NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 1024-0018

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INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulleting 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 Priest River Experimental Forest

other names/site number 10-BR-165

2. Location

street & number Idaho Panhandle National Forests /NA/not for publication

city, town Sandpoint /X /vicinity

state Idaho code ID county Bonner code 017 zip code 83864

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
___ private	___ building(s)	15	4 buildings
___ public-local	X district	9	sites
___ public-State	___ site	7	11 structures
X public-Federal	___ structure		objects
	___ object	31	15 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

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 CRF Part 60. In my opinion, the property ✓ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. ___ See continuation sheet.

Evan L. DeBloois — 5/11/94

Signature of certifying official — Date

Forest Service Federal Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official — Date

Idaho SHPO

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I hereby, certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register.
___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:)_____

	for Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action

6. **Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Government	Government

7. **Description**

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)	Materials enter categories from instructions)
Craftsman	foundation Concrete
	walls Wood
	roof Aluminum
	other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Priest River Experimental Forest, located fourteen miles northwest of Sandpoint, Idaho, is a 6,368 acre experimental forest organized in 1911. The Experimental Forest is a forested mountainous area covering the entire drainage of Benton Creek, most of the Canyon Creek drainage and the mouths of Fox Creek and Big Creek. The elevation ranges from 2200 feet at Priest River on the west to 5900 feet at Gisborne Mountain in the southeast corner.

The Priest River Experimental Forest is a rural historic landscape. The components of this landscape include the road network, the boundary, the vegetation related to land use and the buildings, structures and sites.

The Road Network. The road network within the Experimental Forest was developed by the forest staff to facilitate fire protection and to allow a full range of forestry research. From 1911 to 1943 three segments of the road system were completed as follows:

(1) Headquarters Access Road (Structure #1), was built up the hill to the old Benton Ranger Station before the Priest River Experimental Forest was chosen in 1911. The road from the old Ranger Station to the Priest River Experimental Forest Headquarters was built in 1911. The new entrance road was constructed in 1933.

(2) Benton Creek Access Road (Structure #2), built between 1912 and 1924 consists of 3.5 miles of gravel road up Benton Creek. This is still the main access route up this drainage.

(3) Fire Control and Main Access Roads (Structure #3), built between 1930 and 1943 consists of 21.3 miles of graveled road. These are the main climbing roads used today to access the forest and the Gisborne Mountain fire lookout.

Since 1945 the forest has added about 50 miles of additional road. These roads extend the previous road system with contour roads branching off of the climbing roads. The road network retains the character of the original road plan for the facility.

X See continuation sheet

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 1

The Boundary. The Experimental Forest boundary was established to include the Canyon Creek and Benton Creek drainages. The actual line reflects the standard historic property formed by the United States rectangular land survey. The boundary has recently been physically marked on the ground with metal survey posts and located at section corners and quarter corners.

Vegetation Related to Land Uses. There are five example areas within the Priest River Experimental Forest that bear a direct relationship to long-established forestry research patterns of land use between 1911 and 1945. These contributing resources include:

(4) Larsen Thinnings (Site #1) established in 1914 and rethinned in 1924 and 1934 consist of stands of trees in which slow growing, ill formed and defective trees were cut which allowed taller and faster growing trees room to develop.

(5) Racial Variation Plot (Site #2), started in 1911, the plot consists of a stand of ponderosa pine grown from seed from a wide variety of geographic areas.

(6) Inflammability Stations (Site #3), established in 1922. These areas are part of the oldest fire danger station in the United States. They are clear-cut, half-cut and full-timbered areas where various factors of forest fire danger were measured and standard procedures for fire danger measurement developed.

(7) The Mountain Transect (Site #4), established in 1940, originally consisted of a 100 yard wide clearcut strip of land that provided a cross section of the Benton Creek Valley. The strip is now re-vegetated but is still identifiable.

(8) Headquarters Landscaping (Site #5). In 1939 the Experimental Forest completed a landscaping plan for the Headquarters area. Civilian Conservation Corps crews following the plan, planted birch, cottonwood and Engelmann Spruce along with a variety of shrubs that survive to the present. In addition the Civilian Conseration Corps established the current walks and driveways.

The Buildings, Structures and Sites. The buildings and structures on the Priest River Experimental Forest allow the forest staff to reside on the forest and to carry out research. The layout of the headquarters reflects the purpose of the facility, the topography and the prevailing Forest Service acceptance of the rustic craftsman style in the 1930s.

In the period from 1911 to 1920, many improvements were made at the Priest River Experimental Forest. These improvements included the construction of an office-laboratory, three cottages, a wagon/storage shed, bunkhouse, lecture hall/wood shed, various out buildings, a fire lookout on Experimental Point and 3 and 1/4 miles of road up Benton Creek. The Forest built a water supply dam on Benton Creek and a gravity water system to headquarters in 1912. During the 1930s emergency programs such as the Civilian Conservation Corps demolished most of the original buildings and structures and built a new headquarters, a water system and dam, water gauging station, fire lookout and all the main climbing roads within the Forest. In 1934 the Civilian Conservation Corps modified the lecture hall/wood shed into a bunkhouse/messhall and in 1936 modified the wagon/storage shed into a shop. However, both of the structures retain the character of the original design. These buildings are the only existing buildings directly related to the original headquarters complex.

At the present time the contributing and noncontributing buildings, structures and sites on the Forest can be divided into four clusters including: the headquarters, Gisborne Mountain, Benton Creek Gauging Station and Benton Creek Water System Dam.

The Headquarters. This facility is located one mile east of Priest River on the north side of Benton Creek. The contributing buildings, structures and sites in this complex includes:

(9) Office/Laboratory (Building #1207) built in 1936, is a detached two and one-half story, wood frame building with a rectangular floor plan. The building sits on a full concrete basement measuring 32 feet 6 inches by 42 feet 4 inches. Exterior walls are covered with wood shingles and the gambrel ends and dormer walls are finished with boards and battens. The gambrel roof is covered with wood shingles and has an internal stone chimney, an antenna, and a mercury vapor light mounted on the northeast end. Both the northwest and southeast elevations have shed roof dormers that extend across most of the respective elevations.

The front, northwest elevation has a recessed entryway with stone and mortar steps and pilasters. The front door is six paneled with twelve lites with a surround of two panels and eight lites on each side. The rear, southeast, elevation contains a two paneled door with six lites which is protected by a shed roof overhang supported by two brackets. The southeast elevation has a slightly recessed entryway with a two paneled door with six lites. Both gambrel ends contain circular fixed windows with nine lites. There is a louvered circular window in the northwest dormer. The dormers and both floors of the building contain six-over-six double-hung windows. The basement has three-lite awning windows.

The first floor is divided into four offices and a bathroom. The second floor of the building is divided into four laboratory rooms and a bathroom. The walls in the second floor laboratories are composition board with varnished wood trim. The stairs and hallway have varnished board and batten pine panelling as are all of the first floor offices. The ceilings are composition board with varnished wood trim. The floors are maple as are the stair tread and risers. The stair railing is oak with square oak posts and ballisters. Special features include built-in fire hose cabinets, built-in mail sorting shelving and built-in filing cabinets and storage cabinets. Steam radiators are built-in and enclosed with a sheet metal front. Doors are five panel single opaque lite wood doors with a varnish finish. The bathrooms have a linoleum floor cover and porcelain fixtures. The light fixtures throughout the building are 5 bulb cast iron. A wheelchair access ramps was constructed in 1993, replacing the front steps.

