

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: Ishpeming Fire Tower

Other names/site number: _____

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Not For Publication: Vicinity: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>0</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>2</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 Ishpeming Fire Tower 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 result of volcanic activity, uplift, glacial processes, erosion, and sedimentation. They are generally

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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.¹

Ishpeming Fire Tower is situated near the center of Isle Royale on Greenstone Ridge, a prominent rock ridge running northeast to southwest and forming the “backbone” of the island, the remains of “one of the oldest, largest, and longest-lasting lava flow events on Earth.”² Lake Superior, surrounding Isle Royale, is about two miles to the northwest of the Ishpeming Fire Tower and about three and one-half mile to the southeast. Isle Royale extends approximately eighteen miles to the southwest of Ishpeming Fire Tower and approximately twenty-eight miles to the northeast of it. Ishpeming Fire Tower is accessed by the Greenstone Ridge trail running through the site northeast and southwest almost the entire length of Isle Royale between the Windigo Visitor Center about thirteen miles away to the southwest and Lookout Louise about twenty-four miles away on the northeast. It is also accessed by a trail coming in from the southeast from the Malone Bay Campground about five miles away on Malone Bay to the southeast of Isle Royale. About two miles to the east is Siskiwit Lake, and smaller Hatchett Lake is about three and one-half miles to the northeast. To the west is Lake Desor, about two miles from Ishpeming Fire Tower. The tower is surrounded, indeed, nearly overwhelmed, by a wilderness area of evergreens, small deciduous trees, shrubs and bushes, and native grasses. The cab and balcony from which the observer can monitor the surrounding landscape for fire is raised above the ground about ten feet on a metal scaffold-type structure, but it no longer clears the treeline or affords a view of the surrounding wilderness. The boundary of the site is a rectangle approximately 110 feet wide from east to west and approximately 265 feet long from north to south, with the center of the tower located fifty-five feet from the western boundary and fifty-five feet from the southern boundary. The boundary encompasses the historic outhouse, approximately 220 feet north of the tower. The tower and the outhouse are contributing resources.

The historic property type for this nomination is a 1954 U.S. Forest Service (USFS) “Standard Steel Lookout Tower with Living Quarters” design. The tower was assembled in 1961. It 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 scaffold are accessed by a metal stairway leading to a metal access hatch for the balcony at the top of the scaffold 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 and a “crow’s nest”, consisting of a steel tower similar to the radio communication tower

¹ National Park Service, *Foundation Document, Isle Royale National Park, Keweenaw County, Michigan* (U.S. Department of Interior), 2016, 3, 9.

² National Park Service. *Foundation Document*, 7.

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but with a platform surrounded by fall protection at the top, are installed on the balcony. The “crow’s nest” platform rests at a precarious angle. At the top of the access scaffold, the pre-fabricated, live-in cab is composed of aluminum wall panels with metal frame windows on all four 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 rolled flooring. 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 the occupancy of one fire observer at the tower. This fire tower is in fair condition and appears to be mostly unaltered from the time of its construction. In addition to the fire tower, the outhouse for this structure, located about seventy yards (210 feet) away, is also likely historic. It is a one-hole outhouse constructed of plywood panels with a translucent plastic roof. It is in poor condition because a large tree branch has fallen on it and broken the roof materials. However, it does indicate that the intention at this fire tower was for the observer to live in the cab, and this is the bathroom facility provided to facilitate that. The fire tower, the outhouse, and the site have historic integrity in terms of location, design, materials, workmanship, and association, but the integrity of setting and feeling is significantly hampered by the encroaching wilderness. See Part 8, “Narrative Statement of Significance” for further information.

Narrative Description

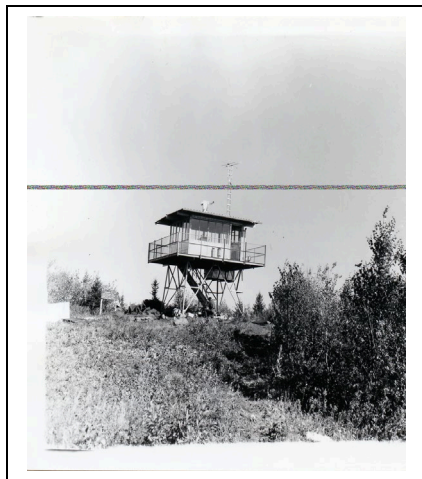


Figure 1: Ishpeming Fire Tower, 1962. Photo courtesy of Isle Royal National Park from National Visual Inventory Card Collection.

The Ishpeming Fire Tower structure looks much as it did when it was constructed in 1961 and is a contributing structure (see Figures 1 and 2). However, during the succeeding decades, the wilderness has grown taller and encroached heavily upon the tower, nearly obscuring it from view as it is approached by the trail and certainly preventing it from serving its purpose as a fire lookout tower. The unpaved access trail runs east and west along the ridge and through the site on which Ishpeming Fire Tower stands, and a second unpaved trail comes in from the south and ends at the site. The Ishpeming Fire Tower stands in a very small clearing except at the north of the tower, where the wilderness vegetation thins a bit and provides an open space approximately forty feet long leading away from the tower. To the east and west of the Ishpeming Fire Tower, the topography drops off rather suddenly, and the wilderness flora takes over the landscape (see Figure 3).

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Figure 2: Ishpeming Fire Tower, 2019, looking NE. Photo by Natalie Young.



Figure 3: Ishpeming Fire Tower, 2019, looking SW. Photo by Natalie Young.



Figure 4: Angle steel construction of Ishpeming Fire Tower, 2019, looking NE. Photo by Natalie Young.

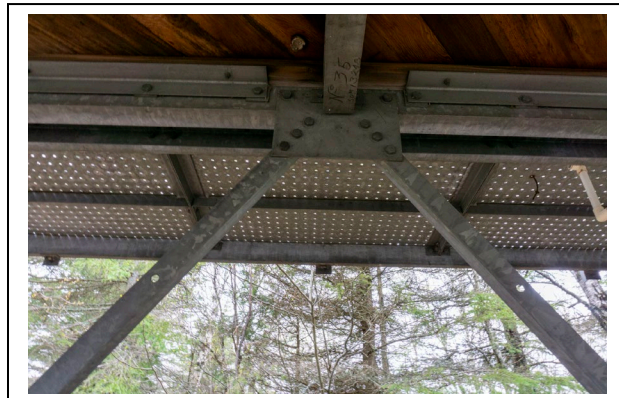


Figure 5: Angle steel and gusset plate construction of Ishpeming Fire Tower, 2019, looking S. Photo by Natalie Young.



Figure 6: Connection of steel tower to concrete foundation piers, 2019, looking SE. Photo by Natalie Young.

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The pre-fabricated scaffold 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 (see Figures 4, 5, and 6). The concrete piers are spaced about fourteen feet on center, located directly below the corners of the cab above. The metal scaffold is approximately ten feet tall from the concrete piers, which vary in height to accommodate the slope of the land, to the top of the scaffold. A metal stairway with perforated metal stair treads leads from a concrete pad at ground level to a metal access hatch for the balcony at the top of the scaffold structure. Stair stringers consist of C-shapes with stair railings constructed of angle steel (see Figures 7 and 8). The metal hatch in the north side balcony opens inward toward the wall of the cab and has a small metal C-shaped pull for lifting it up from the balcony (see Figures 9 and 10). The balcony floor is perforated metal. The balcony is surrounded at the exterior edges by fall protection consisting of a tubular steel top railing and angle braces bolted to angle uprights to form the framework with chain link fencing installed along the railing and between the corner uprights (see Figure 11).



Figure 7: Metal stairs at Ishpeming Fire Tower, 2019, looking S. Photo by Natalie Young.



Figure 8: Metal stairs at Ishpeming Fire Tower, 2019, looking W. Photo by Natalie Young.



