Historic Properties Management Plan
Koma Kulshan Ranger Station

Written by Alana Vidmar
For the use of the Forest Service, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest

2014

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Prepared for:

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A. Abstract

Many structures on public, federally owned lands are reaching a time period when preserving the structures becomes an integral part of preserving the legacy of federal government programs and the agency which owns the property. As land use changes over time, how can we preserve historic structures while allowing for contemporary uses? In this project examines this and similar questions through the creation of a Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP) for the site of Koma Kulshan Ranger Station, which is owned by the USDA Forest Service and listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). This project supports the overarching goal of the Forest Service to be proactive in the management of their historic sites, as well as provides specific guidelines for maintaining the historic integrity of the site. The HPMP serves as a common plan for contemporary use of the historic buildings and the site. The methods of this project contain two parts: outlining the management plan using case studies, literature review, and researching the history of the Koma Kulshan Ranger Station. The final draft of this HPMP is given to the Forest Service Heritage Program, and is made available to site stakeholders to be followed and consulted when using and maintaining the site in its future years of use.

B. Project Goals & Scope

The goals of this Historic Properties Management Plan are first to assist the Forest Service in an effort to be proactive in the management of historic sites on the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, and second to retain historic integrity of the site. Being proactive in the management of the Koma Kulshan Ranger Station site will help physically manage and maintain the three historic contributing buildings. If the Forest Service is not proactive in the management of this historic property the site will be more prone to deterioration and diminished historic integrity. If the site is allowed to deteriorate, or major changes are made to the site that do not retain the historic integrity of the site, it is likely that the cost of maintenance will be increased, and that the site could be removed from the National Register of Historic Places. Retaining historic integrity and maintaining the physical state of this site and others like it helps retain the history of the Forest Service as a prominent conservation agency in the region. In the case of the Koma Kulshan Ranger Station maintaining the site will also help to retain the history of the relationship between the Forest Service and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC).

The scope of this project is to make recommendations for the maintenance and management of the Koma Kulshan Ranger Station site using historic documentation as a reference, and taking into account the current uses and state of the site. The focus will be to manage the physical state of the whole site, with emphasis on the three historic contributing buildings, in order to retain the historic integrity of the site. This has been done in two ways. Firstly, by surveying the current site this project recommends maintenance based on the US Department of the Interior's standards for treatment of historic properties (Weeks, 1995). Secondly, using historic documentation this project recommends changes to the site for it to be more in keeping with the historic feel of the site. Although this report includes information about the Ranger Station site and non-contributing buildings, the primary focus of this plan is the three contributing buildings on the site. Finally, this project comments on the historic integrity of the current site. This comment is not for the purpose of arguing whether the property should remain on the NRHP, but instead to present an observation of where the site stands in retaining historic integrity despite changes made to the site since it was placed on the Register.

This plan is meant to assist the Forest Service Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest in the maintenance and management of the Koma Kulshan Ranger Station site. This plan should be made available to all responsible personnel of the Forest Service and affiliated groups responsible for the care and maintenance of this site. This plan is to be consulted and followed to guide all future maintenance and construction activities carried out at the site, on contributing and noncontributing buildings. The HPMP should be consulted no matter the size of the proposed project before continuing on to the project planning phase. The Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Heritage Program staff should be consulted if questions should arise as to the interpretation of the report, or whether a proposed project fits within the guidelines of the HPMP. The Heritage Program staff will consult the US Department of the Interior Standards and the State Historic Preservation Officer when determining the appropriateness of proposed projects at the site, as appropriate under laws and regulations. Because the site is listed on the NRHP, all projects should support efforts to maintain the historic integrity of the site.

C. Methodology

In developing this plan, the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Heritage Program Manager was consulted to assist in conducting research and providing Forest Service resources. Research for this project was two part: creating an outline for the report, and incorporating the specific site history of the Koma Kulshan Ranger Station. To compile this research, several case studies of HPMPs and the National Park Service model for Historic Structure Reports were used to guide the organization of the information and suggestions found here. This technique was used because no Forest Service guidelines for HPMPs could be located. To research the history of the site the Forest Service provided historic site records, photographs, and relevant primary and secondary sources to ensure accuracy in this report. Comparisons between photographs from different time periods were used to identify changes made to the site and the relative time periods these changes were made during. In addition to historic photographs and written records, two site visits were conducted to document and analyze the contemporary state of the site. Both contributing and noncontributing structures were taken into account in the research for this report. Finally, in commenting on the historic integrity of the site the state of the site was analyzed using the US Department of the Interior criteria for historic integrity. Work for this report was done in conjunction with requirements of the Community, Environment & Planning Undergraduate Program Senior Project at the University of Washington.

D. Using the Appendices

The Appendices of this HPMP are intended to be used as an active and working part of the report. The Appendices are referenced throughout the report, and are to be viewed as an important reference tool for the reader as well. Appendix I. National Register of Historic Places Registration Form is a record of the NRHP nomination for the site, which was written in 1991. Appendix I should be used as a framework for the rest of the report. This HPMP works to support and supplement the information found in the Registration Form. The Registration Form includes the historic context and history of the site, in depth architectural descriptions of the three contributing buildings, and a statement of significance for the site. It would be beneficial in understanding this report to read Appendix I before reading the HPMP, as Appendix I is the context for the report. Appendix II. Works Cited is a record of the references used to compile this report. References are noted throughout the report. More information about the site and additional references can be found in facilities and heritage files belonging to the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, in the public domain, or at public repositories. If more information is found to be useful or necessary as part of this HPMP the Appendices can be added to by users of the report for personal reference.

E. Orientation to Section IV

Section IV comprises the majority of this report, and was written in order to provide descriptions of significant defining features of each building, as well as building maintenance concerns. Within this section there are three sections: A. Residence Building #1007; B. Forest Roads & Trails (FR&T) Building #2200; and C. Equipment Storage Building #2300. Each building has two parts, the first part being descriptions of the exterior and the second part focused on the interior. Both parts are organized in a similar way as to provide cohesion throughout this document.

For exterior descriptions: Each building is separated into its respective facades or elevations. Each elevation is addressed individually in a section, and at the beginning of each of these sections will be a title which reads "Exterior" followed by the direction the elevation faces. In each elevation section there will be a historic and contemporary photograph of the building, followed by a diagram depicting the "Signficant Defining Features" of the elevation. Significant defining features are features of the elevation which are original, historic, are indicative of the period of significance or of the group that constructed the building, and/or are evidence of the historic use of the building. Each of these features is assigned a number, which correlates to a number in the next section, titled "Maintenance Concerns". The maintenance concerns section presents suggested maintenance approaches or guidelines for significant features of the building. Each elevation also has a section titled "Additional Features". This section has been created for features of the building which do not fit within the above criteria but which should be maintained or cared for.

At the end of each building's exterior section there are two sections (if applicable). The first is titled "General Exterior Features" and was written to address features of the building which are not associated with one particular elevation, like chimneys, roofs, and paint. The second is titled "Site Features" and addresses features of the building site outside of the footprint of the building itself, including interpretive features, or landforms.

For interior descriptions: Interior descriptions follow the exterior descriptions of the respective buildings. The interior descriptions are not diffinitively divided into sections, but are loosely based on the different rooms or spaces within the buildings. Within each building this report identifies significant features and proposes maintenance approaches for these features and additional features deemed not to be significant which are in need of care.

An example page, with descriptions of each section, follows.

Exterior/Interior, Elevation/Building:

Historic photograph of building

Contemporary photograph of building

Significant Defining Features:
Significant features are pointed out using red arrows, or are described and accompanied by a photograph. Each feature is numbered, and the features have a corresponding number in the "Maintenance Concerns" section.
Significant features have been determined based on features that are original, historic, and/or are indicative of CCC construction or the historic use of the building.

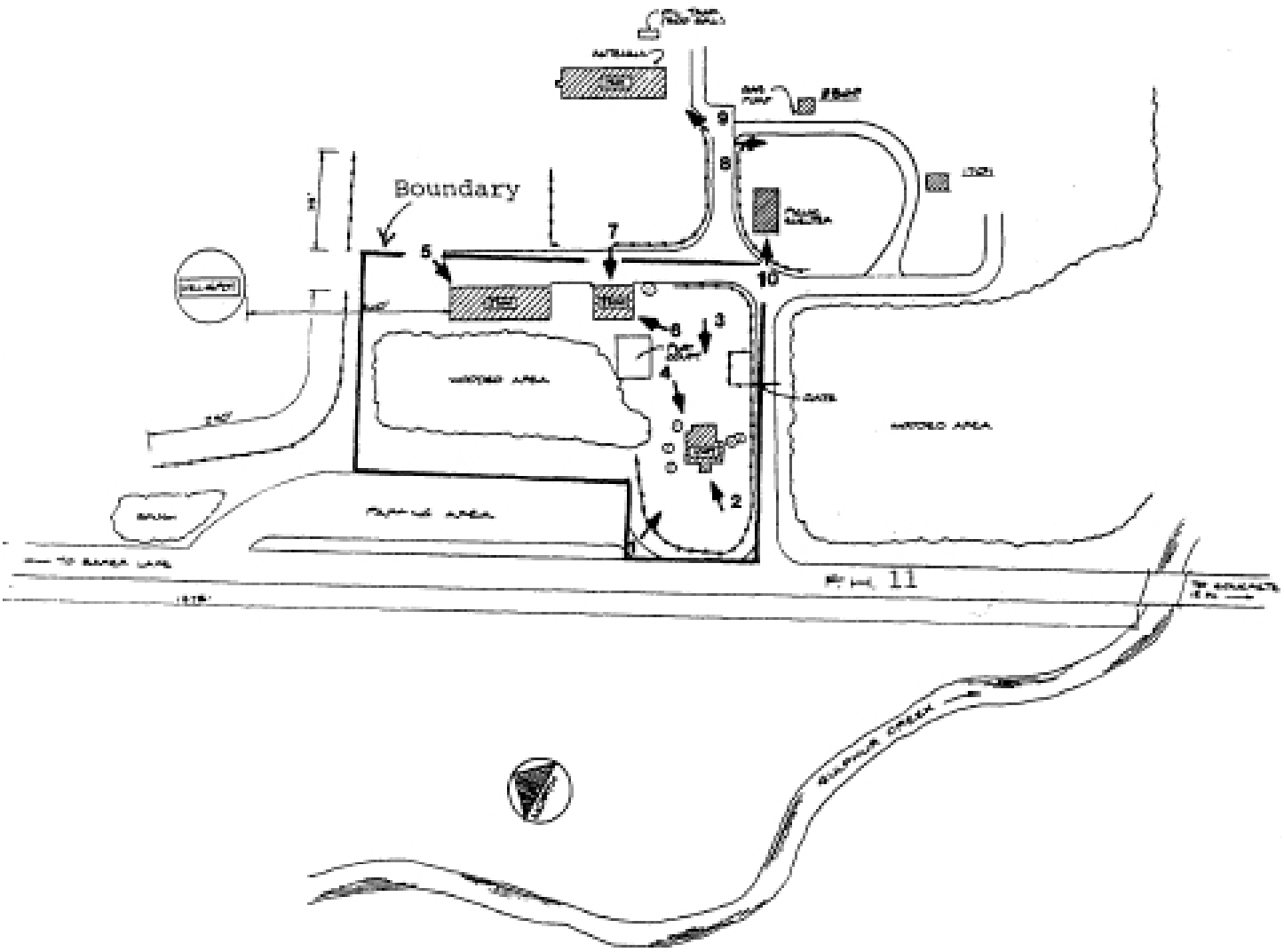
Maintenance Concerns:
This section describes the appropriate management approach for each signficant feature listed above.
In the sections of this report that describe the interiors of the buildings these two sections, "Significant Defining Features" and "Maintenance Concerns", are described together.

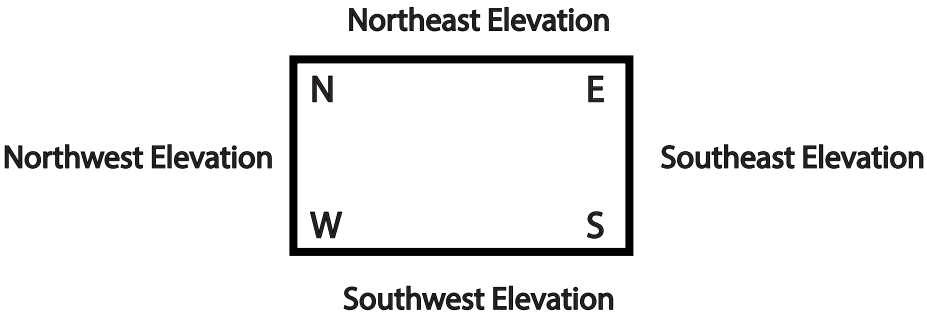
Additional feature example

Additional Features of the Building or specific Building Elevation:
Additional features are features that are not character defining, but are still important to the building.
These can be in the vacinity and/or associated with a particular building.

General Exterior Features of Building:
This section is only found in the "Exterior" section of each building. General Exterior Features are features which are close in proximity to, or are associated with, the building being described. This section is only included when applicable.