(10) Bunkhouse/Messhall (Building #1616) built in 1915/1916 as a lecture room and wood shed and reconstructed in 1934, is a two story, wood frame building with a porch. It sits on a concrete block foundation measuring 26 feet 3 inches by 24 feet 3 inches. Exterior walls are finished with shingles, and the gambrel roof is covered with metal and has vents and exposed rafter ends. The roof's eaves flare slightly on the side elevations (southwest and northeast.) The roof has shed roof dormers on both the front, southwest elevation, and rear, northeast elevation. An open, shed roof, entry porch with an acess ramp and rough post columns is located on the front entryway of the bunkhouse/messhall. A partially enclosed gable roof entry porch is located on the rear entryway. The roof of this porch has support brackets and it appears that the steps leading to the porch are new. A gable roof overhang with brackets protects the northwest side, entryway. Each entryway contains a three paneled door with one lite. This building has one-over-one-lite double-hung and one-by-one-lite sliding windows. The window directly beside the southeast side of the shed roof porch is protected by a shed roof overhang with brackets. A metal fire escape on the northwest elevation, leads to a metal landing below a second story window. A wheelchair access ramp was added in 1993.

The interior of this building has been completely remodeled in recent years and is not a contributing element of its historical significance.

(11) The Shop (Building #1296) built in 1915 and modified in 1936, is a two story, wood frame building with a rectangular floor plan and a porch. It sits on a 19 foot 7 inch by 50 foot 3 inch concrete wall foundation that contains an access to a crawlspace underneath the building. Exterior walls are covered with shingles. The metal covered, gambrel roof features an internal stone chimney, exposed rafer ends, brackets, and a shed roof dormer. Bird feeder boxes are mounted under the eaves of the north elevation. The first floor of the front (east), elevation is recessed to create a porch space with the second story extending above to provide the roof. The porch is open has finished columns, and wood steps. The front elevation contains a set of double entry, five paneled doors. A single entry, wood flush door is located on the north elevation. A wood, sliding garage door with a concrete slab stoop is located on the south elevation. The building has two-over-two lite double-hung windows, and six-lite fixed and two-lite fixed windows. The dormer on the south elevation has three, one-lite fixed windows. The dormer, windows and other modifications were added in 1935. Currently the shop exhibits structural failure because the walls are not keyed into the sill plate. These structural problems probably originate from the modifications to the building in 1936.

(12) The Gas House (Building #1287) built in 1931, is a one story, masonry building with a rectangular floor plan. It sits on a concrete foundation and concrete block walls measuring 11 feet 5 inches by 13 feet 4 inches. The metal covered gable roof has wood shake covered gable ends and has exposed rafter ends and vents in the gable ends. The gas house has a five paneled door and a shuttered window opening in the front, south,elevation. One of the panels of the door is screened.

(13) The Woodshed (Building #1295) built in 1934, is a one story, wood frame building with a rectangular 14 foot 3 inch by 16 foot 5 inch floor plan. It sits on a concrete wall foundation. Exterior walls are covered with shingles and the offset gable roof is covered with metal and has exposed rafter ends. The center two-thirds of the southeast elevation consists of an opening with no door attached.

(14) Open Face Shed (Building #1291) built in 1936, is a one story, wood frame building with a rectangular 20 feet 1 inch by 40 feet 1 inch floor plan It sits on a foundation of concrete piers and has a dirt floor. The building is divided into four equal bays. Droplap siding covers the exterior walls. The metal-covered offset gable roof has exposed rafter ends. The building is completely open on the northwest elevation - small diameter board columns support the roof above.

(15) Open Face Shed (Building #1290) Built in 1936, is a one story, wood frame building with a rectangular 24 foot 3 inch by 40 foot 3 inch floor plan with four stalls. It sits on a wood wall foundation. Exterior walls are sided with weatherboard. The metal covered, offset gable roof with log purlins supported by posts. The milled lumber rafters sit on the purlins and have exposed ends. The building is open one the northwest elevation - small diameter log columns support the roof on the side and has a plank floor. The shed is divided into four stalls.

(16) Lodge/Cottage 1 (Building #1123) built in 1936, is a one and one-half story, wood frame building with a rectangular floor plan, porches, and an attached garage. It sits on a concrete basement measuring 32 feet 2 inches by 38 feet 2 inches. Exterior walls are covered with shingles. The building and garage has a steep gable roof with returned eaves, and are covered with wood shingles. Three gable roof dormers, each with one six-over-six-lite double-hung window, are located in the front (south), elevation. One, wide, half-hipped roof dormer with six, six-over-six-lite double-hung windows is located in the rear, (north) elevation. The roof has an internal stone chimney. Windows in the main floor of the lodge include six-over-six-lite double-hung, and six-lite casement windows. Windows in the gable ends are of the same types as those in the main floor. The basement has awning windows.

The roof on the front, south elevation of the lodge, flares to create the roof for the front porch on the east half of the front elevation, and for an enclosed room on the west half of the front elevation. A shed roof was added over the flared section in 1988, covering the concavity to prevent snow accumulation. This shed roof is covered with metal and is supported by rough post columns with a decorative wood support added where the columns meet the roof. The front porch porch floor is made of mortared flagstone and is accessed by a wheelchair ramp. The front door is constructed of vertical boards with an arched leaded window with hings of wrought iron. An aluminum screen door is in pace over the front door. The open entry porch on the rear elevation has a shingle covered, half-hipped roof, and rough post columns. The rear entry has a wood door with four panels and nine lites. The one story lodge garage is attached to the west elevation of the main building. It has a twelve paneled garage door with twelve lites on the west elevation, six-lite awning windows, and louvered vents in the gable end. The east elevation of the lodge has an exterior, metal fire escape which rests on concrete footings. The fire escape landing accesses the south window in the half story. The wheelchair ramp was added in 1993.

The first floor of the lodge is divided into a living room, two bedrooms, a kitchen, a bathroom and a dining room. The second floor is divided into three bedrooms and a bath. The basement has a furnace room, a walk in cooler (turned into a bathroom area), two separate areas for water closets and a recently finished sleeping room. The walls and ceiling are lath and plaster. The floors are maple and the baseboards and windows are trimmed in varnished wood. The stairs have square oak posts and ballisters and maple tread and risers. The fireplace in the living room is brick and wood paneling. A large photograph of a mountain scene is situated in the area above the mantel. The kitchen cabinets are painted wood with single panel single leaf doors and clear glass knob handles. Changes to the building include metal roofing, carpeted living and dining rooms, formica kitchen counter tops, a new high efficiency furnace and a ramp for wheel chairs.

(17) Guest Cottage #2 (Building #1124) built in 1936, is a one and one-half story, wood frame building with a rectangular floor plan and porches. It sits on a concrete block foundation measuring 24 feet 3 inches by 26 feet 3 inches. Exterior walls are covered with wood shingles, and the gable roof is covered with metal and has an internal concrete block chimney, exposed rafter ends, and vents. A recessed open porch is located on the north end of the front (southeast), elevation. This porch has a gable roof which intersects the southeast side of the main roof, and finished columns, stone steps, and a stone floor. The front entry has a wood door with two panels and one lite and an attached screen door. A partially enclosed side porch is located on the southwest elevation. This porch is offset towards the rear of the building and has a gable roof lower than the roof of the main building. Like the front porch, it has finished columns and a stone floor, and a wood door with panels and one lite with an attached screen door at the entry into the building. A five paneled door accesses the enclosed portion of the porch which is used as a storage room. Windows in the main floor of the guest house are one-lite casement and one-over-one-lite double-hung. Each gable ends also has a one-lite casement window.

The house is divided into a living room, kitchen and bedroom. A small unfinished half basement contains the furnace. The walls are lath and plaster with maple floors and varnished wood trim. The kitchen cabinets are painted wood with single panel single leaf doors. The lights are 5 bulb cast iron fixtures. Changes from the original construction include carpeting in the living room, hardboard paneling on the kitchen walls and a metal roof. A ramp for wheelchairs was added in 1993.

(18) Open End Garage (Building #1292) built in 1936, is a one story, wood frame building with a rectangular floor plan. It sits on a wood wall foundation measuring 13 feet 5 inches by 36 feet 3 inches. Exterior walls are covered with wood shingles and the gable roof is covered with metal and has exposed rafter ends. The building is the length of two cars and the framed garage door openings in both ends, northeast and southwest elevations, have no doors. The garage has six-lite fixed windows. Changes to the original structure include the addition of the metal roof and interior bracing of the rafters. The original structure had barn doors at each end that were removed in later years.

