

Windows on the Past; Lake Quinault Lodge

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The historic Lake Quinault Lodge was built in 1926, in just 53 days! The structure occupies a high place in the recreational heritage of the Washington peninsula, and of the adjacent Olympic National Park. Since 1926, the present structure has provided the area with what is undoubtedly its most central and important hostelry related to recreational pursuits.

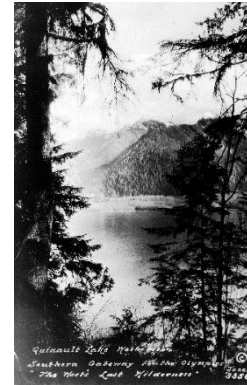
It's a fun fact to note that President Franklin

D. Roosevelt lunched at the lodge on October 1, 1937 [while he was touring the peninsula](#).

The Lake Quinault Lodge is significant architecturally for its rustic design and handmade detailing and appointments, which are of a caliber consistent with the other great landmarks of Pacific Northwest rustic architecture. There are two other nearby surviving National Register

properties also on the

Olympic Peninsula: Rosemary Inn and Singer's Tavern (Lake Crescent Lodge). Built in 1914, these rustic inns also served as destination oriented resorts.

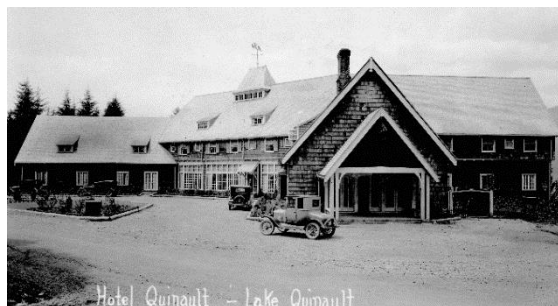


The two-story Lake Quinault Lodge continues to provide destination lodging and a recreational experience in a peaceful, temperate-marine rain forest overlooking Lake Quinault. Operation and management of the lodge is

conducted under the terms of a special use permit issued by the USDA Forest Service. The historic structure is in excellent condition and is well maintained.

Lodge history

Lake Quinault Lodge was constructed through the funding of Ralph Emerson, a Hoquiam lumberman and mill owner, with Mr. Morck of Aberdeen, WA as a silent partner. Frank McNeil, the manager of the lodge annex, was instrumental in promoting and developing the idea of the lodge. Emerson and McNeil realized the need for a larger resort facility and chose the prominent Seattle architect, Robert C. Reamer and the Metropolitan Building Company to create the present lodge. R. C. Reamer was amongst the most innovative of architects to settle in the Northwest. Crafts people and artisans from the Grays Harbor area and from both Seattle and Tacoma are believed to have worked on the building's construction, embellishing it with many of its unique decorative motifs.



for the greatest good



George E. Garrison, who had worked for architect R.C. Reamer at Yellowstone, was construction superintendent. Crews began work on June 9, 1926. Lumber, bricks, plumbing fixtures and hundreds of paned windows were hauled over fifty miles of gravel road from Grays Harbor. Ivar Berquist, a recent immigrant from Sweden, built all of the windows in Hoquiam. Bonfires were lit at night so that the crews could work around the clock to complete construction before the impending seasonal rains! Selected wicker furniture and lighting fixtures were chosen and transported. Native plants and shrubs were augmented with exotic species exemplified by *Sequoia sempervirens*. Fifty-three days later, on the evening of August 18th, 1926 a gala celebration with five hundred guests in attendance, inaugurated the lodge.

Architectural Style

In its original form, the lodge represents a close architectural relationship with the early Northwest style, which is now of nationally recognized importance. Significantly predating the architectural style which is popularly called Northwest regionalism, the lodge's design heralded the most characteristic features of this form which has been especially prevalent since the late 1940's.

