National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Isle Royale National Park
Michigan

Crystal Cove Megeath Compound

Cultural Landscapes Inventory
2013



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MWRO, Cultural Landscapes Program, 2013

Cover Image: Seth DePasqual/NPS 2009

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

CLI General Information

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) is a database containing information on the historically significant landscapes within the National Park System. This evaluated inventory identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, condition, landscape characteristics as character-defining features, as well as other valuable information useful to park management. Cultural landscapes become approved inventory records when all required data fields are entered, the park superintendent concurs with the information, and the landscape is determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places through a consultation process or is otherwise managed as a cultural resource through a public planning process.

The CLI, like the List of Classified Structures (LCS), assists the National Park Service (NPS) in its efforts to fulfill the identification and management requirements associated with Section 110(a) of the National Historic Preservation Act, National Park Service Management Policies (2001), and Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management. Since launching the CLI nationwide, the NPS, in response to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), is required to report information that responds to NPS strategic plan accomplishments. Two goals are associated with the CLI: 1) increasing the number of certified cultural landscapes (1b2B) servicewide; and 2) bringing certified cultural landscapes into good condition (1a7). The CLI is maintained by the Park Historic Structures and Cultural Landscapes Program, WASO, and is the official source of cultural landscape information servicewide.

Implementation of the CLI is coordinated and approved at the regional level. Each region annually updates a strategic plan that prioritizes work based on a variety of park and regional needs that include planning and construction projects or associated compliance requirements that lack cultural landscape documentation. When the inventory unit record is complete and concurrence with the findings is obtained from the superintendent and the State Historic Preservation Office, the regional CLI coordinator certifies the record and transmits it to the national CLI Coordinator for approval. Only records approved by the national CLI coordinator are included in the CLI for official reporting purposes.

Relationship between the CLI and a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR)

The CLI and the CLR are related efforts in the sense that both document the history, significance, and integrity of park cultural landscapes. However, the scope of the CLI is limited by the need to achieve concurrence with the park superintendent, and resolve eligibility questions when a National Register nomination does not exist, or when an existing nomination inadequately addresses the eligibility of landscape characteristics. Ideally, a park's CLI work (which many include multiple inventory units) precedes a CLR because the baseline information in the CLI not only assists with priority setting when more than one CLR is needed it also assists with determining more accurate scopes of work for the CLR effort.

The CLR is the primary treatment document for significant park landscapes. It therefore requires a more in depth level of research and documentation, both to evaluate the historic and the existing condition of the landscape and to recommend a preservation treatment strategy that meets the Secretary of Interior's Standards for the treatment of historic properties.

The scope of work for a CLR, when the CLI has not been done, should include production of the CLI record. Depending on its age and scope, existing CLR's are considered the primary source for the history, statement of significance, and descriptions of contributing resources that are necessary to complete a CLI record.

Chapter 1: Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan

Inventory Unit Description

The Crystal Cove Megeath Compound is located at Isle Royale National Park in Keweenaw County, Michigan. It is situated on the northeast tip of Amygdaloid Island, which is near the northeast end of the Isle Royale archipelago. It is named for the small cove that provides a shelter from the open waters of Lake Superior. The 8.4 acre cultural landscape includes a small complex of buildings and pathways, bounded by the Lake Superior shoreline and the island interior. The site is accessible by boat.

The extant structures generally date to the early 1920s when George Winston Megeath spent an estimated $40,000 to create a private resort to entertain family and friends (HSR 1999). The complex consists of the original Megeath residence, the main lodge, two guest cabins, a storage shed, a generator house, and system of boardwalks, all of which were constructed under Megeath's ownership. Additionally, the landscape features a smokehouse, net drying reels, and NPS rehabilitated docks along the shoreline. These buildings were constructed later in the 1950s when the Crystal Cove complex was occupied by a commercial fishing outfit. The original spatial arrangement remains intact, although pathways between some buildings have been overgrown by vegetation.

The period of significance spans the compound's time as a private resort from 1920, when Megeath began construction, to 1939, when John Nixon (who purchased the property from Megeath) sold the land to the National Park Service (NPS) in 1939. Similar private resorts and summer residences were common on Isle Royale during the early 20th century. For families such as the Megeaths, private island enclaves were a way to escape the congested cities as well as the symptoms associated with hay fever. Although the Crystal Cove complex possessed rustic exterior qualities, the interiors were regarded as fanciful, revealing the family's wealth and stature.

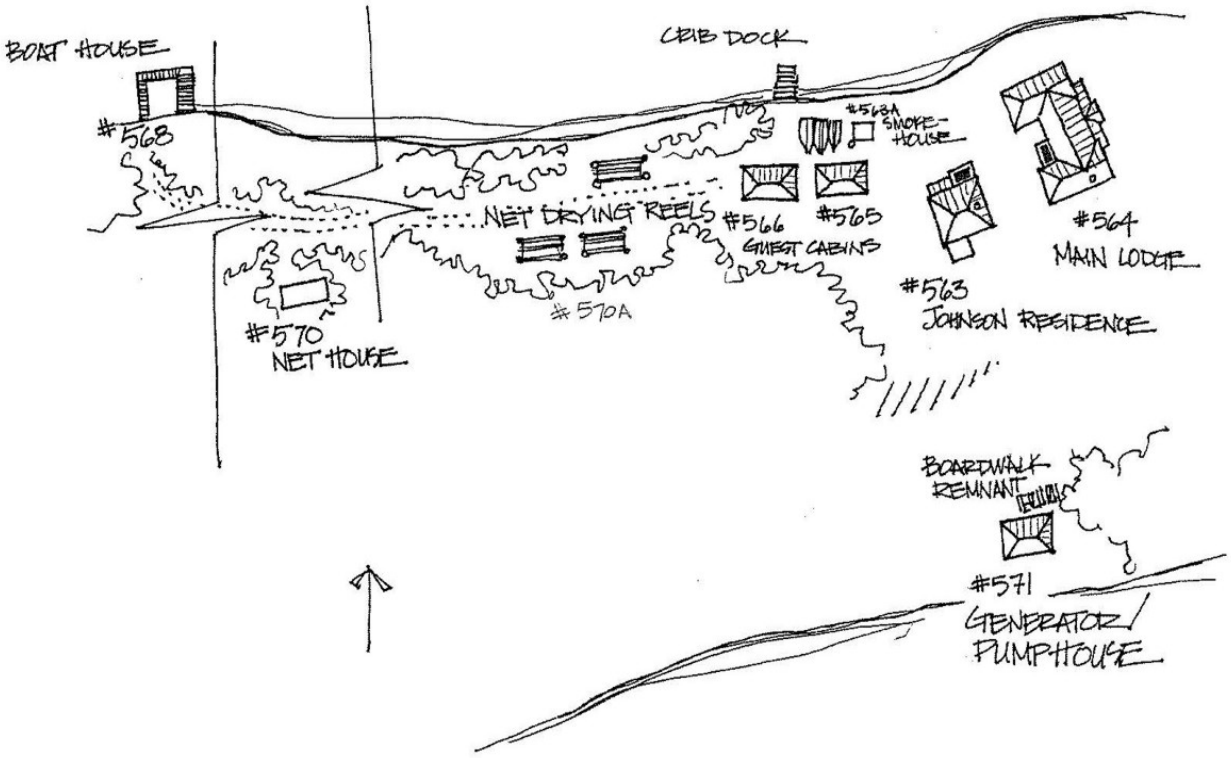
Although the Crystal Cove landscape has not been altered significantly, it has deteriorated extensively due to weather and abandonment by the property's most recent special use permit holder. The property has been essentially vacant since the 1980s. Although the NPS is currently stabilizing the Main Lodge, other structures continue to decline, and a great deal of effort and expense is required to reverse the effects of time and the elements. Separately, overgrown vegetation obscures historic circulation patterns and use areas, and encroaches on most of the structures.

The Megeath Compound was determined eligible for the National Register by the Michigan SHPO on 8/3/1999, with all historic structures identified as contributing.

A Note on the Name:

From the time the park acquired the Crystal Cove property, there has been confusion over the proper spelling of the Megeath family name. This may primarily be attributed to the lack of readily available historic documentation. Two variations most popularly used have been "McGath" and "McGrath." The McGath spelling became somewhat institutionalized following the 1999 historic context study by Kathryn Franks and Arnold Alanen. A brief historic overview of "George W. McGath" relied on the 1995 publication "Isle Royale: A Photographic History," by Thomas and Kendra Gale, as the only documented information source. So, it may be that the Gale & Gale book was the first to popularize the "McGath" variation. The 1999 historic context study resulted in a determination of eligibility (DOE) for the property that same year. Interestingly, the DOE letter from the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) used the nomenclature "McGrath Compound," inserting an r. Philip Scarpino's unpublished 2010 historic context study, perhaps following suite with the SHPO letter, opted for the "McGrath" spelling. A third variation on the name is "Megrath," which is stamped onto the storage shed at Crystal Cove. All three of these variants, however, are incorrect.

Research completed in support of the CLI has conclusively identified the correct family name as Megeath. Because the property owner was identified as "a principle of the Sheridan Coal Company" who lived in Omaha, Nebraska (Franks 1999, 151), discovering the correct name proved a relatively straightforward process. George Winston Megeath was a prominent businessman of his time who has been sufficiently documented to confirm his identity. A 1915 book titled "Coal Men of America: A Biographical and Historical Review of the World's Greatest Industry" includes a professional overview of "G. W. Megeath," noting he lives in Omaha, Nebraska, is president of the Sheridan Coal Company, and "is prominent in the trade and well known" (Hull 1918, 199). This is further correlated by multiple City of Omaha directories, such as the 1925 edition, which includes the following listing under Megeath: "Geo W chairman of the board Sheridan Coal Co." Numerous incidental mentions in contemporary trade publications, steamboat passenger lists, and evidence of his passport all confirm the name to be Megeath. Thus, the CLI identifies Megeath as the correct name to be used in association with the compound, the family, and the historic individual.



