

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 23 1983
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Independence Prairie Ranger Station

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION Detroit Ranger District, Willamette National Forest

STREET & NUMBER

~~NW 1/4 SE 1/4 Sec. 15 T.11S., R.7E, W.M.~~

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Marion Forks vic

X VICINITY OF

Marion Forks

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd

STATE

Oregon

CODE
41

COUNTY
Linn

CODE
43

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: None

AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

U. S. Department of Agriculture - Forest Service

STREET & NUMBER

Willamette National Forest - Detroit Ranger Station Star Route Box 320

CITY, TOWN

Mill City

VICINITY OF

Oregon

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Linn County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

Albany, Oregon 97321

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

N/A

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

N/A

CITY, TOWN

N/A

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

(See Figures 1 and 2)

The north building is a rectangular hand hewn log structure 21 feet by 13 1/2 feet. The roof extends seven feet beyond the front (south) wall forming an open porch. (Figures 3 and 4) The peak of the roof is approximately 12 1/2 feet above the floor. The east and west walls have one rectangular window each, horizontally and vertically centered. (Figure 5) Roofing is hand split cedar shakes in generally good condition with only minor leaks. The roof was constructed without sheeting, the shakes being nailed directly to the rafters. (Figure 6) A central east - west cross beam inside the cabin supports three intermediate roof braces. (Figure 7) Flooring consists of planking nailed to pole stringers which nest directly on native soil. The floor is not physically connected to the main structure. Building walls rest directly on the ground with no visible foundation or piers. Walls are constructed of round, peeled logs squared at the ends to allow firm joints. (Figure 8) Hand split slats of cedar three to four inches wide were nailed between the logs to serve as chinking. (Figure 5)

The south building is located eight feet in front (south) and six feet to the left (east) of center of the north building. It is a rectangular hand hewn structure approximately 16 feet X 14 feet X 12 feet high. A doorway is on the west side near the south end. There is a rectangular window on the south end, centered horizontally and vertically. Another opening in the rear (north) wall is similar to the window except it is offset to the east horizontally and at the bottom vertically, extending from the ground up 1/3 the height of the wall. (Figure 9) The purpose of this opening is not readily apparent. The roof is hand split cedar shakes and also in relatively good condition. There are five cross braces running east - west at the point where the walls join the roof. (Figure 10) The roof has no intermediate vertical supports. The floor is native soil. Walls are constructed of hand hewn logs, squared on the inner and outer sides but are round and unpeeled between. There is no chinking. (Figure 11) Corners are dovetailed, rather simply square as in the north building. Walls also set directly on the ground without foundation or piers. (Figure 12 and 13)

A rock lined fire pit is located approximately four feet off the southwest corner of the south building. (Figure 14)

A flagpole base is located nine feet south of the southwest corner of the south building. The flagpole, made of a peeled native pole is lying on the ground. (Figure 15)

Neither building has a chimney opening or any indication of a hearth or an external stove or chimney.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

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A hole in the ground four feet in diameter about 50 feet southwest of the south building may have served as a privy. It is now filled to within three feet of the ground surface with bottles, cans and other discarded materials.

Both buildings have been moderately vandalized. Many names and dates are written and carved on the north building. Dates begin in the early 1920's. (Figure 16)

Both buildings exhibit some improvised improvements such as plywood patches and plastic sheeting over the windows. These were added randomly by unknown casual users. These alterations have had no effect on the structural integrity of the buildings.

Although both buildings are relatively sound (not crumbling) they show signs of settlement, particularly the north building. There is evidence of carpenter and/or wood borer activity on the walls of both buildings.

Surrounding vegetation is Douglas fir overstory in a 75 to 100 year age class. Ground cover consists of small woody and herbaceous species including evergreen huckleberry, salal, twinflower and mosses.

A small unnamed creek flows westerly approximately 200 feet north of the north building.

Item Number 8 -- continued

It is assumed that some use continued into the early - mid 1940's when improvement of the road lessened the need for a remote work center or crew quarters.

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 type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1910 BUILDER/ARCHITECT _____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Independence Prairie Ranger Station built ca. 1910, is significant because it is the oldest standing administrative structure associated with what is now the Willamette National Forest. The structures were the initial improvements constructed to facilitate administration of remote national forest lands. They exemplify patterns of late pioneer architecture using native materials and elementary design.

On November 11, 1906, 160 acres was withdrawn for establishment of an administrative site on the (then) Santiam Forest Reserve. (In 1907 it became known as the Santiam National Forest) The earliest known reference to the ranger station is in a letter written sometime in 1911. The author of the letter is unknown but they discussed the site as follows.

