

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



59

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction in How to Complete 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 an 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 Notch Mountain Shelter

other names/site number Notch Shelter; 5EA.906

2. Location

street & number Notch Mountain Summit, White River National Forest [N/A] not for publication

city or town Minturn [x] vicinity

state Colorado code CO county Eagle code 037 zip code 81645

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 of certifying official/Title: Terri L. Liestman

Title: Federal Preservation Officer

Date: 01/12/2015

USDA Forest Service
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title: ADWTR

Title: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: 1/9/15

History Colorado
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- [x] 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
[ ] See continuation sheet.
[ ] other, explain
[ ] See continuation sheet.

Signature of the Keeper: Barbara Dwyer

Date of Action

3-10-15

Notch Mountain Shelter  
Name of Property

Eagle County, Colorado  
County/State

### 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 count previously listed resources.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

**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 Function**

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION & CULTURE/outdoor recreation

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION & CULTURE/outdoor recreation

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER/ WPA Rustic

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	STONE
walls	STONE
roof	OTHER
other	WOOD
	WOOD

**Narrative Description**

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

Notch Mountain Shelter  
Name of Property

Eagle County, Colorado  
County/State

## 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.

### 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

# \_\_\_\_\_

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL HISTORY  
CONSERVATION  
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT  
ARCHITECTURE

### Periods of Significance

1933-1938  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Significant Dates

1933  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Architect/Builder

USDA Forest Service  
Civilian Conservation Corps

### Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:  
History Colorado  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Notch Mountain Shelter  
Name of Property

Eagle County, Colorado  
County/State

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreeage of Property** less than one acre

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. 13 374478 4369890 (NAD83)  
Zone Easting Northing

2. Zone Easting Northing

3. Zone Easting Northing

4. Zone Easting Northing

[ ] See continuation sheet

The UTM reference point was derived from heads up digitization on Digital Raster Graphic (DRG) maps provided to OAHF by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

### 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 Patrick M. Uphus, Archaeologist

organization USDA Forest Service – White River National Forest date March 31, 2011  
revised June 13, 2013

street & number 900 Grand Ave. telephone (970)945-3304

city or town Glenwood Springs state CO zip code 81601

### 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 Patrick Uphus, USDA Forest Service, White River National Forest (contact: Andrea Brogan)

street & number 900 Grand Ave. telephone (970) 945-3304

city or town Glenwood Springs state CO zip code 81601

**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 range from approximately 18 hours to 36 hours depending on several factors including, but not limited to, how much documentation may already exist on the type of property being nominated and whether the property is being nominated as part of a Multiple Property Documentation Form. In most cases, it is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form to meet minimum National Register documentation requirements. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Notch Mountain Shelter  
Eagle County, Colorado

Section number 7

Page 1

**DESCRIPTION**

**SETTING**

Notch Mountain Shelter is situated at 13,100' on the south shoulder of Notch Mountain in the Holy Cross Wilderness of White River National Forest, approximately south and west of Minturn, Colorado. Mount of the Holy Cross dominates the west view with a number of lakes below the shelter. The vegetation is typical for high alpine tundra approximately 1,400' above tree line, including cushion plants, sedges, grasses, and non-flowering lichen. According to the National Park Service, common vegetation in this ecosystem includes: Alpine Blue Grass, Alpine Timothy, Alpine Avens, Alpine Bistort, American Bistort, Alpine Sorrel, Alpine Wallflower, Alpine Paintbrush, Spike Wood-Rush, Pyrennian Sedge, etc. (National Park Service 2013).

The stone shelter is sited with a view of the Mount of the Holy Cross from its west-facing window. There is a nearly 360° view of Colorado high country peaks from the site. Per a 1993 survey record on file with History Colorado's Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, the larger regional setting includes the road to Tigiwon Community House (5EA.795), the trail to Notch Mountain Shelter, remnants of old "camp Tigiwon," and a small brass plaque mounted to a boulder approximately 100 yards to the northwest of the Notch Mountain Shelter. The plaque reads: "This plaque is in memory of William H. Jackson the pioneer photographer who took the first pictures of The Cross on August 23, 1873 from the high point north of here while working for the U.S. Hayden Geological Survey. Plaque placed here June 23, 1963. R.F. Ruhoff. E.M. Yeager." However, these resources have not been fully documented and are not subject to this nomination at this time, per the preference of the United States Forest Service. The immediate setting is characterized by a level field of small to medium-sized boulder rubble and the aforementioned dramatic panoramic view.

From Tigiwon Road (Forest Service Road 707) via Tigiwon Community House and Half Moon Campground, Notch Mountain Shelter is accessed by 5.3 miles along the Fall Creek Trail and the Notch Mountain Trail spur to the shelter, neither with motorized vehicle access. The Notch Mountain Trail is attributed to the Civilian Conservation Corps (Troyer 2010).

**NOTCH MOUNTAIN SHELTER**

The Notch Mountain Shelter was constructed in 1933 as a shelter for pilgrims viewing the Mount of the Holy Cross from Notch Mountain. While the pilgrimages ended in 1938, the building still serves a similar function as a shelter for hikers and climbers visiting the Holy Cross Wilderness.

The single room, one-story, WPA Rustic-style, stone building is rectangular, measuring 26' x 20' (520 square feet) at the stone foundation. The massive stone fireplace centered on the back wall is on axis with the west-facing window. The building interior is stone, with a stained log roof structure. The design is symmetrical except for the single entry door situated at the north-facing side.

The roof over the shelter is a single pitch shed design, constructed with a log frame structure with timber decking topped with marine-grade plywood. The plywood is covered with a flexible membrane product. Originally, the roof was metal over timber decking. The quality of the log timbers and framing

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Notch Mountain Shelter  
Eagle County, Colorado

Section number 7

Page 2

is good considering an age of over 75 years and detailing that places the logs in direct contact with the stone masonry walls.

The log timber framing with exposed rafter tails at the roof is a design that incorporates log beams at 4' centers that protrude through the west wall and cantilever to the west to support the shed/awning over the window. These beams are embedded in the masonry of the east wall. Above these beams, log rafters at 2' centers provide the main structure for the roof with queen posts extending down from every other rafter to corresponding beams below.

Two awnings, at the north and west sides, are constructed of log timber framing, wood decking, and sawn cedar shingles. The timber support members are bearing directly on or embedded in the stone masonry walls and corbels. The design, detailing, craftsmanship, and weathering of these log elements contribute much to the historic character of the shelter.

The walls are random ashlar stone masonry constructed of local granite measuring an average of 18" thick. Parapet walls give shape at the northwest and southwest corners to squared turrets with shallow niches on the west, north, and south sides. The window and door openings are supported by log frames. Corbels support log bracing at the awnings over the window and entry door.

Two awnings, at the north and west sides, are constructed of log timber framing, wood decking, and sawn cedar shingles. The timber support members are bearing directly on or embedded in the stone masonry walls and corbels. The design, detailing, craftsmanship, and weathering of these log elements contribute much to the historic feeling of the shelter.

The building is supported on a stone foundation integral with the walls of the building. The depth of the stone wall below grade and existence of any footing is not observable, but is assumed to extend below frost or to solid stone. There is a concrete floor poured at the interior of the building with a large patched area near the center.

