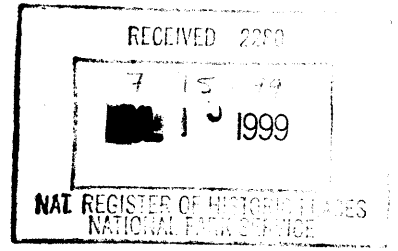


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

988



1. Name of Property

historic name: Savenac Nursery Historic District

other name/site number: 24MN145

2. Location

street & number: frontage road at Interstate 90

not for publication: n/a
vicinity:

city/town: Haugan

state: Montana code: MT county: Mineral code: 061 zip code: 59830

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.)

Michael J. Kacza July 1, 1999
Signature of certifying official/title Date

USDA Forest Service
State or Federal agency or bureau

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

[Signature] 11-24-98
Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- entered in the National Register see continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register see continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register see continuation sheet
- removed from the National Register see continuation sheet
- other (explain):

Cal B. Payne

3/16/99

5. Classification

	Number of Resources within Property		
	Contributing	Noncontributing	
Ownership of Property: Public-Federal			
Category of Property: Historic District			
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A	<u>10</u>	<u>2</u>	building(s)
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A	<u>6</u>	<u> </u>	sites
	<u>16</u>	<u>6</u>	structures
	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
	<u>34</u>	<u>8</u>	Total

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:	Current Function:
Government/government office; Agriculture/horticulture; Transportation/road related(vehicular); Landscape/conservation area	Recreation/outdoor recreation, monument; Education/education related; Government/government office; Work in Progress

7. Description

Architectural Classification:	Materials:
Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals/Colonial Revival	foundation: stone, concrete
	walls: wood/weatherboard
	roof: metal/tin
	other: brick, stone, concrete

Narrative Description**Summary**

Savenac Nursery is located along Savenac Creek near its confluence with the St. Regis River in extreme western Montana. This is a region of steep, timbered mountains, narrow valleys and heavy snows. Savenac Creek flows south from the CC Divide into the St. Regis River. The Nursery buildings and the original tree beds are sited on a narrow bench to the west of the creek, facing south. The Big Creek addition is located on a bench above Big Creek which flows into the St. Regis from the south across the river from the buildings and faces north. The Nursery consists of a central complex of buildings; a visitor/administrative area and a service area connected by a symmetrical network of roads and sidewalks with outlying seed beds for the production of seedlings. An arboretum borders the building complex to the west. An irrigation system further defines the Nursery. Associated landscape features include a network of roads and sidewalks, an interpretive trail, irrigation pond and water supply ditches, the lagoon, the arboretum and ornamental trees throughout the compound, and the seed beds. Important natural features include the timber covered hills surrounding the site, Savenac Creek, Big Creek, and the St. Regis River with its two sloughs. These natural features restrict and define the site's basic layout and orientation. Today, Interstate 90 is located between the main compound and the St. Regis River and interrupts any visual connection between it and the Big Creek addition.

A. Physical Development

Savenac Nursery was started in 1907 by Elers Koch, then supervisor of the Lolo and Bitterroot National Forests. Koch chose the location of the abandoned homestead of a German settler named Savennach. The homestead, now the Nursery, was located on the historic Mullan Road which provide reliable access to the Nursery and was certainly one of the positive factors influencing Koch's decision to place the Nursery here.

The original Nursery office was an attractive four-square, hip-roof cabin with a cedar roof, square notching, and a porch across the front. The administrative withdrawal for Savenac in 1908 listed nine buildings or structures at the Nursery.

(Please see continuation sheet)

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Section 7, Narrative Description continued

This first Nursery was destroyed in the Great Fire of August, 1910. Reconstruction of the Nursery started that fall and by winter an office/residence was completed and ready for occupation. The building was a one-and-one-half story frame structure with a porch across the front, facing south to the Yellowstone Trail (the new name for the Mullan Road). Over the next several years another four residences, a dozen outbuildings; including a cookhouse, bunkhouse(s), tool house, meat house, wood shed, and barn, were constructed. The residences and the office were lined up on either side of the Yellowstone Trail and the other buildings were arranged in two parallel rows behind the original 1910 residence, parallel to Savenac Creek and fronting on the seed beds on the lower bench.

With the Yellowstone Trail passing through the Nursery and the Northern Pacific (NP) Railroad and the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad ("the Milwaukee") practically stopping at its front door, Savenac became a tourist attraction. Decorative shrubs and exotic trees were planted on the grounds to improve the aesthetic appeal and an arboretum was started next to the Yellowstone Trail and Savenac Creek. The concrete bridge over Savenac Creek on the Trail was completed in the fall and spring of 1919-1920 and gravel walks between the bridge, the arboretum, and the Nursery were added.

The third and final period of change and renewal at Savenac begins in 1932 and ends with the entrance of the United States into World War II. In 1932, the Yellowstone Trail was abandoned and the new U.S. 10 was built to the south of the old road. It is now the frontage road. Camp Taft, F-9, of the Civilian Conservation Corps (the CCCs) was established across the St. Regis River on the bench above Big Creek and Company 956 moved-in in 1935. With continued growth in Nursery operations, access to a large labor force, and the change in highway access, the Forest Service decided it was time to rebuild the Nursery. A new warehouse was built in 1933, an equipment storage building and the tree storage/cooler building was built in 1934, and a new bunkhouse was built in 1936. The irrigation dam and pond with the irrigation ditch along the hill were constructed in either 1933 and in 1936 the Big Creek addition of 80 acres is cleared and planted. In 1937 the current administration building, the east residence, and the lagoon are constructed and most of the older structures were removed. An old slough of the St. Regis River is deepened and widened to create the lagoon. Roads and sidewalks were also completed between 1936 and 1939. The new facilities were located on the former transplant beds immediately west of the old structures and re-oriented the entire site. No longer did the buildings front on either side of the Yellowstone Trail and spread out along Savenac Creek. The new facility was located north of the new highway with the residences and the administrative buildings facing it, framed by the lagoon and the soon to be completed stone gates. The service area was now separated from the former and located at the rear, near the beds, with separate access roads.

The west residence and both sets of garages, the stone gates, and entrance driveway were completed in 1938. A cone shed and seed extractory were constructed east of Savenac Creek in 1938. Easier access to these buildings and the seed beds was provided by a stone bridge built across the creek by the CCCs. With the change in the Nursery's orientation, the arboretum was moved from east of the compound, beside the creek and the Yellowstone Trail, to west of the compound, above an old slough of the St. Regis River. In 1940 or 1941, a 25,000 pound stone from Silver Creek (located 6 miles to the west) was brought in and set in place along the slough next to the arboretum to be made into a memorial for the firefighters who lost their lives in the Fire of 1910. These plans were interrupted by World War II and the memorial was not completed until 1996. With these changes, the Nursery now had a more formal landscape that separated the visitor/administrative areas from the service areas and presented a more aesthetically pleasing image to the public. This separation was reinforced by the subtly different architectural styles of the two sets of buildings. The front buildings, the residences and administration, used Tudor design influences with classical interpretations while the service buildings used simpler, Craftsman style details.

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With the coming of the war, large scale changes at the Nursery came to an end. By 1941, Savenac had attained the structures and organization it largely retains today. Camp Taft closed on June 27, 1942. Either at that time or sometime later the camp was completely removed and nothing remains today. With the exception of one residence removed in 1978 or 1979, the few remaining buildings from the second Nursery were removed in the 1950s. The seed extractory was replaced with a newer cinder block building in 1952, the cone shed was removed in the early 1980s, and a new residence was added in 1964 and remodeled into the present cookhouse in 1979 for the Young Adult Conservation Corps(YACCs).

B. Cultural Landscape Characteristics

Savenac Nursery possess aspects of both designed and vernacular landscapes. The following descriptive information is presented with reference to landscape characteristics pertinent to understanding the site and its history.

Patterns of Spatial Organization

The spatial organization of Savenac Nursery is largely restricted to the flat benches along Savenac Creek and Big Creek. Only the irrigation ditches and an interpretive trail are located outside this area and they are limited to the lower slopes of the hills just above the benches. Within this overall pattern, the Nursery is further defined by its orientation on the St. Regis River and the travel corridor therein. Since at least Captain Mullan's construction of his road in 1859, the valley of the St. Regis River had been a major travel corridor through western Montana. After the Mullan Road came the Northern Pacific Railroad in 1891, the Milwaukee Road in 1908, the Yellowstone Trail (following the Mullan Road) in 1912-14, the new Highway 10 in 1932-33, and finally Interstate 90 in the 1960s. All of these travel routes are parallel and within a few hundred feet of the St. Regis River. When finally completed, the Nursery consists of a central cluster of buildings in a formal, designed landscape (including the arboretum), surrounded by a vernacular landscape of the adjacent fields. The building cluster can be further divided into the visitor/administration area in the front and facing the highway and the service buildings in back and oriented to the fields. The Big Creek beds are located across the river and, before construction of the interstate, would have been visible from the building cluster. The road network into and through the building cluster connects it to the highway and the fields. At the same time, it defines the layout of the site separating the visitor/administrative group from the working group yet tying the whole together. The sidewalks parallel the road and reinforce the separation of the visitor/administration area from the working area.

