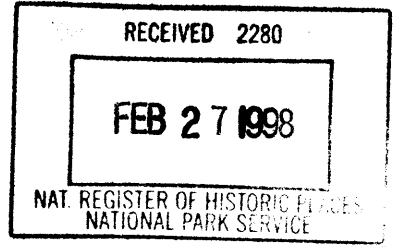


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Gasquet Ranger Station Historic District

other name/site number: CA-DNO-308H

2. Location

street & number: 10600 Highway 199

not for publication: NA

city/town: Gasquet

vicinity: NA

state: CA county: Del Norte

code: 15

zip code: 95543

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Public-Federal

Category of Property: District

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>7</u>	<u>5</u> buildings
	<u> </u> sites
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> structures
	<u> </u> objects
<u>8</u>	<u>5</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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

Evan D. DeBlois Federal Preservation Officer 11/21/97
Signature of certifying official Date

FOREST SERVICE

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Harriet Abeyta, for Cheryl Widell Aug. 27, 1997
Signature of commenting or other official Date

State Historic Preservation Officer

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.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

Edson H. Beall 3.26.98

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: Government Sub: Government Office

Current : Government Sub: Government Office

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7. Description
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Architectural Classification:

Other: Forest Service Rustic

Other Description: _____

Materials: foundation concrete roof asphalt
walls weatherboard other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

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8. Statement of Significance
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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Statewide

Applicable National Register Criteria: A and C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : _____

Areas of Significance: Architecture
Conservation
Politics/Government

Period(s) of Significance: 1933-1942

Significant Dates : N/A _____

Significant Person(s): N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation: N/A _____

Architect/Builder: Architect: Unknown
Builder: U.S. Forest Service and
Civilian Conservation Corps

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

===== 10. Geographical Data =====

Acreage of Property: 3 acres

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A 10 419950 4632832 B _____

C _____ D _____

_____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification: _____ See continuation sheet.

The boundary includes that portion of the Gasquet Ranger Station compound which was the core area of the Ranger Station during the Period of Significance. It is defined by property lines on the south and eastern sides. On the north it parallels the edge of the river terrace the northern edge of the compound. On the west the boundary is between that part of the compound which post-dates the CCC era and that part which dates to the Period of Significance.

===== 11. Form Prepared By =====

Name/Title: Thomas S. Keter, Archaeologist, Pamela A. Conners, Historian
and Christine E. Palmer, HistorianOrganization: U.S. Forest ServiceDate: January 31, 1994(Revised) June 6, 1997Street & Number: 1330 Bayshore WayTelephone: (707) 442-1721City or Town: EurekaState: CA ZIP: 95501

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Description Summary

Occupying three acres of river terrace between U.S. Highway 199 and the Middle Fork of the Smith River, the historic section of the Gasquet Ranger Station compound was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) between 1933 and 1939. Of the eleven elements that made up the Station during the Period of Significance, eight (73%) remain. The eight contributing elements consist of seven CCC-constructed buildings and the low rock wall which surrounds much of the District. There are five buildings within the District which are noncontributors. Therefore, of the thirteen distinguishable elements that compromise the Historic District, eight (61%) are contributors. Six of these contributing elements--the main office, the Assistant District Ranger's residence, two garages, a warehouse, and a gas and oil house are constructed in the Forest Service rustic style. One building, the Rangers's residence, was built in the Colonial Revival style. Despite the loss of several of the original buildings, some minor modifications to the existing properties, and the addition of several new buildings during the 1960s and 1970s, the Gasquet Ranger Station Historic District retains a high degree of architectural integrity reflecting its association through design elements, workmanship, and materials with a significant period in the history of the Forest Service and the Nation.

District Architectural Overview

At the time that the buildings on the Gasquet Ranger Station compound were built by the CCC, the Gasquet Ranger District was part of the Siskiyou National Forest located within Forest Service Region Six (Washington and Oregon). Historically, the Gasquet Ranger District was the only Ranger District in the state of California administered by Region Six. It was transferred to Region Five (California) in 1947. The site plan and all of the contributing buildings strongly exhibit CCC and Depression era Forest Service design and construction modalities including, the dominant use of wood, predominately horizontal lines and the simple yet interesting design. The rock work within the Historic District, primarily in the form of low walls, is a CCC construction hallmark. The CCC and USFS pine tree insignia, used as a cut-out design in shutters and gable infills, are found throughout the compound and were a signature of Region 6, Depression era buildings. These features help to unify the thematic values of the contributing elements and provide internal coherence to the District.

Prior to the gradual shift in the Forest Service's mission from a more custodial to a more active resource management model, Ranger Stations were often simply the pre-existing home of the Ranger, or they were built by the Rangers or local contractors with extremely limited appropriations. One building typically served as office, visitor contact point, and dwelling. Thus, pre-depression "Stations" did not reflect the broader array of functions that are typical of Depression-era Ranger Station site plans, of which the Gasquet Ranger Station is an excellent example.

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In addition, given that the Historic District is located in Forest Service administrative Region 5 with design elements and themes derived from the Pacific Northwest Region 6, it has some design themes and motifs (for example, the pine tree cut-out logo) unique in California Forest Service administrative sites today.

Each contributing element for the Gasquet Ranger Station Historic District is described below.

