

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only  
received JUN 8 1987  
date entered

Inventory  
Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 1 of 3

NAME: Miners Ridge Lookout

LOCATION: Mt. Baker - Snoqualmie National Forest; Congressional District 2, Darrington Ranger District, Darrington, Washington (53), Snohomish County (061).

ADDRESS: USDA Forest Service  
Mt. Baker - Snoqualmie National Forest  
1022 First Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

CLASSIFICATION/CATEGORY: Building CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES: 1 building  
NONCONTRIBUTING: 0

DESCRIPTION:

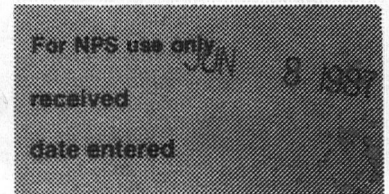
Condition

Good       Altered       Original Site

Miners Ridge Lookout is located on a grassy knoll at +6,210 feet, on the highest point of Miners Ridge. It is situated at a remote location within the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area approximately five miles west of the Pacific Crest trail. The closest trail head is 16 miles west of the Lookout. The first nine miles of this Forest Service trail closely parallels the Suiattle River, while the east 6-1/2 miles are a steep climb through subalpine meadows and forest. The Lookout is on a 20 foot high timber tower from which panoramic views are dominated by Glacier Peak, in close proximity to the south.

This one story, one room, 14' x 14' cabin is held aloft by a 20 foot high tower of creosoted timbers anchored to concrete piers. Transport to this isolated site necessitated the cutting and splicing of the built-up 2 x 8 upright members which are rigidly cross-braced and tied by a guy anchorage system. The cabin was constructed according to a revised standard Forest Service plan issued in 1936 and includes a catwalk and variant shutter support system. The typical pyramidal roof is covered with new cedar shingles and galvanized metal ridge flashings. A solar panel and repeater antenna are also located on the roof. Standard lightning protection system is in place. Exterior walls are composed of two-over-two fixed and pivoting sash with 1 x 6 v-groove shiplap siding below. All original shutters, constructed of horizontal 1 x 6 shiplap with double z-bracing, are held open by 2 x 4 ceiling joists which overhang 3'-0" and utilize an eyebolt and nut to secure shutters to blocking at the joist ends. The only significant alteration is the relocated and reconstructed two-tier access stair. Due to a serious accident in 1951, the original stair was removed and a new stair was built in order to more safely enter the Lookout through the catwalk rather than the cabin interior. The original entry hatch remains visible from below. Intact interior finishes are 1 x 6 shiplap on walls and ceiling and linoleum over standard 1 x 4 fir flooring. The interior also exhibits typical simply constructed furnishings which include original built-in shelves, cabinets and storage drawers, table, fire finder and stand and lightning stool. Ground cover disturbance west of the tower indicates evidence of a former ground house lookout on the site.

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**SIGNIFICANCE:**

Specific Dates: 1938 (stair reconstruction 1952)

Builder/Architect: Constructed per standard Forest Service Plan L-4 (revised 1936). Built by Claude Brazelton, Hugh Ritter and possibly a CCC crew.

History

This Lookout is recorded to have been constructed in 1938 as a replacement for "the old L.O. house on Miners Ridge." The site was in use as a lookout point as early as 1928, when Forest Service records show a fire report from Miners Ridge. This is the same year a Forest Service trail crew member, Donald "Scotty" McMurchie, was there to put in a phone line from the ranger station through Canyon Creek and up 33 miles to the top of the ridge. He reported at that time there was no structure, only a fire finder instrument, and the lookout slept in a tent at the crossroads to Suiattle Pass (probably at Sunnybrook, a couple of miles below the summit) and hiked up to the ridge each day to spot fires. The original 10' x 10' lookout structure, of which there is ground disturbance evidence, may have been built around 1930. McMurchie only remembered that it was constructed with cedar shakes from trees on Miners Creek.

