

PA 0037907

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Idaho
COUNTY:	Shoshone
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	JUN 27 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Avery Ranger Station

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Pinchot Ranger Station, North Fork Ranger Station

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
near St. Joe National Forest

CITY OR TOWN:  
Avery

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
District #1

STATE: Idaho CODE: 16 COUNTY: Shoshone CODE: 079

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
United States Forest Service - Department of Agriculture

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Avery

STATE:  
Idaho

CODE:  
16

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Shoshone County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Wallace

STATE:  
Idaho

CODE:  
16

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
none

DATE OF SURVEY:  
 Federal  State

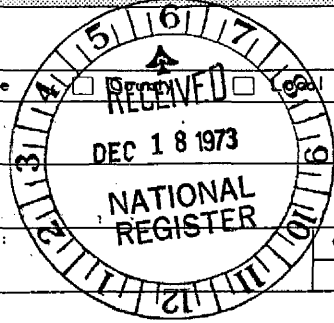
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Idaho

COUNTY: Shoshone

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DATE:

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

Excellent     Good     Fair     Deteriorated     Ruins     Unexposed

(Check One)

(Check One)

Altered     Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved     Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Construction of the buildings at the Forest Service Ranger Station at Avery began in 1909 with the office building and ended in 1936 with the gas house. Most of the buildings underwent remodeling at least once during their use.

Avery Office: This two-story, four-room building has log walls and framed roof and gables. Gables and wall below front porch are covered with shingles set in patterned rows. Shed-roofed dormer, added at a later date, breaks the front of the gable roof. A covered porch runs the full length of the front of the building, and a smaller porch projects out at the rear. This rear porch replaced a log room which was part of the original structure and was removed in the 1930's. Logs are tenon-notched at the corners, and the multi-paned windows are framed with milled lumber. Building was remodeled again in 1940 and 1955, and is presently in fair condition, with rotting sill logs and a rotting front porch.

Avery Bunkhouse: Set on a cement foundation, this 22' x 34' log building rises two stories in height. Corners are dove-tailed, with logs flattened at the corners. Gable roof is supported by log purlins. Framed shed-roofed dormer faces the front, with sides covered with shingles set in patterned rows. Open front porch runs the length of the building, and multi-paned windows are framed with milled lumber. The bunkhouse was built in 1928, remodeled in 1939, and is presently in good condition.

Dwelling #1: This 28' x 28' one-and-a-half story, five-room building is built in much the same manner as the bunkhouse. Logs are dove-tailed and flattened at the corners. Gable roof is supported by log purlins, and a shed-roofed dormer is set in the front, trimmed with patterned shingles on the sides. Porch runs full length of the front, with roof supported by four log columns. Shed-roofed frame addition is attached at the rear, with walls covered with shingles set in patterned rows. Multi-paned windows are framed with milled lumber. Building was started in 1924, remodeled in 1937, and is now in fair condition.

Dwelling #2: This house, measuring 28' x 26', is almost identical to Dwelling #1. It was started in 1923, remodeled in 1929 and 1940, and is presently in fair condition, with foundation and roof problems.

Gas House: A small, one-story frame building, the gas house was built in 1936 or 1939, and is presently in poor condition.

Carpenter Shop: This is a simple, one-story clapboard building with gable roof, measuring 16' x 24'. It was built in the 1920's and is now in fair condition.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1909 - 1936**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

When the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railway decided on a transcontinental route down the St. Joseph River west of the Bitterroot range in northern Idaho, United States Forest Service officials prepared to locate an important ranger station in Section 15, T45N, R15E, at a strategic site along the projected line. (Subsequent to application of the governor of Idaho, March 15, 1899, that township had recently been added to the Coeur d'Alene Forest Reserve, November 6, 1906. Then on July 1, 1908, this reserve was redesignated Coeur d'Alene National Forest. Finally on June 29, 1911, part of Coeur d'Alene National Forest which included this site became St. Joe National Forest.) In the summer of 1907, a site was chosen near some old cabins belonging to Samuel Williams, a homesteader who gave the Forest Service a gift of an acre as the site for Pinchot Ranger Station, December 12, 1907. (Actually, the section of land including Pinchot Ranger Station formed part of the Northern Pacific forty mile grant, but the Northern Pacific had asserted no claim there, and the land had not been surveyed when Williams built his cabins and settled there in ignorance that his homestead would turn out to be on Northern Pacific land.) As soon as the Milwaukee surveyors had located their right of way past the new Pinchot Ranger Station - then consisting of some tents put up the previous fall - Forest Service officials surveyed exact boundaries next to the railway for their ranger station. On February 24, 1908, withdrawal of this Pinchot Ranger Station acre was recommended and construction of a cabin commenced in June. After this cabin was completed in August, the new ranger station was occupied permanently until 1967 when operations were transferred to a new site. On April 28, 1909, the regional Forest Service office in Missoula asked to have Pinchot Ranger Station renamed North Fork Ranger Station, and after the town of Avery grew up nearby, the town name came into use for the ranger station.

