

HISTORIC FIRE LOOKOUTS
ON THE
WILLAMETTE NATIONAL FOREST

A Determination Of Eligibility
to the
National Register of Historic Places

USDA - Forest Service
Pacific Northwest Region
Willamette National Forest

Lane, Linn, and Marion Counties, Oregon

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FORWARD

The history of fire detection and suppression on the Willamette National Forest begins well before the Forest was created in 1933. Federal efforts had begun by 1893 when the Cascade Range Forest Reserve was created. Since then administrative boundaries and names have undergone a number of changes. For ease of discussion, all references to Forest and Ranger District names reflect the current alignment.

Most of the information used in this report comes from two sources. Gerald Williams, a Forest Service Sociologist and Social Historian for both the Willamette and Umpqua National Forests, has been researching lookouts in western Oregon for several years and has documented his work in "An Inventory of the Known Lookout Locations in Western Oregon", last updated in July, 1990. Ron Johnson, a retired Forest Service employee, has also been researching lookouts for several years, focusing on the Willamette. Ron has been tireless in locating information and photographs. The materials he has gathered proved to be invaluable during this project. Additional information was supplied by Richard Miller who builds scale models of lookouts and has conducted extensive research into lookout plans.

The statistics used here are a compilation of data supplied by Williams and Johnson. These statistics should be considered approximations based on the best information available and are intend to show general trends rather than absolutes. Both Williams and Johnson have been diligent in noting where information is questionable or approximate. However, the process of compilation requires that a fixed date be selected. Thus, when compiling data showing trends in lookout construction, a construction date given as "c. 1933" was considered built in 1933. Similarly, more generalized dates were truncated so that a construction date given as "1920's" was counted as 1929 and a removal date given as "1940's" was counted as 1940. Some distortion is inherent in this process. Any errors here should be considered the responsibility of the author.

A listing of the known lookout sites on the Forest can be found in Appendix A.

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INTRODUCTION

The historic properties that comprise this thematic determination of eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places are all fire lookouts administered by the USDA Forest Service and located on the Willamette National Forest, Western Oregon. The lookouts included in this report were constructed between 1926 and 1988 as part of a comprehensive fire detection and suppression system. Between 1905 and 1988 approximately 100 lookouts were built at over seventy-five locations on the Forest. Nearly two-thirds of these were built between 1927 and 1945. Lookouts built after 1945 were generally replacements for existing lookouts or associated with specific projects such as reservoir construction. After 1945, changing technologies and Forest use patterns resulted in a lesser reliance on lookouts for fire detection. This in turn resulted in a sharp decline in their number on the Forest. A total of thirteen lookouts are standing with only six in service (Table I).

TABLE I
Extant Lookouts on the Willamette National Forest

<u>Lookout</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Built</u>	<u>Style</u>	<u>Status</u>
Gold Butte	Detroit	Marion	1934	L-4	Abandoned
Coffin Mt.	Detroit	Linn	1984	R-6 flat	In Service
Iron Mt.	Sweet Home	Linn	1976	R-6 flat	In Service
Sand Mt.	McKenzie	Linn	1988	L-4	In Service
Carpenter Mt.	Blue River	Linn	1935	L-4	Abandoned
Olallie Mt.	Blue River	Lane	1932	L-4	Abandoned
Rebel Rock	Blue River	Lane	1955	L-4	Abandoned
Indian Ridge	Blue River	Lane	1958	R-6 flat	Abandoned
Little Cowhorn Mt.	Lowell	Lane	1960	R-6 flat	Abandoned
Saddleblanket Mt.	Lowell	Lane	1926	Aermotor	Abandoned
Huckleberry Mt.	Oakridge	Lane	1938	L-4	In Service
Waldo Mt.	Oakridge	Lane	1957	R-6 flat	In Service
Warner Ridge	Rigdon	Lane	1985	Cupola	In Service

The scope of this report is limited to lookouts constructed prior to 1945. This is based on two factors. First, for a property to be eligible for listing on the National Register it is generally necessary for it to have achieved significance at least 50 years ago. Second, the lookouts were built as an integral component of a comprehensive fire detection and suppression system that was developed to cope with specific geographical and technological conditions. Changing land use patterns and technology following World War II resulted in significant changes to the system.

Fire Detection and Suppression History

The development of the Willamette National Forest is reflected in the construction and use of fire lookouts from 1905 through 1945. During that period, the role of the Forest Service was largely a custodial one of fire protection (USDA-FS, 1954). Initially, Forest Service fire patrolmen traveled through their areas looking for fires and contacting forest users to provide information on fire prevention. To maximize public contact, these patrolmen spent much of their time near the more popular lakes and rivers. However, this kept them in locations that had limited views of the surrounding territory. In 1927, after a bad fire season in northern Washington, the Regional Office issued an order to move the patrolmen to ridge tops where they could watch over much larger areas. (McCullough, 1970).

Prior to 1927, the construction of lookouts on the Willamette National Forest was sporadic. Through 1927 about twenty lookout houses had been built. By 1936, approximately sixty-five lookout houses were located on the Forest. The most intense period of lookout construction was 1933-35 when thirty-six were built. This is an impressive number since no more than 4 lookouts have been built in any other year. Additionally, the lookouts built during this period were generally located in remote areas and all of the materials had to be packed to the sites by horse or mule strings.

The period of intensive lookout construction is probably the result of the creation of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in 1933. That program resulted in the placement of several CCC camps on the Forest, each with 200 young men available to the Forest Service for work on various projects. This provided the work force needed to complete the fire detection and suppression system. While it has not been documented, it is likely that most of the lookouts built between 1933 and 1942 were constructed by CCC crews.

The available data indicate that by 1935, lookouts had been built on most of the desirable locations. Approximately thirty lookouts have been built since 1935 with most of these replacing earlier lookouts. However, about five lookouts were built at locations that did not previously have a lookout. Of these, three were built for use during the construction of dams.

By 1935, the components of the fire detection and suppression system were in place. The large work force provided by the CCC allowed the construction of miles of trails, and dozens of guard stations, lookouts, and trail shelters, all interconnected by a slack line telephone system.

The fire detection and suppression system developed prior to World War II was designed to protect a forest much different than what exists today. The extensive network of roads built to facilitate timber harvest activities had not yet been developed. Instead, access was primarily by foot or horseback over a system of trails. While this difficult access tended to limit the number of human-caused fires, it also made fire fighting more difficult. The severity of a fire is often directly related to the interval between its start and the arrival of fire fighters. Since it could take hours to travel only a

few miles on foot in the rugged Cascade Mountains where the Willamette National Forest is located, early detection is critical. This situation provided the basis for the development of the fire system on the Willamette and throughout the Forest Service. Lookouts were strategically placed to provide coverage for the entire Forest. The telephone system allowed rapid communication between the lookouts and the ranger station from which fire fighters were dispatched. Guard stations, also connected to the telephone system, provided a base for the fire guards. The trail system was maintained to provide a means of quickly reaching fires. Trail shelters were primarily used by trail and telephone construction and maintenance crews who doubled as fire fighters. The trails, shelters, and guard stations were also used by the packers who's animals were used to carry supplies and materials to the lookouts, guards, and various crews working on the Forest. This comprehensive fire detection and suppression system was completed on the Willamette National Forest around 1935.

After 1945, the fire protection system changed dramatically. Two-way radios had been improved during World War II and these replaced the Forest Service telephone system. Timber harvesting increased and the accompanying road construction eventually opened up the Forest and made most of the trail system unnecessary for fire suppression. With improved access, immediate detection became less critical. As timber management assumed a larger role, the Forest Service's work force increased. This expanded work force put many more people in the woods who could watch for fires while performing their regular duties. In addition, the use of aerial surveillance became common. These factors combined to reduce the importance of lookouts in fire suppression. By the mid-1960's, most of the earlier lookouts had been removed and few new ones were being built.

Lookout History

The first fire lookouts were simply high points with a good view of the surrounding area. A patrolman would visit the site, check for smokes, and depart. By 1907, some peaks on the Willamette had been equipped with alidades, a survey instrument used to assist in the location of fires (Figure 1). Most alidades were placed on simple supports and exposed to the elements although some were covered by open pole structures. While such lookouts were used on the Willamette National Forest until the 1970's, their period of most extensive use was between about 1915 and 1935.



Figure 1. Alidade on Fuji Mountain, 1924
By D. C. Ingram. Willamette NF Historic Photograph Files

Beginning around 1910, a few locations had lookout trees. Generally, these were living trees with the tops removed and replaced with small platforms. The platforms were reached by a ladder or spikes embedded in the trunk. Records indicate that a few lookout trees were in use on the Willamette between about 1925 and 1945.

