

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	SEP 30 1980 MAR 11 1981
DATE ENTERED	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Bly Ranger Station
AND/OR COMMON
Bly Ranger Station

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER **OR 140**
Oregon State Highway 140

CITY, TOWN
Bly

--- VICINITY OF

--- NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
2nd

STATE
Oregon 97622

CODE
41

COUNTY
Klamath

CODE
035

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: *(if applicable)*
U.S.D.A. Forest Service - Pacific Northwest Region

STREET & NUMBER
319 S.W. Pine Street - P.O. Box 3623

CITY, TOWN
Portland

--- VICINITY OF

STATE
Oregon 97208

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Klamath County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Klamath Falls

STATE
Oregon

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Not represented in existing surveys

DATE

--- FEDERAL --- STATE --- COUNTY --- LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Bly Ranger Station, administrative headquarters of the Bly Ranger District on the Fremont National Forest, is located in the Upper Sprague River Valley in eastern Klamath County. Situated on State Highway 140, in the unincorporated community of Bly, Oregon, the Ranger Station is 52 miles northwest of Lakeview and 50 miles northeast of Klamath Falls, within Section 34, Township 36 South, Range 14 East, Willamette Meridian, in the U.S.G.S. Bly quadrangle.

Sited within the Basin and Range physiographic province, at an elevation of 4360 feet, the climate is characterized as semi-arid, with an average annual rainfall of 15 inches, and continental, with high summer and low winter temperatures, modified slightly by maritime air masses. The natural vegetation of the area, where not substantially altered by irrigation, is of a shrub-steppe type with a big sagebrush/grass species community predominating, occasional western junipers interspersed.

Contained in a discrete geographic area encompassing 4.68 acres and delineated by fenced boundaries, the Bly Ranger Station was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps and Local Experienced Men (LEM) under the supervision of the U.S. Forest Service between 1936 and 1942. When completed, nine buildings were united aesthetically by architectural design and by physical development. Three additional structures, albeit of relatively recent construction, reflect the continuing history of the compound. Primarily administrative in character, the buildings are visually, spatially and functionally related, and constitute a separate and distinctive built landscape within the community of Bly.

Displaying especial excellence of design, the buildings of the Bly Ranger Station are illustrative of the rustic style of architecture particular to the Pacific Northwest Region, U. S. Forest Service and exclusive to the Depression era. Appropriate to their environment, spatially related according to the most efficient usage and visually related through common use of color, fenestration, scale, proportion, and texture, the buildings also exhibit an exemplary quality of workmanship in construction, carpentry, interior finish and stonemasonry.

Although each building in the Bly Ranger Station was designed for a specific function, a continuity of architectural style was achieved through similarity of character and appearance. A low gable roof shape predominates, with low hipped gables interspersed. Two structures, the Machine Shop/Warehouse #2201 and the Garage #1501, exhibit low hipped gables exclusively. Monotony was avoided by variations in size, position and number of similar shapes. Regularity of exterior wall materials and roof materials produced a harmonious texture. All structures exhibit exterior walls of broken-coursed rubble masonry, incorporating dissimilar shapes and sizes of red and green rhyolite and gray basalt, with vertical board and batten on gable ends and gablets, and wood-shingled roofs. All structures, except the D.E.A. Residence #1004, manifest distinctive curving stone corner buttresses, with similar features serving as porch supports.

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As in many structures built by the Civilian Conservation Corps, the "pine" tree logo" appears on the buildings of the Bly Ranger Station. Single pine trees, silhouettes cut from two vertical boards, are centered on gable ends and gablets, as well as on the decorative shutters that flank the windows.

The Bly Ranger Station was developed according to a site plan designed by E. U. Blanchfield in 1936. Gently sloping topography necessitated some terracing and grading to accommodate the eight administrative, service and residential buildings planned. The trapezoidal plan incorporating four levels accomplished the physical separation of building units according to function in a compact area.

According to the planning criteria of the period, the Ranger Station Office #2000 was sited prominently in the center of the building group. Located immediately adjacent to the Station entrance, the office was the control point for all business traffic entering and leaving the Station, and readily accessible to the public.

A four-car garage, its long axis running east/west, is located immediately adjacent to the office to the west on the same terrace level.

The Service Court, a quadrangular in form, was located directly west of the Ranger Station Office, on the third terrace level. The 1936 site plan anticipated the immediate construction of two buildings, a machine shop and a gas house, and a separate loading platform with sites and approximate dimensions for a proposed fire warehouse and unspecified future building indicated. As built, the machine shop occupies the northwest corner of the Service Court, its long axis aligned north/south, while the gashouse is located in the center of the eastern perimeter. The loading platform which was centered on the north side of the Service Court running east/west has been removed.

A standard design fire lookout is located in the extreme southwest corner of the compound proper on the fourth terrace level above the Service Court. Contemporary with the construction of the Ranger Station, it was "maintained for the discovery of forest fires." It remains operational.