The Notch Mountain Shelter incorporates an iconic stone fireplace centered in the east stone wall. The fireplace is built on axis with the window on the west wall that looks out to Mount of the Holy Cross. It tapers inward as it approaches and above the roofline. The proportions, detailing, and quality of construction are central to the appeal of the building. The interior of the firebox, throat of the flue, and fireplace are constructed with firebrick. A log mantel rests above the fireplace, and an iron grate and andirons are situated inside the firebox.

The only windows in the building, on the west side, have fixed sashes that are glazed with single pane true divided lights of wire glass. The three replacement sashes measure 28" x 61" with eight 10" x 12 ½" lights. These new windows contain eight lights per sash replacing the originals that were 15 lights per sash. The original windows were also fitted with functional shutters at the exterior. The strap hinges and unique decorative latches for securing the shutters in the open position were of iron design. The bolts of these latches were mounted to remain, protruding from the stone at each side of the window and are the only remaining features of the original shutters. Currently, there are no shutters at the shelter.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Notch Mountain Shelter  
Eagle County, Colorado

Section number 7

Page 3

The north side entry door, a reproduction of the original, is a solid, hand-hewn slab of mahogany measuring 3'-5½" x 6'-7½" and approximately 2" thick. Drop latch hardware and decorative hinge straps contribute to the rustic character of the building. The door frame is cased in half logs on both the interior and exterior. An entry stoop of masonry construction matching that of the walls in a semicircular shape blends in with native stone that abuts the building.

**ALTERATIONS**

No known alterations were made between the construction of the shelter in 1933 until the summer of 1998. Four elements were identified as needing repair at that time: the windows, the door, the roof, and the joists. An attempt was made to repair the window, but it was eventually replaced due to wood decay. The original window included three sashes with fifteen lights each. The replacement was of a similar design including three sashes with eight lights each. Holes in the original metal roof were patched with a combination of available materials including rolled asphalt, wooden shingles, and roofing tar. The door was replaced in-kind with a reproduction using the original hardware. The awnings over the entry door and the window were re-shingled. A timber support brace was anchored to the floor with rebar to prop-up a rotten roof joist element. Lastly, a weather sealant was applied to all wood surfaces.

In 2007, the windows were again replaced as a result of decay and broken glass panes. The window replacements were in-kind with the addition of wire glass lights.

In 2010, a major project was undertaken to repair deficiencies with the building. The roof, window, door, fireplace, and previous roof joist repair were identified as needing attention. Because the metal roof and patchwork fixes were no longer functioning, resulting in significant water damage and rot to the support structure and interior, the entire roof was replaced. Marine-grade plywood was installed over existing timber decking. A four-ply, flexible roof membrane was installed atop the plywood. Flashing was replaced with in-kind zinc where necessary and the lightning protection system was repaired. New shingles and flashing was installed on the awnings over the window and entry door. Broken window panes were replaced with the entire window re-glazed and securely re-hung in the frame. The failing door was replaced with a reproduction of hand-hewn mahogany with a single light utilizing the original hardware. The failed roof support beam was repaired by removing the rotten section and splicing in a piece of new log timber using a hidden steel spline within the joist to reinforce the repair. The existing timber prop installed in 1998 was removed. Modern graffiti covering the log timber roof framing was removed. The chimney cap and masonry was repaired while failing firebrick was replaced within the firebox and flue lining. The flue was repaired and original hexagonal fire grate repaired and re-installed. New andirons were also installed in front of the fire grate. The rotten timber mantel was replaced with a log reproduction of the original. A decaying wooden picnic table was removed from the interior. Newly constructed rustic, peeled-log benches were installed. Most wood surfaces on the interior and exterior were stripped and painted with weather appropriate surface treatments. Borate rods were installed into the ends of timber to treat rot.

These much needed repairs served to protect this building from the harsh alpine environment while preserving the historic character and integrity of the shelter. All repairs and replacements were in accordance with the Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Notch Mountain Shelter  
Eagle County, Colorado

Section number 7

Page 4

---

**INTEGRITY**

With the exception of the above alterations, Notch Mountain Shelter remains as it was constructed. The shelter remains in excellent condition. With its original plan, flooring, and most of its original hardware, it retains a high level of integrity with regard to location, setting, feeling, association, design, materials and workmanship.



**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Notch Mountain Shelter  
Eagle County, Colorado

Section number 8

Page 5

**SIGNIFICANCE**

The Notch Mountain Shelter is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A at the local level of significance for the period 1933-38 in the areas of Social History, Conservation, and Politics/Government. The building is significant with regards to the theme of Social History for its association with the development of a National Monument related to nationwide pilgrimages. The property is significant relative to the theme of Conservation as it represents the expansion of the Forest Service's mission from basic custodianship, which it practiced at its inception, to extensive resource management, which included the development of buildings and infrastructure to support the human uses of National Forest lands. Under the theme of Politics/Government, the property is significant for its relation to the Federal response to the socio-economic impacts of the Great Depression. The New Deal programs of the Roosevelt administration included the formation of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The Notch Mountain Shelter, constructed by the CCC, is part of the campaign of natural resource enhancement undertaken by the Forest Service during the New Deal era.

The property is further eligible under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as a good example of the WPA Rustic style. The building embodies the characteristics of the CCC Phase (1933-1942) of Forest Service architecture in the Rocky Mountain Region (Hartley and Schneck 1996). The Rustic architecture of buildings constructed in Colorado during this phase was designed to reflect the philosophy and values of the Forest Service including practicality, efficiency, and sensitivity to nature and the surroundings. Region 2 designers combined this philosophy with national stylistic trends as well as vernacular influences. The result was the distinct body of architecture which cumulatively represents the architectural and recreational development of the National Forest system in Colorado (Hartley and Schneck 1993).

*Historic Background*

Any discussion of the historic context and significance of the Notch Mountain Shelter must begin with Mount of the Holy Cross. If it were not for this mountain, it is unlikely that the building would have been constructed.

Rumors circulated among early explorers and settlers in the mid-1800s of a giant snowy cross situated somewhere in the middle of the Colorado Rockies. These rumors were substantiated by distant observations of the cross far to the West from peaks near the Front Range, further increasing public interest (Blake 2008). In 1873, the US Geological Survey (USGS) added the Mount of the Holy Cross and its neighbor to the East, Notch Mountain, to their surveying workload which included many of the 14,000 foot peaks and other geologic points of interest in Colorado Territory. On August 23 and 24, 1873, Dr. Ferdinand Hayden and his survey party, including photographer William Henry Jackson, surveyed the two peaks. The famous Jackson photograph of the "Holy Cross" (now on file with Smithsonian's National Museum of American History) was made on that official trip from the summit of Notch Mountain. According to Forest Service archives, Chief Ouray, Native American leader of the Uncompahgre band of the Ute tribe, assisted the Hayden expedition in locating a route to access the Mount of the Holy Cross from what is now named Cross Creek (Yeager 1962).

The celebrated Jackson photograph, along with subsequent popular works of art including Thomas Moran's famous 1875 painting, helped to popularize the mountain and established it as Christian

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Notch Mountain Shelter  
Eagle County, Colorado

Section number 8

Page 6

symbol of the West (Troyer 2010). The popularity of the cross drew many to experience the wonder for themselves. Although travel was dangerous and difficult because there were no roads or trails at that time, Christian pilgrimages were organized to Notch Mountain in order to view the Holy Cross.