The history of fire lookout houses on the National Forests in the Pacific Northwest Region, including the Willamette, is a progression of styles. The earliest lookouts houses were simple pole and shake buildings, probably designed on-site by the builder and constructed primarily with locally available native materials. Information of these early lookouts is sketchy but it appears that most were living quarters with an alidade either on top of the building or nearby.

The earliest standard lookout house design used by the Forest Service in the Northwest Region was the D-6 plan (Figure 2). The plan was originally developed by Lige Coalman in 1915 to be placed on the 11,245 foot summit of Mt. Hood. The lower floor of the 12 x 12 foot frame house had a band of windows around the upper half of all four elevations. This was the living area for the lookout. The second floor consisted of a cupola which was also surrounded by windows and contained the fire finder. This cupola provides the common name for this style of lookout house. All of the windows were furnished with shutters which were closed when the lookout was not in service. Approximately 14 of the cupola style lookouts were constructed on the Willamette, mostly between 1918 and 1929. The only lookout house of this style built on the Forest outside of this period is located on Warner Ridge, Rigdon Ranger District. This is a replica built on a low tower in 1985 and is still in use. None of the earlier cupola style lookouts have survived.



Figure 2. D-6 Cupola Style Lookout. Huckleberry Mt. 1930's
Photographer Unknown. Provided by Lillian Williams and Ron Johnson

In the late 1920's the Cathedral style lookout was developed (Figure 3). This was a square or rectangular frame house with an enclosed tower on one end which served as an observation point. According to Kresek (1985), only seven of these were built and all differed slightly. Two of the Cathedral style lookouts were built on the Willamette at Indian Ridge (1928) and Scott Mountain (1929). Neither has survived.



Figure 3. Cathedral Style Lookout. Indian Ridge, 1955
Photographer Unknown. Provided by Ed Anderson and Ron Johnson

Another early style of lookout house built on the Willamette was known locally as the "Supervisor Hall Special" (Figure 4). The style was named for Charles C. Hall who was the Forest Supervisor on the Santiam National Forest from 1916 until 1933 when the Santiam was combined with the Cascade National Forest to create the Willamette (Rakestraw, N.D. p. 187). The style appears to be a modification of the 4A style developed in Region 5 (California) in 1917 by Coert duBois (Thornton, 1986 p. 27). Three of this style lookout were constructed on the Willamette at Tidbits Mountain (1925), Scar Mountain (1926), and Dome Rock (1928). None survive.



Figure 4. Supervisor Hall Special. Tidbits Mountain, No Date.
Photographer Unknown. Willamette NF Historic Photograph Files.

In 1929 the L-4 style lookout house was designed and became the most widely used style on the Willamette as well as throughout the Pacific Northwest with over 1000 built throughout the Region (Kresek, 1985 p. 11). The L-4 is a 14 X 14 foot wood frame house dominated by windows in all four elevations. The windows have either four or nine lights and are both fixed and hinged. A single door with windows is offset in the main elevation. Shutters over all windows and the door serve to secure the building when not in use and are swung up to provide shade when the lookout is in service. Original roofing material is shake and siding in 1 X 6 inch ship lap. The L-4 was constructed as both a ground house and on towers.



Figure 5. L-4 Lookout, Gable Roof Version. Twin Buttes, 1939
Photographer Unknown. Willamette NF Historic Photograph Files

The L-4 style evolved over time. The original plan had a gable roof (Figure 5). By 1932 the plan was revised and provided for a hip roof which gave greater structural stability (Figure 13). The plan was further revised in 1936. In this revision the ceiling joists were extended beyond the eaves approximately two feet creating ridged supports for the raised shutters. This version of the L-4 is also referred to as the "Standard 1936" (Figure 6).

The L-4 style was used on the Willamette from 1930 until 1954. During that time approximately forty were constructed. Of those, only five survive. An additional L-4 style lookout is located on Sand Butte, McKenzie Ranger District. This replica was constructed by a private group, The Sand Mountain Society, in 1988/89 and incorporated some materials salvaged from two older L-4 lookouts on other Forests.

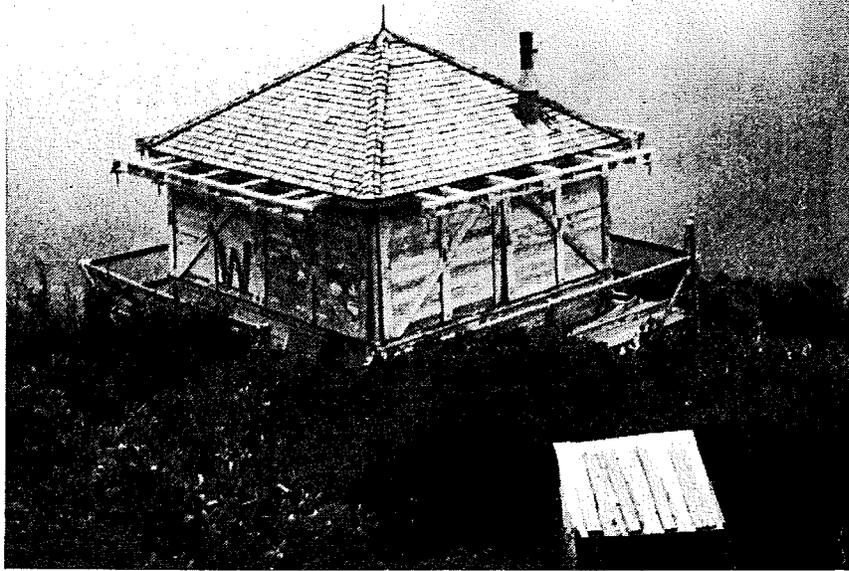


Figure 6. L-4 Lookout, "Standard 1936" Version. Rebel Rock, No Date
Photograph by Richard Miller

Two other styles used during this period were the L-5 (Figure 7) and L-6. These were smaller (10 X 10 foot and 8 X 8 foot) versions of the L-4. According to Kresek (1985), the L-5 was primarily used at secondary patrol points and was rarely lived. On the Willamette, the smaller L-6 was used both as a ground cabin and on a tower. Fifteen of the L-5 and three of the L-6 styles were built on the Willamette between 1933 and 1935. No lookouts of either style have survived.

In 1953 the R-6 style was developed. This style is 15 feet square with a flat roof and plywood siding. Built both as a ground house and on towers, this style is still in use.

The cupola, cathedral, Supervisor Hall Special, L-4, and R-6 models were designed to be lived in by the lookout. During their period of service, these lookouts were generally staffed throughout the fire season. The L-5 and L-6 styles were either staffed on a part time basis or had associated living quarters.

Materials for most of the standardized lookouts were pre-cut. The materials were then bundled and packed to the site by strings of horses or mules. The lookout "kits" were made by private contractors and, apparently, also by Forest Service personnel. Many of the lookouts were made by the Aladdin Company of Portland, Oregon. Because of this, the L-4 style was sometimes referred to locally as the "Aladdin" or "Aladdin Jr." style.

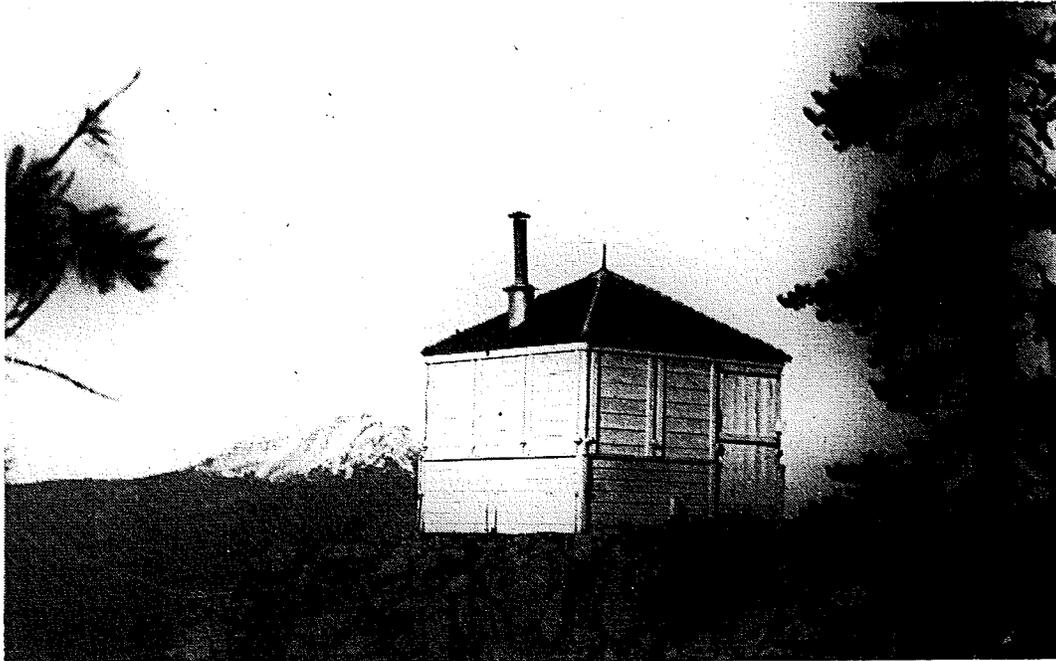


Figure 7. L-5 Lookout. Hills Peak, 1946
Photographer Unknown. Willamette NF Historic Photograph Files

EVALUATION

"The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects of National, State, and local importance that possess integrity of location, design, setting, material, workmanship, feeling, and association and

- A) That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B) That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- C) That 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; or
- D) That have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history." (36 CFR 60.4)

It is also generally necessary for a property to have gained significance more than fifty years ago.

