

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: 94001019

Date Listed: 8/29/94

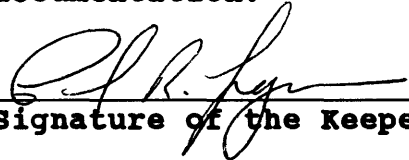
Arctic Point Fire Lookout
Property Name

Idaho
County

ID
State

N/A
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.


Signature of the Keeper

8/29/94
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Classification:

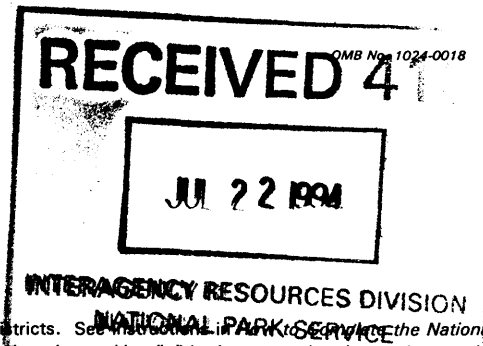
The correct resource type is structure.
[Only one resource type should be selected. It should reflect the main or dominant resource, in this case the historic fire tower structure.]

This information was confirmed with the FPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachments)

1019



United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name ARCTIC POINT FIRE LOOKOUT
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 10 miles northeast of USFS Chamberlain Guard Station not for publication
city or town _____ vicinity _____
state Idaho Idaho code ID county Idaho code 049 zip code 83638

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Evan J. DeStasio
Signature of certifying official

7/12/94
Date

Forest Service **Federal Preservation Officer**
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature]
Signature of commenting or other official

5/19/94
Date

Idaho State Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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]

8/29/94

[Signature]
Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private, public-local, public-State, public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s), district, site, structure, object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Table with columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows: buildings (2), sites (1), structures (1), objects (3), Total (3)

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT - Fire Lookout

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT - Fire Lookout

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER - Rocky Mountain-style cabin, "7 x 7" (type) steel tower, Frame outhouse

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete, walls Wood - Log, siding, roof Wood - Shingle, other Metal - Steel, Wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

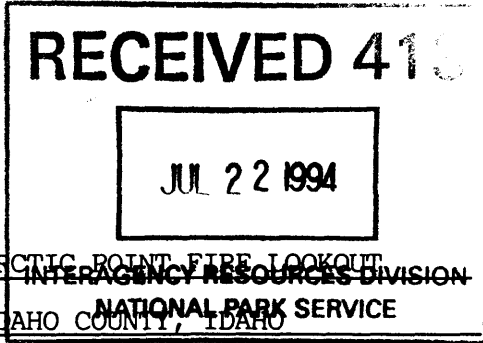
The .30-acre parcel containing the Arctic Point Fire Lookout is owned and maintained by the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Payette National Forest, Krassel District, McCall, Idaho. The property consists of three (3) contributing components (two buildings, one structure), a log cabin residence, outhouse, and fire lookout tower. Arctic Point is the most remote lookout station in use in the lower 48 states. It is the last one in use in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness, and is one of two (the other is Carey Dome Fire Lookout) which remain in use in the Payette National Forest. The general appearance of the property has remained unchanged and retained its key association with the isolated backcountry landscape (Maps A and B).

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Name of Property ARCTIC POINT FIRE LOOKOUT
INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
County and State IDAHO COUNTY, IDAHO



General Characteristics

Arctic Point Fire Lookout is situated at 7,518 feet above mean sea level on the crest of Arctic Peak. The peak is part of the Salmon River mountains and is located two and one-half miles southwest of the Salmon River. Soil is largely decomposed granite, part of the Idaho Batholith; granitic boulders outcrop along the surface of the ridge.

The environs consist of a lodgepole pine/aspen forest with an understory of native grasses. The nearest water source is an unnamed spring one-quarter of a mile northwest; the headwaters of Arctic Creek are nearby, draining northeast into the Salmon River. Precipitation, mostly in the form of snow, averages 25-30 inches annually.

Arctic Peak Fire Lookout generally conforms to USDA Forest Service Regional guidelines established in 1935 for the layout of administrative facilities. The lookout facility is located on the apex of Arctic Peak, providing a panorama of the surrounding landscape. The site met the regional site selection criteria in which a fire guard could see "the country within a 10 to 15 mile radius" (USDA Forest Service, Intermountain Region 1935: BP-15).

Setting

The historic setting of Arctic Point Fire Lookout has remained unchanged since the completion of the lookout tower, outhouse, and log cabin during the years 1935-1939. Arctic Peak was selected as a lookout station owing to its commanding view of the remote wilderness landscape.

