

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

1354

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration 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 Pyramid Guard Station

other names/site number 5RB.2882

2. Location

street & number off County Road 8, Routt National Forest [N/A] not for publication

city or town Yampa [X] vicinity

state Colorado code CO county Rio Blanco code 103 zip code 80483

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 [X] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [] nationally [X] statewide [] locally. ([] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Jeri Keiser Federal Preservation Officer 11/16/07
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mtn Region
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.)
Mark Wolfe Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer 11/20/07
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Colorado Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- [X] 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
[] See continuation sheet.

Edson B. Beall Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 1.10.08

Pyramid Guard Station
Name of Property

Rio Blanco County/ Colorado
County/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 count previously listed resources.)

Contributing

Noncontributing

5	0	buildings
0	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
6	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.

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/ single dwelling
AGRICULTURE/ agricultural outbuilding
AGRICULTURE/ animal facility
GOVERNMENT/ government office

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/ camp
AGRICULTURE/ animal facility
GOVERNMENT/ government office

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Rustic

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
walls WOOD/ log
roof WOOD/shingle
other

Narrative Description

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

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DESCRIPTION

The Pyramid Guard Station is situated in a quiet, rural setting within the Gore Range area of the Southern Rocky Mountains Physiographic Province between Dunckley Pass and Ripple Pass on County Road 8. The guard station lies just west of the East Fork of the Williams Fork within a relatively mature aspen forest punctuated by mature lodgepole, spruce, and fir trees. The surrounding environment is characterized by densely forested steep wet slopes and occasional intermontaine meadows alternating with aspen, lodgepole pine, and spruce-fir communities.

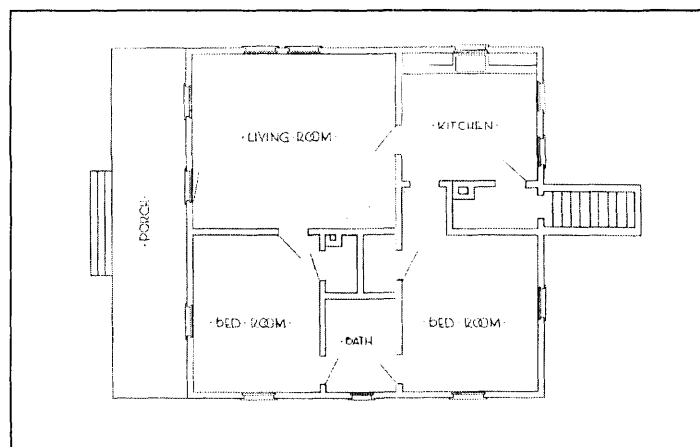
Very little development has occurred in the general area since the construction of the Guard Station. What has occurred has been relegated to a small number of modest cabins used for summer recreation and outfitter guide services a few miles to the north. The county road, and by extension, the Guard Station, is not accessible by vehicle in the winter. However, skiing and snowmobiling is possible across the passes.

The buildings are clustered together in a small clearing within the Routt National Forest: the Dwelling and Combination Building sit across from each other, separated by the road/ driveway; the driveway terminates at the Barn after passing the Blacksmith Shop and Wood Shed. (See site plan) For ease in description, the façade of the dwelling will be referred to as north. All buildings are contributing.

Dwelling (3528) Photos 2 & 3

The 1934 Dwelling (also referred to as the Guard Station and the Residence) was the first building completed. Rectangular in plan, the one-story building is covered by a wood shingled front gabled roof. Overhanging eaves shelter exposed rafters on the front and rear porches as well as the sides of the building. Two brick chimneys pierce the roof ridge at the center and the rear east side slope. Walls are composed of logs with saddle notching at the corners. On the north façade, a hipped roof porch is supported by four wood posts and shelters an off-center entrance and two 6/6 double-hung windows, one flanking each side of the door. All windows are original wood sash with wood trim. Of the three on the west wall, two are 6/6 double-hung while the central window is a shorter fixed 6 light. On the rear (south), two of three windows and an entry door are protected by a hipped roof entry hood supported by large triangular braces. The door is off center and is flanked by one 6/6 double-hung and one short fixed 6 light window. A second 6/6 double-hung window is off towards the west end of the wall. A wood door lifts up from the ground beneath the fixed window to provide cellar access. The east wall consists of paired 6/6 double-hung windows towards the north end, a 6/6 slider window (for the kitchen), and a small shed roof projection over a concrete framed opening towards ground level under the kitchen windows. The purpose of this projection is unknown.

Typical Dwelling Footprint



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Constructed in 1935, the barn sits on a concrete foundation facing north. The one-and-a-half story rectangular plan building is covered by a side gabled, wood shingled roof with walls of log and exposed rafters. It stands at the terminus of the road into the complex. All windows in the barn are original 2/2 with wood framing. The diamond loft window in the apex of the west wall was a trademark element in early James Brownlee barn designs and is not seen in late CCC-era construction. A board and batten door with hinges provides pedestrian access on the north façade. One window stands immediately east of the door while the window to the west appears to be open without any glazing. The west wall contains the aforementioned diamond window, allowing for some light in the loft. A board and batten door is the only other opening on this wall. The south (rear) wall contains three asymmetrically placed windows. Chinking is seen towards the bottom of the wall. The east wall consists of two symmetrically placed windows and a rectangular hay loft door in the gable face. It is noted by a Forest Service archaeologist that the barn was thought to be moved in from another station and re-assembled at its current location, but nothing has been found to confirm that information at this time. A rebuilt corral consisting of a wood fence in a rectangular plan attaches to the west and south walls of the barn. It is made up of three horizontal wood rails connected at regular intervals to vertical wood poles.

Combination Office Building (3501) Photo 4

The one-story combination office building, also completed in 1935, was simply an A5 combination building constructed of logs. Sitting on a concrete foundation, the building is rectangular in plan with a side gabled roof covered by wood shingles. Overhanging eaves shelter exposed rafters. Walls are log with saddle notching at the corners. All casement windows and screens are original with wood trim. The building faces east and stands somewhat north of the Blacksmith Shop. The east façade contains a triple panel garage door that opens outward at the south end. The three garage windows are four light fixed. Towards the north end of the façade is the main entry wood door with a fixed four light window. Flanking the door are six-light rectangular windows. The north wall contains a paired six-light window at the eastern side, and, at the other end, a wood entry door without a stoop. This door was originally a window. The west (rear) wall contains a single six-light window to the north and a paired six-light window to the south. A brick chimney can be found along the western roof slope. The south wall contains two sym-metrically placed six-light windows. Interior chinking consists of exposed saplings.

