

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

FEB 94

1. Name of Property

historic name La Prele Work Center
other names/site number 48CO1830

2. Location

street & number Medicine Bow National Forest /NA/not for publication
city, town Douglas /XX/vicinity
state Wyoming code 48 county Converse code 009 zip code 82633

3. Classification

Ownership of Property		Category of Property		Number of Resources within Property	
				Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/>	private	<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	district	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/>	public-State	<input type="checkbox"/>	site		_____ sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/>	structure		_____ structures
		<input type="checkbox"/>	object		_____ objects
				<u>3</u>	<u>2</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: DEPRESSION-ERA USDA FOREST SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEXES ON MEDICINE BOW NATIONAL FOREST, WYOMING
Number of contributing resources 3
Previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Lucas J. DeStasio 2/9/94
Signature of certifying official Date
Federal Preservation Officer
USDA - Forest Service

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

Shelia Buckner-Wade Deputy SHPO 1/24/94
Signature of certifying official Date
John Keck
State Historic Preservation Officer

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register. Mag M. Way 4/11/94
- 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:)

Mag M. Way Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Government: Government Office

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Government: Government Office

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: USFS Rustic Architecture

Materials enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Wood: Log

roof Wood: Shingle

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Summary

The La Prele Work Center is located in the La Prele Creek drainage on the southwestern slopes of the Laramie Range in southern Wyoming. It was originally built as a remote ranger station and converted into a work center when the La Prele Ranger District was discontinued in 1956. It is situated in a grassy clearing surrounded by lodgepole pine. The USDA Forest Service Facility has three contributory historic buildings built from 1937 to 1941 and two noncontributory buildings. One was built in 1961 and the construction date of the other is unknown. Present at the site are an Office/Dwelling, Dwelling, Shop/Garage, Flammable Storage shed and a Generator House. The nominated property is a good example of a Forest Service ranger station built during the Depression-era. It retains all of its original buildings in their historic setting with no apparent intrusions and only minor alterations to the interiors of the buildings. The buildings illustrate the use of standard architectural plans typical of the construction of ranger stations during the Depression. The La Prele Work Center retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Setting

The La Prele Work Center is located on the southwestern slopes of the Laramie Mountains at an elevation of 7230 feet. The Work Center was designed to blend in with the natural surroundings. The buildings are located in a small clearing east of La Prele Creek within a steep, narrow drainage of towering granite cliffs and a dense cover of pine, spruce and fir trees.

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions) Period of Significance Significant Dates

ARCHITECTURE 1937-1941 1937

SOCIAL HISTORY _____ _____

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT _____ _____

CONSERVATION _____ _____

_____ Cultural Affiliation _____

_____ N/A _____

_____ _____ _____

_____ _____ _____

Significant Person Architect/Affiliation

N/A USDA Forest Service, Region 2

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

Summary

The La Prele Work Center is significant under criterion "A" for its association with expansion of Forest Service administration from custodial superintendence to active resource management. Built by the Civilian Conservation Corps, it reflects the contribution of this Federal Works program to the expansion of the Forest Service resource management during the 1930's. It is also significant under criterion "C" because it embodies a distinctive style of architecture developed by the Forest Service during the Depression-era. The use of standard plans was typical of remote Forest Service installations and the log building style conformed well with the forested surroundings. The buildings represent a distinctive Forest Service architectural design style and philosophy. The period of significance dates from 1937, when the first logs were cut to the completion of construction activities in 1941, corresponding with the end of the Great Depression and the disbanding of the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Historic Contexts/Background

The La Prele Work Center is significant for its association with expansion of Forest Service administration from custodial superintendence to active resource management. (See "Depression-Era USDA Forest Service Administrative Complexes in the enclosed Multiple Property Form" for additional information).

See Continuation Sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Darlington, George

1993 Personal Communication. Notes on file, Douglas Ranger District, Douglas WY.

Grasso, Dennis N., Scott Thybony, Robert Rosenberg and Elizabeth Rosenberg

1981 Class I Cultural Resource Overview of the Medicine Bow National Forest Including Thunder Basin National Grassland. High Plains Consultants, Laramie, WY.

Operation Records for the CCC, National Archives, Denver Colorado.

USDA Forest Service Withdrawal, Facilities, Real Property, and Historical files, Medicine Bow National Forest, Laramie, Wyoming.