The site contains some associated features located east and west of the area included in this nomination (Map B). These resources consist of a helipad, located 75 feet east of the cabin, and two "peeled-pole" hitching rails along an access trail west of the cabin. The access trail links the site with Forest Service Trail No. 239 shown as a "Pack Trail" on Map A. The lookout station pathways to the outhouse and helipad are outlined with cobbles.

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County and State IDAHO COUNTY, IDAHO

Property Components

Fire Lookout Tower

The fire lookout tower is situated along the north boundary of the nominated property. It is an open steel platform with four vertical steel columns bolted to concrete footings to form a sheer core. The structure is galvanized steel and is the "7 x 7" prefabricated type (plans MC-39, MD-79) manufactured by the Aeromotor Company of Chicago, Illinois. The name is derived from the 7 foot by 7 foot steel cab installed atop of the structure. It was assembled on the site in 1936.

The tower measures 81 feet from the ground to the apex (top) of the cab. The supporting steel infrastructure consists of horizontal and angled cross-members. Seven flights of stairs ascend the 72-foot tower portion; two angle iron handrails provide support. Wooden stair treads are set in the structural steel stair frames.

The base of the tower measures 18 feet on each of the four sides. The structure narrows as it ascends until it attaches to the steel cab. The footings have the following names and ages inscribed into the concrete: "John Flynn, age 46; John E. Manning, age 23; Bob L. Sellards, age 32; and John Reeder." The work was completed during the days inscribed along with the names: "August 24, 1936"; and "Poured this pier Wed. August 26, 1936." An FS sign building number "1702" is attached with wire on the first cross-member (above the base) along the south side of the tower.

The single room cab contains a stand for a fire location instrument, radio equipment, and an insulated chair. Eight sets of "9 light" metal frame windows (all four sides) provide an unobstructed 360 degree view of the surrounding terrain. The roof is pyramid shaped. A trapdoor in the floor of the cab provides entry. Lookouts historically refer to this type of tower as a "lightening rod," attesting to frequent strikes.

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County and State IDAHO COUNTY, IDAHO

Log Cabin

The log cabin, used as a residence by the guard, was added to the lookout station in 1939. It is a typical example of USDA Forest Service construction being characterized as Rocky Mountain style. The cabin contains two markings; a painted wood plaque over the doorway with "ARCTIC PT. L.O.-ELV. 7,516," and the numerals "349" painted yellow on the east roof panel so as to be visible from the air.

The Rocky Mountain style may be architecturally classified as a vernacular form. The Forest Service adaption of the Rocky Mountain cabin contains the fundamental design elements:

- (1) local builders using native materials;
- (2) unadorned single room log construction; and
- (3) extension of the facade gable for a covered porch.

The one-room log cabin measures 21 feet (N-S length) by 14 feet (E-W width) and faces north. The gable peak measures 14 feet at its apex. The length of the Arctic Point cabin, which includes the five-foot porch extension, is somewhat smaller than a similar example built in 1941 at Carey Dome Fire Lookout.

The cabin is constructed of uniform lodgepole pine, brown stained, peeled logs. The foundation consists of six concrete blocks (three per side on the long axis) set upon the sill log. Wall logs are grooved along the length of the bottom surface to facilitate a chinkless fit. The corners are saddle-notched; ends are flat and vertically saw-cut.

The fenestration includes three "6 light" casement windows with painted white trim. Each of the windows is centered in the three sides of the cabin and measure nine feet square. The doorway, painted with white trim, is centered in the north-facing facade. The wooden door contains two panels beneath a single pane of glass and is fronted by a wire mesh screen door.

The gable roof extends five feet northward over an open porch supported by wooden posts. The roof is covered with wood shingles painted green. A stovepipe exits the east roof panel; a solar panel has been placed near the north end of the roofline.

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County and State IDAHO COUNTY, IDAHO

Log Cabin (cont.)

The interior is finished with 1 x 6 inch milled lumber; the flooring is composed of 1 x 3 inch milled boards of similar material. The construction technique is tongue-and-groove. The modestly furnished quarters include a table, bed, woodstove, wall cabinets, and a wooden corner cabinet for wardrobe storage.

Outhouse

The outhouse, constructed in 1935, employed the standard R-4 #70 plan. According to FS plan, it is the "ready-cut" single seat type. The building is not supported by a foundation; walls are clad with simple drop, tongue and groove shiplap with balloon frame. A five panel wooden door is located in the north wall. The gable roof is covered with sawed wood shingles. The outhouse measures 4 x 4 feet and is 8 feet high at the apex of the roof.