Main Office (C1 on the District Site Map)

The one-story, 37' x 41' Forest Service rustic style main office was completed in 1938. It is the only building within the District whose facade is fully visible from the Highway. Records indicate that the building represents an extensive remodeling by the CCC of an office constructed in the early 1930s. The 1930 office was reportedly a 1 1/2 story frame building that measured 18' x 28' and consisted of two rooms and an upstairs storage area. The building floor plan used in construction is a modified version of the CCC/Forest Service Depression era Region 6 plan 07-02-DE2. The building is end-gabled, but has a large, front-(cross-) gabled entry porch. The porch has four, equally-spaced, squared, timber posts, and the gable is horizontal board and batten with a pattern of 3 pine tree logo cut-outs. The soffit also has a pair of unique, hanging porch lights, formed in the shape of fire lookout tower cabs. The fenestration is predominately wood-framed, double-hung, 6-over-6 light windows. These elements are symmetrically placed on the facade. The foundation is cement and there is a partial basement. The cladding is primarily clapboard, however, the east and west wing elements are sided with vertical board and batten. The gable infill is vertical board and batten with three of the CCC/Forest Service pine tree logo cut-outs in each of the two primary gable ends and in the porch gable. Stationary shutters with the pine tree logo cut-out are a prominent accent. The main office is flanked by a low, CCC-built rock wall with gateways on either side opening to the compound on the west and to the Ranger's residence on the east.

The present appearance of the main office is very similar to its CCC-era historic appearance. Modifications include addition of an exterior access, 7 1/2' x 12' restroom annex to the west end of the building; roofing replacement from wood shakes to composition; removal of lobby fireplace; and replacement of a few of the wood-framed windows with aluminum windows. Repair of the porch posts resulted in removal of about 8" of the post bases and replacement with red brick. Rock-lined walkways and curbing have been replaced with cement walkways and curbs. The interior retains a great deal of its original feeling and fabric, but has undergone some modifications that impose on its historic appearance. These include removal of the lobby fireplace, addition of acoustic tile, painting natural wood surfaces, and various rearrangements of interior spaces. The function of this building has changed little in 55 years; although it no longer houses the offices of the District Ranger and primary staff, it still retains its primary function as a visitor reception office and associated clerical space.

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Assistant District Ranger's Residence (C2 on the District Site Map)

This building is a single story Forest Service rustic style home completed in 1938. The residence, approximately 30' x 46', is rectangular in general outline, with the kitchen jutting from the northwest end and there is a slight projection of the east end of the building, resulting in a second, parallel ridgepole. The house is end-gabled, and the integrated front porch is supported by 5 posts with curved, large, wooden brackets. The porch occupies about 3/5 of the front facade. The fenestration is predominately wood-framed, double-hung, 8-over-8 and 6-over-6 light windows. The foundation is cement and there is a partial (527 sq. ft.) basement. The building is sided with unnotched, bevel-cut clapboard. The gable infill is vertical board and batten with 3, CCC/Forest Service pine tree logo cut-outs in each of the two primary gable ends. The Assistant District Ranger's residence has a detached CCC-built garage (described below) adjacent to the house on the north side.

The present appearance of the residence is close to its historic appearance. Modifications include addition of a cross-gabled 15' x 16' bedroom and closet area at the rear of the building, removal of the wooden stationary shutters, addition of a second front entry door, and repair of the original front porch post bases by removal of approximately 6" of wood and replacement with red brick. Modifications to the interior fabric have been minimal and retain the building's historic qualities.

Protective Assistant's Garage (C3 on the District Site Map)

This single story, approximately 16' x 18', Forest Service rustic style garage was completed in either 1933 or 1938, with the bulk of the evidence pointing to the latter date. The structure is front gabled with a 2-piece, overhead track, sliding door. The garage door is offset. The foundation is cement. The cladding is horizontal, drop siding, and the gable infill is vertical board and batten with a single, pine tree logo cut-out at the apex of each gable. The present appearance is very similar to its historic appearance. Modifications include roofing replacement from wood shakes to composition shingles and replacement of all four windows with aluminum sliders. A carport butts against the west elevation but is not joined to the garage.

The emergence of garages as part of ranger and staff residences on Ranger Stations reflects the prevalence of automobile ownership by the time of the Depression. As part of Region 6's effort to improve quarters and office facilities for its rangers, residential garages began to be routinely figured into ranger station site plans. These structures, with their small garage door openings, reflect this trend.

Assistant District Ranger's Garage (C4 on the District Site Map)

This structure is similar in design to the Protective Assistant's garage and used the same design plan. It is front gabled with a two piece, overhead

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track, sliding door. The garage door is offset to the building's right side. There are two window openings on both eave walls, but there were apparently never shutters to accent the windows. The foundation is cement. The siding is unnotched, bevel-cut clapboard and the gable infill is vertical board and batten with a single, pine tree logo cut-out at the apex of each gable. The structure maintains a high degree of integrity. Modifications include roofing replacement from wood shakes to composition, replacement of all four window openings with aluminum sliders, and attachment of an open carport/storage area to the building's north side.

Warehouse (C5 on the District Site Map)

The three-segment Forest Service rustic style warehouse was completed in about 1936. The warehouse is actually composed of three separate buildings: the single-storied, side-gabled equipment shed built in 1933; a side-gabled storage shed built in 1934; and the three-storied, front-gabled shop joining the sheds built in 1936. Both sheds were noted in Ranger Nilsson's 1934 report which discussed the remodeling plan that would join the two sheds by building a shop in-between them.

The west wing of the warehouse is a four-bay garage which measures 29' x 50'. The east wing, currently a fire cache, measures 25' x 40'. The central workshop has a single bay and measures 32' x 35' on the ground floor. There is a second floor and a small third story loft. The foundations of the buildings are cement. The shiplap siding continues into the gables. The overall fenestration pattern is symmetrical, and the windows are wood-framed.

The building retains its historic appearance with only minor modifications: the shake roof has been replaced with composition shingles, track doors in the west wing have been replaced with aluminum roll-up doors, skylights have been added to the roofs of both wings, and a small lean-to storage structure attached to the east wing.

