

DEC 20 1938

NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK

PNRO INVENTORY

National Park Service
Pacific Northwest Region
Cultural Resources Division

Westin Building Room 1920
2001 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98121

NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE/SITE <i>(Building)</i> DESOLATION PEAK LOOKOUT		DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1932	SITE ID. NO.	
SITE ADDRESS/LOCATION <i>On Desolation Peak, elevation 6085, east of Ross Lake, six miles south of Canadian border</i>		ADDITION(S)	SCALE 1:24000	QUAD NAME <i>Hozomeen Mountain</i>
DISTRICT <i>Skagit</i>	COUNTY <i>Whatcom</i>		UTM ZONE 10	EASTING 645440
	STATE <i>Washington</i>		NORTHING 5419315	
OWNER/ADMIN ADDRESS <i>National Park Service</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONTRIBUTING <input type="checkbox"/> NON-CONTRIBUTING	CROSS REFERENCE <i>NOCA Bldg. #1227/II-5</i>	
			DANGER OF DEMOLITION? (SPECIFY THREAT)	
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN	

DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND HISTORY INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION DATE(S), PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS, MATERIALS, MAJOR ALTERATIONS, IMPORTANT BUILDERS, ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS, ETC.

Cabin. Wood frame set on concrete pier foundation; square (14'6" x 14'6"); 5 bays wide; 1-story; shiplap siding; wood-shingled hip roof; off-center entrance on south with wood panel and glass door; metal stovepipe on north slope. Exterior features include 2/2 hinged sash on each facade; simple molded cornice; corner boards; wood panel hinged shutters with diagonal bracing.

*The U.S. Forest Service erected fire lookouts as part of their fire protection system for the forests. Most of the lookouts were built between 1929-1935. W.W. II brought a perceived threat from across the Pacific and this led to the manning of some lookouts as part of the military's Aircraft Warning System. After the war, aerial surveillance and other technological advances rendered the old lookouts obsolete. Many were torn down in the 1960s. Desolation Peak Lookout was constructed by USFS employee Oscar Banner in 1932. One of Desolation's past lookouts was writer Jack Kerouac whose book *Desolation Angels* describes the summer he spent there in 1956. A new roof was installed in 1980 by the NPS. This lookout is similar in appearance to Sourdough Mountain Lookout.*

CURRENT USE <i>Not used</i>	ORIGINAL USE <i>Firewatch/lookout</i>
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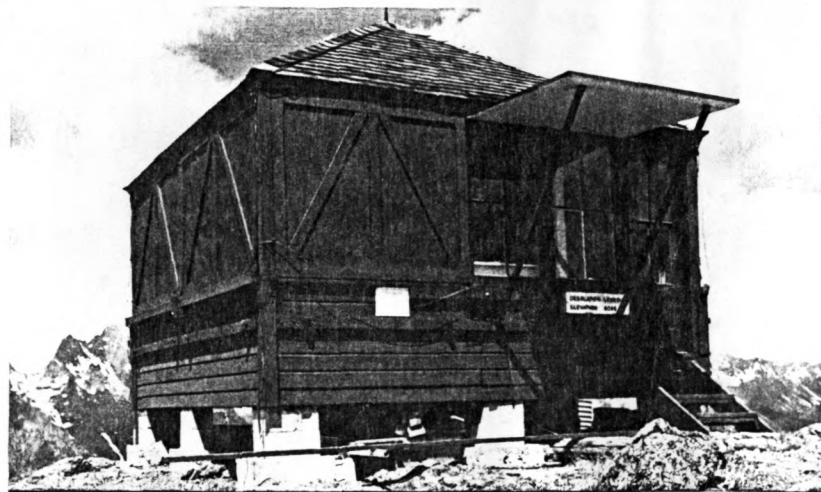
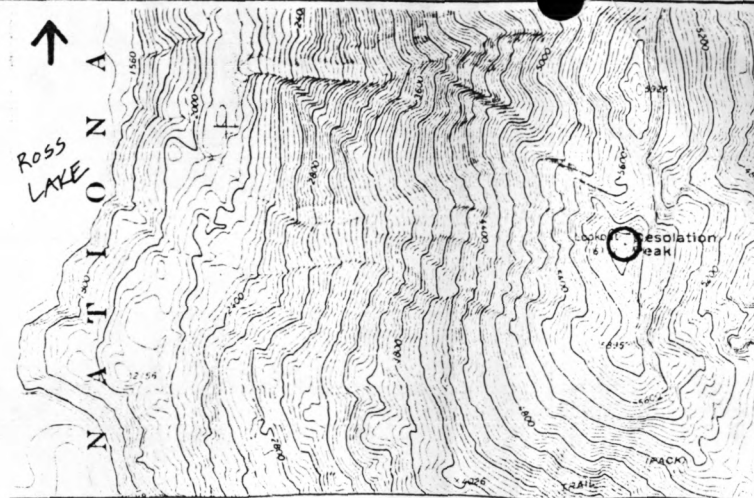
PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES, LIMITED <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> YES, UNLIMITED <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN	EXISTING SURVEYS	<input type="checkbox"/> NR	<input type="checkbox"/> HABS <input type="checkbox"/> NHL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LCS <input type="checkbox"/> NPS	<input type="checkbox"/> STATE <input type="checkbox"/> COUNTY	<input type="checkbox"/> LOCAL <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER
LOCATED IN AN HISTORIC DISTRICT?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NAME	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	CONDITION	<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS		

SIGNIFICANCE *Eligible under Nat. Reg. Criterion A: for its association with USFS stewardship of National Forests, and under Criterion C: as an example of a distinct type of construction and architectural expression. Of the 43 lookouts erected by the USFS in the Mt. Baker National Forest since 1915, only three are extant within NOCA. This is a good example of the type of structure designed by the USFS in the 1930s for their fire protection system; and Desolation Lookout was used as an Aircraft Warning System station during WW II. It varies from Copper Lookout in its roofline. It possesses integrity of design, location, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, and association.*

PHOTOGRAPHS AND SKETCH MAP OF LOCATION



FROM NE



FROM SW

NEGATIVE NO. GL 10-10-19

HABS/HAER QUALITY

YES

NO

REFERENCES

Berry, Fred. *Personal interview*, 2 May 1984.

Field, Newton. *Mt. Baker Almanac*, 1950.

North Cascades National Park. "Superintendent's Annual Report", 1980.

Spring, Ira and B. Fish. *Lookouts-Firewatchers of the Cascades and Olympics*, 1981.

Taylor, Phil. *Personal interview*, 27 March 1984.

INVENTORIED BY *Gretchen Luxenberg*

AFFILIATION *NPS*

DATE *Summer 1984*