Alterations

The components of the property have not experienced any significant alterations. In recent years, a solar panel was added to the roofline of the cabin, and the stovepipe has been replaced. Subsequent work has included routine maintenance which, in effect, has ensured an excellent state of preservation.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Conservation _____

Government _____

Period of Significance

1935 - 1939 _____

Significant Dates

N/A _____

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation

N/A _____

Architect/Builder

USDA Forest Service _____

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

Name of repository:

USDA Forest Service, Payette National Forest
Krasel District

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County and State IDAHO COUNTY, IDAHO

Summary

The Arctic Point Fire Lookout was formally determined eligible for NR listing by SHPO review on September 30, 1992 (PY92-659). The property qualifies for NR listing under Criterion A, being associated with broad patterns of American history. The installation is associated with the civic and social history of a nation, and, more specifically, with the fire watch and forest conservation movement. The Arctic Point Fire Lookout is one of only two lookout stations which remain in service in the Payette National Forest.

Historic Context

The fire watch and forest resource protection movement is largely a product of the twentieth century. The tradition began during the years 1875-1900 when a few private companies hired guards for timber and mining properties. After the establishment of the USDA Forest Service (FS) in 1905, several disastrous wild fires led to the creation of a fire detection program which included personnel being hired as lookouts (Kresek 1984:9).

These early FS lookouts were "rag camps" composed of a hilltop hermit, his pup tent, and a convenient tree from which to watch for fires. When smoke was spotted, the lookout walked cross-country as far as a dozen miles to extinguish the blaze himself. If that failed, the column of smoke would attract other fire-fighters.

The formal construction of FS lookout stations began with an installation placed atop Mt. Hood, Oregon in 1915. By 1920, the federal government, state divisions of forestry, and local agencies maintained independent lookout networks; many occupying facilities built specifically for fire detection. In the ensuing years, fire managers realized the need for towers which would enable a lookout to live safely and comfortably during the watch.

The use of the heavy galvanized steel "7 x 7" tower (Arctic Point type) was contemporary with the "CCC boom" of the 1930s. Aeromotor of Chicago, popularly known for their windmills, was the manufacturer of the 7 by 7 foot steel cab and tower. The structure ranged in height from 35 feet to 175 feet. Hundreds remain in use in southeastern states; only a dozen are left in the Northwest (Kresek 1984:11).

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Applying Criterion A

The Great Depression of the 1930s united federal, state, and private forestry agencies in a common cause--protecting the nation's forest resources against wildfire. It was the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), referred to variously as F.D. Roosevelt's "Green" or "Tree" Army, that received the mandate to meet the challenge. A critical part of the work of the corps included the construction of lookout stations.

Idaho's participation in the CCC program was distinguished nationally, ranking second only to California in the number of camps established between 1933-1941. With 60 percent of Idaho federal land under the administration of the USDA Forest Service, most of the state's activity by the "C's" occurred under that agency's jurisdiction.

The predominance of the Forest Service in the CCC program resulted in a uniformity of facilities being constructed during the CCC era. Many period buildings throughout the forests are of frame design clad with horizontal siding, half logs, or shingles.

Standardized plans for Region 4, which oversees the FS in the southern half of Idaho, were developed under R.H. Rutledge, Regional Forester. The standard Building Construction Manual, which is still in current use, was first printed in 1934 and revised in 1935.

The Region 4 plan book contained guidelines for the development of the standard lookout facility. These plans were developed for use with the CCC program, though not all the facilities were constructed using their labor.

For example, of the two remaining lookout stations in use in the Payette National Forest, the Carey Dome Fire Lookout was constructed with CCC labor, while the Arctic Point Fire Lookout utilized FS personnel. The reason was simply that the Arctic Point site was too remote from any of the established CCC camps (Kingsbury 1993).

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County and State IDAHO COUNTY, IDAHO

Bibliography

Austin, Judith

1983 The CCC in Idaho. In Idaho Yesterdays, Vol. 27, No. 3.
Idaho State Historical Society, Boise.

Kingsbury, Larry

1992 Request for a Formal Determination of Eligibility to the
National Register of Historic Places, PY92-658.

1993 Personal communication with John F. Elliott. (Forest
Archaeologist, Payette National Forest, McCall, Idaho.)

Kresek, Ray

1984 Fire Lookouts of the Northwest. Ye Galleon Press, Fairfield,
Washington.

ARCTIC POINT FIRE LOOKOUT
Name of Property

IDAHO COUNTY, IDAHO
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property .30 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 1	6 5 3 3 8 5	5 0 3 7 3 2 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John F. Elliott

organization Elliott Research Associates date January 31, 1994

street & number P.O. Box 728 telephone 209/561-4843

city or town Three Rivers state CA zip code 93271-0728

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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County and State IDAHO COUNTY, IDAHO

