Form No. 10-306 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME
HISTORIC
Horseshoe Lake Ranger Station; Fireguard Station, Horseshoe Lake

AND/OR COMMON
Building No. 56; Quarters No. 56; Patrol Cabin; Fireguard Building

2 LOCATION
(Lassen Volcanic National Park)

STREET & NUMBER
Not applicable

CITY, TOWN
(Horseshoe Lake)

STATE
California

VICINITY OF
Chester

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
First

COUNTY CODE
Shasta 089

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC
PRIVATE
BOTH

STATUS

OCCUPIED
UNOCCUPIED
WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
YES: RESTRICTED
YES: UNRESTRICTED
NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE
COMMERCIAL
EDUCATIONAL
ENTERTAINMENT
GOVERNMENT
INDUSTRIAL
MILITARY
OTHER:

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS
BEING CONSIDERED

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS
BEING CONSIDERED

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS (If applicable)
National Park Service - Western Regional Office

STREET & NUMBER
450 Golden Gate Avenue - Box 36063

CITY, TOWN
San Francisco

STATE
California

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC
Shasta County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
P.O. Box 880

CITY, TOWN
Redding

STATE
California

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
List of Classified Structures, Western Region, National Park Service

DATE
1975

FEDERAL
STATE
COUNTY
LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
National Park Service, Western Regional Office

CITY, TOWN
San Francisco

STATE
California
DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

_____EXCELLENT  _____FAIR
_____GOOD  _____RUINS

CHECK ONE

-----UNALTERED
-----ALTERED

CHECK ONE

-----ORIGINAL SITE
-----MOVED

---DATE________

DEcribe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Horseshoe Lake Fireguard Station consisted originally of two buildings, the log residence which remains today, essentially unaltered, and a wood frame barn, now gone.

The barn was a rectangular gable-roofed structure about 12 feet wide by 28 feet long, and both roof and walls were finished with shakes. It was a utilitarian structure listed in the Park's Building Files as Building No. 100, and was not built according to the plans for a stylized rustic log barn at that location. This building was removed at an unknown date, and the site has now returned to its natural state.

The log residence remains essentially unaltered from its original design. It is basically a rectangle roughly 33 feet long (not counting front and back porch extensions) and 23 feet wide. The front porch extends out about 7 feet, the back porch about 6 feet. The front and back porches are offset to the southeast side; the front porch has a gable roof which on the southeast is an extension of the main gable roof and on the northwest half is a separate gable.

The building is constructed of horizontal logs which are notched and overlap at the corners. The gable roof over the concrete-floored front porch is supported by two peeled log uprights. The back porch is concrete over stone, and has no roof. The southeast and northwest (side) walls consist of 8 logs; the front (northeast) and back (southwest) walls are 7 logs high below the gable ends, and each has 10 logs forming the ends of each gable, with two attic vents cut in the end of each gable. The logs are all peeled, and range from about a foot to a foot and a half in diameter. The bottom logs on the southeast and northwest walls are adzed flat on the bottom to sit flush on the mortared stone foundation. The logs are chinked with split poles, and overlapping corner notches are chinked with cement. The northwest side of the building has two double windows, one in the bedroom and one in the living room, cut through the 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th logs (counting from the bottom log); the southeast side has two double windows, one each in the living room and the kitchen, and a single window in the enclosed porch or storage room at the rear, cut through the 5th, 6th and 7th logs. The front has a door and a single window, the latter cut through the 4th through 7th logs. The rear has a door and double window in the bedroom cut through the 4th through 7th logs. Each of the windows has 4 panes or lites. All windows are covered by wooden board shutters attached by a hook and eye on each side; the doors have shutters attached by two hooks and eyes on each side. Each gable end of the building has two vents. The rafters are peeled logs about 8 to 12 inches in diameter, running from the ridgepole to eaves; there are 15 on each side of the main roof. All are adzed slightly on top to present a 3 inch wide flat edge on which planks are nailed. The roof is finished with hand-split shakes 32 inches long with about 15 inches exposed beyond overlap, laid in an alternating length to create a pattern. The gable roof over the porch has 5 log rafters of its own on the northwest, and in addition to the regular roof rafters, 3 of its own on the southeast. The exposed ends of a number of the rafters, where they extend out beyond the end of the shakes two or three inches, exhibit some rot.

On the northwest side is a rack for hanging a wooden ladder horizontally for storage. The front of the building has a radio aerial of 2-inch pipe which sits on an angle-iron attached to the second log from the bottom of the gable end; the pipe extends upwards.
about six feet along the gable end, pierces the overhang of the roof, and extends about 12 feet above the roof. The building is painted a dark brown with no trim color. The front door is of highly varnished wood with four small windows near the top. The porch has a decorative finish on its gable end. Overall condition of the building is excellent.

The interior consists of a living room, 20 by 13 feet, a bedroom, 10 by 16½ feet, a kitchen 10 by 11 feet, and a storage room, formerly an enclosed back porch, 10 by 5 feet. Conversion of the enclosed back porch into a storage room is the only alteration to the building, and is a minor alteration. The living room and bedroom feature a stone fireplace topped by a stone chimney. The floors are oiled wood. The building is single story, with an attic for storage.
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Fireguard Station at Horseshoe Lake is of local architectural significance because it is an outstanding example in a forest setting of a basically unaltered example of a "rustic"-style back-country log ranger station of the type designed by National Park Service architects during the 1920s and 1930s. Although only 43 years old at the time of this nomination, it nevertheless merits placement on the National Register of Historic Places at local level of significance as an outstanding example of a once-common but now fast-disappearing architect-designed "rustic" log cabin erected in back country regions of our western National Parks before World War II. The building possesses integrity of design, material and site and embodies distinctive characteristics of a type, method, and period of construction worthy of preservation here. Additionally, it possesses local historical significance in the category of social-humanitarian endeavor through its association with the history of the Civilian Conservation Corps, because it is a product of CCC construction, and a product which has proven to have a lasting utility.

