

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 90001915 Date Listed: 12/27/90

Badger Mountain Lookout                      Douglas              WA  
Property Name                                      County                      State

USDA Forest Service Fire Lookouts on Wenatchee NF MPS  
Multiple Name

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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.

*for* Antonietta J. Dea  
Signature of the Keeper

1/7/91  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

Statement of Significance: The Period of Significance should be amended to read 1922-1940.

This information was confirmed with Evan I. DeBloois of the U.S. Forest Service.

DISTRIBUTION:

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

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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 Badger Mountain Lookout

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number near summit of Badger Mountain

not for publication

city, town East Wenatchee

vicinity

state WA

code 053

county Douglas

code 017

zip code 98801

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
public-local
public-State
public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
district
site
structure
object

Number of Resources within Property

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total.

Name of related multiple property listing:

USDA Forest Service Fire Lookouts on Wenatchee N.F.

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

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.

Signature of certifying official

Date 7-17-89

Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

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 10-25-90

USDA Forest Service

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
determined eligible for the National Register.
determined not eligible for the National Register.
removed from the National Register.
other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action 12/27/90

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Other: Fire Lookout

Other: Fire Lookout tree

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Other: Fire Lookout (emergency)

Other: not in use

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Standard Plan L-4 (1932)

-Hipped roof vernacular

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete w/timber tower

walls 1 x 6 Single "v" - Rustic siding

roof cedar shingles

other timber tower

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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Badger Mountain Lookout is located on a sagebrush-covered mountaintop outside the boundary of Wenatchee National Forest over which it commands a dramatic view. Located on the eastern side of the Columbia River at an elevation of +3428, it is surrounded by private farm lands which are utilized for grazing and wheat growing. The Lookout site is virtually treeless with the exception of a weather beaten fir tree, to the northwest and uphill behind the Lookout. This tree originally served as the lookout point and in it remain portions of the original access ladder. Although the Lookout is owned by the USDA Forest Service, the site is only accessible via roads within privately held land. The Lookout commands a sweeping view to the west, across the Columbia River, which reaches from Mission Ridge to Lake Chelan with a dramatic "as seen areas" of the eastern slopes of the Chelan, Entiat and Wenatchee Mountains.

This standard Plan L-4 lookout house is situated on an 18'-0" treated timber tower constructed with 8 x 10 cabin girders, 8 x 8 vertical members and 4 x 6 diagonal (x-braced) and bottom perimeter members. These structural members are secured together with galvanized machine bolts. The tower base is anchored to poured in-place concrete footings with steel rods and straps and the entire structure is further held in place by a guy cable anchorage system at all four corners.

The lookout house was constructed according to the standard Plan L-4 (Revised 1932) and exhibits typical/original character defining features; a 14'x14' plan with hipped (pyramidal) roof, 1x6 (v-groove) rustic siding, an expansive glazed wall area composed of two-over-two fixed and casement type window sash, panel door with two-over-two window panel, cedar shingle roof with ornate galvanized metal ridge flashing, standard catwalk and access stair constructed with dimensional lumber and wire screening. The stair structure rests on indigenous stone, a reddish sandstone and basalt. Original T&G built-up shutters have been replaced with similarly detailed plywood type and utilize original 2x2 shutter braces and support hardware. The original lightning protection system remains in place.

The interior exhibits original 1x4 T&G paneling on the walls and ceiling. Modern vinyl flooring is in place. Original standard wooden furnishings include; firefinder stand (firefinder has been removed and is stored at the Entiat Ranger District headquarters), desk/table, four benches, and two low storage cabinets and lightning stool.

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The site includes evidence of the foundation of a former garage, an old root cellar, an old flag pole location and landscaped paths and walks constructed from native sandstone and basalt. With the exception of typical shutter replacement and new flooring material, the Badger Mountain Lookout has been very little altered and remains in generally good condition.

**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)

Architecture  
Conservation  
Politics/Government

Period of Significance

1922 - present

Significant Dates

1932

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Clyde P. Fickes & J. B. Helm  
Civilian Conservation Corps

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

See continuation sheet

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Badger Mountain Lookout and site are significant for their association with the development of the USDA Forest Service and its stewardship and conservation of our National Forests, as part of a comprehensive forest fire surveillance and detection system. The Lookout is also significant as it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a uniquely functional property type designed for and most often constructed in challenging mountain terrain. Although this lookout house was relocated to this site from its original (and undocumented) location, this property meets the special criteria requirements of the Criteria Considerations (Exceptions). The property is significant primarily for its architectural value, which it continues to convey and for its association with the development of the USDA Forest Service and the stewardship of our natural resources, which it continues to possess.

