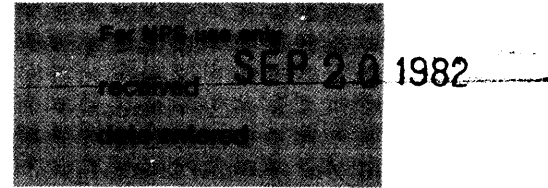


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Birch Creek CCC Camp

and/or common Birch Creek CCC Camp

**2. Location**

street & number Birch Creek Road U.S.F.S. Road 98, north of Dillon N/A not for publication

city, town Dillon vic.  vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state Montana code 030 county Beaverhead code 001

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Beaverhead National Forest

street & number Box 1258

city, town Dillon N/A vicinity of state Montana

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Beaverhead National Forest

street & number Box 1258

city, town Dillon state MT

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title N/A has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

## Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Birch Creek CCC Camp is located approximately 22 miles northwest of Dillon, Montana. The Camp is situated on a open sage and grass covered east sloping ridge in the foothills of the Pioneer Mountains in Southwestern Montana. Torrey Mountain, a distinguishing landmark of 11,000 feet is visible to the west of the camp.

In 1939, the Birch Creek CCC Camp consisted of fifteen permanent buildings, representing a non-intrusive architecture and a uniformity of style. These structures included the Mess Hall, the Welfare Building, four barracks, the Army Headquarters, the Army and Forestry Quarters, the School Building, the Forestry Office, the Blacksmith Shop, the Army Supply Building, the Latrine and Laundry, and the Garage and Repair Shop. There were secondary buildings as a pump house, paint house, etc. Ornamental stone fences, a fountain and an ornamental post front entrance embellished the grounds. The Birch Creek CCC Camp represented a typical permanent camp constructed in Montana.

Eight structures comprise the Birch Creek CCC Camp today. Six buildings retain their original character, with no interior or exterior alterations. Only two end bays of the Garage and Repair Shop remain. One additional structure was built after 1939 of materials salvaged from the Garage but maintains the character of the original buildings. Although no longer standing, evidence of the original fountain and entrance are identifiable. Numerous stone retaining walls are still intact throughout the complex.

### Buildings Within the CCC Camp:

- #1. Welfare Building: Narrow, gable-roofed, wood frame structure (20.2'x106.0') with two cribbed log wings extending from the south side. Board and batten siding. No foundation.
- #2. Barrack Building: Long, narrow, gable-roofed, frame structure (20.8'x131.0'). Six pane hinged windows extending the length of building on east and west side. One door at south end and two at center of west side. Rolled asphalt roofing, board and batten siding with red trim. No foundation.
- #3. Army Headquarters: A small, rectangular building (16.2'x20.1') with a gable roof and vertical board and batten siding. Built on a rock outcropping and surrounded by a grove of Douglas fir. Remnants of original walks and ornamental fountain are located to the west of the structure.
- #4. Hospital: Gable-roofed structure (20.2'x42.3') with board and batten siding. No foundation. Six pane hinged windows with red trim. Rolled asphalt roofing. Red Cross symbol is painted on north side of building.
- #5. Army and Forestry Quarters: Long, rectangular building (22.2'x112.3'). Gable-roofed. Vertical board and batten siding. Six pane hinged windows with red trim extending the length of the building. Interior is finished in knotty pine and divided into cubicles.

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- #6. Classroom: Long, narrow gable-roofed structure (20.2'x80.9'). Clapboard exterior with rolled asphalt roofing. Fixed 6 light windows extending length of structure. Paneled exterior doors, 1 on the north and south end and 2 on the east end. Fine example of prefabricated portable building construction.
- #7. Garage and Repair Shop: Originally a long, gable-roofed structure consisting of 13 bays. Presently measuring approximately 26'x26'. 11 bays dismantled in 1953.
- #8. Storage Garage: Rectangular, gable structure (20'x40'), built ca. 1962 of materials from dismantled garage.

