

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION, GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

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

STRUCTURE NAME: Ford Creek Patrol Cabin STRUCTURE NUMBER: 597

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: NW¼ NE¼ NW¼ Sec. 19, T36N R21W QUADRANGLE NAME: Camas Ridge, MT
 Zone Easting Northing QUADRANGLE SCALE: 7.5-minute
 UTM A: 12 283110 5389820

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

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

The Ford Creek patrol cabin is a one-story, rectangular log structure with new corrugated metal on a gable roof, a metal stove pipe, and nine log purlins. The wall logs are saddle notched with sapling chinking and square-cut crowns. There is a concrete alignment foundation under the structure and porch posts. The roof extends to a full porch with a tie beam and vertical pole beneath the ends of seven purlins. There are shakes in the gable ends. The door is solid wood and "bear-proofed." The windows are iron bars woven with barbed wire over six-light, wood frame casements. The structure is in good condition. The Ford Creek patrol cabin was the first of four identical patrol cabins constructed in 1928-1929 according to National Park Service Plan G913. The cost of the contracted building totalled \$350.¹ The Ford Creek patrol cabin maintains good integrity and is a significant example of early backcountry rustic architecture in Glacier.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1928

In 1928, Glacier National Park appropriated \$2,000 for the construction of four identical snowshoe cabins. The Park hired private contractors to erect the buildings since the staff carpenter force was occupied with construction at Belton headquarters. Documents do not indicate the names of the contractors, although invitations to bid were sent to "several good log men in the vicinity." The Park provided floor shiplap, roofing materials, cement, okem (chinking), cellar planks, windows and doors and their frames, shakes, and hardware. The contractor cleared the site, cut trees marked by the Park Engineer, built the cabin, and cleared the site. The project took three weeks and the cost for all materials and labor totalled \$350.² 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. The Ford Creek patrol cabin is significant because it illustrates an important aspect in the development and administration of Glacier National Park.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Ford Creek patrol 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:

¹Final Construction Report, Four Snowshoe Cabins in Glacier National Park, April 8, 1929," File D-34, Building Construction Reports, GNPLA.

²Ibid.

FORM PREPARED BY:

DATE: June 1984

NAME/TITLE:

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