

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION, GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

REGION: Rocky Mountain PARK/AREA NAME: Glacier National Park PARK NUMBER: 1430

STRUCTURE NAME: Belly River Ranger Station ^{HD} STRUCTURE NUMBER: 188

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: Head of Belly River Valley QUADRANGLE NAME: Gable Mountain,
 Zone Easting Northing MT/Alberta
 UTM A: 12 301430 5423250 QUADRANGLE SCALE: 7.5-minute

CLASSIFICATION:		NUMBER OF RESOURCES:	
OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY:	CATEGORY:	CONTRIBUTING	NONCONTRIBUTING
<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building(s)	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> Public-Local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Sites
<input type="checkbox"/> Public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Structures
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Objects
<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed/private & public	<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> TOTAL

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

The Belly River Ranger Station, facing northwest across the valley, measures approximately 35x25' and has five rooms and two accessory rooms, including a living room, office, bedroom, bathroom, kitchen, pantry, and rear entryway. The large attic also is used for guest sleeping accommodations. The structure is a one-story, log-on-log cabin with reverse saddle-notching, sawn log ends, and cement chinking, resting on a stone and mortar foundation. The cabin has six-light windows and is painted dark brown with light green trim. The wood-shingled gable roof is parallel to the main axis and extends to a full, raised, open porch that runs the length of the building, with a set of wood steps on either side of the porch. The interior partitions and south wall are painted shiplap paneling with stained and varnished woodwork. The inside of the exterior walls (except south wall) are varnished logs with cedar chinking, and the ceiling logs also have a natural finish. Remodeled features include the framed south wall (ca. 1967), and replacing the original stone and concrete porch with the wood porch (1975). The structure is in good condition. This log ranger station is a typical, well-preserved example of rustic Park Service log architecture. It is similar in plan to stations at Sherburne and Upper Lake McDonald, with modifications of overall dimensions and porch features to accommodate the space requirements and site demands. Changes to the Belly River ranger station include a 1967 interior remodeling and the removal and reconstruction of the front porch in 1975. The south wall has also been partially framed. The building is architecturally significant and is a contributing element of the proposed historic district.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1925

The Belly River ranger station residence was constructed between 1925 and 1926 for \$1,500.¹ The ranger station, however, was established at this location before that date. The first Belly River District Ranger, Joe Cosley, patrolled the area between the North Fork of Kennedy Creek and the North Fork of Belly River.² Cosley was one of the five original permanent rangers in Glacier National Park, a man devoted to the land and its natural inhabitants, but less so to regulations imposed on and by Park personnel. Joe Cosley tales -- vigorous stories of unorthodox behavior -- color the lore of early Glacier Park.³ When the Belly River ranger station was established in 1912, access to it and most other stations followed rough trails or "corduroy roads." Eventually, dependable routes gave the stations an easier approach, except at Belly River. A road was never constructed up the Belly River valley and the station remains accessible only by horseback or hiking.

STRUCTURE NAME: Belly River Ranger Station

STRUCTURE NUMBER: 188

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The significance of the Belly River ranger station derives from both its architectural and historical uniqueness. Historically, it is one of the oldest continually manned stations and is the sole operating station accessed by trail. Ranger Joe Cosley, a major character in the early history of Glacier National Park, is associated with the Belly River ranger station and area. Architecturally, the station buildings reflect the ongoing evolution typical of many ranger stations. Yet, of the East Side ranger stations, Belly River is the only complex that contains the "classic" configuration of structures (station/residence, barn, woodshed, and fire cache), with few intrusions and with excellent physical integrity. The Belly River ranger station is a significant and contributing element of the proposed Belly River Ranger Station Historic District, which is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under criteria a and c.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCE:

¹"Buildings: General," File: 620.0, Part 2, May 1922 to March 1926, Glacier National Park, Kraebel to Director, National Park Service, March 16, 1926, National Park Service, Record Group 79, National Archives, Washington, DC.

²"Chronological File," 1910, 1912, Glacier National Park Historical File, GNPLA.

³List of Classified Structures (Oliveri, 1975), National Park Service, Rocky Mountain Region, Denver, CO.

FORM PREPARED BY:

DATE: June 1984

NAME/TITLE:

ORGANIZATION: Historical Research Associates, P.O. Box 7086, Missoula, MT 59807-7086

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION, GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

REGION: Rocky Mountain PARK/AREA NAME: Glacier National Park PARK NUMBER: 1430

STRUCTURE NAME: Trail Quarters STRUCTURE NUMBER: 1069

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: Belly River Ranger Station QUADRANGLE NAME: Gable Mountain, MT/Alberta

Zone Easting Northing QUADRANGLE SCALE: 7.5-minute
 UTM A: 12 301430 5423250

CLASSIFICATION: NUMBER OF RESOURCES:

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY:	CATEGORY:	CONTRIBUTING	NONCONTRIBUTING	
<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> Public-Local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sites
<input type="checkbox"/> Public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Structures
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Objects
<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed/private & public	<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	TOTAL

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

This structure at the Belly River Ranger Station is a shiplap frame structure measuring approximately 12x17', in fair condition. This small, frame residence is neither a significant architectural component of the site, nor is it an intrusion. Scale, materials, and design make this a compatible, non-intrusive element of the Belly River Ranger Station complex.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION: DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: circa 1960

The trail quarters building was constructed about 1960 to house trail maintenance personnel.¹ Research has not yielded any significant historical information concerning persons or events associated with this building.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The structure is not architecturally or historically significant. The building is a non-contributing element in a potentially eligible Historic District.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCE:

¹"Draft Cultural Resources Management Plan, Glacier National Park," p. 124. Glacier National Park, 1983.

FORM PREPARED BY: DATE: June 1984
 NAME/TITLE:
 ORGANIZATION: Historical Research Associates, P.O. Box 7086, Missoula, MT 59807-7086

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION, GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

REGION: Rocky Mountain PARK/AREA NAME: Glacier National Park PARK NUMBER: 1430

STRUCTURE NAME: Fire Cache STRUCTURE NUMBER: 492

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE: Belly River Ranger Station QUADRANGLE NAME: Gable Mountain,
MT/Alberta

Zone Easting Northing
UTM A: 12 301430 5423250

QUADRANGLE SCALE: 7.5-minute

CLASSIFICATION:

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY:

CATEGORY:

NUMBER OF RESOURCES:

CONTRIBUTING NONCONTRIBUTING

<input type="checkbox"/> Private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building(s)	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> Public-Local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sites
<input type="checkbox"/> Public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Structures
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Objects
<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed/private & public	<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	TOTAL

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION:

The fire cache at the Belly River Ranger Station was built on a Park Service contract by Austin Weikert and Jean Sullivan. Located east of the woodshed, the cabin has regular saddle-notched log walls with cement chinking and $\frac{1}{2}$ -sapling interior chinking. The structure is in good condition. The fire cache, which is used to store fire-fighting equipment and other maintenance tools, is a pivotal element of most ranger stations in Glacier. The Belly River fire cache is an excellent example of local log craftsmanship, featuring saddle-notched and grooved logs. Its conversion to a fireguard cabin has not greatly changed the structure's original integrity. The building is architecturally significant and is a contributing element of the proposed Belly River Ranger Station Historic District.

HISTORICAL EVALUATION:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1928

This log fire cache is identical to the Kintla Lake fire cache (also known as a patrol cabin) which was built by local log craftsman Harry Doverspike. This building, constructed in 1928 at a cost of \$450, may also be an example of Doverspike's excellent work.¹ Research has not yielded any significant historical information concerning persons or events associated with this building.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The building is architecturally significant and is a contributing element of the proposed Belly River Ranger Station Historic District.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCE:

¹"Fire Caches and Guard Cabins," File D-34, GNPLA.

