NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION, GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

REGION: Rocky Mountain   PARK/AREA NAME: Glacier National Park   PARK NUMBER: 1430

STRUCTURE NAME: Bowman Lake Patrol Cabin   STRUCTURE NUMBER: 598

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: Lower end of Bowman Lake near   QUADRANGLE NAME: Quartz Ridge, MT
boathouse, approx. ½ mile east of Bowman Lake Ranger Station

ZONE EASTING   NORTHING
QUADRANGLE SCALE: 7.5-minute

11 706100 5411910

CLASSIFICATION:
OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: CATEGORY: NUMBER OF RESOURCES:
___ Private   x Building(s)   1   ___ Buildings
___ Public-Local   ___ District   ___ Sites
___ Public-State   ___ Site   ___ Structures
x Public-Federal   ___ Structure   ___ Objects
___ Mixed/private & public   ___ Object   ___ TOTAL

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:
The cabin is a typical log snowshoe cabin with a gable roof extension that creates a
front porch area. This basic, variable design evolved from the early snowshoe cabins in
Yellowstone National Park. The Bowman Lake patrol cabin was built by Austin Weikert in
1934. The logs are reverse saddle-notched with full sapling chinking. Nine log purlins
are supporting the sheet metal gable roof with vertical log supports and collar beam in
the gable end of the extended porch. The structure rests on a rock foundation, is in
fair condition, and maintains fair integrity.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION:
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1934

This cabin is one of many similar structures built in Glacier National Park during the
1920s and 1930s to facilitate the supervision of lands within the park boundaries. The
park's rugged topography and the often rapidly changing weather conditions made it
imperative that these cabins be built at strategic points to protect rangers charged
with park surveillance. The cabins were usually located 8 to 12 miles from a permanent
ranger station. Thus, a park ranger could spend a number of days on patrol duty without
returning to the station for supplies or shelter. The Bowman Lake patrol cabin is
significant because it illustrates an important aspect in the development and adminis-
tration of Glacier National Park.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:
The Bowman Lake patrol cabin maintains fair integrity and is a significant example of
early backcountry rustic building in Glacier. The cabin is a significant resource both
architecturally and historically. Therefore, it meets the eligibility requirements for
listing on the National Register of Historic Places under criteria a and c.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

FORM PREPARED BY:   DATE: June 1984
NAME/TITLE:    ORGANIZATION: Historical Research Associates, P.O. Box 7086, Missoula, MT 59807-7086
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Bowman Lake Patrol Cabin (addendum), Flathead 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 nationwide statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

National Park Service

Date

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain) additional documentation

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Additional Documentation Accepted
Building Interior

The Bowman Lake Patrol Cabin is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Additional documentation is provided below for the purpose of describing and evaluating the interior for integrity and significance.

7. Narrative Description

Summary

Beginning in the 1920s, patrol or "snowshoe" cabins were constructed from a standardized plan, modified to fit each site's unique terrain and the available building materials. Glacier National Park's cabins were of "substantially the same design" as those used in Yellowstone National Park. The Yellowstone cabins were, in turn, close replicas of USFS patrol cabins that mimicked the design of trappers' cabins. The patrol cabins were constructed one-day's travel (8-12 miles) apart, providing shelter for rangers patrolling the park's vast backcountry.

Due to their remote locations, the cabins were generally constructed of locally harvested log; interior walls were unfinished yet often chinked with saplings. The Slide Lake Cabin, only one and one half miles from a road along the sparsely timbered east flank of the Rocky Mountain Front, and the Fielding Cabin, one quarter mile from the Burlington Northern railroad tracks, are the only cabins of frame construction. Softwood shiplap planks of varied width (some as narrow as three inches, some as wide as twelve inches, most four to six inches) covered the floors. A trap door constructed of floor planks provided access to the requisite bear/rodent/frost-proof cellar, finished with poured concrete/mesh and stocked with a minimum supply of rations. Ceilings were open truss, exposing log purlins and heavy roof boards. Windows and doors were fitted wood frame, set within the log wall without surrounds; in part due to the small size of the units, the small multi-light windows were a significant design element. Doors were generally vertical-plank with cross-braces, constructed on site and secured with iron hinges, latches, and bolts. The easily accessed Fielding Patrol Cabin was fitted with a paneled door.

Furnishings were also standard, the result of similar use and space limitations. The door of the large frame wall-mounted cupboard was bottom hinged and fitted with two folding legs; when opened it provided a table. Metal hooks or shelves, strategically located, provided support for oil lamps. Bunk beds — the upper often of a "suspended fold-up design" — maximized the limited space. A single stove provided heat as well as a cooking surface.

Bowman Lake Patrol Cabin (#598), 1934

This patrol cabin features 5" softwood floors (painted grey) and an open ceiling, exposing log purlins and 12" roof planks. Logs, chinked with poles, form the interior walls. One-inch baseboard, with quarter-round molding, finishes the wall/floor junction.
A large six-burner wood fired cookstove reflects this cabin’s “frontcountry” status. More standard furnishings include a wall-mounted cupboard with bottom hinged table top/door, a table constructed of shiplap planks mounted on unpeeled cottonwood poles, and a bedding storage box. The pair of six-light windows along the north wall appears to be a recent in-kind replacement.

8. Statement of Significance

With the exception of the compatible window replacement, the interior is unmodified and contributes to the building’s significance.

Photographs

1) Photographer:  
Nancy Niedernhofer

4) Date of Photographs:  
June 1993

5) Location of Negatives:  
National Park Service, RMR-RC, Denver, CO.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PHOTO NUMBER</th>
<th>STRUCTURE NAME AND NUMBER</th>
<th>LOCATION/DIRECTION OF VIEW</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Bowman Lake Patrol Cabin (#598)</td>
<td>Interior-note cookstove and table legs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bowman Lake Patrol Cabin (#598)</td>
<td>Interior-reconstructed? cupboard/table unit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NAME: Bowman Lake Snowshoe Cabin (598)
LOCATION: Glacier National Park, MT
PHOTOGRAPHER: Glacier National Park
DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH: 1981
LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: Rocky Mountain Regional Office, National Park Service, Denver, CO
PHOTO NUMBER: 1
Bowman Lake Patrol Cabin (H5598)
Interior
NW Wall
Bowman Lake Patrol Cabin
Flathead Co., MT, Glacier NP
Figure 1
Bowman Lake Patrol Cabin (43598)

Interior

SW wall

Bowman Lake Patrol Cabin

Flathead Co., MT, Glacier NP

Figure 2