

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
**National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**historic name Fall River Pump House and Catchment Basinother names/site number Building 0171;5LR.10936**2. Location**street & number Rocky Mountain National Park (ROMO) [N/A] not for publicationcity or town Estes Park [X] vicinitystate Colorado code CO county Larimer code 069 zip code 80517**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  
[X] 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 [X] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be  
considered significant [ ] nationally [ ] statewide [X] locally. ([ ] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of co-certifying official/Title

Joe Wallis 7-18-06  
Date

National Park Service

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [X] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria.  
([ ] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Mark Wolfe 3/23/06  
Date

Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Colorado Historical Society

State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that the 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  
[ ] See continuation sheet.

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson R. Ball8.30.06

Fall River Pump House & Catchment Basin  
Name of Property

Larimer County/ Colorado  
County/State

## 5. Classification

### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

☐ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☒ public-Federal

### Category of Property

(Check only one box)

☒ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

### Number of Resources within Property

(Do not count previously listed resources.)

Contributing

Noncontributing

|   |   |            |
|---|---|------------|
| 1 | 0 | buildings  |
| 0 | 0 | sites      |
| 1 | 0 | structures |
| 0 | 0 | objects    |
| 2 | 0 | Total      |

### Name of related multiple property listing.

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Rocky Mountain National Park MPS

### Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

0

## 6. Function or Use

### Historic Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT  
LANDSCAPE/ park

### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT  
LANDSCAPE/ park

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER/ NPS Rustic

### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE/ granite  
walls STONE/ granite

roof ASPHALT

other EARTH

CONCRETE

STONE/ GRANITE

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**8. Statement of Significance****Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

**Property is:**

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References****Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- ☐ 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
- # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

**ARCHITECTURE****Periods of Significance****1938****Significant Dates****1938****Significant Person(s)**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).

**N/A****Cultural Affiliation****N/A****Architect/Builder****NATIONAL PARK SERVICE****Primary location of additional data:**

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State Agency
- ☐ Federal Agency
- ☐ Local Government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

**Name of repository:****Colorado Historical Society**

Fall River Pump House & Catchment Basin  
Name of Property

Larimer County/ Colorado  
County/State

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** less than one

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1.      13      436636      4476371 (NAD 27)  
         Zone      Easting      Northing

2.  
         Zone      Easting      Northing

3.  
         Zone      Easting      Northing

4.  
         Zone      Easting      Northing

[ ] See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cheri Yost/ Park Ranger

organization Rocky Mountain National Park

date October 2005

street & number 1000 U.S. Highway 36

telephone (970) 586-1394

city or town Estes Park

state Colorado

zip code 80517

## Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

### Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

## Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Rocky Mountain National Park; Vaughn C. Baker, Superintendent

street & number 1000 U.S. Highway 36

telephone (970) 586-1200

city or town Estes Park

state Colorado

zip code 80517

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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

Fall River Pump House & Catchment Basin  
Rocky Mountain National Park MPS

Section number 7 Page 1  
Larimer County/ Colorado

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**DESCRIPTION**Pump House

Situated near the top of Fall River Road in the north-central part of Rocky Mountain National Park, the Pump House is a one room building measuring 14'-0" by 12'-0". The rebar-reinforced concrete walls are veneered with local stone battered 12" to 1" in elevation. The flat roof is also constructed of reinforced concrete and then layered with gravel-surfaced roofing and tar. The entry door, made of two opposed layers of planking- vertical and diagonal, faces to the east and looks down the valley towards Estes Park. A hatch door is centrally located on the roof for access when snow drifts prevent use of the primary door. The north window is a 6-light horizontal hopper window whereas the south window has been replaced with a single "hammered" glass pane, presumably with hopper action as well.

Catchment Basin

An alpine stream runs on the south side of the property flowing in a west to east direction and forms a confluence with another tributary flowing southwest to northeast. This stream is fed from the catchment basin constructed in similar rustic manner of concrete veneered with local granite boulders. This water feature harmonizes with the surrounding alpine environment. This catchment basin (collecting sump) is located southwest of the pump house, roughly 200 feet away. The pipeline runs from the catchment basin to the pump house, and then uphill to a collection of buildings and structures that include a visitors center and ranger station.

**National Register of Historic Places  
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National Park Service**Fall River Pump House & Catchment Basin  
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Larimer County/ Colorado**SIGNIFICANCE**

The Fall River Pass Pump House and Catchment Basin are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of Architecture, meeting the registration requirements set forth in the *Rocky Mountain National Park Multiple Property Listing* in the area of NPS Rustic. The Fall River Pass Pump House and Catchment Basin are significant for their design, embodying the principles of NPS Rustic style.

