

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION, GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

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

STRUCTURE NAME: Numa Ridge Fire Lookout STRUCTURE NUMBER: 611

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: QUADRANGLE NAME: Kintla Peak, MT
 Zone Easting Northing QUADRANGLE SCALE: 7.5-minute
 UTM A: 11 706840 5418147

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 Numa Ridge fire lookout is a two-story, square (14x14'), log-framed interior building with a cedar-shingled pyramidal hip roof. The structure has 1'x10" lapboard siding and is set on a rubblestone and concrete pad foundation. The lower level is solid with a single board-and-batten entry. The upper level is reached by a 2x8" plank stairway. Double pane windows and a catwalk wrap around four sides of the upper level. The structure is in good condition. This lookout is a standard, wood frame, 14x14-ft. house set on a 10-ft. tower with catwalk. The basic plan, originally designed by the United Forest Service, was often modified and revised by both Forest and Park Service engineers. The lookout has good integrity of materials, design, and workmanship and is significant in the architectural history of Glacier Park.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION: DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1934

This fire lookout is one of several similar buildings constructed in Glacier National Park between the late 1920s and the early 1940s to protect park lands from the always critical threat of fire. A planned network of lookouts within the Park and on adjoining national forest lands allowed reciprocal surveillance of both areas. The series of lookouts in Glacier succeeded for many years in curtailing disastrous fires in the park. Today, air observation allows a more comprehensive coverage of the park and has replaced the manned lookout almost entirely. The lookout is significant because it illustrates an important aspect in the management and conservation of timber resources in Glacier National Park.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Numa Ridge fire lookout is a significant resource both architecturally and historically. It meets the eligibility requirements for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under criteria a and c.

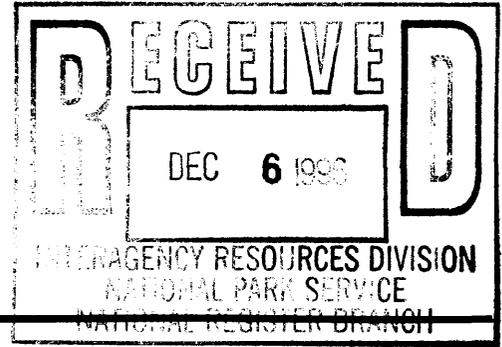
BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCE:

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Numa Ridge Lookout (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 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 Numa Ridge Lookout 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

Fire lookouts were generally constructed from standardized building packages, packed to the lookout site for assembly. Most were also constructed following the mid-1920s increase in lookout-construction appropriations and prior to the 1930s advent of aerial fire detection and suppression. This use of standard plans and the short construction period resulted in a remarkable degree of uniformity in interior design, not only in park lookouts but also in contemporaneous lookouts built on the forests of the USFS Northern Region. Paneled or vertical-plank doors (like the windows, paired with full-length "storms") provided access. In a classic case of design following function, large multi-light awning windows dominated all four elevations; painted 2" to 4" tongue-and-groove planks covered the small expanse of exposed interior wall. Floors were generally finished with painted 3-inch to 6-inch softwood. Fixed furnishings included the critical and centrally located fire finders, a wood-burning stove, a small cot, a wood table and chair(s), and wall-mounted cupboards located above the window banks, near the ceilings. Ceilings were either open/exposed truss or, if dropped, finished with painted tongue-and-groove planks and containing a hinged door leading to the "attic" storage space. Food and equipment storage areas in the "basement" were unfinished and accessed by vertical-board or paneled wood doors.

Numa Ridge Lookout (#611), 1934

As befits its function, walls of windows dominate the interior of this small building. Three-inch floorboards, painted grey and paired with 4" baseboards, cover the floors. The same 3" planks (either shiplap or tongue-and-groove) cover the walls and ceiling; this siding is laid vertically below the window and horizontally above. A trap door, also constructed of 3" planks, provides access to the attic storage space. Two-inch boards frame all windows and the three-panel/one-light door. Door hardware, including heavy metal hinges, a metal doorknob, and an incongruous decorative latch plate, appears to be historic.

Fixed furnishings include two free-standing cupboard/drawer units, a table (one side supported by the window ledge), a wood chair, a metal bedframe, a crank phone (see the Polebridge to Numa Ridge Phoneline; listed in the NRHP), and the centrally located aledaide or "fire finder," mounted on a wood stand.

The basement storage area, created by the elevated construction of the primary component, is unfinished, with dirt floors and exposed frame walls and ceiling. Open shelves and the floor space are littered with tools, old paint cans, propane tanks, and miscellaneous equipment.

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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	BUILDING NAME AND NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
1	Numa Ridge Lookout (#611)	Interior-detail of door, facing west
2	Numa Ridge Lookout (#611)	Interior-cupboard units