

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: Ojibway Fire Tower

Other names/site number: Mt. Ojibway Fire Lookout Tower, Building #315 (1954-55 Replacement Tower Proposal); Building #332 (National Visual Inventory Cards Index)

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Not For Publication: Vicinity: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>Signature of certifying official/Title:</p> <hr style="border: none; border-top: 1px solid black; margin: 5px 0;"/> <p>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</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> 2 </u>	<u> 1 </u>	structures
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	objects
<u> 2 </u>	<u> 1 </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

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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 Ojibway 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 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

Ojibway Fire Tower is situated on the northeast end 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 It is

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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accessed by a trail from Daisy Farm campground to the south, on the shore of the Middle Island Passage, where two bodies of water south of Isle Royale, Rock Harbor and Moskey Basin, intersect and separate Isle Royale from several smaller islands to the south between Isle Royale and Lake Superior. It is also accessed from the Greenstone Ridge trail running almost the entire length of the island from the Windigo Visitor Center on the west of the island to Lookout Louise on the east. It is surrounded by a wilderness area of evergreens, deciduous trees, small shrubs and bushes, and native grasses. The boundary of the Ojibway Fire Tower site, a rectangle approximately 310 feet long and 240 feet wide, is somewhat defined by the natural features of the ridge upon which it sits. The ridge is a relatively open area with a rock base aligned east and west on which grasses, and small deciduous trees and bushes are growing. The forest wilderness begins downhill of the rock outcropping. However, the tree line is ragged and incomplete, providing a less-than-optimal reference point for the boundary. The boundary for the site encompasses the historic outhouse, approximately two hundred feet from the tower. The tower and the outhouse are contributing resources.

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 tree line and afford an unimpeded view of not only the surrounding wilderness area but Lake Ojibway, about a half-mile to the southeast, and Lake Superior, approximately two miles away on the south, three miles distant on the north, and ten miles away in the west and east and can be seen in those directions from the tower balcony. The historic property type for this nomination is a 1954 United States Forest Service (USFS) "Standard Steel Lookout Tower, 41'-3" High, with Living Quarters" design. The tower was assembled in July 1964 by a crew of three men from the Yalmer Mattila Contracting company out of Houghton, Michigan. The 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. Two metal communication towers, three solar panels, and a visibility monitoring camera are 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 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 equipment installed in the late 1980s for monitoring air quality on Isle Royale. This fire tower is in generally good condition and appears to be unaltered from the time of its construction except for the addition of the air quality monitoring equipment,

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solar panels, and a large shed at the tower base that once sheltered radio communications equipment. The shed is a non-contributing structure.

In addition to the fire lookout tower, the outhouse located within view of the fire tower appears to be historic, although no record of its construction was located for this listing. It is a one-hole outhouse constructed of plywood panels in reverse board-and-batten configuration and a metal roof, with vent louvers located around the tops of all walls and a matching wooden door. Finally, the remains of what are possibly hold-downs for the guy wires of the earlier fire tower, constructed in 1939, were located on site and constitute historic artifacts of that fire tower, demolished in 1963, though their exact purpose has not been determined.

The Ojibway Fire Tower and associated structures and site have historic integrity in terms of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship. The integrity of feeling, and association is impaired by the solar panels and air quality monitoring equipment on and in the structure and by the equipment shed with the wayside exhibit installed at the base of the fire tower to explain the air quality monitoring equipment. See Part 8, "Narrative Statement of Significance" for further information.

Narrative Description



Figure 1: Ojibway Fire Tower, 1965, looking northwest. Image from National Visual Inventory Card Collection, Isle Royale National Park archives, held at Keweenaw National Historical Park in Calumet, MI.

The Ojibway Fire Tower site looks much as it did when it was constructed in June 1964 (see Figures 1 and 2). During the succeeding decades, the wilderness has grown taller and encroached slightly upon the tower, but its location on a rocky rock ridge at a high point of the northeast corner of Isle Royale impedes the progress of vegetative growth and prevents it from being completely overwhelmed. The tower still rises above the tree canopy to afford a panoramic view as it did in 1964 (see Figures 3, 4, 5, and 6). The unpaved Greenstone Ridge access trail runs east and west along the ridge and through the site on which the Ojibway Fire Tower stands, and the steep access trail from the Daisy Farm campground enters the site from the south and ends there. Relatively open space exists to the east and west of the tower due to the exposed rock of the Greenstone Ridge, and the terrain drops off significantly on the north and south for a distance of about two hundred feet before the wilderness vegetation begins

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to predominate. Despite its remote location in a designated wilderness, the vegetation in the immediate surroundings of the fire tower is not dense (see Figures 6 and 7).



Figure 2: Ojibway Fire Tower, 2019, looking northwest. Photo by Natalie Young.



Figure 3: View from Ojibway Fire Tower, looking east. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.



Figure 4: View from Ojibway Fire Tower, looking south. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.



Figure 5: View from Ojibway Fire Tower, looking west. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.



Figure 6: View from Ojibway Fire Tower, looking north. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.

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Figure 7: Immediate surroundings of Ojibway Fire Tower, illustrating sparse vegetation, looking southwest toward trail. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.



Figure 8: Immediate surroundings of Ojibway Fire Tower, illustrating sparse vegetation, looking northeast. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.

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 9). The metal tower is 41'-3" tall from the concrete piers, which vary slightly in height to accommodate the slope of the land, to the top of the tower. Attached to the metal tower structure are two solar panels, one on the south side and one on the west side, which are used to provide electricity for the park's radio repeater system, the air quality monitoring equipment, and lighting in the cab (see Figure 10).



Figure 9: Ojibway Fire Tower foundation pier with structural members bolted together. Grounding wire behind. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.



Figure 10: Solar panels on south and west sides of Ojibway Fire Tower, looking northeast. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.

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Located beneath the tower, on the south side, is a wooden storage shed approximately 9' by 12' in dimensions, which houses batteries for converting energy from the solar panels into electricity for the cab. The non-historic shed was installed in 1980, when the radio repeater was converted to solar power.³ The shed is raised on concrete pier foundations and constructed of plywood panels with battens at the joints and vents on the short ends of the structure (see Figures 11, 12, and 13). The shed roof is covered with asphalt shingles (see Figure 14). A wayside exhibit is mounted on the south exterior wall of the shed. The wayside exhibit explains the air quality monitoring equipment installed in 1987 at the Ojibway Fire Tower (see Figure 15).



Figure 11: Ojibway Fire Tower electrical equipment shed, looking southeast. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.



Figure 12: Ojibway Fire Tower electrical equipment shed, looking northwest. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.



Figure 13: Door to Ojibway Fire Tower electrical equipment shed, looking south. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.



Figure 14: Roof of Ojibway Fire Tower electrical equipment shed, looking south. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.

³ Seth DePasqual, Isle Royale National Park Cultural Resource Manager, to Deborah Harvey, author, emails dated December 2, 2019 and December 3, 2019.

