

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION, GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

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

STRUCTURE NAME: Upper Park Creek Patrol Cabin STRUCTURE NUMBER: 628
 LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: Junction of Park Creek and Two Medicine Pass Trails, near head of Park Creek QUADRANGLE NAME: Mt. Rockwell, MT (1968)
 Zone Easting Northing QUADRANGLE SCALE: 7.5-minute
 UTM A: 12 318022 5365134

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 Park Creek patrol cabin is a log cabin measuring 15x18' with a 9' porch overhang. The logs are lap-notched with sapling chinking and square-cut crowns. The gable roof is covered with corrugated metal and has log purlins. The windows are barred with metal bands. The condition of the structure is poor, with extensive dry rot in sill logs on all sides and several log crowns. The Upper Park Creek patrol cabin was constructed by a private, local contractor according to Park Service plan G913 between July 25 and August 15, 1928. The cost totalled \$450 with an additional \$80.89 charged to the Park Service for materials. These materials were packed in 17 miles from the road end. Some logs selected for construction head to be skidded 3/8 of a mile to the site.¹ The Upper Park Creek patrol cabin maintains good integrity and is a significant example of an early backcountry rustic building in Glacier.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION: DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1928
 The Upper Park Creek snowshoe cabin was constructed with considerable difficulty near Dawson Pass, west of the Continental Divide, between July 25 and August 15, 1928. Construction of the cabin totalled \$450, with \$80.89 worth of material provided by the Park Service. The contractor transported the materials to the site in two 34-mile round trips by pack string. Plans for the Upper Park Creek cabin were those used at Ford Creek, also built in 1928. Although the Park Engineer reported that the Park Creek cabin cost more than three others built that year, he held that it was necessary to provide winter shelter to rangers patrolling the vicinity of Upper Two Medicine Lake and Lake Isabel.² 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 Park Creek patrol cabin is significant because it illustrates an important aspect in the development and administration of Glacier National Park.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:
 The Upper Park Creek patrol/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:
¹"Final Construction Report of Four Snowshoe Cabins, Season of 1928," File: 620.81, April 1929, by Charles E. Randels, Park Engineer, Glacier National Park, National Park Service, Record Group 79, National Archives, Washington, DC.
²"Final Construction Report, Four Snowshoe Cabins in Glacier National Park, April 8,

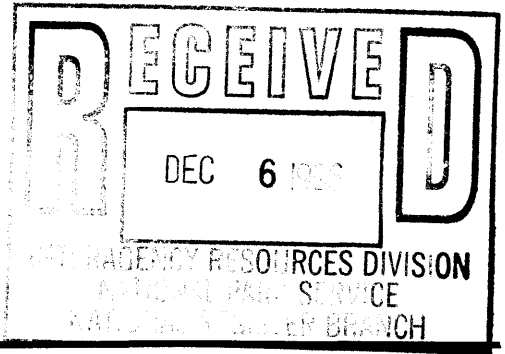
FORM PREPARED BY: DATE: June 1984
 NAME/TITLE:
 ORGANIZATION: Historical Research Associates, P.O. Box 7086, Missoula, MT 59807-7086

14/2/11

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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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 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)	_____	_____
Additional Documentation Accepted	<i>[Signature]</i>	<u>1/19/96</u>

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Building Interior

The Upper Park Creek Patrol 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 Park Creek Patrol Cabin (#628), 1928

Andrews, Yeats, Schermann, Shield, Webb, and Vitale reconstructed this historic cabin in 1986 and 1987, replacing rotten logs with logs felled on site and square-notched with a power saw, replacing corrugated

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metal roofing with wood shingles, replacing metal window bands with heavy shutters, and reconstructing the foundation with creek rocks. Rock slabs also cover the porch floor. Split sapling forms the exterior as well as the interior chinking.

A door constructed of a double layer of 5" vertical planks, sandwiched over a center frame, leads from the porch to the one room interior, where 5" grey shiplap planks, running north-south, cover the floor. This flooring is original. Along both lead edges, a single 5" plank runs east-west, creating a finished edge. A trap door, constructed of 5" planks and located in the center of the room, leads to the concrete- and screen-lined cellar. Peeled full logs, approximately 11" in diameter, form the interior walls. Split sapling chinking disguises a fibrous dark brown chinking/insulation that dates to the renovation (as do the chalk lines still visible on most logs). Dated names etched in cabin walls date to the historic period and may have been "rewritten" when original logs were replaced. The ceiling is open to the roof, exposing seven purlins and mismatched roof boards, apparently a mix of new and original members.

Multi-light hopper windows appear to be salvaged from the original cabin, with historic latches and original hinge holes visible next to modern replacements. Furnishings are standard: a wall-mounted food cupboard with hinged-table "door" is centered within the west wall, flanked to the north by a standard bedding storage box -- constructed of lapped siding and featuring a heavy lid nad side vents. Metal bunk bed frames are located in the southeast corner. Open shelving units line the walls and hold trail maintenance and fire tools, canteens, a Coleman stove, and numerous pots and pans. A 12" x 12" cement "chimney" with a 6" stove pipe segment is located along the north wall. The small wood stove, mounted on a tin hearth, is now vented to exit the cabin through the roof. Center ceiling hooks hold the two Coleman lanterns.

8. Statement of Significance

Restoration efforts, apparently "in-kind," centered on structural elements and the exterior and did not adversely affect interior integrity. The interior 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 Park Creek Patrol Cabin (#628)	Interior
2	Upper Park Creek Patrol Cabin (#628)	Interior