

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

### SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 95001565

Date Listed: 1/19/96

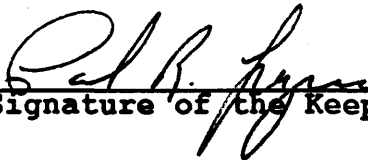
Bowman Lake Road  
Property Name

Flathead  
County

MT  
State

Glacier National Park MPS  
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.

*h*   
Signature of the Keeper

1/19/96  
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Significance:

The correct areas of significance include: Transportation and Commerce. [This clarifies a discrepancy between the text and the boxes checked.]

U.T.M. Coordinates:

The correct UTM coordinates should read:

- A. 11 705330 5411830
- B. II 699670 5407120

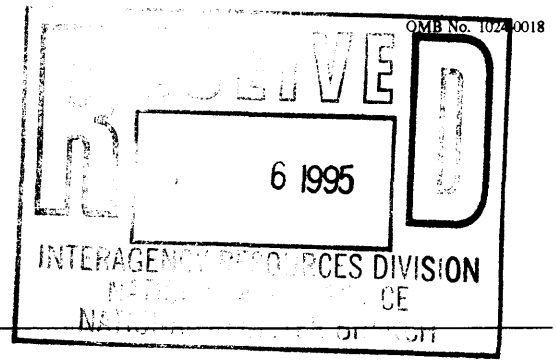
This information was confirmed with Kathy McKoy of the NPS.

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



1. Name of Property

historic name: Bowman Lake Road

other name/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: N/A

not for publication: n/a

vicinity: North Fork drainage, between Polebridge and Bowman ranger stations; Glacier National Park (GLAC)

city/town: West Glacier

state: Montana code: MT

county: Flathead code: 29

zip code: 59936

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

  
Signature of certifying official/Title

12.5.95  
Date

National Park Service

State or Federal agency or bureau

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

  
Signature of commenting or other official

SEP 29 1995  
Date

Montana State Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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
- see continuation sheet
- removed from the National Register
- see continuation sheet
- other (explain)

 Signature of the Keeper

Entered in the  
National Register

Date of Action

Thompson, Kapsley

1/19/96

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**5. Classification**


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<b>Ownership of Property:</b> Public-Federal	<b>Number of Resources within Property</b>		
<b>Category of Property:</b> Site	<b>Contributing</b>	<b>Noncontributing</b>	
<b>Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register:</b> 5	_____	_____	<b>building(s)</b>
<b>Name of related multiple property listing:</b> Glacier National Park Multiple Property Listing	<u>1</u>	_____	<b>sites</b>
	_____	_____	<b>structures</b>
	_____	_____	<b>objects</b>
	<u>1</u>	_____	<b>Total</b>

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**6. Function or Use**


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**Historic Functions:**  
Government/Transportation/ (truck trail; wagon road)

**Current Function:**  
Government, Transportation/roadway

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**7. Description**


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**Architectural Classification:**  
N/A

**Materials:**  
**foundation:** N/A  
**walls:** N/A  
**roof:** N/A  
**other:** gravel road bed

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**Narrative Description**

The Bowman Lake Road turns east from the North Fork Road (Glacier Route 7) at a point .2 miles north of the Polebridge Ranger Station, and runs northeast for five miles to its terminus at the Bowman Lake Ranger Station (originally the Skyland Camp) and the Bowman Lake Campground. The road is classified as "light-duty," a grade above "unimproved dirt." The graveled road bed averages 15' wide and incorporates a number of switchbacks, extreme corners, and rolling ascents and descents. The road originally passed through dense second-growth lodgepole. The recent Red Bench Fire area destroyed the tree cover, exposing the rolling topography and providing occasional views of the surrounding mountains (fire visited the North Fork in 1910, 1919, and again in 1929; the burnscape is not inconsistent with the historic landscape).