Figure 9: Metal hatch at balcony of Ishpeming Fire Tower, 2019, looking SE. Photo by Natalie Young.

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Figure 10: Hatch closed, showing handle, looking SE. Photo by Natalie Young.



Figure 11: Chain link fencing around perimeter of balcony at Ishpeming Fire Tower, 2019, looking SE. Photo by Natalie Young.



Figure 12: "Crow's nest" atop communication tower at Ishpeming Fire Tower, 2019, looking SW. Radio tower in foreground. Photo by Natalie Young.

A steel radio antenna, triangular in shape, is installed on the northeast corner of the balcony. A steel communication tower, similar to the radio antenna, is installed on the southwest corner of the balcony. The crow's nest at the top of this communications tower, consisting of a platform surrounded by fall protection, is secured by guy wires. It is intended to allow the observer to easily see the wilderness in all directions for fire spotting purposes. However, the crow's nest does not appear to be securely fastened to its tower support and hangs at an angle that would preclude actual use for the purpose for which it was intended (see Figure 12). This feature is a later addition to Ishpeming Fire Tower, installed as the trees began to grow up around it and obscure the view from the balcony. Photographs in the Isle Royale National Park archives indicate that this crow's nest was likely installed in August 1975, and is, therefore, not historic.³

On the east side balcony is an oblong, closed water container approximately six feet long by two feet wide by three feet high. It has orifice openings on the ends to facilitate attachment of pipes for conducting water to or from the water tank below. One of the orifices has a plastic pipe attached to it which runs to the water tank located below the

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

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floor of the cab. It is unclear what the purpose of this container is, but it appears to be part of the water system for the cab. Next to this container is an elongated, metal, water tub. A separate, round, metal water tub is located on the balcony at its southeast corner (see Figures 13 and 14).



Figure 13: Water storage equipment on west side of Ishpeming Fire Tower cab, 2019, looking N. Photo by Natalie Young.



Figure 14: Water storage equipment on west side of cab, 2019, looking S. Note also plywood-covered windows. Photo by Natalie Young.

At the top of the scaffold 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 aluminum 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, except for two on the west wall, which are covered with plywood (see Figures 14 and 15). All windows are fixed except for one in each wall, which are canopy-style windows with screens to provide cross-ventilation. The cab has a metal entrance door on the south side. The entrance door is a two-panel, one-light door. The lock core is missing, and the door is secured with a metal hasp and padlock (see Figures 16 and 17). The cab has a flat, standing-seam metal roof with a passive roof vent, and a wood plank floor covered with rolled flooring in poor condition (see Figures 18 and 19). 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, with metal ceiling vents (see Figures 13 and 14). A metal hand pump is installed at the sink to provide water to the cab occupants. The ceiling appears to be painted engineered wood panels with wood battens covering the seams between the panels, also in poor condition (see Figure 20). A square access hatch located in the floor in front of the mini-fridge provides access to the water tank below, but appears to have been used as a trash receptacle in more recent times (see Figure 21).

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Figure 15: Southwest corner of Ishpeming Fire Tower cab, 2019, facing NE, showing plywood window coverings on west side. Photo by Natalie Young.



Figure 16: Metal entrance door on south side of Ishpeming Fire Tower cab, 2019, looking NW. Photo by Natalie Young.



Figure 17: Detail of Ishpeming Fire Tower cab door exterior, 2019, looking N. Photo by Natalie Young.



Figure 18: Ishpeming Fire Tower roof with vent, 2019, looking NE. Photo by Natalie Young.



Figure 19: Rolled flooring of Ishpeming Fire Tower cab, 2019, looking N. Photo by Natalie Young.

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Figure 20: Showing hand pump at sink for water and poor condition of ceiling on interior of Ishpeming Fire Tower cab, 2019, looking NE. Photo by Natalie Young.



Figure 21: Opening to water tank below floor of Ishpeming Fire Tower cab, 2019, looking N. Photo by Natalie Young.

The cab interior furnishings are mostly ranged along the walls of the single room. The room contains a single metal frame bed with mattress, a wood bookshelf, and a kitchen area with cabinets and sink. The minifridge, and cooking stove are both gas-fired. The kitchen area takes up the entire north wall of the room and includes built-in drawers. All wood furnishings are stained natural wood. The Fire Locator sits on the stove instead of on its support cabinet, which is located nearby. The windows are mostly covered with roll-up bamboo window shades, though some of these shades are missing (see Figures 22 and 23). Although some of these furnishings may post-date the period during which rangers watching for fires lived in this 14' x 14' room, the furnishings offer a poignant look at how a fire observer or a backcountry ranger lived in the Isle Royale fire towers between 1961 and the early 1980s.

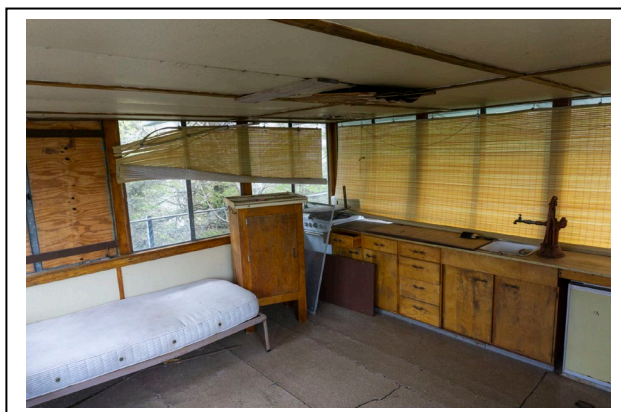


Figure 22: Ishpeming Fire Tower cab interior, 2019, looking NW. Note Fire Locator on stove. Photo by Natalie Young.



Figure 23: Ishpeming Fire Tower cab interior, 2019, looking SW. Photo by Natalie Young.

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Located below the floor of the cab is a corrugated metal container that appears to be part of the water system, though its exact use is unclear. It could be for collecting potable water that is then piped to the storage container on the balcony and from there to the sink inside the cab through the hand pump at the sink. Plastic piping connects this oval metal container to the cab. It could also be part of a water disposal system; metal piping on the exterior may have once connected to metal piping now lying on the ground beneath the tower or to buried metal piping leading away from the tower that comes to ground about twenty yards east of Ishpeming Fire Tower. It is supported under the floor of the cab by a cradle constructed of angle steel (see Figures 24, 25, 26, 27, and 28).



Figure 24: Corrugated metal container beneath Ishpeming Fire Tower cab floor, 2019, facing NE. Photo by Natalie Young.



Figure 25: Corrugated metal container beneath Ishpeming Fire Tower cab floor, 2019, facing SW. Photo by Natalie Young.



Figure 26: Metal piping from container below Ishpeming Fire Tower cab floor, 2019, looking NW. Photo by Natalie Young.

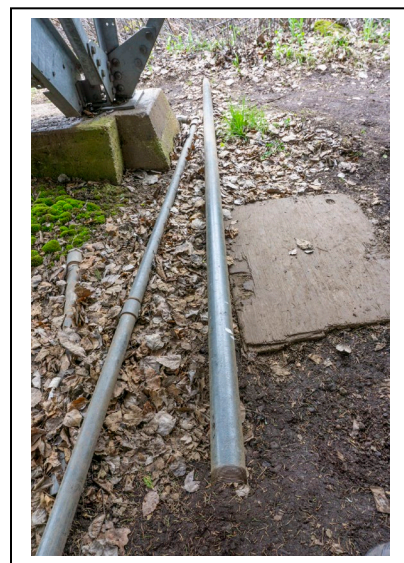


Figure 27: Pipe on ground beneath Ishpeming Fire Tower, north side, 2019, looking E. Photo by Natalie Young.

