NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION, GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

PARK/AREA NAME: Glacier National Park PARK NUMBER: 1430 REGION: Rocky Mountain STRUCTURE NAME: Belly River Ranger Station HD STRUCTURE NUMBER: 188 LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: Head of Belly River Valley QUADRANGLE NAME: Gable Mountain, Zone Easting Northing MT/Alberta UTM A: 12 301430 5423250 QUADRANGLE SCALE: 7.5-minute CLASSIFICATION: NUMBER OF RESOURCES: **OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY:** CATEGORY: CONTRIBUTING NONCONTRIBUTING _x_Building(s) Private 1 Buildings _ Public-Local <u>X</u> District Sites Public-State Site Structures x Public-Federal Objects Structure

Object

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

Mixed/private & public

The Belly River Ranger Station, facing northwest across the valley, measures approximately 35x25' and has five rooms and two accessory rooms, including a living room, office, bedroom, bathroom, kitchen, pantry, and rear entryway. The large attic also is used for guest sleeping accommodations. The structure is a one-story, log-on-log cabin with reverse saddle-notching, sawn log ends, and cement chinking, resting on a stone and mortar foundation. The cabin has six-light windows and is painted dark brown with light green trim. The wood-shingled gable roof is parallel to the main axis and extends to a full, raised, open porch that runs the length of the building, with a set of wood steps on either side of the porch. The interior partitions and south wall are painted shiplap paneling with stained and varnished woodwork. The inside of the exterior walls (except south wall) are varnished logs with cedar chinking, and the ceiling logs also have a natural finish. Remodeled features include the framed south wall (ca. 1967), and replacing the original stone and concrete porch with the wood porch (1975). The structure is in good condition. This log ranger station is a typical, well-preserved example of rustic Park Service log architecture. It is similar in plan to stations at Sherburne and Upper Lake McDonald, with modifications of overall dimensions and porch features to accommodate the space requirements and site demands. Changes to the Belly River ranger station include a 1967 interior remodeling and the removal and reconstruction of the front porch in 1975. The south wall has also been partially framed. The building is architecturally significant and is a contributing element of the proposed historic district.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1925

TOTAL

The Belly River ranger station residence was constructed between 1925 and 1926 for \$1,500.¹ The ranger station, however, was established at this location before that date. The first Belly River District Ranger, Joe Cosley, patrolled the area between the North Fork of Kennedy Creek and the North Fork of Belly River.² Cosley was one of the five original permanent rangers in Glacier National Park, a man devoted to the land and its natural inhabitants, but less so to regulations imposed on and by Park personnel. Joe Cosley tales -- vigorous stories of unorthodox behavior -- color the lore of early Glacier Park.³ When the Belly River ranger station was established in 1912, access to it and most other stations followed rough trails or "corduroy roads." Eventually, dependable routes gave the stations an easier approach, except at Belly River. A road was never constructed up the Belly River valley and the station remains accessible only by horseback or hiking.

STRUCTURE NAME: Belly River Ranger Station

STRUCTURE NUMBER: 188

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

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The significance of the Belly River ranger station derives from both its architectural and historical uniqueness. Historically, it is one of the oldest continually manned stations and is the sole operating station accessed by trail. Ranger Joe Cosley, a major character in the early history of Glacier National Park, is associated with the Belly River ranger station and area. Architecturally, the station buildings reflect the ongoing evolution typical of many ranger stations. Yet, of the East Side ranger stations, Belly River is the only complex that contains the "classic" configuration of structures (station/residence, barn, woodshed, and fire cache), with few intrusions and with excellent physical integrity. The Belly River ranger station is a significant and contributing element of the proposed Belly River Ranger Station Historic District, which is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under criteria a and c.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCE:

¹"Buildings: General," File: 620.0, Part 2, May 1922 to March 1926, Glacier National Park, Kraebel to Director, National Park Service, March 16, 1926, National Park Service, Record Group 79, National Archives, Washington, DC.

²"Chronological File," 1910, 1912, Glacier National Park Historical File, GNPLA.

³List of Classified Structures (Oliveri, 1975), National Park Service, Rocky Mountain Region, Denver, CO.