Although slightly widened and graded with increased regularity, this road remains one of the poorest in the park. It continues to connect the Polebridge Ranger Station, the principal North Fork administrative center, with the Bowman Lake recreation hub and with the the fire-control system radiating from Bowman Lake.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: A  
 Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A  
 Significant Person(s): N/A  
 Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Areas of Significance: Government  
 Period(s) of Significance: 1914-1945  
 Significant Dates:  
 Architect/Builder: National Park Service, Branch of Plans and Design

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### Narrative Statement of Significance

The Bowman Lake Road is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A, at the local level, for its association with federal development of the North Fork region (NR areas of significance: Government; Transportation). The site's period of significance extends from construction in 1914, when park officials began concerted efforts to develop the Bowman Lake area as part of its fire-control and recreation-development programs, until the end of the historic period as defined by the National Register (1945). The road is a component of the Circulation Systems property type, as developed in the Glacier National Park Multiple Property Listing.

The NPS constructed the Bowman Lake cutoff in 1914. Although providing improved administrative access to the fire-areas of extreme fire danger, the road did not access accommodation facilities until 1922 when the Culver Military Academy constructed Skyland Camp. The park established administrative facilities in the 1920s and 1930s, with conversion of the Skyland Camp to a Ranger Station, construction of the Bowman Lake snowshoe cabin and boathouse, the Numa Ridge Lookout (accessed by trail branching from the terminus of the Bowman Lake Road), and of a rudimentary phoneline connecting Polebridge, Bowman Lake, and Numa Ridge. These components of the park's "Fire Control Plan" for the "finger lakes" area -- all linked by the Bowman Lake spur road -- are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Morton J. Elrod, in his 1924 guidebook, described the route as "a side road, passable in good weather." Agnes C. Laut, traveling the North Fork Road/Bowman Lake cutoff in 1926, reported that "as you near Bowman Lake...the car begins to grunt and grind. ... you had better sound your horn at every curve and keep sounding it, for I shouldn't like to meet a motor car coming down a telegraph pole when I was going up."

Both the Bowman Lake Cutoff and the North Fork Road received only minimal maintenance through the 1930s. They were essentially truck trails, narrow, stump-filled and so prone to washouts as to be unnavigable by automobiles for much of the season. Proposed modifications to the North Fork transportation system included construction of a new road "touching the lower ends of the principal lakes of the west slope of the park" -- including the foot of Bowman Lake. This plan was never implemented and the Bowman Lake Road thus remained the only automobile access to the "finger lakes" of the North Fork drainage.

Although still graveled, narrow, and steep, the road has been widened and regraded to accommodate automobile traffic. The NPS considered the Bowman Lake cutoff a component of the North Fork Road; it is thus rarely identified as a separate resource in maintenance reports and its evolution from rough wagon road to "light duty" automobile road is difficult to trace. However, the road continues to provide NPS rangers and tourists with narrow, rough, steep, and slow access to the Bowman Lake Ranger Station, Bowman Lake, and associated tourist and fire trails.

Bowman Lake Road

Flathead County, Montana

Name of Property

County and State

### 9. Major Bibliographic References

Elrod, Morton J. *Elrod's Guide and Book of Information of Glacier National Park*. Self Published, Missoula, Mt. c. 1929.

Laut, Agnes C. *Enchanted Trails of Glacier Park*. New York: Robert M. McBride & Co., 1926.

Newell, Alan S., David Walter, and James R. McDonald. *Historic Resources Study, Glacier National Park and Historic Structures Survey* (Vol. I). Denver, Colorado: National Park Service, Denver Service Center, 1980.

#### 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:

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: approximately 23.5 acres

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing
Point A (Bowman Lake)	12	705330	5411830
Point B (Glacier Route 7)	11	699670	5704120

### Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary incorporates the approximately 5-mile roadbed, at an average width of 15', and 10' to either side of each shoulder.

### Boundary Justification

These boundaries correspond to the area of historical development.

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Ann Hubber/Historian  
organization: Historical Research Associates, Inc. date: 6/1995  
street & number: P.O. Box 7086 telephone: (406) 721-1958  
city or town: Missoula state: MT zip code: 59807-7086

### Property Owner

name/title: National Park Service  
street & number: Park Headquarters telephone: (406)888-5441  
city or town: West Glacier state: MT zip code: 59936

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number      Photographs      Page 1      Bowman Lake Road, Flathead County, MT.

