

AUG 18 1988

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL
REGISTER

1. Name of Property

historic name Franklin Lake Campground
other names/site number Franklin Lake Campground and Recreation Facility
Forest Service Site No. 09-06-02-210

2. Location

street & number National Forest Road 2181 /N/A/not for publication
city, town Eagle River Ranger District, Nicolet N.F. / X/vicinity
state Wisconsin code WI county Forest code 041 zip code 54501

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	10	0
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		
		10	0
			Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of contributing resources
previously listed in the National
Register 0

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.

Jim Berlin *Ever J. Nelson* *6-28-88*
Signature of certifying official Date 8/15/88
USDA Forest Service, Nicolet National Forest
State or Federal agency and bureau *Historic Preservation Officer*

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

[Signature] *6/15/88*
Signature of certifying official Date
State Historical Society of Wisconsin
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register. *Beth Boland* *9/28/88*
- See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.
- See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture: Outdoor
Recreation

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture: Outdoor
Recreation

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Forest Service Rustic

Materials enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Log

Stone (mixed granite)

roof Asphalt (shingles)

other Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Situated on the eastern shore of Franklin Lake, the campground is set in a broad area of dense northern hardwood and conifer forest. The topography is typical of pitted outwash with its associated esker ridges, kettle holes, rolling hills and organic wetlands; the shoreline--associated campground possesses all of these natural features. Campground facilities within the historic district include 42 camp sites, a picnic area, swimming beach and ten associated buildings. The buildings were constructed from both standard and original R9 Forest Service plans, and fit stylistically within the Rustic architectural theme.

The largest and most stylistically sophisticated building is the Shelter and Bathhouse (Building #1). Built into a hillside slope, it features a fieldstone foundation, a fieldstone chimney, projecting log purlins, and saddle-notched log construction. The other buildings feature some or all of these elements on a smaller scale. The Comfort Stations (Buildings #5, 7 & 10) are constructed of fieldstone with log construction only in the gable ends. The Well House (Building #8) and the Reservoir building (Building #4) share the same size and scale but the walls are entirely stone. The remaining buildings (Buildings #2, 2a, 3 & 9) are log construction, two of which are further elaborated by fieldstone elements. All are distinctive if somewhat modest examples. The Franklin Lake Campground buildings are unchanged from their 1936 appearance with the exception of routine maintenance and minor modifications such as the skylights in the Comfort Stations. Due to their excellent integrity, variations in the use of materials, and architectural cohesiveness, the buildings uniquely represent the adaptation of the Rustic style for the rather utilitarian buildings of the United States Forest Service (see Attachment B for descriptions of the individual buildings).

Landscape design is a reflection of the larger area, with sugar maple, paper birch, red and white pine, and hemlock predominating. Ground flora too is natural, the only exception being the lawn which has been introduced and maintained around the shelters and picnic areas. The campsites are also treated as significant landscape features and include a graveled rectangular tent pad, wooden picnic table, and fire ring. Campground facilities are accessed by bituminous-surfaced roadways. All railings and barriers within the campground are made of hewn logs to compliment the buildings (see Attachments A and C for photographs of the buildings and a map of the relative location of each building).

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>architecture</u>	<u>1936-1938</u>	<u>1936-38</u>
<u>recreation and entertainment</u>	_____	_____
<u>other: public works</u>	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	Cultural Affiliation	_____
_____	N/A	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
Significant Person	Architect/Affiliation	_____
<u>N/A</u>	<u>USDA Forest Service</u>	_____
_____	_____	_____

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

The development of the Franklin Lake Campground was a joint venture; the cooperative efforts of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), the Works Progress Administration (WPA), and the Forest Service. The landscape, structural and architectural designs were developed by Forest Service architects and engineers. CCC enrollees from Camp Ninemile (641st Company, Vilas County, Wisconsin) worked in cooperation with the Forest Service in developing the landscape, roads, trails and campsites. Construction of the buildings was performed by enrollees from a Vilas County (Wisconsin) WPA work camp referred to as the Warvet Camp (as the name implies, enrollees were all World War I veterans).

The Nicolet National Forest was established by Congress in 1933, and the next year the Forest Service acquired the land that would become the Franklin Lake Campground. Site selection was based on the extraordinary visual characteristics of the landscape and the considerable recreation potential of the 892 acre lake. In a broader socio-political context, the United States was immersed in the Great Depression. Following Franklin Roosevelt's election, he proceeded with his pledge to create a massive conservation workforce that was aimed at putting the action back to work while restoring the land's vitality. The CCC and WPA resulted from these initiatives.

The CCC was established as part of New Deal legislation to deal with the chronic unemployment of young men. Men from 17-24 years old were enrolled in CCC work camps for a six month period upon recommendation of public welfare or relief officials. The camps were managed by the War Department and staffed by regular army personnel. The daily work of the CCC was directed by the federal agencies which benefited from CCC labor, chiefly the Department of the Interior and Department of Agriculture. From 1933 to 1938 about 35,800 young men enrolled in the CCC in Wisconsin. Their base of operations in Wisconsin was usually USDA Soil Conservation Service camps, USDA Forest Service camps, and State of Wisconsin Park or Forest camps. During their ten years of existence, the average number of active camps was 54, with as many as 22 having been established in the Nicolet alone. In northern Wisconsin, their responsibilities included reforestation, erosion abatement, fire control, road development, and campground and park development.

See continuation sheet.

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The WPA was an important element of the federal government's wide-spread efforts at public relief during the Depression. Of all the New Deal programs, the WPA undoubtedly had the most wide-spread, visible and permanent impact on the built environment. WPA projects were restricted to those which fulfilled public needs and would not displace regular employment opportunities. Work was generally undertaken only on publicly owned properties and included: building roads, bridges, reservoirs, sewers, airports and recreational facilities, in addition to recreational, educational, and administrative buildings. Although these types of projects were highly visible, the WPA also undertook art, literature and theater projects.

The WPA spent about \$120 million on projects in Wisconsin and accounted for perhaps 3/4 of federal relief employment. Between 1936 and 1938, the period during which the Franklin Lake Campground was built, the WPA employed an average of 187 people per year in the state.

From 1935 to 1941, the WPA built 1,667 recreational facilities, the majority of these projects were the development of public parks.

The WPA generally restricted expenditures on materials, and WPA structures were often characterized by the use of indigenous and labor-intensive materials such as the log and stone construction of Rustic design present at the Franklin Lake Campground.

The Rustic style emerged from the resort architecture of the Adirondack region of northern New York state in the 1870's. As a result it is sometimes referred to as the Adirondack Rustic style. The Rustic style is characterized by use of indigenous materials (primarily log and stone), broad shingled roofs with wide overhangs, open porches, and simply proportioned door and window openings.

The use of native material was a naturalistic expression intended to blend the buildings into their surroundings. Buildings were often small in scale and the discrete and different functions of a camp were often located in a number of small and relatively isolated buildings.

The style was widely disseminated through architectural journals and the popular press and quickly became accepted as an appropriate architectural expression for backwoods vacation homes, resorts, and camps. In 1916 the National Park Service adopted the style for use in its park facilities. The style was also widely used in WPA projects due to its low material costs and labor intensive construction.

Although numerous communities throughout Wisconsin have WPA park structures such as bathhouses, concession stands, bathrooms and stone fences, the Franklin Lake Campground is significant both in terms of the number and concentration of structures, but also in the architectural sophistication of their designs. Further, of all these campgrounds, Franklin Lake is distinctive because of its high degree of integrity in terms of materials, workmanship, and siting. The previously listed Mondeaux Dam Recreation Area (NRHP 1984) contains three Rustic style structures of frame construction with vertical board-and-batten siding. While other campground and park buildings may contain a similar Rustic style shelter or bathhouse, this campground is distinguished as the largest identified grouping of Rustic style structures in any of Wisconsin's National Forest campgrounds.

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The development of the Franklin Lake Campground was a joint venture; the cooperative efforts of the CCC, WPA and Forest Service. The landscape, structural and architectural designs were developed by Forest Service architects and engineers. CCC enrollees from Camp Ninemile (641st Company) worked in cooperation with the Forest Service in developing the landscape, roads, trails and campsites. Construction of the buildings were performed by enrollees from the Warvet Camp (as the name implies, the WPA camp made up of WWI veterans).

The significance of the Depression Era development known as the Franklin Lake Campground resides in both its architectural form along with the dramatic period in history of which it is part. The buildings and structures are typical of Forest Service recreation design and construction for that period - an abundant use of hand-hewn timber and native stone simply yet skillfully crafted. Both standard and original architectural schemes are presented here, however no other buildings of their precise design and context are located elsewhere on Wisconsin's National Forests. Add to this the relatively unmodified appearance, and the architectural importance of this complex is indisputable. As regarding its place in history, this development was the joint creation of the Forest Service (design), the Civilian Conservation Corps (landscape development) and WPA-funded World War I veterans (construction) all working together to make this a functional manifestation of Depression Era economic revitalization in Wisconsin and service to its residents in the form of a quality outdoor recreation experience. This campground has been and remains today one of the most popular in northern Wisconsin.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Howard, Donald The WPA and Federal Relief Policy, NY: Russell Sage Foundation, 1943
 Raney, William Francis Wisconsin: A Story of Progress, Appleton, WI: Perin Press, 1963
 Jakle, John A The Tourist: Travel in 20th Century North America, Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 1985
 Kaiser, Harvey H. "The Adirondack Rustic Style", Old House Journal, January/February, 1983

