

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Feldtmann Fire Tower

Other names/site number: New Feldtmann Fire Tower; Building 313 (1961 Replacement Tower Proposal)

Name of related multiple property listing:

Isle Royale National Park Fire Towers and Associated Structures and Sites

2. Location

Street & number: N/A

City or town: Houghton State: MI County: Keweenaw

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this ___ 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 ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

x national ___ statewide x local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

x A ___ B x C ___ D

<p>_____</p> <p>Signature of certifying official/Title:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>Date</p>
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In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<hr/>	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
<hr/>	
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ___ entered in the National Register
- ___ determined eligible for the National Register
- ___ determined not eligible for the National Register
- ___ removed from the National Register
- ___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

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Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u> </u>	<u> 0 </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> 0 </u>	sites
<u> 1 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	structures
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	objects
<u> 1 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Government

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Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Government/

Recreation and Culture/outdoor recreation

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: Fire lookout tower

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: concrete, galvanized steel

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary

The historic New Feldtmann Fire Tower¹ is located in Isle Royale National Park, composed of the main island, Isle Royale, and more than 400 smaller islands that form an archipelago aligned northeast to southwest in the northwestern part of Lake Superior, within fourteen miles of the Ontario, Canada, shoreline, twenty miles from the Minnesota shoreline, and forty-five miles from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. A portion of the park's northern boundary abuts the international boundary between the United States and Canada. The park contains almost 572,000 acres, seventy-five percent of which is submerged. There are no roads or bridges to the main island; it is only accessible by ferry, private boat, or seaplane. There are also no roads to the interior of the island, which can be accessed only by a network of unpaved trails. The islands are the remains of "one of the oldest, largest, and longest-lasting lava flow events on Earth," the

¹ For this National Register of Historic Places listing, this fire tower is designated New Feldtmann Fire Tower to distinguish it from an earlier fire tower located a half-mile away on Turkey Ridge and designated Old Feldtmann Fire Tower.

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result of volcanic activity, uplift, glacial processes, erosion, and sedimentation.² They are generally covered with vegetation such as deciduous and evergreen trees, bushes, and grasses, but with large expanses of rock exposed, especially where the fire towers are located.

New Feldtmann Fire Tower is situated on a prominent rock ridge, known as Feldtmann Ridge, running southwest to northeast on the southwest side of Isle Royale. Northwest of Feldtmann Ridge, the land slopes down to the valley containing the Big Siskiwit River about three-quarters of a mile away, which runs about five miles northeast to Siskiwit Bay, located on the southeast side of Isle Royale. Southeast of the ridge, the ground slopes quickly to the shores of Lake Superior about a mile away. New Feldtmann Fire Tower is accessed by the Feldtmann Ridge trail running between Siskiwit Bay and Feldtmann Lake, which is about three miles southwest of the tower site, and then another two miles to Rainbow Cove on the southwest end of Isle Royale. The northwest shore of Isle Royale is approximately eight miles north of New Feldtmann Fire Tower. The tower is surrounded by a wilderness area of evergreens, small deciduous trees, shrubs and bushes, and native grasses. The boundary for the New Feldtmann Fire Tower is a rectangle approximately seventy-six yards (228 feet) wide from north to south and approximately 160 yards (480 feet) wide from east to west. With the center located at the center of the tower, this boundary shall be located with the northern border approximately six yards (eighteen feet) from the natural ridge to the north of the tower and the western border approximately forty-five yards (135 feet) from the natural drop-off to the west of the tower. New Feldtmann Fire Tower is the only contributing resource within the boundaries of the property.

The cab and balcony from which the observer can monitor the surrounding wilderness for fire is raised above the ground on a metal scaffold-type tower to clear the treeline and afford an unimpeded view. The historic property type for this nomination is a 1954 U.S. Forest Service (USFS) "Standard Steel Lookout Tower, 41'-3" High, with Living Quarters" design. New Feldtmann Fire Tower was assembled in June 1964 by a crew of three men from the Yalmer Mattila Contracting company out of Houghton, Michigan.

New Feldtmann Fire Tower is constructed of pre-fabricated angle steel bolted together and attached to concrete pier foundations with embedded bolts that anchor the concrete piers to the rock substrate. The cab and balcony at the top of the metal tower are accessed by a metal stairway leading to a metal access hatch for the balcony at the top of the tower structure. The balcony is surrounded at the exterior edge by fall protection consisting of angle steel bolted together to form a railing, with chain link fencing installed along the railing and between the uprights. A metal communication tower is installed on the balcony. At the top of the tower, the pre-fabricated, live-in cab is composed of steel wall panels with metal frame windows on all four

² National Park Service, *Foundation Document, Isle Royale National Park, Keweenaw County, Michigan* (U.S. Department of Interior), 2016, 3, 7, 9.

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sides to allow the observer to easily see the wilderness in all directions, a metal entrance door, a flat, corrugated metal roof, and a wood plank floor covered with floor tiles. The tower is equipped with a metal water tank below the floor of the cab, and a metal hand pump at the sink in the interior provided water to the cab. The cab contains standard furnishings for occupancy of one fire observer at the tower. This fire tower is in generally good condition and appears to be unaltered from the time of its construction. It has historic integrity in terms of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. See Part 8, "Narrative Statement of Significance" for further information.

Narrative Description



Figure 1: Ojibway Fire Tower, 1965, twin of New Feldtmann Fire Tower. Image from National Visual Inventory Card Collection, Isle Royale National Park archives at Keweenaw National Historical Park, Calumet, MI.

New Feldtmann Fire Tower looks much as it did when it was constructed in June 1964. Unfortunately, no photographs were located for this document that showed a close-up view of New Feldtmann Fire Tower immediately after construction. However, Ojibway Fire Tower, built a month after New Feldtmann Fire Tower, was erected using the same design and techniques as those used for New Feldtmann Fire Tower. Therefore, it is possible to extrapolate from early photos of Ojibway Fire Tower to determine the appearance of New Feldtmann Fire Tower (see Figure 1). During the succeeding decades, the wilderness has grown taller and encroached somewhat upon the tower, but its location on a rocky rock ridge at a high point of the southwest corner of Isle Royale prevents it from being completely overwhelmed. The tower still rises above the tops of the trees to afford a panoramic view as it did in 1964.

The unpaved access trail runs northeast and southwest along Feldtmann Ridge and through the site on which New Feldtmann Fire Tower stands. Approximately twenty feet north of the tower, the ridge drops off rather suddenly and the wilderness flora takes over the landscape. The same is true on the south side of the fire tower, although it takes about seventy yards for the drop to become significant. Relatively open space exists to the east of the tower for a distance of about 115 yards, and to the west of the tower for a distance of about forty-five yards. Despite its remote location in a designated wilderness, the vegetation in the immediate surroundings of the fire tower is not dense (see Figures 2 and 3).

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Figure 2: Approach to New Feldtmann Fire Tower, looking west. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.

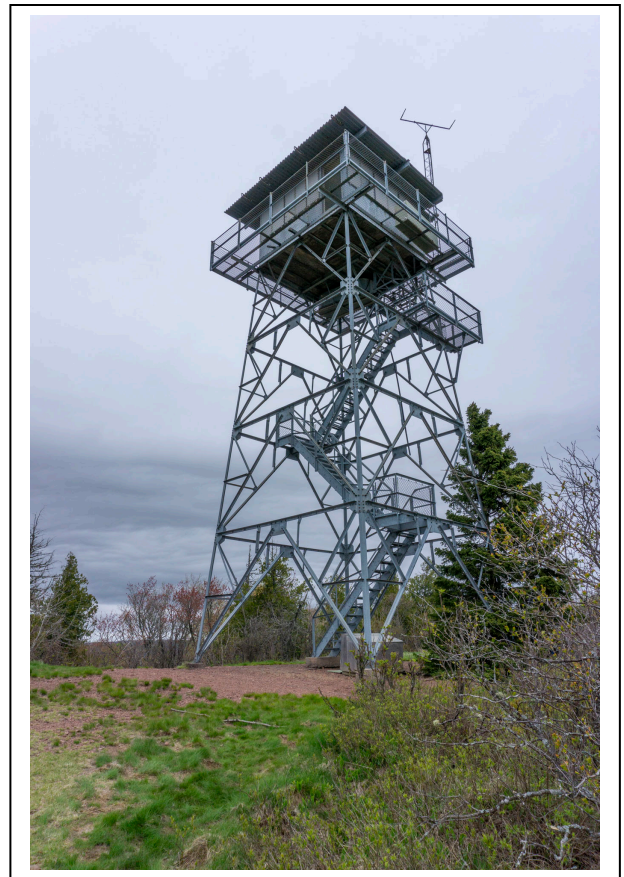


Figure 3: New Feldtmann Fire Tower, looking northeast. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.



Figure 4: Concrete foundation pier with grounding for lightning protection at New Feldtmann Fire Tower, looking south. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.

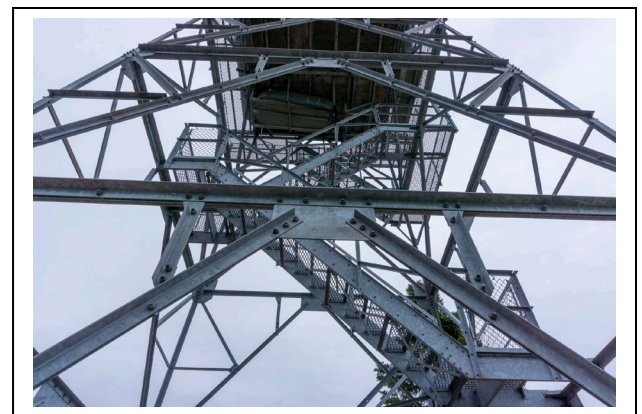


Figure 5: Stairway and tower structure at New Feldtmann Fire Tower, looking east. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.

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The pre-fabricated tower is constructed mainly of angle steel bolted together using gusset plates and attached to concrete pier foundations with embedded bolts that anchor the concrete piers to the rock substrate. The concrete piers are spaced about 20'-2½" apart (see Figure 4). The metal tower is 41'-3" tall from the concrete piers, which vary in height to accommodate the slope of the land, to the top of the tower. A metal stairway with expanded metal stair treads and landing surfaces leads from a concrete pad at ground level to a metal access hatch for the balcony at the top of the tower structure. The stairway has four runs of stair and three landings. Stair stringers consist of C-shapes with stair railings constructed of angle (see Figures 5, 6, and 7). The metal hatch in the east side balcony opens outward and is held in place by cantilevered weights attached to the hatch and protruding beyond the balcony as a counterbalance (see Figures 8 and 9). The stair landings and the balcony are surrounded at the exterior edges by fall protection consisting of a tubular steel top railing and intermediate angle braces bolted to angle uprights to form the framework and chain link fencing installed along the railing and between the corner uprights (see Figure 10).