(19) Cottage #3 (Building #1125) built in 1936, is a one and one-half story, wood frame building with a rectangular floor plan and porches. It sits on a concrete basement whose exterior walls are faced with mortared stone and measures 29 feet 2 inches by 28 feet 1 inch. The metal covered, gable roof has an internal stone chimney and vents. The front, east, elevation of residence #3 has a open, entry porch recessed in the south end. The front porch has a gable roof that intersects the main roof. The porch has finished columns, flagstone steps, a flagstone floor and the gable end is covered with shingles. The side (north elevations), has a gable roof entry porch, also with flagstone steps and floor. The porch roof has a triangular pediment and a molded wood cornice and is supported by square wood columns with moldings on the top and bottom. Both front and side entrances contain wood doors with four panels and six lites, with attached screen doors. Windows in residence #3 include four-over-four-lite double-hung, six-over-six-lite double-hung, and six-lite casement in the main floor and six-lite casement windows in the gable ends.

The main floor contains a living room, kitchen, bathroom, and bedroom. The basement is divided into a walk in cooler, 2 bedrooms and a bathroom. The walls on the main floor are lath and plaster with varnished wood trim. The ceilings are lath and plaster except for the living room which is wood paneled crisscrossed with decorative boxed beam. The living room also contains a black slate fireplace. The kitchen cabinets are wood with single panel doors. Lights in the main floor are 5 bulb cast iron fixtures. Changes in the original structure include a formica counter top in the kitchen, carpet on the living room floor, a metal roof and a gas furace.

(20) Superintendent's Residence, Cottage #4 (Building #1126) built in 1939, is a one story, wood frame building with a rectangular floor plan with a wing and a porch. It sits on a concrete basement measuring 26 feet 3 inches by 34 feet 2 inches. Exterior walls are covered with wood shingles. The metal covered, gable roof has an internal stone chimney. A wing extends from the north elevation. The wing's gable is lower than the roof of the main building and slightly offset forward of the main roof ridge. The wing has a side entrance, (in the north elevation), with a gable roof overhang with brackets, board and batten on the gable end, and a white globe light mounted to the ceiling. This entry has a wood door with one panel and one lite. The front, open porch in the east elevation, open, has a gable roof with boards and battens covering the gable end. It has rough post columns, brackets, stone steps, and wood railings. A birdhouse is mounted to the northeast corner. The door is identical to the front door of the lodge--vertical board construction with an arched leaded glass window and wrought iron hinges. It has an attached screen door. The superintendent's residence contains three-over-three-lite double-hung, six-over-six-lite double-hung, and six-lite casement windows. There are three-lite awning windows in the basement and louvered vents in the gable ends.

This building is divided into 2 bedrooms, a kitchen, dining room, a living room and a bathroom. The building retains the lath and plaster walls and ceiling of the original. The basement is an unfinished storage and furnace room. Changes in the original structure include carpeted floors, wood burning heater stove, a remodeled kitchen, metal roof and a gas furnace.

(21) Garage (Building #1293) built in 1939, is a one story, wood frame building with a rectangular floor plan. It sits on a concrete slab foundation. Exterior walls are covered with shingles and the shallow gable roof is covered with metal. A framed garage door opening is located on the east elevation; it has no door. A single entry, two paneled door with four lites is located on the east end of the south elevation. The garage has eight-lite hopper windows.

(22) Storage Shed (Building #1294) prior to 1937, is a one story, wood frame building with a rectangular floor plan. It sits on concrete piers. Exterior walls are covered with droplap siding with corner board trim. The steep metal roof has exposed rafter ends and vents in the gable ends. A wood ramp leads up to the board and batten door in the north elevation. This building was originally built as an ice house and was moved to its present location in 1939.

(23) Weather Station (Structure #4) established in 1912, the weather station has been in continuous operation since it was constructed. The facility has evolved over the years and now consists of an instrument housing dating to the 1930s two rain gauges and several instrument poles. The instrument housing and one rain gauge is considered contributing, the other instruments are recent additions or replacement for earlier instruments and are considered noncontributing.

(24) Meteorological Tower (Structure #5) built in 1936, is a 150 foot galvanized steel tower. The structure measures 12 feet 4 inches square at the base and sits on a foundation of four 2 foot square concrete piers. There is an instrument platform on the top of the tower which is accessed by a steel ladder on the south side. A manufacturer's inprint on the inside of one leg of the tower reads "Jones and Laughlin". The lower part of the access ladder has been removed and the instrument power cable is cut off. The structure is not in use at the present time and was last used in the 1970s by the University of Idaho.

(25) Nursery Site (Site #6) started in 1911 and enlarged in the 1980s, is now an "L" shaped clearing surrounded with a post and wire deer fence. Within this area is a rectangular plot within a lath fence measuring approximately 75 feet by 450 feet, which is the original 1911 nursery plot. The nursery has been in continuous use since its construction.

(26) Concrete Block Foundation (Site #7) is the original site of the ice house. Moved to a location at the rear of the superintendent's residence cottage #4, it now serves as a storage shed (Building #1294).

(27) Foundation Piers (Site #8) is a remnant of the fire tool cashe building which no longer exists.

The buildings and structures at the Headquarters that are noncontributing resources include:

(28) Fire Extinguisher Enclosure (Structure #6) is located adjacent to the southeast corner of the Gass House (Building #1287). This structure is a gable roof wood box mounted on posts. A hinged door provides access to a fire extinguisher storage area.

(29) Nursery A-Frame (Building #1289) built in 1966, is a one story, wood frame storage shed located within the nursery fenced area. The rectangular shed is set on wood skids. Exterior walls are sided with vertical weatherboard and the roof is covered with metal. It has a slab door in the west elevation and a three-lite hopper window in the east elevation.

(30) Bunkhouse (Building #1127) built in 1966, is a one story, wood frame building with a rectangular floor plan. Originally constructed as a bunkhouse, the building sits on concrete piers. Exterior walls are board and batten and the steep gable roof is metal. There are louvered vents in the gable ends.

(31) Shed (Building #1288) built in 1966, is small, one story, wood frame, A-frame shed sitting on concrete piers. It has a rectangular floor plan. Exterior walls are sided with weatherboard and the roof is covered with metal.

(32) Three Drip Irrigators (Structure #7) of recent origin consisting of a long, open-top, lumber box mounted on wood post legs. Each has a screen bottom with watering lines attached above.

(33, 34, 35, 36) Fire Hose Houses (Structure #s 8, 9, 10 and 11) of recent origin, consist of rectangular plywood boxes mounted on treated timber legs. Fire hose is stored inside and fire hydrants are located beside them.

(37) Amphitheater (Structure #12), built in 1977 by the Youth Conservation Corps, it consists of three, semi-circular rows of wood benches. The benches are built on terraces and facing a lectern on a log stand.

(38) Footbridge (Structure #13), built in 1977 by the Youth Conservation Corps and reconstructed in 1991, it consists of a native log stringers, pole railing, pole decking and pole curbing. It spans a small drainage northeast of the office/laboratory to access the maintenance area.

(39) Shelter (Structure #14), of recent origin, consists of a one story, wood frame shelter which sits on a concrete slab foundation which also serves as the floor. It has a rectangular floor plan. Exterior walls are covered with paneling and the gable roof is covered with metal. The building has an overhanging roof which protects the heavy metal door of a large army surplus cooler.

The Benton Creek Gauging Station. Located one and one quarter mile east of the headquarters, the Benton Creek Gauging Station consists of one contributing structure.

(40) Dam (Structure #15) built in 1938 to measure stream flow, is a concrete dam approximately 8 feet high and 50 feet wide. It has two openings for gates, one 12 feet wide and one 4 feet wide with the upstream side edges with metal. Four debris catching log crib dams are situated at 30 foot intervals up stream from the concrete dam. It has a concrete instrument housing (for hydrographs) measuring 4 feet 6 inches square with a metal shed roof. The wood plank gates have been removed and the control valve covering a pipe outlet in the bottom of the dam has been pushed to one side.