A barn, #2400, was built in 1939, on the fourth terrace level outside the compound proper to the southwest. Containing 540 sq. ft., the structure was most probably of wood frame construction, with wood exterior materials as suggested by building cost comparisons. No design plans, specifications or photographs exist to confirm this description. The "Historical Record for Buildings" for the barn indicate that the structure was moved to an unspecified present location in 1942, and written off in 1967.

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Although the three residential structures do not form the typical compact building unit usually found in Depression-era Ranger Stations, their locations are removed from the mainstream of compound activities. The Ranger's Residence #1002, is located to the south and west of the Station Office #2000, on the third terrace level, and separated from the Service Court by groupings of trees and expanses of lawn. The T.M.A. Residence #1003 (formerly designated Assistant Ranger's Residence) is sited below #1002 and slightly north of it on the second terrace. Both are situated on the south side of the station entry road. The D.E.A. Residence #1004 (formerly referenced guard's or P.A. Residence) is situated to the north and west of the Office #2000 on the second terrace level, on the north side of the entry road.

Again departing from recommended residential arrangement, no residence is located adjacent to the office: the occupant of Residence #1003 has a clear view of the approach road and the station entrance, but the house is not easily reached by travelers stopping during off hours; the more centrally located D.E.A. Residence overlooks much of the compound, particularly the Service Court from which it is not screened, but is removed from the Station entrance and virtually inaccessible to public traffic.

A single service road proceeds directly west from the central Station entry to the Service Court, and separation of private and business traffic is imperfect. The Ranger's and T.M.A. Residences are accessed by a circle drive which branches south from the service road below the crest of the third terrace. The D.E.A. Residence is reached only through the Service Court. A secondary service road runs diagonally from the southwest corner of the Service Court to the unenclosed properties on the fourth terrace level. There is a graded parking area for employees opposite the four-car garage on the south side of the entry road.

Landscape design was an integral part of the comprehensive site plan, and together with the architecture, distinctively "rustic." Relatively unaltered, the landscape design for the Bly Ranger Station is representative of landscape designs for major Forest Service facilities located east of the Cascade Mountains and out of the timber. Consideration of climate and physiographic factors is evident in the selection of plant materials and the placement of plants. Lacking suitable native plant materials at the site, exotic and other appropriate xerophytic species were selected. Groupings of trees with vigorous growth characteristics such as Chinese elm, ash and black locust, single plantings of cottonwood, weeping willow and western juniper, and a variety of exotic shrubs were used to provide shade and to frame the buildings. Broad expanses of lawn were planted in a Kentucky Bluegrass mixture. Built landscape features include battered dry masonry walls of rough gray basalt which contained the terrace cuts around the Ranger's Residence #1002, to the west, north and east, and defined the limits of vehicular access and parking.

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The fences enclosing the Bly Ranger Station reiterated the stone and board building materials of the compound and reinforced the intended rustic character. A low stone fence, with solid railings and massive squared posts, extended across the eastern boundary of the Station, parallel with the highway. Curving inward at the center, the fence was interrupted at the midpoint by a vehicular entry, and by a gated entry for foot traffic, located in front of the Office. Two large routed wood slabs, mounted in the curves of fence, identified the Bly Ranger Station. The area formed by the inward curves was intended for public parking. Except for the southern boundary of the service court which was delineated by a barb wire fence, the northern, western, and southern perimeters of the Station were enclosed by a post and rail fence.

Two buildings have been erected within the compound proper since the initial period of construction. In 1963, a new office #2006 was constructed on the first terrace level adjacent to the Office #2000 on the north. Its low gabled ranch style is not wholly incompatible with the basic design of the original buildings, but lacking the uncoursed stone exteriors and typical fenestration, it is intrusive. The timber management office #1305, located directly north of the combination Warehouse/Machine Shop #2201, on the site identified for "future building" on the 1936 Site Plan, is a one-story wood-frame building with a low gable roof. Visually its design and exterior fabric are incompatible with those of the adjacent structures: contextually, its originally intended purpose, (bunkhouse), and its proximity to the Service Court are consistent with Depression era criteria for administrative site design. However, its present administrative purpose is not consonant with the design criterion specifying separation of diverse functions. Four ranch-style houses now occupy the unenclosed site designated "Barn" on the 1936 site plan. Although on Forest Service property, they are not included in the compound proper. Rather, they form part of the more recent built environment now surrounding the Ranger Station. Their out-lying location precludes significant detractor from the integrity of the compound. A small well house of relatively recent construction is located on the east side of the diagonal service road, outside the compound proper, but proximate to the fire lookout. It too detracts little from the character of the historic Ranger Station.

The Bly Ranger Station compound appears much as it did when built, retaining its strong ensemble character. The exteriors of the original buildings remain unaltered, and few interior alterations have occurred. The interior of the Old Office #2000 has undergone the most significant alterations: The entry has been modified by removal of wall partitions, and by the replacement of original ceiling materials and light fixtures with acoustical tiles and fluorescent lights.

