

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION, GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

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

STRUCTURE NAME: Heaven's Peak Fire Lookout STRUCTURE NUMBER: 580

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: Mount Cannon, Montana QUADRANGLE NAME: Mt. Cannon, MT
 Zone Easting Northing QUADRANGLE SCALE: 7.5-minute
 UTM: 12 290070 5399050

CLASSIFICATION:

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY:		CATEGORY:	NUMBER OF RESOURCES:	
			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 Heaven's Peak fire lookout is a uniquely designed stone and wood structure. The building is set on a rough-coursed stone foundation and is raised to a one-story height with steps leading to the lookout and vestibule to access storage area within the foundation. The foundation dimensions are larger than the frame and glass area that sits on and within the raised parapet, forming a solid stone rail around the walkway. The roof is flat and is anchored to the corners of the stone. Wooden Z-braced shutters cover the double pane windows. The Heaven's Peak lookout combines non-intrusive building materials (stone and wood) and design features such as the flat roof in a functional building, compatible with its environment. The lookout has good integrity of materials, design, and workmanship.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1945

Construction of the Heaven's Peak lookout was planned for 1940 as part of the Public Works Administration Program (PWA) in Glacier to provide a vital link in the network of fire lookouts through the park. Local builder Ole Norden contracted with the Park Service in June 1940 to provide labor for the lookout but, as of April 1942, construction had not begun and Norden hoped for release from the contract.¹ He cited poor health, wartime labor shortages, increased construction costs, and the Park's failure to complete the trail to the site as reasons for his inability to complete the contracted work. The Park Service resolved the matter in late 1943, and released Norden from the contract.² Actual construction of the Heaven's Peak lookout began on July 23, 1945, with an estimated final cost of \$4,700, almost double the consideration stipulated in the original contract.³ This fire lookout is one of several buildings constructed in Glacier National Park between the late 1920s and the early 1940s to protect park lands from the threat of fire. A planned network of lookouts within the Park and on adjoining national forest lands allowed reciprocal surveillance of both areas. The series of lookouts in Glacier succeeded for many years in reducing the number of disastrous fires in the park. Today, air observation allows a more comprehensive coverage of the park and has replaced the manned lookout almost entirely.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Heaven's Peak fire lookout is less than 50 years old, yet it served as an important element in the park's fire management plan. Forest fires had proven devastating to park resources throughout the first three decades of Glacier National Park's existence. The construction of this fire lookout provided one of the final links in a system of lookouts that minimized the destruction by fire of the park's scenic qualities. For these reasons, this fire lookout should be considered as eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCE:

¹"Lookout Stations, 1930-1943," File D-34, 620-37, GNPLA.

²Hillory A. Tolson to Regional Director, Region II, October 27, 1943, "Glacier: Lands, Buildings, Roads and Trails; Lookout Stations," File: 620-037, Part One From July 1929 to November 1945, Glacier National Park, National Park Service, Record Group 79, National Archives, Washington, DC.

³Chief Engineer Burney to Regional Director, Region II, November 5, 1945, *ibid.*

FORM PREPARED BY:

DATE: June 1984

NAME/TITLE:

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