

Lookout Show`n Tell #4 – World’s Tallest Lookouts

Perhaps the crudest and scariest fire tower ever, was at Promontory Point in central Arizona's Sitgreaves Nat'l Forest. Built by splicing small poles together to create a rickety platform 121' tall, it served its purpose from 1913 until 1923, and was the tallest firewatcher's perch in the nation during its time.

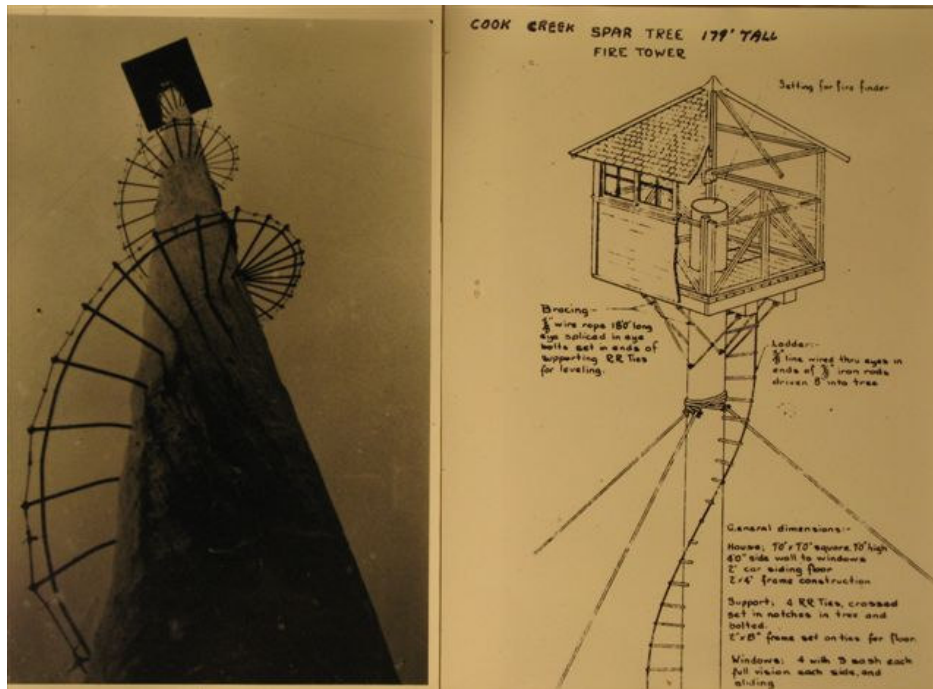


Promontory Pt. LO, AZ 1924 tallest pole tower 121'

Woodworth Fire Tower, near Alexandria, Louisiana is a 176' tall iron MC-40 by Aermotor Co. It is the tallest active lookout in North America. Hundreds of Aermotor towers between 99' and 123' tall once stood across America. A few of them are still staffed.



Woodworth Tower, Alexandria Forest, LA. 176'



Cook Creek Spar Tree LO 179'

Cook Creek Spar Tree, on the Olympic coast of Washington, was the tallest lookout ever constructed in the U.S. It consisted of a single douglas fir tree, topped at 179', encircled with hand-forged iron rod steps driven in the trunk, and fitted at the top with a wooden observation cab. It stood guard over the Evergreen state's finest forest from 1927 until 1955.

The tallest metal lookout structure in the world is the 200' Beard Tower, a few km east of Pemberton, Western Australia.



Beard LO, Western Australia. 200'



Diamond LO Tree, Australia 191'



Gloucester Tree LO, Australia 200'

Western Australia is also home to the tallest and arguably the most incredible of all lookouts. Diamond Tree (191'), Gloucester Tree (200'), and the Warren Bi-Centennial Tree (225.6'), all near Pemberton, have towers with cabs erected atop huge karri eucalyptus trees. Each is accessed only by step pegs driven into the tree. Warren, the tallest, is staffed yet today.

**Ray Kresek
Fire Lookout Museum
Spokane, WA**