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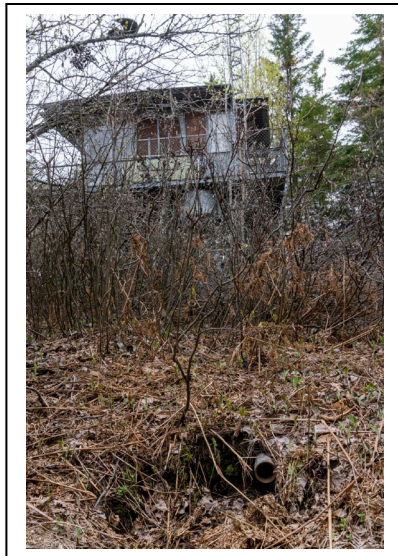


Figure 28: Buried pipe coming to ground about twenty yards east of Ishpeming Fire Tower, 2019, looking W. Photo by Natalie Young.



Figure 29: Ishpeming Fire Tower outhouse, 2019, looking N. Photo by Natalie Young.

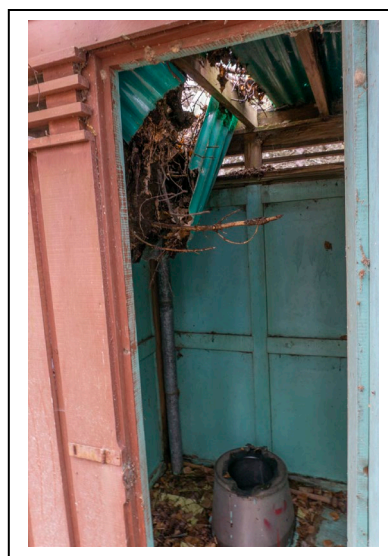


Figure 30: Interior of Ishpeming Fire Tower outhouse, 2019, looking N. Photo by Natalie Young.

The other historic structure on this site is the outhouse, located approximately seventy yards (210 feet) north of the tower. It is downhill from the tower and closely surrounded by evergreens and deciduous trees. Composed of plywood panels in a reverse board-and-batten style on the exterior, the outhouse is approximately 5' by 5' by 9' tall, with a flat roof of green translucent corrugated plastic. Wooden louvers installed around the structure at the tops of the walls provide ventilation and light. The door is of the same material as the rest of the structure, with a smooth metal doorknob and metal strap hinges. The toilet fixture is steel with a plastic toilet seat and no lid. The outhouse is in poor condition because a large tree limb has fallen on it, breaking the translucent plastic roof, allowing tree debris to enter the outhouse. Based on the 1958 "Project Construction Program Proposal Form B-9-8" for construction of the Ishpeming Fire Tower, it appears that this outhouse, called a "pit toilet" was planned to be constructed with the tower, and most likely was constructed when the Ishpeming Fire Tower was built in 1961.⁴ It is a contributing structure (see Figures 29 and 30).

⁴ John G. Lewis, Superintendent, Isle Royale National Park, "Project Construction Proposal Form, Index No. B-9-8, August 9, 1958, 1. Electronic file provided by National Archives at Chicago, IL, from Record Group 79, Box 9, received May 17, 2019.

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The saltbox-shaped tool storage box, called an emergency fire tool shed, constructed of plywood and located on the ground beneath the cab may also be historic (see Figure 31).⁵ It has a single panel 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.⁶

The wooden directional signpost at the south side of the clearing in which the Ishpeming Fire Tower stands proclaims the directions to Lake Desor Junction down its length in incised, painted lettering. The signpost is not historic or contributing; signposts such as this one are located throughout the island and are replaced by NPS approximately every decade.⁷

Two other features of this site are of interest, though it is not known if they are historic. One is the remains of what appears to have been a storage cabinet. The cabinet had louvered sides, is painted white, and appears to have sat on some kind of support structure. This feature may have been demolished when a tree fell on it (see Figure 32). The other feature appears to be a buried piping system from the fire tower to daylight several yards away, so it was probably a drainage system. However, although there are several lengths of metal pipe on the ground beneath the tower cab, they are not attached to the cab or, apparently, to the buried piping, so it is unclear what this system served (see Figures 27 and 28).



Figure 31: Ishpeming Fire Tower emergency fire tool box, 2019, looking N. Photo by Natalie Young.



Figure 32: Demolished cabinet of unknown purpose located thirty yards southwest of tower, 2019. Photo by Natalie Young.

⁵ Seth DePasqual, Isle Royale National Park Cultural Resources Manager, email to Deborah Harvey, author, December 2, 2019.

⁶ Ron Cockrell, Regional Historian, Midwest Regional Office of the National Park Service to Candice Somerville, President, Outside The Box, LLC, email comments on draft version of Isle Royale National Park Multiple Property Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, October 28, 2019, "Comments," 7.

⁷ Ron Cockrell, Regional Historian, Midwest Regional Office of the National Park Service to Candice Somerville, President, Outside The Box, LLC, email, October 28, 2019, "Comments," 7.

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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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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 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 forest may be found in the Statement of Significance of the Multiple Property Documentation Form under which the Ishpeming Fire Tower is nominated. The Ishpeming Fire Tower was constructed in 1961 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 Feldtmann Ridge and Mount Ojibway, the Ishpeming Fire Tower testifies to the era of the total fire suppression strategy led nationally by USFS from 1910 until approximately 1968.⁸ 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, the Ishpeming 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 Ishpeming 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 Ishpeming Fire Tower meets the National Register of Historic Places criteria for integrity with regard to location, design, materials, workmanship, and association. The criteria for integrity of setting and feeling are significantly and negatively impacted by the encroaching wilderness, which has surrounded this fire tower and obscures the ability to discern its utility as a fire lookout station at Isle Royale National Park. See the Narrative Statement of Significance in this section for details.

⁸ The original fire tower built on Turkey Ridge came to be called the Feldtmann Fire Tower very early in its life. Because the 1964 replacement for this tower was also called the Feldtmann Fire Tower, for this Multiple Property listing, the tower on Turkey Ridge is designated as the Old Feldtmann Fire Tower, and the tower on Feldtmann Ridge is designated as the New Feldtmann Fire Tower.

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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.⁹ 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, 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. Ishpeming 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 1961. 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.¹⁰ 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.¹¹ 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.

⁹ 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, April 2020, 28.

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ 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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After the extensive 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 on the northeast end of Isle Royale, and one was at Turkey Ridge on the southwest end (see Figure 33). These lookout towers, constructed of timbers 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 Figure 34).

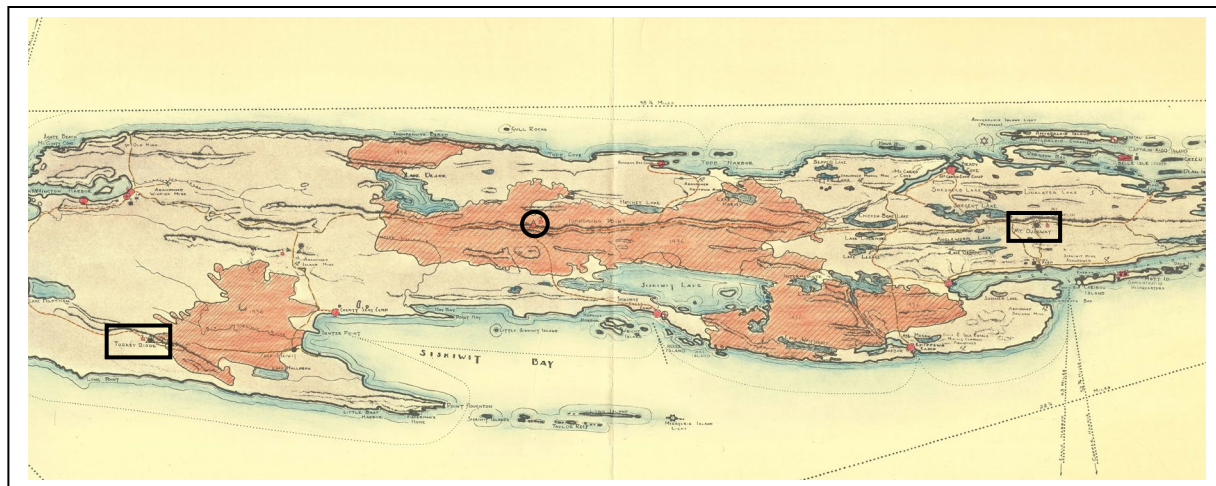


Figure 33: Detail of 1941 Isle Royale Fire Protection Plan map, showing the earliest fire towers, constructed at Turkey Ridge (now called Old Feldtmann Fire Tower, a ruin) and at Mount Ojibway (Ojibway Fire Tower), (in rectangles). Also note that Ishpeming Fire Tower (circled) was planned for construction and is shown on the map colored red instead of black like the existing fire towers. Orange shaded area shows extent of 1936 Greenstone Ridge fire. Image provided by NPS Midwest Regional Office, from Isle Royale e-tick files.

