NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

2

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name U.S.F.S. Fort Valley Experimental Forest Station Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 1/3 mile west of junction US 180 and Bader Road not for publication ____
city or town Flagstaff vicinity X
state Arizona code AZ county Coconino code 005 zip code 86001

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant X nationally ___ statewide ___ locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Dennis P Burns Dec 21, 2000
Signature of certifying official Date

USDA Forest Service
Rocky Mountain Research Station
2150 Centre Ave, Bldg. A, Suite 376
Fort Collins, CO 80526-1891
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property X meets ____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

James W. Garvin AZSHPO 6 JUNE 2000
Signature of commenting or other official Date

ARIZONA STATE PARKS
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register _____
___ See continuation sheet.
___ determined eligible for the _____
National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
___ determined not eligible for the _____
National Register
___ removed from the National Register _____

___ other (explain): _____

Sarah D. Pope 7/25/01
(fax) Signature of Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

___ private
___ public-local
___ public-State
X public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

___ building(s)
X district
___ site
___ structure
___ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
14	____	buildings
2	____	sites
____	2	structures
____	____	objects
16	2	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	Sub:
Domestic	Single Dwelling
Domestic	Secondary Structure
Government/Other	Research Facility
Government/Other	Assembly Hall/Schoolhouse
Government	Government Office
Agriculture/Sub-sistence	Horticultural Facility
Landscape	Forest

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	Sub:
Domestic	Single Dwelling
Work in Progress	

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Bungalow/Craftsman
Colonial Revival
Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements
Other: US Forest Service Rustic

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone
roof Shingle
walls Weatherboard
Concrete
other Shake; Steel; Aluminum; Asphalt

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

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

X A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

X B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

X C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

___ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

____ A. owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

____ B. removed from its original location.

____ C. a birthplace or a grave.

____ D. a cemetery.

____ E. a reconstructed building, object,or structure.

____ F. a commemorative property.

____ G. less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture
Conservation
Science
Education
Architecture
Archeology (Historic -Aboriginal
Archeology (Historic - Non-Aboriginal)

Period of Significance 1908-1945

Significant Dates 1908
1927

Significant Person (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

Gustaf Adolph Pearson

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder U.S. Forest Service

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more 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
_X_ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
___ Other
Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 12 Acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1 12	432574	3902878	3 12	432319	3902707
2 12	432319	3902878	4 12	432574	3902707

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan Deaver Olberding, Historian

organization USFS Rocky Mountain Research date June, 1998

street & number 2500 S. Pine Knoll Drive telephone (520) 556-2041

city or town Flagstaff state AZ zip code 86001

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps
A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs
Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)
name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

7. Description:

The USFS Fort Valley Experimental Forest Station Historic District is located off US Highway 180 about 9 miles northwest of Flagstaff, Arizona in the Fort Valley Experimental Forest on the Coconino National Forest. The Forest Service Rustic style buildings encircle a quad area in a campus originally designed to blend in with the forest landscape. The buildings are nestled among ponderosa pine, spruce, and fir atop a small knoll which physically places the Station above the surrounding area and contributes to its sense of isolation, one of the major reasons the Station was founded at this site.

The majority of buildings are one-story wood frame structures with weatherboard siding finish and wood shingle roofs. Exteriors are plain in character, lack fine architectural details, and are built with a conglomeration of all sizes and types of windows, doors, and roof lines. Their purpose was for utilitarian use and not architectural resplendence. The interiors are finished in battened and painted fiberboard or pressboard, natural finished plywood and matched and beaded wood ceilings and walls. Original features include stone fireplaces, floors and cabinets of oak or pine; all geared toward simple lines. The buildings were originally painted dark green with white trim, but are now painted white, with the exception of the Krauch House (building #22). The current appearance of the buildings at the Station is quite similar to the historic period when the buildings were painted white with a dark trim.

The Station opened in August, 1908 with Director Gustaf A. Pearson moving into an existing Ranger cabin (building #10). Water was acquired from a hand-dug shallow well in a flat area near the Station and hauled to the cabin. Pearson enjoyed few conveniences that first winter due to the secluded location and primitive facilities. This one-man operation slowly increased its manpower and structural resources to its heyday in the late 1920s and 1930s when it expanded its operations to include Range research. This brought more researchers and their families to live and work on the grounds. Fort Valley witnessed the majority of its construction activity after the facility was redesignated and once New Deal funding and CCC labor became available. During this time, electric power reached the Station and the extant structures were subsequently wired. With the onset of World War II and 1944 retirement of Director Pearson, the Station's operation dwindled. Since the 1950s, it has seen limited use as newer facilities were constructed elsewhere. In fact, the buildings were declared surplus property in the 1970s and three of the original buildings were sold and moved off the grounds.

Future plans for the historic district include a re-use of the facilities managed by a collaborative partnership involving Northern Arizona University, United States Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station, and other local agencies.

The district contains 14 contributing buildings, two contributing sites, and two non-contributing structures. The numbering system used in this nomination is based on the numbers that have historically been assigned to the buildings by the US Forest Service, and do not represent the construction chronology of the resources. Brief descriptions of each resource are as follows:

Building #10 - Caretaker's Quarters (AKA Osborn House): This building was originally constructed ca. 1906 as a Ranger cabin and used for summer shelter by patrolling Forest Service rangers. It was this two-room structure that Pearson lived in when the Station was established in 1908. Pearson later moved into the Pearson House (building #1) after its construction and this structure served as a residence for the on-site caretaker. Two successive rear extensions, built between 1908 and 1935, added a kitchen, bath, bedroom, and utility porch. The interior now consists of two bedrooms, living room, kitchen, bath, screened back porch, and utility room. Painted wooden floors are in the bedrooms and smaller rooms, and linoleum previously covered the floors in the living room, kitchen, and bath, but was torn out when asbestos was removed from the structure in the summer 1996. Interior features also include a wall furnace in the living room, built in closets and cabinets in bedrooms, wooden countertops and cabinets in kitchen. The exterior includes a semi-enclosed front porch, a six-foot concrete ramp leading to the rear porch entrance, stone foundations, and asphalt roofing over the gable roof. Exterior siding of the addition differs from original siding. Exterior dimensions are approximately 34 feet wide by 50 feet deep. The front and back doors are half-glass, and a screen door opens onto the enclosed back porch. One of its monikers, "Osborn House," refers to the caretaker who lived there in the 1930s.

Building #1 - Pearson House: This house was originally built in 1909 as a two-room residence for Station Director G.A. Pearson who lived in the building until his 1944 retirement. It is a rectangular-shaped Forest Service Rustic style building with weatherboard siding, stone foundation, and has a medium gabled roof and stone chimney. Alterations made during the historic period include an addition of a living room and bedroom that now gives the house an L-shaped plan. The roof over the addition is also medium-gabled. The house now has a living room, kitchen, dining room, bathroom, and two bedrooms. Exterior dimensions are 38' x 22'. The entrance porch on the northeast corner of the building is recessed under the original roof, and is supported by 4 x 4 posts. Windows include six-over-six sash and four-over-four sash. Further alterations include the removal of one window and back outside door, a remodeled kitchen, and slight changes to the front porch. Recent use of the building by US Geological Survey personnel involved in classified work has seen the addition of an aluminum roof, and security bars on the windows and doors. The two exterior doors are half-glass, and the back door has a flat roof canopy.

Building #22 - Krauch House (AKA Caretaker's House or Murphy House): This house was originally built in 1910 as a four-room residence, and was occupied for a period prior to 1934 by early USFS researcher, Hermann Krauch. Originally designed in a modified Colonial Revival, or Western Colonial style format, the house was square in plan with a hipped roof and pitched roof front veranda supported by peeled log posts. An extension in 1934 added two bedrooms on the north side. Later modifications included construction of a rear porch, and enclosing the front porch. The exterior consists of a medium pitched intersecting hip roof with asphalt shingles, weatherboard siding, and stone foundation. It is currently painted blue with brown trim. Interior features include two bedrooms, walk-in closet, kitchen, living room, bathroom, and enclosed porches on both the front and back of the structure. Exterior dimensions are 38.4' x 32'. A stone chimney is in the center of the south facing wall. Windows include eight light fixed, six-over-six double hung sash, and single light fixed. The east entrance features a pitched roof canopy, supported by two posts, and a non-original one light flush door. The west exterior porch entrance contains an original one light wood panel door. Interior attributes include built-in cabinets, oak flooring and wood paneling, a stone fireplace, and original hardware. Improvements include plumbing, furnace, slope walkway into rear

entrance, new kitchen counter tops, linoleum flooring, fluorescent lights, and window boxes.

Building #6 - Schoolhouse (AKA Assembly Hall or Recreation Hall): This garret story building features a high gable roof with dormer and was built in 1927 as a meeting room and classroom for the Forest Ranger school attendees. Exterior features of the 24' x 36' building include two doors (one is a half-glass door, the other a five-panel door), seven paired 4 over 4 light windows, four single unit 4 over 4 light windows, a north porch with sloping roof, weatherboard siding, stone foundation, wood shingles, and chimney. A screen door covers the north door. Two windows on the east side have been boarded over from the inside. The building is set at an angle that faces the San Francisco Peaks. Interior features include a wooden floor, board and batten wainscot, T & G upper walls, a finished attic accessed by a ladder, blackboard, original hardware, and a stone fireplace with a mantel. Later alterations include sloped walkway into the east front entrance, and the addition of a power box mounted in the southeast interior corner to run a computerized weather recording system.

Building #19 - Office Building: This two-story building was built in 1934 as an office with an upstairs apartment. Exterior features include an intersecting gabled roof with wood shingles, a front porch covered with a pedimented gable roof, weatherboard siding, and stone foundation. The dimensions are 40' x 30', with approximately 1200 square feet on the first floor, and 712 square feet on the second floor. There are three half-glass exterior doors, eight single windows, and seven coupled windows. A first-floor interior stairway leads to the apartment that includes a kitchenette, living room, bedroom, and bathroom with shower/bath. The first-floor features bisecting hallways with offices, a bathroom, and closet opening off of the halls. The design resembles an "I" style. The first floor offices have natural finish plywood panel wainscotting, wooden floors, and wood moulding around the ceiling and wall intersections. Interior doors are wood, and wooden pigeon-hole mail slots and cabinets are built in the hallway. A floor-to-ceiling walk-in vault is located in one office. Alterations include the addition of a gas furnace on the first floor in a small hallway. Asbestos was removed in summer 1996.

Building #18 - Laboratory/Residence: This building was originally constructed in 1934 as a two-room laboratory, and then modified in 1952 into a residence. The building is rectangular in plan, measuring approximately 30' x 16.5', and contains about 495 square feet of floor area. It has a moderately pitched gable roof with wood shingles and an offset gable over the front porch. A chimney is visible on the exterior, and the stone foundation walls are two feet above ground. A basement under the east half of the structure is accessed by concrete stairs from a separate outside entrance. In the basement are steam heating facilities that provided heat for the Office Building (building #19) and the laboratory via a pipe that was laid underground between the two buildings and covered by a sidewalk. The entrance porch covers the front half-glass door and also a screen door. A covered back porch shelters the back half-glass door and screen door and also the panel door that leads to the basement. A third exterior door on the east side of the stairway enters to the hot water heater storage space. A fourth exterior door on the east side, also half-glass, exits from the bedroom. It also has a screen door. The building has two coupled windows, three double-hung windows, and a casement window. Interior features are a bedroom, kitchenette, living room, and bathroom with shower. The building has wood floors, wallboard paneling, and natural gas furnace. Asbestos in the building as well as the heating pipe between the two buildings was removed in the summer 1996.

Building #14 - Merrick House (AKA Kleck House): Originally built in 1932 as a residence of approximately 520 square feet, this house has a bedroom, living room, kitchen, and bathroom. The rectangular plan measures 26' x 20' and is covered with a gable roof with wood shingles and features a gable roofed front porch. This porch shelters the four-pane, half-glass door and accompanying storm door. The half-glass back door leads into a pantry/utility room with shelves. Historic photos show that the screened-in back porch was original. It has been modified with vertical weatherboard siding on the southeast exterior. Exterior features also include five single windows with storm windows, one coupled window, a casement, and one sliding window. The house has a chimney, furnace, and wooden floors. Gordon D. Merrick was a USFS scientist.

Building #16 - Cassidy House: This house was originally built in 1932 and was occupied for a time by Hugh O. Cassidy, a USFS researcher. The rectangular plan has two bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen, an enclosed back porch, and contains approximately 762 square feet. The larger, west bedroom was added after initial construction, as suggested by differences in the weatherboard siding. The building has a gable roof with wood shingles and a flat extension over the front porch that covers the front door. A 25-foot long concrete ramp leads to the front porch. The ramp was added in the 1970s by USGS during their lease of the building. The front door has four glass panes on the top third of the door. The back door leads into a pantry/utility room. The exterior of the house has seven large, single windows, two wider, smaller single windows, and one window with hinges. Plywood siding instead of weatherboard siding on the southeast corner of the residence covers an original screened section of the pantry. Interior features include built-in cabinets, a walk-in closet in the larger bedroom, a fireplace in the living room, wallboard, wood floors, natural gas furnace, and two brick chimneys on exterior.