The evaluation of the historic lookouts located on the Willamette National Forest was conducted through the application of the above criteria as described in How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation (USDI, National Park Service, 1982).

Criterion A

Properties that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history may be significant under Criterion A. The historic lookouts on the Willamette National Forest are associated with the historic development of the USDA Forest Service and its stewardship of National Forest lands. As major components of a comprehensive fire detection and suppression system, these lookouts represent the primary function of the Forest Service from its inception through World War II. They are also representative of the management philosophy of that period which focused on resource conservation.

At least two of the historic lookouts on the Willamette, Gold Butte and Huckleberry Mountain, were constructed by CCC crews. The creation of the Civilian Conservation Corps constituted an unprecedented Federal response to the Great Depression of the 1930's. The lookouts are associated with and illustrative of the work done by the CCC.

Criterion B

Several individuals associated with the construction of the historic lookouts on the Willamette National Forest have been identified. However, none can be shown to have made significant contributions to the themes described above.

Criterion C

Properties that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction may be eligible for listing under Criterion C. A property significant under Criterion C must clearly illustrate 1) the pattern of what was common to the class of resources; 2) the individuality or variation that occurred within the class; 3) the evolution of the class over a period of time or 4) the transition between that class and the other. (USDI, NPS, 1982)

All of the properties included in the determination of eligibility are members of the class "USDA Forest Service Fire Lookouts". The lookouts are illustrative of the pattern common to the class, the variation within the class, and the evolution of the class through time.

Criterion D

All of the historic fire lookouts located on the Willamette National Forest contain information on the design philosophy and construction techniques common during their period of construction. However, that information is also available through documentary research. Therefore, the properties do not meet the requirements for significance under Criterion D.

All of the historic fire lookouts on the Willamette National Forest possess significance as defined by the criteria for eligibility to the National

Register of Historic Places. All of the lookouts are associated with the management of National Forest lands through the development of a comprehensive fire detection and suppression system. The lookouts also illustrate the development of an architecture specific to this class of building. In addition, some of the lookouts were constructed by Civilian Conservation Corps crews and, therefore, are associated with the federal work programs developed as a response to the depression of the 1930's.

With significance established, the primary factors relating to the eligibility of these lookouts are age and integrity. Five of the remaining lookouts on the Willamette are fifty years old or older. These lookouts are shown in Table II.

TABLE II
Historic Lookouts on the Willamette National Forest

<u>Lookout</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Built</u>
Gold Butte	Detroit	1934
Carpenter Mt.	Blue River	1935
Olallie Mt.	Blue River	1932
Saddleblanket Mt.	Lowell	1926
Huckleberry Mt.	Oakridge	1938

Sand Mountain Lookout, constructed in 1988-89, contains components of the Whiskey Peak Lookout (Built 1931, Siskiyou National Forest, Josephine County) and the East Butte Lookout (Built 1932, Deschutes National Forest, Deschutes County). However, the historic materials from those two lookouts constitute a small percentage of the building. As it stands, the Sand Mountain Lookout is a faithful reproduction of the early gable roof version of the L-4 style lookout and is not eligible for listing on the National Register.

In addition, two lookout trees are reported to be still present on the Forest. These are located on Tire and Saddleblanket Mountains, Lowell Ranger District, and were developed in 1930 and 1922, respectively. These sites are not included in this evaluation of lookouts. They should be evaluated as soon as possible.

Huckleberry Mountain Lookout was previously evaluated and determined to be not eligible for listing on the National Register (Cox, 1990). That determination was based on significant loss of integrity primarily due to the covering of the original horizontal board siding with vertical plywood siding, the replacement of the original door with a modern door, and the replacement of the original board shutters with plywood shutters. Other factors include the placement of a solar panel on the roof and a metal radio tower adjacent to the lookout.

Saddleblanket Mountain Lookout

Lowell Ranger District

NE, NE, Sec. 25, T.19S., R.2E., W.M.

Lane County, Oregon

Saddleblanket Mountain Lookout was constructed in 1926 for the Forest Service by Tom May and Harolds Engles, a Forest Service employee. Mules were used to pack the steel components nine miles from the trail head to the 4969 foot peak. The tower replaced a lookout tree that had been used at the site since 1922.

Saddleblanket Mountain Lookout is a 7 X 7 foot sheet metal cabin with a low hip roof atop a 70 foot steel tower. The upper portion of the cabin is surrounded with windows. The lookout was manufactured by Aermotor, a company from the Chicago area that primarily built windmills. The lookout appears to be a model LX-24 (Richard Miller, personal communication, Jan. 1991). Originally, access was by an exposed ladder up the outside of the tower to a landing just below the cabin from which another ladder led to a trap door in the cabin floor. In 1939 an internal wooden stairway, designed in the Regional Office in Portland, was added. The lookout was closed in 1968.

In 1928, a 12 X 12 foot ground house was built to provide living quarters for the lookout. The house was removed sometime between 1960 and 1983. Photographs show the house to have been of frame construction with a high gable roof.

The lookout is in generally good condition. Both the tower and cab are sound. The windows are missing, although some have been located in the possession of a private individual. The stairway, added in 1939, was inspected in 1980 and some decay was noted. Because of this, several of the lower treads have been removed to discourage access by the public.

It has been reported that the lookout tree used before the tower was erected is still present although the platform is gone (Ron Johnson, personal communication, Jan. 1991). This resource is not evaluated as part of this report.

The Saddleblanket Mountain Lookout is the oldest surviving lookout on the Willamette National Forest. It is also the only Aermotor lookout erected on the Willamette. The only major alteration to the lookout, the addition of the wooden stairway, is over 50 years old and is, therefore, historic. Saddleblanket Mountain Lookout is associated with and illustrative of the development of a comprehensive fire detection and suppression system on the Willamette National Forest. It is also illustrative of the variation that occurred within the class "USDA Forest Service Fire Lookouts". The Saddleblanket Mountain Lookout is over 50 years old and retains integrity of design and materials. Therefore, it is recommend for National Register eligibility.



Figure 8. Packing Materials For Saddleblanket Lookout, 1926
By Nelson McDuff. Willamette NF Historic Photograph Files



Figure 9. Saddleblanket Lookout
By Dave Nordenson. Willamette NF Engineering Files

