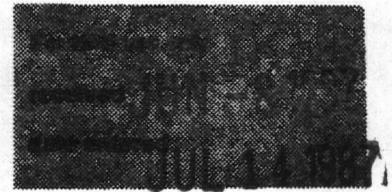


**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**



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

Inventory
Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 1 of 3

NAME: Three Fingers 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/fair Altered Original Site

Three Fingers Lookout is remarkably situated on a basaltic pinnacle of the southernmost peak for which it is named. The Lookout is well above timberline at +6,854 feet with dramatic sheer drop-offs on the north and south sides of the cabin. In order to access the cabin, one must transverse a 6.7 mile long Forest Service trail which crosses a permanent snow/ice field and ascend a vertical rock face equipped with wooden ladders and hand ropes. The Lookout commands a panoramic 360 degree view the length of the Cascade Range and of Puget Sound.

This one story, single room, 14' x 14' cabin is wood-frame construction and built according to standard Forest Service Lookout House plans first issued c. 1929. The floor framing system rests directly on and is anchored to the rock peak. Additional guy anchorage which utilizes cables bolted to adjacent rock outcrops is employed to secure the vulnerable structure against severe wind velocities and seasonal ice and snow loads. Portions of the guy system have continuously failed. The roof is a simple gable form covered with new cedar shingles and wood cap. A lightning rod and protection system are in place. Exterior walls are clad with 6" beveled cedar siding with corner boards and five 9-light fixed and casement sash are located at each elevation with the exception of the door opening. One sash is temporarily covered due to damaged mullions and glazing. Original window shutters, constructed of 1 x 6 shiplap with z-bracing remain in place on the east and west elevations. Shutter support hardware of 1/2" Ø bent steel rods secured through eye-bolts is stored in the cabin. Original shutters were blown off the south elevation which has historically been exposed to severe climatic conditions in conjunction with extremely difficult and dangerous shutter operation. Shutters on the north elevation have also blown off and plywood shutters which utilize original hardware were recently installed as a temporary protective measure. The original panel door with nine upper-lights, including door shutter, remains in place. A "user organization" has recently undertaken deferred maintenance, restoration and repair of the Lookout. Other than noted shutter and sash deterioration, damage and removal and minor structural repairs, the Lookout remains essentially unaltered. Original intact interior finishes are beaded board paneling on walls and ceiling and 1 x 4 fir flooring. A chain with turn buckle at the ceiling level appears to tie the east and west walls against lateral forces. The interior also exhibits typical simply-constructed furnishings which include original firefinder with variant pipe stand, lightning stool, rather crudely constructed wood bunk, chair and cabinets and a spice

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Continuation sheet

Item number 7

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rack. Current access ladders, constructed from milled lumber, appear to be relatively recent replacements for the original ladders which are said to have been constructed from small trees cut at timberline below.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Specific Dates: 1930-33

Builder/Architect: Constructed per earliest standard Forest Service Plan L-4 (c. 1929). Built by Harold Engles, Harry Bedel, and Frank Benesh and crew.

History

A three year long effort was required to construct Three Fingers Lookout, which is an incredible feat of engineering and carpentry skills. In the fall of 1929, Harold J. Engles, then the Darrington District Ranger, and Harry Bedel climbed to the top of Three Fingers Peak to determine if it would be a feasible location for a fire lookout house. Engles chose to investigate this sheer rock pinnacle because he realized it was visible from areas all around the District and believed it would provide a strategic view for surveillance purposes. In order to construct the Lookout, several preparatory tasks were accomplished: a trail was built; a telephone line strung from Boulder River valley to the peak; and the top 15 feet of the peak were blasted off in order to create a base for the lookout house. The District's and Engles' intention was to construct a 12' x 12' standard D-5 Lookout House, the cupola style which was standard until the development of the standard L-4 lookout house plan in 1929. Thus, the site was prepared for a smaller building, and the new pre-cut 14' x 14' cabin, which was provided to the District, could barely fit on the site, and the limited space and topography did not allow for the construction of a catwalk.

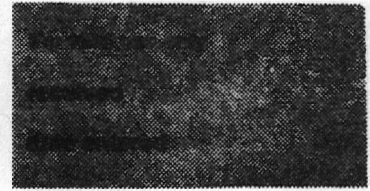
Horses and pack mules were used to carry bundles of construction materials and equipment up the trail to within 600 feet of the site. A tram was constructed to transport the supplies most of the remaining distance. Reportedly, some cable and wood remnants from this system still remain on the mountain. A series of three ladders and hand ropes had to be installed to mount the steep rock face at the top of the peak. Frank Benesh, a Forest Service carpenter, who constructed several other Lookouts on the old Snoqualmie Forest, was involved with the construction of the cabin over two field seasons. The Lookout was seasonally staffed from 1933 until 1942, when it was abandoned for economic reasons. Since about 1965, the Everett Mountaineers have addressed deferred maintenance issues, including the construction of new and safer access ladders. Most recently, during September 1986, they replaced the deteriorated original cedar shingles with new in-kind roofing and made minor structural and window repairs. Realizing its historical significance, the organization intends to continue to restore and maintain the Lookout for use by club members and the general public.

