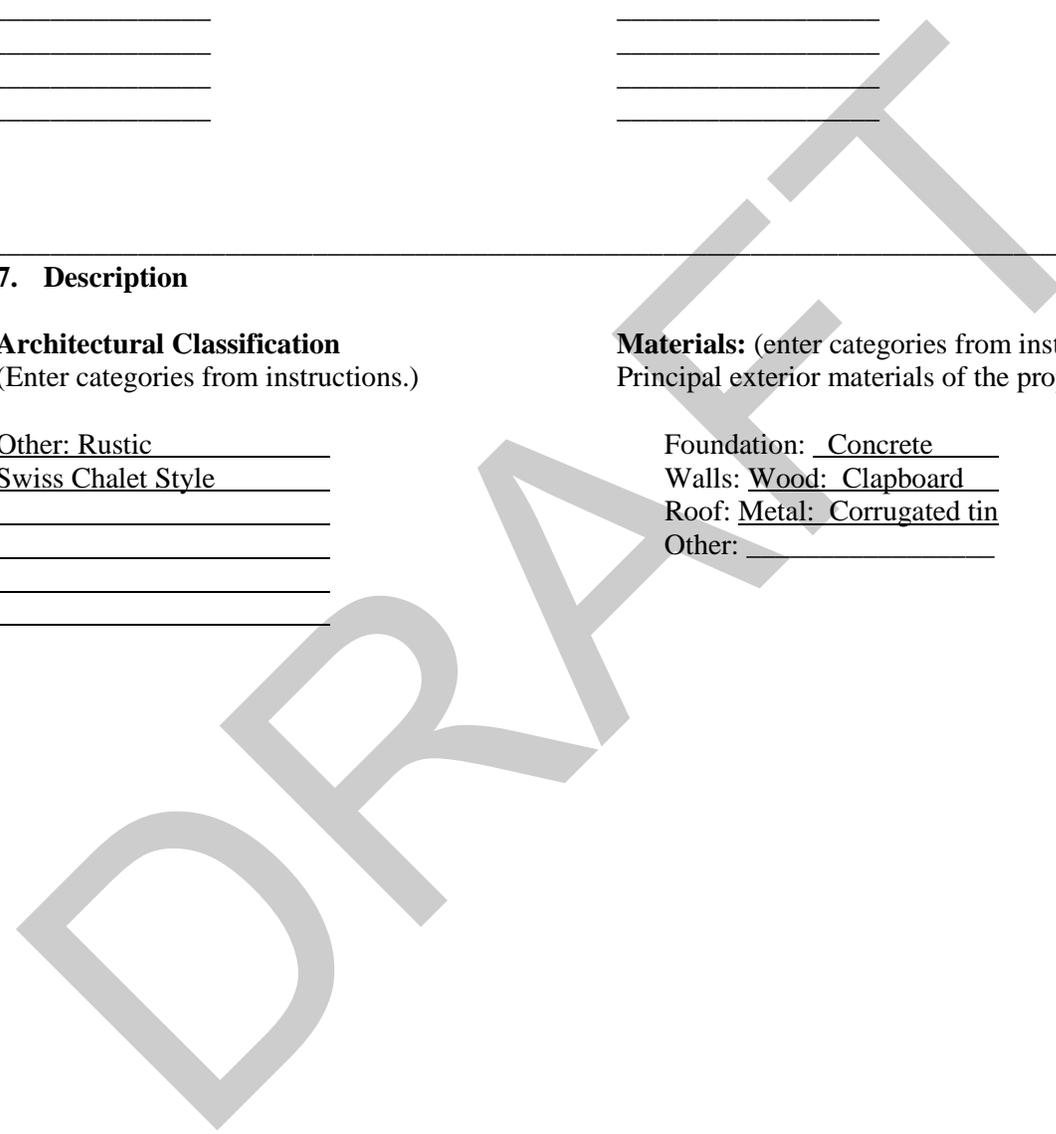
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: Rustic  
Swiss Chalet Style  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundation: Concrete  
Walls: Wood: Clapboard  
Roof: Metal: Corrugated tin  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_



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### **Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### **Summary Paragraph**

The Payette Lakes Inn is located on the western shore of picturesque Big Payette Lake, on the outskirts of McCall, Idaho. The building is situated on a small knoll across the road from the lake, in what is currently a heavily wooded area with widely scattered cabins and vacation homes. Set back from the road on a large lot with mature pine trees, the primary façade faces the lake to the east. The Payette Lakes Inn was built between 1914 and 1915 and was designed in the Rustic style by noted Boise architects Nisbet and Paradise. The inn is a three-story, side-gabled wood-framed building with a T-shaped plan and three prominent gables. The foundation is poured concrete. Decorative features include the jerkinheads at the gable ends, the large decorative wooden gable brackets, window boxes and shutters, porches and verandas with low balustrades, and the numerous gabled dormers. Although the inn suffers from some condition issues, it retains sufficient integrity to convey its significance under Criteria A and C.

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### **Narrative Description**

The Inn is a large, three-story wood-framed building of post and beam construction, which is set on a concrete foundation (Figure 1). Designed in the Rustic style, with elements of Swiss Chalet Revival, the main section measures 33 ft. by 100 ft. wide and is supported by a series of several large 18-in. hand-planed timbers. The prominent front porch is 34 ft. x 16 ft. and is recessed beneath the large front-facing cross-gable, supported by eight hand-planed square timbers. A low balustrade encircles the porch. A small ell in the southwest corner where the kitchen is located measures 22 ft. by 24 ft. and would have been reached by a separate entrance. The siding is clapboard, and is heavily deteriorated in sections. The north and south gable ends are jerkinheads, with six large wooden gable brackets, while the front-facing cross-gable also has six large brackets. The gable ends were originally clad in board and batten siding. The steeply pitched gabled roof is currently clad in corrugated metal, although it originally had wood shingles. The widely overhanging eaves exhibit exposed rafter tails. Several gabled dormers pierce the roof; originally, there were eight on the west façade, only three of which remain. Currently, seven dormers remain on the east elevation.

The east façade is the primary one, and contains the main entrance. Originally, cement steps lead to the inset front porch, beneath the cross-gable, but these have since been removed. The porch is supported by massive hand-planed timbers and is enclosed with a low balustrade. The two wagon wheels at the porch steps were added later. The multi-light glass entry door, now boarded up, is detailed with side lights and double French doors (2 x 5 lights) on either side. The ceiling of the porch is decorative board and batten and the floor is wood laid in a decorative herringbone

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pattern. Above the porch is a large overhanging cross gable supported with large, hand-planed timbers. The gable retains its decorative gable brackets, and a flagpole sits atop the gable peak.

Fenestration consists of multi-light wooden casement windows, French doors, and double hung multi-light windows. The first (main) floor has 15 multi-light French casement windows with pin closures. The windows are 2 x 3 lights, with transom lights above. In addition, four 2 x 5 light French doors are found on the main floor; they open in and would have led to the outside verandas. The majority of the windows on the second and floor are 6-over-6 light double hung sash windows, although 1/1 light windows and French casement windows were also noted. Several of the third floor windows (especially the dormer windows) have been replaced with 1/1 lite vinyl single hung windows.

The first floor has four rooms: a large dining room/lobby area, a lounge area with a stone fireplace, a kitchen, and a small room toward the back (a likely addition). The floor-to-ceiling fireplace in the lounge area is a double-sided, random ashlar stone fireplace with a simple rustic beam mantel. The pointing has been redone with incongruous red mortar. The lobby/dining area has twelve large, 18 in. hand-planed support timbers with decorative brackets. Bathrooms to the rear of the first floor appear to be a later addition. A lobby window/booth is to the left of the stairs, and a phone booth is to the right of the main entrance. Access to the upper and lower floors is by a decorative, hand-carved stairway leading from the lobby area in the rear portion of the building.

