

**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: 93000527

Date Listed: 6/10/93

Pleasant Valley Ranger Station  
Property Name

Gila                      AZ  
County                      State

Depression-Era USDA Forest Service Administrative Complexes in  
Arizona MPS  
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.

*Antoinette DeLee*  
for Signature of the Keeper

6/10/93  
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

**Statement of Significance:** This property has been evaluated at the statewide level of significance.

This information was confirmed with Michael A. Sullivan, Archeologist with the Tonto National Forest, and Evan I. DeBloois, Federal Preservation Officer, USDA Forest Service.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

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



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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/Government OfficeDOMESTIC/Institutional HousingGOVERNMENT

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Institutional HousingGOVERNMENT

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Bungalow/Craftsman

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Materials enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETEwalls WOOD/Weatherboard

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roof ASPHALTother 

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

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Summary

The historic Pleasant Valley Ranger Station is located on the edge of the small community of Young, Arizona approximately 20 miles southwest of Payson. This administrative facility consists of five buildings and three structures: a residence, office, barn, tool shed, utility storage shed, corral, and (2) water storage tanks. All but the corral are considered to be contributing resources within the complex. All but one of the contributing elements date from 1933-1934. The barn is the sole surviving element of the original facilities constructed shortly after the establishment of the Ranger Station in 1908. It is located to the south of the residence within the complex boundaries. While its construction does not relate to the Depression-era, its integrity and continued historic use by the Forest Service as part of the administrative complex justifies its inclusion as a contributor to the property. The only modern structure that intrudes upon the original setting is the corral. This structure is a replacement for the original corral. Being a recent modification it is considered to be a non-contributing element, however its appearance is in keeping with the historic character of the complex. Otherwise the complex is a fine example of a Forest Service administrative complex built during the Depression. The facility retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Setting

The historic Pleasant Valley Ranger Station is located on a small flat in the hills at the southern edge of Pleasant Valley. The area consists of a wide undulating valley surrounded by rugged mountainous terrain. Pleasant Valley Ranger Station is situated at approximately 5300 feet. The vegetation around the administrative site includes Ponderosa pine, juniper, scrub oak, manzanita, and a variety of grasses.

Physical Description

This set of historic buildings consists of a residence, office, barn, tool shed, utility storage, corral, and (2) water storage tanks. All the buildings are considered to be contributors to the complex. The barn is the only surviving structure of the pre-Depression complex of buildings that defined the original ranger station. The barn is located a short distance away and out of sight of the rest of the complex. All other structures that were extant at the site prior to the

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Depression-era have been removed. No buildings that post-date the historic period have been constructed in the property boundaries. The nominated property is a good example of a Forest Service administrative complex built during the Depression-era. It retains all of the buildings and structures constructed during the period of significance in their historic setting with few intrusions or modifications. The office and the dwelling are typical of standard plan constructions. These illustrate Forest Service site layout and administration during the Depression-era. The complex retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The residence at the Pleasant Valley Ranger Station functions today as it was originally intended, as a residence for Forest Service employees. Its design is from standard plan A-5. This is a set of plans for a standard 4 room bungalow type structure. It is built using a balloon frame with horizontal board siding. The floor plan is a massed rectangle with no projections with the exception of a small side porch. This porch is located off the entry to the kitchen at the left rear of the house. The front porch extends the full width of the structure and is supported by four full length square wood posts. Windows throughout the building are double hung sash with six over six lights on the larger windows. The roof is side gabled with a gabled dormer on the center of the front side just below the ridge board. Decorative knee braces are exposed in the gable ends. The building remains relatively unchanged from its historic configuration.

Located across the road that provides vehicular access to the complex is the office. It was built to a B-1 (revised) standard plan. This plan called for a two room Bungalow type office building constructed with a balloon frame and finished with horizontal board siding. The revised B-1 plan differs from the original B-1 plan in that the structure is slightly larger. The floor plan is rectangular with a projecting bath at the center of the front. The roof is cross gabled. Two small entry porches flank the bath. These provide access to the two main rooms of the office. As with the dwelling the porch is supported with square wood posts. The windows are double hung sash with six over one lights. The roof is cross gabled with decorative knee braces exposed at the gable ends. Other than some slight additions to the porch entries there is only one major alteration in the structure. This is the addition of a kitchen to the rear right of the building so that it could be used as a dwelling. The addition was constructed using the same type of construction techniques and materials as in the original part of the building. The result is an addition that is sensitive to the original character of the structure.

A short distance to the south of the residence is the barn. This building is the only surviving element of the original Ranger Station complex. Built around 1918-1920, it conforms most closely to the National Style defined by McAlester and McAlester. It is a one and a half story building of balloon frame construction finished with board and batten siding. The floor plan is rectangular with a corral shade attached to the rear. The roof is side gabled and covered with corrugated

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metal. Front and rear eaves have exposed rafter ends. At the gable ends, the board and batten siding extends to the roof. At the front right of the building is a single bay door built of one by twelve inch planks with diagonal bracing. A second story hay door, of identical construction, is located above the bay door. A single pane, fixed window is located at the front left. The left facade has two doors of plank construction. The doors are located at the front and rear corners of the left side. Above the left front door is a second story hay door identical to the one on the front facade. Immediately to the left of the left front door is a single pane, fixed window. The rear has an attached corral shade with board and batten sides and a corrugated shed roof that joins the main section just below the eaves. This shade is open to the corral. The right side of the building has no fenestrations. There have been no apparent alterations to the building.

Three secondary buildings and structures from the Depression-era construction remain at the complex. All appear to have been built to unique plans. The first of these is a utility storage room constructed about fifty feet to the right rear of the dwelling. It has balloon frame construction with horizontal board siding. The medium pitched front gabled roof is covered with corrugated metal. The roof is extended to the front of the structure forming a cover for a front porch area. Two full length square wooden posts support the porch roof at the corners. The entrance to the room is through a door located under the porch. The door is built of two by four planks with strap hinges. A second building is a small tool shed built about 100 feet to the south of the office. It is identical to the utility room in construction technique. There is no porch area but a concrete pad extends from the front of the building around the left side. This may be the foundation of an earlier building but no record can be found of any other building having been in the location. The doors are constructed of 1 by 12 inch planks. The concrete water storage tanks, located on the hill to the southwest of the main portion of the complex, form the secondary structures. These consist of two poured concrete above ground tanks in front of a windmill.

### Integrity

The historic Pleasant Valley Ranger Station has undergone few alterations since its construction. No exterior changes have been made to the residence. Modification to the office (addition of the ell) appears to have been made shortly after the historic period and was designed to be sensitive to the original character of the building. No exterior changes have been made to the barn, tool shed, utility storage or the water tanks. No modern construction intrudes on the setting of the complex. The complex as a whole possesses integrity of design, workmanship, materials, setting, feeling, and association is therefore a good representation of a USDA Forest Service administrative site from the Depression-era.



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to the Pleasant Valley Ranger Station. It was felt that this name was more descriptive of the station's location at the edge of Pleasant Valley. The early rangers had a wide variety of duties but focused on range and timber management.

Facility improvements carried out as part of the Depression-era work relief efforts utilized the existing site layout and buildings. The original barn, hay shed, and garage were retained but the original residence was replaced by a new one at the same location. New buildings included an office so that the administrative functions of the station could be removed from the residence, and finally, some secondary outbuildings were added for storage.

From 1908 to the 1960s Pleasant Valley Administrative Site functioned as the Ranger Station for the northeast part of the Tonto National Forest. Over the years all of the original structures except the barn were removed. All but one of the present structures were constructed in 1933 and 1934. The location ceased to be used as a Ranger Station in the 1960s when a new station was built further to the north. Today the complex is used to provide housing for District personnel. The historic Ranger Station is separated from the newer developments by approximately half a mile. Further, the location is screened from these later facilities by hills and vegetation.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Forest Service Withdrawal and Historical files, Tonto National Forest, Phoenix, AZ.

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:

Tonto National Forest

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 2 Acres

UTM References

A 12 505469 3774696  
 Zone Easting Northing

C           
 Zone Easting Northing

B           
 Zone Easting Northing

D           
 Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal Boundary Description

The northern boundary is a E/W line 70 feet to the north of the office. The southern is a E/W line 50 feet to the south of the barn. The west boundary is a N/S line 40 feet west of the office. The east boundary runs N/S 30 feet east of the dwelling. The boundary of the Pleasant Valley Ranger Station is shown as the dashed line on the accompanying sketch map.