Site Plan of Crystal Cove (Sanford 1995).



Crystal Cove cultural landscape site plan (Google Earth imagery 2013).

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name:	Crystal Cove Megeath Compound
Property Level:	Landscape
CLI Identification Number:	500469
Parent Landscape:	500469

Park Information

Park Name and Alpha Code:	Isle Royale National Park - ISRO
Park Organization Code:	6310
Park Administrative Unit:	Isle Royale National Park

CLI Hierarchy Description

The landscapes, component landscapes, and features of Isle Royale National Park have been categorized by theme: resorts, mining, maritime, and fishing. Crystal Cove is a private resort consisting of landscape features which include circulation patterns, buildings, views, and cluster arrangements.

Chapter 2: Concurrence Status

Inventory Status:

Complete

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative

Initial research was conducted by seasonals Kathleen Fitzgerald and Richard Radford during FY1999. Cultural Landscapes Program Leader Sherda Williams and Historical Landscape Architect Marla McEnaney reviewed the information presented.

MWRO Landscape Historian Dan Jackson and Landscape Architect Gail Gladstone conducted a site visit with ISRO Cultural Resource Manager Seth DePasqual in August 2010. In 2011, NCPE intern Danielle Meiners conducted preliminary research and data entry. Jackson completed the draft document in 2012. Following review, the park provided concurrence on 4/29/2013. The Michigan SHPO then reviewed the CLI document and concurred on 7/16/2013.

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence:	Yes - 4/29/2013
National Register Concurrence:	Eligible - SHPO Consensus Determination - 7/16/2013

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Candice S. Miller, Secretary of State

Lansing, Michigan 48918-0001

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
Michigan Historical Center
717 West Allegan Street
Lansing, Michigan 48918-1800

August 3, 1999

DOUGLAS A BARNARD
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
ISLE ROYALE NATIONAL PARK
800 E LAKESHORE DRIVE
HOUGHTON MI 49931-1869

RE: ER-2191 Historic Structures at Isle Royale National Park: Historic Contexts and Associated Property Types, Isle Royale National Park, Keweenaw County (NPS)

Dear Mr. Barnard:

We have reviewed the Isle Royale National Park historic structures report dated January 1999 and have the following comments concerning the national register eligibility of the properties presented in the report:

National Register Listed:

Minong Mine	Already listed in NR as archaeological site.
Edisen Fishery	Already NR listed.

National Register Eligible:

Island Mine	We think that the entire mine site, not just the powder house ruins, forms the eligible historic property.
Rude Fishery/Fisherman's Home	Entire complex appears NR-eligible with all buildings contributing.
Sivertson/Ekmark/Singer Property	Entire complex appears NR-eligible with all buildings contributing.
Mattson Fishery	Entire complex appears NR-eligible with al buildings, structures, and other identified resources contributing.
Farmer Camp	Entire camp appears NR-eligible with all buildings contributing.
Davidson House	House appears NR-eligible.
Barnum Colony	Entire colony appears NR-eligible; district includes entire island.
McGrath Compound	Entire compound appears NR-eligible, with all buildings and structures contributing.
McPherren Compound	Entire compound appears NR-eligible, with all buildings and structures contributing except the renovated dock.

Does Not Meet NR Criteria

Cemetery Island Cemetery	Does not appear to meet NR criteria.
Holte, Anderson, and Bangsund Fisheries	Given the deteriorated condition of parts of these complexes and the fact that several far more intact fishery

HS 211

Michigan SHPO DOE, August 3, 1999 (1 of 2).

	complexes have survived, we do not find any of these complexes NR eligible; nor do we believe any of the buildings and structures appear individually eligible.
Andrew/Scotland Camp	We concur that the complex does not appear NR-eligible, but do not concur that the two log buildings appear eligible. They are two of numerous log buildings in the park, and larger and better preserved complexes have survived at the McGrath Compound and McPherren Compound.
Belle Isle Resort and Minong Island Lodge	What is left in both cases are merely small remnants of once much larger complexes. Neither appears to meet NR criteria.
Ralph House	Does not appear NR eligible.
Warren Camp/Rock Harbor Ranger Station	Does not appear NR eligible.
Windigo	We do not believe Buildings 123 and 125 appear NR eligible on their own. We do not believe any part of the complex appears NR-eligible.

More Information:

Rock Harbor Lodge: It is impossible to review the eligibility of the entire complex or portions of it without a site plan and photos of the remainder of the buildings. We request both plus some general views of the entire complex.

Daisy Farm Root Cellar: We find no photographs of the root cellar which to review.

NPS Headquarters, Mott Island: The map reproduced in the report is unreadable, and we request a clearer copy. As with the Rock Harbor Lodge complex, we request general views and photos of the newer buildings to help us in evaluating the complex's overall historic significance.

Rock Harbor District: The report names a district here but does not provide a clear recommendation as to whether a NR-eligible district is present and which properties it includes. There is no map of the district showing the boundaries or properties included or general views, all of which we would need to offer comments on such a district.

Tobin Harbor District: The report suggests that the camps and other properties around the harbor form a historic district eligible for the NR, but the report contains no treatment of this area as a whole, and there is no map or any general views of the proposed district. This makes evaluating the potential for such a district impossible. However, if there is such a district, the following properties with all their buildings and structures would appear to contribute to the area's historic significance:
Stack/Wolbrink Camp, Snell Camp, Siefert Camp, Connolly Camp, Kemmer Camp, Beard Camp, Edwards Camp, Gale Camp, Merritt Camp, How Camp, Dassler Camp, and Savage Camp. The Holger Johnson Resort and Trading Post is described as part of this district. We find no photographs of this property, and request them for our review.

Sivertson/Ekmark/Singer Property: The report provides little information about what survives of this complex upon which we can make an evaluation.

If you have any questions, please contact Martha MacFarlane, Environmental Review Coordinator, at (517) 335-2721. Thank you for this opportunity to review and comment.

Sincerely,

Brian D. Conway
State Historic Preservation Officer

BDC:ROC:krj

Michigan SHPO DOE, August 3, 1999 (2 of 2).

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL: NO HARD COPY TO FOLLOW

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
ISLE ROYALE NATIONAL PARK
800 East Lakeshore Drive
Houghton, MI, 49931-1895

H3023 (MWR/CR-HAL)

April 29, 2013

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Midwest Region

From: Superintendent, Isle Royale

Subject: Crystal Cove Megeath Compound Cultural Landscape Inventory

We have reviewed the Crystal Cove Megeath Compound Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) and concur with the general findings of this document. We also concur with the evaluated condition "Fair" and the management category "May be Preserved and Maintained." We feel that the appropriate Integrated Management Resources Applications (IRMA) category for these documents is "reference viewable to public." We understand that the information in the CLI database can be amended by contacting the CLI coordinator and requesting an update.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Nossini
for

Phyllis Green
Superintendent

Park Concurrence, 4/29/2013

STATE OF MICHIGAN
MICHIGAN STATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

SCOTT WOOSLEY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

July 16, 2013

DAN JACKSON
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
MIDWEST REGION
601 RIVERFRONT DRIVE
OMAHA NE 68102-4226

RE: ER-2191 Isle Royale National Park - Crystal Cove Megeath Compound Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI), Isle Royale, Keweenaw County (NPS)

Dear Mr. Jackson:

Under the authority of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended, we have reviewed the report entitled Crystal Cove Megeath Compound, and we have the following comments:

The State Archaeological Site File lists one previously reported archaeological site (20IR146) within the Crystal Cove Megeath Compound. This site was reported in Caven Clark's 1988 Preliminary Report of Archaeological Investigations at Isle Royale National Park (Midwest Archaeological Center for the NPS). Little is known about the site other than that the Crystal Cove fishery reportedly operated at this location during the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Additionally, Caven reportedly located one prehistoric artifact, a chert flake, during his investigation at the site. More information is needed to assess the integrity and significance of this historic archaeological site, and to determine the nature and extent of any prehistoric components.

The CLI mentions features of the Crystal Cove Megeath Compound now in ruins or disappeared. These include the surface and subsurface remains of razed buildings and structures, shaft features such as privies, and artifact scatters. Based on this report, the entirety of the Crystal Cove Megeath Compound has been assigned state archaeological site number 20IR238. These archaeological remains have not been delineated, inventoried, or their significance assessed.

We concur with the findings of the report regarding above-ground resources.

If you have any questions, please contact Brian Grennell, Cultural Resource Management Specialist, at (517) 335-2721 or by email at GrennellB@michigan.gov. **Please reference our project number in all communication with this office regarding this undertaking.** Thank you for this opportunity to review and comment, and for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Brian G. Grennell
Cultural Resource Management Specialist

for Brian D. Conway
State Historic Preservation Officer

SAT:ROC:bgg

Equal Housing Lender

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
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www.michigan.gov/shpo (517) 373-1630 FAX (517) 335 0348

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SHPO Concurrence, 7/16/2013

Chapter 3: Geographic Information & Location Map

State & County:

State: Michigan

County: Keweenaw County

Size (Acres):

8.40

Boundary Description:

The proposed cultural landscape boundary encompasses the entirety of the Megeath Compound. It includes the northeastern portion of the cove, which contains submerged associated features. It extends into the cove's northern shoreline to include the fuel shed ruin and to account for other historic features that may yet be extant.

Beginning at a point at north shore of Crystal Cove one meter west of the Megeath Fuel Shed, proceed at a northwest heading of 337º for 17 meters. Then proceed at a northeast heading of 68º for 235 meters. Then proceed at a southeast heading of 156º for 157 meters. Then proceed at a southwest heading of 250º for 237 meters. Then proceed northwest at a heading of 337º for 132 meters to point of beginning.