II. Site Map





LEGEND

- Building
- Paved Road
- Gravel Road
- Bridge
- Fence

BUILDING LEGEND

2200 Warehouse (FR&T Building)
3300 Fire Warehouse
1007 Residence
1301 Bath House & Bunkhouse
1701 Pump House & Well Head
2300 Equipment Storage

III. Site Context

A. History of the Forest Service and the Civilian Conservation Corps

The Civilian Conservation Corps was a combined effort of many government units to provide work for unemployed males during the Great Depression. It was devised to cope with national conservation needs as well as unemployment, a collective response to the worsening economic conditions of 1933. One of the first thrusts of CCC activity was in the national forests, where the CCC remained for its 9-year existence until increased demand for employees in an improved economy and the war effort brought about its end. The CCC was established in April 1933 and terminated in 1942.

Today, many of the remaining physical features the CCC built have been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Activities of the CCC were not limited to construction; contributions such as fighting forest fires and reducing pests and disease were also extremely important to national forest enhancement. By design, the CCC worked on projects that were independent of other public relief programs. The national forests were ideally suited for these projects. Although other Federal agencies such as the National Park Service and Soil Conservation Service contributed, the USDA Forest Service administered more than 50 per cent of all public work projects. Indeed, the public forests profited vastly from the CCC effort.

Twenty national forests in the States of Oregon and Washington made up Region 6 (now called the Pacific Northwest Region) during the CCC years of operation. In Washington, these forests were the Chelan, Columbia, Colville, Mt. Baker, Olympic, Snoqualmie, and Wenatchee. Statistics show that CCC work in the Pacific Northwest Region focused on forest fire protection, recreation, transportation improvements, and structural improvements. The CCC was responsible for building numerous other structures in Region 6. It is estimated that between 1,000 and 1,200, or about one-third, of the region's structures remain intact. (Otis, 1986).

Civilian Conservation Corps members clear the site of the Koma Kulshan Ranger Station in 1933.
(Photo from Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest records.)

B. Site History & Significance

The original report on the site history and significance of Koma Kulshan Ranger Station can be found in Appendix I.: National Register of Historic Places Registration Form of this report. This section on site history and significance covers the Residence #1007, FR&T Building #2200, and Equipment Storage Building #2300 (historically #2001, #2200, and #2201 respectively). This section includes a comment on the context of the site as it relates to the Forest Service Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest in its contemporary usage. It is intended to be an addition to what can be found on the Registration Form, and includes changes made to the site since the form was submitted in 1991.

Context:

The Koma Kulshan Ranger Station is named after the Native American name for Mount Baker, because of the site's proximity to and view of the mountain. This name was approved in 1931 when the site was designated as a relocation of the Baker River Ranger Station. The current site was selected because of its location along what was at the time a new road, and was thought to be more accessible to District personnel and the public (Welch, 1977). In 1945 the Koma Kulshan Ranger Station was transitioned to acting as a Guard Station, when it was used as a guard training station and seasonal housing for summer crews. The site was historically used as a headquarters for summer recreation and visitor information services for Baker Lake, and is currently used as crew quarters for seasonal personnel. The Lake is most popular for recreation and use during the summer months and it was therefore noted in 1977 that the site could an educational opportunity for public visitors to become aware of and learn about this site's historic significance (Cultural Resource Inventory Form, 1978).

In 1977 the site was nominated for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). At this time many employees in the District had shown an interest in determining the historical significance of the site, since they were planning to schedule site repairs. It was determined at the time that the property did not qualify to be listed on the National Register. According to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) the structures did not meet the 50-year guideline for age, and although possessed historic significance were not outstanding examples of CCC work. It was suggested, however, that the buildings should be maintained in their original condition as much as possible, and that any changes be documented and photographed. At the time it was established that the SHPO did concur that the Koma Kulshan Ranger Station met Criteria A and C (then Criteria 1 and 3) for placement on the National Register (Welch, 1977). A nomination for the site was resubmitted 13 years later in 1991 when the oldest building on the site was approximately 60 years old, after the Forest Service had developed significant context for Civilian Conservation Corps architecture. The SHPO found the site to be significant under Criterion A and C, and to be strongly associated with the CCC, and the Koma Kulshan Ranger Station was listed on the NRHP on June 10, 1991.

It has been determined, according to the Registration Form that the primary period of significance for the site is from 1931-1945 (Architecture 1932-1934; Conservation 1931-1945; Social history 1933-1934).

Significant features of CCC architecture and construction applicable to the Koma Kulshan site include large construction features; natural, local materials; multi-light windows; steep roofs; exposed rafter tails; large overhangs on eaves; local stone masonry; enclosed porches; and the pine motif.

Contributing Buildings:

Residence Building #1007:


Residence, southwest elevation

The earliest records of changes made to the Residence show that the building was repainted in 1975 in a color scheme different from the existing scheme. It was reported that the other buildings on the site would be painted to follow in this color scheme, which occurred sometime after 1977. In 1977 it was reported that the residence was in stable condition, but foundation should be reinforced and living quarters repaired. In 1983 two electric baseboard heaters where installed, one in the living room and one in the kitchen. Previously the residence had relied on wood heat as a means to heat the building. Despite these changes, and even when in addition to a wood fire going in the building, the heaters could not keep up with the heat loss of the building during cold months and the pipes are susceptible to freezing and breaking. Interior storm windows made from wood and plastic were installed sometime before 1994 to assist in heat retention. Between 1989 and 1994 the upstairs ceiling was insulated by removing the plywood and installing fiberglass batting before replacing the plywood. The main level is insulated with fiberglass batting and the pipes are wrapped with insulation (Hamilton, 1994). The roof of the Residence was replaced in 2013 using Brava "Aged Cedar" colored "shake", which is made of synthetic recycled material. The style of the replacement roof is in kind with the split shake roof which was installed in 1980 (Hollenbeck, 2013).

FR&T Building #2200:

A 1977 report found the building to be in good condition with only minor repairs necessary. No changes to the building had been recorded between its construction and the date of the report, except for the extension of the porch which happened within a couple years of construction (Cultural Resource Inventory Form, 1978). The exterior doors on the east side of the building were painted without priming, and later primed and re-painted to minimize the "bleeding" of the old paint. To prevent theft of equipment screens were placed on the interior of the building to protect the building while retaining the historical look of the exterior (Hamilton, 1994). The roof of this building was replaced at the time the Residence roof was replaced, and using the same material (Hollenbeck, 2013).


FR&T Building, northeast elevation

Equipment Storage Building #2300:

A report written in 1977 reported that the foundation of the building was badly deteriorated. and that the building would need a lot of work in order to restore the interior. District personnel suggest the building be removed instead of incur costs to repair it, especially since it was not in heavy use. Between 1977 and 1994 most of the posts on the northeast side of the building were replaced. More work has been done to stabilize the structure and reduce structural rot. The roof of this building was replaced at the time the Residence roof was replaced, using the same material; it does not include a galvanized steel ridge cap which was reported as part of the roof in the 1991 Registration Form (Hollenbeck, 2013).

Equpment Storage Building, northeast elevation

Non-contributing Buildings, Features and Additional Site Changes:

Bunkhouse Building #1301:

In 1995 the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest proposed a renovation of the bunkhouse at Koma Kulshan Ranger Station. The project went through a design review process, and the replacement structure was designed to be in keeping with the feeling and style of the existing contributing buildings. The Forest Service received funding in 2001 to demolish and replace the existing fire crew bunkhouse on the site, which was determined not to be historic. The bunkhouse is a non-contributing structure located outside the boundary of the historic property. It was determined that this change to the site would "have 'no [adverse] effect' on the Koma Kulshan Ranger Station historic district as it preserves the existing character of the property by not introducing elements that are out of the character with the property of its setting" (Phipps, 2001).

Bunkhouse, southwest elevation

Hazardous Tree Removal:

In 2003 a request went through to remove several hazardous trees. Trees on the site had previously been deemed safe for the site, however as time progressed it was suggested the trees be removed after further inspection to reduce risk of road obstructions and fire hazards. It is noted several trees were diseased due to Hemlock Looper infestation. It was determined that the tree removals would have no adverse effect on the site because the features impacted by the actions, a split cedar fence and telephone insulators attached to trees, were not strongly associated with the Civilian Conservation Corps. This change did not affect significance of the contributing historic buildings on the site or their setting (Hollenbeck, 2003).

Woodshed:

In the 1991 Registration Form a woodshed behind the residence is listed as a non-contributing building. This older woodshed the Form refers to was constructed in the 1980s but was demolished between 2011 and 2014 because of leaks in the roof. The new woodshed on the site was built positioned on the footprint of a concrete pad, and was next to the old woodshed, when it was still standing. Historic photographs show that this pad was at one time the foundation for a vehicle garage (Building #1500) and may have been used as a basketball court for the residents and fire crew at the site (see site map on page 5, labelled "play court"). The new woodshed was built in 2011 (roof in 2010). The current woodshed is approximately 19x21 feet. The woodshed is constructed with a gable roof made of corrugated metal and is open on the northwest and southeast-facing sides (Burdick, 2011).

Woodshed, southeast elevation

Vault Toilets:

Two wood-frame vault toilets near the northwest corner of the site, which are recorded on the Registration Form have since been demolished.

Historic station sign, south of the Residence

Station Sign:

The station identification sign which was listed as being in front of the residence is no longer intact, although the stone and concrete base and steel tubes which supported the sign are still intact.

Grinding Stone:

The grinding stone noted in the Registration Form has its own elaborate history which is not directly associated with the Forest Service or the CCC but is a historic symbol of events around Baker Lake and has long been positioned at the site of Koma Kulshan. It has become a part of the site. (Cultural Resource Inventory Form, 1978).

Grinding stone, west of the Residence

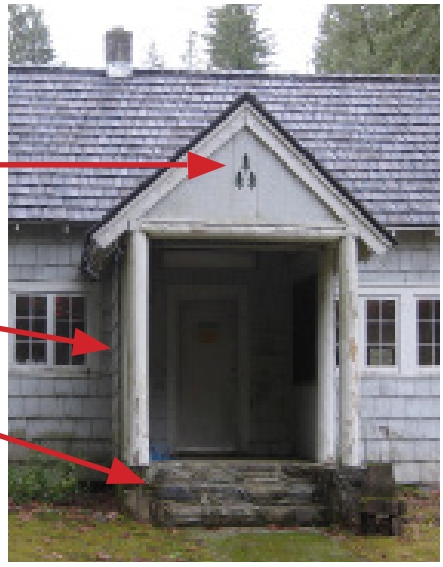
IV. Defining Features & Maintenance Concerns

A. Residence Building #1007

Exterior, Southwest Elevation:

Southwest elevation, 1936

Southwest elevation, 2014



Significant Defining Features:

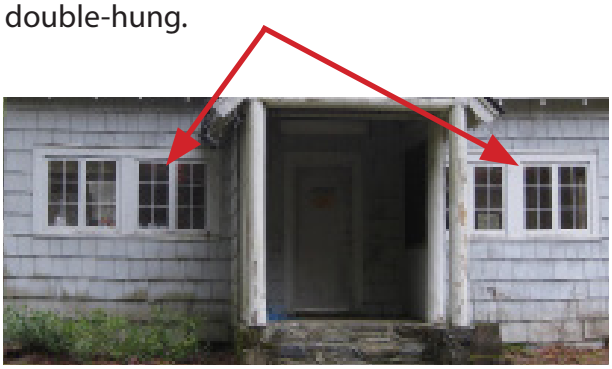
1. Ornamental carvings, which are not original but are in keeping with CCC style.

2. Simple portico entrance with round column supports.

3. River rock masonry porch and stairs, which are not original.

4. Wood materials - cedar shake siding.

5. Windows, which are 3'4" square, true divided light (TDL), 6-pane double-hung.



Southwest elevation, 1976

Maintenance Concerns:

1. These three ornamental carvings of the "pines" motif are seen in photographs of the Residence as early as 1985, which indicates that the motif was present on the building when the site was listed on the NRHP. The pediment was originally clad in cedar shake, like the siding, and adorned with a plaque (in 1936 the Forest Service shield, and in 1976 a depiction of Smokey Bear with the words "Prevent Forest Fires"). Atlhough not original, the pine symbol directly highlights that the construction was done by the CCC, and it is suggested they be maintained. In order to emphasize the motif the pines may be painted a different color than the pediment, as they are in the 2014 photo, but this is not necessary.

Unpainted pines motif, 1985

2. In 1978 the porch was extended, but the round columns with no capitals (decorative column tops) remained a feature of the entrance. The entrance is described in the Registration form as a "porch roof supported by two large, tapered peeled poles with notched pole cross-member". It is unclear if the original poles were kept and re-used when the porch was extended. These poles are a significant feature because they have been retained in the entrance design since the building was constructed. These poles should therefore be retained in any future work or plan to make additions to the entrance. The paint on these poles is currently peeling which over time can degrade the wood. These poles should be stripped of their paint and repainted with a good outdoor paint which will protect the wood from rot and moisture, in order to avoid future replacement of the poles. The new paint should be in keeping with the color scheme of the Residence and the other buildings on the site.

3. After the porch was extended, wooden steps were replaced with masonry steps and porch base. The CCC were well known for their masonry work, and although this work is not original it references typical CCC construction style. In order to upkeep the masonry annual cleaning of the stone and grout is recommended to remove soil and moss with gentle cleaning methods and solutions. Natural debris around the base of the masonry should be cleared often to reduce sources of moisture. For additional work consult the Department of the Interior's Standards for Restoration of Historic Properties.

