

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: 90001912 Date Listed: 12/27/90

Chelan Butte Lookout Chelan WA
Property Name County State

USDA Forest Service Fire Lookouts on Wenatchee NF MPS
Multiple Name

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.

for *Antoinette DeLee*
Signature of the Keeper

1/7/91
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Statement of Significance: The Period of Significance should be amended to read 1938-40.

This information was confirmed with Evan I. DeBloois of the U.S. Forest Service.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Chelan Butte Lookout
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number at summit of Chelan Butte near not for publication
city, town Chelan vicinity
state WA code 053 county Chelan code 007 zip code 98816

3. Classification

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

Name of related multiple property listing: USDA Forest Service Fire Lookouts on Wenatchee N.F.
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register _____

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

[Signature] _____ 7-17-89
Signature of certifying official Date
Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

[Signature] _____ 10-25-90
Signature of commenting or other official Date
USDA Forest Service
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.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

[Signature] _____ 12/27/90
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Other: Fire Lookout

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Other: Vacant

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Standard Plan L-4 (1936)

-Hipped roof vernacular

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete w/timber tower

walls 1x6 single "V" - Rustic siding

roof cedar shingles

other timber tower

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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Chelan Butte Lookout and tower structure are situated on state owned land within the Chelan Butte Wildlife Recreation Area, a short distance south of the southern tip of Lake Chelan and the town of Chelan. The lookout is easily accessible via a partially improved four-mile long road off State Highway 97, which ascends approximately 2700 ft. to the ridgetop site. The surrounding terrain is characterized by basaltic and granitic rock outcrops and sagebrush interspersed with clusters of fir and pine trees. The site is now dominated by numerous radio and telephone transmission and satellite communication towers, ranging from 80' to 140' high, and their associated ground structures. The lookout point is located on a ridgetop at +3835' and from atop the tower provides a panoramic 360° view of Lake Chelan, the Chelan, Entiat and Wenatchee mountains, Okanogan National Forest, the Columbia River and arid eastern Washington plateaus.

This lookout house is situated on a 28'-7" creosote-treated tower supported on poured-in-place concrete pylons at all four corners. The tower was constructed according to standard U.S. Forest Service requirements with 6 x 8 vertical members, 2x6 cross members, and 4x6 and double 4x8 perimeter girders secured together with bolted connections. The entire structure is further held in place by guy anchorage cables at all four corners.

The lookout house was constructed according to the revised standard Forest Service Plan L-4 issued in 1936, a plan which differs from the earlier standard plan primarily due to the use of a variant shutter support system. It does exhibit several other typical standard Plan L-4 features: a 14' x 14' plan with a hipped (pyramidal) roof, 1x6 (V-groove) rustic siding, an expansive glazed wall area composed of two-over-two fixed and casement type window sash, panel door with two-over-two window panel and original thumb latch hardware, cedar shingle roofing, and a catwalk constructed per standard plans with fence-wire screening.

All original shutters have been removed and rather obtrusive replacement shutters have been installed. The replacement shutters are aluminum angle frames into which either corrugated aluminum or fiberboard panels have been inserted. The revised Plan L-4 shutter support system called for 2 x 4 ceiling joists which overhang 3'-0" and utilize eyebolts and nuts to secure the shutters to blocking at the joist ends. This shutter support

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system remains in place. The original lightning protection system also remains in place. An anemometer and wind vane are attached to a 20' pole on the northwest corner of the catwalk. Radio antennas are located on each of the other three corners of the catwalk.

The interior of the lookout exhibits original finishes; 1x6 exterior type rustic siding on walls and 1x3 T&G beaded board on the ceiling. Vinyl asbestos tile is the floor finish. The only furnishing which remains in the lookout is the original firefinder stand while the firefinder instrument has been removed. A cabinet style larder box is suspended from the floor of the lookout house and is accessed from the tower stairway. The site also includes evidence of a former root cellar and a weather station.

The Lookout and tower structure remain in generally intact and good condition despite the typical shutter replacement which, in this case is rather intrusive. The immediate site is dominated by numerous radio and telephone transmission and satellite communication towers.

There is some evidence of vandalism due to the easy accessibility of the lookout site. Due to the fact that the structure is no longer used by the Forest Service, original interior furnishings have been removed and are reportedly in Forest Service storage.

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
Politics/Government

Period of Significance

c. 1922 - present

Significant Dates

1938

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Clyde P. Fickes & J. B. Helm

Bill McClain, builder

Civilian Conservation Corps

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

See continuation sheet

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Chelan Butte Lookout is significant for its historic association with the development of the USDA Forest Service and the stewardship and conservation on our National Forests, as part of a comprehensive forest fire surveillance and detection system. The Lookout is also significant as it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a uniquely functional property type designed for and typically constructed in challenging mountainous terrain. The Lookout also possesses significance as it reflects the accomplishments of the Civilian Conservation Corps and their important contribution to the development, improvement and conservation of National Forests in the Pacific Northwest.

