

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED NOV 17 1983  
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Mallard Peak Lookout

AND/OR COMMON

Mallard Peak Lookout

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER SE of Avery,

--- NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Avery vic.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF In the St. Joe National Forest

STATE

Idaho

CODE  
16

COUNTY  
Shoshone

CODE  
079

**CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED
- N.A.

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

**AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: *(If applicable)*

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northern Region

STREET & NUMBER

Federal Building

CITY, TOWN

Missoula

--- VICINITY OF

STATE

Montana

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Supervisor's Office

STREET & NUMBER

1201 Ironwood Dr.

CITY, TOWN

Coeur d'Alene, ID

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Forest Service Personnel

DATE

July 1981

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Supervisor's Office, Idaho Panhandle National Forests

CITY, TOWN

Coeur d'Alene

STATE

Idaho

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The general appearance of the Mallard Peak Lookout has not changed significantly since it was constructed in 1929. Situated on the very top of Mallard Peak, it is located on the divide between the Little North Fork of the Clearwater River and the North Fork of the Clearwater River. The lookout was constructed according to the specifications in the Forest Service 1929 "L-4 Plan".

The structure is a single gable, frame building with a cedar shake roof and 6 inch lap board siding. The building measures 14 by 14 feet square with 6 foot, 9 inch high walls and a 5 foot, 10 inch high gable. The building sits on six square concrete piers topped with 3 hand hewn foundation beams.

The original sash windows had six panes arranged 2 by 3. These windows were destroyed by the wind in the 1960s and were replaced by sash windows with nine panes arranged 3 by 3. The door and several shutters were also replaced at that time. The original shutters were constructed of 1 X 8 inch lap board. The door was a four panel type with the top panel being a window.

The interior walls are 1 X 8 board applied to the studs diagonally from each corner and meeting in the middle of each wall. The ceiling is 1 X 10 boards applied perpendicular to the joists. The floor is supported by 2 X 6 inch joists and consist of a 1 X 7 inch subfloor covered by hardwood flooring.

In the middle of the floor is the original fire finder consisting of a metal pipe stand and a circular metal map board with an attached wire sight. Two metal beds, a wooden table, and a small metal stove are the other main interior furnishings.

The lookout has been painted a light gray and is in good repair. While it no longer serves as a fire lookout, it may be used in the future as quarters for a backcountry guard.

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES 1929

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

USDA FOREST SERVICE

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Mallard Peak lookout was built in 1929 and was based on a design developed at the Region One Forest Service Office in Missoula, Montana. The design evolved into the "L-4" type lookout which was the most common lookout style constructed by the Forest Service. Prior to 1929 fire lookouts were largely built to local designs and little standardization existed between Forests and Regions. In 1929 Region One built thirty-five buildings of the Mallard Peak type in Montana and North Idaho. These structures were introduced to bring some uniformity in costs and materials in lookout construction. The introduction of the design coincides with the beginning of better communication between the field units and the Regional Office and represents a greater amount of control exerted by the Regional Office. It also represents the beginning of a massive coordinated effort by the Forest Service to detect and control forest fires. This effort included the construction of thousands of fire lookouts and hundreds of miles of trails, telephone lines, and roads. In many cases the exclusion of fire from the forests has changed forest habitats significantly. The advent of the standardized lookout cabin signals the start of this important phase in the history of American forest conservation.

The 1929 "L-4" design (always measuring 14 feet by 14 feet) is recognizable because of its gable roof, strut supported shutters, and 2 over 3 sliding sash windows. In 1930 the design was modified and the windows were changed to 3 over 3 hinged sash windows. In 1931 the design was again changed this time to a hip roof building. In 1936 overhanging shutter supports were added. Thousands of these structures were built after 1930 throughout the land administered by the Forest Service. The design was abandoned in the 1950's with the adoption of a larger flat roof cabin for lookouts by the Forest Service.

Based on a comprehensive inventory of 3,012 lookouts in the Northwest United States, historian Ray Kresek of Spokane, Washington has identified this as the only remaining structure of the original thirty-five "L-4" lookouts built in Montana and North Idaho.

The Mallard Peak Lookout is significant as the forerunner of the thousands of "L-4" lookouts built in the 1930's and 1940's. At the time, these lookouts were the main method used to locate forest fires on National Forests. Fire protection in National Forests was a major early twentieth-century conservation objective.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Spring, IRA and Byron Fish  
 1981 Lookouts-Firewatchers of the Cascades and Olympics  
 The mountaineers. Seattle.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY an 18 foot by 18 foot area (324 sq. feet) 1/134th of an acre.

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 1	6 1 2 3 5 0	5 1 9 9 1 1 5	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property occupies the very top part of Mallard Peak, Idaho, Shoshone County.  
 W $\frac{1}{2}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , section 36, T42N, R7E.

The boundaries for the site include only the immediate surroundings of the lookout.

## LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
None			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Cort Sims, Forest Archeologist

ORGANIZATION

Idaho Panhandle National Forests

DATE

1/26/82

STREET & NUMBER

1201 Ironwood Drive

TELEPHONE

765-7306

CITY OR TOWN

Coeur d'Alene

STATE

Idaho

# 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

## STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

*Meade Wells*  
 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is  National  State  Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

*Edward J. DeBlasio*

TITLE **AGENCY PRESERVATION OFFICER**

DATE **OCT 25 1983**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*W.D. Miller*

DATE

*4/12/84*

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER