NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

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INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER BRANCH

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Baker Ranger Station
other names/site number Baker Guard Station/ Baker Administrative Site

2. Location

street & number Great Basin National Park ☐ not for publication
city, town Baker ☒ vicinity
state Nevada code NV county White Pine code 033 zip code 89311

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
☐ private	☒ building(s)	4	2 buildings
☐ public-local	☐ district		sites
☐ public-State	☐ site		5 structures
☒ public-Federal	☒ structure		objects
	☐ object	4	7 Total

Name of related multiple property listing: none

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official — Date 9/21/95

National Park Service
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Ronald M. Jones /State Historic Preservation Officer — Date 28 August 1995
Signature of commenting or other official

Nevada State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

☒ entered in the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet. — Beth Grosvenor McKee — 10/19/95
☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
☐ removed from the National Register.
☐ other, (explain:) _____

for Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Government (office)	Government (office)
Domestic (institutional housing)	Domestic (institutional housing)

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)

Other (vernacular)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete
walls wood (weather board)
concrete
roof wood (shingle)
other brick, metal, wood (log)

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

[X] See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☒ statewide ☐ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
Politics/Government	1933- 1936	1933-1936
Social History		
Conservation		
Architecture		

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
U. S. Forest Service
Civilian Conservation Corps
Works Progress Administration

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

☒ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

☒ See continuation sheet

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☒ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository:
USFS - Humboldt National Forest Headquarte
Forest Headquarters, Elko

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 2.5 acres

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	11	749100	4321400
B			
C			
D			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Mount Diablo Meridian, Nevada, Township 13 N., Range 70 E., Section 9, Southeast ¼, Southeast ¼, Southeast ¼, Northwest ¼

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Boundary as described includes the fenced quadrant on which the buildings and structures that comprise the historic Baker Ranger Station are located

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Harlan D. Unrau, Historian
organization National Park Service, Denver Service Center date May 15, 1992
street & number P O Box 25287 telephone 303-969-2254
city or town Denver state Colorado zip code 80225

1. GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The existing Baker Ranger Station building complex consists of 11 resources (4 contributing, 7 non-contributing) located within a fenced 2 1/2-acre flat plot of federally - owned land on the northern edge of Baker, Nevada. The station site is on the east side of State Highway 487, some 300 yards north of its intersection with State Highway 488, the present entrance road to Lehman Caves and Great Basin National Park.

The 2 1/2-acre quadrant on which the buildings are located was part of an 80-acre plot established as the Baker Administrative Site by presidential proclamation on May 16, 1911. Seven years later the site became a permanent year - round ranger station, serving as administrative headquarters for the Baker Ranger District comprising the Snake and Mount Moriah divisions of Nevada National Forest. The Baker Ranger Station functioned in that capacity until 1957 when the Nevada National Forest was divided between Humboldt and Toiyabe national forests. The new Ely Ranger District incorporated the former Baker Ranger District, and the Baker Ranger Station was designated a guard station, serving as a work center for the east side of the Ely Ranger District until 1986. With the establishment of Great Basin National Park that year the Forest Service vacated the Baker Guard Station. The 80-acre Baker Administrative Site was transferred to the National Park Service under the provisions of Title IV, Public Law 101-512 (Department of the Interior Appropriations Act of 1991), approved on November 5, 1990, for use as an administrative site for the park.

The 11 resources include four wood frame buildings that date from the 1930s. These buildings are single - story gable roof structures painted white with green trim. In addition, the complex consists of a cement semi - cellar single - story gable roof structure painted white with green trim dating from the mid-1940s, an aluminum shed from the 1960s, and a log hoist from the early 1990s. The structures associated with the 1930s compound are representative of those built and used by the U.S. Forest Service to administer national forests in Nevada. The 2 1/2-acre compound has undergone considerable modification since the 1930s to accommodate changing responsibilities associated with management of public lands and resources.

The 2 1/2-acre quadrant on which the structures are located is approximately 100 feet east of State Highway 487 in the extreme southeast corner of the original 80-acre Baker Administrative Site. The highway, which was paved in 1947 and bisects the 80-acre site traversing generally in a north-northwest direction, provides vehicular access to the site.

The ranger station is approached by two graveled driveways from the highway. One drive, which has a cattle guard at the fence line, passes eastward toward the cottage just south of the office. A second entrance to the ranger station passes east/northeast from the highway to the graveled service area to the west of the barn and garage/fire cache. Both entrance drives date to the 1930s

and follow their general original alignments. The remaining 77 1/2 acres consist of fenced, presently-unused horse pasture north of the compound on the east side of the highway as well as on the west side of the highway across from the building complex.

The ranger station compound is near the east base of the southern Snake Range in the broad, alluvial Snake Valley. Drainage is by intermittent stream flow to the east, away from the mountains. The surface is composed of alluvium and soil, composed primarily of fluvial gravels, loamy sands, exposed clays, and conglomerates. The vicinity features quantities of quartz cobbles and pebbles, much of which have been hauled to the site for a driveway, service yard, and surface landscaping.

The vegetation community of the site is desert grasslands. Common plants include saltbush, sage, and various grasses. Trees in the quadrant include cottonwood, poplar, and black locust. Some shrubbery has been planted around several of the buildings. Since 1990 the National Park Service has planted a few fruit tree seedlings from the historic Lehman Orchard near the mouth of Lehman Caves, the majority in a fenced - in area on the east edge of the ranger station compound. Grass lawns are maintained west and southwest of the office.

While numerous modifications to the ranger station site have been carried out since its construction, the station retains a fair degree of integrity as a compound embodying the typical characteristics of a 1930s era Forest Service ranger station in Nevada. (A copy of the Revised Improvement Plan, Baker Ranger Station, Nevada National Forest dated June 7, 1948, may be seen on the following page.)

2. DESCRIPTION OF ORIGINAL BAKER RANGER STATION

The administrative site on which the Baker Ranger Station would be located was established by Executive Order 1354 on May 16, 1911. On that date President William H. Taft signed the order "that the E 1/2 of the NW 1/4 of Section 9, T. 13 N., R. 70 E., M.D.M. Nevada, containing 80 acres, be temporarily withdrawn from settlement, location, sale or entry" and "be reserved for use by the Forest Service as a ranger station in the administration of the [Nevada] National Forest." The forest had been established on February 10, 1909, when President Theodore Roosevelt issued Proclamation Number 839 (35 Stat. 2220).[1]

According to Forest Service records the first building at the new Baker Ranger Station was built in 1911.[2] The earliest description of the station that has been found is contained in an inspection report prepared by Inspector of Grazing Ernest Winkler on October 25, 1916. According to Winkler the Snake Creek and Mount Moriah divisions of Nevada National Forest were administered as part of the Baker Ranger District under the supervision of Forest Ranger Charles

P. Thompson. District headquarters was located at the Baker Ranger Station, "about a block, or a block and one-half from the Baker postoffice, store and hotel." Twenty acres of the station produced "a rather poor stand of meadow grass."

The Baker Ranger Station, according to Winkler, did not "present a very dignified appearance" and was "probably not up to the standard of the ordinary ranch houses in Baker." The ranger residence consisted of four small rooms and was "constructed on a square similar to the usual Ranger Station house." The structure, which served as a home for Thompson, his wife, and four children, as well as his office and storage space for Forest Service supplies, was "unsightly," having several colors of paint and no porch. A badly - deteriorated barn was on the premises, and the unfenced yard was overgrown with weeds.[3]

Apparently, the Baker Ranger Station did not become a permanent year-round administrative site until 1918.[4] Soon thereafter improvements were carried out at the station. By 1921 the Baker Ranger District was supervised by Forest Ranger Graham S. Quate. The ranger station's improvements were described at length by C.B. Morse, Assistant District Forester, on June 8 of that year. The station complex consisted of:

> a four-room frame house (26' x 26') boards verticle and battened with shingle roof; a two-room log building (one used for office and the other for supplies); a 10' x 14' garage, log with corrugated iron roof; an 18' x 28' log barn with shingle roof; a little shack used for a chicken coop; and a good yard fence and pasture fence. The house, through the industry and ingenuity of the present Ranger and his predecessor, has been made into a fairly comfortable dwelling. One room was beaver boarded last year and is very comfortable and presents a very neat appearance. The rest of the house should be beaver boarded at the very earliest opportunity. The Ranger at this station comes in contact with the public more than the rest on this Forest and this station is visited more and the Service should provide quarters which are a credit to it. The house has no foundation, but it is planned to construct one this year. The two-room log building used for office and store room was built of old logs previously used for another building. They have done a very good job considering the material available and the building is a very serviceable one, although not very pretty to look at. The office room has been beaver boarded and has a good floor in it and makes a very presentable office. The store room is satisfactory for its purpose. An old cellar is on the place which is not much account and presents a bad appearance. It should be replaced. The garage is a good little building. The barn is a one-story log building with shingle roof. It is 18' x 28' and has four double stalls. It's a pretty good stable, but is not provided with any room for hay, no grain bin nor saddle and harness room. There is a well constructed woven wire fence around the yard and it adds materially to the appearance of the place. There is also a good wire fence on the rest of the 80 enclosing the so called pasture. The pasture is a place for stock to exercise. Hay must be fed the year

around. Arrangements are being made for water for the place. It is badly needed. Quate has put in a little lawn and a number of trees and has a small stream of water for them and a small garden. The station as a whole presents a very good appearance and shows a lot of work by the Ranger.[5]

The original well at the Baker Ranger Station was hand dug during the spring of 1924 and deepened in 1926.[6] However, the need for an adequate water supply as well as the question of water rights for the ranger station would continue to plague Forest Service officials. These issues, along with others, surfaced in an inspection report of the station by C.N. Woods in October 1926:

> At the Baker R.S. some paint could be used to advantage, although it is not badly needed at that. The buildings at the Baker R.S. seem adequate. Modern plumbing should be installed if it is practical to do it and keep within the $500 limitation. A well furnishes water and water will have to be lifted by a windmill or gas engine if it is put into the house.
>
> There is no pasture at this station except within the yard and around the house, and hay has to be fed yearlong. We have been using water to irrigate the lawn and trees around the house. It seems doubtful whether we have any water right. I understand that steps have been taken to adjudicate the water, but I believe the Forest Service has not been in on this. If it is found we have no water right because of prior use of all the water by others, and it becomes necessary, it is thought we should make an attempt to buy enough water for the lawn, trees and garden. A cellar is needed at the Baker Ranger Station.[7]

3. DESCRIPTION OF EXTANT RESOURCES AT THE PRESENT BAKER RANGER STATION[8]

During the early 1930s the U.S. Forest Service developed plans for a new ranger station complex of buildings at the Baker Administrative Site. The improvement plan for the new station was approved by Nevada National Forest Supervisor Chester J. Olsen on May 8, 1934, and Assistant Regional Forester C.N. Woods on September 13, 1934. The plan, which would be generally followed as the new ranger station compound was built, provided for construction of four of the present buildings at the site (a copy of the plan may be seen on the following page).

The plan provided for construction of two dwellings, one of which would serve as an office, and a single car garage and storeroom to be built according to standard Forest Service building plans. In addition the plan provided for a well and pump structure and a four-horse barn. The plan delineated areas for lawn, flowers and shrubs, a garden if water was available, walks, and a gravel driveway. The entire complex of structures for the new ranger station would be located in the 2 1/2-acre quadrant in the southeast corner of the Baker Administrative Site.

Prior to construction of the new ranger station buildings the pre-1930s structures were either removed from the site or dismantled, the materials being used for building projects by local area residents. The old ranger's residence, for instance, was moved to the center of Baker and converted to use as a tavern. Today the former ranger residence serves as the front (west) portion of the Outlaw Cafe and Bar.

A. COTTAGE (ITEM A ON ENCLOSED SKETCH MAP AND PHOTOGRAPHS NOS. 1-3)

The present cottage is a rectangular single-story wood frame structure that is painted white with green trim. The structure (18 feet x 24 feet) rests on a cement foundation and has a gable roof composed of wood shingles painted green. Rising above the roof on the rear (east) side of the roof's crest is a cement covered chimney. The front (west) facade has a window and front door, the rear (east) facade features a window, the north facade has a door, cement two-step porch, and electric meter, and the south facade has a window. The front door is approached by a short cement wall and slab porch. To the immediate south of the front door is a large plywood panel that covers an opening where a garage door was once in place.

The interior of the structure has been remodeled and modernized by the National Park Service since 1990 and is used for living quarters by park personnel. The north portion of the structure has paneled walls and a wood burning heater and serves as a living room/bedroom with a closet extending from the rear part of the central interior wall. The south portion of the structure contains a modern kitchen/dining area and a bathroom to the rear. The kitchen and bathroom have painted sheet rock walls and linoleum floors.

As originally constructed in 1935 the cottage structure was a single-story wood frame building. The structure, which was built under contract by Mrs. Vida Simonsen according to Forest Service Building Plan R-4, No. 23, was designed to serve as a single car garage and storeroom. Its exterior walls were built with 6-inch fir channel rustic lumber. The storeroom (north portion of structure) was lined with shiplap that was unpainted. The front (west) facade had a two-door swinging garage door on the south side.

During the years 1958-68 the Forest Service remodeled the structure into a bunkhouse by converting the garage into a kitchen and bathroom and the storeroom into sleeping quarters. Doors were installed in the west and north facades. During 1968-69 new electric wiring was installed, the hot water flue heating system was replaced by a propane furnace, and the walls were insulated with

sheet rock. In 1974 a new septic tank was installed, and in 1978 the bathroom was refurnished, the walls and ceilings were given new insulation, and new kitchen cabinets were installed. In 1986 a wood stove was installed in the living room/bedroom.

The bunkhouse served as living quarters for Forest Service seasonal help until 1986 when the bureau vacated the structure. In 1991 the National Park Service made various interior improvements to the building, preparatory to using it for year-round living quarters for park personnel.

The cottage is in good condition and should be considered a contributing resource to the ranger station complex. While the interior has undergone extensive remodeling and the exterior has been modified significantly, the structure retains a fair degree of integrity.

B. OFFICE (ITEM B ON ENCLOSED SKETCH MAP AND PHOTOGRAPHS NOS. 4-5)

The present office building is a rectangular single-story wood frame structure that is painted white with green trim. The structure (16 feet, 4 inches x 24 feet) rests on a cement foundation and has a gable roof composed of wood shingles painted green. The structure has a brick chimney. The front (west) facade features a wooden porch (painted gray) and three wood pillars (painted white). The north and south facades have windows, while the front has a door on the south portion and a window on the north side. The front of the office is approached by a cement sidewalk from the driveway and a lawn area is maintained in front of the structure. At the rear of the structure is a small bathroom addition (approximately 5 feet x 5 feet) that was added by the National Park Service in 1990. The bathroom has an outside door on its south facade.

The interior of the one-room office was remodeled by the National Park Service in 1990-91 for use as office space by park personnel. Among the improvements were the installation of paneling, fluorescent lighting, a rug, and new electrical wiring and outlets.

As originally constructed in 1936 the office was a single-story wood frame structure containing one room having approximately 500 square feet of floor space for use as office space by Forest Service personnel. It was built of 6-inch fir channel rustic lumber according to Forest Service Building Plan R-4, No. 4. The structure conformed to the standard building plan with several exceptions:

(1) addition of a window in the front facade similar to those in the north and south facades;
(2) reversal of the position of the front door from the north to the south side of the front facade;
(3) elimination of the window seat and combination table and cabinet; and

(4) movement of the flue to within 18 inches of the center of the rear wall.

Behind the office was a two-car parking area reached by a gravel driveway that extended from the fence line along the south of the structure. The west and north sides of the office were landscaped with gravel.

The Forest Service installed linoleum on the office floor in 1941. By the late 1970s the office was heated with propane and had a wash basin. The structure was wired for electricity during the early 1970s. In 1978 the office was insulated, its interior walls were paneled, and its electrical wiring was upgraded.

The office served as office space for Forest Service personnel until 1986 when the bureau vacated the structure. The National Park Service remodeled the interior in 1990-91 and has since used the building for office space for park personnel.

The office is in good condition and should be considered a contributing resource to the ranger station complex. While the interior has undergone extensive remodeling, the exterior has been little altered since the 1930s with the exception of the small bathroom addition at the rear of the structure. Thus, the office retains a relatively high degree of integrity.

C. BARN (ITEM C ON ENCLOSED SKETCH MAP AND PHOTOGRAPHS NOS. 6-8)

The present barn is a rectangular two-story wood frame structure that is painted white with green trim. The structure (12 feet x 16 feet) rests on a cement foundation and has a gable roof composed of wood shingles painted green. The barn has no windows/openings on its north, south, or east facades. On its front (west) facade it has a sliding barn door on a track on its lower floor and a swinging two door opening for the loft on its upper story. The interior of the lower floor of the barn has unpainted wood siding, and the loft is framed with wood plank beams. The barn is used for storage.

A one-story wood frame addition (approximately 6 feet x 12 feet) is attached to the rear of the barn. The attachment is painted white with green trim and rests on cement cinder blocks. It has an asbestos shingle roof that slopes to the east, windows on its north and east facades, and a door on its south facade. Once a chicken coop and general storage area the attachment was remodeled by the National Park Service during 1990-91 to serve as a tackroom.

Extending west from the southwest corner of the barn's front facade is a metal hitching bar painted white. To the north of and extending from the barn is a white-painted, 7-sided wood fenced corral (approximately 24 feet x 27 feet), the barn serving as one side of the enclosure. A gate in the corral fence is adjacent to the barn. A smaller white fenced corral or pen (approximately 15 feet x 18 feet) extends to the west of the larger corral.

As originally constructed in 1936 the barn was a two-story wood frame structure containing space for two horses, hay, grain, and saddles on its lower floor. The upper loft served as storage for hay and grain. The structure was built according to Forest Service Building Plan R-4, No. 13B. The exterior walls were constructed with 6-inch fir channel rustic lumber. The original barn contained 192 square feet of floor space, not including a chicken coop attachment to the rear of the structure. The corral to the north of the barn featured a water trough at its east (rear) edge. The chicken coop was apparently torn down during the summer of 1937, but at a later undetermined date another chicken coop addition was built at the rear of the barn. No other changes or modifications are known to have been carried out on the barn by the Forest Service.

The barn, tackroom attachment, and adjacent corrals are in good condition and should be considered a contributing resource to the ranger station complex. While the tackroom attachment is not original and has undergone subsequent renovation, the barn and adjacent corrals have been little altered since the 1930s. Thus, the structure retains a relatively high degree of integrity.

D. GARAGE/FIRE CACHE (ITEM D ON ENCLOSED SKETCH MAP AND PHOTOGRAPHS NOS. 9-11)

The present garage/fire cache is a rectangular single-story wood frame structure that is painted white with green trim. The structure (20 feet x 34 feet) rests on a cement foundation and has a gable roof composed of wood shingles painted green. The front (south) facade features a 10-foot sliding wood garage door on a track and a cement slab apron (approximately 15 feet x 18 feet) extending southward. The east and west facades each have two windows, and the rear (north) facade features a centrally located door and two cement steps between two windows. A storage cupboard is attached to the west corner of the north facade, and a roofed fiberglass awning like cover projects over the electrical meter in the north corner of the east facade. A metal heating flue projects from the east side of the roof.

A cement slab lies adjacent to the northeast corner of the structure. A wire mesh grating elevated on cut log posts extends from the slab toward the east edge of the ranger station compound. This grating is a fire hose drying rack built by the Forest Service.

The interior of the garage/fire cache has a cement floor. The interior walls are insulated but not paneled. The ceiling consists of wood rafters. The structure is used to park one vehicle and provide storage space for park fire fighting equipment and materials.

As originally constructed in 1936 the garage/fire cache was designed to be a warehouse. The structure was not built according to any standard Forest Service building plans. The warehouse had a concrete foundation (20 feet x 34 feet) which projected 12 inches above the ground. The studding was 8 1/2 feet long and braced, and 6-inch fir channel rustic lumber was used for the exterior wood frame walls. The structure had a shingle roof and a 10-foot sliding wood door on the south (front) facade to allow a truck to be driven in. The floor was gravel. A 10-foot room was partitioned off in the north end of the structure. The room, which provided warehouse storage, had a board floor and was made mouse-proof. The room was later converted for use as a shop.

The garage/fire cache has been little altered since 1936. The aforementioned outside cupboard was added prior to 1954, and the fire hose drying rack was built during the 1970s or early 1980s. In 1973 the structure was wired for electricity, and in 1976 the interior walls and ceiling were insulated. A stove was installed during the late 1970s or early 1980s. In 1990 the National Park Service installed new insulation in the building.

The garage/fire cache is in good condition and should be considered a contributing resource to the ranger station complex. The structure, which has undergone only minor exterior and interior modifications since its construction in 1936, retains a relatively high degree of integrity.

E. WELL HOUSE/PUMP HOUSE (ITEM E ON ENCLOSED SKETCH MAP AND PHOTOGRAPHS NOS. 12-13)

The present well house/pump house is a rectangular single-story, semi-cellar concrete structure that is painted white with green trim. The structure (8 feet x 14 feet) has a gable roof composed of wood shingles painted green. The concrete walls of the structure are 8 feet in height, although 4 feet, 8 inches of their height are below ground surface. The front (south) facade has a weather - stripped wood door, and both the front and rear (north) facades feature shiplap siding above the concrete walls which extend 3 feet, 4 inches above the ground surface. Screened vents are cut into the shiplap near the peak of the gable on both the north and south facades. An electrical meter and box are attached to the north facade.

A cement slab extends several feet south from the door on the south facade and around to the west facade of the structure. Incorporated in the cement slab on the west side of the building is a square shaped slab of older cement with the etched notation -- "GSQ 1924."

The interior walls and floor of the structure are cement, while the ceiling is composed of plank

boards. There are five cement steps leading from the front door down to the semi-cellar floor. At the north end of the floor is a pressurized tank and pumping equipment for the ranger station well.

Immediately to the north of the well house/pump house and south of the cottage is a water storage tank painted white.

As originally constructed in 1944 the well house/pump house was constructed according to Forest Service handbook standards. The structure housed an electric-powered pump and pressurized water tank. In 1953 a new 89-foot well was drilled, and a jet gasoline pump and pressure tank were installed in the well house/pump house. More recent improvements to the structure include roof insulation in 1977 and upgraded wiring and installation of a new pump in 1978.

Although the well house/pump house retains a high degree of integrity and its appearance is generally compatible with the other structures of the ranger station complex, it should be considered as a non-contributing resource because of its age and the fact that it is not associated with the original buildings of the 1930s-era station compound.

F. ALUMINUM SHED (ITEM F ON ENCLOSED SKETCH MAP AND PHOTOGRAPH NO 14)

The present Aluminum Shed (approximately 6 feet x 6 feet) was erected by the Forest Service during the 1960s or early 1970s. It is mounted on a cement foundation to the east of the barn, and has a wood door on its east (front) facade. The Forest Service used the shed for paint storage, and the National park Service, which mouse-proofed the structure during the early 1990s, continues to use it for storage.

The Aluminum Shed should be considered as a non-contributing resource because of its age, its structural incompatibility with the rest of the ranger station complex, and its non-association with the buildings of the 1930s-era station compound.

G. HOIST (ITEM G ON ENCLOSED SKETCH MAP AND PHOTOGRAPH NO. 15)

A Hoist (approximately 10 feet x 10 feet), consisting of log corner supports and a metal frame on top, was constructed northeast of the barn (in the northeast corner of the 2 1/2-acre ranger station compound) by the National Park Service during the early 1990s. A metal containerized off-loader holding sand for snow removal operations is suspended from the frame with chains.

The Hoist should be considered as a non-contributing resource because of its age, its structural incompatibility with the rest of the ranger station complex, and its non-association with the buildings of the 1930s-era station compound.

H. TRAILER PAD AND CEMENT FOUNDATION (ITEM H ON ENCLOSED SKETCH MAP AND PHOTOGRAPH NOS. 16-17)

The present Trailer Pad and Cement Foundation, which is located against the fence on the south edge of the ranger station complex, was constructed by the Forest Service during the 1960s. The trailer pad (approximately 18 feet x 40 feet) consists of rock and gravel base. Included in the pad is a square shaped cement platform (approximately 6 feet x 6 feet) on which an aluminum shed was erected to house a washer, dryer, and Franklin stove.

The Trailer Pad and Cement Foundation should be considered as a non-contributing resource because of its age, its structural incompatibility with the rest of the ranger station complex, and its non-association with the buildings of the 1930s-era station compound.

I. NURSERY ORCHARD (ITEM I ON ENCLOSED SKETCH MAP AND PHOTOGRAPH NO. 18)

In 1990 the National Park Service erected a fenced in area along the east edge of the ranger station compound to the north/northeast of the office. The purpose of the area was to serve as a nursery for fruit tree seedlings from the historic Lehman Orchard below the mouth of Lehman Caves. The Nursery Orchard should be considered as a non-contributing resource because of its age and its non-association with the buildings of the 1930s-era station compound.

J. IRRIGATION DITCHES (ITEM J ON ENCLOSED SKETCH MAP AND PHOTOGRAPH NO. 19)

Several irrigation ditches cross the 2 1/2-acre ranger station compound. The ditches are privately-owned and operate under special use permits. The water rights associated with the ditches extend back to the period preceding the 1911 withdrawal. The extant ditches, approximately 1-2 feet wide, follow their general historic alignments across the compound, although it is likely that their courses have changed somewhat as a result of periodic maintenance and erosion - related causes. One ditch crosses the compound from west to east north of the office. Another ditch crosses the compound from north-northwest of the office and then passes in a north-northwest direction west of the nursery orchard and east of the garage/fire cache, leaving the compound southeast of the barn. A third ditch crosses the compound from west to east just south of the barn and then cuts to the northeast corner of the compound behind (east) of the hoist.

