

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: Glacier Park Women's Club

Other names/site number: East Glacier Library; East Glacier Community Hall (24GL1707)

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: Southeast corner of U.S. Highway 2 and Glacier Avenue

City or town: East Glacier Park State: MT County: Glacier

Not For Publication: Vicinity: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 does not meet 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

<p>_____</p> <p>Signature of certifying official/Title:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>Date</p>
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<p>In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p>_____</p> <p>Signature of commenting official:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Title :</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>Date</p> <p>_____</p> <p>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>

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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

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	_____	Total

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL/meeting hall, clubhouse
GOVERNMENT/city hall
EDUCATION/library

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL/meeting hall, clubhouse
GOVERNMENT/city hall
EDUCATION/library

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: NPS Rustic

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: CONCRETE, WOOD/Log, Shingle, METAL/Steel

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.)

Summary Paragraph

The modest log building on the corner of Highway 2 and Glacier Avenue stands as a landmark in the small East Glacier Park community. In the shadow of the magnificent Two Medicine area of Glacier National Park, the Rustic community hall continues to serve as a library, meeting space, hub of local government, and social center. Situated at the north end of the East Glacier commercial district, the building faces west onto Highway 2, the main street through town. Its simple saddle-notched log, front-gable, construction typifies the NPS Rustic style, and is representative of Civilian Conservation Corps construction techniques. A hipped open porch dominates the rectangular, one-story building's façade. The Women's Club recently redaubed the logs. The north side of building also features a narrow raised garden bed, constructed in 1988, planted with heirloom florae donated by community members.

Narrative Description

Constructed in 1933, the Glacier Park Women's Club is a rectangular 32' x 80' one-story, front-gable, log building. It features saddle notching and hipped open porch across its entry façade. The courses run 13 logs high with recent epoxy daubing. Modern metal corrugated roofing, which likely replaced original wood shingles, covers the roof, which has deep eaves and wide

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wooden fascia that covers the rafter ends. Log posts and plank sheathing form the roof structure, and wood shingles fill the gable ends. The building rests on a concrete wall foundation, and has a partial dug-out basement.

The west (front) elevation boasts a full-width hipped-roof open porch supported by four evenly-spaced peeled log posts. Corrugated metal sheet roofing covers the porch roof, and wide fascia boards cover the rafter ends. Beneath, the roof structure is exposed, revealing log rafters and plank sheathing. The porch also features dimensional lumber flooring at grade. Log rails and balusters create balustrades at the porch's north and south sides. A centered, six-panel wood door offers entry to the building. Simple wood trim surrounds the door. Single pairs of one-over-one wood-frame windows are centered to the north and south of the entry. Though modern replacements, the windows mimic the originals in material and style. Wood-frame screens cover the windows, and simple narrow dimensional lumber serves as trim. Wood shingles fill the gable end, and at the apex, a simple dimensional lumber knee bracket offers support to the roof overhang.

The building's south elevation features four evenly-spaced window openings. The westernmost three openings contain pairs of one-over-one, double-hung, wood-frame replacement windows. Like the windows on the front (west) elevation, they mimic the original style and materials. Wood-frame screens cover the window openings, which are in turn trimmed with simple narrow dimensional lumber. The drop-lap siding partially fills the easternmost opening, which contains a single, wide, fixed, wood-frame, one-light window.

Like the south elevation, the north elevation features four evenly-spaced window openings, and the westernmost three openings contain pairs of wood-frame one-over-one, double-hung, replacement windows. The larger easternmost opening features a ribbon of three original wood-frame, one-over-one, double-hung windows.

Originally, the east (rear) elevation contained three single, one-over-one, wood-frame, double-hung windows. Plywood now covers the two southernmost windows. Plywood also now replaces the window at the north side of the elevation, and contains a book drop slot for the library, installed in 1990; a three-step wood staircase leads to the drop slot. The elevation also contains a single entry centered on its south side. Trimmed with narrow dimensional wood and protected by a modern metal storm, the six-panel wooden door is the same style as the front entry.

The community hall's interior features a large room that occupies the western 2/3 of the building, and two smaller rooms – the library and the kitchen - at the east end. The Women's Club members installed a fourth room, a small modern bathroom, in the southwest corner of the main room, near the kitchen entry. Throughout the hall the log walls remain exposed, as are the original narrow-width wood floors. Fiberboard panels secured with painted wood battens appear to be fastened to the bottom of the ceiling joists. The interior walls are horizontal wood plank, painted white. Original, single, five-panel doors lead to the kitchen at the southeast corner of the building, and the library at the northeast corner. A small raised wood-frame stage fills the space between the library and kitchen entries. The modern bathroom features gypsum board and a

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modern hollow core door. The kitchen retains its original maple cabinetry and horizontal board paneling.

An earthen dug-out basement, accessed through a hatch in the bathroom floor, houses the heating system.

Integrity:

The Glacier Park Women's Club retains a high degree of integrity. It stands in its original location near the west edge of town. The setting has changed little with the Glacier Park Women's Club fronting Highway 2 and the railroad tracks beyond. While some of the surrounding buildings are of more recent construction, they too are of log or wood frame construction, complementing the historic association and rustic feeling of the building. Workmanship and materials remain as when constructed; the infilling of single window openings on the east and south elevations, and installation of a metal roof and a modern bathroom only minimally compromise its integrity of design.

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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

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1933-1969

Significant Dates

1933

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Civilian Conservation Corp, Missoula Division 9th Corps

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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 Glacier Park Women's Club is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at a local level of significance under criteria A and C. Historically significant for its association with the Glacier Park Women's Club organization, as well as the development and maintenance of the social life of East Glacier Park residents, the club building has served as a center for important community activities since its construction in 1933. These uses include its function as a library, town hall, and event center. The club continues as a gathering and meeting place for this rural Montana town. Throughout its history, the Glacier Park Women's Club has served as one of the community's primary entertainment and education venues, hosting everything from Christmas bazaars to County Commission meetings. Also unchanged is the dedication the members of the Glacier Park Women's Club and other area residents have to its maintenance and continued use.