Headquarters Water System Dam. This facility is located three quarters of a mile east of headquarters on Benton Creek. This area contains one contributing resource.

(41) Dam (Structure #16) built in 1938, is a concrete dam 31 feet wide and 3 feet 6 inches high. This dam supplied water to the headquarters complex and was abandoned in the 1960s. The structure has a single 2 foot wide opening for a gate. A 12 inch wood and wire pipe left the dam from the north side and followed Benton Creek to the Headquarters Compound. A control valve is visible below the dam and a wire debris screen is laying on top of the dam.

The Gisborne Mountain Fire Lookout. Located on Gisborne Mountain four miles east of the headquarters, the Gisborne Mountain Fire Lookout consists of two buildings two structures and a site. The contributing resources include,

(42) Garage/Shed (Building #2800) built in approximately 1934, is a single story wood frame building measuring 20 feet four inches square. It has a concrete foundation. The building has a shingle gable roof and siding of drop siding. The south elevation contains a window opening and a vertical board door. Window openings are also in the north and west elevations. The windows are gone and the openings are boarded shut. The east elevation contains barn doors constructed of vertical 1 by 6 boards. The interior walls, ceiling and floor are lapped 1 by 10 boards. The exterior surface is weathered and the structure at a whole is in fair condition.

(43) Looking Glass Fire Lookout (Site #9) built in 1932, this site consists of four foundation piers for a lookout that was torn down in 1958 to make way for the existing lookout building. The original name "Looking Glass" was changed in 1951 to "Gisborne" Lookout in honor of Harry Gisborne, a fire researcher with the Northern Rocky Mountain Station who worked at the Priest River Experimental Forest.

Three noncontributing resources on Gisborne Mountain includes,

(44) Gisborne Fire Lookout (Building #4200), built in 1959, is a single story, wood frame cab, 15 feet 4 inchs square, on a 40 foot high treated timber tower. It has a foundation of four concrete piers. The building has a flat roof and has 26 four-lite casement windows. The door has three panels and three lites. The interior contains several built in wooden cabinets and a wood fire finder table.

(45) Outhouse (Structure #17) is a recent replacement for the original structure which is no longer in existence. The outhouse is constructed of plywood and is is 4 feet square. It has a gable roof covered with wood shingles.

(46) Gisborne Monument (Structure #18) built in 1951, is a brass plaque mounted in rock. The inscription reads "Harry T. Gisborne 1893 - 1949 Inspiring, Enthusiastic, Far-Seeing Pioneer in Forest Fire Research."

The contributing buildings and structures on the Forest retain historical integrity. Metal roofing material replaced the original wood shingles on most buildings. The metal roofing reduces fire and snow load danger and is economical in a period of low facility budgets. The addition of metal roofing should be considered minor and reversible. The interiors of the Bunkhouse/messhall and the superintendent's residence have been completely altered and do not contribute to the eligibility of the property. However, the exterior of both buildings retain their original character and the buildings as a whole are considered contributing.

Recent alterations to the buildings and structures include projects designed to comply with federal standards and requirements. These include meeting access standards for the physically impared and for addressing requirements for asbestos and gas tank removal. These projects have been reviewed by the Idaho State Historic Preservation Officer and are considered to not adversely effect the historic character of the facility.

8. Statement of Significance

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

_X_ nationally ___ statewide ___ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria _X_ A ___ B _X_ C ___ D

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
Conservation	1911-1945	N/A
Science		
Architecture		

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Affiliation
N/A

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

The Priest River Experimental Forest is eligible to the National Register of Historic Places as a rural historic landscape because of its association with contributions to the management and protection of forested lands in the United States from 1911 to 1945. The Experimental Forest's initial development during the first 10 years (1911 - 1920) involved building the headquarters facilities and starting a number of research projects. The research focused on nursery and planting studies until 1914 when Savenac Nursery in Montana took over these investigations. Other studies carried on from the beginning included silvicultural investigations of stand manipulations and forest ecology and investigations of the requirements of certain tree species. During the second 10 years of its existence (1921 - 1930) the research station began to concentrate on fire in forests and the growing requirements for Western White Pine. The Experimental Forest's third decade (1931 - 1940) was a period of substantial growth in the research program. Fire research increased at the station and made considerable contributions defining factors affecting fire danger and the rate forest fires spread. Watershed studies increased with the establishment of the gauging station on Benton Creek in 1938 and the establishment of snow courses in 1937. From 1931 to 1940 the Civilian Conservation Corps and other Depression era work programs demolished most of the original facilities at the Headquarters and constructed most of the existing buildings. These programs also built the main transportation roads through the forest during this time period. During the period from 1941 to 1945, most of the research work decreased to maintaining just the existing research projects because of reduced budgets and limited available personnel as a result of World War II. The end of World War II in 1945 provides the upper limit of the period of significance discussed in this nomination. The Experimental Forest is also eligible to the National Register because the buildings and structures on the Forest are representative of the trend in the Forest Service architecture during the 1930s and early 1940s to achieve a "rustic" appearance in frame buildings by appropriate finishing materials such as wood shingles and clear finished pine interior trim.

_X_ See continuation sheet

The development of the Priest River Experimental Forest resulted from an early emphasis by the Forest Service on forestry research. Harold K. Steen writes:

> When [Gifford] Pinchot took over from [Bernard] Fernow in 1898, he was highly critical of his predecessor for emphasizing technical and theoretical aspects of forestry rather than dealing with "practical" problems. . . .Yet, despite his enthusiasm for practical forestry, the first year he was chief he found it necessary to establish the Section of Special Investigations, a research arm. . . Even though his administrative burden soared following the 1905 reserves transfer [to the Department of Agriculture], Pinchot announced that "the research side [of the Forest Service] will receive more attention during the coming year." He was afraid that the agency was losing its scientific point of view. . . .While its place in the Forest Service continued to evolve, the Branch of Research expanded its programs. In addition to the Forest Products Laboratory at Madison, experiment stations appeared in the West. The first was a station near Flagstaff, Arizona, in 1908; in 1921 there were seven more. By the end of the 1920s, a basic network of twelve regional stations was in place and all major forest regions were represented (Steen 1991: 131-139).

The first two experiment stations in the Forest Service system were Fort Valley Experiment Station located at Flagstaff, Arizona and Fremont Station at Colorado Springs, Colorado. The third station, established in 1911, was the Priest River Experimental Forest (Jemison 1951: 3). The complicated history of how Priest River was set aside is summarized by Charles Wellner.

> The history of land reservation for the Priest River Experimental Forest is a story in itself, and a very tangled one at that. Only a complete review of a long list of executive orders, acts, agreements, more agreements, proclamations, a Supreme Court decree, and decisions concerning small parcels of land can tell the story completely. The major problem was that at the same time the Priest River Station was being established, officials of the State of Idaho and the Department of Agriculture were reaching an agreement to convey lands in which the experimental forest was located to the State. A large area of National Forest land east of Priest River and Priest Lake was to be excluded from the National Forest as indemnity land for selection by the State in lieu of unsurveyed school grant sections 16 and 36 within the National Forest. It took 17 years to unscramble the ensuing mess!