Statement of Significance

Three Fingers Lookout is one of two gable roof ("Grange Hall") style lookouts, the earliest of the Plan L-4 Lookout House types, which remain on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. These early lookout houses, constructed before 1932, are the oldest remaining fire lookout buildings on the Forest and represent a crucial part of a fire detection and suppression system

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Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 3 of 3

which functioned for over 50 years to protect and conserve timber and natural resources. This remarkable Fire Lookout is an exceptional example of the extraordinary engineering and carpentry skills required to construct this unique building type in extremely isolated and challenging terrain. Three Fingers Lookout possesses exceptional significance due to the extraordinary constraints and characteristics of this particular site, believed to be unequalled within the region or nation.

GEOGRAPHIC DATA:

Acreage: less than one acre

UTM Reference:

<u>Point</u>	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
A	10	597675	5335825

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Three Fingers Lookout (#2604) is located in a portion of the SE1/4 of SE1/4, Section 18, 7.31N, R.9E, Willamette Meridian. Proposed nomination to include lookout house, related rock foundation, guy anchorage and lightning protection system, access ladders and ropes within a 50 foot radius of the center of the Lookout per Green Trails map SILVERTON, WA - NO 110.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

JUN 8 1987

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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

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

~~Substantive Review~~

Attest

2. Hidden Lake Peak Lookout

~~Substantive Review~~

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

Attest

3. Miners Ridge Lookout

~~Substantive Review~~

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

Attest

4. Park Butte Lookout

~~Substantive Review~~

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

Attest

5. Suntop Lookout

~~Substantive Review~~

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

Attest

6. Three Fingers Lookout

~~Substantive Review~~

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

Attest

7. Winchester Mountain Lookout

~~Substantive Review~~

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

Attest

8. Green Mountain Lookout

~~Substantive Review~~

for Keeper *Patrick Andrews* 2/22/88

Attest

9.

Keeper

Attest

10.

Keeper

Attest

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Three Fingers 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 7-14-87
 RETURN
 REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

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

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria Accept A, C
Reviewer Bushong
Discipline Historian
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

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

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 _____

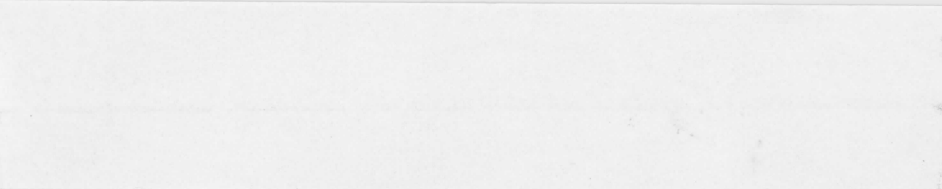
13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____