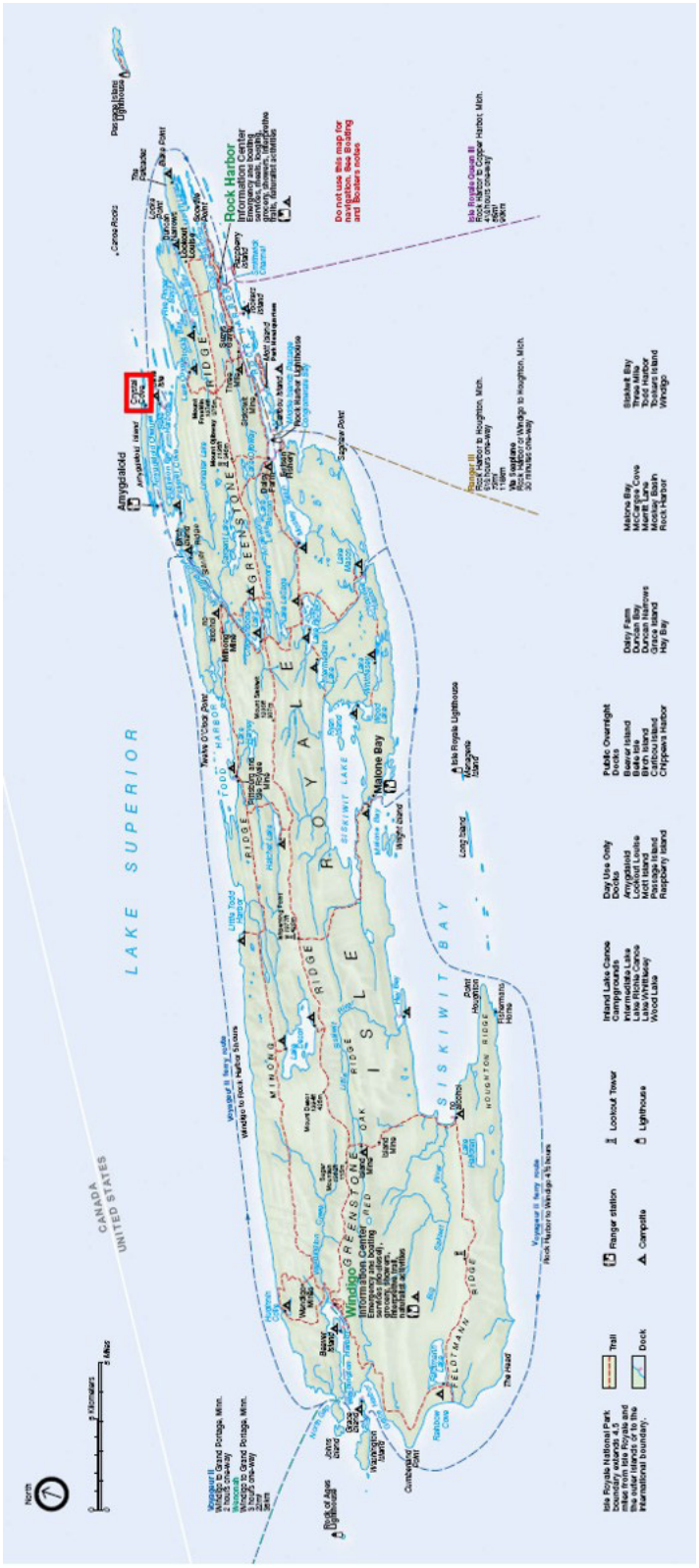
Boundary UTMs

Source: Google Earth

Point Type: Area

Datum: NAD 83

1.	**Zone: 16**	**Easting: 381,558**	**Northing: 5,335,180**
2.	**Zone: 16**	**Easting: 381,176**	**Northing: 5,335,261**
3.	**Zone: 16**	**Easting: 381,837**	**Northing: 5,335,116**
4.	**Zone: 16**	**Easting: 381,661**	**Northing: 5,335,039**



Isle Royale National Park Map. Crystal Cove is located within the red box.

Regional Context: Cultural

The island of Isle Royale traces its first visitors to prehistoric peoples who utilized the island's vast resources. Later, Native Americans traveled to the island seasonally to gather berries, hunt, fish, and mine copper in the abundant deposits (Franks 1999, v). The island was abundant with wildlife, plants, and minerals, making it an ideal resource in a small physical area. Although bearing plentiful resources, it has historically been a difficult place to inhabit due to its isolation in Lake Superior and harsh weather conditions.

During European exploration in the 17th century, French fur traders found the island profitable due to its rich wildlife population. Animals such as beaver, muskrat, otter, mink, hare, coyote, fox, and lynx attracted the trappers to return the island again and again (Franks 1999, v). This continued until the 19th century in which fur trading companies set up a new commercial operation: fishing. Fishing proved to be initially successful on the island, however, exploitation of the resources and concurrent economic crises elsewhere in the country in the early twentieth century ended this commercial venture as the primary extensive operation, yet small groups of fishermen remained.

Another commercial venture that lasted for most of the nineteenth century involved the copper deposits on the island. Three separate phases of extraction occurred: 1843-1855, 1873-1881, and 1889-1893. The first saw the emergence of companies such as the Smithwick, the Ohio and Isle Royale, the Pittsburgh and Isle Royale, and the Siskowit Mining Company. These groups were for the most part speculators who constructed shafts, but also established at least two stampmills and one smelter for the proper production of copper. Due to the low production of the mines, the companies could not cover their expenses. This, coupled with a number of other factors, caused the first phase to end a decade before the Civil War. The second boom emerged to support a demand for copper in a post Civil War industrial boom. New technologies renewed interests temporarily, but again, these ventures failed to last. The last phase occurred in the decade before the 19th century in which a large British firm funded an exploratory effort comprised of prospect trenching and diamond drilling. However, they failed to locate a significant copper source or produce a single ounce of copper. This resulted in the company selling its land for the creation of tourist homes and resorts (Little 1978, 14). This ended the last mining phase on the island.

Tourism on Isle Royale took root by the late nineteenth century. Rustic summer lodges and tourist homes were established on the north, west, and east sides of the island. Isle Royale was an ideal place to escape hay fever, and eventually the island became a destination for travelers seeking adventure and relaxation. For those with greater wealth, summer estates and properties were established, creating small personal complexes that brought cultured living into the secluded island wilderness. Transportation was provided by large passenger ships that provided entertainment during the journey. The resort destination tourism industry thrived well into the 1930s "when the idea for an Isle Royale National Park was initiated" (Franks 1999, vi).

The booming success of the 1920s and 1930s resort era gradually subsided. Some commercial fishermen and some summer residents who enjoyed their isolated vacation homes sold their property outright to the government in order to protect the island from future commercial development. Some owners sold their property outright, while others were more reluctant. In return, life leases and special use permits were granted to allow them to stay. Isle Royale National Park was formally established in 1931. This allowed the federal government to begin acquiring lands from island property owners. National Park Service administration began in 1935 and the last of the land purchases were finalized in 1940. Following the close of World War II, Isle Royale National Park was officially dedicated in 1946.

The 1950s brought administrative changes to the park that increased the appeal to visit the Isle Royale National Park, along with other national parks. The "Mission 66" program introduced new ways to combine recreation and wilderness, and Isle Royale's natural rugged quality became a perfect embodiment of that ideal. The program united all national parks under a similar theme of construction through the 'Park Ser-

-vice Modern' style. Isle Royale's popularity increased on the heels of the Mission 66 program. A new era of tourism turned toward wilderness, where emphasis was on natural settings as opposed to the resort conveniences enjoyed during the early 20th century.

In 1976, 99% of Isle Royale was designated as Wilderness, and is managed as such. The remainder of the archipelago consists of potential Wilderness and non Wilderness areas that include park facilities, visitor services, and other non compatible uses such as life leases. The park is open from May to September and closed during the winter season.

Regional Context: Pysiographic

The following is adapted from "Historic Structures at Isle Royale National Park: Historic Contexts and Associated Property Types (Franks 1999).

Isle Royale is an archipelago composed to more than 200 islands in northwestern Lake Superior, 14 miles from the Canadian border of Ontario and 18 miles from the American mainland of Grand Portage, Minnesota. The main island of Isle Royale is 45 miles long and nine miles wide at its widest point. There are 83 lakes in its interior, along with a number of small ponds. It has an area totaling 210 square miles, and has approximately 200 smaller islands scattered about the periphery of the island. Isle Royale's topography is characterized by ridge and swale contours that are oriented southwest northeast, along the lines of uplifted geological features. The highest elevation on the island is Mt. Desor, which stands 794 feet above Lake Superior and 1,394 feet above sea level.

The geology of Isle Royale is dominated by Keweenawan volcanics. Imbedded sediments are exposed in the unwarping of the deposits that tilt towards the southeast, and mirror the formations in the Keweenaw Peninsula. The southwestern end of the island is comprised of sedimentary deposits that also have corresponding features on the south shore of Lake Superior as sandstones and conglomerates. The entire island is a series of parallel ridges and valleys that give it a washboard effect from the air (Huber 1983, 5).

Fissure deposits of copper on the island were located in transverse faults (those which cut across the beds), and copper on the island also occurred in lodes in sedimentary deposits. Most of the copper obtained by both prehistoric and historic miners was extracted from these fissures.

Soils throughout Isle Royale are very thin and poorly developed, although they are somewhat more developed on the southwestern end. There are two major upland forest types on Isle Royale: the southern boreal forest, dominated by spruce, fir, and birch, and a temperate deciduous community of sugar maple, yellow birch, and red oak. In the lowland areas of the island, communities of cedar and spruce can be found.