The second floor is divided into 15 guest rooms, and 2 communal bathrooms (that were possibly added later). There is a north-south hallway running the length of the building, with shorter hallways extending off to the sides, forming a T-shape. The room in the southeast corner has two French doors, which originally opened onto a small balcony. Two of the rooms have their own baths. Some of the rooms are clad in the original compressed wood or fiberboard, commonly known as "beaver board," which was patented in 1858 but did not become popular until ca. 1910.

The third floor consists of 10 guest rooms, a storage room, and 2 communal baths. Only one of the third-floor rooms has its own bath. Several of the rooms have new wood paneling on the walls and some of the dormers have been repaired, while the windows have had vinyl replacements installed. This floor is currently in extremely poor condition, with some of the dormers near collapse, and significant water damage having occurred. Wood burning stoves, as evidenced by the brick chimneys with flue vents, heated most of the guest rooms.

Changes to the inn include the removal of the front steps, repairs to the foundation using concrete blocks, and the addition of bathrooms to the basement, second, and third floors. This was likely done after the Missions Expanding, Inc., a church group, took over ownership in 1958. In addition, there are new vinyl replacement windows on the third floor and five of the dormers are gone from the east façade. New wood paneling has been added to the walls in several of the rooms and hallways, and an addition was added to the rear of the first floor. It appears from historical photos that the original building may not have had a full basement, rather only a partial basement on the north end. When a new concrete foundation was added, a full

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basement was excavated, and the grade and landscape around the building were altered. Several major sections of the original basement level exterior wood-framed walls were removed and replaced with concrete. This resulted in the replacement and addition of new sections of sill plate members.

Overall, the inn retains its character defining architectural features and details, materials, and craftsmanship to convey its architectural significance as an early-twentieth-century Rustic Style inn, reflecting the design and workmanship of local architects Nisbet and Paradise, and builder Fenton G. Cottingham. Character defining features of the inn include the solid massing, post and beam construction, clapboard siding, the high-pitched, cross-gabled roof with exposed rafters, jerkinheads and large, decorative brackets, the wide front porch, and the prominent gabled dormers, multi-lite windows, window boxes and porches. In addition, the inn was sited to take advantage of the lakeside views, its location and setting allowing its guests to commune with nature. This and the use of natural materials and traditional building techniques, with an emphasis on hand craftsmanship, are key characteristics of the Rustic style.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE  
ENTERTAINMENT/ RECREATION  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**  
1915-1940  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**  
1915 (Date of Construction)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

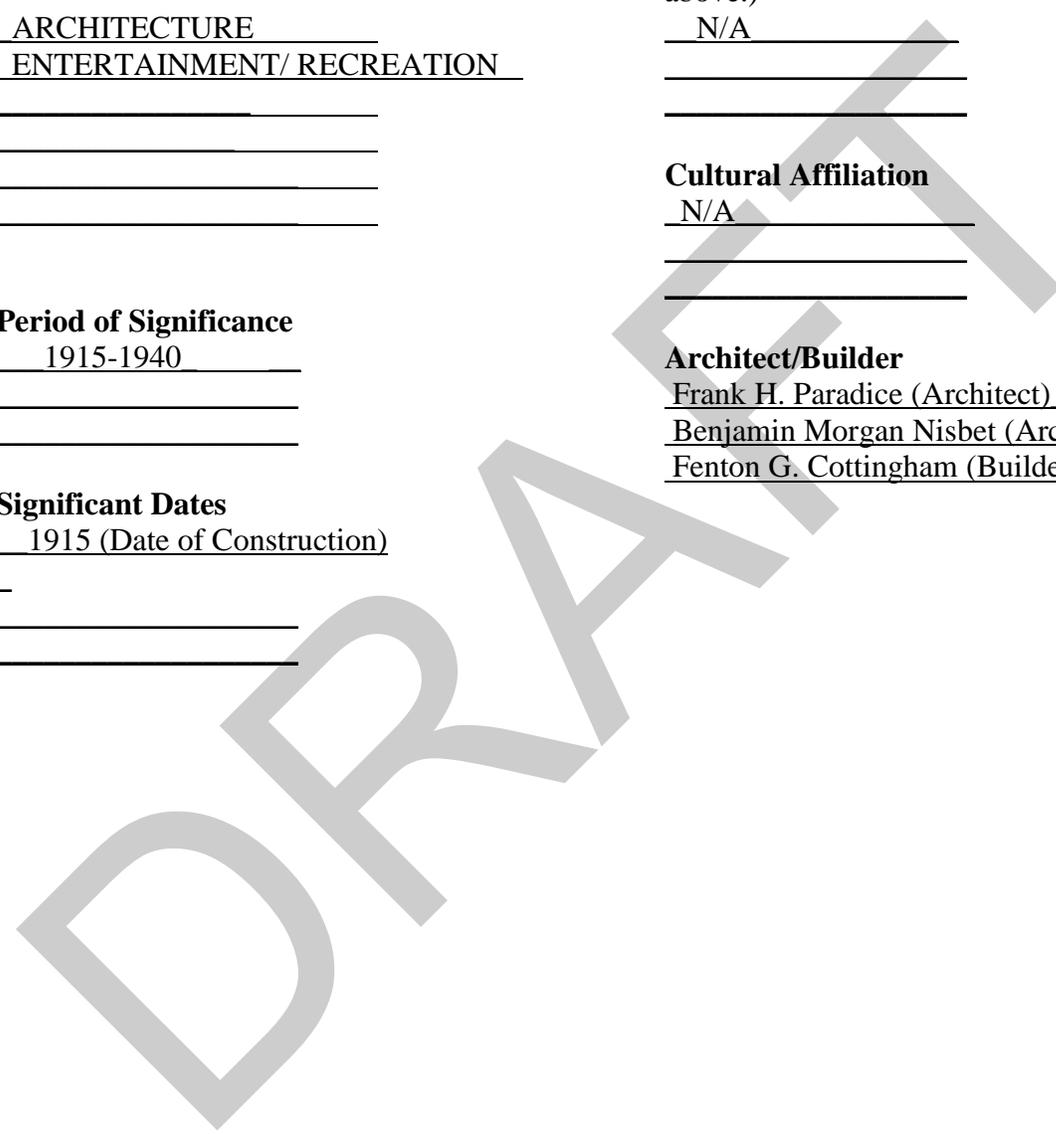
**Significant Person**  
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**  
N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Frank H. Paradice (Architect)  
Benjamin Morgan Nisbet (Architect)  
Fenton G. Cottingham (Builder)



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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Payette Lakes Club is significant under Criteria A and C at the local level. Under Criterion A, the inn is eligible under the theme of Recreation as one of, if not the first, community-based summer resorts in Idaho and McCall. The Payette Lakes Club was modeled after the great Adirondacks camps in the east, in the fashion of the Chautauquas that were extremely popular across the country at the time. Exclusive to the upper echelon of Boise who developed a growing appreciation for the recreational opportunities to be found in the mountains and lakes of Idaho, the inn was made more accessible by the growing use of the automobile, as well as the extension of the Oregon Short Line Railroad to McCall in 1914. Rather than spend their vacations on the California coast as was previously in vogue, many Idahoans and Boiseans decided to stay close to home. The Payette Lakes proved to be extremely popular, especially in the early 1910s and '20s, with droves of vacationers flocking to the area to commune with nature and enjoy the educational aspects that the Payette Lakes Club had to offer. The Payette Lakes Club is also eligible under Criterion C under the theme of Architecture, as an excellent example of Rustic style architecture with Swiss Chalet influences in McCall and Idaho.

The Payette Lakes Club is significant architecturally under Criterion C as an excellent local example of the Rustic style of architecture. The Rustic style stemmed from a vision of the picturesque movement in which architecture blended in with its surroundings and did not detract from the experience of communing with nature. The Payette Lakes Club was designed with this quality in mind, out of locally milled, natural materials, by local craftsmen. The integrity of location and setting on a knoll above the lake is retained as well as integrity of feeling and association.