There is some uncertainty regarding who constructed the present lookout, which closely follows revised Forest Service L-4 plans from 1936. Claude Brazelton was the Forest Service foreman in charge of the project, and he stated that it was constructed with the help of "seven or eight CCC kids." A Civilian Conservation Corps side camp was established at the Sauk Ranger Station in 1933 and may have provided part of the crew. Bundles of construction materials were typically hauled to the site by pack horses. The 21-foot long members for the timber tower proved to be too long for transport up the steep switchbacks, thus the Regional Office was persuaded to allow them to be cut and then spliced together on site.

In 1951, District Ranger Warren Pressentin accidentally fell through the lookout floor hatch 20 feet to the ground. A helicopter was sent to pick him up and crashed while landing on the ridge north of the lookout. The old fuselage remains near the lookout. Everyone survived the incident, but, as a result, the stairway was relocated in 1952 to access the cabin through the catwalk rather than the cabin interior. The lookout has continued to be staffed, now by volunteers, during high fire danger since its original construction. Due to continued use and relative isolation, the Lookout has been maintained and is less vulnerable to vandalism.

Statement of Significance

Miners Ridge Lookout is an excellent example of the Plan L-4 Lookout House typically constructed on Region 6 after the 1932 standard plans were upgraded and were revised in 1936. It is the only intact example of this later L-4 Lookout House style to remain on the Forest, and it is among only a few extant fire lookout buildings that once functioned as a part of an extensive fire detection and suppression network, which served to protect and conserve timber and other natural resources. Miners Ridge Lookout represents an essential part of the system as a uniquely functional building type which was specifically designed for construction in the kind of isolated and challenging environment in which it is located. As the only example of the



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GEOGRAPHIC DATA:

Acreage: less than one

UTM Reference:

<u>Point</u>	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
A	10	6465000	5341000

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Miners Ridge Lookout is located in a portion of NW 1/4 of NW 1/4, Section 8, Township 31 North, Range 15 East, Willamette Meridian. Nominated property includes lookout house, timber tower, and reeled guy anchorage system, and immediate access trail within a 50 foot radius of the center of the Lookout as described on Green Trails map Glacier Peak, Wash.--No. 112

Significance Statement Continued:

upgraded and revised Plan L-4 Lookout House on the Forest, the property possesses exceptional significance despite being less than 50 years old.

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National Park Service

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Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 171

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name USDA Forest Service Fire Lookouts on Mt. Baker--Snoqualmie National Forest TR  
State Pierce County (and others), WA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

Cover

~~Substantive Review~~

~~Keeper~~ *[Signature]* 7/19/87

1. Evergreen Mountain Lookout

~~Substantive Review~~

for Keeper *William B. Bushong* 7/14/87

2. Hidden Lake Peak Lookout

~~Substantive Review~~

for Keeper *William B. Bushong* 7/14/87

3. **Miners Ridge Lookout**

~~Substantive Review~~

~~Keeper~~ *[Signature]* 7/19/87

4. Park Butte Lookout

~~Substantive Review~~

for Keeper *William B. Bushong* 7/14/87

5. Suntop Lookout

~~Substantive Review~~

for Keeper *William B. Bushong* 7/14/87

6. Three Fingers Lookout

~~Substantive Review~~

for Keeper *William B. Bushong* 7/14/87

7. Winchester Mountain Lookout

~~Substantive Review~~

for Keeper *William B. Bushong* 7/14/87

8. Green Mountain Lookout

~~Substantive Review~~

for Keeper *Patrick Andrews* 2/22/88

9.

Keeper

Attest

10.

Keeper

Attest



250 yrs  
81001183

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Miners Ridge Lookout (USDA Forest Service  
Fire Lookouts on Mt. Baker--Snoqualmie  
National Forest TR  
Snohomish County  
WASHINGTON

Substantive Review

Working No. JUN - 8 1987  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/2/88  
Date Due: 7/9/87-7/23/87  
Action:  ACCEPT 7-19-87  
 RETURN  
 REJECT  
Federal Agency: USFS

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

*See comments prepared  
for Keeper.*

Recom./Criteria Accept A, C  
Reviewer Bushong  
Discipline Historic  
Date 7/14/87  
see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for:  technical corrections cited below  
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category Ownership Status Present Use  
Public Acquisition Accessible

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

7. Description

Condition Check one Check one  
 excellent  deteriorated  unaltered  original site  
 good  ruins  altered  moved date \_\_\_\_\_  
 fair  unexposed

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

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**8. Significance**

Period      Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates                      Builder/Architect  
Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

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Verbal boundary description and justification

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification**

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_ national      \_\_\_\_ state      \_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title                      date

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**13. Other**

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_





Miners Ridge Lookout  
nr. Darrington, Washington

David W. Harvey  
September 1986

Katheryn H. Krafft

View northwest of south & east elevations

11 of 25





Miners Ridge Lookout  
nr. Darrington, Washington

David W. Harvey  
September 1986

Katheryn H. Krafft

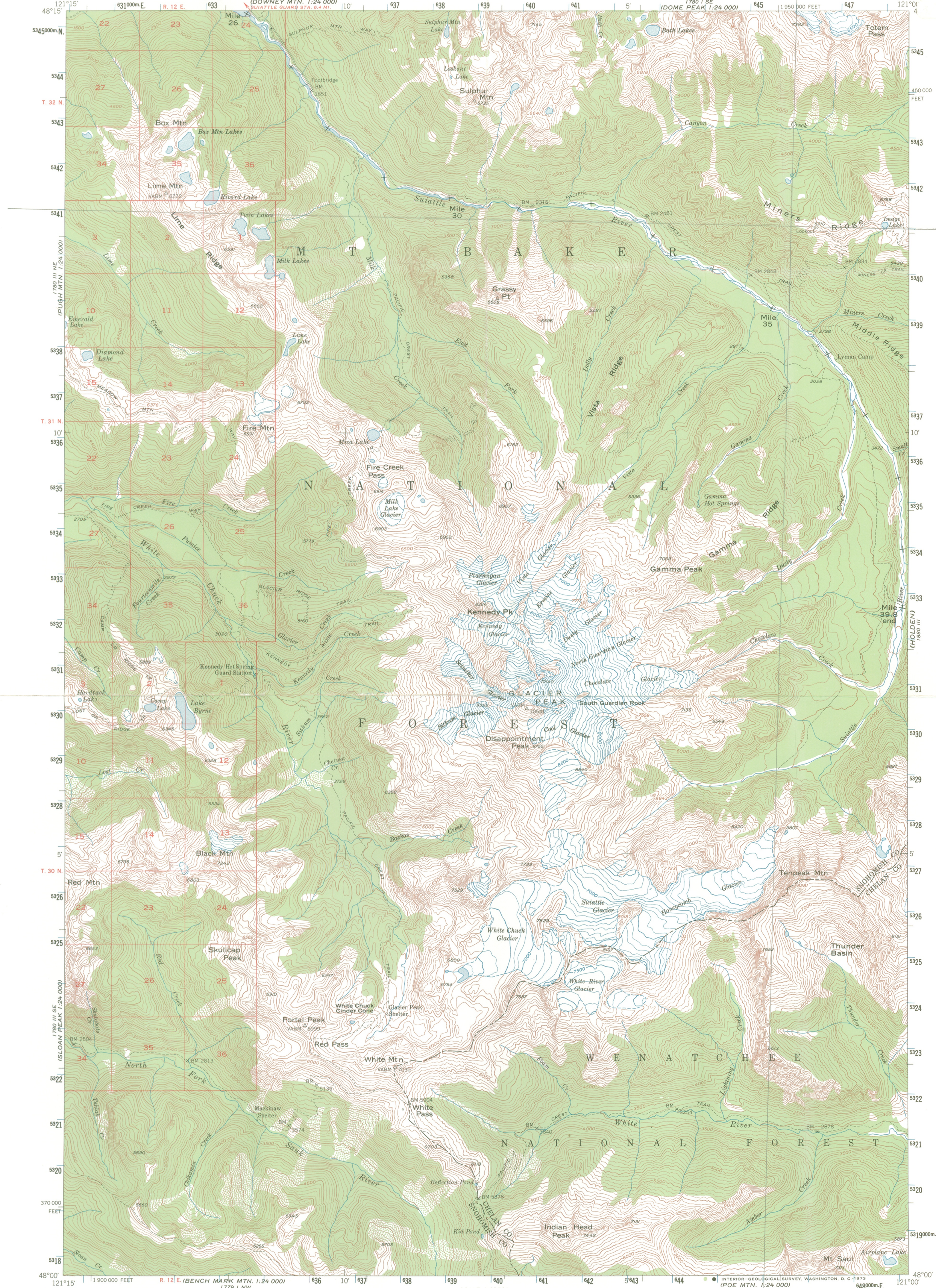
View southwest of east & north elevations