### Historic Background:

Concern for the protection of America's natural resources led to the enactment of the Forest Reserve (Creative) Act of 1891 and establishment of Forest Reserves administered by the General Land Office within the Department of the Interior. In 1905, the Forest Service within the Department of Agriculture (USDA) was established and assumed responsibility for the Reserves, which then became known as National Forests. Thus, the Forest Service began to develop a comprehensive system for the administration of the forests which included the construction of Ranger and Guard Stations, forest trails and roads and the establishment of fire lookout stations. Fire crews were then formally recruited and paid. The creation of this Federal agency, however poorly equipped and meagerly financed, was a tremendously important historic advance in public attitude and recognition of natural resource conservation and the need to anticipate and rapidly respond to the threat of forest fires.

Euro-American settlement in the Wenatchee area began in the late 1860's, although the lack of railroad transportation and the geographic isolation from national markets limited settlement patterns. By the late 1880's the geographic area around Badger Mountain had been homesteaded and was in use for livestock grazing and wheat farming. By 1917, wagon roads, over which current paved routes follow, transversed this area of Douglas County. A dramatic contrast in geology differentiates Douglas County, on the eastern side of the Columbia River and Chelan

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County on the western side. Thus, the gently rolling wheat fields and grasslands on Badger Mountain provided a dramatic vantage point allowing a clear view of mountainous and forested areas in Chelan County. Thus, it seems likely that Badger Mountain may have been used for fire surveillance purposes prior to any recorded Forest Service use of the site.

By 1922, official Forest Service maps noted that a "TREE" and a triangulation (i.e. firefinder) station were in use on Badger Mountain. The lookout station appears to have been easily accessible via roads from East Wenatchee. The "TREE" and triangulation station notations continued to be noted on Forest Service Maps until the mid-1930's, although records from 1932 indicate the presence of a "permanent" lookout and "TREE" in use for "emergency" purposes. Haven Stayaway, who worked for the Forest Service on the adjacent Entiat Ranger District during this era, reported that a tent camp and tree were in use c.1938. Forest Service records reference archival correspondence which indicate that Hans Holt, the long time owner of the immediate homestead, donated the site to the Forest Service c.1941. Forest Service correspondence, dated February 1947, regarding the relocation of the Martin Lookout to Steliko Point states;

"This system of moving a Lookout House from one station to another has proved successful since it has been done in two other instances on the Forest, such as Badger Mountain and Beehive."

There are no definitive records regarding where the Badger Mountain Lookout House originally stood, although it clearly exhibits intact character-defining features typical of standard Plan L-4 lookout houses which were constructed throughout Wenatchee N.F. during the C.C.C. era. This lookout station was actively manned by the same lookout, Oscar Richardson, between 1953 and 1972 which may explain its generally intact and unaltered condition.

Badger Mountain Lookout continues to be used by the Forest Service for emergency purposes and was actively manned during the 1988 Dinkelman Fire over which it commanded a dramatic view and from which the fire could be monitored. A particularly unique site feature is the original lookout "TREE" which remains in close proximity to the lookout house.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Bromily, Doug. East Wenatchee, WA. Telephone interview, 9/12/88.

Kresek, Ray. Fire Lookouts of the Northwest. Ye Galleon Press, Fairfield, WA., 1984.

Spring, Ira. Lookouts: Firewatchers of the Cascades and Olympics. The Mountaineers. Seattle, WA. 1981.

Miscellaneous Administrative records and documents on file at Forest Supervisor's Office, Wenatchee National Forest, Wenatchee, WA.

Miscellaneous Historic Maps - 1908-1936, Wenatchee National Forest, Forest Supervisor's Office, Wenatchee, WA

See continuation sheet

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 additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: USDA Forest Service, Wenatchee N. F., Forest Supervisor's Office Wenatchee, WA

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property less than one

UTM References

A 1 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 0  
 Zone Easting Northing

C  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

B  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |   
 Zone Easting Northing

D  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Badger Mountain Lookout is located in a portion of SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of SE $\frac{1}{2}$ , Section 6 T. 23 N R. 21E Willamette Meridian. Proposed nomination to include lookout house, any related rock foundation and guy anchorage system and immediate access trail within a 100 foot radius of the center of the Lookout USGS map - Orondo Quadrangle.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the identified resource and all associated immediate site features.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

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 organization Krafft & Krafft date November 1988  
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