> Part of the problem was that the exact area needed for an experimental forest was not really known when the Station was established. When it was realized that virtually the whole of the Benton and Canyon Creek drainages were to be included in lands open for selection by the State, an agreement was reached to withdraw 4,270 acres from selection. Fortunately, this area was excluded in the Presidential proclamation of March 3, 1913, which listed lands open for selection. Soon it was recognized that all of the Benton and Canyon Creek drainages were needed in the Experimental Forest. Again agreement was reached between the Forest Service and the State that the needed lands would not be selected by the State. But somehow this agreement never got to the right people and most of the needed lands were selected by the State and approved by the Secretary of the Interior. Now what was to be done?
>
> No one in the State had the authority to reconvey the selected lands within the Experimental Forest back to the Federal Government! It was finally decided that the United States would have to bring a friendly suit against the State to recover the lands. This was done and on February 27, 1928, the Supreme Court decreed certain lands within the Priest River Experimental Forest granted to the State should be eliminated from the selection lists and returned to United States ownership. . . .On April 18, 1931, the Chief of the Forest Service, R. Y. Stuart, signed an Establishment Report reserving the Experimental Forest. Hence, 20 years after the Priest River Forest Experiment Station was established, the Experimental Forest became official! (Wellner 1976: 71).

The area comprising the Priest River Experimental Forest was chosen because it contained all of the major forest types in the region in about the same relative proportions as the region as a whole. It also contained a variety of topography, aspect and elevation needed to conduct a full range of forestry research related the physical environment of the region. The area was originally a part of the Benton Ranger District of the Kaniksu National Forest. The Benton Ranger District Office was on the proposed Experimental Forest. This was an added incentive because, while the area was relatively untouched, the Benton Ranger District had sold some timber that was either cut or in the process of being cut in 1911. This presented the opportunity to do reforestation research. Larsen (1976: 1) states that

> The advantages of this location were accessibility; abundant young, mature and older timber with a high ratio of pine; some open lands for planting experiments; an assured water supply; and seclusion from the distractions of populous centers. The location was fed by constantly flowing fresh clean water of Benton Creek, right under the peak of a mountain; the year-round flow of water filled a small dam, from which water was supplied for the station's need. There were about thirty acres of partially-cleared land, with two small log cabins, presumably built by early hunters or trappers.

The Priest River Experimental Forest summarizes it's history in the following quotation.

> In the beginning years, the permanent staff of two men was occupied mainly with nursery and planting studies, methods of cutting studies, investigations of species requirements, and the large job of constructing buildings and roads. The same lines of investigation continued for the first 10 years, except for nursery and planting studies which were transferred to Savenac Nursery in Montana.
>
> During the decade beginning in 1920, fire research became a major project and received the full attention of one or more staff members. In silviculture, effort was directed chiefly to development of white pine yield and volume tables and to the study of factors controlling natural seeding and establishment of western white pine and associated trees.
>
> The research program was enlarged after 1930. Fire research at Priest River reached an all-time high, with principal emphasis upon evaluation of factors affecting fire danger and rate of spread. Forest management research also expanded. Between 1933 and 1940, most of the existing roads and buildings were constructed under public works programs, chiefly the Civilian Conservation Corps. During World War II, most of the research work dropped to a maintenance level (Priest River Experimental Forest 1951: 1).

For the first seventeen years of its existence the Experimental Forest operated on a modest budget (as low as $2500 during World War I). Some of the original station improvements were even constructed with donated labor and little facility maintenance money was provided by the Forest Service. This situation changed dramatically in 1931 as a result of two events.

The first cause of change at the Experimental Forest was the passage of the McSweeny-McNary Act in 1928. This act provided for a major boost in authorized funding for the Experimental Forest. Steen has traced the history of this Act.

> Responding to a speech in 1924 by the chief of the Forest Service on the importance of research, the Washington, D.C., section of the Society of American Foresters established a Special Committee on Forest Research, naming [Earle] Clapp chairman . . . . he wanted a million-dollar budget for the Forest Products Laboratory, a million for the experiment stations, a half-million to inventory forest resources, and more than a quarter million dollars to study grazing. . . . The American Forestry Association threw its support behind Clapp's proposal, which nearly cleared congressional hurdles in 1927. Ohio Congressman John R. McSweeney had introduced the bill in March 1927, but Congress adjourned before its supporters in the House could overcome delaying tactics. Senator Charles L. McNary of Oregon joined with McSweeney late that same year, and on May 22, 1928, the McSweeney-McNary Act had sailed through Congress. Clapp got what he wanted. The authorized budget ceiling was 3 million dollars, with internal breakdown much the same as he had outlined two years earlier. Clapp was deservedly elated. The law recognized the importance of research to forestry "in a way that it has never been recognized before." Research now stood "on a par" with other forestry activities (Steen 1991: 141-142).

The second major cause of change on the Priest River Experimental Forest was the Great Depression which lasted from 1929 into the 1940s. The Depression forced the Federal Government to develop work programs such as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Changes began to be felt at the station in 1931 when a small amount of money was provided for facility maintenance through Employment Relief Funds. In 1933 emergency relief funding dramatically increased with the establishment of a 200-man CCC camp (F-127) in the southwest corner of the Experimental Forest. The Civilian Conservation Corps provided the manpower to allow the Experimental Forest to approach the research potential envisioned in the McSweeney-McNary Act. The CCC

> . . . performed a tremendous amount of work on the experimental forest including road and building construction, maintenance of buildings and grounds, stand improvement, fire hazard reduction, blister rust control, tree planting, research plot establishment, and research assistance (Wellner 1976: 35).
>
> The original buildings were all removed or refurbished during the period. The office-laboratory was sold and removed in 1937 and is now used as a ranch home immediately north of the Station. Cottages 1, 2, 3 and the woodshed/lecture room were demolished in winter of 1935 - 1936 to make room for the new office-laboratory, as well as most out buildings and Benton Ranger Station (Wellner 1976: 36).

The Priest River Experimental Forest reflects the 83-year evolution of forestry research in the Forest Service. The landscape is the result a careful design of a research facility and numerous research projects. The headquarters, consisting of office/laboratory, residences, bunkhouse/messhall, shop, garage and out buildings reflects the central operations of the forest and is also a distinctive collection of 1930s craftman style wood frame buildings.

The Priest River Experimental Forest is a rural historic landscape conforming to both the "conservation" and "science" types. The processes that created this landscape are related to the land uses and activities of forestry researchers. These activities have left an imprint on the area. During the period from 1911 to 1945 many significant forestry research programs were initiated. The most significant projects include tree planting, thinning, pruning, racial variation and silvicultural studies, fuel inflammability studies and fire weather studies. The following is a summary of some of the important projects undertaken during the period of significance examined in this nomination.

Larsen Thinnings. This project examined the affect of removing slow growing, ill formed and defective trees from stands of trees. The Larsen Thinnings consist of four 1/2 acre plots established in 1914. Three of the plots were thinned by removing smaller trees and a few larger trees in 1914. One of these plots was thinned again in 1924 and one was thinned again in both 1924 and 1934. A check plot was never thinned. The conclusions from these thinnings is that such work enables timber to grow to merchantable size more rapidly and permits improvement in final stand composition by removing trees of unwanted species. Today this is an routine part of timber stand improvement practices as carried out by the Forest Service and private timber companies. The Larsen Thinnings were often used for visitor information and public relations. Larsen (1979: 5) states that:

> . . . visitors to the station always expressed much interest. At a location such as an experiment station it is of advantage to have something tangible to show.

Brewster Plantations. Much of the initial work at the Experimental Forest involved the nursery and planting studies. Part of this work involved developing the Brewster plantations from 1912 to 1925. This project examined the age classes of planting stock, size of stock, season of planting, methods of planting, direct seeding, and trial plantings of exotic and other non-indigenous trees. These test plantations demonstrated many inexpensive and effective methods of tree planting which formed some of the basic data for management of nurseries and tree planting today. The plantations have also been examined in connection with a variety of other projects dealing with environmental effects on plantations.

Pruning Tests. In 1938 and 1940 the Experimental Forest conducted pruning tests to determine if wood-decaying organisms enter through pruning wounds. The project found that pruning is best done by closely pruning small live branches on rapidly growing trees. These and similar studies provide present day foresters with quantified data on which to base their timber stand improvement practices.