The Payette Lakes Club is an excellent example of a Rustic Style inn, with Swiss Chalet elements. In addition, it is representative of the outstanding craftsmanship used to construct the building. Although very rustic in form, materials and massing, the building also includes interesting Swiss Chalet style details, differentiating it from the other hotels and inns in the region. These details include the decorative gable brackets, window boxes and shutters, porches and verandas with low balustrades, and the numerous gabled dormers. These design elements make the Payette Lakes Club an excellent and unique example of Rustic architecture within the state of Idaho.

In addition, Nisbet and Paradise are considered two of the more prominent architects in the state. The firm designed numerous well-known buildings in Boise and southern Idaho. The Empire Building, the Anduiza Hotel and the Oaks House, all in Boise, are among their few remaining joint works. However, this is one of the only known examples of their work in the McCall area. It is also the only known example of one of their designs done in the Rustic Style (most other buildings by the pair were commercial buildings). As such, the Payette Lakes Club is also eligible under Criterion C as a good, early representation of their works.

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While the inn does suffer from some loss of integrity of design, materials and workmanship, as a result of the missing dormers and porches, the inn still retains a majority of its original materials, and the original design and workmanship are still evident throughout the building. The inn also retains high integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association, and as such, the inn retains sufficient overall integrity to convey its significance under Criteria A and C.

The period of significance for the inn is 1915 until 1940 when it operated exclusively as a private clubhouse for the Payette Lakes Club (1914-1928) and continued to be a popular tourist destination for vacationing Boiseans (1928-1940). Later operators of the inn did not have as much success and its popularity began to decline, in part due to the Depression and the War, and the inn was left vacant for extended periods. After ca. 1940, the inn never again experienced the success or popularity of the 1910s through the 1930s.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

### **Payette Lakes Club Historic Context**

The first Euroamericans to visit south-central Idaho were explorers and trappers. The Lewis and Clark expedition passed through the area in August of 1805 and attempted to cross the Salmon River, naming it the “River of No Return.” In 1811, the Wilson Price Hunt expedition passed through southern Idaho following the Snake River. That same year, French trapper Donald MacKenzie led a party up the Weiser River, down the Little Salmon River to the main Salmon, then to the Clearwater River. In 1818, MacKenzie returned to the region where he trapped beaver on the Weiser, Payette, and Boise Rivers.<sup>1</sup> Other famous trappers in the Payette Lakes area include the Alexander Ross party in 1824, William Sublette in 1826, and Jedediah Smith in 1827.<sup>2</sup>

Among the first Euroamerican settlers in the region was “Packer” John Welch, who had packed supplies from Lewiston to the Idaho City mines.<sup>3</sup> In 1862, Welch built a small one-room log cabin in Meadows Valley. In 1878-1879, the U.S. Cavalry camped at Payette Lake during its campaigns in central Idaho. Another early settler in the area was Sam Dever, who had exercised squatter’s rights near the intersection of Lake Street and State Highway 55 where he built a log cabin. Many early settlers in the Long Valley area were Finnish homesteaders who settled in Roseberry, 11 miles southeast of McCall, in the 1880s. There they established a community where “lewd and indecent resorts and intoxicating drinks” were prohibited.

The town of McCall was named after its founder, Thomas McCall. Born in Ohio in 1841, McCall and his son Homer first came to Idaho from Missouri in the late 1880s. His wife Louisa and sons Ben, Dawson and Ted followed soon after, and worked on the Marsh and Ireton ranch near Sweet, Idaho.<sup>4</sup> Then in 1891, Thomas McCall and his family travelled with a caravan of wagons and camped on the shores of Payette Lake. They traded a team of horses, a wagon, and a harness for Dever’s property and 160 acres of land.<sup>5</sup> This eventually became the east part of the present day town of McCall. In 1894, he built the three-story, 20-room McCall Hotel and was appointed postmaster. The hotel, which later became known as the Lakeview Rooming House, was destroyed by fire in 1937.<sup>6</sup> By 1907, McCall had two general stores, a blacksmith shop, a livery barn, a butcher shop, and a large amusement hall.

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<sup>1</sup> Beverly Ingraham, *Looking Back: Sketches of Early Days in Idaho’s High County* (Maverick Publications, 1992:10).

<sup>2</sup> Idaho State Historical Society. Reference Series No. 444. *Idaho Fur Trade*. June, 1973.

<sup>3</sup> Nellie Tobias, McCall. In: *Valley County History to 1920*. Shelton Woods, editor. Valley County History Project. Action Publishing, Donnelly, Idaho, 2002:300-301; Ingraham 1992:13.

<sup>4</sup> Nellie Ireton Mills, *All Along the River: Territorial and Pioneer Days on the Payette* (B.C. Payette, Montreal, Canada, 1963).

<sup>5</sup> Tobias 2002:300-301.

<sup>6</sup> Ingraham 1992.

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McCall's chief industries were mining and timber. When gold was discovered in the Warren and Florence areas in the 1860s, the area around Payette Lake became a transportation route and supply source for the mines.<sup>7</sup> Goods were transported around the lake by the wood-powered steamboat called the *Lyda*, constructed by Anneas "Jews Harp Jack" Wyatt. The *Lyda* traveled from the port at McCall through the narrows and up the North Fork of the Payette River to Freight Landing, where the cargo was unloaded and freighted to the mining districts.<sup>8</sup> From 1914 to 1916, the name of the railroad depot in McCall was called Lakeport to reflect this activity.<sup>9</sup>

The timber industry, with sawmills along the lake, also developed to serve the mining community. The first sawmill in the area was built south of Cascade by Jackson Westfalls in 1889.<sup>10</sup> The Warren Gold Dredging Company built the first sawmill on the lake in 1896.<sup>11</sup> Logs were floated across the lake from North Beach to the mill site. The company later sold the mill to Tom McCall. In about 1907, Theodore Hoff and Carl Brown of the Hoff and Brown Lumber Company bought the sawmill, which burned in 1910 but was rebuilt in 1914. This mill supplied the lumber for the Payette Lakes Club. In 1929, Brown bought out Hoff and the company became Brown's Tie and Lumber Company, which at one time was the largest employer in the area. Brown's mill was across the street from the Hotel McCall. The mill burned down in 1940, was rebuilt in 1942, and remained in operation until 1976.<sup>12</sup>

The local livestock industry initially developed in the 1880s to supply the mines at Warren and later supported the Thunder Mountain boom to the east in the early 1900s.<sup>13</sup> Payette Lake was also the location of a commercial fishery that harvested salmon, trout, and whitefish from the 1870s through the 1890s.<sup>14</sup> The fish were canned or smoked at a fishery at the north end of the lake and sold to the mining camps at Warren.

In 1911, McCall was incorporated as a village. Three years later the Oregon Short Line Railroad (a subsidiary of the Union Pacific Railroad) was extended to McCall, securing its role as a viable community and tourist destination. The railroad ensured McCall's spot as the transportation hub of Long Valley, and the railroad provided regular freight and passenger service from Nampa to McCall until the line was abandoned in the late 1970s.

Tourism began to play a small role in the economy of McCall beginning in the late nineteenth century. In 1889, Anneas Wyatt offered the first recreational sailboat rides on the *Lyda* around

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<sup>7</sup> City of McCall. City of McCall Historic Preservation Plan, 2011. Electronic document, [http://www.mccall.id.us/uploads/city\\_council/resolutions/Resolution\\_12-02\\_Exhibit\\_A\\_McCall\\_Historic\\_Preservation\\_Plan.pdf](http://www.mccall.id.us/uploads/city_council/resolutions/Resolution_12-02_Exhibit_A_McCall_Historic_Preservation_Plan.pdf), accessed online, May 2015.

