ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:
The Belly River Ranger Station, facing northwest across the valley, measures approximately 35x25' and has five rooms and two accessory rooms, including a living room, office, bedroom, bathroom, kitchen, pantry, and rear entryway. The large attic also is used for guest sleeping accommodations. The structure is a one-story, log-on-log cabin with reverse saddle-notch, sawn log ends, and cement chinking, resting on a stone and mortar foundation. The cabin has six-light windows and is painted dark brown with light green trim. The wood-shingled gable roof is parallel to the main axis and extends to a full, raised, open porch that runs the length of the building, with a set of wood steps on either side of the porch. The interior partitions and south wall are painted shiplap paneling with stained and varnished woodwork. The inside of the exterior walls (except south wall) are varnished logs with cedar chinking, and the ceiling logs also have a natural finish. Remodeled features include the framed south wall (ca. 1967), and replacing the original stone and concrete porch with the wood porch (1975). The structure is in good condition. This log ranger station is a typical, well-preserved example of rustic Park Service log architecture. It is similar in plan to stations at Sherburne and Upper Lake McDonald, with modifications of overall dimensions and porch features to accommodate the space requirements and site demands. Changes to the Belly River ranger station include a 1967 interior remodeling and the removal and reconstruction of the front porch in 1975. The south wall has also been partially framed. The building is architecturally significant and is a contributing element of the proposed historic district.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION:
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1925
The Belly River ranger station residence was constructed between 1925 and 1926 for $1,500. The ranger station, however, was established at this location before that date. The first Belly River District Ranger, Joe Cosley, patrolled the area between the North Fork of Kennedy Creek and the North Fork of Belly River. Cosley was one of the five original permanent rangers in Glacier National Park, a man devoted to the land and its natural inhabitants, but less so to regulations imposed on and by Park personnel. Joe Cosley tales -- vigorous stories of unorthodox behavior -- color the lore of early Glacier Park. When the Belly River ranger station was established in 1912, access to it and most other stations followed rough trails or "corduroy roads." Eventually, dependable routes gave the stations an easier approach, except at Belly River. A road was never constructed up the Belly River valley and the station remains accessible only by horseback or hiking.
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The significance of the Belly River ranger station derives from both its architectural and historical uniqueness. Historically, it is one of the oldest continually manned stations and is the sole operating station accessed by trail. Ranger Joe Cosley, a major character in the early history of Glacier National Park, is associated with the Belly River ranger station and area. Architecturally, the station buildings reflect the ongoing evolution typical of many ranger stations. Yet, of the East Side ranger stations, Belly River is the only complex that contains the "classic" configuration of structures (station/residence, barn, woodshed, and fire cache), with few intrusions and with excellent physical integrity. The Belly River ranger station is a significant and contributing element of the proposed Belly River Ranger Station Historic District, which is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under criteria a and c.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCE:


2"Chronological File," 1910, 1912, Glacier National Park Historical File, GNPLA.

3List of Classified Structures (Oliveri, 1975), National Park Service, Rocky Mountain Region, Denver, CO.
ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:
The barn at the Belly River Ranger Station, located behind the ranger cabin, is a one-
story log structure with a ½-story loft. The structure is built with square-hewn,
square-notched logs with cement chinking, shaked gable ends, a wood-shingled roof, and
corbeled under the eaves. The windows are two-over-two, vertical, double-hung and six-
light casements. The squared ends of the loft floor joists are mortised into the wall
logs. A one-story shed is attached to the northeast wall. This structure was origi­
nally the ranger station residence and, although it now serves as a barn and stable, it
maintains much of its original residential appearance. The square-hewn wall logs,
square notching, and through-wall loft joists are features that make this log structure
an excellent, atypical log structure in Glacier. The building is architecturally signi­
ficant and is a contributing element of the proposed historic district.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION: DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1912
Although used today as a barn, the building is historically one of the oldest ranger
stations in Glacier National Park. Presumably, Ranger Joe Cosley took park in building
the square-hewn log structure. The transformation of this building from a residence to
station barn has not greatly compromised its integrity.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:
The building is architecturally significant and is a contributing element of proposed
Belly River Ranger Station Historic District.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCE:
List of Classified Structures (Oliveri 1975), National Park Service, Rocky Mountain
Region, Denver, CO.

