NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION, GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

REGION: Rocky Mountain	PARK/AREA NAME: G	lacier National Pa	rk PARK	NUMBER: 1430
STRUCTURE NAME: Fielding Sno	wshoe Patrol Cabin		STRUCTURE	NUMBER: 389
LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: NEt S	Wł SWł Sec. 12, T2	9N R51W QUADRA	NGLE NAME:	Blacktail, MT
Zone Easting Northin	g Zone Easting	Northing QUADRA	NGLE SCALE:	7.5-minute
UTM A: 12 317808 5350842	C:			
UTM B:	D:			
CLASSIFICATION:		NUMBER C	F RESOURCES	:
OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY:	CATEGORY:	CONTRIBUTING	NONCONT RIBUT	TING
Private	x Building(s)	1		Buildings
Public-Local	District			Sites
Public-State	Site			Structures
x Public-Federal	Structure			Objects
Mixed/private & public	Object			TOTAL
ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND				
The Fielding patrol cabin i	s a one-story, rec	tangular (25' N/S	x 16' E/W),	frame, gable-

roofed cabin with wood shingles and a partially visible rock alignment foundation. The structure has dimensional rafters, a metal stove pipe in the roof, and wide lapboard walls with corner boards. Solid wood, barricaded windows are centered on the east, north, and west walls. A gabled enclosure to the south has east and west walls, opens to the south, and joins the cabin to the north. The enclosure's roof peak is lower than the cabin and is supported on wood poles. Wood steps lead to the centered, south-facing solid wood entry. The structure is in fair condition, needing paint. There is no apparent foundation below the north and west walls. Roof shingles are warping at the ends and the roof is in fair to poor condition. The Fielding snowshoe cabin originated as a fire cache built by local ranger Joe Opalka. The frame building is unique as a patrol cabin because it is not of log construction. The cabin maintains good integrity and is significant in the architectural history of Glacier National Park. HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION: DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1936

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HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION: DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1936 The Fielding patrol cabin was originally constructed as a fire cache.¹ The fire cache system, developed throughout Glacier, necessitated structures at special locations to store small quantities of fire-fighting equipment. During emergencies, the equipment could be drawn upon and the fire supressed before the main fire-fighting units reached the fire.² The Fielding cache was strategically located near a bend in the Great Northern rail line. Superintendents' annual reports often noted the numbers and causes of fires in the park, and sparks from trails were regularly cited. Fielding's change from a fire management site to a patrol shelter illustrates the changing needs and ongoing uses of Park structure in Glacier.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Fielding showshoe cabin is a significant resource both architecturally and historically. Although it is less than 50 years old, the cabin was an integral part of the system of backcountry cabins that enabled park rangers to remain in the field to fulfill administrative functions, rather than returning nightly to the ranger station. Thus, during a period when federal expenditures for national parks were inadequate, park rangers were able to maximize the benefits of the time they spent in the field. Therefore, it meets the eligibility requirements for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under criteria a and c.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCE:

¹"List of Classified Structures" (Williams 1975), Glacier National Park, National Park Service, Rocky Mountain Region, Denver, CO.

²"Final Construction Reports," File D-34, Buildings, Miscellaneous, GNPLA. FORM PREPARED BY: DATE: June 1984

NAME/TITLE:

ORGANIZATION: Historical Research Associates, P.O. Box 7086, Missoula, MT 59807-7086

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3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the Part 60. In my opinion, the property \underline{X} meets does not meet the statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional control of the statewide additional	National Register of Historic Places and m he National Register Criteria. I recommen	eets the procedurel and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR d that this property be considered significantnationally
Dilaaille		<u>12.5.95</u> Date
Signaturé of certifying official/Title		Date
National Park Service		
State or Federal agency or bureau		
Signature of commenting of other atticial <u>Montana State Historic Preservation Office</u> State or Federal agency and bureau	National Register criteria.	SEP 2 9 1995 Date
4. National Park Service Certification		
I, hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
entered in the National Register		
see continuation sheet		
determined eligible for the National Register		
determined not eligible for the National Register see continuation sheet		
removed from the National Register		······································
see continuation sheet		
ather (avalain)		
Additional Documentation Accepted	Jugar. Dapple	1 1/19/96



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OMB No. 1024-0018

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Building Interior

The Fielding Patrol Cabin is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Additional documentation is provided below for the purpose of describing and evaluating the interior for integrity and significance.