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Figure 15: Wayside exhibit mounted on south exterior wall of Ojibway Fire Tower electrical equipment shed, looking north. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.

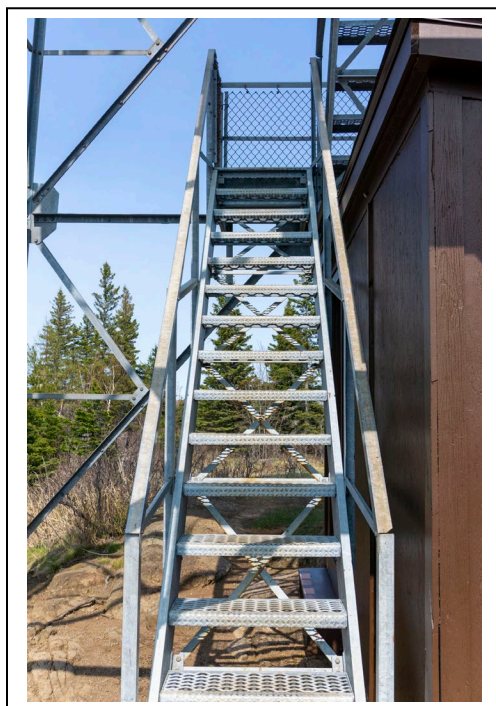


Figure 16: Ojibway Fire Tower stairway, looking east. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.

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 steel (see Figures 16, 17, and 18). The metal hatch in the north 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 Figure 19) 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 20). A metal radio antenna, triangular in shape, is installed on the southwest corner of the balcony. It has been somewhat modified in appearance with the addition of air quality monitoring equipment (see Figure 21).

Another metal antenna is located on the northeast corner as part of the air quality monitoring equipment installed at the Ojibway Fire Tower in 1987 (see Figure 22). Also installed on the balcony railing as part of the air quality monitoring suite of equipment is a visibility monitoring camera on the northwest corner (see Figure 23).

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Figure 17: Detail of handrail construction on Ojibway Fire Tower stairway. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.

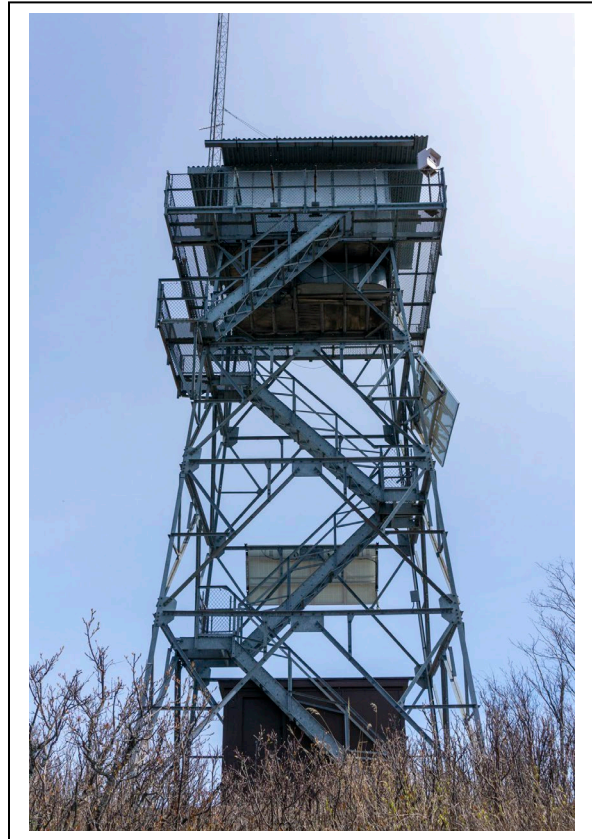


Figure 18: Ojibway Fire Tower stairway arrangement, looking south. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019



Figure 19: Ojibway Fire Tower balcony hatch with cantilevered weights, looking west. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.

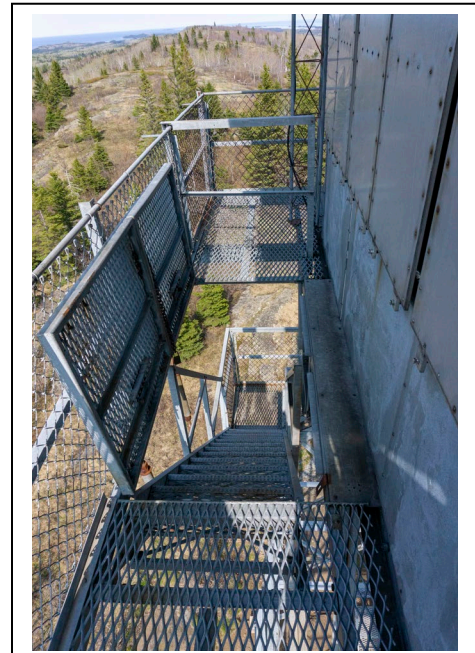


Figure 20: Showing expanded metal walking surfaces and fall protection of Ojibway Fire Tower, looking east. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.

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Figure 21: Ojibway Fire Tower radio antenna on southwest corner of balcony, looking northeast. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.



Figure 22: Ojibway Fire Tower air quality monitoring antenna on northeast corner of balcony, looking north. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.



Figure 23: Ojibway Fire Tower visibility monitoring camera on northwest corner of balcony, looking northwest. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.

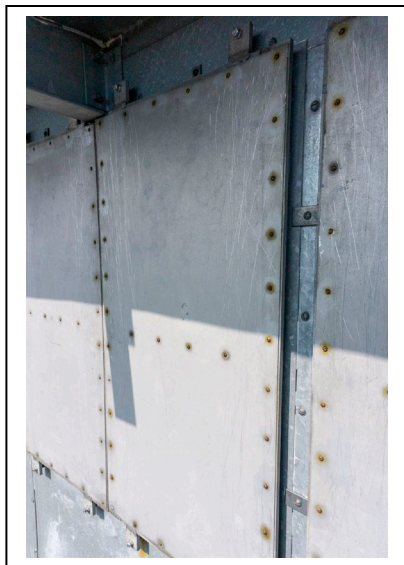


Figure 24: Typical window coverings on exterior of Ojibway Fire Tower cab. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.

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 24). 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 metal entrance door on the south side, a flat, corrugated metal roof with two roof vents and an air vent, and a wood plank floor covered with floor tiles (see Figures 25 and 26). The entrance door is a two-panel, one-light door. The lower panel is louvered, and the light on the exterior has been covered with a metal panel for protection. The lock core is missing, and the door is secured closed with a metal hasp and padlock (see Figure 27). 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,

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with metal ceiling vents (shown in Figure 22). A third solar panel is installed on the roof, and mechanical air vents protrude from the roof surface (shown in Figure 25).

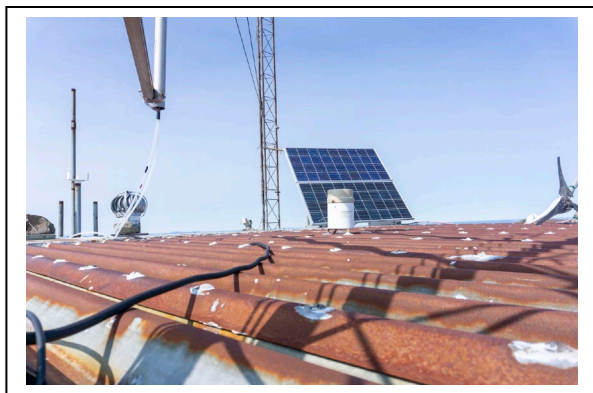


Figure 25: Ojibway Fire Tower cab corrugated metal roof with vent fans, solar panel in background, looking northeast. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.



Figure 26: Ojibway Fire Tower cab floor tiles at entrance, facing north. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.



Figure 27: Ojibway Fire Tower cab door, looking east. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.

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 Figures 28 and 29). The floor of the cab is composed of wood planking covered with deteriorated floor tiles which appear to be installed over an earlier floor material. The earlier floor material appears to match that in the Ishpeming and New Feldtmann towers and, therefore, is likely the original. Since new floor tiles were not installed in either Ishpeming or New Feldtmann fire towers, the vivid blue upper layer of flooring was most likely installed when the fire tower was converted to an air quality monitoring station in the 1980s and is, therefore, probably not historic or contributing (shown in Figure 26). The ceiling appears to be composite wood paneling with wood battens covering the seams between the panels. The cab interior has been converted for the use of the air quality monitoring equipment and personnel. The sink is now

covered with communication equipment, and related equipment racks have been installed throughout the room. Except for the sink cabinet and the folding Formica-topped metal table with two metal chairs with plastic cushions, all other original furnishings appear to have been

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removed from the cab. A hand-held fire extinguisher hangs on the wall next to the entrance door (see Figures 30, 31, 32, and 33).



Figure 28: Position of metal water tank beneath floor of Ojibway Fire Tower cab, looking north (looking up). Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.



Figure 29: Metal water tank beneath floor of Ojibway Fire Tower cab, looking northwest. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.



Figure 30: Interior of Ojibway Fire Tower cab, looking south. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.

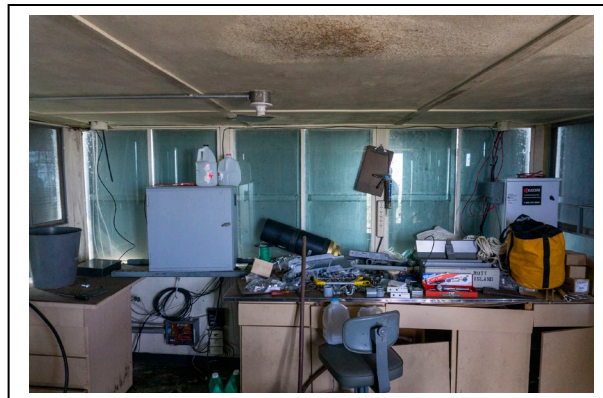


Figure 31: Interior of Ojibway Fire Tower cab, looking north. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.

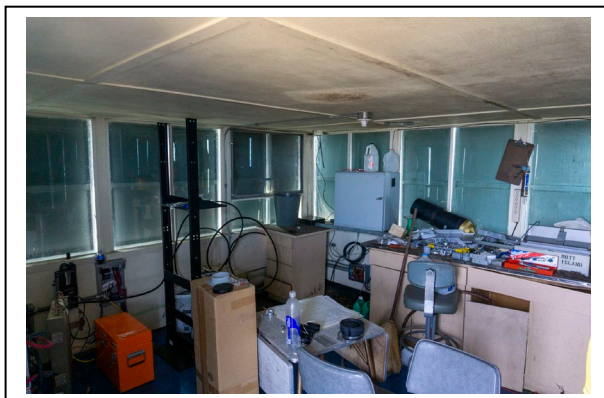


Figure 32: Interior of Ojibway Fire Tower cab, looking northwest. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.



Figure 33: Interior of Ojibway Fire Tower cab, looking west. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.

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Figure 34: Outhouse near Ojibway Fire Tower, looking southeast. Photo by Natalie Young 2019.

The other likely historic structure on this site is the outhouse, located approximately two hundred feet southeast of the tower. It is downhill of the tower and closely surrounded by a grove of deciduous trees (see Figure 34). 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 (see Figures 35 and 36).



Figure 35: Outhouse near Ojibway Fire Tower, looking south. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.



Figure 36: Interior of outhouse near Ojibway Fire Tower, looking south. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.

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Also located on site is the wooden directional signpost at the southeast corner of the clearing in which the Ojibway Fire Tower stands. It proclaims the directions to Daisy Farm and Chickenbone Lake down its length in incised, painted lettering. The sign is not historic; these directional signposts are replaced about every ten years (see Figure 37).

Finally, remains of the earliest fire tower constructed in this location by the CCC in 1939 are still evident at the site and should be considered part of the historic landscape. They are three small concrete embedments located at the northeast and southwest corners of the existing structure, near the existing foundation piers. The rock was drilled to place these concrete features. Although their purpose is currently unknown, it is surmised that they may be the hold-downs for the guy wires for the earlier fire tower. They give evidence to the earliest fire management strategy deployed by the National Park Service (NPS) at Isle Royale and are artifacts of its history (see Figure 38).



Figure 37: Trail signpost at Ojibway Fire Tower, looking northwest. Photo by Natalie Young, 2019.



Figure 38: Typical embedment in rock at Ojibway Fire Tower. Purpose of these is unknown, but they may have been used as tie-downs for guy wires for the tower or the associated antennae. Photo by Natalie Young, 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

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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.)

Ojibway 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 the 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 forests may be found in the Statement of Significance of the Multiple Property Documentation Form under which the Ojibway Fire Tower is nominated. The Ojibway 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 Feldtmann Ridge, the Ojibway 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, the Ojibway 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 Ojibway 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 Ojibway Fire Tower meets the National Register of Historic Places criteria for integrity with regard to location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship. The integrity of feeling and association has been impaired by the solar panels and air quality monitoring equipment on and in the structure and by the equipment shed and the wayside exhibit installed at the base of the fire tower to explain the air quality monitoring equipment. Nevertheless, because of its continuing association with the other fire towers, it is included in this multiple property listing, along with its associated outhouse, as a contributing structure.

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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.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, 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. Ojibway 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.

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, April 2020, 28.

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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After the extensive Greenstone 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 (see Figure 39). 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 40).

