

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable". For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Gold Creek Ranger Station

other names/site number Gold Creek Administrative Site

2. Location

street & number USDA Humboldt National Forest / /not for publication

city, town Mt. City /X /vicinity

state Nevada code NV county Elko code 007 zip code 89801

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	6	3 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site		sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		objects
		6	3 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Edward R. Blouin
Signature of certifying official

7/31/92
Date

USDA Forest Service
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Ronald M. Jones
Signature of commenting or other official
Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology
State or Federal agency and bureau

6/11/92
Date

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

Autumnett G. Lee

9/15/92

determined eligible for
the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for
the National Register.

removed from the National
Register.

other, (explain:)

fr

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories
from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories
from instructions)

GOVERNMENT (office)

DOMESTIC (camp)

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials enter categories from
instructions)

OTHER (vernacular)

foundation concrete

walls wood/weather board

roof shingle

other stone, metal

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
<u>POLITICS/GOVERNMENT</u>	<u>1933-1938</u>	<u> </u>
<u>CONSERVATION</u>	<u>1911-1916</u>	<u> </u>
<u>ARCHITECTURE</u>	<u>1933-1938</u>	<u>1911</u>

<u> </u>	<u>Cultural Affiliation</u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

<u>Significant Person</u>	<u>Architect/Builder</u>
<u> </u>	<u>USFS Regional Office 1911</u>
	<u>Civilian Conservation Corp 1933-38</u>

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

X 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:

USDA Humboldt National Forest

10. Geographical Data

Acres of property 6 acres

UTM References

A 11 | 610180 | 4622780
Zone Easting Northing

C | |
Zone Easting Northing

B | |
Zone Easting Northing

D | |
Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

From the 1/4 corner of Sections 32 and 33, T.45N, R.56E., Elko County, Nevada, by metes and bounds proceed W. 270 , 600 ft., to corner No.1, N. 360, 500 ft., to corner No.2, W. 270 , 500 ft., to corner No.3, S. 180 , 500 ft. to corner No.4, E. 90 , 500 ft. to corner No.1, the point of origin.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Boundary as described includes the buildings and structures which make up the historic Gold Creek compound.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Terry L. Birk/Mt. City District Archaeologist

organization Humboldt National Forest, USDA.

street & number 976 Mt. City Highway

city or town Elko

date April 16, 1992

telephone (702) 738-5171

state NV zip code 89801

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 1

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The Gold Creek Ranger Station presently consists of nine wood frame buildings situated in a rural mountain setting. The buildings are single story gable roof structures painted white with green trim. The compound is representative of those built and used by the U.S. Forest Service in Nevada. They make up a compound which has been added to through time to accommodate increasing responsibilities associated with the management of public lands and resources. The compound occupies approximately six acres of federally owned land on the Mt. City Ranger District of the Humboldt National Forest. Martin Creek and Forest Service road #56 cross the east edge of the compound, with the later feature providing vehicular access during the summer months. A small pasture for horses of approximately 16 acres is located adjacent to and west of the compound. Martin Creek supplies irrigation for this field and the compound. The terrain in the immediate vicinity of the compound is level to rolling with steep ridge systems rising to the east along Martin Creek. A large rock outcrop on the terminus of a low ridge has been utilized in construction of the compound's cellar. Vegetation is typically grasses, and sagebrush in open areas with small stands of aspens along stream courses. Generally the area has changed very little since the turn of the century.

The original Ranger Station was comprised of a dwelling/office, a horse barn, root cellar and outdoor toilet. The dwelling as originally constructed was a rectangular frame building, 22 x 28 feet, with a gabled wood shingle roof and shiplap siding in cove style. Forest Service records suggest that these buildings were erected in 1910. In 1915 a storage shed was moved to Gold Creek from the McAfee Ranger Station and attached to the west side of the original dwelling. This addition was also wood frame but had a hip roof with a ridge, the exterior siding was shiplap in a clapboard style. In 1916 a drop roof porch was added to the front or east side of the dwelling. This porch is a screened half width style which covers the original entry way. Two windows were also added to the south end of the building, probably in 1916 or 1917. Little is known of the interior of the original dwelling but obvious changes include the installation of modern ceiling tiles, linoleum and carpeting over the original wood floors. Wall coverings are painted plaster or celotex and wall paper. The living room/master bedroom and kitchen make up the original 1910 portion of the present building. The 1915 addition is divided into a bathroom and rear bedroom. The building has one interior brick chimney. The foundation is concrete slab. The roof is now asbestos shingles. The building is in fair condition considering it is unoccupied during the winter months, and is considered to be contributing resource. This building is photo and map key number one.

