

NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK

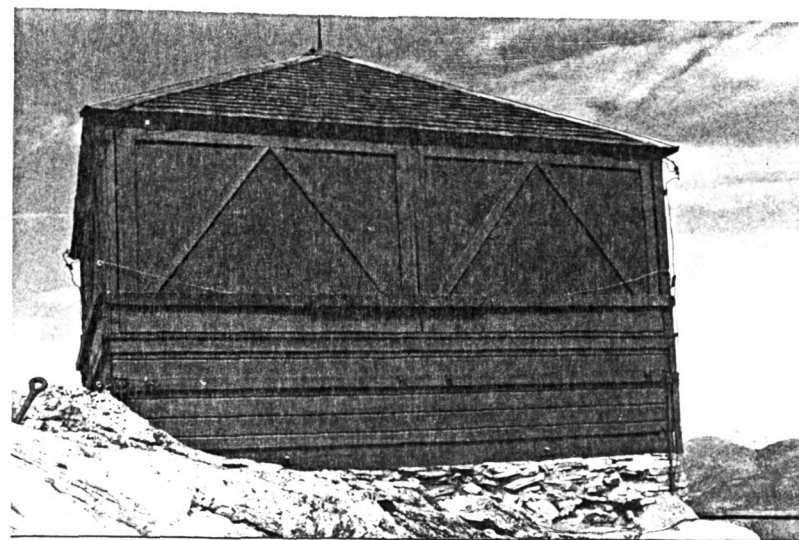
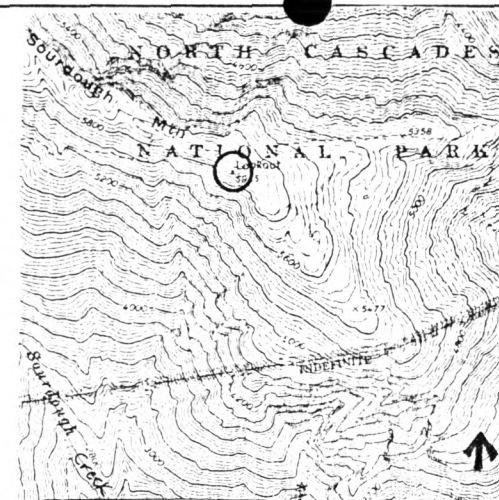
PNRO INVENTORY

National Park Service
Pacific Northwest Region
Cultural Resources Division
Westin Building Room 1920
2001 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98121

NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE/SITE (Building) SOURDOUGH MOUNTAIN LOOKOUT		DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1933 ADDITION(S)	SITE ID. NO.	
SITE ADDRESS/LOCATION On Sourdough Mountain, elevation 5997 feet, 5 miles from trailhead at Diablo			SCALE 1:24000	QUAD NAME Ross Lake
DISTRICT Skagit			COUNTY Whatcom	STATE Washington
OWNER/ADMIN ADDRESS National Park Service		☒ CONTRIBUTING ☐ NON-CONTRIBUTING	CROSS REFERENCE NOCA Bldg. #1226 / I-5	
DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND HISTORY INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION DATE(S), PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS, MATERIALS, MAJOR ALTERATIONS, IMPORTANT BUILDERS, ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS, ETC. Cabin. Wood frame set on rock foundation; square (14'3"x14'3"); 5 bays wide; 1-story; shiplap siding; wood-shingled hip roof; off-center door on east with wood panel and glass door. Exterior features include 2/2 hinged sash on each facade; plywood 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. The first lookout on this mountain was erected in 1917 by Glee Davis (early upper Skagit Valley resident). He hand-split shakes and siding at his homestead at Cedar Bar and packed the materials up the mountain with horses. His father-in-law was the first lookout (Campbell). The structure was about 10' x 10' with a 6' x 6' cupola. The present lookout was erected by the CCC's in 1933, replacing Davis' building. This lookout is no longer used on a regular basis. It is a popular destination for day hikers. A new roof was installed in 1980.			DANGER OF DEMOLITION? (SPECIFY THREAT) ☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ UNKNOWN	
		CURRENT USE Vacant	ORIGINAL USE Firewatch/lookout	
PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY ☒ YES, LIMITED ☐ YES, UNLIMITED ☐ NO ☐ UNKNOWN				
EXISTING SURVEYS ☐ NR ☐ HABS ☐ HNS ☒ LCS ☐ STATE ☐ LOCAL				
LOCATED IN AN ☐ YES ☒ NO				
HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ NAME				
CONDITION ☐ EXCELLENT ☐ FAIR ☐ RUINS				
☒ GOOD ☐ DETERIORATED				
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 Sourdough Lookout is the site of the first such structure to be built in the North Cascades. It possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.				

PHOTOGRAPHS AND SKETCH MAP OF LOCATION

FROM N



FROM E

NEGATIVE NO. GL38-6-12; NOCA Photo HABS/HAER QUALITY ☐ YES ☒ NO

REFERENCES *File*

Englebright, Lois W. "From a Mountain Lookout, the View is Superb", *Skagit Alpine Club Bulletin*, January-December 1965.
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*



Sourdough Lookout
#27

PNR # GL 38-8