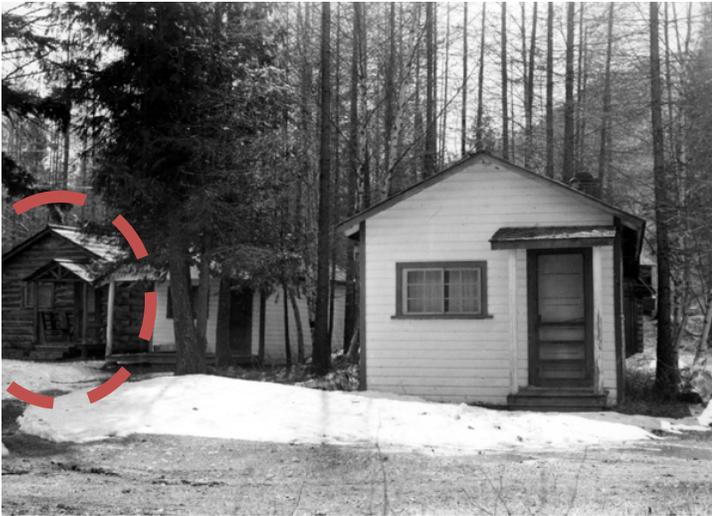


History of the Discovery Cabin

The Discovery Cabin was built in 1929 as part of the Greenwalt Hotel Complex. In 1924, in-holders, David and Bernice Greenwalt, began the construction and operation of a service station/cabin camp in Apgar.

The Greenwalts constructed their buildings over a period of thirty years. The Apgar Interpretive Ranger Office was originally built by the Greenwalts as a motel in 1954 to replace a 1930s motel destroyed by fire. In 1956, the Greenwalt complex consisted of a frame residence, the modern motel, 10 frame cabins, 2 log cabins (one of which is this cabin), a central restroom, and “nondescript...sheds and garages.”



The National Park Service purchased the Greenwalts' land and facilities March 1, 1956 and used the buildings to house seasonal employees. In the summer of 1993, the NPS converted the motel to administrative offices. The Discovery Cabin was built as a three-room log cabin with a built-on frame-and-plywood back porch. The roof, a low front gable roof covered with asphalt roofing material, was originally covered with shakes. The cabin is of common butt-log construction, rather than being distinguished by one of the various notched-log methods of construction. Interior surfaces were originally wood, then covered with linoleum, and most recently covered with carpeting except for the kitchen and back porch. The interior walls are rough-cut lumber or log. The wood frame windows and exterior doors appear to be original.

The cabin was converted from seasonal housing for the boat crews to the Discovery Cabin. The associated cabins from the Greenwalt Complex have been removed and this building was submitted for designation in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in but was found to possess “insufficient integrity of setting or of association” for listing in the NRHP.

Glacier National Park has many treasures such as this cabin that remind us of the people who have come over the years to enjoy this place. Other buildings in the Apgar area are the backcountry office cabin, the Old School House Gift Shop, and the camp tender's cabin in the Apgar Campground.