In July 1912, the Episcopal Bishop of western Colorado, Benjamin Brewster, performed a Holy Eucharist on top of Notch Mountain marking the first recorded pilgrimage (Jenkins 1976). In 1927, Dr. R. O. Randall began to lead additional pilgrimages to Notch Mountain with much national interest. In 1928, key support from Frederick Gilmer Bonfils, editor of *The Denver Post*, promoted access improvements leading to eleven consecutive years of national pilgrimages (Crouter 1977). In July of that year, approximately 200 Catholics and Protestants from 25 states and Canada made a pilgrimage to the summit of Notch Mountain and reported a miraculous cure, leaving no doubt visitations would increase in years to come (Fryxell 1934, Blake 2008).

Under the Antiquities Act, President Herbert Hoover declared 1392 acres encompassing both Notch Mountain and Mount of the Holy Cross as Holy Cross National Monument on May 11, 1929 stating that the, "figure in the form of a Greek Cross is an object of much public interest" (Hoover 1929). Infrastructure and facility construction followed shortly. In 1933-4, Notch Mountain Shelter was built as a wilderness refuge for pilgrims numbering over 600 in 1932, over 800 in 1933, and over 3000 in 1934 (Birch 1935, Blake 2008).

*Construction and the CCC*

As part of the improvements undertaken by the Forest Service during the Great Depression, laborers from the CCC Camp F-15-C Company 831, established in June 1933, stationed in Minturn, and supervised by Forest Superintendent H.O. Harris, constructed the Notch Mountain Shelter (Hartley and Schneck 1993). This building was the first completed to serve the public's interest in the Mount of the Holy Cross.

The Rocky Mountain Regional Engineering Division, headed by Regional Engineer James L. Brownlee, likely drew the plans for the shelter with construction beginning in 1933. While the agency provided funding for the materials, the Forest Service lacked the resources to construct the actual building. As a result, the Forest Service turned to the CCC camp to provide the needed labor.

Many of the materials for the shelter were hauled up the mountain by mule train. The window glass was a particularly difficult item to transport along with the log timbers necessary to support the roof. The logs were tied to the pack animal's back and were dragged to the top. By the time they made it to the top, they were quite a bit shorter than when they started (Dismant 1978).

A mason was hired to construct the fireplace and chimney because the CCC laborers did not have the necessary skill. While the mason's name is unknown, he was employed for other skilled masonry tasks associated with the development of the Holy Cross area and was from Grand Junction, CO (Dismant 1978).

With the completion of the building, visitors now had a shelter from the severe high alpine weather to contemplate the beauty of the Mount of the Holy Cross, the destination of their pilgrimage atop Notch Mountain.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Notch Mountain Shelter  
Eagle County, Colorado

Section number 8

Page 7

---

*The End of an Era*

National pilgrimages to Notch Mountain in order to view the Mount of the Holy Cross ceased in 1938. While the pilgrimages have been considered a craze that fell out of fashion, the difficulties with accessing the site must have played a substantial role (Lavender 1976, Blake 2008). The ruthless mountain roads to the trailhead, the effect of high elevation on pilgrims, the torturous horse ride and hike over the steep, rocky terrain leading to the Notch Mountain summit likely played major roles in the loss of public interest. Furthermore, the death of editor Bonfils in 1933 left the pilgrimages without its most ardent promoter (Crouter 1977, Blake 2008).

National Monument status was retracted from the Mount of the Holy Cross by Congress and President Truman in 1950, resulting in the land administration reverting back to the Forest Service. The superintendent of Rocky Mountain National Park, who administered Holy Cross National Monument, supported the abolishment because fewer than 50 people visited the monument each year and it was "a climb worth half your life" to Notch Mountain to view the cross (Brown 1968, Blake 2008).

*Notch Mountain Shelter Today*

Modern day development has resulted in a vibrant tourist industry in the surrounding mountains. The internationally renowned resorts at Vail and Beaver Creek are just a few miles away, where outdoor activities and an athletic population thrive. Today, hikes up Notch Mountain and climbs to the Mount of the Holy Cross are more of a recreational activity than a religious pilgrimage. The proximity of these resorts to the Notch Mountain Shelter provide a steady stream of tourists and locals alike, many of which visit the site. The shelter is a popular summertime hiking destination and is open to provide shelter from the elements, fulfilling its design purpose. The building itself also enhances the experience, contributing cultural and historical value for many hikers who find its existence in such a remote setting fascinating. The building is administered as part of the Holy Cross Ranger District of the White River National Forest, headquartered in Minturn. Approximately 1500 people visit the shelter annually (Massman 2011).

*Architectural Significance*

The Notch Mountain Shelter is a superior example of the buildings that typify the architecture in the Rocky Mountain Region (Region 2) of the USDA Forest Service. Design and construction is consistent with historic Forest Service land management ethics. The shelter is one the earliest examples of CCC construction on the White River National Forest that is still functioning today in a similar capacity to its historic purpose.

The shelter is significant under Criterion C as it exhibits architectural features distinctive of the CCC phase of construction in Region 2 as a WPA Rustic style building. The exposed log construction of the building including the local stone foundation, walls, and massive stone fireplace and chimney are representative of both the craftsmanship of the CCC and the WPA Rustic architecture of the US Forest Service during this phase. The building is in good condition and demonstrates continued upkeep by the Forest Service since its construction. Character-defining features of the WPA Rustic style found in the Notch Mountain Shelter include a simple and functional design compatible with the local topography, geology, and cultural influences, the use of native materials, indigenous forms and construction methods, a flat roof with shed roof porches, and a blending with its surroundings.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Notch Mountain Shelter  
Eagle County, Colorado

Section number 8

Page 8

---

*Forest Service Architectural Typology*

In 1996, Hartley and Schneck completed a study of Rocky Mountain Region Forest Service historic architecture. They categorized the Region's historic architecture into four phases: Phase I, pre-design era (ca. 1891-1910); Phase II, pre-CCC era (ca. 1911-1932); Phase III, CCC era (1933-1942); and Phase IV (1943-present).

*Phase III, CCC era*

Built in 1933, the Notch Mountain Shelter can be categorized temporally and stylistically in the CCC Phase. Phase III encompassed the years the CCC was in operation, from 1933-1942. The Region's Architectural Division created its own unique interpretation of the Rustic Style, which employed natural settings and materials to harmonize with the physical environment. Traditional building techniques were used in the construction of Rustic buildings and structures, with emphasis on hand craftsmanship. Characteristic elements of Rustic architecture included battered stone foundations and immense interior and exterior stone chimneys, log or stone walls, small paned windows, deeply overhung roofs and minimal detailing. The overall appearance was that of informality and horizontality, attributes that complimented the mountain settings in which the style was most appropriately found. The Rustic architecture of Region 2 is typified by its standardized design, rugged appearance, and labor-intensive composition.

