

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 90001913 Date Listed: 12/27/90

Tyee Mountain Lookout      Chelan      WA  
Property Name                      County                      State

USDA Forest Service Fire Lookouts on Wenatchee NF MPS  
Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Antoinette J. Crea  
for Signature of the Keeper

1/7/91  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

**Statement of Significance:** The Period of Significance should be amended to read c1933-1940.

This information was confirmed with Evan I. DeBloois of the U.S. Forest Service.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

1913

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16).

1. Name of Property

historic name Tyee Mountain Lookout other names/site number

2. Location at summit of Tyee Mountain on

street & number Wenatchee National Forest, Entiat R. D. city, town Entiat state WA code 053 county Chelan code 007 zip code

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: public-Federal (checked). Category of Property: building(s) (checked). Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 1, Noncontributing 0, Total 1.

Name of related multiple property listing: USDA Forest Service Fire Lookouts on Wenatchee N.F. Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets the National Register criteria. Signature of certifying official: [Signature] Date: 7-17-89 Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

In my opinion, the property meets the National Register criteria. Signature of commenting or other official: [Signature] Date: 10-25-90 USDA Forest Service

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is: entered in the National Register. Signature of the Keeper: [Signature] Date of Action: 12/27/90

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Other: Fire Lookout  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Other: Fire Lookout (emergency)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Standard Plan L-4 (1932)  
-Hipped roof vernacular  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone - granite  
walls plywood  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof cedar shingles  
other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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Tyee Mountain Lookout is located at an elevation of +6654', on Tyee Ridge, above the Entiat and Mad River drainages, in the Entiat Mountains. The immediate site includes granite outcrops and rock pinnacles, subalpine flora and pine trees. The Lookout is accessed via primitive forest roads, which traverse fir and pine forests including previously burned areas. The Lookout commands a panoramic 360° view beyond the Enchantment Peaks to Mt. Rainier, to the Chelan Mountains and Pyramid Peak and beyond the Columbia River to the arid Waterville plateau.

This standard lookout house is constructed upon an indigenous rock foundation of red-rust colored granite. Of particular note are pieces of granite which are ingeniously cantilevered in order to support a catwalk post. The Lookout was constructed according to the standard Plan L-4 (Revised 1932) and exhibits several typical/original character defining features. These features include; a 14'x14' plan with hipped (pyramidal) roof; 1x6 v-groove rustic siding (currently covered by plywood siding), an expansive glazed wall area composed of two-over-two fixed and pivoting type window sash; panel door with two-over-two window panel; cedar shingle roofing with ornate galvanized metal ridge flashing; five original T&G type built-up shutters remain in place and utilize original 2x2 shutter braces and support hardware. The lookout includes an atypically detailed catwalk that is accessed via standard wood frame stairs on a concrete base which may have been relatively recently constructed. The original lightning protection system remains in place. A modern radio antenna is attached to the lookout in order to operate U.S. Forest Service radio equipment stored inside.

The interior of the lookout exhibits atypical Plan L-4 floor and ceiling finishes, plywood with battens, which appear to be laid over original 1 x 4 T&G paneling. Vinyl asbestos tile flooring has also been installed. Original standard wooden furnishings include: standard firefinder stand (firefinder has been removed and is stored at the Entiat Ranger District Headquarters); desk/table; two low storage cabinets, and the lightning stool.

The site also includes an old wooden flagpole, an imbedded USGS marker and path systems line with native stone. With the exception of partial shutter removal and cladding added over original exterior building fabric the Tyee Mountain Lookout remains relatively unaltered and is in generally good condition.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
Conservation  
Politics/government

Period of Significance

c1930 - present

Significant Dates

1933

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Clyde P. Fickes / J. B. Helm  
Civilian Conservation Corps

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

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Tye Mountain Lookout is significant for its historic association with the development of the USDA Forest Service and the stewardship and conservation of our National Forests, as part of a comprehensive forest fire surveillance and detection system. The Lookout is also significant as it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a uniquely functional property type designed for and constructed in challenging mountain terrain. The Lookout also possesses significance as it reflects the accomplishments of the Civilian Conservation Corps and their significant contribution to the development, improvement and conservation of National Forests in the Pacific Northwest.