The irrigation ditches, while retaining much of their historic integrity, should be considered as non-contributing resources because they are privately - owned and have no association with the construction and operation of the Baker Ranger Station.

K. FENCES (ITEM K-1 AND K-2 ON ENCLOSED SKETCH MAP AND PHOTOGRAPHS NOS. 20-21)

The existing fence around the portion of the ranger station compound encompassing the office, well house/pump house, and cottage encloses a rectangular plot of ground 110 feet by 139 feet. The fence (ITEM K-1, PHOTOGRAPH NO. 20) consists of rough cut pinyon-juniper posts connected by cut plank railing at their tops, and planks support a heavy wire mesh grating.

The portion of the compound encompassing the garage/fire cache, barn, hoist, and aluminum shed, as well as the graveled service yard adjoining the barn and garage/fire cache, consists of a barbed wire fence supported by rough cut pinyon juniper posts. The fence (ITEM K-2, PHOTOGRAPH NO. 21) in this portion of the quadrant follows the north, east, and south sides of the compound in generally straight directional lines, but the fence line on the west side extends in a north-northwest alignment. To the west of this fenced area is another smaller fenced enclosure following similar directional alignments and consisting of similar materials.

The fence lines associated with the two enclosures around the ranger station buildings apparently follow the approximate original alignments associated with the 1930s-era compound. The smaller fenced enclosure to the west of the garage/fire cache, barn, hoist, and aluminum shed was installed by the Forest Service during the 1950s. While the fence lines are apparently in their historic alignments, it is logical to assume that the extant fences are not original.

While the historic evolution of the fences for the ranger station compound cannot be documented definitively, they lend a rustic appearance and contribute to the rural western ambience of the station site. However, they should be considered as a non-contributing resource because of their historical ambiguity and general non-association with the central purpose of the station.

4. DESCRIPTION OF STRUCTURES/FEATURES ASSOCIATED WITH 1930S-ERA RANGER STATION THAT ARE NO LONGER EXTANT

A. DWELLING

The first structure to be built for the new Baker Ranger Station during the 1930s was a dwelling constructed according to Forest Service Building Plan R-4, No. 1. It was located west of the present well house/pump house and south of the present office on space currently being used as a parking

area. The structure was built in 1933-34 under the provisions of the National Industrial Recovery Act, the funds being provided by the Public Works Administration.

The dwelling was a single-story frame structure with a full basement. The structure was approximately 28 feet x 36 feet with porches on the front (west) and rear (east) facades. The exterior walls, built of 6-inch fir channel rustic lumber, were painted white with green trim. The wood shingle roof was painted green. The dwelling consisted of a living room, two bedrooms, a bathroom, and a kitchen. A furnace was installed in the structure during the winter of 1935-36.

Following consolidation of Nevada and Humboldt national forests the dwelling was moved to the Ely District Ranger Station in January 1959. The structure has undergone extensive rehabilitation and modification, and it presently serves as office space for Forest Service personnel. The only extant surface remains associated with the structure at the Baker Ranger Station are cement sidewalks that led to its front porch and from the porch northward along its front (west) facade to the driveway just north of the dwelling. The sidewalk that led to the front porch has lawn areas on either side.

B. TOILET

A one-holer outhouse toilet stood north of the barn just south of the present ranger station compound fence. It was removed sometime after 1977.

C. GARDEN

The southern portion of the present fenced nursery orchard along the east edge of the ranger station compound to the north/northeast of the office was used as a vegetable garden during the 1930s. By 1940 the vegetable garden had been converted for use as a woodyard, and a larger area to the immediate north was made into a garden. The larger plot continued to be used as a garden during the 1940s.

D. RADIO POLES

Two radio poles were located in the ranger station compound during the 1940s. A radio pole was in place in the southeast corner of the compound by 1940, and another was located in the garden area near the east compound fence by 1948.

E. WASH/CLOTHES LINES

During the 1930s wash lines were located to the east (rear) of the present pump house/well house along the east fence of the ranger station compound. By 1948 the clothes lines had been moved to a location along the south fence of the compound.

F. WIND CHARGER TOWER

In 1940 a wind charger tower was located north of the office and to the west of the garden.

G. FLAG POLE

During the 1930s and 1940s a flag pole was located on the south side of the driveway leading toward the present cottage. The pole was located to the west of the dwelling just outside the fence in front of the compound.

H. WINDMILL AND TANK HOUSE

The original well for the Baker Ranger Station was hand-dug in 1924 under the direction of Ranger Graham S. Quate. It was encased by a rock wall and had an associated cement slab on the ground surface. The extant cement slab with the etching "GSQ 1924" that is just west of the present well house/pump house is apparently associated with the first well. The well was deepened in 1926.

During 1935-36 Civilian Conservation Corps and Works Progress Administration laborers dug a new 30-foot-deep well to the east (rear) of the dwelling and near the site of the old well. Water was pumped by a 3-inch cylinder pump powered by a Dempster No. 12 windmill mounted on a 30-foot tower. Water was stored in a 1,000-gallon capacity galvanized iron tank mounted on a 12-foot tower. The tank was 6 feet in height and provided 15-foot gravity pressure.

The tank was located in the tank house just north of the windmill and well and to the rear of the north part of the dwelling. The tank house was open on top, covered only by screen wire, tar paper, and 1-inch lumber. The frame support for the tank consisted of 4 poles about 6 inches in diameter, each placed at the corner of a square base. The timbers were cross-braced with 2x4s and covered on the sides with 1-inch lumber. The windmill and tank house were dismantled and removed when the present well house/pump house was built in 1944.

5. UTILITY SYSTEMS ASSOCIATED WITH 1930s-ERA AND PRESENT RANGER STATION

During the period 1933-40 the main line of a sewage system, septic tank, and seepage pit/cesspool were completed, presumably with the aid of Civilian Conservation Corps enrollees and Works

Progress Administration laborers. The line extended from the rear of the dwelling to a site approximately 412 feet east of the present cottage on private land.

In 1940 a water line distribution system was extended from the well to the barn, horse trough, and 2 hydrants. One-inch black pipe secured from the Berry Creek Ranger Station was used for the line. The black pipe was replaced with 1-inch galvanized pipe in 1950.

In 1953 the present 89-foot well was drilled, and a jet gasoline pump and pressure tank were installed in the well house/pump house. A new sewage system, septic tank, and drain field were also constructed. Twenty years later, in 1973, another sewage/wastewater system using 4-inch gravity sewer lines was installed.

Telephone communications were first established at the Baker Ranger Station in 1935, using a government-owned line which ran past Lehman Caves to Robinson Ranch in Spring Valley. The line was built by Civil Works Administration workers using poles cut in the Baker Creek vicinity of Nevada National Forest and wire provided by the Forest Service. The line was tapped by the Forest Service at Fielding's Ranch near the caves and extended to the station.

Prior to 1947 rangers at the Baker Ranger Station furnished their own electrical power plants. In 1943, for instance, electrical power was provided by a 800-watt Delco light gin and 5 automobile batteries for storage. In 1947 the government began to provide for electric power at the ranger station by purchasing a 1500-watt Kohler plant. By the 1960s a more powerful modern Delco plant was in use. In 1970 the Baker area was connected with electrical power lines, and within several years the buildings at the ranger station were wired for electricity.

6. LANDSCAPE FEATURES

During the spring and summer of 1936 the new Baker Ranger Station was completed. In April J. Carol Reiners, a landscape engineer and recreational planner from Los Angeles, was engaged by the Forest Service to plat "the arrangement of improvements on about 12 recreational areas and administrative sites." Reiners, who had developed plans for the recreational development of the Baker and Lehman creek areas the previous spring, prepared a "Landscape Planting Plan" for the Baker Ranger Station dated May 12, 1936. The plan (a copy may be seen on the following page) provided for a low rock wall to be constructed along the south edge of the 2 1/2-acre quadrant, a driveway between the dwelling and the office, a two-space parking pad behind the office, a wash line along the east fence to the rear of the dwelling, graveled areas to the north and west of the office as well as the southeast corner of the quadrant, lawn areas to the west and south of the dwelling, a vegetable garden along the east fence to the northeast of the office, and a large barn and

warehouse service yard. The plan identified the location of 11 Carolina poplar, 9 silver-leaf poplar, and 4 Black Locust Trees. In addition the plan identified the areas where nutka rose, golden current, snowberry, red cedar, mountain juniper, common lilac, and syringa should be planted. While the plan was approved by Forest Supervisor George C. Larson on May 19 and was checked by A.L. Curtiss, a Forest Service landscape architect, on June 1, the plan never received final approval by the Ogden Regional Office and thus was never fully implemented. However, elements of the planting plan were put into effect as evidenced by some of the extant trees and shrubbery and configuration of the present layout of the station.

7. NEVADA HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORMS

Appended to this National Register nomination form are Nevada Historic Properties Inventory Forms for each of the resources (both contributing and non-contributing) at the Baker Ranger Station.

ENDNOTES

1. According to Emerson Gonder, a long-time resident of Baker, his great grandfather P.M. "Doc" Baker had established s small farm on the 80 acres and filed a claim to the property under the Homestead Act around the turn of the century. By 1911 a house, barn, and a chicken coop had been erected on the property, some 50 yards north of the present barn. The small farm also featured a garden and 20 acres of alfalfa. It is possible that the Forest Service used some of the structures, or materials from them, for several of the earliest ranger station buildings. "Doc" Baker's claim to the 80 acres was never proved, and no deed was executed. In 1911 he donated the 80 acres to the federal government, thus setting the stage for President Taft's withdrawal order. By that year "Doc" Baker had become the largest landowner in Snake Valley, his land holdings amounting to 2,920 acres. Telephone interview with Emerson Gonder, by Harlan D. Unrau, Baker, Nevada, April 10, 1992, and Assessment Book, 1911, White Pine County, White Pine County Courthouse, Ely.

2. Descriptive Sheet, Improvement Plan, Baker Ranger Station, Nevada National Forest, ca. 1936, Folio, Improvement Plans, Forest Service, Region Four, Baker Ranger Station, and J. Arlen Rounds, Building Maintenance Condition Survey, Ely Ranger Station and Baker Guard Station, Ely Ranger District, Humboldt National Forest, August 11 & 12, 1969, n.p. Historical Records, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Humboldt National Forest, Headquarters, Elko, Nevada.

3. Memorandum for the District Forester, Ernest Winkler, Inspector of Grazing, October 25, 1916, 1440-Inspection Year 1916, Record Group 95, Records of the U.S. Forest Service, National Archives and Records Administration, San Francisco Branch, San Bruno (Accession No. 61-333/Location No. 88830).

4. Descriptive Sheet, Improvement Plan, Baker Ranger Station, Nevada National Forest, ca. 1936, and Rounds, Building Maintenance Condition Survey, n.p.

5. Memorandum for District Ranger, C.B. Morse, Assistant District Forester, June 8, 1921, 1440-Inspection Year 1921, RG 95, National Archives and Records Administration, San Francisco Branch, San Bruno (Accession No. 61-333/Location No. 88830)

6. Rounds, Building Maintenance Condition Survey, n.p.

7. Nevada Inspection Report by C.N. Woods, October 1926, 1440-Inspection Year 1926, RG 95, National Archives and Records Administration, San Francisco Branch, San Bruno (Accession No. 61-333/Location No. 88830).

8. The principal sources of data for the remainder of Section No. 7 were historical records and files at the (1) U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Humboldt National Forest, Headquarters, Elko, Nevada; (2) U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Ely District Ranger Station, Ely, Nevada; (3) U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Ely District Office, Ely, Nevada; and (4) U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Great Basin National Park, Baker, Nevada. The individual files and records researched at these repositories are listed in Section No. 9.

PHOTOGRAPHS

The following information pertains to Photographs Nos. 1-23:

1. Name of Property - Baker Ranger Station

2. Location - White Pine County, Nevada

3. Photographer - Harlan D. Unrau

4. Date of Photographs - April 7, 1992

5. Location of Original Negatives -

U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Western Regional Office
San Francisco, California

6. Photographic perspective is illustrated on the sketch map at the end of this section by photograph number and an arrow showing the direction of view.