Building #17 - Lexen House: This house was built about 1933. Bert R. Lexen was a USFS scientist. The building has approximately 1052 square feet and contains two bedrooms, living room, kitchen, bathroom, and two enclosed porches. It is covered with a steeply pitched, truncated hip roof with wood shingles, and two chimneys visible on the exterior. A half-glass exterior door leads into an enclosed porch on the north side, and a panel door and a screen door leads into an enclosed porch on the east side. The house has ten eight light single hung sash windows, and two eight over eight double hung sash windows. Interior features include a walk-in closet, wood floors, built-in cabinets in the living room, natural gas furnace, and fireplace.

Building #27 - Lexen Garage: This garage was built in 1934 adjacent to the Lexen House (building #17). It is a single-car garage with two small storage rooms on the west side of the parking bay. The garage is of frame construction with weatherboard siding, has a concrete floor, and is covered with a gable roof with wood shingles. The exterior dimensions are approximately 20' x 20'. Two plywood-faced double doors replace the original batten doors and open into the parking bay. A separate exterior wood panel door enters into the storage area. Two single pane windows are on three sides of the structure. It has a furnace in one of the storage rooms.

Building #23 - Root Cellar: This concrete building was originally constructed about 1915 and is semi-submerged into a south-facing hillside. Rocks are piled on either side of the door and earth is pushed up around the structure so that the roof eaves are about one foot away from ground level on the north side. Exterior features include a south-facing door,

west-facing window, and a low pitched hip roof with a louvered ventilator cupola at the center. Exterior dimensions are 12' x 12'. Interior features of the 10' x 10 foot square storage area include shelves along the sides and a concrete floor with a center drain hole. A four-foot wing leads from the doorway into the storage area. This structure was used for food storage prior to the arrival of electricity, and in the 1960s, the cellar was used for storage of herbicides and volatiles.

Building #13 - Ten Car Garage (AKA Long Shed): This building was constructed prior to 1926 as a multi-vehicle, three-sided carport/garage. It is of wood frame construction with corrugated sheet iron covering the exterior walls and gable roof. The original floor was dirt, but it is now a concrete pad. The exterior dimensions are 90' x 18'. The north side was originally open with wood posts separating the vehicle bays. After 1946, the garage was divided into separate storage stalls and the bays were enclosed with wood siding and doors.

Building #20 - Workshop : The workshop was built between 1935 and 1945. It measures approximately 20 feet square and is of frame construction with weatherboard siding and a wood shingled gable roof. There are three windows on north and south sides. A telephone box, accessible from both the exterior and interior, is to the right of the wood paneled entrance door. A natural gas furnace hangs in the northwest corner of interior. The workshop also has built-in wood cabinets. Florescent lighting was added later.

Building #8 - Power House: The Power House was built prior to 1935. The wood frame building measures 10 feet wide by 12 feet deep and is covered with a moderately pitched roof. The exterior walls and roof are finished with corrugated sheet iron, and it has a concrete floor.

CONTRIBUTING SITES:

1. Nursery. This research nursery was established in fall, 1908 and is significant as it's one of Pearson's initial research projects on the grounds. The fenced area is planted to ponderosa pine, spruce, and other trees. The original field fence is of three-foot high juniper posts and field fence, although the fence was made taller with the addition of 12' lumber posts and barbed wire. Gates are on both north and south sides, and the fence is now partially down on north side. A water faucet is in center of fenced area.

2. Weather Station. Weather records have been continually recorded since the opening of the Station. The weather station is located in the quad area across from building #19 and consists of weather-recording implements. The fenced area is approximately 30' x 30'. Nearby is a wooden structure of 6' x 12' designed to hold fire hose.