Figure 6: Bottom stair run at New Feldtmann Fire Tower, showing stair and tower construction, looking east. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.



Figure 7: Top stair run at New Feldtmann Fire Tower, showing expanded metal stair treads, looking north. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.

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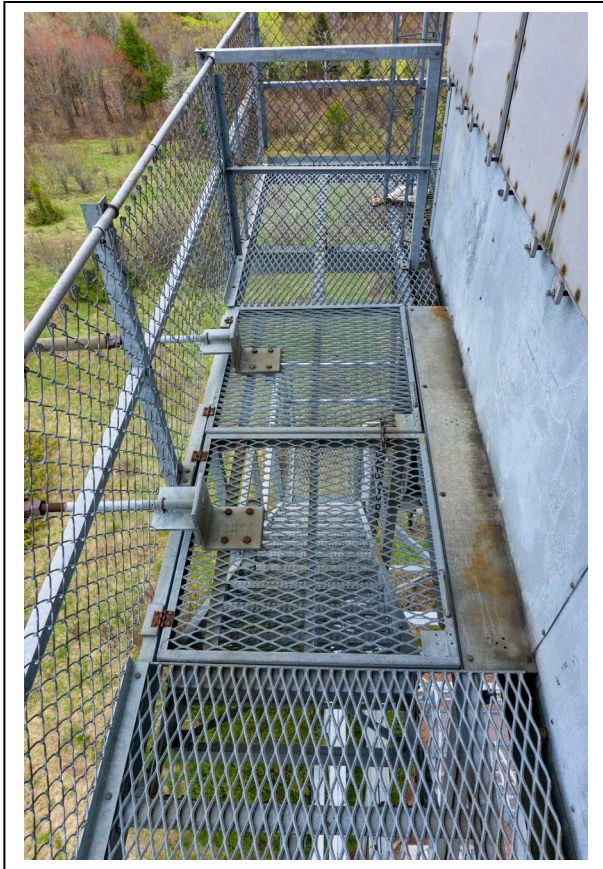


Figure 8: New Feldtmann Fire Tower balcony with hatch, looking south. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.

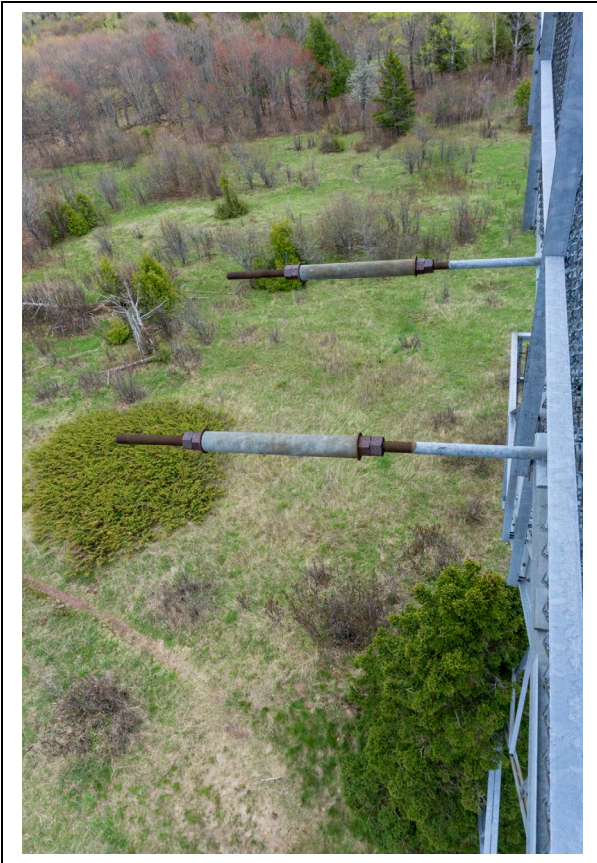


Figure 9: Cantilevered weights for hatch at New Feldtmann Fire Tower, looking south. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.



Figure 10: Showing New Feldtmann Fire Tower construction using bolted gussets and fall protection at stairs and landings, facing northwest. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.

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A wooden identification sign is affixed to the exterior surface of the chain-link fencing on the east side of the tower. It proclaims, “Feldtman [sic] Lookout. Elevation 1173” in incised letters (see Figure 11). A triangular-shaped metal radio antenna is installed on the southeast corner of the balcony. A metal container is located on the south side of the balcony. It has an orifice opening on the top and three on the side that appear to facilitate attachment of something to the box. The purpose of this object is unclear. It may be part of the water collection, delivery, or removal system for the cab (see Figures 12, 13, and 14).



Figure 11: Identification sign at New Feldtmann Fire Tower, with base of radio tower in the background, looking southwest. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.



Figure 12: Top of radio antenna protruding above roof at New Feldtmann Fire Tower, looking southwest. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.



Figure 13: Radio antenna and container at New Feldtmann Fire Tower, looking west. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.



Figure 14: Balcony with container of unknown purpose at New Feldtmann Fire Tower, radio antenna in background, facing east. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.

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At the top of the tower is a pre-fabricated, live-in cab, nominally 14'x14' square and approximately 14'-0" high to the roof ridge line. The exterior walls are composed of steel panels topped by metal frame windows on all four sides to allow the observer to easily see the wilderness in all directions. The windows are intact, but currently covered with steel plates bolted over them for protection (see Figure 15). All the windows are fixed except for one in each wall, which are canopy-style windows with screens to provide cross-ventilation. The cab has a flat, corrugated metal roof with two roof vents and an air vent (see Figure 16). The metal entrance door on the west side of the cab is a two-panel, one-light door. The lower panel appears to have been louvered; it has been damaged and is in poor condition. The doorknob is missing, and the door is secured closed with a metal hasp and padlock (see Figure 17). The cab roof is supported by a combination of I-beams and rectangular steel beams that project beyond the cab walls to form a soffit approximately four feet wide and faced in corrugated metal roofing material, with metal ceiling vents (see Figure 18).



Figure 15: New Feldtmann Fire Tower cab window coverings, looking northwest. Radio antenna on balcony, left. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.



Figure 16: New Feldtmann Fire Tower cab roof and vents, looking northwest. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.

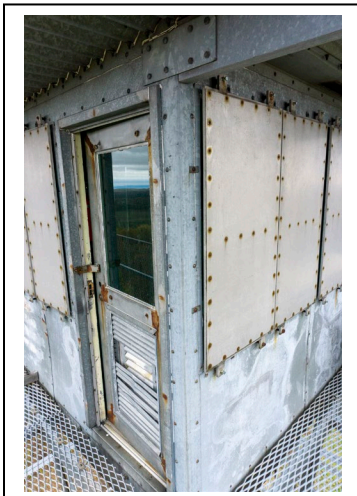


Figure 17:
Entrance door to
cab of New
Feldtmann Fire
Tower, looking
northeast. Photo
by Natalie Young,
2019.



Figure 18: New
Feldtmann Fire
Tower roof and
soffit construction,
looking west.
Photo by Natalie
Young, 2019.

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The tower is equipped with an elongated, corrugated metal water tank supported below the floor of the cab and a metal hand pump at the sink in the interior to provide water to the cab occupants (see Figure 19). The floor of the cab is wood plank covered with floor tiles in poor condition, and the ceiling appears to be composite wood paneling with wood battens covering the seams between the panels (see Figures 20 and 21). The cab interior feels as if the occupants just left the room and could come back at any minute. The furnishings are mostly ranged along the walls of the single room. The room contains a single metal folding bed with mattress, a wood chest of drawers, a small kitchen area with a cabinet, a sink, a minifridge, and a gas-fired cooking stove. Dishes are standing in a dish strainer on the kitchen sink counter, and a container of dishwashing liquid sits by the sink. A folding Formica-topped table with metal legs and two mis-matched metal chairs with plastic-covered cushions provide dining space. A hand-held fire extinguisher hangs on the wall next to the entrance door and a Fire Locator sits on a support cabinet in the middle of the room (see Figures 22, 23, and 24). These furnishings, though not visible from the exterior because the cab is on a forty-foot tower and the windows are covered, offer a poignant look at how a fire observer lived in the Isle Royale fire towers between 1964 and the late 1970s.

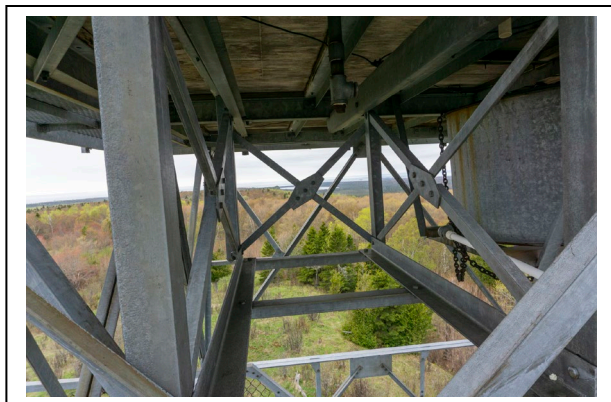


Figure 19: Metal water tank and supporting cradle at New Feldtmann Fire Tower, looking west. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.

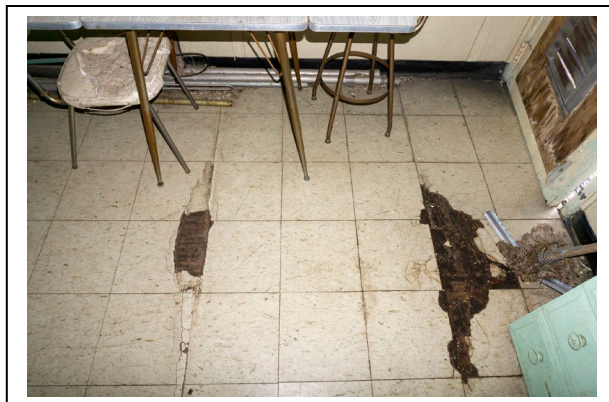


Figure 20: New Feldtmann Fire Tower cab flooring, looking south. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.

