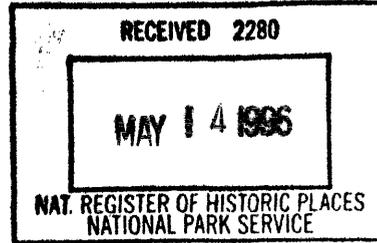


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 Great Basin Research Station Historic District

other names/site number Great Basin Environmental Education Center; Great Basin Experimental Range-U.S.F.S.#BS-998

2. Location

street & number State Highway 29-Ephraim Canyon Road N/A not for publication

city or town Approximately 8 miles east of Ephraim N/A vicinity

state Utah code UT county Sanpete code 039 zip code 84627

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

See cover letter
 Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

 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.)

W. M. A.
 Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date 3/12/96

Utah Division of State History, Office of Historic Preservation
 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:)

Signature of the Keeper Carol Shuler Date of Action 6-28-96

Great Basin Research Station Historic District
Name of Property

Sanpete County, Utah
County, and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
13		buildings
3		sites
4		structures
1		objects
21	0	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC/camp
- DOMESTIC/secondary structure
- EDUCATION/research facility
- AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding
- OTHER/experimental range station

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC/camp
- EDUCATION/research facility
- RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

- OTHER: Forest Service standard plans
- LATE 19TH AND 20TH CEN. REVIVALS: Colonial Revival
- LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CEN. AMERICAN MOVEMENTS:
- Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation CONCRETE
- walls Weatherboard
- Log
- roof Asphalt
- other

Narrative Description

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

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

Great Basin Research Station Historic District
Name of Property

Sanpete County, Utah
County, and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" on one or more lines for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- 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" on all that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or 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

SOCIAL HISTORY

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1912-1945

Significant Dates

1912-1916, 1933-1936

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

U.S. Forest Service

U.S. Civilian Conservation Corps

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

Name of repository:

U.S. Forest Service, Manti-LaSal National Forest

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

Great Basin Research Station Historic District
Name of Property

Sanpete County, Utah
County, and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 71.9 acres (Headquarters Complex: 53.5 acres, Alpine Cabin: 18.4 acres)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

Headquarters Complex:

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

(See Continuation Sheet)

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary of the nominated district is delineated by the polygons whose vertices are marked by the following UTM reference points:

Headquarters Complex portion: (1) 12 457700 4352355, (2) 12 458400 4352355, (3) 12 458400 4352040, (4) 12 457700 4352040, then following a line along the center of the Ephraim Canyon Road to the point of beginning. Also, the SW1/4 of NW1/4 of SW1/4 of T17S R4E S21 and SE1/4 of NE1/4 of SE1/4 of T17S R4E S20.

Alpine Cabin Portion: (5) 12 461155 4350450, (6) 12 461280 4350450, (7) 12 461550 4350200, (8) 12 461550 435020, (9) 12 461290 4350200, then following a line along the center of the Ephraim Canyon Road to the point of beginning. Also, the SW1/4 of SW1/4 of SW1/4 of T17S R4E S26 and NE1/4 of SE1/4 of SE1/4 of T17S R4E S27.

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

Boundary Justification

See Continuation Sheet

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nelson W. Knight, Architectural Historian

organization Smith Balle Hyatt Architects

date January 1996

street & number 845 South Main Street

telephone (801) 298-1666

city or town Bountiful

state UT zip code 84010-

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/or 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

name USDA Forest Service, Manti-LaSal National Forest

street & number 150 South Main Street

telephone (801) 283-4151

city or town Ephraim

state UT zip code 84627

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section No. 7 Page 1

Great Basin Research Station Historic District, Sanpete County, UT

Narrative Description

The Great Basin Research Station Historic District, built 1912-16 and 1933-36, is located in the Wasatch Plateau region of central Utah about 100 miles south of Salt Lake City and approximately eight miles east of Ephraim, Utah in Ephraim Canyon. The historic district is noncontiguous and consists of the experimental station headquarters complex (hereafter referred to as the Headquarters) and another complex of buildings within the range boundaries, about three miles east of the Headquarters complex, the Alpine Cabin and Experiment Station (hereafter referred to as the Alpine Cabin). The Great Basin Experimental Range was created by the U.S. Forest Service in 1912 on 4,608 acres to research problems in forestry and watershed management.¹ The buildings at the Headquarters and the Alpine Cabin complexes were built in several periods from 1912 through the 1930's, and consist of 10 contributing buildings at the Headquarters and three contributing buildings at the Alpine Cabin. In addition, there are three contributing structures at the Headquarters: a tennis court, an amphitheater, and a tent frame. There is one contributing archaeological site and three contributing objects, a flagpole, a stone bench, and water fountain, at the Headquarters as well. A number of buildings constructed in the Great Basin Station Historic District during the historic period have been demolished; a foundation at each of the complexes is all that remains of the barn and garage. These cannot be classified as contributing because of their lack of integrity.

Headquarters:

The Headquarters complex is laid out in classic camp form, with primary buildings grouped around an elliptical drive with concrete walkways connecting the buildings (see enclosed site plan). Immediately adjacent to the drive are three residences and a laboratory/office building. North of these buildings is a greenhouse that was converted to housing in 1933, a showerhouse, and a tent frame structure used for extra housing. Also in the complex are a grouping of service buildings: a two car garage, a three car garage, and an oil and gas storage building. The foundation of a now-demolished barn is near these buildings. Other contributing structures within the Headquarters area are a tennis court and an amphitheater; both are located northwest of the main compound. Three of the existing structures, the director's residence (now called the East House), the laboratory, and the greenhouse date from 1912-16, when the station was established. The barn, of which only the foundation remains, was also constructed at this time. The Lodge, as well as three other buildings on the grounds, the South House, the End House, and the Shower House, was built on the site of a burned dormitory by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) beginning in 1933. CCC workers also built the tennis court and the amphitheater during this time. Behind the lodge is a contributing archaeological site, a refuse pit used from 1912 to c.1960. The pit was uncovered during excavations by the Forest Service in 1993.

All of the buildings on the site are of wood frame construction, with various combinations of shingle, shiplap, and board and batten siding. Excepting the original 1912-13 buildings, all are standard U.S. Forest Service designs of the period. Roofs are uniformly shingled with sawn wood shingles. Unless

¹ All building construction dates and Forest Service plan numbers are taken from Gallagher, Joseph, "Evaluation of Intermountain Station Facilities" (Ogden, Utah: USDA Forest Service, 1988).

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Great Basin Research Station Historic District, Ephraim, Sanpete County, UT

noted otherwise, the interiors of each building are finished with lath and plaster and have hardwood floors with simple wood trim.

East House

The East House, a contributing building originally used as the residence of the director of the experimental station, is one of three surviving buildings built as part of the original station in 1912-13. It is sited at the northeast end of the elliptical drive. The East House is a wood frame, wood shingle-sided, hipped roofed building, with a rectangular plan. The front of the house is dominated by a full-width porch supported by seven square profile shingle-clad columns. The porch as well as the rest of the East House exhibits bungalow and craftsman stylistic details. The walls of the building rest on a concrete foundation, and are pierced by one-over-one double hung windows placed at regular intervals on each facade of the building. The roof is constructed of dimensional lumber rafters with one inch sheathing under sawn wood shingles. The condition of the roof rafters indicates that the roof structure may have been replaced at some time. The only other alterations to the building from its original appearance are the two rebuilt chimneys, now made of concrete block above the roofline instead of the original brick. A panel and glass door placed off-center on the front facade leads into the main room, a living area running the entire width of the building. The most prominent feature of this room is a large fireplace on the east wall constructed of fieldstone, flanked by two rectangular casement windows. The room is paneled with dark-stained wood, with some craftsman period features. All other interior walls are plaster over lath in the two bedrooms, kitchen, and bathroom.

Laboratory

The Laboratory, a contributing structure, is another of the Headquarter's original buildings, constructed at roughly the same time as the East House, Greenhouse and Barn, in 1912-13. The shape of this one-story, gable-ended structure, combined with shingle siding, three-over-three double-hung windows, and central chimney give the building the appearance of a Cape Cod style cottage. A porch on the front (south) facade with a lean-to roof supported by four shingle-clad columns and the simple construction of the trim throughout the Laboratory evokes the Arts and Crafts style. The main floor of the interior is divided into two large rooms, an office and a laboratory, and a smaller darkroom under the central stairwell. The stairs lead to a finished sleeping area and unfinished storage space under the rafters in the attic. A screened porch in the rear of the building is paneled with wood and seems to have been used for tool storage, as evidenced by tool outlines drawn into the paneling to aid in their replacement after use.

The Lodge

The Lodge, a contributing construction, was built by CCC workers in 1936 to replace a 1912-13 dormitory on the same site that burned in 1935. The design of the lodge follows Forest Service standard plan R4-10A, Mess Hall and Dormitory. It is a wood frame building constructed in an H-type cross-wing plan with a combination of board and batten, shiplap and shingle siding. A roof with intersecting gables shingled with sawn wood shingles covers the building, which is crowned with a single central chimney. Major features of the front facade are a centered covered entry porch and two large french doors on the left wing that open onto a twelve inch wide false terrace. The interior contains three bedrooms, a bathroom, a kitchen, dining room, and a living room. The living room walls and ceiling are paneled

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Great Basin Research Station Historic District, Ephraim, Sanpete County, UT

with wood; other walls in the house are plaster. There is a narrow stair in the Lodge that leads to a small room on the second floor, identified on drawings as a "Reading Room." This room is now used as an additional bedroom.

End House

The End House, a contributing building and a few yards southwest of the Lodge, was built by the CCC in 1933 based on Forest Service Standard Plan R4-1F. The building is a one-and-one-half story, gable roofed structure, with shiplap siding, sawn shingle roof, and a central chimney. Like the Laboratory and South House, the building is evocative of the Cape Cod form of building. There are two projections off the central block of the house on the west and north walls; the north wall projection is evidently a modification of the original design of the building as it is not shown on the standard drawings. The walls are pierced at symmetrical intervals about the structure by six-over-six and four-over-four double hung windows flanked in several cases by wood panel shutters decorated with a pine tree-shaped cutout. The interior remains unchanged. The End House has been used for living space since its construction.

South House

Another house constructed by the CCC in 1934 for additional housing and space for training programs at the headquarters is known as the South House. The South House, a contributing building, lies directly across the lawn from the Laboratory and was the last of the buildings to be built facing the lawn. Again, the house is a simple, Cape Cod style design with some Arts and Crafts design elements. It was built according to Forest Service Plan R4-8, Ranger Station Dwelling. The exterior of the building was modified by the Forest Service and Snow College in 1993 with the addition of a large deck to the rear of the house, and alterations to the original interior plan. These do not, however, substantially detract from the integrity of the building, and it remains a contributing element to the Historic District.

Greenhouse

The Greenhouse, located northeast of the Laboratory, is an original contributing building at the station, built in 1916 as a greenhouse. In 1933-34 the Forest Service remodeled the building into living space for summer assistants. After this renovation was completed, the building was often referred to as the Temp. House, in reference to the anticipated temporary use for housing. The building was never converted back into a greenhouse, as had been apparently planned. The Greenhouse retains much of its original utilitarian appearance, with the additions of casement windows and Italianesque pergolas at each of the two ends of the rectangular building (one of these pergolas has fallen down). The original roof glass was removed at the time of the renovation and was replaced with a sawn wood shingle roof. On the interior, the original presumably open plan was divided into rooms by walls covered with dark stained wood paneling. The dwelling is not currently used by Great Basin Environmental Education Center (GBEEC).

Shower House

The Shower House, located north of the greenhouse, is a wood frame, gable-ended, oblong contributing structure covered with wood drop siding. The design is patterned after Forest Service Standard Plan R4-73b. Its exact construction date is unknown, although it dates from the CCC building era at the Station,

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Great Basin Research Station Historic District, Ephraim, Sanpete County, UT

1933-36, and was used by CCC laborers for showers. A central breezeway is reached by two doors, one on each long side of the building (now boarded over). Several two-over-two casement windows are spaced at regular intervals along the structure. The interior is spare and utilitarian, with shower stalls along one wall of the building and sinks along the other wall. The building is currently not used by GBEEC.

Tent Frame

Two contributing tent frames were built at an unknown date north of the Greenhouse and Temporary House. One of these, originally used as a kitchen for the CCC, remains standing. They are constructed of two-by-four framing over wooden piers and wood plank flooring with a framed door opening in one wall space. When in use, the frame is covered by canvas tent material. The frame remains in serviceable condition, but is seldom used, and is rapidly deteriorating.

Three Car Garage/Palmer House

This contributing building is one of several service buildings located a few yards south of the central lawn. The Garage was built in the late 1920's in a Cape Cod form. Original plans called for a smaller building with two bays, but during construction the plan was reversed and an additional bay was added. Three sliding wood garage doors and a passage door pierce the front facade. The interior originally had garage and shop space on the first floor and dormitory space on the second floor. During the summer of 1995, the interior of the Palmer House was renovated to house classroom space in the former work bays on the first floor. The building retains its historic exterior appearance, and the second floor is still used for living space.

Two Car Garage and Shop

Another shop, a variant of Forest Service plan R4-23, Garage and Storeroom, was constructed near the Palmer House by the CCC in 1934. The Cape Cod type structure contributes to the district and is pierced by two sliding garage doors, a panel passage door, double hung three-over-three and two-over-two-over-two paired casement windows. The interior is open with a concrete floor and exposed stud walls.

Oil and Gas House

This log building, one of two contributing log buildings in the district, was originally constructed in 1917 for storage of oil and gas at a safe distance from the other buildings and for garage space when motor vehicles arrived at the station. It is currently used for storage.

Tennis Court

Lying west of the main compound is a tennis court built by CCC workers in 1934. The court is poured concrete. There is an adjacent wood pergola that shelters a wood bench. This structure dates from the construction of the tennis court and both contribute to the historic qualities of the district.

Amphitheater

A short path from the main camp leads to the amphitheater, a contributing structure in the district. The amphitheater dates from 1934 and was constructed based on Forest Service plan R4-107, Amphitheater,

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Great Basin Research Station Historic District, Ephraim, Sanpete County, UT

Type 2. This open air facility has a 20'x25' concrete stage with sixteen rows of plank seats on log piles ascending the hillside. The amphitheater is still used by the GBEEC for its environmental programs.

Flagpole, Stone Bench, and Drinking Fountain

At the center of the compound is a contributing flagpole constructed out of a tree trunk. The present flagpole is about thirty feet tall and is about eight inches in diameter at the base. It was constructed at an unknown date, although historic photographs always show a flagpole at this location. The flagpole is supported by a smaller pole that has been cut about six feet from the ground. This smaller pole may be all that remains of an earlier flagpole. Next to the flagpole are a small bench and drinking fountain. They are built of uncoarsed sandstone, and have recently been repointed with portland cement. Their exact construction date is unknown; although they do not appear in early (1916) photographs, they do appear on a 1937 map of the complex made by the Forest Service, and in photographs taken in the 1930's.

Historic Dump Archaeological Site

In 1993, Snow College installed a new sewer system at the Station. The Forest Service conducted an archaeological survey in the areas to be excavated for the new sewer line to assess and mitigate the loss of historic resources in the area. The excavation located a refuse disposal area at the rear of the Lodge building. Artifacts recovered indicate the dump was used from 1912 into the 1960's, with the period of heaviest use occurring from 1912 to c.1935.² This area could be further excavated, will provide a valuable glimpse into life at the Great Basin Station, and is considered a contributing site in the district.