Three buildings that were sold and moved from the grounds in the 1970s are: Building #2-Hornibrook House: This structure was used as a residence for scientists and was a small, one-bedroom frame home built about 1915. It was located about 100 yards south of the Pearson House (Building #1). It had a medium hip roof, two exterior doors, shingles, and originally a fireplace later replaced by a woodburning stove. In a 1936 building condition survey, this structure was listed in poor condition and scheduled to be removed. It was sold and moved off-site in the 1970s and used as a rental property until it was

razed in 1991. Building #11-Mess Hall: This structure was constructed in 1927 at the same time the Schoolhouse (#6) and Barracks (#12) and was built to serve Ranger School attendees. It later served as eating facilities for CCC workers and bachelor USFS personnel. It was located southeast of Building #12 and east of Building #13. It was a one-story structure with dimensions of 35' x 25' with ten windows and two exterior doors. It also had a screened porch and an open, roofed porch was added. Interior features were a bedroom, kitchen, and bath. The structure's design was similar to the Schoolhouse. It was transferred to the Coconino National Forest and used in the Supervisor's Office building complex in Flagstaff until it was demolished in the 1980s. Building #12 Barracks: Like the Mess Hall (#11), this building was constructed in 1927 along with the Schoolhouse (#6) originally to house Ranger School attendees. It later served as quarters for CCC workers and bachelor USFS personnel. It was located between Building #14 and Building #20. It was a two-story, frame building similar to the Schoolhouse design with exterior dimensions of 24' x 36' x 12'. On the first floor was a large sleeping room and bathroom. The second floor was an open area used for sleeping. This building was sold and moved off the site in the 1970s. It is still standing at a private residence and has been renovated into a studio.

NON-CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES:

Water supply to the Station has been regularly upgraded through the years and original pumps, windmills, and storage tanks have been replaced. For this reason, a well pump site located near the nursery and a water storage tank near building #10 are identified as non-contributing structures.

INTEGRITY:

The buildings retain their historic fabric and have been minimally maintained over the years. The original materials and workmanship are very visible and provide today's visitor a glimpse of the original ambiance of the site. The Station was situated at this spot precisely for its remoteness from the Flagstaff community and other activity which could hinder the scientific experiments. This isolation is still evident even though a small settlement known as Fort Valley now borders the Station on its eastern and southern sides. Physical characteristics of the campus remain as originally built, this is due more to lack of funds for upgrades than for any feeling of empathy with the original design. The primary physical sign of change is to building #1 with the addition of security bars on the windows and doors, and the addition of an aluminum roof.

The loss of the three buildings is unfortunate, but does not diminish the site's integrity because of the existing structures. The extant residences (especially Buildings #1 and 22) and Schoolhouse (#6) serve as examples of historic architecture typical of the removed buildings.

Supporting historic evidences include a flagpole, fence, firewood shelters, flower gardens around the residences, a spruce nursery, tags on research trees, and remnants of past experiments. Thinning of trees in the compound is planned to take the site back to its Period of Significance when less trees were evident, as shown by photos taken during the time. Fire suppression and natural growth have caused trees to encroach upon the campus. These trees will be thinned for two reasons - one to retard fire, and two, to replicate the Station's original appearance.

8. Statement of Significance

Summary:

The USFS Fort Valley Experiment Station is located in the Fort Valley Experimental Forest on the Coconino National Forest near Flagstaff, Arizona. It was the nation's first forest experiment station established to study regeneration of ponderosa pine. In its role as forerunner, it became the prototype for subsequent forest experiment stations. Its research scope expanded through the years to include Range studies and it also was the site for USFS Ranger training camps. The architectural style of the campus is colloquially-known as USFS Rustic--simple designs that blend with the natural surroundings. The structures are arranged around a quad, with buildings nestled amongst ponderosa pine, fir, and spruce. The historic setting remains undisturbed. Dates of Significance include the founding of the Station in 1908 when one extant structure was utilized for the initial operation. The Period of Significance is given to the years between 1908-1945 when the majority of the extant structures were built and the most occupants resided on campus.

Justification of Criteria:

Criterion A: Fort Valley is eligible under Criterion A in the area of Conservation because of its 85-year record of continual research into forest resource management. The results of Pearson and other scientists assigned to Fort Valley impact current policies decisions with tree harvesting, livestock grazing, pest control, regeneration methods, etc. It is also the site of pioneering National Forest Ranger training camps and qualifies under the Education category.

Criterion B: The category of Science is applicable to people significant to Fort Valley's success include Gustaf Adolph Pearson. As Station Director, Pearson helped select the site and then spent his entire career there pioneering forest research methods. He would come to be known as the leading authority on ponderosa pine management. Pearson and his staff initiated long-term scientific forest and range studies that offer current researchers a solid research base with which to make management decisions. Other names associated with Fort Valley and important to Science include foresters Gifford Pinchot and Raphael Zon.