**Historic Background**

The site is a minor developed area, meaning a small facility in a remote section of the park to serve a specific purpose, in this case, treating water for the Fall River Pass Museum, and after 1965 for the Alpine Visitor Center. The Pump House itself embodies NPS Rustic design goals, to make buildings blend with and be secondary to their surroundings. The stone construction and low profile reflects the alpine landscape in which it sits. The catchment basin, with its stone wall, embodies NPS Naturalistic design principles as well. The design emphasizes the rustic atmosphere and unobtrusive traditional appearance that was used to house modern functions at the time. Historically, the site is associated with the growth of the National Park Service conservation movement. Specifically, as Rocky Mountain National Park grew in popularity after World War II and automobile traffic increased, the park needed to build facilities with modern conveniences for the increasing number of tourists.

In 1933, Rocky Mountain National Park opened Trail Ridge Road, ushering in a new era of visitation. Though Fall River Road had provided passage over the Continental Divide, its narrow width, steep grade, and tight switchbacks limited both the number and type of visitors. Trail Ridge Road offered unparalleled views of tundra, comfortable grades, and scenic overlooks. The Fall River Road intersected the new Trail Ridge Road at Fall River Pass. In this location sat a stone ranger station built in 1922 (building 58, 5LR.1204, listed in the National Register 29 January 1988). This small, stone building followed the principles of NPS Rustic. In 1936, after Trail Ridge Road opened, the National Park Service built a stone museum in Fall River Pass. In the alpine cirque, more than 1000 feet below these buildings, the National Park Service built a pump house to move water up the steep slope to the museum above. The stone ranger station never had water pumped to it and there is no plumbing in that building.

In March 1938, the National Park Service chose the location and approved construction in August 1938. The drawings on file are signed by L. Fletcher and W.G. Hill, two National Park Service landscape architects. The diesel-fired engines in the pump house moved water uphill to a water tank near the museum. Today the pump house is powered via an electric line buried in the slope. The pump house feeds water to a 60,000 gallon tank near the Fall River Pass generator building, which pumps it further uphill to a 20,000 water tank. Then, the water moves by gravity back downhill to the store and the Alpine Visitor Center.

The east façade is the only fully exposed side whereas the south, west, and north sides are built into the sloping hillside. Local granite veneers concrete construction. The granite stone walls are of a beveled construction with a 12" to 1" batter veneer giving the appearance of structural masonry that harmonizes visually with the immediate alpine environment and within a cultural sense as well. The building is visually tied not only with the surrounding terrain but also with the buildings on Fall River Pass.

Because the Fall River Pass Area has evolved over time and several buildings/structures are less than 50 years old as of the writing of this document, this nomination did not consider the Fall River Pass

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

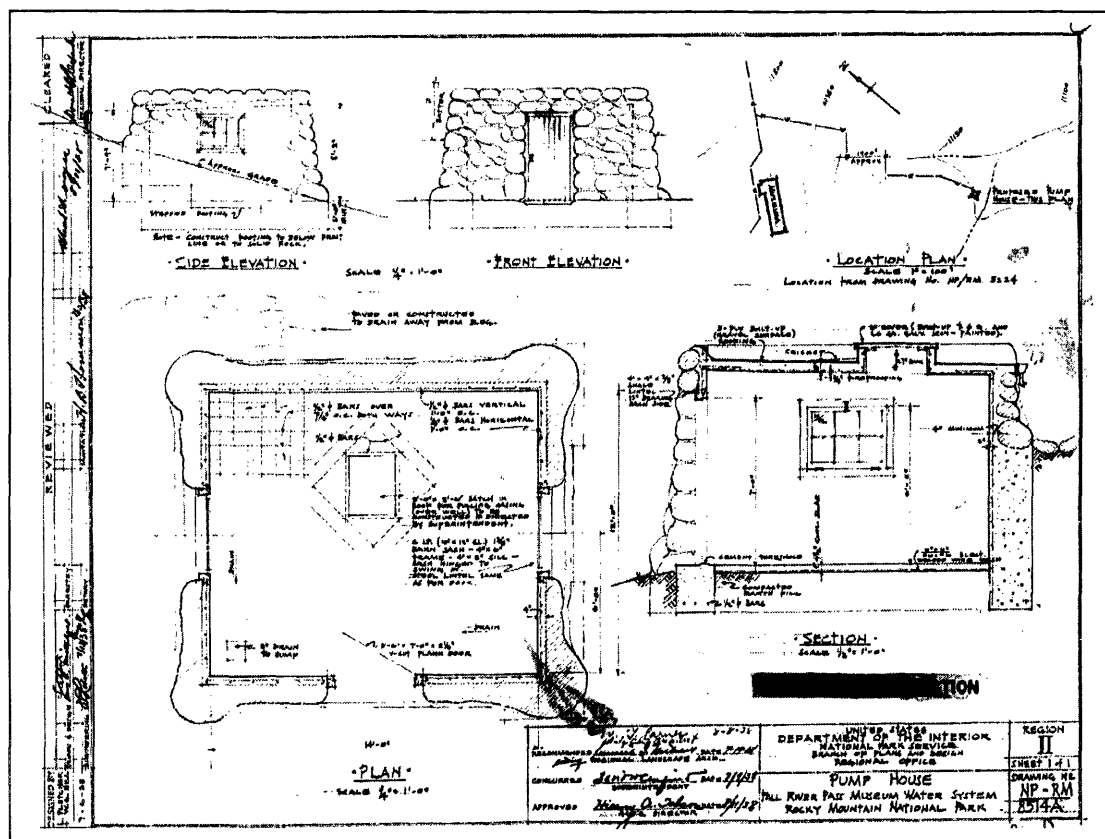
# Fall River Pump House & Catchment Basin Rocky Mountain National Park MPS