Barn Foundation

Northwest of the Oil and Gas house is the foundation of the Barn, one of the original buildings at the station. The barn collapsed under snow load and later burned some time ago, and the ruins were pulled down in 1983. All that remains at this time are the concrete foundation and pad. It is considered a non-contributing structure due to lack of integrity.

Alpine Cabin

The Alpine Cabin Portion of the Great Basin Station Historic District is within the Experimental Range Reserve, approximately three miles up the canyon from the Station Headquarters near the Ephraim Canyon Road. The two complexes are connected by the Ephraim Canyon Road. The Alpine Cabin buildings were constructed in 1914 to facilitate field studies in watershed management. Two sediment and stream flow monitoring buildings, as well as the Alpine Cabin itself and the non-contributing foundations of its garage are contributing buildings on the site. The layout of these buildings was determined by the natural topography of the area and the location of two watersheds that intersected at the site of the Alpine Cabin.

²

Evans, Leah, et al., "Archaeological Monitoring of New Sewer System Installation and Data Recovery at an Historic Dump at the Great Basin Research Station (42SP274) Sanpete Ranger District, Manti-La Sal National Forest, Sanpete County, Utah", (Ogden, Utah: USDA Forest Service, 1994), p.1.

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Great Basin Research Station Historic District, Ephraim, Sanpete County, UT

Alpine Cabin

The 1914 Alpine Cabin, a contributing one-story log building in the district, is the residence for researchers at the site. Its hipped roof with deep overhangs and window form and fenestration gives the cabin a bungalow-like appearance, although the building possesses no other bungalow style details. A concrete foundation supports the log walls, which are pierced by two doors on the east elevation, one door on the west facade, and a combination of six-over-six and one-over-six casement windows. The hipped roof is covered with sawn wood shingles, and the roof rafters have exposed ends that have been cut into a bird's-mouth pattern. The interior of the building is divided into three rooms: a living/sleeping room, a kitchen, and a storage room. Walls are dressed logs throughout the interior, while the ceilings are paneled with a narrow bead paneling. Flat moldings are the only woodwork in the cabin. Currently, the cabin is only used occasionally by the Station caretaker.

Watershed Buildings A & B

The two other buildings on the site, both built in 1914, are identical in construction and appearance and contribute to the district. The buildings have a special function: each shelters an open-topped sediment tank, built in the stream bed to catch and help in measuring sediment and runoff from the watershed upstream from the building. The stream enters one gable end of the building, and exits out the opposite end after flowing through the rectangular sediment tank. The buildings are simple one-story gable roofed structure, with wood shiplap siding. There is one passage door in the center of one facade of each building, and each building has one six-over-six double hung window on the wall opposite the door. The interiors are unfinished, with plank walks over the sediment tanks the only floors. The buildings are no longer used for experimental purposes but still function in the way they were designed.

Garage Foundation

A non-contributing concrete garage foundation is all that remains of a dismantled garage next to the Alpine Cabin. The foundation is still readily apparent, although there are no indications of the historic appearance of the garage. It is considered a non-contributing structure due to its loss of integrity.

___ See continuation sheet

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Great Basin Research Station Historic District, Sanpete County, UT

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Great Basin Research Station Historic District, built 1912-16 and 1933-36, is significant under Criterion A as one of the two U.S. government research stations³ generally acknowledged to be the birthplace of scientific range management. The Great Basin Station was founded in 1912 in response to a series of watershed problems throughout the western United States between 1889 and 1910. Range and watershed management research was conducted at the station for the next sixty years; this research had a substantial impact on the U.S. Government's management of federally owned lands during the historic period and up to the present day. Within the context of social history, the building of the site by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) under the direction of the U.S. Forest Service ties into the broad patterns of the conservation ethic developed during the New Deal era. The Great Basin Research Station is also significant under Criterion C as an excellent example of U.S. Forest Service standard architectural designs and of building work constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the period 1933-1936. The buildings and structures at the Great Basin Station are little altered from their original appearance and possess high degrees of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The Great Basin Research Station is located in the Manti-LaSal National Forest east of Ephraim, Utah, and approximately 100 miles south of Salt Lake City. The Station was created in response to concern voiced by many small communities in Sanpete Valley and other areas of Central Utah that were grazing on Federal Government lands in the hills above these valleys. A series of severe floods between 1888 and 1910 centered on the town of Manti led to the belief among farmers and townspeople that unrestricted grazing was leading directly to these floods.⁴ Efforts to more closely regulate livestock grazing above the Sanpete Valley included giving Manti City the power to ban grazing on 8000 acres in Manti Canyon in 1901.⁵ In 1903 and 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt established by proclamation the Manti Forest Reserve (changed to Manti National Forest in 1907).⁶ The Forest Service restricted grazing in the Forest Reserve, even closing the Reserve to grazing for several years. This action was met with the consternation of livestock raisers who organized into associations to lobby Congress for guaranteed unrestricted access to Forest Service Lands. However, those who attributed the recent floods to overgrazing were supportive of the restrictions. This highly-charged debate, combined with numerous requests to the Secretary of Agriculture from all parts of the country to study the problems of flooding,

³ The other is Jornada Range Research Reserve, in New Mexico.