Entrance masonry, 2014

4. For more information, see *General Exterior Features of Residence* No. 1on page 16.

5. The southwest facade windows are the same style of window found on the rest of the Residence. The windows are original and because they are replicated around the building are character defining and considered signficant features of the building exterior. For care, maintenance and repair of original windows see the Department of the Interior's Standards for Restoration of Historic Properties.

Additional Features of Southwest Elevation:

The entrance portico is enclosed by painted sheets of plywood covered by painted cedar shake. The original entrance was not enclosed which allowed natural light to enter the covered porch. If major work is done to the entrance it is worth considering removing the enclosure the enhance the facade. The front entrance door is not original. Consider replacing the door with one more compatible with the period of significance.

Exterior, Northwest Elevation:

Northwest elevation, 1985

Northwest elevation, 2014

Significant Defining Features:

1. Windows, which are 3'4" square, TDL 6-pane double-hung.

2. Set of multi-pane TDL windows, each measuring 34" x 53".

Maintenance Concerns:

1. The windows are the same style of window found on the rest of the Residence. The windows are original and because they are replicated around the building are character defining and considered signficant features of the building exterior. For care, maintenance and repair of original windows see the Department of the Interior's Standards for Restoration of Historic Properties.

2. The enclosed back porch of the Residence is characterized by two sets of these multi-pane windows. Athough the full enclosure of the porch is not original, the enclosed porch is listed on the NRHP Registration form, and is consistant with the CCC style. For care, maintenance and repair of these windows see the Department of the Interior's Standards for Restoration of Historic Properties.

Exterior, Southeast Elevation:

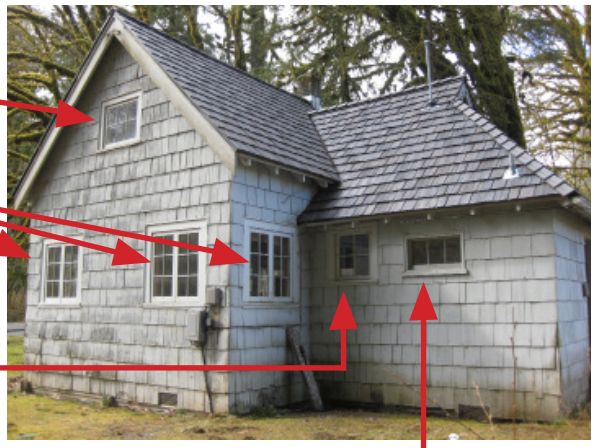
Southeast elevation, 1985

Southeast elevation, 2014

Significant Defining Features:

1. One 6-pane single frame square window.

2. Three sets of 3'4" square, TDL 6-pane double-hung windows.



3. One 4-pane single frame square TDL window, measuring 2'1" x 2'3.5".

4. One 3-pane single frame square TDL window.

Maintenance Concerns:

1, 2 & 3. All windows are original. For care, maintenance and repair of original windows see the Department of the Interior's Standards for Restoration of Historic Properties.

4. This window, located in the bathroom of the Residence, appears to be a replacement in kind rather than an original feature. It is in good condition and should be maintained.

Southeast elevation, 2014

Additional Features of Southeast Elevation:

Attached to this side of the Residence there is a telephone box. Installation and removal of other systems in this location is the likely cause of the damaged cedar shake siding, which created char marks on the building exterior. Efforts should be made to protect the siding from further damage. The affected shakes should be repainted. If the cause of the charing is unknown, repaint shakes and monitor area for changes.

Exterior, Northeast Elevation:

Northeast elevation, 1936

Northeast elevation, 2014

Northeast elevation, 2014

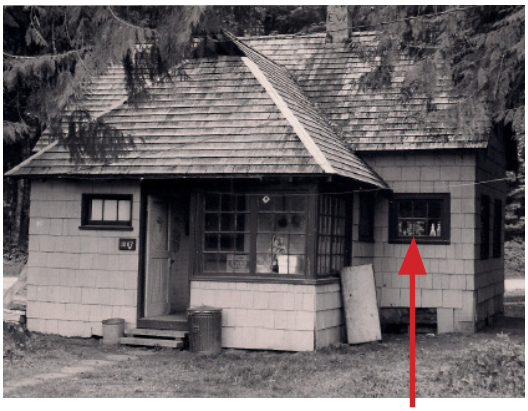
Significant Defining Features:

1. One horizontal 6-pane TDL window, with vertically oriented panes.

2. One multi-pane TDL window, measuring 34" x 53".

Maintenance Concerns:

1&2. These windows are original. For care, maintenance and repair of original windows see the Department of the Interior's Standards for Restoration of Historic Properties.



Northeast elevation, horizontal 6-pane window can be seen on right, 1976

Additional Features of Northeast Elevation:

The rear porch was enclosed at an unknown time. The back porch was originally semi-enclosed, with no door, and screened by a trellis. Historic photos show that there was once a 3-pane single frame square window which looked into the Residence's bathroom, and matched a window on the southeast elevation. This window was removed before the site was put on the NRHP. It is not suggested a window be reinstalled here because it has been too long since the window was uninstalled.

The porch entrance door appears to be the door which was installed when the porch was enclosed. The door would have originally had a glass window, which has since been knocked out and replaced with plywood board. Consider replacing the door with one more compatible with the period of significance. A solid door is suggested if the use of glass is considered a security risk.

The concrete pad and wooden steps leading to the back door should be maintained to avoid degradation. The concrete should be cleared of debris and moss. This can be done by pressure washing the area. The wooden stairs should be scrubbed to clean off moss and treated or painted with a weather resistant paint to protect the wood from moisture and rot.

Rear door, 2014

General Exterior Features of Residence:

1. The Residence building was repainted in 1975 in the current color scheme of battleship grey and white. Much of this paint is chipping, wearing off, or acting as a host for moss and lichen. It would be beneficial to the structure to strip the paint and repaint the structure with an outdoor paint which is weather resistant. Repainting will protect and extend the life of the cedar shake siding, as well as make the structure look like it is in better condition.

2. The roof was recently replaced in 2013 to mimic a shake roof. This roof replacement used Brava "Aged Cedar" colored "shake". This material is expected to last 50 years, and is both made of recycled materials and can be recycled. If the roof needs maintenance or to be replaced care should be taken to retain this look. When the roof is replaced research should be done to find the most fitting product, sensitive to the historic character.

3. The siding shakes have been exposed to weather and moisture, which has caused the lower shakes to grow moss and/or begin to deteriorate. The moss should be gently cleaned as to not damage the paint or underlying cedar shake. The immediate area about the base of the building should be regularly cleared to avoid foundation/low shakes/baseline degradation.

Low siding shakes growing moss because of moisture and uncleared natural debris, 2014

4. Although the chimney above the roof is not the original chimney seen in historic photographs, a chimney has continued to exist in this place. The chimney should not be moved or repositioned unless it is found to be necessary.

Site Features of Residence:

1. A Forest Service station identification sign used to sit off of Forest Highway 11 in front of the Residence. This sign identified the site as Koma Kulshan, and within the Mount Baker-Snoqalmie National Forest. Replacing this sign would both restore a historic feature of the site, as well as act as an interpretive feature for the public. The masonry base for the sign is original, and is indicative of CCC work. In order to upkeep the masonry annual cleaning of the stone and grout is recommended to remove soil and moss with gentle cleaning methods and solutions. Natural debris around the base of the masonry should be cleared often to reduce sources of moisture. For additional masonry work consult the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Restoration of Historic Properties.

Station identification sign base which is covered in moss and missing the sign, 2014

2. Positioned at the west corner of the Residence is a grinding wheel. The wheel has been positioned near the Residence for a number of years, and is mentioned on the NRHP Registration Form. It is suggested the stone be gently cleaned, following the Secretary of the Interior's Standards. Historic photographs show an interpretive sign next to the stone. This could be replaced to educate the public on the history of the artifact and how it relates to the Koma Kulshan Ranger Station site and the greater Baker Lake area.

Grinding stone interpretive sign, 1985

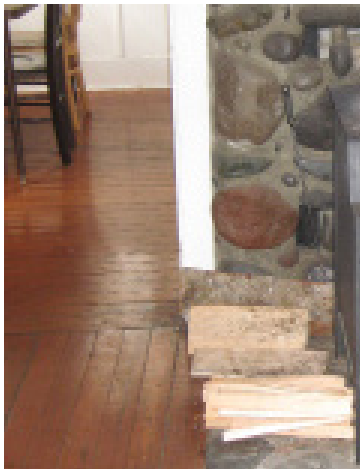
Moss covered grinding stone, 2014

Interior, Residence Building:

Floor One:

Significant Defining Features & Maintenance Concerns:

1. The living room and hallway of the Residence still retain the original wood flooring, which is consistant with the style of wood flooring used in the FR&T building. The living room floor was refinished around 1972 after the building was vandalized and a small fire was lit on the floor. These areas of wood flooring are part of the character of the building, and should not be permanently covered (throw rugs which protect the wood are acceptable) or painted. Care should be taken when moving heavy objects across the floor to avoid scratches or damage to the wood. If it is found to be beneficial to the floor, flooring in these areas of the Residence can be refinished.



Original wood flooring, 2014

2. The original plywood and batten walls and ceiling can be found throughout the Residence first floor. The walls and ceiling were likely not originally painted, based on examples found in similar Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) projects from this time period. The walls and ceiling were likely made of unpainted finished plywood, which has now all been painted white. Plywood was a common and accepted building material in early 1900s Forest Service construction. Ply and batten is easy to install, and is therefore a material often used by young and untrained CCC crews in the facilities they constructed. This construction feature is indicative of the time period and CCC construction. Plywood is susceptible to moisture, which can cause damage to the layers of wood, so clean walls and ceiling with a damp cloth (Wilson, 2007). Take care to keep space between items like tables and chairs and the walls to reduce the risk of damage. If the walls and ceiling need to be repainted, consider instead stripping the paint and refinishing the bare plywood if this can be done in a way that does not harm the wood.

Plywood & batten style is consistent throughout the Residence, 2014

3. Although the light fixtures have been updated and are not original, the light fixtures are likely in their original location within the Residence. Lighting is relatively minimal. If more lighting is found to be necessary, consider a non-permanent solution like a lamp, which does not affect the wiring system of the building.

Current light fixtures are likely in original locations, 2014

4. In the northwest wall of the hallway there is a floor to ceiling wooden cabinet measuring 5'6.5" wide x 12" deep. The cabinet is mentioned in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Registration Form for the site. It is unclear whether this feature is original, but it is a significant feature on the first floor. The cabinet is utilitarian, and should be maintained so it can continue to be used.

5. The first floor of the Residence maintains its original general configuration and room dimensions. This configuration should be maintained to support how the building was originally designed to function.

Additional Features of Floor One of the Residence:

1. The Residence kitchen was included in the 1984 renovation. New cabinetry, lighting, and flooring were intalled. These features, except for the flooring which matches the original flooring in the living room, are not original and are not in the style of the period of significance. These features can be replaced and updated as necessary, taking into account stylistic cohesion of the elements and energy efficiency. These elements should remain simple and utilitarian, as compared to highly decorative, so as to fit stylistically with the appliances in the rest of the Residence. A similar layout to the existing one should be retained to mimic the historic layout of the room.

Current kitchen features are simple, but not original, 2014

2. The bathroom, located in the east corner of the Residence, was also included in the 1984 renovation. The fixtures in the bathroom are not original, and are therefore not contributing to the historic character of the building. The appliances in the bathroom (shower, sink, toilet) can be replaced and updated as necessary, taking into account stylistic cohsion of the elements, and water-use efficiency. A similar layout of the applicances should be maintained to fit the existing plumbing. Care should be taken to reduce the risk of water damage, from leaks and from steam from use of the shower.

Current kitchen features are simple, but not original, 2014

3. In 1984 a river cobble/masonry hearth was installed in the living room. Although the CCC were known for their masonry work, this feature uses smoother, smaller stones than other masonry features on the site which are more in keeping with the CCC style (seen in the hearth of the shelter to the east of the Residence, and the steps at the southwest entrance of the Residence). If replaced, consider replacing to match these other masonry site features. If the woodburning stove is replaced, consider replacing in a style consistent with the period of significance.

4. In 1985 the original brick chimney was replaced with concrete chimney block. No signs of the brick chimney remain. If replaced consider brick to be in keeping with the period of significance, if brick is consistent with the fire safety code.

5. The divider between the living room and kitchen was converted from a solid wall to an open divider in 1986. This feature is not contributing to the historic character of the building, but does not diminish the feel of the space. The open divider acts as an addtional storage area, and adds a simple, decorative feature to the space.

Open divider between living room and kitchen, 2014

6. Radient heating panels were installed in the living room (2), kitchen (1), and bathroom (1) approximately two to three years ago. The heating panels are controlled by a thermostat to add an additional heating source to the building, which is useful for residents living in the building in colder months. Although the panels are close to the ceiling and match the ceiling color, continue to look for heating options which will be more efficient and visibly more subtle or in keeping with the period of significance.

Heating panel on first floor, 2014. There are 6 panels total in the house.

7. Since the Residence was built the back porch has been enclosed. The enclosed porch measures 9'7" x 6' 10". The wood flooring in the enclosed porch is likely the original flooring which would have made up the open porch. The floor is unfinished, or finishing has worn off over years of use. The enclosed porch also features a short bench and storage shelves. These features in their current state work to support the mud-room use of the enclosed porch. Consider finishing the floor to retain the original wood flooring.