"The station will be the headquarters for all the headwaters of the north fork of the Santiam river. It is used at the present time (1911) very extensively throughout the year with the exception of the winter season, as headquarters for patrolmen and men engaged in improvement and grazing work. The pasture available is scattered over the entire area This station has been recently improved by the erection of a good cabin and as soon as funds are available, probably within three years, it would be advisable to clear up an area of from 5-10 acres and fence it so to provide better pasturage." (See item 9b)

It is not known which building this letter referred to, however, the smaller south building appears to be somewhat older judging from the condition of the logs and style of construction.

The site was reached by approximately 12 miles of crude road and 5 miles of trail from Detroit. It served as a summer headquarters until about 1933. In that year the Santiam and Cascade National Forests were combined to form the Willamette National Forest. At about that same time, the road between Detroit and Fish Lake remount station 15 miles to the southeast was completed. The road bypassed the ranger station by about 1/4 mile to the west. About 1935 a new ranger station (which is still in use today) was built along the new road at Marion Forks about 3/4 of a mile south of the Independence Prairie site. It is not known how long the latter site was used after this.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- (a) Cultural Resource overview of the Willamette National Forest, Oregon. University of Oregon Anthropological papers No. 12 1977.
- (b) #2L Land Administration Sites 1907-1949 FRC# 13823, ACC 59-A560 Federal Records Center, Washington.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Two
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1,0	5,8,4	1,5,0	4,9,4,0	7,5,0	B					
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING	
C						D					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The site is entirely within National Forest land. A square parcel 300 feet on a side would be sufficient to protect the structures and surrounding vegetation.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
<i>NA</i>			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
<i>NA</i>			

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Raymond L. Crist

ORGANIZATION

Detroit Ranger District

DATE

3-10-79

STREET & NUMBER

Star Route Box 320

TELEPHONE

854-3366

CITY OR TOWN

Mill City

STATE

Oregon 97360

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES NO NONE

[Signature]
 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE *[Signature]*

TITLE **AGENCY PRESERVATION OFFICER**

DATE **FEB 10 1983**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

[Signature]
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**Included in the
 National Register**

DATE *3/29/83*

ATTEST:

DATE

[Signature]
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Verbal Boundary Description

That portion of land lying within the NW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 15, T.11S., R.7E., Willamette Meridian in the County of Linn, State of Oregon, herein described:

Commencing at the center 1/4 corner of Section 15, T.11S., R.7E., Willamette Meridian, taking a backside on the bearing tree in the SW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 15, T.11S., R.7E., W.M., finding the bearing to be N 21° E (bearing is from center 1/4 corner to bearing tree) and that distance measured as 5 meters. Thence at a bearing of N 90°E for a measured distance of 70.4 meters to a point, thence along a bearing of S 08° W for a measured distance of 10 meters to the True Point of Beginning. Thence S 08° W 90 meters to a point, thence S 82° E 90 meters to a point, thence N 08° E 90 meters to a point, thence N 82° W to the True Point of Beginning.