Response to Natural Environment

There are two aspects to the Nursery's response to the natural environment. The primary function of the Nursery, as expressed in the vernacular landscape, was to produce seedlings for the restocking of logged and/or burned over forest lands. For this purpose, all the flat, arable lands along Savenac Creek and Big Creek were cleared and an irrigation system, with its impoundment dam, were constructed to bring water from the creeks to the seedlings. The designed landscape, the visitor/administration area, the arboretum, and the lagoon, express the mission of the Forest Service to manage and protect the forests and, if you will, to civilize the wilderness and make it available to all. The designed landscape also serves to present a good image or impression to the American public while the vernacular landscape expresses the mission of the Nursery: to produce seedlings for the restocking of the forests.

Topography

Forest Service personnel selected this parcel for development into a nursery in part because of the topography of the area. The topography has influenced the organization of the Nursery by both defining where the various parts would be located and their orientation to each other and by creating opportunities for simplifying Nursery operations and design. The level river terraces provided suitable arable land for use as seed beds and transplant beds. The surrounding hills and the

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creek proved suitable for the construction of the irrigation system which provided water for the site. The building clusters and the seed beds are located on the only flat, dry, arable land along either Savenac Creek or Big Creek, but the surrounding hillsides made for natural routes to bring irrigation water to the seedlings. The old sloughs of the St. Regis River, when deepened and widened, create the lagoon, a perfect frame for the facility.

Land Use and Activities

Throughout its known history, this parcel of land has been used for agriculture or agriculture-like activities. We can presume that the homesteader Savennach used the land for farming and since its establishment in 1907, the Nursery has used these acres for cultivating seedlings.

Cultural Traditions

The architectural styles and the physical arrangement of the buildings, structures, and objects at the Nursery express emerging American ideas regarding the role and scope of the new field of forest management and the beginnings of the conservation movement. Conservation and the establishment of the Forest Service in 1905 were controversial ideas and the establishment of a nursery was itself a farsighted and controversial idea within the agency. The architectural style of the buildings and the landscaping of the Nursery are the result of a conscious effort by the Forest Service to present a positive image to the public and to fit into the local community.

Circulation

Savenac Nursery's location gave it good access to the Mullan Road/Yellowstone Trail, the Northern Pacific RR and the Milwaukee RR. With these three travel routes literally at its front door, the Nursery was able to ship its product to all the Forests in the Region and in return receive the necessary seed stock. From its origin in 1907, until the new highway was constructed in 1932, there apparently was only one service road that connected the seed beds to the buildings and the buildings to the Yellowstone Trail. With the construction of the new highway and the rebuilding of the Nursery, there is now a graveled loop road that brings visitors from the highway to the administrative area at the front of the Nursery and two additional gravel roads that connect the administrative area with the service area. Sidewalks duplicate this movement. Additional roads connect the service area to the seed beds. The road across the CCC bridge not only connects the garages and shops to the seed extractory and the cone shed, but it also gives access to the Forest road along Savenac Creek. A separate road goes west from the service area and exits the Nursery without going through the visitor/administrative area thus keeping the activities in one area separate from the activities in the other. Parking spaces in front of the Administration Building, at the residences, and in the service area allow users to park near their destination without interfering with the movement of other users.

Vegetation

Currently, the seed beds are either vegetated in grasses and knapweed or they are planted in 20 year old experimental spruce and fir trees. In the historic period, they would have been planted either in neat groupings of seedlings less than 2 years old and only an inch or two high, or in even, crop-like rows of three and four year old trees, six to eight inches high. In no case would these trees have been more than six to eight inches tall. Irrigation pipe is still in place and visible and it is easy to envision their original use.

In the compound itself, grassy yards and mature ornamental trees and shrubs dominate. This is especially so in the visitor/administration area with its suburban-like setting of mowed lawns and carefully placed clusters of ornamental trees and shrubs. The arboretum which borders the compound on the west consists of over-mature regional species such as grand

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fir, subalpine fir, scotch pine, Colorado blue spruce, white spruce, and western larch. The arboretum has not been well cared for since the Nursery closed and probably looks more natural than was originally intended. The existing gravel path through it also does not follow the original plans. However, the arboretum and the ornamentals still evoke the original purpose of the Nursery and provide a welcome place for visitors.

The surrounding hills have largely recovered from the catastrophic effects of the 1910 Fire. Both nature and the efforts of the Forest Service, using trees provided by Savenac Nursery, have reforested the hills to something like their former state.

Cluster Arrangement

Essentially, there are four clusters at Savenac Nursery; each related to a discrete functional activity. They are: the visitor/administrative cluster of four buildings at the front of the compound, the service cluster of five buildings at the rear of the compound, the arboretum at the west edge of the compound, and the seed and transplant beds located at the peripheries to the north, east, and south. All contribute to the sense of place, order, and function of the Nursery and all are contributing elements

Archaeological Sites

There are no known archaeological sites at Savenac Nursery.

Small Scale Elements

Savenac Nursery is rich with small scale features that connect the site to its history. These features include the Yellowstone bridge and CCC bridge, the Memorial Stone, two isolated outhouses, old telephone poles next to the road, the concrete gate posts on either side of the Yellowstone Trail that mimic the nearby Yellowstone bridge, the remains of the concrete house foundation for the Pelton wheel, the curbing and the sidewalks in the main compound, and irrigation pipe in the fields just east of Savenac Creek. There is one small fire hydrant in front of the remains of the seed extractory and two others opposite the residences.

DESCRIPTIONS OF INDIVIDUAL RESOURCES BY AREA

Visitor/Administration Area

The Visitor/Administration area forms the front of the Nursery complex and consists of the administration building, the east and west residences with their garages, the cookhouse, the entry gates and the driveway, the weather station, the arboretum, the memorial rock, a fire pit, the flagpole, a house and garage foundation, and the ornamental trees and sidewalks. This cluster of buildings and features is arranged in a square, symmetrical pattern.

Administration Building (#2012), 1937. Contributing Building:

This is a one-and-one-half story, cross gable building used for administrative offices. It is located on the south side of the square facing the old highway across the lagoon. It has a full concrete basement, concrete foundation, wood frame construction, steeply pitched roofs with asphalt roofing, and a brick chimney temporarily encased in a sheet metal sleeve. The building has a shallow cruciform floor plan formed by the main axis running north-south and the secondary axis running east-west. The roof line of the main axis is noticeably higher than that of the secondary axis. The exterior cladding has a wainscoting of lapped siding on the lower 1/3 of the walls all the way around the building. On the main axis the upper 2/3s is

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board and batten siding while on the secondary axis the siding is lapped board siding. In the gable ends the roof-wall junction has simple verge boards and elsewhere the roof has slightly extending boxed eaves. Built into the peak of the north and south gable ends there is a triangular arrangement of 6 blue bird nests. (This pattern is repeated in East and West Residence garages.) The main facade, facing south, has a double door with sidelights framed by paired pilasters. It has a flagstone porch with three steps and a shed-roof. Both the porch eaves and the lintel on the ribbon windows above have matching scalloped detailing. The double doors have one panel each with 9-light glazing above. The sidelights have five light glazing. The ribbon window above the door has three, 4x4 double hung windows. The south facade of each cross axis has a single double hung window with 6x6 lights.

The east and west elevations match and each has a single, double hung window with 6x6 lights in the gable end, a vent in the gable peak, single 6x6 windows and a hipped roof dormer with 9-light windows in the cross axis. The rear facade, facing north into the center of the Visitor/Administration area, is similar to the main facade. It has a paneled door with nine light glazing, framed by five-light sidelights, and a hip roofed porch with paired columns. Flanking the door and repeated in the cross axis, are single double hung windows with 6x6 lights. Above the porch are two paired casement windows with six lights. A simple wood frame ramp has been added to the back porch.

The interior of the building is finished throughout in knotty pine paneling. There is a stone fireplace with a pine mantle. The pine gives the interior a rustic quality while the symmetry of the floor plan and finish repeat the symmetry of both the exterior of the building and the Nursery itself.