The barn was also a rectangular wood frame building with board and batten siding and gabled sheet iron roof, it measured 16 x 30 feet. Written documentation regarding the original barn is sparse. Early photographs of the barn shows it as a two story, board and batten wood frame structure. The roof appears to be sheet metal. The building had second story bay doors on both the east and west ends, and on the south side. One photograph depicts workers using the south side door for unloading hay into a second story "loft". The barn was apparently razed sometime in the 1920's.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 2

The location of the original barn is now occupied by a 15 x 40 foot building with a wood frame and corrugated metal sides and gable roof. The exact date of construction for this building is not known. It is quite possible that the structural timbers from the 1911 barn were used to frame this building and perhaps some of the corrugated iron roof from the barn was also reused. This existing building is a basic wood frame and concrete slab construction. A board and batten sliding door accesses the south side of the building. The building apparently functioned as a blacksmith shop for a number of years. It is still used as a shop as well as for storage and houses the deisel electric generator which supplies power for the compound. The building is in fair condition but is considered to be a noncontributing resource since it represents a considerably altered structure with an unknown construction date. This building is photo and map key number seven.

The root cellar began as a simple pit excavation which probably had a log and sod roof. A letter from Assistant Ranger Keas to Supervisor Tremewan' in January of 1911, states it took "three days to dig the cellar". No other written documentation of this early structure is available. A 1923 photograph shows a low log wall and door frame on the east side of the large rock outcrop in the approximate location of the present day root cellar. The cellar as it now stands was completed in 1935 as a result of Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) labor. So far as is known, it does not follow a standard Forest Service building plan. The structure incorporates a natural rock outcrop as its' rear (west) wall. The remaining walls are constructed of shaped native limestone and mortar. The masonry work is of high quality and remains in good condition. The faced stone was reportedly salvaged from the Hammond Mine (est. in 1867) near the forks of Martin and Mill Creeks above the Gold Creek Ranger Station. The building's outside dimensions are 14 x 16 feet. The roof is gabled wood frame with asbestos shingles over the original wooden shingles. Two windows are located one on either side of the building. No major interior or exterior alterations are known to have been done to the cellar since 1935. This structure represents a unique and interesting local solution to early food storage at an isolated agency compound, and is considered to be a contributing resource. This building is photo and map key number two.

These three structures represent the remains of the original compound. The remaining buildings described below were constructed or added to the compound after 1930.

The existing barn was built on its present location in 1934. The building is a two story 20 x 30 foot wood frame structure on a concrete slab. The gabled roof is wood shingled and exterior walls are wood shiplap siding in cove style. The barn was originally designed to accomodate two to four horses. The second story was a hay loft; a tack room and granary were located on the lower floor. Two sliding doors on concrete ramps are centrally located on the east and west sides of the building. The barn has two windows per side on the lower story and two per end on the second story. The interior of the barn was remodeled in the early 1970's for use as living quarters for YCC groups. A stairway was added in the center of the building with a shower room and living space on either side of it. The upstairs was also remodeled into bunk space. The original wood floors remain in the living area with linoleum in the shower area. Six inch horizontal pine boards provide wall covering in the living

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 3

space, painted wall board has been added in the shower area. The barn is in good condition, the exterior is basically unaltered, except for a ladder and door on the north end of the building for a fire escape. The building is an excellent example of period Forest Service/CCC construction following standard plan #12 and is considered to be a contributing resource. This building is photo and map key number four.