The Glacier Park Women's Club gains additional significance under Criterion C, as an excellent local example of Civilian Conservation Corps-era Rustic architecture. Its saddle-notched log construction, low-slung profile, and subtle color scheme combine to provide a significant representation of the style.

The period of significance dates from its construction in 1933 and continues through 1969, the period representative of the club's strong influence in the community and ending with the historic period.

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

Amskapi Pikuni (Ni-tsi-ta-pi-ksi, Real People) and Mistakis (Backbone of the World)

For centuries, the Ni-tsi-ta-pi-ksi, inhabited Nitawahsi, the name for the traditional territory that encompassed modern day East Glacier Park.

This massive territory stretched from Ponokasi-sahta (Elk River, The North Saskatchewan River) south to Otahkoi-tah-tayi (the Yellowstone River). Its western boundary extended beyond the Rocky Mountains, and the eastern boundary extended further than the Omahski-spatsi-koyii (the Great Sand Hills in present

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Saskatchewan). Ihtsi-pai-tapi-yopa, the Creator or Essence of Life, gave this territory to the Kainai (Many Leaders, also called the Blood); the Pikani or Piegan (which includes the Amsskaapipikani [or Amskapi Pikuni] in Montana and the Apatosipikani in Southern Alberta); and the Sisika (Blackfoot, also called the Northern Blackfoot). Although these groups were not originally united in any official alliance, they did often support and help one another. Now these people are united by a formal political alliance (The Blackfoot Confederacy) which both the Canadian and United States governments recognize. The Pikani often inhabited the foothills in the western part of this territory, and more specifically, the Amskapi Pikuni inhabited the southern area around what is now East Glacier Park, Montana.¹

Blackfeet tradition and history runs deep in Mistakis, the "Backbone of the World," the area now more commonly called the Northern Rocky Mountain Front. Important spirits inhabit the mountains: Wind Maker, Cold Maker, Thunder, and Snow Shrinker (Chinook winds). One of the most important figures in Blackfeet traditional stories, Napi, created the landscape and creatures of the Blackfeet territory and had many adventures in the mountains. These adventures and traditional stories form the foundation of some of the Blackfeet's most important ceremonies and customs.² The Amskapi Pikuni consider the Two Medicine Valley just north of the town of East Glacier Park a sacred place. For example, during the Long Ago Time, the Beaver People lived there, and gave the Blackfeet many sacred items, including the Beaver Pipe Bundle and Sacred Tobacco. It was also home to the Underwater People, who gave them horses, and Thunder Bird, who gave them the first medicine pipe.³ The area honors more recent Blackfeet historical figures like Chief Lone Walker, his daughter Sinopah, and son-in-law and Hudson Bay Company trapper Rising Wolf (Hugh Monroe), with peaks named for them there. Mistakis has been, and continues to be, an extremely important destination for vision quests, including the quest site attributed to the woman warrior, Pitamakin (Running Eagle), at the falls between Middle and Lower Two Medicine Lake.

Over the second half of the 19th century, the United States government campaigned to establish a strong presence in what would become Montana Territory, both for settlement and for transportation. Beginning with the Fort Laramie Treaty in 1851, the federal government began to negotiate boundaries for Indian nations, including the Blackfeet, and establish rights of way.

¹ Blackfoot Gallery Committee, Glenbow Museum. *Nitsitapiisinni: The Story of the Blackfoot People*. Firefly Books, 2001. Print. See also Darryl Kipp, "Blackfoot" in *Encyclopedia Of North American Indians* (Houghton Mifflin, 1996) 74-76.

² Mark David Spence, *Montana Legacy: Essays on history, people, and place; the American wilderness ideal and Blackfeet exclusion from Glacier National Park* (Montana Historical Society Press, 2002) 103-131. Mark David Spence, *Dispossessing the Wilderness*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1999) 73-75

³ Spence, *Dispossessing the Wilderness*, 73-74.

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In 1855, at Council Island in the Missouri Breaks, another treaty provided for smaller reservation boundaries, and granted the United States:

For the purpose of establishing travelling thoroughfares through their country, and the better to enable the President to execute the provisions of this treaty...the United States may...construct roads of every description; establish lines of telegraph and military posts; use materials of every description found in the Indian country; build houses for agencies, missions, schools, farms, shops, mills, stations, and for any other purpose for which they may be required, and permanently occupy as much land as may be necessary for the various purposes above enumerated...⁴

A treaty in 1864 further established railroad rights of way, and the reduction of Indian lands continued over the next several decades. The Executive Order of 1873 created the Great Northern Reservation for use by the Gros Ventres, Piegan, Bloods, Blackfeet, and River Crows. According to the TrailTribes.org website:

This new Great Northern Reservation, defined by an Act of Congress in 1874, was in part composed of territory assigned the Blackfeet by the Treaty of 1855. It did not, however, comprise all of that territory, for the U.S. government moved the southern boundary of the reservation 200 miles northward, opening lands to settlement without any compensation to the tribe.⁵

Just 12 years later, another Act of Congress dated May 1, 1887, broke up the Great Northern Reservation, and restricted the Blackfeet to just the extreme western portion, dramatically reducing their territory.⁶ The "Agreement with the Blackfeet" dated September 26, 1895 further diminished the tribe's land base, ceding the wide strip of land along the east front of the Rockies, from the Canadian border to the reservation's southern boundary. The agreement permitted non-Indian mineral exploration in the area. The Blackfeet retained hunting and gathering rights to that land (29 Stat 353).⁷ When the United States formed Glacier National Park in 1910, it included the ceded area, but did not address the Blackfeet right to utilize their traditional homeland, and this issue remains contentious to this day.