Insulation in the enclosed porch, 2014

8. Insulation has been installed against the southeast wall of the enclosed porch next to the bathroom in order to retain heat inside the Residence. The insulation has been installed using screws over the existing siding, which matches the exterior siding of the Residence. It is suggested that the insulation be removed in warmer months to highlight the southeast wall, and the character of the space.

Floor Two:

Significant Defining Features & Maintenance Concerns:

1. The original 13 step staircase ascends from the wallway of the first floor to two attic bedrooms. The stairs have the original wood flooring, which has been painted. Care should be taken to retain the quality of the wood by protecting the floor when moving heavy objects up and down the stairs, and refinishing or repainting the floor as necessary to prevent scratches and wear on the floor.

Original 13 step staircase, 2014

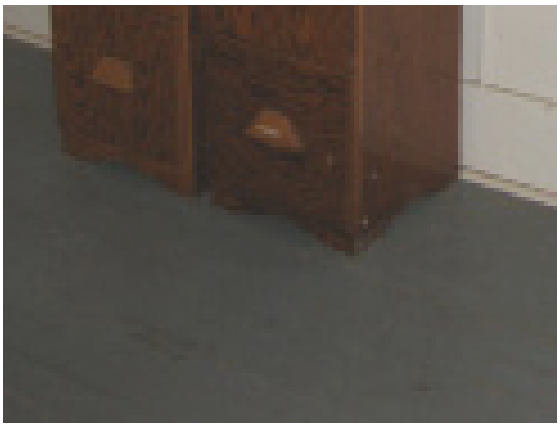
Southeast bedroom, 2014

Opening to the recessed closet in the southeast bedroom (left) and the interior of the closet (right), 2014

2. Bedroom one is on the southeast side of the Residence. This room is close to the size of the living room which lies directly below it. This room has a sloped ceiling which conforms to the main gable of the structure. Generally bedroom one is a plain, open space, which once had a 4' x 4' closet space divided from the room which has been removed between 1991 and 2014. Removable storage areas like dressers should be used over permanent installation of shelves to maintain the simplicity and open floor plan of the room. A permanent closet space measuring 12' x 5' has been constructed into the lower rear gable slope. It is unclear whether this feature is original, but the closet does not detract from the space and provides a storage area for residents, and can therefore be retained.

2. Bedroom two is on the northwest side of the Residence. This room measures 10'4" x 15'4", smaller than bedroom one. Temporary storage features should be used, rather than installing permanent features, to maintain the simplicity and relatively open floor plan of the room.

3. The second floor retains the original wood flooring, the style of which is consistant with the first floor living room and hallway, but has been painted like the stairway. Care should be taken when moving heavy objects to prevent damage to the floor. The floor should be refinished or repainted as necessary to protect the wood.



Additional Features of Floor Two of the Residence:

1. A 4' x 4' closet space has been constructed in the northwest bedroom, with a rod to hang clothes on. This division of space was likely not original since the wall type does not match the ply and batten style of the original walls. However, this permanent space divide acts as a storage area for residents and may remain.

4' x 4' closet in northwest bedroom, 2014

Concrete chimney in northwest bedroom, 2014

2. The concrete chimney runs through the northwest bedroom along the southeast wall. If the chimney or hearth material is changed, the chimney material should be changed to match, as it currently does not fit the historic character of the building.

3. In both of the bedrooms wooden frames have been added to the inside of each window to hold screens. These screens allow in air to an open window while not allowing in insects. In the southeast bedroom the frame and screen are intact. In the northwest bedroom the frame exists without a screen. If the screens are not used, the frames should be removed. If the screens are used then a screen should be installed in the frame in the northwest bedroom.

Frame with no screen, 2014

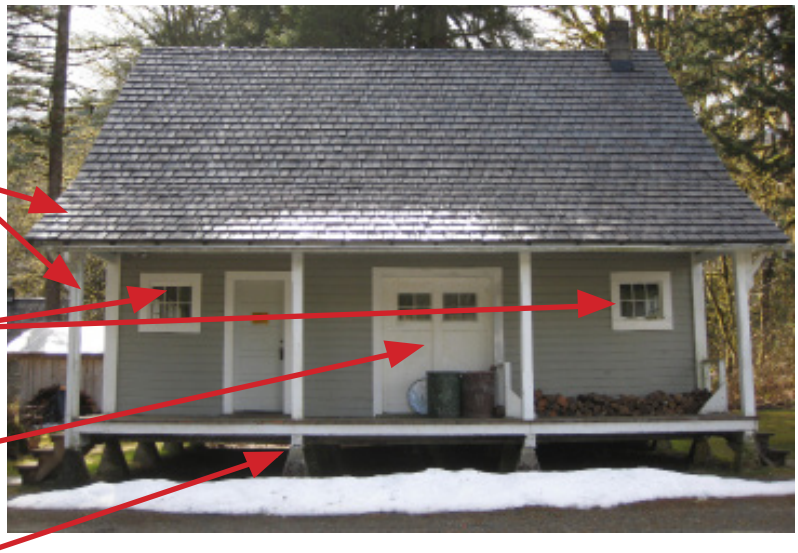
4. One heating panel has been installed in the ceiling of each bedroom. See discussion of these panels noted under *Additional Features of Floor One of the Residence* No. 6.

B. Forest Road & Trails (FR&T) Building #2200

Exterior, Northeast Elevation:

Northeast elevation, 1942

Northeast elevation, 2014



Significant Defining Features:

1. Sloping roof, which covers plank porch, extending the length of the facade. The roof extension is supported by four 4.75" square posts.

2. Pair of single 6-pane TDL windows measuring 2'1.5" x 1'9.5".

3. Sliding loading door with two 6-pane TDL windows measuring 2'1.5" x 1'9.5".

4. Raised porch supported by a concrete pier foundation.

Eaves which support the elongated roof, 2014

FR&T porch without roof extention, 1936

Maintenance Concerns:

1. The roof extension was not a part of the original design, but was constructed between 1936 and 1942 to protect the porch which extends out from the face of the building. The four square posts, which have chamfered corners, support the extended roof and are in good condition, but should be monitored for signs of degradation. Care, maintenance or replacement should be in keeping with the period of significance. The eaves which support the extended roof should be repainted, as the paint is chipping which leaves the wood unprotected. The roof was recently replaced in 2013. (For comments on maintaining the roof see Residence "General Exterior Features" #2).

2. These windows are original. For care, maintenance and repair of these windows see the Department of the Interior's Standards for Restoration of Historic Properties.

Original sliding door, northeast elevation, 2014

3. This sliding loading door is significant because it communicates the historic use of the building as an equipment storage facility. The door is in good condition, and should be maintained. Clearing the space in front of the door would highlight this feature, as well as decrease the risk of collecting moisture or physically damaging the door. The windows in the sliding door match windows in this facade and should be cared for and maintained.

4. The raised porch is characteristic of a working building, where trucks would be able to back up to the porch and load or unload supplies. The porch is made of what appear to be the original wooden planks (there are no records of the porch being replaced). The porch has not been exposed to the weather, and has remained in good condition. The stairs leading up to the porch have been replaced in kind with what is shown in historic photographs of the FR&T Building. It is recommended, in order to maintain the quality of the wood and extend the life of the porch, that the wood pile which is currently positioned at the north end of the porch be relocated. Storing wood on a wooden porch and against wooden siding encourages moisture and insects, which in turn lead to rot and degradation of the porch and siding. Features that currently create a wood crib encourage wood storage on the porch, and could be removed, as they do not add to the character of the building. The square beams supporting the porch should be checked often for signs of degradation. For care, maintenance and repair of wooden features see the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Restoration of Historic Properties.

Wood storage on porch, northeast elevation, 2014

Additional Features of Northeast Elevation:

The solid door of the FR&T Building is indicative of a warehouse, and is in keeping with the period of significance. In care, maintenance, and repair of the door consider keeping the door in-kind with the current door.

Exterior, Southeast Elevation:

Southeast elevation, 1985

Southeast elevation, 2014

Significant Defining Features:
1. Three 12-pane wood frame TDL windows.

2. Two sets of double-sliding-sash TDL windows which measure 28" x 24".

Maintenance Concerns:
1 & 2. These window are original. The sliding windows are unique to this building, and contribute to the feel of the building as a working building. For care, maintenance and repair of original windows see the Department of the Interior's Standards for Restoration of Historic Properties.

Exterior, Northwest Elevation

Southeast elevation, 1976

Southeast elevation, 2014

Southeast elevation, 2014

Significant Defining Features:

1. Four 6-pane wood frame TDL windows.

2. Two sets of double-sliding-sash TDL windows which measure 28" x 24".

3. Original brick chimney base.

Maintenance Concerns:

1 & 2. These windows are original. The sliding windows are unique to this building, and contribute to the feel of the building as a working building. For care, maintenance and repair of original windows see the Department of the Interior's Standards for Restoration of Historic Properties.

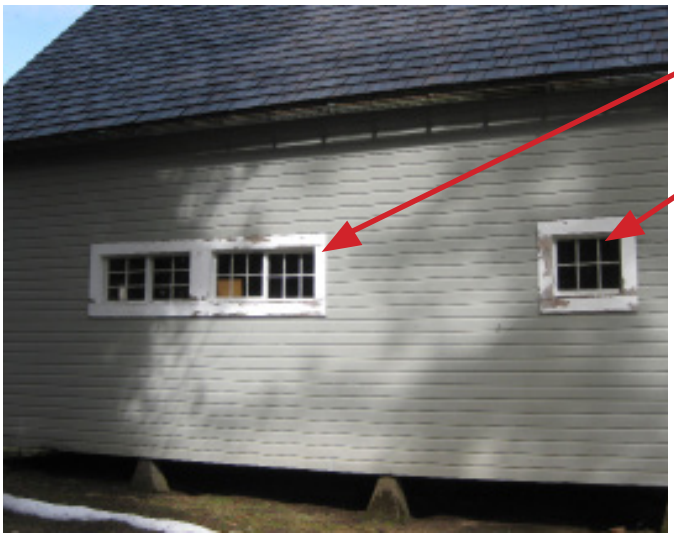
Original brick chimney beneath the building, 2014

3. The original brick chimney was at one time replaced by 16" square standard chimney blocks, which can be seen through the windows on this facade, and above the roof. However, the original red brick base remains below the building between the ground and floor level. This feature should be maintained because it is evidence of the history and transformation of the historic structure. For care, maintenance, and repair of exterior brick features see the Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines for Restoration of Historic Properties.

Exterior, Southwest Elevation:

Southwest elevation, 1976

Southeast elevation, 2014



Southeast elevation, 2014

Significant Defining Features:

1. Two sets of double-sliding-sash TDL windows which measure 28″ x 24″.

2. One 6-pane TDL window measuring 2′1.5″ x 1′9.5″, which matches two windows on the northeast facade.

Maintenance Concerns:

1 & 2. These window are original. The sliding windows are unique to this building, and contribute to the feel of the building as a working building. This building would have had a plain back facade because the primary features and interaction with the building was taking place at the main facade. Concerning the double set of sliding windows, the panes of the windows that make up the sliding window on the left are oriented differently than the panes of the window on the right. The left panes are oriented horizontally, as opposed to vertically. This difference does not detract from the overall feel of the building, and the windows have been this way since at least 1976. If maintenance is done on these windows, or the windows are replaced for any reason, reorienting the windows can be considered. For care, maintenance and repair of original windows see the Department of the Interior's Standards for Restoration of Historic Properties.

Horizontally oriented panes on left, vertically oriented panes on right, 1976

General Exterior Features of FR&T:

1. The FR&T chimney was replaced, baring the base below the building, but has remained in the same position on the roof, as seen in historic photographs. The chimney should not be moved or repositioned unless it is found to be necessary.

2. The raised pier foundation on this building is unique to the Koma Kulshan Ranger Station site. The raised floor helps to keep the base of the building dry and decreases the risk of deterioration. The concrete piers are original and have remained in good condition. The wooden beams are in good condition, but should be regularly checked for signs of degradation.

Foundation of the FR&T Building, 2014

3. The current color scheme of battleship grey and white matches that of the rest of the site. The paint on the siding is in good condition, however white paint on the window frames is chipping or wearing off. It would be beneficial to the window frames to strip the paint and repaint the frames with an outdoor paint which is weather resistant. Stripping the existing paint will improve the texture and integrity of new paint. Repainting will protect and extend the life of the frames, as well as make the structure look like it is in better condition.

4. The roof was recently replaced in 2013 to mimic a shake roof. This roof replacement used Brava "Aged Cedar" colored "shake". This material is expected to last 50 years, and is both made of recycled materials and can be recycled. If the roof needs maintenance or to be replaced care should be taken to retain this look. When the roof is replaced research should be done to find the most fitting product.

Interior, FR&T Building:

Floor One:

Significant Defining Features & Maintenance Concerns:

1. The FR&T Building features exposed structural elements on the first floor including the ceiling beams and vertical supports poles. These elements are important to retaining the warehouse feel of the building. These features are currently painted and appear to be in good condition. No effort should be made to cover or detract from these features. The beams and poles should be regularly checked to assure that they are not deteriorating. Repaint as necessary.

Structural elements, 2014

2. The interior wall cladding is painted horiztonal board siding, which matches the exterior cladding. The horizontal boards should not be obscured or covered, and should be kept clear of heavy materials in order to avoid risk of damage to this original feature. Scuffs to the paint can be painted over using the same color to decrease the look of wear.