Verbal Boundary Description

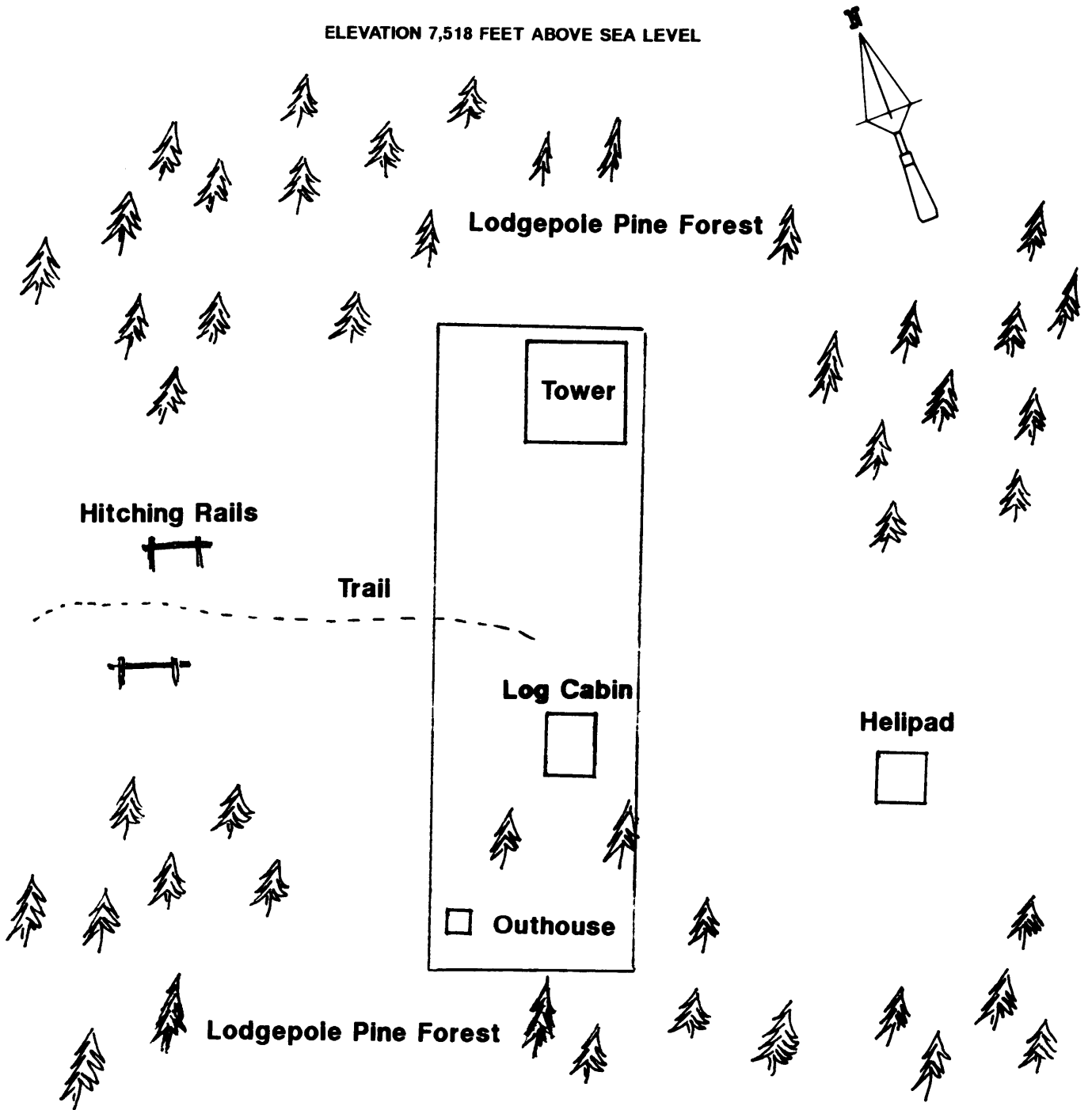
Southwest quarter of Southwest quarter of Section 30, Township 25 North, Range 12 East (see Maps A and B).

Boundary Justification

The boundaries include the precise area which contains a concentration of historical resources present during the period of significance.

Arctic Point Fire Lookout

ELEVATION 7,518 FEET ABOVE SEA LEVEL



Map B: Site Map Showing National Register Property Boundary

Not To Scale