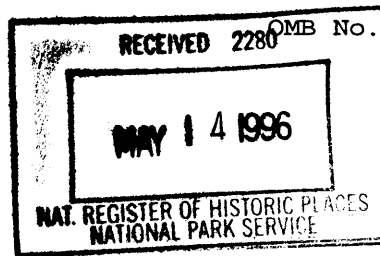


6102



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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 McCart Fire Lookout
other names/site number 24RA175

2. Location T2N, R17W, NW 1/4 of NE 1/3 of Sect. 33

street & number Bitterroot NF, Sula Ranger District |n/a| Not for Publication
city, town Sula, MT |X| Vicinity
state Montana code 30 county Ravalli code 081 zip code 59871
Bitterroot National Forest

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources Within Prpty.		
		Contrib.	Noncontrib.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> Building(s)			Buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> Public-Local	<input type="checkbox"/> District			Sites
<input type="checkbox"/> Public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> Site		<u>1</u>	Structures
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-Federal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	Objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> Object			Total
		<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	

Name of Related Multiple Property Listing:
(n/a)

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register None

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.

Evan J. DeBlois
Signature of Certifying Official

4-19-96
Date

Forest Service - Federal Preservation Officer
State or Federal Agency and Bureau

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

Signature of Commenting or Other Official

Date

4-12-96

SMPO

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.

() determined eligible for the National Register. () See continuation sheet.

() determined not eligible for the National Register.

() removed from the National Register.

() other, (explain:)

Paul R. Fuzeyin

6/19/96

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Government: Fire Station

_____Recreation: Outdoor Recreation
Domestic Camp r

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Other: L-4 Fire Lookout

_____foundation n/a
walls Wood, Glass

roof Wood Shingles
other Concret footings
Timber Supports

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

McCart Fire Lookout is located on the the summit of McCart Peak, elevation 7,115 feet, along the Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness boundary of southwest Montana. It is a classic example of the "L-4" series of lookouts, which are standard 14 x 14 foot wood frame houses, pre-fabricated in Spokane, Washington or Columbia Falls, Montana. The McCart lookout was pre-fabricated in Spokane and packed in by mules in 1939. Native timber was cut on site to provide the tower legs upon which the lookout was erected. The wood frame cab has a pyramidal style cedar shake roof and a 3 ft wide "catwalk" with board railing surrounding the cab. On three sides of the cab are 5 nine-paned sliding windows and along the east wall are 4 nine-paned sliding windows and the door. Shutters constructed of painted planks are hinged to the outside of the cab and can be raised to allow viewing of the surrounding mountains. Exterior walls are constructed of drop siding while the inside walls are 6 inch shiplap. The flooring inside the cab is 6 inch shiplap covered with tongue and groove oak flooring.

Structural stabilization and rehabilitation work on the lookout occurred in 1991, 1992 and 1993 with all work conducted according to the Department of the Interior's "Standard for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings". The project was conducted so that the historical value and character of the structure was preserved. Phase I included replacement of two tower legs, pole bracing between the legs and the center support beam. The catwalk decking and railing were also replaced. Phase II of the project consisted of replacement of the northeast and southeast tower legs, construction and hanging of new shutters and shutter stilts, re-roofing with cedar shakes, painting of the exterior and interior of the lookout and a general clean up of the site. The final phase resulted in the furnishing of the lookout with 1940's replica furniture, including an "Osburne fire finder" and a hand cranked telephone.

See continuation sheet |_x_|

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7

Page 1

McCart Fire Lookout

A "one seater" outhouse constructed of drop siding and a peaked shingled roof is located southeast of the lookout. It was constructed in 1994 and is a non-contributing structure.

A small (12 feet x 12 feet) pole corral was erected in 1995 and is situated in the area where the weather station once stood. It is a non-contributing structure.

A flagpole constructed of a single peeled and painted post stands to the south of the lookout. It is not the original flagpole and is a non-contributing structure.

According to the 1933 Forest map the original route of trail #35 to access McCart Fire Lookout started at the East Fork Ranger Station and ran south along the ridge to the lookout, a distance of about 5 miles. During the last 50 years roads and clearcuts have obliterated most of the original trail. A new trail and trailhead were constructed to access the lookout during the 1990's. The new trail is 1.5 miles in length and is a non-contributing site to McCart Lookout.