Blacksmith Shop (3534) Photo 5

Completed in 1936, the Blacksmith Shop faces east towards the driveway and Wood Shed. Rectangular in plan, the one story building also has a wood shingled side gabled roof with exposed rafters. Walls consist of saddle notched logs that rest upon a concrete foundation. All windows are fixed six-light framed by wood trim. There is one window on the east façade, one on the north wall, one on the south wall, and none on the west (rear) wall. The entry door is a replacement and consists of a wood panel on a sliding track. Interior chinking consists of exposed saplings.

Wood Shed Photo 8

Constructed sometime between 1934 and 1936 in the same style and materials as the rest of the buildings, the Wood Shed is located behind the Dwelling and faces north. It is one story, rectangular in plan with a side gabled roof and log walls with saddle notching at the corners. These walls sit on a concrete foundation. Exposed rafters extend out from the wood shingled roof with overhanging eaves. A wood panel door with an adjacent fixed four-light window makes up the north facade. The west wall has one fixed six-light window. Approximately one foot east of the Wood Shed is a California Cooler, a small shed roof structure with vents at the top to help keep items cool.

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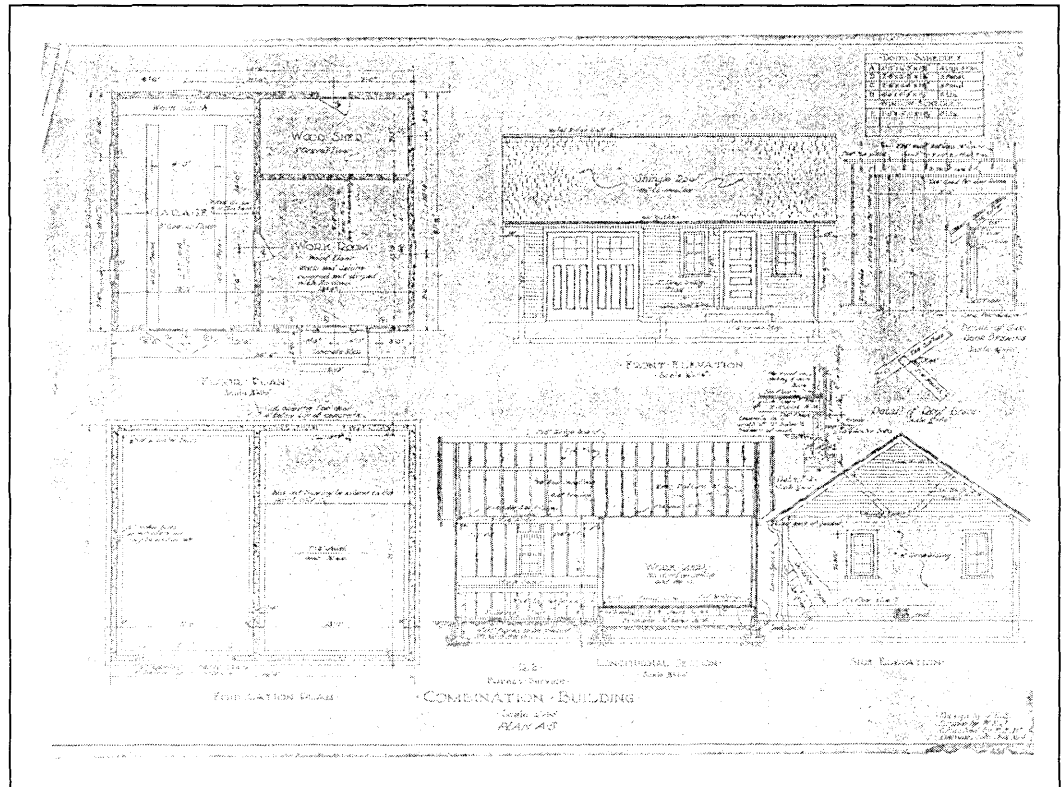
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A5 Plan (Combination Building) Dated December 18, 1930

Though a standard plan for the Forest Service, when actually constructed, the Combination Building could be modified based upon the topography of the site and local materials available.



Fence

An historic wood fence forms a rectangular boundary around the Dwelling, Combination Building, and Wood Shed. The Barn and Blacksmith Shop are outside of the fence, which was most likely erected to keep horses out of the administrative portion of the complex.

Alterations and Integrity

The complex is one of the least modified in Colorado. The dwelling's front porch collapsed in 1951 and was rebuilt the following year. According to a 1936 photo, the wood door on the north wall of the Combination Building was originally a window. The date of this change is unknown. The site of the toilet is noted on the "Improvement Plan" map; it is unknown when the removal of this building occurred.

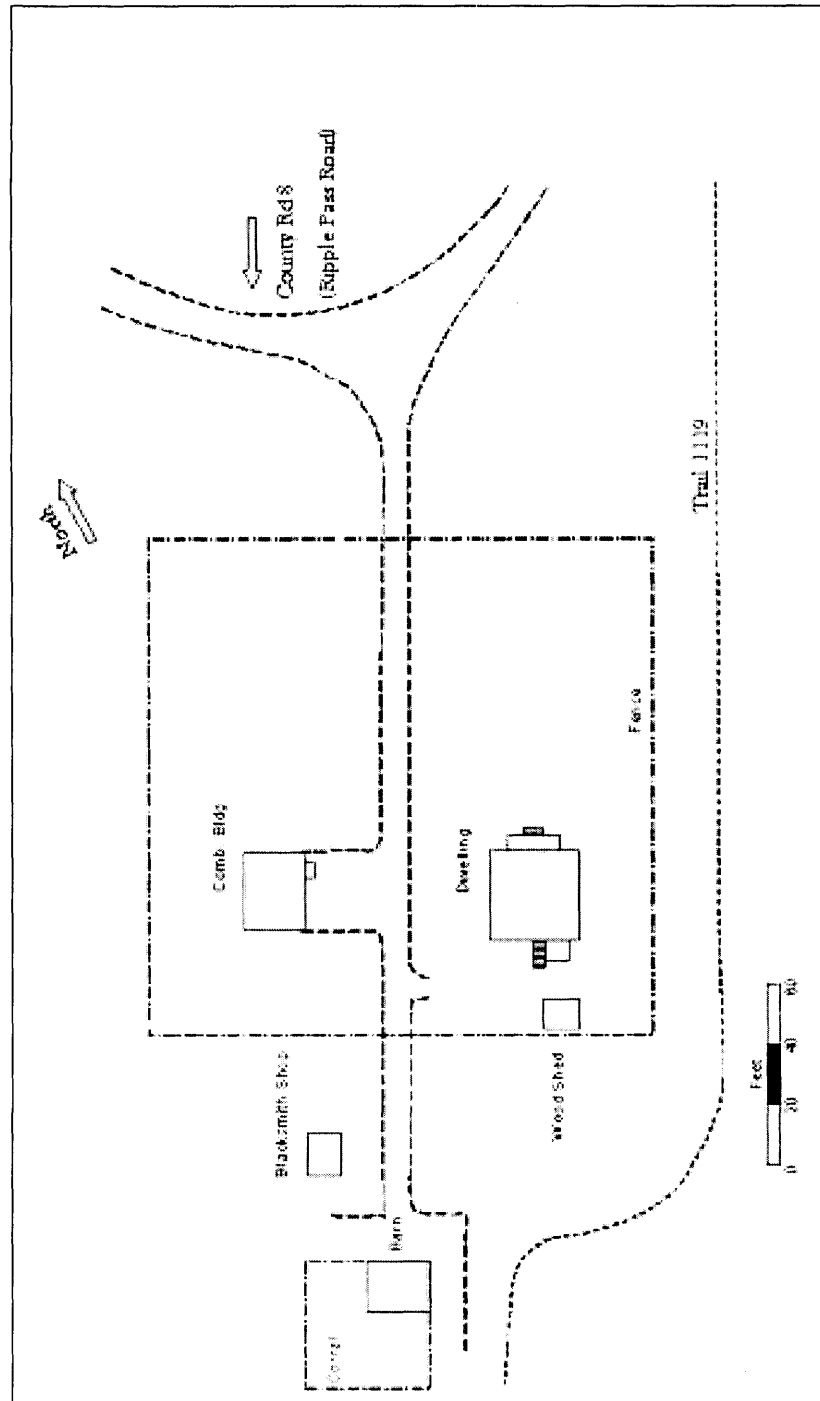
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Site Plan