⁴ Haymond, Jay Melvin, "History of the Manti Forest, Utah: A Case of Conservation in the West", (Ph.D. diss., University of Utah, 1972), 11. Cited in McDonald, Stan. "Proposed Plans to Mitigate the Adverse Effect...", (Ogden, Utah: USDA Forest Service CRM Report No. ML-93-656, 1993), p.1.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

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Great Basin Research Station Historic District, Sanpete County, UT

led to the concept of a Forest Service Watershed Research Station.⁷ Within the context of these events, the Great Basin Research Station is significant as an early example of efforts at conservation by the U.S. Government, as well as part of the continuing clash between Federal regulation of public lands and unrestricted use of the land in the western United States.

The Ephraim Canyon site was chosen in a somewhat political move to placate the oft-flooded residents of Sanpete Valley. A site in the Blue Mountains of Oregon was initially chosen, but the severe floods in the Sanpete Valley led the Forest Service to change the Research Station site to Ephraim Canyon. Actual site selection occurred in 1911.⁸ The ground for the Station Headquarters was cleared and five buildings that made up the original complex were constructed. These buildings included the East House (1912), the Laboratory (1912), the Assistants' House (1912, burned in 1935 and replaced by the Lodge), and a Barn (1912, collapsed in 1983). The complex expanded with the addition of a greenhouse in 1913. One of the first nine projects undertaken at the station involved measurement of soil and air temperatures and of precipitation and soil moisture at three elevations throughout the Experimental Range. To facilitate this, the buildings at the Alpine Cabin complex were built. Approximately 4600 acres surrounding the Station Headquarters were set aside at the station for experimental purposes. At an elevation of 10,100 feet, the Alpine Cabin provides a different climate zone for experimental projects. Some tracts were set aside from grazing as control units, while other tracts were grazed at certain levels to determine more precisely the effect of livestock on watershed and range conditions. The staff conducting these experiments was small, with only one yearlong employee, Station director A.W. Sampson. Three seasonal assistants worked during the warmer months at the Great Basin Station.

The Station grew slowly with the addition of an oil and gas storage building in 1917 and a three car garage with living quarters in the late 1920's. The garage included living space on the second floor for the ever-increasing number of summer assistants at the Station. Early residents of this space dubbed the building the Palmer House in an ironic allusion to a plush Chicago hotel.⁹ The nickname has persisted to the present day. Beginning in 1933 the Station was enlarged considerably by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The South House, End House, two-car garage and shop, temporary house, amphitheater, tennis court, and tent frames were built by CCC laborers. CCC laborers also converted the former greenhouse into living space in 1935, and re-landscaped the Headquarters compound. The buildings dating from this period and contribute to the Station's architectural significance as CCC-built structures.

Historical significance also relates to the early Forest Service connections with the CCC programs. The Forest Service's coordination with the Civilian Conservation Corps was a mutually beneficial way to

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Keck, Wendell M. "Great Basin Station -- 60 Years of Progress in Range and Watershed Research" (Ogden, Utah: USDA Forest Service Research Paper INT-1189, 1972), p.3.

⁹ Keck, Wendell M. "Great Basin Station--Sixty Years of Progress in Range and Watershed Research" (Ogden, Utah: USDA Forest Service 1972), p.4.

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provide labor for the construction of the buildings and fences used for land evaluation and management. The buildings physically document the cooperation of the U.S. Forest Service with other agencies to establish conservation measures at this time.

The site is also historically significant as a very early example of the conservation and re-employment efforts of a burgeoning national conservation ethic in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, coinciding with the philosophies and administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt. Massive public works were implemented to employ thousands and rejuvenate overlogged and mismanaged public lands. The Great Basin Experimental Station Historic District, built through the coordination of two federal agencies to observe, evaluate and manage the desert range, encompasses this conservation ethic.

These buildings are also examples of Forest Service standard, or R-4 type, designs. The R-4 designs were produced by the Forest Service to standardize and simplify buildings constructed on Forest Service land. The Great Basin Research Station R-4 type buildings are all excellent examples with few original variations from the standard plans and little alteration in the years since their construction.

Experiments conducted at the Great Basin Station and at other Forest Service Research Stations (such as the Desert Experimental Range in southwestern Utah and the Jornada Range Research Reserve in New Mexico, as well as other smaller stations throughout the West) have formed the backbone of Forest Service management of the nation's National Forests. In a 1939 speech at Utah State Agricultural College (now Utah State University), Lincoln Ellison, a prominent figure in the early years of the Forest Service, noted that:

Great Basin may be regarded as one of the two cradles of range research in this country. The other is Jornada Range Research Reserve in New Mexico. It is said that almost everybody in range research has, at one time or other, worked on the Jornada, and almost the same may be said of Great Basin.¹⁰

Research continued at the station in some form or another until the 1970's, when researchers no longer lived at the station, but were headquartered at Forest Service Offices in Ephraim, Provo, and Ogden. Research on the Range continues to the present. The Forest Service evaluated several uses for the Research Station after activities ceased there. In 1989, the Forest Service entered into an agreement with Snow College, in Ephraim, Utah, to convert the buildings at the Station Headquarters into an educational facilities. As of the date of this nomination (1996), the buildings are being rehabilitated and modified for educational use as the Great Basin Environmental Education Center. Changing the facility's use should not significantly endanger the integrity of the buildings, as the uses of the individual buildings will not change significantly in conversion from a research station to an educational center. One product of this upgrade has been an archaeological survey conducted by the Forest Service in 1994 as part of the construction of a new sewer line. A significant number of artifacts providing a glimpse into the daily life

¹⁰ Keck, p. 7.

