

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: 91000708 Date Listed: 6/10/91

<u>Koma Kulshan Ranger Station</u>	<u>Whatcom</u>	<u>WA</u>
Property Name	County	State

USDA Forest Service Buildings in Oregon and Washington Built by the CCC  
Multiple Name

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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.

*Robert J. Lee*  
Signature of the Keeper

6/11/91  
Date of Action

=====  
**Amended Items in Nomination:**

**Classification:** The Category of Property is amended to read building, rather than district.

**Statement of Significance:** The Period of Significance under Conservation is amended to read 1932-1945.

This information was confirmed with Evan DeBloois of the USDA Forest Service.

**DISTRIBUTION:**  
National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

708  
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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

MAY 08 1991

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable". For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Koma Kulshan Ranger Station

other names/site number Koma Kulshan Guard Station; CR06-05-01-06

2. Location Mt. Baker/Snoqualmie National Forest, Mt. Baker Ranger District

street & number Forest Road 11 /NA/not for publication

city, town Concrete /XX/vicinity

state Washington code WA county Whatcom code 073 zip code 98237

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	3	2 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	0	0 sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	0	3 structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	0	1 objects
		3	6 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

USDA Forest Service Buildings in the states of Oregon and Washington. Built by the Civilian Conservation Corps

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. N/A See continuation sheet.

Evan J. DeBloom Signature of certifying official Date 3-28-91  
USDA Forest Service State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Walter G. ... Signature of commenting or other official Date December 19, 1990  
Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation State or Federal agency and bureau

**5. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

Autawicetta J. Lee

6/10/91

determined eligible for  
the National Register.

See continuation sheet.  
determined not eligible for  
the National Register.

removed from the National  
Register.

other, (explain:)

fn Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories  
from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/government office

DOMESTIC/institutional housing

Current Functions (enter categories  
from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/government office

DOMESTIC/institutional housing

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Rustic Architecture of USDA

Forest Service in the  
Pacific Northwest Region

Materials (enter categories from  
instructions)

foundation Concrete (piers)

walls Shake, drop siding

roof Shake

other

**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Koma Kulshan Ranger Station, now a Guard Station, is located in the Baker River drainage basin below the southern flank of Mt. Baker in the northwestern corner of Washington State. The significant buildings in the station complex are as follows (building numbers correspond to the current - 1985 - site plan):

Residence #1007: constructed 1933; 748 sq. ft.; T-shaped, 1-1/2 story, wood-frame, shake high-gable roof with hipped roof at rear; small center-gable porch, partially enclosed, on north (main) facade.

Wood shingle exterior, 5/8" plywood under porch gable. Porch roof supported by two large, tapered peeled poles with notched pole cross-member. Three small, intricate pine tree cutouts in triangular pattern centered on single center board of porch gable. The cutouts are not a C.C.C. detail, having been installed when the porch was extended (see below).

Depression-era photos show a rear porch screened with a trellis. At some unknown date, the rear porch was enclosed and the existing windows installed. A replacement foundation of concrete piers was constructed in 1978; the crawl space was enclosed by galvanized sheet steel. At the same time, a small extension to the front porch was constructed. A split shake roof was installed in 1980; front steps of masonry were added in 1986; new rain gutters and downspouts were installed in 1987.

X See continuation sheet

**8. Statement of Significance**

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

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

- ARCHITECTURE
- CONSERVATION
- SOCIAL HISTORY
- 
- 
- 

Period of Significance Significant Dates

- 1932-1934 1932
- 1931-1945 1932
- 1933-1934 1933

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

Significant Person  
N/A

Architect/Builder  
USDA Forest Service

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Individual buildings at the Koma Kulshan Ranger Station are significant as a result of design features which reflect Forest Service rustic architecture of the Depression era. Building 1007 is unusual on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie in its use of exterior shakes rather than lap or drop siding. The buildings are also significant because they represent the Service's transition to an active resource management agency, and because of their association with the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps.