Racial Variation in Ponderosa Pine. This study, started in 1911, was aimed at examining the racial variation in ponderosa pine. The Experimental Forest literature (1951) states that:

> The purposes of this study as stated at its start in 1911 are as follows:
>
> 1. To determine the suitability of ponderosa pine seed from different sources for planting in northern Idaho.
>
> 2. To ascertain heritable characteristics of growth, form, and hardiness developed through adjustment of parents to local climates.
>
> 3. To determine what limitations should be placed on the interchange of seed between localities of different climate.
>
> The study, one of the earliest of its kind in the United States, contains trees from seed collected in 22 different localities in Oregon, California, Idaho, Washington, Montana, South Dakota, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah. Corner posts of the plots show the place of seed origin and the year of plot establishment. Trees were uniformly spaced 5 x 5 feet apart.

This study has shown conclusively that local seed sources are best for reforestation which is now standard practice in such projects. The study also demonstrated the extent of the racial variation in ponderosa pine.

White Pine Forest Type Management. One area that involved a variety of studies was the regeneration, stand improvement and protection of Western White Pine Forest Type. Wellner notes,

> A major achievement in growth and yield was publication in 1932 of [Irvine] Haig's bulletin on normal yields. This provided a means to determine site quality in the western white pine type and yields to be expected in fully stocked stands. It also contained volume tables for the various species of the white pine type (Wellner 1976: 45).

The Experimental Forest also studied natural white pine regeneration in full sun and in shade. The results showed that white pine regenerated best in full-sun, while in heavy shaded areas more shade-tolerant species (red cedar and hemlock) were favored. Silvicultural information gathered at the Experiment Station was used in a number of contexts involving white pine. These included data on the economics of growing western white pine, contributions to the forestry requirements of the Lumber Code and defining criteria for selecting stands for Blister Rust control treatment. These and other findings have had an influence on the character of Forest Service timber management over the last 50 years.

Fire Research. In 1926, Harry T. Gisborne, head of fire research at the Priest River Experimental Forest, stated that:

> The purpose of forest fire research is to discover the fundamental causes and effects which vary in such a way as to cause variable demands on the forest protective organization. When we know accurately all the controlling causes and their effects we should be able to expand the protective organizations sufficiently to give adequate protection during the abnormal years, and to reduce expenses as much as possible and still provide adequate protection during the fire seasons that are less dangerous than the average(Hardy 1977: 3).

Research at the Experimental Forest fulfilled this purpose through a variety of projects. In 1922 the Experimental Forest established a "inflammability station" in an area where the trees had been clear-cut. This was the start of research that led to basic developments in fire danger prediction. When operational, the 1922 station was the oldest fire danger station in the United States and in 1931 adjoining half-cut and full-timber stations were added. The resulting data was used by Harry Gisborne to develop the Fire Danger Meter. Wellner states,

> A major milestone in fire research was reached during the winter of 1931 and 1932 when Gisborne put together his first trial fire danger meter, described in the 1932 Investigative Council report:
>
> > In order to insure consideration of all the important variable factors of fire danger, a device called a Fire Danger Meter was evolved during the winter of 1931-32. This device rates the effects of each of six factors in fire danger including (1) season of the year, (2) activity of lightning and people, (3) visibility, or the distance at which small smokes can be discovered, (4) wind velocity, (5) exceptionally low relative humidity, and (6) fuel moisture and inflammability. By the integration of the effects of these six factors the Danger Meter produces a rating of fire danger both in terms of rate of spread of fire and in terms of administrative action needed to cope successfully with prevailing or probable danger.
>
> So was born a fire danger rating system that within 25 years was adopted throughout the United States and Canada, and by many forest fire control organizations throughout the world (Wellner 1976: 40-42)

Today the principles of the Fire Danger Meter are incorporated in computer models that predict fire danger.

In 1923 the Experimental Forest established the "Weather Tree". This consisted of a 150 foot high larch tree with steel spikes in it that were used by researchers to climb to the top. Weather instruments attached to the top recorded the weather conditions at tree top level. A steel 150 foot meteorological tower replaced the weather tree in 1936. This tower has platforms at 49, 83, 112, and 150 feet to monitor the weather conditions at different levels in the forest canopy. The tower allowed the completion of a study that

> . . . discovered a few things, and quantified many. The report states that wind is not uniform between any two topographic or fuel type situations. Even during the windiest hours of the windiest day a fire on the ground under a dense timber canopy will NOT be greatly affected by the wind. The report also draws specific conclusions as to time of day one can expect not only highest and lowest winds, but also highest and lowest temperatures and relative humidities. The report then tells how the information gleaned from the study can be utilized in fighting a fire under different canopies (Hardy 1977:32).

In 1940 Civilian Conservation Corps crews cleared a 100 yard wide strip of land that provided a cross section of the Benton Creek Valley. The purpose of this "Mountain Transect" was to identify areas where fire weather could be measured accurately. Due to lack of funds instruments were never installed and the "Mountain Transect" was never used for its original purpose.

The Priest River Experimental Forest retains historic integrity as a rural historic landscape because the various processes that shaped the land during the historic period are present today in much the same way they were historically. Vegetation, land uses, the road network and buildings important in the period from 1911 to 1945, continue to be important at the present time. The forest is the site of many ongoing forestry research projects involving productivity, forest health, tree planting, growth, yield and mortality. In addition, the facility continues to serve as a location for cooperative work as well as meetings, seminars and workshops. The experimental forest continues to be a major national and international research site, allowing scientists from the United States and other countries to continue advancing the knowledge of forestry. Wellner (1976: 95) summaries the Experimental Forest's importance as

> . . . a valuable public research asset, not limited to use by the Forest Service. This value goes much beyond a facility composed of buildings and a forest dedicated to the conduct of research. Of greater value is the knowledge that has accumulated about this particular forest area. The records of climate, stream flow, plants, fungi, insects, diseases, growth of individual trees -- these provide a living, dynamic kind of knowledge that is invaluable for new research efforts.

Today Forest Service administrators are focusing attention on "Ecosystems Management" as a guiding principal for Forest Service long range planning. Deitschman (1973: 5) clearly places the Priest River Experimental Forest in the mainstream of this movement when he observed that the Forest's:

> Research in all aspects of forest science is increasingly directed at the problems of managed forest land. Since even minor changes in management practices can have varied and far-reaching ecological effects, there is urgent need to gain broad understanding of the interrelated consequences of specific treatments in specific forest environments. The primary management objective of the Priest River Experimental Forest--research utility--makes it especially appropriate for the far-sighted, joint planning that must be done by interested specialists to ensure coordinated studies and the timely establishment and maintenance of desired conditions.

Wellner (1976: 96) sees the role of the Experimental Forest as (1) a place to conduct fundamental studies, (2) a place to test and extend results developed in the laboratory, greenhouse and nursery, (3) a place to test silvicultural systems and methods of management, (4) a place for interdisciplinary research, (5) a place to accumulate knowledge about a specific tract of land, (6) a place to demonstrate results of research and (7) a place to train future researchers. The Priest River Experimental Forest has had these roles since 1911 and continues to have these roles today.

A second area of significance for the Priest River Experimental Forest is the architecture of the buildings and structures on the facility. The contributing buildings and structures on the Experimental Forest contribute to the significance of the facility because they are representative of a type of architecture identified with the Forest Service in the 1930s and early 1940s. Many of the Forest Service facilities constructed during the 1930s and the early 1940s exhibit the craftsman style of architecture. Four factors influenced the Forest Service to adopt this style of architecture.

> (1) The building cost limitation on the amount spent on a single building did not apply to Civilian Conservation Corps projects (Fickes 1972: 106). This allowed more expensive buildings to be constructed than prior to the 1930s.
>
> (2) The available labor pool was sufficiently expanded with Depression Era work program crews to construct labor intensive projects. Projects that involved such things as complicated framing, precise log work, natural rock walls, or decorative detail work, would have been to expensive to accomplish prior to the establishment of the Civilian Conservation Corps.

(3) Each Civilian Conservation Corps company had a group of local experienced men (known as LEMs). These men often were carpenters, masons and others with various construction skills.