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of Station residents in the historic period were recovered. The site of a historic refuse area was located by the survey, and is included in this nomination as a contributing site.¹¹

The CCC in Utah

The Civilian Conservation Corps was one of the most successful of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs. The CCC was in operation for nine years, 1933-1942, providing jobs and training to young men 18-25 years old. The men earned \$30 per month, \$25 of which was sent home to help support their families, leaving them \$5 per month personal spending allowance. Their housing, food, and clothing were provided. Utah had a total of 116 camps, though only 30-40 were in operation at any given time. Each camp had about 200 enrollees. Almost 60 percent of the CCC enrollees in Utah were from out of state; the remainder were local boys. Some of the out-of-state boys married local girls and stayed in Utah. The camps were sponsored by a federal or state agency, which outlined projects and oversaw their completion. In Utah, the Forest Service had the most camps with 47, followed by the Division of Grazing (now the BLM) with 24.¹²

The CCC generated significant improvements to public lands. It provided the labor for projects long needed on public lands. These included road and bridge construction, erosion control, range improvements, spring development, and the construction of trails, campgrounds, and ranger stations, plus many other improvements. Recreation was just emerging as a priority for the Forest Service in the 1930s. Recreational visitation increased on some forests as much as 250 percent between 1934 and 1940. The availability of CCC labor was critical in meeting the public demand for camping and picnicking facilities in the mountains and canyons throughout Utah and especially along the Wasatch Front where the state's population is concentrated. The CCC accounted for the construction of virtually all of the recreational facilities built on Utah's extensive Forest Service lands in the 1930s and '40s.¹³ Many of these have survived today. A statewide inventory of CCC structures is currently underway (1995) with over 350 sites identified thus far. Many more have yet to be documented, so accurate information on the numbers, types, and locations of extant CCC structures is not available at this time.

The economic impact of the CCC and other New Deal programs in Utah was profound. In 1933 Utah had an unemployment rate of 36 percent, the fourth highest in the country, and for the period 1932-40 Utah's unemployment rate averaged 25 percent. Because the depression hit Utah so hard, Federal programs were extensive in the state. Overall, per capital Federal spending in Utah during the 1930s

¹¹ See Evans, Leah, et al. "Archaeological Monitoring of New Sewer System Installation..." (Ogden, Utah: USDA Forest Service CRM Report No. ML-93-622a, 1994).

¹² Compiled from Kenneth W. Baldrige, "Nine Years of Achievement: The Civilian Conservation Corps in Utah," (PhD. dissertation, Brigham Young University, 1971).

¹³ Thomas G. Alexander, The Rise of Multiple-use Management in the Intermountain West: A History of Region 4 of the Forest Service (U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, 1987) pp. 106, 110-111.

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was ninth among the forty-eight states, and the percentage of workers on Federal work projects was far above the national average.¹⁴ Utah ranked seventh in the country in per capita spending on the CCC program, and by 1940 the CCC was the third largest source of employment in the state, behind agriculture and metal mining.¹⁵

In addition to the economic impact provided by jobs, the program generated thousands of projects on public lands that had an immeasurable benefit to the state. The value of the CCC extended well beyond the \$52.7 million spent in Utah. The benefits to the young men who learned job skills, gained self-confidence, and became productive members of society are incalculable. And "(h)ow does one calculate the cost of a flood that did not occur because of terracing done by the C's? How does one calculate the timber saved because a CCC 'super-squad' reached an isolated fire during the first critical minutes? What value can be placed on the enjoyment of families utilizing CCC-built campgrounds, campgrounds that might not have been built without the impetus of the CCC program and the availability of CCC labor?"¹⁶

¹⁴"Public Works Buildings Thematic Resources," National Register nomination, 1985. Available at Utah State Historic Preservation Office.

¹⁵Baldrige, pp. 354, 358.

¹⁶Baldrige, p. 356.

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Alpine Cabin:

5	<u>1/2</u>	<u>4/6/1/1/5/5</u>	<u>4/3/5/0/4/5/0</u>	6	<u>1/2</u>	<u>4/6/1/2/8/0</u>	<u>4/3/5/0/4/5/0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

7	<u>1/2</u>	<u>4/6/1/5/5/0</u>	<u>4/3/5/0/2/0/0</u>	8	<u>1/2</u>	<u>4/6/1/5/5/0</u>	<u>4/3/5/0/0/2/0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

9	<u>1/2</u>	<u>4/6/1/2/9/0</u>	<u>4/3/5/0/2/0/0</u>
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Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Great Basin Research Station Historic District have been drawn so as to include within the district those historic, intact, and visible buildings and structures which were associated with the operation of the facility. The Research Station was historically based at the Headquarters compound, but a great deal of research was conducted at the historic buildings of the Alpine Cabin complex. This approach to the boundaries leaves two discontinuous areas of the district. This is justified because the two complexes are geographically separated, visual continuity is not a factor of historic significance, and the intervening space is not significant. The boundary of the headquarters area was chosen to include all the structures historically part of the compound. It roughly follows the line of a fence constructed by Forest Service workers during the historic period. The boundary for the Alpine Cabin area was chosen to include those structures associated with research at the Alpine Cabin portion of the Station.