List of Photographs

Photograph's Nos. 1-3 Cottage

No. 1 - View of front (west) facade, looking north.
No. 2 - View of front and south facades, looking northeast
No. 3 - View of front and north facades, looking southeast

Photographs Nos. 4-5 Office

No. 4 - View of front (west) and north facades, looking southeast
No. 5 - View of rear (east) and south facades, looking southwest

Photographs Nos. 6-8 - Barn

No. 6 - View of front (west) and south facades, looking southeast
No. 7 - View of front facade, looking east
No. 8 - View of rear (east) and south facades, looking southwest

Photographs Nos. 9-11 - Garage/Fire Cache

No. 9 - View of front (south) and east facades, looking southwest
No. 10- View of rear (north) and east facades, looking northwest
No. 11- View of east and rear facades, looking west-southwest (fire hose drying rack in foreground)

Photographs Nos. 12-13 - Well House/ Pump House

No. 12- View of front (south) and west facades, looking southeast
No. 13- View of rear (north) and east facades, looking southwest

Photograph No. 14 - Aluminum Shed

View of front (east) and north facades, looking southwest

Photograph No. 15 - Hoist

View of Hoist looking southeast

Photographs Nos. 16-17 - Trailer Pad and Cement Foundation

No. 16- View of Trailer Pad looking east
No. 17- View of Cement Foundation looking southeast

Photograph No. 18 - Nursery Orchard

View of Nursery Orchard, looking southeast

Photograph No. 19 - Irrigation Ditch

View of typical section of Irrigation Ditch near office looking south

Photographs Nos. 20-21 - Fences

No. 20- View of fence in front (west side) of enclosure encompassing office, well house/pump house, and cottage, looking south-southeast

No. 21- View of typical section of barbed wire fence

Photograph No. 22

View of Baker Ranger Station from State Highway 487, showing office and cottage in background at right and garage/fire cache and barn in background at left, looking south-southeast

Photograph No. 23

View of Baker Ranger Station from State Highway 487, showing garage/fire cache and barn in background, looking east.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Baker Ranger Station is recommended for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. Under Criterion A the station is considered as a property significant for its association "with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history." The applicable areas of significance for which the ranger station has been evaluated under this criterion are (1) Politics/ Government, (2) Social History, and (3) Conservation. The period of significance and significant dates for the ranger station are the construction period (1933-36) of four of the extant buildings that formed the nucleus of the 1930s-era station complex.

The Baker Ranger Station building complex is significant because it served as a local Forest Service administrative center for the implementation of federal conservation and land management policies focusing on balanced public use of national forests under multiple-use and sustained-yield principles in Nevada during a 75-year period. Four of the extant buildings at the station complex were constructed by the Forest Service during the 1930s, using funds and personnel provided by federal Depression-era agencies established to promote national economic recovery and the welfare of American society through national public works projects and conservation service jobs for the unemployed.

Under Criterion C the Baker Ranger Station is considered as a significant property because it embodies "the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction" and represents "a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction." The applicable area of significance for which the ranger station has been evaluated under this criterion is architecture. The period of significance and significant dates for the ranger station are the same as those stated under Criterion A. During the years 1933-36 three of the extant buildings (cottage, office, and barn) at the site were constructed according to standard Forest Service building plans. One of the extant buildings (garage/fire cache) was not constructed according to a standard plan, but its design and construction materials are similar and compatible with those of the three aforementioned structures. These buildings, which together formed the nucleus of the 1930s-era ranger station complex, are representative of the simple, but functional vernacular-style administrative structures used by the Forest Service in Nevada.

1. NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERION A

A. AREAS AND PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Baker Ranger Station is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of American history, and is, as a result, recommended for nomination to the National Register under Criterion A under the areas of (1) Politics/Government,

(2) Social History, and (3) Conservation. The period of significance is the construction period (1933-36) when four of the extant buildings, which together formed the nucleus of the 1930s-era ranger station complex, were constructed.

B. HISTORICAL CONTEXT

In its historical context the Baker Administrative Site, on which the Baker Ranger Station building complex is located, served as a local administrative headquarters for the Baker Ranger District, comprising the Snake and Mount Moriah divisions of Nevada National Forest, from 1911 to 1957. After Nevada National Forest was divided between Humboldt and Toiyabe national forests the Baker Administrative Site was designated as a guard station and served as a work center for the east side of the Ely Ranger District of Humboldt National Forest from 1957 to 1986. Thus, the Baker Administrative Site served as a local Forest Service administrative center for the implementation of federal conservation and land management policies focusing on the wise public use of national forests under multiple-use and sustained-yield principles in Nevada over a 75-year period.

Four of the extant buildings (cottage, office, barn and garage/fire cache) and portions of the utility systems and infrastructure of the 1930s-era ranger station complex were constructed by the Forest Service, using funds and personnel provided by federal Depression-era agencies established to promote national economic recovery and the welfare of American society through national public works programs and conservation service jobs for the unemployed. These agencies included the Public Works Administration (PWA), established under Title II of the National Industrial Recovery Act (June 16, 1933), the Works Progress Administration (WPA), established by the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act (April 8, 1935), and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), established by the Civilian Conservation Corps Reforestation Relief Act (March 31, 1933).

C. DISCUSSION

During the mid-nineteenth century a movement for the preservation of the nation's natural resources was commenced in the United States. By 1864 three scientific thinkers - Henry David Thoreau, the Massachusetts naturalist-poet-philosopher; George Perkins Marsh, a Vermont lawyer and scholar; and Frederick Law Olmsted, superintendent of the Central Park project in New York City - had articulated the need for conservation and the preservation of our country's natural resources from exploitation by business and settlement. Their writings were the foundation upon which all subsequent conservation proponents built their arguments. Olmsted, in particular, advocated the concept of great "public parks" and was responsible for launching a movement to preserve the giant sequoias in Yosemite Valley from commercial exploitation. As a result of pressure exerted on Congress a law was passed in 1864 that granted Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of Big Trees to the State of California as a state park. This was the first time that any government had set aside public lands purely for the preservation of scenic values.[1]

The "public park" concept involving preservation of important natural features and their management for the benefit of the people circulated throughout the East and Midwest from the mid-1860s onward. As a result of the Washburn-Langford-Doane expedition in 1870 and another expedition led by U.S. Geologist Ferdinand V. Hayden the following year, pressure mounted that Yellowstone should be preserved. On March 1, 1872, President Ulysses S. Grant signed the Yellowstone Park bill into law, thus establishing our first national park by virtue of the fact that it was located in Wyoming Territory and hence under the immediate administration of the federal government. A precedent had been established to reserve and withdraw areas from settlement and set them apart as public parks for the benefit and enjoyment of the people. The Yellowstone Park Act empowered the Secretary of the Interior to protect fish and game from wanton destruction and provide for the preservation and retention in their natural condition of timber, mineral deposits, natural curiosities, and scenic wonders within the park.[2]

Meanwhile, wholesale devastation of timber reserves in the West continued. In 1876 the position of forestry agent in the U.S. Department of Agriculture was established to study the twin problems of timber consumption and preservation of forest lands. Other federal efforts that contributed toward awakening public interest in the diversified natural resources of the West were Hayden's Geological and Geographical Surveys of the Territories of the United States, John Wesley Powell's United States Geographical and Geological Survey of the Rocky Mountain Region, and Lieutenant George M. Wheeler's Geographical Surveys West of the One Hundredth Meridian. In 1879 these three groups were incorporated into the United States Geological Survey and placed under the Department of the

Interior with authorization to conduct all scientific surveys performed by the federal government.[3]

During the 1870s and 1880s a group of intellectuals, including scientists, naturalists, landscape architects, foresters, geologists, and editors of national periodicals, refined the basic concepts of conservation. Through their writings and leadership they made progress in reversing the traditional American attitude toward the utilization of natural resources. One of the most articulate and widely read spokesmen for conservation was John Muir, a well-educated Scotsman who campaigned for the preservation of the wilderness and federal control of the forests in the West. His chief concerns were the waste and destruction of forests by lumbermen, cattle grazing, and sheepherding.[4]

As a result of Muir's campaigning, three national parks - Yosemite, Sequoia, and General Grant - were established to preserve the Sierra forests from timbering excesses and overgrazing. The establishing legislation for these parks passed Congress with little debate, primarily as a result of the fact that "scenic nationalism" and "materialism" were not in conflict with "materialism" in these areas by 1890.[5]

During the 1870s and 1880s conservationists in the United States focused considerable energy on a movement to repeal the Timber Culture Act of 1873 and the Timber Cutting Act of 1878. At the forefront of this movement were conservationists interested in forestry such as Charles S. Sargent, John Muir, and Robert V. Johnson, aided by the General Land Office of the U.S. Department of the Interior and foresters in the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Considerable fraud was associated with these laws, and as a result much valuable timber land was lost as it fell into the hands of large corporations and timber speculators. The two acts were ostensibly intended to provide for forest conservation. The Timber Culture Act of 1873 authorized any person who kept forty acres of timber land in good condition to acquire title to 160 acres. The minimum tree-growing requirement was reduced to ten acres in 1878. The Timber Cutting Act of 1878, on the other hand, allowed bona fide settlers and miners to cut timber on the public domain free of charge for their own use.[6]

In 1890 a committee of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, with Thomas C. Mendenhall, Superintendent of the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, as chairman, presented President Benjamin Harrison with a petition recommending that a commission be established to "investigate the necessity of preserving certain parts of the present public forest as requisite for the maintenance of favorable water conditions." The petition further urged that "pending such investigation all timber lands of the United States be withdrawn from sale and provision be made to protect the said lands from theft and ravages by fire, and

to supply in a rational manner the local needs of wood and lumber until a permanent system of forest administration be had."[7]

President Harrison and Secretary of the Interior John W. Noble endorsed the proposals. Provisions of the bill to accomplish these ends were drafted by Edward A. Bowers, a special agent and inspector in the General Land Office, with the advice of John Muir and Robert V. Johnson. Bowers' bill was attached as a "rider" to the Sundry Civil Appropriations Bill and passed by Congress without debate.[8]

The Forest Reserve Act (26 Stat. 1095), signed into law by President Harrison on March 3, 1891, repealed the Timber Culture Act of 1873 and the Timber Cutting Act of 1878. Section 24 further provided:

> That the President of the United States may, from time to time, set apart and reserve, in any state or territory having public land bearing forests, in any part of the public lands, wholly or in part covered with timber or undergrowth, whether of commercial value or not, as public reservations, and the President shall, by public proclamation, declare the establishment of such reservations, and the limits thereof.

The forest reservations were to be administered by the Department of the Interior.[9]

While the law did not define the objectives for setting aside the forest reservations the ostensible purposes, according to the House Committee on Public Lands, were the protection of "forest growth against destruction by fire and ax and preservation of forest conditions upon which water conditions and water flow" were dependent. The new policy was based on the perception "that a forest-cover on slopes and mountains must be maintained to regulate the flow of streams, to prevent erosion, and thereby to maintain favorable conditions in the plains below." The policy of reserving forest land was thus "confined mainly to those localities in which agriculturists" were "dependent upon irrigation." The overriding goal of the reserve policy was "to maintain favorable forest conditions, without, however, excluding the use of these reservations for other purposes."[10]

During the next decade the Department of the Interior refined its policies concerning the objectives and regulations governing the forest reserves. Administration of the reserves was assigned to the Forestry Division of the

General Land Office. Regulations for managing the reserves were adopted on June

30, 1897, and amended on March 21, 1898. By 1902 the department had developed the objectives for national forest reserves into a formal policy statement:

> The object of setting land aside for forest reserves is
>
> 1. To protect a growth of timber of land which is not fit to grow other crops and under conditions where no such protection is assured or can be supplied by private persons or local authorities.
>
> 2. To keep a growth of vegetation, especially of timber on mountain lands which would otherwise wash and gully.[11]

Thus, the Forest Reserve Act and the implementation of its provisions became the cornerstones of early national conservation policy. The act would later be characterized as "the most important legislation in the history of Forestry in America" by Gifford Pinchot, a long-time progressive and conservationist who became the first Chief Forester of the U.S. Forest Service.[12] Benjamin H. Hibbard, a noted public lands historian, has commented on the effect of the act in establishing a precedent that all of the public domain was not to be disposed of by private interests:

> Without question the act permitting the withdrawal of public (forest) land from private entry was the most signal act yet performed by Congress in the direction of a national land policy.[13]

In 1905 administration of the national forest reserves was transferred from the General Land Office of the Department of the Interior to the newly-established U.S. Forest Service in the Department of Agriculture. Under the energetic leadership of Chief Forester Gifford Pinchot the Forest Service became active in the crusade to conserve our nation's natural resources. As part of its conservation ethic, the new bureau favored a policy of multiple-purpose resources utilization under which the land and its resources would serve a variety of regulated economic functions.[14]

The earliest regulations and instructions for the administration of the national forest reserves under the new bureau were based upon general policies laid down in a letter Pinchot wrote for the signature of Secretary of Agriculture James Wilson outlining his duties as Chief Forester. The policies supported resource use within a utilitarian conservation framework rather than preservation of the forests as game reserves or public playgrounds. The letter, dated February 1, 1905, read in part:

> In the administration of the forest reserves it must be clearly borne in mind that all land is to be devoted to its most productive use for the permanent good of the whole people, and not for the temporary benefit of individuals or companies. All the resources of forest reserves are for use, and this use must be brought about in a thoroughly prompt and business-like manner; under such restrictions only as will insure the permanence of these resources. The vital importance of forest reserves to the great industries of the Western States will be largely increased in the near future by the continued steady advance in settlement and development. The permanence of the resources of the reserves is therefore indispensable to continued prosperity, and the policy of this Department for their protection and use will invariably be guided by this fact, always bearing in mind that the conservative use of these resources in no way conflicts with their permanent value.
>
> You will see to it that the water, wood, and forage of the reserves are conserved and wisely used for the benefit of the home builder first of all, upon whom depends the best permanent use of lands and resources alike. The continued prosperity of the agricultural, lumbering, mining and livestock interests is directly dependent upon a permanent and accessible supply of water, wood, and forage, as well as upon the present and future use of these resources under businesslike regulations, enforced with promptness, effectiveness, and common sense. In the management of each reserve local questions will be decided upon local grounds; the dominant industry will be considered first, but with as little restriction to minor industries as may be possible; sudden changes in industrial conditions will be avoided by gradual adjustment after due notice, and where conflicting interests must be reconciled the question will always be decided from the standpoint of the greatest good of the greatest number in the long run.[15]

On June 14, 1905, Secretary Wilson approved Pinchot's manuscript for a set of regulations and instructions to govern the national forest reserves. The manuscript was published in a small pocket volume entitled The Use of the National Forest Reserves and placed in the hands of all field men on July 1 when its contents went into effect. The volume, soon renamed the Use Book, stated succinctly the spirit and purpose of the national forest reserves. The book noted that forest reserves:

> Are for the purpose of preserving a perpetual supply of timber for home industries, preventing destruction of the forest cover which regulates the flow of streams, and protecting local residents from unfair competition in the use of forest and range. They are patrolled and protected at Government expense, for the benefit of the community and the home.