Three Fingers Lookout
nr. Darrington, Washington

Carol Jacobson Pinneo
September 1986
Everett Mountaineers

View northeast of west & south elevations

21 of 25



Three Fingers Lookout
nr. Darrington, Washington

Carol Jacobson Pinneo
September 1986
Everett Mountaineers

Access ladders & ropes

20 of 25



Three Fingers Lookout
nr. Darrington, Washington

Carol Jacobson Pinneo
September 1986
Everett Mountaineers

East & north elevations

22 of 25

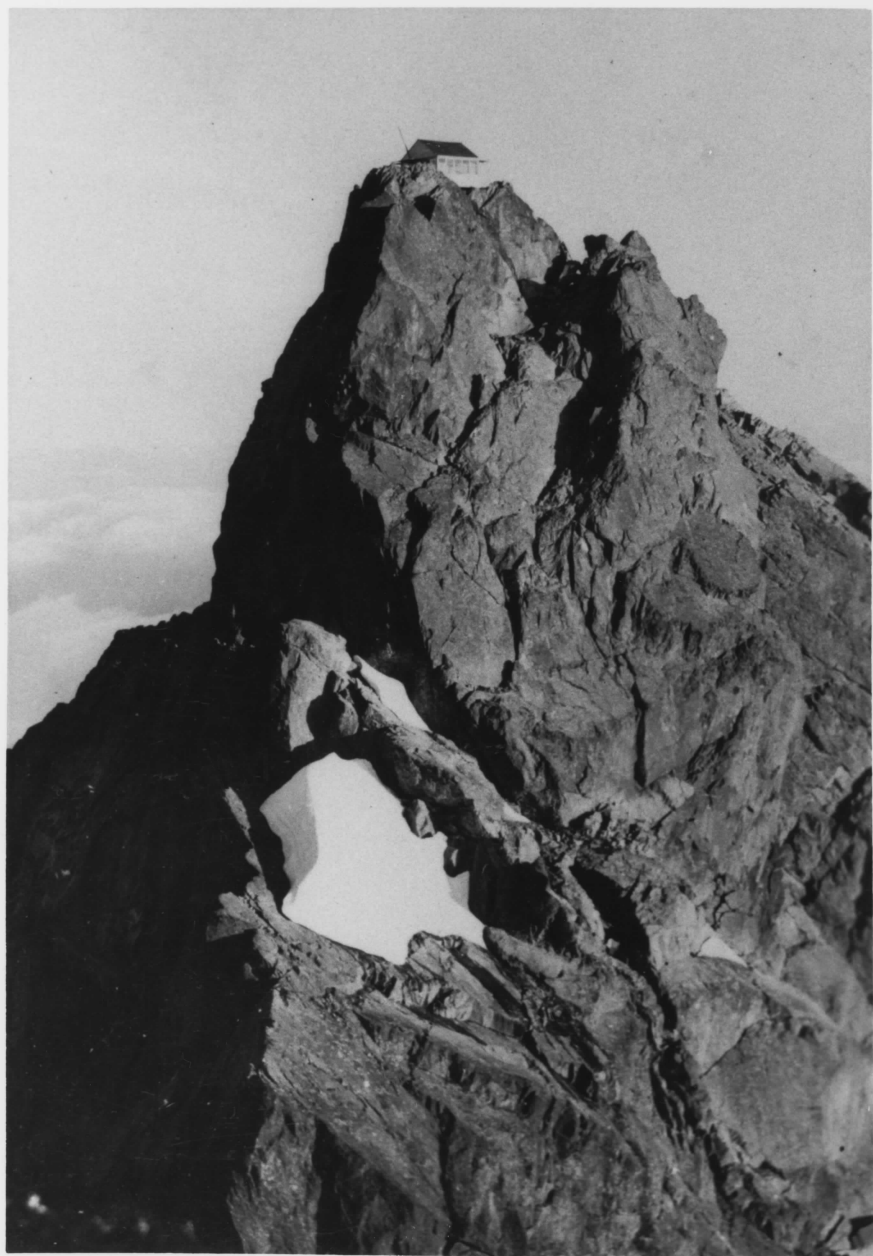


Three Fingers Lookout
nr. Darrington, Washington

Carol Jacobson Pinneo
September 1986
Everett Mountaineers

East Elevation

23 of 25



Three Fingers Lookout
nr. Darrington, Washington

Harry Tucker
July 1942
Harold J. Engles, Arlington, WA.