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The knotty pine walls and built-in furniture have been retained. Except for modern improvements in the kitchens and bathrooms, the residences are unaltered on the interior. The built landscape features remain, although the stone fence delineating the compound's eastern boundary has been modified. The wood slab Station signs originally mounted in the fence have been removed, as has the gate which enclosed the pedestrian entry to the Old Office #2000. A second pedestrian entry has been made to access the new office, and the fence now exhibits a concrete capstone, affixed to prevent further washing of the mortar and weathering of the stone. The planted landscape, now matured, provides needed shade and framing for the various buildings.

The extent of archaeological remains within the Bly Ranger Station Historic District is unknown. The name Bly is derived from a Klamath word, p'lai, meaning up or high, and variously interpreted to reference specifically a village located up the Sprague River from Yainax, or generally to mean the Upper Sprague River Valley. ^{1/} The Klamath peoples are known to have used the area, although how extensively has not been determined. As two burials were uncovered during excavation of the foundations of the Assistant Ranger's Residence, potential for the location of other subsurface sites exists. While no complete survey of the property has been conducted, few, if any, surface sites would have survived the ground-disturbing activities of construction and landscaping intact.

^{1/} McArthur, Lewis L. Oregon Geographic Names. (4th Edition) Portland, Oregon: Oregon Historical Society. 1974. p. 71.

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Structures and Features Contributing to the Character of the District:

(Numbers Correspond to Locations on Accompanying Site Maps)

1. Old Office #2000: 1936; 962 sq. ft.; L-shaped, 3-room office, 1 story wood frame, medium gable roof, intersecting gable off-set with gabled hip, wood shingled. North roof slope, extends bell cast to form porch roof, supported by two squared timber posts, round flush brackets and a stone post with buttress; south roof slope extends, straight, to cover rear entry. Stone chimney, off-set on south (rear) slope of roof. Stone exterior, coursed rubble of varying sizes and shapes, natural surface; red and green rhyolite and gray basalt; horizontal clapboard on north wall beneath porch roof. Vertical boards, angular cut, and battens on gable ends and on gablet. Six-over-six double hung sash windows, flanked by decorative shutters exhibiting a simple pine tree cut out. Curving rock buttress at each corner and on north face of porch post. Single simple pine tree cut out centered on each gable end. Doors exhibit a "rough plank" exterior with hand forged latches and latch plates. Interior somewhat modified--ceiling material replaced, fluorescent lighting fixtures added, entry hall altered. Knotty pine wall materials, knotty pine surface on interior doors. Hand forged latches and plates. Well maintained, in excellent condition; slightly altered materially on interior but does not greatly detract from integrity.
2. Garage #1501: 1936; Rectangular 4 bay structure, 1 story wood frame, dirt floor. Gabled hip roof, wood shingled. Stone exterior wall material gray basalt cut in narrow irregular shapes, coursed, to eave line, buttressed corners; vertical board and batten on gablets. Six-vertical-light sashes flanked by decorative shutters, each having a single simple pine tree symbol, similar simple pine tree centered on each gablet. South facade has four large vertical--"rough sawn" plank doors, slide opening; three hand-routed squared-timber supports. No apparent alterations, excellent condition.
3. T.M.A. Residence #1003: (formerly designated Assistant Ranger's Residence) 1937; 1140 sq. ft.; T-shaped, 5-room dwelling, 1 story wood-frame, poured concrete foundation, basement, wood-shingled medium gable roof, intersecting cross gable, off-set with gabled hips; east (front) wall recessed to form porch, roof supported by buttressed stone pillar, squared-timber posts with short, rounded flush brackets. Stone interior chimney offset on west slope of main gable. Stone exterior wall material to eave line, coursed rubble, varying dimensions, red and green rhyolite and gray basalt; vertical boards, angular cut, battens on gable ends and gablets, enclosed rear entry, exterior board and batten. Decorated mullion window with six-over-six double-hung sash, flanked by four-over-four sashes and surmounted by transom lights,

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center, north gable end; six-over-six double-hung sash windows, flanked by decorative shutters each having a single well-shaped complex pine tree cut out. Single large, defined pine tree cutouts centered on each gable end. Knotty pine interior, unaltered, high ceiling, open beams and two trusses, adze distressed and hand routed. Stone fireplace, cut and fitted pine tree cartouche. Open door openings with scrolled lintels, short-rounded flush brackets. Dry masonry wall extends along lower reach of short natural slope to west of house. No significant structural or material alteration. Excellent condition.

