NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

DEC 29 1988

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

other names/site number Historic Resources of North Cascades National Park Service Complex
Cover form for Multiple Resource Submission

2. Location

street & number National Park and Recreation Area boundaries as defined by the National Park Service ☐ not for publication

city, town ☐ vicinity

state Washington code WA county Chelan; Skagit; Whatcom code 007; 057; 073 zip code N/A

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
☐ private	☒ building(s)	43	35 buildings
☐ public-local	☒ district	5	13 sites
☐ public-State	☒ site	1	structures
☒ public-Federal	☒ structure		objects
	☐ object	49	48 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 5

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 of certifying official — Date 12/20/88

National Park Service
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official — Date

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. — Bruce J. Noble, Jr. — 2/10/89

☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other, (explain:) _____

for Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)

SEE ATTACHED INVENTORY CARDS

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation

walls

roof

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Located in north central Washington State, the North Cascades National Park Service Complex (hereinafter cited as "the park") was established by an act of Congress (PL 90-544) on October 2, 1968. Comprised of Ross Lake National Recreation Area, Lake Chelan National Recreation Area, and North Cascades National Park, the complex includes over half a million acres of rugged mountain lands traversing three counties. Unique and varied floral and faunal systems, numerous perennial streams and waterways, dense forests with stands of old-growth timber, alpine lakes and meadows, active glaciers, and dramatic geologic formations form diverse micro-environments within the boundaries of the park. Equally diverse though limited in number are the park's historic resources. Spanning a period of over eight decades, from approximately 1889 to 1945, and dispersed throughout the park, these expressions of cultural activity represent various building types and themes significant in the area's history. Exploration, settlement, commercial development(Industry), federal management, and recreation are themes reflected in numerous log cabins, shelters, lookouts, mines, hostelries, and other structures built in response to human needs but respecting the environment and its physical constraints. Although the integrity of the park's natural resources has been compromised to a degree due to hydroelectric developments, the park's numerous historic resources have survived largely intact, still conveying the qualities and associations today they did historically. This Multiple Resource Area Nomination for North Cascades National Park Service Complex represents the best extant examples of historic resources relating to significant park themes. Their selection culminates a survey and evaluation of all National Park Service-owned or administered structures standing in the park built by 1945. From a survey of 102 properties, 25 individual properties and 3 historic districts were chosen for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, comprising a total of 50 buildings, strucutres and sites (5 of which were previously listed in the Register).

North Cascades National Park Service Complex is geographically defined by the international boundary between Canada and the United States to the north, Okanogan County and the Pasayten Wilderness to the east, Lake Chelan, Wenatchee National Forest, and Glacier Peak Wilderness to the south, and to the west, Mount Baker, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, and the western slopes of the Cascade Range. The area bisects

[X] See continuation sheet

Whatcom, Skagit, and Chelan Counties. The political boundaries of the park divide the approximately 684,000 acres of forested and alpine environments into four management units, two administered as national park areas and two National Recreation Areas (NRA), Ross Lake and Lake Chelan. Primary access to and through the park is limited to Washington State Route 20, which bisects the park along the Skagit River in Ross Lake NRA. All other access is peripheral: Route 3 in Canada extends south to the northern border of the park; from the south, Lake Chelan provides a 55-mile waterway for boat or floatplane service to Lake Chelan NRA; and unimproved United States Forest Service (USFS) roads reach near the west and southwest boundaries of the park. Hundreds of miles of hiking trails traverse the resource area. No large population centers exist immediately adjacent to the park, but the Seattle-Tacoma metropolitan area is only 125 miles from the park's western auto entrance. The small towns and communities of Marblemount, Glacier, Winthrop, and Chelan are the nearest areas of settlement outside park boundaries.

The mountains comprise the major topographic feature of the park. Ranking among the world's great ranges, the primarily volcanic Cascades extend from Canada's Fraser River south beyond Oregon and shape the climate and vegetation of much of the Pacific Northwest. Here in the northern reaches of the range, the greatest crustal uplift of the earth has occurred exposing the oldest rocks and forming some of the highest peaks of the range. Mount Shuksan, the Pickets, and the Eldorado Peak country are a magnificent display of ridges and pinnacles rising above centuries-old glaciers. Heavy precipitation resulting from the North Cascades' interception of some of the continent's wettest prevailing winds has produced a region of active glaciers unparalleled in the conterminous United States.

Within the past 500,000 years glaciers have scoured the region, sculpting impressive river valleys such as the Stehekin, Little and Big Beaver, Thunder, and the Nooksack. Other substantial waterways include the Skagit, Cascade, Baker, and Chilliwack Rivers and Ruby and Bridge Creeks, all of which radiate outward from the mountains.They are fed by innumerable smaller creeks and streams. Ross Lake and Lake Chelan are the focus of the two NRAs; the latter is a natural, glacially-carved water body whose level has been raised by damming to utilize its hydroelectric potential; the former is a man-made reservoir constructed for hydroelectric potential. Ross Lake is one of three lakes formed by the damming of the Skagit River.

In general, humans have not had a tremendous impact on this formidable region. Efforts to transform the wilderness into a tame and hospitable place in which to live, work, or visit were unsuccessful. For the most part people were transitory, but for those who stayed and tried to establish roots, life was difficult at best. Access, limited fertile land, distance from supplies, services, and people, and unpredictable weather conditions made residency in the North Cascades arduous. In this regard, the tangible evidence of human accomplishments which remains scattered throughout the park becomes increasingly significant.

Explorers and fur traders were the earliest Euro-Americans to penetrate the area of today's park. They sought easier and more expeditious overland trade routes between the navigable waters of Puget Sound and the interior of the Oregon Country. As late as 1900, expeditions were undertaken to better understand the vast wilderness of rocks, forests, waterfalls, and glaciers.

Initial settlement of the region was based on the exploitation of the area's abundant natural resources. Beginning in the 1880s, prospectors arrived to try and make a living from the land. Only a handful were successful; most were transient and stayed on a seasonal basis. Some came to provide services for the miners; still others came with intentions of homesteading. Those who stayed found limited suitable land along the lower river valleys. They cleared and fenced the land, built cabins, planted crops, and raised livestock.

Concurrent with exploration and settlement of the area, trapping, agricultural activity, logging, mining, and hydroelectric production were all undertaken by individuals whose intentions were driven by profit. While many of these enterprises were successful operations for a time, spurring growth and development of the region, most fell prey to the area's inhospitable character. Few good stands of timber were located in accessible areas and minerals did not exist in marketable quantities. In addition, the unpredictable weather conditions, the lack of easy routes to and from the mountains, and the distance from supply centers worked against most entrepreneurs.

The very qualities which prevented people from settling and commercially developing the resources of the North Cascades in a major way -- inaccessibility, ruggedness, remoteness, and extremes of climate -- enticed others with a desire to recreate. Beginning in the late 19th century, after the region became more familiar to the general population, people began to consider the area for recreational pursuits. But this wilderness was never exploited on a grand scale like other scenic areas. Transportation and communication difficulties prevented the construction of elaborate or large-scale developments. As a consequence, recreationists and tourists visiting this section of the Pacific Northwest had fewer conveniences available to them, and their experiences in the backcountry were more rugged. A hotel, lodge, and several roadhouses operated at various times in the resource area providing accommodations for those who traveled into the wilds beginning in the 1890s. In later years log shelters were built by the USFS for campers arriving in ever-increasing numbers. Campers, hikers, and mountain climbers were soon joined by individuals seeking summer and/or retirement homes on the east side of the Cascades in the early 20th century.

One thread common to all of the park's significant periods, and an influence in how the wilderness was managed, was the presence of the government in the resource area. In 1897 land within today's park was closed to all logging and homesteading activity with the establishment of forest reserves. Less than a decade later, the USFS was established and given jurisdiction over this remote region, which it opened up to a

variety of entrepreneurial pursuits. The USFS had considerable impact in the area because of its philosophy, policies, and management ideals regarding use of a wilderness region. Its administrative and recreational structures, including ranger stations, lookouts, and shelters, were joined by the dams, cabins, and mining complexes built by state and local government agencies and private concerns. The USFS' stewardship of the public domain, possibly more than any other single force, helped shape the land use and circulation patterns recognizeable today.

Architecture

The historic resources identified in the 1984 inventory of park historic structures fall into four categories: residential, commercial/ industrial, recreational, and other miscellaneous structures. More than half of these have been recognized as being eligible for the National Register according to established criteria. Five of these are presently listed in the Register (see attached list summarizing notable structures). The remaining structures determined not eligible have deteriorated, been demolished, or are so altered, that their structural integrity is compromised (particularly when compared to similar building types). None of the structures nominated herein are classified as "high style" architecture. Rather, the vernacular tradition more appropriately describes the character of the park's varied historic resources. These resources are simple log or wood-frame structures which generally utilized native materials, or ones readily available, and familiar and basic construction techniques. Typically, exterior walls are either log or milled wood siding such as clapboard, board and batten, or bevelled tongue and groove. Roofing material is either wood shingle or shakes: hand-sawn or cut originally but, in most cases, since replaced by machine-cut products or synthetic materials. Any stylistic features ascribed to the exterior appearance of a building are derived from its structural composition and function, and most likely were not intended to serve as decorative elements. Trim pieces limited to windows and doors represent such stylistic features.

The general characteristics of the historic districts and structure types identified as eligible for the National Register are described below; copies of inventory cards describing the specific features of each structure within these groups are also attached.

Buckner Homestead Historic District

This district incorporates the largest group of structures relating to the theme of early settlement within the resource area. Representing a time period of over six decades, from 1889 to the 1950s, the district is comprised of 15 buildings, landscape structures and ruins, and over 50 acres of land planted in orchard and criss-crossed by hand-dug irrigation ditches.

orchard and that of the residential area where a cohesive structural complex is present. [redacted]

The buildings are wood-frame, sided in rough, unfinished board and batten, and have gabled roofs. The one exception is the original Buzzard cabin which is built of logs (with a pre-1910 board and batten addition). None have been painted, so appear to have a silvery-grey patina, having been allowed to weather naturally. The district is remarkably homogeneous in appearance. Many of the structures in the district are still used to help the NPS interpret the early homesteading era in the park. The buildings are strictly utilitarian in nature and appear so in style, function, materials, and location. They are sited according to use: the milking shed is located near the house; the living quarters for hired seasonal help are set in trees at the rear edge of the complex; the packing shed was located near the orchard.

The homestead remained a working farm until fairly recent times. After the NPS gained jurisdiction of the property (in the 1970s), an employee and his family took up caretaker residence and responsibility and continued to use the farm and orchard. The residence in which they live was a former apple-picker's cabin. It evolved and grew over the years as the Buckner family grew, but each change has become an accepted and significant part of the building. Other changes to the complex include the deterioration and subsequent loss (due to extreme snow loads) of the barn and an apple-packing shed, both of which have visible remnants in place. The outline and depression of the family swimming pool is still present, along with numerous other landscape features which all contribute significantly to the district as a whole. One structure has been built by the NPS as recently as 1982 in order to protect historic farm machinery. Sited adjacent to a pasture in which the equipment may have once worked, the wooden, log-pole construction of this open-air shed is of a sensitive design and one which harmonizes with the surrounding environment. In all, the district retains a high degree of integrity, both in the structures and the landscape.

The Buckner Homestead Historic District is significant on a local level for its association with early settlement in the North Cascades between 1889 and WW II. It represents one of the earliest homesteads in the Stehekin valley. Its evolution from a single cabin to an intricate complex of structures, paths, irrigation ditches, and fruit orchard contributes significantly to our understanding of settlement in this wilderness region. Further, it is the only example of an intact homestead complex within park boundaries. The area nominated includes approximately 90 acres (50 of which are in orchard). See sketch map (Section 10, following photographs).

Golden West Lodge Historic District

This proposed district is located in the small community of Stehekin, in Lake Chelan NRA. Situated at the head of the fiord-like lake, the Golden West Lodge and its associated outbuildings have a strong presence

on the land. The complex sits high on an uphill slope overlooking water and craggy snow-covered peaks--clearly sited to take advantage of the area's scenic views. The seven contributing buildings within the district were built between 1926 and 1945.

