

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION, GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

REGION: Rocky Mountain PARK/AREA NAME: Glacier National Park PARK NUMBER: 1430
 STRUCTURE NAME: Pass Creek Snowshoe Cabin STRUCTURE NUMBER: 501
 LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: Confluence of Waterton River QUADRANGLE NAME: Porcupine Ridge,
 and Pass Creek MT/Alberta
 Zone Easting Northing QUADRANGLE SCALE: 7.5-minute
 UTM A: 12 286978 5419786

CLASSIFICATION:

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY:	CATEGORY:	NUMBER OF RESOURCES:		
		CONTRIBUTING	NONCONTRIBUTING	
<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	Buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> Public-Local	<input type="checkbox"/> District	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Sites
<input type="checkbox"/> Public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Structures
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Objects
<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed/private & public	<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	TOTAL

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

The Pass Creek snowshoe cabin is a one-story, rectangular log cabin, measuring 20x26' including the porch (larger than most backcountry cabins). The structure has a gable roof with seven log purlins, a metal surface, and a metal stovepipe. The purlins are cut flush with the eave. The cabin logs are saddle notched, with cement and wood chinking. The roof extends to a full porch with tie beam on three posts and five post supports beneath the purlin ends. The north and south sill logs are on corner rock pads and the porch posts are on rock pads. The wood entry is partially metal clad, and windows are centered on the south, west, and north walls with wood and metal shutters. The condition of the structure is fair, with some crown decay on the southeast and northeast corners, east sill log decay, and some purlin end decay. The cabin is a typical log snowshoe cabin with a gable roof extension that creates a front porch area. This basic, variable design evolved from the early snowshoe cabins in Yellowstone National Park. Most backcountry patrol and snowshoe cabins constructed in the 1920s were built by local carpenters at a cost of between \$350 and \$500. The Pass Creek snowshoe cabin maintains good integrity and is a significant example of an early backcountry rustic building in Glacier.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1938

This cabin is one of many similar structures built in Glacier National Park during the 1920s and 1930s to facilitate the supervision of lands within the park boundaries. The park's rugged topography and the often rapidly changing weather conditions made it imperative that these cabins be built at strategic points to protect rangers charged with park surveillance. The cabins were usually located 8 to 12 miles from a permanent ranger station. Thus, a park ranger could spend a number of days on patrol duty without returning to the station for supplies or shelter. According to the Goat Haunt Logbooks, the Pass Creek cabin was slowly constructed without the permission of Park administration, and no advance planning. The materials were brought in quietly over several summers.¹ The Pass Creek snowshoe cabin is significant because it illustrates an important aspect in the development and administration of Glacier National Park.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Pass Creek snowshoe cabin is a significant resource both architecturally and historically. Although it is less than 50 years old, the cabin was an integral part of the system of backcountry cabins that enabled park rangers to remain in the field to fulfill administrative functions, rather than returning nightly to the ranger station. Thus, during a period when federal expenditures for national parks were inadequate, park rangers were able to maximize the benefits of the time they spent in the field. Therefore, it meets the eligibility requirements for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under criteria a and c.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCE:

¹Memorandum, Robert C. Haraden, Glacier Superintendent, to Associated Regional Director, Planning and Resource Preservation, Rocky Mountain Region, June 8, 1983.

FORM PREPARED BY:

DATE: June 1984

NAME/TITLE:

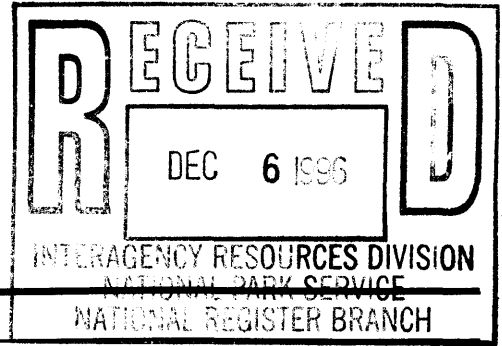
ORGANIZATION: Historical Research Associates, P.O. Box 7086, Missoula, MT 59807-7086

12/21/85

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Pass Creek Patrol Cabin (addendum), Glacier County, MT.



