

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 91001953 Date Listed: 1/13/92

Tipover Lookout Tree

Property Name

Coconino  
County

AZ  
State

National Forest Fire Lookouts in the Southwestern Region TR

Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

*for* *Antoinette J. Gue*  
Signature of the Keeper

1/23/92  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

Statement of Significance: Under Areas of Significance, Engineering is added.

This information was confirmed with Evan DeBloois of the U.S. Forest Service.

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DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

1953

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Tipover Lookout Tree  
other names/site number AR-03-07-03-702

**2. Location**

street & number N/A / /not for publication  
city, town Fredonia /  x/vicinity  
state Arizona code AZ county Coconino code 005 zip code 86022

**3. Classification**

| Ownership of Property                              | Category of Property                     | Number of Resources within Property |                          |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
|  |  | Contributing                        | Noncontributing          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> private                   | <input type="checkbox"/> building(s)     |                                     | <u>      </u> buildings  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-local              | <input type="checkbox"/> district        |                                     | <u>      </u> sites      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-State              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site | <u>  1  </u>                        | <u>      </u> structures |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal | <input type="checkbox"/> structure       | <u>      </u>                       | <u>      </u> objects    |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> object          | <u>  1  </u>                        | <u>      </u> Total      |

Name of related multiple property listing: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

NATIONAL FOREST FIRE LOOKOUTS IN THE  
SOUTHWESTERN REGION, USDA FOREST SERVICE

**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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.  See continuation sheet.

Gwan D. Roberts 7-30-91  
Signature of certifying official Date

USDA - Forest Service

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Sharon Turner 4/8/91  
Signature of certifying official Date

State Historic Preservation Office

**5. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register. Autawickte of Rose 11/3/92  
 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:)

f Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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## 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/ Lookout Facility

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

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## 7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials enter categories from instructions)

foundation

walls

roof

other N/A

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

### Summary

This site, which has two historic lookout trees, is located on a ridge between Bear and Wall Lakes overlooking Demotte Park to the east and the Tipover, Big Spring and Kanabonits drainages to the south and west. It is on the interior of the Kaibab Plateau on the North Kaibab Ranger District, Kaibab National Forest. It is within the mixed conifer forest at an elevation of 9,160 feet. One tree is still alive and standing and the other has fallen. They maintain sufficient integrity to qualify for National Register listing.

### Physical Description

The standing lookout tree is a white fir 75 feet high and 3 feet in diameter with a ladder constructed up its eastern side approximately 40 feet. Two contiguous segments of ladder works remain. The first 10-15 feet are gone. The remaining ladder is in good condition. The construction is typical of other ladders on lookout trees: 2" X 4" lumber sidepieces with 1" x 12-14" crosspieces. It is attached to the tree with lag bolts. This tree is associated with a downed lookout tree with a ladder up its side and 6 foot by 6 foot platform in its top. This is the only documented platform tree on the North Kaibab Ranger District.

### Setting

Vegetation surrounding the site currently consists of an aspen-spruce-fir community with some grasses and forbs. This area was logged last year (1989) and much debris remains. The entire area is heavily littered with duff and downed vegetation. However, the setting retains much of its historic appearance.

### Integrity

The Tipover Lookout tree is still in good condition, despite having been abandoned for approximately 30 years. Only the lower 10-15 feet of ladder has been removed, for safety purposes. It is still readily identifiable as a lookout tree facility. The fallen tree is an integral part of the site. As a whole, this site retains integrity of location, design, feeling, materials, workmanship, setting, and associaton.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A    B    C    D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)    A    B    C    D    E    F    G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)      Period of Significance      Significant Dates

|                     |                       |  |
|---------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Conservation        |                       |  |
| Politics/Government | 1905-1940             |  |
|                     |                       |  |
|                     | Cultural Affiliation  |  |
|                     | N/A                   |  |
| Significant Person  | Architect/Affiliation |  |

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Summary

Tipover Lookout Tree is significant under Criterion A [36 CFR 60.6] for its association with 1) the development of forest fire prevention, detection, and control by the USDA Forest Service between 1905 and 1940, and 2) the conservation movement and its influence on public land management from 1905 to 1940. It is also significant under Criterion C [36 CFR 60.6] because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type of construction, the earliest and simplest form of fire detection structure, built into a living tree.

Historic Contexts/Background

The construction and abandonment dates for the Tipover Lookout Tree are presently unknown. They might be ascertained, however, through oral history. This site is unusual because the fallen tree had a platform, a unique feature among lookout trees on the North Kaibab Ranger District. The fact that it was replaced after it had fallen is indicative of this site's importance to the fire detection network of the area.

Although much remains to be learned about the history of this lookout tree, it had an important function in the earliest fire detection network on the Kaibab National Forest. It continues to evoke a sense of the past.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

See continuation sheet.

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 hist. preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Kaibab National Forest  
Williams, AZ

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property less than one

UTM References

A 1|2| 3|9|7|8|5|0| 4|0|2|4|9|0|0|  
 Zone Easting Northing

C | | | | | | | | | | | | |  
 Zone Easting Northing

B | | | | | | | | | | | | |  
 Zone Easting Northing

D | | | | | | | | | | | | |  
 Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the site is a rectangle measuring 100 X 50 meters centering on the standing and downed trees (see accompanying sketch map)

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the lookout tree and its immediate area only.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Marietta A. Davenport District Archaeologist North Kaibab RD

organization USDA Forest Service Kaibab Natl Forest date 5-24-90

street & number 430 S. Main telephone (602)643-7395

city or town Fredonia state AZ zip code 86022

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

PHOTOGRAPHS Page 1

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THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS THE SAME FOR ALL PHOTOGRAPHS ACCOMPANYING THIS  
NOMINATION:

- 1). Tipover Lookout Tree
- 2). Vicinity of Grand Canyon, North Rim, southwest of DeMotte Park, Kaibab Plateau.  
Arizona
- 3). John C. Davenport
- 4). May 1990
- 5). North Kaibab Ranger District, Kaibab National Forest, Fredonia, Arizona

INFORMATION FOR INDIVIDUAL PHOTOGRAPHS:

- 6). Facing east, tree in its setting.
- 7). #1
- 8). Facing north, fallen tree with platform.
- 9). #2

AR03-07-03-702  
"TAPYER LOOKOUT TREE"