The Golden West Lodge was originally built to accommodate tourists in 1926. In function it replaced an earlier structure, the Field Hotel, which stood on land destined to be flooded because of a hydroelectric project downlake. When the Field was dismantled, building materials were salvaged and reused in the construction of the Golden West. The lodge was also built on the site of a former homestead and early Stehekin hostelry, the Mountain View House. Typical of the period's tourist accommodations, the Golden West was a spacious resort hotel which blended rustic simplicity with some elements of comfort and elegance. The landscape around the lodge is characterized by a series of dry-laid, rock-walled terraces and a cluster of small, one-room log cabins which were added to the property in the 1940s in response to a changing tourist trade. In earlier years a road allowed cars to travel from the landing (the arrival and departure point for Stehekin) up to the lodge, cutting through an open pine forest to reach the front porch of the Golden West. Circulation patterns in and around the complex remain much the same today; the road is now a pedestrian path supplemented by smaller, secondary walkways linking the cabins to each other and the lodge.

The lodge is characterized by its simple and functional appearance. Of wood-frame construction, it towers 2-1/2 stories over the smaller, rustic log cabins nearby. The gabled-roof is broken by small, gable-roofed dormers, and the building's symmetrical primary facade is accented by a central, 2-story entrance portico. A wide sill board delineates wood clapboard siding above from the mortared rock foundation below. This foundation may be --in part-- from the former Purple homestead which stood on the site from the late 1890s until 1926.

The individual log cabins are expressed in a more rustic manner. They are a combination of materials: cut logs and milled wood. All have gabled roofs and front and/or rear entry porches. One exception, known locally as "The House that Jack Built," is a cabin (#14) of notched log construction. The cabins are sited irregularly so as to appear less obtrusive in their natural setting. Behind the Golden West is a simple, wood-frame garage, contemporary with the lodge, and used for storage today.

Modest in appearance, the Golden West Lodge has not changed substantially since first constructed. It retains its original materials, design quality, scale, proportions, and workmanship. Alterations to the lodge include the reorienting of the front steps ninety degrees because the presence of a large pine tree adjacent to the original steps prevented free passage; handicap-accessed bathrooms added in the basement level of the lodge, recessed into the rubble foundation; and the removal of lattice-work from the lower porch. None of these changes have compromised the structure's integrity to a significant degree. Its use has changed from that of a resort facility to a seasonal visitor center by the National Park Service. The associated outbuildings also retain a high

degree of integrity. Materials, workmanship, design quality, scale, and proportions have not been altered; only their use has changed, from strictly residential to a combination of commercial and residential. The landscape has changed minimally from when the complex operated as a resort lodge. However, only remnants of the former teardrop-shaped swimming pool (located behind the lodge) and fish pond remain, and a small, wood-frame structure formally housing lodge employees was removed from a lower terrace in front of the main building (and believed to have been less than 50 years old at the time of its removal).

The Golden West Lodge Historic District is significant on a local level for its associations with recreation and recreational developments in the North Cascades between 1926 and WW II. Further, it represents the only extant example of large-scale wilderness resort development in the North Cascades. The area nominated includes (approximately) 4 acres. See sketch map (Section 10, following photographs).

High Bridge Ranger Station Historic District

This district is comprised of four structures built to serve as a USFS backcountry ranger station in the upper Stehekin River valley in Lake Chelan NRA. Erected ca. 1933-34 on a sparsely-wooded flat above the confluence of two large drainages, High Bridge was used primarily in the summer months by USFS trailbuilding and firefighting crews. The district consists of a 3-room residence, a shop/garage, a barn and corral, and an outhouse, all of which follow a standard USFS pattern of design. Drawing on traditional models, the USFS constructed buildings designed by its architects which: utilized matural or native materials; combined different exterior materials to create patterns and variety; and successfully harmonized with the environment. The use of similar materials, the scale, proportions and overall design of the buildings give the station a cohesive and classic USFS character. Painted in a neutral earthtone, restrained in architectural details and ornament, the distinguishing features are, for the most part, structural elements. Rectangular shape, gable and clipped-gable rooflines, and wood shingle or clapboard siding (or a combination of both), are the primary elements of the buildings.

The High Bridge Ranger Station Historic District is significant on a local level for its association with the Government in the North Cascades and as an example of a distinct type of architecture (USFS design) from the 1930s. As a complex, the district represents the only intact and unaltered USFS station in the park. The area nominated includes less than one acre. See sketch map (Section 10, following photographs).

Fire Lookouts

Of all the fire lookouts which once dotted peaks across the park, only three are extant today. All are of a standard USFS design dating from the 1930s: only the roofline varies, from gable to hip. A square shape, approximately 14' x 14' in size, wood-frame, bevelled lap siding, large multi-pane hinged sash, and heavy, hinged wooden shutters which swing

upwards, characterizes these special function structures. All are still used on a seasonal basis: one as a visitor/ranger contact station; the other two have occasional use. All three retain a high degree of integrity.

Shelters

USFS rangers became increasingly involved with recreation issues in the national forests as public use and demands on recreational resources increased in the 1930s. As a result, the USFS embarked on an ambitious shelter building program, and with the manpower provided by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), built many of these facilities. Enclosed on three sides with a roof that slopes to the rear and an overhang in front, these shelters appeared throughout the backcountry providing hikers and campers with a place to stay. The frame was constructed of cut logs, and the siding and roof of wood shakes. The open side typically faced a fire ring. By using native materials the USFS made a conscious effort to minimize the impact of a man-made structure on the natural environment. At one time, these shelters seemed somewhat ubiquitous in the resource area, for one could be reached every ten or less miles along a trail. Many have since been removed, a reflection of the philosophical and management differences between the USFS and the NPS. Only five appear eligible for the National Register, three of which are certain to be CCC-built. All five retain a high degree of integrity.

Residences and Cabins

Two types of residential structures and cabins are present in the park --wood-frame and log. Nearly all of the wood-frame buildings presently serve as housing, primarily for NPS full-time or seasonal employees. Of the four wood-frame structures, three are of standard utilitarian USFS design from the late 1920s-early 1930s and have minimal architectural detailing. The fourth was built by miners in the upper Stehekin River valley near the confluence of Bridge Creek. It is of board and batten construction and may date from the 1920s. All of these retain a high degree of integrity.

There are ten log cabins still standing within the park (this # does not reflect those considered within historic districts). Their significance lies in their associations with a theme important in park history, such as early settlement, commercial development or recreation, or, because they are the only remaining examples of a certain type of construction. In this case significance would refer to the type of notch used to build the structure: double-saddle-, square-, or half-dovetail-notched log construction. Of these ten, one is presently listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the Courtney cabin. Both Gilbert's cabin and the Sulphide/Frisco cabin have suffered from deterioration due to an avalanche and downed tree respectively. However, enough remains are present and the structures are eligible for the Register as sites. Under

this classification both retain a high degree of integrity. The eight cabins also retain a high degree of integrity.

Other Historic Structures

Included in this group are a mine, a section of a trail, and the international boundary line (with associated monuments). The significance of these structures lies in their associations with themes important in park history: commercial development and early expansion.

The Black Warrior Mine's history spans over 50 years. It is located in lower Horseshoe Basin near the headwaters of the Stehekin River. An impressive opening in the hard rock of the North Cascades, the mine has lost all associated buildings (located outside the mine entrance in the lower basin) but retains structural members of two "rooms" located immediately inside the entrance. Iron tracks for ore carts can still be followed hundreds of feet inside the mountain. This historic site is presently listed in the National Register of Historic Places; a plaque noting this recognition is mounted inside the entrance opening.

Devil's Corner, the local name given to a difficult section of trail along the north side of the Skagit River in Ross Lake NRA, is also listed in the National Register. The most dangerous section of the "Goat Trail," Devil's Corner, first built ca.1890s, was one of the trail's many puncheon and suspension bridges strung along rock walls and over deep gorges high above the river. Cables, bolts, and puncheon (split wooden boards) were mainly used to hold the crudely built structure together. Because of highway construction and deterioration, nearly nothing remains of this historic transportation route which provided settlers, miners, and USFS personnel access to the upper Skagit River country until the 1920s.

The international boundary and its associated monuments have a significant role in the history of the park. A landscape feature more than a built structure, the boundary is a 60-foot wide swath of cleared land demarcating the 49th parallel, the border between Canada and the United States. While the original survey of the line was begun in the late 1850s, the monuments seen today date from a second attempt accomplished in 1908. The boundary traversing the park's northern border is 23-1/2 miles in length, and holds 17 cast aluminum monuments dating from the second and final survey.

Inventory Methodology

In 1984 the National Park Service's Cultural Resources Division of the Pacific Northwest Regional Office (PNRO) undertook an inventory of historic structures and sites located within park boundaries. Under the direction of the chief of the division and the regional historian, a project historian was employed to collect and record data pertaining to NPS-owned or administered structures forty years or older still extant in the park. Privately-owned structures or those on Seattle City Light property were not considered for inclusion in the inventory. Research sources for these sites included park and regional building, maintenance, photography, and historical files, and, to a large extent, park staff.

Also useful was the park's List of Classified Structures (1976) prepared by Gary Higgens; Erwin Thompson's History:Basic Data, North Cascades National Park Service Complex (1970); and Hovland's Historic Structure Report: Buzzard Cabin, Courtney Cabin, and Gilbert's Cabin (1970). While a substantial area of the park was traversed, only areas where structures were known to exist were surveyed.

The information compiled in the 1984 inventory was recorded on standard PNRO inventory cards. Each structure or site was photographed as part of the inventory procedure. Representative views of the structures are found on the reverse side of each inventory card. Copies of these inventory cards are included as part of this nomination, as well as additional representative photographs taken in 1984. All structures and sites identified in the inventory were evaluated within the context established by the major themes of historic significance identified for the park and National Register criteria. Of the 102 structures and sites included in the inventory, 50 were determined to be eligible for listing in the National Register, either individually or as contributing structures within one of the park's proposed historic districts. The cards for the eligible structures follow this section. They are grouped by district or by their association with a building type. Following the list of contributing structures and associated inventory cards is a discussion of structures over forty years of age which were determined to be ineligible for listing in the National Register.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES

Historic Districts:
Buckner Homestead Historic District - NOCA #56-66,68,CS-4; LCS #06716-23, 06725-26, 06728-29,06732; 13 bldgs., 1 site, 2 non-contributing bldgs.
Golden West Lodge Historic District - NOCA #6, 9-15; LCS #30140-30147; 8 bldgs(1 of which is non-contributing)
High Bridge Ranger Station Historic District - NOCA #81-83; LCS #30134-30137; 4 bldgs.

Fire Lookouts: Copper Ridge - NOCA #1228; LCS #30121 (bldg.)
Desolation Peak - NOCA #1227; LCS #30121 (bldg.)
Sourdough Mountain - NOCA #1226; LCS #30118 (bldg.)

Shelters: Beaver Pass - NOCA #1209; LCS #30117 (bldg.)
Bridge Creek - LCS #30130 (bldg.)
Flick Creek - No #s assigned (bldg.)
High Bridge - LCS #30133 (bldg.)
Perry Creek - NOCA #1208; LCS 30116 (bldg.)