<sup>8</sup> Kathleen M. Altork, *Land running through the bones: An ethnography of place*, UMI Dissertation Services, 1994.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Ingraham 1992:38.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> Warren Harrington Brown, *It's Fun to Remember: A King's Pine Autobiography*. Self-Published, 1999.

<sup>13</sup> Melanee Jones, "Early Livestock Grazing on the Payette National Forest." Cultural Resources Management Program, Payette National Forest, 1989.

<sup>14</sup> Altork 1994.

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the lake for the occasional tourists and advertised a “30-foot sailing yacht for the use of parties who might visit the lake.” The *Idaho Statesman* referred to McCall as a “pleasure resort.”<sup>15</sup>

By the turn of the century, tourists participated in organized gambling and other nightlife at the lake in addition to outdoor activities.<sup>16</sup> In June 1902, the Boydston Hotel in nearby Lardo opened as a “place to stay and camp on Payette Lake.” Charlie Nelson built the first Sylvan Beach Resort on the west side of Payette Lake in 1906 or 1907.<sup>17</sup> The resort hosted summer visitors who lived in tents on wooden platforms. A launch was kept there to convey parties coming by train to McCall. The Lardo Inn also opened for business in 1907. Charles Davidson built one of the first cabins on Sylvan Beach in 1918, the inception of what became another popular resort.<sup>18</sup>

The extension of the railroad to McCall in 1914 further opened the Payette Lakes area to visitors, particularly those from Boise. In the 1920s, the State Land Board began leasing vacation home sites along the lake, and McCall became a full-fledged resort destination. During the Depression years of the 1930s, hard economic times came to Long Valley and all of central Idaho. Most businesses struggled to keep afloat financially. Then from 1938-1939, McCall and Payette Lake served as the location for the film *Northwest Passage*, starring Spencer Tracy, Robert Young, and Walter Brennan. The Sylvan Beach Resort housed several of the cast and crew and the Payette Lakes Club served as a relaxation spot on their days off. During the 1930s and 1940s a few other resorts and lodges operated in the area including Newcomb’s Camp, Lakeview Camp, Shady Beach, and Bowling Green, which offered cabins and tents.<sup>19</sup>

### *History of Recreation in Idaho*

The earliest recreation areas in Idaho were spots along the Oregon Trail and formed as a result of the immigrant traffic (Thousand Springs, Soda Springs, City of Rocks, American Falls, Fishing Falls, Salmon Falls, Malad Gorge, Teapot Dome Hot Springs, and Givens Hot Springs). These were mainly interesting stops along the way and not organized resorts. Many served as Oregon trail supply points and not a destination for tourism.<sup>20</sup>

Many of the early tourist attractions were hot springs. In the 1870s and 1880s, resorts developed in mining areas to serve the local miners, such as Burgdorf Hot Springs and Warm Springs near Idaho City. The latter became an important resort during Boise Basin’s initial gold rush years. Burgdorf Hot Springs became a popular vacation resort along the wagon road to Warrens, where Fred Burgdorf developed a hotel. Red River Hot Springs, another early resort area above Elk City, attracted miners long before a substantial hotel was constructed in 1901. The scenic Sawtooth Range and Redfish Lake attracted miners to the area at least as early as 1867.

<sup>15</sup> “A Pleasure Resort.” *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, Idaho). November 12, 1889:3.

<sup>16</sup> Altork 1994.

<sup>17</sup> City of McCall 2011; F. P. Rowland, *Founding of McCall, Idaho*. Boise, Idaho: Caxton Printers, 1960.

<sup>18</sup> Nina Varian Jones, “The Sylvan Beach Story” *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, Idaho), August 31, 1952:12.

<sup>19</sup> “Sylvan Beach is Sylvan Retreat No More.” *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, Idaho) June 26, 1938: 29.

<sup>20</sup> Idaho State Historical Society, *Guide to Nineteenth Century Idaho Resorts and Recreation Areas*, 1995.

Electronic document, <http://www.history.idaho.gov/sites/default/files/uploads/reference-series/1088.pdf>, accessed online July 13, 2015.

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Kelly's Hot Springs east of Boise was a popular tourist destination for wealthy citizens in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Judge Milton Kelly, publisher and owner of the Idaho Statesman, acquired it in 1889. Shoshone Falls became Idaho's primary tourist and resort attraction after 1870, when mining began in the vicinity. Shoshone Falls gained a resort status unequalled elsewhere in Idaho when rail service provided access through Shoshone in 1882.

Guyer's Hot Springs, located in 1880 near Ketchum, had a major resort hotel that attracted Boise's elite into the early 1900s. Established as a resort by Harry Guyer, a mining man who operated a smelter at Ketchum, in addition to serving the public for many years, Guyer's was a social hub. In 1914, under the management of Charles Grout, the place staged lavish parties for the upper crust. Grout played a major role in the development of tourism in the Sawtooths. He advanced a plan to link Guyer Hot Springs, the Hiawatha Hotel, and the McFall Hotel of Shoshone into a chain to encourage travel in the area. He designed package deals, including motor tours of Stanley Basin and what was commonly referred to as early as 1914 as "Sawtooth National Park." Due to poor roads and scarcity of accommodations, his plan never materialized.<sup>21</sup>

Several resort centers formed around the lakes of northern and central Idaho. This includes Waha Lake, Lake Pend d'Oreille, Spirit Lake, and Lake Coeur d'Alene. These areas, with their spectacular natural features, made them exceptional recreational attractions, particularly after the Northern Pacific Railway service brought heavy tourist traffic to the region. The train also served as an early recreational attraction in its own right. The Payette lakes area was also extremely popular as a recreational area, as is detailed in the following section.

### *The Payette Lakes Club*

In the late nineteenth century, the beauty of Payette Lake attracted people from all over the state, becoming a "mecca for summer folk on pleasure bent."<sup>22</sup> Said to be "more beautiful and more attractive in all its features than Lake Tahoe," the region soon became a popular vacation destination. At first, the journey to Payette Lake had involved a grueling seven-hour stage ride. However, in 1914, the Oregon Short Line extended its tracks to McCall and visitors began flocking to the pristine mountain lake. According to one historian at the time:

There is now being put into effect a plan to make Payette lake not only one of the most beautiful but one of the best equipped pleasure places in the West. One hundred acres of land along the west shore have been secured by the Payette Lake Club. Boating and bathing facilities are available. The plans include a casino which will be a social center for the community. A choice may be exercised as to the mode of living at the lake whether in true camp style or with all comforts and conveniences. Such a club is an innovation in the West but in the Adirondacks

<sup>21</sup> Dick D'Easum, *Sawtooth Tales*, Caxton Press, 1977.

<sup>22</sup> Hiram Taylor French, *History of Idaho: A Narrative Account of Its Historical Progress, Its People and Its Principal Interests, Volume 1*. Lewis Publishing Company, 1914.

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similar organizations have been successfully conducted. It is believed that within the near future Payette Lake will be a great inter-mountain Chautauqua center.<sup>23</sup>

Chautauqua was a highly popular adult educational movement in the United States in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Chautauqua assemblies were named after Chautauqua Lake where the first educational assembly was held, and soon spread throughout rural America in the mid-1920s. A Chautauqua assembly brought entertainment and culture for the whole community, with speakers, teachers, musicians, entertainers, preachers, and specialists of the day.<sup>24</sup> Theodore Roosevelt was quoted as saying that Chautauqua is “the most American thing in America.”

This summer camp for families that promised “education and uplift” was extremely popular and in less than a decade, independent Chautauquas, often called assemblies, sprang up across the country. The goal of the Chautauqua assemblies was to offer challenging, informational, and inspirational stimulation to rural and small-town America. Lectures were the mainstay of the Chautauqua. Prior to 1917, lectures dominated the circuit Chautauqua programs. The reform speech and the inspirational talk were the two main types of lecture until 1913.<sup>25</sup> Later topics included current events, travel, and stories, often with a comedic twist.