Henry G. Law and John Albright, "Historic Resource Study, Park II, Glacier National

FORM PREPARED BY: DATE: June 1984
NAME/TITLE: Historical Research Associates, P.O. Box 7086, Missoula, MT 59807-7086
ORGANIZATION: Historical Research Associates, P.O. Box 7086, Missoula, MT 59807-7086
ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:
The woodshed at the Belly River Ranger Station is located directly north of the barn. The wood-shingled gable roof extends to form a front porch on post supports, used for gas and oil storage. The structure has log framing with vertical board walls and frame 2x6 rafters. The condition of the structure is generally fair. No ranger station complex in Glacier is without a shed for dry, closed storage of wood. Some stations use wood as a back-up heat source, relying primarily upon electricity or gas, but back-country stations still depend upon wood for their only fuel. The Belly River woodshed is of typical exterior log frame construction with an ample porch extension that affords some clearance from snow. The design is similar to many other log-framed Park Service buildings in Glacier and other Rocky Mountain national parks. The building contributes to the architectural significance of the site.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION:
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1927
The woodshed was constructed to Standard Landscape Division Drawing G811. Supplies were transported a total of 123 miles by truck and wagon, with several fordings of the Belly River. The cost of building the woodshed totalled $232.75.¹ Research has not yielded any significant historical information concerning persons or events associated with this building.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:
As a prominent feature of a ranger station complex, the woodshed exhibits good integrity and contributes to the overall significance of the proposed Belly River Ranger Station Historic District.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCE:
List of Classified Structures (Oliveri 1975), National Park Service, Rocky Mountain Region, Denver, CO.

FORM PREPARED BY:
NAME/TITLE: Historical Research Associates, P.O. Box 7086, Missoula, MT 59807-7086
DATE: June 1984
ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

This structure at the Belly River Ranger Station is a shiplap frame structure measuring approximately 12x17', in fair condition. This small, frame residence is neither a significant architectural component of the site, nor is it an intrusion. Scale, materials, and design make this a compatible, non-intrusive element of the Belly River Ranger Station complex.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: circa 1960

The trail quarters building was constructed about 1960 to house trail maintenance personnel. Research has not yielded any significant historical information concerning persons or events associated with this building.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The structure is not architecturally or historically significant. The building is a non-contributing element in a potentially eligible Historic District.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCE:


FORM PREPARED BY:

NAME/TITLE: Historical Research Associates, P.O. Box 7086, Missoula, MT 59807-7086

DATE: June 1984
The fire cache at the Belly River Ranger Station was built on a Park Service contract by Austin Weikert and Jean Sullivan. Located east of the woodshed, the cabin has regular saddle-notched log walls with cement chinking and 1-sapling interior chinking. The structure is in good condition. The fire cache, which is used to store fire-fighting equipment and other maintenance tools, is a pivotal element of most ranger stations in Glacier. The Belly River fire cache is an excellent example of local log craftsmanship, featuring saddle-notched and grooved logs. Its conversion to a fireguard cabin has not greatly changed the structure's original integrity. The building is architecturally significant and is a contributing element of the proposed Belly River Ranger Station Historic District.

This log fire cache is identical to the Kintla Lake fire cache (also known as a patrol cabin) which was built by local log craftsman Harry Doverspike. This building, constructed in 1928 at a cost of $450, may also be an example of Doverspike's excellent work. Research has not yielded any significant historical information concerning persons or events associated with this building.

The building is architecturally significant and is a contributing element of the proposed Belly River Ranger Station Historic District.

"Fire Caches and Guard Cabins," File D-34, GNPLA.
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet  

Belly River Ranger Station Historic District (addendum), Glacier County, MT.

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature]

Date: 12/5/95

National Park Service
State or Federal agency or bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

[Signature]

Date: SEP 29 1995.

Montana State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entered the National Register</th>
<th>Determined eligible for the National Register</th>
<th>Determined not eligible for the National Register</th>
<th>Removed from the National Register</th>
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[Signature of the Keeper]

Date of Action: 11/19/96

Additional Documentation Accepted
Building Interiors

The following buildings are listed in the National Register of Historic Places as contributors to the Belly River Ranger Station Historic District. Additional documentation is provided below for the purpose of describing and evaluating building interiors for integrity and significance.

