

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION, GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

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

STRUCTURE NAME: Quartz Lake Patrol Cabin STRUCTURE NUMBER: 589

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: Foot of Quartz Lake; south of QUADRANGLE NAME: Quartz Ridge, MT
campground on west shore

Zone Easting Northing
UTM A: 11 710315 5411413

QUADRANGLE SCALE: 7.5-minute

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 Quartz Lake patrol cabin, facing northeast towards the lake, is a one-story log structure set on stone corner piers, measuring approximately 12x18'. The saddle-notched logs are wood chinked and the cabin is approximately five logs high on each side. The roof has nine purlins, with the outer two side purlins set together, forming a double purlin. The outer log runs along the outside of the cabin, forming the roof eave. The cabin has a pitched gable roof with an 8' front extension supported by columns, a cross beam, and vertical logs. The west end of the gable roof features a metal chimney. On the south side of the cabin, logs extend through the gable end. Windows are covered with plywood and bars, to keep out bears. The pitched gable roof is covered with metal on wood sheathing. The columns at the extended roof are set on stone piers. The structure is in good condition with the exception of the corners on the northeast and southeast sides, where there is some rot in the crown ends, especially in the sides facing east. Metal has been added to one of the bottom log crown tips that has been broken off. The sill logs seem to be in good condition. The sod is up around the base of the building except at the front and back, where the cabin is open underneath. In 1930, the Quartz Lake patrol cabin was built to Landscape Drawing G913 specifications by local contractor Austin Weikert for a cost of \$613.44. Weikert was a local homesteader and builder whose log work can still be admired in many buildings in Glacier.¹ The Quartz Lake patrol cabin maintains good integrity and is a significant example of early backcountry rustic building in Glacier.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1930

Austin Weikert (born 1893) was one of the early North Fork Valley settlers who attempted a successful livelihood on his Trail Creek homestead. From 1919 until 1932, Weikert lived in the North Fork area, working as a builder. Although he left his homestead in 1932 to relocate in the Flathead Valley, he continued to construct buildings for area inhabitants and for the Park Service.² The names Austin Weikert, Harry Doverspike, Jean Sullivan, and Ace Powell are frequently listed as contractors for numerous structures in

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Glacier. Their involvement in early area homestead activity and the quality craftsmanship evinced in their buildings is a significant part of the early history of Glacier National Park. 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 Quartz Lake patrol cabin is significant because it illustrates an important aspect in the development and administration of Glacier National Park.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Quartz Lake patrol 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, Snowshoe Cabin, Quartz Lake," File D-34, Building Construction Reports, 1929-1935, GNPLA.

²J. Walter Connelly, daughter of Austin Weikert (Ridgefield, Washington), to the author [telephone interview], December 12, 1982.

FORM PREPARED BY:

DATE: June 1984

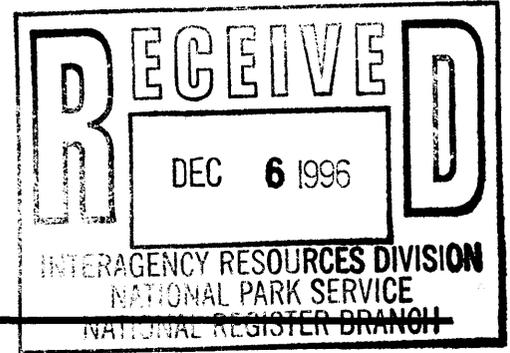
NAME/TITLE:

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

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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	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>1/19/96</u>

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National Park Service

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County, MT.

Building Interior

The Quartz Lake 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.

Quartz Lake Patrol Cabin (#613), 1931

The front door is constructed of three heavy vertical planks, approximately 2" x 10". Hardware is limited to long iron hinges and an interior metal handle. The door is paired with an internal screen door, hung from modern hinges and framed with 1" x 4" boards. Five-inch planks, painted grey, cover the floor; in a modification on the standard design, a 7" plank runs along the outer edges of the room, creating a finished

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"border" to the floor pattern. The trap door to the concrete-lined cellar is constructed of 5" planks, set flush with the floor, and is opened with a ring fit into a recessed metal plate; a second door, directly below the first, is opened with a rope handle. The ceiling is open to the roof, exposing the log purlins and 10" roof planks. Full logs, chinked with large full sapling, form the interior walls.

Furnishing include a wall-mounted cupboard with hinged table top/door (this appears to be a modern version of the traditional design; see photo #2), a large rodent-proof bedding cabinet (see photo #3), and ceiling hooks for Coleman lanterns. Suspended bedframes, as specified in original drawings, are located along the north and east 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. Most cooking utensils are hung from nails pounded into the northwest corner, near the cookstove. The original stovepipe exit in the west (rear) wall has been sheeted over; the stove now vents through the ceiling.

8. Statement of Significance

The interior is unmodified 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	Quartz Lake Patrol Cabin (#589)	Interior-detail of wall/chinking
2	Quartz Lake Patrol Cabin (#589)	Interior-cupboard/table
3	Quartz Lake Patrol Cabin (#589)	Interior-bedding-storage cabinet