Cabins and Residences: (all bldgs.)
Bridge Creek Ranger Station Residence - NOCA #84; LCS #30128
Courtney Cabin - NOCA #89; LCS #06730
Deer Lick Cabin - NOCA #1219; LCS #30122
George Miller House - NOCA #35; LCS #30139
Hozomeen Cabin - NOCA #1154; LCS #30120
Marblemount Ranger Station Residences - NOCA #1009 LCS #30113; NOCA #1010; LCS #30114
Meadow Cabins: East - NOCA #1218; LCS #30125
West - NOCA #1217; LCS #30124
Rock Cabin - NOCA #1216; LCS #30127
Stehekin School - No #s assigned
Stehekin Ranger Station Residence - NOCA #2; LCS #30148

Other Historic Structures and Sites:
Black Warrior Mine - NOCA #22 (site)
Devil's Corner - NOCA #CS-2;LCS #06724 (structure)
Gilbert's Cabin - NOCA #1024; LCS #06730 (site)
International Boundary and monuments LCS #30119 (site)
Sulphide/Frisco Cabin - LCS #30132 (site)

Non-contributing Structures and Sites

In addition to the buildings, sites, and structures identified in the description statement as eligible for the National Register, there are a number of structures forty years or older in the park complex which were inventoried in 1984 and are not considered to be eligible, either individually or as contributing elements of an historic district. This non-eligibility is attributed to one or more of the following factors:

1) the structures, sites and buildings have no significant historical associations with individuals and events, or they lack architectural distinction;
2) the structures, sites and buildings have lost significant architectural or structural integrity because of neglect, abandonment, or insensitive alterations and changes in use or function.

The following structures, sites and buildings considered not eligible for listing in the National Register at this time are cited below, and are grouped by park management districts:

Marblemount Compound

Marblemount Ranger Station- R & T Warehouse
Shop
3-Car Garage

Skagit District

Boston Basin Cabin
Cascade Pass Cabin
Colonial Mine
Devil's Elbow Railroad Bridge
Diablo Barn
Diablo Residence
Ferry Bar Bridge
Fisher Cabin
Happy Creek Sawmill
Hidden Hand Cabin
Himlock 2 Cabin
Lightning Creek Ranger Station
Little Beaver Shelter
McMillan Homestead
Puncheon Road
Rainbow Talc Mine
Roland Point Lookout
Ross Guard Ranger Station
Rowland Homestead

Silver Creek Cabin and Mine
Skagit Queen Mine
Skagit Queen Power Plant
Thunder Creek Bridge
White Place
Willow Lake Cabin
W.P.A. Road

Included as non-contributing sites are two associated with mining in the North Cascades, the Skagit Queen Mine and Power Plant. It is possible that a historical archeologist surveying these sites at a future date will determine that they are eligible for the National Register because of the information they contain.

Stehekin District-

Bowan Creek Cabin
Bridge Creek Sawmill
Buckner Homestead: Wagon Shed
Woodshed/Harness Shed
Bullion Cabin
Butte Creek Cabin
Cottonwood Cabin
Flat Creek Cabin
Gem Lode Cabin
McKellar Cabin
Peterson Cabin
Rowse Sawmill
Simmons Cabin
Stehekin Community Center
Stehekin Landing Cafe
Stehekin Ranger Station- Bunkhouse
Warehouse
Upper Horseshoe Basin Mines

BLDGS./STRUCTURES/SITES DEMOLISHED SINCE COMPLETION OF 1984 INVENTORY:

Diamond/Valumines, 1986 (non-contributing)
Ruby Barn, 1987 (non-contributing)
Bridge Creek Barn, 1985 (potentially eligible)
Rainbow Lodge and associated outbldgs., 1988
(determined eligible)

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)
EXPLORATION
SETTLEMENT
INDUSTRY/COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT
POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT
ARCHITECTURE
RECREATION
ENGINEERING/TRANSPORTATION
AGRICULTURE

Period of Significance
1859 - 1945

Significant Dates

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
N/A

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

On October 2, 1968, 684,000 acres in the northwestern corner of Washington State were set aside by an act of Congress as the North Cascades National Park Service Complex(PL 90-544) to preserve the exceptional resources within. The act provided for the creation of a national park and two national recreation areas, in order to preserve majestic mountain scenery, snowfields, glaciers, alpine meadows, and other unique features. The legislation also provided for the conservation of scenic, scientific, historic, and other values, which would contribute to the public's enjoyment and understanding of these lands. The buildings and districts which comprise this multiple resource nomination are significant for their association with people and/or events important in the exploration, settlement, industrial development, enjoyment, and management of these public lands, and/or because they embody the distinctive characteristics of a type or method of construction. The themes stated above, and the historic structures associated with them, represent a time span of over eighty years, from 1859 to 1945. With few exceptions the resources are of log or wood construction and are of local significance. All resources nominated herein possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Collectively, they reflect how humans have altered the wilderness of the North Cascades to varying degrees in efforts to tame and use the land.

At present, existing survey data for archeological sites within the park complex is limited, so no sites of this nature are included in this nomination. However, an archeological base map for the complex is being undertaken, which will likely reveal eligible sites. Should this be the case, these sites will be added to the National Register through an amendment to this nomination.

A "Classified Structure Field Inventory"(1976), a "Historic Structure Report" for Buzzard, Courtney, and Gilbert's Cabins(1979), and a "Historic Resource Study"(1986) have been completed in accordance with National Park Service "Guidelines for Cultural Resource Management"(NPS-28). All structures considered eligible for the National Register are individually

☒ See continuation sheet

documented on inventory cards appended to this nomination, and were prepared under the direction of the Pacific Northwest Region in the summer of 1984. A "Historic Structures Preservation Guide" for these structures was completed in 1987.

HISTORY OF NORTH CASCADES NATIONAL PARK SERVICE COMPLEX

Early Explorations and Surveys: 1814-1908

Euro-American exploration of the unknown territory in and around the North Cascades occurred late in the history of the Pacific Northwest. While maritime explorers plied Pacific waters, inland expeditions began penetrating the heart of the Northwest in the latter part of the eighteenth century. The earliest recorded crossing of the North Cascades by a European was accomplished in 1814 by a fur trader named Alexander Ross. Nearly half a century after Ross' journey, the mountains were subject to scrutiny by the federal government. The international boundary between Canada and the United States was established in 1846, but the actual border was not marked until 1857 when an effort began to survey a line through the rugged, still virtually unknown, country.The joint Northwest Boundary Commission was a reconnaissance expedition as well; their reports and efforts helped to open the unfamiliar region for Americans. The Americans began surveying in 1857; the British joined in the following year. Nearly 200 men were recruited, including surveyors, astronomers, geologists, naturalists, artists, laborers, cooks, packers, axemen, messengers, and Indian guides. Using chain and compass survey methods, points along the boundary were marked using rough iron posts, stone cairns, and wood posts set in earthen mounds, and vegetation was cleared on either side of the markers.

Despite these efforts, disputes arose concerning the locations of boundary markers. Britain and the United States resurveyed sections of the line in 1901. Seven years later, in 1908, a treaty was signed between the two countries calling for the complete resurvey and remarking of the boundary. In addition to replacing the original monuments, the treaty called for 40-foot wide vistas to be cut through the entire forested country. This path of clear-cut vegetation through the mountains remains today, delineating the park complex's northern boundary. Seventeen monuments are still intact along the line.

A succession of explorations occurred after the completion of the international boundary survey. In search of improved communication and trade routes, or cross-country rail lines or roads, these expeditions strived to find the best way through the rugged country. Because these explorations and surveys were transitory in nature, no tangible structures other than the monuments delineating the international boundary remain. The INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND MONUMENTS (#30119) are

significant for their association with nineteenth century efforts to explore, survey, and delineate a northern boundary for the United States. Furthermore, this expedition, perhaps more than any other, left behind a rich collection of maps, sketches, and written descriptions, all of which helped unravel the mysteries of the region. Today, hikers can easily view the boundary at two points within the park complex: in the northwest section of the park along the Chilliwack River trail; and in the northeast section of the park along a self-guided nature trail north of Hozomeen campground, east of Ross Lake.

Settlement and Development: 1880s-1920

Settlement within the remote North Cascades occurred slowly over many years. Pioneers moved northward from the Oregon Territory after Washington Territory opened to settlement in 1846. The abundant natural resources of the area and later, the Donation Land Claim laws of the 1850s, stimulated much early settlement. Gold was a resource which attracted settlers to the northern part of Washington State. News of gold strikes in Canada in the 1850s brought prospectors and their suppliers into Whatcom County, one of three counties that cover the park complex. Although the excitement was a short-lived event, many miners remained in the county after the rush in search of employment and land open for settlement. Settlement trends in the North Cascades reflect the early settlers' need to find accessible, suitable farm land, coupled with a desire to profit from the region's natural resources. From Puget Sound they headed inland, traveling eastward along major drainages such as the Skagit and Nooksack Rivers, and westward up Lake Chelan. Primary settlement in the park followed three major watersheds: [redacted]

Access was difficult: [redacted] could only be reached by canoe and rough trails; steamboats were navigating Lake Chelan soon after settlers established the town of Chelan (at the foot of the lake), and made runs as needed to the head of the lake. Despite the difficulties of access, the small amounts of workable land, and the lack of surveyed land, the region was settled. The greatest overall development occurred along the banks of the Skagit, with homesteads and towns stretching from Puget Sound eastward into the foothills of the North Cascades.However, for such a remote area, the head of Lake Chelan and the Stehekin River valley experienced considerable settlement as well.

Pioneers on both sides of the divide were faced with similar challenges. Land needed to be cleared, a shelter constructed, and some form of subsistence crop planted. Homesteads grew in size over the years, according to needs or perceived needs, their appearance and permanence dictated by available materials, labor, and money. Long, severe winters and early frosts added to the settlers' hardships. Typically, money was scarce but always in demand. Seasonal logging and trapping in the mountains helped sustain some. Mining activity and providing supplies to prospectors were the other primary means of making a living. More often than not, however, conditions were such that settlers in the upper Skagit,

Cascade, and Stehekin River valleys were forced to travel out of the mountains periodically throughout the year to seek additional employment elsewhere.

In addition to environmental and economic constraints, settlers in the North Cascades found themselves confronting significant governmental restrictions by the end of the 19th century. In 1897, pioneers who had already settled in the area found themselves living within the boundaries of the Washington Forest Reserve, a huge area of land encompassing nearly all of today's park complex. This reserve was created to protect the region's remaining stands of marketable timber. Concurrent with the establishment of the National Forests was the passing of the Forest Homestead Act of 1906, designed to halt indiscriminate settlement and use of forest land. Matters were further complicated by settlement on unsurveyed lands, which included nearly all of this territory. Claims of this sort gave these settlers squatters' rights only. In 1906 the USFS embarked on an ambitious campaign to determine which homesteads were valid. Under the restrictions of the Homestead Act, few existing homesteads qualified as legal claims. Settlers were offered special-use permits by the USFS in order to remain on a temporary basis, or lost their land completely. Other settlers, particularly those in remote areas, were simply left alone. When they died, their homesteads became government land. Settlement was greatly hindered after 1906, and new settlers could not locate homes in the upper Skagit, Cascade, or Stehekin River regions of the North Cascades unless a legal property owner chose to subdivide his/her land and sell.

Not until Seattle City Light(SCL) began construction of their hydroelectric project along the Skagit in 1919 did the population of the region increase. SCL employees relocated from Seattle to this remote area, necessitating the formation of two company towns, Newhalem and Diablo, in 1919 and 1927 respectively. These towns had a significant impact on settlement patterns within the North Cascades. Newhalem had 75 3-bedroom cottages, six bunkhouses, a cookhouse, a warehouse, a general store, and a hotel built, all arranged along streets paralleling the Skagit River. Particular attention was given to the design of the landscape, and an urban setting of buildings, gardens, lighted streets, and sidewalks was recreated in the wilderness.Diablo was established several miles east of Newhalem. The wilderness of Reflector Bar, located at the base of Sourdough Mountain, was transformed into a modern residential community. The two secluded towns eventually were linked by SCL's private railroad, constructed in the 1920s and in operation until the 1950s. Today, the small communities of Newhalem and Diablo are home to both SCL employees as well as other individuals. Although the land is physically within the boundaries of the park complex, SCL retains ownership.

The only homestead along the banks of the Cascade River and within the park boundary was Gilbert Landre's. Landre was a French-Canadian miner who came up the Cascade River in search of minerals about 1888. Never filing a homestead claim, he cleared a small area of land along the North Fork of the Cascade, and erected a small log cabin.Landre was known to

have some mining claims in nearby Boston Basin, and he also hunted, trapped, and was a skilled axman. His ability with this tool is evident in the second and larger cabin he constructed, which remains today.

