

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 90001865

Date Listed: 12/18/90

Suiattle Guard Station
Property Name

Snohomish WA
County State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Rutvenett Glee
Signature of the Keeper

12/18/90
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Statement of Significance: The Period of Significance should be revised to read 1913-1940.

This information was confirmed with Leonard Garfield of the Washington State Historic Preservation Office.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable". For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name SUIATTLE GUARD STATION

other names/site number Forest Service No. CR06-05-02-02

2. Location

street & number Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest /N/A/not for publication

city, town Darrington /XX/vicinity

state Washington code WA county Snohomish code 061 zip code 98241

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	2	1 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	0	0 sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	1	7 structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	0	0 objects
		3	8 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Erwan J. DeLois

10-25-90

Signature of certifying official

Date

USDA Forest Service

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Mark E. Snow

3/16/90

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

Austriotti Ghee

12/18/90

determined eligible for the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

fm Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/institutional housing

Government

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/institutional housing

Government

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)

Other/rustic

Materials enter categories from instructions)

foundation Wood, concrete block walls Wood/log

roof Wood/shake

other Wood/shingle (porch)

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Suiattle Guard Station is a building complex located in the western hemlock forest of the Suiattle River drainage, in northwest Washington State. Significant buildings and structures consist of a log cabin, garage/tool shed and flagpole. Non-contributing buildings and structures consist of an outhouse, two open sheds, a radio tower, a weather instrument stand, a propane tank, and two signs. A barn, corral and generator shed also formerly stood on the site. The extant buildings are arranged in an irregular pattern in a forest opening approximately 1/2 mile north of the Suiattle River.

The cabin was constructed in 1913 to house a Forest Guard working in the Suiattle drainage, and remains in use for the same purpose. Historically, the Guard's primary duties were fire prevention and suppression. The Guard was responsible for issuing fire permits to campers and hikers, and for patrolling campgrounds along the Suiattle River. The Guard was usually the first person on the scene of a wildfire.

The cabin was constructed by Tommy Thompson, Assistant Ranger of the Suiattle-Finney District. It is a one-story building of horizontal logs, hewn on the interior and joined by half-dovetail notching. Sills are laid on wood and on concrete blocks (the latter are recent additions). The cabin has a gable roof oriented north-south, covered by 30" hand-split double cedar shakes laid on hand-split boards. Coursed cedar shingles fill the area under the gables. The cabin is 20 by 23 feet in size.

X See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
Architecture	1905-1917	1913
Conservation	1933-1942	1935
Social History		

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person	Architect/Builder
N/A	Thompson, Tommy
	Civilian Conservation Corps

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

In plan and location, the Suiattle Guard Station is typical of Forest Service Guard Stations of the period prior to World War I. The plan and location reflect early efforts to protect Forest resources by distributing personnel to field stations, satisfying criteria A and C. In execution, the cabin reflects a superior level of craftsmanship, satisfying criterion C. Finally, the garage/tool shed is associated with Federal efforts to promote recovery from the Great Depression, by virtue of CCC construction. Its construction details also make the garage representative of Forest Service buildings of the Depression era. It thus meets Register criteria A and C.

Following its transfer to the Department of Agriculture in 1905, Forest Service resource management was custodial; and defined as the conservation of timber through the prevention of fire and theft, the administration of grazing, and the examination of mining and homestead entries. Accomplishment of these tasks with a limited field force required siting of administrative buildings at locations providing maximum public contact and backcountry access. The Mt. Baker National Forest, which constructed the Suiattle station, also constructed seven other Ranger or Guard Stations between 1907 and 1913. Like Suiattle, they were located along principle drainages, which provided the easiest travel through the area's lush forest. In plan, they were also similar to Suiattle, consisting of an office with living quarters, a barn and sometimes a garage, in an informal arrangement on their site. Although the Suiattle barn has long since disappeared, the number, kind and arrangement of buildings now at the station are quite compatible with this style of administrative site design.

Prior to World War I, Forest Service construction budgets were limited. Building costs could not exceed \$800. One Mt. Baker Ranger Station was constructed for \$50. A manifestation of budget limitations was reliance upon Rangers to construct their own stations. Another was log construction, which reduced the need to purchase building materials. Poor construction was a common result of budget limitations and inexperienced Rangers. On some Forests, it is not unusual to see reports of stations being replaced shortly after construction, owing to defects.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Brown, Albert C.
1984 Letter to Adrienne Hall, Oct. 14. On file, Darrington Ranger District, Darrington.
- Steen, Harold K.
1976 The U.S. Forest Service: A History. University of Washington Press, Seattle.
- USDA, Forest Service
1950 The Mt. Baker almanac. Mt. Baker National Forest. Photocopy on file, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie N. F., Seattle.