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Common Label Information:

1. Great Basin Research Station Historic District
2. Sanpete County, Utah
3. Photographer: Kim Hyatt, Nelson Knight
4. Date: 1995
5. Negative on file at Utah SHPO.

Photo No. 1:

- Courtyard area
6. Southeast elevation of buildings. Camera facing northwest.

Photo No. 2:

- Lodge
6. Southeast elevation of buildings. Camera facing northwest.

Photo No. 3:

- South House
6. North elevation of buildings. Camera facing south.

Photo No. 4:

- End House
6. North elevation of buildings. Camera facing south.

Photo No. 5:

- Laboratory
6. South elevation of buildings. Camera facing north.

Photo No. 6:

- East House
6. Southwest elevation of buildings. Camera facing northeast.

Photo No. 7:

- Greenhouse
6. Southeast elevation of buildings. Camera facing northwest.

Photo No. 8:

- Shower House
6. Northwest elevation of buildings. Camera facing southeast.

Photo No. 9:

- Three-car Garage/Palmer House
6. Southeast elevation of buildings. Camera facing northwest.

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Photo No. 10:

- Two-car Garage and Shop
6. Northeast elevation of buildings. Camera facing southwest.

Photo No. 11:

- Amphitheater
6. Camera facing north.

Photo No. 12:

- Tennis Court
6. Camera facing north.

Photo No. 13:

- Alpine Station
6. Camera facing southeast.

Photo No. 14:

- Watershed B Building
6. Southeast elevation of building. Camera facing northwest.

Photo No. 15:

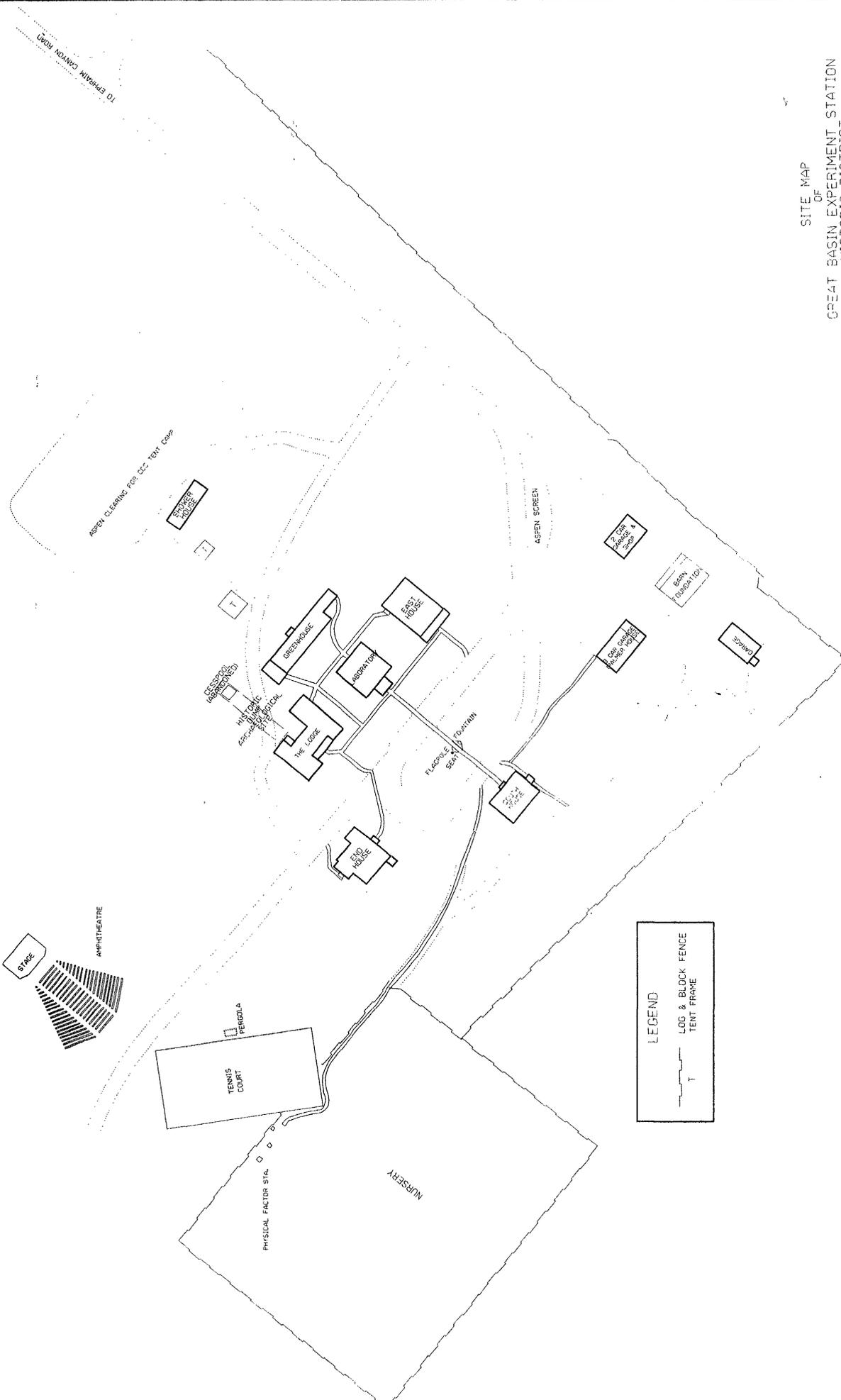
- Alpine Cabin
6. Southeast elevation of building. Camera facing northwest.