FORM PREPARED BY: NAME/TITLE: ORGANIZATION: Historical Research Associates, P.O. Box 7086, Missoula, MT 59807-7086

REGION: Rocky Mountain PARK/AREA NAME: Glacier National Park PARK NUMBER: 1430 STRUCTURE NAME: Barn STRUCTURE NUMBER: 489 LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: Belly River Ranger Station QUADRANGLE NAME: Gable Mountain, MT/Alberta Zone Easting Northing OUADRANGLE SCALE: 7.5-minute UTM A: 12 301430 5423250 CLASSIFICATION: NUMBER OF RESOURCES: OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: CATEGORY: CONTRIBUTING NONCONTRIBUTING x Building(s) Private 1 Buildings

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Public-Local	X District		 Sites
Public-State	Site		 Structures
x Public-Federal	Structure		 Objects
Mixed/private & public	Object	1	 TOTAL

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

The barn at the Belly River Ranger Station, located behind the ranger cabin, is a onestory log structure with a $\frac{1}{2}$ -story loft. The structure is built with square-hewn, square-notched logs with cement chinking, shaked gable ends, a wood-shingled roof, and corbels under the eaves. The windows are two-over-two, vertical, double-hung and sixlight casements. The squared ends of the loft floor joists are mortised into the wall logs. A one-story shed is attached to the northeast wall. This structure was originally the ranger station residence and, although it now serves as a barn and stable, it maintains much of its original residential appearance. The square-hewn wall logs, square notching, and through-wall loft joists are features that make this log structure an excellent, atypical log structure in Glacier. The building is architecturally significant and is a contributing element of the proposed historic district.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION: DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1912 Although used today as a barn, the building is historically one of the oldest ranger stations in Glacier National Park. Presumably, Ranger Joe Cosley took park in building the square-hewn log structure. The transformation of this building from a residence to station barn has not greatly compromised its integrity.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The building is architecturally significant and is a contributing element of proposed Belly River Ranger Station Historic District.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCE:

List of Classified Structures (Oliveri 1975), National Park Service, Rocky Mountain Region, Denver, CO.

Henry G. Law and John Albright, "Historic Resource Study, Park II, Glacier National Park," Denver Service Center, September 1977.

FORM PREPARED BY: NAME/TITLE: ORGANIZATION: Historical Research Associates, P.O. Box 7086, Missoula, MT 59807-7086

REGION: Rocky Mountain	PARK/AREA NAME: Glac	ier National P	ark PARK	NUMBER: 1430)
STRUCTURE NAME: Woodshed			STRUCTURE	NUMBER: 490	
LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: Belly	y River Ranger Station	QUADRAN		able Mountain, F/Alberta	,
Zone Easting Northin UTM A: 12 301430 542325	•	QUADR	ANGLE SCALE:	7.5-minute	
CLASSIFICATION:		NUMBER	OF RESOURCES	:	
OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY:	CATEGORY:	CONTRIBUTING	NONCONTRIBU	FING	
Private	x Building(s)	1		Buildings	
Public-Local	X District			Sites	
Public-State	Site			Structures	3
x Public-Federal	Structure			Objects	
Mixed/private & public	c Object	1		TOTAL	

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

The woodshed at the Belly River Ranger Staiton is located directly north of the barn. The wood-shingled gable roof extends to form a front porch on post supports, used for gas and oil storage. The structure has log framing with vertical board walls and frame 2x6 rafters. The condition of the structure is generally fair. No ranger station complex in Glacier is without a shed for dry, closed storage of wood. Some stations use wood as a back-up heat source, relying primarily upon electricity or gas, but backcountry stations still depend upon wood for their only fuel. The Belly River woodshed is of typical exterior log frame construction with an ample porch extension that affords some clearance from snow. The design is similar to many other log-framed Park Service buildings in Glacier and other Rocky Mountain national parks. The building contributes to the architectural significance of the site.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION: DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1927 The woodshed was constructed to Standard Landscape Division Drawing G811. Supplies were transported a total of 123 miles by truck and wagon, with several fordings of the Belly River. The cost of building the woodshed totalled \$232.75.¹ Research has not yielded any significant historical information concerning persons or events associated with this building.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

As a prominent feature of a ranger station complex, the woodshed exhibits good integrity and contributes to the overall significance of the proposed Belly River Ranger Station Historic District.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCE:

¹"Final Construction Report, Woodshed, Belly River Ranger Station," File: D-34, Buildings: Final Construction Reports 1928-1935, GNPLA.

List of Classified Structures (Oliveri 1975), National Park Service, Rocky Mountain Region, Denver, CO.

