

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

DEPRESSION-ERA BUILDINGS

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

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Unity Ranger Station

NAME: Unity Ranger Station

LOCATION: Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, Unity Ranger District;
Congressional District 2
Unity, OR (41); Baker County (001)

ADDRESS: USDA Forest Service
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest
1550 Dewey Ave., PO Box 907
Baker, OR 97814

CLASSIFICATION/CATEGORY: Buildings/Site

DESCRIPTION:

Condition	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved #1052	Date ca 1953
#1306	

Unity Ranger Station, Residence #1501: L-shaped, 1 story, wood frame, bellcast gable roof, wood-shingled, gabled hip on east end; cut-and-fitted, coursed red lava stone exterior chimney, off centered on west elevation; horizontal clapboard exterior with plain vertical board and batten on all gable ends. Main roof extends to form porches on north (main) and east elevations, supported by combinations of squared-timber posts. Windows are six-over-six double-hung sashes singly with a mullion window on the north (main) facade having a six-over-six double-hung sash flanked by a pair of four-over-four double-hung sashes and surmounted by transom lights. Particularly graceful single pine tree logos cut out of two vertical boards centered on north and west gable ends. No apparent exterior alterations. In very good condition.

Garage: Rectangular, 1 story, wood-frame, poured concrete foundation, wood-shingled medium gable roof. Horizontal lapped siding, vertical board and batten on gable ends. Overhead lift vehicle door replaces original slide-opening door on west gable end; single left four panel door offset to left on north elevation. Exterior wall materials replaced strictly in kind 1983.

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Unity Ranger Station, Residence #1052: L-shaped, 1 1/2 story, wood frame, concrete foundation wood-shingle high gable roof with large gable roofed dormer on south (rear) slope, major offset gable on N.E. corner, with shed roofed porch adjacent on north (main) elevation. Porch roof supported by round peeled log posts. Cement chimney off center, north slope, brick chimney off center, south slope. Horizontal clapboard exterior with wood corner trim, vertical boards ends rounded, on all gable ends. Six-over-six double-hung sash windows singly and in combinations with mullions. Particularly graceful single pine tree logos cut out of two vertical boards centered just below peak on north, east and west gable ends. No apparent exterior alterations. In very good condition.

Unity Ranger Station, Bunkhouse #1306: Rectangular, 1 1/2 story, wood frame, concrete foundation, wood-shingled high gable roof with two large gable roofed dormers on front slope; two cement chimneys straddle ridgeline. Horizontal clapboard exterior with rounded vertical boards on gable ends. Six-over-six double-hung sash windows. Single graceful pine tree logos cut out just below peak on east and west gable ends. Six peeled pole purlins and ridge pole project at gable ends with peeled pole end joist as fascia. Effect repeated on dormers.

Unity Ranger Station, Warehouse #2207: T-shaped, wood frame, concrete foundation, stone veneered, wood-shingled medium gable roof with projecting major gable off center (N.E.); red lava stone chimney off center on south roof slope; raised, rock faced porch extends along north facade to offset gable, building front recessed, main roof slope extends to form porch roof which is supported by squared-timber posts. Horizontal clapboard exterior with vertical board and batten on gable ends. Windows are eight and twelve-light single sashes with mullions. Single pine tree logo cutout on offset gable end. Gable roofed storage area on east end is an addition, structurally and materially well matched. Very good condition.

Fire Lookout-Water Tower #4220: 1938; Square; 1 story cabin on 60 feet tower; canvas-covered low gable roof; type CT1 Lookout: 7' X 7' wood frame cabin on 12'8" square deck, catwalk enclosed by simple railing; exterior walls are flush siding; windows are six-light fixed sash on all elevations. Top-hinged board shutters append to plate above windows. Tower is of prefabricated ring-connected timber construction, of creosoted Douglas-fir, with five bents; cab accessed through trap door from wooden stairway. Top bent of tower holds wood stave water tank. No apparent structural additions or alterations; no obvious materials modifications.

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SIGNIFICANCE:

The Unity Ranger Station typifies the construction projects undertaken by the Civilian Conservation Corps and signifies the aid to the local community provided by the emergency work-relief program through employment of youth and experienced craftsmen, purchase of building materials and camp supplies, and personal expenditures of enrollees. The property represents the Forest Service's presence in the locality as the headquarters for field operation, and denotes, via the physical facilities required to carry out the agency's expanding responsibilities, the critical transition in the Service's development from custodial superintendence to extensive resource management. The Unity Ranger Station exemplifies the rustic architectural idiom developed by the Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region, to impart Forest Service identity and to represent its purposes and ideals; and signifies the agency's particular interpretation of a singular expression of early twentieth century American architectural thought. Possessing very high qualities of design and execution, the Ranger Station is an excellent example of an architectural locution invested with special aesthetic and associative values by the agency that created it.

The USDA Forest Service organization composes three major branches: the National Forest System, State and Private Forestry, and Research. Although each functional division is separately structured to carry out its particular programmatic responsibilities, the three branches interact to accomplish the overall mission of the agency. The Research branch conducts technical studies relevant to forestry and forest lands.

In the early 1930's, a number of Experimental Forests were established in National Forests in the Pacific Northwest Region. These were administered under the National Forest System, but were managed for research purposes. The John Day Experimental Forest located in the Blue Mountain area, was included in this number. A research field station was built circa 1936-38 to serve the area. The field station buildings were designed by [NFS] Regional Office architects, and in all probability were built under the auspices of the Civilian Conservation Corps. If, in fact, such was the case, the building construction project was supervised by local National Forest personnel.

Residence #1052 and Bunkhouse #1306 were removed from their original sites at the research field station in 1953 and relocated at the Unity Ranger Station. Ordinarily structures that have been moved from their original locations are not considered to be eligible for the National Register. However, Buildings #1052 and #1306 are excellent examples of the Region 6 rustic style, and are primarily

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significant for their architectural values. These values are unimpaired. Their associative values as well are little diminished.

Although they lack locational integrity, the buildings present setting is spatially, temporally, and contextually congruent with the period of their construction. Their location in a predominantly Depression-era administrative complex offers an unusually appropriate built environment. The surrounding structures are similar in character and appearance, exhibiting comparable forms, fabrics, and material treatment.

Primarily significant for their architectural values which remain unimpaired, and relocated in a spatially, temporally, and contextually congruous setting, Residence #1052 and Bunkhouse #1306 satisfy Criterion Consideration (b). They are highly ranked integrants of a thematic group of Depression-era resources demonstrated to have exceptional importance through scholarly examination and analysis; thus they satisfy criteria consideration (g). As excellent examples of the Region 6 rustic style, they meet Criterion C of the National Register criteria. Possessing integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, Buildings #1052 and #1306 are eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

GEOGRAPHIC DATA:

Acreage: 1 acre

UTM Reference:

<u>Point</u>	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
A	11	405532	4920868

Verbal Boundary Description:

Unity Ranger Station

All that portion of the NW1/4SW1/4 Sec. 16, T. 13 S., R. 37 E., W.M. beginning at a point 937 feet 4 inches on a course of S 88°56' E and 40 feet S of and Iron pin 24 X 2 at the NW corner of said NW1/4SW1/4; thence 300 feet on a course N 89°56' E; thence 190 feet S; thence 300 feet on a course of S 89°56'W; thence N 190 feet to the place of beginning, save and except any and all water rights and ditches appendant or appurtenant to said premises or used in connection therewith.