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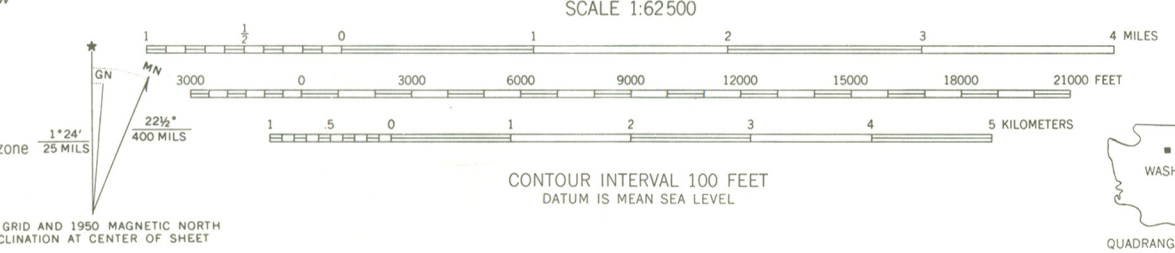


UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

GLACIER PEAK QUADRANGLE  
WASHINGTON  
15 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods  
Aerial photographs taken 1950. Advance field check, 1950.  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Washington coordinate system, north zone  
1,000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 10, shown in blue  
Unchecked elevations are shown in brown



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	4 LANE 16 LANE	Light-duty
Medium-duty	4 LANE 16 LANE	Unimproved dirt
U.S. Route		State Route

GLACIER PEAK, WASH.  
N4800-W12100/15  
1950  
AMS 1780 II-SERIES 7791

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225 OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Washington  
Office

12 Copies  
12th & Independence SW  
P.O. Box 96090  
Washington, D.C. 20090-6090

Reply To: 2360

Date: JUN 04 1987

Ms. Carol Shull  
Chief of Registration  
National Register of Historic Places  
USDI National Park Service  
P.O. Box 37127  
Washington, DC 20013-7127

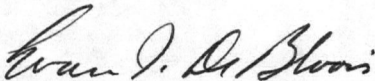
Dear Ms. Shull:

The following properties are being submitted for your consideration as additions to the National Register of Historic Places. Thirteen are new nominations and one is a resubmission with technical corrections.

Name	Group	State	Forest	County
Brow Monument		AZ	Kaibab	Coconino
Jacob Lake Ranger Station		AZ	Kaibab	Coconino
Stibnite Historic District		ID	Payette	Valley
Suntop Lookout	Fire Lookouts	WA	MT Baker-Snoqualmie	Pierce
Hidden Lake Peak Lookout	Fire Lookouts	WA	MT Baker-Snoqualmie	Skagit
Park Butte Lookout	Fire Lookouts	WA	MT Baker-Snoqualmie	Skagit
✓ Miners Ridge Lookout	Fire Lookouts	WA	MT Baker-Snoqualmie	Snohomish
Three Fingers Lookout	Fire Lookouts	WA	MT Baker-Snoqualmie	Snohomish
Evergreen Mountain Lookout	Fire Lookouts	WA	MT Baker-Snoqualmie	Snohomish
Green Mountain Lookout	Fire Lookouts	WA	MT Baker-Snoqualmie	Snohomish
Winchester Mountain Lookout	Fire Lookouts	WA	MT Baker-Snoqualmie	Whatcom
Ketchikan Ranger House		AK	Tongass Ketchikan	Gateway

We would appreciate your consideration of these nominations.

Sincerely,



EVAN I. DEBLOIS  
Preservation Officer  
Recreation Management

Enclosures

JUN 8 1987