The Station was originally conceived, constructed, and utilized as the Koma Kulshan Ranger Station. Individual buildings were constructed from 1932 to 1936. The Ranger Station was designed to replace the Baker River Ranger Station. The latter station was located up the Baker River twelve trail miles from the town of Concrete in Sections 30 and 31 of T. 37N, R. 9E, W.M. The site now lies under Baker Lake. At the time the Koma Kulshan station was built, it was not known that the lake would be raised. Rather, Koma Kulshan promised to be more accessible, both to Forest users and Forest resources.

In 1931 a road was constructed from Concrete to Sulphur Creek. It was recommended at that time that approximately 30 acres in Section 25 of T. 37N, R. 8E be utilized as a Ranger Station. Personnel and supplies were sheltered in tents in 1931, and construction of permanent buildings began the next year. By report of Harold E. D. Brown, first Ranger at the station, Building 2200 was constructed first. This was accomplished through regular appropriation. The other buildings were constructed between 1933 and 1936, using E.C.W. and E.R.A. (Depression relief) funding.

A C.C.C. side camp was established at Koma Kulshan, with about 20 'boys' and a foreman. Most of the crew worked at clearing the site, and 2 or 3 helped carpenters with the buildings. Ranger Brown was responsible for construction planning and supervision.

X See continuation sheet

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Brown, Harold E. D.

1977 Letter to Carol Koehler, with attachment "Early History of Koma Kulshan Ranger Station, Mt. Baker National Forest, 1931-1933." Photocopy on file, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Cultural Resource staff files, Mountlake Terrace.

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 hist. preservation office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other

Specify repository:

Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie N. F.  
Mountlake Terrace, WA  
 See continuation sheet

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of property 1.5

UTM References

A 1101 5947201 53904201  
Zone Easting Northing  
C                 
Zone Easting Northing

B                 
Zone Easting Northing  
D                 
Zone Easting Northing

N/A See continuation sheet

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## Verbal Boundary Description

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Begin description at SE corner of parking area adjacent to Forest Highway 11. Proceed at bearing S 60° 30' W for 61.5' to highway edge of parking area. Thence at bearing S 30° 30' E along shoulder edge of FH 11 for 102.5' to left (north) edge of station access road. Thence at bearing N 60° 30' E down access road and through gate for 230.0' to opposite edge of intersection bordering picnic shelter area. Thence at bearing of N 30° 30' W for 319.0', stopping before the fenceline. Thence at bearing S 60° 30' W for 168.0' to edge of parking area. Thence along edge of parking area for 218.0' at bearing S 30° 30' E, to point of origin.

N/A See continuation sheet

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## Boundary Justification

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The parcel is within a larger area of land withdrawn from entry under terms of the Pickett Act, 6/25/1910, providing a basis in law for protecting the improvements and function of the station. The boundary encompasses contributing structures and features of the station, and excludes surrounding non-contributing structures and features.

N/A See continuation sheet

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Laurence Taylor

organization Mt. Baker Ranger District

street & number 2105 Highway 20

city or town Sedro-Woolley

date March 15, 1990

telephone 206-856-5700

state WA zip code 98284

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The interior of the residence is divided into a living room, 16'4" x 15'8" with walls and ceiling covered with 1/4" plywood with battens. The living room contains 5 sets of 3'4" square 6-pane, double-hung windows. The floor is of 1" x 31/2" T&G fir.

The residence was vandalized in 1972, necessitating replacement of the front door and refinishing the living room floor, on which a small fire had been lit. The structure was re-plumbed in 1978 and re-wired with 200-amp service in 1980, at which time base board heating units were added. A river cobble/masonry hearth was constructed in 1984 during a major interior renovation. The brick chimney was replaced with a concrete block chimney in 1985. A 34-1/2" wide room divider between the living room and kitchen was converted from a solid wall in 1986.

The kitchen, 15'8" x 10'9", was included in the 1984 renovation during which new cabinetry, lighting, and flooring were installed. The room retained the original wood frame, 6-pane, double hung windows; four sets in total.