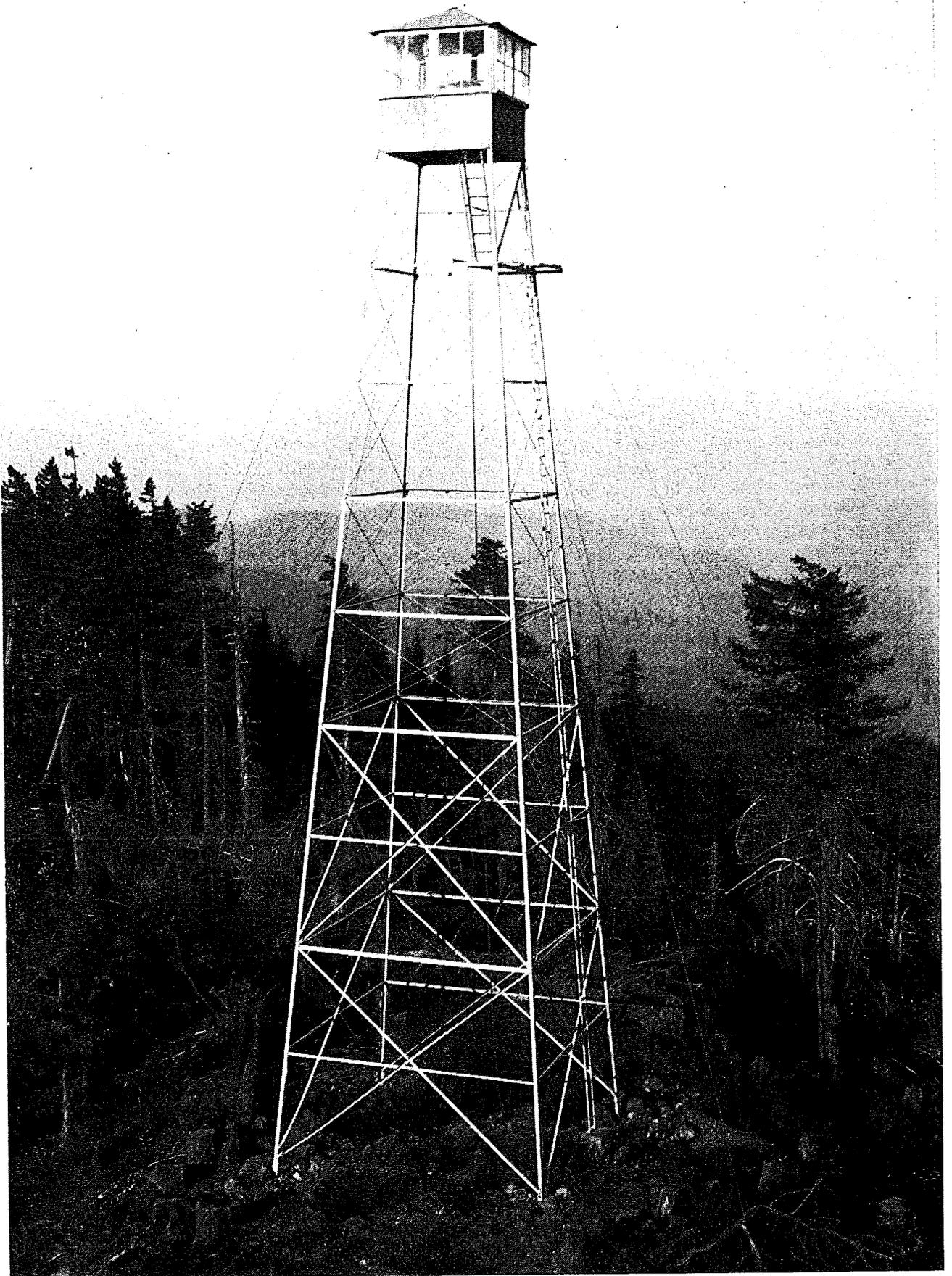
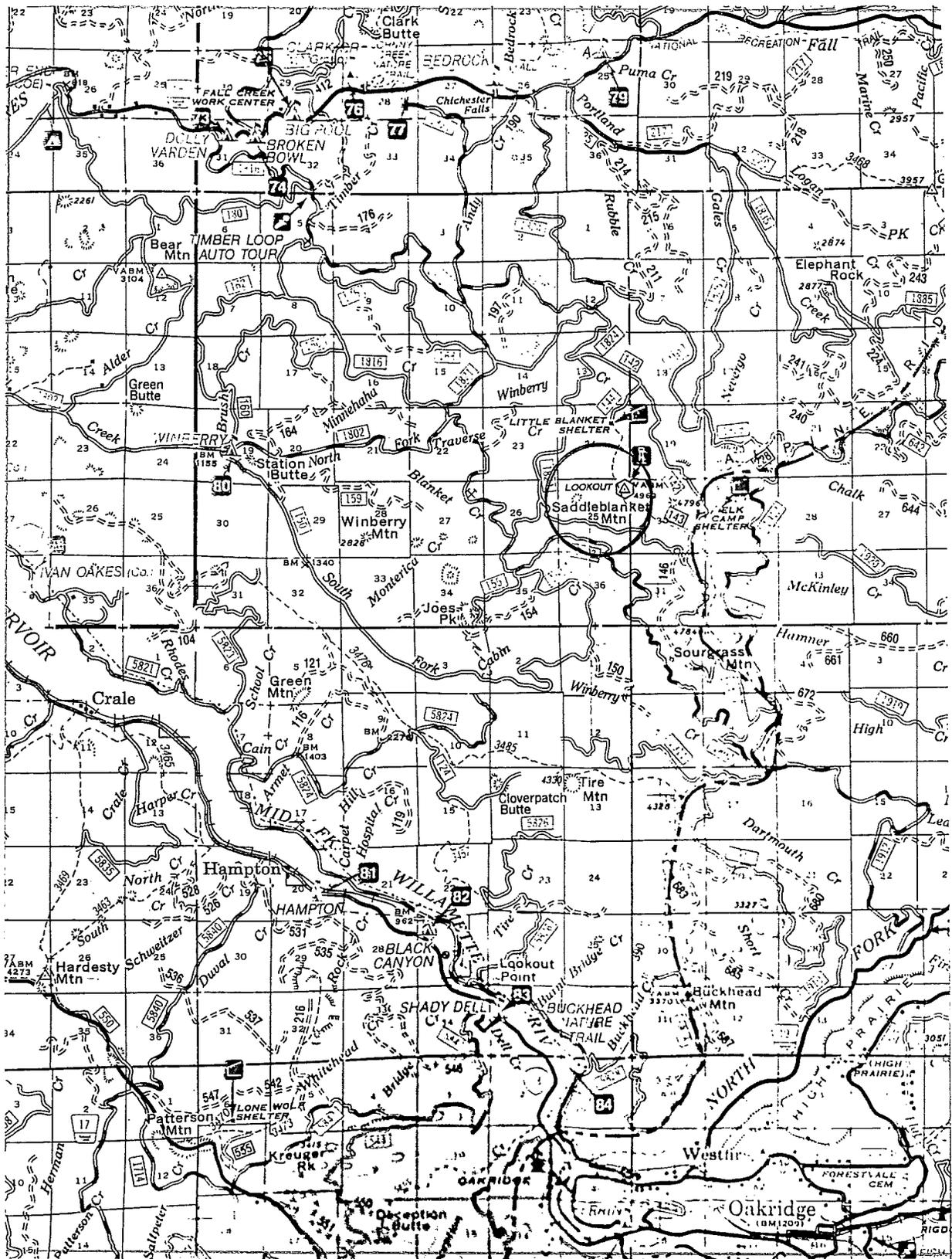


Figure 10. Saddleblanket Lookout, 1927
Photographer Unknown. Willamette NF Historic Photograph Files



Map 1. Location of Saddleblanket Mountain Lookout, T19S, R2E, Sec. 25, WM

Olallie Mountain Lookout

Blue River Ranger District
NW, SE, Sec. 3, T.18S., R.6E., W.M.
Lane County, Oregon

The Olallie Mountain Lookout was built in 1932 and replaced an alidade which had been used at the site since 1922. The lookout is located within the Three Sisters Wilderness atop 5700 foot Olallie Mountain. It is approximately 3 miles by trail from the nearest road. The lookout is a gabled roof version of the L-4 style. It is the only surviving example of this version of the L-4 on the Willamette.

The Olallie Mountain Lookout retains the best integrity of all of the historic lookouts on the Forest. This is probably the result of the distance from road access which has discouraged both vandalism and planned alterations. Noted alterations are limited to replacement of the shutters with shutters of similar materials and design. This has had a modest effect on the integrity of design and materials of the lookout.

Olallie Mountain Lookout is associated with and illustrative of the development of a comprehensive fire detection and suppression system on the Willamette National Forest. It is also illustrative of the variation that occurred within the class "USDA Forest Service Fire Lookouts" and of the evolution of the L-4 style lookout. Olallie Mountain Lookout is recommended for eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places.

