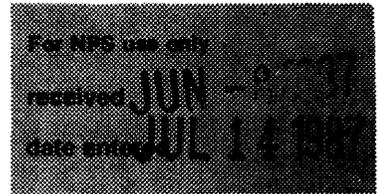


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**National Register of Historic Places  
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NAME: Winchester Mountain Lookout

LOCATION: Mt. Baker - Snoqualmie National Forest; Congressional District 2, Mt. Baker Ranger District, Sedro Wooley, Washington (53), Whatcom County (073).

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

Excellent/good     Altered     Original Site

Winchester Mountain Lookout is located on a ridge of volcanic rock soils and outcroppings at an elevation of +6,520 feet. This subalpine setting of wildflowers and scattered trees is within the Mt. Baker Wilderness Area and overlooks the north fork of the Nooksack River and west fork of Silesia Creek. It commands panoramic views dominated by Mt. Baker, Mt. Shuksan and the Picket Range. The Lookout is accessed by foot over two miles of an old mining road and two miles of Forest Service trail which steeply traverses alpine meadows, dense fir and hemlock stands, and loose rocks, snow fields and boulders at timberline.

This one-story, single room, 14' x 14' cabin is wood-frame construction and was built according to standard Forest Service Lookout House plans from 1932. Built on a level grade, the floor framing is supported on and anchored to indigenous rock piers. The typical pyramidal roof is covered with new and weathered cedar shingles and original metal ridge flashing. The lightning rod and protection system is in place. Exterior walls are composed of two-over-two pivoting and fixed sash with 1 x 6 v-groove shiplap siding below. Most original window shutters appear to remain in place or were replaced "in-kind." They are constructed of 1 x 6 shiplap with double-z bracing and utilize original 2 x 2 shutter braces and eyebolt support hardware. Typical original panel door with four upper lights and shutter is in place. Since 1984 deferred maintenance, extensive repair and restoration has been undertaken by a "user group". The interior is finished with 1 x 4 fir flooring. The interior also exhibits some typical simply constructed furnishings which include the original firefinder and stand, table, and built-in shelves.

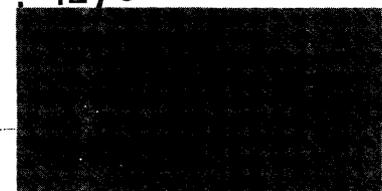
SIGNIFICANCE:

Specific Dates: 1935 (restoration 1985)

Builder/Architect: Constructed per standard Forest Service Lookout House Plan L-4 1930 (revised 1932). Believed to have been built by Camp Glacier CCC crews.

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History

Winchester Mountain Lookout was constructed in 1935 on an old lookout site associated with late 19th century gold mining and prospecting activities. P.R. Jeffcott related, in an account of gold mining in Whatcom County, that the mountains name resulted from an incident in connection with Jack Post, an important character in the opening of Mt. Baker Gold Mining District. Apparently, Post was on fire watch duty overlooking mining operations near Twin Lakes and the upper North Fork when he left his station, and his trusty rifle as well. Upon returning, it could not be found until, mysteriously, it again appeared the following year. A Forest Service map dated 1931 also noted Winchester Mountain as a lookout point.

It is believed that this permanent lookout house was constructed by a small crew which may have included CCC enrollees. A 200 man Civilian Conservation Corps camp had been established at Glacier in June, 1933, and CCC work programs included extensive road and trail construction, as well as valuable administrative and protective improvements. The lookout was in use for fire detection and suppression purposes until 1966 when like the majority of other Lookouts within the detection system, it was abandoned. By 1981, the Winchester Mountain Lookout was in a fairly serious state of disrepair due to exposure and vandalism. An active group of hikers associated with the Mt. Baker Club, Inc. of Bellingham, found the building to be structurally sound and adopted the Lookout as a club project in 1982. Under special use permit, the club has carefully repaired and restored the cabin with the support and aid of the Mt. Baker Ranger District. The group intends to continue to maintain the Lookout for use by club members and the general public.

Statement of Significance

Winchester Mountain Lookout is an intact and well-maintained example of the Plan L-4 Lookout House typically constructed on Region 6 between 1932 and 1936, and is on a site which possesses associations with historic gold mining and fire lookout efforts. It is among only a few extant fire lookout buildings on the Forest that once functioned as an extensive fire detection and suppression network which served to protect and conserve timber and other natural resources for over 50 years. This restored Lookout represents an essential part of the system as a uniquely functional building type, which was specifically designed for construction in such isolated and challenging environments as Winchester Mountain.

GEOGRAPHIC DATA:

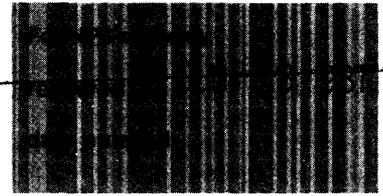
Acreage: less than one acre

UTM Reference:

<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
10	599425	5423325

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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:**

Winchester Mountain Lookout is located in a portion of SE1/4 of NE1/4, Section 16, T.40N, R.9E, Willamette Meridian. Proposed nomination to include lookout house, related rock foundation, lightning protection system and immediate access trail within a 50 foot radius of the center of the Lookout per Green Trails map MT. SHUKSAN, WASH - NO 14.