> The administration of forest reserves is not for the benefit of the Government, but of the people. The revenue derived from them goes, not into the general fund of the United States, but toward maintaining upon the reserves a force of men organized to serve the public interests. This force has three chief duties: To protect the reserves against fire, to assist the people in their use, and to see that they are properly used.[16]

The Forest Service centralized responsibility for administration of the national forests (national forest reserves were redesignated national forests in 1907) in Washington, D.C., until 1908. In that year, the Forest Service established six administrative regions (then called districts), each supervised by a regional (district) forester to whom the Washington Office delegated substantial authority. Regional foresters were authorized to exercise administrative discretion over a wide range of functions. Over time, their authority was extended, and thus they came to amass considerable autonomy in making decisions for the forests under their administration.

The 1908 reorganization established the Intermountain Region (District) or Region 4, with headquarters at Ogden, Utah. This region covered national forest lands in Idaho south of the Salmon River, Wyoming west of the Continental Divide, Utah, Nevada, a small portion of western Colorado, and Arizona north of the Grand Canyon. Although the configuration of the region has changed somewhat in the period since its creation, the general boundary outlines have remained to date.[17]

After the establishment of the U.S. Forest Service in 1905 Pinchot became interested in the forest resources in central eastern Nevada as well as other parts of the West. Protection of the remaining timber supply from fire and private exploitation, conservation of the watersheds for agricultural irrigation, and efficient, regulated administration of grazing for range replenishment and preservation were key elements of Pinchot's interest in the area.[18]

During 1906 the Forest Service conducted an examination of central eastern Nevada in order to develop proposals for new national forest reserves. The surveys, under the direction of Forest Expert L. Von Wernstedt, covered "a strip of country 50 to 60 miles wide along the Utah State line in eastern Nevada, between the Lincoln County line and the Central Pacific R.R." As a result of these surveys, Wernstedt recommended that four national forests be established: Ely, Steptoe, Osceola, and Snake.[19]

In accordance with the recommendations of Wernstedt the Acting Secretary of the Interior on September 1, 1906, "temporarily withdrew from all disposals except

under the mineral laws, certain vacant unappropriated public lands for the proposed Osceola Forest Reserve, Nevada." The proposed forest reserve, in essence a consolidation of Wernstedt's Snake and Osceola reserve proposals, was to comprise some 270,720 acres in three divisions - west, east, and south.[20]

The proposed Osceola Forest Reserve was never established. On February 10, 1909, however, President Theodore Roosevelt issued Proclamation No. 839 (35 Stat. 2220) creating Nevada National Forest, a reserve covering much of the same area as that of the earlier Osceola proposal.[21] During the years 1912-19 the boundary of Nevada National Forest would be adjusted several times.[22]

On May 16, 1911, the Baker Administrative Site was established in the town of Baker, Nevada, by President William Howard Taft via Executive Order 1354. On the recommendation of the Secretary of Agriculture it was ordered "that the E. 1/2 of the N.W. 1/4 of Section 9, T. 13 N., R. 70 E., M.D.M., Nevada, containing 80 acres, be temporarily withdrawn from settlement, location, sale or entry" and "be reserved for use by the Forest Service as a ranger station in the administration of the (Nevada) National Forest."[23]

The earliest known document discussing administration of Nevada National Forest is an inspection report prepared by Inspector of Grazing Ernest Winkler on October 25, 1916. According to Winkler the forest, consisting of 1,260,800 acres, was administered by a forest supervisor, forest clerk, and four forest rangers. Headquarters for the forest were located in Ely. The forest was divided into five administrative units: Schell Creek Division (291,570.5 acres); Mount Moraja Division (132,620 acres); Snake Division, which included the area of present-day Great Basin National Park (183,083.24 acres); Quinn Canyon Division (249,761.76 acres); and White Pine Division (362,929.94 acres). The five divisions were divided into four ranger districts, each under the immediate supervision of a forest ranger.

Although the districts were relatively large, Winkler characterized them as having "limited activity," thus requiring little supervision. The grazing authorization for the entire forest was 6,000 cattle and horses and 56,000 sheep (1,500 cattle and horses and 13,000 sheep on the Snake Creek Division), and free use timber cutting and timber sales were limited. There was no range immediately adjacent to the forest that was used by sheep during the summer. Thus, there was little likelihood of trespass on forest lands from that source. The tendency of the cattle was to drift off rather than on to forest lands, because they were accustomed to range in the valleys below. In view of these conditions "the need for as intensive supervision as is necessary on the intensely used Forest of Utah and Idaho" was "not necessary on the Nevada." Thus, the Nevada could "be

successfully administered by four rangers," but would "necessitate close field supervision on the part of the Supervisor and the development of systematic and organized effort."

According to the inspection report, the Snake Creek and Mount Moraja divisions were administered as part of the Baker Ranger District under the supervision of Forest Ranger Charles P. Thompson. District headquarters were located in the Baker Ranger Station "about a block, or a block and one-half from the Baker post office, store and hotel." The ranger station was located on 80 acres of land, 20 of which produced "a rather poor stand of meadow grass."

Among the important administrative issues facing the Baker Ranger District, as well as the entire Nevada National Forest, were water development, trail construction, sign installation, boundary marking, and fire control. According to Winkler, efforts should be initiated to enlarge the grazing area of the forest by securing a proper system of water development. He especially urged construction of long, galvanized one-piece troughs supported by cedar posts "for sheep watering purposes."

Trail development was to be deferred "in view of the more important projects, administrative and water development." Meanwhile, the rangers should be responsible for "brushing out and keeping intact present trails." This could be done with little inconvenience if the rangers would "carry an appropriate axe for the purpose, at least a portion of the time."

While road and trail signing had received little attention, Winkler felt that plans for such signs should be given immediate attention. He especially urged the necessity of placing fire warning signs on trees throughout the forest. Winkler also recommended that permanent boundary marking be expedited on Nevada National Forest. The boundaries were to "be marked with cedar posts, peeled and made conspicuous by the use of paint." Where posts were not available, "appropriate rock monuments built after a pattern that will distinguish them" should be constructed.[24]

By 1921 the Baker Ranger District was being supervised by Forest Ranger Graham S. Quate. He was a new employee with the Forest Service, having had experience in ranching and handling of stock on the range. Prior to joining the Forest Service he had worked as a clerk for the Internal Revenue Service.[25]

In September 1932, some eleven years later, Forest Supervisor Chester J. Olsen visited the Baker Ranger District to evaluate its administrative operations. His report, which was prepared on February 11, 1933, contained the following description of activity in the district:

> The Baker Ranger District is the smallest district on the Nevada N.F. and contains a gross area of 297,508 acres, the average for the Forest being approx. 516,000 acres. There are 141 miles of exterior Forest boundary, the average exterior Forest boundary being 248 miles for the six ranger districts. Permit obligations are 608 C(attle) & H(orses) and 14,452 S(heep) & G(oats) with no lambing privileges.
>
> There is some little timber activity on the district and a lot of recreational use on the Lehman Creek and Baker drainages. The Lehman Caves National Monument, which is under the supervision of the Government, is also located on the district. Everything considered the work on this ranger district is below the average on this Forest.[26]

During the early 1930s the Forest Service developed plans for a new ranger station complex of buildings at the Baker Administrative Site. The improvement plan for the new building compound in the 2 1/2-acre quadrant in the southeast corner of the site was approved by Nevada National Forest Supervisor Olsen on May 8, 1934, and Assistant Regional Forester C.N. Woods on September 13, 1934. The plan, which would be generally followed as the new ranger station compound was built, provided for construction of three of the extant buildings at the site. The plan provided for construction of two dwellings, one of which would serve as an office, and a single car garage and storeroom to be built according to standard Forest Service building plans. In addition the plan provided for a well and pump structure and a four-horse barn. The plan delineated areas for lawn, flowers and shrubs, a garden if water was available, walks, and a gravel driveway.[27]

During the years 1933-36, the Forest Service constructed the new building complex at the Baker Ranger Station according to standard bureau building plans. Five principal buildings were constructed including a dwelling, office, garage and storeroom (present cottage), barn, and warehouse (present garage/fire cache). Four of these buildings remain at the site today, the dwelling having been moved to the Ely District Ranger Station in January 1959.

To construct the new station compound the Forest Service utilized funds and personnel provided by federal Depression-era agencies established to promote national economic recovery and the welfare of American society through national public works projects and conservation service jobs for the unemployed. The dwelling was built at a cost of $4,500 in 1933-34 under the provisions of the National Industrial Recovery Act (NIRA), the funds being provided by the Public Works Administration (PWA).[28] Title II of the NIRA (approved on June 16, 1933) established the PWA for the construction of roads, public buildings, and other projects, for which a fund of $3,300,000,000 was authorized. Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes was named to head the PWA, which was established to increase employment and business activity by means of "pump priming" (i.e., the raising of popular consuming power). During its recovery phase the PWA spent a total of more than $4,250,000,000 on some 34,000 public works projects.[29]

While documentation is somewhat sketchy the office, garage and storeroom, barn, and warehouse were constructed during 1935-36 using funds and personnel under the provisions of the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1935. The structures were build according to standard Forest Service building plans, and the bureau let contracts for their construction. For instance, a contract for the construction of the garage and storeroom was let to a Mrs. Vida Simonson.[30] Other projects related to the construction of the new compound also utilized funds and personnel provided under the act. For instance, the Ely Record reported on February 14, 1936, that a small crew of E.R.A (Emergency Relief Act) workers were installing a windmill and complete water system at the "Baker Ranger station which, when finished will make this station the finest on the forest."[31]

The Emergency Relief Appropriation Act which was enacted into law on April 8, 1935, signalized the withdrawal of the federal government from the arena of direct relief during the Great Depression. Leaving direct relief to the states and local communities, the act provided for establishment of a large-scale national works program for jobless employables, who were required to meet a means test in order to qualify for work relief. Established as the major agency of the program was the Works Progress Administration, which in 1939 was renamed the Works Projects Administration. About 85 percent of the funds spent on WPA projects went directly into wages and salaries. Beginning in 1936 the "security wage" of WPA workers was based on the prevailing hourly rate, at reduced hours of work (the average monthly maximum schedule ranging between 120 and 140 hours). By March 1936 the WPA rolls reached a total of more than 3,400,000 persons, and by June 30, 1943, when it was officially terminated, the WPA had employed more than 8,500,000 different persons on 1,710,000 individual projects and had spent about $11,000,000,000. Most of the projects were geared to the employment of

manual labor. During its 8-year history the WPA built 651,087 miles of highways, roads, and streets, and constructed, repaired, or improved 124,031 bridges, 125,110 public buildings, 8,192 parks, and 853 airport landing fields.[32]

Beginning in the summer of 1935 the Forest Service began utilizing funds and personnel provided by the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act for work projects on Nevada National Forest, including the aforementioned projects at the Baker Ranger Station. On July 19, 1935, for instance, the Ely Record reported that 45 men "will be placed at work by the Forest Service in White Pine, Nye and Lander counties, according to [Nevada National] Forest Supervisor George Larson." The Emergency Relief Appropriation Act had provided $37,110 for labor and $6,750 for materials for work projects in the national forest. With the funds the Forest Service intended to hire 5 supervisors at $125 per month and 19 men from White Pine County, 18 from Nye County, and 8 from Lander County. With the exception of the supervisors the men would be taken from the relief rolls and hired through the employment offices. The men's monthly wages in towns such as Baker having populations under 5,000 was $55 for skilled labor, $45 for intermediate, and $40 for unskilled.[33]