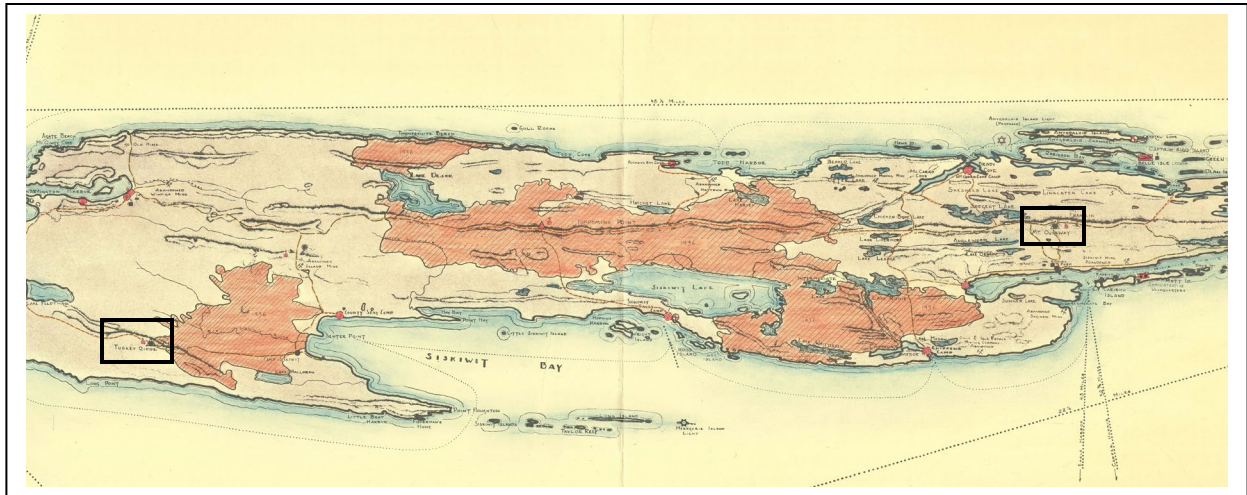


Figure 39: Detail of 1941 Isle Royale Fire Protection Plan map showing the earliest fire towers constructed at Turkey Ridge (now called Old Feldtmann Fire Tower, a ruin), on left of map, and at Mount Ojibway (Ojibway Fire Tower), on right of map, shown in rectangles. Orange shaded area shows extent of 1936 Greenstone Ridge fire. Image provided by National Park Service Midwest Regional Office from Isle Royale National Park e-tick files.

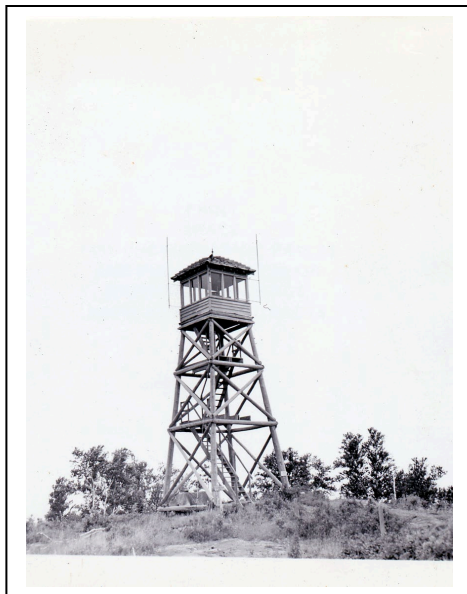


Figure 40: Building 332 – Ojibway Tower, 1952. Image from National Visual Inventory Card Collection at Isle Royale National Park archives held at Keweenaw National Historical Park in Calumet, MI.

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By the early 1950s, however, the timber fire towers were deteriorating. They were deemed dangerous to use, and the park determined to replace them with new, taller, steel towers. According to Superintendent Henry G. Schmidt, in a memorandum to the Regional Director of the Northeast Region, the NPS 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."⁷ Funds became available for construction of the towers in the mid-1950s when the Mission 66 program to upgrade services and infrastructure in the national parks was established as part of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of NPS in 1966. Some of the Mission 66 program funds received by Isle Royale went toward constructing a new tower at Ishpeming Point and replacing the deteriorating fire towers at Mount Ojibway and at Turkey Ridge, which, by that time, was called the Feldtmann Fire Tower.⁸

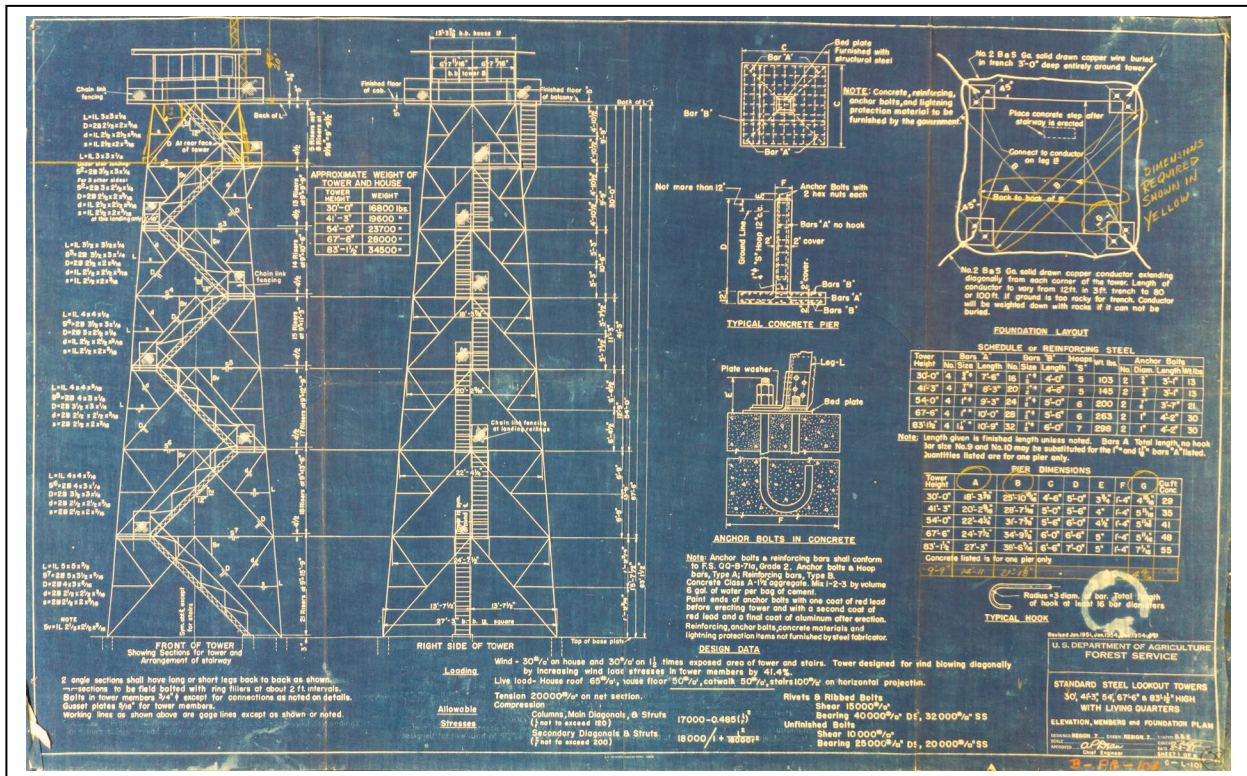


Figure 41: USFS Standard Fire Tower design used to construct Ojibway Fire Tower replacement tower in 1964. Image from Isle Royale National Park archives held at Keweenaw Historical Park in Calumet, MI.