FORM PREPARED BY:

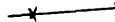
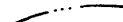
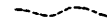



DATE: June 1984

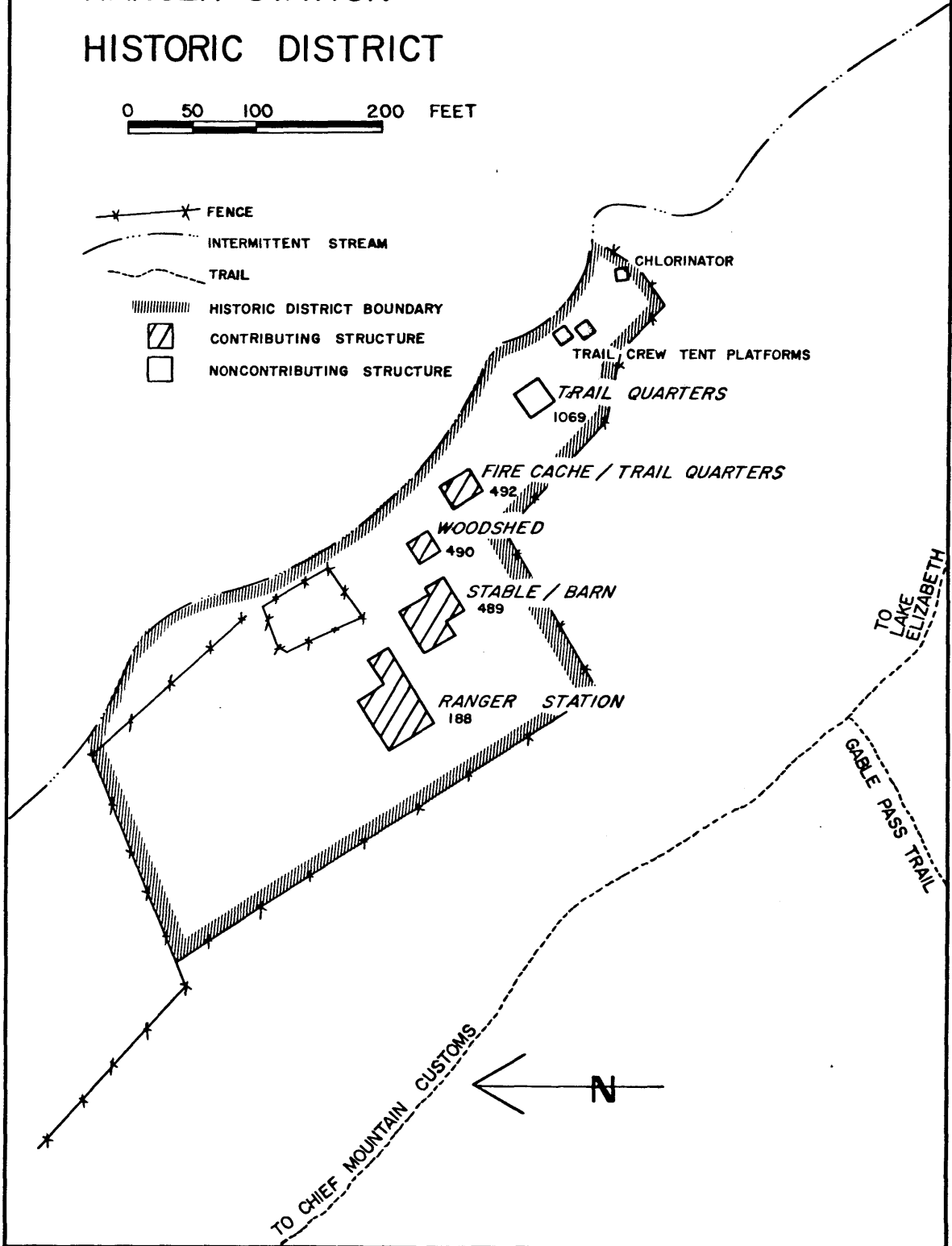
NAME/TITLE:

ORGANIZATION: Historical Research Associates, P.O. Box 7086, Missoula, MT 59807-7086

BELLY RIVER RANGER STATION HISTORIC DISTRICT

0 50 100 200 FEET

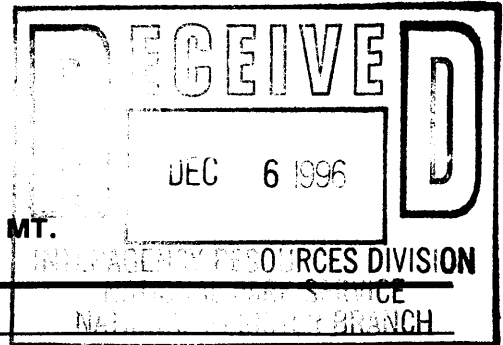
-  FENCE
-  INTERMITTENT STREAM
-  TRAIL
-  HISTORIC DISTRICT BOUNDARY
-  CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURE
-  NONCONTRIBUTING STRUCTURE



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Belly River Ranger Station Historic District (addendum), Glacier County, MT.



3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 38 CFR Part 80. In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide X locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official/Title

12.5.95
Date

National Park Service
State or Federal agency or bureau

In my opinion, the property 1 meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

[Signature]
Signature of commenting or other official

SEP 29 1995.
Date

Montana State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:	<u>for</u> Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register ___ see continuation sheet	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register ___ see continuation sheet	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register ___ see continuation sheet	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register ___ see continuation sheet	_____	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (explain) <u>additional documentation</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>1/19/96</u>

Additional Documentation Accepted

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2 Belly River Ranger Station Historic District
(addendum), Glacier County, MT.

Building Interiors

The following buildings are listed in the National Register of Historic Places as contributors to the Belly River Ranger Station Historic District. Additional documentation is provided below for the purpose of describing and evaluating building interiors for integrity and significance.

7. Narrative Description

Ranger Station (#188), 1925

Constructed — and still used — as an office and residence, this building features distinct administrative and domestic spaces. An exterior entrance provides direct access to the office/bedroom that forms the northeast corner of the building. A second entrance leads directly to the private living room, from which branches the kitchen and the single bedroom. A small pantry/dining area is located between the kitchen and the rear entry/mudroom addition. A small bathroom is located between the kitchen and bedroom and is accessible from both. With minor variations "of overall dimensions ... to accommodate the space requirements and site demands," this floorplan matches that found in the Sherburne Ranger Station and the Upper Lake McDonald Ranger Station and reflects the park service's increased reliance (1920s) upon standard plans. The station retains most historic interior finishes, including log walls, wood floors, five-panel doors with original hardware, and varnished 4"-6" window surrounds, door surrounds, and baseboards. The south interior wall, where the original log had been covered with planks, has been restored to its original appearance.

The office, living room, and bedroom floors retain the original 3" varnished softwood flooring. Rolled linoleum (possibly dating to a 1967 remodel) covers the kitchen and bathroom floors. Exterior interior walls are varnished log with cedar chinking; interior walls are sided with horizontal painted 6" shiplap. Door and window surrounds are constructed of 4" milled lumber, finished with a butt rather than mitered joint, and varnished a dark brown in all but the bedroom, kitchen, and bath where they are painted with gloss enamel. Ribbons of multi-light windows form a dominant design element in the relatively small low-ceilinged spaces. Exposed log purlins, topped with 6" shiplap planks, painted, form all interior ceilings (in contrast to Upper Lake McDonald and Sherburne where all but the living room purlins have been covered with plywood or celotex). Interior doors are five panel, varnished dark brown or painted. Running water is provided by a generator-powered spring system. There is no electricity; Coleman lanterns provide light and an on-site generator is used to repower radios.