The doorway from the rear of the kitchen opens into a hallway 4'7" x 15'3", containing a floor-to-ceiling wall cabinet 5'6-1/2" wide x 12" deep. Down the hall is the bathroom, outside the door of which is the hot water heater. Above the water heater is a window which measures 2'1" x 2'3-1/2" and which matches another at the opposite end of the hallway.

The bathroom is 5'7" x 6'9" and contains a toilet, shower, and sink. It was included in the 1984 renovation. The west wall of the bathroom has a window measuring 2'7" x 1'5-1/2".

A thirteen-step staircase ascends from the hallway to the two attic bedrooms. The floor of the west room is essentially the same size as the living room but has the sloping ceiling which conforms to the main gable of the structure. A closet space of 12' x 5' has been constructed into the lower rear gable slope and a 4' x 4' closet space has been partitioned off from the main room.

The east bedroom is 10'4" x 15'4" with a 4' x 4' closet space divided from the room. The east bedroom contains one of the double hung, 6-pane windows, the west room a six-pane single frame square window. The windows in each of the bedrooms are in the gable end walls.

The base of the stairway and the rear doorway of the living room exit through the hallway rear door onto the back porch, which is 9'7" x 6'10". This room is characterized by two sets of multi-pane windows, each measuring 34" x 53".

FR&T Building #2200: Constructed 1932; 810 sq. ft. Rectangular, 1-1/2 story wood-frame, concrete pier foundation, wood-shaked high-gable roof extending to form

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porch; length of main (southwest) facade supported by four 4-3/4" square posts. Drop siding, end boards. Plank porch extends length of main facade. No decoration. No apparent exterior alteration, other than the chimney (see below).

The main floor of the interior measures 19'2" x 30'5". A counter runs the length of the southwest wall. Under the counter are 28 storage drawers. In the wall above the counter are two sliding-sash, six-pane windows measuring 28" x 24". The rear (northeast) wall contains another two of the same windows. The facade has two single six-pane windows, one at either end, measuring 2'1-1/2" x 1'9-1/2". A sliding door, 6' x 7', also in the facade, contains two four-pane windows each measuring 1'5-1/2" x 1'9-1/2". Next to the sliding door is one standard entry door.

The upper level is now utilized as a shop and storage area by the Interagency Hotshot Crew. The northeast gable wall contains four of the six-pane wood frame windows set above two sets of the double-sliding windows in the lower level wall. A chimney of 16" square standard chimney block is visible through these windows. It replaces an earlier brick chimney. The southwest gable wall contains three of the twelve-pane wood frame windows.

Equipment storage #2300: Constructed 1934; 2240 sq. ft. Rectangular, 1-1/2 story wood-frame, concrete pier foundation, hand-split, wood-shaked high-gable roof with galvanized steel ridge cap. Horizontal drop siding. Eight bays in length, eight large sliding doors on main facade, northeast elevation. No decoration. No obvious exterior alteration.

By one account this building was originally constructed as a horse barn, the upper level still containing the purported hay loft. Another account holds that the original horse barn was a structure which stood off the northwest end of #2300 and which was either demolished or moved intact to Birdsvew about 1962. The latter account is correct, as a site plans and photographs from the 1930's consistently identify Building 2300 as "machine storage" or "truck garage and storage."

Three of the original eight bays are enclosed and have been converted to other uses. Bay 1 is currently in use as an exercise/weight training facility by the Interagency Hotshot Crew. Bay 2 is in use as general storage. Bay 8 has previously been employed as a helitack office, and although currently vacant, remains configured as such. The remaining bays are open equipment storage.

The rear wall holds eight lineally aligned wood frame windows each measuring 34" x 54-1/2". Those in bays 1 and 2 are covered by plywood. In the southwest wall are five similar windows arranged in one group of three and another of two. The northeast wall contains one similar multi-pane window and another measuring 37" x 28" which lacks glass. One standard door entry also opens through this wall. One notable feature of this building is that it is wracked and in need of bracing.