During the 1920s and 1930s, National Park Service architects designed a number of semi-standard styles of "rustic" buildings for erection in various National Parks in the Far West. These buildings were characterized by architecture employing native materials such as wood and stone with the aim of producing structures designed to harmonize to the maximum degree possible with their environment. The Horseshoe Lake Fireguard Station was one such building, the only example of its type in Lassen Volcanic National Park (the log ranger station at Summit Lake differing in several respects).

After the beginning of the Great Depression in 1929, a number of innovative government programs were established to deal with national unemployment, none more successful perhaps than the Civilian Conservation Corps. Originally conceived as an organization capable only of unskilled manual labor, the National Park Service soon perceived greater possibilities for and capabilities of the CCC, and under skilled NPS architects and managers, CCC crews were soon at work on sophisticated construction projects, one of which at Lassen was construction in 1934 of the Horseshoe Lake Fireguard Station and Barn. A CCC crew completed the residence on October 22, 1934 according to architectural drawing 3032, two sheets. An elaborately rustic-style log barn which NPS architects also had designed for this location, however, was not built, and instead the CCC erected a utilitarian frame barn whose exterior walls and gable roof were finished in shakes. The barn was later removed at an unknown date. The Horseshoe Lake building was erected to serve as a back-country residence for a fireguard, and at various times has been termed a fireguard station, patrol cabin, and ranger station. It continues to serve that purpose today, although it is used only during the summer months.

The log building harmonizes well with the conifer forest in which it sits, while the
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Park Building Records, Maintenance Division Files, Lassen Volcanic National Park, Mineral, California


GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.03

UTM REFERENCES

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary is a rectangle 50 feet long and 30 feet wide, aligned along the axis of the building; the northwest boundary is parallel to and approximately 3 1/2 feet out from the base of the northwest wall of the building; the northeast boundary is parallel to the front wall and approximately two feet beyond the front edge of the front porch of the building.

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Gordon Chappell - Regional Historian

ORGANIZATION

National Park Service - Western Regional Office

STREET & NUMBER

450 Golden Gate Avenue - Box 36063

CITY OR TOWN

San Francisco

STATE

California

CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES X  NO

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

DATE

FOR NFS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
stone foundation, fireplace and chimney reflect the rock which underlies most of this region and crops out spectacularly in some of the surrounding ridges and peaks. The net effect of its design is nearly one of camouflage; the building remains most unintrusive in its forest setting.

Resource Management

The significant resource here is the building and the surrounding historic scene, which is the natural scene. The building requires preservation without exterior or interior alteration. Any deterioration of the building's fabric which requires maintenance actions must involve replacement in kind, e.g. replacement of shake roofing with shake roofing, not with shingles or corrugated metal or plastic; no aluminum or other metal sash should be used in doors or windows, no other changes in type of fabric. The significance includes retaining the harmonious dark brown color of the building also. The small frame sheds in the vicinity of the building (including a privy with corrugated plastic roof and a storage for flammable materials) are not considered significant and their removal would not affect the qualities of significance, nor would their alteration so long as it does not add to intrusion on the historic scene.
Horseshoe Lake Ranger Station
(Fireguard Station)

Horseshoe Lake, Lassen Volcanic National Park
 Vicinity of Chester, Shasta County, California

Original Plans, Sheet 1
July 1934
Horseshoe Lake Ranger Station
(Fireguard Station)
Horseshoe Lake, Lassen Volcanic National Park
Vicinity of Chester, Shasta County, California (089), (06)

Original Plans, Sheet 2
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

DATE ENTERED: MAY 5, 1978

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME
HISTORIC: Horseshoe Lake Ranger Station
AND/OR COMMON: Patrol Cabin

2 LOCATION
CITY, TOWN: Not Applicable
VICINITY OF: Chester
COUNTY: Shasta
STATE: California

3 PHOTO REFERENCE
PHOTO CREDIT: National Park Service photo by Gordon Chappell
DATE OF PHOTO: September 30, 1975
NEGATIVE FILED AT: National Park Service, Western Regional Office, 450 Golden Gate Avenue, Box 36063, San Francisco, California 94102

4 IDENTIFICATION
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET
PHOTO NO. 1
Front and northwest side, Horseshoe Lake Ranger Station, view towards south-southwest, Lassen Volcanic National Park, California
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOUSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

NAME

HISTORIC Horseshoe Lake Ranger Station
AND/OR COMMON Patrol Cabin

LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Not applicable
VICINITY OF Chester
COUNTY Shasta
STATE California

PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT National Park Service photo by Gordon Chappell
DATE OF PHOTO September 30, 1975
NEGATIVE FILED AT National Park Service, Western Regional Office, 450 Golden Gate Avenue Box 36063 San Francisco, California 94102

IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO. 2

Front and southeast side, Horseshoe Lake Ranger Station, view towards west, Lassen Volcanic National Park, California
NAME
HISTORIC
Horseshoe Lake Ranger Station
AND/OR COMMON
Patrol Cabin

LOCATION
CITY, TOWN
Not Applicable
VICINITY OF
Chester
COUNTY
Shasta
STATE
California

PHOTO REFERENCE
PHOTO CREDIT National Park Service photo by Gordon Chappell
DATE OF PHOTO September 30, 1975
NEGATIVE FILED AT National Park Service, Western Regional Office, 450 Golden Gate Avenue Box 36063 San Francisco, California 94102

IDENTIFICATION
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET
Rear (southwest) side of Horseshoe Lake Ranger Station, view toward northwest, Lassen Volcanic National Park, California

PHOTO NO. 3