West Residence and Garage (#1020), 1937. Contributing Building; and
East Residence and Garage (#1021), 1938. Contributing Building:

These two buildings with their semi-attached garages are mirror images of each other. They face each other from opposite sides of the visitor/administration area, just behind the administration building. Each residence is a rectangular, one story, steeply pitched gable roof building with a full basement, a concrete foundation, clapboard siding, narrow boxed eaves, a brick chimney, and asphalt shingle roofing. The main facades, facing into the compound (i.e.: the west side on the east residence and the east side on the west residence), have a six-panel door, transom lights, two double hung, 6x6, windows to the north, and a single double hung, 6x6, window to the south. Each door has a three step concrete stoop. The door on the east residence has a decorative pediment or crown supported by paired columns while the west residence has a shallower crown un-supported by columns or pilasters.

The south gable ends have two paired double hung windows, 8x8, and a louvered vent in the gable. The siding in the gable ends is board and batten from the roof line up. The rear facades, facing onto the driveway, have four double hung, 6x6, windows. All the windows on the residences have large, single panel shutters. The north facades have a three panel door with 4x4 lights and a single double hung, 6x6, window. The door opens onto a breezeway that connects the residence with its adjoining two car garage. The breezeway is gable roofed and has four bays each supported by square columns.

The garages face the driveway and each is gable roofed with a louvered cupola, board and batten siding, concrete foundation, and the blue bird nesting holes in the peak of each gable end. The paired garage doors are finished in a chevron pattern. The rear facades have two eight-light casement windows. There is a four-light, two panel door in both the north and south facades and an eight-light casement window. The interior of the garages are divided into two bays by a solid wall. It appears likely from this and from period plans that the original intent was to build a second set of matching residences on the north side of the garages attached with breezeways.

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Cookhouse (#1016), 1962. Noncontributing Building:

This building is a rectangular, Ranch-style structure with a fully attached two-car garage. It was built as a residence in 1964 and converted to a cookhouse with bunk space in the full basement in 1979 for the YACCs. It is sited at the north end of the visitor/administration area facing the administration building. It has a concrete foundation, clapboard siding, gable roof with enclosed eaves, a brick chimney, and asphalt roofing. The main facade, facing south, has a three step concrete stoop and hollow core door into the house and a matching door without the stoop, into the garage. There are three sliding windows and one picture window. The east gable end, the garage, has two sliding windows, utility boxes, and vertical board siding in the gable end. The north facade has a double-wide garage door with a screened door next to it. There are four sliding windows across the house portion. The west facade has a covered porch on the ground floor suspended over a basement porch. There are four blue bird nests in the gable end, similar to those in the east and west residence garages and in the administration building.

Arboretum, 1938. Contributing Site:

The arboretum was moved from beside Savenac Creek and the Yellowstone Trail to west of the visitor/administration area in 1938. It was planted with 78 grand fir, subalpine fir, scotch pine, white pine, Colorado blue spruce, white spruce and western larch in memory of the 78 firefighters who gave their lives fighting the Great Fire of 1910. It occupies 1 and ½ acres. Some of the trees were reportedly moved in the mid-1970s to a memorial at the Aerial Fire Depot in Missoula. Several other trees have died. However, the site continues to serve as a contributing design element to the Nursery as a whole.

Lagoon, 1937. Contributing Site:

The lagoon is approximately 1 acre and was constructed in 1937 by excavating an adjacent slough to the St. Regis River. It is located at the entrance to the Nursery and is surrounded by landscaped grass and two clusters of mature pine trees.

House and Garage Foundation, 1920s. Contributing Site:

East of the east residence and south of the Yellowstone Trail is the concrete foundation for a small residence and one car garage. The walkway to the front door from the Trail is still visible. The house and garage were removed in the mid-1970s. The foundations are one of the few remaining vestiges of the second Savenac Nursery, before the rebuilding in the 1930s.

Mullan Road/Yellowstone Trail, 1859 and 1914. Contributing Site:

The original Mullan Road was constructed through what became Savenac Nursery in 1859 as a rough wagon road. Between 1912 and 1914, the Yellowstone Trail Association adopted this segment of the Mullan Road for their coast to coast highway. It was paved sometime between 1919 and 1930. As it exists today, the visible road starts opposite the east residence, runs east across the Yellowstone Bridge, and slowly curves to the south until it is lost under the current frontage road, old Highway 10. Several telephone poles still stand next to the road to the east of the bridge. The road was abandoned when Highway 10 was constructed around 1932. The width is approximately 12 feet with no barrow pits apparent. The surface is partially covered with 60 years accumulation of duff and grasses.

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Yellowstone Trail Bridge, 1919-1920. Contributing Structure:

The Yellowstone Trail bridge was started in the fall of 1919 and completed in the spring and summer of 1920. It is a single-span, poured concrete bridge with approach wings. Just east of the bridge is the remains of a barb wire fence crossing the Yellowstone Trail. The fence uses concrete posts that match the shape and materials used in the bridge. The asphalt road surface on the bridge was covered with up to 5 inches of duff and grasses. It was removed in 1996 to protect the bridge from moisture and to reveal the original surface to visitors.

Entry Gates, 1937-38. Contributing Structures:

There are two matched stone entry gates at either end of the looping entrance drive to Savenac Nursery. These are typical of CCC construction with a central flagstone pillar with secondary pillars joined by wood railings. One charming feature is the post and pole turnstile placed beside the cattle guard across the entrance drive.

Sidewalks and Driveways, 1937-38. Contributing Structure:

The visitor/administration area is defined by the looping gravel entrance drive across the front of the cluster and the second loop drive from the entrance loop to the service area. There are parking areas on either side of the administration building. The driveway is 20 feet wide and bordered by concrete curbing 8 to 10 inches high and 4 inches wide. The sidewalk parallels the driveway, but on the inside of the buildings. It is 40 inches wide and constructed with 3 inch thick concrete slabs separated by 1 inch wide grass strips.

Weather Station, 1919. Contributing Structure:

This small enclosure is located between the driveway, the arboretum, and the memorial rock. It is a simple post and pole structure with an anemometer and rain gauge in a louvered box. Currently, the box and the rain gauge are in storage. The poles were replaced in 1996 with like material. The original wire mesh fencing was reused.

Pelton Wheel, 1936. Contributing Structure:

This structure is a concrete box with a Pelton wheel still in place that was used to generate electricity for the Nursery. It is located behind the arboretum and the memorial rock. It was originally covered with a small wood house which was later moved to the service area and is now the oil and gas house in the service area.

Fire Pit, 1960s. Noncontributing Structure:

A stone fire pit is a beehive shaped structure located near Savenac Creek, north of the Yellowstone Trail. The pit is in a small amphitheater with a single row of benches on the southwest.

Memorial Rock, 1940-41. Contributing Object:

In 1940 or 1941, a 25,000 pound rock was moved from Silver Creek, six miles to the west, to the Nursery to be a memorial to the firefighters of 1910. It was placed on edge in the area of an old river slough just south of the arboretum. The rock was so heavy it started to sink into the soft sediments and a concrete crib had to be poured under it. Only 1/3 of the rock is visible. The start of World War II interrupted any further work on the Memorial and the plaque was not completed and dedicated until 1996. A trail constructed in 1996 connects the memorial to the arboretum.

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Flag Pole, c.1936-37. Contributing Object:

In front of the administration building, across the entrance drive, and visible from old Highway 10 across the lagoon, is a single flagpole. It appears in photographs from the latter 1930s and after.

Service Area

The service area is located at the rear of Savenac Nursery, adjacent to the seed beds and includes the shop, garage, bunkhouse, packing plant, seed extractory, fire hose shed, oil and gas building, the CCC bridge, the remains of the cone storage building, a root cellar, a stock ramp, and two trailer pads. The shop, garage, bunkhouse, and packing shed are arranged in a square around a common parking area just north of the visitor/administration area. The other items are located to either side of this central cluster.

Bunkhouse (#1301), 1936. Contributing Building:

This is a rectangular, one and one-half story, gable roof building in the southwest corner of the service cluster. It has a concrete foundation, frame construction, drop siding, extending eaves with exposed rafters, a new metal roof, and two hip roofed dormers facing south. The east gable end has a gable roof porch, a door, and two six-light casement windows on the ground floor. It has an nine-light double casement window in the second floor. There is a propane tank out front. The south facade has six paired, six-light hopper windows and a door. There is an eight step wood stoop/porch at the door. The dormers have six-light casement windows.

