

3462

DEC 29 1988

# PNRO INVENTORY

National Park Service  
Pacific Northwest Region  
Cultural Resources Division

Westin Building, Room 1920  
2001 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle, Washington 98121

## NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK

NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE/SITE *BACKUS/MARBLEMOUNT RANGER STATION-  
(Building) RESIDENCE*

SITE ADDRESS/LOCATION *1 mile north of Highway 20, at end of  
Ranger Station Road, in Marblemount*

DISTRICT *Skagit* COUNTY *Skagit* STATE *Washington*

OWNER/ADMIN ADDRESS *National Park Service*

DATE OF  
CONSTRUCTION

*c. 1932*

ADDITION(S)

SITE ID. NO.

SCALE

*1:62500*

QUAD NAME

*Marblemount*

UTM ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

*10 6145005377300*

CROSS REFERENCE *NOCA Bldg. #1009*

☒ CONTRIBUTING

☐ NON-  
CONTRIBUTING

DANGER OF DEMOLITION?

(SPECIFY THREAT)

☐ YES

☒ NO

☐ UNKNOWN

DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND HISTORY INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION DATE(S), PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS, MATERIALS, MAJOR ALTERATIONS, IMPORTANT BUILDERS, ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS, ETC.

*Residence. Wood frame set on cement block foundation; rectangle (19' x 40'); 3 bays wide; 1 1/2-stories; wood shingle siding with decorative board and batten siding above at gable ends; wood-shaked gable roof with slightly extended eaves; off-center wood panel and glass door on east; off-center concrete chimney. Exterior features include 6/6 and 1/1 double-hung sash, 6-pane fixed and hinged sash, and single-pane fixed sash, all with simple molded surrounds gable-roofed entrance portico on east supported by plain squared posts and board and batten siding beneath gable; gable-roofed portico with entrance extending out on west; plain fascia boards; flared plywood skirting. Notable landscape features include wood frame outbuilding (storage) and concrete retaining wall behind house (west side).*

*This is one of the early buildings constructed by the Forest Service at the Backus Ranger Station. Built as a residence, it serves in the same capacity today, and retains its original appearance. A new shake roof was installed in 1977.*

CURRENT USE

*Seasonal residence*

ORIGINAL USE

*Residence*

PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY ☒ YES, LIMITED ☐ YES, UNLIMITED ☐ NO ☐ UNKNOWN

EXISTING SURVEYS

☐ NR

☐ HABS  
☐ NHL

☐ LCS  
☐ NPS

☐ STATE  
☐ COUNTY

☐ LOCAL  
☐ OTHER

LOCATED IN AN HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ YES ☒ NO ☐ NAME

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT

☐ FAIR

☐ RUINS

☒ GOOD

☐ DETERIORATED

**SIGNIFICANCE** *Eligible under Nat. Reg. criterion C: significant as an excellent example of 1930s-era residential Forest Service architecture in the North Cascades. Drawing on traditional models the USFS constructed buildings by their architects which utilized natural or native materials, combined different exterior materials, and successfully harmonized with the environment. This residence represents a distinct type of architecture and possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.*

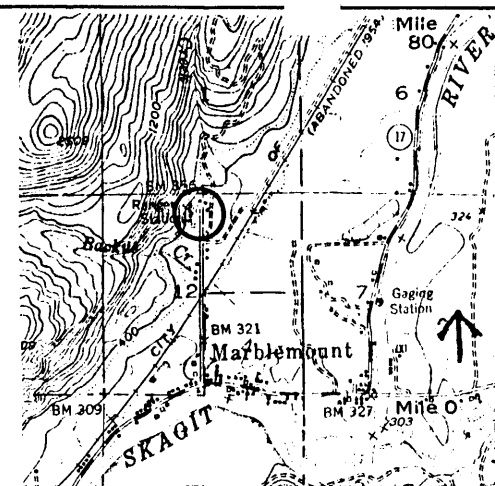
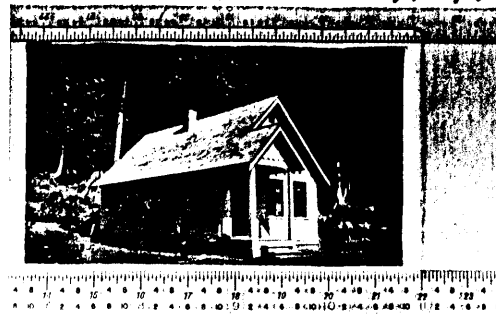
PHOTOGRAPHS AND SKETCH MAP OF LOCATION