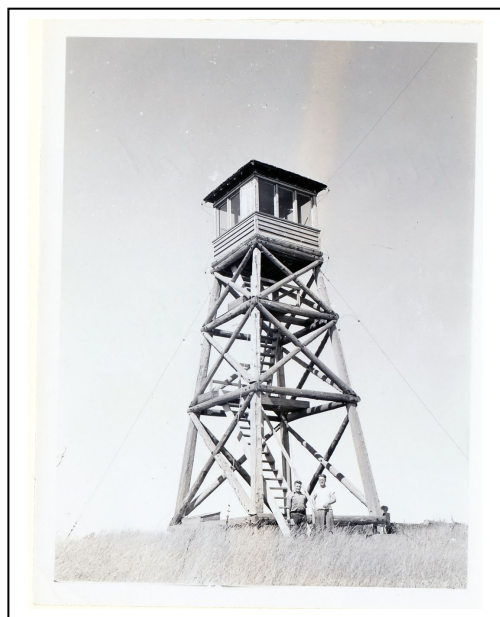


Figure 34: Building 333 – wooden fire tower at Isle Royale, built in 1939 by CCC. This is most likely the fire tower at Turkey Ridge (later called Feldtmann Fire Tower), date unknown, according to the National Visual Inventory Card Collection at the Isle Royale National Park archives. Photo provided by Isle Royale National Park.

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In 1956, NPS instituted the Mission 66 program to plan and fund upgrades to park amenities and infrastructure as part of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the 1916 founding of the National Park Service, planned for 1966. Although not specifically targeting fire safety upgrades, many parks used the funds for that purpose. By 1958, the Isle Royale National Park superintendent, John G. Lewis, was advocating and planning a new fire tower to be located near the center of the island at Ishpeming Point. As the name implies, Ishpeming Point was a high point along the Greenstone Ridge Trail, so the original plan appears to have been to construct a ground-based lookout at that location using an existing USFS plan for a live-in cab that had been installed in many of the western national forests (see Figure 35). Superintendent Lewis had some reservations about this plan and expressed them in a memorandum to the Chief of the Eastern Office of Design and Construction (EODC). The superintendent suggested raising the cab fifteen or twenty feet from the ground (as in Figure 36) in order to address a “blind” area created by “the abrupt terrain adjacent to the north of Ishpeming Point.”¹² In the end, the ground-based observation tower was raised approximately ten feet off the ground.

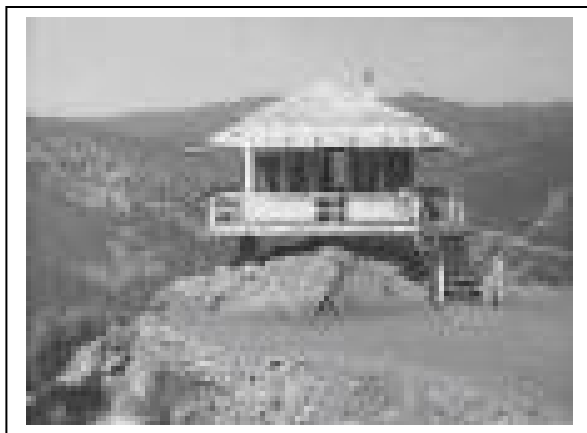


Figure 35: Jones Point USFS Lookout, Groveland Ranger District, Stanislaus National Forest, CA. Image from website: fs.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsinternet.

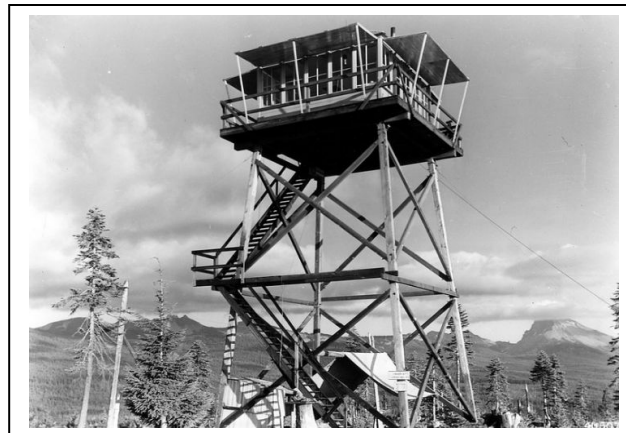


Figure 36: Cinnamon Butte USFS Lookout, Umpqua National Forest, OR. Image from Mother Nature Network at mnn.com/earth-matters/wilderness.

The USFS design used at Ishpeming appears to derive from a drawing set issued by the 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 provided a single cab plan with support towers of various heights. The National Park Service used the cab plan and mounted it on a single scaffold-type tower (see Figure 37). The design was to be pre-fabricated and the components shipped by train to Houghton, Michigan, transported by

¹² Memorandum, John G. Lewis, Superintendent, Isle Royale National Park, to Chief, EODC, “Ishpeming Fire Lookout Cab,” August 13, 1958, electronic file provided by National Archives at Chicago, IL, from Record Group 79, Box 9, received May 17, 2019.

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boat to Isle Royale, then airlifted by helicopter to the site and installed there. The design consisted of lengths of angle steel, 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. Balcony floors, balcony railings, doors, windows, roof, and mechanical vent installations would also be pre-fabricated for installation on site.