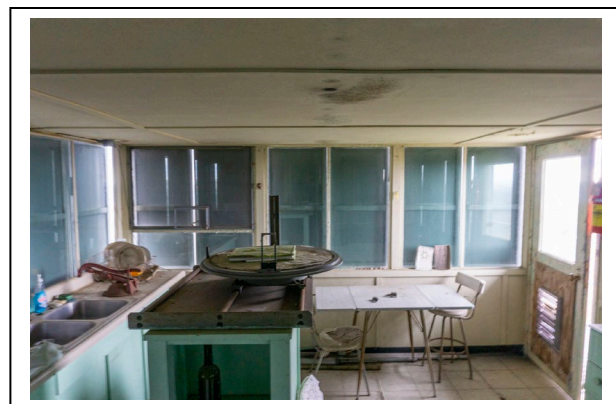


Figure 21: New Feldtmann Fire Tower cab interior, facing south. Fire finder on cabinet in foreground, hand pump by sink on left. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.

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Figure 22: New Feldtmann Fire Tower cab interior, looking north. Fire finder in foreground. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.



Figure 23: New Feldtmann Fire Tower cab interior, looking northwest. Fire finder in foreground. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.



Figure 24: New Feldtmann Fire Tower cab interior, looking southeast. Fire finder in foreground. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.



Figure 25: New Feldtmann Fire Tower "emergency fire tool shed," looking north. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.

The saltbox-shaped tool storage box, called an "emergency fire tool shed,"³ constructed of plywood and located on the ground beneath the cab may also be historic. It has a two-part lid with strap hinges and is closed with a hasp and padlock. It appears to have once been painted white. National Park Service (NPS) trail crews still use this box to store emergency fire-fighting equipment and other tools (see Figure 25).

³ Seth DePasqual, Isle Royale National Park Cultural Resources Manager in email to Deborah Harvey, dated December 2, 2019.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Conservation (forest fire management)

Engineering

Period of Significance

1954-1968

Significant Dates

1954

1964

1968

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown architect, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture
Construction contractor – Yalmer Mattila Contracting, Inc, Houghton, MI

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

New Feldtmann Fire Tower is significant under Criteria A for being part of a collection of structures associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, namely, the evolution of fire management practices in our national parks and forests. It is also significant under Criteria C for embodying a distinctive style employed by USFS and NPS for fire lookout towers in remote locations. In this case, the style used in this upper Midwestern park is more closely allied with tower styles used in the large Western parks

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than it is the smaller towers used in other parks in its region around the Great Lakes, which makes it distinctive and locally significant.

A summary history of the development of fire management strategies in national parks and forests may be found in the Statement of Significance of the Multiple Property Documentation Form under which New Feldtmann Fire Tower is nominated. New Feldtmann Fire Tower was constructed in 1964 as part of the ongoing effort by NPS to suppress fires, natural and man-made, in national parks. With its companions, the fire towers at Ishpeming Point and Mount Ojibway Ridge, New Feldtmann Fire Tower testifies to the era of the suppression strategy led by USFS from 1910 until approximately 1968. After 1968, NPS's own practices, which abandoned the earlier, total suppression model and adopted allowing naturally occurring fires to burn themselves out and conducting controlled burns to reduce fire fuel load, became dominant in the field of fire management on government lands. For this reason, New Feldtmann Fire Tower and its companions are significant because the suppression strategy was a national paradigm that informed the local strategy for fire management on Isle Royale. Additionally, the type of fire lookout tower used at New Feldtmann Fire Tower is one designed by USFS and deployed in the large Western national parks rather than in the smaller national parks of the northern Midwest, in the region around the Great Lakes. Thus, the design of this fire tower is also locally significant because it is a local adaptation of a regional design from a different region of the country.

The New Feldtmann Fire Tower meets the National Register of Historic Places criteria for integrity with regard to location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. See the Narrative Statement of Significance in this section for details.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Significance Under Criterion A

The national strategy for fire management, total suppression, began at Yellowstone National Park in 1886 under the leadership of the U.S. Army. Under this strategy, the U.S. Army endeavored to extinguish any fires it detected in the park, whether natural or man-made. No detected fires were allowed to burn themselves out. In 1911, passage of the Weeks Act authorized and, importantly, funded USFS Rangers to assist with fighting fires on federal, state, or private forest lands bordering any federal forest regardless of the place of origin of the fire.⁴ As a result, USFS assumed the lead among government agencies in the development of fire management strategies in national forests. Like the Army, USFS mandated total suppression,

⁴ Gerald Williams, PhD. *The USDA Forest Service – The First Century*. (USDA Forest Service, Office of Communication, Washington, D.C.) Revised 2005. Reviewed online at [fs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/2015/06](https://www.fs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/2015/06), April 2020, 28.

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which also informed the early fire management protocols of NPS at Isle Royale. The earliest NPS efforts at such management were made following the extensive Greenstone Ridge Fire of 1936 in the newly designated Isle Royale National Park. New Feldtmann Fire Tower, for which planning began in 1954 as part of the NPS Mission 66 program to upgrade parks in the National Park System, was constructed in 1964. In 1968, NPS officially adopted its own fire management plan, separate from that of USFS, and mandated allowing some fires to burn themselves out instead of vigorously suppressing all fires in its parks. This move put NPS in the lead among government agencies for scientific fire management on federal government lands, and USFS followed suit. The use of the towers for fire management diminished after 1968 and eventually was abandoned, but the towers continued to be used for other purposes such as backcountry ranger stations or temporary housing for trail crews until the 1980s.⁵ In October 1976, Isle Royale was officially declared a Wilderness Area. By early 1984, a plan had been assembled to remove all three fire towers along with four patrol towers and a radio tower located in the designated wilderness area. The work was planned for the 1984 through 1986 seasons.⁶ Ultimately, this plan was abandoned, and the fire lookout towers on Isle Royale continue to this day to attest to the evolution of fire management strategies within NPS broadly and their impact on strategies at Isle Royale in particular.

After the catastrophic Greenstone Ridge Fire at newly-designated Isle Royale National Park before it was even ready to be opened to the public, NPS used New Deal funds and Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) personnel to construct two fire lookout towers on Isle Royale. One was at Mount Ojibway, and one was at Turkey Ridge, now referred to as the Old Feldtmann Fire Tower (see Figure 26). These lookout towers, constructed of wooden elements bolted together to form a scaffold-type tower with an observation enclosure on top, followed a USFS design for fire lookout towers that was being used throughout the nation (see Figures 26, 27, and 28). Because the early design did not allow for overnight stays, a fire observer's residence was also constructed in the vicinity of Old Feldtmann Fire Tower on Turkey Ridge or on Feldtmann Ridge. The remains of this building have not been identified for this listing (see Figure 29).

⁵ Timothy Cochrane, former Isle Royale backcountry ranger and early park historian, in emails to Isle Royale National Park Cultural Resource Manager Seth DePasqual, October 3-4, 2019. Forwarded by DePasqual to author October 3-4, 2019.

⁶ Lucas Westcott, *A Legislative and Administrative History of Federally Designated Wilderness at Isle Royale National Park*. Technical Report 2013-01 (Isle Royale Institute, Michigan Technological University, Houghton, Michigan, 2013), 36.

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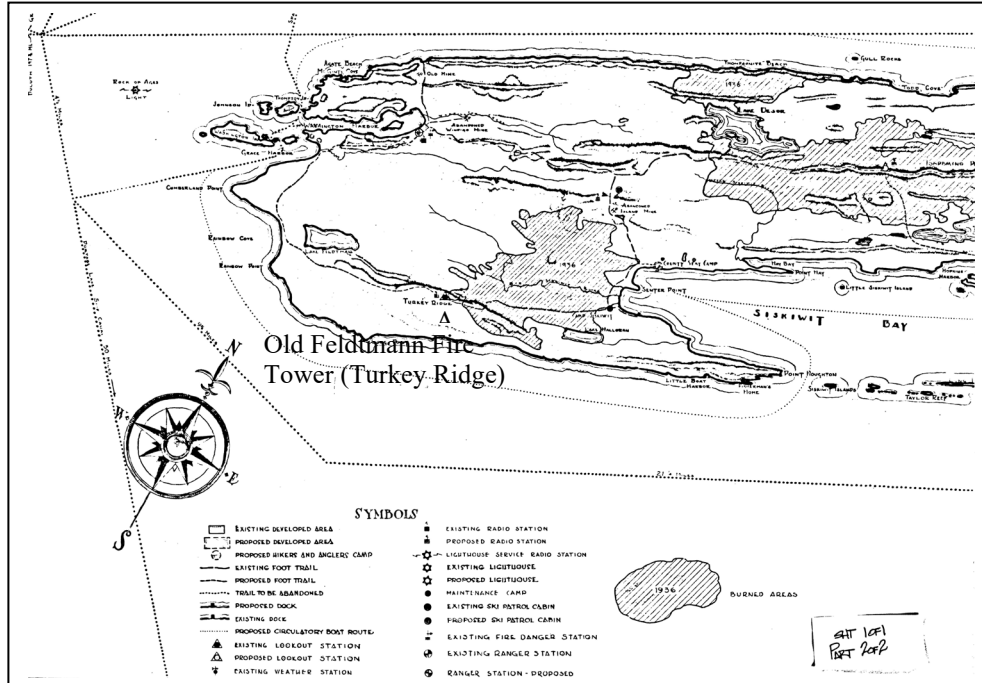


Figure 26: Detail of 1941 *Fire Protection Plan* for Isle Royale National Park. Map shows burned-over area and location of the fire lookout tower on the west end of the island, sometimes called Turkey Ridge Fire Tower, now designated Old Feldtmann Fire Tower. Image provided by Isle Royale National Park archives at Keweenaw National Historical Park, Calumet Twp., MI.



Figure 26: Strawberry Fire Lookout at Helena National Forest, Montana. Built in 1941. From National Historic Lookout Register at nhrl.org/lookouts, viewed February 2020.