Horizontal board cladding, 2014

Original sliding warehouse door, 2014

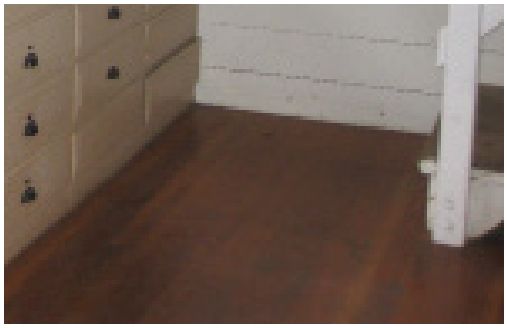
3. The sliding warehouse door centered in the northeast facade of the building is indicative of the historic use of the building. This area directly in front of the door should be kept clear to avoid damage to the wood. The original door and hardware should be maintained, and the door should be kept in working order.

Counter along the souteast wall, 2014

Four missing drawers, 2014

4. An original wooden work counter runs the length of the southeast wall. The counter and drawers beneath seem to be in good condition, but do look used. Four of the 28 pull-out drawers are missing from the northeast side of the counter and should be replaced in kind with the period of significance. Avoiding refinishing the counter will retain the feel of the counter's past use. The drawers beneath the counter should be repainted as necessary.

5. The FR&T Building still features original unpainted wood plank flooring. The floor has been maintained and is in good condition. The flooring should remain unpainted, since a building of this use in the period of significance would not have had a painted floor because the paint would be damaged. The floor should be refinished when found necessary in order to protect the wood. This flooring is indicative of a working building, and the overall appearance of the floor gives the impression of a history of use.

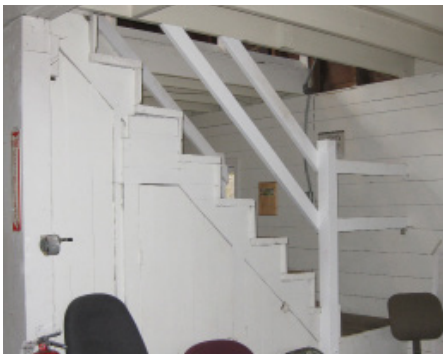


Original wood flooring, 2014

6. The base of the stairway which leads to the second floor of the building features cut-out doors which are likely original. These doors open into a storage area beneath the stairs. This storage area can continue to be used, but the immediate area should be kept clear in order to avoid damage to the staircase and the cut-out doors.

7. The overall feel of the warehouse work area should be retained. The floor plan should not be altered, and the space should not be separated into separate areas or rooms. An open floor plan should be maintained to give the feel of a warehouse space.

Cut-out storage areas in the staircase, 2014



Staircase railing, 2014

Additional Features of Floor One of the FR&T Building:

1. Railings have been added to the staircase in order to meet safety requirements. The current configuration with railings are an accepted change and do no significantly detract from the feel of the interior. The railing should be occassionally checked for structural stability.

2. Accommodations were made when existing lighting was added to the building. Small holes were drilled in the ceiling beams to allow for wiring of the lighting system. This simple system can be left as is, with updates as needed to maintain the safety of the electrical system.

FR&T Building lighting, 2014

Wood burning stove with brick hearth, 2014

Additional Features of Floor One of the FR&T Building Continued:

3. The woodfire stove is likely not original, but a similar heating stove was in the same place earlier in time based on the location of the chimney. The first floor is used as an office by the Interagency Hotshot Crew and the stove helps keep the temperature in the room up in colder months. The stove rests on a brick hearth and is connected to a chinmey of 16" square standard chimney block. This stove should be maintained and monitored for safety. If the stove is replaced it should be replaced in the same place in the room to attach to the existing chimney, and should be in a style that is in keeping with the period of significance.

Floor Two:

Significant Defining Features & Maintenance Concerns:

1. Along the southeast wall is a work bench which appears to be original. This feature is in keeping with the building being used as a shop and storage area. The work bench has continued to be used, and maintains an unfinished appearance. This feature should be retained as an artifact of the history of the building.

2. The second floor maintains the original wood plank flooring like the first floor. The second floor is unfinished, and has been painted in some areas for safety purposes. The unfinished floor is indicative of an area used as a shop. The flooring should be left unfinished and unpainted. If parts of the floor need to be replaced they should be replaced in kind with the remaining floor boards.

3. The open floor plan has been modified to create an enclosed storage area, but the floor plan should not be further subdivided. An open floor plan is indicative of a shop and storage area, and effort should be made to maintain this feel.

Painted and unpainted wood flooring, 2014

Work bench, 2014

Additional Features of Floor Two of the FR&T Building:

1. A wall of plywood was installed on the second floor, creating a secure storage area on the north-west half of the floor. If a secure storage area is deemed unnecessary in the future consider removing the wall and reverting to an open floor plan.

Plywood wall, 2014

2. A storage cage has been installed in the east corner of the second floor as a secure location for materials used by the Interagency Hotshot Crew. The basic wood frame and wire mesh construction of this cage does not significantly detract from the feel of the space. If the cage is no longer needed consider removing this feature. If the cage is reconstructed consider building in a similar style to the current cage to minimize the impact of the feature on the space.

Storage cage made of wood and wire mesh, 2014

3. The second floor features exposed structural elements, which is in keeping with its use as a work area. Skip sheathing and oriented strand board (OSB) are visible beneath the recently replaced roof. In same places these elements have been covered by plywood. Covering of these elements is not required, but does not detract from the feel of the space. It is suggested that, to maintain visual consistency, the skip sheathing remain visible or is covered up throughout the floor.

Exposed skip sheathing and OSB can be seen above storage shelves, 2014

Plywood ceiling covering skip sheathing and OSB, 2014

C. Equipment Storage Building #2300

Exterior, Northeast Elevation:

Northeast elevation, 1936

Northeast elevation, 2014

Northeast elevation, 2014

Significant Defining Features:

1. Eight sliding bay doors with cross bracing.

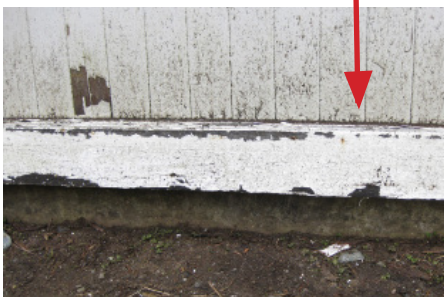
2. Exposed rafter tails, visible below the roofline.

3. Chamfered support poles, attached to the building on one side, resting on cement piers.

Maintenance Concerns:

1. These eight bay doors are significant because not only are they the most prominent defining feature, but they are also indicative of a working building, historically used to house vehicles and machinery. These doors should remain in working order. The base of each door has been exposed to moisture, and has caused the wood to begin to wear. The area around the base of each door should be cleared of natural debris and soil to decrease risk of degradation to the doors. Areas where the paint has worn or chipped off should be repainted using a weather proof paint to protect the wood.

Northeast elevation, 2014



Detail of the base of one of the bay doors, where paint is wearing away due to moisture, 2014

2. Exposed rafter tails are not a feature unique to the Equipment Storage Building. Exposed rafter tails are featured on the Residence and were a visible feature on the FR&T Building before they were covered by a gutter system. Exposed rafter tails are a common feature of CCC buildings, and should therefore be preserved. Several of these rafter tails have been broken off or are partially missing, giving the building an unkept and uneven look. Rafter tails could be rebuilt and attached to existing rafters where tails are not visible. If this is done the material, style, and paint should be matched in kind to blend in with the existing rafter tails.

Missing or uneven rafter tails, 2014

3. Chamfered support poles separate the individual sliding bay doors on the facade of the Equipment Storage Building. These supports, which rest on cement piers match chamfered poles which support the extended roof of the FR&T Building. These supports are in good condition, but should be regularly checked for signs of degradation. Care, maintenance or replacement should be in keeping with the period of significance, in kind with the current style and materials.

Chamfered corners are a subtle detail on the poles which separate sliding bay doors, 2014

Exterior, Southeast Elevation:

Southeast elevation, 1936

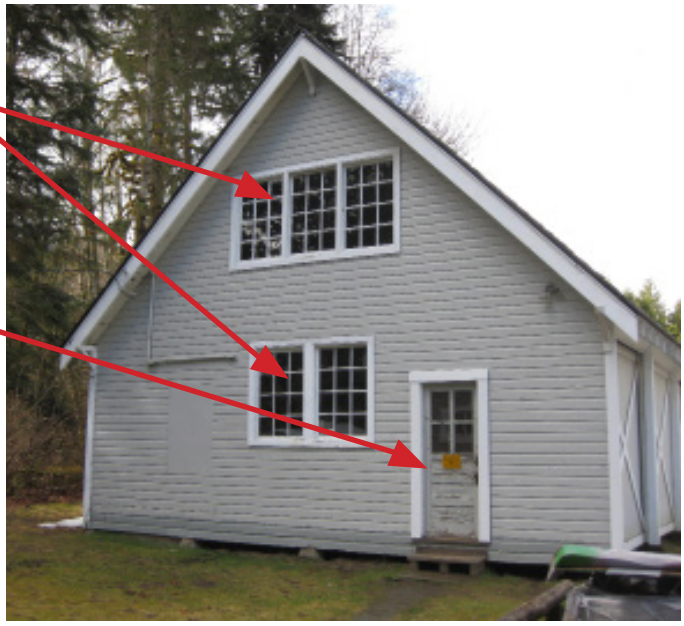
Southeast elevation, 1942

Southeast elevation, 1976

Significant Defining Features:

1. Five original TDL wood frame windows, measuring 34" x 54.5" arranged in one group of three and one group of two.

2. Based on historic photographs, and no records to prove otherwise, the door on this elevation is believed to be original, containing a window made up of four panes of glass.



Southeast elevation, 2014

Maintenance Concerns:

1. The set of two windows were installed between 1936 and 1942, and therefore are not original, but are significant and historic. The set of three top windows are likely original. These window are all historic and should therefore be maintained. For care, maintenance and repair of original windows see the Department of the Interior's Standards for Restoration of Historic Properties.

2. The door, assumed to be original, should be maintained by repainting the exterior to protect the wood where paint is missing. The base of the door is quite worn, likely because of many years of use and wear. If the door needs to be replaced, replace in kind to be in keeping with the period of significance. The door frame is not flush with the siding. This is mostly cosmetic, but it is possible that moisture could be trapped between the siding and the door frame, causing the wood on both to degrade. If replaced, this frame should be pushed against the siding to close this gap. Stairs leading to the door have likely been replaced, and are not a defining feature of the entry.

Space between door frame and siding, 2014

Additional Features of the Southeast Elevation:

1. This elevation historically featured one more 12-pane TDL 34" x 54.5" window, located to the left and slightly below the set of two similar windows. This window can be seen in photographs from 1936, and therefore it is likely original. Between 1976 and 1985 this window was removed, and replaced with a plywood board. and painted like the rest of the exterior. The missing window is not especially noticable. If the window were to be restored it would need to be replaced in kind. If major work is done to the exterior, consider replacing the plywood board with missing/covered window with horizontal drop siding to match the siding of the rest of the structure.

Removed window on southeast elevation, 2014

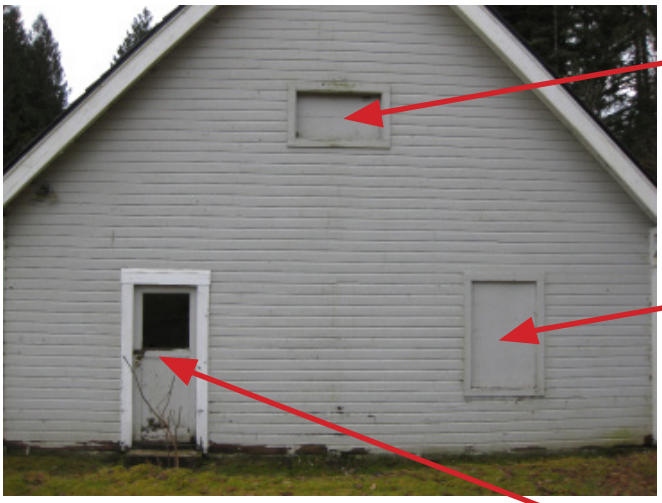
Removed window, 1985

Exterior, Northwest Elevation:

Northwest elevation, 1976

Northwest elevation, 2014

Significant Defining Features:
Changes made to this elevation of the Equipment Storage exterior have resulted in a lack of significant features. No existing features on this elevation define the facade, or historic or original.



Additional Features of the Northwest Elevation:

1. One missing wood frame TDL window measuring 37" x 28". This window has been missing since before 1976. The wood frame is still intact. If the window is replaced it should be replaced in kind with the period of significance.

2. One missing wood frame TDL window measuring 34" x 54.5". This window went missing between 1991 and 2014, because it is listed as having glass in the NRHP nomination form. The window frame is still intact. If the window is replaced it should be replaced in kind with the period of significance.

3. The door of this elevation is possibly original, but the window has been replaced. What used to be a 4-pane TDL window is now a single pane. If the door is replaced it should be replaced in kind with the period of significance. Having a multi-pane window is more inkeeping with the construction style of the CCC and the overall feel of the Koma Kulshan Ranger Station site.

Exterior, Southwest Elevation:

Southwest elevation, 1985

Southwest elevation, 1985

Southwest elevation, 2014

Significant Defining Features:
1. Seven linearly aligned wood frame TDL windows, each measuring 34" x 54.5", with dedicated space for an eighth.