X See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- N/A preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- " previously listed in the National Register
- " previously determined eligible by the National Register
- " designated a National Historic Landmark
- " recorded by Historic American Buildings
- " Survey # _____
- " recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

- Primary location of additional data:
- State hist. preservation office
- Other State agency
- X Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:
Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie N. F.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 40

UTM References

A	<u> 1 0 </u>	<u> 6 2 4 5 9 0 </u>	<u> 5 3 4 6 7 5 0 </u>	B	<u> 1 0 </u>	<u> 6 2 5 0 9 0 </u>	<u> 5 3 4 6 7 6 0 </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u> 1 0 </u>	<u> 6 2 5 0 9 0 </u>	<u> 5 3 4 6 3 4 0 </u>	D	<u> 10 </u>	<u> 6 2 4 6 0 0 </u>	<u> 5 3 4 6 3 3 0 </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

N/A See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

NE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 13, Township 32N, Range 11E, Willamette Meridian.

N/A See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

No metes and bounds survey of this parcel has been made. The parcel is an area of land withdrawn from entry (Federal Register Vol. 30, No. 223, p. 14437; Nov. 18, 1965), providing a basis in law for protecting the improvements and function of the station. The parcel encompasses all structures and features of the Station, and sufficient surrounding area to protect the integrity of setting.

N/A See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title James A. McDonald, Archeologist

organization Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest date October 26, 1989

street & number 1022 First Ave. telephone (206)-442-7368

city or town Seattle state WA zip code 98104

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1

The main entry is centered under the south gable, and a secondary entry is offset to the west under the north gable. The main entry has a gabled porch, with round posts and fishscale shingles under the gable. The secondary entry has a hipped-roof porch.

The interior has three rooms and an attic. The walls are plywood. They replace cedar planks which were vandalized a number of years ago. At the front is a full-width living room, 12 feet in depth. The east and west walls have 28 by 30 inch windows with four lights. The windows pivot from the bottom for ventilation. Fixed 28x30" four-light windows flank the entry. The rear is divided into a kitchen and bedroom. Each has a sliding sash window in the side wall, using paired 28x30" frames. The kitchen has a 24 by 28 inch four-light window to the side of the entry.

A bathroom has been created under the porch roof at the rear of the building. It is not original. The date of construction is not known. It is ten feet long and six feet deep. The exterior bathroom walls are covered with coursed shingles. It has a 32 by 36 inch double-hung sash window in the north wall.

The cabin was damaged by the fall of a tree during a 1988 windstorm. Shingles on the front porch and roof were damaged, and since the shingles were already in need of replacement, they were totally replaced in-kind.

In 1913 the Suiattle drainage was unroaded and patrols were conducted on foot or by pack string. A road was constructed up the drainage during the 1930's, with Civilian Conservation Corps help during the last half of the decade. The CCC constructed the second significant building at the station in 1935 or 1936. It has the form of a one-car garage with a storage room for fire tools. However, a narrative by Albert Brown, Suiattle Guard from 1938 to 1940, calls it a "woodshed". The building has a side-gable roof. The roofing is 24-inch cedar shakes, and the walls are simple drop siding. It is 16 by 20 feet, with a 10-foot-wide garage bay. There is a double-hung sash window on the main facade, a second double-hung window of the east side, and two fixed-sash windows with four lights on the west side. The frame and glazing have been removed from one of the latter.

A wood flagpole located southwest of the cabin is considered to be a contributing structure. Although not specifically datable to either the initial construction of the station, or to the CCC era, flagpoles were a standard element in the design of administrative facilities of both eras.

The toilet is a one-seat, gable roof type with shiplap siding. It is four feet square. It lacks documentation as to its construction date. Albert Brown's narrative indicates that it was not present in the 1930's. It is therefore considered to be (relatively) recent and non-contributing.