Criterion C: The district is significant under Criterion C in the area of significance of Architecture as a good example of the USFS Rustic style. Within the context of the evolution of the USFS Rustic style, the buildings in the district help illustrate the early efforts of the Forest Service to develop an architectural aesthetic which combined the mostly utilitarian requirements of their buildings with a sensitivity to the natural setting.

Historical Background:

Part of USFS Chief Gifford Pinchot's agenda when he took over the Division of Forestry in 1898 included scientific research to ensure sustainability of the nation's forests. He encouraged his staff member Raphael Zon, a Prussian familiar with

European forest experiment stations and American agricultural experiment stations, to develop similar facilities upon American forests. Zon envisioned stations that would study forest problems and then report results to the National Forests where appropriate problem-solving actions could be implemented. Fort Valley was the first station to be organized, and within five years, five more stations were operating.

The Fort Valley Station opened in August, 1908 for the purpose of silviculture (the management of trees) research. A half-century of logging had left much of the Flagstaff forest decimated and local lumbermen asked the youthful US Forest Service to study why the ponderosa pine were not regenerating after logging. Foresters Zon and Pearson, under direction from Pinchot, toured the southwest searching for a suitable location. They decided upon Fort Valley because of its remoteness, unspoiled forest in close proximity, and the availability of year-round water. Fort Valley trees had not yet been devastated by loggers due to the area's isolated location and harsh weather.

Pearson remained at Fort Valley as Director and lived and worked out of the existing ranger cabin. Because of Pearson's attention to detail, the research evolving from the Fort Valley Experiment Station is an integral part of USFS forest management policies. Pearson and his staff observed every influence upon a forest and established experiments to learn how to improve tree regeneration, monitor the effects of forest fire, pests, and disease, livestock and wildlife grazing impacts, and other resource management studies. The scientists worked in the forest adjacent to the Station and also in other locales around the southwest, using Fort Valley as the main field station during the early years.

To accomplish their research, scientists would decide upon a problem to be studied and then prepare appropriate experiments. They would delineate study plots, record all influences, draw maps, take photographs, apply variables, analyze data, and then prepare reports. A scientist could participate in studies of sheep browsing on trees, or mistletoe control, or weather recording. In 1927, when the Station expanded its research designs to include range studies, even more areas could be studied. Many foresters destined for top USFS positions trained at Fort Valley because of Pearson's varied experiments. The roster of scientists assigned to Fort Valley reads like a "Who's Who" in Forestry.

Ranger Training Camp:

Fort Valley also was the site of National Forest Ranger training camps held during the summers, the first being in the summer of 1909. Newly-hired rangers from around the country arrived to receive two weeks of instruction in silviculture, law, grazing, camp practice, field work, horse care, and office procedure. They lived and cooked in canvas tents set in a semicircle adjacent to the Station grounds. Pearson taught several of the classes. The School continued intermittently as a regional training site for USFS Region 3 (southwestern area) Rangers until World War 2, after which the School was discontinued. Region 3 constructed three buildings specifically for the Ranger School; the only one extant is the Schoolhouse (building #6) and is included in this District nomination.

Construction Evolution and Community Involvement:

Limited funding caused the Station to grow slowly with buildings and staff and by 1927, only four structures had been built and at the most, housed twelve people. In 1927, the Station was redesignated as a facility for southwestern USFS Forest and Range research. This meant additional funds became available for operational costs. Subsequently, more structures were constructed, and improvements in the water supply and indoor plumbing were made. Natural gas and electricity were also added in the 1930s. Most of the structures built during the New Deal era were constructed by CCC workers who were also responsible for building roads and fences around Fort Valley. After 1927 and the construction of additional structures, more people and their families lived at Fort Valley.

Pearson retired in 1944, and Fort Valley's years in the spotlight waned. By 1958, with new office facilities constructed upon the NAU campus as adjunct support to the NAU School of Forestry, Fort Valley came to be virtually vacant. Use of Fort Valley buildings dwindled so that the USFS sought to put the structures on the General Services Administration (GSA) list and offer them for sale in the early 1970s. Three buildings were sold and moved off the grounds before an interest in leasing the buildings came from several of the other Flagstaff scientific institutions who wished to utilize some of the buildings for research. These actions helped the campus to remain intact.