⁴ Charles J. Kappler, *Indian Affairs: Laws and Treaties*, Vol. II, Treaties. "Treaty with the Blackfeet, October 17, 1855." 11 Stat 657 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1904) 737.

⁵ "The Shrinking Reservation: 1865 Treaty." TrailTribes.org, found on-line at <http://www.trailtribes.org/greatfalls/shrinking-reservation.htm>, accessed May 8, 2019.

⁶ Charles J. Kappler, *Indian Affairs: Laws and Treaties*, Vol. I, Laws. "An act to ratify and confirm an agreement with the Gros Ventre, Piegan Blood, Blackfeet, and River Crow Indians in Montana, and for other purposes." Acts of Fiftieth Congress, First Session, 1888, Chapter 213 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1904) 261-6.

⁷ Spence, *Dispossessing the Wilderness*, 103-131.

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The construction of the Great Northern Railway, the founding of Glacier National Park, and the persistent policies of the U.S. government to settle western lands, including reservation lands, were the three principle factors that led to the founding of Midvale, now East Glacier Park.

The Great Northern Railway and the Establishment of Glacier National Park

The railroad figures most prominently in the founding of the town of Midvale, Montana, referred to as Glacier Park Station (Glacier Park) by the 1920s, and now called East Glacier Park. The incursion of the Great Northern Railway across the plains and over the Rockies brought white settlers to the Blackfeet Reservation at the end of the 19th Century in numbers not previously seen.

Marias Pass provided the key to the Great Northern Railway's success. As the lowest elevation along the Continental Divide north of New Mexico, it afforded the railway the cheapest transportation route between the Great Lakes and Puget Sound. A Native American guide, whose name was not recorded, led Great Northern surveyor and locating engineer John F. Stevens to the pass in the waning weeks of 1889.⁸ Stevens determined that the crossing was 350 feet lower in elevation than the Northern Pacific's route through Homestake Pass near Butte. In pursuit of his route, Great Northern Railway President James Hill took advantage of federal legislation to acquire rights-of-way that extended 75 feet on either side of the track. The railroad line crossed the mountains in 1891, spawning a number of work camps. Two of them eventually became the towns of Belton (West Glacier) and Midvale (East Glacier). Just two years later in January 1893, the workers laid the Railway's final spike. Hill promoted settlement of non-Indians along the right of way to create immediate income for the railway and to sustain his long-term goals to make the Great Northern the primary freight route in the northern U.S. In 1895, Hill and banker J.P. Morgan teamed up to buy controlling interest in his greatest competitor, the Northern Pacific. The acquisition made Hill the "Empire Builder," a moniker now attached to the Amtrak train that stops daily in East Glacier during the summer.⁹

Through the late 19th century, Hill worked with other non-Indians to set aside the "Backbone of the World" first as a forest reserve, and then as Glacier National Park. As noted above, a series of agreements and legislation worked to reduce the Blackfeet Reservation through the 1890s. Simultaneously, interests in conservation and a new national forestry program took root nationwide. Conservationists including George Bird Grinnell and John Muir worked with forester

⁸ Great Northern Railway Advertisement, 1960.

⁹ N. M. Peterson, "Railroad Builder and Visionary Jim Hill." *Wild West Magazine* (2002) 15(2), 22; The process of building a railway over Marias Pass included the construction of a spectacular timber trestle over the Two Medicine River at the eastern edge of East Glacier Park. The original structure was 214 feet high. It has been replaced by an iron trestle, still spectacular.

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Gifford Pinchot to include the area in the Lewis and Clark Forest Reserve, established in 1897. Over the next decade, Grinnell then "brought together a coalition of wilderness enthusiasts, senators, congressmen, and railroad magnates in a campaign to convert a portion of the Lewis and Clark Forest Preserve into a national park."¹⁰ They succeeded on May 11, 1910, with the establishment of Glacier National Park, the largest National Park Service holding in Montana.

James Hill's son, Louis Hill, assumed the presidency of the Great Northern in 1907, and took advantage of these events to promote the railway and entice travelers through the scenic country. His plans to lure tourists west to the region included the construction of rustic grand lodges and horseback tours into the wilderness; the Glacier Park Lodge and Glacier Park Station in Midvale were part of his plan. The lodge opened to the public in 1913, forever transforming Midvale into the tourist destination it is today. Its construction on a 160-acre site was a boon for the community, and ensured a steady stream of summer visitors.¹¹ By 1929, the town, now referred to as Glacier Park, boasted a population of 100 and sported numerous businesses including three buildings denoted as "General Merchandise," three garages, two dance halls, several restaurants and dining rooms, a hotel, a school, billiards hall, barber, auto supply store, two meat sellers, a lumber store, a novelty shop, a jail, the Continental Oil Company building, numerous lodging rooms, and numerous dwellings, in addition to the Great Northern Passenger Depot. Providing additional stability to the town was the presence of the National Park Service complex, which included facilities for maintenance and transportation, as well as some offices.¹²

From Literary Societies to Suffrage: Documenting Women's Clubs in Montana¹³

Women in the 19th century American West faced many challenges, not the least of which was maintaining cultural and social ties to their counterparts in the more "civilized" East. As women traveled west they left behind female family members, friends, churches, schools, and women's organizations—all part of an intricate social support system. The popular image of women as "gentle tamers" in the West stems in part from women's efforts to maintain or rebuild those support systems. Women's clubs were often at the center of these efforts. Providing intellectual stimulation and social interaction, women's clubs quickly became commonplace throughout the West and often included garden clubs, library associations, and literary societies.

