

NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK

NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE/SITE <i>COPPER MOUNTAIN FIRE LOOKOUT/COPPER (Building) RIDGE LOOKOUT</i>		DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1934	SITE ID. NO. [][][][][][][][]						
SITE ADDRESS/LOCATION <i>On Copper Mountain, elevation 6260 feet, 10 miles from trailhead at Hannigan Campground</i>			SCALE 1:24000		QUAD NAME <i>Mt. Challenger</i>				
			UTM ZONE 10 [][]		EASTING 612750		NORTHING 5418275		
DISTRICT <i>Skagit</i>		COUNTY <i>Whatcom</i>		STATE <i>Washington</i>		CROSS REFERENCE <i>NOCA Bldg. #1228 /I-1</i>			
OWNER/ADMIN ADDRESS <i>National Park Service</i>		☒ CONTRIBUTING		DANGER OF DEMOLITION? (SPECIFY THREAT)					
		☐ NON-CONTRIBUTING		☐ YES ☒ NO ☐ UNKNOWN					

DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND HISTORY INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION DATE(S), PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS, MATERIALS, MAJOR ALTERATIONS, IMPORTANT BUILDERS, ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS, ETC. <i>Cabin. Wood frame set on rock foundation; square (14'3" x 14'3")</i>	CURRENT USE	ORIGINAL USE
	<i>Backcountry ranger residence (summers)</i>	<i>Firewatch/lookout</i>

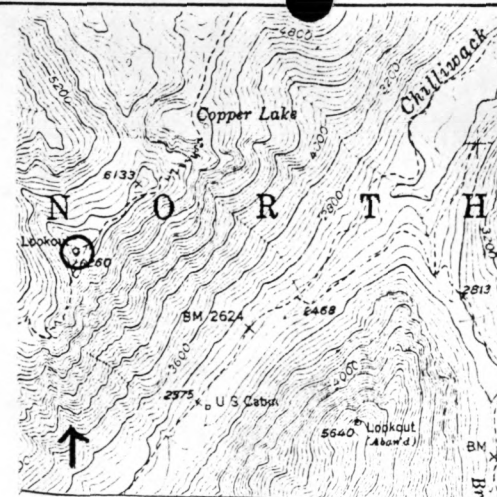
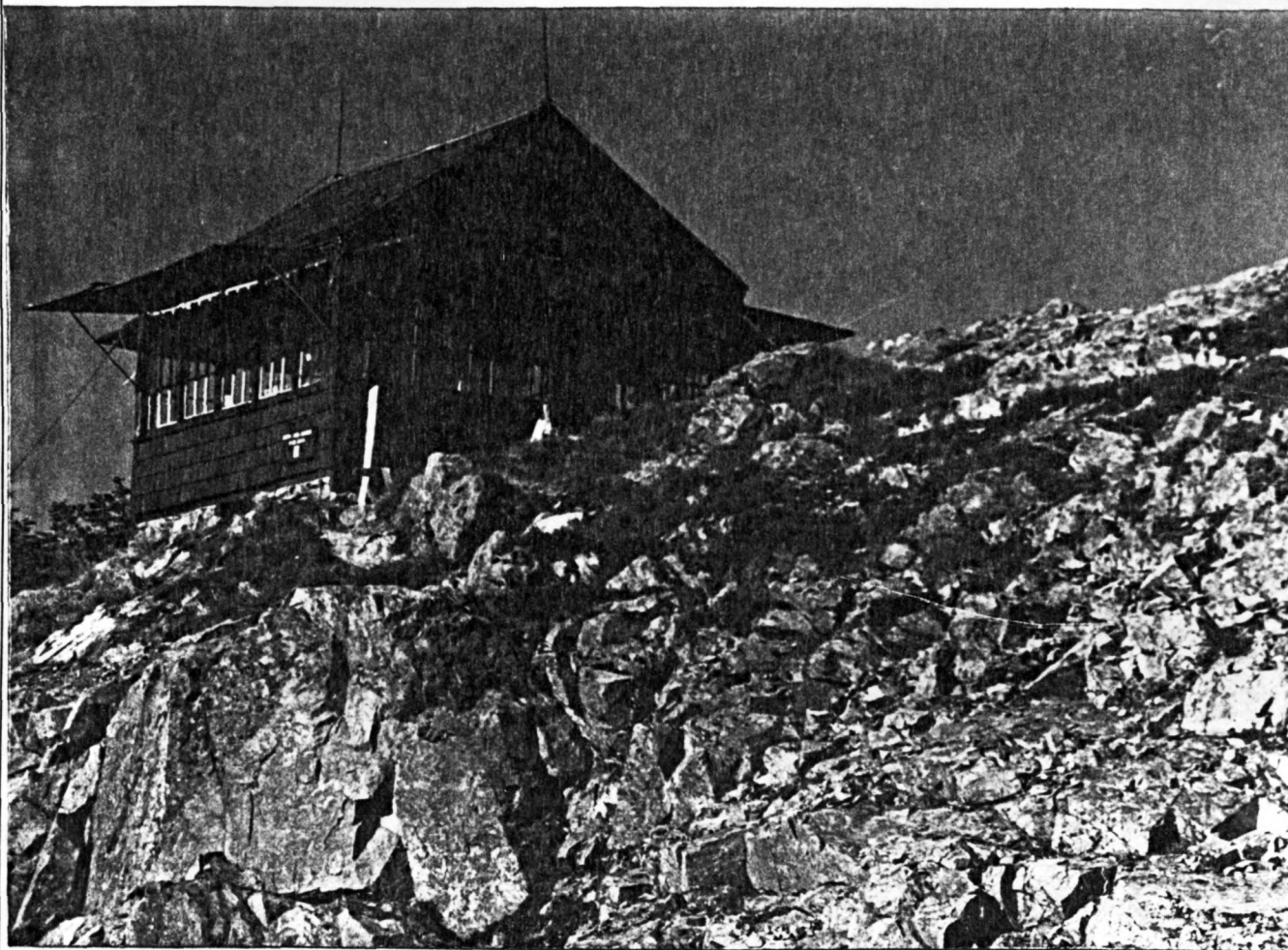
5 bays wide; 1-story; wood shingle siding with clapboards on north and south gable ends; wood-shingled gable roof; off-center entrance on north with multi-pane glass and wood panel door; metal stovepipe (not connected or in photo) on east slope. Exterior features include 9-pane fixed and hinged sash on each facade; plain fascia board; wood panel hinged shutters with diagonal bracing.

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. W.W.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 ☐ NO	☐ YES, UNLIMITED ☐ UNKNOWN	EXISTING SURVEYS	☐ NR ☐ NHL	☐ HABS ☐ NPS	☒ LCS ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY	☐ LOCAL ☐ OTHER
LOCATED IN AN HISTORIC DISTRICT?				CONDITION				
☐ YES ☐ NAME				☐ EXCELLENT ☒ GOOD				
				☐ FAIR ☐ DETERIORATED				
				☐ RUINS				

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.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND SKETCH MAP OF LOCATION



FROM S

NEGATIVE NO. NOCA Photo file (1970) HABS/HAER QUALITY

☐ YES

☒ NO

REFERENCES

Berry, Fred. *Personal interview*, 2 May 1984.

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

North Cascades National Park. *"Superintendent's Annual Report"*, 1980.

Spring, Ira and B. Fish. *Lookouts-Firewatchers of the Cascades and Olympics*, 1981.

Thompson, Erwin. *History Basic Data*, 1970.

INVENTORIED BY *Gretchen Luxenberg*

AFFILIATION

NPS

DATE *Summer 1984*