⁷ 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.

⁸ Although the 1939 fire tower was originally on Turkey Ridge, it became known as the Feldtmann Fire Tower early in its life. For that reason, the fire tower at Turkey Ridge is designated Old Feldtmann Fire Tower and the replacement tower designated New Feldtmann Fire Tower to distinguish the two.

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The USFS design used to replace the timber Ojibway Fire Tower structure 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 provided a single cab plan with support towers of various heights (see Figure 41). The National Park Service chose a tower 41'-3" tall for the Feldtmann and Ojibway replacement fire towers. Designed to be pre-fabricated and then installed on-site, the tower and cab 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. 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.

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, 1964.⁹ 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 his crew moved to Mott Island on July 1, 1964, in preparation for the construction work at Ojibway, although he referred to the tower site as Daisy Farm because that was the point from which the crew and materials accessed the construction site.¹⁰ Materials were staged at the Daisy Farm campground and were then airlifted to the tower site, although the workmen themselves had to hike up the path to the Ojibway Fire Tower. Mattila described the work at the New Feldtmann Fire Tower more thoroughly than he did that at Ojibway Fire Tower, but it is likely that the construction methods and sequence were essentially identical as the tower built at Ojibway is a twin of that at New Feldtmann. According to Mattila, the company for which he worked, Yalmer 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. Later, the bundles and equipment for unloading and moving them were loaded onto a mechanized landing craft (LCM) and shipped to Isle Royale.¹¹

On July 1, according to Gordon Mattila, the construction crew consisting of "three men, (Gordon, Rudy, and Wilbert)" left the New Feldtmann Fire Tower site following completion of that project and were transported by air to Mott Island, which was to serve as their base camp for

⁹ Memorandum, Acting Director of Northeast Region, NPS to Director, National Park Service, "Completion Report," May 12, 1965, electronic files provided to author by Midwest Regional Office of the National Park Service, received September 28, 2018

¹⁰ Gordon J. Mattila, *Isle Royale Towers and other island construction* (Atlantic Mine, MI: Shenanigan Press, n.d.), 10. Copy located in Isle Royale National Park archives at Keweenaw National Historical Park, Calumet, MI.

¹¹ Mattila, *Isle Royale Towers and other island construction*, 1.

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construction of the Ojibway Fire Tower.¹² The small fourteen-foot wooden boat they had used to ferry supplies at New Feldtmann Fire Tower was also relocated to Mott Island. It was used for transportation of the crew and their supplies from Mott Island to the beach near Daisy Farm campground.¹³ Mattila noted that in the early days, as they climbed to the Ojibway Fire Tower site with their backpacks, it took over an hour to make the trip, but as time wore on, the travel time decreased to the point that they could make it to the site in only thirty-five minutes.¹⁴ He made no mention of the remains of a fire tower at Ojibway, so it may have already been removed from the site when the construction crew arrived. Of the earliest Ojibway Fire Tower, only two small footings, possibly hold-downs for the tower guy wires, remain as evidence of the previous wooden Ojibway fire tower. From the beach near Daisy Farm, a helicopter flew the bundles of construction materials and supplies to the site, six hundred pounds at a time (see Figure 42).¹⁵ At New Feldtmann Fire Tower, it took two days to move all the bundles of construction materials and supplies to the site, so it is likely that this activity occupied a similar amount of time at Ojibway Fire Tower.



Figure 42: Helicopter transporting bundles of construction materials from the Daisy Farm campsite staging area to the Ojibway Fire Tower construction site, July 1964. Image from National Visual Inventory Card collection in Isle Royale National Park archives held at Keweenaw National Historical Park, Calumet, MI.

¹² Mattila, *Isle Royale Towers and other island construction.*, 8.

¹³ Mattila, *Isle Royale Towers and other island construction.*, 8.

¹⁴ Mattila, *Isle Royale Towers and other island construction.*, 10.

¹⁵ Mattila, *Isle Royale Towers and other island construction.*, 1.

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With a gas-powered drill, the crew drilled anchor holes in the rock for anchoring the tower footings.¹⁶ The crew formed and placed the concrete footings with embedded bolts and, by the following day, they were likely able to set the first steel for the tower.¹⁷ If construction time at Ojibway Fire Tower followed that at New Feldtmann Fire Tower, the tower was completed about a week later, and work transitioned to cab construction.¹⁸ The entire structure was completed by the end of July.

The Ojibway 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 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 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 NPS. However, the fire did inform placement of the first, earlier fire lookout towers constructed in 1939 by CCC.

The New Feldtmann Fire Tower built in 1964 was built in a different location than the Old Feldtmann Fire Tower because the park superintendent observed that fire hazard in the old location had been reduced since its construction in 1939 by a change in use patterns away from Siskiwit Bay to the east and toward Lake Feldtmann to the west.¹⁹ The Ojibway replacement fire tower of 1964 was built in the same location as its predecessor because, in the opinion of the park superintendent, the fire hazard to the area had not changed. 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 constraints that resulted in fewer rangers employed on the island eventually led to abandonment of the Ojibway Fire Tower and other fire lookout towers for that purpose on the island. The Ojibway Fire Tower was converted in 1980 to solar energy to power communications and, later, environmental monitoring equipment. These improvements continued the useful life of Ojibway beyond that of its fellow fire towers; however, environmental monitoring has since waned at this location. Even this change in use 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

¹⁶ Mattila, *Isle Royale Towers and other island construction.*, 4.

¹⁷ Mattila, *Isle Royale Towers and other island construction.*, 4.

¹⁸ Mattila, *Isle Royale Towers and other island construction.*, 5.

¹⁹ 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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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 Ojibway Fire Tower.

Significance Under Criterion C

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

Integrity of the Resource

The Ojibway 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, workmanship, feeling, and association. Discussion of the qualities of integrity possessed by Ojibway Fire Tower follows.

Location: The Ojibway Fire Tower is in its original location and in the location of the original fire tower constructed in 1939. Therefore, the Ojibway Fire Tower has integrity of location.

Design: The Ojibway Fire Tower structure has not been materially altered from its original design except for installation of protective panels over the glazing of the windows, which was an early addition. These originally served as shutters in winter, when the tower was not used as a residence. Since the tower is no longer used as a residence, the windows remain shuttered to protect them and to protect the equipment that remains inside the cab. These do not significantly impact understanding of the original design and could be easily removed. Later additions such as

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the 1980s solar panels and battery shed, as well as equipment to facilitate air quality monitoring are temporary objects and structures that can be removed without damage to the original design. Because the original design of the tower has not been materially altered and can be easily discerned, the tower has integrity of design.