The sheds are also non-contributing, as they were also not present by 1940. They are open structures on round posts. One is east of the cabin. It is 12 by 11.5 feet and has a gable roof of cedar shakes. It is now used as the woodshed. The other shed is located southwest of the cabin and has a saltbox roof of cedar shakes. The shakes on the shallower pitch project across the ridgeline. This shed is 15.5 by 11.5 feet.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 2

Other non-contributing structures include a steel radio tower, located west of the cabin, a propane tank to the rear of the cabin, a wood weather instrument stand to the southeast, a wood sign board in front of the cabin, a wood station identification sign southwest of the flagpole (between it and the road leading to Buck Creek). All post-date World War II and therefore lack association with Tommy Thompson or the CCC era. Although a site identification sign was probably part of the original station, the existing sign is in a style developed after WWII, which is incompatible with the rustic character of the station. All of the non-contributing structures are small in scale relative to the contributing structures, and could be removed without damage to the historic fabric.

Brown's narrative states that a barn and corral once stood at the location of the shed southwest of the cabin. No trace remains of either. A clearing for an electric generator is situated in the forest to the east of the cabin. It was not present in 1940.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 1

The cabin at the Suiattle Guard Station therefore stands out. It was well-enough constructed to survive and become one of the two oldest administrative buildings on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. (The other, the Darrington Barn, was constructed between 1913 and 1916.) None of the other stations constructed between 1907 and 1913 survive. Construction details such as the half-dovetail notching show that Ranger Thompson knew how to work with logs. The use of varying textures (log and shingle) show that he was sensitive to aesthetics within the limits of his budget.

Ranger Thompson's is an individual of some note in the administration of the Mt. Baker National Forest. He holds the distinction of being the only Ranger to serve his entire career on the Forest and to spend 30 years on one Ranger District. During that time he gained a reputation as a man with the innate ability to perform the varied tasks of a District Ranger.

Thompson entered the Forest Service in 1904 as an employee of the Skagit Ranger District. In 1907 he became Assistant Ranger of the Suiattle-Finney District and remained there until 1915. The Mt. Baker Almanac, a summary of Forest history, stated:

"His work on the Suiattle District was principally the administration of timber sales, fighting fires in the summer time and keeping the Suiattle Indians pacified the year round. In these and other jobs he excelled and was always successful." (p. 71)

In 1915 Thompson was transferred to the Skagit District, where he remained until he retired in 1943. The Mt. Baker Almanac quotes Forest Supervisor C. H. Park as writing:

"Thompson ... was one of the first men engaged on the Forest. He is also one of the very few men who never took or was required to take a Civil Service examination. He entered the Service as a boy when the Forests were handled by the Department of the Interior, and just naturally inherited his position which by well-earned promotions, time after time, he reached the position that he wanted and where he could serve best. There is no job too hard for him, no day's work too long in hours; if occasion demands, he can be depended upon to do the very best, as his generally good judgment dictates." (p. 71)

In short, he was a master of the Ranger job. The quality and durability of Thompson's work at the Suiattle Guard Station testifies to his talents.

During the 1930's, the Forest Service became more actively involved in the production of timber commodities and the restoration of lost or damaged forest resources, necessitating an expansion of the workforce and the construction of additional administrative facilities. This coincided with the creation of the Civilian

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 2

Conservation Corps as the Federal government's premier Depression recovery agency. The CCC was turned to the task of creating the new administrative facilities required by the Forest Service.

In the Suiattle drainage, construction of a road improved access to timber and recreation sites. Completed as far as Buck Creek by 1932, the road was extended past Suiattle by the CCC. This led to construction of the garage/tool shed at Suiattle by the CCC, and in a small measure contributed to employing workers during the Depression. The garage is a modest example of CCC construction, typical through its use of native materials, the gable roof and the multi-pane windows. Lack of other attributes, such as dormers or varied exterior treatment, reflect the utilitarian function of the building.

As an ensemble, the buildings retain the character of a rustic administrative facility, blending with its setting through the use of native materials; and illustrate the evolution of such facilities from the creation of the Forest Reserves to the onset of the Second World War.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