Gas and Oil House (C6 on the District Site Map)

This single story 12' x 12' Forest Service rustic style structure was completed in 1934. Although no physical evidence is available, it appears that the building may have been moved slightly. Its original location would have been further to the west (perhaps several feet). A small addition, a 6' x 12' paint storage area was added circa 1939 but was fabricated by the CCC in the same style as the primary part of the structure.

The gas and oil house is end-gabled and has an inset porch that occupies 2/3 of the front facade. The 3-paneled door had 4 lights (2/2). Inside the primary space is a barrel rack. The windows are predominately wood-framed with four-lights (2-over-2).

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The foundation is cement. The siding is unnotched, bevel-cut clapboard, and the gable infill is vertical board and batten. The east gable end has a wooden vent flanked below the pine tree logo and the west gable has a 4 pane window.

Modifications include roofing replacement from wooden shakes to composition, removal of the loading platform on the west end of the building, addition of a shed on the southwest side, and replacement of the overhead track, sliding door at the west gable end with a side hinged door. An electrical utility box at the west end of the structure appears to be a new addition.

Despite the change in siding, the room addition, and the possibility that the building was moved a short distance, this structure retains CCC/Forest Service rustic architecture design and its thematic link of association with the rest of the District. Its functional relationship with the rest of the compound remains and the modifications took place during the period of significance.

District Ranger's Residence (C7 on the District Site Map)

Unlike the other properties located within the District, the Ranger's residence is not derived from a CCC/Forest Service rustic design, rather, it is a classic Colonial Revival style home. The facade is symmetrically balanced with a centered door and two flanking 6-over-6 windows. The roof is side-gabled with a central brick chimney and two front-gabled dormers over the first story windows. The dormer windows are also 6-over-6. The front door is accentuated with a decorative Adam style pediment supported by four, slender, squared posts to form an entry porch. The underside of the front-gabled pediment is curved-- a favorite Colonial Revival detail.

The cornice overhang is short and undecorated. Rectangular windows have double hung sashes with a classic Colonial Revival 12-pane design. Dormer windows also have double-hung sashes. The horizontal white pine siding with bevel rabbeted joints is painted white. A brick chimney originally projected from the roof over the northwest bedroom, but after a chimney fire in 1947, it was removed along with adjacent portions of the roof beams. The original red cedar roof shingles were also removed at this time and replaced by composition shingles

The interior is a classic Colonial Revival plan with symmetrically balanced rooms on either side of a central hall, stairwell, and fireplace. The original red oak flooring is in place in the living room, dining room, and two front bedrooms. The original Arkansas soft pine flooring is still found in the kitchen, rear entry, upstairs hall and rear bedroom, but this flooring has been covered with linoleum.

The full basement, which is uncommon in this flood-prone area, reflects the structure's eastern architectural design heritage. Original white pine built-in

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cabinets are found in the kitchen, dining room, downstairs hall, and upstairs hall--some still in possession of their original glass knobs. All interior doors are original.

The Ranger's residence is accessed by a driveway that is bordered by a CCC-built, low rock wall--part of which was designed as a planter. This rock wall, discontinuously, surrounds the residence. A corrugated metal shed and a post and truss carport/wood shed were erected, respectively, in the 1960s and in about 1978. Both of these noncontributing properties are spatially related to the residence, but are not temporally related or historically significant.

The present exterior and interior appearance of the Ranger's residence matches its historic appearance in all significant aspects. The building's function has been converted from that of a single family dwelling to a barracks. Modifications include replacement of one of the wood-framed, double hung, dormer windows with an aluminum-framed window, removal of the central chimney following a 1947 chimney fire, replacement of the roof shakes with composition shingles, replacement of the front door, and remodeling of the bathroom.

Rock Wall (C8 on the District Site Map)

Much of the low rock wall, totaling approximately 450 linear feet, surrounding portions of the Historic District is still in place. This type of mortarless rock wall, using carefully sized and hand-fitted rock, is a hallmark of the CCC era. The rock is river rock collected from the terrace. The wall averages approximately three feet in height and three feet in width. The wall is discontinuous--a major section runs along the front of the compound facing Highway 199. The rock wall sections which remain have a high degree of integrity.

Integrity and Noncontributing Properties

Four other CCC-constructed buildings--a residence, a combination messhall and bunk house, a barn, and a woodshed--were at one time part of this compound. All of these structures have been removed. Within the Historic District boundary, five newer buildings, ranging from a residence to small shed, were added to the station during the 1960s and 1970s. None of these later elements contribute to the historic qualities of the District. In addition, the Ranger Station compound was extended further to the west in the late 1950s or early 1960s. The CCC-constructed barn was located to the west of the main compound. It was removed and additional administrative buildings were constructed. This portion of the compound is not within the boundary of the Historic District.

An unusual color scheme for Forest Service administrative sites, the permanent buildings of the compound have been painted white with dark green trim since the mid 1960s. For several key buildings (e.g. the main office and Assistant District Ranger's Office), this paint covered a clear varnish over what was probably a neutral clear wood stain. Some of the historic buildings have, over the years, received some minor modifications including the rearrangement of interior rooms and in a few cases some exterior room or lean-to additions.

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Many of these modifications are a reflection of the functional changes taking place in the administrative role of the Forest Service.

Even with these changes, the arrangement of the remaining historic buildings on the station and their historic exterior appearances remain intact. Moreover, much of the character defining interior finish work and appointments of the buildings--particularly the District Ranger's residence and the Assistant District Ranger's residence--are unchanged or have sustained alterations that are easily reversible.