7. Narrative Description

Ranger Station (#188), 1925

Constructed — and still used — as an office and residence, this building features distinct administrative and domestic spaces. An exterior entrance provides direct access to the office/bedroom that forms the northeast corner of the building. A second entrance leads directly to the private living room, from which branches the kitchen and the single bedroom. A small pantry/dining area is located between the kitchen and the rear entry/mudroom addition. A small bathroom is located between the kitchen and bedroom and is accessible from both. With minor variations "of overall dimensions ... to accommodate the space requirements and site demands," this floorplan matches that found in the Sherburne Ranger Station and the Upper Lake McDonald Ranger Station and reflects the park service's increased reliance (1920s) upon standard plans. The station retains most historic interior finishes, including log walls, wood floors, five-panel doors with original hardware, and varnished 4"-6" window surrounds, door surrounds, and baseboards. The south interior wall, where the original log had been covered with planks, has been restored to its original appearance.

The office, living room, and bedroom floors retain the original 3" varnished softwood flooring. Rolled linoleum (possibly dating to a 1967 remodel) covers the kitchen and bathroom floors. Exterior interior walls are varnished log with cedar chinking; interior walls are sided with horizontal painted 6" shiplap. Door and window surrounds are constructed of 4" milled lumber, finished with a butt rather than mitered joint, and varnished a dark brown in all but the bedroom, kitchen, and bath where they are painted with gloss enamel. Ribbons of multi-light windows form a dominant design element in the relatively small low-ceilinged spaces. Exposed log purlins, topped with 6" shiplap planks, painted, form all interior ceilings (in contrast to Upper Lake McDonald and Sherburne where all but the living room purlins have been covered with plywood or celotex). Interior doors are five panel, varnished dark brown or painted. Running water is provided by a generator-powered spring system. There is no electricity; Coleman lanterns provide light and an on-site generator is used to repower radios.

Built-in kitchen cupboards are limited to floor units, with simple paneled doors, original hardware, and linoleum countertops. Open wall-mounted shelving units are located on the upper walls. The stainless steel sink, gas range, and propane-powered refrigerator are modern. The large wood cookstove is historic.

Bathroom fixtures, including a clawfoot bathtub and porcelain sink, appear to be historic. The rear entry mud-room is located in a frame addition and features softwood floors, and shiplap walls.
Modifications appear to be limited to new flooring, and, possibly, painting of the interior shiplap siding and ceiling boards. The floorplan and dominant design details, including exposed log walls, exposed purlins, paneled doors, and wide molding, remain intact. The building presents an historic appearance.

**Barn (#489), 1912**
This simple building, constructed as a residence, features the original softwood floors. Hewn logs form the interior walls and the ceiling is open to the roof, exposing the log truss system and roof planks. A partial loft provides additional storage space. Window and door casings are flush with the structural logs (no surrounds).

There have been no known modifications to this building.

**Woodshed (#490), 1927**
The 10" vertical boards that infill this shed’s exposed-log framing system form the interior walls. Interior log posts, providing additional structural support, may postdate construction. The ceiling is open to the roof exposing the dimensional-lumber truss system and roof planks. The floor is dirt.

**Fire Cache (#492), 1928**
The interior walls of this small one-room cabin are log, chinked with sapling (in contrast to the cement used on the exterior). Unfinished 4" pine planks cover the floor. The ceiling is open to the roof, exposing the log truss system and ceiling boards. Window and door casings are flush with the structural logs (no surrounds). Additional features include wall mounted cupboards and open shelving units, and a modern spring-fed sink unit coleman lanterns, and a gas fired cookstove.

**8. Statement of Significance**
Without exception, the above interiors possess physical integrity and contribute to the buildings’ significance.
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Photographs
1) Photographer: Alan Newell
2) Date of Photographs: August 1993
3) Location of Negatives: National Park Service, RMR-RC, Denver, CO.