¹⁰ Spence, *Dispossession of the Wilderness*, 82.

¹¹ However, Great Northern Railway's influence in the area began to wane by 1930 with the completion of the Roosevelt Highway (U.S. Highway 2) that connected East and West Glacier, and the increasing popularity of automobile travel.

¹² 1929 Sanborn maps of Glacier Park.

¹³ This section adapted from information provided by the Montana Historical Society Research Center Archives Staff, used with permission.

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The General Federation of Women's Clubs dates back to 1868 when Jane Cunningham Croly, a professional New York journalist, was denied admittance due to her gender to an all-male dinner honoring Charles Dickens. This snub motivated her to form a club for women named Sorosis. By 1890, Croly extended an invitation to women's clubs throughout the United States to attend a ratification convention in New York City; 63 clubs attended the convention and took action to form the General Federation of Women's Clubs.¹⁴

By the early 1890s, the women's club movement thrived in the United States. Over time, the clubs changed to meet the demands of growing communities and changing roles for women. The late nineteenth and early twentieth century witnessed a period of intense social reform and transformation in the United States, and as a result, many clubs began to refocus on the betterment of society. Literary societies often gave way to civic improvement clubs and social reform organizations. In response to escalating poverty, labor violence, urban slums, and spreading disease, Americans joined together to address these social "evils." The Progressive movement, as it became known, attracted mostly young, educated, white, middle- to upper-class men and women. "Progressive" women often had the time and education necessary to invest in such endeavors. The well-organized and defined women's clubs often served as springboards to address issues such as civic improvement, libraries, and public health in addition to more controversial subjects, including child labor laws, worker compensation, pure food and drug legislation, and occupational safety. As the clubs became more and more active, they began to address increasingly controversial and political issues, such as women's suffrage and temperance. Today, the General Federation of Women's Clubs boasts over 1,000,000 members in 20 countries who strive to work for reform in their communities.¹⁵

Founding of the Glacier Park Women's Club

By 1901, according to Mrs. W. F. Christie, Director of the GFWC, Montana boasted over 15 women's clubs, with at least one in every major town. Similar to the early clubs across the West, these initially addressed self-improvement, through the formation of literary clubs, and home-improvement. However, the women's club movement in Montana was no exception to national trends. With the growth of the Progressive movement, Montana's women's clubs began to expand their vision by addressing public service or civic improvement issues, generally within their local areas. Interest in state and national politics also began to seep into the purview of the Montana women's clubs, including placement of the capital of Montana, and women's suffrage. As women's clubs flourished across the state in the early part of the twentieth century, they provided an outlet for women to exercise their organizational and leadership skills.

¹⁴ "History and Mission," General Federation of Women's Clubs, found on-line at <https://www.gfwc.org/about/history-and-mission/>, accessed May 8, 2019.

¹⁵ "Women's Clubs," Encyclopeida.com, found on-line at <https://www.encyclopedia.com/sports-and-everyday-life/social-organizations/private-organizations/womens-clubs>, accessed May 8, 2019.

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Montana's first club was established in Deer Lodge in 1889. By the early twentieth century, Butte, the most prosperous city in the state at that time, boasted several federation affiliated clubs and a number of other social and civic organizations comprised entirely of women. These organizations, whether a part of the GFWC or not, contributed to the social movements of the late 19th and early 20th century, advocating and achieving social reforms.¹⁶

The footing for Glacier Park Station's entry into the rolls of Montana's women's clubs occurred with the arrival of Isabel Clark Dawson, with her husband Thomas Erksine Dawson, near the end of the 19th century.¹⁷ Both Isabel and Thomas descended from both Blackfeet and non-Indian ancestry. Thomas soon became good friends with Louis Hill and collaborated on bringing the railroad to the park. The outdoor skills Thomas possessed allowed him to guide influential easterners into the rugged and spectacular country of the future Glacier National Park; soirees such as these served as effective tools in lobbying support for the establishment of the park, which occurred in 1910.

Their adopted daughter, Helene, a niece of the Dawson's, was born in 1900 and lived on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation.¹⁸ She eventually married George Edkins and established Helene's Gift Shop (the current Old Goat gift shop) next to their general store, the Glacier Park Trading Company. Helene's and George's business ventures allowed her to donate the land for the construction of the Catholic Church of the Ascension in East Glacier Park in memory of her parents. Helene served as the first Deputy Recorder for Glacier County.¹⁹

When I finished school, I came back here [to Glacier Park]. Then, I went to Kalispell and took a business course. Then I went to Cut Bank and I was the first deputy recorder when Glacier County was formed. Well, then I worked for the abstract company there, but then was in the Court House. . . . My husband was postmaster . . . until . . . we bought the Glacier Park Trading Company.²⁰

¹⁶ Stephanie Ambrose Tubbs, "Montana Women's Clubs at the Turn of the Century." *Montana: the Magazine of Western History*. Winter (1986) 26-35; Montana is currently home to 28 active federated women's clubs.

¹⁷ Lake Isabel in Glacier National Park derives its name from Mrs. Dawson and a pass in the Two Medicine area is named for Thomas; Isabel was born on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in 1857 and Thomas was born in 1859 in Fort Benton.

¹⁸ "Helene Angela Patterson-Dawson Edkins," Find a Grave Index, found on-line at <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/22269842/helene-angela-edkins>, accessed 4/10/2019; "George W. Edkins," Find a Grave Index, found on-line at <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/97785235/george-w-edkins>, accessed 4/10/2019.

¹⁹ J. MacCarter, *History of Glacier County, Montana* (Glacier County Historical Society, 1984).

²⁰ Helene Dawson Edkins Interview, April 13, 1982. Montana Historical Society Oral History Collection, OH 562.