The climate of Isle Royale is very similar to the general Upper Great Lakes region. Daily lows in winter are often six degrees Fahrenheit warmer than mainland temperatures, and summer temperatures are much lower than those on the mainland.

Regional Context: Political

Isle Royale has been accessed and utilized by many different groups spanning thousands of years. Native American cultures were the first to take advantage of the island and its resources. Beginning with the late Archaic (approximately 4,500 ybp), early prehistoric cultures fished, hunted and mined for copper seasonally through the Terminal Woodland period. Eventually the island was ceded by regional tribal groups under the Treaty of 1843. Native use of the island significantly decreased after the treaty was passed; however, fishing and hunting did still occur through the second half of the 19th century.

Euroamericans likely visited the island as early as the 17th century when fur trapping and trading were prominent endeavors. More significant use occurred in the 19th century, when fishing and mining interests were relatively active. The American Fur Company established fisheries on the island as early as 1837, which operated until the early 1840's. Private fisheries sprung up island wide and continued to operate through Park establishment until a lamprey invasion decimated the trout population in the 1950s.

Following the Treaty of 1843, American copper mining interests sprung up throughout the island. Focus was given first to fissure deposits, which were located primarily around the shorelines. Related mining efforts were largely speculative, usually failing after a year or two of exploration and limited development. Production at this time was fairly minimal. Eventually this practice gave way to more systematic endeavors, where attention was turned to lode deposits such as those found at the Island and Minong mine locations. Although production levels were significantly higher, the Island's copper resource was not abundant enough to justify continued operations. After a final exploration effort in the early 1890s, copper mining on Isle Royale came to a close with very little to show for the fifty years of effort and expense.

The tourism movement in the early 20th century brought summer travelers to the island, as it was a popular destination to seek relief from illnesses such as hay fever. Some fishermen on the island converted their complexes (such as Johns Hotel) to house residents, or built a separate lodge while continuing to operate a fishery (Minong Lodge and Mattson Fishery), transforming the landscape into public and private resorts dotting the many coastlines of the island. Before long, resort lodges expanded from small, rustic complexes to ones featuring finer accoutrements. Collectively, the Singer, Belle Island and Rock Harbor lodges offered recreational activities such as bowling, golf and tennis. Those with greater means constructed private retreats for themselves and acquaintances. The Barnum Island and Crystal Cove complexes are good examples of this rare practice. Increased transportation opportunities permitted relatively convenient travel to the island. The summer months of the 1920s and 1930s saw visitation numbers grow as the tourism industry expanded.

In the late 1920s, actions were taken to begin transforming the island into a national park, in order to protect the island's vast resources and scenic beauty. Isle Royale National Park was authorized in 1931 and as acquisition of land began, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) provided men with jobs to facilitate the transition of the island into a functioning national park. The CCC played an integral role in establishing trails and park facilities on the island and it provided many jobs during the Great Depression (Franks 1999, vi). By 1940, the National Park Service acquired all of the deeds on the island and the Isle Royale National Park was officially dedicated in 1946.

Following two decades of facility and infrastructure development, the Park incorporated the Mission 66 program ideal to "modernize, enlarge, and even reinvent the park system by 1966" at its fiftieth anniversary (Carr 2007, 3). This included extensive construction projects that could accommodate the post war boom of visitors. On Isle Royale, new administrative and lodging structures appeared in Rock Harbor off of the cove of Snug Harbor, along with Mott Island. Through Mission 66, the National Park Service standardized and unified its operations through encouraging public access and creating interpretive exhibits that facilitated the visitor's experience. The creation of the Visitor's Center became an integral piece of Mission 66 philosophy as a central component to all national parks. Moreover, the architecture of the Mission 66 building types that utilized similar materials, more modern designs, while attempting to blend in with the natural scenery also unified the national park system.

Today, Isle Royale is under the management of the National Park Service which operates seasonally in order to protect the island's resources and wildlife. Ninety nine percent of the island is designated as a wilderness, yet there are still some residents of the island who retain Life Leases and Special Use Permits, but the number has dwindled to few since the Park acquired the island.

Tract Number: 06-105

Chapter 4: Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: May be Preserved or Maintained

Management Category Date: 4/29/2013

Management Category Explanatory Narrative

Crystal Cove meets National Register criteria and has been determined eligible by the Michigan SHPO. However, because it is located in a designated wilderness, is a relatively remotely-located site that must compete with other park resources for maintenance funding, and the park's Cultural Resource Management Plan remains a work in progress, it is currently managed under Category C: May be Preserved or Maintained.

NPS Legal Interest:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Description:

Initially, the buildings on nearby Captain Kidd Island served the employees of George Megeath who worked at his residence on Amygdaloid Island at Crystal Cove. Wayne McPherren gained ownership of the area from his friend John Nixon (who purchased Crystal Cove) and his family began traveling to the island in 1934.



Satellite imagery shows the spatial relationship of Crystal Cove and Captain Kidd (Google Earth 7/25/2010).

FMSS Location Numbers

50738, 50740, 50741, 50742, 50745, 50743, 50739

Chapter 5: National Register Information

Existing National Register Status

National Register Landscape Documentation:

Undocumented

National Register Explanatory Narrative:

Based on the evaluation provided by 1999 historic context study by Kathryn Franks and Arnold Alanen, the Megeath Compound was determined eligible for the National Register by the Michigan SHPO on 8/3/1999, with all historic structures identified as contributing.

National Register Eligibility

National Register Concurrence:	Eligible - SHPO Consensus Determination
Contributing/Individual:	Individual
National Register Classification:	District
Significance Level:	Local
Significance Criteria:	A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history. C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values.
Period of Significance:	1920-1939

Statement of Significance:

Crystal Cove is significant under Criterion A for its role in the tourism movement on Isle Royale in the early twentieth century as a private resort complex. It is also significant under Criterion C as it represents an excellent example of the Rustic architectural style. The level of significance is local and the period of significance spans from 1920, when George W. Megeath began construction of his private complex on Amygdaloid Island until 1939, when John Nixon, the subsequent owner, sold the property to the National Park Service (NPS) for acquisition into the Isle Royale National Park.

Criterion A

Since the early 1890s, Isle Royale has been a destination for summer recreationalists from Midwestern states and elsewhere. Beginning in 1892 with the opening of the first official Isle Royale "resort," up to the 1930s, when the federal government began land acquisitions for the creation of Isle Royale National Park, five different types of resort and recreational developments arose on the island. These included small scale, "rustic" resorts run by commercial fishermen; large-scale, full-service resorts; private sporting clubs; private "camps"; and private resort "compounds" and "colonies." Some types of recreational development prevalent in other Great Lakes locations and northern states did not exist on Isle Royale. For example, there were no grand, high-style seasonal estates or opulent "wilderness camps" designed by architects and built by the very wealthy. There were also no formal summer community associations, organizational group camps, or hunting shacks. All developed areas on Isle Royale were accessible only by water, either by private boat or excursion ship.

Isle Royale summer vacationers could pursue a variety of activities, from very organized social pursuits to rugged outdoor activities. Isolation, recuperation, outdoor recreation, and sport fishing were common goals for Isle Royale summer vacationers. The most refined activities offered at the larger Isle Royale larger resorts were tennis, shuffleboard, and croquet. The resort at Belle Isle went so far as to develop a small golf course.

Resorters on Isle Royale ranged from the very wealthy to those of more modest professions such as ministers, teachers, and writers. One millionaire created a summer "colony" on a small island and invited friends and business associates to build summer homes and cottages. Another business magnate created his own private resort compound on an isolated island, and housed his servants in another compound on a nearby island. A group of elite Duluth businessmen initiated a private and exclusive sporting club, dedicated to the "Art of Angling." Others purchased property in Isle Royale's protected harbors (especially Rock and Tobin Harbors), and created less extravagant seasonal "camps."

Most of the surviving recreational structures are the private camps, which include cabins, cottages, houses, and associated outbuildings built between the early 1900s to the 1930s. Recreational camps were often informally grouped in a harbor, creating a community. The buildings are mostly simple frame construction. The other surviving recreational types are resorts, both small scale "rustic," and large scale "full-service." A compound can perhaps best be seen as an increment between a private camp and a commercial resort. The log buildings at the Crystal Cove and Captain Kidd compounds, for example, are more substantial than the frame constructed cottages of the Tobin Harbor camps. And while the building complexes have the capacity to house several families at a time, there is still the intimacy of a private residence.

The Megeath Compound at Crystal Cove is an excellent example of an Isle Royale private resort compound. It was built in the early 1920s at the height of the Isle Royale tourist industry. George W. Megeath, a principal of the Sheridan Coal Company, reportedly spent at least $40,000 on construction. Adjusting for inflation, it was the equivalent of about $477,600 at the 2012 currency rate. Accommodations included a residence, two guest houses, and a main lodge that served as a central dining hall. A generator house provided electricity, and limited indoor plumbing was an added luxury. Megeath also constructed the compound at Captain Kidd to house employees who served the family and their guests at Crystal Cove.

Criterion C

The establishment of the Megeath Compound at Crystal Cove coincided with a larger national trend of increased outdoor recreation. The rise of the automobile coupled with the burgeoning national park system contributed to more Americans actively seeking natural settings that reflected an idealized concept of wilderness. This, in turn, fostered the development of the Rustic style of architecture, in which "for the first time in the history of American architecture, a building became an accessory to nature. [. . .] Early pioneer and regional techniques were revived because it was thought that a structure employing native materials blended best with the environment" (Wilson 1976, 4-5). While this style is most prominently associated with the National Park Service of the 1920s and 1930s, it was popularly featured in private developments as well.

