1. Name of Property

historic name Twin Sisters Lookout

other names/site number Twin Sisters Radio Shack; HS-23

2. Location

street & number N/A

city, town Estes Park

state CO code CO county Larimer code 069 zip code 80517

3. Classification

Ownership of Property Category of Property No. of Resources within Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- X public-Federal

Category of Property:

- X building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

No. of Resources within Property:

- contributing
- noncontributing

Rocky Mountain NP Historic Resources

No. of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0
4. 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 does not meet the National Register criteria.

See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Date

State or Federal agency or bureau

In my opinion, the property does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

State Historic Preservation Officer

Date

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register

See continuation sheet

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register

other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/ Camp

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

OTHER/ Fire Cache

OTHER/ Communication
7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(enter categories from instructions)

foundations Stone

walls Stone

roof Wood and asphalt

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

This is a small, stone walled building, used presently as a radio repeater station and fire cache to store fire fighting equipment and supplies. The exterior is of uncoursed fieldstone and mortar. The stone used in the building came from the site. The roof is arched on five beams and covered with wood and rolled asphalt roofing. There is one door and a roof access trap door, both of wood. The interior is one room. The interior has a concrete floor with stone walls, no ceiling and exposed wood beams and roofing boards. There is one former stove pipe opening that is now used for cable support. There have been a number of changes to the building's function over the years that led to changes in physical appearance and character of the building. The most dramatic have been the closure of the windows and removal of the heating and cooking stove and other interior appointments after the conversion of the building to a radio repeater station during the early 1970s. From 1914 through 1969 the building was used as housing for crews that manned a nearby fire lookout tower. In 1969 the lookout was abandoned and removed.

See continuation sheet
8. Statement of Significance
Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: ___ nationally  ___ statewide  ___ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ___ A ___ B X C ___ D
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

Areas of Significance
(enter categories from instructions)

Rustic Architecture

Period of Significance  Significant Dates
1915-1941  1925
1915-1941  1949, 1969
1949, 1969  1973

Cultural Affiliation

Significant Person  Architect/Builder

USFS Design Staff

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

This building, originally built in 1914 by the United States Forest Service, is not considered to be an example of the National Park Service Rustic design philosophy as it was practiced at Rocky Mountain National Park during the early twentieth century. However, the opportunistic use of nearby stone, when combined with the arch roof, an early twentieth century vernacular roof treatment for small sheds and utility buildings, argue for this building being representative of trends in general rustic and vernacular architecture as it was practiced in much of Colorado during the World War I period. In particular, the arched or box-car roof represents an important trend in Colorado architecture during the period when the Forest Service constructed this building. Other known, contemporary examples have been recorded throughout much of the Colorado front range and piedmont from extreme southern Colorado north to Wyoming.

The building, built by the Forest Service in 1914, was acquired by the National Park Service in 1925. The Forest Service and National Park Service used the building as a seasonal housing facility for crews that manned a fire lookout tower on Twin Sisters Peak. The original lookout was used until 1949 when a replacement tower was built. That lookout remained active until 1969. The 1969 fire season was the last time Twin Sisters was used as a lookout. In 1973 the building was converted to a fire cache and radio repeater station. Since its construction the building has experienced a number of modifications. These reflect the functional changes that the building has gone through over the years. The most dramatic have been the closure of the windows and removal of the heating and cooking stove and other interior appointments after the conversion of the building to a radio repeater station as mentioned above. Despite the changes, all modifications have been in a manner consistent with the materials, character and fabric of the historic exterior and interior. Thus, it is felt that the building retains enough integrity to be considered as an important example trends in local architecture. The roof and the use of locally available stone for a rustic building above timberline, show the basic philosophy of the rustic philosophy by being built in a manner consistent with the local environment.

See continuation sheet
9. Major Bibliographical References

Park Building Files, Rocky Mountain National Park.

Previous documentations on file (NPS): _See continuation sheet_

- _preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested_
- _previously listed in the National Register_
- _previously determined eligible by the National Register_
- _designated a National Historic Landmark_
- _recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_
- _recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #_
- _Engineering Record #_

Primary location of additional data:

- _State Historic Preservation Office_
- _Other State agency_ [X]
- _Federal agency_ [X]
- _Local government_ [ ]
- _University_ [ ]
- _Other_ [ ]

Specify Repository:

- _Rocky Mountain NP_ [ ]

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property: _less 1 acre_

UTM References

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Verbal Boundary Description

The property boundary is defined as a circle 50 feet in diameter centered on UTM point 13/456020/4459780.

Boundary Justification

The boundary as described encompasses the resource and a small area of its natural setting. It does not include a large buffer zone or unnecessary lands.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Steven F. Mehls, Vice President
organization: Western Historical Studies, Inc.
date: 8/4/1991
street & number: 1225 Atlantis Ave.
city or town: Lafayette
state: CO
telephone: (303) 666-6208
zip code: 80026
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 92001670 Date Listed: 12/24/92

Twin Sisters Lookout Larimer Rocky Mountain National Park National Park Service MPS
Property Name County State

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Location:
For properties within the National Park system, the name of the park should be noted under location [Bulletin 16A p.10]. The address is amended to read: Rocky Mountain National Park (ROMO)

Period of Significance:
The period of significance should begin with the date of construction/first use. The period is amended to read: 1914-1941.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)
SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 92001670 Date Listed: 12/24/92

Twin Sisters Lookout Larimer CO
Property Name County State

Rocky Mountain National Park MPS
Multiple Name

Amended Items in Nomination:

Significant Date:
The block for Significant Dates is amended to
read: 1914 and 1925. These dates reflect the
resource's date of construction and the date of
its NPS acquisition. The original dates provided
(1949, 1969, and 1973) are deleted since they fall
outside of the period of significance. In
addition, 1949 refers to the nearby fire tower
structure and not the nominated lookout building.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____  Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 92001669  Date Listed: 12/24/92

Vaille, Agnes Shelter  Larimer  CO
Property Name  County  State

Rocky mountain National Park MPS
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Signature of the Keeper  12/24/92

Amended Items in Nomination:

Location: For properties within the National Park system, the name of the park should be noted under location [Bulletin 16A p.10]. The address is amended to read: Rocky Mountain National Park (ROMO)

Classification: This resource is classified as a building.

Significant Date: The Significant Date is recorded as 1927, corresponding to the date of construction [Bulletin 16A p.43].

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)
Twin Sisters Radio Repeater

HS-23

Rocky Mountain NP

Nancy Pritchard

01/12/91

Negative on file at Rocky Mountain Regional office, NPS

Front 3/4 to SW
Twin Sisters Radio Repeater
H-23
Rocky Mountain NP
Nancy Pritchard
01/12/91
Negative on file at Rocky Mountain Regional Office, NPS

Interior to SE