Cedar logs for this cabin were hand-hewn, possibly as early as 1892, using timber available on-site. By 1894 Landre's new home was in order. For the next decade and well after his death in 1905, GILBERT'S CABIN (#1024/06714) (as it was and is known today) became a familiar and appreciated stopping place for prospectors, surveyors, and other travelers heading into the North Cascades. The unique quality of the cabin lies in its construction: Landre used dovetail notches in laying the wide logs, and it is the only log cabin of this type standing within the park complex.

After Landre's death, years of neglect caused the cabin to deteriorate. Not until the 1940s were repair efforts attempted, when a group of interested local citizens rallied to restore the cabin. With assistance from the USFS, they sought to preserve the cabin as a historic site. The roof was replaced at this time, only to be destroyed the following year by a snow slide. Apparently in the 1950s foundation logs and floor joists were replaced, but this work marked the last effort to preserve Gilbert's cabin. Although the cabin no longer has a roof, the structural integrity of the notched walls and door and window openings is intact. The structure -- as a site -- has the potential to yield information important to settlement and log construction methods in the North Cascades from the late 19th century.

Homesteads along the upper Skagit River were established from the 1880s until the early years of the twentieth century: ten located permanent homesites within the boundaries of today's park. However,only two upper Skagit River homesteads have significant remains:the McMillan and Rowland homesteads. These are in extremely remote areas(flanking Ross Lake above Ross Dam) and neither John McMillan or Tommy Rowland ever filed for homestead entry. Severe winters, forest vegetation, and the lack of use and maintenance have all accelerated deterioration of these homesteads. However, a historical archeologist may determine that these sites, particularly Rowland's homestead, are eligible for the National Register under criterion D.

Remnants on McMillan's homestead consist of a few wooden boards from a house or barn, his gravesite, and what appears to have been a root cellar. Rowland's homestead was more developed. A Canadian from northern British Columbia, Rowland journeyed up the Skagit River about 1885 to pursue mining. Selecting an elevated site on the east bank of the Skagit across from Big Beaver Creek, Rowland built a sizeable log cabin, large barn, and root cellar from materials at hand. A small cleared area served as a garden where he cultivated vegetables. He also had a second place along the Skagit River, directly below this main homestead. There, Rowland erected a small cabin and outbuilding, and grew hay in a nearby pasture.

Rowland was last seen on his ranch in 1908. While his principal homestead lay abandoned and ignored, Rowland's lower place was taken over by the USFS for use as a guard station. It retained guard station status

at least until the late 1930s. When the dammed waters of the Skagit River backed up to the north, this site was inundated, obliterating all signs of human activity. Rowland's upper homestead remains intact and has considerable remnants including a log cabin, barn, root cellar, and what appears to be an outhouse.

The Stehekin River valley was unknown to white settlers until the 1880s when miners began infiltrating the region. From 1887 until the second decade of the 20th century settlers arrived in relatively significant numbers and [redacted]

Here, as on the west side, logging, mining, and ranching (crops) allowed many settlers to maintain a life in the mountains. The influx of miners to the region each summer provided an additional source of income, and hotels, boarding houses, and horsepacking became profitable ventures for local entrepreneurs. One of the earliest entrepreneurs was William F. Purple. Purple was a miner and homesteader who came to Stehekin in the 1890s and claimed land on the eastern lakeshore. By 1899 Purple was the proprietor of a hostelry known as the Mountain View House. His residence, sited on a ridge overlooking the lake, served as the inn. Purple continued to work on promising mining claims while operating the inn on his homestead until 1917, when he sold his land and left Stehekin.

Continuing up the densely-vegetated river valley, early settlers chose homesites along both banks of the river. Several miles upriver is the only intact 19th century homestead in the park complex today. The farthest to locate from the settlement at the head of the lake, miner William Buzzard, of Spokane, claimed 160 acres along a horseshoe bend in the river in 1889. Here he built a small log cabin and cleared many acres of land for pasture and cultivation. Farming and mining claims in Horseshoe Basin occupied most of Buzzard's time but he also did some horsepacking for other miners, and sold cordwood logged from his land to the boat company operating on Lake Chelan.

Buzzard lived on his ranch summers until 1910 when he sold his property to William Van Buckner, a Californian interested in developing the homestead further. The arrival of the Buckner family in Stehekin marks a second period of settlement in the valley. Between the years 1910 and 1920 more individuals and families came uplake to settle permanently, most arriving before 1915 and filing homestead claims shortly thereafter. While some new settlers were still associated with mining, many were not but found the remote valley attractive and not without opportunities.

The first Buckner to arrive in Stehekin, Henry Freeland Buckner, came uplake in 1898 and was active early on in the Horseshoe Basin mining area. He became a manager of an important mine there and was instrumental in getting a telephone line into the basin as early as 1905. He supplemented his mining income through carpentry work, and lived in Stehekin until his death ca. 1911.

In the spring of 1911 Henry's brother William and his family moved to Stehekin. Upon arrival, the family found that Buzzard had cleared only about an acre for a garden and left the remaining land full of stumps. With intentions of operating an orchard, the family set out to clear additional acreage. Proper irrigation of the land was necessary and the Buckners designed a system that would divert water from nearby [redacted] to various parts of the orchard. They spent two months of that first summer digging the irrigation ditch by hand; the rest of the summer was spent clearing stumps. By April of 1912, the family was able to plant 15-20 acres in apple trees.

Gradually the family increased their production until their ranch had about 50 acres of cleared and planted land. Along with improving the land for commercial production, the Buckner family worked hard at making their homestead comfortable. Buzzard's old log cabin served as the family's home, but other structures were needed to protect animals, machinery, tools, and foodstuffs. The Buckner ranch eventually had more than a dozen outbuildings, including a milk house, root cellar, barn, smokehouse, sleeping cabins for guests or hired help, and sheds for general use. Rough, unfinished board and batten siding was used for all the structures, giving them a homogeneous appearance. William Buckner and his wife Mae lived in the Buzzard cabin seasonally until 1924. Their son Harry began living year-round at the ranch in 1915, raised a family, and lived on the homestead until selling to the NPS in the 1970s.

Today the BUCKNER HOMESTEAD (#56-68, CS-4/#06716-23, 06725-29, 06732) remains intact in location and appearance. The NPS uses the homestead as a means of interpreting the pioneer era in the Stehekin valley. Changes have been made to numerous ranch structures over the years such as roofing, but their overall integrity has been retained, creating visible links between past and present. Newer structures are found on the property -- a woodshed (ca. 1952) and wagon shed (1982), both of log-pole construction -- but their rustic appearance adds to the overall architectural unity of the homestead, and they contribute to the cultural landscape. A cohesive historic district, only a small portion of land within the Buckner Homestead is considered non-contributing. Although it is no longer a working farm, people still live there, horses graze in the pasture, apples are picked in the fall, [redacted] water flows through the irrigation ditches, and many of the outbuildings are still in use. Remnants of other early features such as the swimming pool and barn can still be found around the ranch. William Buzzard's old log cabin is presently listed in the National Register, but the complex, as a whole system, is significant and retains the integrity necessary for listing in the Register.

Across the valley road from the Buckner homestead was Lydia George's property. Although not a traditional homesteader, Miss George was an early pioneer who came uplake by 1905 and remained in the valley for decades. Employed by Henry Buckner as a telephone operator on his line between Stehekin and Horseshoe Basin, she grew tired of working for others and in 1910 hired her employer to build a house on land she had purchased from William Buzzard. She opened a hostelry for miners, tourists, and

fishermen, providing them with good food and clean beds. The place was named Rainbow Lodge (#87/30138) after the nearby creek and falls, and it became a popular place to board.

As a result of the early success of the small lodge, Althea Rice, Lydia's sister, came uplake to help run the inn. With business steady and profitable the lodge continued to expand, and by the 1920s small individual cabins had been built on the property, used by guests from as far away as Kentucky. After Lydia died, Althea continued to operate the lodge up to World War II, when the Rainbow Lodge closed its doors permanently. In 1985, the Rainbow Lodge was determined eligible for listing in the National Register. No longer under NPS ownership, the lodge was demolished in 1988.

Hugh Courtney came uplake with his family in the 1910s to work at Stehekin's local sawmill. Filing a claim in 1918 for 53 acres, the Courtneys settled into their home, a log cabin built by a previous "squatter" about 1889. Courtney worked at improving the rough cabin, and cleared and plowed additional land for a garden. Within four years Courtney had doubled the size of his home by adding a rough lumber addition. He also built a cellar, barn, and hay shed on the homestead.

As the Courtney children grew up, they left home and moved elsewhere in the valley. Hugh and his wife lived in the old cabin until 1950 when they left Stehekin.Their son Curtice acquired the property, built a new house next door, and used the old cabin as rental property. Eventually Curt subdivided the family homestead, selling off parcels, and in 1971 he sold the remaining land and the old cabin to the National Park Service.

Today, the COURTNEY CABIN (#89/06730) is listed in the National Register as an example of homesteading efforts in the Stehekin valley. As a result of a lack of maintenance the structure is extremely deteriorated. The outbuildings and wood frame additions to the cabin were removed by the NPS in the 1970s, and the root cellar was closed as a safety measure.

Remnants from other early homesteads can still be found on privately-owned lands in the valley. However, these were not included in this nomination because the NPS does not have jurisdiction over these sites.

One other building of note associated with early settlement and development in the Stehekin valley is the STEHEKIN SCHOOL (No #). Various log cabins served as schools over the years as the community of Stehekin grew. As new families arrived and others departed, the need for a centrally located schoolhouse arose. In 1921, valley residents assembled to select a site for a new school. Materials for the building were all crafted by the community. Logs were cut, notched, and filled by volunteers, money was raised through "box socials" for flooring, windows, and doors, and in the late summer residents gathered to build the schoolhouse. Now listed in the National Register, the school is attended

by valley children in kindergarten through 8th grade, and is a symbol of pride to all Stehekin residents.

Industrial/Commercial Development: 1880s-1945

The land within the park complex has been used for decades for commercial purposes, including trapping, agriculture, logging, mining, and hydroelectric production. Many of these operations were successful for a time, but most fell prey to the region's inhospitable character. Unpredictable weather conditions, a lack of easy routes into and out of the mountains, and distance from supply centers all worked against many individuals and outfits attempting to exploit and profit from the resources of the North Cascades.

Trapping

Fur trapping represents the earliest commercial use of the area's resources. By the beginning of the 19th century, fur trappers and traders had discovered the Columbia River basin and its wealth of fur-bearing animals. It was only a matter of time before trappers penetrated the North Cascades. Although the early trappers directed most of their attention to securing beaver pelts, other animals such as bears, wolves, lynx, and foxes were trapped as well.

Trapping activity slowed in the mid-19th century as the number of traders and active trading posts decreased and overtrapping took its toll. In the late nineteenth century, however, as people began locating homes along the Skagit and Stehekin Rivers, a new type of fur trapper emerged as many of these early settlers and miners turned to trapping as a means of supplementing their wilderness existence. Trapping remained a viable activity for many years. As administrator of the land in the 20th century, the USFS did not discourage individuals from earning an income in this manner. They issued permits enabling trappers to build cabins in the backcountry for use during the trapping season.

John Dayo began trapping in the upper Skagit valley in the 1920s. He ran trap lines along Bacon Creek, the Cascade River, Thunder Creek, and Fisher Creek. Dayo is believed to have built ROCK CABIN (#1216/30127), a unique log structure located on the north side of the Fisher Creek trail. Built against an enormous rock, the rough cabin was constructed with materials found on site. Rock Cabin is significant for its associations with trapping as a commercial activity in the park, and for its unique architectural character. Although remnants or foundations of other trapping cabins can be found elsewhere in the park, Rock Cabin is the only one which retains integrity.