An article in the Idaho Daily Statesman stated, “About 80 acres of land bordering on Payette Lake will be sold at auction by the state land board for the purpose of establishing a Chautauqua site.”<sup>26</sup> There was a clause in the deed that the land would be used only for Chautauqua and summer resort purposes. Harry W. Arnold and C. S. Polk (directors of the Payette Lakes Club) formed a committee for furthering the Chautauqua movement. The intention was to build an auditorium, a large dining hall, and erect a number of small cottages on the banks of the lake. The area was regarded as an “ideal place for a summer Chautauqua.”<sup>27</sup>

John P. Congdon and Harold W. Arnold, of H. W. Arnold & Co., with Judge (and later mayor) Samuel H. Hays of Boise as president, founded the Payette Lakes Club in November of 1912. Architect Frank Paradise, Jr., served as secretary. The club’s motto was “An Organization to Promote Happy and Healthful Vacations.” At a banquet in Boise in 1913, Congdon laid out the plans for the club, which was to become a “model summer village with a central casino, dancing hall, bowling alleys and café on the first floor, and inn rooms above.” Individual cottages or tents would surround it and the club had “many plans for the pleasure and healthful exercise of the members.”<sup>28</sup> The boathouse and bathhouse (no longer extant) were completed in 1913 (Figures 2-3), and a temporary dining hall served up to 40 meals a day. Architect Nisbet, who chose the site for the clubhouse “casino”, stated that a few small cabins had been built in the area, but that

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>24</sup> John E. Tapia, *Circuit Chautauqua: From Rural Education to Popular Entertainment in Early Twentieth Century America*. Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland, 1997.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>26</sup> “Pick Payette Lake for Chautauqua.” *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, Idaho) June 20, 1912.

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>28</sup> “Payette Lake Club Gathers at Banquet.” *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, Idaho) March 4, 1913:6.

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several summer homes would be constructed the following year at a cost of around \$2,500.<sup>29</sup>

Although several cabins were planned for construction in the early days of the Club, most club members stayed in tents on their lots (Figure 3). Only two cabins are known to have been built (one belonging to E. F. Rodenbaugh of Boise and one to a Mr. Johnson of Shoshone). It is currently unknown how many cabins were ultimately built on the Payette Lakes Club grounds, and whether or not any of these cottages remain.

The Payette Lakes Club was to be a “Plan Chautauqua,” and one of the added attractions was an educational feature. Talks were planned in the mornings by prominent college professors in the fields of botany, hygiene, women’s club activities, and aesthetic idealism. These classes were to be held in the mornings in tents in an open field, leaving the afternoons and evenings free for athletics, sports, and other recreational activities.<sup>30</sup> The new clubhouse was also unique in that all the furniture was reportedly made on the club grounds, “out of the heaviest kind of fir” and was to fit the general scheme of the club architecture.<sup>31</sup> The club was built around the idea of providing summer recreation for the tired man and woman and their children, “which shall be close enough to home to enable the family to remain the entire season and the father to join them weekly or oftener.”<sup>32</sup> Special accommodations were made for the education of the children of club members, in the Chautauqua fashion.<sup>33</sup>

Prior to February of 1914, Judge Hays bought 110 acres of land at auction from the State and platted the Payette Lakes Club into 507 lots, creating the area’s first subdivision<sup>34</sup> (Figure 4). H. W. Arnold & Company was hired to promote the sale of the lots. They arranged a banquet in Boise to attract prospective buyers to the Club, some of which responded from as far away as eastern Oregon and Salt Lake City.<sup>35</sup> Membership in the club started at \$200 and included a lot (Figure 5). Lots were sold with terms that the buyers, heirs, or assigns could not permit the “said premises or buildings thereon, to be used for a hotel, a saloon, disorderly house, manufacturing or business establishment, or as a school, hospital or charitable institution.”<sup>36</sup> By 1915, the club had a list of more than 300 members, which they printed in the newspaper. The list was a “who’s who” of high society in Boise and southeastern Idaho, including the lieutenant governor, ex-lieutenant governor, U.S. Senators, and other judges.<sup>37</sup>

A focal point of the promotion was the clubhouse and casino, which at an estimated cost of \$20,000, was quite luxurious—almost \$500,000 in today’s value. Construction began in August of 1914.<sup>38</sup> The contract for the preliminary work, including excavation, stone foundations, and

<sup>29</sup> “Choose Site for Casino—Architect Tells of Progress made by Payette Lake Club.” *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, Idaho), August 8, 1913:2; “Select Site for Casino.” *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, Idaho), August 17, 1913:2.

<sup>30</sup> “Payette Lakes Club has Ambitious Plans.” *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, Idaho), August 24, 1915:3.

<sup>31</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>33</sup> “Plenty of Fun on Program for Payette Lakes.” *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, Idaho), April 17, 1920:5.

<sup>34</sup> Tobias 2002:306-307. The deed for the land is dated March 16, 1914, while the plat map is dated February 14<sup>th</sup>, indicating some discrepancy in the date of purchase.

<sup>35</sup> “Payette Lake Club Banquet.” *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, Idaho), May 18, 1913:11.

<sup>36</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>37</sup> “List of Members of the Payette Lake Club.” *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, Idaho), August 22, 1915:16.

<sup>38</sup> “Summer Resort Within Reach of Boise.” *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, Idaho) August 9, 1914:16.

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exterior work was given to contractor Fenton G. Cottingham of Nampa. The Hoff and Brown Lumber Company supplied the lumber at \$14 per thousand feet. Fenton was a skilled carpenter and completed much of the interior finish work himself, including constructing furniture.<sup>39</sup> On August 9, 1914, the *Idaho Statesman* described the building as:

. . . a large frame structure of rustic type 100 feet long by 70 feet deep. It will contain a full basement and three stories with spacious porticos on the side facing the lake. In addition to the large lobby, dining room, billiard room and ballroom on the first floor, there will be 36 guest rooms on the second and third floors, some of which will have private bath connections. This will be the first large summer resort on the lakes in the vicinity of Boise.

Modeled after the clubs in the Adirondacks of New York, the Payette Lakes Club reflected rustic elegance and served for many years as a social center for club members, locals, and visitors<sup>40</sup> (Figure 6). H. W. Arnold formed another company to handle the concessions of the Club, called the Payette Lakes Hotel & Transportation Company. Mr. Cottingham reportedly received a large portion of the club lots, probably as compensation for building the inn.<sup>41</sup> Payette Lakes Club lot owners could also get a permanent summer home built on their property for an additional \$200, with two bedrooms and a porch used as a kitchen and dining room.<sup>42</sup>

Completed by July of 1915, the clubhouse also boasted a new board tennis court (Figures 7-8). Electricity was extended from McCall and a new sidewalk that extended to the lake from the clubhouse was illuminated with lamps, creating a “white way.”<sup>43</sup> An advertisement for the inn from 1915 (Figure 9) stated that the “salient features” included a fine, bracing climate, good fishing, a commissary run for club members, with “city prices,” beautiful scenery, and a “finely appointed permanent club house.”<sup>44</sup> Boats, bathing, tennis, and other sports were offered. Other activities that one could enjoy while visiting the Payette Lakes Club included nature hikes, ball games, dancing in the boat house, horseshoe-pitching contests, card games such as bridge, swimming parties, boat races, potato races, and “Kensingtons,” or potluck dinners.<sup>45</sup> Dances were also held daily in the new clubhouse. The Club hired noted Portland landscape architect Hugh Bryan to “beautify the property.”<sup>46</sup> Bryan was one of the gardeners who aided in the planning of the grounds for the World’s Fair in St. Louis in 1904.<sup>47</sup> He also designed the Moore-Turner garden in Spokane. It is unknown whether Bryan’s plans for the Payette Lakes Club were ever completed.