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Significance Statement

The Gasquet Ranger Station Historic District qualifies for the National Register under Criterion A, reflecting the Forest Service's historic role in administering the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), one of the most successful New Deal programs of the Great Depression. The District tangibly conveys accomplishments of the CCC work program instituted by Franklin Roosevelt as part of his New Deal through its architecture and site planning. The District also materially represents an increase in the infrastructure of the Forest Service beginning in the 1930s as the agency shifted from a custodial role to a more proactive leadership role in comprehensive and coordinated forestry programs. The District also qualifies under Criterion C. The historic Gasquet Ranger Station buildings illustrate a range of functional building types which contributed to the expanded mission of the Forest Service. The buildings also convey a unique design idiom which embraced a rustic, non-intrusive philosophy that at the time was pervasive in land management agencies. The District is one of a relatively small number of remaining CCC-built Ranger Station Compounds in Region 5 (California) which maintains integrity of location, design, setting, workmanship, feeling and association. Moreover, its overall architecture is an anomaly in Region 5, due to its Region 6 (Oregon and Washington) origin. Although there have been some modifications to the buildings--some CCC constructed buildings have been removed, and several contemporary buildings have been added to the compound--the District still exemplifies the hallmark characteristics of CCC construction as well as the tenets of Forest Service rustic style architecture and design that came to be identified with the agency during the post-Depression era.

Historical Context

Areas of Significance

Historic significance related to areas of Politics/Government and Conservation (Criteria A) are presented below. Architectural significance (Criteria C) is discussed in the following section. Much of this section is based on the research of Gail Throop, Historian in Region 6 (see Throop 1979).

The CCC and Roosevelt's New Deal

The Great Depression was a significant turning point in American history. It had an impact on the economic, social, and political make-up of the nation. Unemployment and dislocations were commonplace. Depression unemployment fell with the most severity on young workers just entering the labor force. Untrained, unskilled, and unable to obtain the necessary experience, they were singularly unqualified for placement in a nonexistent job market.

At the same time, the nation faced the consequences of three generations of exploitation and ill-usage of its natural resources. Land-use ethics governed by economic self-interest had resulted in exhausted soil, denuded forests, and over-grazed grasslands. The consequence of these destructive activities was increased erosion and a loss of productive forest and grazing lands. John Salmond (1976) noted that establishment of the CCC was "in one sense a

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catalyst. Through it...Franklin D. Roosevelt, brought together two wasting resources, the young men and the land, in an attempt to save both."

On March 21, 1933, The President's message on the "Relief of Unemployment" and accompanying proposed legislation was submitted to Congress. It proposed that the President be authorized to create a civilian conservation corps from the unemployed to be used on public works projects such as reforestation, prevention of soil erosion, and flood control. The first New Deal emergency measure was passed by Congress on March 31, 1933. The agency authorized by the Act was called Emergency Conservation Work (ECW), but the name "Civilian Conservation Corps" as used by the President in his original proposal to Congress quickly supplanted the official title. Executive Order 101 issued by the President on April 5, 1933, established legally the existence of the CCC, which more than any other program or New Deal agency bore the personal stamp of President Roosevelt.

The CCC organization was designed to operate through the existing machinery of the Departments of Labor, Agriculture, and Interior. Labor was to select the men for enrollment through local relief agencies; the War Department was to enroll the men, feed, clothe, house, and physically condition them, as well as transport them to the camps. The Agriculture and Interior Departments, through their various technical agencies, were to select work projects, to supervise the work, and to administer the camps. The tasks of building, equipping, staffing, and operating the camps were initially given to the technical agencies, but were almost immediately reassigned to the Army, which alone had the resources and experience to handle the logistics and meet the mobilization schedules. Program coordination was the responsibility of the ECW Director, Robert Fechner.

The Forest Service's needs for supplemental administrative facilities coincided with the creation of the CCC. The Forest Service was able to identify the needed work projects quickly, based on the findings of a recently completed comprehensive study of forests and forestry nationwide. The agenda for active resource development and reclamation outlined in the study was a significant departure from custodial maintenance, and greatly enhanced the Forest Service's managerial role. Expanding agency responsibilities required additional men, machinery, and buildings to shelter their routine activities. The CCC and New Deal other New Deal legislation met these needs.

Forest Service administrative buildings such as those within the Gasquet Ranger Station Historic District, therefore, represent the theme of the Federal response to the Depression through the accomplishments of the CCC. Their work on National Forest lands included erosion control, range rehabilitation, fire protection, and reforestation, in addition to a wide array of construction projects ranging from campgrounds and administrative buildings to check dams and road construction. While the benefits of this work are still being realized, there remains little visible evidence to attest to their efforts. The construction projects remain, however, as tangible evidence of the contributions made by the CCC to the Forest Service and the nation.

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The association of the Historic District with the CCC is also a reminder of the immediate benefits of the program to the local economy. This support included the employment of local residents, both young men and experienced craftsmen, to help direct and provide technical expertise to CCC projects. Substantial economic stimulus was also provided to the region through purchases of supplies and materials for the construction, maintenance and provisioning of the CCC camps as well as the building construction projects. Local businesses also benefited from the trade of CCC enrollees themselves.

The buildings also represent the longer term benefits to the Forest Service in the construction of permanent, efficient, and functionally appropriate facilities needed for ongoing and expanding forestry operations. In addition, the buildings demonstrate the vocational skills in construction, carpentry, and stone masonry acquired by the CCC enrollees through their work experience.

Public Land Management and the Administration of the National Forests

The administrative functions of the buildings reflect a second area of historical significance--conservation. The Historic District represents the physical establishment of the Forest Service's increasingly active role in land management activities at the field level. In the early history of the Forest Service (1905-to the early 1930s), National Forest lands were intended for use with primary consideration given to local interests. The major responsibilities of field officers were protective and custodial in nature. Routine duties included grazing regulation, examination of mining entries, and prevention of fires and timber theft. Resource improvement, however, was largely confined to a few reforestation and range land rehabilitation projects. Administration was decentralized and permanent administrative facilities were uncommon. Those that did exist were for the most part simple log or frame buildings erected by the field officer himself and were usually situated in a strategic location for maximum public/user contact.