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area to be an historic district. The remaining buildings on Fall River Pass include:

- Fall River Pass Ranger Station, built in 1922
- Fall River Pass Museum/Store, built in 1936
- Alpine Visitor Center, built 1964-1965
- Generator Building, built at an unknown date
- Comfort Station, built 2000

## 1938 National Park Service Drawing



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National Park Service**

Fall River Pump House & Catchment Basin  
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**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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Cordova, Karl. Resource Management Specialist in Rocky Mountain National Park. Personal communication to Brian P. Kelly: 5 November 2004.

*Estes Park Trail*, Estes Park, Colorado. 1920-1941.

Good, Albert. *Park and Recreation Structures*. 3 vols. Washington, DC: National Park Service, 1938.

Holland, F. R., Jr. *Rocky Mountain National Park: Historical Background Data*. San Francisco: National Park Service, U.S. Office of History and Historic Architecture, Western Service Center, 1938.

Kelly, Brian P. Colorado Cultural Resources Survey Form, Fall River Pass Pump House and Catchment Basin. University of Colorado at Denver, 2005.

Lindberg, James, Patricia Raney and Janie Robertson. *Rocky Mountain Rustic: Historic Buildings of the Rocky Mountain National Park Area*. Estes Park: Rocky Mountain Nature Association. 2004.

McClelland, Linda Flint. *Building the National Parks: Historic Landscape Design and Construction*. Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998.

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O'Neil, Thomas. Buildings and Utilities Foreman in Rocky Mountain National Park. Personal communication with author: 25 October 2005.

**Drawings**

Fletcher, L. and W.G. Hill. Pump House, drawing NP-RM-8514A. National Park Service, Branch of Plans and Design: March 1938.

Branch of Land Acquisition and Regulation. Water Systems and Claims, drawing NP-RM-6979A. 1938.

**National Park Reports**

Butler, William B. "The Historic Archaeology of Rocky Mountain National Park." National Park Service, Rocky Mountain National Park, 2005.

Rocky Mountain National Park. *List of Classified Structures (LCS) Single Entry Report, Fall River Pass Store*, no date.

Superintendent's Annual and Monthly Reports for Rocky Mountain National Park.