4. Ranger's Residence #1002: 1936; 1505 sq. ft.; T-shaped, six room dwelling, 1 story wood frame, poured concrete foundation, basement, wood-shingled medium gable roof, gabled hip on north gable end, off-set gable projects from east facade with bellcast eave forming roof over semi-enclosed entry supported by buttressed stone pillars, squared-timber lintels distressed by adze to appear hand-hewn, short, rounded flush brackets, semi-circular arch window opening in stone porch wall, north hip extends to cover rear enclosed entry, exterior vertical board and batten. Exterior end chimney coarsed rubble, varying, on south gable end; stone interior chimney off-set on west roof slope. Stone exterior wall material to eave line, vertical board, angular cut, battens on gable ends, gable, and rear enclosed entry, also on projecting bay on west facade. Decorated mullion window with six-over-six double-hung sash flanked by four-over-four sashes, surmounted by transom lights center, off-set east gable; six-over-six double-hung sash windows flanked by decorative shutters each with single simple pine tree cut out. Single large, well formed pine tree cut out centered south and east gable ends. Knotty pine interior, unaltered high ceiling with squared-timber beams and two trusses, hand-routed, and distressed with adze in living room, window seat flanked by built-in bookcases. Stone fireplace, pine-tree cut and fitted in center as cartouche; hand-forged wrought-iron chandelier, two small hand-made wall-mounted light fixtures. Wood-pegged wood cornice trim, knotty pine wall material; open structural door opening, squared-timber lintel adze-distressed, scrolled, short, rounded inset flush brackets. Dry masonry wall, cement steps, retain short natural slope and access house. Shorter, less extensive dry masonry wall retains a second slope rise and stone steps access a lawn area above house on west. No significant structural or material alteration. Excellent condition.

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5. D.E.A. Residence #1004: (formerly designated guard's or D.A. Residence) 1941; 936 sq. ft.; T-shaped, 4-room dwelling, 1 story wood frame, poured concrete foundation, basement. Wood-shingled medium gable, projecting center gable, north facade. Stone exterior, coursed rubble of dissimilar shapes and sizes incorporating red and green rhyolite gray basalt, occasional brick, corners not buttressed; vertical boards, angular cut and battens on all gable ends. Six-over-six double-hung sash windows flanked by decorative shutters, single well-shaped complex pine tree cut out. Single, large well-shaped pine tree cut out centered on each gable end. Uncovered entrance centered on south gable end; main entry recessed, off-set on center gable, porch roof supported by two large squared-timber posts, with short, rounded flush inset brackets, posts are hand-routed with chisel. Knotty pine interior, little alteration.

6. Gas and Oil House #2500: 1936; 337 sq. ft.; Rectangular, wood-frame, wood shingled medium gable roof extending to cover service area and pumps on west facade; stone loading dock projects from south gable end, three plain straight stone steps. Poured concrete surface, simple metal railing later additions. Stone exterior wall materials, coursed rubble in varying dimensions of red and green rhyolite and gray basalt buttressed corners, vertical boards and battens on gable ends, horizontal clapboard (1 x 12) across recessed west facade. Extended porch roof supported by squared-timber posts in two groups of three with short, founded flush brackets. Two small simple pine tree cut outs equidistant from center of each gable end. Appears to have very little structural or material alteration to exterior. Records indicate "rebuilt" in 1958.

7. Warehouse #2201: 1936; 3240 sq. ft.; Rectangular, 1-1/2 story wood frame, wood-shingled gabled hip roof. Four bay structure, stone exterior wall material to eave line of red and green rhyolite and gray basalt, buttressed corners, vertical board and batten on gables and on two small projecting gables--enclosed rear entries. Interior stretcher bond chimney, exterior end offset, south slope above hip. Mullion windows with eight divisions of nine lights each, also two and four divisions of nine lights each; two nine light sashes in each gablet. On east facade, three large slide-opening doors, each folding, two-leaf, extending to eave line, small two-leaf, wood-panel door, hinge opening. Crude pine tree design of green rhyolite stone, cut and fitted on northeast corner, facing east, above center on pillar. Interior altered, exterior--no apparent structural or material alteration.

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8. Fire Lookout #4214: ca 1936-37; Standard design, contemporary. Tower of ring-connected treated timber posts, surmounted by a square cabin with a hipped roof, and cat-walk, enclosed by simple baluster. Cabin accessed by two flights of exterior stairs. No obvious structural or material alteration.
9. Stone Wall: 1936-37; Extends across the length of Forest Service property fronting on State Highway 140. Solid stone railing interspersed with stone posts, red and green rhyolite, gray basalt in irregular shapes and sizes, coursed. Quality of stonemasonry is less than that of compound structures. Deterioration of softer stones used, separation and washing of mortar resulted in protective cement capstone as a recent addition. Some repairs and replacement of materials, but not obvious or incompatible.
10. Post and Rail Fence: 1936-37; defines northern, southern and western limits of Forest Service property. Squared-timber posts, 3 feet, three horizontal 1 x 4 board rails notched into posts. Some repairs, rails reaffixed.