(4) The Forest Service architects designed buildings that would utilize this available labor pool and expertise with locally available materials.

These factors combined to give the facilities constructed between 1933 and 1942 a distinct style and character. Regional facilities engineers designed or altered most of the administrative sites in the Region during this period including the Priest River Experimental Forest. Long term planning for facilities like the Experimental Forest aimed at building facilities that would meet Forest needs well beyond the 1930s. The Forest Service's application of the Craftsman architectural style evolved during the 1930s. Gail Throop summed up this style, stating that

> This uniquely American architectural style evolved slowly, a natural outgrowth of (late)nineteenth century romanticism about nature and the western frontier. As accessories of nature, these structures employed the use of native materials to blend with the environment and the use of early pioneer and regional building techniques; architecture was closely integrated with landscape (Throop 1979: 31).
>
> Although each building in a compound was planned for a specific function, a uniformity of style was achieved through similarity of character of appearance. A basic roof shape was repeated throughout a compound while monotony was avoided by variation in size, position or number of similar shapes. Regularity of exterior wall material and roof material produced a harmonious texture, an attractive homogeneity. Decoration was, in fact, quite subtle: frequently it consisted only of a particular end treatment of the vertical boards on the gable ends, with or without battens, or in the massing of multilite sash windows (Throop 1979: 36).

Forest Service designers carried on some of the characteristics of the original buildings (e.g., the gambrel roofs on some of the buildings) into the design of the 1930s structures. They also appear to have assumed that the use of the facility would continue at the high 1930s level. In later years, the roof designs presented problems because of snow loading. The addition of metal roofing materials in recent years is an attempt to address these snow loading problems.

The structures built during the 1930s were primarily the buildings used by the Forest Service during the next 30 years. This resulted in the craftsman style being closely identified with the Forest Service by the general public today. This identification is considered by one study (Caywood, Catton and McDonald 1991: 116) as a main element of the historical significance of the buildings of this period. They state:

> The significance of administrative properties lies in their ability to evoke a connection between the historical period of Forest Service development and the present. Administrative properties are representative of the standards by which the Forest Service conducted its work and the image that they wished to convey to the public. Because the Forest Service challenged traditional attitudes relative to western land and resource management, Forest Service administrators were concerned over public perception of their "mission." District headquarters served as points of public contact, and the improvements located there reflect the desire of the Agency to blend in with the local culture and environment.
>
> In addition, administrative facilities convey the essence of domestic life for Forest Service personnel and their families. At this level, these properties are able to represent and interpret the social history of individuals who lived and worked in an isolated environment, usually away for the conveniences of town living.

In the context of the Priest River Experimental Forest, the contributing buildings and structures evoke a close connection between forestry research and the local ecosystem.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Anonymous
n.d. The Clear-cut Flammability Station. Mimeographed. Priest River Experimental Forest. Priest River.

_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:
_____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 6368

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	11	51119130	5353268 0
B	11	51193 0	5353267 5
C	11	51194 0	5354301 0
D	11	51756 0	5354656 0

_X_ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Priest River Experimental Forest follows the rectangular survey lines on the south, east and north sides. The boundary on the west side follows the east side of Priest River.

_X_ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the forest follows the line established by an act of Congress. The intent of the officials who established the line was to include most of Benton Creek and Canyon Creek and the mouths of Fox Creek and Big Creek within the forest boundaries.

___ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

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organization Idaho Panhandle National Forests date October 26, 1993
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E 517560 5354650

F 520330 5354640

G 518740 5357820

H 515980 5357820

I 513950 5357430

J 511540 5355860

K 511130 5355080

T.58N., R.3 W., B.M.
Section 17, S1/2SW, SW SE
Section 18, S1/2S1/2
Section 19, All
Section 20, All
Section 21, W1/2SW, SE SW
Section 28, NW, N1/2SW, SW SE
Section 29, N1/2, N1/2S1/2
Section 30, All

T.58N., R.4W., B.M.
Section 23, E1/2NE, S1/2NWNE, S1/2NWNE, SWNE, SENENW, E1/2SENW, S1/2
Section 24, All
Section 25, All
Section 26, All
Section 27, E1/2, E1/2W1/2, Lot 2, SWSW
Section 28, Lot 6
Section 33, Lots 1 and 4
Section 34, Lots 1,2,3,4,6, SENW, E1/2SW

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number Photographs Page 1

(1 of 29) Priest River Experimental Forest
Office/Laboratory (Building #1207) #9 on sketch map

Sandpoint, Bonner County, Idaho

Photograph by Cort Sims
October, 1993

Negative on file at the Idaho Panhandle National Forests
1201 Ironwood Drive, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, 83814

View looking south

(2 of 29)
Office/Laboratory (Building #1207) #9 on sketch map

View of stairs and second floor landing.

(3 of 29)
Office/Laboratory (Building #1207) #9 on sketch map

View of first floor hall.

(4 of 29)
Weather Station (Structure #4) #23 on sketch map

View of station looking west.

(5 of 29)
Lodge/Cottage 1 (Building #1123) #16 on sketch map

View looking north.

(6 of 29)
Lodge/Cottage 1 (Building #1123) #16 on sketch map

View of living room and fireplace.

(7 of 29)
Lodge/Cottage 1 (Building #1123) #16 on sketch map

View of first floor hall.

(8 of 29)
Lodge/Cottage 1 (Building #1123) #16 on sketch map

View of from first floor up stairs to second floor.

(9 of 29)
Lodge/Cottage 1 (Building #1123) #16 on sketch map

View of kitchen.

(10 of 29)
Lodge/Cottage 1 (Building #1123) #16 on sketch map

View of cooler door in basement.

(11 of 29)
Lodge/Cottage 1 (Building #1123) #16 on sketch map

View of interior of garage door.

(12 of 29)

Cottage #3 (Building #1125) #19 on sketch map

View looking west.

(13 of 29)

Cottage #3 (Building #1125) #19 on sketch map

View of living room fireplace.

(14 of 29)

Cottage #3 (Building #1125) #19 on sketch map

View of living room ceiling.

(15 of 29)

Open End Garage (Building #1292) #18 on sketch map

View looking west.

(16 of 29)

Open End Garage (Building #1292) #18 on sketch map

View of interior bracing.

(17 of 29)

Superintendent's Residence, Cottage #4 (Building #1126) #20 on sketch map

View looking west.

(18 of 29)

Bunkhouse/Messhall (Building #1616) #10 on sketch map

View looking south.

(19 of 29)

The Shop (Building #1296) #11 on sketch map

View looking south.

((20 of 29)

The Woodshed (Building #1295) #13 on sketch map

View looking north.

(21 of 29)

The Gas House (Building #1287) #12 on sketch map and Fire Extinguisher Enclosure (Structure #6) #28 on sketch map.

View looking east.

(22 of 29)

Open Face Shed (Building #1290) #15 on sketch map

View looking southeast.

(23 of 29)

Meteorological Tower (Structure #5) #24 on sketch map

View looking from the ground to the top of the structure.

(24 of 29)

Nursery Site (Site #6) #25 on sketch map

View looking west.

(25 of 29)

Benton Creek Gauging Station (Structure #15) #40 on forest roads map.

View of upstream side of dam looking north.

(26 of 29)

Headquarters Water System Dam (Structure #16) #41 on forest roads map.

View of downstream side of dam looking north.

(27 of 29)

The Gisborne Mountain Fire Lookout, Garage/Shed (Building #2800) #42 on forest roads map.

View looking east.

(28 of 29)

Looking Glass Fire Lookout foundation pier (Site #9) #43 on forest roads map.

View looking west.