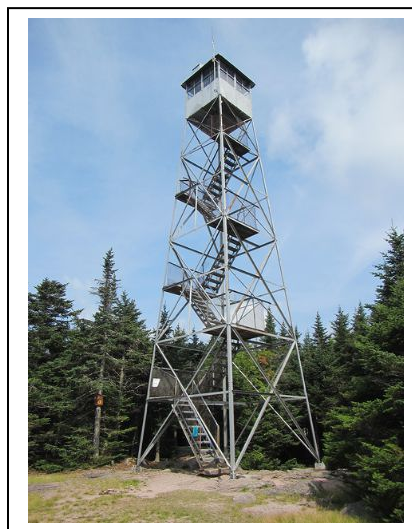


Figure 27: Balsam Lake Mountain Fire Lookout at Balsam Lake Mountain Wild Forest, New York. Built in 1930. From Mother Nature Network at mnn.com/earth-matters/wilderness-resources, viewed February 2020.

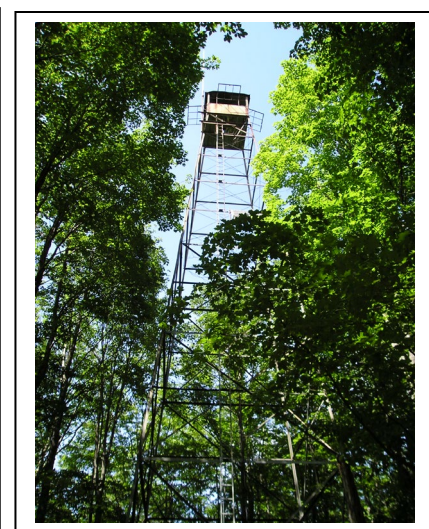


Figure 28: Buck Hill Fire Lookout at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, Michigan. From National Historic Lookout Register at nhrl.org/lookouts, viewed February 2020.

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Fig. 29: Quarters at Feldtmann Ridge, 1952. Photo 50-261 from National Visual Inventory Card Collection of Isle Royale photographs held at Keweenaw National Historical Park, Calumet Twp, MI.

By the early 1950s, however, the wooden fire towers were deteriorating. They were deemed dangerous to use, and the park determined to replace them with new, taller, steel towers. The plan in 1961 for the Feldtmann Fire Tower replacement was a forty-foot tall metal tower topped by a metal 7'x7' cab like that on the original wooden tower, but, by 1963, that plan had changed.⁷ According to Henry G. Schmidt, superintendent at Isle Royale National Park, in a memorandum to the Regional Director of the Northeast Region, the National Park Service Region to which Isle Royale National Park reported at the time, the new steel towers would be "a standard Forest Service design for steel towers with living quarters in the tower cab."⁸ Funds were not available for construction of the towers until establishment of the Mission 66 program to upgrade services and infrastructure in the national parks as part of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the National Park Service in 1966. Some of the Mission 66 program funds received by Isle Royale also went toward replacing the deteriorating fire towers at Mount Ojibway and on Turkey Ridge and construction of a new fire tower at Ishpeming Point.

The superintendent also determined that a new location for the Old Feldtmann replacement tower was indicated by changing visitor use of facilities in the area, which changed the location of the greatest potential for fire hazard. Since 1886, fire management strategies in national parks and

⁷ Memorandum, Acting Director of Northeast Region, NPS to Director, National Park Service, "Completion Report," May 12, 1965: Project Construction Program Proposal B-49-4, dated June 12, 1961, and approved July 19, 1961, indicates a 7'x7' cab. Project Construction Program Proposal B-49-5, dated January 18, 1963, and approved March 8, 1963, attached to the same Completion Report amends that to a 14'x 14' live-in cab. Electronic files provided to author by Midwest Regional Office of the National Park Service, received September 28, 2018.

⁸ Memorandum, Henry K. Schmidt, Superintendent, Isle Royale National Park, to Regional Director, Northeast Region, National Park Service: Feldtmann Lookout Tower Relocation, April 24, 1963, electronic file provided by National Archives at Chicago, IL, from Folder D46, Box 9, Record Group 79, received May 17, 2019.

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forests focused on areas of human use as posing the greatest potential hazard for fire. The greater the human use, this paradigm held, the greater the hazard. In his April 24, 1963, memorandum to the Regional Director, Superintendent Henry K. Schmidt explained that visitor use had shifted from Siskiwit Bay and the Big Siskiwit River to Grace Creek and Feldtmann Lake due to a decrease in river trout in the Siskiwit River, which made the area less attractive to sport tourists. In fact, he claimed that visitation to the swamp near Siskiwit Bay was almost negligible. In addition, he felt that the new Feldtmann Lake trail, planned for completion in late summer of 1963, or in Fiscal Year 1964, would increase visitation to the area, thus also increasing the fire hazard. For these reasons, the superintendent informed the Regional Director that he planned to locate the Feldtmann replacement tower about eight hundred yards (a little over a half-mile) west of the Turkey Ridge location (see Figure 30).⁹ In late summer of 1963, park personnel tore down the Old Feldtmann Fire Tower, leaving the foundations and tower components in place.

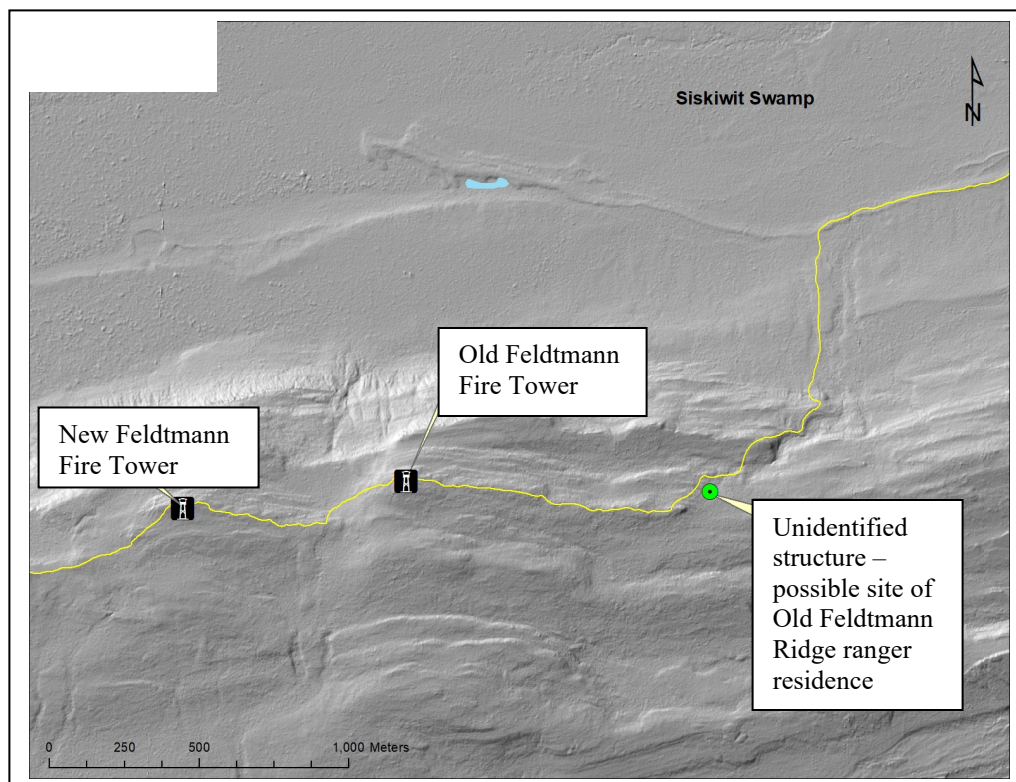


Figure 30: Relative positions of Old Feldtmann Fire Tower ruin, New Feldtmann Fire Tower, and the possible site of the former Feldtmann Ridge ranger station. Scan of LiDAR Base Map provided by Isle Royale National Park.

The design used at New Feldtmann Fire Tower derived from a drawing set issued by USFS in 1951 and last revised in 1954. The *Standard Steel Lookout Towers, 30', 41'-3", 54', 67'-6", & 83'-1½" High with Living Quarters, Elevation, Members, and Foundation Plan* drawing set

⁹ Memorandum, Henry K. Schmidt, Superintendent, Isle Royale National Park, to Regional Director, Northeast Region, National Park Service: Feldtmann Lookout Tower Relocation, April 24, 1963.

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provided a single cab plan with support towers of various heights (see Figure 31). The National Park Service chose a tower 41'-3" tall for New Feldtmann. Designed to be pre-fabricated and then installed on-site, the tower and cab consisted of lengths of angle, C-shapes, and metal panels to be bolted together using gusset plates as attachment points and anchored to formed concrete piers secured to the Isle Royale rock surface with embedded bolts. Stair treads and balcony floors, stair landing and balcony railings, doors, windows, roof, and mechanical vent installations were also pre-fabricated for installation on site.

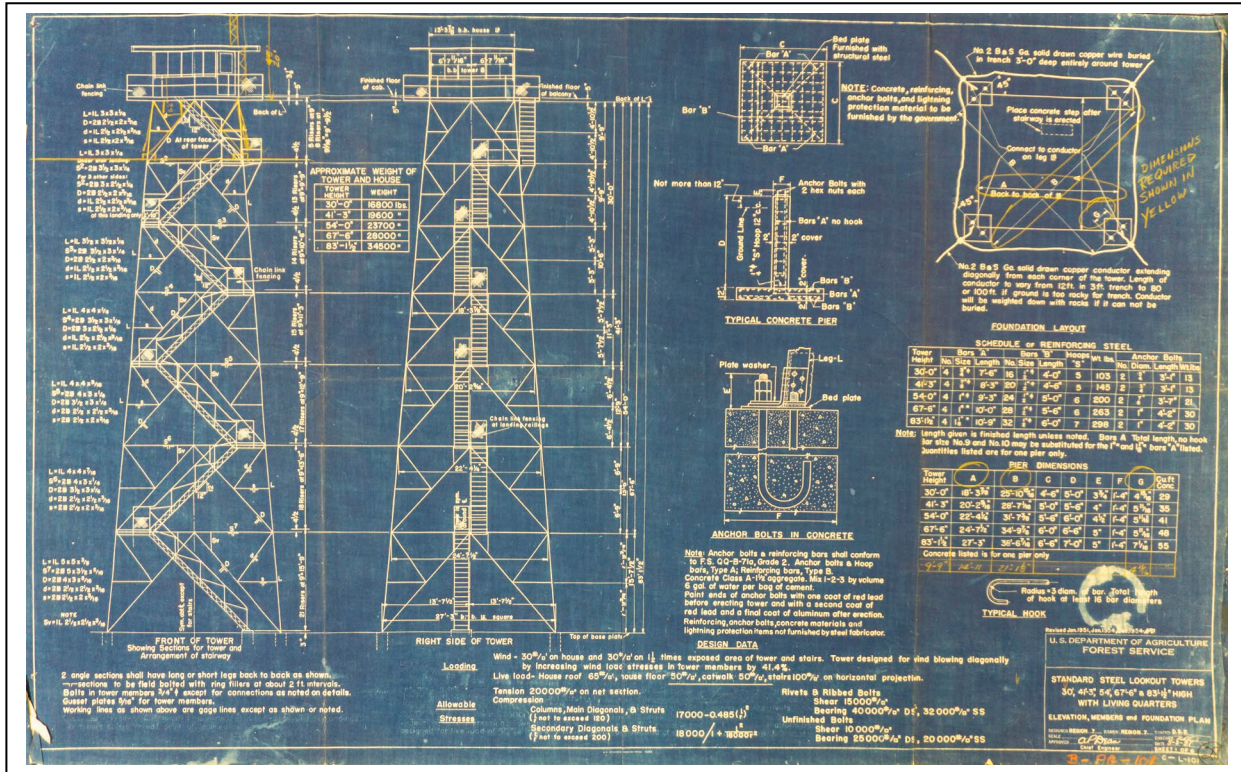


Figure 31: "Standard Steel Lookout Towers," plan provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, 1951. Image courtesy of Isle Royale National Park archives at Keweenaw National Historical Park, Calumet Twp., MI.