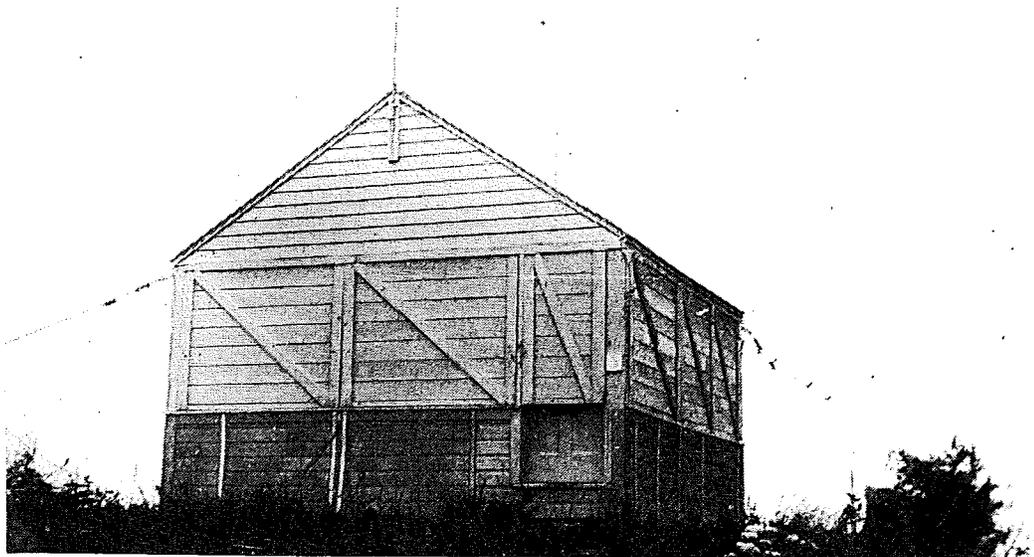


Figure 11. Olallie Mountain Lookout, No Date
Photographer Unknown. Willamette NF Historic Photograph Files

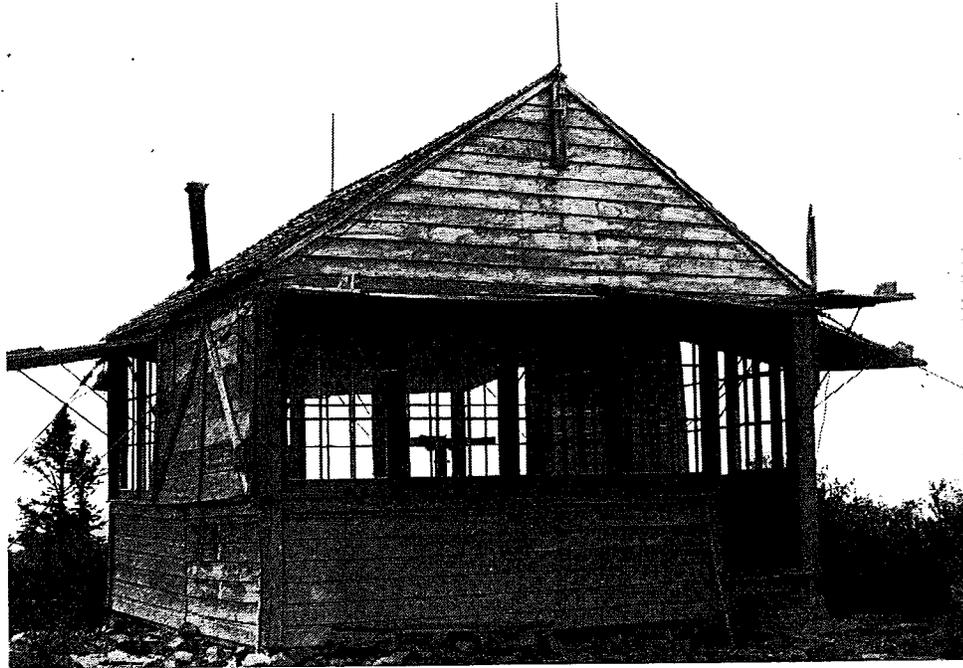
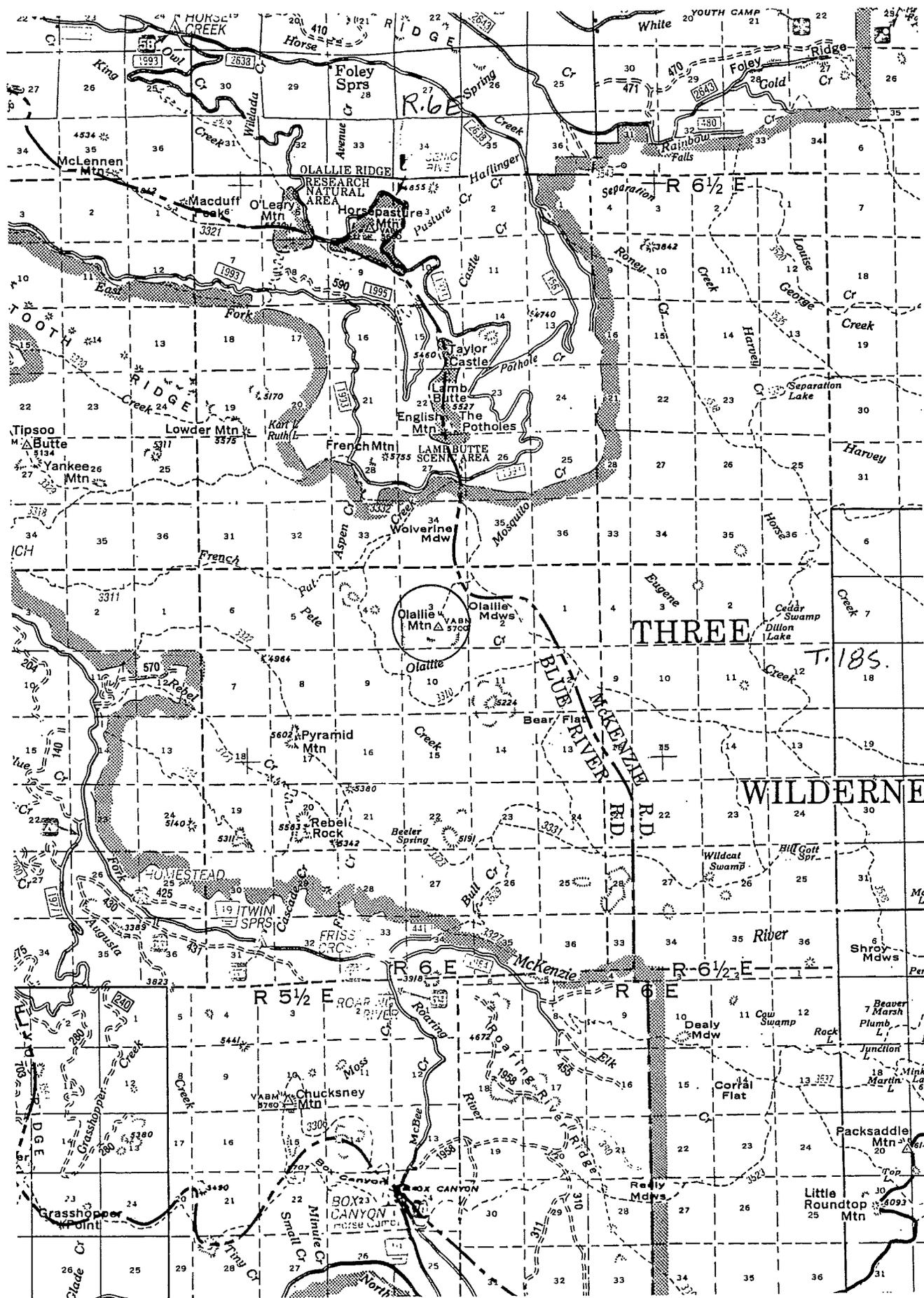


Figure 12. Olallie Mountain Lookout, Prior to Shutter Replacement
By Jim Cox. Willamette NF Cultural Resource Photograph Files

Map 2. Location of Olallie Mountain Lookout, T.18S., R.6E., Sec. 3, W.M.



Carpenter Mountain Lookout

Blue River Ranger District
NW, Sec. 7, T.15S., R.6E., W.M.
Linn County, Oregon

Carpenter Mountain has been used as a lookout since around 1915 when an alidade was placed on the summit of the basalt plug. In 1917 a fire finder with a pole framed roof was placed on the peak. This installation was destroyed by lightning in 1921. Another structure was not placed on the peak until the current lookout house was built in 1935.

The current lookout is an L-4 design with a hip roof. It occupies virtually the entire top of the 60 foot high basalt plug that forms the 5349 foot summit of Carpenter Mountain. A lumber and wire mesh fence enclose a narrow walkway on the east, south, and west sides of the lookout.

The Carpenter Mountain Lookout is one of two surviving examples of the hip roof version of the L-4 style lookout house. The integrity of the lookout is good. Alterations appear to be limited to the replacement of the original door with a plywood door and the replacement of the original board shutters with plywood shutters. While these alterations have had some affect on integrity of design and materials, they are relatively minor.

The Carpenter Mountain Lookout is associated with and illustrative of the development of a comprehensive fire detection and suppression system on the Willamette National Forest. It is also illustrative of the variation that occurred within the class "USDA Forest Service Fire Lookouts" and the evolution of the L-4 style lookout. It retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic character. The Carpenter Mountain Lookout is recommended for eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.