Prior to the CCC era, the predominant uses of the National Forests in Colorado were resource based including timber cutting, mining, and grazing. Most improvements were administrative in function and were constructed by rangers as part of their general responsibilities. The resulting buildings therefore largely reflected the ranger's personal preferences, as well as materials, tools, and the amount of time available to them for construction. With the development of regional and national engineering divisions, Forest Service design became more standardized. Forest Service architectural influences were highly reflective of national architectural trends.

Later, with assistance from various New Deal programs like the Civilian Conservation Corps, the Region 2 Architectural Division oversaw an era of unprecedented expansion of architectural improvements. The Forest Service was well aware of the increasing demand for recreational use the lands since the early teens and capitalized on the New Deal programs to develop its lands for recreation (Williams 1994). The CCC contributed to this recreational development in many ways, one of which was the construction of buildings. Examples of this are seen in the various campground outhouses mass-produced for the Forest Service, and in the unique observatories, community houses, and shelters constructed throughout the region, such as the one at Notch Mountain (Hartley and Schneck 1993).

Construction Elements: The WPA Rustic style used during Phase III and found in the Notch Mountain Shelter includes a simple and functional design compatible with the local topography, geology, and cultural influences, the use of native materials, indigenous forms and construction methods, a flat roof with shed roof porches, and a blending with the natural surroundings (Wolfenbarger 2005).

A key distinction between Rustic architecture of Phase III the WPA Rustic style used at Notch Mountain Shelter is the demarcation between the building and the landscape. In areas that lack trees such as the summit of Notch Mountain, there was no opportunity to screen or "plant out" the base of the building.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Notch Mountain Shelter  
Eagle County, Colorado

Section number 8

Page 9

---

However, WPA Rustic style buildings still employ horizontal lines, flat roofs, and native materials, but many still stand out in their landscape setting (Wolfenbarger 2005).

Materials: Construction materials included native logs, stones, gravel, and other indigenous materials found on site as well as brick, adobe, and milled lumber. The WPA Rustic style was especially appropriate in the mountains where wood shake, native stone, and logs were abundant and most economical. Doors, windows, shutters, porch railings, interior walls, ceilings, and floors were all most often wood (Groben 1938). Wood interiors were often stained, oiled, or painted.

The Rustic Style of the CCC era embodied the pragmatic Forest Service values of utility, respect for the land, and harmony (Tweed 1977). As seen with the construction methods and materials used, this harmony was achieved by imitating vernacular building patterns in the Rocky Mountain Region, including log cabins and shelters.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Notch Mountain Shelter  
Eagle County, Colorado

Section number 9

Page 10

---

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Birch, A.G., 1935. "U.S. Improvement Work Ordered in Holy Cross Area." *The Denver Post*, 14 August, pp1,8.

Blake, K.S., 2008. "Imagining Heaven and Earth at Mount of the Holy Cross, Colorado." *Journal of Cultural Geography*, 25:1, pp1-30.

Brown, R.L., 1968. "William Henry Jackson and Mount of the Holy Cross." *Trail & Timberline*, 590, pp.37-41.

Crouter, G., 1977. *The Majestic Fourteeners: Colorado's Highest*. Silverton: Sundance Books.

Dismant, Carl. Interview June 16, 1978 by Bob Miller, White River National Forest. Manuscript on file at Midwest Archaeological Center, National Park Service, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Fryxell, F., 1934. The Mount of the Holy Cross. *Trail & Timberline*, 183(3-9), 14.

Groban, W.E., 1938. *Principles of Architectural Planning for Forest Service Administrative Improvements*. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Division of Engineering, Washington, D.C.

Hartley, R. and J. Schneck, 1993. *USFS Rocky Mountain Region Administrative Building Site Survey*. On file, Colorado State Historic Preservation Office, Denver, Colorado.

Hartley, R. and J. Schneck, 1996. *Administering the National Forests of Colorado. An Assessment of the Architectural and Cultural Significance of Historical Administrative Properties*. National Park Service, Midwest Archaeological Center, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Hoover, H., 1929. Holy Cross National Monument. *Proclamation 1877*, May 11 (46 Stat. 2993).

Jenkins, T.M., 1976. The Cross of Snow. *Summit*, 22 (6), 18-21, 44.

Massman, S., 2011. Personal communication with Patrick Uphus, no transcript, White River National Forest, Colorado.

Troyer, E.R., 2010. Historic Structure Assessment of Tigiwon Community House (5EA795), Holy Cross District, White River National Forest. On file, State Historical Fund, History Colorado, Denver, Colorado.

Tweed, W.C., 1977. *National Park Service Rustic Architecture: 1916-1942*. United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Western Regional Office, Division of Cultural Resource Management, San Francisco, California.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Notch Mountain Shelter  
Eagle County, Colorado

Section number 9

Page 11

---

Yeager, E.M., 1962. Notes on Mount of the Holy Cross. On file, White River National Forest, Glenwood Springs, Colorado.

Williams, G.W., 1994. *The National Forests: A Short History*. On file, National Park Service, Midwest Archaeological Center, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Wolfenbarger, Deon, 2005. "New Deal Resources on Colorado's Eastern Plains." National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form. On file, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, History Colorado, Denver, Colorado.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Notch Mountain Shelter  
Eagle County, Colorado

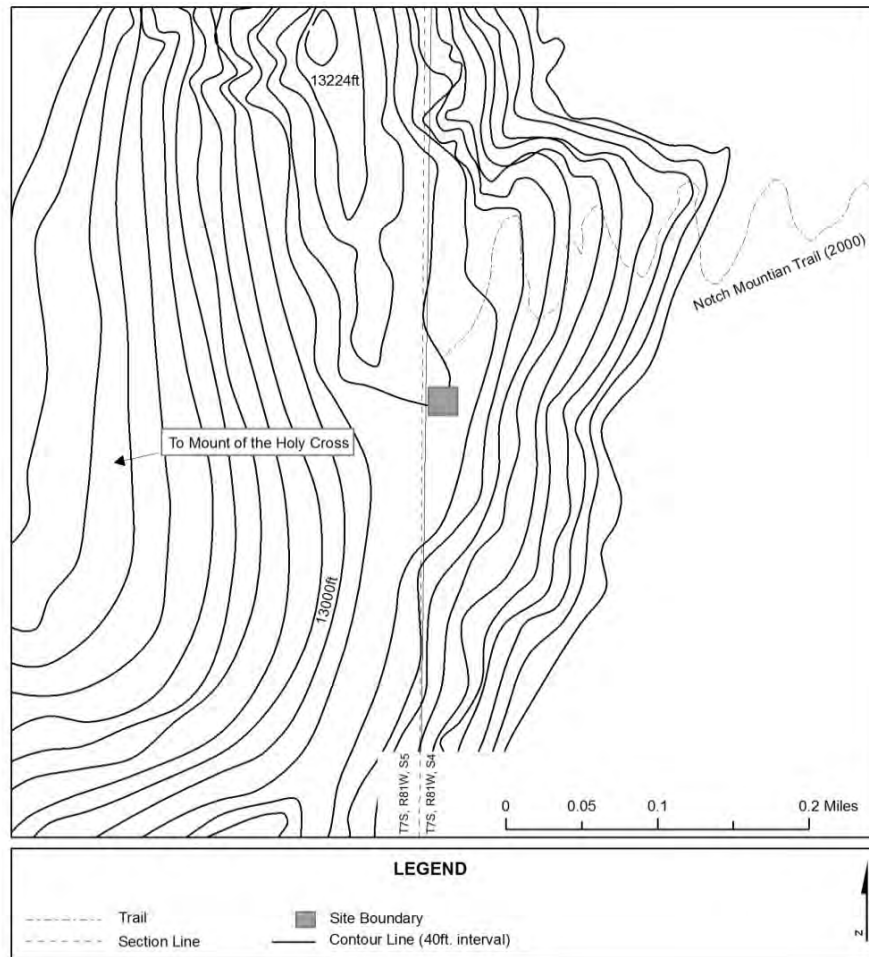
Section number 10

Page 11

**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The nominated boundary is the shaded portion noted in the scale map below and includes a 15' perimeter around the building. It is located in an unsectioned portion of township 6 south, range 81 west of the 6<sup>th</sup> Principal Meridian.