<sup>39</sup> Grace Edgington Jordan, *The Kings Pines of Idaho: A Story of the Browns of McCall*. Metropolitan Press, Portland, Oregon. 1961:76.

<sup>40</sup> “Adirondack Camp to be made for Boise People.” *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, Idaho), October 21, 1912:4.

<sup>41</sup> Tobias 2002:306-307

<sup>42</sup> “Payette Lakes Growing Resort.” *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, Idaho), June 20, 1919.

<sup>43</sup> “Improvements at the Lake.” *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, Idaho) July 17, 1915:10.

<sup>44</sup> Payette Lake Club advertisement. *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, Idaho), 29 August 1915:2.

<sup>45</sup> “Payette Lake Club Notes.” *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, Idaho), 22 July 1915:3.

<sup>46</sup> (See note 35)

<sup>47</sup> “Payette Lakes Club has Ambitious Plans.” *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, Idaho), August 24, 1915:3.

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From its completion in 1915 until 1916, E. F. Robb, secretary of H. W. Arnold & Company, was the acting manager of the clubhouse. Fenton Cottingham and his wife took over management in 1917, purportedly to protect his interests. Cottingham made several changes to the property.<sup>48</sup> For example, the clubhouse was kept open all year round to accommodate hunting and fishing parties, and a golf course was installed behind the clubhouse. Although no longer extant, an open lot where the golf course was located is still visible. In addition, a portion of the grounds was devoted to use by the Boy Scouts, as well as the YWCA, free of charge.<sup>49</sup> The summer of 1919 was reportedly the busiest season yet at the inn, with an average of 85 meals a day served in the dining hall.<sup>50</sup>

When it first opened, the inn was referred to as the Payette Lake Club, then the Payette Lakes Club by 1917, but by the late 1920s the name had changed to the Payette Lakes Inn. During the 1920s, there were several advertisements for furnished cabins for rent and the inn hosted yearly conferences for the Girl Reserves of the YWCA and other women's organizations (Figure 10).<sup>51</sup> Cottingham entertained members of the Universal Film Company, who were filming in the area, with an eight-course dinner. He operated the inn until shortly before his death in January of 1928.

In March of 1928, Mrs. Cottingham and John P. Congdon sold their interests in the inn to the Payette Lakes Hotel Company, which as mentioned above was owned by H. W. Arnold. Around this time, Dale L. Crain took over management (from June of 1928 to 1930). The Crain family (wife Christina and daughters Margaret and Mary K.) employed two dishwashers and brought with them three teachers for help.<sup>52</sup> Judge I. N. Sullivan of Boise provided a mortgage loan of \$3,500 for the inn. When the Payette Lakes Hotel Company failed to pay, it went into foreclosure and was sold at auction. Sullivan was the highest bidder, purchasing the inn for the meager sum of \$6,004.11.<sup>53</sup>

The 1930s was a time of economic downturn in the region; however, the Payette Lakes Inn, as it was then called, managed to persist. Guests still registered, it became a popular honeymoon destination, and there were occasional conventions, banquets, and conferences. Pressures tightened, however, and the management of the inn changed hands many times. Mrs. Cathrine Faurot, formerly of Weiser, took over management in 1931 and the inn was redecorated and "thoroughly renovated."<sup>54</sup> Rates started at \$1.50 under the "American Plan," which included breakfast and either lunch or dinner. The following year Cecil A. Pfof was the new proprietor.<sup>55</sup> In 1935, Judge I. N. Sullivan leased it to Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Mitchell of Boise.<sup>56</sup> The Mitchells operated it until 1937. The inn remained popular with locals and visitors alike for its separate

<sup>48</sup> "Home of the Payette Lake Club." *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, Idaho), June 24, 1917:14.

<sup>49</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>50</sup> "Payette Lakes Growing Resort." *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, Idaho) June 20, 1919.

<sup>51</sup> "Group of Girls at Lake Resort." *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, Idaho), June 15, 1920:5; *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, Idaho), June 24, 1926:6)

<sup>52</sup> Jordan 1961

<sup>53</sup> Valley County Recorder's Office, Cascade, Idaho, Instrument # 16234; *Idaho Daily Statesman* 14 June 1931:6

<sup>54</sup> Advertisement for Payette Lakes Inn. *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, Idaho), 22 May 1931:3.

<sup>55</sup> Advertisement for Payette Lakes Inn. *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, Idaho), 22 May 1932:4.

<sup>56</sup> "Lease Takes Inn." *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, Idaho), February 28, 1935: 5.

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dancing pavilion, which was located near the water's edge, and orchestras were brought in from Boise, Portland, and Denver. The pavilion was sometimes used as a roller skating rink.<sup>57</sup>

The inn was put up for sale once again in 1940 and sat vacant until 1945 when purchased by C. R. Quinlisk, McCall businessman, and Greg. J. Menth, former operator of the Northwest Passage club at Sylvan Beach.<sup>58</sup> They advertised the grand reopening of the inn and casino and boasted "McCall's most beautiful bar and club" with dice table. They even offered a speedboat water taxi from town. Menth and Quinlisk operated the inn until about 1947. That year there was a fire that did minimal damage to the roof and chimney. In 1948, the manager of the inn, Maurice Stone, was held on an illegal liquor charge and the Shore Lodge in McCall began to compete for the inn's business.<sup>59</sup> In the 1940s and 1950s, there were very few advertisements for the inn in newspapers and it was left vacant for at least a portion of this time (Figure 11).

In 1958, a church group called Missions Expanding, Inc., took over the inn, and began operating a church camp there. Some repair work was done at the time, and the rest was to be done on a "do it as you can plan." It was likely during their tenure that many of the modifications to the inn were completed (i.e., new wood paneling, repairs to the foundation, addition of bathrooms, etc.). The church group operated the camp, now called "Miracle Heights," until about 1980, after which the inn remained vacant, deteriorating steadily until it was sold to Jeff Schwerts in 2006.

### *Nesbit and Paradise*

Boise architects Nisbet and Paradise designed the Payette Lakes Clubhouse for H. W. Arnold & Company, who also commissioned buildings by them in Pocatello. The firm organized in 1909 and worked on several buildings in Boise including the State Capitol Building, the Empire Building, the Oaks House, Hotel Bristol, the Anduiza Hotel, the Overland Building, and the Yates Building.<sup>60</sup> The partners also designed numerous buildings in Homedale, Parma, and Caldwell, as well as Ontario, Oregon. In 1915, Nisbet and Paradise dissolved their practice.<sup>61</sup> Nisbet moved his practice to Twin Falls where he designed the City Hall, the high school, Methodist church, and IOOF building. F. H. Paradise moved to Pocatello, where he provided designs for the high school, the Franklin Building, the Fargo Building, the Bannock Hotel, and the Kasiska and Central Buildings, among many others.

Benjamin Morgan Nisbet was born December 19, 1873, in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, and attended the University of Pennsylvania's school of architecture, graduating in 1898. Afterwards, he returned to Pittsburgh and opened his own architectural firm. In 1903, he and his new wife moved to Nampa.<sup>62</sup> In March of 1904, he teamed with architect J. Flood Walker in Boise. The

<sup>57</sup> "McCall – Roller Skating Rink." *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, Idaho), June 26, 1935:6.

<sup>58</sup> "For Sale – Payette Lakes Inn." *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, Idaho), May 21, 1940:9; "Inn to Reopen." May 20, 1945:2.

<sup>59</sup> "Manager of McCall Inn Held on Liquor Charge." *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, Idaho), July 30, 1948: 3.

<sup>60</sup> *The Brickbuilder*, Rogers and Manson, Boston, Mass., 1909, Vol. 18, p. 97.

<sup>61</sup> The Construction News Company, *The Construction News*, (Chicago, IL) Vol. 39, 3 April 1915.