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Non-contributing buildings within the district boundary consist of two wood-frame vault toilets, in the wooded area near the northwest corner. Non-contributing structures include a woodshed behind the residence, a rustic fence and gate at the south end of the property, and a station identification sign in front of the residence.

A non-contributing object, nevertheless of some historic interest, stands at the northwest corner of the residence. A granite grindstone intended process grain harvested from the fantasied fields of the Baker River Basin stands in mute testimony to human folly in this emphatically unsuitable grain growing area. It was moved to the site at some unknown date, and thus is not potentially eligible for the Register.

The present Koma Kulshan Guard Station also includes a number of buildings and structures outside the boundary of the historic district. These include Bunkhouse #1301, behind which stands a steel radio tower; Gashouse #2500, and Pumphouse #1701. The bunkhouse and gashouse are frame with shake siding. The pumphouse is concrete block. A helispot, constructed in 1969 and currently a focus of hotshot crew activity, lies in the field east of the building complex. Also present is a picnic shelter. The shelter has a gable roof with log supports, and includes a masonry fireplace at the east end. The property boundary has been drawn to excludr these recent constructions.

During the Depression, a number of other buildings and structures existed at the station; but they were demolished at the end of their useful life. These included a Ranger's residence and garage/woodshed, another residence, an office garage/woodshed, a crew house with separate woodshed, the barn previously mentioned, a gas and oil house, and a saw filing shed.

At present, the Guard Station serves as the base for a 20-person interagency fire-suppression crew, the Baker River Hotshots.



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Completion of the new Ranger Station relegated the former district headquarters to the status of Guard Station. Owing to the proximity to and unrivalled view of "Koma Kulshan," the aboriginal name of Mt. Baker, the dominant mountain in the vicinity, this appellation was affixed to the new station, leaving the obsolete and demoted Baker River Guard Station with the more pedestrian English designation.

Ranger Brown stayed at the Koma Kulshan station until snow blocked the road to Concrete. The Ranger worked in the Supervisor's Office in Bellingham during the winter. His successor stayed all winter for a couple of years, and then saw the wisdom of Brown's ways. In concert with the increased administrative responsibility associated with the addition to the district of a substantial land area south of the Skagit River, locally known as the Finney Block, District Headquarters were removed to Concrete in 1945 and Koma Kulshan assumed its present status of Guard Station.

Because of the removal of more than half of the Depression-era buildings at the Guard Station, and the presence of multiple non-contributing buildings and structures, significance attaches to individual buildings rather than to the building group. Spatial arrangement, landscaping and architectural unity have been lost.

All three contributing buildings exemplify the rustic architectural idiom developed by the Pacific Northwest Region of the Forest Service, to impart Forest Service identity and to represent its purposes and ideals. This was accomplished through the adoption of a rustic design style, emphasizing natural materials and, especially, forest products. At present, these qualities inhere in the building facades, as two of the three have been internally modified. Specific elements of the rustic design style are the irregular, T-shaped plan of Building 1007, its gable and hipped roofs, and multi-paned windows. The pine-tree motif in the porch gable is a 1980's addition. Buildings 2200 and 2300 are very simple manifestations of the style, showing gable roofs and multi-paned windows.

The residence, Building 1007, is unusual on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie in its employment of shake siding. This material was frequently employed in 1920's construction, but was largely superseded in the Depression by lap siding or the drop siding found on Buildings 2200 and 2300.

All three buildings are also significant in the history of natural resource conservation, as they represent the presence of the Forest Service in the locality, as the headquarters for field operations from 1931 to 1945. They denote, via the physical facilities required to carry out the agency's expanding responsibilities, a critical transition in the Service's transition from custodial superintendence to extensive resource management. The rapid construction of the station, upon completion of the road to Sulphur Creek, manifests the attention which the agency paid to locating facilities at points where users were likely to enter the Forests.