Missing window in Bay 8, 2014

Management Concerns:
1. The NRHP nomination form states that in 1991 the two windows closest to the southern corner of the Equipment Storage Building were covered by plywood. At an unknown date the second window (Bay 7) was uncovered, and the first window (Bay 8) was removed, and replaced with a plywood board. and painted like the rest of the exterior. The missing window is noticable, as it is not in keeping with the modular pattern of this elevation. If the window were to be restored it would need to be replaced in kind to match the remaining windows on this facade. Otherwise, if major work is done to the exterior, consider replacing the plywood board with missing/covered window with horizontal drop siding to match the siding of the rest of the structure.

General Exterior Features of the Equipment Storage Building:
1. At some point between 1985 and 1991 the brick chimney on the building was removed. There is no account of a chimney in the NRHP nomination form. As it is not mentioned, no effort need be made to replace the chimney. A chimney is not necessary for a storage building.

Site Features of the Equipment Storage Building:
1. On the northwest side of the building there is a built rockery which creates a small step in the land. This feature should be retained, as it is likely a part of the original landscape of the site. The rockery should be cleaned in order to maintain and highlight this feature.

Missing window in Bay 8, 2014

Interior of the Equpiment Storage Building:

Significant Defining Features & Maintenance Concerns:
1. The key defining features of the Equipment Storage Building are the eight sliding bay doors, which are not only original but also are indicative of the purpose of the building as a working building. Work should be done to keep the area in front of the doors clear in order to avoid unwanted damage to the original wood. Where possible, maintain the original wood and metal hardware, which should be cared for as necessary, on the doors and keep the doors in working order (able to open and close).

Sliding bay doors, as seen from the interior, 2014

Exposed structure, 2014

2. The interior featues significant exposure of structural elements including original beams, bracing, unpainted boards, replaced skip sheathing and oriented strand board (OSB) which underly the new roof. All of these features are associated with a working building where little emphasis would be put on ornamentation. These features should be checked regularly for stuctural integrity and signs of degradation.

3. The vertical support posts are assumed to be original because glass insulators which would have been used for the original wiring of the building can be seen attached to the posts. This detail should be retained as physical and visual evidence of the history of the building.

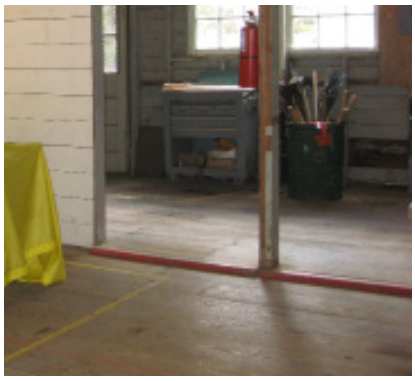
Glass insulator, 2014

4. The building still retains the feeling of a large, open vehicle storage area with modular bays. Some areas, more than others, retain this appearance, particularly Bays 1-5 where walls have not been added. This feeling should be retained by maintaining an open floor plan as evidence of the historic use of the building.

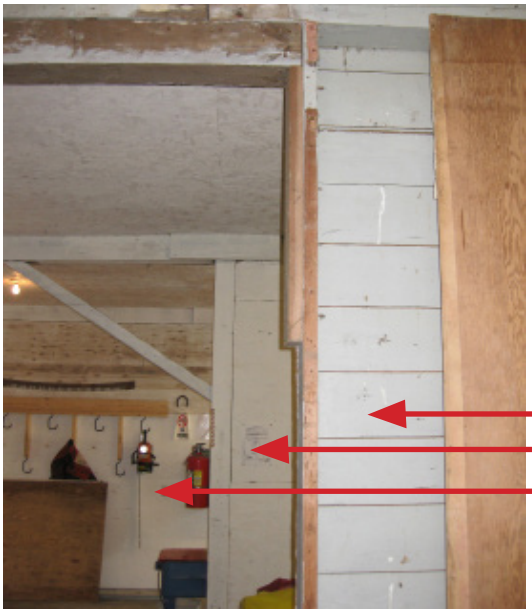
Additional Features of the Equipment Storage Building:
1. Windows which face southwest in bays 6 and 7 are covered using a thick wire mesh. The same mesh can be found on the southeast exterior door window to protect equipment stored within the building. The mesh does not have a significant impact on the interior of the building, and because it is for the purpose of security should be allowed to stay in place.

Thick wire mesh, 2014

2. There are three types of flooring within the Equipment Storage Building: concrete, soil/natural, and wood board. It is likely that all bays originally had dirt flooring, since finished flooring would not be needed for the purpose of vehicle storage. Bays 1, 2, 3, and 6 have since been converted to concrete flooring, while Bays 7 and 8 now sport a wood floor which was likely installed when this area was converted to a helitack office. Bays 1 and 2 are now a combination of an exercise/weight training facility for the Interagency Hotshot Crew, and vehicle and equipment storage. Bay 3, in addition to Bays 4 and 5 which have bare soil floors, are used for vehicle and equipment storage. There are slight steps between the wood floors between Bay 8 and Bay 7, and a slight step between Bay 7 and the concrete floor of Bay 6. The flooring is not a major contributing factor in the feel of the building, and can change as appropriate for the use of the space. If flooring is not necessary consider retaining bare soil floor.



Wood board flooring in bays 7 and 8, 2014



Walls installed in Bays 8, 7, and 6, 2014

3. Bays 6, 7 and 8 are separated from the other bays by a plywood wall to keep the equipment stored in these bays secure. Although not in keeping with the original open floor plan of the building, this feature is for the purpose of protecting expensive equipment for the Interagency Shotshot Crew and should be allowed to remain in place. Partial walls of horizontal boards have been installed between Bay 8 and Bay 7, likely during the same time period the wood flooring was installed and the space was converted to a helitack office. These partitions neither add not detract from the space and can be allowed to remain.

Partial horizontal board wall between Bay 8 and Bay 7.
Partial horizontal board wall between Bay 7 and Bay 6.
Full plywood wall between Bay 6 and Bay 5.

4. It is not documented whether the loft in the Equipment Storage Building is original or not, but it is listed in the NRHP Registration Form and because of its age has added to the documented character of the building. This loft led to accounts that the building was originally a horse barn, but this was later disproved. The loft floor is constructed of unpainted horizontal wood boards. The boards appear to be the same boards used when the loft was originally constructed. The loft runs the length of the building and is enclosed by a wooden railing with thin wire mesh. The wooden staircase leading up to the loft appears to have been recently replaced and meets current safety needs. The materials and style of the staircase are in keeping with the style and feel of the loft.

Staircase which leads from ground level floor to loft, 2014

Loft with wood and metal mesh railings, 2014

D. Additional Site Features

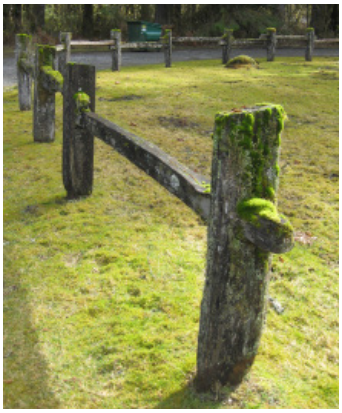
1. Woodshed:

The newly constructed woodshed at the site is positioned between the Residence building and the FR&T building. Construction design and materials of the woodshed are not in keeping with the historic feel of the site, and disrupt the continuity and relationship between the historic buildings. However, the woodshed is solidly built, and a need for a woodshed on the site exists. There are two alternative approaches to addressing the woodshed, each of which is appropriate in addressing the future of the site.

A. The woodshed could be demolished and rebuilt in a different location and in a style more inkeeping with the historic feel of the site. The new location of the woodshed should be discreet so as not to draw attention to the structure. Clearing an area behind the FR&T building is one suggestion. When the woodshed is rebuilt it should be in a style and with materials that are similar to those used elsewhere on the site, again discreet so as not to draw attention to the feature.

Top and bottom: Newly constructed woodshed, built on concrete pad with materials not seen on remainder of the site, 2014

B. A second option would be to retain the woodshed as it stands now, but not take action to repair or upkeep the structure. This would allow the woodshed to continue to be used until it has naturally degradaded. Once the structure is no longer fit for use a replacement woodshed would be built in a new location and with materials inkeeping with the rustic architecture of the site.



Degrading wooden fence which runs through site, 2014

2. Wooden Fence:

A wooden fence has been constructed which runs through the length of the site, on both sides of the service road which separates the historic buildings from the non-historic buildings. Evidence of the fence is not seen until photographs taken in 1985, so the fence is not original. However, the fence has been constructed in a rustic style and using local materials. The fence also acts as a physical and symbolic divider between the historic district made up of the three historic buildings, and the rest of the site. The fence over time has grown a large amount of moss and lichen, and moisture has caused the posts and beams to begin to rot. In order to maintain this feature the fence cleaned by removing the moss, or the feature could be replaced if desired. If the fence collapses, it is not necessary to rebuild the structure. If it is rebuilt at any time, the fence should be rebuilt in a similar style and in a way that does not affect additional parts of the site.

Out-building, 2014

3. Out-Building:

At the east corner of the site, outside of the historic district, is a small out-building. Although this out-building is not listed on the National Register of Historic Places form for the site, it does have features which are indicative of CCC construction, and are in keeping with construction style and materials used in the historic district on the site. Further work should be conducted in order to determine the history of this structure, and if it is eligible for listing on the NRHP either as a contributing or as an individual structure.

V. Education Plan

An education plan is included in this report in order to propose two separate educational tracks to support the findings of this plan. One plan is geared towards the Baker River Interagency Hotshot Crew, and additional site users. The second plan is geared towards the public, and is a more passive education plan. Educating users, residents, and the public about the Koma Kulshan Ranger Station will be an additional way to help preserve the site, by creating a connection between the Forest Service and site user groups. Both plans work to educate these groups on the history of the site, in the hopes of instilling a sense of familiarity and ownership with the site to encourage active care of the site. Each of the suggestions below are options for the Forest Line Officer, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest Heritage Program and Hotshot Supervisor to consider in approaching preservation of the site. The proposed options can be combined or used individually to create the most appropriate educational plans.

Residents & Active Site Users Education Plan:

1. These stakeholder groups are the most involved with the site, and interact with the site on a daily basis for the majority of the year. Because of this direct contact with the site it is necessary that a copy of the Historic Properties Management Plan be made available and kept at the site for reference and guidance. Site users should be familiar with the history of the site in order to communicate this information to interested parties, as well as to inform their own decisions about actions taken on the site. An understanding of the unique history of the site will encourage investment in the future of the Koma Kulshan Ranger Station. When considering projects at the site this HPMP and the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie Heritage Program should be consulted to gauge the appropriateness of the actions. Making this plan available at the site is the minimum requirement for the education of the residents and active site user groups.

2. To formally educate residents and active site user groups a presentation can be created to present to the groups annually. This presentation would be facilitated by the Heritage Program or Recreation, and may involve a local stewardship or partnership group. It should be updated when necessary to account for possible changes to the site or the introduction of new information. This presentation would cover the history of the Koma Kulshan Ranger Station site, the current and historical significance of the site, and an orientation to the HPMP, including how to use and carry out the plan. A curriculum-like plan would ensure that all stakeholders are presented with the same information and are in a mutual understanding of the goals of the Forest Service and the HPMP.

3. Courses are offered relatively often throughout the Puget Sound area, offered by a range of organizations, which specifically address the importance of historic preservation and how to comply with its regulations. The course would introduce site stakeholders to the larger implications of historic preservation. Introductory courses also focus on the practical uses of Section 106, which would be best suited for those who are unfamiliar with the section or the National Historic Preservation Act. This course could be taken by residents and site stakeholders, or a few representatives who would act as references for those who did not attend the training. A similar presentation could also be made by the Heritage Program Manager or Heritage staff member, if available.

4. The final suggestion of this section is to instate a volunteer site steward for the Koma Kulshan Ranger Station. This would be one site resident or site manager who would volunteer to hold the other residents accountable for following the HPMP. This person would familiarize him/herself with the site history and the plan, and would work with the Heritage Program Manager to assist in the planning process for proposed changes to the site. The site steward would take personal responsibility to maintain the Koma Kulshan Ranger Station as outlined in the HPMP.

Public Education Plan:

1. The Koma Kulshan Ranger Station site has historically featured interpretive signs, which provide visitors with information about different parts of the site. For example, the grinding stone which is located near the entrance of the Residence building used to have an interpretive sign next to it, explaining the history of the object and its relationship to the site. Interpretive signs would educate the public on the history of the site, and how the site has changed over time. Constructing interpretive signs would include replacing the ranger station sign at the entrance to the site, which names the site and designates it as a part of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest (see historic photographs for reference). Example locations for interpretive signs include, but are not limited to:

A) Next to the grinding stone at the entrance of the Residence building, detailing the history of the object and its relation to the site.

B) Outside each of the three historic buildings (Residence, FR&T, and Equipment Storage) with information about each building, its historic and current uses.

C) Next to the picnic shelter, explaining the difference between historic/contributing and non-historic/non-contributing structures on the site.

D) At the parking area just beyond the entrance to the Ranger Station.

2. Printed pamphlets with site information and photographs could be made available to the public at the entrance of the Koma Kulshan site, directly off of Forest Service Road 11, or in partnership with Puget Sound Energy (PSE) at their visitor center. This pamphlet or page would be designed with input from the Heritage Program Manager to assure the quality and appropriateness of the content. Pamphlets can be a passive education tool for public using the Baker Lake Recreation area.