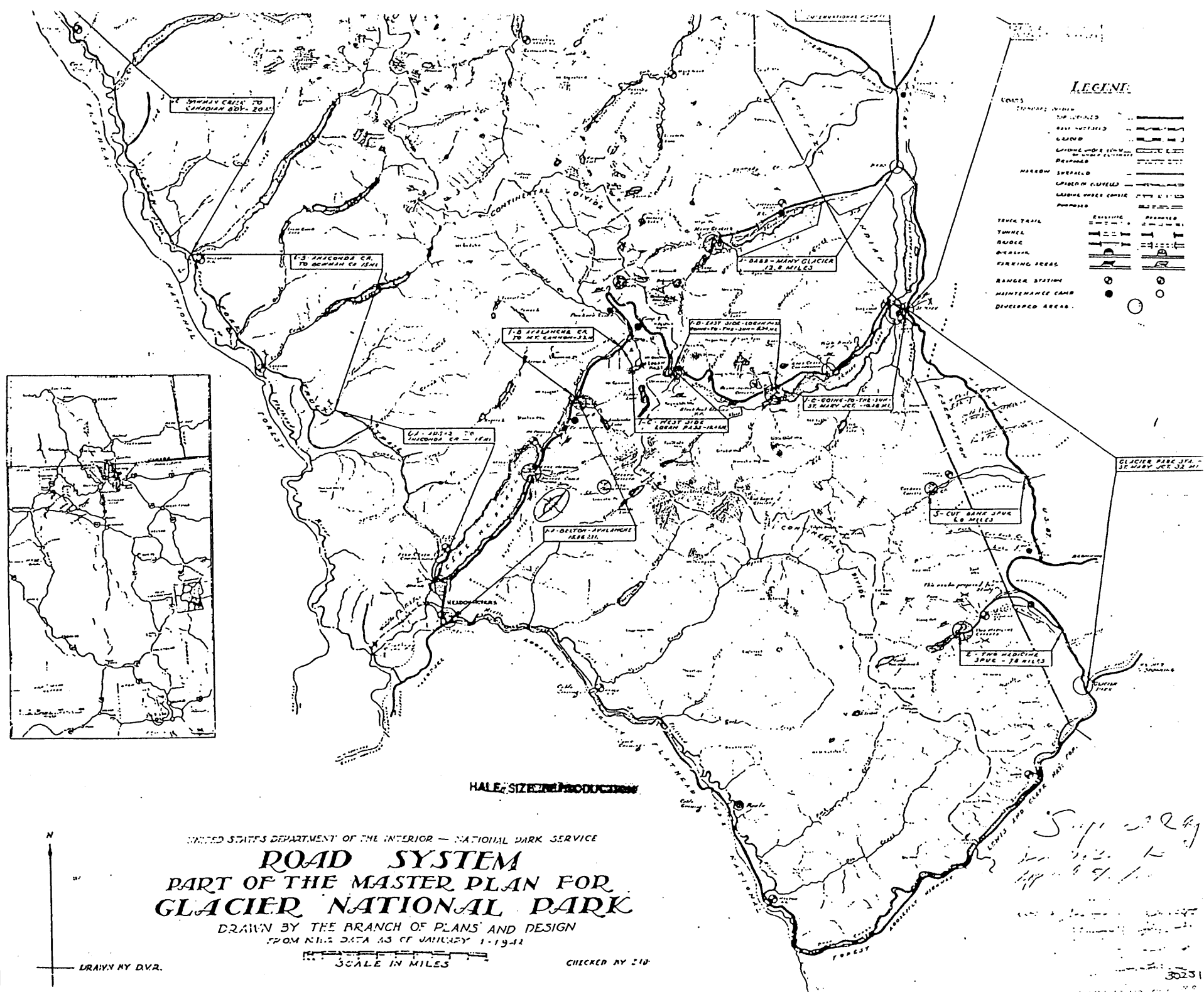
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### Photographs

The following information applies to all photographs listed below:

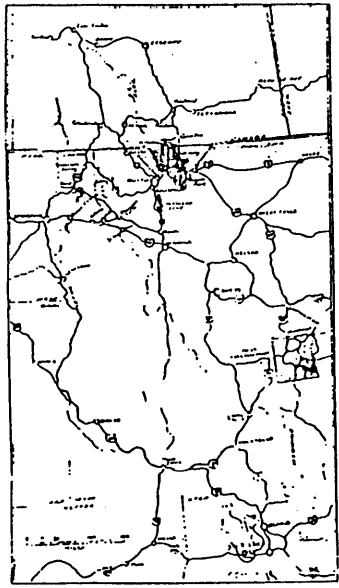
- 1      Photographer:      Ann Hubber
- 2      Date of  
      Photographs:      September 1993
- 3      Location of  
      Negatives:      National Park Service, RMR-RC, Denver, CO

PHOTO NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	DIRECTION OF VIEW
10	Bowman Lake Road, near junction with Polebridge Ranger Station	View to N
11	Bowman Lake Road, 1 mile northeast of Polebridge Ranger Station	View to E



**LEGEND**

ROADS	
STANDARD IMPROVED	—
RAIL NOTIFIED	—
UNIMPROVED	—
GLACIER UNDER CONSIDERATION	—
PROPOSED	—
NARROW GORGE	—
GLACIER UNDER CONSIDERATION	—
GLACIER UNDER CONSIDERATION	—
PROPOSED	—
TRAIL	—
TUNNEL	—
BRIDGE	—
BRIDGE	—
PARKING AREAS	—
RANGER STATION	—
MAINTENANCE CAMP	—
DEVELOPED AREAS	—



HALF SIZE REPRODUCTION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR — NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
**ROAD SYSTEM**  
**PART OF THE MASTER PLAN FOR**  
**GLACIER NATIONAL PARK**

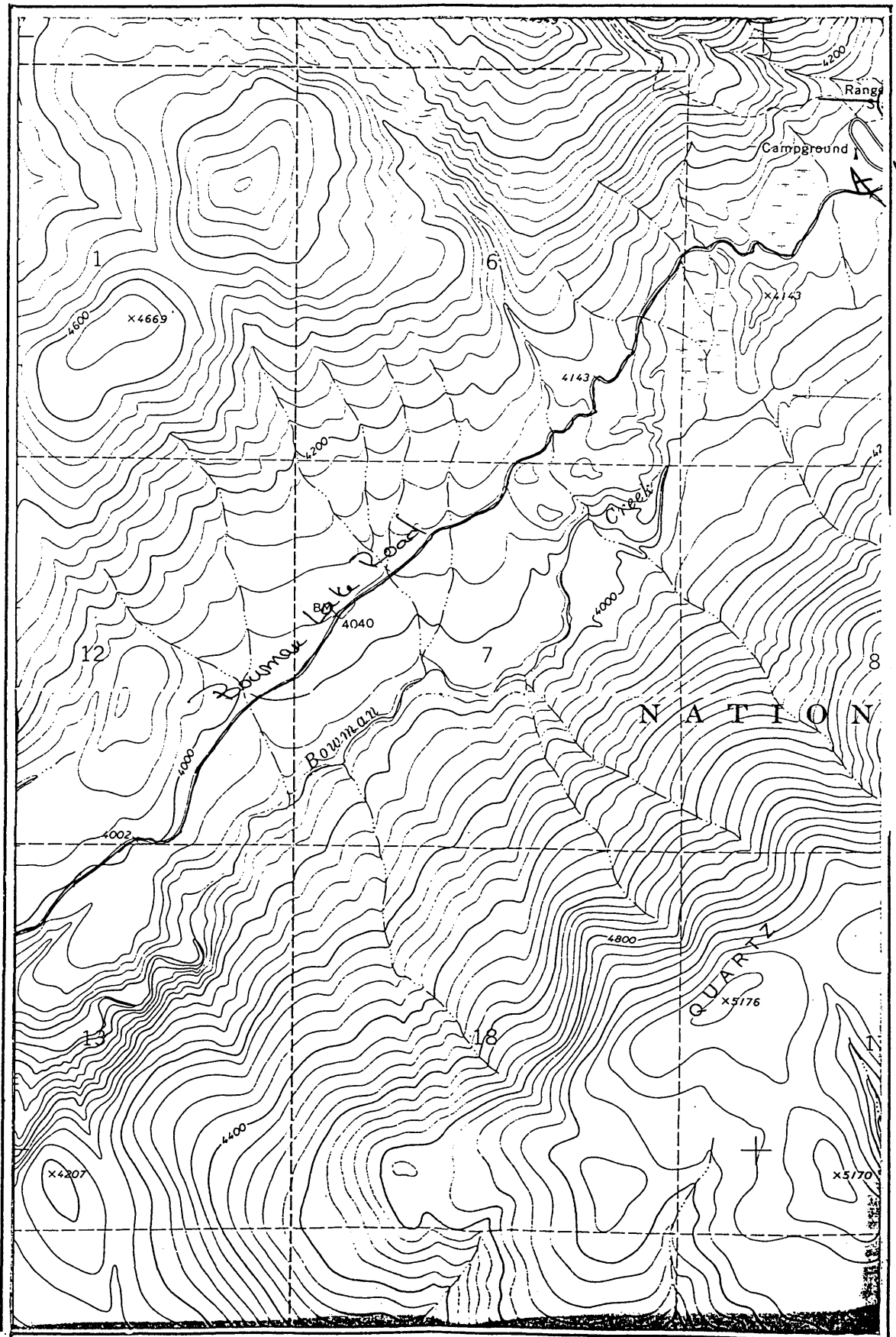
DRAWN BY THE BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN  
 FROM K.H.S. DATA AS OF JANUARY 1-1932