In 1932, the Forest Service undertook a Nation-wide comprehensive study of the status and condition of the National Forests. This report, "A National Plan for American Forestry" (better known as the Copeland Report), described and evaluated virtually all aspects of forestry, private and public, including timber, water, range, recreation, wildlife, research, state aid, and fire protection. The Copeland Report provided the basis for a major shift in Forest Service policy and management of public lands. To accomplish the work identified in the report, a larger work force, as well as more administrative buildings to house the additional people and machinery, was needed. The document became the New Deal blueprint for forestry and the CCC was to be the mechanism by which the Forest Service would meet the challenges of its new and expanded role in forest conservation.

The Forest Service buildings built by the CCC between 1933 and 1942, clearly reflect the expanded responsibilities assumed by the agency. The range of functional building types, as illustrated by the Historic District, expanded

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to include staff residences, crew houses, automotive shops, gas and oil houses, warehouses, and storage for machinery and equipment. These buildings were often arranged in efficient compounds. Moreover, the architecture was distinctive and was intended to create a Forest Service identity recognizable by the public.

Historical Significance: Criterion A

Designated F-18, Camp Gasquet was home to about 200 enrollees who were members of Companies 709, 5478, and 1902. Camp Gasquet was part of the Medford District Civilian Conservation Corps Ninth Corps Area. The Companies were organized in distant locations--one company came all the way from Fort McPherson, Georgia. In April 1933, when Adolph Nilsson arrived from the Forest Service Region 6 headquarters in Portland to assume his new duties as Gasquet District Ranger, the Gasquet CCC Camp was just being established by military officials on the south side of Highway 199 near the eastern end of Gasquet Flat. Nielson determined that the pre-existing Smith Fork Ranger Station (it is no longer standing, it was located to the west of the present Station), was inadequate and decided the CCC enrollees' first project would be the construction of a new Ranger Station. A site plan was formulated at the Regional level in Portland and over the next seven or eight years the administrative buildings which comprise the Historic District were constructed.

The broad patterns of American history (Areas Significance: Politics/Government and Conservation) to which this Historic District relates in the Federal response to the Great Depression is through the development of institutions and programs created to meet the challenges posed by the changing social conditions within society. The New Deal programs changed the role of the Federal Government from neutral arbiter to promoter of society's welfare and guarantor of economic security. Thus, this era and the associated programs of the New Deal signify a major turning point in the historical development of the Federal Government and its role in American society. The Gasquet Ranger Station Historic District provides a fine example of the high quality work and craftsmanship provided by the CCC. The historical role of the CCC era and its influence on the Forest Service are evident in the District's architecture, site planning, and rockwork.

Coinciding with the enactment of New Deal programs like the CCC, the new expanded role envisioned for the Forest Service required a greatly expanded infrastructure of administrative buildings. As Forest Service officials began to realize the unexpected benefits of CCC labor with fire suppression and reforestation, they also began to envision an administrative building program to meet the changing mission of the Forest Service in management of National Forest lands. For the reasons outlined above, the broad patterns of American history to which the National Forest Administration relates is the evolution of public land policy within the Federal Government. Thus the new administrative facilities built within Region 6, including the Gasquet Ranger Station Historic District, were the outward manifestation of a National policy

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change establishing a more proactive agency in the field of resource management and conservation.

Architectural Context: Criterion C

Architecture: The Forest Service Rustic style

Styles in architecture are seldom the creation of a single individual but rather, the outgrowth of particular social and economic periods. The rustic style of architecture is closely associated with the Great Depression. On National Forest System Lands, the Forest Service rustic style is exclusive to this period. Its foundations, however, were laid in the nineteenth century. The rustic concept was found in the romantic perceptions of nature and the western frontier, its theory drawn from the picturesque ideas of Andrew Jackson Downing and other landscape architects, and its philosophy derived from the conservation ethic engendered by the recognition of the loss of wilderness and the end of the American "frontier."

The basis of rustic architecture was a design philosophy founded on an ethic of nonintrusiveness. Architectural design related to landscape, expressed in forms and materials responsive to the environment in scale and proportion to the physical features.

The National Park Service was the first Federal agency to examine the appropriateness of the emerging rustic style. As stewards of the lands set aside for protection of their natural and scenic values, the Park Service was challenged to create architecture that was an accessory of nature, rather than a constructed feature dominating the scene. The Park Service worked to develop a nonintrusive architecture through the sensitive use of native materials and forms and the appropriate architectural designs that were subordinate to their settings. In doing so, the Park Service contributed to the set of characteristics which defined rustic architecture.

The rustic style was appropriate to rural environments, but was neither rudimentary nor artless. Successfully handled, it was a style which, through the use of native materials, in proper scale, and through the avoidance of rigid straight lines and over-sophistication, achieved a sympathy with the natural surroundings and intimacy with the landscape. Basic to this ethic of nonintrusiveness were the concepts of subordination, retirement, and assimilation. Important characteristics of rustic architecture included predominately horizontal lines, low silhouette, organic forms, as well as scale and proportion and texture of the building materials.

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In the early years of the Depression, Forest Service evaluation studies identified critical deficiencies in facilities development as well as in resource conservation work. Analysis of the broad architectural design characteristics of existing Forest Service buildings revealed dissatisfactions with their appearances, primarily because they were not considered representative of the agency itself. It was also recognized that forests were not only areas of economic value, but also possessed social values and aesthetic qualities as well. Accordingly, an idiom was sought that would possess Forest Service identity and express its ideals and mission.

Each Forest Service Region undertook to design buildings appropriate to climatic characteristics, vegetation and forest cover, with utilization of the predominate native building materials available locally. Further, design criteria included harmony with the natural environment, economy of materials, and appropriateness to the specific function of the building.