Setting: The setting of the Ojibway Fire Tower is essentially a wilderness. The setting is generally intact, with little surrounding impact from later development. The unpaved trails 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 slightly 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.²⁰ Nevertheless, the overall setting of the site appears to be intact; therefore, the Ojibway Fire Tower has integrity of setting.

Materials: Except for the addition of the non-historic solar panels, battery shed, and environmental monitoring equipment, which were all installed in the 1980s, most of the materials of the Ojibway Fire Tower do not appear to have been changed. The window shutters of the cab appear to be those originally installed or are replacements in kind. The interiors appear to have the original ceilings, but most of the original furnishings have been removed, and the floor has been covered by a second layer of floor tile that is inappropriate to the historic material of the structure due to its color and to the fact that it is vinyl tile instead of rolled flooring. Non-historic lighting has been added. Despite these changes in finish materials, the material integrity of the Ojibway Fire Tower is good since the metal construction materials of the tower structure, cab, and roof remain intact and the window coverings, windows, door, ceiling, original floor and flooring materials, and the two radio towers are unchanged, though the condition of some of the materials, such as the floor and ceiling, is poor.

Workmanship: The components for Ojibway 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 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, Ojibway Fire Tower has integrity of workmanship.

²⁰ National Park Service, *Foundation Document, Isle Royale National Park, Keweenaw County, Michigan* (U.S. Department of the Interior, 2016), 38.

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Feeling: The introduction of the solar panels, the battery shed, and the environmental monitoring equipment negatively impact the historic feeling at the Ojibway Fire Tower. Overall, the 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 component of feeling for this tower as well as for the other towers in Isle Royale National Park Fire Towers and Associated Structures and Sites listing even though diminished by the additional equipment from the 1980s.

Association: Because the area in which the Ojibway 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 structure's purpose as part of a nation-wide fire suppression strategy in national parks and forests is illustrated. However, this association has been diminished by the addition of the air monitoring equipment and the solar panels and equipment used for powering the air quality monitoring equipment. Nevertheless, the wilderness surroundings of the tower and the use of 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 on 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.)

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.

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

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.

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.

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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): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 1.71

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- 1. Zone: 16N Easting: 0380358 Northing: 5329610
- 2. Zone: Easting: Northing:

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3. Zone: Easting: Northing:
4. Zone: Easting : Northing:

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

The boundary of the Ojibway 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 310 feet long, northwest to southeast and approximately 240 feet wide southwest to northeast to include the ridge upon which Ojibway Fire Tower stands, and angled along the trail from the tower to the outhouse, with the center of the tower located approximately seventy feet from the northwest edge of the rectangle and seventy feet from the northeast side of the rectangle.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary for the Ojibway Fire Tower site for the Isle Royale National Park Fire Towers and Associated Structures and Sites listing are somewhat defined by the 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. However, the tree line is ragged and incomplete, providing a less-than-optimal reference point for the boundary. The main objective of designating this boundary, then, is to include within it the outhouse, which is probably historic. The outhouse is approximately two hundred feet to the southeast of the tower, necessitating that the length and breadth of the boundary be expansive enough to include it.

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 9, 2020

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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form: **To be submitted with second draft**

- **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.)

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: Ojibway Fire Tower

City or Vicinity: Isle Royale National Park

County: Keweenaw

State: MI

Photographer: Natalie Young

Date Photographed: May 21, 2019

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

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- 1 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower approach, facing NW
- 2 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower approach, facing NW
- 3 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower, facing NW
- 4 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower, facing N
- 5 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower S façade, facing N
- 6 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower approach, facing NE
- 7 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower, facing NE
- 8 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower, facing E
- 9 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower W façade, facing E
- 10 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower, facing S
- 11 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower N façade, facing S
- 12 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower approach, facing SW
- 13 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower base of tower, facing W
- 14 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower E façade, facing W
- 15 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower cabin and water tank underside, facing NE
- 16 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower SW corner footing and tower assembly, facing E
- 17 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower SW corner footing and tower assembly, facing NE
- 18 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower SW corner footing and assembly, facing SW
- 19 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower typical graffiti, SE corner, facing NW
- 20 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower typical joint assembly detail
- 21 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower typical assembly detail, facing E
- 22 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower typical corner joint assembly detail
- 23 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower typical corner joint assembly detail, facing NE
- 24 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower typical corner joint assembly detail, facing E
- 25 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower stairway and equipment shed, facing S
- 26 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower stairway, facing E

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- 27 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower typical stairway handrail detail
- 28 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower E side stairway brace, looking down
- 29 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower first landing, facing S
- 30 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower typical expanded metal stairway and balcony grate, second landing, facing S
- 31 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower balcony access hatch open, facing E
- 32 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower visibility camera, balcony, NW corner, facing NW
- 33 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower typical metal cab window covers
- 34 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower cab and balcony, SW corner, facing N
- 35 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower radio antenna, SW corner, facing NE
- 36 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower cab and balcony, SE corner, facing W
- 37 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower cab and balcony, SE corner, facing N
- 38 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower cab and balcony, NE corner, facing W
- 39 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower balcony access hatch cantilevered weights, facing W
- 40 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower solar panel attachment on S side, facing SW
- 41 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower solar panel attachment detail
- 42 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower solar panel rear view detail
- 43 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower cab roof, facing NE
- 44 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower cab door, facing E
- 45 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower cab floor detail, facing N
- 46 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower cab interior, facing S
- 47 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower cab interior, facing SE
- 48 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower cab interior, facing N

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- 49 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower cab interior facing NW
- 50 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower cab interior, facing W
- 51 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower cab and water tank underside, facing N
- 52 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower water tank, facing NW
- 53 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower water tank top detail, facing NW
- 54 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower water tank, facing NW
- 55 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower water tank outlet detail, facing SW
- 56 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower view from tower, facing E
- 57 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower view from tower, facing S
- 58 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower view from tower, facing W
- 59 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower view from tower, facing N
- 60 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower shed, NW corner, facing SE
- 61 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower shed, SE corner, facing NW
- 62 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower shed roof, facing S
- 63 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower shed door on N façade, facing S
- 64 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower interpretive sign, facing N
- 65 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower, old footing near NE corner
- 66 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower, old footing near NW corner
- 67 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower, old footing near SW corner
- 68 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower trail marker at SW corner, looking NW
- 69 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower outhouse, facing SE