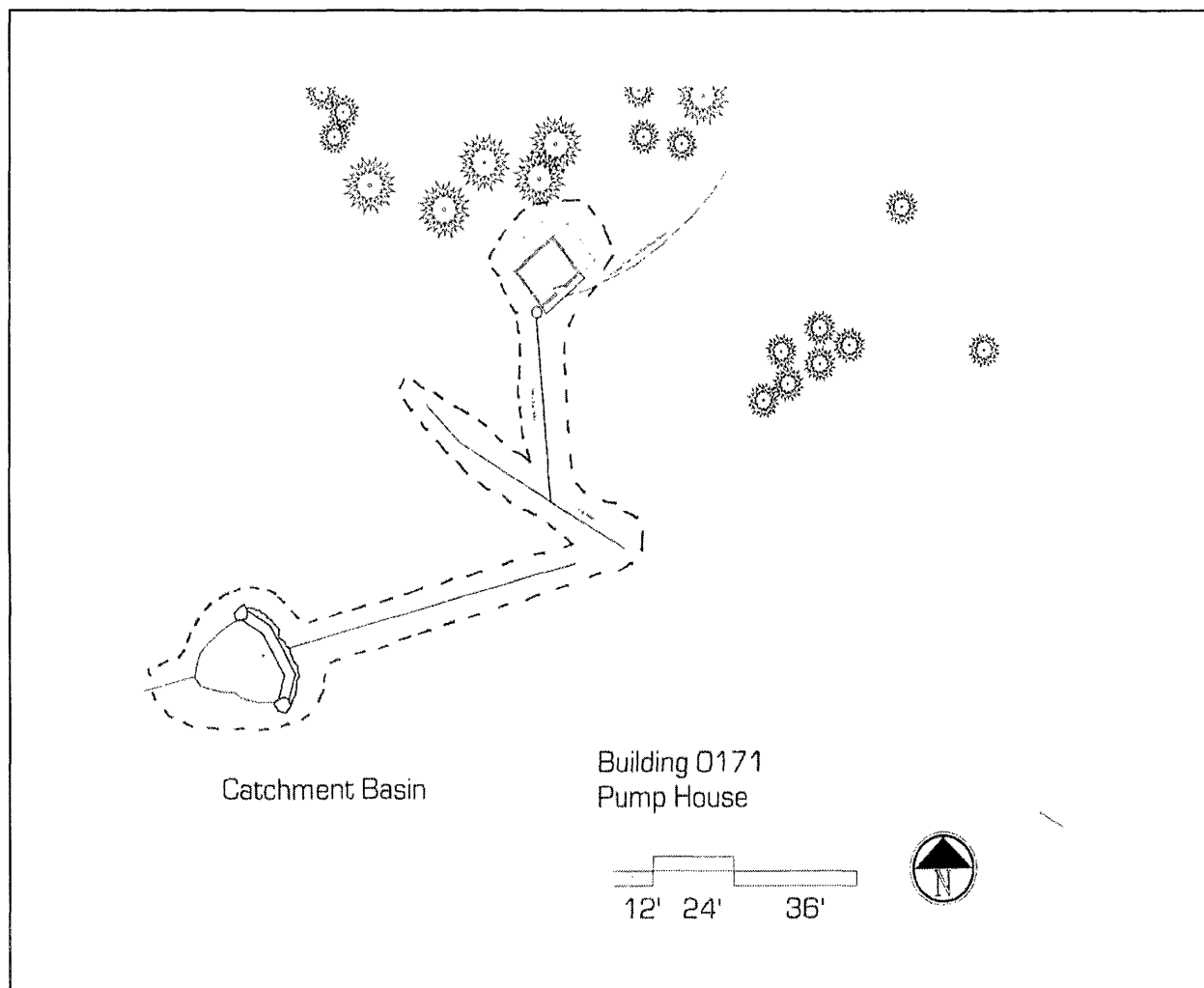
Yost, Cheria and Greg Kendrick. *Rocky Mountain National Park: Historic Building Five-Year Plan*. National Park Service, Rocky Mountain National Park: September 2001.

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**Fall River Pump House & Catchment Basin  
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Larimer County/ Colorado**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA****VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The nominated boundary is indicated by the dotted line on the attached to-scale map below.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundary includes the pump house building and associated catchment basin, including the headwall and the drainage slope, which sit below the Fall River Pass. Though the property relates historically and physically to the Fall River Pass Museum, the boundary of this nomination does not include the store because it lacks integrity.

**Boundary Map**

**National Register of Historic Places  
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Larimer County/ Colorado**PHOTOGRAPH LOG**

The following information pertains to photograph numbers 1-7 except as noted:

Name of Property: Building 0171, Fall River Pump House & Catchment Basin  
Location: Larimer County, Colorado  
Photographer: Brian P. Kelly  
Date of Photographs: November 19, 2004  
Negatives: Digital Images on CD in tiff format

**Photo No.                      Photographic Information**

- 1 View to the NNW, east façade
- 2 View to the NNW, east façade
- 3 View to the south, north side with drainage
- 4 View to the southwest, NE corner
- 5 View to the south, north face basin
- 6 View to the southwest, ENE dam corner
- 7 View to the NNW, pump house from basin