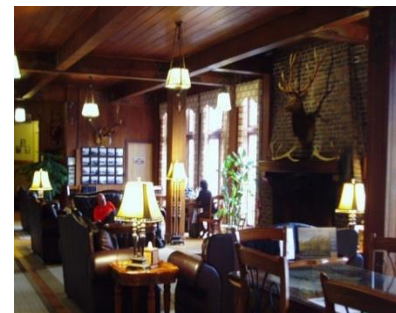


The main lodge building is a large wood frame structure of two floors surmounted by a steeply pitching asphalt shingled roof on its central section and two projecting wings at the lake side. Two flanking wings on the street side are of story-and-a-half height. Each roof is punctuated with small shed dormers, excepting for those on the two lake side wings. A belvedere surmounted with a steeply pitched pyramidal-hip roof is located at the center and is, in turn, surmounted by a ball finial and weather vane depicting an Indian shooting a bear with a

bow and arrow.

Large expanses of small-painted wooden windows on the central block which are variously doors and windows, natural wood-stained shingles, and the open interior space in the lobby are characteristic hallmarks of the regional features of the early Northwest style, while the small-painted wooden double-hung sash, small bay windows and modillions beneath the overhangs of the garrison facades contribute to the Georgian or "American Colonial" motif.

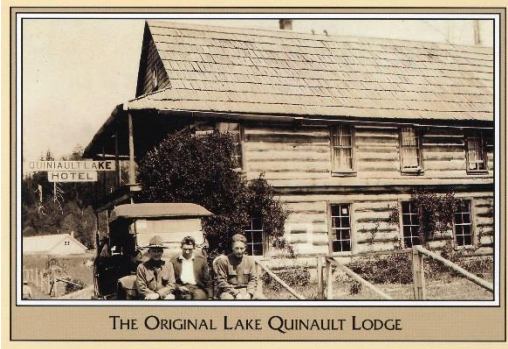
The only alterations to the interior since 1926 have been a change of entryway, formerly through the coffee shop; walling off a previous reception desk area, and the modification of ancient traditional swastika symbols which were placed over and around the present reception area. (This was to accommodate the wishes of some patrons who confused the ancient symbols with the clockwise swastika associated with the National Socialist Party of Germany).



The lodge interior is particularly noteworthy in the lobby or "Great Room," which comprises the entire first level of the building's major block with visual access to both the street and motor court and to the lake.

Quinalt Townsite

The Quinalt Townsite Company was formed by Alfred Higley and other settlers on the South Shore of Lake Quinalt. Most homestead claims had been filed on in the Quinalt Valley by 1900 as documented



on Chehalis Township Plats, circa 1893. In 1897, the Olympic Forest Reserve was created by presidential proclamation. Dodwell and Rixon, who originally surveyed the Forest Reserve, laid out recreation lots around the South Shore of Lake Quinalt in 1910 and 1911. They were responsible for the removal of primary agricultural lands from the reserve so that settlers might benefit from schools, roads, and other public services provided by taxes levied on private lands. Some summer home lots were surveyed in 1920.

The Quinalt Settlement was designated Olson, Washington for some years when the pioneer family of that name owned and operated the old two-story Lake Quinalt Lodge originally built by Jack Ewell in 1903 on the site now occupied by additional rooms located to the west of the historic lodge.

The Olsons sold their interest in the hotel to the Seaman family. During their ownership in 1924, fire destroyed the hotel and a temporary structure was built to accommodate guests; this building has now been called The Annex since the new lodge was built in 1926.



A strong sense of community, with the old townsite as the nucleus, was perpetuated with the special use permit applications for a cemetery in 1912, a new school in 1917 and a federal fish hatchery constructed in 1918. The school site was razed in 1955 and replaced by the District Administrative Headquarters of the Forest Service which moved from the west side of the lodge.

Today, the lodge and nearby mercantile, museum and garage still anchor the historic community which includes many historic recreation rentals along the Lake Quinalt lakeshore.