<sup>62</sup> Advertisement. *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, Idaho), 23 December 1903.

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partnership did not last and they parted a few months later.<sup>63</sup> Nisbet was employed as a draftsman with the well-known Boise architectural firm of Tourtellotte & Co. in 1908.<sup>64</sup>

Frank H. Paradice, Jr., was born May 4, 1879, in Ontario, Canada. The family moved to Denver by 1880, where Frank Jr. graduated from high school. He then studied architecture in Chicago at the Armour Institute of Technology. Paradice apprenticed with a firm in Denver while also working for the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad, designing depots and other structures in Colorado and New Mexico. Later, he opened his own architectural office in Denver. Paradice moved to Boise in 1907. After Frank ended his partnership with Nisbet and moved to Pocatello, he designed several Sullivanesque commercial buildings.<sup>65</sup> Frank participated in many social and service organizations in Pocatello and from 1921 to 1953 was the only Idaho member of the American Institute of Architects. Paradice was still handling projects when he died in February of 1953.

### The Rustic Style of Architecture

The Rustic Style of architecture emerged in the late nineteenth century out of the resort architecture of the Adirondack region of New York.<sup>66</sup> This design ethic for sturdy rustic structures made use of naturalistic principles and prototypes for rural architecture. It stemmed from the idea of developing wilderness for personal pleasure; it sought harmony between structure and setting and solutions to building in rugged and scenic places. This ideal extended to an increasing number of public parks, and as a result, the rustic style was adopted for a multitude of park structures. By the turn of the century, the Arts and Crafts movement had begun to embrace the various expressions as well, where they fused with regional styles and indigenous forms.

The resort camps of the Adirondack region provided one of the earliest and strongest expressions of the picturesque rustic style appropriate for a natural area or wilderness. Frequently, these camps were lakeside resorts consisting of several buildings separated by function. Camps were sited to fit the natural contours of the land, to take advantage of the scenic views of the area, and to offer outdoor activities such as fishing and boating. The Adirondack or Rustic style adopted features of the Shingle style, the local vernacular of pioneer log cabins, and the romantic European styles of country homes, especially the Swiss Chalet style with its jerkinhead gables.<sup>67</sup> The resulting fusion was compatible with the picturesque aesthetic of rustic forms that used natural materials. The Adirondack camps, with their cabins, boathouses, and lodges, drew heavily on the rustic and picturesque construction of twisted, unpeeled trunks and branches.

<sup>63</sup> Brief Local News. *Idaho Daily Statesman* (Boise, Idaho), 23 August 1904:5.

<sup>64</sup> Polk, R. L and Company, *Boise City and Ada County Directory*, Baltimore, Maryland 1908

<sup>65</sup> Jennifer Eastman Attebery, *Building Idaho: An Architectural History*. University of Idaho Press, Moscow, Idaho, 1991:82.

<sup>66</sup> Linda McClelland, *Building the National Parks: Historic Landscape Design and Construction*, Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, Maryland, 1993; Julie Osborne, *National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. Big Falls Inn, Idaho*. Document on file at the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office, Boise, Idaho, 2002.

<sup>67</sup> McClelland, 1993.

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Their architectural forms and designs were derived from the pioneer building traditions of a region with a severe climate and an abundant local supply of logs and boulders.<sup>68</sup>

Key concepts that are embodied in the Rustic style include subordination, unobtrusiveness, and a reflection on the past. Rustic style buildings strongly influenced the public perception of what type of building should be located in the country's parks and outdoor environments. The trend was an outgrowth of the era's romance with natural landscapes and the western frontier. These homes were usually designed by prominent city architects and were quite large and luxurious. The look and feel on the exterior were rustic, but inside were found all the amenities of an urban dwelling. Trade journals and architectural plan books offered designs for smaller cabins that were copied across the country.<sup>69</sup>

Its natural setting and its use of log and stone for building materials characterize rustic style architecture. Designed to blend in with the natural environment, these structures are usually vacation homes, hunting lodges, dude ranches, or tourist-related facilities.<sup>70</sup> Primary stylistic features include horizontal orientation, low pitched, wood-shingled roofs with wide overhangs, often with exposed rafters, and simply proportioned door and window openings, often with small-paned windows. Buildings are generally very simple with little or no ornamentation, and materials are usually left in their natural unfinished condition. Interior and exterior ornamentation often consist of bent and twisted logs and branches. Traditional building techniques emphasizing hand craftsmanship were often employed in the construction of Rustic structures. The majority of these structures were built after 1900, although some early examples date to the later years of the nineteenth century.

Rustic style cabins differ from pioneer log structures, which were built during initial settlement periods and often exhibited crude construction. Rustic cabins generally have large, prominent stone chimneys, while more commercially manufactured hardware and materials, such as window frames, doors and interior paneling, are common. Rustic buildings may also employ hipped roofs, a form virtually never found on pioneer log structures. The National Park Service played an early role in popularizing the Rustic style. Many buildings throughout the park system employed the design philosophy, ranging from large guest lodges to visitor centers.

In the case of the Payette Lakes Club, the Rustic style was purposefully chosen due to its picturesque qualities and the use of natural materials to blend in with its surroundings. Designed in a quaint, rustic manner that symbolized a connection to nature, an exceptional amount of detail was used to express the ideal of a charming country cottage, though on a much grander scale. Perhaps the most expressive element of the design were the open verandas, or porticos, along the front of the structure. The most important aspect of the picturesque vision was to sit

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<sup>68</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>69</sup> Osborne, 2002.

<sup>70</sup> Colorado Historical Society. Rustic Style Architecture in the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties. Electronic document, [http://www.historycolorado.org/sites/default/files/files/OAHP/crforms\\_edumat/pdfs/1642.pdf](http://www.historycolorado.org/sites/default/files/files/OAHP/crforms_edumat/pdfs/1642.pdf), accessed online July 6, 2015.

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quietly in the presence of nature. There, verandas would have provided the guests of the Payette Lakes Club with that sought-after experience.<sup>71</sup>

### *Swiss Chalet Revival*

Architect A. J. Downing introduced the Swiss Chalet style to America in his 1850 stylebook, *The Architecture of Country Houses*, amid a resurgence of the style during the Arts & Crafts era of the early twentieth century.<sup>72</sup> This renewed interest was stimulated by the publication of a variety of books and articles, which provided inspiration and specific details on how to replicate the architecture of the Swiss Alps. Such books included the work of William S. B. Dana's *The Swiss Chalet Book* (1913), and Henry Saylor's *Architectural Styles for Country Houses: The Swiss Chalet Type* (1912). Based on period literature, the revival of the style was popular from 1900 to 1920.

The style, mainly applied to residential designs, was really an adaptation of traditional versions. Where the Swiss models utilized heavy timber and log construction, resting on stone bases, American models utilized simple platform construction in combination with applied decorative elements. Swiss Chalet dwellings are typically two and a half stories high and have a square or rectangular plan. Low-pitched front-facing gable roofs are common and have extra deep eaves supported by large decorative brackets. The ends of rafters and/or purlins are generally exposed and are sometimes carved. Often, intricate cut bargeboards and a clipped gable give further definition to the roofline.<sup>73</sup>

Despite their heavy appearance, multi-pane, grouped casement-style windows allow plenty of light into interior spaces. Most designs have second-floor balconies, which are highlighted by flat balusters with decorative cut-outs or round stickwork. First and second floors are often differentiated by a change in cladding. Horizontal and vertical-laid shiplap, board-and-batten, and shingle siding are common. Some examples have faux post-and-beam construction elements. Additional details to the front of the chalet may also include jig-sawn fret, grill and scroll work.<sup>74</sup>

The Rustic and Swiss Chalet styles of architecture were very popular in Idaho during the early twentieth century, especially for the construction of inns, lodges, and hotels such as the Big Falls Inn, the Flatrock (1903) and North Fork Club (1904), at Island Park, and the Utaida Club (date unknown) at Pinehaven.<sup>75</sup> Notably, Spokane architect K. K. Cutter designed the Idaho building at the Chicago Columbian Exposition of 1893 as a Swiss chalet.<sup>76</sup> The use of the Rustic style for the design of residential and private structures lasted until the Depression, when the construction of vacation homes ebbed substantially. However, the use of the Rustic style continued to be

<sup>71</sup> Fred Walters 2013 Letter to City of McCall. On file at the McCall City Hall, McCall, Idaho.