Nonconforming Intrusions Detracting From the Integrity of The District:

11. New Office #2006: ca 1963; rectangular, 1 story, wood-frame, poured concrete foundation, low gable roof with center porch gable, east (main) facade, brick interior chimney, center, west slope of roof. Vertical board exterior walls. Aluminum casement windows. Main entry, single leaf laminated door, center east facade, accessed by two-straight cement steps, open cement platform covered by low center porch gable. Rear entry, center, west facade, enclosed by added shed-roof vestibule, open on north elevation. No decoration. Composition shingles.
12. Timber Management Office #1305: ca 1963; rectangular, 1 story, wood-frame, poured concrete foundation, wood-shingled low gable roof. Exterior walls covered with vertical commercial siding. Aluminum casement windows. Main entry, single-leaf laminated door, off-center on east (main) facade, accessed by two straight cement steps, small open platform, uncovered. No decoration.
13. Office Annex: Small single-wide mobile-home located adjacent to rear of new office, and slightly north. Aluminum siding exterior.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		Depression Era America	

SPECIFIC DATES 1936-1942

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Historically and architecturally, the Bly Ranger Station is important to the community of Bly and to the residents of the Sprague River Valley. As administrative headquarters of the Bly Ranger District, it represents the physical facilities required by the U.S. Forest Service to execute its responsibilities in managing the economically valuable land-based resources of that portion of the Fremont National Forest. As a Civilian Conservation Corps work project, it illustrates the achievements of an unprecedented direct aid work relief program established by the Federal government in response to the Depression. Exemplifying the comprehensive site planning of the period, the Bly Ranger Station also embodies the distinctive characteristics of the rustic style of architecture.

The U. S. Forest Service has had an important and definable role in the historic development of the communities adjacent to the Bly Ranger District of the Fremont National Forest. As a land-managing agency, the Forest Service has protected the watersheds essential to agricultural interests and has conserved the timber and range resources that support and sustain the lumbering and stock raising industries. As an employer, it has contributed to the economic and social stability of the local communities. Traditionally encouraged to participate in community affairs, Forest Service employees have provided leadership in local political bodies and service organizations. The well-designed buildings of the Bly Ranger Station have set an architectural standard for the area.

Having strong ensemble character and visual impact, the Bly Ranger Station exhibits particular excellence of design and execution. It is distinguished by the use of stone as the primary exterior wall material, and by the incorporation of curving buttresses as design elements. Appropriate to its environment and compatible with its surroundings, the Bly Ranger Station possesses remarkable integrity of form and material, both interior and exterior. The buildings and landscape features retain the primary elements of fabric, setting, location, design, and workmanship, while conveying a feeling of time and place consistent with the period of construction. The idiomatic expression of the rustic style inherent in the architectural and landscape designs, and in the comprehensively planned site are characteristic of the U.S. Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest Region, and particular to the Depression era. The quality of workmanship is uniformly high, although varying levels of skill and dexterity of application are apparent throughout the compound. The craftsmanship revealed in the interior detailing, the decorative features, and the innovative hardware, fittings and fixtures is exceptional.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

U.S. Department of Agriculture. Forest Service. Acceptable Plans Forest Service Administrative Buildings, by Division of Engineering. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1938

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4.68

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	0	6	6	0	9	0	8	4	6	9	5	9	3	6
ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

B

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING							

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Bly Ranger Station Historic District is comprised of those buildings and features occupying the area enclosed by the stone and rail fencelines, and by the barbwire fence extending across the southwest corner of the compound, the area referred to as the compound proper. The property thus encompassed is described as Tax Lot 1300 in Book of Deeds, Volume 106, page 251 in the

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

E. Gail Throop, Historian

ORGANIZATION

U.S.D.A. Forest Service

DATE

4-1-80

STREET & NUMBER

319 S. W. Pine Street - P. O. Box 3623

TELEPHONE

(503) 221-3644

CITY OR TOWN

Portland

STATE

Oregon 97208

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

[Signature]
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

[Signature]
Special Agent in Charge, USFS

DATE

9/26/80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

[Signature]

DATE

3-11-81

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

[Signature]

DATE

3-10-81

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

[Signature]
Regional Coordinator

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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The Bly Ranger District was established as an administrative unit when the Fremont National Forest was created from the Fremont and Goose Lake Forest Reserves in 1908. Initially headquartered in a simple wood frame building (since demolished) in the small community of Bly, expanding Forest Service responsibilities required additional men, machinery and buildings to house their routine activities. The Bly Ranger District's need for supplemental administrative facilities coincided with the creation of the Civilian Conservation Corps, with its concomitant funding.

Recognized as a major theme in 20th century American history, the Great Depression had a profound impact on the economic, social and political make-up of the nation. Unemployment and dislocation were commonplace and industrial disruption was unexceptional. The passage of the Emergency Conservation Work Act in April 1933 which authorized the establishment of a "civilian conservation corps" represented an important Federal response to the Depression. Recruiting Local Experienced Men (LEM), "Indians and Territorials," and military veterans, otherwise unemployed and in need of work, as well as young men, 17 to 25 years of age, the Emergency Conservation Work program provided gainful employment to a wide spectrum of the population. In addition to a modicum of financial relief for the enrollees and their dependents, location of a CCC camp provided needed economic stimulus to local business and services. Requisitions for building materials required for construction projects provided concrete assistance for the lumber industry, especially hard-hit by the Depression.