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Behind the efforts of Helene, 22 women founded the Glacier Park Women's Club on December 4, 1920. The club received its federation status from the General Federation of Women's Clubs the following year.²¹ Helene was active in the first four decades of the women's club in East Glacier, serving as president of the club for many years, and as a member of the board for the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Montana.

Helene Dawson Edkins serves as a prime example of the women who founded and served as members of the Glacier Park Women's Club. Members were, and continue to be, representative of all walks of life in the community. Most were (and are) working women and mothers, running businesses, teaching, or ranching. More recently, club members include Park rangers and doctors. Continuing the tradition of diversity within the club, Blackfeet tribal member Anne DesRosier Grant served as president of the club during the mid-1990s.

A Building of Their Own

The Glacier Park Women's Club is somewhat unique in that it built and maintains its own building.²² Prior to the construction of the Glacier Park Woman's Club, the organization met at various locations, most often in members' homes. Club records and tax receipts indicate the club acquired the land for its present day community hall/library in 1928 from the railroad. The Glacier Park Women's Club donated the lot to Glacier County so that, in 1933, the county could commission Civilian Conservation Corpsmen stationed in nearby camps to construct a 32' x 80' log structure on the lot. Upon completion of the hall, the county entrusted the building back to the Women's Club.²³ (See Developmental history/additional historic context for more information about the CCC.)

The primary mission of the Glacier Park Women's Club has always been to provide library services for the community and to maintain the community hall, though those concerns have never comprised the entire work of the club. The Glacier Park Women's Club community hall/library has served as the hub of social and cultural life in East Glacier for more than nine decades. Since its construction, it has housed the community library. Similar to their counterparts at the Cut Bank Women's Club, the women of East Glacier Park established a library committee and worked to arrange their space, acquire books – most often from their private collections – and organize them for community use. For a time, the library operated with a paid part-time librarian, but today it is open one evening each week, staffed entirely by

²¹ "Glacier Park Women's Club, East Glacier," Women's History Matters, found on-line at <http://montanawomenshistory.org/places/>, accessed May 1, 2019.

²² The Women's Club in Simms, Montana also has a community building.

²³ Glacier Park Women's Club records. On file at the Glacier Park Women's Club, East Glacier Park, Montana.

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volunteers, and is a branch of the Glacier County Library system. Community members may request books delivered from the main branch in Cutbank, signed out from the local collection, and they may return books picked up from the libraries in Browning or Cutbank to the book drop located at the rear of the building.

In addition to the library, the building has served a civic function in the town. Since the 1930s, the club is utilized as a polling precinct and hosted local meetings, including county commission meetings. It has been the hub of civic outreach during critical times including in 1957 when the club embarked on a polio inoculation program, vaccinating 62 people.²⁴ In 1961, the club prepared plans to use the earthen basement as a fallout shelter at the urging of local civil defense officials.²⁵ From April until December 1967, the building served as a temporary post office for the community.²⁶

In addition to operating in a civic capacity, the building hosted dances, performances, arts and crafts sales, memorial services, scout meetings, and potluck suppers, attended by non-Indians and tribal members alike; a function it serves to this day. The club also provided services to the community. For example, during its early years of the 1920s and 1930s, the East Glacier School lacked a kitchen or lunchroom. The Glacier Park Women's Club filled the void by preparing school lunches in the building for the children each day. The club has always had a supporting interest in the school, at various times providing prizes for art contests, organizing Easter egg hunts, or contributing funds for projects.²⁷

The club hosted the state GFWC conventions at Glacier Park Lodge in 1941, 1959, 1960, 1961 and 1965.²⁸ Several times in the community's history, the club's building sheltered visitors: once in the 1970s, passengers from a train derailment took refuge there, and more recently travelers stayed at the club when severe weather closed US Highway 2 both east and west of East Glacier Park. In 1989, the club helped plan and execute a local celebration for the Montana Centennial.²⁹ More recently, in September 2010, renowned Blackfeet singer/songwriter Jack Gladstone chose the Glacier Park Women's Club as the site to launch his album "Anthropology." Even the flowerbeds on the northeast side of the building represent the history of the greater

²⁴ "Letter from Dr. Edward King to Glacier Park Women's Club," July 17, 1957, on file at the Glacier Park Women's Club, East Glacier Park, Montana.

²⁵ Glacier Park Women's Club minutes, November 17, 1961, on file at the Glacier Park Women's Club, East Glacier Park, Montana.

²⁶ Correspondence and minutes, 1967. On file at the Glacier Park Women's Club, East Glacier Park, Montana.

²⁷ Glacier Park Women's Club records. On file at the Glacier Park Women's Club, East Glacier Park, Montana.

²⁸ GFWC Convention programs and Glacier Park Women's Club records. On file at the Glacier Park Women's Club, East Glacier Park, Montana.

²⁹ Glacier Park Women's Club records. On file at the Glacier Park Women's Club, East Glacier Park, Montana.

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community – they were installed in 1988 with perennials dug up and donated from members' gardens.³⁰

Clearly, the Glacier Park Women's Club has been an intrinsic part of the East Glacier Park community since its construction in 1933. The building, situated on a prominent corner of the town's main street, served as a focal point of education, civics, and social history in the area for over eighty years, and promises to continue well into the future. For these reasons, it is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A.

Architectural Significance

Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)-built buildings stand as a product of an architectural vision of how people and nature interact. Their Rustic approach to architecture grew out of the development of national parks in the early part of the 20th century. National Park Service (NPS) architects first envisioned the Rustic style, and designed buildings and structures to be accessories to nature — complementing the landscape instead of competing with it. NPS wanted the scenery to be the main attraction, not the buildings, and decided that buildings should take their natural settings into account. Influenced by the park designs of landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted and the “organic architecture” movement, the style aims to have buildings harmonize with their surroundings and to reflect the landscape through the use of local natural building materials.