The Forest Service also utilized Civilian Conservation Corps enrollees to work on several projects at the new ranger station compound. The only projects at the new complex to involve CCC enrollees that can be documented were the erection of the windmill and the construction of the water distribution system (and presumably the sewage system) during 1935-36. When these projects were completed the ranger station, according to the Ely Record of February 14, 1936, would be the "finest on the forest." During these projects the CCC enrollees worked together with a small crew of men hired under the auspices of the WPA.[34] It is likely that the CCC enrollees working on these projects were part of a small stub camp from the state park camp at Panaca, since a similar arrangement had been implemented at Lehman Caves National Monument the previous winter to develop a public campground and parking area and install a water supply line.[35]

The Civilian Conservation Corps Reforestation Relief Act, which was enacted into law on March 31, 1933, represented an effort of the federal government to promote the welfare of American society by establishing a program to provide conservation service jobs for unemployed, single young men during the Great Depression. The act authorized the CCC to provide work for 250,000 jobless male citizens between the ages of 18 and 25 in reforestation, road construction, prevention of soil erosion, and national park and forest and flood control projects under the direction of army officers. Work camps were established for those enrolled in the CCC, and the youths received $30 per month, part of which went to dependents. Four government departments (War, Interior, Agriculture, Labor) cooperated in administering and implementing the program. The CCC had as many as 500,000 on

its rolls at one time, and by the end of 1941 it had employed over 2,000,000 young men.[36]

During the spring and summer of 1936 the new Baker Ranger Station was completed. In April J. Carroll Reiners, a landscape engineer and recreational planner from Los Angeles, was engaged by the Forest Service to plot "the arrangement of improvements on about 12 recreational areas and administrative sites." Reiners, who had developed plans for the recreational development of the Baker and Lehman creek areas the previous spring, prepared a "Landscape Planting Plan" for the Baker Ranger Station dated May 12, 1936. The plan provided for a low rock wall to be constructed along the south edge of the 2 1/2-acre quadrant, a driveway between the dwelling and the office, a two-space parking pad behind the office, a wash line along the east fence to the rear of the dwelling, graveled areas to the north and west of the office as well as the southeast corner of the quadrant, lawn areas to the west and south of the dwelling, a vegetable garden along the east fence to the northeast of the office, and a large barn and warehouse service yard. The plan identified the location of 11 Carolina poplar, 9 silver-leaf poplar, and 4 Black Locust trees. In addition the plan identified the areas where nutka rose, golden current, snowberry, red cedar, mountain juniper, common lilac, and syringa should be planted. While the plan was approved by Forest Supervisor George C. Larson on May 19 and was checked by A.L. Curtiss, a Forest Service landscape architect on June 1, the plan never received final approval by the Ogden Regional Office and thus was never fully implemented. However, elements of the planting plan were put into effect as evidenced by some of the extant trees and shrubbery and configuration of the present layout of the station.[37]

Various reorganizations during the 1940s and 1950s led to more streamlined and efficient management of Nevada National Forest.[38] In May 1957 the ranger districts in Nevada National Forest were consolidated as part of a cost-cutting move to streamline management. Among other organizational moves, the Baker and Ely ranger districts were combined with headquarters for the enlarged Ely District, which included the Snake, Mount Moriah, and Schell Creek divisions, located in Ely. Thus, the Baker district ranger position was eliminated and the ranger station was downgraded in status to a guard station.[39]

Effective July 1, 1957, the boundaries of three national forests in Nevada were realigned. Nevada National Forest, with headquarters in Ely, was dissolved, the Charleston Mountain area near Las Vegas being transferred to Toiyabe National Forest and the White Pine and Ely ranger districts being transferred to Humboldt

National Forest with headquarters in Elko. The realignment of administrative units was announced as "part of a servicewide program to increase the efficiency

of operation and to give better service to the people who use the national forests.[40]

The Snake Division of Humboldt National Forest has continued to be administered under the auspices of the Ely Ranger District to the present. As indicated in an organization chart of the Ely Ranger District dated September 1, 1965, the district ranger represented "the Forest Supervisor in the administration of the Ely Ranger District" concerning "Range, Lands, Multiple-use, Engineering, Information & Education, Watershed, and Personnel."

Accompanying the organization chart was a position description for the Ely District Forest Ranger. This document stated that the District Forest Ranger was responsible "for the administration, protection, development, and utilization of all resources and improvements of the Ely Ranger District." The district covered some 585,000 acres, of which approximately 9,000 acres were alienated lands. The district included the Snake, Mount Moriah, and Schell Creek divisions, separated units extending over an area approximately 75 miles in length and 45 miles in width. Administration of the district involved "a variety of unusual and difficult technical and administrative problems and decisions in achieving and maintaining sustained yield production of important water, forage, wildlife and other resources." Administration was "further complicated" by "interrelated values of, and conflicting demands for, the various resources, and fluctuating economic conditions in adjacent or dependent communities."

In his administrative tasks the district forest ranger was aided by an assistant district ranger. This position had supervisory authority over two forest work leaders and administered programs related to fire, recreation, wildlife, improvements, finances, timber, and safety.[41]

Further consolidation and administrative realignment resulted in the reduction of ranger districts in Humboldt National Forest to five by 1984. The districts were Mountain City, Ruby Mountains, Jarbidge, Santa Rosa, and Ely. The latter district, headquartered in Ely, administered the Schell Creek, Snake, and White Pine divisions, as well as Ward Mountain, in White Pine County, the Grant Range in Nye County, and the Quinn Canyon Range in Nye and Lincoln counties.[42]

By the mid-1980s the Forest Service was using five facility sites for management of the Snake Division. One of these sites was the Baker Guard Station, consisting of an office, bunkhouse, two trailer pads, pumphouse, warehouse, barn, corral, fire cache, two metal buildings, and pasture.[43]

On October 27, 1986, Congress passed Public Law 99-565 (100 Stat. 3181) authorizing establishment of Great Basin National Park, a 77,082-acre mountain park comprising lands within the Snake Division of Humboldt National Forest. As a result of this development the Forest Service vacated the Baker Guard Station, ending a 75-year-long use of the administrative site for bureau conservation and land management purposes. The 80-acre Baker Administrative Site was transferred to the National Park Service under the provisions of Title IV, Public Law 101-512 (Department of the Interior Appropriations Act of 1991), approved on November 5, 1990, for use as an administrative site for the park.

2. NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERION C

A. AREAS AND PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Baker Ranger Station is considered as a significant property because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a distinguishable architectural style, and is, as a result, recommended to the National Register under Criterion C under the area of Architecture. The period of significance and significant dates for the ranger station are the same as those stated under Criterion A.

B. HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The historical context for the Baker Ranger Station is the same as that described under Criterion A.

C. DISCUSSION

During the years 1933-36 three of the extant buildings at the Baker Ranger Station compound were built according to standard Forest Service building plans that were prepared by the Ogden Regional Office. Each regional office in the Forest Service was responsible for preparing site and landscape plans and designing individual structures in compliance with standards and guidelines for construction and materials established by the Washington Office. These plans varied from region to region and reflected to some extent local availability of materials and supervisory expertise.[44] The three structures, their dates of construction, and building plan numbers are:

1. Cottage (1935) -- Building Plan R-4, No. 23
2. Office (1936) -- Building Plan R-4, No. 4
3. Barn (1936) --Building Plan R-4, No 13B

The garage/fire cache was not constructed according to a standard Forest Service building plan, but its design and construction materials are similar and compatible with those of the three aforementioned structures. The dwelling constructed as the residence for the Baker District Ranger was constructed according to Building Plan R-4, No. 1. This structure, however, was moved to the Ely District Ranger Station in January 1959.[45]

The four buildings (cottage, office, barn, garage/fire cache), which form the nucleus of the 1930s-era Baker Ranger Station, are considered to be typical and representative examples of the simple utilitarian vernacular style administrative structures used by the Forest Service in Nevada. While the buildings have undergone some exterior changes and numerous interior modifications, the integrity of the structures is good. The alterations to the buildings have not detracted significantly from their overall ambiance and historic character.

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1. U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings, Theme XIX, Conservation of Natural Resources, 1963, pp. 2-19.

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3. Theme XIX, Conservation of Natural Resources, pp. 29, 35-37.

4. Ibid., p. 9, 32-34.

5. Alfred Runte, National Parks: The American Experience (Lincoln, University of Nebraska Press, 1979), p. 65.

6. Richard B. Morris, ed., Encyclopedia of American History: Bicentennial Edition (New York, Harper & Row, Publishers, 1976), p. 637, and Theme XIX, Conservation of Natural Resources, pp. 73-74.

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9. Forest Reserve Act, March 3, 1891 (26 Stat. 1095).

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20. Chief, Division "R," General Land Office to Chief, Division "C," General Land Office, September 7, 1906, and Chief of Drafting Division, General Land Office to Chief of Division "R," General Land Office, September 10, 1906, RG 49, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C.

21. Proclamation No. 839, Nevada National Forest, Nevada, By the President of the United States of America, February 10, 1909.

22. These boundary adjustments are discussed in U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Basin and Range: A History of Great Basin National Park, Nevada, Historic Resource Study, by Harlan D. Unrau, 1990, pp. 241-47.

23. Executive Order No. 1354, Baker Administrative Site, May 16, 1911, and Secretary of Agriculture to Secretary of the Interior, April 28, 1911, and Acting Secretary of the Interior to the President, May 16, 1911, RG 49, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C.

24. Memorandum for the District Forester, Ernest Winkler, Inspector of Grazing, October 25, 1916, 1440-Inspection, Year 1916, RG 95, National Archives and Records Administration, San Francisco Branch, San Bruno (Accession No. 61-333/Location No. 88830).

25. Memorandum for District Ranger, C.B. Morse, Assistant District Forester, June 8,1921, 1440-Inspection, Year 1921, RG 95, National Archives and

Records Administration, San Francisco Branch, San Bruno (Accession No. 61--333/Location No. 88830).

26. Memorandum, C.J. Olsen, Forest Supervisor, February 11, 1933, 1440-Inspection, Year 1933, RG 95, National Archives and Records Administration, San Francisco Branch, San Bruno (Accession No. 61-333/Location No. 88830).

27. Improvement Plan, Baker Ranger Station, Nevada National Forest, dated May 8, 1934, Folio, Improvement Plans, Forest Service, Region Four, Baker Ranger Station, Historical Records, USFS, Elko, Nevada. Prior to construction of the new ranger station buildings the pre-1930s structures were either removed from the site or dismantled, the materials being used for building projects by local residents. The old ranger's residence, for instance, was moved to the center of Baker and converted to use as a tavern. Today the former ranger residence serves as the front (west) portion of the Outlaw Cafe and Bar.

28. Ely Record, June 1, 1934, and Folio, Improvement Plans, Forest Service, Region Four, Baker Ranger Station, Historical Records, USFS, Elko, Nevada.

29. Morris, ed., Encyclopedia of American History, p. 409.

30. Forest Ranger to Forest Supervisor, September 18, 1934, File-7310 Buildings & Related Facilities, Baker Guard Station 04-1122, Records, U.S. Forest Service, Ely District Ranger Station, Ely, Nevada.

31. Ely Record, February 14, 1936. This data is corroborated by a photograph in the aforementioned Folio, Improvement Plains, Forest Service, Region Four, Baker Ranger Station, Historical Records, USFS, Elko, Nevada.

32. Morris, ed., Encyclopedia of American History, pp. 413-14.

33. Ely Record, July 19, 1935.

34. Ibid., February 14, 1936.

35. P.P. Petraw to Vail Pittman, October 17, 1936, Historical Files, Lehman Caves, 1933-37, Trexler Collection, Library, Great Basin National Park, Baker, Nevada. To the right (south side) of the front door of the extant cottage is a wood carved signboard with the inscription "W. Lauritzen." Willis J. Lauritzen was a CCC enrollee who was assigned to projects in Nevada National Forest and perhaps at the Baker Ranger Station before being promoted to a Forest Service foreman position at Preston in November 1935.

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37. Ely Record, April 12, 1935, and June 12, 1936, and Nevada National Forest, Baker Ranger Station, Landscape Planting Plan, dated May 12, 1936, Folio, Improvement Plans, Forest Service, Region Four, Baker Ranger Station, Historical Records, USFS, Elko, Nevada.

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40. News Service, Forest Service, Release, June 27, 1957, Notebook - HNR History, Information & Education, Historical Files, USFS, Elko, Nevada.

41. Position Description - Ely District Forest Ranger, Notebook - Position Management Review, Humboldt N.F., 1965, Historical Files, USFS, Elko, Nevada.