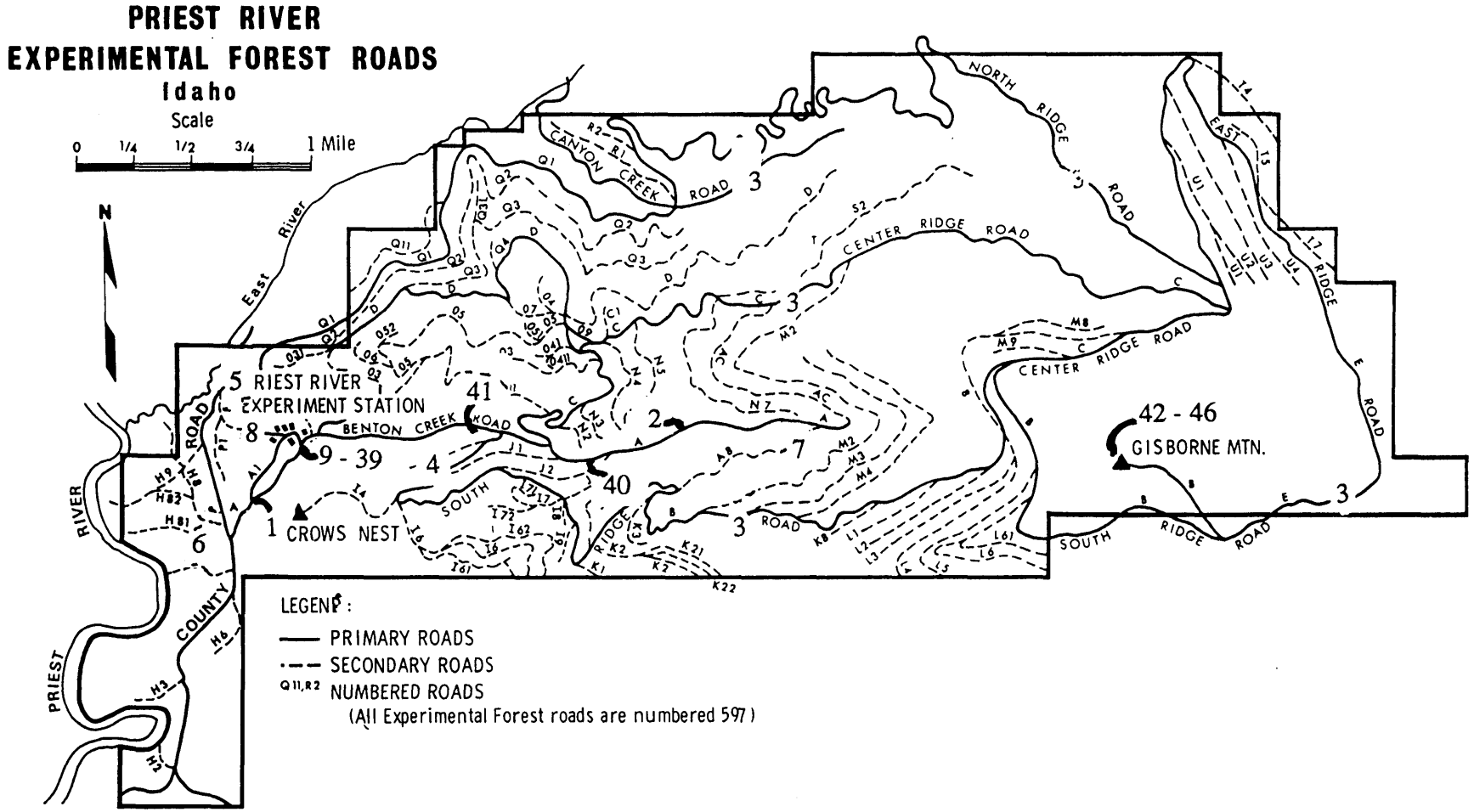
(29 of 29) Priest River Experimental Forest
The Shop (Building #1296) #11 on sketch map

Sandpoint, Bonner County, Idaho

Photograph by unknown photographer
July, 1931

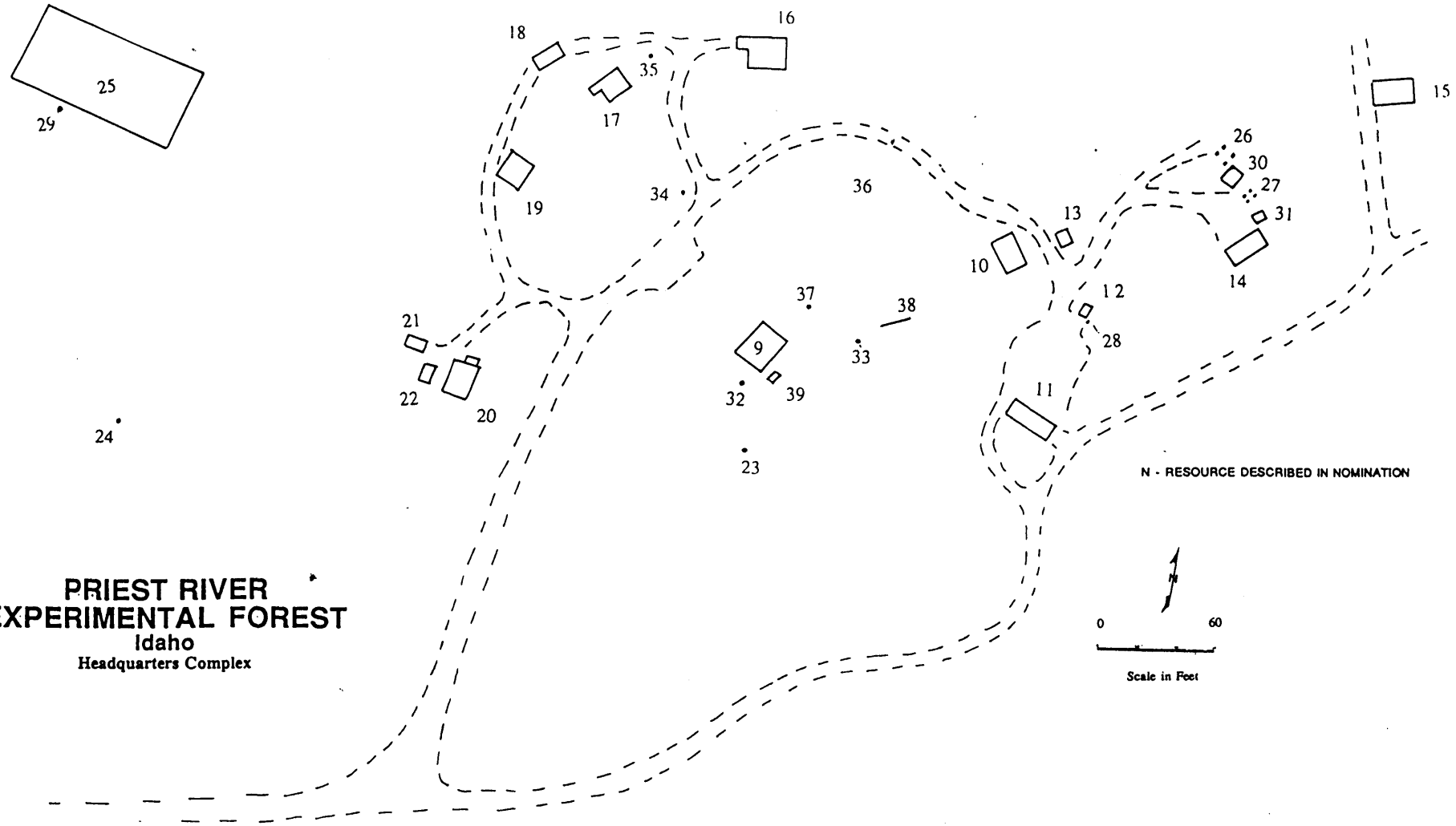
Negative on file at the Idaho Panhandle National Forests
1201 Ironwood Drive, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, 83814

View looking south, before the structure was remodeled in 1936. The structure on the right is a garage and the structure on the left is a laboratory, both of these structures have been torn down since 1931.



N - RESOURCE DESCRIBED IN NOMINATION

(After Wellner 1976)



PRIEST RIVER EXPERIMENTAL FOREST

Idaho

Headquarters Complex