Figure 13. Carpenter Mountain Lookout Under Construction, 1935
By Gordon Short. Willamette NF Historic Photograph Files

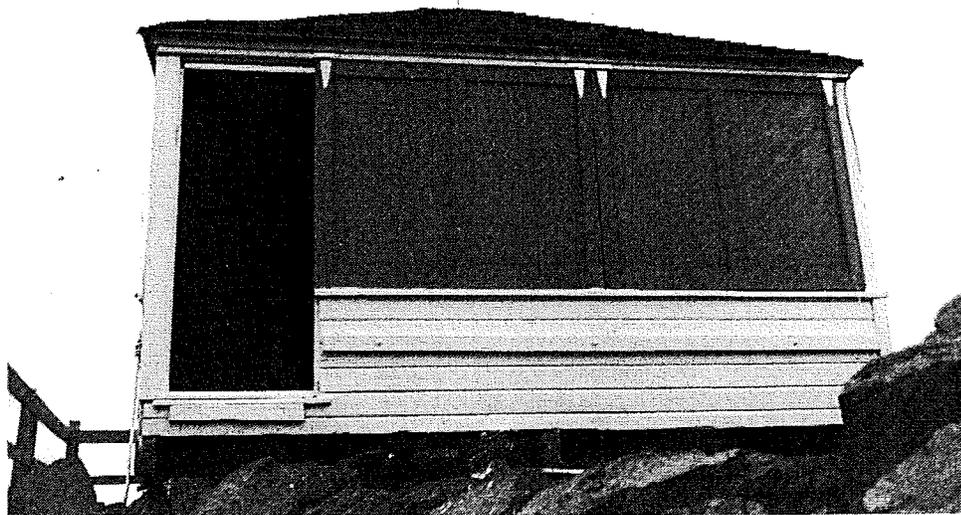
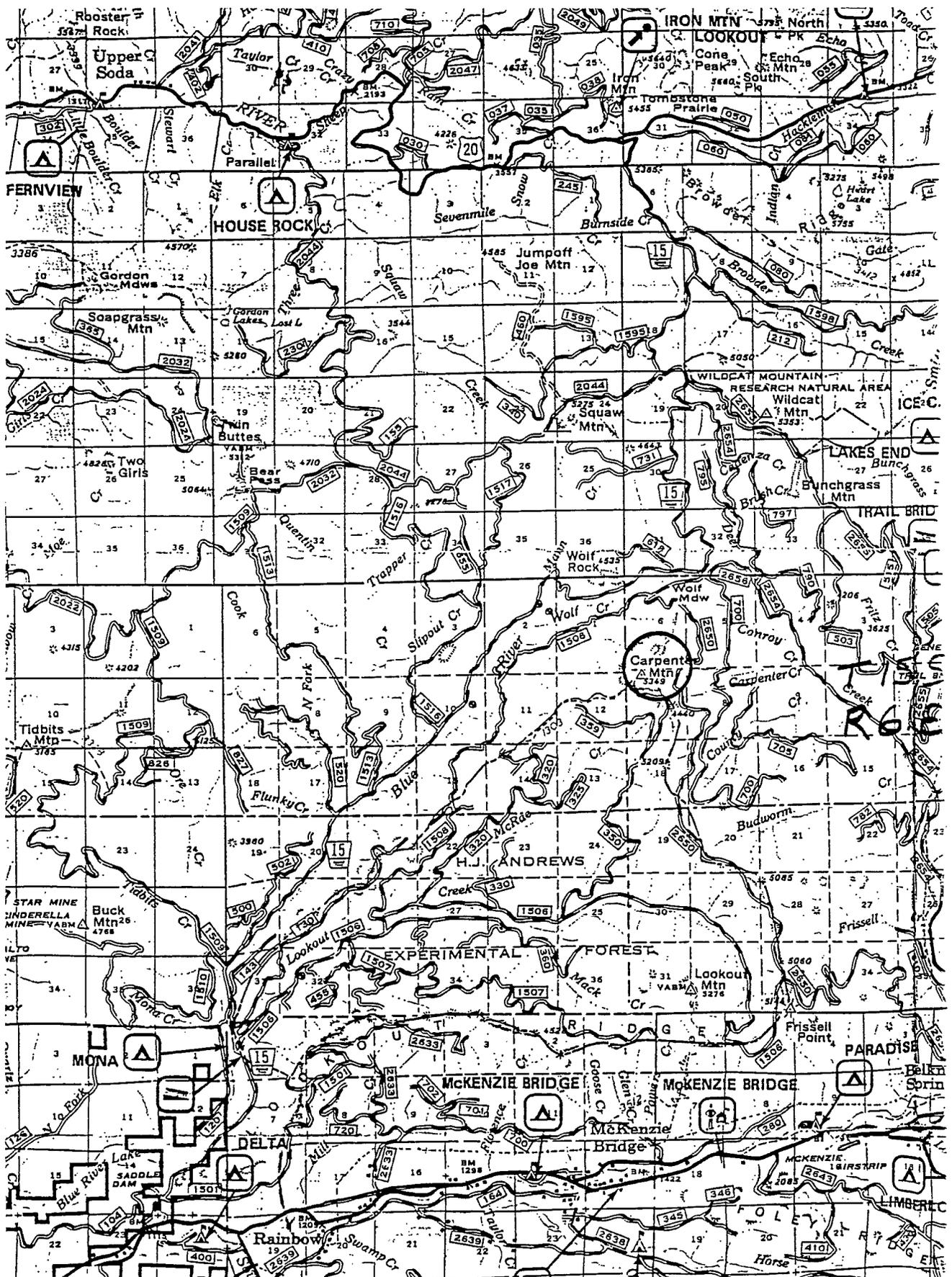


Figure 14. Carpenter Mountain Lookout
By Jim Cox. Willamette NF Cultural Resource Photograph Files

Map 3. Location of Carpenter Mountain Lookout, T.15S., R.6E., Sec. 7, W.M.



Gold Butte Lookout

Detroit Ranger District
NE, SW, Sec. 9, T.9S., R.6E., W.M.
Marion County, Oregon

Gold Butte is a 4618 foot peak located northeast of the town of Detroit. The Gold Butte Lookout was constructed by the CCC in 1934. The lookout is a hip roof version of the L-4 style and is surrounded by a three foot wide 2 x 6 cat walk with railings.

In 1942 a small cabin was built on a saddle several hundred feet north of the lookout. This cabin was staffed year round as part of the Aircraft Warning System utilized during World War II. The cabin has since been removed.

Gold Butte Lookout is the only surviving CCC built hip roofed version of the L-4 style lookout house on the Willamette National Forest. The only other surviving CCC built lookout, Huckleberry Mountain Lookout, has been determined to be not eligible for listing on the National Register. Noted alterations to Gold Butte are the replacement of the door and the removal of the shutters. While these alterations do affect integrity of design and materials, the building retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic character.

The Gold Butte Lookout is associated with and illustrative of the development of a comprehensive fire detection and suppression system on the Willamette National Forest. It is also illustrative of and associated with the work done by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Further, the lookout is illustrative of the variation that occurred within the class "USDA Forest Service Fire Lookouts" and of the evolution of the L-4 style lookout. The Gold Butte Lookout is recommended for eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