**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The nominated boundary includes the building and immediate setting (including a 15' perimeter around the building) associated with the historic use of the Notch Mountain Shelter within the White River National Forest.



**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

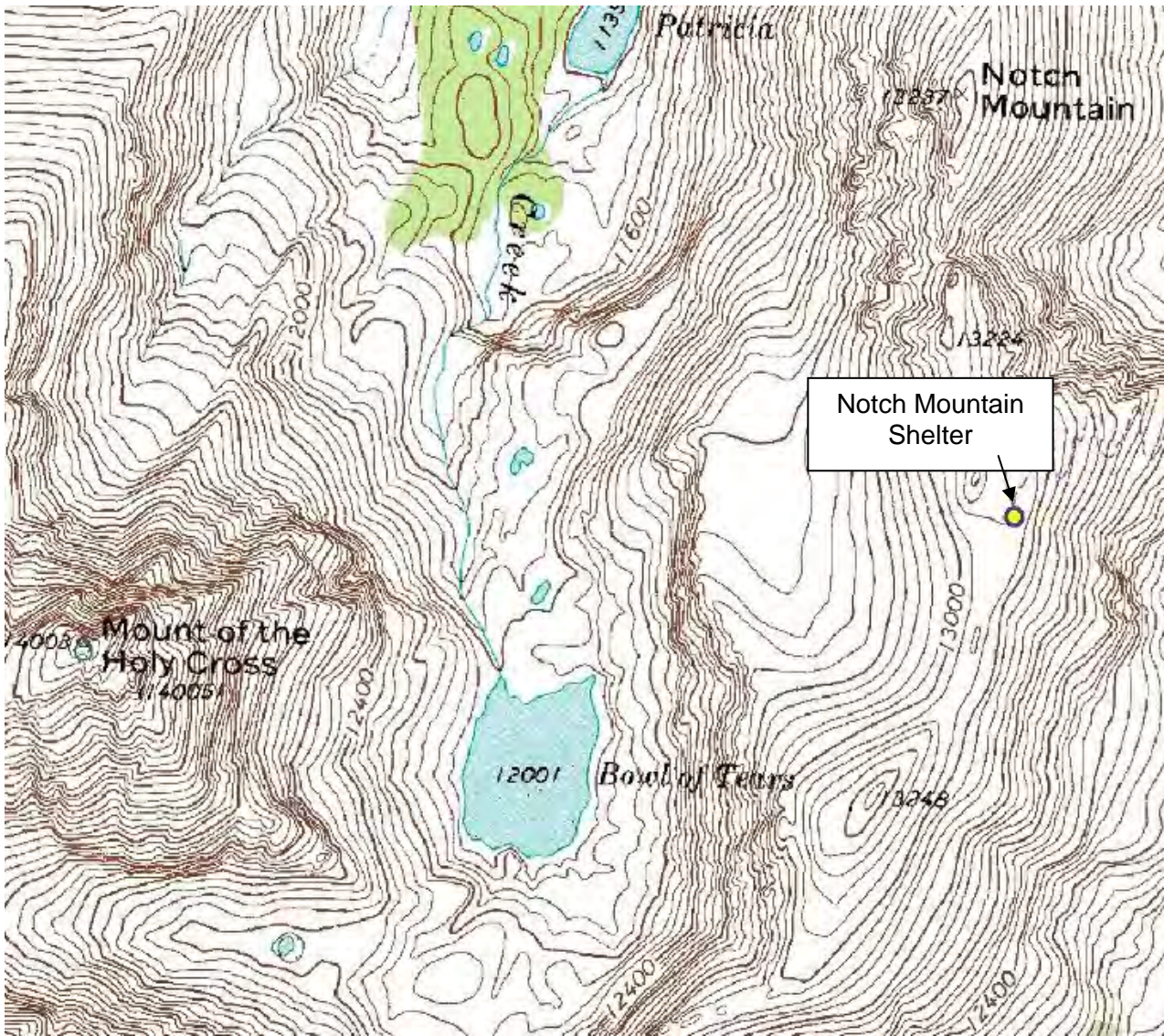
Notch Mountain Shelter  
Eagle County, Colorado

Section number 10

Page 12

USGS Topographic Map  
Mtn. of the Holy Cross Quadrangle  
7.5 Minute

PLSS 6<sup>th</sup> P.M. T 6 South, Range 81 West  
Elevation: 13,100'