Said piece of land contains 2 acres - more or less.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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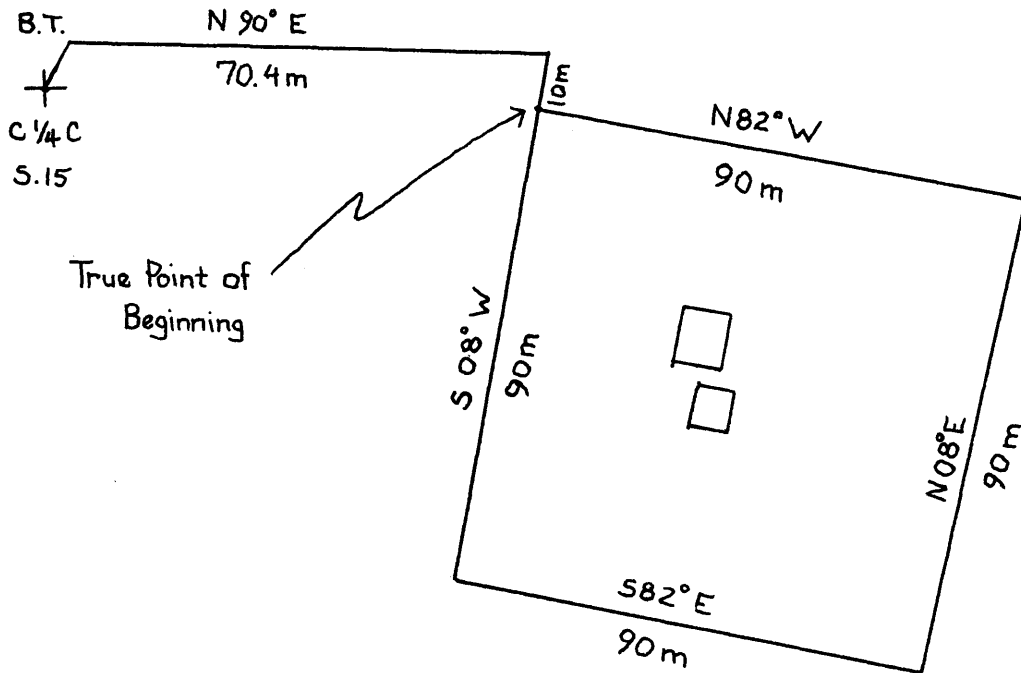
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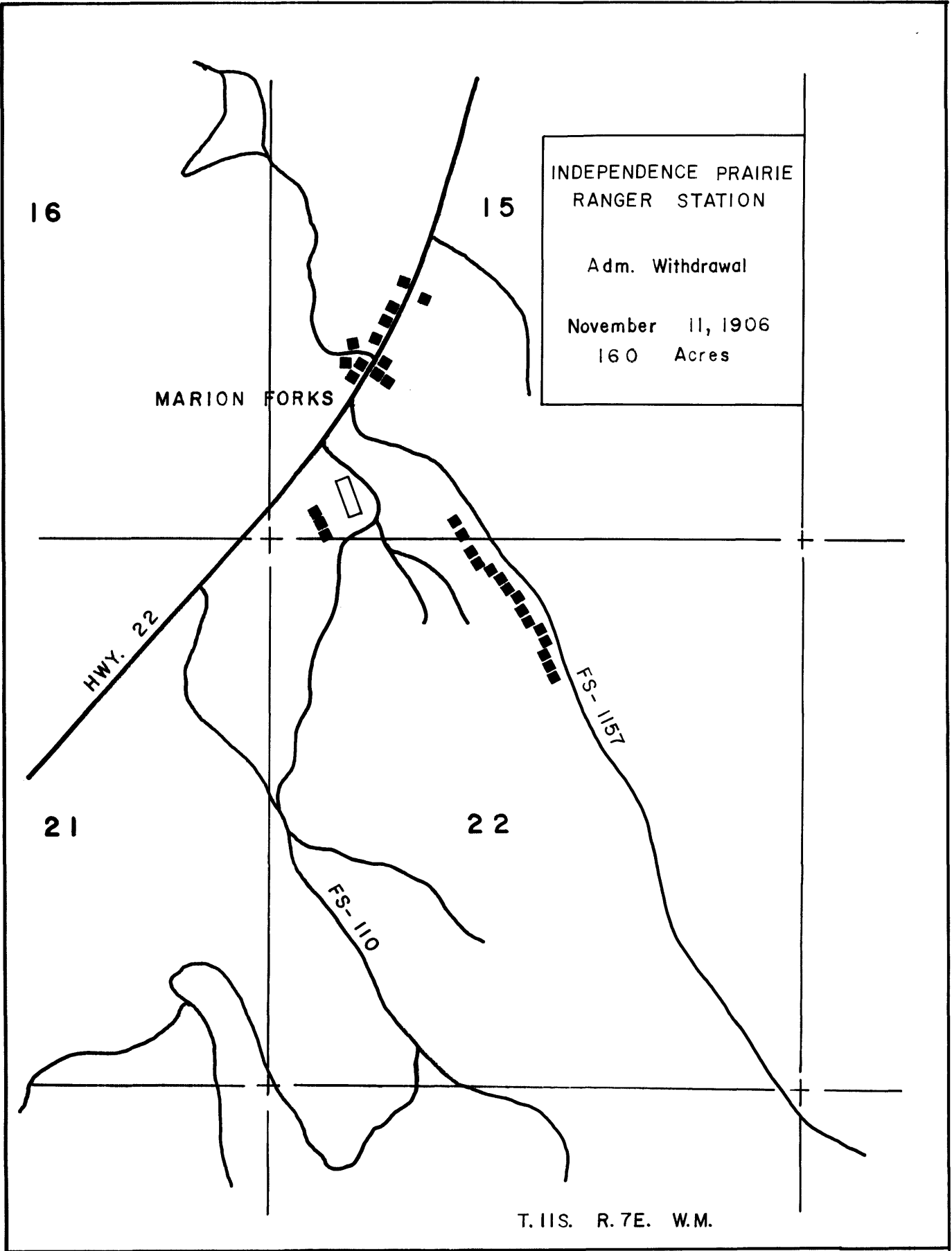
ITEM NUMBER 10