As previously noted, the Megeath Compound generally differed from Isle Royale's private camps in terms of size and quality of construction. As with other island communities, Isle Royale occupants frequently constructed their buildings of recycled materials, whether using timber from an old boat or another building. Often, the buildings were relocated from camp to camp and island to island in their entirety. Thus, many of the camps display vernacular styles subject to what construction materials were on hand or could be repurposed. Thought to have been designed by George Megeath and built by local fisherman Emil Anderson, the compound is notable as a cohesively designed complex in which an emphasis was placed on the presentation of a uniform Rustic style of architecture, with cost and expediency apparently secondary considerations.

The historic log structures, considered to have been built by Emil Anderson, display a superior level of craftsmanship. The peeled logs are tightly joined with saddle notching and quarter-round chinking. The dimensional uniformity of the selected logs is quite striking, and implies that they were ordered to specification and shipped to the site rather than felled locally. Additionally, care was taken to alternate the direction logs were laid, so that the taper of the tree trunks received incremental corrections. With the exception of the main lodge, all of the buildings feature hipped roofs, likely intended to minimize the potential impact of high winds. Both the main lodge and the residence feature massive, coursed stone chimneys.

Equally important to the construction of the buildings is their relationship to the landscape. The natural setting is characterized by the rocky promontory of Amygdaloid Island, crowned with stands of balsam fir. The log construction of the buildings and uncoursed stone chimneys reflect aspects of the natural surroundings; the structures are immersed within the environment rather than imposed upon it. Another important aspect of Rustic architecture is its function as "an expression of the romanticism of pioneer America" (Tweed 1977, VI-6). As the president of a nationally prominent coal company during the height of that industry's productivity, George Megeath was very wealthy. As evidenced by the quantity and quality of building materials brought to both Crystal Cove and Captain Kidd, Megeath was not constrained to a certain material type out of necessity. Clearly, the Rustic style was a deliberate choice intended to convey a rugged and naturalistic aesthetic in accord with the Isle Royale environs. This was further conveyed by the deliberate spacing of buildings, which allowed groves of trees to act as screening, frame viewsheds, and soften structural outlines. While the Rustic structures of the Megeath Compound are not as highly stylized as those generally designed by professional architects for the NPS, they represent the influence of a popular aesthetic upon public perceptions of how architecture could fit into a wilderness ideal.

Chapter 6: Chronology and Physical History

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape type: Vernacular

Current and Historic Use/Function:

Primary Historic Function:	Recreation/Culture-Other
Primary Current Use:	Recreation/Culture-Other

Other Use/Function:	**Type:**
Agriculture/Subsistence-Other	Historic

Current and Historic Names:

Name:	**Type of Name:**
Megeath Private Camp	Historic
Johnson Fishery	Historic
Crystal Cove	Both Current And Historic

Cultural Landscape Physical History Narrative

1920 1938: Private Resort Era

George Windsor Megeath was born to James and Eliza Megeath in Loudoun County, Virginia in 1857. The Megeath family moved to Omaha, Nebraska the same year as his birth. James Megeath earned a large fortune through real estate dealings. As his prominence increased he served on the Omaha City Council and later the Nebraska State Senate, among numerous other public positions. He would leave a lasting legacy in Omaha through the 1872 establishment of Hanscom Park, a joint endeavor with Andrew Hanscom that became one of Omaha's earliest designed parklands. Among James Megeath's many business interests was an operation that handled freight loaded at the Union Pacific Railroad terminus (Douglas County Historical Society 2009).

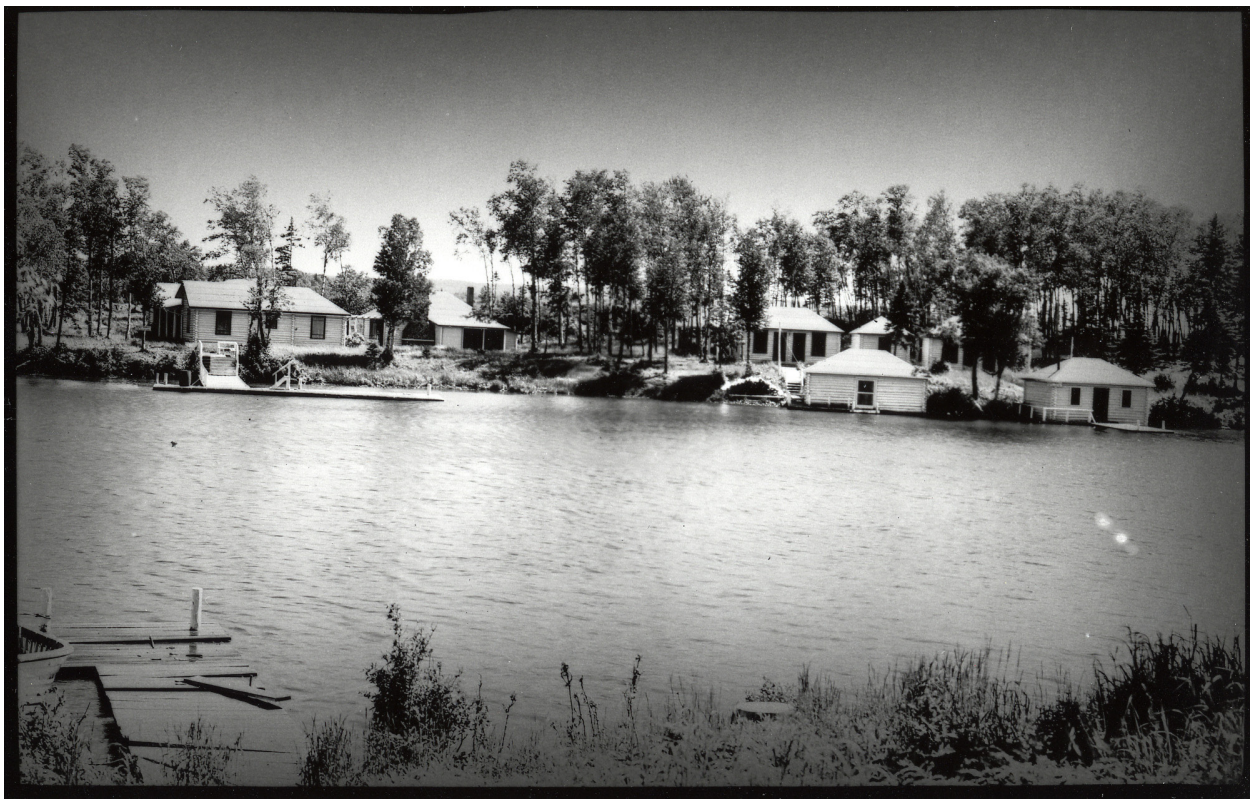
It is likely George Megeath worked for his father's freight company early in his career. The 1885 Nebraska State Census, released when George was 28, listed his occupation as "RR Clerk." A succession of annual Omaha city directories and U.S. Census records show that Megeath was an enterprising businessman who did not long remain a clerk. By 1900 the census listed him as a "coal dealer," and ten years later he was a manager in the Sheridan Coal Company. By 1918 he had risen to national prominence as president of the company (Hull 1918, 199).

It would appear that George Megeath purchased his properties at Crystal Cove and Captain Kidd during a period in which he was at the peak of his profession. While no firm dates have yet surfaced, the construction of the Megeath Compound at Crystal Cove is dated to the early 1920s (Franks 1999, 151). It is believed that Emil Anderson, a local Isle Royale fisherman, constructed the buildings based on designs provided by Megeath. Although this is yet to be conclusively substantiated by historical records, Anderson is known to have constructed Megeath's compound at Captain Kidd and the two sites bear identical architectural styles.

By Isle Royale standards, the compound was expansive and luxurious. In 1923, Defoe Boat & Motor Works, a Bay City, Michigan shipyard, delivered two boats to George Megeath. One, the Windsor, was a 43 foot launch. The second, the Windsor II, was an 81 foot yacht (shipbuildinghistory.com 2012). Accordingly, Crystal Cove featured both a substantial boathouse, and a large dock for the yacht. George Megeath also had a family to accommodate. He had married Ida Julia Freeman in 1884. The couple subsequently had two sons and one daughter, all born in the 1890s (Ancestry.com 2013). Although their daughter died in 1919, it is likely that by the 1920s the two sons had families of their own who came out to vacation at Crystal Cove. The private resort would have offered family and friends ample opportunities for outdoor recreation, ample rooming accommodations, and a central gathering place at the main lodge.

The family probably actively used the resort for about a decade at the most. The yacht was sold in 1926, after only three years of ownership. By 1930, George and Ida Megeath had retired to a farm outside of Omaha in western Douglas County (U.S. Census 1930). George died the following year, on March 28, 1931, at the age of 73 (Ancestry.com 2013). Although Ida lived another 11 years, it appears that the family began dividing and selling portions of the estate. The properties on Amygdaloid Island and Captain Kidd Island were sold to John Nixon "in the early 1930s for about $2,500" (Gale 1995, 132).

Like Megeath, John Alfred Nixon was a businessman from Omaha. He was born in 1892 and married Mary Craig McCullen in 1917 (Ancestry.com 2013). Nixon built a successful wholesale feed business, Nixon & Company. It is not currently known what relationship the Nixon family may have had to the Megeaths, beyond the fact that both held prominent positions in the Omaha business community. Following his acquisition, Nixon then sold the Captain Kidd property to another family from Omaha, the McPherrons. Ultimately, the Nixons' tenure at Crystal Cove was short lived. Isle Royale National Park was formally established in 1931, and the federal government soon began acquiring lands from island property owners. Undoubtedly, John Nixon was fully aware he would soon be selling out. He clearly profited from the endeavor. On November 8, 1938, he sold 41.1 acres to the federal government for $12,430.37, a nearly $10,000 profit (not to include the proceeds from his earlier sale of Captain Kidd).