SCALE IN MILES

CHECKED BY D.D.

DRAWN BY D.V.R.

*Supp. 224  
 12-23-32  
 117-94-1*



CAMP

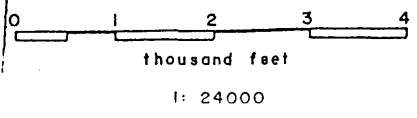
Range

Campground

NATION

QUARRY

Boulevard

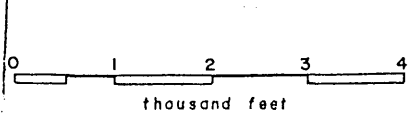
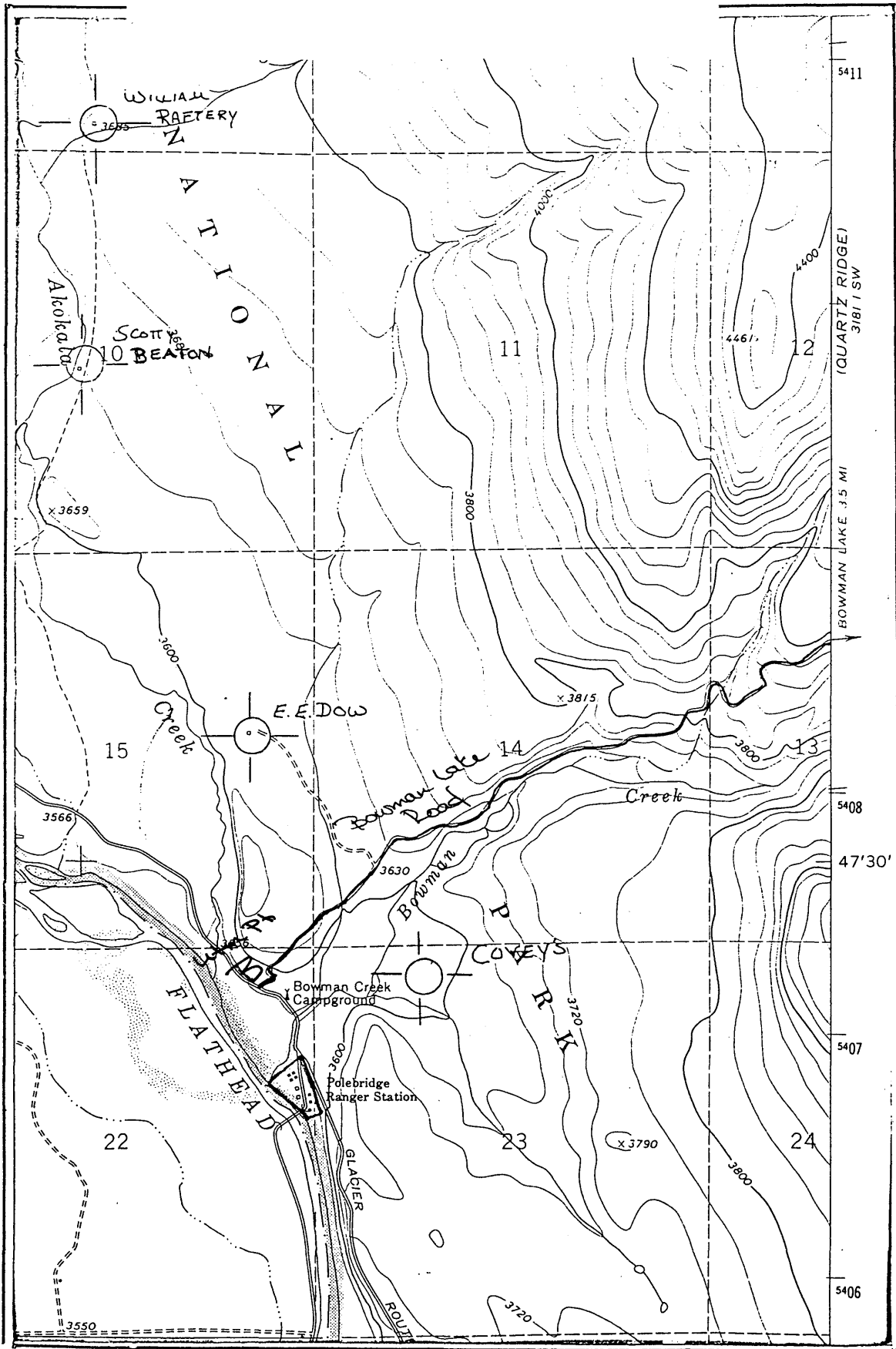