The construction of the present Bly Ranger Station was undertaken in 1936 by Company 1645, stationed at Camp Bly F-119. Of the 202 men employed in the project, 42 were local residents. The remainder were from Illinois. Two of the craftsmen hired as Local Experienced Men were residents of Klamath Falls, trained as stonemasons in their native Italy. Working from site plans designed by E.U. Blanchfield, crews graded the slope and excavated the foundations. Other C.C.C. crews quarried the basalt and red rhyolite from sources some 21 miles southeast of Bly, adjacent to what is now Forest Road 379. The green rhyolite was obtained from an outcropping of that material in Bullard Canyon near Lakeview. Hand-sifted lava particles comprised the sand element for the mortar.

During excavation of the basement for the Assistant Ranger's dwelling, two Indian burials were unearthed, approximately three feet below the surface. With one of the poorly preserved skeletons an obsidian projectile point and knife were found; with the other a broken stone mortar. The discovery, made in August 1936, was reported in the November issue of the Forest Service "Six Twenty Six" publication. The article, written by Walt Perry, an avocational archaeologist familiar with the social practices, customary usages and material culture of the indigenous

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Klamath peoples, suggested that "the artifacts found indicated a man and a woman respectively," and that "the condition of the bones pointed to a considerable, though probably, in view of the shallowness of the graves and porous nature of the soil, not an excessive age--perhaps only a century or two." ^{1/} The artifacts were appropriated from the site by the discoverers before the burials were reported.

Although the office, the shop, and the Ranger's and Assistant's dwellings were erected within twenty-four months, work on the compound continued over a period of six years. Supervised by Carpenter-Foreman Frank L. Van Gorder, the Civilian Conservation Corpsmen accomplished the framing, roofing, and interior finish of the various buildings, as well as construction of the ancillary landscape features, while the exterior walls of the buildings were fabricated by the Local Experienced Men. With the addition of the gas and oil house in 1939, and the Guard's residence in 1942, the Bly Ranger Station was completed at a total cost of \$36,744.70 including materials and labor. Contemporary appraisal of the end product was noted in the building records of the Bly Ranger Station: "Appearance of stone work does not justify the labor expense involved."

While the Bly Ranger Station is singular among Region Six Forest Service administrative facilities, it is not wholly unique among comparable Federal properties in the Pacific Northwest. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Headquarters compound on the Hart Mountain Antelope Refuge, approximately 45 airline miles northeast of Bly, similarly utilizes stone as the primary exterior material, but differs substantially in design and execution. Built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1936 (Camp Hart Mountain BS-4, C.C.C. Company 3443), the Hart Mountain Headquarters is illustrative of the Department of the Interior's vernacular expression of the rustic architectural style.

Exhibiting a sophisticated design compatible with its urban environment and suitable to the prevailing climatic conditions, the Bly Ranger Station nonetheless embodies the non-intrusive design philosophy underlying all expressions of the rustic style of architecture. Precepts directing the use of natural and native building materials were followed with appropriate and aesthetically appealing results. Without offering particular innovation in technique, the method of construction employed was typical of the time and of the purpose. The stone and rail fences which delineate the

^{1/} Perry, Walt. "Skeletons Discovered," Six Twenty Six, Volume XX, Number 11, November 1936. North Pacific Region, U.S. Forest Service, Portland, Oregon. p. 13.

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compound, reiterate the building materials and accentuate the overall homogeneity. Simultaneously, the fences isolate the buildings and features of the Ranger Station, visually separating them from the built surroundings.

The Bly Ranger Station continues in active use as a Forest Service administrative facility. The original buildings of the compound are presently used for their intended administrative, service and residential purposes, albeit Office #2000 now serves as the Bly Zone Engineer's Office. The two modern buildings, Office #2006 and the Timber Office #1305, are unlike the older structures in design and materials. While intruding upon the ensemble character of the Ranger Station, they do not significantly detract from its integrity as a historic district. Their presence is evidence of the subsequent history and development of the Ranger Station, typifying the need to expand existing facilities to accomplish the increasing responsibilities of the U.S. Forest Service.

The boundaries of the Bly Ranger Station Historic District are drawn to coincide with the stone and rail fence lines, and to include those buildings and features which relate to each other historically and architecturally. Within the boundaries, the structural elements demonstrate a commonality of style, design, decoration, materials and method of construction particular to the Depression era: without, the commonality is lacking. The rustic character and appearance of the Bly Ranger Station are undiminished by four decades of continuous use: its feeling and association remain that of its period of construction. The buildings have been well-maintained and kindly used, the landscape features remain largely as built, and although the plantings are somewhat overgrown, the original design is clearly evident.

Meeting the planning and design criteria of the period, the Bly Ranger Station is distinctly illustrative of the Depression-era comprehensive planning principles and the rustic design philosophy, including the important and integral element of landscape design. As such, the compound visually enhances our understanding of the design concepts and the construction methods and materials of that time.

The Forest Service intends to manage the Bly Ranger Station Historic District in such a manner that all buildings and features will retain their present integrity. The compound will continue as an administrative facility for the foreseeable future, the buildings actively used for their present purposes. Regular and sensitive maintenance shall ensure protection of the qualities inherent in the properties. Any necessary additions or alterations shall be architecturally and materially compatible in compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards (36 CFR 1208).