The Birch Creek CCC Camp is located on a gently rolling, east facing slope. The nominated area, consisting of 14 acres, is situated on open, sage brush covered benchland. The southern boundary of the nominated property is visually distinguishable by the forest tree line; there is a marked drop in elevation at the northern and eastern boundaries while elevation rises at the western boundary of the property.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1935–1941 **Builder/Architect** Department of the Army

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Birch Creek CCC Camp is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A and C.

The Civilian Conservation Corps was an integral component of Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal to combat the economic depression of the 1930's. The CCC employed millions of men for a period of over nine years and engaged them to work on various projects in forestry, conservation, park improvements and others. Of the over 61 CCC camps once located in Montana during the 1930's, only a very few remain. The Birch Creek CCC Camp F-60 exemplifies the permanent camps established in Montana in the 1930's. With its unpretentious architecture, the Birch Creek CCC Camp retains its integrity in setting, location, design, materials, and character as well as representing a unique period of the history of the United States.

In 1932, 5 million young men were unemployed, a consequence of the economic depression. On March 21, 1933, Franklin D. Roosevelt, under his New Deal program, proposed "to create a Civilian Conservation Corps to be used in simple work. . .and confining itself to forestry, the prevention of soil erosion, flood control and similar projects." Executive Order #6101, issued by the President on April 5, 1933, established the official existence of the Emergency Conservation Work. This program came to be generally known as the Civilian Conservation Corps. The CCC was organized and managed by the Cooperative efforts of 5 government agencies: the Department of War, the Veteran's Administration, the Department of Labor, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of the Interior. From 1933 to 1938, more than 2 million men participated in the CCC program throughout the country. By 1942, over 4,000 camps had been established.

The Fort Missoula District in Montana was created in April, 1933 with the organization of the first Civilian Conservation Corps Company. There were 61 camps, both permanent and temporary, established in Montana during the 1930's. More than 25,600 men from the State were enrolled, with over 40,800 men enrolled within Montana. The CCC companies were assigned to various work projects under the following agencies: 30 under Forest Service, 13 under the National Park Service, 4 under the State Forest Service, 2 under the Soil Conservation Service, 3 under State Park Service, 8 under the Division of Grazing, and 1 under the Fish and Game Service.

In Southwestern Montana, there were 2 temporary reforestation camps in 1933. Construction on the Birch Creek CCC Camp commenced on April 25, 1935. By May 9, 1935, a company of 200 CCC workers were established at the Birch Creek Camp. Under the direction of the Forest Service, extensive projects were undertaken, including new road construction and reconstruction in the area, camp ground development, fire control, surveying, search and rescue, and the construction of telephone lines. In addition, the Birch Creek Camp emphasized educational programs for the resident young men. The Birch Creek CCC Camp functioned as a viable component of the Civilian Conservation Corps program from 1935 to 1941. As one of the few remaining camps in Montana today, the Birch CCC Camp has retained a high degree of historic integrity.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

- Salmond, John A. The Civilian Conservation Corps, 1933-1942. A New Deal Case Study.  
 Durham: Duke University Press, 1967.
- Cohen, Stan. The Tree Army Missoula: Pictorial Histories, 1980.
- Dillon Tribune, 1935-1941 personal communication: Bill Sharp

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 14

Quadrangle name Twin Adams

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

1	2
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3	5	4	7	4	0
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5	0	3	0	4	9	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

B 

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3	5	4	5	9	0
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5	0	3	0	4	9	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

C 

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3	5	4	9	5	0
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5	0	3	0	3	6	0
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D 

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3	5	4	7	4	0
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5	0	3	0	3	6	0
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E 

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F 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property is described by the above UTM points.

T5S, R10W, section 9 SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$  and NW $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 9 Section 8: NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$  and SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joan Louise Brownell

organization Montana State University date March, 1982

street & number telephone (406)994-4395

city or town Bozeman state Montana 59717

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Marcelle Sharfy

title Deputy SHPO date 11-4-82

**For NPS use only**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

John McMillan date 12-7-82  
 Director of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief of Registration

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

As-built site plan, January 2, 1940.

Hanson, James Austin, CCC in the Northern Rocky Mountains,  
University of Wyoming, 1973, Ph.D. dissertation.