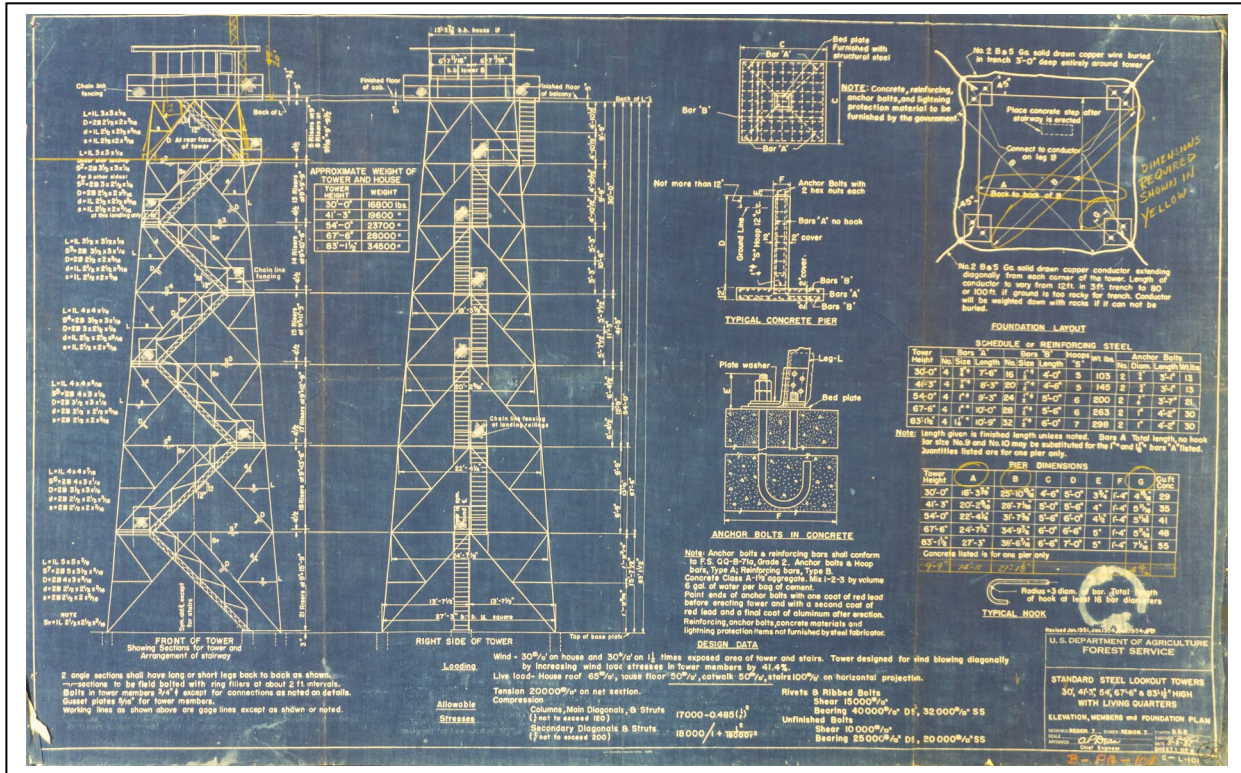


Figure 37: USFS design used for Ishpeming Fire Tower. Note the yellow notations on the drawing, which indicate that only the top 9'- 9 1/2" tall portion of the tower was to be used. Image provided by Isle Royale National Park from their archives at Keweenaw National Historical Park in Houghton County, Michigan.

On October 23, 1958, the Acting Chief of EODC, John B. Cabot, responded to Superintendent Lewis that its office had no plans “in the immediate future to start work on any special plans for the fire lookout tower at Ishpeming.” The EODC office believed that the standard USFS lookout tower with living quarters would be adequate. The Acting Chief informed Superintendent Lewis that the office had already “gone so far as to get plans, specifications, and possible steel fabricators for the project from the Forest Service.” He recommended that Superintendent Lewis review the specifications attached with his memorandum to see if he thought they would be acceptable. He also reminded the superintendent that it would not be possible to get the components to Isle Royale in time for the closing of the park that year.¹³

¹³ Memorandum, John B. Cabot, Acting Chief of EODC, to Superintendent, Isle Royale National Park, “Fire Lookout, Ishpeming,” October 23, 1958, electronic file provided by National Archives at Chicago, IL, from Record Group 79, Box 9, received May 17, 2019.

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By March 1959, Superintendent Lewis requested plans from the NPS Regional Architect, (who, it appears, was the aforementioned John B. Cabot) for a “suitable lightweight structure for fire detection on Ishpeming Point.” He stated that the plan he previously reviewed on February 13 of that year in the Regional Architect’s office was “fair, but has weight disadvantages,” because the park superintendent proposed to “lower the entire structure by main sections, with a helicopter.” Lewis requested additional plans for a prefabricated cab.¹⁴

Eventually, the superintendent and the architect worked out their differences, and the superintendent appears to have achieved his objective to have the Ishpeming Fire Tower elevated above ground level, though perhaps not as much as he would have liked. The Ishpeming Fire Tower was constructed in 1961 using funds from the Mission 66 program and went into use as part of the system of fire lookout towers established in Isle Royale National Park beginning in 1939.

The Ishpeming Fire Tower was constructed on Isle Royale in Isle Royale National Park to continue NPS’s strategy for conservation of the forest wilderness as conservation was defined between 1939 and 1968. During this time, led by the 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 to fires, either natural or man-made. In fact, fire towers would most likely have been built on Isle Royale even if the Greenstone 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. When Ishpeming Fire Tower was built, it was centered between the Old Feldtmann Fire Tower and the Ojibway Fire Tower, providing nearly complete coverage of the island for fire detection and suppression. According to Superintendent Lewis, advocating for its construction, the location of the Ishpeming Fire Tower would “afford good visibility and covers spots that are blind to Feldtmann and Ojibway towers, including the north side of Greenstone Ridge.... The site is centrally located and will be useful in securing cross-bearings on smokes visible to the other towers.”¹⁵ By 1968, however, the conservation strategy relative to fire management had changed to one of allowing some fires that did not threaten life or property to burn themselves out naturally. This, and continuing budget restrictions that gradually reduced the number of rangers

¹⁴ Memorandum, John G. Lewis, Superintendent, Isle Royale National Park, to National Director/Regional Architect, “Fire Lookout Cab, Ishpeming Point” March 13, 1959, electronic file provided by National Archives at Chicago, IL, from Record Group 79, Box 9, received May 17, 2019.

¹⁵ John G. Lewis, Superintendent, Isle Royale National Park, “Project Construction Proposal Form, Index No. B-9-8,” August 9, 1958, electronic file provided by National Archives at Chicago, IL, from Record Group 79, Box 9, received May 17, 2019.

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in the park, eventually led to abandonment of the Ishpeming Fire Tower and other fire lookout towers for that purpose on the island. The tower continued to be used as a residence for a Backcountry Ranger. The last Backcountry Ranger to occupy Ishpeming Fire Tower may have been Janis Meldrum in 1981. It was then completely abandoned.¹⁶ Even this change in use and then abandonment illustrates the impact of the wilderness conservation strategy in which the National Park Service engaged and took the national lead in 1968, the end of the Period of Significance for the Isle Royale fire towers. Therefore, wilderness conservation through fire management using national protocols adapted from the early strategies of the U.S. Army (1881 – 1914) and the USFS (1914 to 1968) is the main historical significance of the Ishpeming Fire Tower.

Significance Under Criterion C

The engineered design of the Ishpeming Fire Tower is also historically significant. The design was produced by the USFS and primarily used in the large Western forests and national parks. It was designed so that it could be pre-fabricated off-site and easily assembled in remote, wilderness locations. Its parts could be transported to the building site by air and assembled in place by a small crew without the need of building intrusive access roads through the wilderness sites. Its features, such as the water tank and propane stove, allowed for sustainable living conditions. There was no electricity at Ishpeming, so the design did not require erecting poles and stringing electrical wire across the landscape. The engineering design 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. It is likely that the later, larger cab design was employed at Isle Royale because of its remote location, far removed from any support infrastructure. This aberration among fire tower designs of the Upper Midwest region around the Great Lakes makes the Ishpeming Fire Tower and its companions locally significant, particularly in light of the fact the Ishpeming Fire Tower was originally designed to sit on the ground, as many fire lookouts do in Western parks such as Yellowstone.

Integrity of the Resource

The Ishpeming Fire Tower exhibits, in varying degrees, the qualities of integrity required by NPS for listing in the National Register of Historic Places: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, described as follows:

¹⁶ Timothy Cochrane, former Isle Royale National Park Cultural Resources Manager, to Seth DePasqual, Isle Royale National Park Cultural Resources Manager, email, October 4, 2019, provided to author by Ron Cockrell, Regional Historian, Midwest Regional Office of the National Park Service in email attachment, October 28, 2019.

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Location: The Ishpeming Fire Tower is in its original location. It is likely that the outhouse is also in its original location, though that has not been verified. Therefore, the Ishpeming Fire Tower has integrity of location.

Design: The Ishpeming Fire Tower has not been materially altered from its original design except that it appears that the support structure that raised it off the ground may not have been part of the original plan. This does not significantly impact understanding of the original design and improves Ishpeming Fire Tower's visual connection to the other fire towers on the island, making it easier to understand its purpose, given the change in its surroundings. The outhouse at Ishpeming is identical to the one at Ojibway. It appears they derive from the same design and that design remained unchanged between 1961, when the Ishpeming outhouse was built, and 1964, when the Ojibway outhouse was constructed. The radio tower at Ishpeming Fire Tower also appears to be an historic installation, but the crow's nest was installed in approximately August 1975 and is not historic or contributing. Because it reflects the tower design of the other two towers, and was originally built with the tower support, the Ishpeming Fire Tower has integrity of design.