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43. Development, Special Uses, Basic Data, Great Basin National Park General Management Planning Team Files, Denver Service Center, National Park Service.

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Personal interview with Joseph and Virginia Eldridge (long-time area residents) by Harlan D. Unrau, Baker, Nevada, April 10, 1992.

Personal interview with Bruce Freet, Chief Park Ranger, by Harlan D. Unrau, Baker, Nevada, April 7, 1992.

Telephone interview with Emerson Gonder (long-time area resident) by Harlan D. Unrau, Baker, Nevada, April 10, 1992.

Telephone interview with Ron Healey (member of White Pine County Historical Society) by Harlan D. Unrau, Ely, Nevada, April 9, 1992.

Telephone interview with Jack Wilcox (Forest Service ranger at Baker, 1970-84) by Harlan D. Unrau, May 15, 1992.

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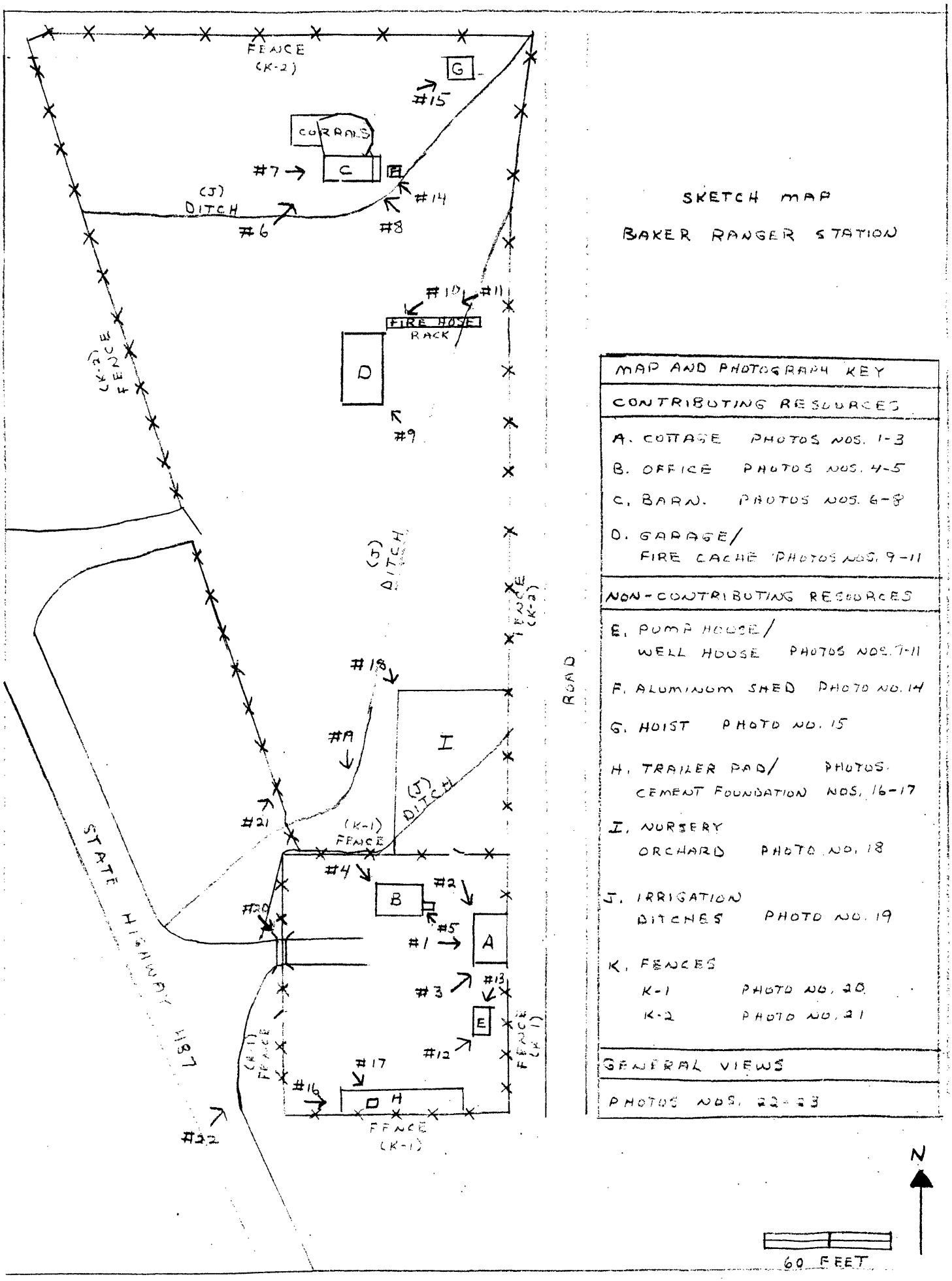
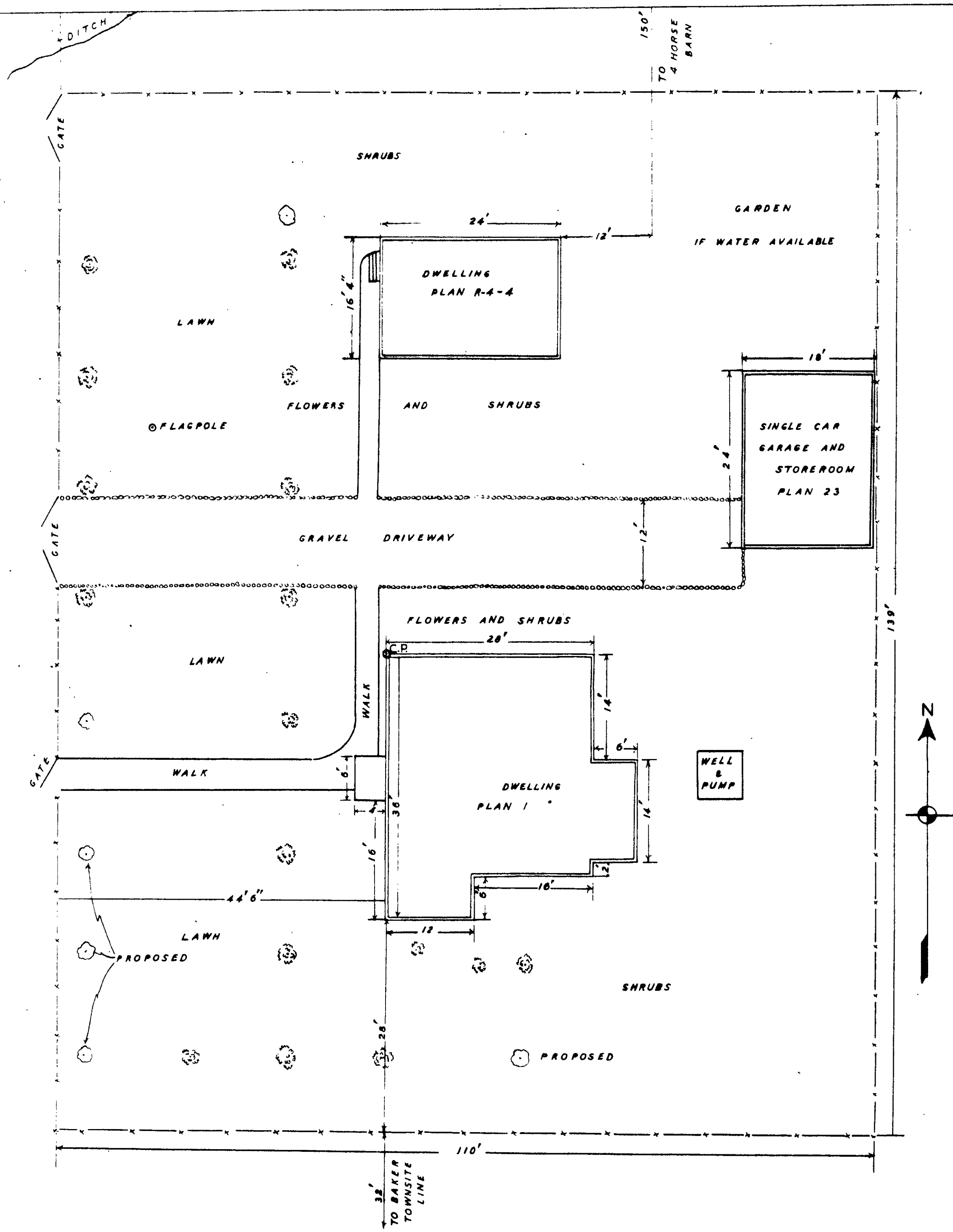


SKETCH MAP

BAKER RANGER STATION

MAP AND PHOTOGRAPH KEY
CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES
A. COTTAGE PHOTOS NOS. 1-3
B. OFFICE PHOTOS NOS. 4-5
C. BARN. PHOTOS NOS. 6-8
D. GARAGE/ FIRE CACHE PHOTOS NOS. 9-11
NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES
E. PUMP HOUSE/ WELL HOUSE PHOTOS NOS. 9-11
F. ALUMINUM SHED PHOTO NO. 14
G. HOIST PHOTO NO. 15
H. TRAILER PAD/ CEMENT FOUNDATION PHOTOS NOS. 16-17
I. NURSERY ORCHARD PHOTO NO. 18
J. IRRIGATION DITCHES PHOTO NO. 19
K. FENCES K-1 PHOTO NO. 20 K-2 PHOTO NO. 21
GENERAL VIEWS
PHOTOS NOS. 22-23



CENTRAL POINT BEARINGS

IMPROVEMENT PLAN

BAKER RANGER STATION

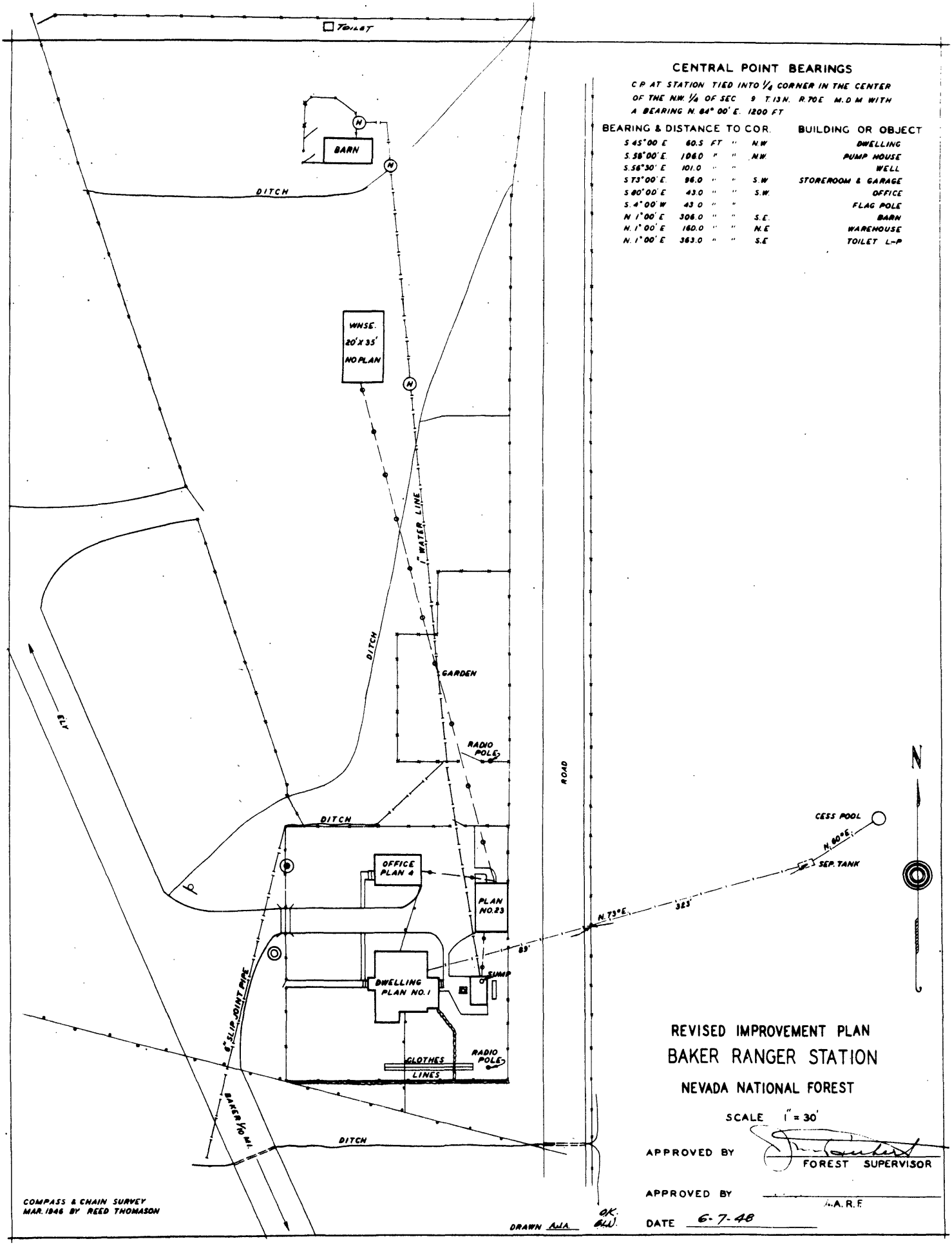
NEVADA NATIONAL FOREST

SCALE: 1 IN. = 10 FEET

APPROVED BY C. J. O.
FOREST SUPERVISOR
MAY 8, 1934

This plan is superseded by plan approved in 1939 & 1940 by F.S. Briggs and ASST. [illegible]

9/13 1934 APPROVED BY C. N. Woods.
ASST. REGIONAL FORESTER



CENTRAL POINT BEARINGS

C.P. AT STATION TIED INTO 1/4 CORNER IN THE CENTER OF THE N.W. 1/4 OF SEC. 9 T. 13 N. R. 70 E. M.D.M. WITH A BEARING N. 84° 00' E. 1200 FT.