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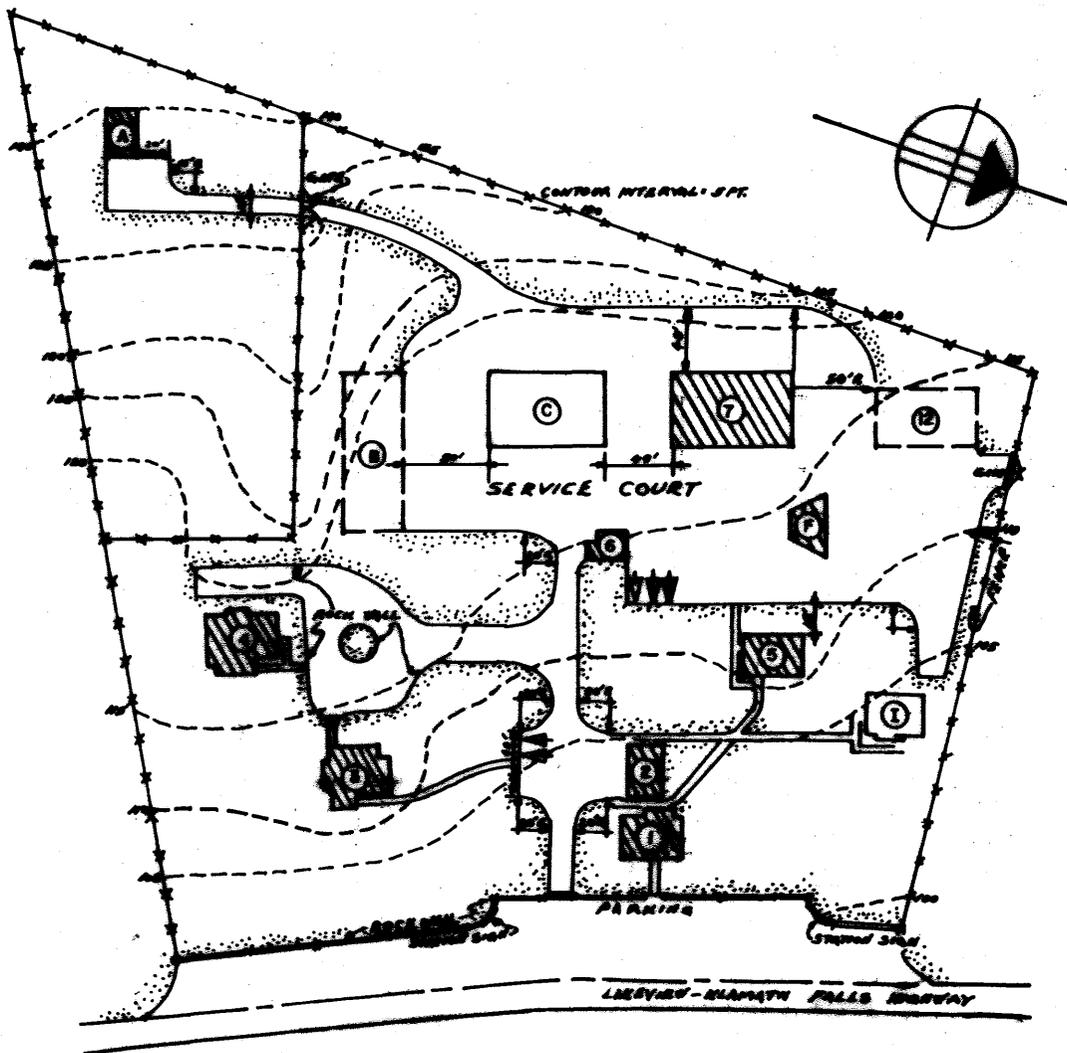
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Klamath County Courthouse. The boundaries are delineated as follows:
Beginning at a point 426' North of the SW corner to the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 34; thence
North 649'; thence North 82° 01' East 356' to the line bounding the highway;
thence following the southside of the highway South 20° 06' East 229; thence
South 27° 43' East 210' to the corner common to Lots 12 and 13, Block 1; thence
South 61° 05' West following the line between Lots 12 and 13 and 3 and 4, 599.7'
to point of beginning.



- A- BARN
- B- FUTURE BUILDING
- C- FIRE WAREHOUSE (proposed)
- 7- MACHINE SHOP
- 12- FUTURE BUILDING
- F- LOADING PLATFORM
- G- GAS & OIL HOUSE
- 5- GUARD RESIDENCE
- I- FOUR ROOM RESIDENCE (proposed)
- 1- OFFICE
- 2- FOUR CAR GARAGE
- 3- ASST. RANGER'S RESIDENCE
- 4- RANGER'S RESIDENCE