According to the Northeast Region Acting Regional Director's completion report to the Director of the National Park Service, filed May 12, 1965, construction began on July 8, 1964.¹⁰ However, one of the construction crewmembers, Gordon J. Mattila, published a small booklet about the construction work, *Isle Royale Towers and other island construction*, in which he stated that work on the Feldtmann tower was begun on June 2, 1964, and construction for the Ojibway tower began in July.¹¹ According to Mattila, the company for which he worked, Yalmer

¹⁰ Memorandum, Acting Director of Northeast Region, NPS to Director, National Park Service, "Completion Report," May 12, 1965.

¹¹ Gordon J. Mattila, *Isle Royale Towers and other island construction* (Atlantic Mine, MI: Shenanigan Press, n.d.), 3-4

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Mattila Contracting, Inc., of Houghton, Michigan, began separating the pieces to be assembled into bundles of approximately six hundred pounds each at the beginning of May 1963. In mid-May, the bundles were loaded onto a “Landing Craft Mechanical” (LCM) and shipped to Isle Royale to be unloaded at Long Point, chosen because it was the closest beach area to the new Feldtmann Fire Tower location to enable unloading and staging materials from the watercraft for later transport by helicopter to the construction site. Waves, wind, and a waterlogged beach proved an impediment to unloading the equipment and materials at Long Point. Equipment and materials were finally unloaded about one thousand feet down the beach on a rock ledge that afforded the LCM and the heavy equipment firm footing for unloading. The bundles of materials then had to be transported, using a four-wheel-drive loader, about five hundred feet back down the beach toward Long Point and secured in a safe location where waves of the lake could not reach them. The unloading took about four hours, ending about seven o’clock at night, when the crew returned to Hancock, Michigan, a five-hour trip by boat.¹²

About two weeks later, on June 1, according to Gordon Mattila, the construction crew consisting of “three men, (Gordon, Rudy, and Wilbert)” returned to Long Point on Isle Royale in a thirty-foot boat “with a 14 foot wooden boat crossways on the stern end. The smaller boat was to be used to haul our supplies ashore for the next 4 to 6 weeks of work on the fire tower.” That first night, they constructed a plastic tent on the beach and slept there. The following morning, June 2, they left the beach for the construction site on the helicopter scheduled to ferry the bundles of construction materials and supplies to the site. A fourth crewmember, “Ike,” remained on the beach to hook the bundles of construction materials and supplies to the helicopter before returning to the mainland. This activity appears to have consumed two days. Meanwhile, with a gas-powered drill, the crew began drilling anchor holes in the rock for anchoring the tower footings. The crew used a “cabin” in the vicinity as their base. This was likely the observer’s residence shown in Figure 29 and labeled as being near Feldtmann Ridge.¹³ The helicopter landed their supplies near their construction site and about a half-mile from this “cabin,” which indicates that the cabin was nearer the old Feldtmann tower than the new Feldtmann site.¹⁴ The exact location of this cabin has not been determined, and it is not part of this site.

On June 3, the crew formed and placed the concrete footings with embedded bolts, but, by the next morning, the cement had not set because of the overnight cold. By evening that day, the crew had finally set the first steel. By June 8, they had completed the top of the tower and were ready to start the cab. On June 14, they were working on the tower cabin floor, and, by June 19,

¹² Gordon J. Mattila, *Isle Royale Towers and other island construction*, 1-2.

¹³ Photograph, photographer unrecorded, Building #166, from Isle Royale Photographic Archives, National Visual Inventory Cards Index Negative Number 50-261, dated 1952, provided by Seth DePasqual, Cultural Resource Manager, Isle Royale National Park, Michigan, December 26, 2019.

¹⁴ Gordon J. Mattila, *Isle Royale Towers and other island construction*. Atlantic Mine, MI: Shenanigan Press, n.d., pp. 3-4.

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the structure was nearly completed, and the crew went home by airplane for a well-deserved rest. They returned to the site on June 24 and finished the tower by July 1, when they moved their operations to the Ojibway construction site to begin construction of the replacement tower there.¹⁵



Figure 32: The only historic photograph of New Feldtmann Fire Tower located for this document, dated 1964. Image from National Visual Inventory Card Collection at Isle Royale National Park archives held at Keweenaw National Historical Park in Calumet, MI.

The New Feldtmann Fire Tower was constructed on Isle Royale to continue the National Park Service's strategy for conservation of the forest wilderness as conservation was defined between 1936 and 1968. During this time, led by USFS, the national fire management strategy consisted of spotting and eradicating fires in national parks and forests. To do this, it was necessary for human spotters to be located in areas of national parks and forests with the highest vulnerability

¹⁵ Gordon J. Mattila, *Isle Royale Towers and other island construction*. Atlantic Mine, MI: Shenanigan Press, n.d., pp. 4-8.

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to fires, either natural or man-made. In fact, fire towers would most likely have been built on Isle Royale even if the Greenstone Ridge Fire of 1936 had not occurred. The fire itself did not prompt construction of fire lookout towers on the island since that was already the national management strategy of the National Park Service. However, the fire did inform placement of the first, earlier fire lookout towers constructed in 1939 by the CCC.

Fire management strategy beginning in 1886 held that the areas of highest vulnerability to fires were the areas in which there were people hiking, camping, fishing, etc. When the New Feldtmann Fire Tower was built, it was located about a half-mile southwest of the fire tower it replaced, Old Feldtmann Fire Tower, because the park superintendent had determined that the fire hazard area had changed in the fifteen intervening years due to the change in use patterns from the Siskiwit Bay area to the Feldtmann Lake area. The new location selected would be optimal for maintaining the current fire management strategy for conserving the wilderness forests by locating the tower to an area of projected higher visitor use due to the Feldtmann Lake Trail planned for completion the following year. By 1968, however, the conservation strategy relative to fire management had also changed to one of allowing some fires that did not threaten life or property to burn themselves out naturally. This eventually led to abandonment of the New Feldtmann Fire Tower and the other fire lookout towers for that purpose on the island. Even this abandonment illustrates the wilderness conservation strategy in which NPS engaged and took the national lead by 1968. Therefore, wilderness conservation through fire management using national protocols adapted by NPS from the early strategies of the U.S. Army (1881 – 1914) and USFS (1914 to 1968) is the main historical significance of the New Feldtmann Fire Tower.

Significance Under Criterion C

The engineered design of New Feldtmann Fire Tower is also historically significant. The design was produced by USFS and primarily used in the large Western forests and national parks. The original design incorporated towers of varying heights to be used depending on agency fire surveillance requirements. It was designed so that it could be pre-fabricated off-site and easily assembled in remote, wilderness locations. Its parts could be transported by air to the building site and assembled in place by a small crew without the need of building intrusive access roads through the rugged wilderness. Its features, such as the water tank and propane stove, allowed for sustainable living conditions. The design could be site adapted to allow adjustments in the height of the tower without any modifications to the rest of the design, which is cost-effective. The engineering design used is significant because it was widely used by USFS, where it originated, and was adopted for use mainly in the large Western parks by NPS. It is locally significant that this design was used because other parks in the upper Midwest region surrounding the Great Lakes used an earlier, smaller USFS design that does not accommodate overnight stays by the fire observer. The larger cab design was likely employed at Isle Royale due to the remoteness of the tower site locations, far removed from any support infrastructure. This resembled similar

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situations in Western parks and forests. This aberration among fire tower designs of the upper Midwest region around the Great Lakes makes New Feldtmann Fire Tower and its companions locally significant.

Integrity of the Resource

The New Feldtmann Fire Tower exhibits the qualities of integrity required by the National Park Service for listing in the National Register of Historic Places: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, described as follows:

Location: New Feldtmann Fire Tower has integrity of location because is in its original constructed location.

Design: New Feldtmann Fire Tower has not been materially altered from its original design except for installation of protective panels, called “shutters” by NPS, over the glazing of the windows. These do not significantly impact understanding of the original design and appear to be part of the original maintenance strategy for the building. Shutters were placed over the windows during the winter to protect them while the park is closed and the fire tower unmanned. Therefore, New Feldtmann Fire Tower has integrity of design.

Setting: The setting of the New Feldtmann Fire Tower is a wilderness setting. The setting is intact, with little surrounding impact from later development. The unpaved trail approaching the tower provides access without intrusion into the setting. The area was declared a Wilderness Area in 1976, so no additional development in the immediate vicinity has taken place. The advancing wilderness has closed in somewhat but could be reinstated based on photographs from the early 1960s, when it was more exposed. Light from cities and towns across the lake negatively impact the night sky setting.¹⁶ Nevertheless, the overall setting of the site appears to be essentially intact and New Feldtmann Fire Tower retains integrity of setting.

Materials: The materials of the Feldtman Ridge fire tower do not appear to have been changed, although the windows of the cab have been covered for protection. The interior appears to have the original ceilings, floor coverings, and furnishings. Therefore, New Feldtmann Fire Tower has integrity of Materials.