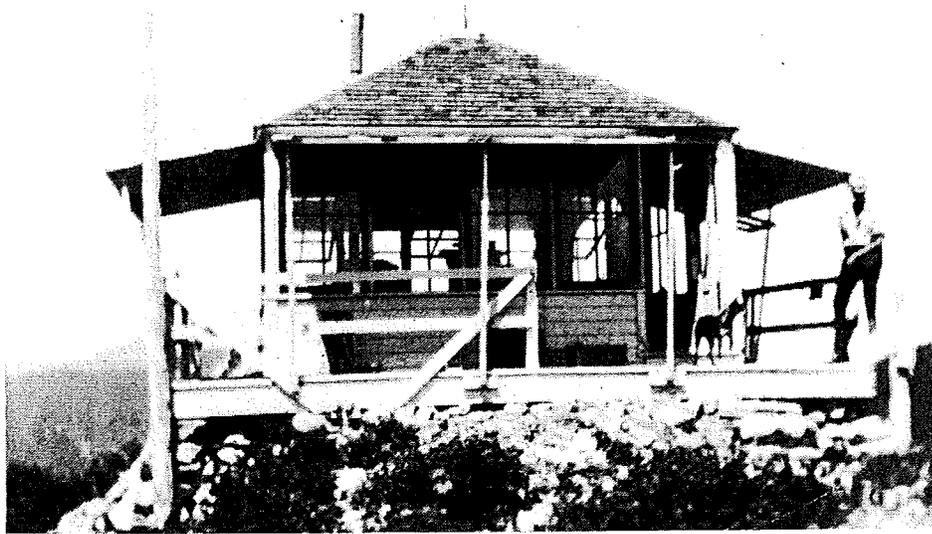
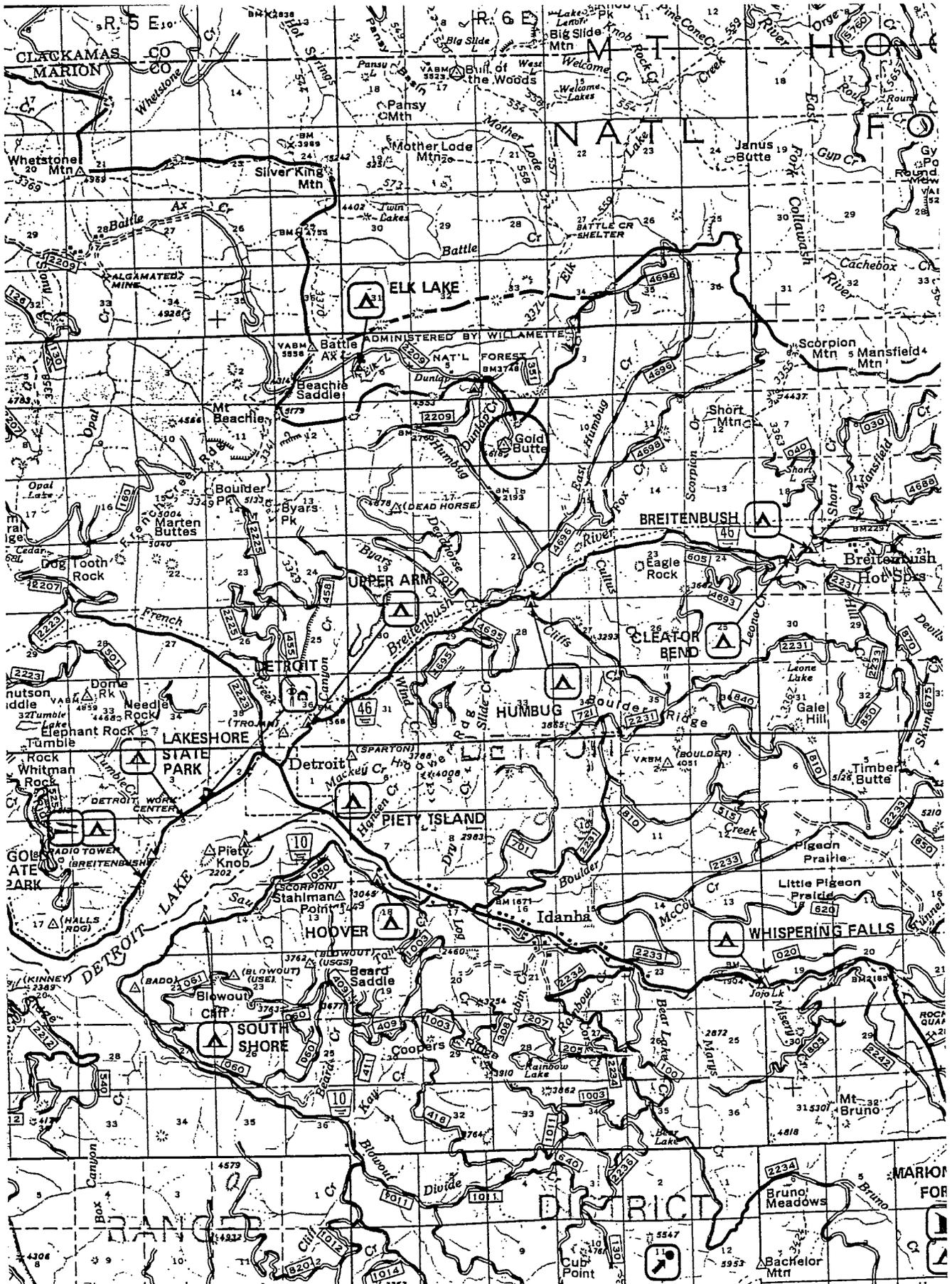


Figure 15. Gold Butte Lookout, 1936
Photographer Unknown. Provided by Willis Grafe and Ron Jonhson



Figure 16. Gold Butte Lookout
By James Cox

Map 4. Location of Gold Butte Lookout, T.9S., R.6E., Sec. 9, W.M.



CONCLUSIONS

The fire detection and suppression system in use on the Willamette National Forest between 1905 and 1945 played a vital role in the development and protection of the Forest. As a vital component of that system, lookouts have a strong association with that historic development. The lookouts also embody the distinctive characteristics of an architectural style developed to meet the unique demands of remote lookouts. The four historic lookouts evaluated in this determination of eligibility (Saddleblanket Mountain, Olallie Mountain, Carpenter Mountain, and Gold Butte) each retain sufficient integrity to be able to convey their historic characters. Therefore, all four lookouts are recommended for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

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APPENDIX 1

APPENDIX: Known Lookout Locations on the Willamette National Forest

The following listing of lookout locations on the Forest is based on the list of locations in Western Oregon prepared by Gerald Williams of the Willamette and Umpqua National Forests with additional material from Ron Johnson. Both are still actively researching lookouts and should be contacted by anyone either having or looking for additional information. Jerry can be contacted at the Umpqua National Forest, Box 1008, Roseburg, Oregon, 97470 (503-672-6601). Ron can be contacted at Box 803, Oakridge, Oregon, 97463.

Some confusion exists over the numbering system applied to particular styles of lookouts. Photographs of the FC-1 style lookouts show them to be virtually identical to the L-4. The same holds true for the FC-2 and L-5 styles. While no documentation has been located, it appears that these are alternate numbering systems for the same buildings.

The names of the lookouts still standing are in bold face.

Known Lookout Locations on the Willamette National Forest

Name and Legal Location	County	When Built	When Removed	Style
Bachelor Mountain T11S, R6E, 12	Linn	1934	1967	FC-1
Balm Mountain T25S, R3E, 23	Douglas	1924 1933	1934 1962	Alidade? FC-2
Battle Ax Mountain T9S, R5E, 1	Marion	c.1910 1922 1952	c,1922 1952 1969	Alidade Cupola L-4
Bear Point T9S, R8E, 32	Marion	1934	c.1968	CCC built FC-1
Bearbones Mountain T23S, R2E, 25	Lane	1933	1964	FC-2
Buck Mountain T15S, R4E, 27	Lane	? 1934	1933 1968/69	Alidade FC-1
Buck Mountain T22S, R4E, 33	Lane	1955	1963/64	Tower with platform with fire finder stand
Burnt Top T18S, R7E, 3	Lane	1934	1965	FC-2
Carpenter Mountain T15S, R6E, 7	Linn	1915 1917 1935	? 1921 Standing	Alidade? Covered fire finder FC-1

Name and Legal Location	County	When Built	When Removed	Style
Castle Rock T16S, R5E, 28	Lane	1917 c.1924 1938	c.1925 1938 1974	Covered alidade D-6 cupola FC-1
Chimney Peak T12S, R5E, 8	Linn	1933-35	1967	L-4
Clarke Butte T18S, R2E, 21	Lane	c.1912 1944	c.1944 1968	2 Lookout trees Non-standard cabin 12x14 w/alidade in front
Coffin Mountain T11S, R6E, 14	Linn	c.1905 c.1921 1936 1984	c.1921 1936 1984 Standing	Non-standard cabin Cupola FC-1 15x15 flat top
Crescent Mountain T13S, R6E, 16	Linn	1908 1914 1922 1938	? 1922 1938 1948	Compass Crude shake cabin Cupola FC-1
Dead Mountain T21S, R3E, 1	Lane	c.1924	c.1940	Alidade
Deer Butte T16S, R7E, 14	Lane	c.1918	c.1940's	Lookout tree
Detection Point T16S, R6E, 20	Lane	1961	?	Alidade
Diamond Peak T24S, R5.5E, 5	Lane	c.1918	?	Alidade
Dome Rock T24S, R3E, 36	Lane	c.1936 1948	c.1948 1969	Lookout house FC-1
Dome Rock T9S, R5E, 33	Marion	1928	1951	D-5 Supervisor Hall Special
Eagle Rock T9S, R6E, 26	Marion	1934	1953	FC-2
Eagles Rest T20S, R1W, 12	Lane	c.1922 1933	? 1971	Alidade or compass Aladdin style 8x8 (L-6)
Emigrant Butte T24S, R5E, 36	Lane/ Klamath	1933	1957	Tower w/10x10 platform
Fawn Rock T17S, R3E, 36	Lane	1930	1970	Open shelter w/alidade on the roof