FORM PREPARED BY: DATE: June 1984 NAME / TITLE: ORGANIZATION: Historical Research Associates, P.O. Box 7086, Missoula, MT 59807-7086

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION, GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

REGION: Rocky Mountain PARK/AREA NAME: Glacier National Park PARK NUMBER: 1430 STRUCTURE NAME: Trail Quarters STRUCTURE NUMBER: 1069

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: Belly River Ranger Station

QUADRANGLE NAME: Gable Mountain, MT/Alberta

QUADRANGLE SCALE: 7.5-minute

Zone Easting Northing UTM A: 12 301430 5423250

CLASSIFICATION:

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: CATEGORY:

NUMBER OF RESOURCES:

CONTRIBUTING NONCONTRIBUTING

Private	x Building(s)	1	Buildings
Public-Local	X District		Sites
Public-State	Site	 	Structures
x Public-Federal	Structure	 <u> </u>	Objects
Mixed/private & public	Object	 	TOTAL

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

This structure at the Belly River Ranger Station is a shiplap frame structure measuring approximately 12x17', in fair condition. This small, frame residence is neither a significant architectural component of the site, nor is it an intrusion. Scale, materials, and design make this a compatible, non-intrusive element of the Belly River Ranger Station complex.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: circa 1960

The trail quarters building was constructed about 1960 to house trail maintenance personnel.¹ Research has not yielded any significant historical information concerning persons or events associated with this building.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The structure is not architecturally or historically significant. The building is a non-contributing element in a potentially eligible Historic District.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCE:

¹"Draft Cultural Resources Management Plan, Glacier National Park," p. 124. Glacier National Park, 1983.

FORM PREPARED BY: DATE: June 1984 NAME/TITLE: ORGANIZATION: Historical Research Associates, P.O. Box 7086, Missoula, MT 59807-7086

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION, GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

REGION: Rocky Mountain	PARK/AREA NAME: Glac	ier National P	ark PARK	NUMBER: 1430
STRUCTURE NAME: Fire Cache			STRUCTURE	NUMBER: 492
LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: Bell	y River Ranger Statior	QUADRAN		ble Mountain, /Alberta
Zone Easting Northi UTM A: 12 301430 542325	-	QUADR	ANGLE SCALE:	7.5-minute
CLASSIFICATION:		NUMBER	OF RESOURCES:	
OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY:	CATEGORY:	CONTRIBUTING	NONCONTRIBUT	ING
Private	x Building(s)	1		Buildings
Public-Local	X District			Sites
Public-State	Site			Structures
x Public-Federal	Structure			Objects
Mixed/private & publi	c Object	1		TOTAL

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

The fire cache at the Belly River Ranger Station was built on a Park Service contract by Austin Weikert and Jean Sullivan. Located east of the woodshed, the cabin has regular saddle-notched log walls with cement chinking and $\frac{1}{2}$ -sapling interior chinking. The structure is in good condition. The fire cache, which is used to store fire-fighting equipment and other maintenance tools, is a pivotal element of most ranger stations in Glacier. The Belly River fire cache is an excellent example of local log craftsmanship, featuring saddle-notched and grooved logs. Its conversion to a fireguard cabin has not greatly changed the structure's original integrity. The building is architecturally significant and is a contributing element of the proposed Belly River Ranger Station Historic District.

HISTORICAL EVALUATION:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1928

This log fire cache is identical to the Kintla Lake fire cache (also known as a patrol cabin) which was built by local log craftsman Harry Doverspike. This building, constructed in 1928 at a cost of \$450, may also be an example of Doverspike's excellent work.¹ Research has not yielded any significant historical information concerning persons or events associated with this building.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The building is architecturally significant and is a contributing element of the proposed Belly River Ranger Station Historic District.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCE:

¹"Fire Caches and Guard Cabins," File D-34, GNPLA.

FORM PREPARED BY: NAME/TITLE: ORGANIZATION: Historical Research Associates, P.O. Box 7086, Missoula, MT 59807-7086



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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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				Certification	3. State/Federal Ager

	the National Register of Historic Places and me eet the National Register Criteria. I recommend	that this <u>X</u> nomination request for determination of eligibility bets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 38 CFR I that this property be considered significant nationally
Signature of certifying official/Title		<u>12.5.95</u> Date
National Park Service State or Federal agency or bureau		
In my opinion, the property meets does not meet Signature of commenting or other official <u>Montana State Historic Preservation Office</u> State or Federal agency and bureau 4. National Park Service Certification	the National Register criteria.	BEP 2 9 1995. Date
A reactional rank Service Certification I, hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
removed from the National Register see continuation sheet other (explain) and thomas documentation	Mupri. Lapoler	7 1/19/96

Additional Documentation Accepted

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

7

Section number

Page

2

Belly River Ranger Station Historic District (addendum), Glacier County, MT.

Building Interiors

The following buildings are listed in the National Register of Historic Places as contributors to the Belly River Ranger Station Historic District. Additional documentation is provided below for the purpose of describing and evaluating building interiors for integrity and significance.