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Buildings 1007 and 2300 are also significant for their association with the response of the Federal government to the pronounced social dislocations and threat to social order resulting from the catastrophic economic failure of the Depression. Construction of these buildings by the C.C.C. signifies the aid to local communities provided through the employment of youth and experienced craftsmen, purchasing of building materials and camp supplies, and personal expenditures of enrollees.

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USDA, Forest Service

1950 The Mt. Baker Almanac. Mt. Baker National Forest. Photocopy on file, Mt. Baker Ranger District, Sedro Woolley.

Throop, Elizabeth Gail

1979 Utterly Visionary and Chimerical: A Federal Response to The Depression An Examination of Civilian Conservation Corps Construction on National Forest System Lands in the Pacific Northwest. Master's thesis, Portland State University, 1979.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Name Koma Kulshan Ranger Station  
Location Concrete vicinity, Whatcom County, Washington  
Location of original negative Cultural Resource files, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie  
National Forest, Seattle, Washington

The following information is the same for photographs 1 through 10:

Photographer James A. McDonald  
Date of photograph May 30, 1990

1. Station entrance sign and Building 1007, looking approximately southeast. Note millstone to left of building.
2. Southwest corner of Building 1007. Note porch extension, porch enclosure and non-historic pine tree trim under porch gable.
3. Rear view of Building 1007 and associated woodshed, looking approximately west.
4. Northeast corner of Building 1007, showing enclosed rear porch.
5. Northeast corner of Building 2300, showing relationship to Building 2200.
6. Southeast corner of Building 2200, with Building 2300 in background.
7. Main (east) elevation of Building 2200.
8. View toward south of Building 2500 (left), a gas & oil house, and Building 1701, a pumphouse. These buildings are located southeast of the property boundary.
9. Southwest corner of Building 1301, a bunkhouse, located at the Station, east of the property boundary.
10. West end of picnic shelter, located just southeast of the property boundary.

The following information is the same for photographs 11 through 22:

Photographer R. L. Fromme

11. Southwest corner of Building 1007, gas & oil storage building is visible in right background. This is not the same gas & oil storage building currently on-site (compare site plans and photographs 8 and 20). Photograph taken ca. 1940.
12. Southeast corner of Building 1007. Note latticework on open rear porch, at right. Photograph taken 1936.
13. Northeast corner of Building 2200. Photograph taken July, 1942.
14. Southeast corner of Building 2300. Photograph taken July, 1942.