Built-in kitchen cupboards are limited to floor units, with simple paneled doors, original hardware, and linoleum countertops. Open wall-mounted shelving units are located on the upper walls. The stainless steel sink, gas range, and propane-powered refrigerator are modern. The large wood cookstove is historic.

Bathroom fixtures, including a clawfoot bathtub and porcelain sink, appear to be historic. The rear entry mud-room is located in a frame addition and features softwood floors, and shiplap walls.

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7, 8 Page 3 Belly River Ranger Station Historic District
(addendum), Glacier County, MT.

Modifications appear to be limited to new flooring, and, possibly, painting of the interior shiplap siding and ceiling boards. The floorplan and dominant design details, including exposed log walls, exposed purlins, paneled doors, and wide molding, remain intact. The building presents an historic appearance.

Barn (#489), 1912

This simple building, constructed as a residence, features the original softwood floors. Hewn logs form the interior walls and the ceiling is open to the roof, exposing the log truss system and roof planks. A partial loft provides additional storage space. Window and door casings are flush with the structural logs (no surrounds).

There have been no known modifications to this building.

Woodshed (#490), 1927

The 10" vertical boards that infill this shed's exposed-log framing system form the interior walls. Interior log posts, providing additional structural support, may postdate construction. The ceiling is open to the roof exposing the dimensional-lumber truss system and roof planks. The floor is dirt.

Fire Cache (#492), 1928

The interior walls of this small one-room cabin are log, chinked with sapling (in contrast to the cement used on the exterior). Unfinished 4" pine planks cover the floor. The ceiling is open to the roof, exposing the log truss system and ceiling boards. Window and door casings are flush with the structural logs (no surrounds). Additional features include wall mounted cupboards and open shelving units, and a modern spring-fed sink unit coleman lanterns, and a gas fired cookstove.

8. Statement of Significance

Without exception, the above interiors possess physical integrity and contribute to the buildings' significance.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photographs Page 4 Belly River Ranger Station Historic District
(addendum), Glacier County, MT.

Photographs

- 1) Photographer: Alan Newell
- 2) Date of Photographs: August 1993
- 3) Location of Negatives: National Park Service, RMR-RC, Denver, CO.

PHOTO NUMBER	STRUCTURE NAME AND NUMBER	LOCATION/DIRECTION OF VIEW
1	Ranger Station (#188)	Interior walls (typical)
2	Ranger Station (#188)	Exterior walls (typical)
3	Ranger Station (#188)	Bedroom
4	Ranger Station (#188)	Kitchen
5	Barn (#489)	Interior
6	Woodshed (#490)	Interior
7	Pit Toilet (#491; outside district boundaries)	View to NW
8	Pit Toilet (#491)	View to S
9	Fire Cache (#492)	Interior
10	Fire Cache (#492)	Interior



NAME: Ranger Station Cabin--Belly

River Ranger Station Historic District

LOCATION: Glacier National Park, MT

PHOTOGRAPHER: Dave Shea *DS*

DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH: August 1975

LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: Rocky Mountain

Regional Office, National Park

Service, Denver, CO

PHOTO NUMBER: 1



NAME: Ranger Station (LCS-188), Belly River
Ranger Station, Historic District

LOCATION: Glacier National Park *MRA, MT*

PHOTOGRAPHER: Glacier National Park

DATE: 9/25/83

VIEW: SW Corner

LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: Rocky Mountain Regional
Office, National Park Service, Denver, CO

PHOTO: 1



NAME: Barn and Residence--Belly River
Ranger Station Historic District.
LOCATION: Glacier National Park, MT
PHOTOGRAPHER: Dave Shea *MS*
DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH: August 1975
LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: Rocky Mountain
Regional Office, National Park
Service, Denver, CO
PHOTO NUMBER: 2