Agricultural Activity

Agricultural activity in the North Cascades began with the arrival of settlers into the region. Living off the land required, at minimum, the

cultivation of a garden. With the extreme and unpredictable mountain weather, there was no guarantee crops would grow from one season to the next. As a result, settlers depended heavily on each other and often exchanged foodstuffs and goods for the equivalent in similar goods or services.

The exchange of produce never developed commercially beyond the local market. The only commercial agricultural venture that operated in the area of today's park was the BUCKNER HOMESTEAD apple orchard in the community of Stehekin (see Early Settlement). The orchard was small but successful for many years and was able to employ valley residents seasonally for the harvesting of the crop.

Ranching, specifically cattle and sheep grazing, was another agricultural activity which occurred historically in the North Cascades. Most of this activity was on the eastern slopes of the mountains. However, there are no historic resources that are associated with this activity, and it is no longer permitted in the park.

Logging

Timber was recognized at an early date as a valuable resource of the North Cascades. For more than eighty years trees were cut from the forests on both sides of the divide and used in a multitude of ways. Early harvesting in the park complex was limited and localized, undertaken primarily by settlers in need of wood for homes, outbuildings, fences, and boats, and by miners requiring lumber for their operations. An obvious hindrance to logging in the North Cascades was, for many years, the lack of a complete transportation system.

The greatest physical impact upon the North Cascades of which logging was a direct result was SCL's initiation and implementation of its Skagit River hydroelectric project. In connection with the construction of its dams, SCL built a railroad from Rockport, where the tracks of the Great Northern Railroad terminated, to Newhalem and later Diablo. This rail route was located along the north bank of the river, and a swath of land was logged before rails were laid down. Stumps from this effort can still be seen today along the highway. In 1945, SCL awarded a contract for the sale and removal of timber in the upper Skagit which was destined to be inundated with the building of Ross Dam. Stumps from this operation can be seen in the winter when the level of the lake drops below full pool.

All along the Stehekin valley road selective logging occurred on private lands. When the level of Lake Chelan was slated to rise 21 feet in the late 1920s upwards of 500 acres were to be inundated. This necessitated the removal of buildings at the head of the lake as well as the clearing of timber. There are no extant historic resources in the park associated with this activity.

Mining

The history of mining in the North Cascades is a complex story of great

hopes and shattered dreams. As early as the 1850s prospectors searched for gold by placer mining the banks of the Skagit River. When the "mother lode" proved illusory, miners turned their attention to other minerals, leaving the river for the hard rock of the high country. Over the course of ninety years, both placer and lode mining were undertaken to extract the ores. However, short working seasons, unpredictable weather conditions, limited transportation and access, and lack of working capital combined to inhibit the large-scale development of mines in the area of today's park.

Mining activity did nevertheless have an impact upon the park complex. Mining brought hundreds of people into the region.Cabins and other structures necessary for mining operations were constructed and strategically sited throughout the backcountry. Bridges were built to span dangerous water crossings, and a network of trails for horse and foot traffic gradually evolved, linking remote areas throughout the mountains. Miners navigated water routes as far as possible before setting out on foot with supplies and tools on their backs. On the west side of the range the steep-walled canyon of the Skagit River above Goodell's Landing (present day Newhalem)proved impassable, and early miners were forced to hike over Sourdough Mountain to reach the mining areas.In the 1880s miners petitioned and received funds from the state to improve access. The most expeditious route to the backcountry was along the north bank of the Skagit. Construction of this route required dynamiting a ledge along the canyon walls and building several wooden suspension bridges over open gorges. The route, known by all who traveled it as the Goat Trail, had one particularly dangerous section called the DEVIL'S CORNER (#CS-2/06724). High above the Skagit waters, on an extremely narrow and precarious ledge, miners and their heavily-laden pack trains gingerly crossed a hanging puncheon bridge suspended beneath a blasted section of rock wall. Although extremely deteriorated, sections of the Goat Trail near the Devil's Corner can still be located today hugging the river's north bank. The Devil's Corner is a significant historic resource and is presently listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Mining had a direct impact on the economy as well as the physical landscape. One profitable business for settlers was the operation of roadhouses or inns. On both slopes of the Cascades individuals and families opened their homes, renting rooms and serving meals to prospectors. These roadhouses were the last bastions of civilization, providing miners with fresh food and clean beds before they headed out for weeks of isolation in the mountains. On the west side, Gilbert Landre's cabin, Goodell's Landing, the Ruby Creek Inn, and the Davis family homestead at Cedar Bar, all served miners and other travelers; in Stehekin, the Argonaut/Field Hotel, the Mountain View House, and the Rainbow Lodge operated in this capacity. Of these, only Gilbert's Cabin stands today.

The 1890s brought a new wave of prospectors into the North Cascades. This second rush was characterized by hard rock or lode mining instead of placer mining, and miners were pushing farther into the backcountry. As

the 20th century approached, and through its first decade, mining in the North Cascades remained an active industry. It was a new era for mining as large companies financed by stockholders replaced the individual miners and prospectors of the early days.Throughout the region, these companies actually began substantial development work on their claims. Trails were extended far into the mountains; log cabins were built to house miners on their way to and from the mines; sawmills produced lumber for structures; pipelines carried water, producing power to run mining equipment.

One of the larger mining concerns which made considerable "improvements" in the park complex was the Skagit Queen Consolidated Mining Company. Working in the Thunder Creek drainage, the company built a substantial mining camp below the claims on a flat along Skagit Queen Creek by 1908. Bunkhouses, a cookhouse, a storehouse, powder house, and barn were built as support facilities for the operation. A sizeable log power plant was constructed along the Thunder Creek trail to provide power for machine drills and lights in the mine and camp 5000 feet away. A hand-riveted metal pipeline ran several hundred feet from Thunder Creek to the plant to power an electric generator. Farther down Thunder Creek other cabins served as waystations for company employees. Packtrains usually stopped at Middle Cabin and at MEADOW CABINS (EAST: #1218/30125; WEST: #1217/30124). Middle Cabin was a log structure built by miner and settler Jack Durand in the 1890s; it was removed by the NPS in the 1970s. Meadow Cabins were built about the same time, possibly by the Skagit Queen company, for use as a halfway station to its mining camp. Still standing approximately ten miles from the present-day Thunder Creek trailhead, Meadow Cabin West, the larger of the two, is a two-room structure with a sleeping loft; Meadow Cabin East appears to have been used for storage. As with Middle Cabin, Meadow Cabins were used as backcountry shelters by miners, trappers, government personnel, and hikers. The relocation of the Thunder Creek trail to a higher elevation in more recent times has left the historic cabins intact and for the most part, undisturbed. They represent excellent examples of square-notched log construction and have significant associations with mining efforts in the North Cascades.The upper mining camp did not fair as well.By 1920 all of the buildings were in poor condition, and by 1975, the old camp was no longer standing.

Horseshoe Basin, located north of the Stehekin River's headwaters, had the largest concentration of mineral claims historically in the park. Beginning in 1889, minerals were traced from the Doubtful Lake mines to the basin by M.M. Kingman and the Pershall brothers. By 1899 more than forty claims had been located in the upper and lower basin. Of all the mines, the BLACK WARRIOR (#22) gained the most notoriety. Located in lower Horseshoe Basin, the Black Warrior was the only one from a group of three patented claims which could boast any major development work. The mine was discovered in 1889, and was the second major mine to be located in the Stehekin valley. Two years later, the discoverers sold their holdings for the unprecedented sum of $30,000, making this the largest sale ever for a mining property in the valley.

The new owners of the Black Warrior developed the mine by drilling hundreds of feet into the hard rock ledge and constructing a mining camp. The Black Warrior received its patent in 1901, and was probably mined into the 1910s. Many factors, including high costs and low profits, caused mining activity between the 1920s and 1940s to be sporadic. Not until 1946 did mining in the basin revive. Motivated by promising assays and by the state's efforts to complete a mine-to market road over Cascade Pass, a new company now attempted to develop the mine. The valley road was extended from Cottonwood Camp (end of present-day valley road) approximately three miles. From here, the company built a truck road in 1947 that reached the lower basin. When a snow slide levelled the company's facilities and destroyed the road in the 1950s, the decision was made to cease operation.

The basin is quiet today. The Black Warrior Mine, listed in the National Register, has two "rooms" flanking the main adit which hold wooden shelves, tables, and support timbers. Blasted from the rock in the 1940s, one room was used by the miners as a kitchen and the other for sleeping quarters. It is the only mine in the park which can safely be explored by visitors.

Bridge Creek was another major area of mining on the east side. Beginning in the early 1890s, dozens of mining claims were located and worked for more than a decade along the numerous tributaries of Bridge Creek. The confluence of Bridge Creek and the Stehekin River was historically a strategic location for miners traveling into the upper Stehekin valley, Horseshoe Basin, and upper Bridge Creek. It was the site of several mineral claims, a post office, and a supply store. On a flat overlooking the river stands a board and batten cabin. Although it is possible that this cabin dates from the 1890s, it was probably constructed later, in the 1920s. The BRIDGE CREEK CABIN (#84/30128) is a significant historic resource for its associations with mining in the Bridge Creek area. Furthermore, it is the only extant mining structure constructed of wood board and battens, in the vernacular tradition.

The old SULPHIDE or FRISCO CABIN (#30132) built by A.H. Peterson still stands on a former mining claim along the Bridge Creek hiker trail. Beginning in the 1920s, Peterson spent many summers developing his three claims along upper Bridge Creek. The large, two-room cabin is believed to be the second one built on the site. This cabin is the only remaining structure associated with mining along the Bridge Creek drainage; within the park, it is a unique example of round-hewn, half-notched log cabin construction.

Hydroelectricity

Since the late nineteenth century, glacier-fed streams flowing out of the North Cascades were viewed as potential sources of power production. For that purpose both individuals and companies harnessed the waters of rivers and creeks, producing electricity for the operation of homesteads,

mines,and mills. Individuals in the area of today's park utilized hydropower on a limited scale to generate power for running mining equipment and sawmills. To this day, the remains of a water-operated power plant(associated with the Skagit Queen mining operation) can be seen along the Thunder Creek trail, and remnants of a Pelton Wheel and sawmill can be found not far from Doubtful Lake.These sites do not appear to meet the integrity standards needed for listing in the National Register. However, a survey of the site by a historical archeologist may reveal these sites are eligible for listing for their potential to yield information about industrial technology and development.

Recreational Development: 1880s-1945

Since the late 19th century, hundreds of thousands of outdoor enthusiasts have been lured to the North Cascades for physical and mental challenge, rest and relaxation, and a scenic grandeur not found in their daily experience. Tourists made their way into this region via the east side as early as the 1890s; because of difficulties in access, the west side did not experience the arrival of tourists until well into the 20th century. Sightseeing, fishing, hunting,boating, horseback riding, and mountain climbing were some of the more favored activities. In 1899 the Portland Mazamas, the northwest's oldest mountaineering club, visited Lake Chelan and the Stehekin valley. Their presence was billed as being of inestimable importance in spreading information about ". . . a great but scarcely-known wonderland of the Pacific Northwest."

The automobile and its mass production in the 1920s allowed many more people to travel freely around the region. Promotional brochures on the automobile roads of Washington State lured many with promises of adventure in the remote reaches of the mountains. Once the realm of the hardy few, out of the way places throughout the northwest were systematically made accessible through the construction of roads. The USFS, in conjunction with state and county governments, was responsible for building many. With auto tourism came new demands on the wilderness: lodges, rustic cabins, and campgrounds were built by both the public and private sector in response. Recreation had become a viable business. The area of today's park, however, was spared such early impacts. For many years, no roads penetrated the wilderness. It was simply impossible to reach the wild core of the North Cascades without tremendous physical effort and that fact alone left most of this region untrammeled by tourists for decades. Only those who were hardy, adventurous, and willing to forego conveniences made the attempt.