Workmanship: The components for New Feldtmann Fire Tower were pre-fabricated off-site. The fabricator is unknown, but the significance of the workmanship of the tower is in the fact and method of the pre-fabrication of its parts. Pre-fabrication is a building method dating back to prehistoric times, but the galvanized steel and sheet glazing materials, both produced by modern

¹⁶ National Park Service, *Foundation Document, Isle Royale National Park, Keweenaw County, Michigan* (U.S. Department of the Interior, 2016), 38.

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machinery rather than by individual artisans, are markers of the modern industrial age, which produces objects of uniform materials, sizes, shapes, and finishes. Although the workers who ran the machinery that produced the parts are anonymous, the means of producing them is easily identified, and the parts thus produced are uniform in the ways expected of machine-produced parts. Therefore, New Feldtmann Fire Tower has integrity of workmanship.

Feeling: The New Feldtmann Fire Tower site retains the feeling of isolation in a wilderness that it first had upon construction. Its location on a rocky ridge surrounded by the forest wilderness indicates that it was constructed to observe, and, by inference, to protect, its surroundings and is a strong component of feeling for this tower as well as for the other towers in the Isle Royale National Park Fire Towers and Associated Structures and Sites listing. New Feldtmann Fire Tower has integrity of feeling.

Association: Because the area in which the New Feldtmann Fire Tower is located has been declared a wilderness and maintained that way, the association of the tower with its surroundings and with the other towers has been maintained. Through this association, the purpose of the structure as part of a nation-wide fire suppression strategy in national parks and forests is illustrated. The structure stood sentinel on a high ridge overlooking the southwest quadrant of Isle Royale, providing a place for keeping watch around the clock to prevent a repetition of the extensive Greenstone Ridge Fire that burned twenty percent of the vegetation on the island in 1936. The wilderness surroundings and the use of identical materials in construction compared with the other two fire towers provide New Feldtmann with a recognizable link to the fire management strategy of NPS in Isle Royale National Park. New Feldtmann Fire Tower has integrity of association.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Acting Director of Northeast Region, NPS. Memoranda to Director, National Park Service, "Completion Report," May 12, 1965: Project Construction Program Proposal B-49-4, dated June 12, 1961, and approved July 19, 1961, Project Construction Program Proposal B-49-5, dated January 18, 1963, and approved March 8, 1963, attached to the same Completion Report. Electronic files provided to author by Midwest Regional Office of the National Park Service, received September 28, 2018.

DePasqual, Seth, Isle Royale National Park Cultural Resources Manager. Emails to Deborah Harvey, December 2 and 3, 2019.

Johnson, C.E., Memorandum: Completion Report – Isle Royale National Park, for Multi-Unit Apartment Building, Rehabilitation of Warehouses, Two Firetowers, Employees Residence, Utilities, March 8, 1964. Electronic file provided by Midwest Regional Office of the National Park Service.

Mattila, Gordon J. *Isle Royale Towers and other island construction*. (Atlantic Mine, MI: Shenanigan Press), n.d. Copy located in Isle Royale National Park archives at Keweenaw National Historical Park, Calumet, MI.

National Historic Lookout Register. Register of historic fire lookout towers with photographs and descriptions at nhlr.org/lookouts/. Photographs are copyrighted. Reviewed September 2019 and February 2020.

National Park Service. *Foundation Document, Isle Royale National Park, Keweenaw County, Michigan*, (U.S. Department of the Interior) 2016. Electronic file provided by the Midwest Regional Office of the National Park Service.

National Park Service. National Visual Inventory Cards collection. Collection of photographs of buildings and structures at Isle Royale National Park, taken between 1939 and 1969 (although many of the photographs are undated, so this range is uncertain). Electronic files of photographs provided by Seth DePasqual, Cultural Resources Manager at Isle Royale National Park to author, Deborah Harvey, December 26, 2019.

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Rothman, Hal K. *A Test of Adversity and Strength: Wildland Fire in the National Park System*. (National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior), 2005, electronic file provided by the Midwest Regional Office of the National Park Service.

Schmidt, Henry K., Superintendent, Isle Royale National Park. Memorandum: Feldtmann Lookout Tower Relocation, dated April 24, 1963. Electronic File provided by National Archives at Chicago, IL, from Folder D46, Box 9, Record Group 79. Received May 17, 2019.

United States Forest Service, Department of Agriculture. *Standard Steel Lookout Towers, 30', 41'-3", 54', 67'-6", & 83'-1½" High with Living Quarters, Elevation, Members, and Foundation Plan* drawing set. Revised Dec 1954. Electronic file provided by the Midwest Regional Office of the National Park Service.

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 2.5

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 16N | Easting: 343458 | Northing: 5302974 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary of the New Feldtmann Fire Tower site for the purposes of this multiple property listing shall describe a rectangle approximately seventy-six yards (228 feet) wide from north to south and approximately 160 yards (480 feet) wide from east to west. With the center located at the center of the tower, this boundary shall be located with the northern border approximately six yards (eighteen feet) from the natural ridge to the north of the tower and the western border approximately forty-five yards (135 feet) from the natural drop-off to the west of the tower.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries for the New Feldtmann Fire Tower are defined by natural features of the ridge upon which it sits. The ridge is a relatively open area with a rock base on which grasses, and small deciduous trees and bushes are growing, aligned east and west. The forest wilderness begins at the edges of this boundary. On the northern and western edges of the boundary, the ground drops off significantly. On the southern and eastern edges, it slopes

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more gently into the trees. The boundaries have been selected to encompass the open area to the drop-offs and the edges of the treeline surrounding the fire tower.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Deborah E. Harvey, MHP/ Project Manager
organization: Outside The Box, LLC
street & number: 1428 Floyd Avenue
city or town: Richmond state: Virginia zip code: 23220
e-mail deborah@outsidetheboxllc.us
telephone: 404-210-0321
date: May 30, 2020

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: New Feldtmann Fire Tower

City or Vicinity: Isle Royale National Park

County: Keweenaw

State: MI

Photographer: Natalie Young

Date Photographed: May 26, 2019

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower trail to tower, facing W
- 2 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower approach, facing W
- 3 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower, facing W
- 4 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower, facing SW
- 5 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower, facing S
- 6 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower, facing SE
- 7 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower long view, facing E
- 8 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower, facing E
- 9 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower, facing NE
- 10 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower long view, facing N
- 11 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower, facing N
- 12 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower, facing NW
- 13 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower SE footing detail, facing S
- 14 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower typical tower assembly, N Side, facing S

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- 15 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower underside, facing W
- 16 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower typical attachment detail, facing E
- 17 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower typical corner joint detail, NW corner, facing SE
- 18 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower typical corner joint detail, NW corner, facing NW
- 19 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower stairway, facing E
- 20 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower stairway, facing N
- 21 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower stairway, facing S
- 22 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower typical corner joint at stairway support, second landing, facing NW
- 23 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower typical expanded metal stairway landing, second landing, facing N
- 24 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower third stairway landing, facing S
- 25 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower third stairway landing, facing E
- 26 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower balcony stair access, facing N
- 27 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower identification and elevation sign detail at balcony, facing SW
- 28 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower cab wall and balcony, NE corner, facing S
- 29 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower balcony stair access hatch, facing S
- 30 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower balcony access hatch cantilevered weights, facing S
- 31 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower balcony access hatch cantilevered weights detail, facing SE
- 32 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower balcony access hatch cantilevered weights attachment detail, facing S
- 33 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower cab, NE corner, facing NW
- 34 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower cab and balcony, NE corner, facing W
- 35 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower typical cab soffit, N side, facing W
- 36 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower cab, balcony, and soffit, NW corner, facing E
- 37 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower cab, NW corner, facing SE
- 38 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower cab and balcony, NW corner, facing S

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- 39 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower cab and balcony, SW corner, facing N
- 40 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower cab, SW corner, facing NE
- 41 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower cab and balcony, SW corner, facing E
- 42 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower typical part number painted on materials
- 43 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower cab and balcony, SE corner, facing W
- 44 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower cab, SE corner, facing NW
- 45 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower cab and balcony, E side, facing N
- 46 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower balcony access hatch closed, cantilevered weight detail, facing N
- 47 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower radio tower, SE balcony corner, facing SW
- 48 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower radio tower hardware, facing SW
- 49 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower cab roof, facing W
- 50 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower cab roof, facing NW
- 51 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower cab door, W side, facing NE
- 52 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower part mark on cab door
- 53 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower cab interior, facing N
- 54 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower cab interior, facing NW
- 55 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Ridge Tower cab interior, facing SW
- 56 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower cab interior, facing S
- 57 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower cab interior, facing SE
- 58 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower cab interior, facing NE
- 59 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower cab interior sink detail, facing E
- 60 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower cab interior stove detail, facing NE
- 61 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower cab interior bed detail, facing W
- 62 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower cab interior dresser detail, facing W
- 63 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower cab interior dining table detail, facing S
- 64 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower cab interior fire spotter detail, facing N