Pyramid Guard Station
Name of Property

Rio Blanco County/ Colorado
County/State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes 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" in all the boxes 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

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
- # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
CONSERVATION
POLITICS/ GOVERNMENT

Periods of Significance

1934-1957

Significant Dates

1934
1935
1936

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

BROWNLEE, JAMES L. (USFS)
CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS (CCC)

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Colorado Historical Society

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Rio Blanco County/ ColoradoSection number 8 Page 5**SIGNIFICANCE**

The Pyramid Guard Station complex is eligible to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, in the area of **Conservation**. United States Forest Service (USFS) administrative sites represent the evolution of the Service's mission from basic custodianship, which it practiced at its inception, to extensive resource management. The Forest Service shifted from an early philosophy of custodianship of resources to one of conservation of resources. This shift is represented by the placement of Ranger/ Guard Stations within the forests, allowing rangers to react quickly to threats, thereby conserving the resources entrusted to their care. The siting of guard stations was selected as part of the administrative expansion of the Forest Service during the CCC-era and the Pyramid Guard Station represents this expansion and the domination of the federal government's control over lands in the West. The period of significance for Conservation begins in 1934, the year the first building was completed, and ends in 1957, a date in keeping with the National Register's 50 year requirement.

The Pyramid Guard Station complex is also eligible under Criterion A in the area of **Politics/ Government**. The Pyramid Guard Station buildings represent the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and Forest Service ethics of conservation, efficiency, and working for the public good that typified Roosevelt's New Deal Programs, and the local implementation of these programs in Colorado. According to Hartley and Schneck, survey consultants for the Forest Service, Pyramid was one of the first CCC complexes in the state. Retaining a high level of integrity, the complex is an excellent example of the kind of work done by the CCC in the National Forests during the Great Depression. The period of significance for Politics/ Government is 1934, 1935, and 1936, the years the CCC was involved with the construction of the USFS buildings.

The Pyramid Guard Station complex is eligible to the National Register under Criterion C for **Architecture**. The Dwelling, Combination Building, Barn, Blacksmith Shop, and Wood Shed serve as excellent examples that typify administrative buildings of the Rocky Mountain Region of the Forest Service during the CCC era. The Pyramid buildings represent 1930s CCC construction in north-west Colorado and are excellent examples of Rustic style architecture. All of the buildings exhibit key characteristics of the style such as log walls, overhanging eaves with exposed rafters, small paned windows, and the use of local materials in construction. In addition, the Blacksmith Shop is the only known example of its kind in the state and the Combination Building is a rare Colorado example in the Rustic Style. Skilled local men from CCC Camp F-38-C Bear River, using predominantly locally available materials, constructed all of the buildings at the site. The office/garage configuration typical of CCC Combination Buildings, the continuation of barn construction despite widespread use of automobiles, and the use of locally available materials are all hallmarks of the Phase III Rustic Style Period (Hartley and Schneck 1996). The Rustic Style of the CCC embodied the pragmatic Forest Service values of utility, respect for the land, and harmony the Agency was trying to express. Furthermore, the buildings reflect a local manifestation of a regional style mandated by the Forest Service for rural areas during the Depression years (Otis et al. 1986: 209). The period of significance for Architecture is the years of construction, 1934, 1935, and 1936.

After looking at over 60 USFS ranger stations around the state and approximately 15 in the northwest region through the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation's database and site files, the Pyramid Guard Station clearly stands out as one of the most intact Rustic style CCC-constructed USFS properties. Furthermore, it retains the full complement of associated buildings, representing the changed role for rangers in the National Forests in the early twentieth century. Many of the other ranger stations have lost key buildings, such as the dwelling, lost many of the associated buildings, or have been significantly altered with additions, metal siding, and/or changes to the exterior as well as the interior. Because of its exceptional integrity, it is being nominated at the state level of significance.

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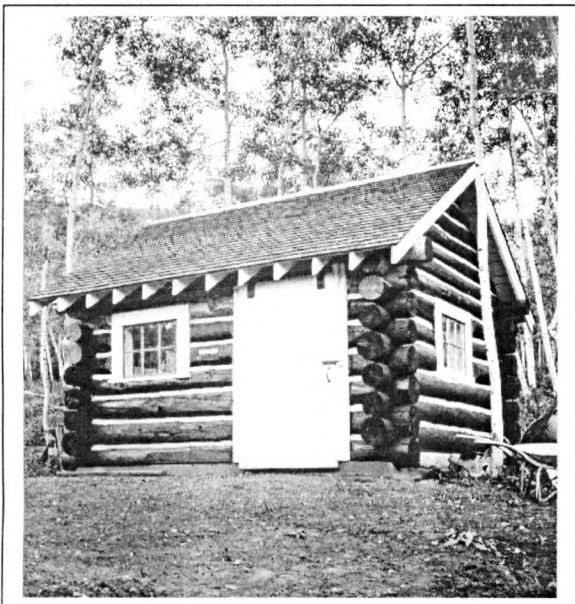
Although archaeological testing has not been performed at the site, the long period of use and the lack of surface disturbance increases the probability for the existence of archaeological deposits which may provide important site information. Future testing of the site is recommended.