Beginning in the 1910s, the federal government made some effort to encourage recreation in the North Cascades. The care of backcountry visitors became increasingly important to the USFS as greater numbers entered the area for sport. Public campgrounds provided by the USFS became more common, and simple lean-tos were built for the comfort of these travelers. These structures were replaced in the 1930s with substantial 3-sided log shelters, 5 of which remain in the backcountry today: BEAVER

PASS (#1209); PERRY CREEK (#1208); BRIDGE CREEK (#30130); HIGH BRIDGE (#30133); and FLICK CREEK (No #). Thoughtfully designed and sensitive to their backwoods setting, these shelters are significant for their association with the theme of recreation in the North Cascades and as a distinct building type and method of construction.

Tourism was encouraged in a serious way for the first time by Seattle City Light (SCL). From their inception in the mid-1920s, SCL's promotional "Skagit Tours" were a phenomenal success. Thousands of visitors from Seattle and elsewhere were entertained on an inexpensive two-day tour which included breathtaking views of the mountains, train rides, home-cooked meals, exotic animals, tropical garden walks, boat rides, movies, and tours of the hydroelectric plants.In general, however, this was a very limited and controlled form of recreation.

Tourists had more choices on the east side. Although camping was always an option, early travelers often chose the comfortable inns and hotels conveniently sited along the lakeshore between Chelan and Stehekin. The most prominent of these was the Field Hotel, situated at the head of the lake. Touted as one of the most popular resorts in the state by some, the Field had humble beginnings. It was originally built, owned and operated by George Hall, an early Stehekin settler and entrepreneur. Originally a simple 2-story wood-frame structure with a wrap-around porch, it was enlarged over the years to become an elegant hotel serving miners and tourists. The hotel facility was self-sufficient in every manner: a barn, woodshed, chicken house, ice house, and laundry building were all sited on the property. Land was cleared to grow hay for the hotel's packhorses, and fruit trees and vegetables were grown to supply hotel guests with the freshest produce available. This structure brought Stehekin a fame and recognition that was felt long after the hotel was razed in the 1920s with the raising of the lake.

Early settler and miner William F. Purple established the Mountain View House overlooking Lake Chelan shortly after his arrival in 1897. Purple's residence served as the inn, and by 1900, he had built a dock on the lakeshore with steps leading up to the house. The surrounding landscape was embellished with ornamental plantings, rock-lined paths and terraces, and decorative rock piles. Tent platforms were located beneath trees for those guests who wished to sleep outdoors.

The last of the early Stehekin resorts, the Rainbow Lodge opened in 1910 offering the public yet another overnight alternative at the head of the lake. Lydia George, the proprietress, had a simple, six-room wood-frame structure built, its most noticeable feature being a long sloping gable roofline. Located about 2-1/2 miles from the head of the lake, the hostelry was sited back from the valley road. A large clearing provided pasture for packhorses and cows, and space for a vegetable garden. Guests (mostly miners in the early years) were assured great comfort during their stay at the Rainbow Lodge. For a number of years veteran Stehekin horsepacker and miner Dan Devore used the Rainbow Lodge as a base camp for his seasonal operation.

The 1910s brought Lydia George steady business. With the added help of her sister Althea Rice and a man named Jamie Jameson, the Rainbow Lodge expanded. Flowers and rock walls, steps, and terraces were thoughtfully added to enhance and ornament the lodge's mountain setting. As valley mining died, the lodge became less of a boarding house for miners and more of a lodge for tourists and fishermen. In 1985 Rainbow Lodge was determined eligible for listing in the National Register; it was demolished in 1988.

The Mountain View House functioned as a lodge until Purple left the area in 1918, selling his property to the power company developing hydroelectricity on Lake Chelan. The Rainbow Lodge served meals to day visitors and rented rooms and cabins until the advent of World War II. Closed during wartime, it was never to re-open after Lydia George's death. The Field, however, continued to serve tourists until the raising of Lake Chelan. The main portion of the hotel was dismantled and materials such as windows, doors, stairways, and moldings were salvaged and reused in the construction of a hotel which stands today, the GOLDEN WEST LODGE (#6, 9-15/301 40-301 47).

Built in 1926 on the site of the old Purple homestead, the Golden West continued in the Field's tradition. Owner and local Stehekin resident Jack Blankenship built an inn which was fairly typical of the day's tourist accommodation: a spacious resort hotel located in a scenic area which blended rustic simplicity with some elements of elegance and comfort. Inside, the atmosphere was casual, with a grouping of davenports and chairs around a large native stone fireplace, all set in an open lobby. A dining room overlooking the lake was separated from the main lobby by a pair of french doors. A central stairway in the lobby led to a second floor and open balcony supported by massive peeled and varnished log posts. Blankenship had earlier built a small, one room rustic log cabin farther up the valley and moved it to a site north of the main lodge, for use as a rental cabin.

When the lake boat began making daily trips to and from Chelan, day visitors to Stehekin increased. Because they needed no overnight accommodations, the nature of tourism at the head of the lake changed. Fewer visitors came uplake, most preferring to remain downlake with their cars on roads which led them to new and perhaps more exciting places. World War II brought an end to most pleasure travel. Both lodges operating in Stehekin at the time, the Golden West and the Rainbow, closed their doors.

After wartime travel restrictions and gas rationing were lifted, only the Golden West re-opened for business. To expand their facilities, the lodge's new owners built five small log veneer and wood-frame cabins, adding to the one built earlier. Fully furnished and fitted with plumbing and electricity, the rustic cabins allowed guests to come and go as they

pleased and added a new dimension to the resort on the lake. A small swimming pool was built behind the lodge and kept filled with water diverted from Purple Creek; a fish pond and shuffleboard court were also added to the site. Rock walls and terraces, and flower beds and fruit trees further enhanced the picturesque quality of the Golden West.

The lodge went through a series of owners and proprietors over the years of its operation. The short tourist season and the distance from supply centers were partially responsible. After the establishment of the national park in 1968, the company which owned the lodge sold its interest in the property to the government. Today, the Golden West represents the oldest large-scale resort in the national park. It has not changed substantially since first constructed. Though no longer used in its original capacity(it is a visitor center today),it remains an important part of the Stehekin landscape. A well-defined historic district, it is significant for its association with the Field Hotel and the recreation theme, and for its status as the only extant example of a major wilderness resort in the North Cascades. The complex retains its cluster of associated outbuildings and many landscape features including a sophisticated series of rock-walled terraces. Although the five rustic log cabins do not meet National Register age requirements, they were built as an integral part of the Golden West Lodge operation, expanding the lodge's ability to accommodate ever-increasing numbers of recreationists. They are significant additions to the historic scene.

The 1940s and post-war years brought a rise in the building of vacation or retirement homes. These were preceded by a few others which no longer stand but which likely served as precedents for others. Art Peterson had a log cabin built by local resident and hotel owner Jack Blankenship on 15 acres he had owned at Bridge Creek. Peterson had mining claims on upper Bridge Creek and used this cabin in conjunction with that activity and for recreational use. In the mid-to-late-1930s Blankenship built a small log cabin for rental purposes on a picturesque site along Purple Creek at Stehekin Landing. The first renter was a fisherman named Everett McKellar, hence the name McKellar Cabin, a designation still used today. Later, Blankenship sold the property to a California couple who hired Blankenship to build them a sizeable log cabin next door in 1940, the GEORGE MILLER HOUSE (#35/30139), now NPS housing.

Literally dozens of this building type were built over the years as property owners sub-divided their land, selling off smaller parcels. The George Miller house is significant for its association with prominant Stehekin resident Jack Blankenship. Furthermore, it is a fine example of recreation homebuilding in the valley, reflecting an earlier era's sensitivity to the environment with the application of native materials to create a structure rustic in appearance.

On the west side of the mountain divide, the damming of the Skagit River created a new paradise for boaters and fishermen. The enormous man-made reservoirs of Diablo and Ross Lakes, the latter of which reaches to the Canadian border, are perfect for trout fishing, canoeing, and motor boating. The completion of the North Cascades Highway in 1972 opened up

this northern country in a remarkable way. Access to trails heading deep into the backcountry has been facilitated by this road and by numerous former logging roads still extant entering or skirting today's park.

Government:Federal Management and Use: 1897-1945

Before the turn of the century and not long after miners and settlers had made the mountains their home, the federal government began a long-lasting involvement in the North Cascades that continues today. Over the years, decisions made by various government agencies had an impact on the wilderness: trails, shelters, lookouts, mines, dams, campgrounds, bridges, and lakes are some of the structures and features which resulted from these decisions. Perhaps the greatest manipulator of this wilderness both directly and indirectly was the United States Forest Service (USFS), an agency which managed much of the North Cascades for 63 years, but other agencies were present in the region as well.

Federal stewardship of the region began in 1897 when substantial amounts of forest land in the North Cascades were set aside by the government for protection. The alarming rate at which the forests of the eastern seaboard and the midwest had been indiscriminately harvested prompted the government to respond through the designation of reserves in 1891. Six years later additional lands embracing both slopes of the North Cascades were withdrawn and named the Washington Forest Reserve. Concurrently, the Organic Administration Act was passed, providing guidelines for the management of these large protected areas. Under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior, individuals were appointed to monitor and regulate activities such as illegal timber cutting, land fraud, squatter settlement, and grazing permits.

The year 1905 was a landmark for forest reserves. It was the year administration of the reserves was transferred from the Department of the Interior to the Department of Agriculture. The USFS was created and headed by a trained professional forester, and the concept of a forest "ranger" became a working reality in the management of these areas.

By an act of Congress in 1907 the name "forest reserves" was changed to "national forests." The next year a series of Executive Orders established four smaller forests from the larger Washington National Forest and transferred portions of the land to a fifth, already established forest. These management decisions resulted in the creation of the Chelan (CNF) and Washington National Forest (WNF)--whose common boundary was the summit of the North Cascades--covering land which is now part of the park. Later, in 1924,the WNF was renamed the Mount Baker National Forest (MBNF).

The USFS' primary function was supplying the United States with a permanent wood supply. Wood was but one of four forest "products" of interest to the USFS in its early years: water, forage, and recreation were equally important resources. In an effort to protect these resources, the USFS built roads, constructed lookouts which extended the agency's capability of protecting against forest fires; built and maintained an extensive network of trails that enabled a broader spectrum of

recreationists to enjoy the backwoods; and finally, helped in the monumental task of surveying and mapping the backcountry of the North Cascades.

While the intentions and goals of the USFS were established at a national level, their policies were carried out at a local level by a protective organization of on-site guardians known as forest rangers. Rangers were stationed and lived in designated districts, monitoring and assuring the proper and legal use of forest resources. The rangers constructed stations which served as home and office. In the area of today's park, the Skagit and Stehekin Ranger Districts played the most significant roles in fulfilling USFS policy and shaping the physical landscape. Both districts had numerous rangers over the years, with varying degrees of experience in forest resources and public communications.

Ranger stations for the Skagit and Stehekin Districts were located in Marblemount and Stehekin respectively. The land for the Skagit station, known as Backus Ranger Station, was acquired from early homesteader Frank Backus. Set deep in the woods against a mountain backdrop, the Backus Ranger Station evolved from a single structure, built in 1909, into a substantial complex. By 1915 a barn, chicken house, and woodshed were built, and before the close of the same year, a foundation for a new barn was in place.

In 1926 the first residence was replaced by another of similar proportions, and an identical structure serving as an office was built adjacent to the residence ca. 1929. In the 1930s, the USFS embarked upon an ambitious building program at Backus. Under USFS supervision, the Civilian Conservation Corps' (CCC) relief workers rebuilt the station increasing the capacity and physical plant of Backus twofold. A warehouse, shop, garage, and possibly an additional residence were all added to the grounds. Carefully sited and constructed of similar materials and design, the new structures gave Backus a cohesiveness and new definition in comparison to its earlier appearance. The station looks different today: while a few buildings remain intact, others have been removed or altered, and new infill structures lack the architectural distinction of their predecessors. Only two MARBLEMOUNT RESIDENCES (#1009/30113; #1010/30114) retain the integrity necessary for listing in the National Register. These structures are significant for their association with the USFS era of administration in the North Cascades, and are excellent examples of USFS design 1930s residential architecture.