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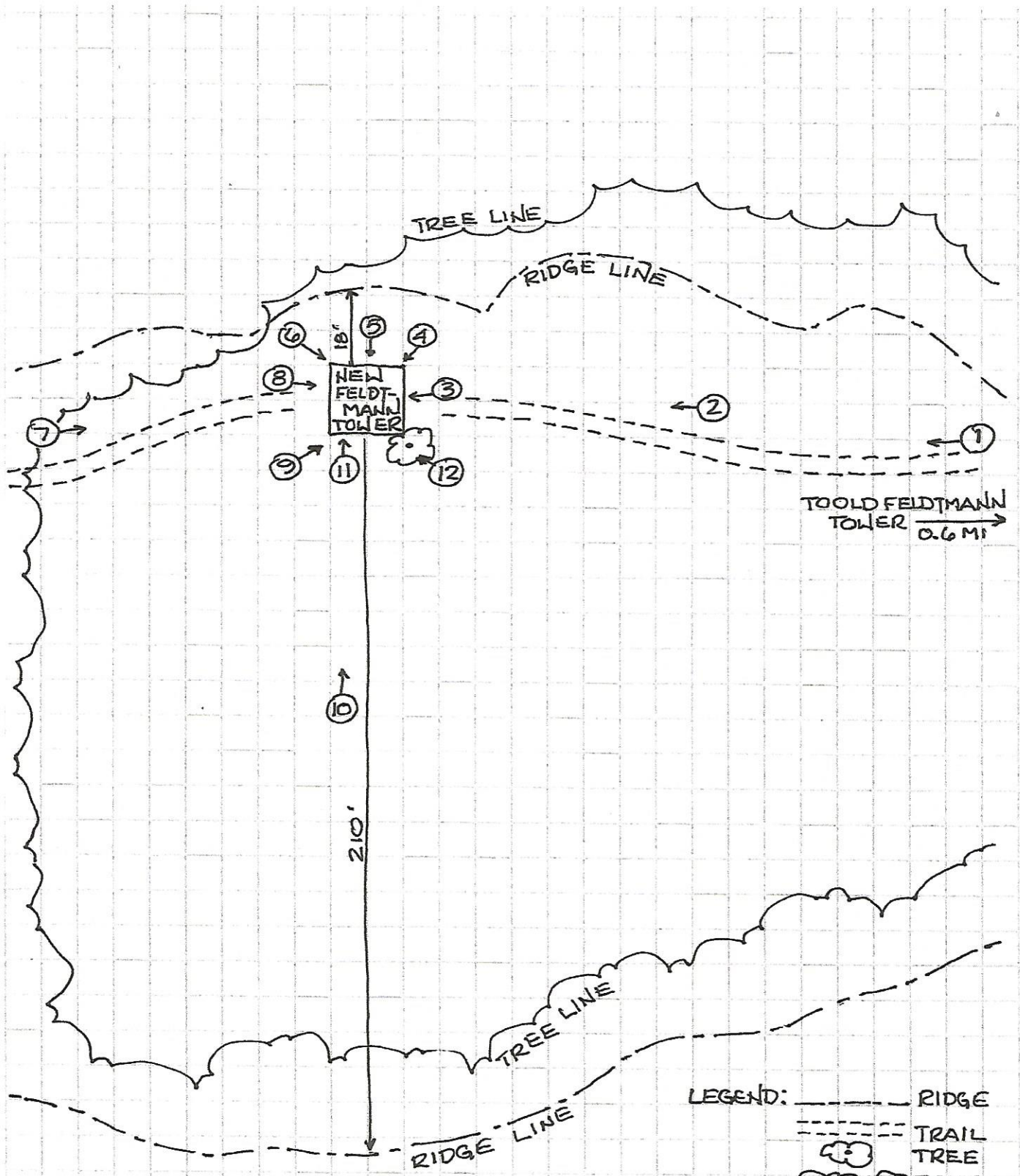
- 65 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower cab interior floor detail, facing S
- 66 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower view from tower, facing E
- 67 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower view from tower, facing NE
- 68 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower view from tower, facing N
- 69 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower view from tower, facing NW
- 70 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower view from tower, facing W
- 71 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower view from tower, facing SW
- 71 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower view from tower, facing S
- 73 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower view from tower, facing SE
- 74 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower water tank cradle, facing W
- 75 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower water tank, facing NE
- 76 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower water tank, facing NW
- 77 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower water tank top, facing NW
- 78 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower water tank hardware detail, facing N
- 79 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower water tank hardware detail, facing W
- 80 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower storage bin, facing N
- 81 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower storage bin, facing E
- 82 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower view from base of tower, facing E
- 83 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower view from base of tower, facing NE
- 84 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower view from base of tower, facing N
- 85 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower view from base of tower, facing NW
- 86 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower view from base of tower, facing W
- 87 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower view from base of tower, facing SW
- 88 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower view from base of tower, facing S
- 89 of 89. MI Keweenaw County New Feldtmann Fire Tower view from base of tower, facing SE

New Feldtmann Fire Tower
Name of Property

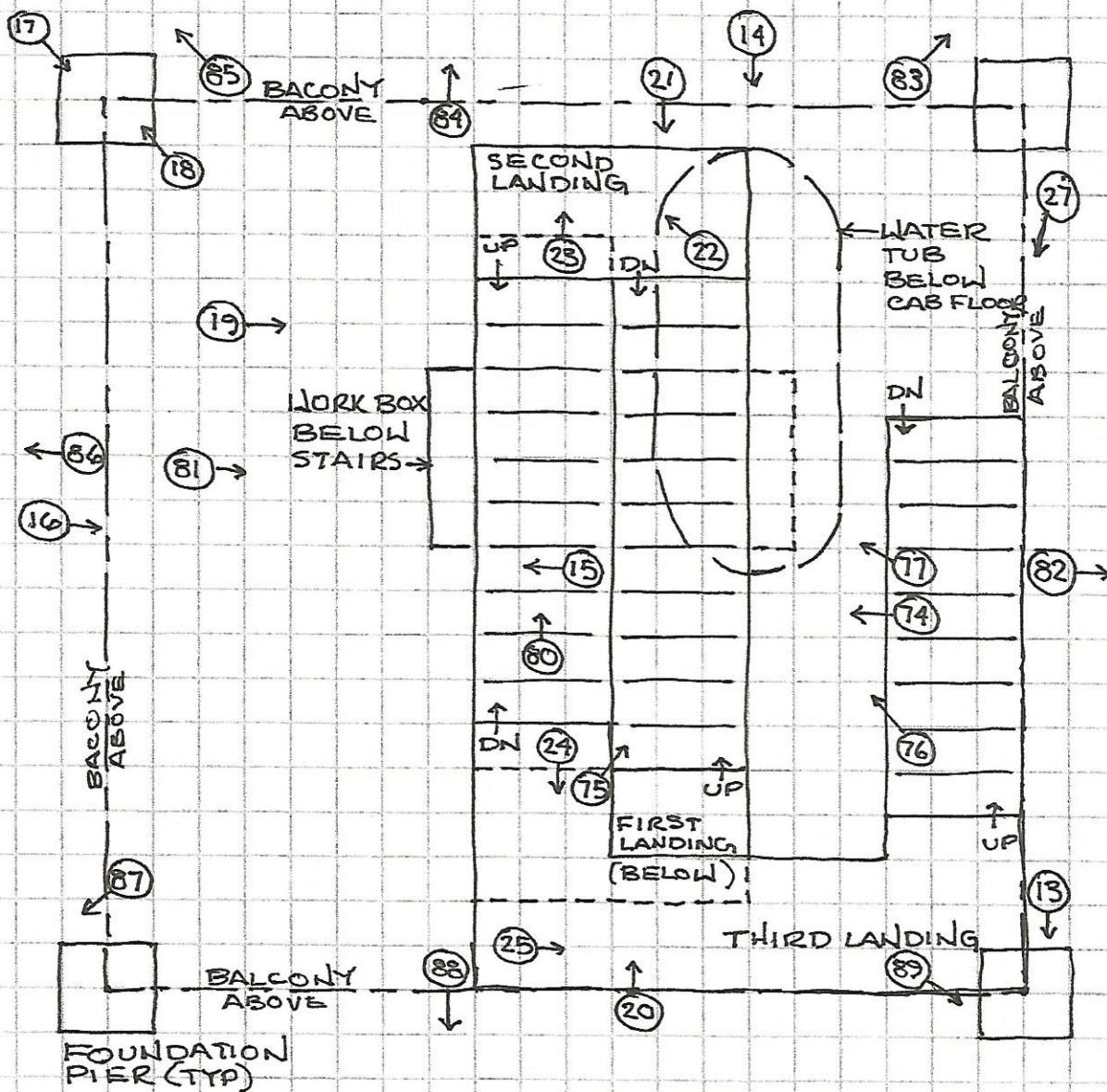
Keweenaw County, MI
County and State

to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

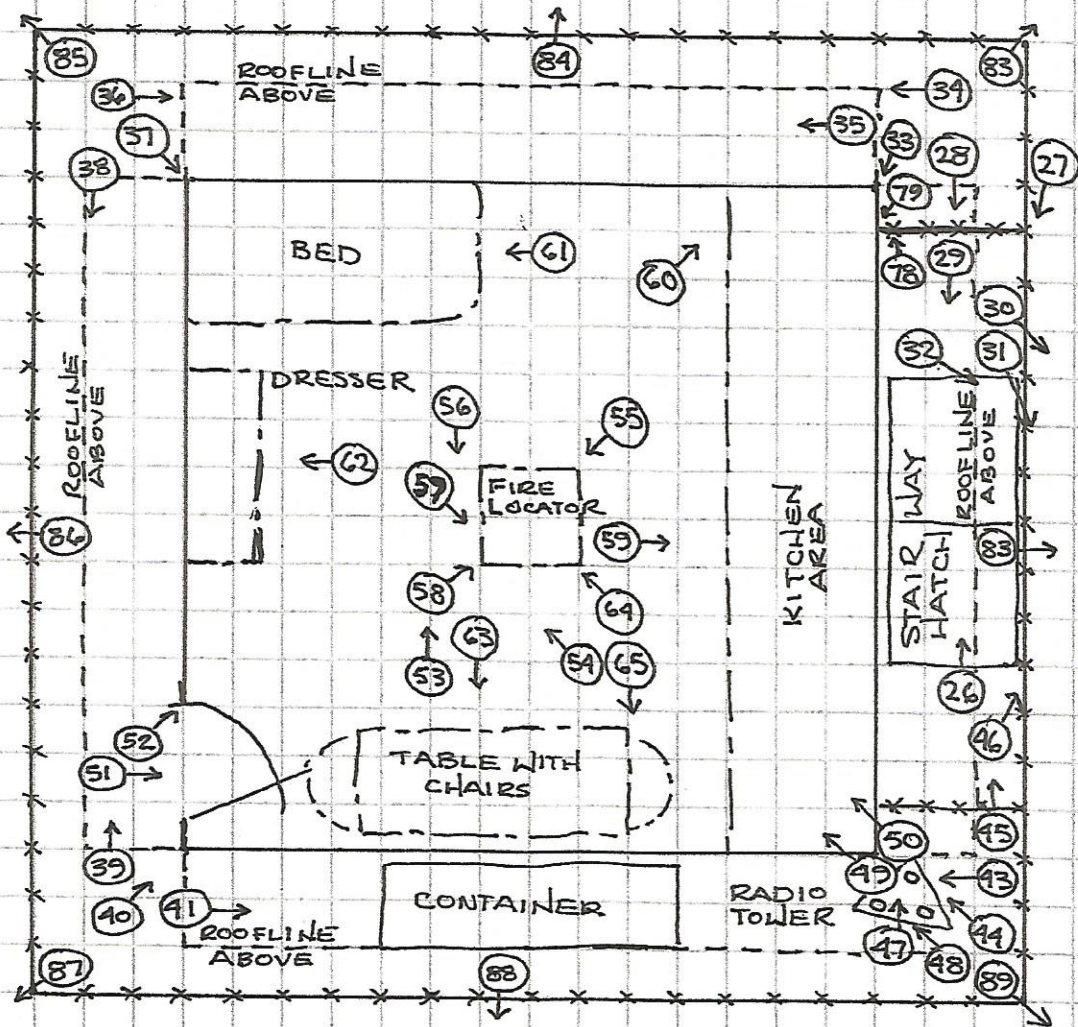
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