The west gable end has a ten panel door on the ground floor and glass sliding doors on the second floor. The glass door and combination fire escape/porch were added for the YACCs in 1979. The north facade has five paired, six-light casement windows.

This building was originally built as a garage/implement shed but was modified into a combination bunkhouse/cookhouse in 1956 and into its current configuration in 1979. As a garage it had four large barn doors on the north facade and a five panel door and two double 2x2 casement windows in the east facade but no porch. Thus the north and east facades have seen important changes but the building retains its original materials, configuration, and general appearance

Packing Plant (#2611), 1934. Contributing Building:

This is a "T" shaped, gable roof building with a concrete foundation, drop siding, extending eaves with exposed rafters, and a new metal roof. It was used to pack and wrap the seedlings for shipping to the National Forests. The front half, the bar of the "T", was used for packing while the leg of the "T" is the cooler for storing the seedlings. To keep the building cool it is heavily insulated and the foundation is a solid slab of poured concrete at least 36 to 48 inches thick. Even on the hottest August days, the cooler is cold and the rest of the building barely gets warm. This building is located on the northwest corner of the cluster, facing the bunkhouse.

The main facade, facing south, has a loading door with a six step concrete loading platform/stoop. The steps have metal pipe railings. There are also two nine-light casement windows, one on either side of the door. In the north facade, the gable end has two more nine-light casement windows at ground level and a five panel door into the attic. There is also a door in the bight of the "T". There are no windows or other openings in the leg of the "T" as this is the cooler. There is a newer, three-bay shed covered area on the north gable end. The north gable end is the outside of the cooler and has no openings. In the gable end of the east facade, there is another loading door, but without the platform. There is an opening

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into the foundation under the rest rooms in the bight of the "T". In 1982, the packing room was remodeled into a classroom by removing support pillars to open it up. In the winter of 1994-95, the interior was repainted, the windows were reglazed and the stairway was enclosed.

Garage (#2315), 1934. Contributing Building:

This a one story, gable roof building used for a garage and equipment storage. It has a concrete foundation, drop siding, extending eaves with exposed rafters, and a new metal roof. There are five vehicle bays in the south facade with overhead garage doors. A two panel door and three, paired six-light casement windows at ground level are in the west facade. There is a single six-light casement window in the gable peak. The north facade has one sliding six-light window while the east facade is bare. This building is in the northeast corner of the cluster, facing the shop. The garage doors were originally wood but were replaced with metal doors in the 1970s and 1980s.

Shop (#2202), 1933. Contributing Building:

The shop is a one and one-half story, gable roof building with a concrete foundation, board and batten siding, extending eaves with exposed rafters, and a metal roof. This building is at the southeast corner of the service cluster. The main facade, facing west onto the drive, has a two panel door with a nine-light window beside a garage door into a large vehicle bay. There are paired, double hung, 6 over 6, windows in the gable end. As originally built, this facade had a single door flanked by two double hung windows on the ground floor. It was altered into its current configuration in 1984 for use by the Bonneville Power Administration.

The north facade has a large, gable roof dormer with a pair of double hung 6 over 6 windows. On the ground level it has two double hung windows, 6 over 6. Photographs from 1951 show a sliding window, 2x2, on this facade that is no longer there. The east gable end has a door and two panels giving access to a partial basement, two sliding, six light windows on the first floor, and paired double hung 6 over 6 windows in the attic. The south facade has two double hung 6 over 6 windows on the ground floor, a rolling garage door and entry port for the sub-floor, and a nine light sliding window on the second floor. The shop was used as a warehouse until the 1980s.

Oil and Gas Building (#2316), 1936. Contributing Building:

This building is a small, rectangular, gable roof structure on a concrete foundation. It has drop siding, extending eaves with exposed rafters, and metal roofing. It has a four panel, 3 light, double door on the east gable end. The roof at this end extends an extra two feet over the door. There are two, nine light casement windows in the south and west facades. There are no windows or openings in the north facade. This building is currently located on an island between the packing shed and the garage and is used for storage. The building was originally located west of the arboretum and housed the Pelton wheel that was used to generate the Nursery's electricity. It is not known when it was moved to its present location.

Seed Extractory Building (#2608), 1952. Noncontributing Building:

This is a "T" shaped, cross gable, concrete block building located across the CCC bridge from the service cluster. It has a concrete foundation, board and batten siding in the gable ends, and a metal roof. The roof has extending eaves with exposed rafters. The main facade, facing south into the seed beds east of Savenac Creek, has a double door and two sliding windows. The east and west gable ends have single sliding windows. There are no openings on the south facade which is the leg of the "T". This building replaced a previous seed extractor building constructed in the 1930s. It is currently unused.

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Cone Storage Building Foundation(#2102), 1939. Contributing Site:

The cone storage building was located east of the seed extractor. It was a one and one-half story cross gable building. It was post and pole with open, screened sides to allow free air flow through the dried cones. The building sat on concrete footers with a concrete pad down the center. The footers and the pad are all that remain after the building was removed after 1983.

CCC Bridge, 1937. Contributing Structure:

The CCC bridge crosses Savenac Creek and is technically a two span multi-plate bridge faced with random, uncoursed stone blocks. The stone rises above the concrete deck to form parapets. It connects the service area cluster with the cone shed, seed extractor, and the seed beds east of the creek. It also connects with Forest Road #381 up Savenac Creek.

Root Cellar, c. 1937. Contributing Structure:

The root cellar is a concrete structure built into the east bank of Savenac Creek just north of the CCC bridge. It is built with poured concrete, has a vaulted roof, and a single door in the west facade. It originally stored fertilizer, but currently is not used.

Fire Hose Storage House, c. 1936. Contributing Structure:

This building is a small, square, gable roof structure used to store fire hose and other equipment. It is located on the island between the shop and the bunkhouse. It has a concrete foundation, frame construction, extending eaves with exposed rafters, cedar shingles, and an opening in the north gable end.

Stock Ramp, date unknown, Noncontributing Structure:

This is a stock ramp built into the bank of the second bench behind the bunkhouse.

Trailer Pads (3), 1980s. Noncontributing Structures

Three graveled pads with hook-ups for travel trailers were constructed next to the west access road to the service area. These pads are used by volunteer ground keepers in the summer months.

Miscellaneous

Irrigation Pond and Ditch, 1933. Contributing Structures.

A holding pond on Savenac Creek is located approximately 3/4 mile north of the service area against the base of the hill. A concrete dam and spillway is located at the southeast end of the pond and the concrete headgate is located at the south side of the pond some 50 feet from the dam. The dam is approximately 75 feet long and the pond is roughly two-tenths of an acre. A one lane service road via the upper beds connects the pond to the service buildings. An abandoned irrigation ditch cuts the hillside from the pond south to the settling tank on the hill above the Pelton wheel. The ditch is three feet wide at the top, two feet wide at the bottom, two feet deep, and 90% intact and visible.

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Settling Tank, c. 1936. Contributing Structure:

The settling tank is a concrete box measuring seven feet by seven feet by four feet deep. It is located on the top of the small ridge at the southwest side of the main Nursery compound. The ditch from the pond brought water to the settling tank from where it dropped into the Pelton wheel to generate electricity.

Interpretative Trail, c. late 1930s. Contributing Structure:

About two-thirds of the way from the service area to the irrigation pond there is a short interpretative trail. The trail starts at an old outhouse in a small draw, crosses the abandoned ditch on a pole bridge, goes up the draw and then turns and switchbacks up the hill to the top of the small ridge. Along the trail are four routed wood signs identifying tree plots that were planted in 1911. A fifth wood sign, further up the hill, identifies that location as a camera point also established in 1911. The trees have grown so much that it no longer serves as a useful camera point. The trail is 18 inches wide with a good grade and is a typical Forest Service trail. The signs are also typical Forest Service signs.

Two Outhouses, 1931. Contributing Structures:

There are two, wood frame, one-hole outhouses on the Nursery grounds. Both are abandoned. One outhouse is located at the start of the interpretive trail and is still standing and largely intact. It has a gable roof with cedar shingles, tongue and groove siding, and a five panel door. This is the oldest standing structure at Savenac Nursery. The second outhouse is a twin of the first. It is located beside the Yellowstone Trail about 200 feet east of the Yellowstone bridge. Unfortunately, this outhouse was hit by a falling tree and is no longer standing.

Big Creek Addition

Big Creek Beds, 1935. Contributing Site:

The Big Creek addition is located across the St. Regis River on a terrace above the mouth of Big Creek. It totals approximately 100 acres and includes the site of the CCC's Camp Taft, F-9, as well as the tree beds. All that remains today of Camp Taft is some rubble pushed off the side of the terrace and its location is an open field. Approximately one quarter of the tree beds were planted in 1974 in Douglas fir as part of a research project. These trees are now 15 to 20 feet tall. Another one quarter of the addition has been planted more recently and these trees are only three to four feet high.

Pump House, 1963. Noncontributing Structure:

This structure is a gable roof, balloon frame building with a concrete foundation, asphalt shingles, vertical board siding, and a door in the west wall.

STATEMENT OF INTEGRITY

Overall the property has excellent integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. While some buildings have seen alterations and modifications, overall each retains significant portions of the historic fabric and each is readily identifiable with its period of construction and original function. As with the buildings, so with the site as a whole. Some buildings have been lost and at least one has been added, but the site still looks much as it did during the historic period maintaining the essential spatial organization, circulation patterns, and cluster arrangement as designed. The separation of the administrative area from the service area and the surrounding seed beds still identify this site with its original nursery function.

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SUMMARY TABLE OF CONTRIBUTING AND NONCONTRIBUTING ELEMENTS

<u>Resource Name/Type</u>	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
Admin. Building/bldg.	X	
West Residence and Garage/bldgs (2)	X	
East Residence and Garage/bldgs (2)	X	
Cookhouse/bldg		X
Arboretum/site	X	
Lagoon/site	X	
House and Garage foundation/site	X	
Yellowstone Trail/Mullan Road/site	X	
Yellowstone Bridge/structure	X	
Entry Gates/structures (2)	X	
Sidewalk and Driveways/structures (2)	X	
Weather Station/structure	X	
Pelton Wheel/structure	X	
Fire Pit/structure		X
Memorial Rock/object	X	
Flag Pole/object	X	
Bunkhouse/bldg	X	
Packing Plant/bldg	X	
Garage/bldg	X	
Shop/bldg	X	
Oil and Gas Building/bldg	X	
Seed Extractory/bldg		X
Cone Storage Building foundation/site	X	
CCC Bridge/structure	X	
Root Cellar/structure	X	
Fire Hose Storage House/structure	X	
Stock Ramp/structure		X
Trailer Pads/structures (3)		X
Irrigation Pond and Ditches/structures(2)	X	
Settling Tank/structure	X	
Interpretive. Trail/structure	X	
Outhouses/structures (2)	X	
Big Creek Beds/site	X	
Pump House/structure		X
<hr/>		
TOTALS:	Buildings: 10	2
	Sites: 6	0
	Structures: 16	6
	Objects: 2	0
	34	8

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Savenac Nursery contains features that are not typically counted in National Register nominations. These include the seed and transplant beds and the formal landscape plantings of exotic specimen trees such as the Siberian larch behind the Administration Building and the two sugar maples in front of the Administration Building. These features and the overall layout and organization of the site are important parts of the integrity of design, setting, feeling, and association for this property.

8. Statement of Significance

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, B, C

Areas of Significance: Conservation, Architecture, Politics/Government, Landscape Architecture,

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Period(s) of Significance: 1907-1932, 1933-1948

Significant Person(s): Elers Koch

Significant Dates: 1907, 1910, 1937-1938

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: William Fox

Narrative Statement of Significance

Summary

Savenac Nursery is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the State level under criteria A, B, C. There are two periods of significance for the Nursery. The first begins in 1907 when it was established by Elers Koch, forest supervisor of the Lolo and Bitterroot National Forests and ends in 1932 with the abandonment of the Yellowstone Trail and the construction of Highway 10, the almost complete rebuilding of the Nursery begins. The second period of significance starts in 1932 with the beginnings of the second Nursery construction and ends in 1948. Significant dates include 1910 when the first Nursery was destroyed in the Great Burn of 1910 and 1937-1938 when, using CCC labor, the Nursery as we know it today was largely constructed.

Savenac Nursery illustrates the role and importance of the Forest Service in the development of the American west and of western Montana in particular and the development of Forest Service administration of forest and range lands in Region One (area of significance: politics/government). The Nursery also illustrates the philosophy of early professional forestry and especially the beliefs of its founder, Elers Koch (areas of significance: conservation). Koch was a ground breaking silviculturalist, a pioneering forest manager, and a master firefighter in the early years of the Forest Service. The design and landscaping of the grounds and the choice of architectural styles reflect the design philosophies of the Forest Service and the agency's mission of protecting, administering, and developing the forest lands (areas of significance: conservation, architecture, landscape architecture). The architectural style of the buildings and the landscaping of the nursery are a result of a conscious effort by the Forest Service to present a positive image to the public and to fit into the local community. They express the mission of the agency to manage and protect the forest, and to make it available to all. The designed landscape serves to present a good image to the American public while the vernacular landscape expresses the mission of the nursery: to produce seedlings for restocking the forests. The Nursery also illustrates the important role played by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the restoration and development of much of the Nation's natural resources (area of significance: conservation). With the help of the CCC labor, Savenac became the largest tree nursery in the northwest producing up to 12 million trees per year for replanting ten's of thousands of acres of logged or burned over lands.

Introduction

In the spring of 1859 Lt. (later captain) John Mullan started construction of the Military Road connecting Fort Walla Walla on the Columbia River with Fort Benton on the Missouri River. It would take Mullan and a crew of 140 men three years and over \$200,000 to build the road that was intended to provide for the quick and easy movement of troops between the head of navigation on the Missouri River with the head of navigation on the Columbia River. Although it was used for its intended purpose only once, it did become a major route for gold miners and immigrants traveling to Montana Territory. It was the first surveyed and engineered road in the State of Montana. The Mullan Road and its later day versions, the Yellowstone Trail, Highway 10, and Interstate 90, to this day provide the only real access to much of Mineral County. It was while traveling the Mullan Road to the west coast on his honeymoon that Elers Koch located the abandoned homestead that would become Savenac Nursery.

(please see continuation sheet)

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Section 8, Statement of Significance continued

Elers Koch was one of the country's first professional foresters, one of the first graduates of the Yale School of Forestry (1902), and one of Gifford Pinchot's "young men". A native of Montana, he would be one of the few early professional foresters from the West, most were Easterners. He first met Pinchot in 1899 while working on a crew studying coastal Douglas fir for the Bureau of Forestry. It was this experience that led him to take graduate study in forestry at Yale. After graduating in 1902, he returned to the Bureau of Forestry and between 1902 and 1905, Koch was one of Pinchot's boundary men inventorying the timber resources and drawing the boundaries for the Shasta Forest Reserve in California, the Lewis and Clark and Beaverhead Forest Reserves in Montana, and the Bighorn Forest in Wyoming.

With the creation of the U.S. Forest Service in 1905, Koch became the inspector for the states of Montana and Wyoming. As an inspector, his job was to visit the Forest Reserves to study their resources, organization, and personnel. The mission was to weed out the incompetent political appointees left over from the General Land Office, replace them with new men, and organize newly created forest reserves. As part of this process, Koch conducted some of the first ranger examinations in the new agency. These exams took two days of field events - rifle and pistol shooting, horse riding, packing a horse, compass surveying and pacing, axe use, and timber cruising; and one day for a written exam ("to weed out the illiterates").

From 1907 to 1918, Koch was the first Forest Supervisor for the Missoula, Lolo, and Bitterroot National Forests (NFs) (now the Lolo and Bitterroot NFs). As supervisor, Koch had to select an adequate ranger force; explore and map over three million acres; locate and build ranger stations; plan, locate, and build a trail system and later a telephone system; settle numerous timber trespass cases; examine and adjudicate land claims; and fight forest fires. While supervisor of the Lolo and Bitterroot NFs, Koch established Savenac Nursery and participated in the efforts to control the fires of 1910. He recounts in his memoirs that the planting of trees and the establishment of Savenac Nursery are the two things which gave him the greatest pleasure and satisfaction. When Koch established Savenac, much of modern tree nursery knowledge was unknown and unwritten.

From 1919 to 1921, Koch was Regional Fire Chief in Missoula and then from 1921 until his retirement in 1943, he was Assistant Regional Forester in charge of the Division of Forestry. While Fire Chief, he developed the first formal training for wildland firefighters reflecting his experiences in the big fire years of 1910 and 1919. He also established the first board of reviews, organized the system of fixed fire lookouts and seen-area maps, designed a fire finder for use in lookouts, and developed the first fire fighting tool, the Koch fire tool. During his years as Assistant Regional Forester, he fathered much of early white pine silviculture and set such high seed tree standards that the noblest specimens for years were called "Koch trees". Elers Koch was a ground breaking silviculturalist, a pioneering forest manager, and a master firefighter in the early years of the Forest Service.

Through his professional writings, Koch promoted the concepts of conservation, preservation, and wilderness. His 1935 article, "The Passing of the Lolo Trail" was visionary in promoting the value of wildlands and wildplaces, the preservation of heritage resources and the concept of allowing natural fires to burn in wilderness. It helped pave the way for the creation of the National wilderness system and the Wilderness Act of 1964. Through his long career, Koch worked with and was both influenced by and influenced many of the early names in the U.S. Forest Service, from Gifford Pinchot to numerous unnamed rangers and foresters. He worked with Senators (Burton K. Wheeler, for one), Congressmen, and Secretaries of Agriculture (even playing a game of softball with Secretary of Agriculture Henry Wallace at Savenac Nursery while on a tour of Region One).

Between 1912 and 1914, the segment of the Mullan Road in Mineral County, including that part passing through the nursery, would be incorporated into the "Yellowstone Trail". The Yellowstone Trail was one of a number of interstate roads

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the grew out of the "Good Roads Movement" of the early part of the 20th Century. The Yellowstone Trail Association was headquartered in Minneapolis and had the goal of creating a road linking that city to Yellowstone National Park and the west coast. Like other Good Roads organizations, they created a network of communities along existing roads who agreed to develop and maintain those roads to higher standards. In return, the Association published maps and guide materials for travelers to use along that road. In this case, the Yellowstone Trail was marked with yellow diamonds attached to trees and other markers.

1907 to 1932

Savenac Nursery saw its beginning in 1907 when Elers Koch spotted a clearing which he thought would be an excellent site for a nursery. The site was comprised of three benches that rose above the west bank of Savenac Creek. The then abandoned land had been previously occupied by a German homesteader named Savennach. There is no record of this homestead but the name "Savennach" appears on the 1899, 1905, and 1914 GLO plats.

At the same time in Region One of the USDA Forest Service, three similar nurseries were also being started: Trapper Creek on the Bitterroot National Forest, Boulder on the Helena National Forest, and Camp Cook on the Dakota National Forest. Boulder Nursery would continue in operation until 1916 while the other two were abandoned earlier. These nurseries were called Ranger nurseries because they were operated by the District Ranger. Ranger Frank Haun supervised the Savenac operation under the direction of Elers Koch. Administration was handled by the Lolo National Forest. Workers began preparing the seed beds in 1908 by clearing 7,920 square feet of land and planting western white pine and ponderosa pine. Irrigation was furnished by diverting Savenac Creek through a ditch one half mile in length, constructed in the fall of 1909. The administrative withdrawal of 160 acres in section 22, dated September 23, 1908, lists one six -room house, one barn, 2 bunk houses, one cook house, one tool house, one store house, one meat house, one wood shed, and 16 cleared acres.

Before the first crop of seedlings could be transplanted, disaster struck. In August, the Great Fire of 1910 scorched over 3 million acres of timber land in north Idaho and western Montana. Seventy-eight firefighters and seven civilians were killed in the fire and the towns of Henderson, DeBorgia, Taft, and Haugan, Montana and Wallace, Idaho were destroyed. All the buildings at Savenac were also destroyed as were all the ponderosa pine and western white pine transplants. Only the seed beds remained. This was partly due to the method of irrigation which sent water through furrows between the seed beds, keeping them moist and resistant to fire. The Great Burn of 1910 would have a significant influence on the development and direction of the Forest Service with fire prevention and conservation becoming the primary mission of the Agency.

Despite the loss, the Forest Service decided that the Nursery should be rebuilt and enlarged to supply planting needs for all the western forests in Region One. The decision was based on two facts: Savenac was ideally situated for supplying stock to the entire western part of the Region with close access to the Mullan Road and both the Northern Pacific Railroad and the Milwaukee Railroad; and a change in reforestation policy in Region One because of the three million burned-over acres put practically all its money into the white pine areas of the Region.

Work began immediately to rebuild and expand the Nursery. By the end of 1910, the first bench containing three-quarters of an acre and the second bench containing three quarters of an acre were being used for a total of one and one-half acres. That fall, the third bench with 25 acres saw some development. Clearing and cultivation was slow and expensive with 5.3 acres cleared and a second ditch capable of irrigating the entire 25 acres completed by June 1911.

Several sources were used to replenish the trees destroyed by the fire. Western white pine, ponderosa pine, and western larch from a smaller abandoned nursery in St. Regis, Montana were shipped up to Savenac. Eastern white pine

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was received from the Michigan Agricultural College and the Wasatch Nursery in the Salt Lake National Forest shipped up some ponderosa pine. Along with these seedlings, seeds were collected from many other areas. While some seeds were species indigenous to western Montana (such as Engelmann spruce from Colorado), other species were received that were not native to the area (giant sequoia from California). A shipment of Japanese larch from Japan was also accepted.

Clearing land on the third bench required a great deal of work. It involved cutting the remaining timber and removing the stumps. Small stumps were pulled by a team of horses and the larger ones were blasted. The ground was then plowed and harrowed. What remained was the handwork which was necessary to properly level and clear the beds of rocks and roots. With the increase in cleared land, improvements were made on the irrigation system. A six-room, frame structure was built to replace the log building burned in 1910. Soon after came a bunkhouse and a cookhouse.

By 1913, sixteen acres of the third bench were cleared. As the size of the nursery was increasing, the need arose for more buildings to house additional workers and equipment. The new structures included a bunkhouse, a tool house, a meat house, wood shed, and barn.

During this period, Ranger Haun had general charge of the Nursery. He also acted as timekeeper during the transplanting and kept the Nursery records. Many local men who had worked several years in succession and were familiar with the Nursery operation made up the main "nursery crew". The rest of the work force consisted of "floaters". These men were easy to get, but did not stay for any length of time. Because of the rapid pace of rebuilding, some of the men commented on the working conditions. They seemed to consider the work at the Nursery in previous years as a kind of pension and they wanted to know who stopped this harbor for hoboes and turned it into a place of real work.

The burst of activity to rebuild Savenac came to an end in 1915 after the remaining land on the third bench was cleared. The Nursery was stocked with three million transplants and three and a half million seedlings of various species and age classes. Savenac had become the largest tree nursery in Region One and in the Forest Service, capable of an output of three million trees annually.

Savenac Nursery was serving the needs of many forests in Region One. Since the work was viewed as highly specialized, the Nursery was placed under the direct supervision of the District Office (now called the Regional Office). With the new status a new job position opened - nurseryman. The position was filled by David S. Olson.

More than two and one-half million trees were shipped out in 1916. The species consisted of western white pine, ponderosa pine, and eastern white pine. Transportation facilities for Savenac were ideal with the "Yellowstone Trail" (following the old Mullan Road) passing right through the Nursery. Although the stock often left the Nursery on a wagon drawn by horses, it sometimes reached its final destination by rail. All trains on the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul RR. stopped at Haugan, one half mile from the Nursery. On the Northern Pacific line, trains could be flagged at Wence Spur, less than a quarter of a mile away.

Due to the convenience of access, Savenac began to see an increase in tourists. Work now started on displaying the aesthetic value of the Nursery to the public. Various trees and shrubs were placed on the grounds. Because of the diverse species of trees on hand, planning began on an arboretum. This was located on the east side of Savenac Creek, along the Yellowstone Trail. Stock grown in the arboretum would also be used for distribution to ranger stations for ornamental purposes. In addition to the landscaping, other improvements were made. A new concrete arch bridge was built over Savenac Creek on the Yellowstone Trail. Walks were put in with gravel and excess concrete from the bridge. As the Nursery was open to trespass by anything "from a chicken to a horse", work continued on improving fences. With the United States' entry into World War I, a scarcity of labor developed as men were drawn into the armed forces and defense jobs. Thought was now given to employing women, boys, and students. To aid in the war effort, consideration was given to the

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idea of a "weeding bee". Local people would be invited to help weed the beds and would be paid by piece rate as the labor was of a varied group. At the end of the day, the pay would be calculated and all "earnings" would go to the Red Cross organization in Haugan. Although the idea was considered, there is no record of the project going through.

In the early days, a team of horses was used for a large part of the nursery work, but in 1919, Savenac entered the mechanical age. A one-ton Ford truck and a Beeman tractor were purchased. It was thought that the truck could do the work of two horses more efficiently, and the tractor would be used for jobs where one horse was formerly needed. The Nursery team of horses was transferred to the Cabinet National Forest (in 1919, Savenac was transferred from the Lolo NF to administrative control of the Cabinet NF), but it was soon found that horses were more advantageous than a truck for some of the work. In 1922, the horses "Mike" and "Dick" returned from the Cabinet NF after being traded for the Ford truck.

Maintenance and improvements continued on the seed bed and transplant areas. A new road was built from the north end of the Nursery buildings site to the third bench and along and through the transplant area. A branch telephone line was installed for contact to all parts of the Nursery. The High Line ditch, over a mile long and flumed for almost one thousand feet, was constructed. Not only would this provide sufficient water for irrigation, but it also provided for domestic purposes. To insure an adequate supply, a new reservoir was built at the mouth of the High Line ditch.

In 1920, D.S. Olson was promoted to Chief of Planting. Rather than moving to the planting office in Missoula, Montana, he transferred the office to Savenac. Succeeding Olson as nurseryman was G. Willard Jones. The labor situation continued to be similar to the earlier years, consisting of "old hands" and transient workers. The year 1920 saw one major change in labor at Savenac. For the first time, girls were used for threading in the transplant tables. They proved to be as efficient and possibly a little swifter than the average man or boy.

Although plans had been drawn up for an electric lighting system in 1919, it was not until 1928 that electricity came to Savenac. Power was furnished by a 4kW, 250 volt plant driven by a four cylinder Universal gas engine. With the arrival of electricity, work began on wiring the buildings on the compound. The telephone probably arrived at the Nursery in 1917.

Savenac's production through this period continued with a capacity of nearly three million trees annually. A slight decline partly due to the weather was experienced. Several winters of abnormal conditions took a heavy toll with winter kill and frost heave. While transplanting was increasing, so was the need for more acreage to practice a good rotation system. Many beds were being fallowed or sown to a green cover crop. As these beds could temporarily not be used, new ground was cleared. In 1928, work began clearing land on the east side of Savenac Creek, off the arboretum. Approximately 10 acres would be added by 1932.

The year 1931 would see another "changing of the guard" as William B. Apgar replaced G. Willard Jones as nurseryman. A boom in planting was getting under way in Region Nine and Jones was transferred there to help develop the Rhinelander Nursery in Rhinelander, Wisconsin.

1933 to 1948

The next nine years would bring a dramatic change to the Nursery. Not only did the administrative site go through a general overhaul (in which the majority of the existing buildings were built), but now the seed and transplant beds would be greatly expanded. This was due to a change in the labor situation and to new policies and attitudes in the Forest Service. During this period, the Forest Service started a concerted effort to upgrade its facilities. It recognized the importance of presenting a positive image to the visiting public: "a city dweller out for a Sunday picnic probably lacked the acuity to recognize a good job of caring for the resources from a bad one, but he was certain to notice a well maintained ranger's dwelling and a freshly clipped yard". Throughout the 1920s and 1930s, the agency replaced many of its existing buildings.

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These new facilities were built with careful attention to site selection, orientation, and overall plans. In Region One, specific plans were developed by architects in the Regional Office under the direction of Clyde Fickes and William Fox. The influence of both these men is readily apparent at Savenac.

While the main "nursery crew" remained, the use of transient workers diminished. The work force would now consist of the Civilian Conservation Corps (the CCC). As elsewhere in Region One and the nation, the CCC would have a significant impact on the history of Savenac Nursery and on its present appearance. It was the CCC and its ready source of labor that made the rebuilding of Savenac possible. Most of the CCC labor was provided by unskilled youths under the direction of Local Experienced Men (LEMs). It was the pattern in for the CCC to concentrate the efforts of the LEMs into a skilled workforce that created structures with decorative details not otherwise possible. This is apparent in the detailing and craftsmanship in the administration building, the two residences, and in the stone gates, the roadway, and elsewhere in the site.

When the CCC began in 1933, Company 956 was organized in Missoula, Montana, on May 3rd. Although the Company saw some movement between Montana and California, it was assigned to Camp Taft, F-9, in Haugan, during the spring of 1935. The location of the camp was across the St. Regis River on Big Creek, south of the Nursery. At its peak, the camp housed two hundred men. CCC labor was somewhat limited in work at the Nursery during the first two years of the program, but as Camp Taft developed, the men were rapidly integrated into all phases of Nursery activities.

In 1933 W.B. Apgar was transferred to radio development work in the Regional Office. Jess W. Fox then came to fill the position of nurseryman. Using CCC labor, J.W. Fox worked in conjunction with the company commander at Camp Taft, John U. Schiess.

Land was cleared in the Big Creek addition by Camp Taft and in 1936, approximately ninety acres were available for nursery stock production. Fifteen acres were planted with western white pine, ponderosa pine, and Engelmann spruce. The remaining acreage in the new addition would be cleared over the next few years. The original Nursery area was given a rest and green cover crops would be grown to build up the soil.

At the same time, work was progressing on the administrative site. A new warehouse (#2202) was built in the spring of 1933, before the CCC arrived. With the increased manpower furnished by the CCC, construction began on several other buildings. While skilled laborers would be brought in (i.e., brick masons, electricians, plumbers, etc.) the majority of the work was done by the CCC. A new office (#2012) and two cottages with garages (#1020 and 1021) were built. As nursery stock production increased, a packing plant and storage room (#2611) for shipping stock was completed. To house additional equipment, two implement sheds (#1301 and 2315) were constructed. Along with these improvements, two other structures, a cone shed and extractory (#2102), were added. In the past seed collection and extraction of seed in Region One was done by the various Forests. With these facilities came a change in policy. Now all the collection and extraction of seed in Region One would be centralized at Savenac. The cone shed and extractory were located on the east side of the creek, on the north end of the beds developed between 1928 and 1932. To provide easier access to these buildings, a two span multi-plate arch bridge with stone facing (the CCC bridge) was built across Savenac Creek.

More improvements were made in the old Nursery area. A pipeline was laid in 1936 to supplement the ditches used for irrigation and domestic water needs. This pipeline also served another purpose, the water would furnish power for the new hydro-electric plant. The gas powered plant was removed and replaced with a 110 volt, 60 cycle AC current generator.

Another change came with the landscaping work done on the grounds. Plans were made in 1938 to move the arboretum to a new location west of and adjacent to the administrative site, consisting of one and a half acres. The grounds for the site were laid out and leveled, and gravel walks were put in. A twenty-five thousand pound stone was moved for

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Silver Creek and set in place to be a memorial to the 78 firefighters who died in the 1910 Fire. Because of a decrease in demand for ornamentals for other ranger stations, the new arboretum consisted mainly of tree species that were indigenous to western Montana.

By 1941, the CCC program began to see curtailment of funds and personnel. As the United States entered World War II, manpower was once again drawn into the armed forces and defense jobs. This reduction was reflected at Savenac by a drop in capacity. The drop was slight, as during this period the CCC had boosted the capacity to twelve millions trees annually. After accomplishing the major part of the Nursery's spring work, Company 956 vacated Camp Taft on June 27, 1942.

After the withdrawal of the CCC, two other sources of labor were used. Twenty-five men from the Thompson River Student Fire Camp moved in, but some were lured away to higher paying defense jobs. The rest were transferred to St. Regis to assist in burning right-of-way firebreaks on the Northern Pacific Railroad. The remaining work for the season was done by local men and women. At the same time, J.M. Fox left to join the service and was replaced by William H. Cushman.

Post-War

In the 1950s, the Cabinet National Forest was disbanded and its administrative areas were transferred to the Lolo, Kaniksu, and Coeur d'Alene National Forests. Savenac Nursery was then placed under the control of the Coeur d'Alene NF and continued as a critical supplier of tree seedlings throughout the decade. In July 1969, those lands in Montana administered by the Coeur d'Alene NF were transferred to the Lolo NF. Savenac's role as the main supplier of seedling stock to forests in Region One became overshadowed by a new nursery in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

Savenac Nursery was closed in 1969 with its functions transferred to the Coeur d'Alene Nursery. Since then, it has been used as an administrative site for temporary crews working on the Superior Ranger District of the Lolo NF. It was used briefly from 1979 to 1982 by the Young Adult Conservation Corps (YACC) and for the storage of heavy equipment by the Bonneville Power Administration in the mid-1980s. It has functioned as an environmental education camp for area schools for two weeks each year since 1964-66 and as a one week summer camp for troubled youth in more recent years.

Basic Nursery Operations

Although in the early days the Nursery collected cones for seed locally, it was found that cones collected from near the area to be re-stocked provided better growth and mortality. Therefore, each National Forest requesting seedlings from the Nursery provided the cones. These were stored in the cone storage shed until processed for seeds in the seed extractory. Depending on the tree species, cones were either heated to release the seeds, vibrated until they released the seeds, or a combination of the two. The seeds were then broadcast seeded in the seed beds. Seedlings generally spent two years in the seed beds after which they were lifted, separated, and replanted in transplant beds for another two years.

At first, a shovel was used for lifting, but it was found that a pitchfork could be used to greater advantage. The seedlings were then taken to the transplant tent. In a tent was a table with a six-foot long transplant board in which the seedlings were threaded. When the board was filled it was taken out and the seedlings were planted in the transplant beds. Spacing boards were used to achieve exact alignment of the rows. A paddle measuring 1 inch by 6 inches was used to tamp the dirt around the roots. While the transplant board worked, it was felt that it could use some improvement. This led to the use of the Yale transplanting board which was eight feet long. Along with this change came the use of a Mast transplanting table which was more portable than the ordinary tables used in the transplanting tents thus far. The Yale transplant boards were later modified to a length of eight and one half feet and held 75 seedlings.

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In preparing the transplant beds a Planet Jr. plow was used. This was later replaced with an adaptation of a Mast trencher which made a narrower trench. The trenches were cleaned by hand with a hoe before transplanting. This worked well for most species, such as pine and fir, but for the cedar and spruce with their shallow root systems, a Mast hand trencher was used.

When the seedlings in the transplant beds were deemed ready for shipping, they were originally lifted with a pitchfork. With experience, this was changed to a Feigly tree lifter which was later replaced with an underground root pruner developed at the Nursery. After lifting, the trees were sorted, root systems were trimmed with a knife and the bundles were tied with string. The bundles were then packed in apple and canned goods boxes for shipping. Later, a butcher cleaver was used for pruning and two sizes of crates were used for shipping. Wire netting was experimented with for bundling the trees, but this was found to be expensive and was discontinued. Roles of burlap were then tried. The bundles of 50 trees were wrapped in burlap and packed in crates with wet shingle sawdust and sent to the receiving Forest.

10. Geographical Data continued

UTM points A through F define the boundaries of the original Savenac withdrawal of 1907 and the wedge of land purchased from Roscoe Haines in 1941. This comprises the central portion of the Nursery: the visitor/administration area, the service area, and the original seed beds. UTM points AA through EE define the boundaries of the Big Creek Addition, including the location of CCC Camp Taft.

UTM Reference:	Zone:	Easting	Northing
	A 11	621455	5248675
	B 11	621415	5250590
	C 11	621025	5250580
	D 11	620640	5249780
	E 11	620645	5249350
	F 11	621020	5248960
	AA 11	621465	5248220
	BB 11	621030	5248560
	CC 11	620650	5248535
	DD 11	620810	5247955
	EE 11	620965	5247820

9. Major Bibliographic References

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- Caywood, Janene, Theodore Catton and James McDonald. "Evaluation of Region One Forest Service-owned Buildings for Eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places". Report prepared for U.S.D.A. Region One Forest Service. Historical Research Associates., Missoula, Montana, 1991
- Koch, Elers. *Forty Years a Forester 1903 to 1943*. Mountain Press Publishing Company, Missoula, Montana. 1998
- McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., New York. 1994
- Wyss, Marilyn. "Roads to Romance: The Origins and Development of the Road and Trail System in Montana". Montana Department of Transportation, Helena, Montana. 1992

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 Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: Approximately 340 acres

UTM References: see continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries for the Savenac Historic District encompass the lands included in the original withdrawal of 1908, those lands purchased from Roscoe Haines in 1941, and those lands acquired by the Forest Service and cleared by the CCC for use as tree beds and for Camp Taft. The boundaries are delineated on the attached USGS quad map.

Boundary Justification

These boundaries incorporate all lands that were administratively and functionally part of the activities of Savenac Nursery. Although some of the seed beds have been planted with experimental trees that are much larger than the seedlings that would have occupied these areas, they still retain considerable integrity of setting, design, location, and materials and convey the essential function of the Nursery.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Timothy Light, asst. archaeologist and Charles "CD" Schroeder, district historian
 organization: USDA, Lolo National Forest date: February 1998
 street & number: Building 24, Ft. Missoula telephone: 406 329-3713
 city or town: Missoula state: MT zip code: 59804

Property Owner

name/title: United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Lolo National Forest
 street & number: Building 24, Ft. Missoula telephone: 406 329-3750
 city or town: Missoula state: MT zip code: 59804

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Section 11. Additional Information

1. USGS 7.5' Haugan, MT quadrangle indicating the property's location marked with UTM points and property boundary.
2. Detail of Haugan, MT quad showing major features at the property.
3. Site plan showing the Visitor/Administration Area and Service Area.
4. 69 black and white photographs.

Photo Log

Photographer: Timothy Light, Lolo National Forest

Date of Photographs: May and June, 1997

Location of Negatives: Lolo National Forest, Missoula, Montana.

Photo No.	Description
1	Administration Building, main elevation, looking north.
2	Administration Building, north elevation, looking south.
3	Administration Building, east elevation, looking west.
4	Overview of entrance and Admin. Building, looking northeast.
5	West Residence and Garage, west elevations, looking east.
6	West Residence, south gable end, looking north.
7	West Garage, main elevation, looking east.
8	West Residence, main elevation, looking west.
9	East Residence and Garage, main elevation, looking east.
10	East Residence, oblique view, main and south elevations, looking north.
11	East Residence, north wall and breezeway, looking southeast.
12	East Residence, breezeway and Garage, looking northeast.
13	East Residence and Garage, east side, looking west.
14	West Residence and Garage, looking west.
15	East Garage, north elevation, looking south.
16	Cookhouse, oblique view, main elevation, looking northwest.
17	Cookhouse, oblique view, west and north elevations, looking southeast.
18	Yellowstone Trail Bridge, profile view, looking southeast.
19	Yellowstone Trial Bridge looking west to East Residence.
20	House foundation and walkway, looking south.
21	Overview, Memorial Rock, looking northeast.
22	Memorial Rock, close-up.
23	Fire Hearth, looking northeast.
24	West Entrance sign, looking east.
25	West Entrance, looking northeast from old Highway 10.
26	Overview of the Lagoon and East Entrance from the flag pole. Looking northeast.
27	East Entrance looking northwest from old Highway 10.
28	Post and Pole turnstile, west entry gate, looking northeast.
29	Pelton Wheel, looking south.

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Photo Log continued

- 30 Weather station and Arboretum, looking north.
- 31 Overview of Lagoon and Admin. Building. Looking north from old Highway 10.
- 32 Overview looking north past Cookhouse towards Service Area.
- 33 Overview of drive and Cookhouse, looking northwest from in front of East Residence.
- 34 Overview looking southeast to Cookhouse and Visitor/Administration Area.
- 35 Overview looking south from cookhouse past the West Residence to Administration Building.
- 36 The Packing Plant, west elevation, looking east.
- 37 Packing Plant, main elevation, looking north.
- 38 Bunkhouse, main elevation, looking west (propane tank in front).
- 39 Bunkhouse, south elevation, looking north.
- 40 Shop, north elevation, looking south.
- 41 Shop, main elevation, looking east.
- 42 Shop, east elevation, looking west.
- 43 Shop, south and east sides, looking northwest.
- 44 Overview looking west into Service Area from across CCC Bridge. Shop at the left, Bunkhouse in back.
- 45 Overview of Service Area looking east. Packing Plant at left, Bunkhouse at right, Shop in back.
- 46 Garage, main elevation, looking north.
- 47 Garage, oblique view, looking northeast.
- 48 Oil and Gas Building, main elevation, looking west.
- 49 Seed Extractory, oblique view, main and west sides, looking east.
- 50 Oil and Gas Building, south elevation, looking north.
- 51 Seed Extractory, main elevation, looking north.
- 52 Waste pile and Cone Storage Building foundations, looking northwest.
- 53 CCC Bridge, profile view looking north.
- 54 Foundation of Cone Storage Building, looking west.
- 55 Root Cellar, looking east.
- 56 Fire Hose Shed, main elevation, looking south.
- 57 Hose Shed, oblique view, main and west sides, looking southeast.
- 58 Outhouse at Interpretive Trail, looking northwest.
- 59 Collapsed outhouse, looking northwest.
- 60 Irrigation Pond, looking east towards the dam.
- 61 Dam and Irrigation Pond, looking north.
- 62 Headgate, looking northeast.
- 63 Settling Tank, looking south.
- 64 Location of Camp Taft, CCC, Big Creek beds, looking northeast.
- 65 Upper tree beds, looking north.
- 66 Big Creek beds, looking west.
- 67 Upper beds and irrigation ditch, looking west.
- 68 Mullan Road/Yellowstone Trail, looking northwest.
- 69 Upper tree beds, looking south.