Ojibway Fire Tower

Keweenaw County, MI

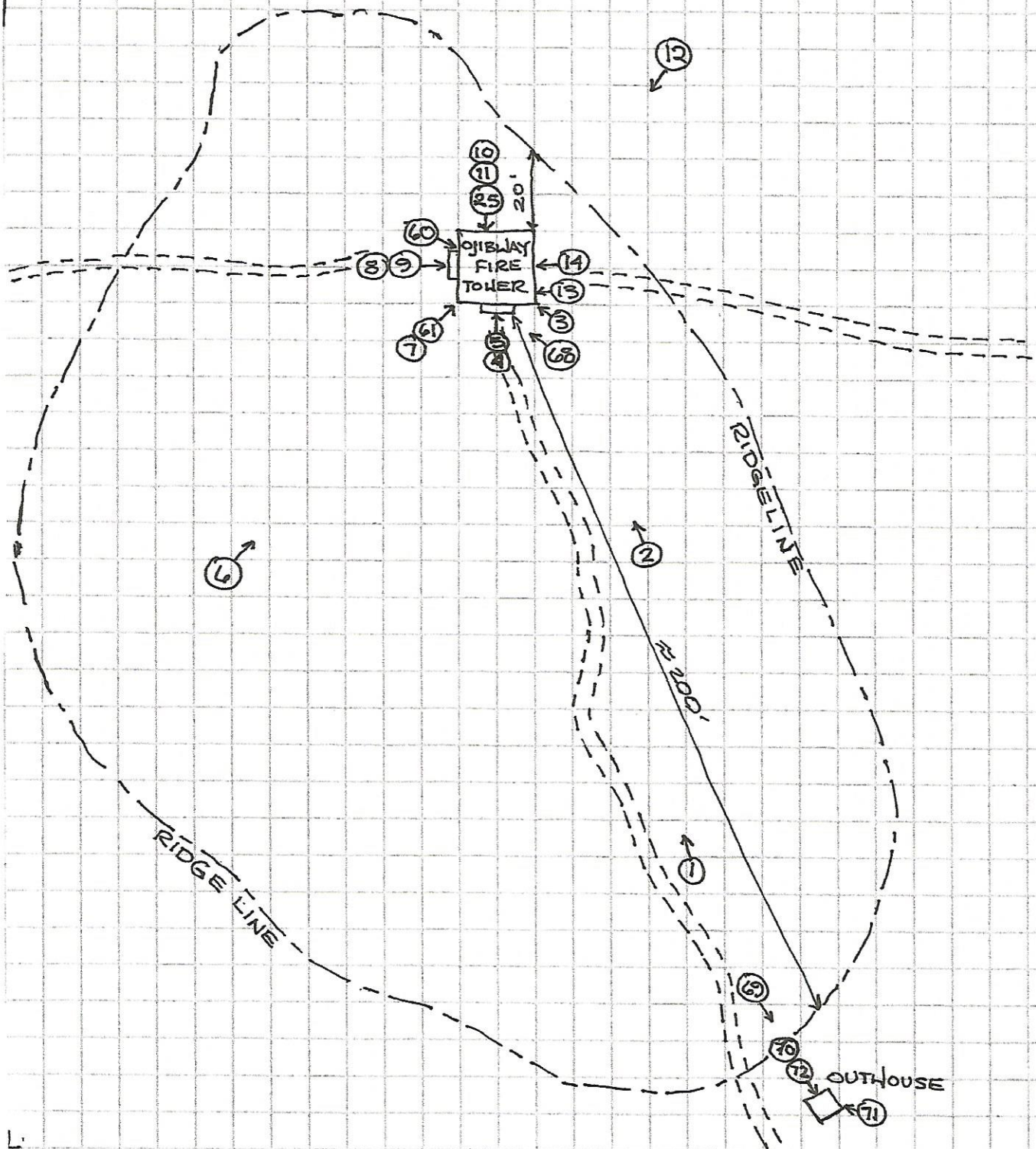
Name of Property

County and State

- 70 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower outhouse facing S
- 71 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower outhouse with tower in background, facing NW
- 72 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower outhouse interior, facing S
- 73 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower perimeter view, facing E
- 74 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower perimeter view, facing SE
- 75 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower perimeter view, facing S
- 76 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower perimeter view, facing SW
- 77 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower perimeter view, facing N
- 78 of 78. MI_Keweenaw County_Isle Royale NP_Ojibway Fire Tower perimeter view, facing NE

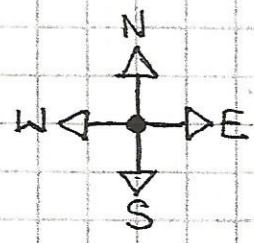
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

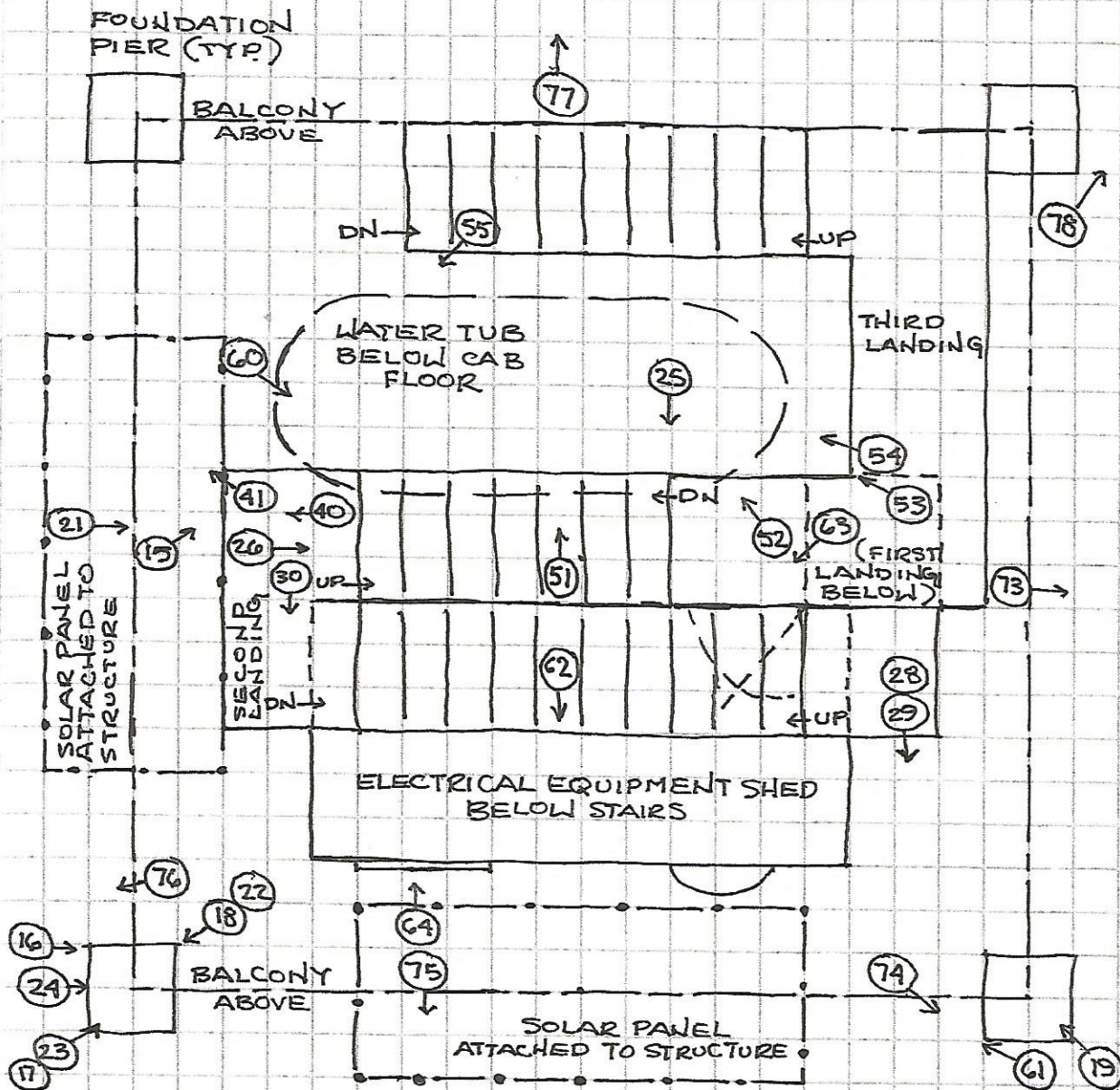
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form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



