**NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK**

**NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE/SITE** | COPPER MOUNTAIN FIRE LOOKOUT/COPPER RIDGE LOOKOUT
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**SITE ADDRESS/LOCATION** | On Copper Mountain, elevation 6260 feet, 10 miles from trailhead at Hannigan Campground
**DISTRICT** | Skagit
**COUNTY** | Whatcom
**STATE** | Washington
**OWNER/ADMIN ADDRESS** | National Park Service

### Description and Background History

The U.S. Forest Service erected fire lookouts as part of their fire protection system for the forests. Most of the lookouts were built between 1920-1935. World War II brought a perceived threat from across the Pacific and this led to the manning of some lookouts as part of the military's Aircraft Warning System. After the war, aerial surveillance and other technological advances rendered the old lookouts obsolete. Many were torn down in the 1960s. This lookout was built by the Glacier Ranger District of the Mt. Baker National Forest in 1934. In 1943 this lookout was manned during the winter as part of the Aircraft Warning Service. A lookout once stood nearby (2 miles by air) on Easy Ridge but this was removed by the NPS in 1973. The NPS uses Copper Lookout primarily as a backcountry ranger station during the summer months. In 1980 a new roof was installed. This lookout is similar in appearance to the Hidden Lake Lookout.

**PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY** | YES, LIMITED
**LOcaled IN AN HISTORIC DISTRICT?** | YES
**SIGNIFICANCE** | Eligible under Nat. Reg. Criterion A: for its association with USFS stewardship of National Forests, and under Criterion C: as an example of a distinct type of construction and architectural expression. Of the 43 lookouts erected by the USFS in the Mt. Baker National Forest since 1915, only three are extant within NOCA. This is a good example of the type of structure designed by the USFS in the 1930s for their fire protection system, and Copper Lookout played an important role during WW II when it served as an Aircraft Warning System station. It possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.
**REFERENCES**

- Berry, Fred. Personal interview, 2 May 1984.
- Spring, Ira and B. Fish. Lookouts-Firewatchers of the Cascades and Olympics, 1981.
- Thompson, Erwin. History Basic Data, 1970.

**INVENTORIED BY**  
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**AFFILIATION**  
NPS

**DATE**  
Summer 1984