

DEC 20 1988

PNRO
INVENTORYNational Park Service
Pacific Northwest Region
Cultural Resources DivisionWestin Building Room 1920
2001 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98121

NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK

NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE/SITE (Building) <i>DESOLATION PEAK LOOKOUT</i>		DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1932 ADDITION(S)	SITE ID. NO.	
SITE ADDRESS/LOCATION <i>On Desolation Peak, elevation 6085, east of Ross Lake, six miles south of Canadian border</i>			SCALE 1:24000	QUAD NAME <i>Hozomeen Mountain</i>
DISTRICT <i>Skagit</i>			COUNTY <i>Whatcom</i>	STATE <i>Washington</i>
OWNER/ADMIN ADDRESS <i>National Park Service</i>			CROSS REFERENCE <i>NOCA Bldg. #1227/II-5</i>	
DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND HISTORY INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION DATE(S), PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS, MATERIALS, MAJOR ALTERATIONS, IMPORTANT BUILDERS, ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS, ETC.		☒ 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.

Cabin. Wood frame set on concrete pier foundation; square (14'6" x 14'6"); 5 bays wide; 1-story; shiplap siding; wood-shingled hip roof; off-center entrance on south with wood panel and glass door; metal stovepipe on north slope. Exterior features include 2/2 hinged sash on each facade; simple molded cornice; corner boards; 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 1929-1935. 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. Desolation Peak Lookout was constructed by USFS employee Oscar Banner in 1932. One of Desolation's past lookouts was writer Jack Kerouac whose book *Desolation Angels* describes the summer he spent there in 1956. A new roof was installed in 1980 by the NPS. This lookout is similar in appearance to Sourdough Mountain Lookout.*

CURRENT USE

Not used

ORIGINAL USE

Firewatch/lookout

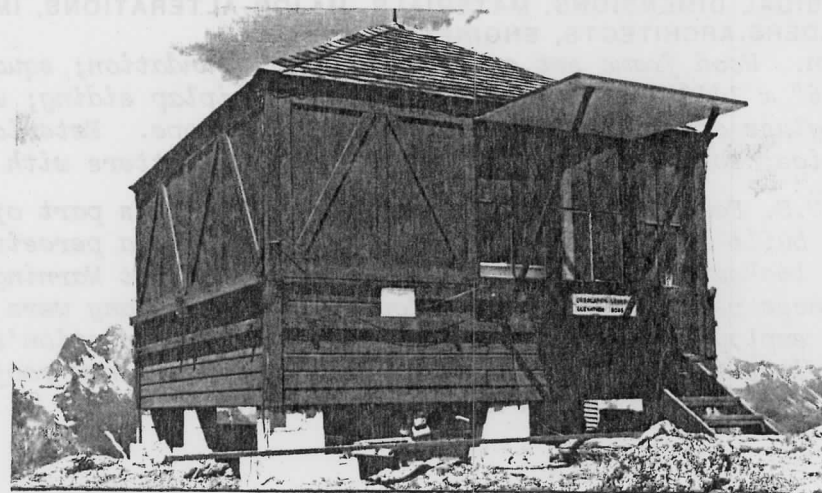
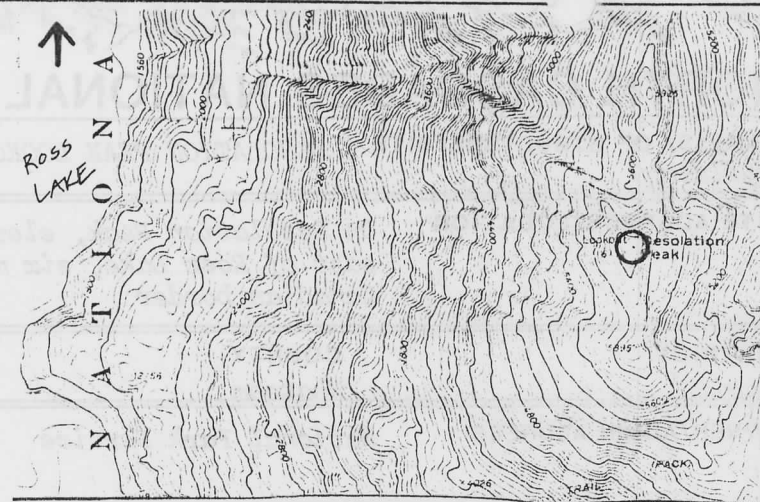
PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY	☒ YES, LIMITED ☐ NO	☐ YES, UNLIMITED ☐ UNKNOWN	EXISTING SURVEYS	☐ NR ☐ HABS ☐ NHL	☒ LCS ☐ NPS	☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY	☐ LOCAL ☐ OTHER
LOCATED IN AN HISTORIC DISTRICT?	☐ YES ☐ NAME	☒ NO	CONDITION	☐ EXCELLENT ☒ GOOD	☐ FAIR ☐ DETERIORATED	☐ RUINS	

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 Desolation Lookout was used as an Aircraft Warning System station during WW II. It varies from Copper Lookout in its roofline. It possesses integrity of design, location, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, and association.*

PHOTOGRAPHS AND SKETCH MAP OF LOCATION



FROM NE



FROM SW

NEGATIVE NO. GL 10-10-19

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.