Megeath Compound at Crystal Cove circa 1930 (NPS Files)

1938 Present: NPS Ownership

Following the National Park Service purchase, Crystal Cove sat largely vacant until 1958 when it was used by Milford and Myrtle Johnson under a special use permit (SUP). The Johnsons had fished commercially at other island locations and now used the Crystal Cove property as a base for their operations. They fished here into the mid 1980s until their passing. Over the course of the fishery era, the compound landscape gained a more ramshackle character. Some buildings, such as the two dockhouses near the guest cabins, disappeared. Others, such as the boathouse and the fuel shed, gradually fell into ruin. Fishing boats, net reels, and other equipment began to clutter the grounds. In 1994, Milford's son, Milford Johnson Jr., was granted a volunteer in park (VIP) agreement to occupy the Crystal Cove property. His use diminished over the following years and after a point the terms of the agreement lost currency.

Although the Megeath Compound has remained vacant since the end of the Johnson occupation, the park has continued to maintain many of the structures. Between 2000 and 2001, roofs for all structures at Crystal Cove were replaced and necessary roof deck repairs were completed (PMIS #50563). In 2003, the foundations of the two guest cabins were stabilized. Dirt was removed from around the cabins and steps were replaced (PMIS #50569). In 2005, old dock cribs were removed and replaced with a wooden cribbed dock using untreated timbers above the waterline and treated below (PMIS # 85792). In 2006, the two guest cabins were painted. Originally the main lodge, residence, and generator shed were also to be painted. However, a large tree fell on the main lodge and damaged the porch and roof, so the remaining funds were used to complete emergency repairs (PMIS #50571). In 2010, approximately half of the Megeath Main Lodge foundation was restored by the NPS Historic Preservation Training Center. Seasonal staff also applied preservative to existing foundation logs and corrected drainage problems with runoff to prevent moisture damage (PMIS #92064).



Megeath complex circa 1950 (NPS Files)



Undated image of the main lodge from the fishery era (ISRO Files)



View to Crystal Cove and the Megeath Complex (Rakestraw Collection, ISRO Archives, circa 1960)



View of the fuel shed in 1966 (ISRO Files)



View of the main lodge in 1997 (CLI Files)



The totem pole in 1997 (CLI Files)



The guest cabins were repainted in 2006 (ISRO Files)



2006 emergency removal of the main lodge porch following roof damage caused by a fallen tree (ISRO Files)

Chronology

Year	Event	Annotation
CE 1920	Built	George W. Megeath began construction of his personal resort complex on Amygdaloid Island at Crystal Cove.
CE 1920-1934	Inhabited	George W. Megeath and family spent summers at their personal compound on Amygdaloid Island.
CE 1934	Purchased/Sold	Following George Megeath's death in 1931, his family sold the entire property on both Amygdaloid and Captain Kidd Islands to John Nixon for $2,500.
CE 1934	Purchased/Sold	John Nixon retained the property on Amygdaloid Island but sold the Captain Kidd property to Wayne (Mack) McPherren.
CE 1939	Purchased/Sold	John Nixon sold the Amygdaloid Island property to the National Park Service to include in the Isle Royale National Park.
CE 1958-1986	Maintained	The National Park Service leased the Megeath complex to Milford and Myrtle Johnson to use for a small commercial fishing operation. This lasted until 1986 when Milford Johnson retired.
CE 2000-2001	Stabilized	Between 2000 and 2001, roofs for all structures at Crystal Cove were replaced and necessary roof deck repairs were completed (PMIS #50563).
CE 2003	Stabilized	In 2003, the foundations of the two guest cabins were stabilized. Dirt was removed from around the cabins and steps were replaced (PMIS #50569).
CE 2005	Reconstructed	In 2005, old dock cribs were removed and replaced with a wooden cribbed dock using untreated timbers above the waterline and treated below (PMIS # 85792).
CE 2006	Maintained	In 2006, the two guest cabins were painted. Originally the main lodge, residence, and generator shed were also to be painted. However, remaining funds were used to complete emergency repairs to the main lodge porch (PMIS #50571).

Chronology

Year	Event	Annotation
CE 2006	Damaged	In early 2006, a fallen tree severely damaged the porch of the main lodge, causing the roof to collapse. The park then completely removed the porch remnants the following summer.
CE 2010	Stabilized	In 2010, approximately half of the Megeath Main Lodge foundation was restored by the NPS Historic Preservation Training Center (PMIS #92064).

Chapter 7: Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity

Summary:

LANDSCAPE INTEGRITY
Integrity is the ability of a property to convey its historic identity or the extent to which a property evokes its appearance during a particular historic period, usually the period of significance. The National Register of Historic Places recognizes seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Aspects of integrity deemed most important for evaluation are based on a property's significance under National Register criteria. Retention of these aspects is essential for a property to convey its significance, though not all seven aspects of integrity need to be present to convey a sense of past time and place. Collectively, these aspects help foster an understanding of the landscape's historic character and cultural importance.

LOCATION
Location refers to the place where the cultural landscape was constructed or where the historic event occurred. The location of the Megeath Compound at Crystal Cove on Amygdaloid Island remains unchanged.
Evaluation: Retains location

DESIGN
Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a cultural landscape. Crystal Cove retains its historic form. The site for the complex was clearly chosen to take advantage of the protective harbor offered by the cove and the scenic vantage point offered at the northeast tip of Amygdaloid Island. Believed to have primarily been designed by George Megeath and built by Emil Anderson, the buildings exhibit a consistent stylistic uniformity that conveys a cohesive relationship, reinforced by the connecting system of boardwalks.
Evaluation: Retains design

SETTING
The aspect of setting refers to the physical environment of a property, or how the site is situated and its relationship to surrounding features and spaces. At Crystal Cove, the extant setting still conveys the many of the attributes of the historic period. The physical isolation and wilderness character of Isle Royale that would have compelled the Megeath family to build a retreat remains unimpaired. The remoteness of the park and surrounding wilderness management has prevented a proliferation of modern intrusions. However, these same factors have also contributed to a limited degradation of the immediate setting. The expense and logistical challenges of maintenance, stabilization, and repair work are significant. In addition, the property has been virtually abandoned since the mid 1980s. As a result, the aging structures have edged into varying stages of dilapidation (with some collapsed into ruin) and overgrown vegetation has encroached into formerly open spaces, giving the landscape an unkempt look.
Evaluation: Retains setting

MATERIALS
Materials are the physical elements that were combined or deposited during the historic period. All types of construction materials and other landscape features are included under this aspect of integrity. All of the buildings which date to the historic period retain a significant amount of their original materials. When structural components have been replaced, such as logs at the main lodge, care has been taken to use in kind materials.
Evaluation: Retains materials

WORKMANSHIP
Workmanship refers to the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular period. Buildings dating to the historic period generally retain their original designs. The high quality log construction that is a feature of many of the buildings is a defining characteristic of the cultural landscape. The use of uniformly sized logs and the care taken to alternate the direction of each log for evenness exhibits a level of craftsmanship and quality of construction materials that exceeds what is found many of the smaller camps and fisheries.
Evaluation: Retains workmanship

FEELING
Feeling is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular time period. A striking image dated to the 1930s, taken from across the cove, shows the Megeath Compound as a very well maintained landscape. Small groves of trees shade open grounds and are generously interspersed among the complex of buildings. Numerous docks extend into the cove and two dockhouses sit at the water's edge. All of the pictured structures are obviously in states of good repair. The manicured, rustic quality of the landscape is clearly designed to accentuate the scenic and recreational values sought by summer resorters. The feeling imbued in that historic photograph is now largely diminished. With dockhouses and the boathouse gone, extant structures moldering, and the proliferation of saplings and underbrush throughout, there is now a pervasive feeling of decline and disuse.
Evaluation: Diminished feeling

ASSOCIATION
Association refers to the direct link between the historic event and the cultural landscape. The complex of buildings along a sheltered cove on a remote island conveys an obvious association with Isle Royale's resort era. Because the scenic qualities of the surrounding environment remain pristine, one can appreciate the allure a summer at Crystal Cove would have held for the Megeaths, the Nixons, and their guests.
Evaluation: Retains association

INTEGRITY OF THE PROPERTY AS A WHOLE
The historic district retains integrity in location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and association. The feeling is diminished. According to National Register guidelines, a property either does or does not retain its overall integrity, and does or does not convey its significance. Although encroaching vegetation and structural decline have negatively impacted its historical integrity, overall the landscape retains the characteristics, physical attributes, and historic associations it had during the period of significance as a private resort, from 1920 to1939.

Aspects of Integrity:

Location
Design
Setting
Materials
Location
Association

Landscape Characteristic: Buildings and Structures

The Megeath Residence (HS-363) is a 31' x 21' one story structure with peeled log, tightly filled with quarter rounds and of the saddle notched construction method. Built circa-1920, this was the main residence for the Megeath family. There is a massive exterior chimney on the north elevation with rubble coursing and tooled mortar. It features a rolled asphalt hipped roof. There is also a shed roof porch on the north façade with pole supports. A five panel door allows entrance into the building on the east façade and the windows throughout are six over six. In 2010, restoration efforts included the installation of new floor joists and the stabilization of a collapsing wing.

The Megeath Main Lodge (HS-564), constructed of saddle notched, peeled logs circa 1920, is a one story I shaped structure that measures 61' x 36'. There are three sections, with two wings on either end of a large center room that provided a central dining location for the compound. The ends of the wings have hipped roofs while the east and north/south elevations are gabled ends. There is a massive uncoursed stone chimney in the center of the middle section. The lodge is constructed of peeled logs with saddle notch construction; windows throughout the building are six over six. A shed roof porch with a central projecting gable dormer was originally attached to the east façade, spanning the length of the middle section from wing to wing. In early 2006, a fallen tree severely damaged the porch roof, causing it to collapse. The park then completely removed the porch remnants the following summer.