The STEHEKIN RANGER STATION (#2/30148) was neither as large nor as defined as its counterpart to the west. Originally located north of the Field Hotel at the head of Lake Chelan, this station was destroyed in the late 1920s because of rising lake waters. The primary ranger station was moved to Purple Point, the vicinity of the new boat landing. Named after the early pioneer who homesteaded the land, the complex was known as the Purple Point Ranger Station. A substantial structure was built there ca. 1926 as a combination residence and office,and a small woodshed was sited behind the main building. Approximately two years later, ca. 1928, a warehouse was built which served as a new office and living quarters when

needed. Concurrent with the construction of the warehouse, a bunkhouse similar in design to the main residence was built up the slope to the east. This building provided seasonal housing for fire crews stationed at Stehekin.

When the CCC established a temporary work camp in Stehekin in the late 1930s, a crew constructed a barn and an oil/gas house, both of which were removed in later years by the USFS. Today, the ranger station residence and woodshed remain intact with a high degree of integrity; the warehouse and bunkhouse are extant but have undergone alterations. The ranger station residence is significant for its association with the USFS-era of administration in the North Cascades, and as an excellent example of USFS-designed residential architecture from the late 1920s.

Along with the two primary district ranger stations, the USFS had an additional support system comprised of smaller guard stations. These stations were often built with an eye toward permanence and were strategically sited along important communication and travel routes within the forest. In most cases these sites were manned seasonally or used as way stations or base camps for work operations deep in the backcountry.

In the Stehekin District there were four of these guard stations established over the course of many years, varying in degrees of administrative importance. One of the more important ones was HIGH BRIDGE (#81-83/30134-30137). Approximately ten miles from present-day Stehekin Landing, near the point where Agnes Creek joins the Stehekin River, the USFS selected a flat as the site for High Bridge Ranger Station. Built ca. 1933-34 for use as a backcountry base for USFS employees, High Bridge was used primarily during the summer months when fire and trail crews scoured the high country. The use of similar materials, the scale, and overall design of the buildings at High Bridge gave the station a cohesive and classic USFS character which remains today. As a well-defined historic district, it is significant for its association with the USFS-era of administration in the North Cascades, and as the only remaining example of an unaltered, USFS-designed complex within the park. USFS structures in Marblemount, Stehekin, and High Bridge, though restrained in architectural details and ornament, reflect architectural principles based on a rustic architecture theme. Basic tenets of the style resulted in structures blending in with, and not intruding upon, their surroundings; building colors were primarily earth tones such as warm browns or tans in order to be in harmony with the setting; materials reflected the forested environment and wood was used without exception.

Beyond High Bridge, the most remote USFS administrative site was situated at Bridge Creek where it empties into the Stehekin River. For many years, cabins built by miners at this location had served as way-stations for USFS employees and others heading into the backcountry. By the 1930s, the USFS chose Bridge Creek as a site for a more permanent ranger station. A residence and possibly other structures were built and a barn and corral were erected nearby. Infrequently used, Bridge Creek Ranger Station was eventually abandoned by the USFS. All of these buildings were eventually removed. When the NPS assumed jurisdiction of the land, it used one of the remaining mining cabins to house a

backcountry ranger. This board and batten structure, the BRIDGE CREEK RANGER STATION RESIDENCE (#84), stands today and is significant for its association with mining in the North Cascades, and as the only example of a property type associated with mining built or designed in this fashion.

The Skagit District, a considerably larger area than the Stehekin District, had nearly a dozen secondary guard stations situated along major drainages. At the confluence of Ruby Creek and the Skagit River, Ruby Guard Station was an early station of considerable importance. Dating from 1913 or earlier, Ruby remained a station until it was taken over by Seattle City Light and used as a work camp during dam construction. Prior to the flooding of the site, all buildings associated with the station and camp were removed. By the early 1940s the USFS had relocated Ruby Creek station farther upstream along what is now Ruby Arm. Portable buildings were brought to the site and a seasonal USFS crew constructed a pole barn up the slope.This barn was sited on 10 acres which had been cleared for pasture by SCL in compensation for other land lost to flooding. Use of the station diminished and most of the portable buildings were removed by the USFS in the late 1950s and early 1960s. None of these structures remain: Ruby Barn was removed in 1987.

The job of USFS ranger was rarely routine. Primary duties as set forth by USFS programs included timber sales, land surveys, fish planting, fire protection, and trail and telephone line construction and maintenance. Homestead surveys were undertaken by rangers who often found themselves in the crucial role of determining a settler's destiny. The forest ranger measured acreage and recorded a homesteader's progress on his/her land. He considered, among other things, the amount of cleared land which had been put to agricultural use and whether the claimant had built a permanent residence on the claimed property.

An early and major duty was fire protection. Trail systems served as a method of fire control for they offered the most expeditious means of reaching fires in the backcountry. In addition, lookouts became a critical tool for fire management in the national forests. A ranger in a lookout could stand as sentinel over a vast area of land, detecting fires miles away. The first lookouts, built in the 1910s, were interesting frame structures capped with observation cupolas. None of these are extant today in the park. During the 1930s, the USFS embarked upon an ambitious lookout construction program taking advantage of New Deal funding and manpower programs such as the CCC. Forty-three lookouts of standard design were built atop peaks and ridges.

Sourdough Mountain had the park's first lookout, built in 1916 by an early settler who lived at the base of the mountain. This structure was retained until the 1930s when the CCC dismantled the original building, and constructed a new one of a standard USFS design. Other lookouts built within and on the boundary of today's park were found on Copper Ridge (1934), [illegible] Ridge (late 1930s), Bacon Point (a 35' tower lookout built

prior to 1934), Roland Point (a tower built in the 1930s), Desolation (1932), Hidden Lake(1931), McGregor Mountain (1926), Goode Ridge (1930s), Stiletto Peak (1930s), and Boulder Butte (1930s).

The lookout system began its decline when aerial surveillance proved less expensive and more reliable than foot patrols. Although the trail system into the backcountry was extensive, fire suppression crews hiking in with heavy packs were exhausted by the time they reached the flames. Smokejumping was first introduced in the Chelan National Forest in the late 1930s and became increasingly important. By the 1950s many of the now obsolete lookouts were dismantled and removed by the USFS. Only three remain in the park and under NPS jurisdiction: DESOLATION (#1227/30127), COPPER RIDGE (#1228/30115), and SOURDOUGH (#1226/30118). These structures are significant for their association with USFS administration of the North Cascades and are good examples of a unique and specialized property type built by the USFS. In addition to its significance as a distinct building type, Desolation Lookout is important for its association with Jack Kerouac, the "beat-generation" author. Kerouac was a seasonal fire lookout in the Mt. Baker National Forest and was stationed at Desolation Peak in 1958. Inspired by his 360 degree view of the Cascades from atop the mountain, Kerouac penned Desolation Angels in 1965. By that time his writings had already become an influential force in 20th century American literature.

Forest rangers became increasingly involved with recreation issues in the national forests as public use and demands on recreational resources grew. The USFS began to provide minimal services for increasing numbers of sportsmen and hikers. Designated campgrounds were established along river and creek trails, and rough lean-tos were built from nearby timber. A shelter building program began in the 1910s and on both the east and west sides of the mountains, 3-sided shelters of log poles and cedar shakes were built to accommodate these travelers.

Recreational use of the national forests began to receive serious attention during the New Deal years. The arrival of the CCC meant new manpower in the national forests. Trail systems were extended, ranger and guard stations rebuilt, new fire lookouts were added high atop mountain ridges, and additional shelters were built along backcountry trails. The addition of shelters was as much a response to the USFS' management needs (providing emergency housing for its trail and fire crews) as it was a desire to provide shelter for visitors using the forests recreationally. Along Lake Chelan and the Stehekin River valley, the CCC constructed rustic log pole and shake "USFS regulation" shelters at FLICK CREEK (No #), HIGH BRIDGE (#30133), and BRIDGE CREEK (#30130), all of which are used today. It is likely that CCC crews, in conjunction with USFS crews, also assisted in building shelters in the Skagit District (BEAVER PASS #1209/30117; PERRY CREEK #1208/30116). Because of the nature of the construction these shelters appear to be in total harmony with their surroundings. The use of native materials further accentuates the structures' ability to blend in with the environment. These shelters are significant for their association with the theme of recreation and USFS

administration of the North Cascades; only five of these rustic shelters remain in an area which once boasted many, and all retain a high degree of integrity.

In cooperation with the USFS, other federal and state agencies had a presence in the North Cascades, some more obvious than others. While they operated independently from the USFS, they were required to secure authorization from the USFS for their various projects and activities. Second only to the USFS in the scale of its projects, Seattle City Light (SCL) came to the upper Skagit River region in the late 1910s and embarked upon an ambitious hydroelectric project on the Skagit River. SCL not only transformed the upper river, it altered the wilderness by introducing urban elements into a pristine landscape with its construction of two company towns, Newhalem and Diablo.

The CCC was another government entity which had an impact in the North Cascades. Between the years 1933 and 1942 thousands of young men were recruited, tested, and assigned to CCC camps prepared for work. In Washington State alone, a total of 50 camps employed thousands of individuals whose work accomplishments included the construction of lookouts, telephone lines, truck trails, and minor roads; tree planting; fighting forest fires; and reducing fire hazards.In the area of today's park, CCC camps were established at Bacon Creek and Stehekin. The Bacon Creek camp worked on projects in the Skagit Ranger District beginning in 1933. They enlarged the small Backus Ranger Station, cleared additional land, landscaped the grounds, and painted all of the structures. Other work in the district included the clearing and grading of the existing Skagit road and Bacon Creek road.

Operating somewhat later, the CCC camp in Stehekin was activated in the late 1930s as a "side" camp, drawing 16-20 men from the main CCC camp at 25-Mile Creek situated downlake.This crew built three sturdy log shelters for recreational purposes at Bridge Creek, High Bridge, and Flick Creek. Trails, telephone lines, and bridges in the backcountry were also improved, upgraded, and rebuilt.

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) had a presence in the North Cascades by the first decade of the twentieth century. For the purposes of recording changing water levels and predicting spring run-off from the mountains, the USGS maintained stream-gauging stations along rivers and snow survey courses in the high country. The snow survey courses outlasted the gauging stations and can still be found today deep in the backcountry of the national park. These courses were designed to measure snow depth and calculate the amount of water run-off draining into the lower valley. Between the 1940s, when the first cabins were built, and the late 1950s, when replacement cabins were erected, the USGS maintained cabins along several waterways. The earliest cabins were log structures, later replaced by pre-cut lumber and metal frame cabins of standard design and size. Within the boundaries of the national park, only pre-fabricated USGS cabins dating from the 1950s remain in the backcountry. DEER LICK CABIN (#1219/30122), located on Lightning Creek, was also used by the USGS for backcountry work. This cabin was built for the USFS by Marblemount

resident Leonard Bacon. Its date of construction is unclear but is generally believed to date from the 1920s. Over the years the rustic cabin has been used as a shelter by hikers. It is an excellent example of square-notched log cabin construction and retains a high degree of integrity.

Washington State's Fish and Game Department has also had an impact in the North Cascades. This department actively planted fish on the east side of the Cascades in the early years of the 20th century and later, in the 1930s, on the west side. In conjunction with their work, the department took over use of a log structure known today as the Fish and Game, or HOZOMEEN CABIN (#1154/30120). Though its date of construction is not known, it is generally believed to date from c.1935. Located a short distance from the international boundary, it was built by and for the border patrol. About 1948 the cabin was turned over to the USFS, which hoped to use it as an administrative cabin. The cabin is still used today seasonally by both the Fish and Game Department and the National Park Service; it retains a high degree of integrity, and is significant as an excellent example of saddle-notched log cabin construction in the park.