NEW FELDTMANN FIRE TOWER SITE PLAN
NOT TO SCALE

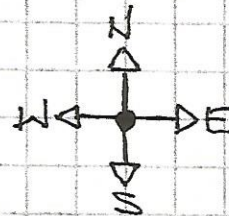


NEW FELDTMANN FOUNDATIONS
 AND STAIRWAY PLAN
 NOT TO SCALE

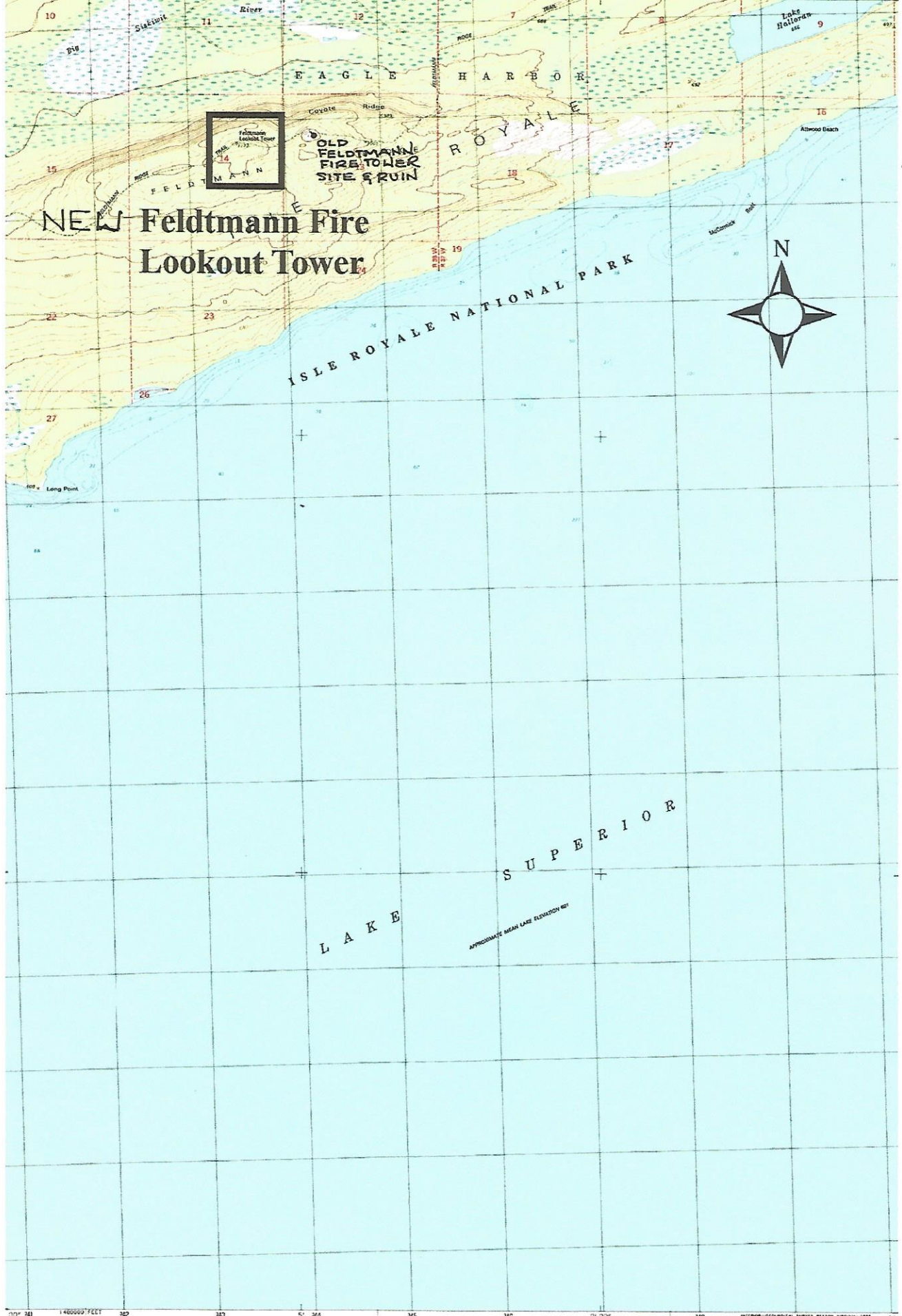


LEGEND

- x x x x CHAIN LINK FENCE
- - - - CAB FURNISHINGS
- ⌒ DOOR



NEW FELDTMANN CAB & BALCONY PLAN
NOT TO SCALE



NEW Feldtmann Fire Lookout Tower



OLD FELDTMANN FIRE TOWER SITE & RUIN

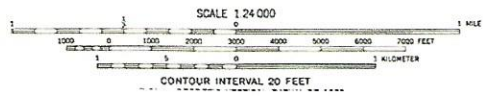
ISLE ROYALE NATIONAL PARK



L A K E S U P E R I O R

APPROXIMATE MEAN LAKE ELEVATION 607

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
 control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
 topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
 taken 1955. Revised from aerial photographs taken 1981
 field checked 1984. Map edited 1985
 selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS chart 14076 (1979)
 This information is not intended for navigational purposes
 1:25,000 and 10,000-foot grid ticks; Michigan coordinate



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
() Interstate Route	() U. S. Route
() State Route	



CANADA
UNITED STATES

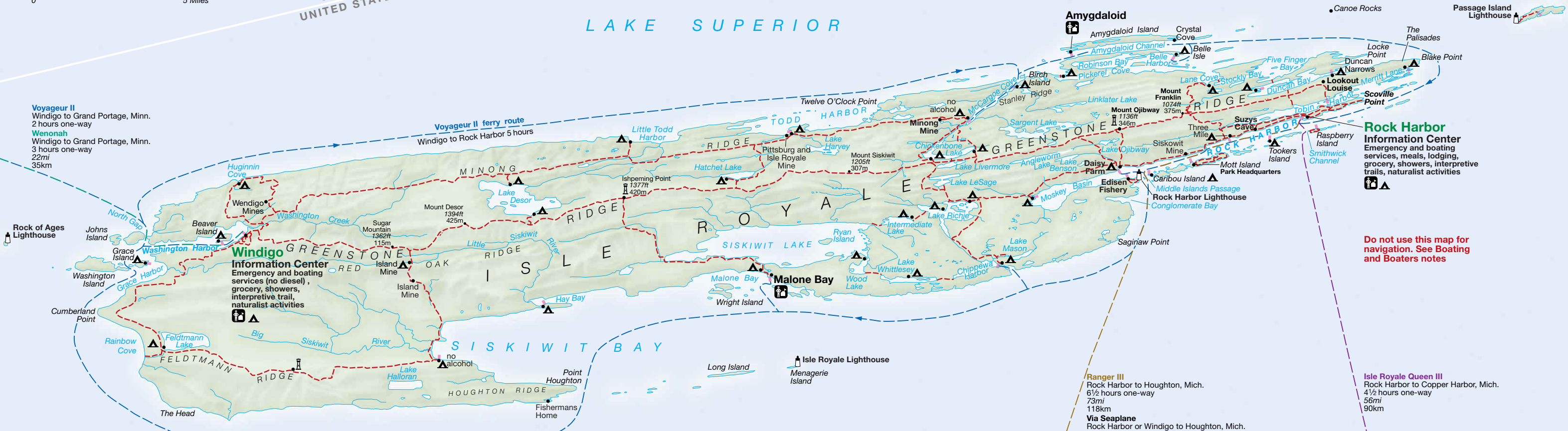
LAKE SUPERIOR

Voyageur II
Windigo to Grand Portage, Minn.
2 hours one-way

Wenonah
Windigo to Grand Portage, Minn.
3 hours one-way
22mi
35km

Voyageur II ferry route
Windigo to Rock Harbor 5 hours

Voyageur II ferry route
Rock Harbor to Windigo 4½ hours



Rock Harbor
Information Center
Emergency and boating services, meals, lodging, grocery, showers, interpretive trails, naturalist activities

Do not use this map for navigation. See Boating and Boaters notes

Ranger III
Rock Harbor to Houghton, Mich.
6½ hours one-way
73mi
118km

Via Seaplane
Rock Harbor or Windigo to Houghton, Mich.
30 minutes one-way

Isle Royale Queen III
Rock Harbor to Copper Harbor, Mich.
4½ hours one-way
56mi
90km

Isle Royale National Park boundary extends 4.5 miles from Isle Royale and the outer islands or to the international boundary.

- Trail
- Dock
- Ranger station
- Campsite
- Lookout Tower
- Lighthouse

Inland Lake Canoe Campgrounds
Intermediate Lake
Lake Richie Canoe
Lake Whittlesey
Wood Lake

Day Use Only Docks
Amygdaloid
Lookout Louise
Mott Island
Passage Island
Raspberry Island

Public Overnight Docks
Beaver Island
Belle Isle
Birch Island
Caribou Island
Chippewa Harbor

Malone Bay
McCargoe Cove
Merritt Lane
Moskey Basin
Rock Harbor

Siskiwit Bay
Three Mile
Todd Harbor
Tookers Island
Windigo

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 100006000

Date Listed: 1/5/2021

Property Name: New Feldtmann Fire Tower (Isle Royale National Park Fire Towers MPS)

County: Keweenaw

State: MI

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.



1/5/2021

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8: Period of Significance/Significant Dates

The Period of Significance is hereby changed to 1964-1968.

1954 is deleted as a significant date.

The extant tower, while a planned replacement for an earlier tower, was not actually constructed until 1964. The "planning" for the new tower, while part of the management process, is not reflected on any extant resources.

The Michigan State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file

Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)