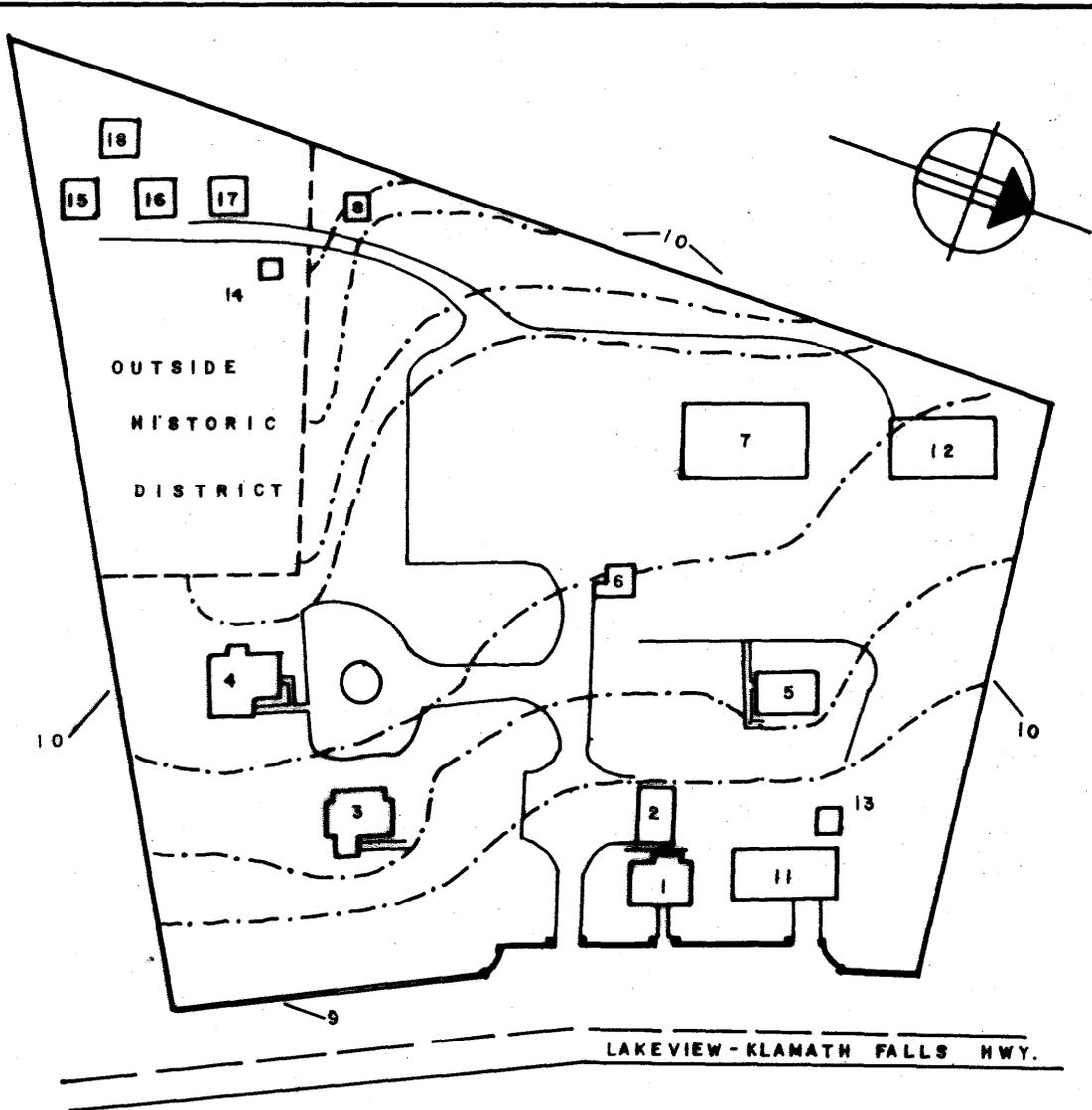
PROPOSED BUILT
 FUTURE

ADAPTED FROM REVISED
1947 SITE PLAN

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
FREMONT NATIONAL FOREST
NORTH PACIFIC REGION

SITE PLAN
BLY RANGER STATION
SCALE 1"=50'-0"
SEC. 36 T36S. R.14E. W.4

WWS 1 1081



- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 OFFICE No. 2000 | 10 POST AND RAIL FENCE |
| 2 GARAGE No. 1501 | 11 OFFICE No. 2006 |
| 3 T.M.A. RESIDENCE No. 1003 | 12 TIMBER OFFICE No. 1305 |
| 4 RANGER'S RESIDENCE No. 1002 | 13 OFFICE ANNEX - TRAILER |
| 5 GUARD'S RESIDENCE No. 1004 | 14 WELL HOUSE |
| 6 GAS & OIL HOUSE NO. 2300 | 15 F.S. RESIDENCE No. 1045 |
| 7 WAREHOUSE No. 2201 | 16 F.S. RESIDENCE No. 1046 |
| 8 FIRE LOOKOUT No. 4214 | 17 F.S. RESIDENCE No. 1094 |
| 9 STONE WALL | 18 F.S. RESIDENCE No. 1093 |

1980

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 FOREST SERVICE
 FREMONT NATIONAL FOREST
 PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION

SITE PLAN
 BLY RANGER STATION
 SCALE 1" = 50'-0"
 DEC. 23 1988 BISE. W.B.