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:

Supervisor's Office, Nicolet N.F.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 68.4

UTM References

A	<u>1 6 </u>	<u>3 4 5 5 6 0 </u>	<u>5 0 8 8 6 4 0 </u>	B	<u>1 6 </u>	<u>3 4 5 6 8 0 </u>	<u>5 0 8 8 3 4 0 </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>1 6 </u>	<u>3 4 5 5 4 0 </u>	<u>5 0 8 7 9 8 0 </u>	D	<u>1 6 </u>	<u>3 4 5 4 2 0 </u>	<u>5 0 8 7 6 4 0 </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The historic district includes the 1930's campground/recreation-related developments: the western boundary is the lakeshore itself; the eastern boundary a zone generally 100 meters or so in width paralleling Forest Road 2181; the northern boundary approximately 100 meters north of the northernmost building; and the southern boundary the zone which intervenes the southernmost campsites and the boat landing (boat landing is not included in the district because of numerous modifications through the years).

Boundary Justification

The district's boundary encompasses the original campground's architectural and landscape elements. Forest composition and texture have remained unchanged. As such, a strip of surrounding forest is included in the district because of the high level of integration of architectural and landscape design. A frame warehouse adjacent to the campground has been excluded because it is stylistically and functionally dissimilar.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mark E. Bruhy, Cultural Resource Specialist

organization USDA Forest Service

date _____

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city or town Rhineland

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UTM References

E	<u>1 6 </u> Zone	<u>3 4 5 1 6 0 </u> Easting	<u>5 0 8 7 5 5 0 </u> Northing	F	<u>1 6 </u> Zone	<u>3 4 5 2 0 0 </u> Easting	<u>5 0 8 7 8 0 0 </u> Northing
G	<u>1 6 </u> Zone	<u>3 4 5 3 0 0 </u> Easting	<u>5 0 8 8 1 2 5 </u> Northing	H	<u>1 6 </u> Zone	<u>3 4 5 4 0 5 </u> Easting	<u>5 0 8 8 4 1 0 </u> Northing

ATTACHMENT B: BUILDING DESCRIPTIONS

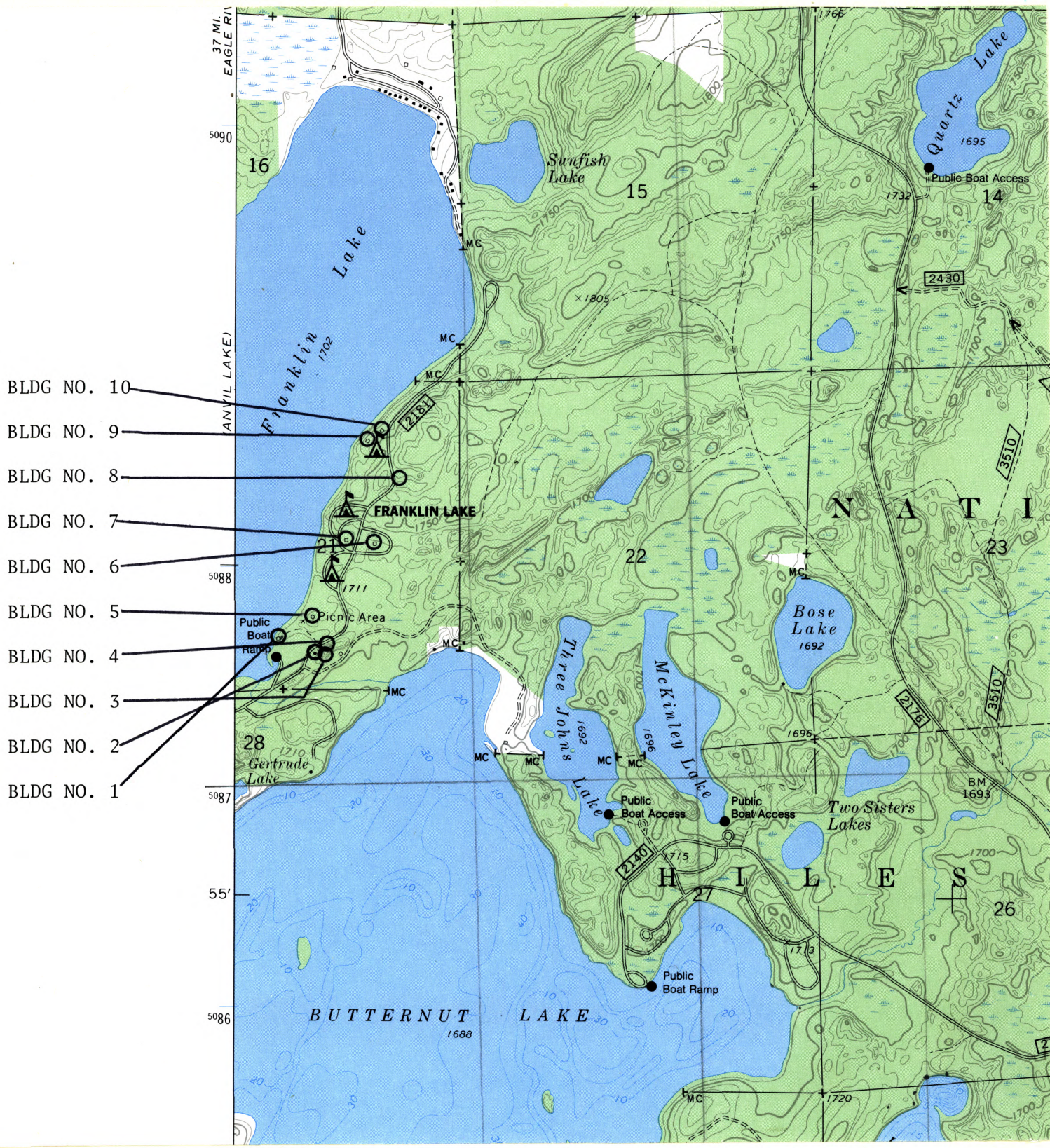
Franklin Lake Campground (FS Site No. 09-06-02-210)