The style that emerged in the Pacific Northwest Region (Region 6) had no clearly identifiable regional architectural prototype, but drew heavily on rural vernacular models. The character of the old-growth forest environment provided inspiration as well. The Region 6 building designs conveyed a feeling of enduring substance in sturdy designs and communicated the wealth of the timber-rich region in an almost lavish use of wood. While the building exteriors conformed to the traditional and rustic forms of design, the interiors were very modern in terms of layout and planning. The Region 6 architectural designs were

an expression of the rustic theme intended to characterize the Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest. Forest Service CCC era buildings also translated the rustic architectural style into designs and materials that could be constructed with relatively unskilled labor. The architectural group in the Regional Office responsible for building design and site planning included architects Linn A. Forrest, Howard L. Gifford, James Pollock, and W.I. Turner, and landscape architect Emmett U. Blanchfield.

Rustic architecture was a function of its time, uniquely suited to the social and economic conditions of the Depression-era. Labor-intensive, handcrafted rustic architecture required the skills and efforts of many men--both highly trained professionals and unskilled workmen in planning, design, and execution. The CCC was able to provide these resources and New Deal legislation helped to make the expanded role of the Forest Service a reality.

Colonial Revival Architecture and the Ranger's Residence

While most of the compound was constructed on variations of R-6 standard rustic building designs, the Ranger's residence (already determined eligible for the National Register under criteria A and C) was constructed in the Colonial Revival

style. In 1926, the reconstruction of Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia had just been completed. Its popularity with the American public touched off a domestic building trend which became known as the Colonial Revival style lasting from late 1926 through the 1940s. This early American look offered feelings of historic pride and permanence to a population battered by the Great Depression.

Notable features of the Colonial Revival style which can be seen in the Ranger's residence include a symmetrically balanced facade and floor plan, an accentuated front entrance, and double sash windows. The structure also has a full basement--an uncommon feature in this locality due the proximity of the Smith River. The white pine and fir used extensively in the construction of the Ranger's residence most likely came from the Illinois Valley located in southern Oregon along Highway 199 about 40 miles to the northeast. At that time this small logging community specialized in milling these types of timber.

Architectural Significance: Criterion C

Comprehensive site planning represented a significant advance in Forest Service administrative site development. The Gasquet Ranger Station Historic District is an excellent example of this kind of site planning. Administrative, service, and residential buildings were organized separately to achieve maximum efficiency of operation and minimum interruption of activity. While the function of each respective building was clearly articulated, a uniformity of style was achieved through similarity of character and appearance. Continuity of forms and materials produced an internal harmony which contributed to the overall character of the site.

Forest Service rustic architecture helped to create an image of simplicity and to convey an ethic of conservation. In the eloquence of its expression and in its divergence from the trend toward functionalism occurring in urban architecture, the rustic style made an important contribution to twentieth century American architectural thought. The Gasquet Ranger Station Historic District exemplifies the values of the rustic style in Forest Service architecture. These characteristics are exemplified in the design and materials of the buildings and in their solid quality construction and craftsmanship. The rustic design characteristics and themes mark a beginning of an era in which the Forest Service came to be recognized as a leader in the field of conservation and forest management throughout the nation.

The one building which was not designed in the rustic style was the Ranger's residence. It was the first structure to be completed at the new Ranger Station by enrollees of the CCC. It appears that Ranger Nilsson's wife

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possessed a Colonial Revival home building plan from an old copy of *Ladies Home Journal* (July, 1930 issue) and convinced her husband that it be used to construct the District Ranger's residence. Since then, it has been the home to 9 District Rangers and their families. Currently, it is being used as the men's barracks. Research on the historic architecture of Region 5 Forest Service administrative building indicates that it is the first Forest Service Colonial Revival structure to be built in California.

CCC Properties Remaining within Forest Service Region 5 (California)

With the establishment of CCC camps throughout the nation during the early years of the program, the Forest Service undertook an ambitious construction program using CCC labor. Refer to *Contextual History of Forest Service Administration Buildings in the Pacific Southwest Region*, Supernowicz and Lux 1989, for a contextual overview of CCC constructed administrative buildings as well as documentation related to design, architecture, and construction methodology and materials in California. Refer to *Utterly Visionary and Chimerical: A Federal Response to the Depression--An Examination of Civilian Conservation Corps Construction on National Forest Lands in the Pacific Northwest*, Troop 1979, for an overview of design elements, architecture, construction methodology and materials for Oregon and Washington (Pacific Northwest Region 6) and the Gasquet Ranger District which was part of this Region during the CCC era.

During the CCC era, hundreds of Forest Service administrative buildings were constructed including ranger stations, guard stations, fire lookouts, and warehouses. Today, within California, relatively few of these buildings remain. In 1957, as the large number of CCC constructed buildings began to age and become outmoded, Forest Service officials in Region 5 (California) sought to evaluate the condition and prioritize needed maintenance and repair of these properties on a region-wide basis. On Six Rivers National Forest, the report contained the following CCC constructed administrative sites.