USGS 7.5' Quad Quartz Ridge  
 Sec. 6, 7 T. 35N R. 20W  
 County Flaxhead



**Bowman Lake Road**

UTM References	Zone	Easting	Northing
(Bowman Lake) A	12	705330	5411830
(Glacier Route 7) B	12	699670	5704120



USGS 7.5' Quad Polebridge  
 Sec. 4, 12, 13, 15, 22 35 N R 21 W  
 County Flathead

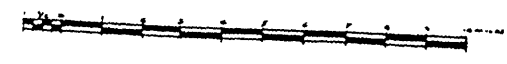
FIRE CATCH  
 FIRE LOCATOR EXIST.  
 FIRE LAMPHOUSE  
 CHIEF OF POLICE EXIST.  
 WATERSHED EXIST.  
 MOUNTAIN EXIST.  
 COUNTRY EXIST.  
 TRAILS EXIST.  
 TRAILS PROP.  
 FIRE TRAILS EXIST.  
 FIRE TRAILS PROP.  
 ROADS EXIST.  
 ROADS PROP.  
 FENCES EXIST. GROUNDLED  
 FENCES EXIST. GROUNDLED PRIVATELY OWNED  
 FENCES PROP.  
 SNOWSHED CABIN EXIST.  
 MAZ DANA EXIST. U.S. U.S. GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 OFFICE OF NATIONAL PARKS, BUILDINGS & RESERVATIONS  
**FIRE CONTROL PLAN**  
 PART OF THE MASTER PLAN  
 GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

DRAWN BY BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN  
 FROM N.P.S. DATA AS OF OCT. 1

1 9 3 3

DRAWN BY C.A.R.



CHECKED BY M.H.

**APPROVALS.**

RECOMMENDED BY C.A.R.  
 DATE 2-9-33 BY CAROL ARCHER  
 CHECKED FOR USE BY CAROL ARCHER  
 DATE 2-17-33 BY CAROL ARCHER  
 APPROVED BY C.A.R.  
 DATE 2-17-33 BY CAROL ARCHER  
 CONCURRED

1:25,000