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Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses all of the buildings historically associated with the Pleasant Valley Ranger Station and its immediate natural surroundings.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael A. Sullivan, Assistant Forest Archaeologist

organization Tonto National Forest

date 15 Feburary 1990

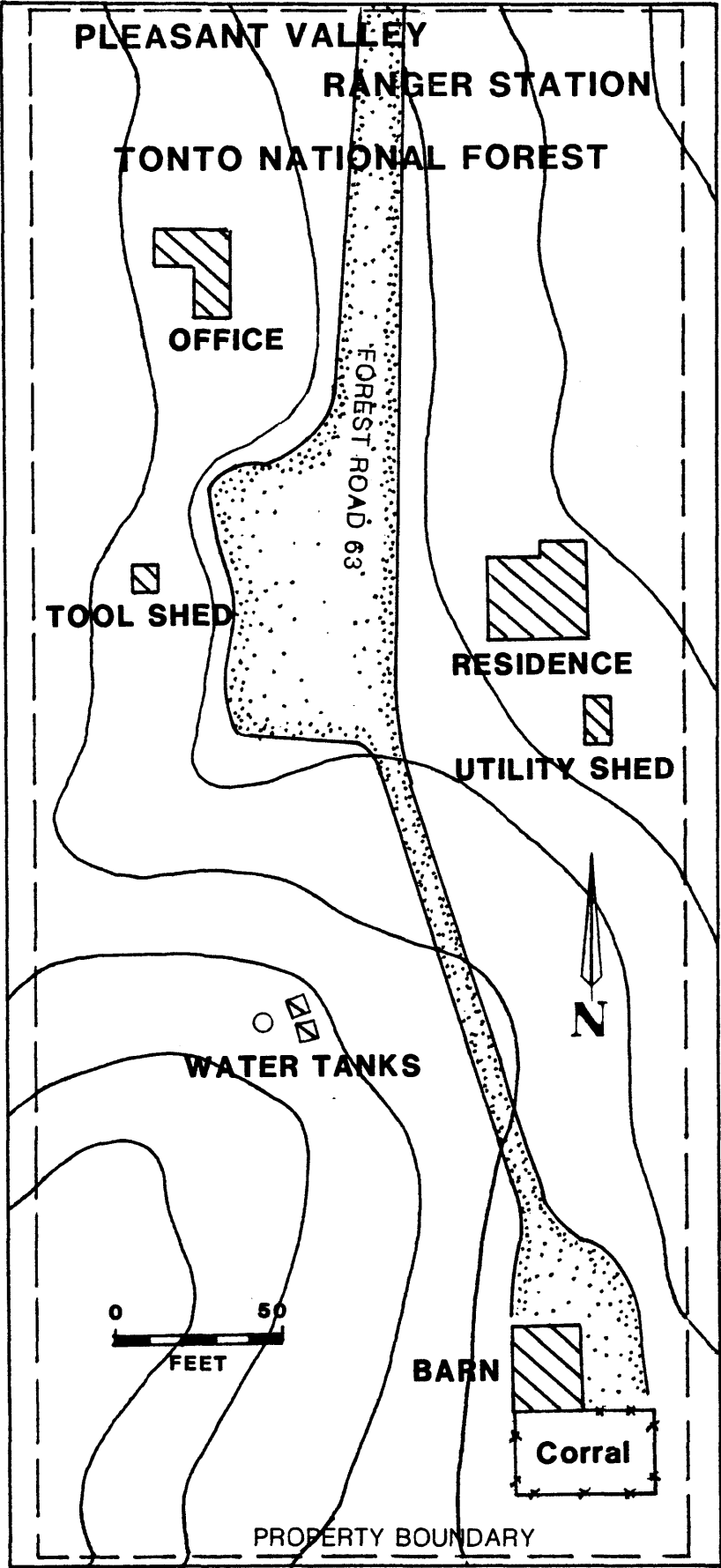
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city or town Phoenix

state AZ zip code 85010





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Photographs Page 1

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

- 1) Pleasant Valley Ranger Station
- 2) Vicinity of Young, Arizona
- 3) J. Scott Wood
- 4) 17 March 1989
- 5) Tonto National Forest, Phoenix, Arizona

INFORMATION FOR INDIVIDUAL PHOTOGRAPHS:

- 6) Facing east, primary elevation of residence
- 7) TNF 8
  
- 6) Facing southwest, primary elevation of office
- 7) TNF 9
  
- 6) Facing northwest, side and rear of barn
- 7) TNF 10
  
- 6) Facing west, primary elevation of tool shed
- 7) TNF 11
  
- 6) Facing southeast, primary elevation of the utility storage
- 7) TNF 12
  
- 6) Facing southwest, primary elevation of the water tanks
- 7) TNF 13