Setting: The setting of the Ishpeming Fire Tower is a wilderness. 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. However, the advancing wilderness has closed in around the site significantly and poses a barrier to understanding the purpose of the fire tower in that location. The fire tower site was originally exposed for fire spotting, but the encroaching wilderness has obscured the purpose of the tower. Light from cities and towns across the lake negatively impact the night sky setting.¹⁷ Therefore, the integrity of the setting of the Ishpeming Fire Tower is poor. The setting of the outhouse, on the other hand, is likely intact.

Materials: The materials of the Ishpeming Fire Tower do not appear to have been changed, although two windows on the north side of the cab have been covered with plywood. The interior appears to have the original ceilings, floor coverings, and furnishings. The outhouse materials appear to be original. Therefore, the Ishpeming Fire Tower has integrity of materials.

Workmanship: The components for Ishpeming 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 machinery rather than by individual artisans, are markers of the modern industrial age, which

¹⁷ National Park Service, *Foundation Document, Isle Royale National Park, Keweenaw County, Michigan* (U.S. Department of the Interior, 2016), 38.

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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, Ishpeming Fire Tower has integrity of workmanship.

Feeling: Integrity of the feeling of Ishpeming Fire Tower has been significantly compromised by the encroaching wilderness. Although the design indicates it is a fire tower, the surrounding dense underbrush and tree canopy make understanding the activity of fire spotting problematic. Because it is impossible to see across the landscape, the feeling of openness and observation that the other fire towers still exhibit does not currently exist at Ishpeming. The Ishpeming Fire Tower does not have integrity of feeling.

Association: Because the area in which the Ishpeming Fire Tower is located has been declared a wilderness and maintained that way, the association of this tower with the other towers in Isle Royale National Park has been maintained mainly through the similarities in design and construction. 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 association with this fire management strategy is somewhat impaired, however, by the encroaching wilderness, which obscures the reason the Ishpeming Fire Tower was located where it is in the first place. Nevertheless, the wilderness surroundings of the tower and the use of similar or identical materials in construction compared with the other two fire towers, which provide it with a recognizable link to the fire management strategy of NPS in Isle Royale National Park, give Ojibway Fire Tower integrity of association.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Cabot, John B., Acting Director EODC. Memorandum to Superintendent [John G. Lewis], Isle Royale National Park, "Fire Lookout, Ishpeming," dated October 23, 1958. Electronic file provided by National Archives at Chicago, IL, from Record Group 79, Box 9. Received May 17, 2019.

Cochrane, Timothy former Isle Royale National Park Cultural Resources Manager. Emails to Seth DePasqual, Isle Royale National Park Cultural Resources Manager, October 3-4, 2019, provided by Ron Cockrell, Regional Historian, Midwest Regional Office of the National Park Service in email to Candice Somerville, President, Outside The Box, LLC, October 28, 2019.

Cockrell, Ron, Regional Historian, Midwest Regional Office of the National Park Service. Email to Candice Somerville, President, Outside The Box, LLC, comments on draft version of Isle Royale National Park Multiple Property Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, October 28, 2019.

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

Lewis, John G., Superintendent of Isle Royale National Park. Memorandum to Chief, EODC, "Ishpeming Fire Lookout Cab, Isle Royale NP," dated August 13, 1958. Electronic file provided by National Archives at Chicago, IL, from Box 9, Record Group 79. Received May 17, 2019.

_____. Memorandum to Regional Director/Regional Architect [of the National Park Service], "Fire Lookout Cab, Ishpeming Point – Isle Royale National Park," dated March 13, 1959. Electronic file provided by National Archives at Chicago, IL, from Box 9, Record Group 79. Received May 17, 2019.

_____. "Project Construction Proposal Form, Index No. B-9-8, August 9, 1958, 1. Electronic file provided by National Archives at Chicago, IL, from Record Group 79, Box 9, received May 17, 2019.

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

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

_____. 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.

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.

United States Forest Service, Department of Agriculture. *Standard Steel Lookout House Floor Plans, Cabinets, and Details* drawing set. Approved 1961. Electronic file provided by the Midwest Regional Office of the National Park Service.

_____. *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 # _____

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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): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acree of Property approximately 6.75

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

1. Zone: 16N Easting: 0357109 Northing: 5317433

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 Ishpeming Fire Tower site for the purposes of the Isle Royale National Park Fire Towers and Associated Structures and Sites listing shall describe a rectangle approximately 110 feet wide from east to west and approximately 265 feet long from north to south, with the center of the tower located at fifty-five feet from the western boundary and fifty-five feet from the southern boundary.

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Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries for the Ishpeming fire lookout tower are defined by natural features of the ridge upon which it sits and by the location of the associated outhouse structure to the north. The objective for the length of the boundary is to include the outhouse as part of the site. The site is also relatively narrow due to the steep ridges on the east and west, which provide a natural boundary for the site.

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: March 1, 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: Ishpeming Fire Tower

City or Vicinity: Isle Royale National Park

County: Keweenaw

State: MI

Photographer: Natalie Young

Date Photographed: May 24, 2019

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

- 1 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower approach, facing SW
- 2 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower, facing SW
- 3 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower, facing SW
- 4 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower facing SW
- 5 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower, facing S
- 6 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower, facing SE
- 7 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower, facing E
- 8 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower, facing E
- 9 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower W face, typical corner balcony construction, facing E
- 10 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower, facing E
- 11 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower, facing NE
- 12 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower, facing NE
- 13 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower, facing N
- 14 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower, facing N

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- 15 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower, facing NW
- 16 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower, facing W
- 17 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower, facing W
- 18 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower footing and assembly detail, SE corner, facing NW
- 19 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower footing and assembly detail, SE corner, facing SE
- 20 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower typical assembly detail, facing N
- 21 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower typical face joint detail, facing S
- 22 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower typical corner joint detail, SW corner, facing NE
- 23 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower typical attachment detail, SW corner, facing SW
- 24 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower stairway, facing S
- 25 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower stairway, facing E
- 26 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower stairway, facing N
- 27 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower stairway, facing W
- 28 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower underside balcony access hatch, facing W
- 29 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower balcony access hatch, facing SE
- 30 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower balcony access hatch closed, facing E
- 31 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower balcony access hatch pull handle, facing E
- 32 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower cabin and balcony, NW corner, facing E
- 33 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower cabin, NW corner, facing SE
- 34 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower cabin and balcony, NW corner, facing S
- 35 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower cabin, balcony, and antenna, SW corner, facing N
- 36 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower antenna base, SW corner, facing N
- 37 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower antenna, SW corner, facing N

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- 38 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower antenna hardware detail, facing N
- 39 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower cabin exterior walls, SW corner, facing NE
- 40 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower cabin and balcony, SE corner, facing W
- 41 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower cabin and entry door, SE corner, facing NW
- 42 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower tub detail, SE corner, facing E
- 43 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower cab and balcony, SE corner, facing N
- 44 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower cab, balcony, and antenna, NE corner, facing S
- 45 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower cab exterior walls, NE corner, facing SW
- 46 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower cab, NE corner, facing SW
- 47 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower cab and balcony, NE corner, facing W
- 48 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower cab roof, facing N
- 49 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower cab roof, facing NE
- 50 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower cab door detail, facing N
- 51 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower cab door detail, facing N
- 52 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower cab interior door detail, facing S
- 53 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower cab interior, facing SE
- 54 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower cab interior, facing NE
- 55 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower cab interior, facing NW
- 56 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower cab interior, facing SW
- 57 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower cab interior, ceiling detail, facing W