3. A once seasonal tour can be offered to the public, possibly during Washington Historic Preservation Month, where "many events are planned to promote historic places for the purpose of instilling national and community pride, promoting heritage tourism, and showing the social and economic benefits of historic preservation" (National Register of Historic Places Program: Preservation Month) which occurs in May. This would be an opportunity to expose the public to the site, and talk about changes/updates/restoration efforts made at the site over the past year. This tour could be hosted by the site manager or volunteer site steward.

VI. Comment on Historic Integrity

The following is a comment on the historic integrity of the Koma Kulshan Ranger Station as it stands when this HPMP was created. This is not a determination on whether the site retains its historic integrity, but instead a comment which developed through research for this plan.

According to the Department of the Interior's guidelines for evaluating historic integrity, integrity is defined as the ability of a property to convey its significance. In order for a property to be eligible for, and remain listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), the property must meet several (if not all) of the seven aspects of integrity, in addition to being significant under at least one of the four National Register criteria. Below is a list of each aspect of integrity, a brief definition, and a comment on the status of the Koma Kulshan Ranger Station as it relates to each aspect. Overall, the site of the Koma Kulshan Ranger Station retains its historic integrity. Efforts should continue to care for and enhance features which convey the significance of the site.

1. Location: Location is the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred.
Each of the three remaining historic buildings is located in its original place of construction between 1931-1933. The historic buildings are in their original configuration, maintaining the relationship between the different function of each structure. There have been minor changes in the locations of non-historic structures, but these changes have not had a direct effect on the historic buildings. Location is an important component of this site, because the current site of the ranger station was originally constructed to replace another ranger station which was further from the main road Forest Service Highway 11, in hopes that the new location would be more accessible to the public.

2. Design: Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property.
The buildings generally retain their original plans and interior layouts which are indicative of historic building uses. However, the enclosure of the porch entrance of the Residence building has diminished the original design intent of the Civilian Conservation Corps. The existing design is not sensitive to the architectural intent of the space. Besides this change there have been no significant changes made to the design of the historic structures. The Baker River Interagency Hotshot Crew bunkhouse was designed in consultation with the Heritage Program Manager and the SHPO to fit the overall feel of the site. The new bunkhouse is located across a service road from the historic buildings, and therefore does not diminish the aspect of design.

3. Setting: Setting is the physical environment of a historic property.
On a clear day Mount Baker, the landmark the site is named for, is visible from the Koma Kulshan Ranger Station compound. This feature defines the setting of the site, which is supplemented by the relationship between the buildings. The historic buildings are located on one side of the service road, while additional site structures and non-historic buildings are located on the other side. The service road is lined on either side by a wooden fence, which further defines the separation between the historic and non-historic buildings. The continuity of the relationship between the three historic buildings is disrupted by the recently constructed woodshed, which is not in keeping with the historic feel of the site. The style of the woodshed does not support the time period that the historic buildings collectively signify. Removing or relocating the woodshed could restore the continuity of the historic buildings.

4. Materials: Materials are the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property.
The primary materials of the historic buildings, since they were nominated for the NRHP in 1991, have not been significantly changed. However, the new woodshed's materials are not in keeping with materials found elsewhere on the site. In addition, the roofs of each of the historic buildings have been replaced with a material that is not consistent with historically used materials. The new roofs, although a change in material, are consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for compatibility of materials used to replace historic materials. Although primary materials of the historic buildings have not been changed (with exception of the roofs) the existing materials are at risk of degradation if they are not properly cared for. For this reason it is important to properly treat and maintain historic and existing materials in order to retain structural and historic integrity of the buildings.

5. Workmanship: Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory.
The workmanship of the Civilian Conservation Corps is very evident at the site. Features which are indicative of CCC construction include steeply pitched roofs, the pine motif above the entrance of the Residence building, and simple utilitarian interior layouts. This evidence, and additional features and details, create a strong connection between the site and the CCC. This, in turn, strengthens the connection and association between the CCC and the Forest Service. If features must be replaced to retain the structural integrity of the three historic buildings an effort should be made to replicate and highlight evidence of CCC workmanship.

6. Feeling: Feeling is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time.
The feel of the historic structures at the site is created by the rustic style of architecture used throughout the site. The architecture is coupled with the utilitarian arrangement of the historic buildings communicates the feel of a working Forest Service site from the mid-1900s. The aging of the site assists this feeling, but the site should still be maintained so as to retain the physical state of the site. The non-historic buildings, because of their physical separation from the historic district on the site, do not have a significant impact on the historic feel of the site.

7. Association: Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property.
The Koma Kulshan Ranger Station is not directly linked to one historic event or person, but is instead strongly linked to a national trend in history. This association is evidenced by typical CCC construction elements and architectural style. Association between the site and the CCC strengthens physical evidence of the connection between the CCC and the Forest Service. Features which strengthen and highlight this association should be highlighted and maintained.

VII. Conclusion

This plan is one part of a larger effort to maintain and manage the site of the Koma Kulshan Ranger Station, and similar Forest Service historic properties. Identifying significant architectural features, important features, and conservation guidelines gives site stakeholders goals for retaining the historic integrity of the site. This plan acts as a common document to be referenced and followed by all caretakers and site stakeholders to preserve the site in future years of use. Koma Kulshan has a unique history, the development of which plays an important role in the development of the Baker Lake recreation area and the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. All efforts and actions of the site should be sensitive to and supportive of the history and physical state of the site. This goal can only be accomplished as a combined effort between the Heritage Program, Facilities Manager, and the Baker River Interagency Hotshot Crew. Maintaining this historic site supports the efforts of the US Department of Agriculture, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie Forest Service, State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), and the US Department of the Interior.

Appendix I. National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 91000708 Date Listed: 6/10/91

Koma Kulshan Ranger Station | **Whatcom** | **WA**
Property Name | **County** | **State**

USDA Forest Service Buildings in Oregon and Washington Built by the CCC
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

for Antoinette J. Lee
Signature of the Keeper

6/11/91
Date of Action

==========

Amended Items in Nomination:

Classification: The Category of Property is amended to read building, rather than district.

Statement of Significance: The Period of Significance under Conservation is amended to read 1932-1945.

This information was confirmed with Evan DeBloois of the USDA Forest Service.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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 Koma Kulshan Ranger Station

other names/site number Koma Kulshan Guard Station; CR06-05-01-06

2. Location Mt. Baker/Snoqualmie National Forest, Mt. Baker Ranger District

street & number Forest Road 11 /NA/not for publication

city, town Concrete /XX/vicinity

state Washington code WA county Whatcom code 073 zip code 98237

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
___ private	___ building(s)		
___ public-local	X district	3	2 buildings
___ public-State	___ site	0	0 sites
X public-Federal	___ structure	0	3 structures
	___ object	0	1 objects
		3	6 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

USDA Forest Service Buildings in the states of Oregon and Washington. Built by the Civilian Conservation Corps

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination ___request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets ___does not meet the National Register criteria. N/A See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official — Date 3-28-91

USDA Forest 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 December 19, 1990

Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

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.
___ determined eligible for the National Register.
___ See continuation sheet.
___ determined not eligible for the National Register.
___ removed from the National Register.
___ other, (explain:)_____

Antoinette J Lee — 6/10/91

for Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
GOVERNMENT/government office	GOVERNMENT/government office
DOMESTIC/institutional housing	DOMESTIC/institutional housing

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)	Materials (enter categories from instructions)
OTHER: Rustic Architecture of USDA Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest Region	foundation Concrete (piers)
	walls Shake, drop siding
	roof Shake
	other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Koma Kulshan Ranger Station, now a Guard Station, is located in the Baker River drainage basin below the southern flank of Mt. Baker in the northwestern corner of Washington State. The significant buildings in the station complex are as follows (building numbers correspond to the current - 1985 - site plan):

Residence #1007: constructed 1933; 748 sq. ft.; T-shaped, 1-1/2 story, wood-frame, shake high-gable roof with hipped roof at rear; small center-gable porch, partially enclosed, on north (main) facade.

Wood shingle exterior, 5/8" plywood under porch gable. Porch roof supported by two large, tapered peeled poles with notched pole cross-member. Three small, intricate pine tree cutouts in triangular pattern centered on single center board of porch gable. The cutouts are not a C.C.C. detail, having been installed when the porch was extended (see below).

Depression-era photos show a rear porch screened with a trellis. At some unknown date, the rear porch was enclosed and the existing windows installed. A replacement foundation of concrete piers was constructed in 1978; the crawl space was enclosed by galvanized sheet steel. At the same time, a small extension to the front porch was constructed. A split shake roof was installed in 1980; front steps of masonry were added in 1986; new rain gutters and downspouts were installed in 1987.

X See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

___nationally ___statewide _X_locally

Applicable National Register Criteria _X_A ___B _X_C ___D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
ARCHITECTURE	1932-1934	1932
CONSERVATION	1931-1945	1932
SOCIAL HISTORY	1933-1934	1933

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
USDA Forest Service

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

Individual buildings at the Koma Kulshan Ranger Station are significant as a result of design features which reflect Forest Service rustic architecture of the Depression era. Building 1007 is unusual on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie in its use of exterior shakes rather than lap or drop siding. The buildings are also significant because they represent the Service's transition to an active resource management agency, and because of their association with the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps.

The Station was originally conceived, constructed, and utilized as the Koma Kulshan Ranger Station. Individual buildings were constructed from 1932 to 1936. The Ranger Station was designed to replace the Baker River Ranger Station. The latter station was located up the Baker River twelve trail miles from the town of Concrete in Sections 30 and 31 of T. 37N, R. 9E, W.M. The site now lies under Baker Lake. At the time the Koma Kulshan station was built, it was not known that the lake would be raised. Rather, Koma Kulshan promised to be more accessible, both to Forest users and Forest resources.

In 1931 a road was constructed from Concrete to Sulphur Creek. It was recommended at that time that approximately 30 acres in Section 25 of T. 37N, R. 8E be utilized as a Ranger Station. Personnel and supplies were sheltered in tents in 1931, and construction of permanent buildings began the next year. By report of Harold E. D. Brown, first Ranger at the station, Building 2200 was constructed first. This was accomplished through regular appropriation. The other buildings were constructed between 1933 and 1936, using E.C.W. and E.R.A. (Depression relief) funding.

A C.C.C. side camp was established at Koma Kulshan, with about 20 'boys' and a foreman. Most of the crew worked at clearing the site, and 2 or 3 helped carpenters with the buildings. Ranger Brown was responsible for construction planning and supervision.

_X_See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Brown, Harold E. D.
1977 Letter to Carol Koehler, with attachment "Early History of Koma Kulshan Ranger Station, Mt. Baker National Forest, 1931-1933." Photocopy on file, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Cultural Resource staff files, Mountlake Terrace.

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:
___ State hist. preservation office
___ Other State agency
X Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
___ Other

Specify repository:
Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie N. F.
Mountlake Terrace, WA
X See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 1.5

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	10	594720	5394204	B			
C				D			

N/A See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Begin description at SE corner of parking area adjacent to Forest Highway 11. Proceed at bearing S 60° 30' W for 61.5' to highway edge of parking area. Thence at bearing S 30° 30' E along shoulder edge of FH 11 for 102.5' to left (north) edge of station access road. Thence at bearing N 60° 30' E down access road and through gate for 230.0' to opposite edge of intersection bordering picnic shelter area. Thence at bearing of N 30° 30' W for 319.0', stopping before the fenceline. Thence at bearing S 60° 30' W for 168.0' to edge of parking area. Thence along edge of parking area for 218.0' at bearing S 30° 30' E, to point of origin.

N/A See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The parcel is within a larger area of land withdrawn from entry under terms of the Pickett Act, 6/25/1910, providing a basis in law for protecting the improvements and function of the station. The boundary encompasses contributing structures and features of the station, and excludes surrounding non-contributing structures and features.

N/A See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Laurence Taylor
organization Mt. Baker Ranger District — date March 15, 1990
street & number 2105 Highway 20 — telephone 206-856-5700
city or town Sedro-Woolley — state WA — zip code 98284

The interior of the residence is divided into a living room, 16'4" x 15'8" with walls and ceiling covered with 1/4" plywood with battens. The living room contains 5 sets of 3'4" square 6-pane, double-hung windows. The floor is of 1" x 31/2" T&G fir.

The residence was vandalized in 1972, necessitating replacement of the front door and refinishing the living room floor, on which a small fire had been lit. The structure was re-plumbed in 1978 and re-wired with 200-amp service in 1980, at which time base board heating units were added. A river cobble/masonry hearth was constructed in 1984 during a major interior renovation. The brick chimney was replaced with a concrete block chimney in 1985. A 34-1/2" wide room divider between the living room and kitchen was converted from a solid wall in 1986.

The kitchen, 15'8" x 10'9", was included in the 1984 renovation during which new cabinetry, lighting, and flooring were installed. The room retained the original wood frame, 6-pane, double hung windows; four sets in total.

The doorway from the rear of the kitchen opens into a hallway 4'7" x 15'3", containing a floor-to-ceiling wall cabinet 5'6-1/2" wide x 12" deep. Down the hall is the bathroom, outside the door of which is the hot water heater. Above the water heater is a window which measures 2'1" x 2'3-1/2" and which matches another at the opposite end of the hallway.