<table>
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<th>PHOTO NUMBER</th>
<th>STRUCTURE NAME AND NUMBER</th>
<th>LOCATION/DIRECTION OF VIEW</th>
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<td>Interior walls (typical)</td>
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<td>Ranger Station (#188)</td>
<td>Exterior walls (typical)</td>
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<td>Ranger Station (#188)</td>
<td>Bedroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Ranger Station (#188)</td>
<td>Kitchen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Barn (#489)</td>
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<td>Woodshed (#490)</td>
<td>Interior</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Pit Toilet (#491; outside district boundaries)</td>
<td>View to NW</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Pit Toilet (#491)</td>
<td>View to S</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
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<td>Interior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Fire Cache (#492)</td>
<td>Interior</td>
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NAME: Ranger Station (LCS-188), Belly River
Ranger Station, Historic District
LOCATION: Glacier National Park
PHOTOGRAPHER: Glacier National Park
DATE: 9/25/83
VIEW: SW Corner
LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: Rocky Mountain Regional Office, National Park Service, Denver, CO
PHOTO: 1
NAME: Barn and Residence—Belly River Ranger Station Historic District.
LOCATION: Glacier National Park, MT
PHOTOGRAPHER: Dave Shea
DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH: August 1975
LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: Rocky Mountain Regional Office, National Park Service, Denver, CO
PHOTO NUMBER: 2
NAME: Trail Cabin (LCS-492), Belly River Ranger Station, Historic District
LOCATION: Glacier National Park, MT
PHOTOGRAPHER: Glacier National Park
DATE: 9/25/83
VIEW: SW Corner
LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: Rocky Mountain Regional Office, National Park Service, Denver, CO
PHOTO #: 1
NAME: Trail Quarters—Belly River Ranger Station Historic District
LOCATION: Glacier National Park, MT
PHOTOGRAPHER: Dave Shea
DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH: August 1975
LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: Rocky Mountain Regional Office, National Park Service, Denver, CO
PHOTO NUMBER: 4
NAME: Woodshed (LCS-490), Belly River Ranger Station, Historic District
LOCATION: Glacier National Park
PHOTOGRAPHER: Glacier National Park
DATE: 9/25/83
VIEW: SW Corner
LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: Rocky Mountain Regional Office, National Park Service, Denver, CO
PHOTO #: 1
NAME: Woodshed (LCS-490) Belly River Ranger Station, Historic District
LOCATION: Glacier National Park
PHOTOGRAPHER: Glacier National Park
DATE: 9/25/83
VIEW: NE Corner
LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: Rocky Mountain Regional Office, National Park Service, Denver, CO
PHOTO #: 2
NAME: Outhouse Belly River RS Historic District
LOCATION: Glacier National Park
PHOTOGRAPHER: Glacier National Park
DATE: 9/25/83
VIEW: NE Corner
LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: Rocky Mountain Regional Office, National Park Service, Denver, CO
PHOTO #: 1
NAME: Outhouse Belly River Ranger Station
   Historic District
LOCATION: Glacier National Park
PHOTOGRAPHER: Glacier National Park
DATE: 9/25/83
VIEW: SW Corner
LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: Rocky Mountain Regional Office, National Park Service, Denver, CO
PHOTO #: 1
NAME: Tent #1 Belly River RS Historic District
LOCATION: Glacier National Park MT
PHOTOGRAPHER: Glacier National Park
DATE: 9/25/83
VIEW: SW Corner
LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: Rocky Mountain Regional Office, National Park Service, Denver, CO
PHOTO #: 2
Belly River Ranger Station
Belly River RSTD
Glacier Co., MT, Glacier NP
Photo #1
Belly River Ranger Station
HS 188
Belly River RSHD
Glacier Co., MT, Glacier NP
Photo #3
Belly River Ranger Station

HS 188

Belly River, L8HD
Glacier Co., MT, Glacier NP

Photo #4
Barn HS 489
Billy Ewer RSHD
Glacier Co., MT, Glacier NP
Photo #5
Woodshed HS 490
Billy River BSHD
Glacier Co., MT, Glacier NP
Photo #6
Pit Toilet
HTS 491
Belly River RSHD
Glacier Co., MT, Glacier NP
Photo #7
Pit Toilet
This site has a pit toilet.

Billy River 1SHD
Glacier Co., MT, Glacier NP
Photo #8
Fire Cache HS 492
Billy River RSHD
Glacier Co., MT, Glacier NP
Photo #9
Fire Cache # 492
Belly River Rd, H/D
Glacier Co., MT, Glacier NP
Photo #10