NAME: Fire Cache--Belly River Ranger

Station Historic District

LOCATION: Glacier National Park, MT ^{MSA}

PHOTOGRAPHER: Dave Shea

DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH: August 1975

LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: Rocky Mountain

Regional Office, National Park

Service, Denver, CO

PHOTO NUMBER: 4



NAME: Trail Cabin (LCS-492), Belly River
Ranger Station, Historic District
LOCATION: Glacier National Park, MT
PHOTOGRAPHER: Glacier National Park *M. J. M. M.*
DATE: 9/25/83
VIEW: SW Corner
LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: Rocky Mountain Regional
Office, National Park Service, Denver, CO
PHOTO #: 1



NAME: Trail Quarters--Belly River Ranger

Station Historic District

LOCATION: Glacier National Park, MT ^{NRA}

PHOTOGRAPHER: Dave Shea

DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH: August 1975

LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: Rocky Mountain Regional
Office, National Park Service, Denver, CO

PHOTO NUMBER: 4



NAME: Woodshed (LCS-490), Belly River Ranger
Station, Historic District

LOCATION: Glacier National Park *MAA, M+*

PHOTOGRAPHER: Glacier National Park

DATE: 9/25/83

VIEW: SW Corner

LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: Rocky Mountain Regional
Office, National Park Service, Denver, CO

PHOTO #: 1



NAME: Woodshed (LCS-490) Belly River Ranger
Station, Historic District

LOCATION: Glacier National Park

PHOTOGRAPHER: Glacier National Park *MRA MT*

DATE: 9/25/83

VIEW: NE Corner

LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: Rocky Mountain Regional
Office, National Park Service, Denver, CO

PHOTO #: 2



NAME: Outhouse Belly River RS Historic District

LOCATION: Glacier National Park

PHOTOGRAPHER: Glacier National Park *MMA, AT*

DATE: 9/25/83

VIEW: NE Corner

LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: Rocky Mountain Regional
Office, National Park Service, Denver, CO

PHOTO #: 1



NAME: Outhouse Belly River Ranger Station
Historic District

LOCATION: Glacier National Park

PHOTOGRAPHER: Glacier National Park *MRA MT*

DATE: 9/25/83

VIEW: SW Corner

LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: Rocky Mountain Regional
Office, National Park Service, Denver, CO

PHOTO #: 1



NAME: Tent #2, Belly River Ranger Station
Historic District

LOCATION: Glacier National Park *MRAMT*

PHOTOGRAPHER: Glacier National Park

DATE: 9/25/83

VIEW: SW Corner

LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: Rocky Mountain Regional
Office, National Park Service, Denver, CO

PHOTO #: 2



NAME: Tent #1 Belly River RS Historic District

LOCATION: Glacier National Park *MRA, MT*

PHOTOGRAPHER: Glacier National Park

DATE: 9/25/83

VIEW: SW Corner

LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: Rocky Mountain Regional
Office, National Park Service, Denver, CO

PHOTO #: 2



Belly River Ranger Station HS 188

Belly River RSHB

Glacier Co, MT, Glacier NP

Photo # 1



Belly River Ranger Station

HS 188

Belly River BHD
Glacier Co., MT. Glacier NP
Photo # 2



Belly River Ranger Station

HS 188

Belly River RSHD
Glacier Co., MT, Glacier NP

Photo #3



Belly River Ranger Station

Hs 188

Belly River RSTHD

Glacier Co., MT, Glacier NP

Photo #4



Barn HS 489

Billy Ever RSHD

Glacier Co., MT, Glacier NP

Photo #5



Wood Shed Hts 490

Bully River RSTD

Glacier Co., MT, Glacier NP

Photo #6



Pit Toilet

Hs 49i

Belly River RSHD

Glacier Co., MT, Glacier NP

Photo #7



Pit Toilet

Its £91

Bully River RSTH

Glacier Co., MT, Glacier NP

PHOTO # 8



Fire Cache HS 492

Bully River RSTD

Glacier Co., MT, Glacier NP

Photo #9



Fire Cache HS 492

Belly River RSHD

Glacier Co., MT, Glacier NP

Photo #10