### Historic Background:

Concern for the protection of America's natural resources led to the enactment of the Forest Reserve (Creative) Act of 1891 and establishment of Forest Reserves administered by the general Land Office within the Department of the Interior. In 1905, the Forest Service within the Department of Agriculture (USDA) was established and assumed responsibility for the Reserves, which then became known as National Forests. Thus, the Forest Service began to develop a comprehensive system for the administration of the forests which included the construction of Ranger and Guard Stations, forest trails and roads and the establishment of fire lookout stations. Fire crews were then formally recruited and paid. The creation of this Federal agency, however poorly equipped and meagerly financed, was a tremendously important historic advance in public attitude and recognition of natural resource conservation and the need to anticipate and rapidly respond to the threat of forest fires.

The earliest recorded lookout sites on Wenatchee National Forest were "camps" at Sugarloaf Peak, Icicle Ridge, Dirtyface Peak and Tiptop which were formally established c.1914. Typical of lookout stations of this era, the lookout personnel camped in a tent or "rag house" below the selected peak and climbed daily to the lookout point which was equipped with a phone, maps and fire finding instrument. Between 1916 and 1919 permanent lookout houses, of specialized design and most often the standard D-6 (cupola style) design, were constructed on several lookout points throughout the Forest.

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By 1922, a well developed road and trail system extended well into the Forest and included a horse trail to Tye Mountain. Forest Service Organization and Fire Atlas records dated 1932 indicate the initial use of Tye Mountain for fire surveillance and detection purposes. No permanent lookout house was noted although it appears to have been a primary lookout point equipped with a firefinding instrument. By 1934, it was noted, on similar Fire Atlas records, as an existing "permanent" lookout station. It was during this era that enrollers of the Civilian Conservation Corps helped to construct 30+ lookout houses on the Forest, vastly expanding the lookout network as well as improving and extending forest roads and trails. The Lookout appears to have been constructed early on in the C.C.C. era, and according to the standard Plan L-4 specifications which were utilized primarily during the mid-1930's. Specific records related to the actual construction appear to have been destroyed although Forest maps and extent historic building fabric clearly reflect the assumed construction date and historic associations. Haven Stanaway, a former Fire Control Officer on Wenatchee N.F. reported that lumber for the catwalk was packed into the Lookout c.1938 and that the road was completed sometime thereafter. Although the C.C.C. was involved in the construction of most new forest roads during this era, the last two miles of road to Tye Mountain Lookout was apparently completed by a logging company. Mr. Stanaway reported that it was a common practice for private logging companies to also build new access roads in lieu of removing "slash", left from logging operations, which would otherwise create an additional fire hazard.

Tye Mountain Lookout continued to be used by the Forest Service for fire surveillance and detection purposes through the 1960's as the great majority of fire lookouts on the Forest were being disposed of. In 1967, the District Ranger reported that the Lookout was in "very good condition" and that "maintenance costs should be low for quite sometime." Despite modern aerial surveillance techniques, this Lookout continues to be retained by the Forest Service for emergency use and communication purposes due to the particular vulnerability of the Wenatchee National Forest during the fire season.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Kresek, Ray. Fire Lookouts of the Northwest. Ye Galleon Press, Fairfield, WA. 1984.

Spring, Ira. Lookouts: Firewatchers of the Cascades and Olympics. The Mountaineers. Seattle, Wa, 1981.

Stanaway, Haven. Entiat, WA. Telephone interview, 10/12/88.

Miscellaneous Administrative records and documents on file at Forest Fupervisor's Office, Wenatchee National Forest, Wenatchee, WA.

Miscellaneous Historic Maps - 1908-1936, Wenatchee National Forest, Forest Supervisor's Office, Wenatchee, WA.

See continuation sheet

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: USDA Forest Service, Wenatchee N.F., Forest Supervisor's Office, Wenatchee, WA

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property less than one

UTM References

A 

1	0
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6	8	9	2	2	0
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5	3	0	4	1	0	0
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Zone      Easting      Northing

B 

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Zone      Easting      Northing

C 

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D 

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Tyee Mountain Lookout is located in a portion of SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 5 T. 27N R19E, Willamette Meridian. Proposed nomination to include lookout house, any related rock foundation and guy anchorage system and immediate access trail or associated site features within a 50 foot radius of the center of the Lookout per USGS map - Tyee Mountain Quadrangle.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the identified resource and all associated immediate site features.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

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 city or town Seattle