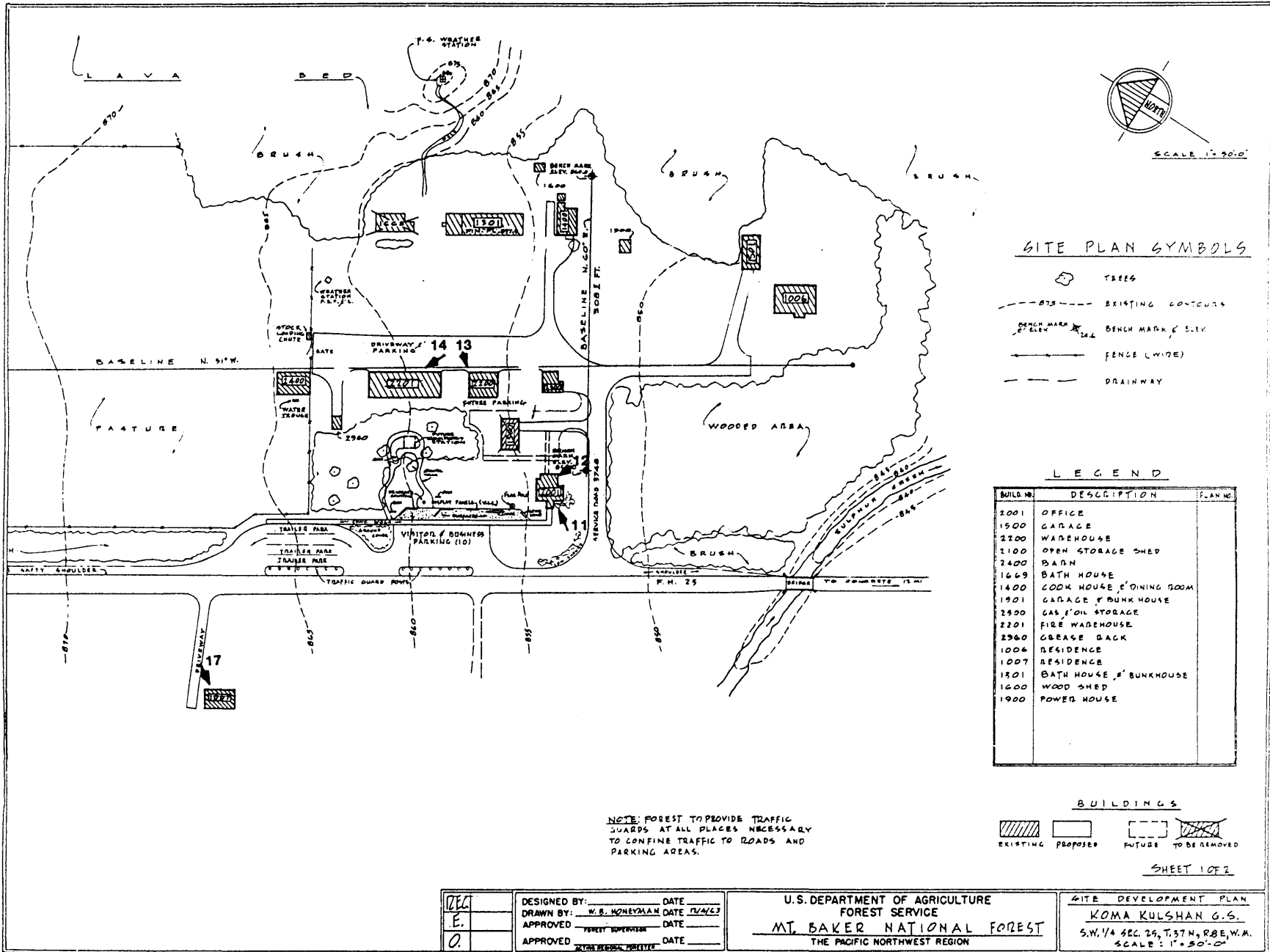
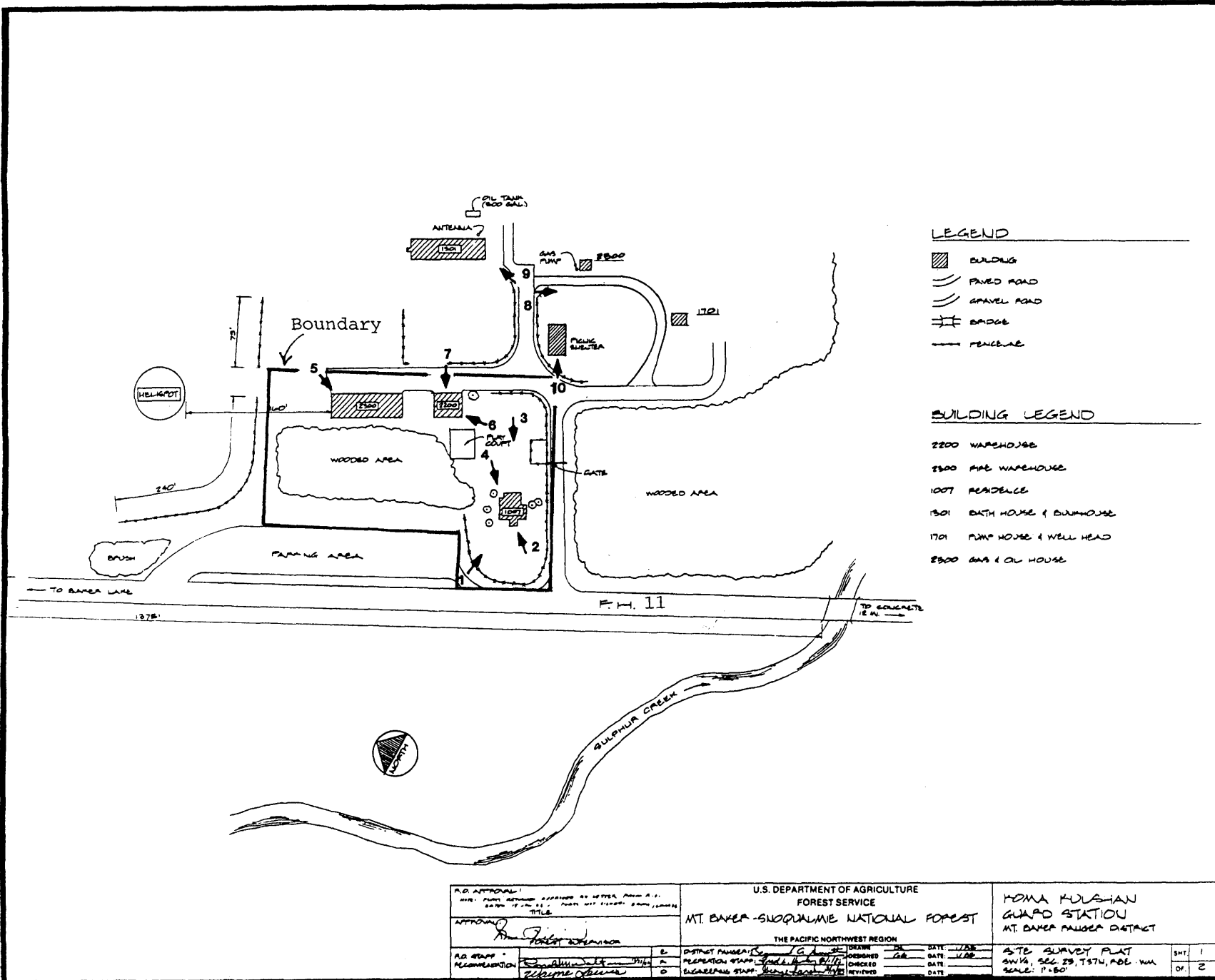