Gasquet Ranger District (Originally part of Forest Service Region 6)
Gasquet Ranger Station Compound
Patrick Creek Guard Station
Big Flat Guard Station

Orleans Ranger District
Orleans Ranger Station Compound
Shelton View Guard Station
Elk Valley Guard Station

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Lower Trinity Ranger District

Lower Trinity Guard Station
Lower Trinity Ranger Station Compound at Salyer
Campbell Creek Guard Station
Ammon Ranch Guard Station
Trinity Summit Guard Station

Mad River Ranger District

Mad River Ranger Station Compound
Ruth Guard Station
Hoaglin Guard Station
Zenias Guard Station

In the early 1990s, Six Rivers National Forest Historian Christine Savage-Palmer surveyed the administrative sites on the Forest for their potential National Register eligibility. Of the Forest's original 15 locations with CCC-constructed administrative buildings, only six remained. Of these locations, only three retained adequate integrity to appear to be potentially eligible for listing on the National Register. Furthermore, only the remaining properties at the Gasquet Ranger Station Compound and at Salyer retained the associations and integrity to constitute historic districts. Thus from a population of 71 CCC buildings and structures listed in 1957, on the Six Rivers National Forest, only 23 buildings remain eligible. The Gasquet Ranger Station Historic District contains 8 of these buildings and structures and the Lower Trinity Ranger Station at Salyer contains 7.

No formal count of the exact number of surviving CCC Forest Service administrative compounds within California is available. Discussions with other National Forest historians within Region 5 suggest that few remaining Ranger Station compounds convey the feeling of association and integrity necessary to qualify as Historic Districts.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The southern boundary is the property boundary of the Ranger Station compound that fronts U.S. 199. From the southwest corner of the District at the rock wall and the southern boundary, the boundary extends north approximately 150 feet to a point just to the northwest of the warehouse. At that point the boundary extends east 180 feet to the edge of the driveway, at that point the boundary extends northwest approximately 200 feet to the rock wall. At this point (the northwest corner of the District), the boundary extends to the east 200 feet to the eastern property line. At that point it extends south approximately 250 feet--along some discontinuous sections of the rock wall--to the southeastern corner of the District at the southern boundary.