Historic Images- 1936

All historic images courtesy of Routt National Forest



Overview of Pyramid Guard Station



Blacksmith Shop



Barn

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(Prepared by Bridget Roth of the US Forest Service for use in their nominations of administrative buildings- taken from both the Silesca Ranger Station and Cayton Guard Station National Register nominations.)

The federal government has a long history of exercising control over the nation's natural resources. Federal control over the nation's forested resources was established in 1873 with the development of Forest Reserves throughout the United States. The primary role of the Reserves was management of forest resources, including timber, mining, grazing, and water. Rapidly increasing populations and resource extraction in the nation's forests required active management of these resources to avoid the negative impacts of increasing resource use. Creation of the Forest Reserves put in place a nationwide administrative structure and management protocol that would influence the nation as a whole, especially the western states, where management of the vast government property was previously at a minimum. While federal control over the nation's forested natural resources was in place in the late nineteenth century, it was not until the establishment of Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs that the federal presence in the National Forests was homogenized through architectural construction styles of administrative buildings.

Roosevelt's New Deal programs fostered the greatest mobilization of American labor in the country's history. Soon after the election of 1932 Roosevelt sought authorization to purchase public lands. The first three years of the New Deal saw forest land purchase appropriations rise to a level that was 70 percent greater than all of that appropriated between 1911 and 1932 (Dana 1956:250). By the beginning of U.S. participation in World War II, Rocky Mountain Region 2 had acquired over 182,000 acres (Hinton 1988:V-4-5).

During discussion in the U.S. Senate regarding unemployment, consideration of reforestation as a source of jobs was brought forth. The result was a congressional resolution introduced by Senator Roy Copeland (New York) calling for a plan to improve the management of forested lands (Steen 1976:200 – 201). The 1933 "Copeland Report" proposed by the Forest Service recommended substantial extension of public ownership of forested land (Hinton 1988:V-3-4).

In signing executive order No. 6101, Roosevelt established the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in April of 1933, intending that 1300 camps be operational by July 1 of that year. In the summer of 1933, twenty-nine camps were established in Colorado. By the last year of CCC operations the state maintained forty-two camps, with the largest number of camps under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service.

Within days after Roosevelt authorized the CCC, the Forest Service organized projects, proposed and developed crews, and acquired and moved camp supplies and tools to various work locations. The work opportunities afforded by the CCC transformed the lives of men living idle in the face of vast unemployment. Thomas Ruch, a foreman at camp F-17-W, Chimney Park, Wyoming, wrote in 1935:

The CCC takes a pretty raw product from the streets and pool halls where some would turn out to be barflies, gamblers, and petty criminals, and makes a majority of them, well-trained workmen fitted for the industrial life of a nation. Many of these men go out capable of handling a gang of workmen efficiently on any job requiring manual labor. Some learn the use of carpenter tools; others welding ... almost any kind of skilled work that may come up in general public life (1935:31).

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Like the rest of the country, Colorado benefited from the effect of the war on demands for goods and services that were available from the state, facilitating economic recovery from the Depression (Simms 1970:119). Roosevelt's New Deal programs were instrumental in freeing America from the economic confines of the Great Depression. During these years, greater consolidation and increasing centralization to save costs were the philosophy of the Forest Service administration. These changing values are well reflected in the standing architecture at the Pyramid Guard Station.

History of Forest Service Design and Construction of Administrative Buildings

Up until the Depression, the Forest Service operated with limited governmental support and financial resources to oversee its vast domain. With the creation of the CCC, the Forest Service found itself on the verge of unprecedented expansion. National Forests presented a perfect vehicle for implementing New Deal goals. Roosevelt's administration quickly drafted legislation to put 250,000 men on the Federal payroll, working for the "common good." What began as an ambitious project mushroomed into one of extraordinary scale; within the first two years the number of men enrolled in the program doubled from the initial figure. Over three million men had signed on by 1942. More than 57,000 men would work in the National Forests of Colorado during the next decade, spending more than \$63 million on conservation efforts (Merrill 1981). All told, the Forest Service administered over half of the total output of the CCC, much of it in building construction (Steen 1976:215).

Previous to this expansion, The Copeland Report advocated a more active role for the Forest Service in resource development, but lack of administrative facilities prevented Rangers from maintaining a regular presence in the Forests. Due to the expansion of Colorado's National Forests, Rocky Mountain Region 2 needed to implement long-range plans for construction of administrative facilities. Forest Service Chief Robert Y. Stuart, recognizing an opportunity to make vast upgrades with the resources of the New Deal, admonished that nothing be built which would later go unused (Hartley and Schneck 1996). This practical building style was best articulated by W. Ellis Groben's *Acceptable Plans: Forest Service Administrative Buildings* (US Forest Service 1938).

Groben was hired as consulting architect for the US Forest Service in 1936. He was a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and attended the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris. Just before he came to the Forest Service he specialized in residential design in the city of Philadelphia and briefly served as chief architect (Tatman and Moss 1985:318). He put his skills as both residential and public administrator to work, guiding the Forest Service as it created its own style of architecture. Groben was directly involved in the design of several buildings and sites in Region 2. Groben felt that current Forest Service design did not "possess Forest Service identity ... or adequately express its purposes" (Otis et al. 1986:209). In identifying appropriate ways to express Forest Service values in architecture, he advocated a regional approach to design based upon local architectural styles and materials.

No matter how well buildings may be designed, with but few exceptions, they seldom enhance the beauty of their natural setting ... therefore, the Forest Service should erect only structures as are absolutely essential ... and then only of designs which harmonize with, or ... are the least objectionable to nature's particular environment (Groben 1938:foreword).

The manual, written in part to assist inexperienced regional architectural staff with development of appropriate designs, defined several regional styles, locations, and building materials, and included examples of Forest Service designs from around the nation, including several from Region 2.

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Building on lessons learned from the successes and failures of earlier Phase I and II designs, architects responded to climatic conditions, especially the deep snows found at higher elevations, by raising foundations of Rustic-style buildings several feet from grade. Simple gable roofs, strongly reinforced, were meant to cleanly shed heavy snow, which fell away from the building due to deep overhangs. Many porches featured large areas adjacent to the entry and protective roofs over entries. Barn and garage doors opened in or up and were oriented to the south when possible. Sites used topography and vegetation to provide wind and storm protection.