**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Notch Mountain Shelter  
Eagle County, Colorado

Section number 10

Page 12



Google earth

miles 1  
km 3



**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Notch Mountain Shelter  
Eagle County, Colorado

Section number \_\_\_\_\_

Page 13



Google earth

feet 2000  
meters 700







United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

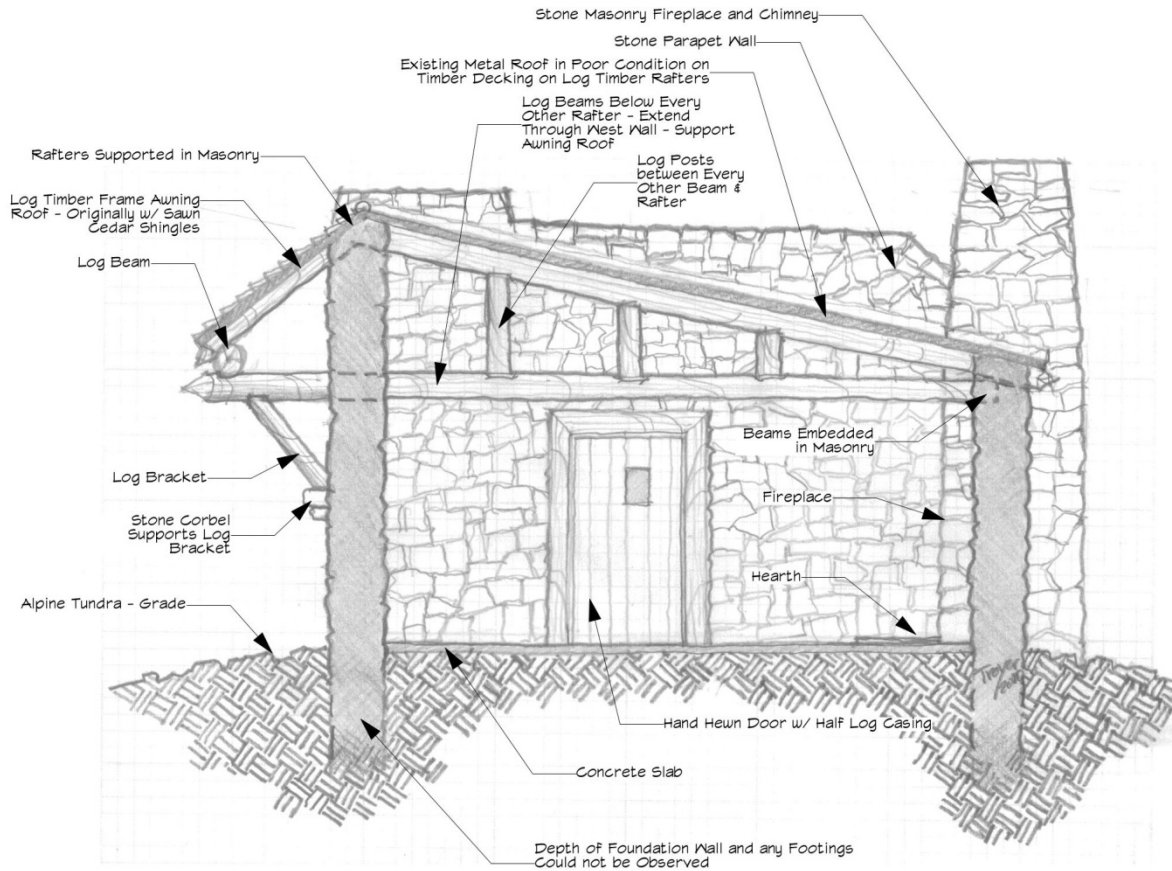
National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Notch Mountain Shelter  
Eagle County, Colorado

Section number \_\_\_\_\_

Page 14

CROSS SECTION



**A** Notch Mountain Shelter -Section

0 5 10 15 FT

Sketches Based on Information Gathered in Fall 2009.  
Do Not Scale Drawings. Field Verify All Information

Source: Edward Troyer, 2010

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

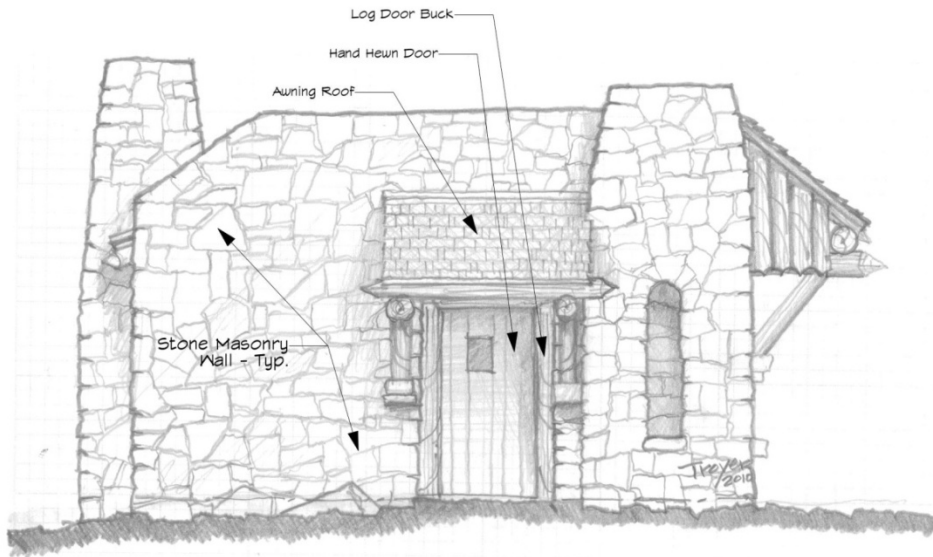
**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Notch Mountain Shelter  
Eagle County, Colorado

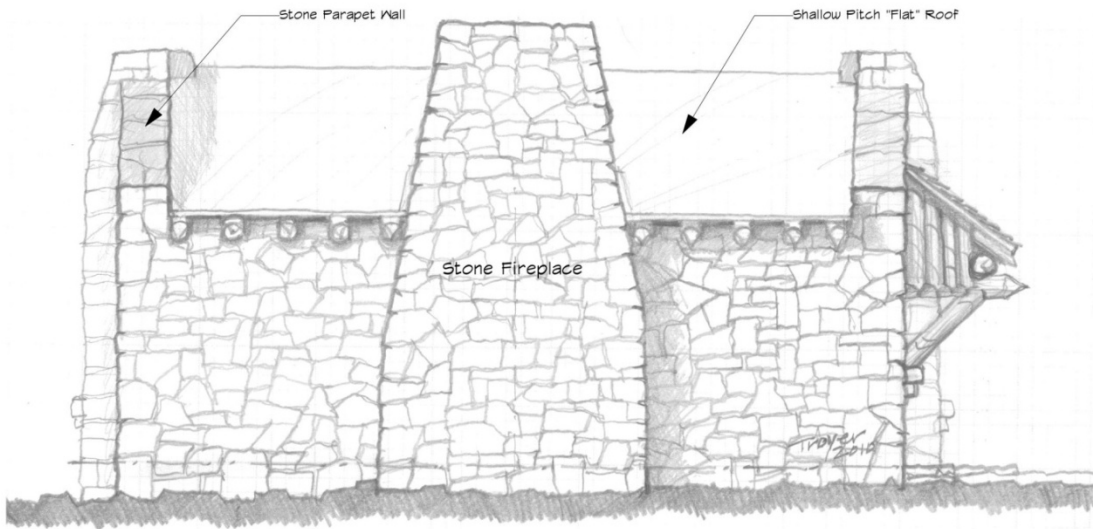
Section number \_\_\_\_\_

Page 15

**NORTH AND EAST SIDES**



Notch Mountain Shelter - North Elevation



Notch Mountain Shelter - East Elevation



Sketches Based on Information Gathered in Fall 2009.  
Do Not Scale Drawings. Field Verify All Information

Source: Edward Troyer, 2010

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

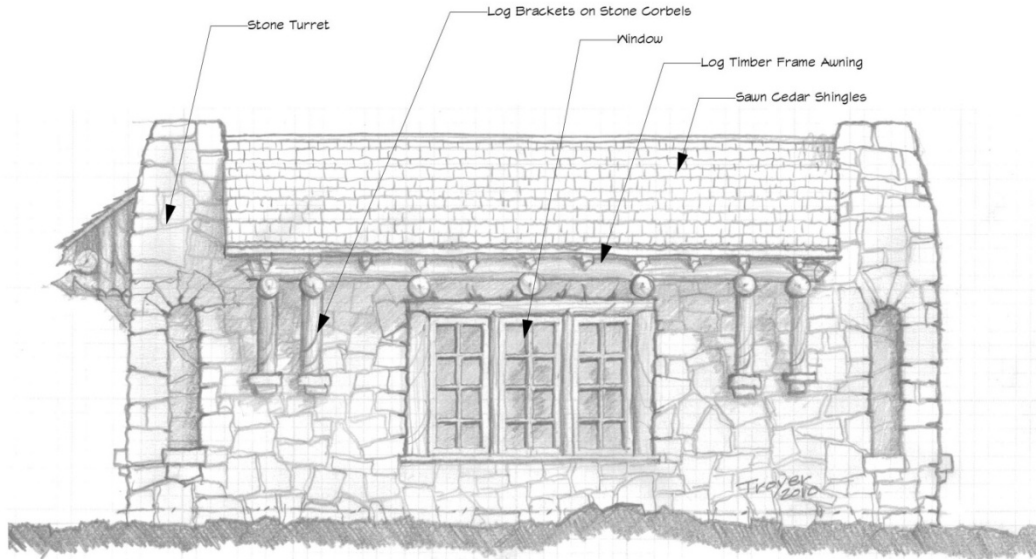
National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Notch Mountain Shelter  
Eagle County, Colorado