In the 1910s and 1920s, NPS developed the Rustic style and refined it through lodges, museums and other structures at Glacier, Yosemite, Yellowstone, Zion, Grand Canyon and other national parks. Even monumental buildings such as Yellowstone's Old Faithful Inn and Yosemite's Ahwahnee Hotel carried out the Rustic design ethic. When the CCC was formed in the 1930s and workers began building across the nation, National Park architects oversaw the CCC's work and extended the style's reach.

The style has several essential elements, including low silhouettes and horizontal orientation; hand-tooled finishes; use of native materials; avoidance of rigid, straight lines; adaptation of “frontier” methods of construction; and use of colors that blend with the natural surroundings. Each building was to be designed for its particular site and to blend with the landscape. A 1938 book by Albert H. Good, *Park Structures and Facilities*, provided plans, photos, and rationale for the style:

³⁰ Glacier Park Women's Club minutes from September 20, 1988. On file at the Glacier Park Women's Club, East Glacier Park, Montana.

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Successfully handled, [Rustic] is a style which, through the use of native materials in proper scale, and through the avoidance of rigid, straight lines, and over-sophistication, gives the feeling of having been executed by pioneer craftsmen with limited hand tools. It thus achieves sympathy with natural surroundings, and with the past.³¹

The 1933 Glacier Park Women's Club building is an excellent smaller-scale representative of the style, and complements the Rustic buildings and structures of nearby Glacier National Park. The design provides a low-slung silhouette, emphasized by bulky log walls and the pitched roof's wide overhanging eaves. Native materials, including heavy logs, peeled poles, and planed wood floors and interior walls, combine to soften the building's rectangular shape. Simple saddle notching and post and beam construction techniques hearken to the craftsmanship associated with 'frontier' architecture. Dark brown stain on the exterior and interior woodwork, as well as deep red and forest green trim and window frames further blend the building with its surroundings. It stands as the only CCC constructed building in the town. For these reasons, the Glacier Park Women's Club is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion C.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

The Civilian Conservation Corps

Part of the Franklin D. Roosevelt administration's New Deal, the Civilian Conservation Corps program served as a response to rampant unemployment during the Great Depression. The program directive was reducing unemployment among young males by putting them to work in National Parks and Forests preserving our nation's natural resources.³²

The CCC employed nearly 25,000 men in Montana between the years of 1933-1942. At the peak of enrollment, the program assigned 1,500 men to Glacier National Park. The first detail arrived at Belton in 1933 from the Missoula District of the 9th Corps. Encampments set up throughout the Park during the CCC's tenure, with the main camps located between Belton and Lake McDonald.³³

Clean up from a 1929 fire that burned parts of the Lake McDonald Valley occupied the corpsmen upon their arrival. They constructed a sawmill and used the salvaged lumber as fence posts and telephone poles that were in turn shipped out across the country by rail. Other projects included clearing a swath to mark the boundary between the Park and the Blackfeet Reservation,

³¹ Albert H Good, *Park Structures and Facilities*. (National Park Service, United States Department of Interior, 1935) 3-4.

³² Michael J. Ober, CCC experience in Glacier National Park. *Montana: the Magazine of Western History*. (1976) 30-39.

³³ *Ibid.*

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debris removal around Sherburne Dam, and installing a telephone line between East and West Glacier. CCC workers built miles of trails and roads, sewage and water systems, campsites, lecture circles, fire rings, benches, bridges, and buildings in Glacier National Park. They fought fire, treated blister rust, and removed weeds.³⁴

By 1939, the Corp's role in Glacier National Park drew to a close. The economy began to improve, and with the advent of World War II, enlistment in the CCC decreased while desertion rates rose. By 1942, Congress voted to disband the CCC. The infrastructure projects completed by corpsmen in Glacier National Park and the surrounding area, arguably would have taken decades longer to accomplish had they been manned and funded by the Park's comparably small workforce and tiny budget. These projects have had a lasting economic impact on the Park and its surrounding communities.³⁵

³⁴ Ibid; Glacier Lookout Camp Newsletter (February 4, 1938). Camp GNP.15.

³⁵ Ober 30-39.

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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: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

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10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 48.44271

Longitude: -113.21783

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

DAWSON TOWNSITE ADD AMEND, S18, T31 N, R12 W, BLOCK 003, Lot 001

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary is drawn to include the parcel of land historically associated with the Glacier Park Women's Club.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Becky Carpenter and Joann Flick

organization: Glacier Park Women's Club

street & number: P.O. Box 306

city or town: East Glacier Park state: MT zip code: 59434-0306

e-mail _____

telephone: _____

date: March 10, 2019

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name East Glacier Women's Club

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town East Glacier Park state MT zip code _____

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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property:

City or Vicinity:

County:

State:

Photographer:

Date Photographed:

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

1 of ____.

See Below

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.