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Independence Prairie Ranger Station
Willamette National Forest, R-6
Linn County, Oregon



INDEPENDENCE PRAIRIE
RANGER STATION

Adm. Withdrawal

November 11, 1906

160 Acres

16

15

MARION FORKS

HWY. 22

FS-1157

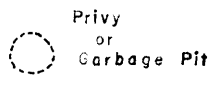
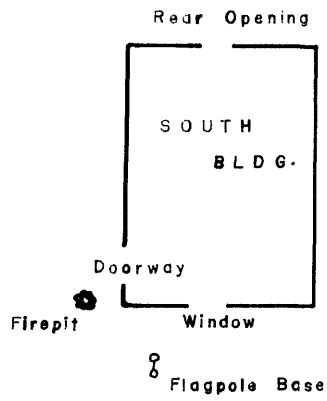
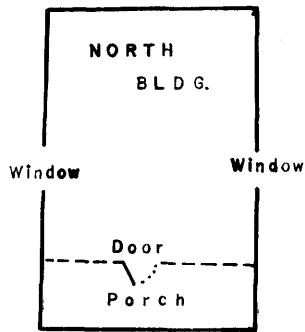
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22

FS-110

T. 11S. R. 7E. W.M.

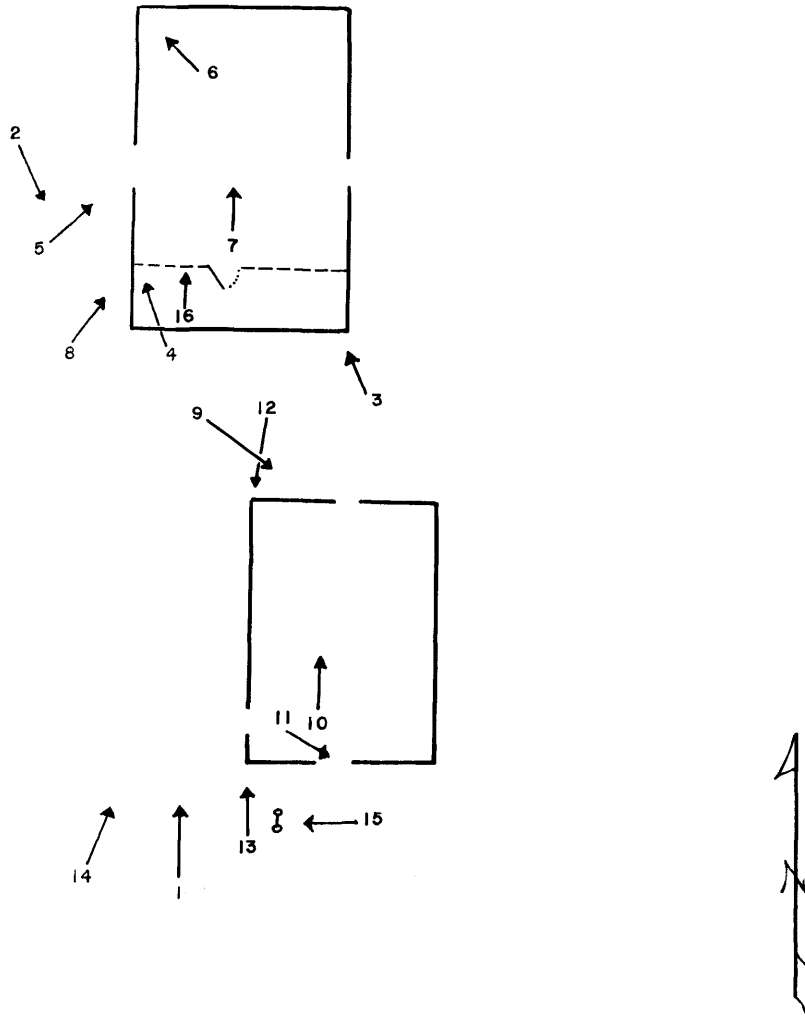
INDEPENDENCE PRAIRIE
RANGER STATION EST. CA. 1910



schematic diagram

NOT TO SCALE

INDEPENDENCE PRAIRIE
RANGER STATION EST. CA. 1910



Photograph Locator: Numbers refer to figures cited in text.