

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION, GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

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

STRUCTURE NAME: Loneman Fire Lookout      STRUCTURE NUMBER: 623

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: Access via Loneman Mountain Trail      QUADRANGLE NAME: Nyack, MT  
which joins the Boundary Trail in center of SW $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 8, T31N R18W

Zone Easting Northing      Zone Easting Northing      QUADRANGLE SCALE: 7.5-minute  
UTM A: 12 295500 5374150      C:  
UTM B:      D:

CLASSIFICATION:

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

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

The Loneman fire lookout is a two-story, square (14x14'), log-framed interior building with a cedar-shingled pyramidal hip roof and 1'x10" lapboard siding. The structure is set on a rubblestone and concrete pad foundation. The lower level is solid with a single board-and-batten entry. The upper level is reached by a 2x8" plank stairway. Double pane windows and a catwalk wrap around four sides of the upper level. The structure is in good condition. This lookout is a standard, wood frame, 14x14-ft. house set on a 10-ft. tower with catwalk. The basic plan, originally designed by the United States Forest Service, was often modified and revised by both Forest and Park Service engineers. The Loneman lookout has good integrity of materials, design, and workmanship and is significant in the architectural history of Glacier National Park.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1930

This fire lookout is one of several similar buildings constructed in Glacier National Park between the late 1920s and the early 1940s to protect park lands from the always critical threat of fire. A planned network of lookouts within the Park and on adjoining national forest lands allowed reciprocal surveillance of both areas. The series of lookouts in Glacier succeeded for many years in reducing the number of disastrous fires in the park. Today, air observation allows a more comprehensive coverage of the park and has replaced the manned lookout almost entirely. The Loneman lookout is significant because it illustrates an important aspect in the management and conservation of timber resources in Glacier National Park.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Loneman fire lookout is a significant resource both architecturally and historically. 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

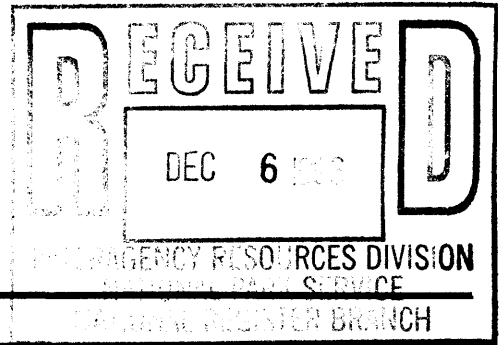
NAME/TITLE:

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

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Loneman Lookout (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 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]  
Signature of certifying official/Title

12.5.95  
Date

National Park Service  
State or Federal agency or bureau

In my opinion, the property 2 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 |
|--|-------------------------|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register<br>see continuation sheet                  | _____                   | _____          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register<br>see continuation sheet     | _____                   | _____          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register<br>see continuation sheet | _____                   | _____          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register<br>see continuation sheet                | _____                   | _____          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (explain)<br>Additional Documentation Accepted             | <u>[Signature]</u>      | <u>1/19/96</u> |

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### Building Interior

The Loneman Lookout 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

Fire lookouts were generally constructed from standardized building packages, packed to the lookout site for assembly. Most were also constructed following the mid-1920s increase in lookout-construction appropriations and prior to the 1930s advent of aerial fire detection and suppression. This use of standard plans and the short construction period resulted in a remarkable degree of uniformity in interior design, not only in park lookouts but also in contemporaneous lookouts built on the forests of the USFS Northern Region. Paneled or vertical-plank doors (like the windows, paired with full-length "storms") provided access. In a classic case of design following function, large multi-light awning windows dominated all four elevations; painted 2" to 4" tongue-and-groove planks covered the small expanse of exposed interior wall. Floors were generally finished with painted 3-inch to 6-inch softwood. Fixed furnishings included the critical and centrally located fire finders, a wood-burning stove, a small cot, a wood table and chair(s), and wall-mounted cupboards located above the window banks, near the ceilings. Ceilings were either open/exposed truss or, if dropped, finished with painted tongue-and-groove planks and containing a hinged door leading to the "attic" storage space. Food and equipment storage areas in the "basement" were unfinished and accessed by vertical-board or paneled wood doors.

##### Loneman Lookout (#623), 1930

As befits its function, pairs of large two-light windows dominate the interior of this small building. Three-inch floorboards, painted grey and paired with narrow 1" quarter-round baseboards, cover the floors. The same 3" planks (either shiplap or tongue-and-groove), cover the walls and ceiling; walls below the window are laid horizontally and are painted aquamarine; those above the windows are laid vertically and are painted forest green, as is the ceiling. A trap door, also constructed of 3" planks, provides access to the attic storage space. Two-inch boards, painted either green or aquamarine, frame all windows and the three-panel/one-light exterior door.

Furnishings include cupboard units constructed of 3" planks (still painted grey), a makeshift bookcase, a stove, metal bedframe, two tables, and the centrally located Osborne fire finder, mounted on a grey metal stand.

The basement storage area, created by the elevated construction of the primary component and accessed through a board-and-batten door, is unfinished, with dirt floors and exposed frame walls and ceiling. The wall framing system is unique: 2" x 7" slats are laid flat on top of each other over log supports. This "wall" is then secured with "X" cross braces constructed of logs hewn flat on the interior. Open shelves and the floor space are littered with tools, propane tanks, and miscellaneous equipment.

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### 8. Statement of Significance

The interior is unmodified and contributes to the building's significance.

### Photographs

- 1) Photographer:                      Jason Wilmot
- 2) Date of Photographs:              August 1993
- 3) Location of Negatives:            National Park Service, RMR-RC, Denver, CO.

| PHOTO NUMBER | BUILDING NAME AND NUMBER | DESCRIPTION                          |
|--------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1            | Loneman Lookout (#623)   | Interior-northeast corner            |
| 2            | Loneman Lookout (#623)   | Interior-northwest corner (basement) |