DISTRICT SITE MAP


GASQUET RANGER STATION

HISTORICAL DISTRICT

CA DNO 308H


LEGEND

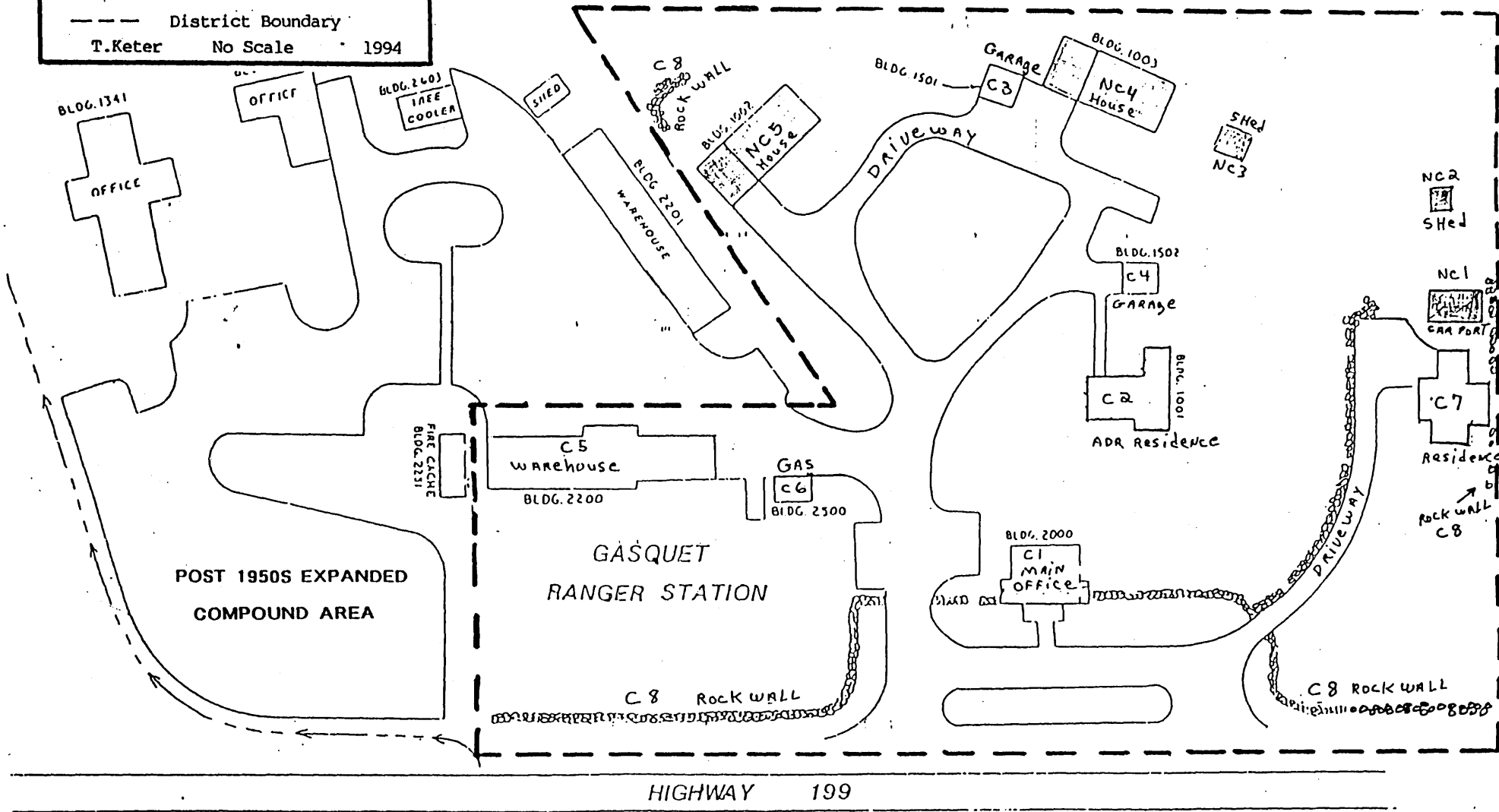
 Contributing Elements

 Noncontributing Elements

--- District Boundary

T.Keter No Scale 1994



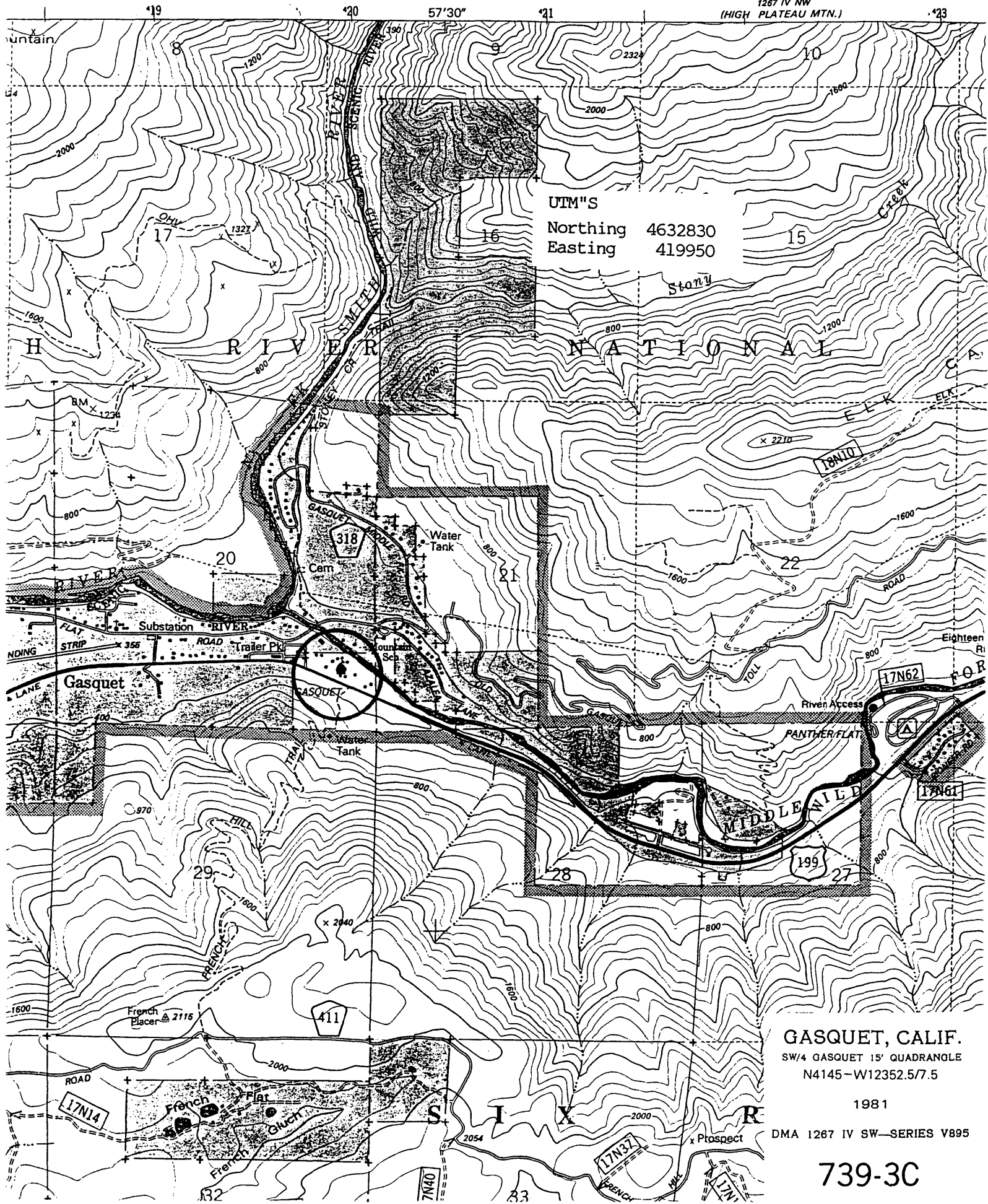


THE INTERIOR
SURVEY
REST SERVICE USE

GASQUET RANGER STATION

HISTORICAL DISTRICT

1267 IV NW
(HIGH PLATEAU MTN.)



GASQUET, CALIF.
SW/4 GASQUET 15' QUADRANGLE
N4145-W12352.5/7.5

1981

DMA 1267 IV SW-SERIES V895

739-3C

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Property: Gasquet Ranger Station Historic District
Location: Del Norte County, California
Name of Photographer: Thomas S. Keter
Date of Photos: January 25, 1994
Location of Negatives: Six Rivers National Forest
1330 Bayshore Way
Eureka, Ca. 95501

Photo # View

(Photos are keyed to sketch map)

Photos 1-12 are of contributing elements within the District.

- 1 View west to east elevation of the main office (C1). Note rock wall and view of landscaping on eastern portion of the compound.
- 2 Front (south) elevation of the main office (C1).
- 3 East elevation of main office (C1).
- 4 View east to west elevation of the Assistant District Ranger residence (C2) on right and garage (C4) on left of photograph.
- 5 View north and west at south and east elevations of the Assistant District Rangers residence (C2) on left and Garage (C4) on right of photograph.
- 6 South elevation of Assistant District Ranger's residence (C2)
- 7 South elevation of Protective Assistant's garage (C3).
- 8 View southwest to the north and east elevations of the warehouse (C5).
- 9 View of north elevation (with garage doors) and west elevation of warehouse (C5).
- 10 View south to north elevation of the gas and oil house (C6).
- 11 View north and west to south (front) and east elevations of the District Ranger's residence (C7).
- 12 View est to west elevation of District Ranger's residence (C7).

Photographs 13-15 are of the noncontributing elements within the District.

- 13 View north to south elevation of residence (NC4).
- 14 View west to east elevation of residence (NC5).
- 15 View northeast to carport (NC1) in foreground and shed (NC2) in background.