The garage/office was constructed in 1933-34 by CCC labor and follows standard Forest Service Plan #1111. This building is a single story rectangular wood frame structure set on a concrete slab. The building measures 11 feet 6 inches by 18 feet 8 inches. The roof is gabled wood shingle and exterior walls are wood shiplap siding in a cove style. The building has two interior chimneys, one of concrete block and the other of metal pipe which was used to vent a cook stove. Although this building was originally designed and used as a two car garage and shop, the interior has been remodeled to serve additional functions. In 1958 the north end of the building was converted to serve as office space. Additional work was done in 1963 when the office space was enlarged and knotty pine paneling was added to the walls. The floor of the office area was also covered with composition tile at this time. At a later, unknown date (presumably in the early 1970's in conjunction with Youth Conservation Corp or YCC use of the compound) the office area was converted to a kitchen and the remainder of the building was used as a dining area. The building is now used primarily for storage. Unlike the interior, the exterior of the garage has undergone no major modifications since its construction and remains in fair to good condition. The building sits on its original location and is considered to be a contributing resource. This building is photo and map key number six.

The gas and oil storage shed was built in 1938 by the CCC according to Forest Service Plan #95. This building is a rectangular wood frame structure set on a concrete half basement. The roof is gabled wood shingle. Exterior siding is shiplap in cove style. A bay door on rollers provides access on the east end of the building. Two windows are located one on either side of the building. The building measures 14 x 16 feet. Interior features include six inch horizontal pine boards used as wall coverings and wall shelving. All aspects of the gas house appear to be original and in good condition. The building is on its original location and is considered to be a contributing resource. This building is photo and map key number three.

Tourist Cabin Five (photo and map key number) was probably built in the late 1930's by the CCC. It follows Forest Service building plan #99. The cabin was apparently constructed at an unknown location and moved to the Gold Creek Compound. It is presently used for storage. The building is a wood frame rectangular structure on a concrete slab, and measures 12 feet 5 inches by 16 feet 3 inches. Exterior siding is wood shiplap in a clapboard style. The roof is a medium pitch gable with wood shingles. Alterations to the interior of the cabin include the addition of unpainted plywood as wall coverings, and painting the wooden floor. The original "cottage door" has been rehung and the original wood shutters have been removed and stored inside. The original kitchen sink, cabinets and table remain in the cabin. The cabin is in good condition, being an excellent example of this building plan and CCC construction. The building adds to the overall effect of the CCC era compound.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 4

and is considered to be a contributing resource.

Tourist Cabin Eight (photo and map key number) also follows Forest Service Construction Plan #99, which is designated as a Tourist Cabin. This building is essentially the same as Cabin Five. It has also been moved to the Gold Creek Compound at an unknown date. Generally the building is in poorer condition than Cabin Five, and is considered a noncontributing resource.

Tourist Cabin Nine (photo and map key number) was originally built according to Forest Service Plan #21 but has since been considerably altered. The building consists of two separate structures which have been joined together. Apparently both of these buildings were moved to the Gold Creek Compound at an unknown date. The exterior siding consists of clapboard on the back half of the building and board and batten on the front half of the building with a clapboard gable area. The front half of the building appears to be newer than the rest of the structure. The gabled roof has wooden shingles. Outside measurements for the building are 26 x 33 feet. A flat cement pad, 7 x 7 feet, and a two step stoop form a porch on the east end of the cabin. The interior of the building has painted plywood floors and painted wall board; modern paper paneling with wood grain are wall coverings. Water leakage in the bathroom has caused damage to the floor. The general condition of the building is poor. The cabin is considered to be a noncontributing resource.

The water system for domestic use is a gravity system piped from a a cement head box with 1/4 mile of 1 1/2 inch pipe, and 1/4 mile of 1 inch pipe. The system was installed in 1933 and overhauled in 1937. The sewage system consists of forty feet of 6 inch drain pipe, a 6 x 8 foot septic tank and 80 feet of 4 inch drain tile to the drainage field. Communications are provided by the Gold Creek telephone Line, which is 3 miles long and connects with the Rowland telephone line west of the Ranger Station.

The line consists of #12 iron wire on aspen poles stubbed with juniper posts. Gold Creek-Elko line connects with the Elko line at the Mendive Ranch. This line is 6 miles long and consists of 5 miles of copper wire and 1 mile of #9 iron wire. Two miles of square red cedar poles and 4 miles of aspen poles stubbed with juniper posts support the wire.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 5

PHOTOGRAPHS:

The following information pertains to photographs 1 thru 9

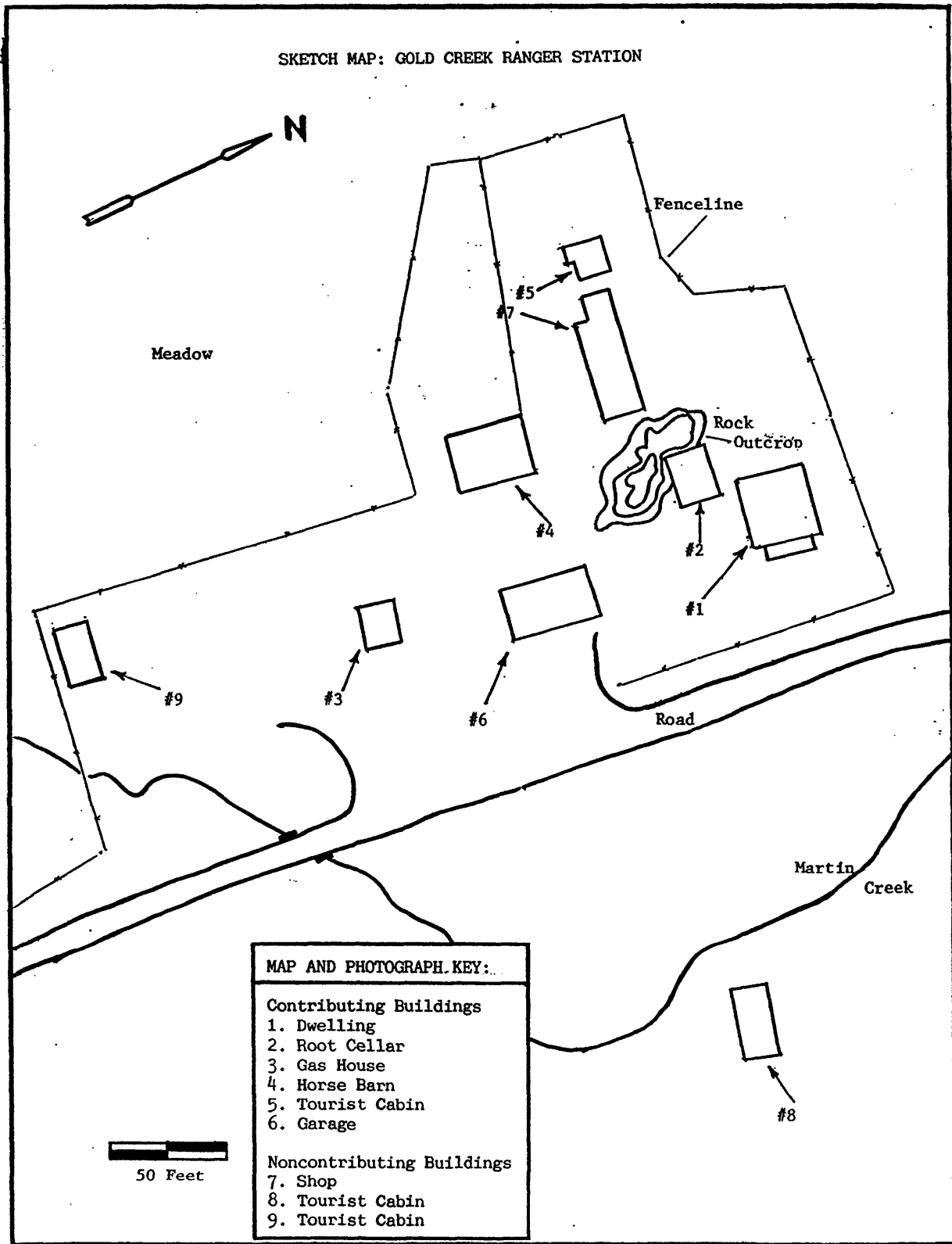
- 1) Name of property - Gold Creek Ranger Station
- 2) Location - Elko County, Nevada
- 3) Photographer - Terry L. Birk
- 4) Date of photographs - August 9, 1991
- 5) Location of original negatives - U.S.D.A. Forest Service
Humboldt National Forest
Supervisor's Office
Elko, Nevada
- 6) Photographic perspective is illustrated on the sketch map (Section 7, page 6) by photograph number and an arrow showing the direction of view.

PHOTOGRAPH LIST:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1) Gold Creek RS - Dwelling | 1) Name - Gold Creek RS - Overview |
| 7) Photograph No. 1 | 2) Location - Elko County, Nevada |
| | 3) Photographer - Unknown |
| 1) Gold Creek RS - Root Cellar | 4) Date - 1965 |
| 7) Photograph No. 2 | 5) Negative - U.S.D.A. Forest Service
Humboldt National Forest
Supervisor's Office
Elko, Nevada |
| 1) Gold Creek RS - Gas House | 6) The photograph is taken looking west
across the compound. |
| 7) Photograph No. 3 | 7) Photograph No. 10 |
| 1) Gold Creek RS - Horse Barn | |
| 7) Photograph No. 4 | |
| 1) Gold Creek RS - Tourist Cabin | |
| 7) Photograph No. 5 | |
| 1) Gold Creek RS - Garage | |
| 7) Photograph No. 6 | |
| 1) Gold Creek RS - Shop | |
| 7) Photograph No. 7 | |
| 1) Gold Creek RS - Tourist Cabin | |
| 7) Photograph No. 8 | |
| 1) Gold Creek RS - Tourist Cabin | |
| 7) Photograph No. 9 | |

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 6



**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 1

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Gold Creek Ranger Station is offered as eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A as a property significant for its "association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history". Two areas of significance can be identified as contributing to eligibility under Criteria A : 1) Conservation and 2) Politics and Government. Two periods of significance can also be identified, 1911 to 1916 and 1933 to 1938. During the initial period the Gold Creek Ranger Station functioned as the first local administrative center (Forest Supervisor's Office) for the implementation of Federal policies regarding new ideas for the conservation and management of natural resources on public lands in Northeastern Nevada. To a large extent this new conservation policy focused on the protection of range lands and watersheds. During the 1930's the Forest Service was a major player in the organization and administration of the CCC, one of the many government programs initiated during the economic and social dislocations of the Great Depression. The Gold Creek Ranger Station is not only a product of this program but also represents an important chapter in its local history. The Gold Creek Ranger Station is also considered to be eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria C, as being a property which Embodies, "the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction". The period of significance is 1933 to 1938, during these years 7 buildings were added to the compound as a result of CCC labor. These structures were built according to standard Forest Service Plans and are representative of the simple but functional vernacular style compounds used by the agency in Nevada.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 2

CONSERVATION:

One of the major philosophical tenets of the U.S. Forest Service is the conservation of natural resources on public lands. The conservation theme is considered to be significant in the nomination of the Gold Creek Ranger Station for the National Register of Historic Places. The following discussion develops this theme and places it in an historical context.

The formative period for the U.S. Forest Service began in the 1880's and 1890's. In 1889 Congress drafted and passed the "Forest Reserve Act" in response to growing public and official concern for the Nation's forests. This act authorized the president to set aside forest reservations for the protection of timber and watersheds. In response to this new mandate President Benjamin Harrison created the first public reserve in 1891, the Yellowstone Timber Reserve in Wyoming. By 1893 and the end of his term in office President Harrison had set aside a total of 13,000,000 acres on 15 reserves (Alexander 17:1987). These early reserves were managed by the Government Land Office (GLO), an arm of the Department of the Interior. On March 4, 1907 the management of forest reserves was transferred to the Department of Agriculture. This new agency, created to manage forest and water resources, was called the U.S. Forest Service. In 1908 six district offices (today's Regions) were established nation wide for the new agency. Once a forest was established within a District, each forest was further divided into areas managed by individual Rangers (today's District Rangers). By the 1920's many of the patterns and policies for managing the nation's forest lands were in place (Alexander 26:1987).

Nevada's first Forest Reserves were created in 1906 as a result of an executive order by President Theodore Roosevelt. Among the earliest were the Ruby Mountain Reserve south of Elko, and the Independence Reserve which included much of the northern part of Elko County, particularly the headwaters of the North Fork, Bruneau and Owyhee Rivers. One of the five Divisions on this sprawling reserve was Gold Creek. Of these five original Divisions and their associated administrative compounds only the Gold Creek facilities remain relatively intact. In 1908 the Independence and Ruby Mountain Reserves and 300,000 acres designated as the Bruneau Addition were consolidated to form the Humboldt National Forest. The Supervisor's Office for this new National Forest was located in Elko, Nevada on the second floor of the Harrington Building in a single 12 X 12 foot room. In 1910, E.A. Sherman, the newly appointed Regional Forester, decided to move the forest headquarters to a location near the mining town of Gold Creek. Sherman felt the new location would be more central to the majority of the over grazed lands and their associated management tasks (Ward:1961). In the following year, 1911, the Santa Rosa National Forest was set aside with a headquarters in Paradise Valley. In 1912 the original Ruby Mountain Reserve and new additional lands were designated as the Ruby National Forest. On July 1, 1916 the Ruby, Santa Rosa and Humboldt National Forests were abolished as individual units and combined into a single administrative whole called the Humboldt National Forest (Patterson, et. al., 236:1969). The Supervisor's Office was

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 3

moved back to Elko from Gold Creek at this time. Thus for a period of 4 years from 1911 to 1916 the Gold Creek Ranger Station functioned as the Supervisor's Office for the newly formed and growing Humboldt National Forest.

The early years of the U.S. Forest Service and its guiding policies are closely tied to the awakening of a conservation ethic with regard to the nation's natural resources, included among the early proponents of this ethic was John Muir and his fledgling organization, The Sierra Club (Alexander 17:1987). This growing awareness was embodied in no less personages than President Theodore Roosevelt and the man who was appointed to head the GLO Forestry Division in 1898, Gifford Pinchot (Author unknown:1948). Pinchot was to remain in this position and become the head of the Forest Service in 1907. As the first national forester, Pinchot, belonged to a profession which has its beginnings in the late 19th. century. In fact formal education for the new discipline was still confined to European universities, where Pinchot was trained. The ideas and practices espoused by this new discipline were considered controversial by many government administrators of the time. Nonetheless many of the policies and practices which were to become a matter of standard operation for the National Forest System were initiated by Pinchot during these early years. Included in these policies were 1) the protection of water sheds and 2) the improvement of range conditions as well as the more familiar husbandry of timber resources. Toward these first two objectives ceilings were established to limit livestock numbers on particular ranges and a system for issuing permits to livestock owners who used forest lands was instituted. Grazing fees were charged on the basis of the type and number of animals using federal lands (Alexander 41-42:1987). These regulations were designed to control the rampant abuses which had become common place on much of the nation's public grazing lands during the late 19th. century. Ironically the "grazing issue" and the regulation of livestock foraging on public lands and not timber resources was the primary impetus in Northeastern Nevada and much of the West for the establishment of Forest Reserves and the later creation of National Forests (Alexander 11:1987).

"Even on some of the best ranges, the situation was extremely serious, and in retrospect, even major attempts at reduction can be perceived as little more than holding operations. More sheep and cattle grazed the Humboldt National Forest than any other in the Intermountain District. In 1908, 560,000 sheep grazed in the northern portion of the forest on what are now the Jarbidge and Mountain City Districts (the Gold Creek District made up a portion of this area). As the result of a meeting with stockmen in March 1909, Supervisor Tremewan reduced permits by 38 percent to allow 350,000 sheep, several thousand cattle, and 2,000 horses." (Alexander 42:1987)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 4

These accesses were attributed in a large part to transient or so called "tramp outfits" which seasonally utilized the rich grazing lands of northern Elko County (Patterson, et.al.,:1969). The stockmen most commonly involved were not local residents and did not maintain headquarters near the areas they grazed. This practice created increasingly bitter feelings among stockmen who had permanent ranches in the area. Supervisor Tremewan writes,

I had been talking to an attorney in Elko, Frank Gedney, who was also a stockman, who had been raised in Ruby Valley. He had been talking to Mr. Pinchot and President Roosevelt in Washington and came back with the idea of having what was then called a Forest Reserve in Elko County. He said stockmen were getting good protection from them in Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, and other places, and from there we started. Mr. Gedney had circulated a petition on which he secured the names of 90 % of the ranchers and stockmen of the Ruby Valley and he succeeded in having the Ruby Mountains Forest Reserve created. He suggested to me that we do the same for the northern part of the county..we started with the petitions, and we also secured upwards of 100 % of the stockmen out of northern Elko County. I won't say we had all of the stockmen that were using the Forest, because a great number of the stockmen up there were sheepmen, who had their ranches in the southern part of Elko County as their summer grazing land... In April of 1907, Inspector F.W. Reed was sent to Elko to put them under management. I was introduced to him by Mr. Gedney, and after listening to him talk conservation for awhile, decided that I had found something worthwhile and immediately made application for examination papers. I took the examination for Forest Ranger, passed and was put on the Northern Division...

Tremewan served in this capacity for one year and in 1908 was appointed the first Forest Supervisor of the Humboldt National Forest and remained in that position until 1913. He was stationed at the Gold Creek compound from 1911 to 1913 and during that time presided over the implementation of the innovative conservation policies and practices which brought the livestock industry into the 20th. century. In summation, this policy was focused on the regulation of grazing and the protection of watersheds on U.S. Forest Service lands, and was an important catalyst in the changes which took place in the rural west at the turn of the century. Changes which included the demise of "open range" and migratory grazing which had dominated late 19th. century practices and the establishment of the allotment system for livestock grazing on public lands. The humble Gold Creek Ranger Station, then consisting of only a small barn and house, was the locus for these historic events in a portion of northeastern Nevada.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 5

POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT:

The second significant theme which supports the eligibility of the Gold Creek Ranger Station under Criteria A, is focused on the role the compound played in the administration and implementation of the Civilian Conservation Corps program. The significant period is from 1933 to 1938. During this period the federal government became involved in the economic recovery of the nation and the welfare of its' citizens.

After 1913 and the departure of the first resident Forest Supervisor, the Gold Creek Ranger Station was occupied and used by a succession of District Rangers. The station was finally closed down in the 1960's. During these years a number of changes took place but the most significant for the present documentation was the construction which was done by the CCC in the 1930's. Six of the existing buildings on the compound were erected by the CCC during this period (1933-1938), including the barn, garage, gas house and tourist cabins.

The late 1920's saw the United States just beginning to recover from the severe recession that resulted after World War I. All across America states were beginning to share the growing optimism and confidence of the "Jazz Age". This new optimism and confidence grew throughout the decade, only to be decimated by the economic disasters and humbling effects of the Great Depression. The 1930's were not only years of economic calamity but also of social and political upheaval which have shaped subsequent events to the present day. Some important effects include the dislocation of large numbers of people, with consequent regional shifts in population densities, the expansion of the Federal government and a redefinition of its responsibilities vis-a-vis individual citizens, states and communities. Paralleling these developments much of the country experienced a series of extremely dry years with the resultant adverse impacts on resources such as soil, grass and timber. In response to these conditions and a pervasive public malaise President Franklin D. Roosevelt created a number of government programs and agencies to deal with the serious problems facing the nation. Among these was the CCC.

In 1932 Democratic nominee Franklin Roosevelt called for a "definite land policy" to fight "a future of soil and timber famine." "In so doing, employment can be given a million men" (Thorp 8:1979). Here then is the conceptual frame work for the CCC. Approximatley one year later on April 5, 1933, as the president of the United States, Roosevelt issued Executive Order #6101 and officially created the direction for the new program. It was to be administered by an Advisory Council made up of representatives from the Secretaries of War, Agricultural, Labor and the Interior. Local and state agencies were used to compile rosters of young and unmarried men between the ages of seventeen and twenty-three, who were unemployed and in need of work, and whose families were on Relief Rolls. The mobilization of this work force, some 250,000 initially, was carried out by the War Department. Camps were established to train and condition the new "recruits". The training and supervision

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 6

of these young workers was left to some 25,000 Local Experienced Men (LEM'S) who were selected and assigned to the various CCC camps in their respective states.

Nevada, a predominantly rural state with a low population density and few employment opportunities, was not as severely impacted by the depression as the more industrialized east. Nonetheless Federal relief programs did help the state's economy and added to its poorly developed infrastructure. For instance, the federally funded Hoover Dam project created a short term infusion of money and jobs and long term, multi-faceted resource for southern Nevada. The CCC had a less visible but perhaps no less important impact on a larger number of the states' communities. While only 10% of Nevada's young men were permitted to work in CCC camps throughout the state, CCC projects used local building materials and employed local craftsman to help boost the state's economy. From its beginning in 1933 until its demise in 1942 the CCC established some 54 camps in Nevada and employed over 4,000 youths (Edwards 350:1978). The CCC made a special contribution to the state through work on roads and canals, helping with flood control projects, building dams to check soil erosion, reforestation or rangeland management and development of recreational sites. The National Forest Service was eager to put the young men to work on a variety of projects, including improvement of rangers stations and local administrative sites, such as Gold Creek.

Work orders for the U.S. Forest Service CCC camps in Nevada were simple directives which included the following:

1. Specific work projects are being developed.
2. ECW camp work specifications will cover the following types of work:
 - a. Construction of standard U.S. Forest Service roads;
 - b. Construction of horse and/or pack trails;
 - c. Construction of telephone lines;
 - d. Construction of standard U.S. Forest Service buildings at Forest Headquarters, District Ranger Stations, Guard Stations, other Ranger Stations and Lookout Towers and/or houses.
 - f. Accomplish fire hazard reduction, including roadside clearing, snag removal, slash stacking and burning and other related work.
 - g. Train and maintain at least one (2 as may be directed) ready to respond fire suppression crews.
 - h. Fight forest, brush, range and wild fires, as required.
 - i. Perform other duties as directed. (Hobbarth:1991)

In Elko County at least six "main camps" can be documented. They included facilities at Lamoille, Warm Creek, Ruby Lake, Tuscarora, Hubbard Ranch and Twin Bridges (Hobbarth:1991). These camps were occupied by several CCC companies for varying periods of time ranging from less than a month to several years. For example, Hubbard Ranch, near Wells was used by Company #1685 from 8/21/38 to 1/22/41, by

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 7

Company #1685 from 8/21/38 to 1/22/41, by Company #5726 from 1/23/41 to 8/21/41, and by Company #2539 from 8/22/41 to 7/28/41 (Hobbart:1991). Main camps were generally comprised of several hundred men with camp life taking on a military quality (Kamps and Patterson;1987). Main camps generally had a number of wood frame structures, which might include a mess hall/ kitchen, officers quarters, storage buildings and shops. Besides these main camps an unknown number of "spike camps" were established in Elko County. These facilities were more spartan, sometimes little more than tent camps which were located close to specific projects only for the duration of the project. Apparently several spike camps were used at different times during the 1930's. Written documentation regarding these camps and the men who worked in them could not be located. Personal communications with Mr. Alan Pascale of Paradise, Nevada did identify the craftsman who was responsible for the stone work in the root cellar. Anton Ramasco also built a stone bridge and culvert faces in Elko County during his CCC career, and was stationed at Gold Creek for a time.

ARCHITECTURE:

The third significant theme which supports the eligibility of the Gold Creek Ranger Station during the CCC era is its architectural style. This theme relates to National Register Criteria C. Four of the buildings at the Gold Creek compound are considered to be typical and representative of the simple utilitarian style structures constructed by the CCC for Forest Service administrative compounds. Each Region was responsible for preparing site plans and designing individual structures (Thorp 30:1979). The tourist cabin (#5), barn (#4), garage (#6), and gas house (#3) at Gold Creek were all built according to Standard Forest Service Plans that were prepared by the Regional Office. These plans varied from region to region and to some extent reflected local availability of materials and supervisory expertise. The buildings and the setting of the Gold Creek Ranger Station are an excellent example of Forest Service administrative compounds in Nevada as constructed by the CCC. The integrity of the structures is good; even given the alterations, which do not detract significantly from the overall effect and character of this historic compound.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9 Page 1

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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