View south of east & north elevations

19 of 25

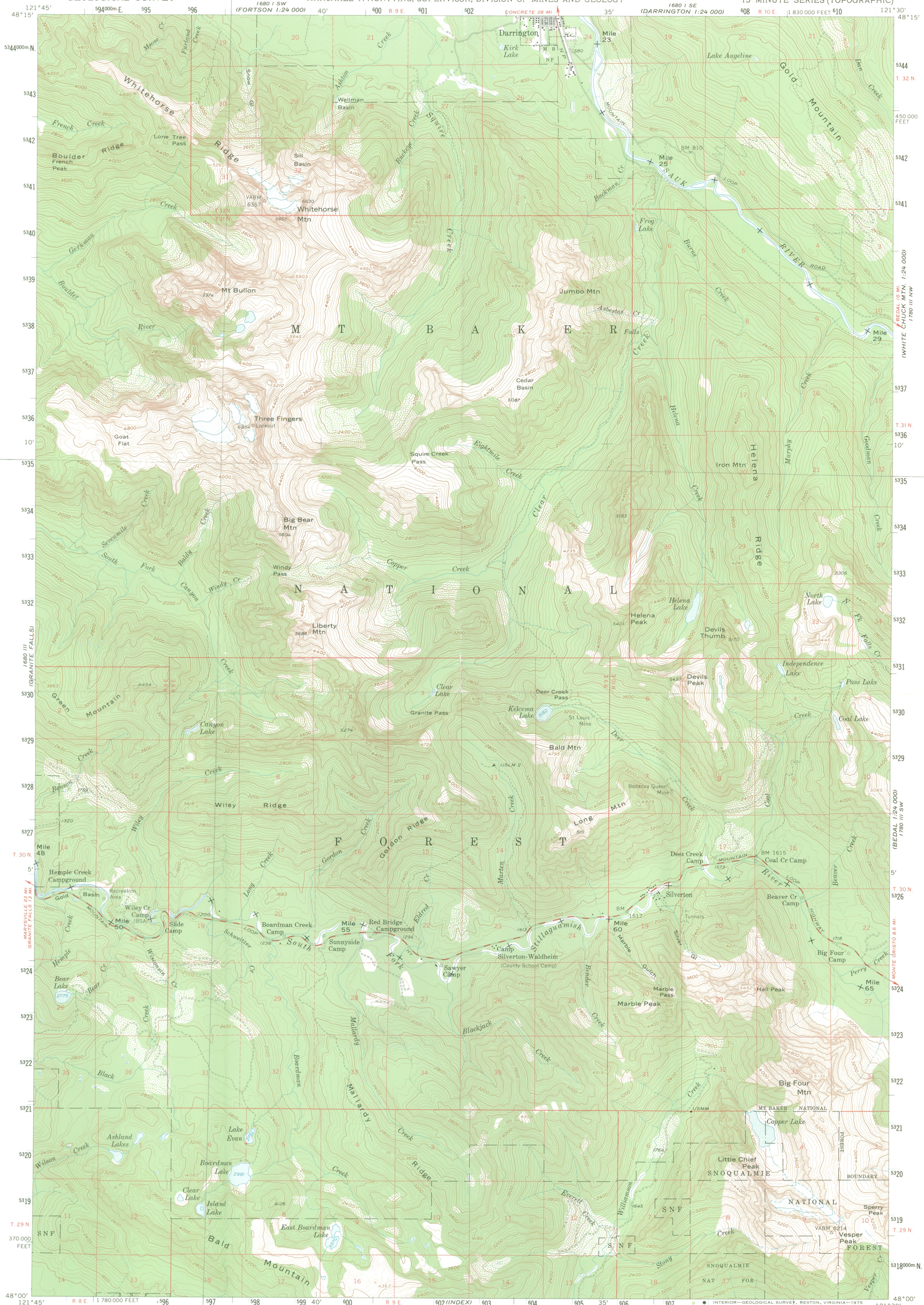
Three Fingers Lookout
nr. Darrington, WA.

UTM References:
Zone 10
Easting 597675
Northing 5335825

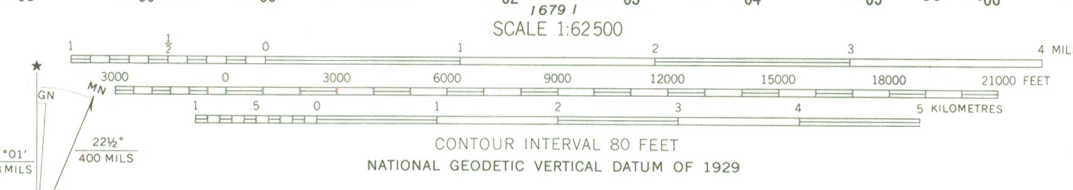
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
EARL COE, DIRECTOR
MARSHALL T. HUNTING, SUPERVISOR, DIVISION OF MINES AND GEOLOGY

SILVERTON QUADRANGLE
WASHINGTON-SNOHOMISH CO.
15 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and U.S. Bureau of Public Roads
Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods
Aerial photographs taken 1954. Advance field check 1957
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Washington coordinate system, north zone
1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 10, shown in blue
Dashed land lines indicate approximate locations
Land lines unsurveyed in T. 31 N.-R. 9 E.,
and in parts of Ts. 31 and 32 N.-R. 8 E.
Unchecked elevations are shown in brown



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Medium-duty
Light-duty
Unimproved dirt



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FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

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AMS 1680 II-SERIES V791

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
Office

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

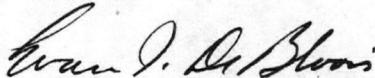
Dear Ms. Shull:

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

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
Office

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

Caring for the Land and Serving People

Reply To: 2360

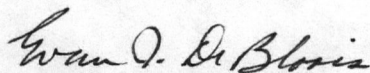
Date: January 12, 1988

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:

Enclosed are pages from the National Register nomination for Fire Lookouts on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest that were inadvertently left out of the previous nomination package submitted to your office. These pages provide information on the Green Mountain Lookout, Snohomish County, Washington, and should be added to those already submitted as a thematic nomination. We regret this oversight and request that this additional property be considered for listing.

Sincerely,



EVAN I. DeBLOOIS
Preservation Officer
Recreation Management

Enclosure

JAN 14 1988