**Please Note:** Photos were printed on HP Premium Plus High Gloss Photo Paper with HP 100 gray photo cartridge as specified in the March 2005 National Register of Historic Places Photo Policy Expansion.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

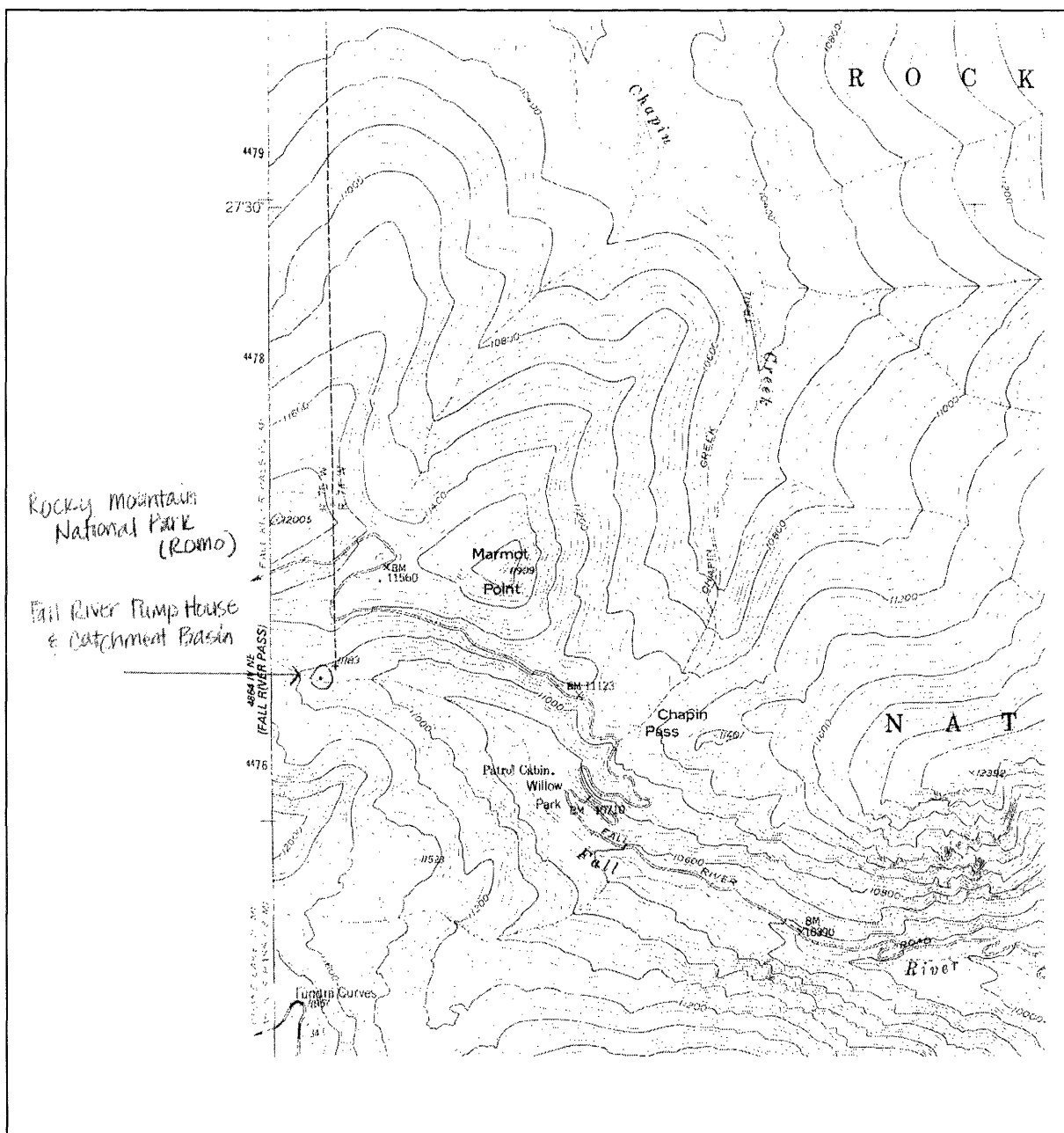
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**USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP**  
Trail Ridge Quadrangle, Colorado  
7.5 Minute Series

UTM: Zone 13 / 436636E / 4476371N  
PLSS: 6<sup>th</sup> PM, T6N, R75W, Sec. 0  
Unsectioned  
Elevation: 11065 feet