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- 58 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower cab interior, floor detail, facing N
- 59 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower cab interior, well access, floor on N side, facing N
- 60 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower cab interior, water pump detail, facing NE
- 61 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower cab interior, Fire Finder detail, facing NW
- 62 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower cab interior, Fire Finder detail, facing NW
- 63 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower cab interior, cabinet, facing W
- 64 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower cab interior, cabinet interior detail, facing W
- 65 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower typical assembly, cabin balcony cantilever, NW corner, facing N
- 66 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower cab underside, facing W
- 67 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower cab underside with water tank, facing N
- 68 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower water tank, facing NE
- 69 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower water tank, facing S
- 70 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower water tank, facing SW
- 71 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower water tank underside, facing W
- 72 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower water tank pipe detail, facing NW
- 73 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower drainage pipe, NE corner, facing E
- 74 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower drainage pipe at NE corner detail, facing N
- 75 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower drainage pipe 20 yds E of tower, facing W
- 76 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower drainage pipe 20 yds E of tower, facing W
- 77 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower storage bin, facing N

Ishpeming Fire Tower
Name of Property

Keweenaw County, MI
County and State

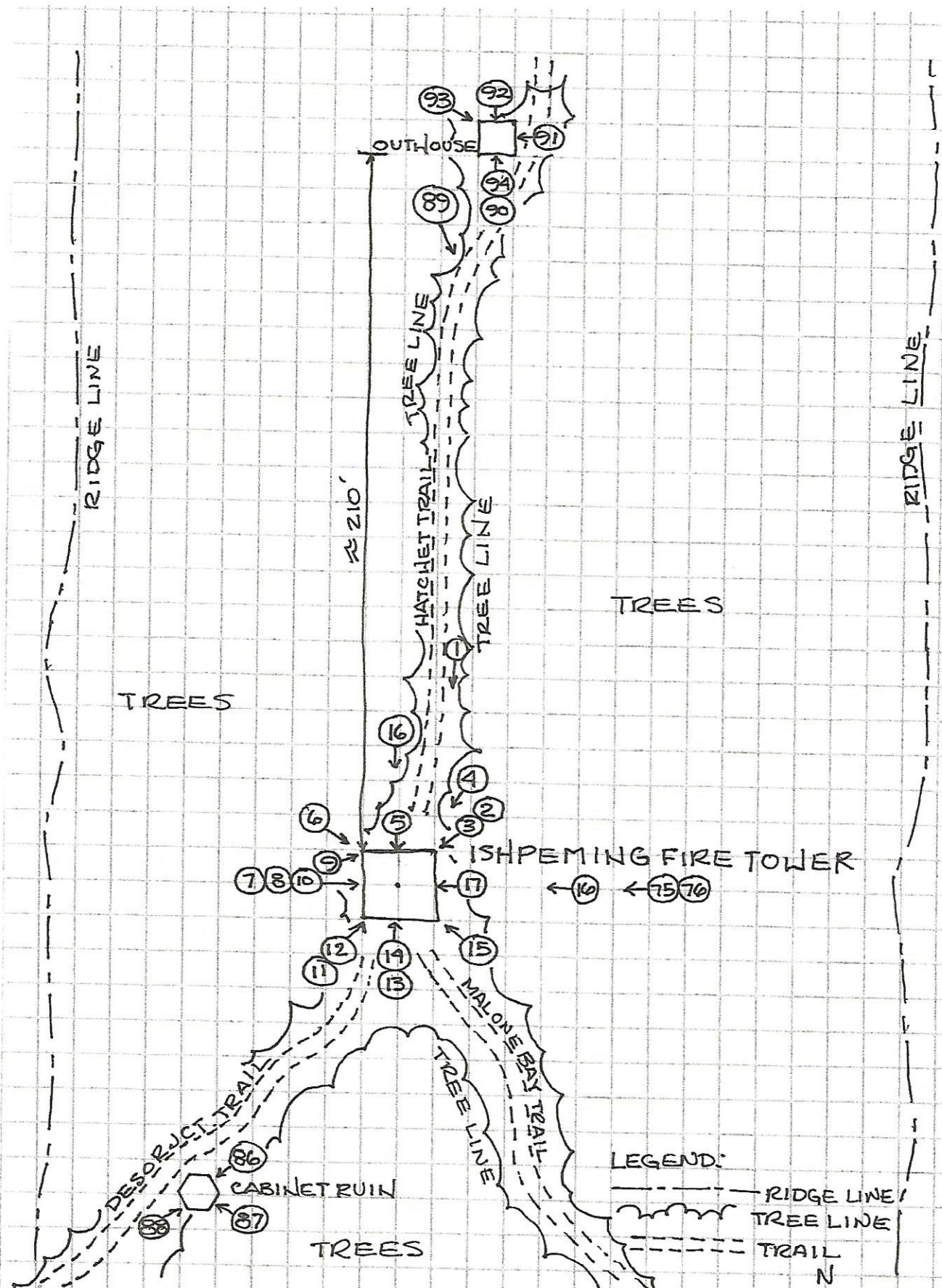
- 78 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower perimeter view, facing N
- 79 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower perimeter view, facing NE
- 80 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower perimeter view, facing E
- 81 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower perimeter view, facing SE
- 82 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower perimeter view, facing S
- 83 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower perimeter view, facing SW
- 84 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower perimeter view, facing W
- 85 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower perimeter view, facing NW
- 86 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower, structure ruins, 30 yds SW of tower
- 87 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower, structure ruins 30 yds SW of tower
- 88 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower, structure ruins 30 yds SW of tower
- 89 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower trail from outhouse to tower, facing SE
- 90 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower, outhouse, S façade, facing N
- 91 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower, outhouse, SE corner, facing NW
- 92 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower, outhouse, N façade, facing S
- 93 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower, outhouse, SW corner, facing NE
- 94 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower, outhouse interior, facing N
- 95 of 95. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ishpeming Fire Tower, guy line anchor hardware 20 yds SE of tower