The first building was completed just one year before the disastrous fires of 1910. The spring and summer of that year were extremely dry, and by July, 3000 fires were burning in northern Idaho. Extra men helped check the situation, but on August 20, strong winds swept the fires back out of control. The flames were

continued

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Fletcher, Marvin, "Army Fire Fighters", Idaho Yesterdays, Vol. 16, No. 2 (Summer 1972), pp. 12-15.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

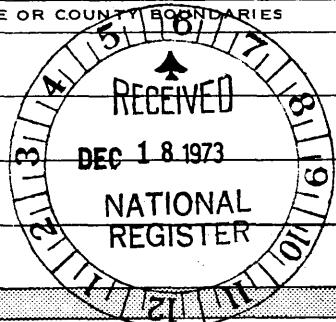
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	47 ° 15 ' 09 "	115 ° 48 ' 20 "				
NE	47 ° 15 ' 09 "	115 ° 48 ' 10 "				
SE	47 ° 15 ' 00.6 "	115 ° 48 ' 10 "				
SW	47 ° 15 ' 00.6 "	115 ° 48 ' 20 "				

11/  
E5902  
N52335  
HF

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than 3 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Dr. Merle W. Wells, Director**

ORGANIZATION: **Idaho State Historical Society**      DATE: **3 December 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**610 North Julia Davis Drive**

CITY OR TOWN: **Boise**      STATE: **Idaho**      CODE: **16**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Merle W. Wells

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date 13 December 1973

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 6/27/74

ATTEST:  
[Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register

Date 6-26-74

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Idaho	
COUNTY	Shoshone	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		JUN 27 1974

