

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION, GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

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

STRUCTURE NAME: Bowman Lake Patrol Cabin      STRUCTURE NUMBER: 598

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: Lower end of Bowman Lake near boathouse, approx. 1/2 mile east of Bowman Lake Ranger Station  
 QUADRANGLE NAME: Quartz Ridge, MT  
 Zone Easting Northing      QUADRANGLE SCALE: 7.5-minute  
 UTM A: 11 706100 5411910

CLASSIFICATION:		NUMBER OF RESOURCES:		
OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY:	CATEGORY:	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 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. The Bowman Lake patrol cabin was built by Austin Weikert in 1934. The logs are reverse saddle-notched with full sapling chinking. Nine log purlins are supporting the sheet metal gable roof with vertical log supports and collar beam in the gable end of the extended porch. The structure rests on a rock foundation, is in fair condition, and maintains fair integrity.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1934

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 Bowman Lake patrol cabin is significant because it illustrates an important aspect in the development and administration of Glacier National Park.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Bowman Lake patrol cabin maintains fair integrity and is a significant example of early backcountry rustic building in Glacier. The 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.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

FORM PREPARED BY:

DATE: June 1984

NAME/TITLE:

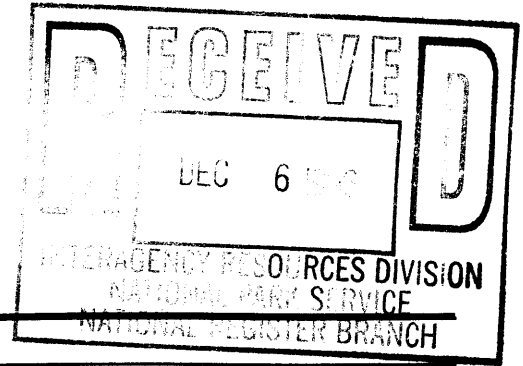
ORGANIZATION: Historical Research Associates, P.O. Box 7086, Missoula, MT 59807-7086

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Bowman Lake Patrol 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 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    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
<u>  </u> entered in the National Register <u>  </u> see continuation sheet	_____	_____
<u>  </u> determined eligible for the National Register <u>  </u> see continuation sheet	_____	_____
<u>  </u> determined not eligible for the National Register <u>  </u> see continuation sheet	_____	_____
<u>  </u> removed from the National Register <u>  </u> see continuation sheet	_____	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (explain) <u>additional documentation</u>	<u>Greg N. Sapsley</u>	<u>1/19/96</u>

Additional Documentation Accepted

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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County, MT.

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### Building Interior

The Bowman 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.

##### **Bowman Lake Patrol Cabin (#598), 1934**

This patrol cabin features 5" softwood floors (painted grey) and an open ceiling, exposing log purlins and 12" roof planks. Logs, chinked with poles, form the interior walls. One-inch baseboard, with quarter-round molding, finishes the wall/floor junction.