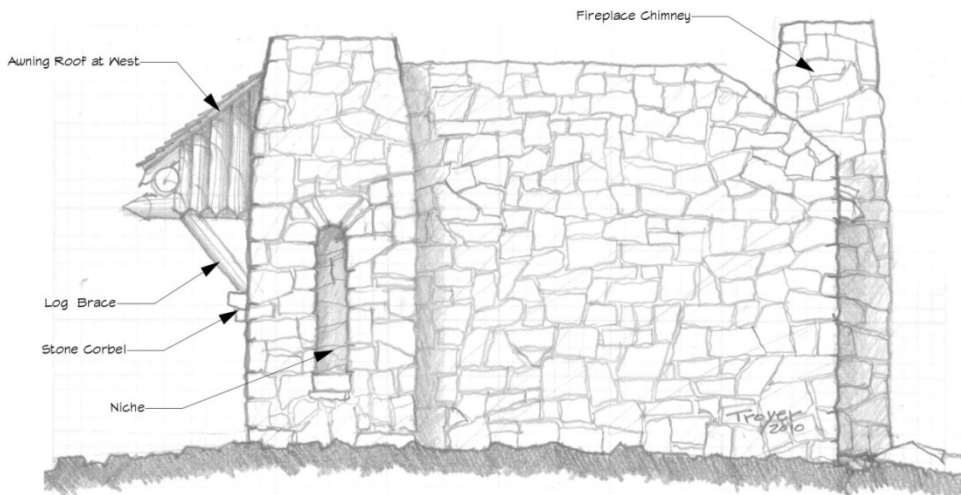
Section number \_\_\_\_\_

Page 16

WEST AND SOUTH SIDES



Notch Mountain Shelter - West Elevation



Notch Mountain Shelter - South Elevation



Sketches Based on Information Gathered in Fall 2009.  
Do Not Scale Drawings. Field Verify All Information

Source: Edward Troyer, 2010

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Notch Mountain Shelter  
Eagle County, Colorado

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 18

---

**PHOTO LOG**

Name of Property: Notch Mountain Shelter

City or Vicinity: Minturn vicinity

County: Eagle County

State: Colorado

Digital tifs on file with the National Park Service, Washington, D.C.

Photo 1. View of north and west sides of Notch Mountain Shelter. Patrick Uphus, 2011.

Photo 2. View of north and east side of Notch Mountain Shelter, Patrick Uphus, 2011.

Photo 3. View of the north side of building with Mount of the Holy Cross in background, David Frey 2011.

**CURRENT PHOTOGRAPHS**



Photo 1. View of north and west sides of Notch Mountain Shelter, Patrick Uphus, 2011.



**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Notch Mountain Shelter  
Eagle County, Colorado

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 18

---



Photo 2. View of north and east side of Notch Mountain Shelter, Patrick Uphus 2011.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Notch Mountain Shelter  
Eagle County, Colorado

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 19

---



Photo 3. View of the north side of building with Mount of the Holy Cross in background, David Frey 2011.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Notch Mountain Shelter  
Eagle County, Colorado

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 20

---

**HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPH LOG**

Photo H1. West and south sides of Notch Mountain Shelter, 1934, White River National Forest. Source: White River National Forest Supervisor's Office, Glenwood Springs, CO

Photo H2. North and west sides of Notch Mountain Shelter, 1934, White River National Forest. Source: White River National Forest Supervisor's Office, Glenwood Springs, CO

Photo H3. West side of Notch Mountain Shelter, 1950, White River National Forest. Source: White River National Forest Supervisor's Office, Glenwood Springs, CO

Photo H4. "Shelter House at Summit Notch Mountain (WR761)." Source: White River National Forest Supervisor's Office, Glenwood Springs, CO. Photo 281070. August 1933.

Photo H5. Interior fireplace, Notch Mountain Shelter, 1993, White River National Forest. Source: Ralph Hartley and Jim Schneck, NPS Midwest Archeological Center, Colorado Cultural Resource Survey Management Data Form, on file with the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, History Colorado

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Notch Mountain Shelter  
Eagle County, Colorado

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 20

**HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS**



Photo H1. West and south sides of Notch Mountain Shelter, 1934, White River National Forest. Source: White River National Forest Supervisor's Office, Glenwood Springs, CO.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Notch Mountain Shelter  
Eagle County, Colorado

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 21

---



Photo H2. North and west sides of Notch Mountain Shelter, 1934, White River National Forest. Source: White River National Forest Supervisor's Office, Glenwood Springs, CO



**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Notch Mountain Shelter  
Eagle County, Colorado

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 22

---



Photo H3. West side of Notch Mountain Shelter, 1950, White River National Forest. Source: White River National Forest Supervisor's Office, Glenwood Springs, CO

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Notch Mountain Shelter  
Eagle County, Colorado

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 22

---



Photo H4. "Shelter House at Summit Notch Mountain (WR761)." Source: White River National Forest Supervisor's Office, Glenwood Springs, CO. Photo 281070. August 1933.