3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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]
Signature of certifying official/Title

12.5.95
Date

National Park Service
State or Federal agency or bureau

In my opinion, the property L meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

[Signature]
Signature of commenting or other official

SEP 29 1995
Date

Montana State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- entered in the National Register
see continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register
see continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register
see continuation sheet
- removed from the National Register
see continuation sheet
- other (explain)

[Signature]

1/19/96

Additional Documentation Accepted

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2 Pass Creek Patrol Cabin (addendum), Glacier County,
MT.

Building Interior

The Pass Creek Patrol Cabin is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Additional documentation is provided below for the purpose of describing and evaluating the interior for integrity and significance.

7. Narrative Description

Summary

During the first two decades of Glacier's history, the park's expanding trail network was maintained by large trail crews, who would rove the entire park performing maintenance work as needed. For the 1932 season, however, a different trail maintenance plan was instituted: the trail crews were broken up into over a dozen two-man units. Each crew spent the entire summer based at a single point, and was solely responsible for trail work in a given geographic area. The scheme was favorably received for a number of reasons: crews gained a familiarity with their "territory," were able to quickly respond to storm damage, and were in place to assist tourists and to conduct a census of trail use.

The crews generally lived in semi-permanent tents erected at their base site. This resulted in less-than-satisfactory living conditions, and produced a series of attractive targets for hungry bears. The beasts almost routinely ransacked several of the tents, devouring foodstuffs and destroying government property. As the bear raids continued, trail crew supervisors began to push for the construction of secure cabins to replace the tents. In 1932, apparently on their own initiative, trail workers erected a snowshoe-type cabin for their use at Reynolds Creek and cut logs for a second cabin at Granite Park. They hoped to eventually erect cabins at all the tent sites, and pointed to the fact that NPS Director Horace Albright, in his 1932 tour of Glacier, had verbally approved of the scheme. Trail workers completed construction of the Granite Park cabin during the summer of 1933 and the Pass Creek (Kootenai Creek) cabin, from which crews maintained the Stoney Indian Pass Trail and the Fifty Mountain (or Sky-line) Trail, in 1938.¹

Pass Creek Patrol Cabin

This building's unique construction history and use is evident in its deviation from standard patrol cabin design - primarily in its higher ceilings and larger size. Like the patrol cabins, however, a heavy door constructed of vertical planks provides access. Eight-inch shiplap planks, painted the ubiquitous grey, cover the floor. Full logs, periodically reinked with split poles, form the interior walls. The ceiling is open to the roof, exposing log purlins and relatively narrow (6") ceiling boards, painted. Furnishings include a Schrader wood

¹ Hufstetler, Mark, "Granite Park Trails Cabin (#324)," in *Glacier Historic Structures Narrative Histories and Classified Structure Field Inventory Report*, 1987. George C. Ruhle Library and Archives, West Glacier, MT.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7, 8, Photographs Page 3 Pass Creek Patrol Cabin (addendum), Glacier
County, MT.

stove, paired with a metal heat screen and vented through the roof, a wall-mounted cupboard with side-hinged unpaneled plywood doors, painted wood-frame tables, wood chairs, and two sets of dimensional lumber bunkbeds.

8. Statement of Significance

The interior is essentially unmodified and contributes to the building's significance.

Photographs

- 1) Photographer: Alan Newell
- 2) Date of Photographs: June 1993
- 3) Location of Negatives: National Park Service, RMR-RC, Denver, CO.

PHOTO NUMBER	STRUCTURE NAME AND NUMBER	LOCATION/DIRECTION OF VIEW
1	Pass Creek Snowshoe Cabin (#501)	Interior-wall detail
2	Pass Creek Snowshoe Cabin (#501)	Interior-bunkbeds
3	Pass Creek Pit Toilet (#502)	View to the West