The Megeath Guest Cabin #1 (HS-565) was constructed of saddle notched, peeled logs circa 1920. It is a one story, two room, 25' x 15' rectangular plan structure with a hipped rolled asphalt roof. The room divider is constructed of logs with the ends that project through the outer wall. There are two entrances on the north elevation that lead into each room. The entryways are five panel doors and the windows are six over six. A water tank was historically attached to the outside wall.

The Megeath Guest Cabin #2 (HS-566) is essentially identical to Guest Cabin #1. Constructed of saddle notched, peeled logs circa 1920, it is a one story, two room, 25' x 15' rectangular plan structure with a hipped rolled asphalt roof. The room divider is constructed of logs with the ends that project through the outer wall. There are two entrances on the north elevation that lead into each room. The entryways are five panel doors and the windows are six over six. A water tank was historically attached to the outside wall.

The Megeath Storage Shed (HS-570), built circa 1920, is a one story rectangular plan structure with drop lap siding with corner boards. It featured a hipped roof, which has since collapsed. It is also missing window panes and generally in severely deteriorated state. The entrance is a five panel door on the north elevation. Originally used for storage, it later became a net house during the Johnson family fishery operations. One of the siding boards is stamped. "G.W. MEGRATH BELLE ISLAND ISLE ROYAL MICH."

The Megeath Generator House (HS-571), built circa 1920, is a one story, one room rectangular plan structure with a hipped roof and milled rafters that has beveled ends. This building is also constructed of the peeled log walls with saddle notching and interstices filled with quarter rounds. Windows were historically six over six but are now recycled frames. The generator house is a unique structure on Isle Royale, where electricity and indoor plumbing were extremely rare luxuries. The building can be viewed as a reflection of Megeath family's wealth and stature among Isle Royale contemporaries. This structure was also located south of the main cluster of buildings so that the noise did not disturb the Megeath family and their guests. The structure has suffered from insect damage and general deterioration.

The Megeath Fuel Shed (HS-572) was built circa 1920. The 15' x 12' log structure is located on the opposite side of the cove from the main compound. The roof, formerly hipped, has collapsed and intact walls stand at an average of 6'5" in height. A front door centers on the log crib remnant of a dock is located in the water directly in front of the shed ruin.

The Smokehouse (HS-563A) is a one story one room rectangular plan structure with a shed roof and milled 2' x 4' rafters. The structure is built of drop lap siding with corner boards and a vertical board door on the south elevation. A smoke hole appears above the door and smoke stains are evident around the door and eaves. There is a rusting woodstove outside with a chimney pipe that connects to the smokehouse. It is possible that this structure was built at the same time as the others due to the similarity in materials.

There are two modern, noncontributing privies that date to the Johnson period of occupancy. One is located near the boathouse ruin, about 130 meters west of the primary complex of structures. Built of molded fiberglass and positioned over a poured concrete pit, it has been tipped off of its base. The second, of similar make, is located about 14 meters west of the Megeath Residence. There are no extant remnants of the Megeath privies and it is not currently known if they occupied the same sites as the modern replacements.

Along with the original privies, there are several other historic structures that are now gone. During the resort era, there were at least four docks. The most prominent extended as a T shape into the cove to the north of the main lodge. It was the dock for the Windsor, George Megeath's yacht. Submerged remnants of the cribbing are all that remain. A second, smaller dock was located just north of the two guest cabins, and was connected a dockhouse. No longer extant, the modern NPS dock sits directly over the site. The third dock was directly in front of the fuel shed on the north side of the cove. The rock pilings are all that remain. A fourth dock, also on the north side, was located across from the Windsor dock. Based on a historic photograph, it appears to have only been large enough to tie off a canoe or rowboat. It may be speculated that it simply provided a docking point for those who wanted to row across the cove and explore the northern peninsula.

Significant buildings no longer in existence include a boathouse and two dockhouses. The boathouse was located to the southwest of the main complex, across the cove from the fuel shed. It was a one story frame structure with droplap siding and a hipped roof. Along with submerged stone and log cribs, a sizable pile of wood and other debris from the collapsed building mark the site. There were two dockhouses side by side on the shore of the cove, almost directly below the guest cabins. (Although both are referred to as dockhouses, only the building to the southwest appears to have had a dock connected.) Both were log structures of similar dimensions with hipped roofs. A photograph from the 1930s shows both buildings extant. A later photograph dated to the mid-1950s shows the building to the northeast has been removed. The other survived into the 1980s, while the fishery was still active. The visible footprint of both buildings has been completely removed.

Character-defining Features

Feature: Megeath Residence

Contributing? Yes

LCS Structure Name: Crystal Cove: Megeath Residence

LCS ID Number 73196

LCS Historic Structure Number: HS-563

Locational Data:

UTM Source: GPS

Point Type: Point

Datum: NAD83

Zone: 16 Easting: 381,768 Northing: 5,335,137



Megeath Residence (Gladstone/NPS 2010)

Feature: Megeath Main Lodge

Contributing? Yes

LCS Structure Name: Crystal Cove: Megeath Main Lodge

LCS ID Number 73197

LCS Historic Structure Number: HS-564

Locational Data:

UTM Source: GPS

Point Type: Point

Datum: NAD83

Zone: 16 Easting: 381,783 Northing: 5,335,144



Megeath Main Lodge (Gladstone/NPS 2010)

Feature:	Megeath Guest Cabin #1
Contributing?	Yes
LCS Structure Name:	Crystal Cove: Megeath Guest Cabin #1
LCS ID Number	73198
LCS Historic Structure Number:	HS-565

Locational Data:

UTM Source: GPS

Point Type: Point

Datum: NAD83

Zone: 16 Easting: 381,735 Northing: 5,335,147



Megeath Guest Cabin #1 (Gladstone/NPS 2010)

Feature: Megeath Guest Cabin #2

Contributing? Yes

LCS Structure Name: Crystal Cove: Megeath Guest Cabin #2

LCS ID Number 73199

LCS Historic Structure Number: HS-566

Locational Data:

UTM Source: GPS

Point Type: Point

Datum: NAD83

Zone: 16 Easting: 381,725 Northing: 5,335,150



Megeath Guest Cabin #2 (Gladstone/NPS 2010)

Feature: Megeath Generator House

Contributing? Yes

LCS Structure Name: Crystal Cove: Megeath Generator House

LCS ID Number 73200

LCS Historic Structure Number: HS-571

Locational Data:

UTM Source: GPS

Point Type: Point

Datum: NAD83

Zone: 16 Easting: 381,787 Northing: 5,335,113



Megeath Generator House (Gladstone/NPS 2010)

Feature: Megeath Storage Shed

Contributing? Yes

LCS Structure Name: Crystal Cove: Megeath Storage Shed

LCS ID Number 73201

LCS Historic Structure Number: HS-570

Locational Data:

UTM Source: GPS

Point Type: Point

Datum: NAD83

Zone: 16 Easting: 381,662 Northing: 5,335,136



Megeath Storage Shed (Gladstone/NPS 2010)

Feature: Megeath Smokehouse

Contributing? Yes

LCS Structure Name: Crystal Cove: Smokehouse

LCS ID Number 73202

LCS Historic Structure Number: HS-563A

Locational Data:

UTM Source: GPS

Point Type: Point

Datum: NAD83

Zone: 16 Easting: 381,738 Northing: 5,335,153



Megeath

Feature: Megeath Fuel Shed

Contributing? Yes

LCS Structure Name: Crystal Cove: Megeath Fuel Shed Ruin

LCS ID Number 900912

LCS Historic Structure Number: HS-572

Locational Data:

UTM Source: GPS

Point Type: Point

Datum: NAD83

Zone: 16 Easting: 381,565 Northing: 5,335,165



Megeath Fuel Shed (Jackson/NPS 2010)

Feature: Megeath Dock and Crib Ruins

Contributing? Yes

LCS Structure Name: N/A - not listed

Locational Data:

UTM Source: GPS

Point Type: Point

Datum: NAD83

Zone: 16	Easting: 381,595	Northing: 5,335,132
Zone: 16	Easting: 381,776	Northing: 5,335,185



Log crib remnants of the Megeath Boathouse (Jackson/NPS 2010)

Feature: Two Noncontributing Privies

Contributing? No

Locational Data:

UTM Source: GPS

Point Type: Point

Datum: NAD83

Zone: 16	Easting: 381,746	Northing: 5,335,125
Zone: 16	Easting: 381,604	Northing: 5,335,115



Privy southwest of the storage shed (Jackson/NPS 2010)

Landscape Characteristic: Circulation

Circulation includes the spaces, features, and finishes which constitute systems of movement in a landscape. All travel to Crystal Cove was by boat and modes of transportation on the island were limited to foot travel. Thus, circulation patterns have always consisted of foot paths and – throughout the building complex – boardwalks. While pathways linking the buildings remain intact, much of the historic boardwalk system is in a ruinous state. Despite the loss of component materials, the historic pathway and boardwalk system remains an easily readable landscape characteristic.