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 hist. preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Medicine Bow National Forest

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 40 acres

UTM References

1	<u>1 3 </u>	<u>4 3 1 3 0 0 </u>	<u>4 7 0 0 9 8 0 </u>	2	<u>1 3 </u>	<u>4 3 1 7 2 0 </u>	<u>4 7 0 0 5 4 0 </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
3	<u>1 3 </u>	<u>4 3 1 7 2 0 </u>	<u>4 7 0 0 5 4 0 </u>	4	<u>1 3 </u>	<u>4 3 1 3 0 0 </u>	<u>4 7 0 0 9 8 0 </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of La Prele Work Center is delineated by the polygon whose vertices are marked by the following UTM references: 1 13 431300 4700980, 2 13 431720 4700540, 3 13 431720 4700540, 4 13 431300 4700980. It comprises the NE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 27, T.29N., R.75W. The area surrounding the complex within the boundary is not considered a "buffer area," but is integral to the setting of the property. The boundary of the La Prele Work Center is shown as a solid line on the accompanying site plan.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes that land which was withdrawn from general Forest activities on October 27, 1937 (Letter in Withdrawal Files) for the purposes of constructing the Cold Springs Ranger Station Administrative Site.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title James Heid, Forest Archaeologist

organization USDA Forest Service - Medicine Bow NF date 9/18/93

street & number 2468 Jackson St. telephone 307-745-8971

city or town Laramie state WY zip code 82070

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Contributing Buildings

Office/Dwelling (#3544): The Office/Dwelling is a one-story, irregular shaped log structure with a rubble stone foundation and an open stone porch attached to the northeast side. The construction uses horizontal, saddle-notched logs. The roof is medium-gabled and is covered with wood shingles. A single panelled wood door with one pane in the top panel leads from the porch into the interior of the structure. A similar door is located in the northwest side of the building. Windows are either eight-pane casement type or six-pane casement type. Some of the windows have horizontal board shutters with the CCC tree emblem. The buildings contains a one-room office/kitchen, one bedroom, a partial basement and a two-car garage. It was constructed between 1937 and 1941 from standard Forest Service plans.

Dwelling (#3541): The Dwelling is a one-story, rectangular shaped log structure with a rubble stone foundation and an open stone porch attached to the east side. The construction uses horizontal, saddle-notched logs. The roof is medium-gabled and is covered with wood shingles. A single panelled wood door with four panes in the top panel leads from the porch into the interior of the structure. Windows are either eight-pane casement type or six-pane casement type. Some of the windows have horizontal board shutters with the CCC tree emblem. The buildings contains a kitchen, two bedrooms, living room with stone fireplace and a a full basement. It was constructed between 1937 and 1941 from standard Forest Service plans.

Garage (#3573): The Garage is a one-story, rectangular shaped log structure with a concrete foundation and a full loft. It has two bays with overhead sliding doors and a two-room work space. The construction uses horizontal, saddle-notched logs. The roof is medium-gabled and is covered with wood shingles. It has a vertical board door on the northeast side. Windows are six-pane casement type that open inward. It was constructed between 1937 and 1941 from standard Forest Service plans.

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Noncontributing Buildings

Flammable Storage (#3564): The Flammable Storage shed is a square shaped wood frame building. The shed roof is medium-gabled and covered with wood shingles. It has a single vertical-board door. The siding is horizontal-board. It has no windows and has a wood foundation sitting on the ground. Construction date is unknown, but it was probably moved to the Work Center from another site.

Generator House (#3563): The Generator Shed is a rectangular shaped wood frame building. The shed roof is medium-gabled and covered with wood shingles. It has a five-panel wood door. The siding is horizontal-board. It has no windows and has a concrete foundation. It was constructed in 1966.

Integrity

The La Prele Work Center has undergone only very minor alterations to the buildings since it was first constructed. There are no buildings or structures outside the property boundary that impact the visual integrity of the complex. The complex possesses integrity of design, workmanship, materials, setting, feeling, and association and, therefore, is a good representation of a USDA Forest Service administrative complex from the depression.

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Historic Contexts/Background

The La Prele Work Center was constructed in 1937-1941 by a crew from the Cold Springs Side Camp (F-37) just a 1/2 mile to the north (Inspection Letters, 1938-1941). The Laramie Peak Camp (F-37-W) cut the logs for some of the buildings in 1937 and 1938 even though no land had yet been allocated (Inspection Letters). It was originally built as an administrative facility for the newly formed La Prele Ranger District and was named the Cold Springs Ranger Station. The first District Ranger was "Hoot" Gibson who had temporary quarters about a 1/2 mile away on private land. The winter headquarters for the La Prele Ranger District were at the Douglas, Wyoming Post Office. It was renamed the La Prele Ranger Station by the time the construction was complete in 1941. The La Prele Ranger District along with the La Bonte Ranger District, comprised the Laramie Peak Division of the Medicine Bow National Forest. The Division was formed by an Act of Congress in 1935 as a result of summer-long fire that consumed thousands of acres of both Federal and private land. It remained a ranger station until the two Districts were united and renamed the Laramie Peak Ranger District in 1956. In 1987 the Thunder Basin Grassland and the Laramie Peak Ranger District were combined to form the present configuration of the Douglas Ranger District which is administered from the present ranger station in Douglas, Wyoming. The Work Center is still being used presently by work crews from the Douglas Ranger District.

La Prele Work Center