<sup>72</sup> Washington State, Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation 2015. Swiss Chalet Revival. <http://www.dahp.wa.gov/styles/swiss-chalet>.

<sup>73</sup> Ibid

<sup>74</sup> Ibid

<sup>75</sup> Osborne, 2002.

<sup>76</sup> Attebery, 1992:72-73.

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extremely popular with government construction, especially in the Civilian Conservation Corps camps of Idaho during the 1930s.

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**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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: Idaho State Archives

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** 1.71

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |             |                 |                   |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 11 | Easting: 568849 | Northing: 4974874 |
| 2. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 3. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 4. Zone:    | Easting :       | Northing:         |

Payette Lakes Club/Inn  
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Valley County, Idaho  
County and State

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Payette Lakes Club is located in southeast 1/4 of Section 6, and Lot 3 of Section 5, Township 18 North, Range 3 East, Boise Meridian, Valley County, Idaho. Located in Payette Lake Club, Group D. The property description is as follows:

Commenting at the quarter corner between Sections 5 and 6 in Township 18 North, Range 3 East, Boise Meridian, and quarter corner being the northeast corner of the southeast quarter of said Section 6, then south along the eastern boundary of said Section 6, 900 feet to the point of beginning; thence turning to the right through an angle of 90 degrees run westerly 300 feet; thence turning to the left 90 degrees run southerly 230 feet; thence turning to the left 90 degrees run easterly 300 feet; thence turning to the right 90 degrees run 38 feet; thence turning left 90 degrees run easterly 750 feet; thence turning to the left 90 degrees run northerly 300 feet; thence turning to the to the left 90 degrees run southerly 32 feet, more or less, to the place of beginning, containing 1.71 acres.

This includes Lots 58 and 59 of Group "D" of the Payette Lakes Club grounds, as numbered and designated on the official plat of the said Payette Lakes Club grounds in the offices of the County Recorder's office of Valley County, Idaho. (See enclosed site map and the McCall, Idaho, USGS quad map).

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries include the building itself, the lot on which the building sits, and a portion of the grounds. Originally, there was a sloped approach to the shore of Big Payette Lake; however, this is now blocked by subsequent construction. Therefore, the boundary currently ends at the Public Highway (Warren Wagon Road) on the east and at Miracle Heights Road (formerly Club Road) to the north. These boundaries include enough of the surrounding landscape to provide a sense of the original setting.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: JoEllen Ross-Hauer  
organization: ASM Affiliates, Inc.  
street & number: 1602 W. Hays St. Suite 200  
city or town: Boise State: Idaho zip code: 83702  
e-mail jhauer@asmaffiliates.com  
telephone: 208-577-6019  
date: July, 2015

Payette Lakes Club/Inn  
Name of Property

Valley County, Idaho  
County and State

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### Additional Documentation

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Chain of title information; Plan view drawings.)

DRAFT

Payette Lakes Club/Inn  
Name of Property

Valley County, Idaho  
County and State

## Photographs

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Payette Lakes Inn

City or Vicinity: McCall

County: Valley

State: Idaho

Photographer: J. Ross-Hauer

Date of Photographs: 6-11-2015

Number of Photographs: 26

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo #1: (ID\_Valley County\_Payette Lake Inn\_0001) South and east elevation; camera facing northwest.

Photo# 2: (ID\_Valley County\_Payette Lake Inn\_0002) East elevation, camera facing west.

Photo #3: (ID\_Valley County\_Payette Lake Inn\_0003) East elevation, camera facing northwest.

Photo #4: (ID\_Valley County\_Payette Lake Inn\_0004) South elevation, camera facing north.

Photo #5: (ID\_Valley County\_Payette Lake Inn\_0005) East elevation, camera facing southwest.

Photo #6: (ID\_Valley County\_Payette Lake Inn\_0006) North elevation, camera facing south.

Photo #7: (ID\_Valley County\_Payette Lake Inn\_0007) North façade (left) and west elevation (right), camera facing southeast.

Photo #8: (ID\_Valley County\_Payette Lake Inn\_0008) West elevation, camera facing east.

Photo #9: (ID\_Valley County\_Payette Lake Inn\_0009) Detail of modifications to west elevation; camera facing southeast.

Photo #10: (ID\_Valley County\_Payette Lake Inn\_0010) Detail of modifications to west elevation; camera facing northeast.

Photo #11: (ID\_Valley County\_Payette Lake Inn\_0011) South and west elevations, taken from southwest corner of building; camera facing northeast.

Photo #12: (ID\_Valley County\_Payette Lake Inn\_0012) Detail of missing dormers on east façade; camera facing west.

Photo #13: (ID\_Valley County\_Payette Lake Inn\_0013) Detail of interior woodwork.

Photo #14: (ID\_Valley County\_Payette Lake Inn\_0014) Detail of fallen eave brackets and foundation repair on south elevation; camera facing east.

Photo #15: (ID\_Valley County\_Payette Lake Inn\_0015) Detail of deteriorating dormer on east façade; camera facing west.

Photo #16: (ID\_Valley County\_Payette Lake Inn\_0016) Detail of window box and shutters on east façade; camera facing west.

Photo #17: (ID\_Valley County\_Payette Lake Inn\_0017) Detail of interior fireplace in lounge area on main floor; camera facing south.

Payette Lakes Club/Inn

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Photo #18: (ID\_Valley County\_Payette Lake Inn\_0018) Detail of interior lounge on main floor, camera facing northwest.

Photo #19: (ID\_Valley County\_Payette Lake Inn\_0019) Detail of interior staircase between main floor and second floor.

Photo #20: (ID\_Valley County\_Payette Lake Inn\_0020) Detail of interior basement door with “speak easy” window.

Photo #21: (ID\_Valley County\_Payette Lake Inn\_0021) Detail of interior fireplace in basement.

Photo #22: (ID\_Valley County\_Payette Lake Inn\_0022) Detail of interior lobby/dining hall on main floor; camera facing north.

Photo #23: (ID\_Valley County\_Payette Lake Inn\_0023) Detail of interior fireplace on main floor; camera facing north.

Photo #24: (ID\_Valley County\_Payette Lake Inn\_0024) Detail of interior room on second floor with “beaver board” on walls.

### Index of Figures:

Figure 1. Historic Photo of Payette Lakes Inn ca. 1920s.

Figure 2. Payette Lakes Club Bath and Boathouse, close-up, ca. 1913.

Figure 3. Payette Lakes Club Bath and Boathouse, ca. 1913.

Figure 4. 1914 Plat Map of the Payette Lake Club.

Figure 5. Payette Lake Club Membership Card, Special Collections, Boise State University.

Figure 6. Historic Photo of Payette Lakes Inn ca. 1915, prior to completion.

Figure 7. View from Payette Lakes Club towards boathouse (note tennis court); date unknown.

Figure 8. Payette Lakes Club from boathouse, ca. 1910s.

Figure 9. Advertisement in the *Idaho Daily Statesman*, 29 August 1915.

Figure 10. “Girl Reserves on the lawn of the Payette Lakes Inn.” *Idaho Statesman*, June 24, 1926.

Figure 11. Payette Lakes Inn, ca. 1940s, Photo courtesy of Idaho State Historical Society

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.