LEGEND:
 - - - - - RIDGE LINE
 = = = = = TRAIL

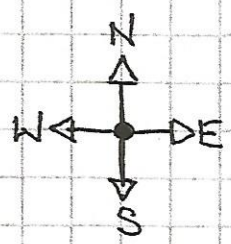
OJIBWAY FIRE TOWER SITE PLAN
 NOT TO SCALE



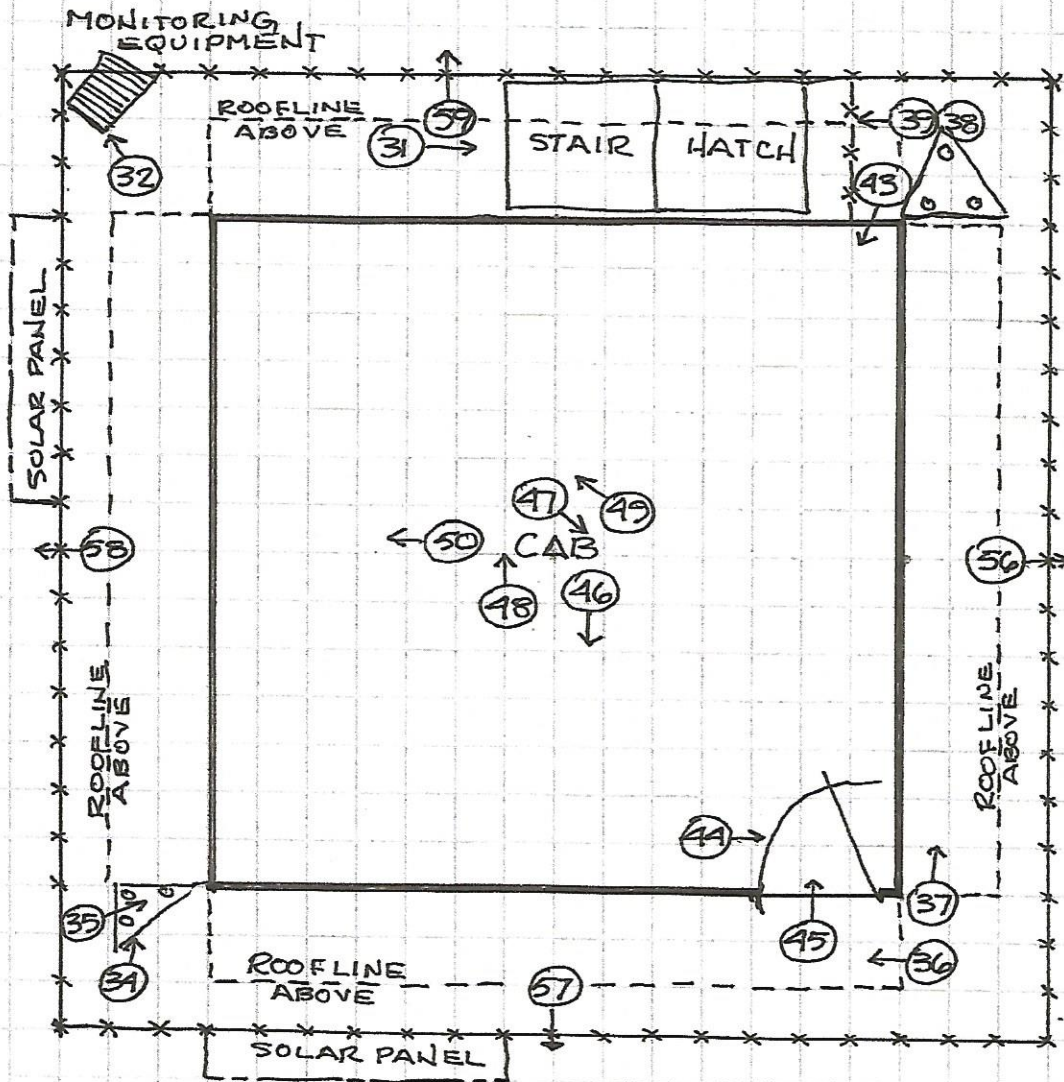


LEGEND:


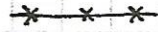



- BALCONY
- SOLAR PANEL
- WATER TUB
- ||||| STAIRWAY



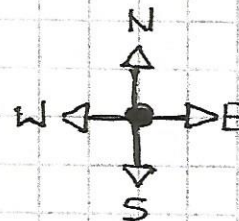
OJIBWAY FOUNDATIONS & STAIRWAY PLAN
NOT TO SCALE



LEGEND

-  CAB WALL
-  CHAIN LINK FENCE AROUND BALCONE
-  ROOFLINE ABOVE CAB
-  SOLAR PANELS BELOW CAB
-  DOOR

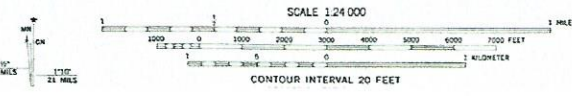
OJIBWAY CAB AND BALCONY PLAN
NOT TO SCALE





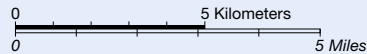
Mt. Ojibway Fire Lookout Tower

mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
 aerial by USGS and NOS/NOAA
 topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
 taken 1955. Revised from aerial photographs taken 1951
 field checked 1954. Map edited 1955
 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



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: 100006363

Date Listed: 4/6/2021

Property Name: Ojibway 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.



4/6/2021

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, which replaced an earlier tower constructed by the CCC, 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 footings for the older tower are still legible on the landscape, but are not sufficient for extending the POS any further back in time.

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

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file

Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)