Historic Background:

Concern for the protection of America's natural resources led to the enactment of the Forest Reserve (Creative) Act of 1891 and establishment of Forest Reserves administered by the General Land Office within the Department of the Interior. In 1905, the Forest Service within the Department of Agriculture (USDA) was established and assumed responsibility for the Reserves, which then became known as National Forests. Thus, the Forest Service began to develop a comprehensive system for the administration of the forests which included the construction of Ranger and Guard Stations, forest trails and roads and the establishment of fire lookout stations. Fire crews were then formally recruited and paid. The creation of this Federal agency, however poorly equipped and meagerly financed, was a tremendously important historic advance in public attitude and recognition of natural resource conservation and the need to anticipate and rapidly respond to the threat of forest fires.

Initial Euro-American settlement of the towns of Chelan and Chelan Falls primarily occurred in the early 1890's, as new transportation routes were developed and resulted in major demographic changes. A substantial number of homesteaders settled in the vicinity of Chelan Butte and the area around the Butte was primarily utilized for livestock grazing. The sparsely forested Butte provided a dramatic vantage point, allowing a clear view of mountainous and forested areas in Chelan and Okanogan Counties. Thus, it seems likely that Chelan Butte may have been used for fire surveillance purposes prior to any recorded Forest Service use of the site.

The earliest official indication of the use of the site for fire surveillance purposes is recorded on a 1922 Wenatchee N.F. map, at which time a triangulation (i.e. firefinder) station accessed by trail was identified. While the site was part of a surveillance network essential to Wenatchee N.F., the geographic location of Chelan Butte was outside Wenatchee N.F. and within the jurisdictional area of the Chelan Ranger District on the old

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Chelan N.F. Simeon (Sim) Beeson, a 40 year veteran of the Chelan Ranger District who began working for the Forest Service c.1930, reported that in the 1920's and early 1930's a tent camp was located at Chelan Butte. In 1938, Sim Beeson headed the crew which built the road into the lookout site in order to then construct the lookout tower and cabin. Mr. Beeson reported that the lookout house and tower were constructed by a small crew composed of Civilian Conservation Corps enrollees, who were supervised by a highly skilled and admired local carpenter, Bill McClain (or McClean?). Mr. McClain may have been employed by the Forest Service as a Local Experienced Man (L.E.M.), a special category of CCC enrollees.

The closest CCC camp was located on the south side of Lake Chelan at Twenty-five Mile Creek and a "side" or "spike" camp was located in the town of Chelan. Typical of other C.C.C. camps, Camp Twenty-five Mile Creek not only provided essential labor crews but also provided training, technical and basic education opportunities to enrollees.

The tower and lookout house this C.C.C. crew constructed followed standard Forest Service plans which had been initially adopted c.1932 and then revised in 1936. The lookout house exhibits the definitive features of the revised 1936 standard Plan L-4 typically constructed by the C.C.C.era. Due to its strategic location and panoramic "as-seen area" atop a 28'+ tower the Chelan Butte Lookout functioned for several years as a primary station for fire surveillance over two National Forests.

Due to its specific geographic location and elevation, Chelan Butte also became a particularly advantageous radio transmission point and has subsequently become the site of numerous radio, telephone and satellite transmission towers. The ownership of the property on which the lookout tower and cabin are situated was a subject of some controversy in the past. The property is now owned and managed by the Department of Natural Resources of the State of Washington.

In 1955, the old Chelan N.F. and the old Okanogan N.F. were combined and became know as Okanogan National Forest at which time the Chelan Ranger District was added to Wenatchee N.F. Thus, the management of Chelan Butte Lookout is currently administered by Wenatchee National Forest, Chelan Ranger District. The lookout has not been utilized for fire surveillance purposes for several years and is no longer furnished. Although the tower and lookout house remain in generally good condition, the immediate site has been substantially altered.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Beeson, Simeon. Chelan. WA. Transcribed interview February 22, 1974.

Beeson, Simeon. Chelan, WA. Telephone interview, 9/12/88.

Kresek, Ray. Fire Lookouts of the Northwest. Ye Galleon Press, Fairfield, WA. 1984.

Spring, Ira. Lookouts: Firewatchers of the Cascades and Olympics. The Mountaineers. Seattle, WA 1981.

Miscellaneous Administrative records and documents on file at Forest Supervisor's Office, Wenatchee National Forest, Wenatchee, WA.

Miscellaneous Historic Maps - 1908-1936, Wenatchee National Forest, Forest Supervisor's Office, Wenatchee, WA. See continuation sheet

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 historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: USDA Forest Services
Wenatchee N.F., Forest Supervisor's Office, Wenatchee, WA

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property less than one

UTM References

A 1,0 72,2 1,6,0 5,2 9,8 9,0,0
 Zone Easting Northing

C

B
 Zone Easting Northing

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Chelan Butte Lookout is located in a portion of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 26 T. 27 N R.22E, Willamette Meridian. Proposed nomination to include lookout house, any related rock foundation and guy anchorage system and immediate access trail or associated site features within a 50 feet radius of the center of the Lookout per USGS map - Chelan Quadrangle.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the identified resource and all associated immediate site features.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Katheryn H. Krafft
 organization Krafft & Krafft date November 1988
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