5LR 10936

#1

Larimer County Colorado

ROMO

Fall River Pump House & Catchment Basin



SLR 10936

#2

Larimer County Colorado

Romo

Fall River Pump House & Catchment Basin



5LR10936 #3

Larimer County Colorado

Romo

Fall River Pump House & Catchment Basin



5LR10936 #4

Larimer County Colorado

Romo

Fall River Pump House & Catchment Basin



5LR 10936 #5

Larimer County Colorado

Romo

Fall River Pump House & Catchment Basin

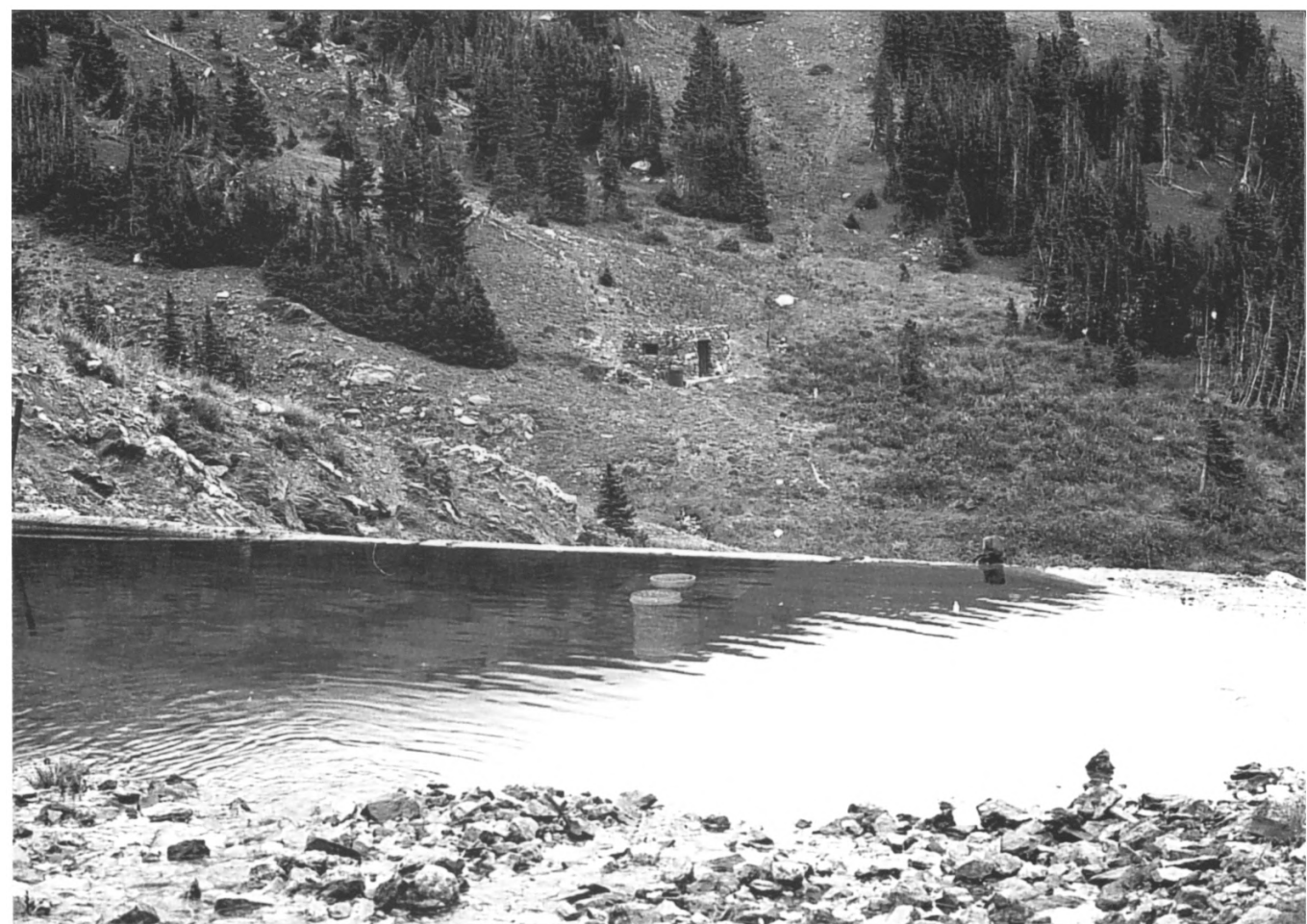


SLR10936 #6

Larimer County Colorado

Romo

Fall River Pump House : Catchment Basin



SLR10936

#7

Larimer County

Colorado

Romo

Fall River Pump House & Catchment Basin