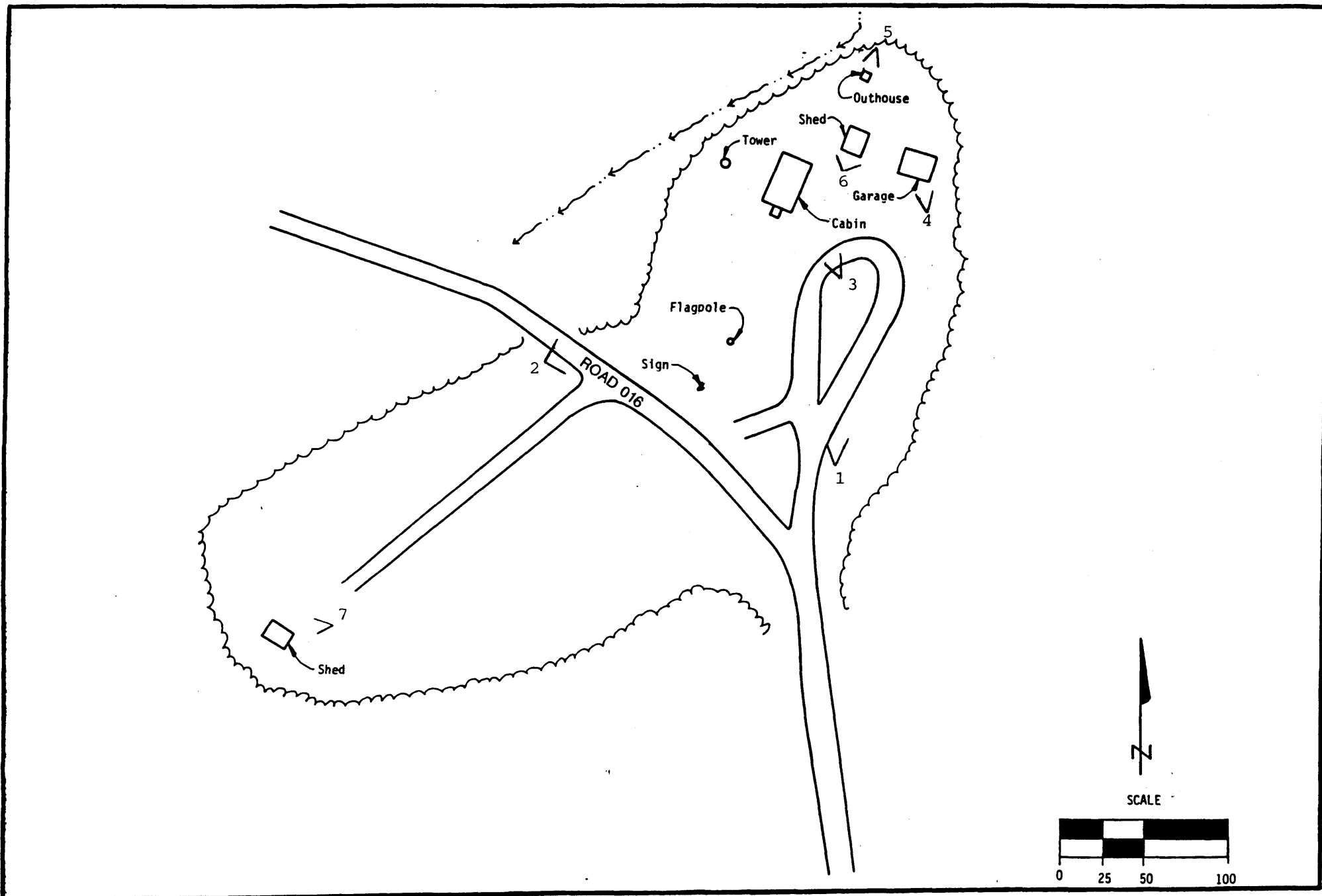
Section number Photographs Page 1

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Name of property: Suiattle Guard Station
Location: Darrington vicinity, Washington State
Name of photographer: Jim McDonald
Location of negatives: Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie N. F., Seattle, WA

Numbers in the following list correspond to numbers shown on the accompanying sketch map, and written on the back of each photograph:

1. Station setting, looking north, showing cabin, garage, flagpole and weather station. Taken 8/19/89.
2. Station setting, looking northeast, showing cabin, garage, flagpole, weather station and sign. Taken 8/19/89.
3. Southeast corner of cabin. Note bathroom addition and propane tank, at rear. Taken 8/19/89.
4. Southeast corner of CCC garage/tool shed. Taken 8/19/89.
5. North (front) facade of outhouse (non-contributing structure). Woodshed to left rear, cabin to right rear. Taken 8/19/89.
6. South end of shed, adjacent to cabin (non-contributing structure). Taken 5/88.
7. Northeast corner of shed, across road from cabin (non-contributing structure). Taken 5/88.



SUIATTLE GUARD STATION
 Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie N. F.
 Darrington Vicinity
 Snohomish County, Washington

SKETCH MAP
 1 < Photograph number and direction