

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION, GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

REGION: Rocky Mountain      PARK/AREA NAME: Glacier National Park      PARK NUMBER: 1430

STRUCTURE NAME: Upper Nyack Snowshoe Cabin      STRUCTURE NUMBER: 622

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: North side of Nyack Creek along Nyack Creek Trail, west of confluence with Pacific Creek  
 QUADRANGLE NAME: Mt. Stimson, MT (1968)

Zone Easting Northing

QUADRANGLE SCALE: 7.5-minute

UTM A: 12 310570 5380150

CLASSIFICATION:

NUMBER OF RESOURCES:

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY:	CATEGORY:	CONTRIBUTING	NONCONTRIBUTING	
<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building(s)	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> Public-Local	<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sites
<input type="checkbox"/> Public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Structures
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Objects
<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed/private & public	<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	TOTAL

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

The Upper Nyack snowshoe cabin is a one-story log cabin, measuring 14x18' with a 6' porch extension. The structure rests on a log alignment and stone pad foundation. Logs are saddle notched, with square-cut crowns and some concrete chinking. The extended roof purlins are supported by vertical posts and a tie beam. The roof is covered with corrugated metal. The structure has a solid vertical wood door and wood-shuttered windows with metal bars and hinges. The condition of the structure is fair. Exterior chinking is needed, the sill logs are dry rotted, and there is rot in the purlin crowns. The cabin is a typical log snowshoe cabin with a gable roof extension that creates a front porch area. This basic, variable design evolved from the early snowshoe cabins in Yellowstone National Park. Most backcountry patrol and snowshoe cabins constructed in the 1920s were built by local carpenters at a cost of between \$350 and \$500. The Upper Nyack snowshoe cabin maintains good integrity and is a significant example of an early backcountry rustic building in Glacier.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1926

This cabin is one of many similar structures built in Glacier National Park during the 1920s and 1930s to facilitate the supervision of lands within the park boundaries. The park's rugged topography and the often rapidly changing weather conditions made it imperative that these cabins be built at strategic points to protect rangers charged with park surveillance. The cabins were usually located 8 to 12 miles from a permanent ranger station. Thus, a park ranger could spend a number of days on patrol duty without returning to the station for supplies or shelter. The Upper Nyack snowshoe cabin is significant because it illustrates an important aspect in the development and administration of Glacier National Park.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Upper Nyack snowshoe cabin is a significant resource both architecturally and historically. Therefore, it meets the eligibility requirements for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under criteria a and c.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCE:

FORM PREPARED BY:

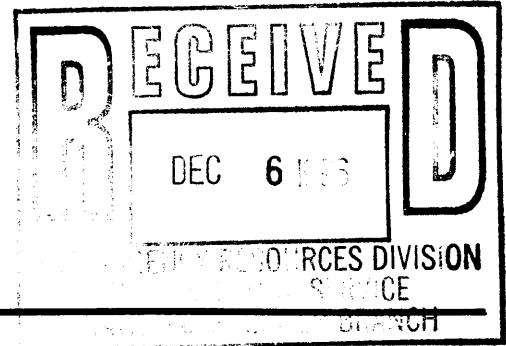
DATE: June 1984

NAME/TITLE:

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

*860000*

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Upper Nyack Snowshoe Cabin (addendum), Flathead County, MT.

#### 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 80. 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]*  
Signature of certifying official/Title

12.5.95  
Date

National Park Service  
State or Federal agency or bureau

In my opinion, the property 1 meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

*[Signature]*  
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:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
___ 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	_____	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (explain) <b>Additional Documentation Accepted</b>	<u><i>Greg M. Lapsley</i></u>	<u>1/19/96</u>

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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County, MT.

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### Building Interior

The Upper Nyack Snowshoe 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.

##### Upper Nyack Snowshoe Cabin (#622), 1926

A substantial door, constructed of five 6" vertical boards secured on the interior with a double Z-brace and on the exterior by two horizontal braces, provides access to this one room log cabin, located a day's travel

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from the Lower Nyack Snowshoe Cabin. Seven-inch shiplap planks, painted olive rather than the standard grey, cover the floors. A central trap door, constructed of two layers of 5" - 7" shiplap, provides access to the cement encased root cellar. Saddle-notched logs with wide sapling chinking form the interior walls. The ceiling is open to the roof, exposing five log purlins and 7" roof planks.

Fixed furnishings are standard backcountry issue: two free standing cabinets line the east wall; the unpaneled door of one swings down to form a table. The other cabinet door is constructed of vertical boards secured with interior horizontal braces. The two chairs are also painted olive. A second table, constructed of shiplap planks and predictably painted olive, is embellished with a painted checkerboard top. A third table, "handmade" of planks atop peeled lodgepole legs, holds a Coleman stove. The large bedding storage box is constructed of planks and features a heavy top and side vents. The wood stove set in the northeast corner is paired with a sheet metal hearth and a metal heat shield.

Suspended bedframes, as specified in original drawings, are located along the west and south walls: the beds are suspended by cables secured to two heavy metal hooks set in the nearest purlin. A wood slat bracket, bolted to the wall, provides additional support. (This is one of few cabins in which this feature is extant.) Heavy shelving units, supported by dimensional lumber braces, line all available wall space and hold an assortment of cleaning supplies, trail and fire tools, snowshoes, and a Coleman lantern. A two-handled band saw hangs from a purlin.

### 8. Statement of Significance

The interior retains physical integrity and contributes to the building's significance.

### 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	Upper Nyack Snowshoe Cabin (#622)	Interior-stove and handmade table
2	Upper Nyack Snowshoe Cabin (#622)	Interior-door and standard bed-storage box