Photo location & direction

Koma Kulshan Ranger Station  
 Whatcom County, Washington  
 1963 Site Plan



**LEGEND**

- BUILDING
- PAVED ROAD
- GRAVEL ROAD
- BRIDGE
- FENCELINE

**BUILDING LEGEND**

- 2200 WAREHOUSE
- 2300 FIRE WAREHOUSE
- 1007 RESIDENCE
- 1301 BATH HOUSE & BURNHOUSE
- 1701 PUMP HOUSE & WELL HEAD
- 2300 GAS & OIL HOUSE

Photo location & direction

Koma Kulshian Ranger Station  
Whatcom County, Washington  
1985 Site Plan

APPROVAL: <small>DATE: 12/28/85</small> <small>BY: [Signature]</small> <small>TITLE: [Signature]</small>		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE <b>MT. BAKER-SQUOHE NATIONAL FOREST</b> THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION				<b>KOMA KULSHIAN          GUARD STATION          MT. BAKER PALMER DISTRICT</b>	
R.D. GROUP <small>RECOMMENDATION</small> <small>DATE: 12/28/85</small> <small>BY: [Signature]</small>	DISTRICT MANAGER <small>DATE: 12/28/85</small> <small>BY: [Signature]</small>	SUPERVISOR <small>DATE: 12/28/85</small> <small>BY: [Signature]</small>	DRAWN <small>DATE: 12/28/85</small> <small>BY: [Signature]</small>	CHECKED <small>DATE: 12/28/85</small> <small>BY: [Signature]</small>	DATE: 12/28/85	SITE SURVEY PLAT SW 1/4, SEC. 29, T37N, R06E, WM SCALE: 1"=50'	SHET 1 OF 2