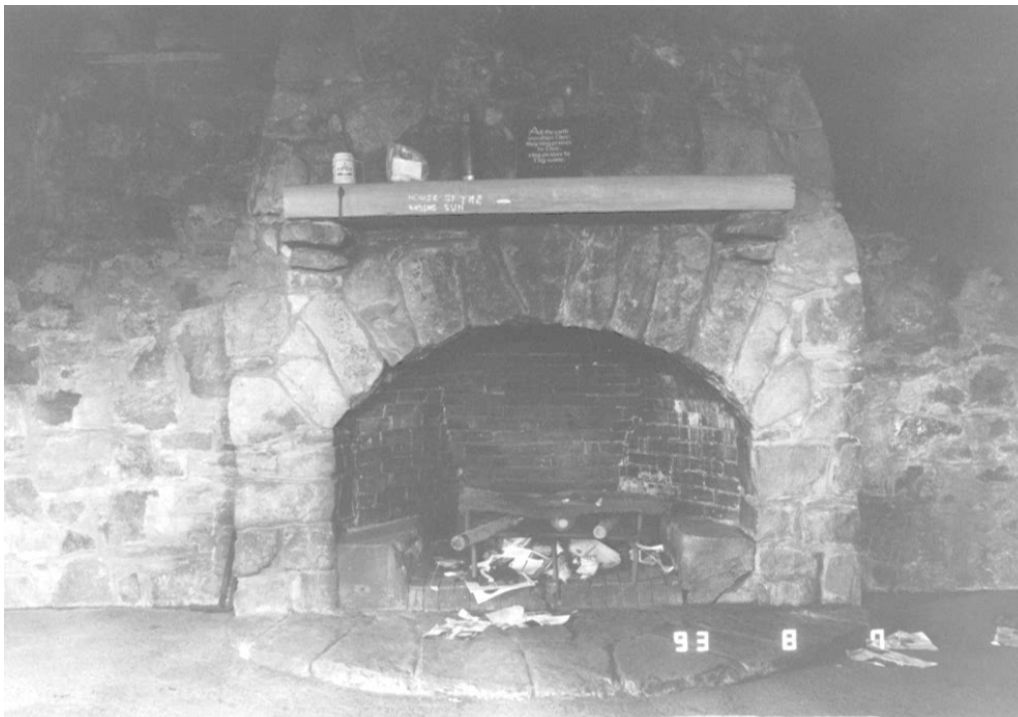
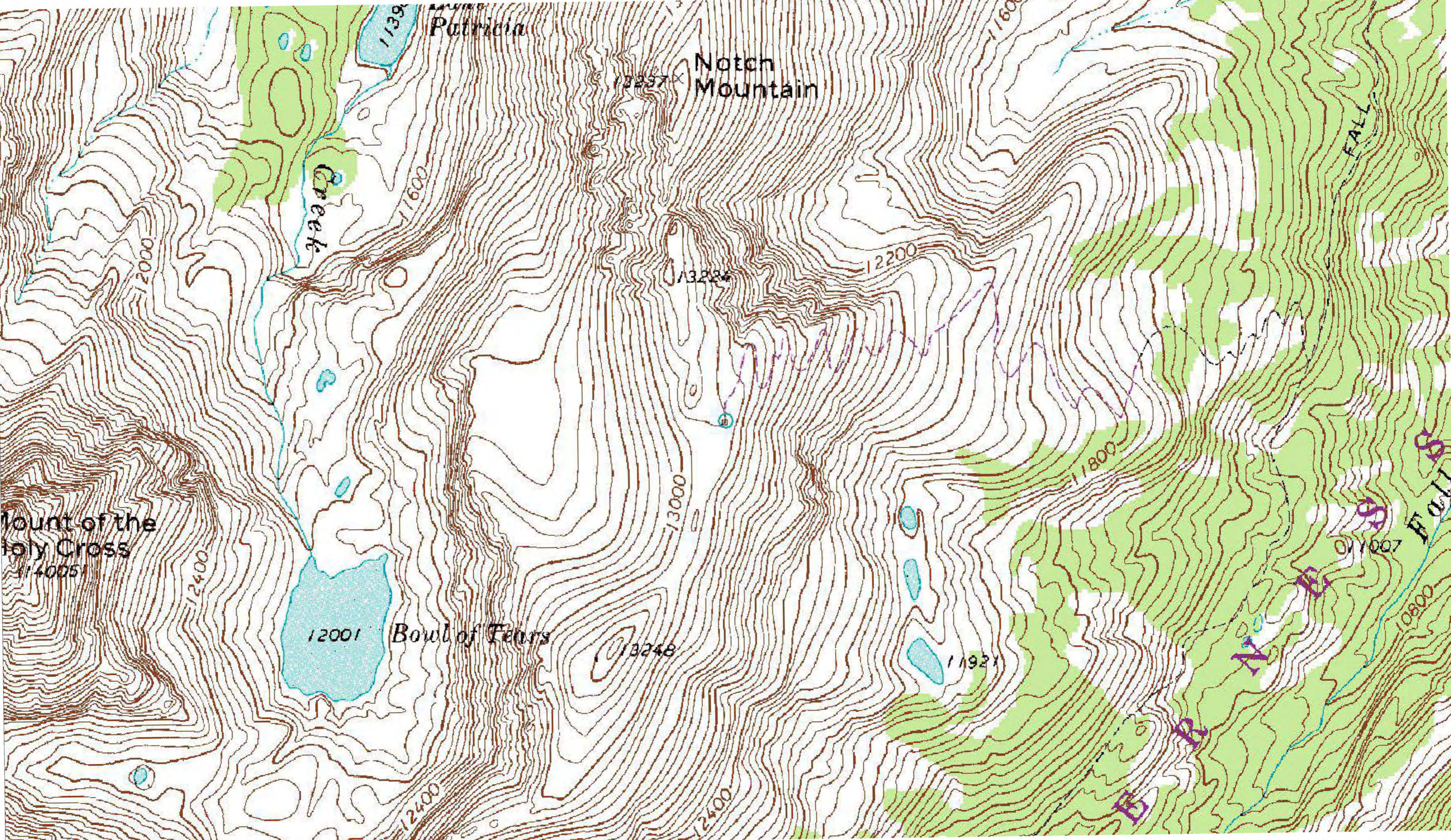


Photo H5. Interior fireplace, Notch Mountain Shelter, 1993, White River National Forest. Source: Ralph Hartley and Jim Schneck, NPS Midwest Archeological Center, Colorado Cultural Resource Survey Management Data Form, on file with the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, History Colorado





Patricia

Notch Mountain

Creek

Mount of the Holy Cross

Bowl of Tears

FERRY

FALL

FALL







UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Notch Mountain Shelter  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: COLORADO, Eagle

DATE RECEIVED: 1/23/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/13/15  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/02/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/10/15  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000059

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT \_\_\_\_\_ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The Notch Mountain Shelter is listed in the National Register under Criterion A for significance in the areas of Social History, Conservation, and Politics/Government and under Criterion C for significance in Architecture. The period of significance is 1933 to 1942. The stone shelter is located in the White River National Forest. Constructed by the CCC, it was used originally by people making pilgrimages to Notch Mountain to see the Mount of the Holy Cross and later by recreational hikers. The shelter is significant at the local level.

RECOM./CRITERIA A and C

REVIEWER Barbara Wyatt

DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE 202-354-2252

DATE 3-10-15

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



OFFICE of ARCHAEOLOGY and HISTORIC PRESERVATION

January 20, 2015

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief,  
National Register and NHL Programs  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 Eye St. NW, 8th Fl.  
Washington D.C. 20005

Re: National Register Nomination for the Notch Mountain Shelter, Eagle County, Colorado (5EA.906) and  
National Register Nomination for the Tigiwon Community House, Eagle County, Colorado (5EA.795)

Dear Mr. Loether:

We are pleased to submit for your review the enclosed National Register of Historic Places nominations for the Notch Mountain Shelter and the Tigiwon Community House. In accordance with the new submission policy, enclosed please find:

- One CD for each with nomination for the Notch Mountain Shelter and the Tigiwon Community House  
    Note: **The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copy of the nominations for the Notch Mountain Shelter and the Tigiwon Community House to the National Register of Historic Places.**
- One CD for each nomination with TIF images
- One CD for each nomination with USGS maps from ArcView GIS
- Original signature page for each nomination with the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature and the signature on behalf of the Federal Preservation Officer

We look forward to the listing of this nomination. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at (303) 866-4684 or at [heather.peterson@state.co.us](mailto:heather.peterson@state.co.us).

Best regards,

Heather Peterson  
National & State Register Historian

Enclosures as above noted