Character-defining Features

Feature: Megeath Boardwalk System

Contributing? Yes

LCS Structure Name: Crystal Cove: Megeath Boardwalk System

LCS ID Number 73203

LCS Historic Structure Number: HS-571A

Locational Data:

UTM Source: GPS

Point Type: Point

Datum: NAD83

Zone: 16 Easting: 381,742 Northing: 5,335,154



Remnant segment of the historic boardwalk system (Gladstone/NPS 2010)

Feature: Megeath Compound Pathways

Contributing? Yes

LCS Structure Name: N/A - not listed

Locational Data:

UTM Source: GPS

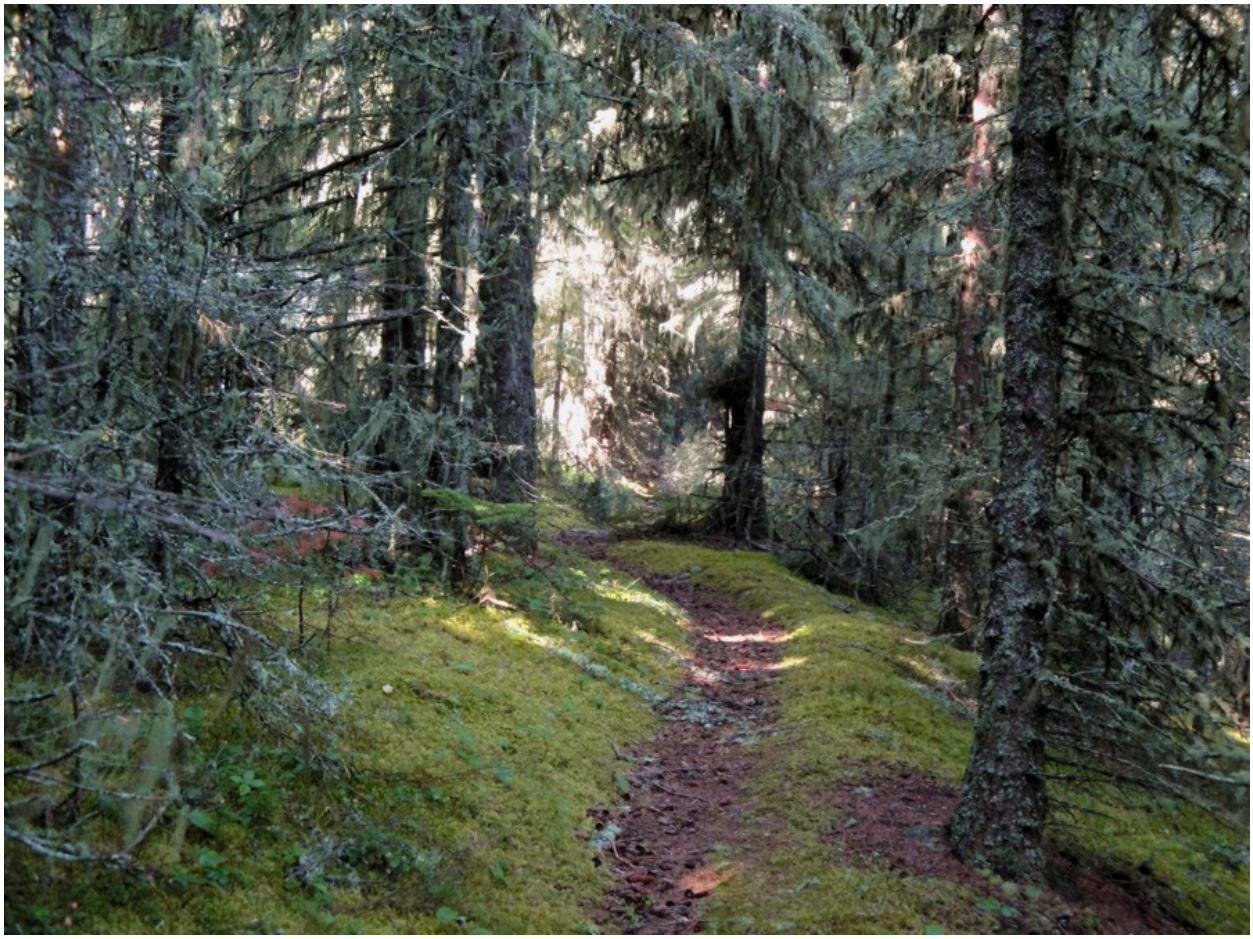
Point Type: Point

Datum: NAD83

Zone: 16 Easting: 381,699 Northing: 5,335,140



Circulation pathway through the Megeath Compound (Gladstone/NPS 2010)



Foot trail at Crystal Cove (Jackson/NPS 2010)

Landscape Characteristic: Small-Scale Features

Small-scale features are the elements in a landscape which provide detail and diversity for both functional needs and aesthetic concerns. At Crystal Cove, these features generally date to the commercial fishery operations. There are wooden benches, work tables, barrels of nets, net hooks, small fishing boats and net drying reels. These features are, for the most part, ephemeral. However, they do clutter the private resort landscape and alter the historic character to a minor degree.

One of the more curious details of the compound is a weathered totem pole that is lashed to a tree near the smokehouse. According to Carl TerHaar, who served many years as a ranger based at Amygdaloid Island, the totem pole, along with one of similar appearance formerly at Captain Kidd, was carved by Fred Young, who was the North Shore Ranger in 1971, and his wife. It is believed the faces were supposed to resemble the Johnsons and McPherrens, and perhaps the Youngs.

Character-defining Features

Feature: Johnson Totem Pole

Contributing? No

Locational Data:

UTM Source: GPS

Point Type: Point

Datum: NAD83

Zone: 16 Easting: 381,787 Northing: 5,335,120



Johnson Totem Pole (Jackson/NPS 2010)

Feature: Johnson Net-Drying Reels

Contributing? No

Locational Data:

UTM Source: GPS

Point Type: Point

Datum: NAD83

Zone: 16 Easting: 381,675 Northing: 5,335,139



Johnson Net-Drying Reels (Gladstone/NPS 2010)

Other Small-Scale Features and Objects



Hooks for dragging nets (Gladstone/NPS 2010)



Drums filled with fishing nets (Jackson/NPS 2010)



A posted wooden sign reads, "CRYSTAL COVE JOHNSON" (Shafer/NPS 2010)



Oil drums left from the fishery (Gladstone/NPS 2010)



A number of small boats sit above the cove shoreline (Jackson/NPS 2010)



Detritus, such as is found near the boathouse ruin site, is scattered throughout the landscape (Jackson/NPS 2010)

Landscape Characteristic: Vegetation

The Megeath Compound is immersed within large tree groves dominated by white spruce and balsam fir. These stands date to the historic period, although they have since increased in size and density. Additionally, large portions of formerly open spaces have entered into secondary stages of succession, with a proliferation of brushy undergrowth encroaching on structures and obscuring historic views.



Views of the cove are often obscured by dense undergrowth (Gladstone/NPS 2010)



View of vegetation near the northwestern tip of Crystal Cove (Gladstone/NPS 2010)



Formerly open spaces around buildings are overtaken by secondary growth (Gladstone/NPS 2010)



Remnants of ornamental plantings remain (Gladstone/NPS 2010)

Landscape Characteristic: Views and Vistas

Crystal Cove offers a multitude of framed vistas and panoramic views. The main lodge, in particular, was positioned at a point that offered views into Crystal Cove, toward Captain Kidd Island, and across Amygdaloid Channel. Conversely, for visitors approaching Crystal Cove during the historic era (before the vegetation became overgrown) the large rustic lodge framed by fir trees would have provided a quite visually appealing welcome. Throughout the landscape, there are a number of vantage points that offer outstanding views of Crystal Cove on one side and Amygdaloid Channel on the other. Many of these views are presently obstructed or diminished by young evergreen and tall brush species. Still, a general sense of the historic scenery is retained.



Southeast-facing view of the Megeath Main Lodge from Lake Superior (Gladstone/NPS 2010)



Southeast-facing view from the boathouse ruin into Crystal Cove (Gladstone/NPS 2010)



Northwest-facing view of the Crystal Cove shoreline (Gladstone/NPS 2010)



East-facing view from Amygdaloid Island across Amgdaloid Channel toward Isle Royale (Jackson/NPS 2010)

Landscape Characteristic: Topography

The Isle Royale archipelago topography is patterned as "a series of long parallel ridges and valleys" that run northeast southwest (Huber 1983, 5). Amygdaloid Island follows this larger pattern. The Megeath Compound is at the northeast point of a narrow ridgeline that runs the length of the island. The bedrock of the immediate landscape is a mixture of undivided Portage Lake Volcanics, Amygdaloid Island Flow, and pyroclastic rocks (Huber 1983, 30-31). The terrain of the point is generally rugged and rocky, although the slopes are gentle enough on the cove side to accommodate the spacious complex of buildings. The slope climbs to a nearly 30' ridge of exposed rock on the Amygdaloid Channel side and allows a panoramic view of Belle Isle and beyond.



The elevated ridge crest south of the building complex illustrates typical characteristic of the Amygdaloid Island topography (Jackson/NPS 2010)

Landscape Characteristic: Spatial Organization

Spatial organization of the Megeath Compound is, more or less, articulated by the linear arrangement of structures along Crystal Cove. The complex is broken into smaller clusters, with the lodge and residence grouped together, then the guest cabins with the smokehouse and non extant dockhouses, and finally, the storage shed with the former boathouse. For aesthetic and safety purposes, the generator house and fuel shed were both placed separately away from the main body of structures.



Spatial overview of the Megeath Compound (Google Earth 2009)

Chapter 8: Condition and Treatment

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 4/29/2013

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative

Although the Crystal Cove structures remain largely unaltered, there is overall a significant amount of deteriorating related to weathering. The landscape is losing integrity to the period of significance, due primarily to the prolonged vacancy since commercial fishing ended here in the mid 1980s. Much of the extant features are now heavily overgrown with vegetation. Some restoration work has been done to the lodge and guest houses. However, the costs associated with continuing maintenance and stabilization will be sizable.

Treatment

Approved Treatment Document Explanatory Narrative:

Treatment of the cultural landscape will be determined by park management through the completion of a cultural resources management plan.

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