The administrative reorganizations of the CCC-era became opportunities for Forests to upgrade their buildings. Many existing buildings that did not represent of the US Forest Service image were replaced with standard designs that often included living quarters. These reorganizations were the result of changes in the spatial administration of the Forests throughout Phase III and can be accounted for primarily by changes in the amount and location of use of Forest resources, the introduction of vehicles into the Forests, and environmental changes.

Enrollment in the Colorado CCC was highest in 1936 with 9,535 men. By 1940, enrollment was down to 3,248 (Waldman 1981:81 – 82). In June of 1941, H.D. Cochran, Assistant Regional Forester, wrote to all Forest Supervisors in Region 2:

CCC enrollment has been seriously affected by competing demands for you men. ... For example, in Colorado the April quota was 898 but only 272 enrolled. ... If enrollment is not kept up, further reductions will be made in the camps available for doing important work this year for the National Forests of our Region (Cochran 1941).

By June of 1942, nearly all of the CCC camps in the Region were closed (Hinton 1988: VI-1). Despite arguments by the Forest Service to continue at least some CCC operations for fire protection, Congress voted to liquidate the Corps in June of 1942 (Salmond 1967:212 – 217). By this time only five camps remained in Colorado, one each in Estes Park, Grand Lake, Montrose, Glenwood Springs, and Mancos (McCarthy 1981:31). Reduction in funding and labor camps concluded the expansive construction of Pyramid-like administrative buildings.

General Discussion of Forest Service Architectural Influences

The administrative history of the Forest Service in Colorado can be read in its architecture. The two are so closely linked that in 1913, it was said that “All improvements planned for the future have a direct bearing on the protection of the Forests ... it is almost impossible to determine where one leaves off and the other begins” (Hartley and Schneck 1996:33; Phillips 1913:2). As this mission of protection turned to one of resource management, Forest Service architectural designs changed with it (Hartley and Schneck 1996:33). During the 1930s, Forest Service designers strove to balance the industrious appearance of a cluster of buildings with the efficiency of multi-functional buildings.

Although stylistic interpretation by Regional designers evolved throughout Phase III, the basic elements of the Rustic style used in Region 2, including massing, appearance, and basic construction were in place by 1936. By the late 1930s, CCC-Rustic Style Ranger Stations represented the most standardized, functionally efficient administrative facilities used by the U.S. Forest Service. Throop identifies four characteristics of CCC-era site design; these include 1) a balanced arrangement of buildings and grounds, 2) economic development, 3) harmony with the surroundings, and 4) conformity with existing physiographic conditions (1979:29). With the help of landscape architects and obvious influence from

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Groben's *Principles*, Region 2 Ranger Stations exemplified these characteristics. Designers arranged local administrative facilities in configurations that physically reinforced the dual roles of the Rangers as local residents and Forest Service employees. The overall appearance was that of community and informality, attributes that complemented the mountain settings in which the Rustic Style was most appropriately found.

Construction Phases and Elements

Phases I, II, and III were developed by Hartley and Schneck to detail the general design phases of Forest Service Administration buildings. Phase I construction, or the "Pre-Design phase," incorporates "buildings built from the inception of the Forest Reserves [1891] until the start of formal design within the Forest and Regional engineering divisions in about 1910, Phase I administrative buildings predominately reflect the pioneer traditions of their builders." Phase II, or the "Pre-CCC phase" "runs from approximately 1911 to 1933, the start of the CCC. During this era, Regional and Forest designers established a formal architectural vocabulary, based primarily upon the Bungalow, Arts and Crafts and Rustic styles. Though based upon formal architectural plans, pioneer construction methods are common" (1995:34).

Phase III architectural design encompasses the CCC-era, from 1933 to 1942. During this era of administrative expansion, the Architectural Division, created in 1936, developed its own interpretation of the Rustic Style, which employed natural settings and materials to harmonize with the physical environment. Construction in this era, predominately executed by New Deal labor, is typified by its standardized design, Rustic appearance, and labor-intensive composition. The architecture of Region 2 during the CCC-era thus represents a departure from earlier vernacular style architecture, common in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Instead, the homogenization of architectural styles was a direct result of New Deal economic development policies (Hartley and Schneck 1995:34).

Rustic architectural designs during Phase III have either frame or log construction. Characteristic features of Phase III Rustic construction include battered split-stone foundations, massive interior and exterior stone chimneys, log walls, small-paned windows, deep overhanging roofs and minimal detailing. These characteristics are generally encompassed in the Centennial Combination Building Ranger Station (Job B-150) in the Medicine Bow National Forest, Wyoming. Walls are constructed from peeled, shaved logs of uniform diameter or wide clapboard siding. Log joints were usually saddle notched with roughly pointed crowns, up to 18" deep, although flat cut log ends are not uncommon. Moderately pitched roofs almost invariably featured exposed log or frame rafters and purlins. Gables of both log and frame buildings often had vertical logs or board siding, with attic vents at the peak. After 1938, some rooflines incorporated the broken gables seen in *Acceptable Plans: Forest Service Administration Buildings* (Forest Service 1938). Casement and hopper wood frame windows are both present in Phase III Rustic architectural designs. Andersen or Curtis casement windows were a regional standard, thus providing a sense of visual unity for all Phase III designs regardless of architectural style. Hopper windows were exclusively used on basements, casement windows for all other floors. Interior color schemes were often selected by the overseeing ranger, though final approval rested with the Regional Forester until the mid-1940s when Forests began finishing many of the frame buildings in the same "Forest Service Brown" used on the log buildings (Hartley and Schneck 1995:63, 285-289).

Materials

Construction materials included logs, oakum, poured concrete, split stone, brick, and deeply overhung shingle or tin roofs. Exteriors of log buildings were oiled, stained, varnished, or painted a light cream or dark brown; ochre pigment was often used to achieve the desired dark brown appearance. Interior

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treatment included waxed wood floors, especially in public rooms. Interior materials not stained or waxed were painted. Finishing treatments included the use of products like NuWood, Plywood, Masonite, and Beaver Board. Rustic designs incorporated both native and imported stone and timber. Veneers and shutters were predominately constructed using local stone and wood.

Site Placement

Rangers respected local building codes and practices, which often required design, setting, or material modifications of regionally produced specifications. Layouts were revised and the elevation details quickly changed to whatever style or method of construction seemed most appropriate for the site. Following Groben's recommendations:

... the floor plans themselves are of chief concern, the design of their respective elevations must necessarily take into account the locality in which the buildings are to stand. ... It is just as impossible to designate any one style of architecture as acceptable and satisfactory for Forest Service buildings as for private ones (ibid.).

