

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION, GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

REGION: Rocky Mountain PARK/AREA NAME: Glacier National Park PARK NUMBER: 1430

STRUCTURE NAME: Lower Park Creek Patrol Cabin STRUCTURE NUMBER: 627

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: East side of Park Creek Trail, QUADRANGLE NAME: Essex, MT (1964)
past crossing of Fielding-Coal Creek Trail

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing QUADRANGLE SCALE: 7.5-minute

UTM A: 12 311500 5356500 C:

UTM B: D:

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 Lower Park Creek patrol cabin is a one-story log cabin, measuring 24'x15'15", with lap-notched logs, square-cut crowns, sapling chinking, and seven log purlins. A gable roof extends to a porch, and corrugated metal roofing is bent around the purlin ends. A random stone foundation is partially visible. The structure is in fair condition, with extensive dry rot in the sill logs, several purlin crowns, and some wall log crowns. 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 Lower Park Creek cabin maintains good integrity and is a significant example of early back-country rustic architecture in Glacier.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1925

The Lower Park Creek patrol cabin is one of many similar structures built in Glacier National Park during the 1920s and the 1930s to facilitate the supervision of lands within the park's boundaries. The 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 Lower Park Creek patrol cabin is significant because it illustrates an important aspect in the development and administration of Glacier National Park.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Lower Park Creek patrol cabin/snowshoe cabin is a significant resource, both architecturally and historically. Therefore, it meets the eligibility requirements for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under criteria a and c.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCE:

FORM PREPARED BY:

DATE: June 1984

NAME/TITLE:

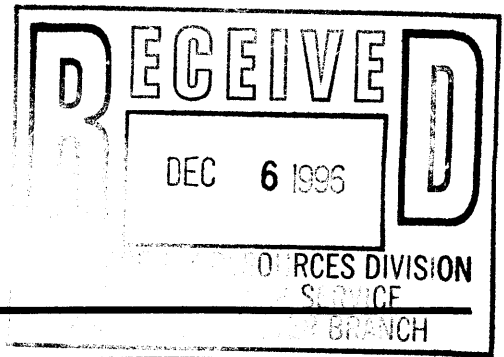
ORGANIZATION: Historical Research Associates, P.O. Box 7086, Missoula, MT 59807-7086

1430/148

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National Park Service

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Lower Park Creek Patrol Cabin (addendum), Flathead 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 X 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 or 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	_____	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (explain) Additional Documentation Accepted	<u><i>[Signature]</i></u>	<u>1/19/96</u>

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County, MT.

Building Interior

The Lower Park 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

Beginning in the 1920s, patrol or "snowshoe" cabins were constructed from a standardized plan, modified to fit each site's unique terrain and the available building materials. Glacier National Park's cabins were of "substantially the same design" as those used in Yellowstone National Park. The Yellowstone cabins were, in turn, close replicas of USFS patrol cabins that mimicked the design of trappers' cabins. The patrol cabins were constructed one-day's travel (8-12 miles) apart, providing shelter for rangers patrolling the park's vast backcountry.

Due to their remote locations, the cabins were generally constructed of locally harvested log; interior walls were unfinished yet often chinked with saplings. The Slide Lake Cabin, only one and one half miles from a road along the sparsely timbered east flank of the Rocky Mountain Front, and the Fielding Cabin, one quarter mile from the Burlington Northern railroad tracks, are the only cabins of frame construction. Softwood shiplap planks of varied width (some as narrow as three inches, some as wide as twelve inches, most four to six inches) covered the floors. A trap door constructed of floor planks provided access to the requisite bear/rodent/frost-proof cellar, finished with poured concrete/mesh and stocked with a minimum supply of rations. Ceilings were open truss, exposing log purlins and heavy roof boards. Windows and doors were fitted wood frame, set within the log wall without surrounds; in part due to the small size of the units, the small multi-light windows were a significant design element. Doors were generally vertical-plank with cross-braces, constructed on site and secured with iron hinges, latches, and bolts. The easily accessed Fielding Patrol Cabin was fitted with a paneled door.

Furnishings were also standard, the result of similar use and space limitations. The door of the large frame wall-mounted cupboard was bottom hinged and fitted with two folding legs; when opened it provided a table. Metal hooks or shelves, strategically located, provided support for oil lamps. Bunk beds — the upper often of a "suspended fold-up design" — maximized the limited space. A single stove provided heat as well as a cooking surface.

Lower Park Creek Patrol Cabin (#627), 1925

This one-room backcountry building, a day's hike north from the Theodore Roosevelt Highway, matches the basic patrol cabin design. The sole entry, offset in the west elevation, is constructed of an interior layer of

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7" vertical boards (secured with horizontal and diagonal braces) and an exterior layer of 5" horizontal boards. The "hardware" appears to be both historic and makeshift: a metal latch pin and a metal handle secured with driftwood. Seven-inch shiplap, painted grey, covers the floor. A trap door, also constructed of 7" shiplap, provides access to the cement-lined root cellar. Interior walls are log, with square crowns and chinked with split sapling nailed in place. As is standard in log buildings, there are no window or door surrounds and the wood-frame casings are exposed; the south window casing appears to have been reconstructed. The ceiling is open to the roof, exposing nine purlins (in contrast to the more standard five-seven), and 12" roof planks. Modifications to these original finishes include an original stove-vent exit in the northeast corner, now screened over; a piece of corrugated sheeting on one purlin; and a space between the wall and ceiling (near the door) that has been stuffed with kindling and screened.

Furnishings are standard: a pair of snowshoes hangs from the ceiling; open shelves line the northwest corner; a large wall-mounted food cupboard with fold out table is offset along the north wall. The wood stove, paired with metal hearth and wall shield, is located in the northeast corner, and metal-frame bunkbeds line the south wall. Miscellaneous furnishings and supplies include, bedding storage boxes, folding chairs, a Coleman stove atop a table constructed of shiplap planks, Coleman lanterns suspended from ceiling hooks, and trail maintenance tools.

8. Statement of Significance

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

Photographs

- 1) Photographer: Jason Wilmot
- 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	Lower Park Creek Patrol Cabin (#627)	Interior-note corner notching
2	Lower Park Creek Patrol Cabin (#627)	Interior-fold down table (possibly a modern version)