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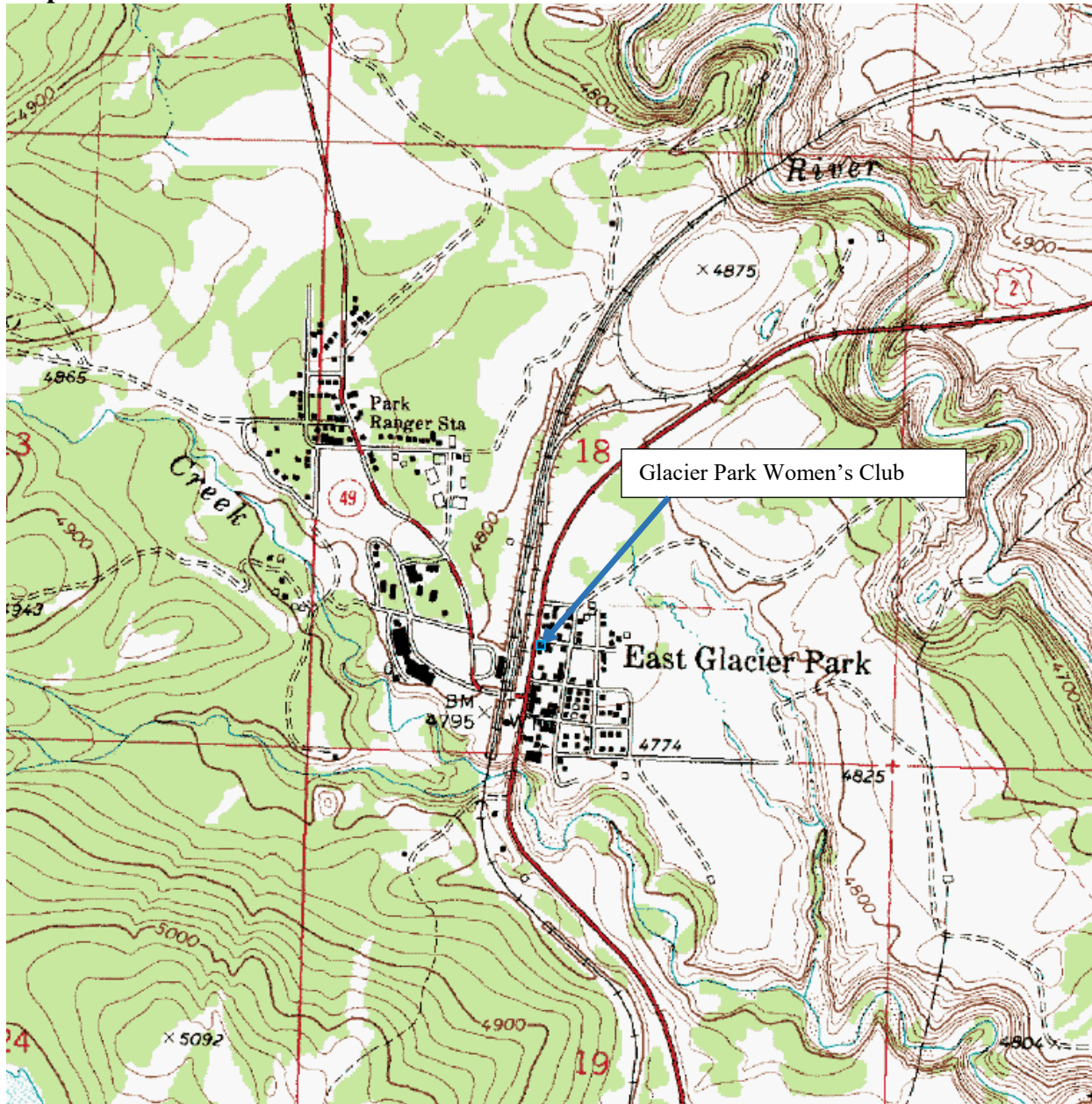
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Maps



Glacier Park Women's Club. Found on the East Glacier Park, MT (1968) 7.5' quadrangle map.

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Historic Photographs and Images



Blackfeet camped on the edge of a lake; tipis, people, and horses in foreground, St. Mary Lake and mountains in background. Photo: James Schultz, from a collection in the Montana State University Libraries

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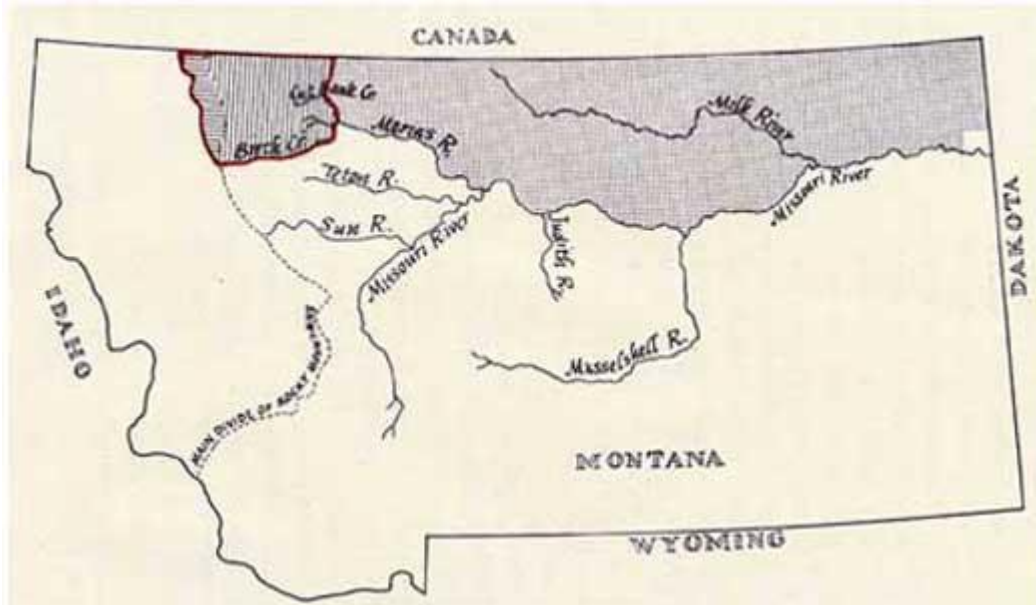
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Map adapted from: Ewers, 1958

Act of Congress
May 1, 1887

Ratifies and confirms agreement with said Indians by which they cede to U.S. all lands in the Gros Ventre, Piegan, Blood, Blackfoot, and river Crow reservation not reserved and set apart as separate reservations, as hereinafter specified.