Site locations were formally evaluated according to practicality and efficiency. Proximity to water was a primary concern, and when topographical conditions permitted, buildings were constructed to maximize southern exposure. Additionally, sites used topography and vegetation to provide wind and storm protection.

Buildings were located far enough apart to provide a physical and psychological sense of separation, while preserving efficiency of vehicular and pedestrian movement. The centrally located driveway typically serviced all buildings, and site layouts accommodated existing vegetation (McCord 1939). Landscape plans incorporated native species into natural configurations. Low plantings near buildings and foundations softened visual impact by blurring the line where ground and building met. This incorporation of both landscape design and its role in the site placement becomes fully realized in the CCC-era Forest Service construction, and represents a marked departure from earlier architectural periods.

Based on the construction methods, materials, landscaping and placement of the Pyramid Guard Station buildings and structures, one can see that the nominated property is indicative of Phase III CCC-era construction styles.

Pyramid Guard Station History

The Pyramid Guard Station complex, constructed between 1934 and 1936, is a part of the campaign of natural resource enhancement undertaken by the USFS during the New Deal era. USFS design policy dictated that administrative building design be reflective of the Service's philosophy and values. These values included practicality, efficiency, and sensitivity to nature and the surroundings. Region 2's designers combined this philosophy with national stylistic trends as well as vernacular influences. The result was a distinct body of architecture which cumulatively represents the architectural and administrative development of the National Forest system in Colorado.

The Pyramid Guard Station was established to oversee part of what was then the White River National Forest's Williams Fork District near the Dunckley Flat Tops range. Construction of a summer dwelling, combination office building, blacksmith shop, barn, and wood shed were planned for the District as part of the administrative expansion that occurred during the CCC era. Edward L. Besondy was the

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Williams Fork Ranger at that time and likely the first ranger to occupy the newly completed station.

James L. Brownlee, then District Head Engineer in Denver, developed the Dwelling design. Brownlee produced much of the Region's design work prior to creation of the Architectural Division in 1936. Brownlee's designs before 1934 were strongly influenced by the Bungalow. However, his design for the Pyramid Dwelling included the use of relatively simple materials, substantial construction (with heavy log walls), and a high degree of hand craftsmanship. These elements were characteristic of Rustic style architecture and mark the first formal use of the style within the Region. Regional designers would refine these stylistic elements throughout the early 1940s to develop their own interpretation of the Rustic Style. No plans for the Wood Shed, Blacksmith Shop, Combination Office Building or Barn at Pyramid are known to exist, but several are based upon standardized plans or building types.

Pyramid is one of the first of the CCC-era complexes in Colorado. The station was under construction by August 1934. Enrollees from Camp F-38-C Bear River provided the labor. The Dwelling (also referred to as the guard station) was the first building completed. The Combination Office Building and the Barn were completed in 1935 and the Blacksmith Shop in 1936. It is representative of its era in its layout, building design, and construction. The layout was an early prototype of what would become a regional standard for rural design. The Dwelling and Combination Office Building faced each other across the driveway. The driveway terminated at the Barn after passing the remaining service buildings. The station's Blacksmith Shop, the only one of its kind known to exist in Colorado, reflects a time when rangers were largely self sufficient. Later, most ranger districts established central shops for blacksmithing and other skilled work or discontinued the use of horses. Modified ranger dwellings included three bedrooms, rather than the two found at Pyramid.

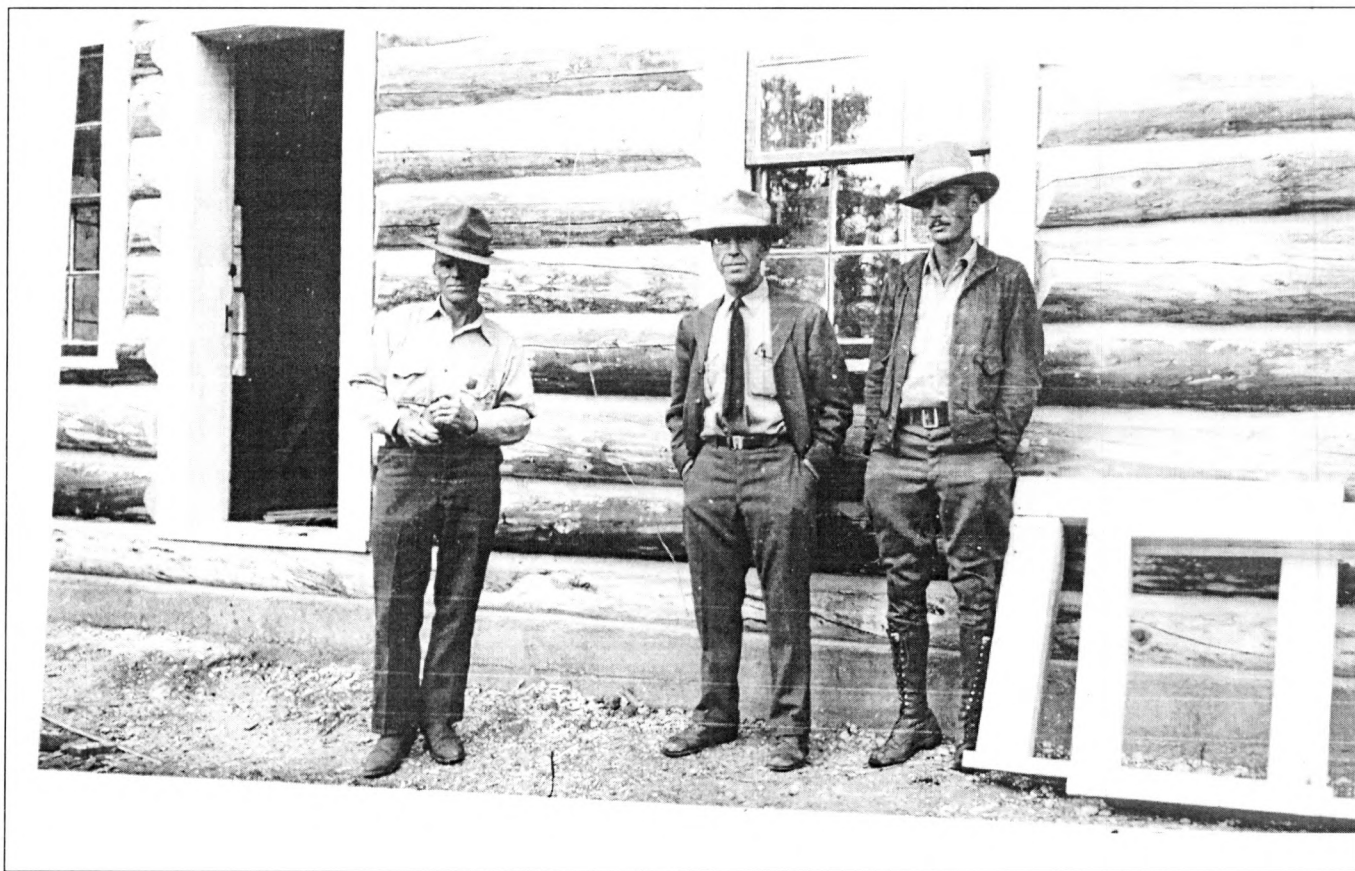
The round (saddle) notch used for all buildings at Pyramid was later used extensively and almost exclusively by the CCC in log construction. It was relatively easy to construct, as it could be hewn with basic hand tools by even a relatively unskilled carpenter. It also made a tight joint which would remain solid as the wood shrunk over time. The log crowns were kept short. The uniform length and carefully trimmed ends of the logs give the buildings a neat, businesslike overall appearance, despite their picturesque setting. Despite the harsh Colorado winters, the short crowns and log walls were fully protected by the overhanging eaves, preventing moisture from reaching the logs. Later crowns would grow much longer and were finished to a blunt point as if felled by an axe. These typically rotted due to exposure to runoff. The Barn is the only building at Pyramid in which the logs do not extend up the end-gables of the building to the peak. The gables were instead framed with lumber, which was less complicated. Log gables are not often seen in other CCC built cabins in Colorado. The Barn's relatively steep pitched roof also identifies it as an early CCC-era design. Later barn roofs were constructed with lower pitches which generally matched those of a site's other buildings.