7. Narrative Description

Ranger Station (#188), 1925

Constructed — and still used — as an office and residence, this building features distinct administrative and domestic spaces. An exterior entrance provides direct access to the office/bedroom that forms the northeast corner of the building. A second entrance leads directly to the private living room, from which branches the kitchen and the single bedroom. A small pantry/dining area is located between the kitchen and the rear entry/mudroom addition. A small bathroom is located between the kitchen and bedroom and is accessible from both. With minor variations "of overall dimensions ... to accommodate the space requirements and site demands," this floorplan matches that found in the Sherburne Ranger Station and the Upper Lake McDonald Ranger Station and reflects the park service's increased reliance (1920s) upon standard plans. The station retains most historic interior finishes, including log walls, wood floors, five-panel doors with original hardware, and varnished 4"-6" window surrounds, door surrounds, and baseboards. The south interior wall, where the original log had been covered with planks, has been restored to its original appearance.

The office, living room, and bedroom floors retain the original 3" varnished softwood flooring. Rolled linoleum (possibly dating to a 1967 remodel) covers the kitchen and bathroom floors. Exterior interior walls are varnished log with cedar chinking; interior walls are sided with horizontal painted 6" shiplap. Door and window surrounds are constructed of 4" milled lumber, finished with a butt rather than mitered joint, and varnished a dark brown in all but the bedroom, kitchen, and bath where they are painted with gloss enamel. Ribbons of multi-light windows form a dominant design element in the relatively small low-ceilinged spaces. Exposed log purlins, topped with 6" shiplap planks, painted, form all interior ceilings (in contrast to Upper Lake McDonald and Sherburne where all but the living room purlins have been covered with plywood or celotex). Interior doors are five panel, varnished dark brown or painted. Running water is provided by a generator-powered spring system. There is no electricity; Coleman lanterns provide light and an on-site generator is used to repower radios.

Built-in kitchen cupboards are limited to floor units, with simple paneled doors, original hardware, and linoleum countertops. Open wall-mounted shelving units are located on the upper walls. The stainless steel sink, gas range, and propane-powered refrigerator are modern. The large wood cookstove is historic.

Bathroom fixtures, including a clawfoot bathtub and porcelain sink, appear to be historic. The rear entry mud-room is located in a frame addition and features softwood floors, and shiplap walls.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7, 8 Page 3 Belly River Ranger Station Historic District (addendum), Glacier County, MT.

Modifications appear to be limited to new flooring, and, possibly, painting of the interior shiplap siding and ceiling boards. The floorplan and dominant design details, including exposed log walls, exposed purlins, paneled doors, and wide molding, remain intact. The building presents an historic appearance.

Barn (#489), 1912

This simple building, constructed as a residence, features the original softwood floors. Hewn logs form the interior walls and the ceiling is open to the roof, exposing the log truss system and roof planks. A partial loft provides additional storage space. Window and door casings are flush with the structural logs (no surrounds).

There have been no known modifications to this building.

Woodshed (#490), 1927

The 10" vertical boards that infill this shed's exposed-log framing system form the interior walls. Interior log posts, providing additional structural support, may postdate construction. The ceiling is open to the roof exposing the dimensional-lumber truss system and roof planks. The floor is dirt.

Fire Cache (#492), 1928

The interior walls of this small one-room cabin are log, chinked with sapling (in contrast to the cement used on the exterior). Unfinished 4" pine planks cover the floor. The ceiling is open to the roof, exposing the log truss system and ceiling boards. Window and door casings are flush with the structural logs (no surrounds). Additional features include wall mounted cupboards and open shelving units, and a modern spring-fed sink unit coleman lanterns, and a gas fired cookstove.

8. Statement of Significance

Without exception, the above interiors possess physical integrity and contribute to the buildings' significance.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	Photographs	Page	4	Belly River Ranger Station Historic District (addendum), Glacier County, MT.

Photographs

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

PHOTO NUMBER	STRUCTURE NAME AND NUMBER	LOCATION/DIRECTION OF VIEW
1	Ranger Station (#188)	Interior walls (typical)
2	Ranger Station (#188)	Exterior walls (typical)
3	Ranger Station (#188)	Bedroom
4	Ranger Station (#188)	Kitchen
5	Barn (#489)	Interior
6	Woodshed (#490)	Interior
7	Pit Toilet (#491; outside district boundaries)	View to NW
8	Pit Toilet (#491)	View to S
9	Fire Cache (#492)	Interior
10	Fire Cache (#492)	Interior