<u>Building No.</u> <u>(Attachment A)</u>	<u>Year</u> <u>Constructed</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Comments</u>
(1) Shelter and Bath House	1936	Two story; rectangular plan; upper story at ground level on east side, lower story at ground level on west side; saddle notch horizontal log walls for upper story ends, sides open; uncoursed field stone lower level walls; gable roof with two straddle-ridge chimneys and corresponding interior fireplaces.	FS Project No. 589; original architectural plan; expenditure of ERA funds and to lesser degree CCC money for construction; lower level interior divided into men's and women's toilet facilities; exterior 42 x 26 feet
(2) Caretaker's Dwelling and Garage	1936	Cabin: rectangular plan with rear wing and open front porch; saddle notch horizontal log walls; gable roof	FS Project No. 308; modification of architectural plan 37-D; exterior 30 x 26 feet
	1936	Garage: rectangular plan; saddle notch horizontal log walls; gable roof.	FS Project No. 594; architectural plan 26-b, exterior 12 x 24 feet
(3) Well and Pump House	1937	Rectangular plan; saddle notch horizontal log walls; gable roof	FS Project No. 598; original architectural plan; 41 foot well (use discontinued c. 1960); exterior 13 x 15 feet; FS Property Record notes 1937 construction, routed sign adjacent to building notes 1936.
(4) Reservoir	1937	Rectangular plan; uncoursed native stone walls; gable roof with single window in each gable.	FS Project No. 598; original architectural plan; 4 inch diameter lead pipe leads from Reservoir to Building No. 3; exterior 13 x 15 feet.
(5) Comfort Station	1936	Rectangular plan; uncoursed native stone walls; horizontal log gables.	FS Project No. 590; original architectural plan; exterior 16 x 40 feet.
(6) Comfort Station	1936	Same as Building No. 5	FS Project No. 591
(7) Comfort Station	1936	Same as Building No. 5	FS Project No. 592

ATTACHMENT B (Continued)

Franklin Lake Campground (FS Site No. 09-06-02-210)

<u>Building No.</u> <u>(Attachment A)</u>	<u>Year</u> <u>Constructed</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Comments</u>
(8) Well House	1936	Rectangular plan; uncoursed native stone walls; gable roof.	FS Project No. 599; original architectural plan; 102 foot well (use discontinued c. 1960); exterior 13 x 25 feet.
(9) Shelter	1938	Rectangular plan; horizontal saddle notch log walls, sliding doors on each side; gable roof with two straddle-ridge chimneys and corresponding interior-fireplaces	FS Project No. 596; original architectural plan; exterior 42 x 26 feet.
(10) Comfort Station	1938	Same as Building No. 5	FS Project No. 593



*NOTE: BUILDING NUMBERS ARBITRARILY ASSIGNED AND CORRESPOND TO ATTACHMENTS B AND C

ATTACHMENT A: LOCATION MAP
 FRANKLIN LAKE CAMPGROUND
 FOREST SERVICE SITE NO. 09-06-02-210