7. Narrative Description

Summary

Beginning in the 1920s, patrol or "snowshoe" cabins were constructed from a standardized plan, modified to fit each site's unique terrain and the available building materials. Glacier National Park's cabins were of "substantially the same design" as those used in Yellowstone National Park. The Yellowstone cabins were, in turn, close replicas of USFS patrol cabins that mimicked the design of trappers' cabins. The patrol cabins were constructed one-day's travel (8-12 miles) apart, providing shelter for rangers patrolling the park's vast backcountry.

Due to their remote locations, the cabins were generally constructed of locally harvested log; interior walls were unfinished yet often chinked with saplings. The Slide Lake Cabin, only one and one half miles from a road along the sparsely timbered east flank of the Rocky Mountain Front, and the Fielding Cabin, one quarter mile from the Burlington Northern railroad tracks, are the only cabins of frame construction. Softwood shiplap planks of varied width (some as narrow as three inches, some as wide as twelve inches, most four to six inches) covered the floors. A trap door constructed of floor planks provided access to the requisite bear/rodent/frost-proof cellar, finished with poured concrete/mesh and stocked with a minimum supply of rations. Ceilings were open truss, exposing log purlins and heavy roof boards. Windows and doors were fitted wood frame, set within the log wall without surrounds; in part due to the small size of the units, the small multi-light windows were a significant design element. Doors were generally vertical-plank with cross-braces, constructed on site and secured with iron hinges, latches, and bolts. The easily accessed Fielding Patrol Cabin was fitted with a paneled door.

Furnishings were also standard, the result of similar use and space limitations. The door of the large frame wall-mounted cupboard was bottom hinged and fitted with two folding legs; when opened it provided a table. Metal hooks or shelves, strategically located, provided support for oil lamps. Bunk beds — the upper often of a "suspended fold-up design" — maximized the limited space. A single stove provided heat as well as a cooking surface.

Fielding Patrol Cabin (#389), 1936

A five-panel wood door, with modern hardware, provides direct access to this simple one room cabin, where 5" tongue and groove softwood planks cover the floor. Beveled 3" horizontal tongue-and-groove, painted the same aquamarine as the tackroom in the nearby Nyack barn, covers the interior walls and dropped ceiling. Door and windows surrounds are constructed of 4" trim, also painted blue. Both the floor and ceiling are

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buckled and dilapidated. One-inch crown molding (interrupted briefly by 2 1/2" molding along the east wall) lines the ceiling/wall junctions and the corners. A remnant piece of 1" grey molding along the north wall in the northwest corner suggests that the cabin may have once featured floor trim. A metal ring handle opens the tongue-and-groove trap door that accesses the root cellar.

Fixed furnishings include numerous wall-mounted shelves (some with hooks) and a new wood stove located along the north wall, paired with a chimney pipe (exiting through the ceiling), a metal shield base and a curved metal heat shield around the legs. Three-shelf food boxes are located to either side of the west window. The scalloped-edge exposed hinges suggest that these cupboards are historic. A modern sink/plywood cabinet located along the south wall has no faucet but drains through the wall and directly into the ground. Furnishings include a contemporary table, three antique wood chairs (one windsor style and two slat back), a wood desk, two wood boxes constructed of tongue-and-groove, and two metal bedframes.

8. Statement of Significance

This interior retains physical integrity and contributes to the building's significance. Of special note are those features that distinguish this as an almost-frontcountry cabin: the interior siding and five-panel door.

Photographs

1) Photographer:	Jason Wilmot
2) Date of Photographs:	June 1993

3) Location of Negatives: National Park Service, RMR-RC, Denver, CO.

PHOTO NUMBER	STRUCTURE NAME AND NUMBER	LOCATION/DIRECTION OF VIEW	
1	Fielding Snowshoe Patrol Cabin (#389)	Interior	
2	Fielding Snowshoe Patrol Cabin (#389)	Interior	
3	Fielding Pit Toilet (#391)	View to the Northwest	
4	Fielding Pit Toilet (#391)	View to the North	