STATEMENT OF ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Of the 50 buildings, structures, and sites identified in this nomination as significant, many are important under National Register criterion C: they embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction, or they possess high artistic values. These properties fall into two categories: USFS STRUCTURES, which include shelters, lookouts and residences; and LOG CABINS. The period of significance for these two groups falls between the years c.1890 and 1940, reflecting a half century of log and wood-frame construction methods.

USFS Structures

The establishment of federal forest reserves in the 1890s and the subsequent creation of the USFS in 1905 gave the government a new status in the North Cascades. Its role became one of manager and administrator. As a use-oriented agency mandated to protect the resources of the national forests, the USFS built trails, bridges, campsites, shelters, lookouts and ranger or guard stations as a means of protecting and providing for use of these resources. These cultural resources are valuable today as expressions of an earlier era of wilderness management and philosophy. The USFS believed that the forests were to be used and enjoyed. The shelters, lookouts, and other structures built by the USFS served a dual purpose: they would aid recreationists in using and enjoying the land by providing access and shelter, and they would provide the USFS with a transportation and shelter network designed for forest fire protection. As the forests became increasingly important for their

social values (recreational use) as well as their economic ones the USFS became increasingly concerned about its public image and how it could better safeguard the aesthetic qualities of the land. This awareness grew during the early years of the Depression, leading the agency to design structures following a strict set of criteria. First and foremost, all structures should harmonize with the natural environment. Secondly, the economy of building materials should be considered. Thirdly, structures should be built appropriate to their specific functions.

The characteristics which respond to this criteria and make USFS architecture distinctive are several. USFS architectural forms are typically proportional to their surroundings; scale is an obvious consideration as is the siting of the structure. Exterior wall materials, primarily wood, follow the USFS ethic of non-intrusiveness. Pattern and variety occur through the use of 2 or more combined textures on a building (clapboards and shingles). Gable roofs or variations thereof predominate in USFS buildings. Windows break up facade walls and provide subtle decoration with their multi-paned sash. Rarely do USFS designed structures exhibit exterior decoration. Rather, functional elements such as brackets and corner boards serve as decorative motifs. Muted, natural earth tones were the paint colors of choice. Overall, the strictly utilitarian design of USFS structures mimicked the agency's pragmatic mission. The USFS architectural style in the Pacific Northwest region did not develop from any obvious prototypes other than rural, vernacular models. Elements of the Bungalow style can be detected in some USFS structures.

Three USFS residential structures (#1009, #1010, #2) and High Bridge Ranger Station Historic District (#81-83) clearly exhibit these characteristics, and are discussed in detail on their respective inventory cards and in Section 7 (Description). Other structures, specifically shelters and lookouts, express the USFS idiom though in a much simpler manner. The 3-sided log and shake shelters were first constructed in the 1910s to accommodate both USFS personnel and early recreationists. As use of the forests grew, the recreational trail system was expanded both for better fire protection and for hikers. Shelters were erected every 8-10 miles to accommodate the increased numbers entering the backcountry. The design of these structures met all 3 basic USFS tenets: non-intrusive appearance; economy of materials; and form based on function. USFS personnel working alone or with CCC crews used native materials, taking logs from the site or nearby, hand-splitting wood for shakes, and using simple building techniques to quickly erect functional, single-purpose structures. They were carefully sited, usually set back from the main trail and screened by trees or vegetation. Despite the apparent ease with which these structures were erected, they exhibit a degree of craftsmanship in how the logs were placed and joined. Of the shelters still standing in the park complex, only 5 have the features characteristic of USFS design.

Three lookouts within the park complex also reflect the goals and philosophy of the USFS. Simple structures built for a singular function,

these buildings were erected to house an individual who stood as sentry, "looking out" for forest fires. Hence the name "lookout." With a 360 degree view of the mountains a lookout kept guard summers, during the high fire danger season. Although the lookout sites were selected strategically to take advantage of views covering as extensive an area as possible, the buildings themselves were placed in a way which minimized their visual impact. Usually a lookout is not visible from a hiking trail until one has nearly reached the top of the ridge on which it sits. The economic use of materials is evident although the USFS did not (usually could not) take advantage of on-site materials. By the 1930s, when these lookouts were built, the USFS was bringing in pre-fabricated wall sections, windows, and doors on horseback. Rock, often incorporated into foundations, was the only material used from the site. Multi-paned windows became glass curtain walls in these structures, providing an unobstructed view and ventilation for the resident. Exterior decorative ornamentation was non-existent on these buildings. Again, functional elements interacting with each other--multi-paned window sash, corner boards, shingled gable or hip roofs and horizontal bevelled wood siding--provided visual patterns and interest on what would otherwise be a plain box.

The USFS designed and built many structures in the North Cascades during its 63-year tenure. Over the years these structures were remodelled, rehabilitated, and removed as USFS management and administrative needs changed. The NPS has also altered and demolished USFS structures as they have become obsolete or deteriorated. Those structures identified in this nomination as being significant for their architectural value are the best examples of USFS architecture in the park complex. In some cases they are the only surviving examples of a distinct building type in the park (lookouts). As a group, USFS structures are visually unified, and continue to reflect the USFS' carefully articulated goals and philosophy of how humans--as administrators--should interact with their environment.

Log Cabins

Once a common but now rare form of housing, log cabins were built in the North Cascades from the 1880s to the 1940s. Associated with pioneers and the settlement of America, log cabins have become symbols of simplicity, honesty, and self-sufficiency to those who gaze upon the rustic, sometimes crudely-built, structures. Not many examples of this building type are extant. In the park complex, only six retain the characteristics that make this building type and method of construction distinct and significant from an architectural perspective.

The log cabins noted in this nomination share certain characteristics. All meet a functional and basic need or did historically (permanent or seasonal housing). Without exception, the builders used local or native materials. Although the degree of craftsmanship varies depending upon the builder's abilities, the cabins reflect the available

technology of the day. If time permitted, notching of the logs--the feature which distinguishes one cabin from another--was done with care and precision. Notching is a reflection of a builder's knowledge of the craft of log cabin building; because knowledge varied so did notching techniques.

The nominated log cabins exhibit variations in construction methods and corner notching. Side wall logs have been left round while others have been planked or hewn to have a flat surface. The ends or crowns of these side wall logs meet at corners and have been left round or fashioned into other shapes like half-round or squared. The variations in notching reveal different levels of expertise because some notching methods are more difficult to master than others. Thus, some cabins exhibit a higher degree of craftsmanship and artistic value than others, though all the cabins are significant as examples of different types and methods of log construction. Notching methods represented in these log cabins include: half-dovetail notched planked logs; half-notched round logs with half log crowns; double saddle-notched round logs; and square-notched round logs.

Other Log Structures

Other cabins noted in the nomination for their architectural significance are Rock Cabin and the George Miller residence. Rock Cabin has significance for its association with Industry (trapping) but also exhibits a non-traditional method of building construction: using a rock monolith for a wall surface, and half-notched round logs for the remaining three walls. The shake shed roof (or half gable) utilizes the rock as a ridgeline and slopes downward to shed water. The building exhibits the North Cascades tradition of using materials available from the site.

The George Miller house is an excellent example of 1940 residential architecture associated with the theme of recreation. In the tradition of log cabin construction, it is simple in form and plan and shows a sensitivity to its surroundings by its use of native materials and its placement on the site, set back from and overlooking Lake Chelan. The building exhibits high artistic value in its notching: the builder carefully square-notched the round logs, squaring the crowns as well. Although this cabin does not meet the National Register age requirements, it is an excellent example of residential architecture (building type and method of construction) from an era significant in the history of the park (Recreation: 1890s - 1945).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Jordan, Terry G. American Log Buildings. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: University of North Carolina Press, 1985.

Luxenberg, Gretchen A. Historic Resource Study, North Cascades National Park Service Complex. Seattle: National Park Service, 1986.

Luxenberg, Gretchen A. Historic Structures Inventory, North Cascades National Park Service Complex. Seattle: National Park Service, 1984.

Thompson, Erwin. History: Basic Data: North Cascades National Park Service Complex. Eastern Service Center: Office of History and Historic Architecture, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1970.

Throop, E. Gail. "A Characteristic Expression." Paper presented at Historic Preservation League of Oregon's annual conference, Timberline Lodge, Oregon, October 23, 1987.

Wilson, Mary, Log Cabin Studies. Cultural Resource Report No. 9. U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Odgen, Utah, 1984.

☐ 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 # WA-19

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository: Cultural Resources Division PNRO, NPS: North Cascades NPS Complex, Sedro Woolley, Washington

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS FOR INDIVIDUAL STRUCTURES, SITES AND DISTRICTS

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A			
B			
C			
D			

☒ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

☒ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

National Park and Recreation areas created and boundaries established by an act of Congress, October 2, 1968 (P.L. 90-544).

☒ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

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24-21-3

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OMB Approval No. 1024-0018
12/29/88

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ **Page** _____

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name North Cascades National Park Service Complex MRA
State WASHINGTON

Nomination/Type of Review		Date/Signature
Cover	Substantive Review for Keeper	Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 2/10/89
1. Backus--Marblemount Ranger Station House No. 1009	Substantive Review for Keeper	Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 2/10/89
	Attest	
2. Backus--Marblemount Ranger Station House No. 1010	Substantive Review for Keeper	Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 2/10/89
	Attest	
3. Beaver Pass Shelter	Substantive Review for Keeper	Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 2/10/89
	Attest	
4. Bridge Creek Cabin--Ranger Station	Substantive Review for Keeper	Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 2/10/89
	Attest	
5. Bridge Creek Shelter	Substantive Review for Keeper	Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 2/10/89
	Attest	
6. Buckner Homestead Historic District	Substantive Review Keeper	Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 2/10/89
	Attest	
7. Cooper Mountain Fire Lookout	Substantive Review for Keeper	Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 2/10/89
	Attest	
8. Deer Lick Cabin	Substantive Review for Keeper	Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 2/10/89
	Attest	
9. Desolation Peak Lookout	Substantive Review for Keeper	Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 2/10/89
	Attest	
10. Fish and Game--Hozomeen Cabin	Substantive Review for Keeper	Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 2/10/89
	Attest	

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name North Cascades National Park Service Complex MRA
State WASHINGTON

Nomination/Type of Review		Date/Signature
11. Flick Creek Shelter	Substantive Review for Keeper	Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 2/10/89
	Attest	
12. Gilbert's Cabin	Substantive Review for Keeper	Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 2/10/89
	Attest	
13. Golden West Lodge Historic District	Substantive Review Keeper	Carol D. Shull 2-10-89
	Attest	Bruce J. Noble Jr. 2/10/89
14. High Bridge Ranger Station Historic District	Substantive Review for Keeper	Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 2/10/89
	Attest	
15. High Bridge Shelter	Substantive Review for Keeper	Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 2/10/89
	Attest	
16. International Boundary US--Canada	Substantive Review for Keeper	Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 2/10/89
	Attest	
17. Miller, George, House	Substantive Review for Keeper	Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 2/10/89
	Attest	
18. Perry Creek Shelter	Substantive Review for Keeper	Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 2/10/89
	Attest	
19. Purple Point--Stehekin Ranger Station House	Substantive Review for Keeper	Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 2/10/89
	Attest	
20. Rock Cabin	Substantive Review for Keeper	Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 2/10/89
	Attest	

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name North Cascades National Park Service Complex MRA
State WASHINGTON

Nomination/Type of Review		Date/Signature
21. Sourdough Mountain Lookout	Substantive review for Keeper	Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 2/10/89
	Attest	
22. Sulphide--Frisco Cabin	Substantive review for Keeper	Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 2/10/89
	Attest	
23. Swamp--Meadow Cabin East	Substantive review for Keeper	Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 2/10/89
	Attest	
24. Swamp--Meadow Cabin West	Substantive review for Keeper	Bruce J. Noble, Jr. 2/10/89
	Attest	
25.	Keeper	
	Attest	
26.	Keeper	
	Attest	
27.	Keeper	
	Attest	
28.	Keeper	
	Attest	
29.	Keeper	
	Attest	
30.	Keeper	
	Attest	