USFS Experiment Stations were intentionally located in isolated areas where pure scientific research could progress unencumbered. Thus, their importance to the nearest community was usually minimal with foresters only being in town to purchase supplies or for social reasons. In Flagstaff, the relevance of the Fort Valley Station was felt indirectly as the research results were integrated into policies that dictated tree-harvesting and allowable numbers of livestock grazing. Longtime Flagstaff residents usually indicate a surprise at even the existence of the Fort Valley Station, much less its significance to national forest management policies and regional history. Flagstaff is home to several scientific arenas - specifically Lowell Observatory, the Museum of Northern Arizona, the US Geological Survey, and Northern Arizona University. Pearson and other Fort Valley staff cooperatively worked with local scientists.

Archeological significance exists on the area surrounding the proposed Historic District as Coconino National Forest archeologists have noted traces of prehistoric and historic traces of occupancy. An extensive archeological survey of the Station compound is planned prior to the tree thinning project.

Name Changes:

The names assigned to Fort Valley have evolved over the years to better define the Station's functions. The initial name of the Coconino Experiment Station lasted only for two years because of confusion with the Coconino National Forest. In 1911, the name of Fort Valley Experiment Station was assigned to define the physical location. This term was seen as too limiting as research was being conducted on lands all over the southwest and so the name of Southwestern Forest Experiment Station

was coined by 1924. Then, in 1927, with Range duties added to its scope, the site became known as the Southwestern Forest and Range Experiment Station. The Fort Valley Experimental Forest was designated in 1931--an identification that protected the forest around the Station from any logging or grazing or any use except for scientific study. Until 1953, Fort Valley had been under the administration of the Southwestern Forest and Range Experiment Station, headquartered in Tucson, which directed research activities in the southwest. Budget cuts called for the consolidation of southwest activities into the Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station that oversaw the Rocky Mountain areas. Hence, the current designation of Fort Valley as the Rocky Mountain Range and Experiment Station at Fort Valley.

Architecture

The USFS Fort Valley Experimental Forest Historic District is a significant illustration of the evolution of the USFS Rustic style of architecture that, by the 1930s, became common to many western National Forests. The collection of buildings within the district represent a continuum of design efforts that trace that evolution over a 37 year period from 1908 to 1945. The earliest buildings illustrate the initial efforts of the Forest Service to design structures that combined the practical and functional needs of the agency with simple designs that evoked a romantic image of rustic authenticity. Later construction efforts, particularly the building programs of the Great Depression, are representative of an emerging Forest Service policy of harmonizing the built environment with the natural setting. The result was an overall architectural theme that combined simplicity of design, use of natural materials such as wood and stone, attention to the user's needs, and economical construction methods and processes.

9. Major Biographical References

Gaines, Edward M. and Elmer W. Shaw. Half a Century of Research-Fort Valley Experimental Forest 1908-1958. Station Paper No. 38. USFS Rocky Mountain Region, 1958.

Olberding, Susan Deaver. "A History of Fort Valley, Arizona and Its Forest Experiment Station 1850 to 1992." Masters Thesis, Northern Arizona University, 1993.

_____. "The Fort Valley Forest Experiment Station: Where Forest Research Began." USDAFS, Arizona Natural History Association, 1994.

Pearson, Gustaf Adolph. "The Fort Valley Forest Experiment Station." 1920.

_____. "The Oldest Forest Experiment Station." 1936.

Pinchot, Gifford. Breaking New Ground. NY: Harcourt, Brace and Co., 1947; rep. Washington, DC: Island Press, 1974.