FROM SE



HISTORIC VIEW



FROM E

NEGATIVE NO. GL2-6A, 14A-17A

HABS/HAER QUALITY

☐ YES

☒ NO

REFERENCES

National Park Service. "Superintendent's Annual Report", 1977.

Throop, E. Gail. Contract Abstracts, Vol. 3, No. 2, 1983.

Wood, Gerry. "Individual Building Data-Residence", National Park Service, 29 January 1975.

INVENTORIED BY Gretchen Luxenberg

AFFILIATION NPS

DATE Summer 1984

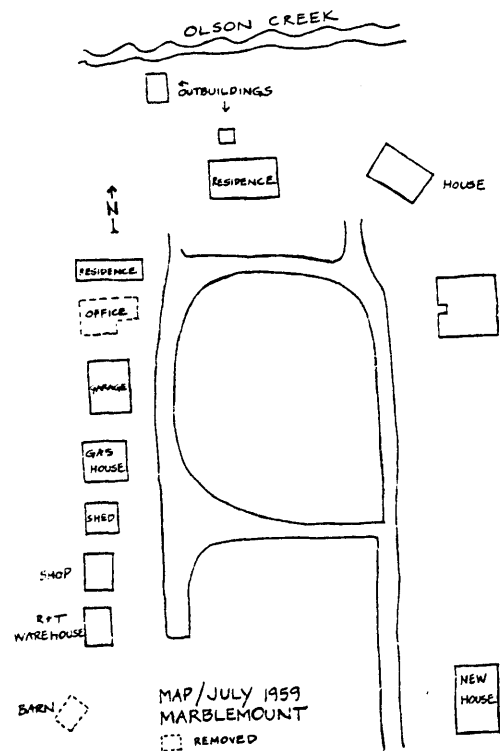
# PNRO INVENTORY

**Westin Building, Room 1920  
2001 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle, Washington 98121.**

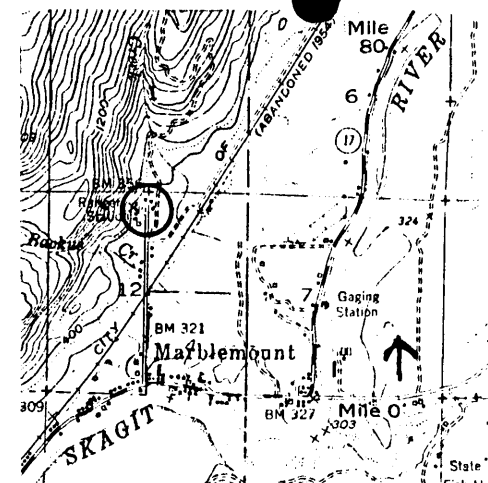
# NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK

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|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE/SITE</b><br>BACKUS RANGER STATION/MARBLEMOUNT RANGER STATION                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |  | <b>DATE OF CONSTRUCTION</b><br>1909-1933                                    |  | <b>SITE ID. NO.</b>                                                                                                     |  |                                                                        |  |                                                                   |  |                                                                  |  |
| <b>SITE ADDRESS/LOCATION</b><br>One mile north of Highway 20 at end<br>of Ranger Station Road, in Marblemount                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |  | <b>ADDITION(S)</b><br>1950s, 1960s                                          |  | <b>SCALE</b><br>1:62500                                                                                                 |  | <b>QUAD NAME</b><br>Marblemount                                        |  |                                                                   |  |                                                                  |  |
| <b>DISTRICT</b><br>Skagit                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |  | <b>COUNTY</b><br>Skagit                                                     |  | <b>STATE</b><br>Washington                                                                                              |  | <b>UTM ZONE</b>                                                        |  | <b>EASTING</b>                                                    |  | <b>NORTHING</b>                                                  |  |
| <b>OWNER/ADMIN ADDRESS</b><br>National Park Service                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |  |                                                                             |  | <input type="checkbox"/> CONTRIBUTING<br><input type="checkbox"/> NON-CONTRIBUTING                                      |  | <b>CROSS REFERENCE</b> NOCA Bldg. #1009, 1010,<br>1008, 1006, 1005     |  |                                                                   |  |                                                                  |  |
| <b>DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND HISTORY INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION DATE(S), PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS, MATERIALS, MAJOR ALTERATIONS, IMPORTANT BUILDERS, ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS, ETC.</b><br>In 1897 the Skagit Ranger District was established as a component of the Washington National Forest (later Mt. Baker National Forest). In the early 20th century the Backus Ranger Station was established. The main activities at Backus were timber and range management, protection from fire and trespass, conservation of wildlife and development of recreational resources. In 1909 Ranger Axel Larson built the first building, a four-room residence, soon occupied by Alfred B. Conrad. This building was replaced in 1926 with a new residence (possibly #1009). In 1929 an allotment of \$500 was approved for an office (moved off compound in 1962 and relocated to west side of Ranger Station Road). Other improvements were made in the 1930s, some by the CCCs who were stationed at Bacon Creek. These included a barn/fire/tool warehouse, blacksmith shop and a two-room guard cabin. It is thought that Ranger Henry Soll built the old barn (moved off campground in the 1960s and located on private property in Marblemount) and the warehouse. After Larson and Conrad, Thomas (Tommy) Thompson became District Ranger in 1915 and remained at Backus until he retired in 1943. It is believed that he planted the grove of oak trees at the station which stood until 1984 when the NPS removed them. In 1946 Hubert O. Wilson succeeded Thompson, and Wilfred Moisio eventually succeeded Wilson. In 1968 this complex was transferred from the Forest Service to the National Park Service when North Cascades National Park was created. The complex has grown and some of the early buildings have changed in appearance. |  | <b>CURRENT USE</b><br>National Park Compound                                |  | <b>ORIGINAL USE</b><br>Forest Service Compound                                                                          |  |                                                                        |  |                                                                   |  |                                                                  |  |
| <b>PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY</b><br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES, LIMITED<br><input type="checkbox"/> NO                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |  | <input type="checkbox"/> YES, UNLIMITED<br><input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN |  | <b>EXISTING SURVEYS</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> NR<br><input type="checkbox"/> HABS<br><input type="checkbox"/> NHL |  | <input type="checkbox"/> LCS<br><input type="checkbox"/> NPS           |  | <input type="checkbox"/> STATE<br><input type="checkbox"/> COUNTY |  | <input type="checkbox"/> LOCAL<br><input type="checkbox"/> OTHER |  |
| <b>LOCATED IN AN HISTORIC DISTRICT?</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> YES<br><input type="checkbox"/> NAME                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO                                      |  | <b>CONDITION</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT<br><input type="checkbox"/> GOOD                                 |  | <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR<br><input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED |  | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS                                    |  |                                                                  |  |
| <b>SIGNIFICANCE</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |  |                                                                             |  |                                                                                                                         |  |                                                                        |  |                                                                   |  |                                                                  |  |

# PHOTOGRAPHS AND SKETCH MAP OF LOCATION



HISTORIC VIEW



BACKUS  
RANGER STATION,  
PRE-1916  
(photo. by N. Hicks)

NEGATIVE NO. GL X-43613 (NOCA Photo HABS/HAER QUALITY

☐ YES

☒ NO

## REFERENCES

Criswell, Harold C. *History of Mt. Baker National Forest*, n.d.

Field, Newton. *Mt. Baker Almanac*, 1950.

U.S. Forest Service. *Miscellaneous Papers*, RG 95: FARC Box 76A-2058/68109; Box 66A-315/1677.

INVENTORIED BY Gretchen Luxenberg

AFFILIATION NPS

DATE Summer 1984



Marblemount Residence #1009  
#22

PNR #GL2-16A