Name and Legal Location	County	When Built	When Removed	Style
Foley Ridge T16S, R6E, 17	Lane	1961	1974	12x20 open shed with 2 fire finders. Used for training lookouts
Frissell Point T15S, R6E, 33	Lane	c.1914 1928	c.1928 1968	Alidade D-6 cupola
Fuji Mountain T22S, R5.5E, 15	Lane	1919 1926 1959	1926 1959 1968	Alidade D-6 cupola R-6 flat top
Gold Butte T9S, R6E, 9	Marion	1934	Standing	FC-1
Gold Hill T15S, R4E, 32	Lane/Linn	1935	1958	FC-2
Gold Point T18S, R3E, 34	Lane	c.1920 1928 1934/35 1959	1937 c.1935 1959 1968	Lookout tree Pole tower w/platform FC-1 on tower FC-1 on tower
Grand Butte T ?S, R?E, ?	Lane	c.1933	?	Alidade
Grass Mountain T23S, R2E, 11	Lane	1933 1962	1962 1982	Tower w/hip roof cab Tower w/flat roof cab Tower moved to Warner Mt in 1986
Grasshopper Mt T19S, R5E, 22	Lane	c.1919 1933	c.1933 1965	Alidade? FC-2
Grizzley Peak T11S, R7.5E, 1	Linn	1934	1965	CCC built FC-1
Hardesty Mountain T20S, R1E, 27	Lane	1912 1921 1939	c.1921 1939 1968	Alidade Cupola CCC built FC-1
Heckletooth Mt T21S, R4E, 17	Lane	1917	192?	Crude cupola style
Hehe Mountain T18S, R4E, 5	Lane	1919 1934	c.1925 1968	Non-standard LO house Tower w/FC-2
Hemlock Butte T23S, R5E, 15	Lane	1933	1962	FC-2
Henline Mountain T8S, R4E, 27	Marion	1933	c.1967	FC-1

Name and Legal Location	County	When Built	When Removed	Style
High Rock T10S, R3E, 22	Linn	c.1935	?	?
Hills Peak T25S, R5E, 14	Douglas	1923 1923 1935	c.1935 1953 1966	Alidade Pole/shake cabin FC-2
Hoover Ridge T10S, R6E, 8	Marion	1932	c.1950	Tower w/L-6
Horse Mountain T18S, R7E, 28	Lane	c.1923 1932	c.1932 1965	Alidade FC-1
Horsepasture Mt T17S, R6E, 4	Lane	c.1915 1922	c.1923 1965	Alidade D-6 cupola
Huckleberry Mt T20S, R4E, 10	Lane	c.1915 1918 1938	c.1918 1938 Standing	Lookout tree Cupola CGC built FC-1 (Std '36)
Indian Ridge T18S, R5E, 18	Lane	c.1918 1928 1958	c.1928 1958 Standing	Open cupola style, log Cathedral Tower w/flat roof cab
Iron Mountain T13S, R5E, 36	Linn	c.1924 1931 1976	1931 1975 Standing	Alidade L-4 Flat roof cab
Jumpoff Joe Mt T14S, R5E, 11	Linn	1935	1965	FC-1
Kinney Ridge T10S, R5E, 20	Linn	c.1936 1950	c.1960 1960	Possibly only a shelter FC-1
Lamb Butte T17S, R6E, 22	Lane	1933	1959	FC-2
Larison Rock T21S, R3E, 29	Lane	c.1918 1927 1940	c.1927 1940 1970	Alidade and tent camp D-6 cupola FC-1
Little Bunchgrass T21S, R5E, 19	Lane	1934	1966	FC-2
Little Cowhorn Mt T18S, R3E, 6	Lane	1923 1960	1960 Standing	D-6 cupola Flat roof cab
Logger Butte T23S, R4E, 28	Lane	c.1917 1926	c.1926 1969	Alidade D-6 cupola

Name and Legal Location	County	When Built	When Removed	Style
Lookout Mountain T15S, R6E, 31	Lane	c.1920's	?	Alidade
Lookout Point T20S, R2E, 26	Lane	c.1935	?	Alidade?
McGowan Mountain T28S, R4E, 12	Douglas	c.1920's	c.1947	Alidade w/tent camp
Marion Mountain T12S, R7.5E, 3	Linn	1934	1965	CCC built FC-1
Maxwell Butte T13S, R7.5E, 9	Linn	c.1916 1933/34	c.1934 1965	Compass L-4
Minniece Point T11S, R5E, 19	Linn	1934	c.1965	L-4
Monument Peak T10S, R4E, 6	Linn	c.1914 1921 1942	1921 c.1942 1973	Alidade Lookout house L-4
Moon Point T23S, R3E, 25	Lane	1955	?	Alidade
Moose Mountain T13S, R4E, 11	Linn	c.1923	c.1947	Alidade
Mule Mountain T20S, R5E, 22	Lane	1950 1952	1952 1968	Lookout tree Tower
Olallie Mountain T18S, R6E, 3	Lane	c.1922 1932	c.1932 Standing	Alidade FC-1G, hip roof
Outerson Mountain T10S, R7E, 4	Marion	c.1918 1933/34	? 1962	Poss. compass or alidade CCC built FC-1
Packsaddle Mountain T19S, R7E, 20	Lane	c.1930 1941	c.1941 1960	Alidade? FC-1
Rebel Rock T18S, R6E, 30	Lane	1954	Standing	FC-1 (Std '36)
Red Butte T12S, R7.5E, 23	Linn	c.1931	c.1936	Aladdin L-5
Rooster Rock T13S, R4E, 22	Linn	1927 1934/35 1935	c.1934 c.1965 c.1965	Cupola L-4 6x6 cabin on rock pinnacle south of main cabin to view blind spot

Name and Legal Location	County	When Built	When Removed	Style
Saddleblanket Mt T19S, R2E, 25	Lane	1922 1926	c.1926 Standing	Lookout Tree Aermotor tower w/cab
Sand Mountain T14S, R7E, 2	Linn	1922 1930/31 1969 1988/89	c.1931 1968 c.1972 Standing	Alidade Aladdin style (L-4) Trailer w/pop-up cupola Tower w/replica L-4
Sardine Butte T18S, R4E, 26	Lane	1933	1954	Aladdin Style 8x8 (L-6)
Scar Mountain T12S, R6E, 5	Linn	1926	1965	Supervisor Hall Special
Scott Mountain T15S, R7E, 25	Lane	1929	1959	Cathedral
Slate Rock T11S, R5E, 6	Linn	1935	1965	CCC built FC-2
Spring Prairie T20S, R5E, 21	Lane	c.1925 1933	1933 1955	Alidade FC-1
Stahlman Point T10S, R5E, 13	Linn	1947	1967	FC-1
Station Butte T19S, R2E, 19	Lane	1907 c.1920	? c.1958	Compass Tower
Substitute Point T17S, R7E, 9	Lane	1923 1933	c.1933 1963/64	Osborne fire finder FC-1
Taylor Butte T21S, R3W, 10	Lane	?	?	?
Three Pyramids T12S, R6E, 22	Linn	1934	1968	L-5
Tidbits Mountain T15S, R4E, 15	Linn	c.1915 1925/26	c.1928 1967	Alidade Supervisor Hall Special
Tipsoo Butte T17S, R5E, 27	Lane	1934	1966	Tower w/FC-1
Tire Mountain T20S, R2E, 13	Lane	1930	Standing	Lookout tree
Triangulation Peak T10S, R7E, 11	Marion	1933	1967	CCC built FC-1

Name and Legal Location	County	When Built	When Removed	Style
Twin Buttes T14S, R5E, 19	Linn	c.1923 1930-32	? 1986	Lookout house Aladdin design house
Waldo Mountain T21S, R5.5E, 11	Lane	1921 1926 1929 1957	c.1929 1929 1957 Standing	Alidade? Pole/shake structure D-6 cupola R-6 flat roof
Warner Ridge T23S, R4E, 29	Lane	1985-87	Standing	Tower w/replica cupola
Westfir T21S, R3E, 7	Lane	c.1930	195?	Non-standard building
Whetstone Mountain T8S, R5E, 21	Marion	1934	1968	CCC built FC-2
Whitman Rock T10S, R5E, 6	Marion	1936	?	Alidade?
Wildcat Mountain T14S, R6E, 21	Linn	1933	1965	L-4
Windberry Mountain T19S, R2E, 28	Lane	c.1921	c.1925	Alidade?
Wolf Mountain T22S, R5E, 33	Lane	c.1920 1931 1940	c.1931 1939 1966	Alidade Tower w/6x6 cab Tower w/FC-1