Taylor, Phil. *Personal interview*, 27 March 1984.

INVENTORIED BY *Gretchen Luxenberg*

AFFILIATION *NPS*

DATE *Summer 1984*

12/29/88

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic GroupName North Cascades National Park Service Complex MRA
State WASHINGTON

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------|------------|-----------------------------|
| Cover | Substantive Review | for Keeper | Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 2/10/8 |
| 1. Backus--Marblemount Ranger Station
House No. 1009 | Substantive Review | for Keeper | Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 2/10/8 |
| | | Attest | |
| 2. Backus--Marblemount Ranger Station
House No. 1010 | Substantive Review | for Keeper | Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 2/10/87 |
| | | Attest | |
| 3. Beaver Pass Shelter | Substantive Review | for Keeper | Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 2/10/8 |
| | | Attest | |
| 4. Bridge Creek Cabin--Ranger Station | Substantive Review | for Keeper | Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 2/10/89 |
| | | Attest | |
| 5. Bridge Creek Shelter | Substantive Review | for Keeper | Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 2/10/89 |
| | | Attest | |
| 6. Buckner Homestead Historic District | Substantive Review | Keeper | Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 2/10/8 |
| | | Attest | |
| 7. Cooper Mountain Fire Lookout | Substantive Review | for Keeper | Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 2/10/84 |
| | | Attest | |
| 8. Deer Lick Cabin | Substantive Review | for Keeper | Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 2/10/84 |
| | | Attest | |
| 9. Desolation Peak Lookout | Substantive Review | for Keeper | Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 2/10/89 |
| | | Attest | |
| 10. Fish and Game--Hozomeen Cabin | Substantive Review | for Keeper | Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 2/10/84 |
| | | Attest | |

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Desolation Peak Lookout
NAME:

MULTIPLE North Cascades National Park Service Complex MRA
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: WASHINGTON, Whatcom

DATE RECEIVED: 12/29/88 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/10/89
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/26/89 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/12/89
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 88003451

NOMINATOR: FEDERAL

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: Y SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 2/10/89 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Significant under A for its association with US
Forest Service management of Mt. Baker National Forest.
Significant under C as a rare and unique example
of Forest Service firetower construction techniques.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept - A, C
REVIEWER Noble
DISCIPLINE Historian
DATE 2/10/89

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

___count ___resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

___historic ___current

DESCRIPTION

___architectural classification
___materials
___descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

___summary paragraph
___completeness
___clarity
___applicable criteria
___justification of areas checked
___relating significance to the resource
___context
___relationship of integrity to significance
___justification of exception
___other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

___acreage ___verbal boundary description
___UTMs ___boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___sketch maps ___USGS maps ___photographs ___presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Signed _____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____



Desolation Lookout
#26

PNR #GL10-17

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000907

DATE FRI, JAN 6, 1989, 11:23 AM
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY REPORT
REFERENCE No.: 88003451

Page: 11

Control No.: 890104/jps

PROPERTY NAME: Desolation Peak Lookout

OTHER NAME/ NOT APPLICABLE
SITE No. :

MULTIPLE NAME: North Cascades National Park Service Complex MRA

ADDRESS/ On Desolation Peak E of Ross Lake, 6 mi. S of Canadian borde
BOUNDARY : r

CITY: Hozomeen

VICINITY

COUNTY: Whatcom

STATE: WASHINGTON

Restricted Location Information: Owner: FEDERAL Resource Type: BUILDING

Contributing Noncontributing

Buildings	1	0
Sites	0	0
Structures	0	0
Objects	0	0

Nomination/Determination Type: MULTIPLE RESOURCE

Nominator: FEDERAL AGENCY

Nominator Name:
NOT APPLICABLE

Federal NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Agency:

NPS Park Name: Ross Lake

Certification: DATE RECEIVED/PENDING NOMINATION

Date: 12/29/88

Other NOT APPLICABLE
Certification:

LI: 2/10/89

Historic RECREATION AND CULTURE
Functions:

Historic OUTDOOR RECREATION
Subfunctions:

Current VACANT/NOT IN USE
Functions:

Current NOT APPLICABLE
Subfunctions:

Level of LOCAL Applicable Criteria: EVENT
Significance: ARCHITECTURE/ENGINEERING

Significant Person's Name: NOT APPLICABLE

Criteria Considerations: NOT APPLICABLE

Area of Significance: ARCHITECTURE
CONSERVATION

Periods of: 1925-1949
Significance:

Circa: Specific Sig. Years:
1932

Architect/Builder/Engineer/
Designer:

Cultural Affiliation:

US Forest Service

NOT APPLICABLE

Other Documentation:

NOT APPLICABLE

HABS No. N/A

HAER No. N/A

Architectural NO STYLE LISTED
Styles:

Describe Other Style: NOT APPLICABLE

Foundation Materials: CONCRETE
Wall Materials: WEATHERBOARD
Roof Materials: SHINGLE
Other Materials: METAL

Acreage: 0.9

UTM	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
Coordinates:	10/	/6 45 440/	/54 19 315	/ /	/ /	/ /