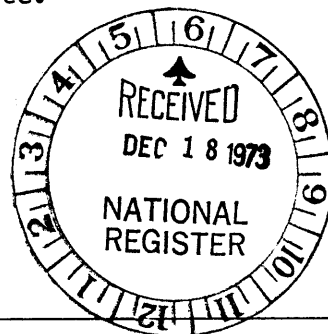
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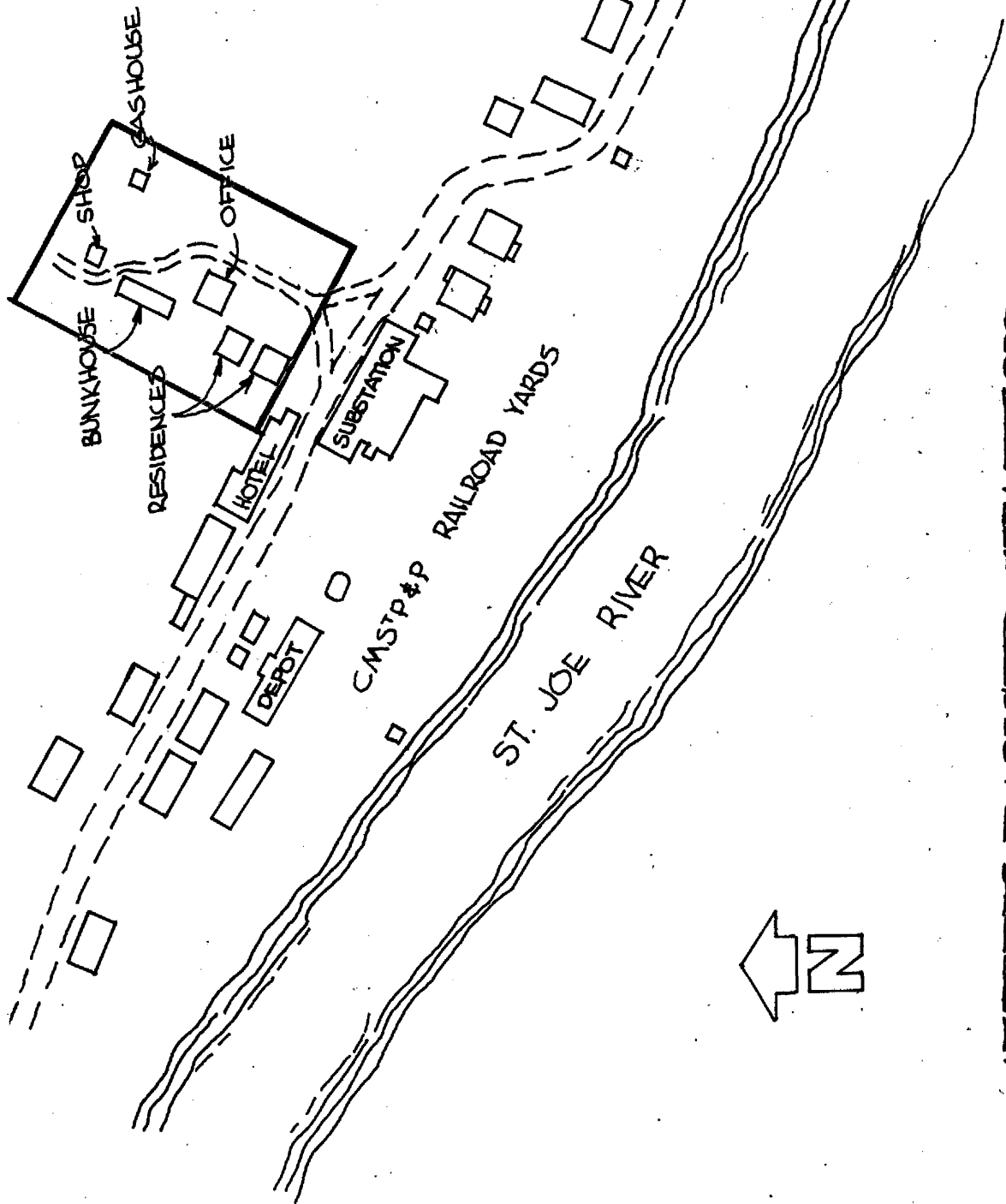
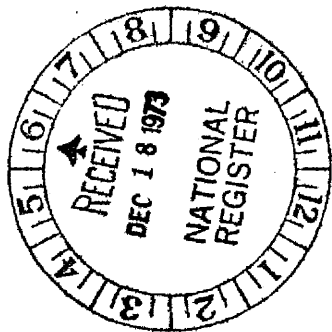
8. AVERY RANGER STATION

eventually tamed with a 10,000 man force (including many Army troops) and welcome rains. Avery was in the midst of the holocaust and appeared doomed. All of the women and children were sent out of town on the trains while the men stayed to fight the fires. Avery was saved in the end by the use of backfires which kept the main fires from engulfing the town. In all, 2½ million acres were burned and 70 lives were lost.

Avery was established as a railway community by W. W. Ferrell shortly after the ranger station was started. To hold the townsite, he had taken up a couple of mining claims upon which he constructed some business buildings. His lode claims included the ranger station site, and when he decided to drive the Forest Service from the ranger station, considerable enmity developed. Forest Service officials ignored Ferrell's hostility. In 1912 the land survey was accepted after years of delay, but the Forest Service could not do much to combat Ferrell's position because of title uncertainty arising from the Northern Pacific land grant complication. Ferrell had piled timber at the ranger station in an unsuccessful attempt to bring matters to a head with the Forest Service in the winter of 1912-1913, to no avail. Finally that spring, he tore down a new tent there in order to get Forest Service officials to respond. By that time, F. A. Silcox regarded the ranger station as "one of the most important" in the area: "The distributing point for supplies and for outfitting pack trains for the interior of the forest." Title litigation continued to threaten the station until 1920, but the Forest Service arranged to keep and improve the location.

New buildings were added, and over the years, Avery Ranger Station retained its importance. When operations were moved to a new facility in 1967, this station contained a major log building that went back to 1909, and some other log construction as well. Not too many examples of these old log Forest Service structures survive, and only one other group (Red Ives, with some log buildings put up in 1934-1937) can be found in the area. Both the citizens of Avery and the Forest Service should be commended for their interest in preservation of this important administrative site.





AVERY RANGER STATION