The Combination Office Building was simply an "A5" constructed of logs. The A5 was part of a set of standardized administrative plans developed by the Regional Engineering Division in the late 1920s. This Bungalow-influenced series of frame buildings incorporated an office, small fuel or work room, and a single stall garage. Several administrative buildings from the "A" Series were completed within the Region during the late 1920s and early 1930s. The building's triple paneled garage door was a prototype which proved insufficient. A Regional Forest Inspector in 1937 noted that outward swinging doors were difficult to operate in the winter, due to heavy snow buildup around buildings. Later garage doors on these buildings were modified so that they either swung inward or folded upwards.

In 1954 the Williams Fork District and part of the Bear River District were transferred to the Routt National Forest. The combined areas were renamed the Yampa District. By this time most stations like

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this were no longer occupied seasonally by district rangers. Technology and increased utilization of resources significantly altered the way federal lands were administered. During the 1950s many stations were renovated to accommodate work crews, who by this time had largely replaced the solitary ranger in physically maintaining the districts.



From Left to Right: Ranger Edward Besondy, Shoemaker, and Forest Supervisor Rist in front of the Dwelling. Taken September 1936 by Glenn Langley, CCC Educational Advisor. (Rist was a Forest Supervisor in the Grand Mesa/ Uncompahgre/ Gunnison National Forest. Shoemaker appears to have been involved with the 1908 reorganization of the USFS into the present regional districts.)

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Pyramid Guard Station
Name of Property

Rio Blanco County/ Colorado
County/State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property one (1)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

- | | | | | |
|----|------|---------|----------|----------|
| 1. | 13 | 310583 | 4446892 | (NAD 27) |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | |
| 2. | | | | |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | |
| 3. | | | | |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | |
| 4. | | | | |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | |

The UTMS were derived from heads up digitization on Digital Raster Graphic (DRG) maps provided to OAHP by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

[] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John Tease, Special Projects Volunteer & Angie Krall, Zone Archaeologist
organization USDA Forest Service- Yampa Ranger District date August 1, 2007
street & number 300 Roselawn telephone (970) 638-4516
city or town Yampa state Colorado zip code 80483

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 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

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name USDA Forest Service- Routt National Forest
street & number 925 Weiss Drive telephone (970) 870-2210
city or town Steamboat Springs state Colorado zip code 80487-9313

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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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

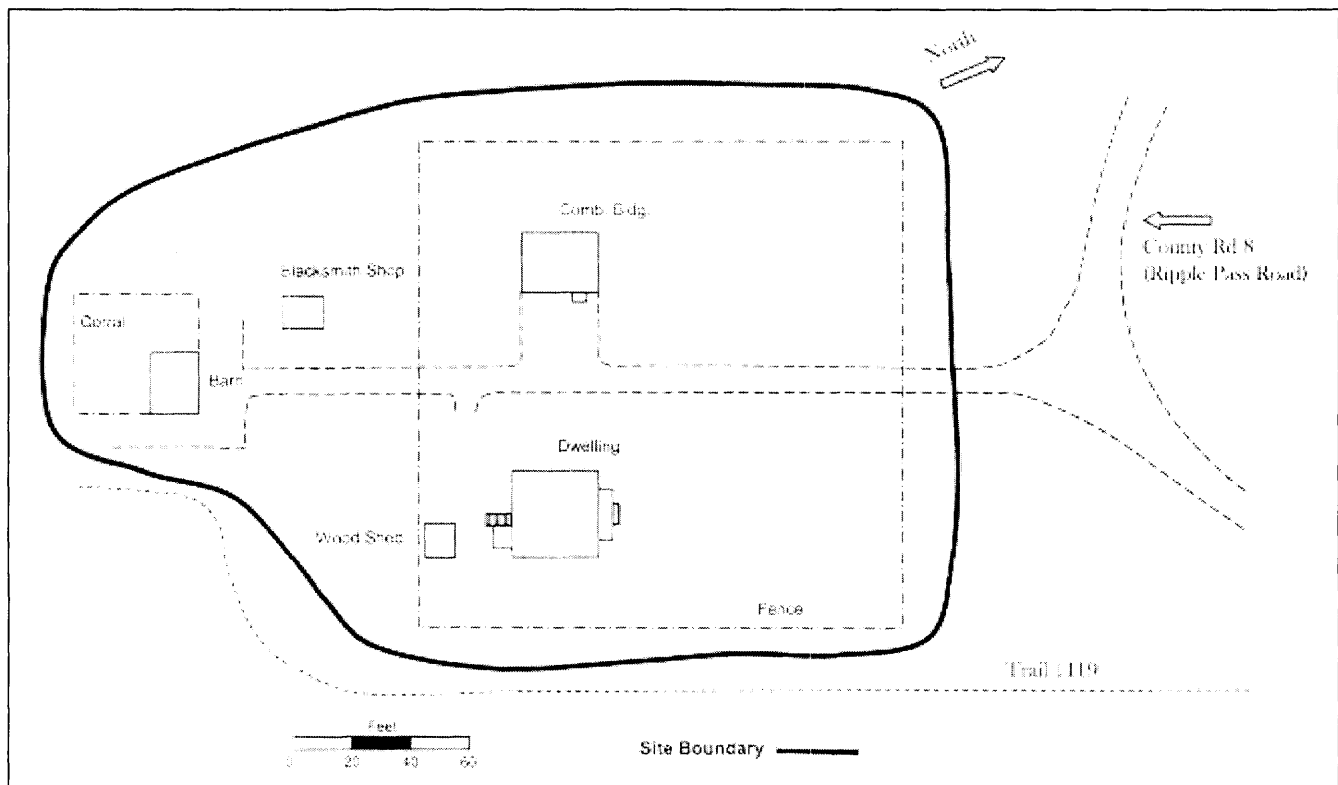
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated parcel is denoted by the solid black line encompassing the buildings as noted in the scale map below.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated boundary includes those buildings associated with the historic use and operations of the Pyramid Guard Station within the Routt National Forest.

Boundary Map



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Rio Blanco County/ ColoradoSection number ___ Page 17**PHOTOGRAPH LOG**

The following information pertains to photograph numbers 1-8 except as noted:

Name of Property: Pyramid Guard Station
Location: Rio Blanco County/ Colorado
Photographer: John Tease
Date of Photographs: July 2007
Negatives: Digital tif images on file with National Park Service, Washington DC

Photo No. Photographic Information

- 1 Overview of Pyramid Guard Station Complex, camera to south
- 2 Dwelling, camera to southeast
- 3 Dwelling, camera to northwest
- 4 Combination Building, camera to southwest
- 5 Blacksmith Shop, camera to southwest
- 6 Barn, camera to southeast
- 7 Barn, camera to northwest
- 8 Wood Shed, camera to southeast

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

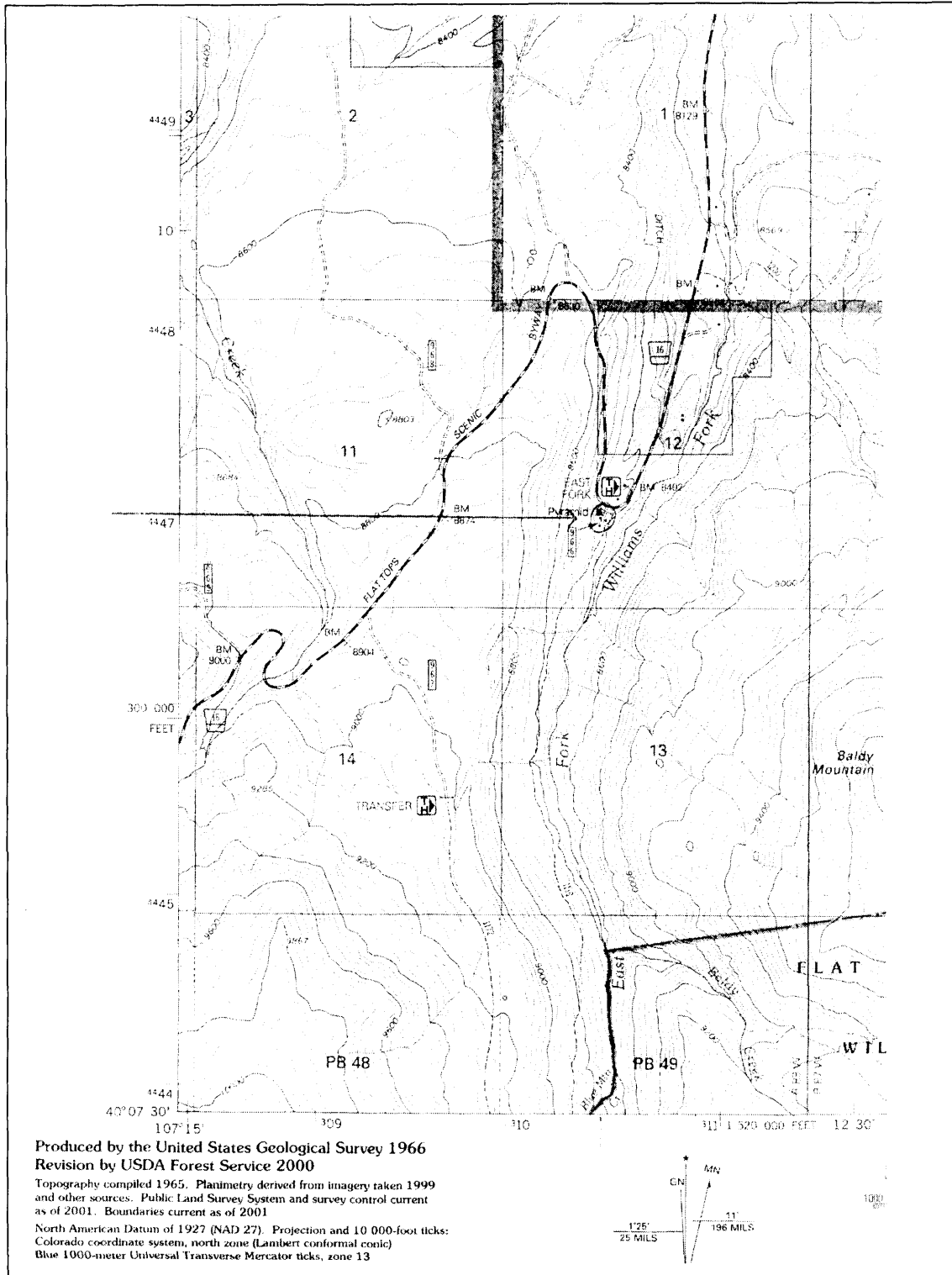
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USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
Dunckley Pass Quadrangle, Colorado
7.5 Minute Series

UTM: Zone 13 / 310583E / 4446892N
PLSS: 6th PM, T2N, R88W, Sec. 12
SW¹/₄, NE¹/₄, SW¹/₄
Elevation: 8420 feet



Produced by the United States Geological Survey 1966
 Revision by USDA Forest Service 2000
 Topography compiled 1965. Planimetry derived from imagery taken 1999
 and other sources. Public Land Survey System and survey control current
 as of 2001. Boundaries current as of 2001.
 North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27). Projection and 10 000-foot ticks:
 Colorado coordinate system, north zone (Lambert conformal conic)
 Blue 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator ticks, zone 13