

Cold Mountain Fire Lookout Station, Lookout Tower
Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness,
Payette National Forest, Krassel District
Dixie Vicinity
Idaho County
Idaho

HABS No. ID-115-A

HABS
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25-Dix.V
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS
ID
25-DIX.V
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Cold Mountain Fire Lookout Station HABS No. ID-115-A
Lookout Tower

Location: Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness
Payette National Forest
Krassel District
2.5 miles south of Cold Meadows Guard Station
Idaho County, Idaho

U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute Vinegar Hill, Idaho, quadrangle
Universal Transverse Mercator coordinates:
11.661000.5012460

Date of Construction:
1935

Builder: The tower was built by Forest Service personnel who transported the disassembled pre-fabricated structure to the site by pack animals.

Present Owner: USDA Payette National Forest
P.O. Box 1026
McCall, Idaho 83638

Original and subsequent owners: The tower has always been the property of the U.S. Forest Service.

Alterations and additions: The tower was once painted "international" orange.

Present Use: Tower was relocated in 1994.

Significance: The Cold Mountain Lookout Station tower is representative of an important lookout design type, the Aeromotor 7X7 steel cab.

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Date: April, 1996

DESCRIPTION OF THE LOOKOUT TOWER

A. Physical History

The fire lookout tower was situated on the southeast portion of the site on Cold Mountain. It consisted of an open steel platform with four vertical steel columns bolted to concrete block footings to form a sheer core. The structure is galvanized steel and is the "7 x 7" prefabricated type (plans MC-39, MD-79) manufactured by the Aeromotor Company of Chicago, Illinois. The name is derived from the seven foot by seven foot steel cab installed atop of the structure. It was assembled on the site in 1935.

B. Architectural Characteristics

The tower measures 81 feet from the ground to the apex (top) of the cab. Seven flights of stairs ascend the 72-foot tower portion; two angle iron handrails provide support. Wooden stair treads are set in structural steel frames. The structure narrows as it ascends until it attaches to the cab.

1. Architectural character: Pre-fabricated tower.

2. Condition of the fabric: The overall condition of the historic fabric was good prior to its dismantling and relocation in August, 1994.

C. Description of Exterior

1. Foundations: The base of the tower measures 18 feet on each of the four sides. The tower is anchored by four vertical columns bolted to concrete blocks.

2. Walls: The metal frame cab includes sections of corrugated steel. Painted identification markings were observed on some steel members: "TOWER NO-2", "U 856", and "U 600".

3. Doors: A trapdoor in the floor of the cab provides entry.

4. Windows: The fenestration of the cab includes eight sets (two on each side) of "9 light" metal frame windows which open outward. The windows afford an unobstructed 360-degree view of the surrounding terrain.

5. Roof: The roof of the metal cab is pyramid shaped.

D. Description of the Interior

1. Floor plan: The single room cab contained a stand for a fire location instrument, radio equipment, and an insulated chair.

2. Flooring and ceiling: The galvanized metal ceiling was painted olive green.