Photo No. 16:

- Watershed A Building
6. Southeast elevation of building. Camera facing northwest.

___ See continuation sheet

SITE MAP
 OF
 GREAT BASIN EXPERIMENT STATION
 HISTORIC DISTRICT
 HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX
 1998



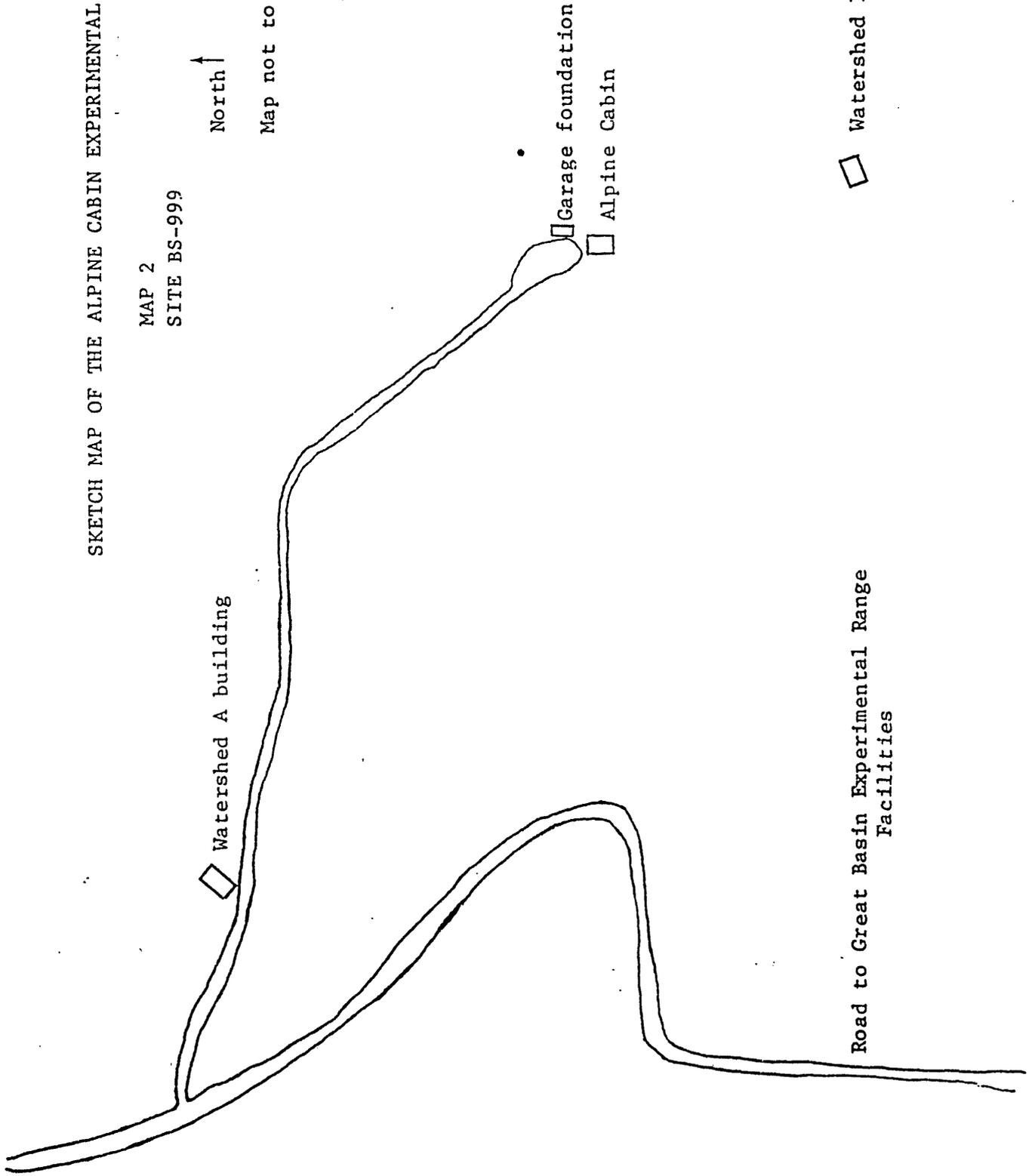
LEGEND
 LOG & BLOCK FENCE
 TENT FRAME
 T

SKETCH MAP OF THE ALPINE CABIN EXPERIMENTAL STATION

MAP 2
SITE BS-999

North ↑

Map not to scale



Road to Great Basin Experimental Range
Facilities

□ Watershed B building