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
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<u>Conservation</u>	<u>1939-1946</u>	<u>N/A</u>
<u>Communication</u>	<u></u>	<u>N/A</u>
<u>Engineering</u>	<u></u>	<u>1939</u>

<u></u>	<u>Cultural Affiliation</u>	
<u></u>	<u>N/A</u>	

<u>Significant Person</u>	<u>Architect/Builder</u>
	<u>Clyde Fickes</u>

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

For its associations with the Forest Service's conservation programs and efforts to fight fires on public lands, the McCart Fire Lookout is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places according to Criterion A. McCart Fire Lookout is also eligible for listing in the Register under Criterion C, as a carefully preserved and restored example of an L-4 type forest fire lookout.

Fire detection and suppression was one of the major tasks during the early Forest Service years. The Forest Service evolved as the lead agency nation-wide in fire research. The L-4 series lookout was first conceived and developed by Forest Service engineer Clyde Fickes in 1929, the new design was practical and provided the Forest Service with a lookout which utilized "readicut" lumber from Forest Service warehouses in Spokane, Washington and Columbia Falls, Montana and could be built by "a couple of handymen who could read,... with a hammer, screwdriver, and level" (Fickes 1972:84). The "L-4" series of fire lookouts were low cost, easy to construct and transport and provided a functional area for both living and working. It allowed the lookout person to be on constant watch while also living in the cab.

The early communications network served as a vital role in the early detection of fires in the vast and unroaded wilderness. Intact segments of phone line and insulators in the trees are still visible between McCart and the East Fork Guard Station. From 1939-1984, a period of 45 years, McCart lookout served as an important observatory and was an essential part of fire suppression activities in the Bitterroot National Forest. 1984 was the last year McCart was staffed, however it retains most of its' historic materials and has the basic features expressive of its design and function. The McCart L-4 fire lookout exemplifies the Forest Service's innovation with pre-cut and pre-fabricated buildings.

McCart lookout was named for long-time East Fork District (now Sula District) employee Bill McCart. The careful restoration was a great success, the lookout is an interpretive center as is currently on the Bitterroot National Forest cabin rental program.

Additions post-dating the era of historical significance are limited to the corral, the modern outhouse and the flagpole. All are consistent with the historic use of the site and do not diminish integrity. During the 1960's and 70's, many fire lookouts were considered an "attractive nuisance" and were burned by the Forest Service. McCart Fire Lookout is one of the few lookouts that was spared from this policy.

The isolated setting of McCart Fire Lookout, at an elevation of 7,115 feet, provides a panoramic view of the surrounding mountains which includes the Pintler range to the south and east, the Sapphire range to the north and the Bitterroot range to the west and northwest. Trail #435 to the south and north of the lookout, meanders along the ridge. The visitor to McCart lookout can experience what it might have been like to be on a fire lookout during the 1940's.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Historical Research Associates, Inc

1991 Evaluation of Region 1 Forest Service-Owned Buildings for Eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places,

U.S. Departments of the Interior, National Park Service

1991 National Register Bulletin, 16A,
National Register Bulletin, 15

Kresek, Ray

1984 Fire Lookouts of the Northwest, Fairfield, Washington

Light, Timothy

1984 Thematic Determination of Eligibility for the National Registration of Historic Places for Fire Lookouts on the Lolo and Bitterroot National Forests.

Fickes, Clyde

1972 Recollections USDA, Forest Service, Northern Region, Missoula, MT.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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 add. data:
- State hist.preserv. office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Specify repository:
 Bitterroot National Forest Supervisors Office
 Hamilton, MT 59840

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 3 acres

UTM References

A	<u>1</u> <u>2</u>	<u>2</u> <u>8</u> <u>9</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>5</u> <u>0</u> <u>8</u> <u>4</u> <u>6</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u>	B	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____	_____

This property is located in the NW 1/4 of NE 1/4 of Section 33, T2N, R17W

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary line is indicated on the USGS map.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property includes the level mountain top of McCart peak. The natural contour of 7115' surrounding McCart peak is the boundary.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title Vicki Varnum
Organization Bitterroot National Forest Date _____
Street & Number 1801 North First Street Telephone 406-363-7152
City or Town Hamilton State MT Zip Code 59840

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB Approval No.1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Additional Information:

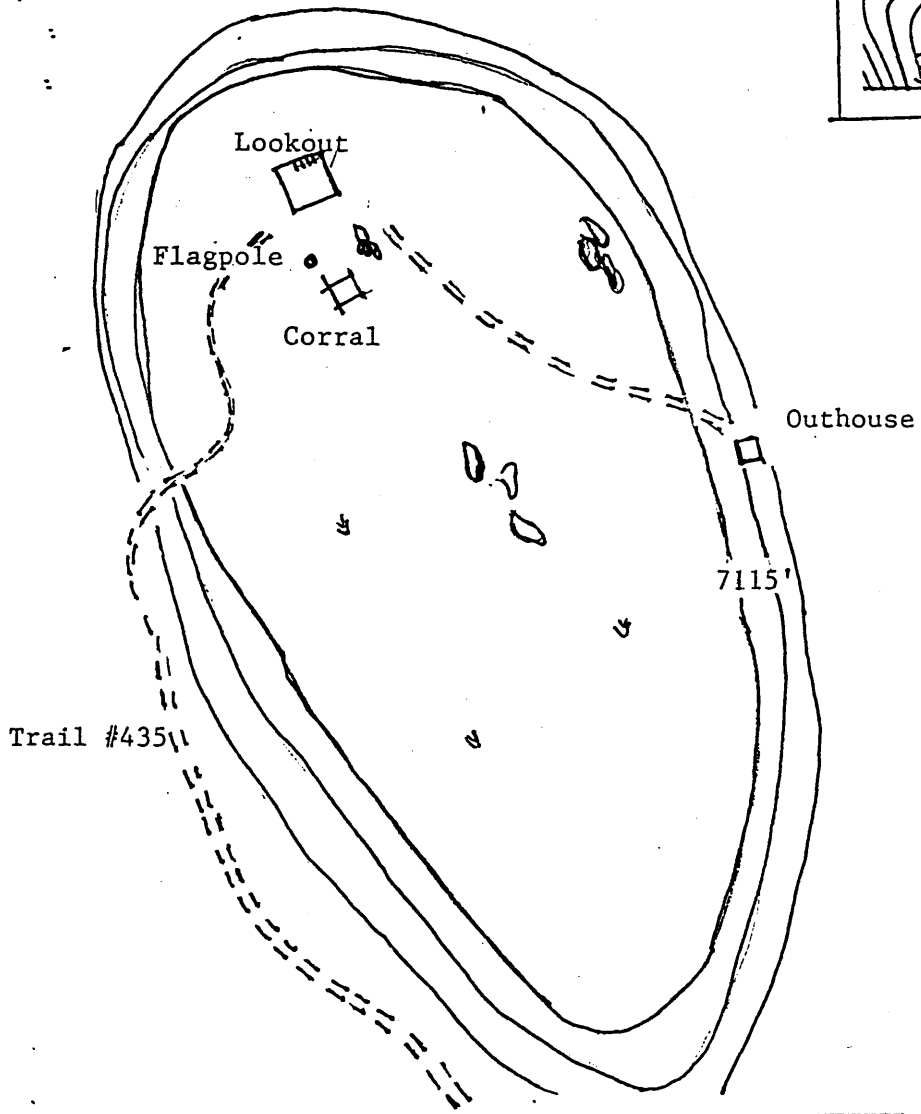
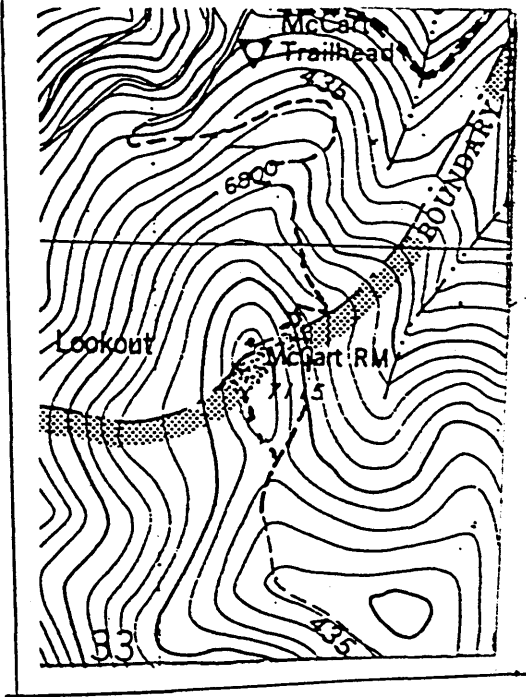
Photographs

Roll 5, Black & White, V.Varnum September 14, 1995

Photo Descriptions:

Photo #4 View to north (south aspect of building)
Photo #5 View to northwest (southeast aspect)
Photo #6 View to northeast (southwest aspect)
Photo #12 Interior of lookout, Osburne finder and crank telephone
Photo #14 View to the south, taken from the catwalk on lookout, corral in foreground
Photo #16 View to northwest (southeast aspect)
Photo #21 Overview to north, recently built corral in foreground
Photo #24 View to south (north aspect)

Boundary



24 RA 175

McCart Fire Lookout

Bitterroot National Forest

Scale is Approximate