For these Indians the lands bounded as follows: Beginning at a point in the middle of the main channel of the Marias river opposite the mouth of Cut Bank creek; thence up Cut Bank creek, in the middle of the main channel thereof, 20 miles following the meandering of the creek; thence due N. to the northern boundary of Montana; thence W. along said boundary to the summit of the main chain of the Rocky mountains; thence in a southerly direction along the summit of said mountains to a point due W. from the source of the N. fork of Birch creek [this is interpreted to mean the fork known as Blacktail creek. C.T.]; thence due E. to the source of said creek; thence down Birch creek, in the middle of the main channel thereof, to the Marias river; thence down the Marias river, in the middle of the main channel thereof, to the place of the beginning.

<http://www.trailtribes.org/greatfalls/shrinking-reservation.htm>

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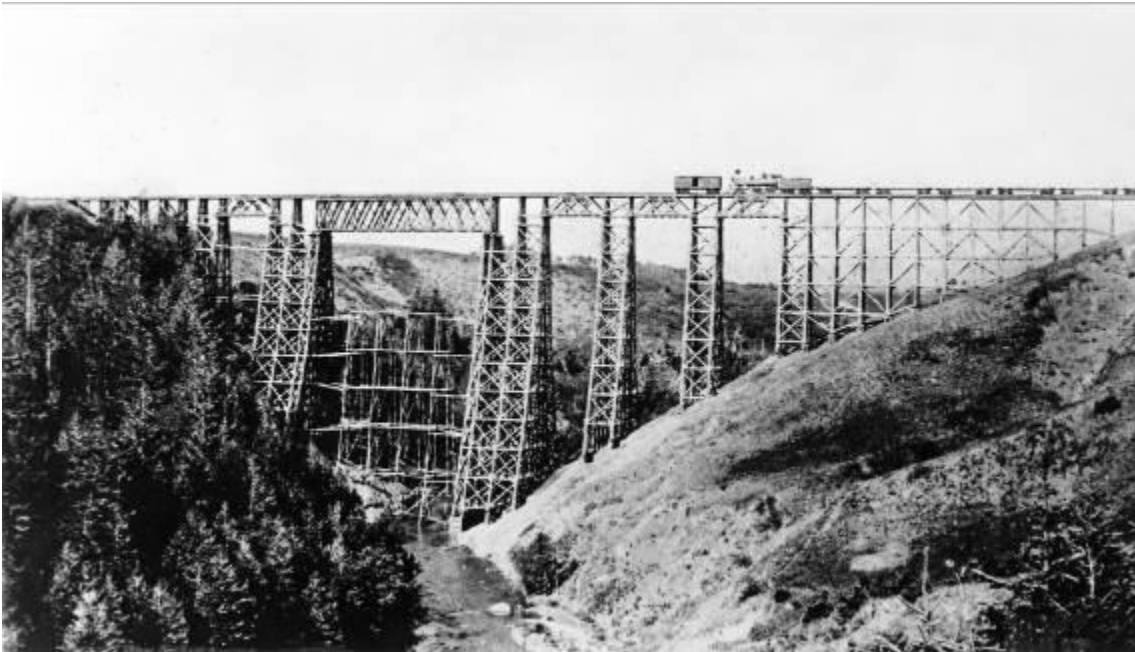
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

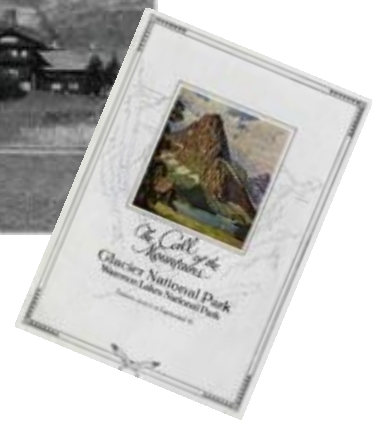
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Trestle crossing Two Medicine River east of East Glacier. Montana Historical Society Photo.



Glacier Park Hotel, photo by T.J. Hileman. Photo and image: *The Call of the Mountains* – promotional brochure ca. 1930. Montana Historical Society

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**GENERAL FEDERATION
of WOMEN'S CLUBS**

Official logo of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, featuring the motto: "Unity in Diversity." Logo, GFWC
Website: www.gfwc.org.



In September 2010, renowned Blackfoot singer/songwriter Jack Gladstone chose the Glacier Park Women's Club as the site to launch his album "Anthropology." (Photo: Jack Gladstone, by Joann Flick).

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All Photographs:

Name of Property: Glacier Park Women's Club

City or Vicinity: East Glacier

County: Glacier

State: MT

Photographer: Kate Hampton

Date Photographed: April 2017



Description of Photograph(s) and number: West (front) elevation.
MT_GlacierCounty_GlacierParkWomen'sClub_0001 of 0011.

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Description of Photograph(s) and number: North (side) elevation.
MT_GlacierCounty_GlacierParkWomen'sClub_0002 of 0011.

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Description of Photograph(s) and number: South (side) elevation.
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Description of Photograph(s) and number: West (rear) elevation.
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Description of Photograph(s) and number: Detail of west (front) elevation porch.
MT_GlacierCounty_GlacierParkWomen'sClub_0005 of 0011.

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Description of Photograph(s) and number: detail of saddle notching at southwest corner.
MT_GlacierCounty_GlacierParkWomen'sClub_0006 of 0011.

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Description of Photograph(s) and number: South (side) elevation. View from southeast corner.
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Description of Photograph(s) and number: Interior view to west.
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Description of Photograph(s) and number: Interior view to east.
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Description of Photograph(s) and number: Interior view of library area, view to south.
MT_GlacierCounty_GlacierParkWomen'sClub_0010 of 0011.

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Description of Photograph(s) and number: Interior view of kitchen area, view to southeast.
MT_GlacierCounty_GlacierParkWomen'sClub_0011 of 0011.