The bathroom is 5'7" x 6'9" and contains a toilet, shower, and sink. It was included in the 1984 renovation. The west wall of the bathroom has a window measuring 2'7" x 1'5-1/2".

A thirteen-step staircase ascends from the hallway to the two attic bedrooms. The floor of the west room is essentially the same size as the living room but has the sloping ceiling which conforms to the main gable of the structure. A closet space of 12' x 5' has been constructed into the lower rear gable slope and a 4' x 4' closet space has been partitioned off from the main room.

The east bedroom is 10'4" x 15'4" with a 4' x 4' closet space divided from the room. The east bedroom contains one of the double hung, 6-pane windows, the west room a six-pane single frame square window. The windows in each of the bedrooms are in the gable end walls.

The base of the stairway and the rear doorway of the living room exit through the hallway rear door onto the back porch, which is 9'7" x 6'10". This room is characterized by two sets of multi-pane windows, each measuring 34" x 53".

FR&T Building #2200: Constructed 1932; 810 sq. ft. Rectangular, 1-1/2 story wood-frame, concrete pier foundation, wood-shaked high-gable roof extending to form

porch; length of main (southwest) facade supported by four 4-3/4" square posts. Drop siding, end boards. Plank porch extends length of main facade. No decoration. No apparent exterior alteration, other than the chimney (see below).

The main floor of the interior measures 19'2" x 30'5". A counter runs the length of the southwest wall. Under the counter are 28 storage drawers. In the wall above the counter are two sliding-sash, six-pane windows measuring 28" x 24". The rear (northeast) wall contains another two of the same windows. The facade has two single six-pane windows, one at either end, measuring 2'1-1/2" x 1'9-1/2". A sliding door, 6' x 7', also in the facade, contains two four-pane windows each measuring 1'5-1/2" x 1'9-1/2". Next to the sliding door is one standard entry door.

The upper level is now utilized as a shop and storage area by the Interagency Hotshot Crew. The northeast gable wall contains four of the six-pane wood frame windows set above two sets of the double-sliding windows in the lower level wall. A chimney of 16" square standard chimney block is visible through these windows. It replaces an earlier brick chimney. The southwest gable wall contains three of the twelve-pane wood frame windows.

Equipment storage #2300: Constructed 1934; 2240 sq. ft. Rectangular, 1-1/2 story wood-frame, concrete pier foundation, hand-split, wood-shaked high-gable roof with galvanized steel ridge cap. Horizontal drop siding. Eight bays in length, eight large sliding doors on main facade, northeast elevation. No decoration. No obvious exterior alteration.

By one account this building was originally constructed as a horse barn, the upper level still containing the purported hay loft. Another account holds that the original horse barn was a structure which stood off the northwest end of #2300 and which was either demolished or moved intact to Birdsview about 1962. The latter account is correct, as a site plans and photographs from the 1930's consistently identity Building 2300 as "machine storage" or "truck garage and storage."

Three of the original eight bays are enclosed and have been converted to other uses. Bay 1 is currently in use as an exercise/weight training facility by the Interagency Hotshot Crew. Bay 2 is in use as general storage. Bay 8 has previously been employed as a helitack office, and although currently vacant, remains configured as such. The remaining bays are open equipment storage.

The rear wall holds eight lineally aligned wood frame windows each measuring 34" x 54-1/2". Those in bays 1 and 2 are covered by plywood. In the southwest wall are five similar windows arranged in one group of three and another of two. The northeast wall contains one similar multi-pane window and another measuring 37" x 28" which lacks glass. One standard door entry also opens through this wall. One notable feature of this building is that it is wracked and in need of bracing.

Non-contributing buildings within the district boundary consist of two wood-frame vault toilets, in the wooded area near the northwest corner. Non-contributing structures include a woodshed behind the residence, a rustic fence and gate at the south end of the property, and a station identification sign in front of the residence.

A non-contributing object, nevertheless of some historic interest, stands at the northwest corner of the residence. A granite grindstone intended process grain harvested from the fantasied fields of the Baker River Basin stands in mute testimony to human folly in this emphatically unsuitable grain growing area. It was moved to the site at some unknown date, and thus is not potentially eligible for the Register.

The present Koma Kulshan Guard Station also includes a number of buildings and structures outside the boundary of the historic district. These include Bunkhouse #1301, behind which stands a steel radio tower; Gashouse #2500, and Pumphouse #1701. The bunkhouse and gashouse are frame with shake siding. The pumphouse is concrete block. A helispot, constructed in 1969 and currently a focus of hotshot crew activity, lies in the field east of the building complex. Also present is a picnic shelter. The shelter has a gable roof with log supports, and includes a masonry fireplace at the east end. The property boundary has been drawn to excludr these recent constructions.

During the Depression, a number of other buildings and structures existed at the station; but they were demolished at the end of their useful life. These included a Ranger's residence and garage/woodshed, another residence, an office garage/woodshed, a crew house with separate woodshed, the barn previously mentioned, a gas and oil house, and a saw filing shed.

At present, the Guard Station serves as the base for a 20-person interagency fire-suppression crew, the Baker River Hotshots.

Completion of the new Ranger Station relegated the former district headquarters to the status of Guard Station. Owing to the proximity to and unrivalled view of "Koma Kulshan," the aboriginal name of Mt. Baker, the dominant mountain in the vicinity, this appellation was affixed to the new station, leaving the obsolete and demoted Baker River Guard Station with the more pedestrian English designation.

Ranger Brown stayed at the Koma Kulshan station until snow blocked the road to Concrete. The Ranger worked in the Supervisor's Office in Bellingham during the winter. His successor stayed all winter for a couple of years, and then saw the wisdom of Brown's ways. In concert with the increased administrative responsibility associated with the addition to the district of a substantial land area south of the Skagit River, locally known as the Finney Block, District Headquarters were removed to Concrete in 1945 and Koma Kulshan assumed its present status of Guard Station.

Because of the removal of more than half of the Depression-era buildings at the Guard Station, and the presence of multiple non-contributing buildings and structures, significance attaches to individual buildings rather than to the building group. Spatial arrangement, landscaping and architectural unity have been lost.

All three contributing buildings exemplify the rustic architectural idiom developed by the Pacific Northwest Region of the Forest Service, to impart Forest Service identity and to represent its purposes and ideals. This was accomplished through the adoption of a rustic design style, emphasizing natural materials and, especially, forest products. At present, these qualities inhere in the building facades, as two of the three have been internally modified. Specific elements of the rustic design style are the irregular, T-shaped plan of Building 1007, its gable and hipped roofs, and multi-paned windows. The pine-tree motif in the porch gable is a 1980's addition. Buildings 2200 and 2300 are very simple manifestations of the style, showing gable roofs and multi-paned windows.

The residence, Building 1007, is unusual on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie in its employment of shake siding. This material was frequently employed in 1920's construction, but was largely superseded in the Depression by lap siding or the drop siding found on Buildings 2200 and 2300.

All three buildings are also significant in the history of natural resource conservation, as they represent the presence of the Forest Service in the locality, as the headquarters for field operations from 1931 to 1945. They denote, via the physical facilities required to carry out the agency's expanding responsibilities, a critical transition in the Service's transition from custodial superintendence to extensive resource management. The rapid construction of the station, upon completion of the road to Sulphur Creek, manifests the attention which the agency paid to locating facilities at points where users were likely to enter the Forests.

Buildings 1007 and 2300 are also significant for their association with the response of the Federal government to the pronounced social dislocations and threat to social order resulting from the catastrophic economic failure of the Depression. Construction of these buildings by the C.C.C. signifies the aid to local communities provided through the employment of youth and experienced craftsmen, purchasing of building materials and camp supplies, and personal expenditures of enrollees.

USDA, Forest Service
1950 The Mt. Baker Almanac. Mt. Baker National Forest. Photocopy on file, Mt. Baker Ranger District, Sedro Woolley.

Throop, Elizabeth Gail
1979 Utterly Visionary and Chimerical: A Federal Response to The Depression An Examination of Civilian Conservation Corps Construction on National Forest System Lands in the Pacific Northwest. Master's thesis, Portland State University, 1979.

PHOTOGRAPHS

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Name Koma Kulshan Ranger Station
Location Concrete vicinity, Whatcom County, Washington
Location of original negative Cultural Resource files, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Seattle, Washington

The following information is the same for photographs 1 through 10:

Photographer James A. McDonald
Date of photograph May 30, 1990

1. Station entrance sign and Building 1007, looking approximately southeast. Note millstone to left of building.
2. Southwest corner of Building 1007. Note porch extension, porch enclosure and non-historic pine tree trim under porch gable.
3. Rear view of Building 1007 and associated woodshed, looking approximately west.
4. Northeast corner of Building 1007, showing enclosed rear porch.
5. Northeast corner of Building 2300, showing relationship to Building 2200.
6. Southeast corner of Building 2200, with Building 2300 in background.
7. Main (east) elevation of Building 2200.
8. View toward south of Building 2500 (left), a gas & oil house, and Building 1701, a pumphouse. These buildings are located southeast of the property boundary.
9. Southwest corner of Building 1301, a bunkhouse, located at the Station, east of the property boundary.
10. West end of picnic shelter, located just southeast of the property boundary.

The following information is the same for photographs 11 through 22:

Photographer R. L. Fromme

11. Southwest corner of Building 1007, gas & oil storage building is visible in right background. This is not the same gas & oil storage building currently on-site (compare site plans and photographs 8 and 20). Photograph taken ca. 1940.
12. Southeast corner of Building 1007. Note latticework on open rear porch, at right. Photograph taken 1936.
13. Northeast corner of Building 2200. Photograph taken July, 1942.
14. Southeast corner of Building 2300. Photograph taken July, 1942.

Appendix II. Glossary

Department/Secretary of the Interior - The Dept. and Secretary of the Interior are charged with protecting America's natural resources and heritage. The DOI is the federal department responsible for historic preservation across the nation. The DOI and Secretary put forth guidelines and standards for the treatment of historic structures, which act as a basis for all federal preservation efforts.

Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP) - HPMPs reflect the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The content of HPMPs differ between agencies and between individual projects, but are generally guidelines to retain the significance of a historic property.

National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) - The NRHP is an official list of all properties across the nation that are deemed worthy of preservation. Most buildings on this list are over 50 years old, although exceptions can be made. Criteria for evaluation: The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and meet at least one of the criteria.

The criteria are:

Criterion A: Properties can be eligible if they are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

Criterion B: Properties can be eligible if they are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

Criterion C: Properties can be eligible if they embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

Criterion D: Properties can be eligible if they have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

True Divided Light (TDL) Windows - TDL windows were historically a common method of constructing win dows, but are becoming increasingly uncommon. These windows are composed of individual panes of glass between window mullions, as opposed to a large single pane of glass covered by mullions as is typically seen in current construction.

Appendix III. Resources

Burdick, Carl, Archeologist. Report on the Woodshed at Koma Kulshan Guard Station. July 13, 2011.

Hamilton, Wayne J. Project Team Leader. Letter to the Forest Supervisor, Subject: Koma Kulshan Historic Structures. March 18, 1994.

Hollenbeck, Jan, Heritage Program Leader Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. Letter to Dr. Allyson Brooks, Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation. December 23, 2003: TS. File code 2360.

Hollenbeck, Jan, Heritage Program Leader. Letter to Dr. Allyson Brooks, Department of Archaeology and His toric Preservation. May 7, 2013: TS. File code 2360.

Otis, Alison, William Honey, Thomas Hogg, & Kimberly Lakin. "The Forest Service and the Civilian Conserva tion Corps: 1933-42." United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. August 1986.

National Register of Historic Places Program: Preservation Month. National Park Service. www.nps.gov/nr/feature/presmonth/

Phipps, John, Forest Supervisor Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. Letter to Dr. Allyson Brooks, Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation. June 21, 2001: TS. File code 2360.

Weeks, Kay D. & Anne E. Grimmer. "The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring & Reconstructing Historic Buildings." US Department of the Interior, National Park Service. Washington DC, 1995.

Welch, Jeanne M., State Historic Preservation Officer. Determination of Eligibility – Property Description Form for Koma Kulshan Ranger Station. December 15, 1977.

Wilson, Richa & Kathleen Snodgrass. "Early 20th Century Building Materials: Fiberboard & Plywood." Facilities Tech Tips, USDA Forest Service Technology & Development Program. March 2007.

Appendix IV. US Department of the Interior Preservation Briefs

3. Improving Energy Efficiency in Historic Buildings

4. Roofing for Historic Buildings

6. Dangers of Abrasive Cleaning to Historic Buildings

9. Repair of Historic Wooden Windows

10. Exterior Paint Problems on Historic Woodwork

16. The Use of Substitute Materials on Historic Building Exteriors

17. Architectural Character - Identifying the Visual Aspects of Historic Buildings as an Aid to Preserving their Character

18. Rehabilitating Interiors in Historic Buildings - Identifying Character-Defining Elements

24. Heating, Ventilation, and Cooling Historic Buildings: Problems and Recommended Approaches

28. Painting Historic Interiors

35. Understanding Old Buildings: The Process of Architectural Investigation

45. Preserving Historic Wooden Porches

47. Maintaining the Exterior of Small and Medium Size Historic Buildings

http://www.nps.gov/tps/how-to-preserve/briefs.htm

This Historic Properties Management Plan has been created with the help of:

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Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest
Heritage Program Manager

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