BEARING & DISTANCE TO COR.				BUILDING OR OBJECT
S 45° 00' E.	60.5	FT	N.W.	DWELLING
S. 58° 00' E.	106.0	"	N.W.	PUMP HOUSE
S. 56° 30' E.	101.0	"	"	WELL
S 73° 00' E.	96.0	"	S.W.	STOREROOM & GARAGE
S 80° 00' E.	43.0	"	S.W.	OFFICE
S. 4° 00' W.	43.0	"	"	FLAG POLE
N 1° 00' E.	306.0	"	S.E.	BARN
N. 1° 00' E.	160.0	"	N.E.	WAREHOUSE
N. 1° 00' E.	363.0	"	S.E.	TOILET L-P

REVISED IMPROVEMENT PLAN
BAKER RANGER STATION
NEVADA NATIONAL FOREST

SCALE 1" = 30'

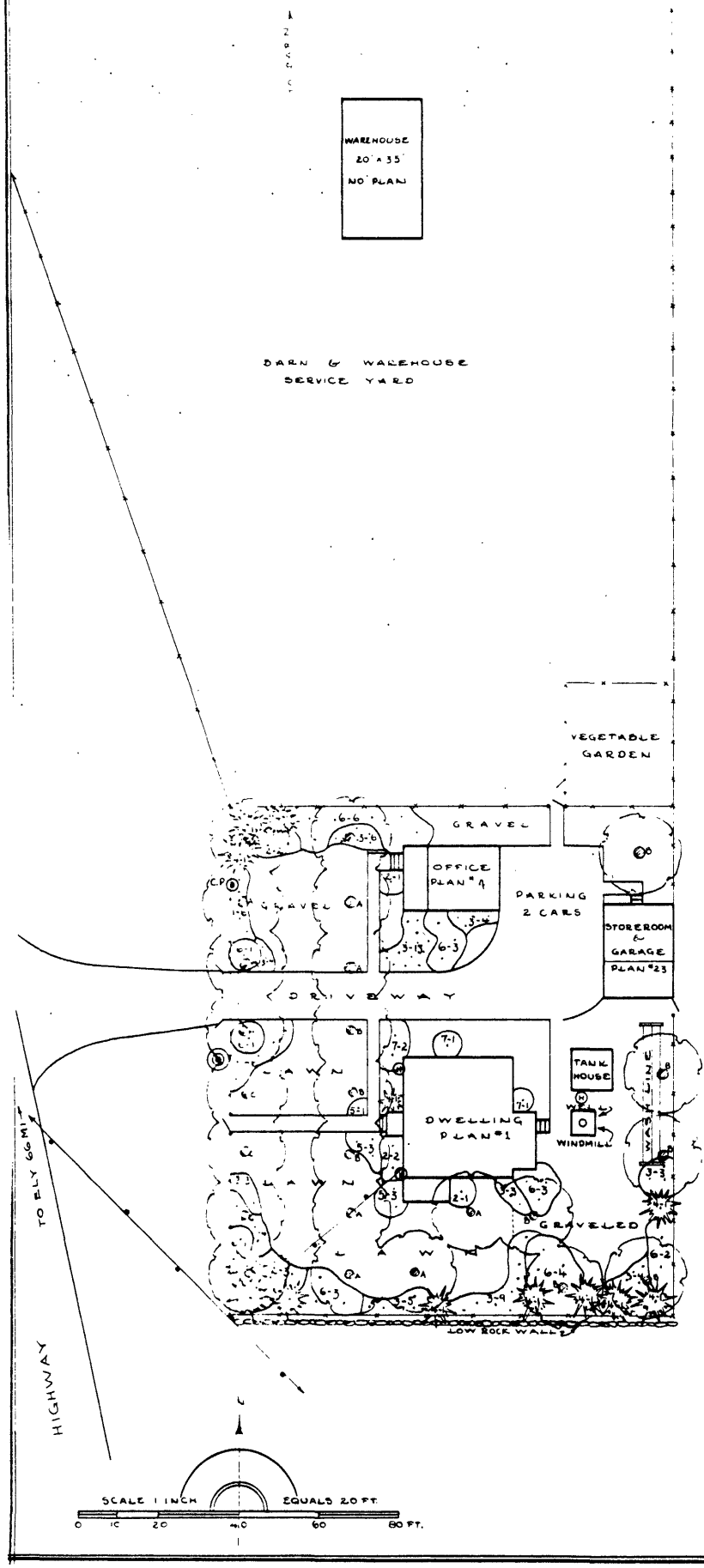
APPROVED BY _____ FOREST SUPERVISOR

APPROVED BY _____ U.A.R.F.

DATE 6-7-48

COMPASS & CHAIN SURVEY MAR. 1946 BY REED THOMASON

DRAWN A.W.A. O.K. B.L.U.



PLANTING LIST

KEY	TOTAL QUANTITY	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	DISTANCE TO PLANT APART
1	16	ROSA NUTKANA	NUTKA ROSE	4'
2	5	RIBES AUREUM	GOLDEN CURRENT	5'
3	54	SYMPHORICARPOS OREOPHILUS	SNOW BERRY	4'
4	13	JUNIPERUS SCOPULORUM	RED CEDAR	7'
5	7	" SIBERICUS	MOUNTAIN JUNIPER	4'
6	22	SYRINGA VULGARIS -	COMMON LILAC	6'
7	4	PHILADELPHUS	SYRINGA	6'

EXISTING TREES

A	11	POPULUS CAROLINEANA	CAROLINA POPLAR
B	5	" ALBA NIVEA	SILVER-LEAF POPLAR
C	4	ROBILLA PSEUDOCACIA	BLACK LOCUST

NOTE: IN PLANTING AREAS THE FIRST NUMBER IS THE KEY NUMBER OR VARIETY, THE SECOND IS THE QUANTITY DESIRED.

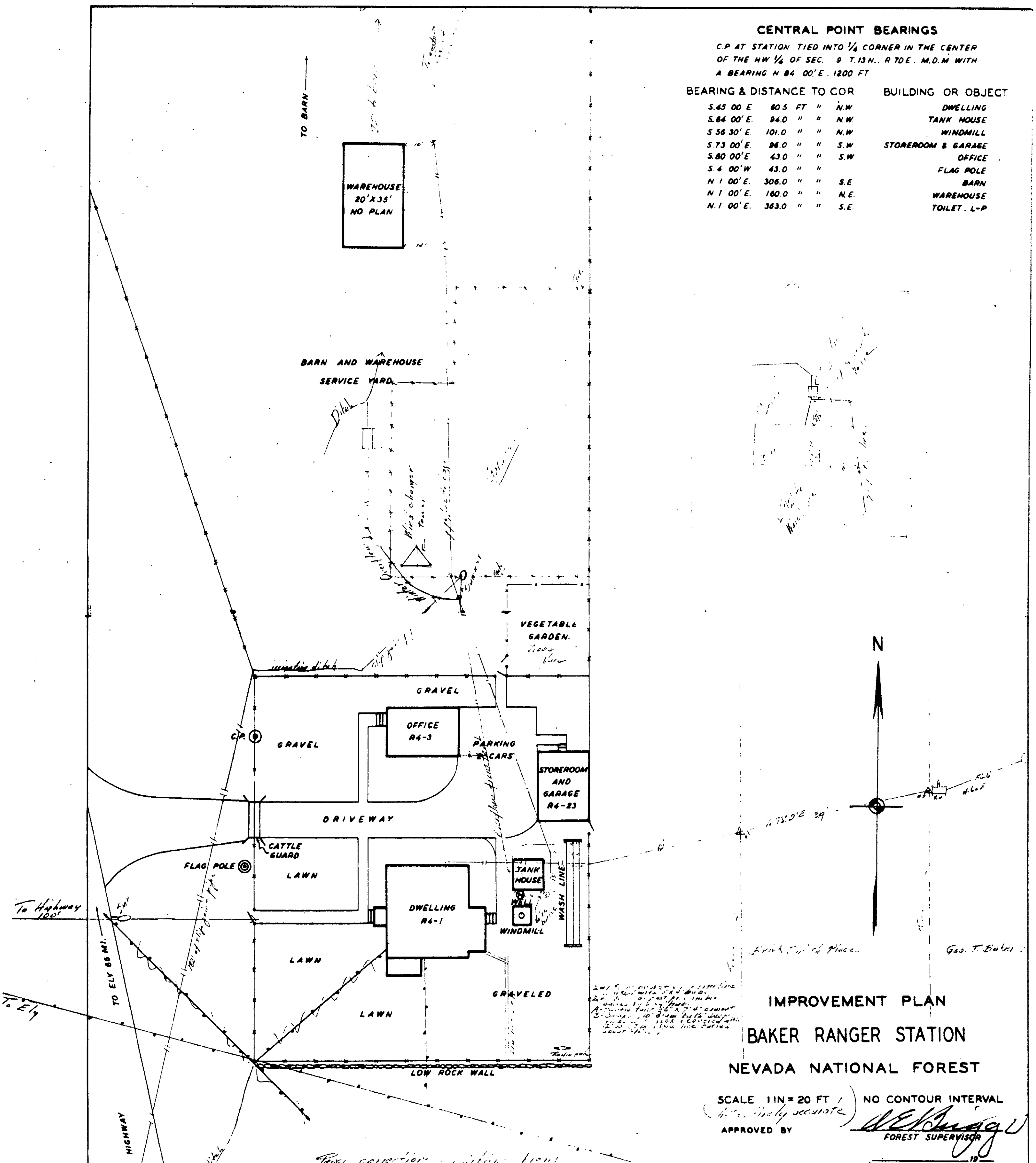
LOCATION: N.½ OF N.E.¼ OF SECT. 8, T. 13 N., R. 70 E., M.D.M.

ELEVATION 4600'

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE - FOREST SERVICE - R-4

NEVADA NATIONAL FOREST
BAKER RANGER STATION
LANDSCAPE PLANTING PLAN

FIELD WORK May 12, 1936 J. Carroll Reimers RECREATIONAL PLANNER	APPROVED May 1, 1936 FOREST SUPERVISOR	DRAWING NO
CHECKED 6-1-36 LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT	APPROVED REGIONAL ENGINEER	SCALE 1" = 20'
REVISIONS	APPROVED A.R.F.	SHEET 1 OF 1



CENTRAL POINT BEARINGS

C.P AT STATION TIED INTO 1/4 CORNER IN THE CENTER OF THE NW 1/4 OF SEC. 9 T.13N., R 70E. M.D.M WITH A BEARING N 84 00' E. 1200 FT

BEARING & DISTANCE TO COR				BUILDING OR OBJECT
S.45 00 E	60.5 FT	"	N.W	DWELLING
S.64 00' E.	94.0	" "	N.W.	TANK HOUSE
S 56 30' E.	101.0	" "	N.W	WINDMILL
S.73 00' E.	96.0	" "	S.W	STOREROOM & GARAGE
S.80 00' E	43.0	" "	S.W	OFFICE
S. 4 00' W	43.0	" "		FLAG POLE
N 1 00' E.	306.0	" "	S.E	BARN
N 1 00' E.	160.0	" "	N.E.	WAREHOUSE
N. 1 00' E.	363.0	" "	S.E.	TOILET. L-P

IMPROVEMENT PLAN

BAKER RANGER STATION

NEVADA NATIONAL FOREST

SCALE 1 IN = 20 FT NO CONTOUR INTERVAL

APPROVED BY ______ FOREST SUPERVISOR

______ 19__

APPROVED BY ______ A.R.F.

Jan 5 1940

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 95001224 Date Listed: 10/19/95

Baker Ranger Station
Property Name

White Pine NV
County State

N/A
Multiple Name

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.

for Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action 10/19/95

==========

Amended Items in Nomination:

Classification: The Category of Property is amended to delete "structure."

This information was confirmed with Harlan Unrau, Historian, Denver Service Station, Denver.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)