Ishpeming Fire Tower
Name of Property

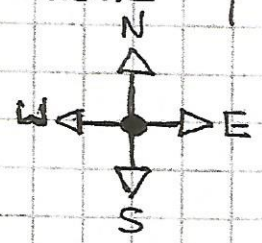
Keweenaw County, MI
County and State

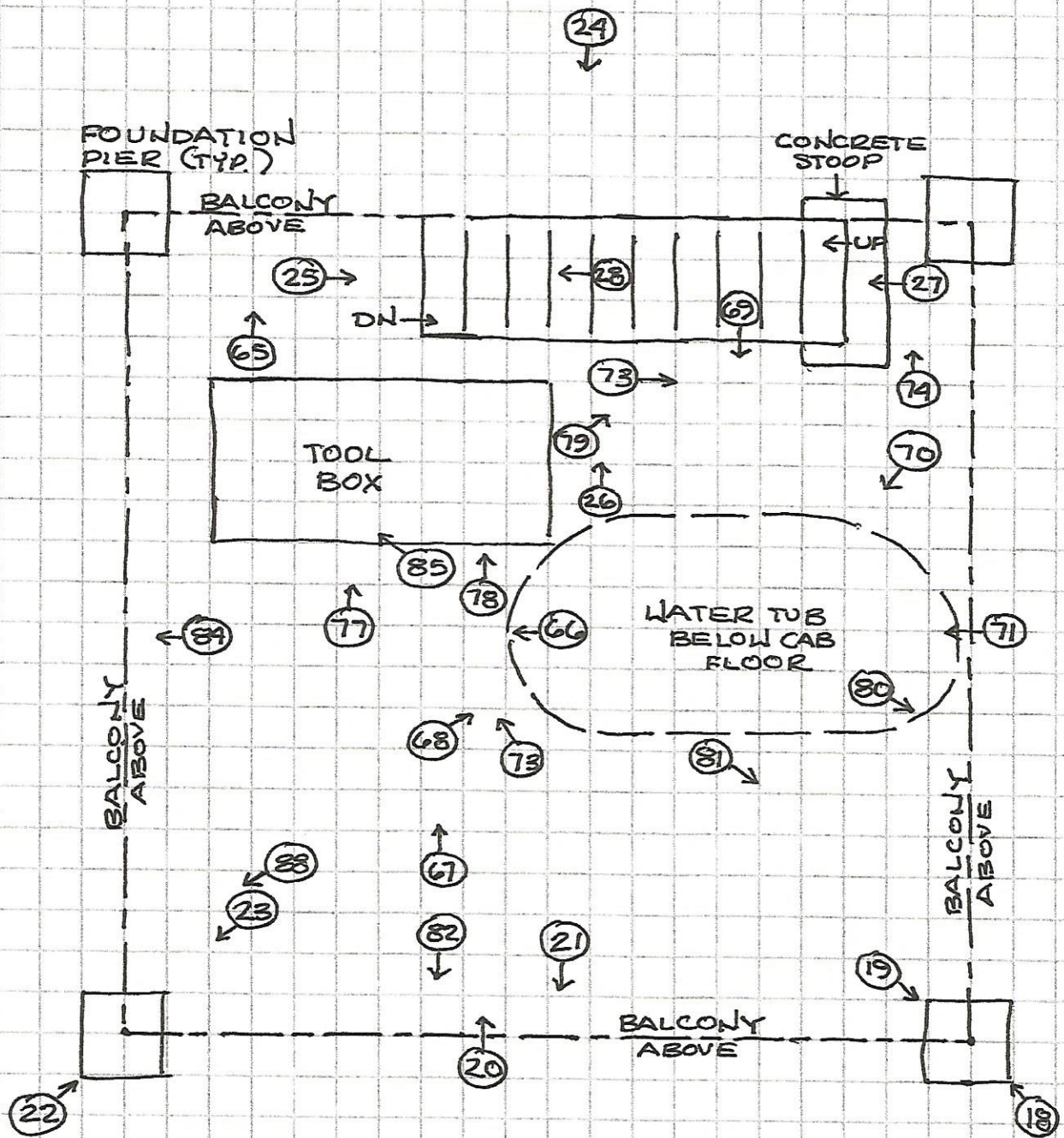
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain 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.



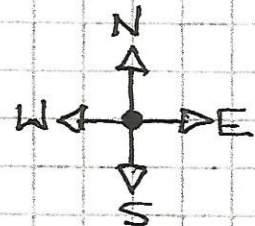
ISHPEMING FIRE TOWER SITE PLAN
 NOT TO SCALE



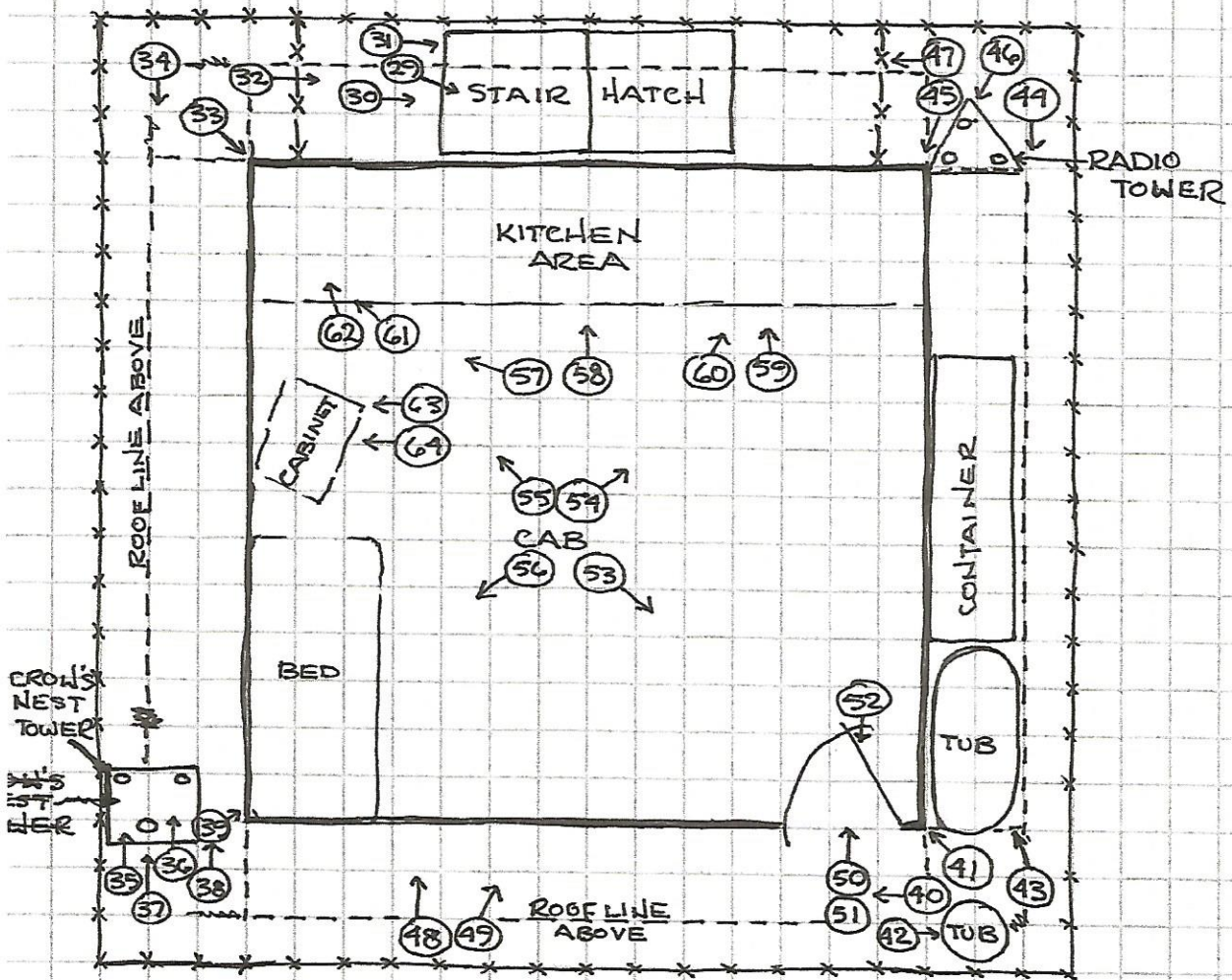


LEGEND

- — — — — BALCONY LINE
- — — — — TUB BELOW CAB FLOOR
- ||||| STAIRWAY

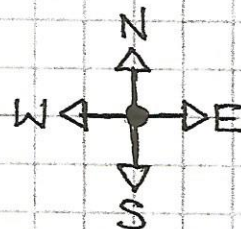


ISHPEMING FOUNDATIONS & BALCONY PLAN
NOT TO SCALE



- LEGEND:
- CAB WALL
 - x-x-x- CHAIN-LINK BALCONY BARRIER
 - CAB FURNISHINGS
 - ↗ DOOR

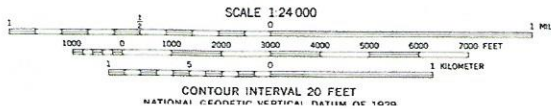
ISHPEMING CAB & BALCONY PLAN
NOT TO SCALE





Ishpeming Fire Lookout Tower

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 14976 (1979)
 This information is not intended for navigational purposes
 Projection 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

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 100006000

Date Listed: 1/5/2021

Property Name: Ishpeming 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 1961-1968.

1954 is deleted as a significant date.

The extant tower, while a planned replacement for an earlier tower, was not actually constructed until 1961. 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)