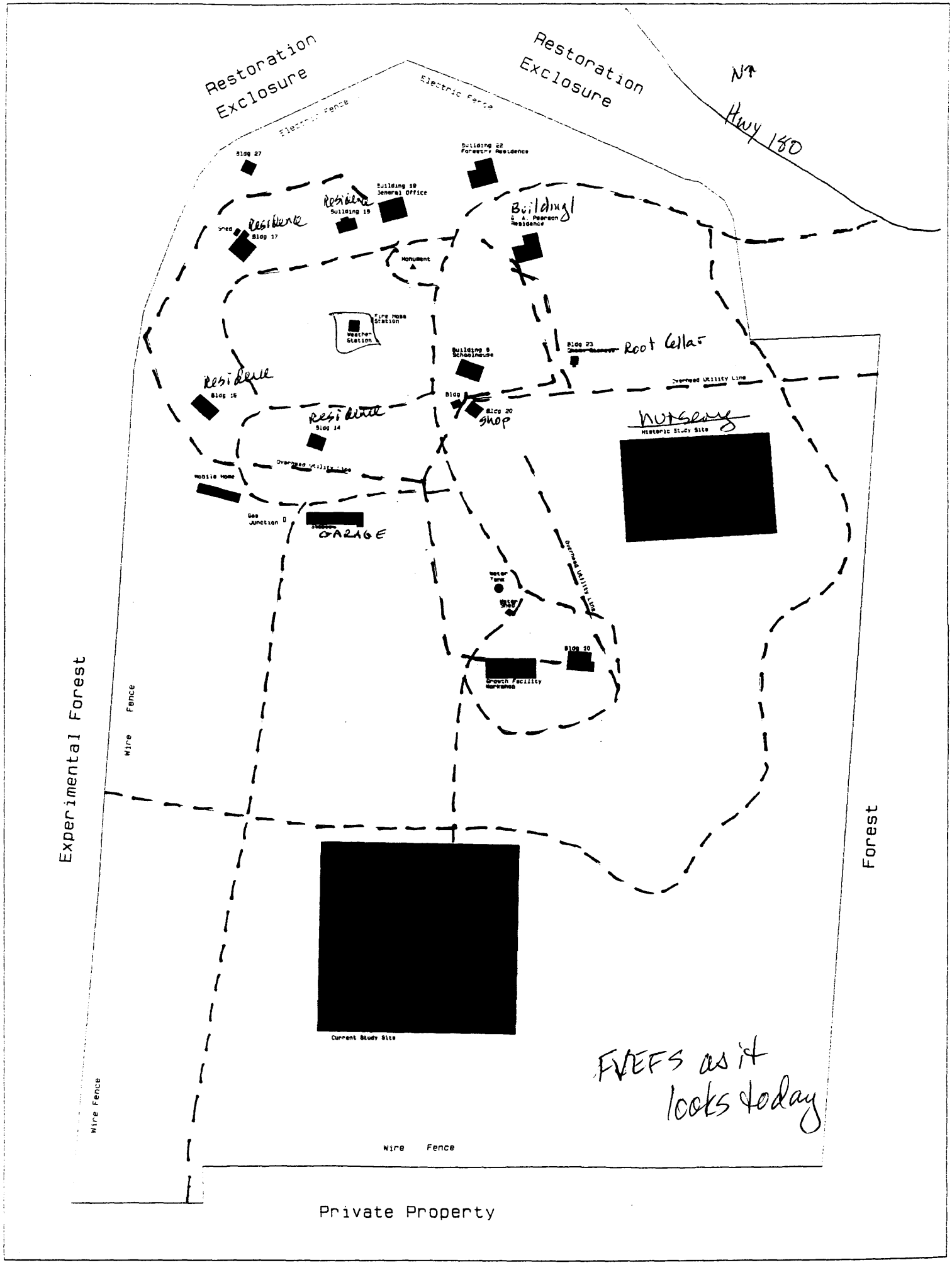
Price, Raymond. History of Forest Service Research in the Central and Southern Rocky Mountain Regions 1908-1975. USDAFS General Technical Report RM-27, 1976.

10. Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property is shown as the dashed line on the accompanying map entitled "Fort Valley Experimental Forest Station Historic District."

10. Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the historic district encompass the original Fort Valley Experimental Forest Station campus and one research site (the nursery), that have historically been a part of the Station and that maintain historic integrity. The buildings are grouped in one area which is surrounded by Coconino National Forest property on the north and west, and by private land on the south and east.


Restoration Exclosure
Restoration Exclosure
Electric Fence
Electric Fence
N
Hwy 160
Bldg 27
Building 22 Forestry Residence
Building 19 General Office
Residence
Building 19
Residence
Bldg 17
Shed
Building 1
Monument
Fire Hose Station
Weather Station
Building 5 Schoolhouse
Bldg 23
Root Cellar
Residence
Bldg 16
Overhead Utility Line
Residence
Bldg 14
Bldg 20
Shop
Nursery
Historic Study Site
Mobile Home
Gas Junction
GARAGE
Overhead Utility Line
Water Tank
Bldg 10
Growth Facility Workshop
Experimental Forest
Wire Fence
Forest
Current Study Site
FVEFS as it looks today
Wire Fence
Wire Fence
Private Property