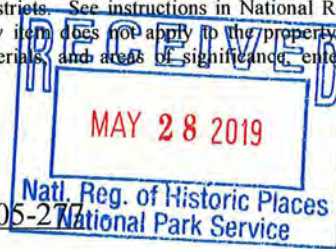


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

OT 87002459

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Mormon Lake Lookout Cabin (amendment)

Other names/site number: Forest Service Site Number 03-04-05-27

Name of related multiple property listing:

National Forest Fire Lookouts in the Southwest Region, USDA Forest Service

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: Township 17 North, Range 9 East, Section 3, NE¼; UTM Zone 12 460860E/386036N NAD27

City or town: _____ State: Arizona County: Coconino

Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this x nomination _____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property _____ meets x does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

_____ national _____ statewide x local
Applicable National Register Criteria:

_____ A _____ B _____ C _____ D

Signature of certifying official/Title:

[Signature] USDA - FS
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Date

2/28/19

In my opinion, the property _____ meets x does not meet the National Register criteria.

[Signature] 11 Feb 2019

Signature of commenting official:

Arizona State Historic Preservation Officer

Date

ASPT

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

Mormon Lake Lookout Cabin
Name of Property

Coconino County, Arizona
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☒ removed from the National Register
☐ other (explain:)


Signature of the Keeper


Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private: ☐
Public – Local ☐
Public – State ☐
Public – Federal ☒

Mormon Lake Lookout Cabin

Name of Property

Coconino County, Arizona

County and State

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)

☒

District

☐

Site

☐

Structure

☐

Object

☐

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing

Noncontributing

0

buildings

sites

structures

objects

0

Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

Mormon Lake Lookout Cabin
Name of Property

Coconino County, Arizona
County and State

The Mormon Lake Lookout Cabin was evaluated as part of the multiple property study titled "National Forest Fire Lookouts in the Southwestern Region, USDA Forest Service" (Steere 1987). The cabin was entered into the NRHP on January 28, 1988. The cabin collapsed in December 2018 and is completely beyond repair.

Since the time of the cabin's nomination, the forces of vandalism, weathering, and lack of routine maintenance caused the 12-by-14-ft mountain cabin to deteriorate beyond repair. Prior to its collapse, more than half of the historic fabric was missing and the building leaned strongly to one side. The cabin arguably ceased to meet the criteria for listing in the NRHP because the qualities which caused it to be originally listed had already been lost.

The Coconino National Forest proposes to remove and dispose of the collapsed remains of the cabin for reasons of public health and safety. As a mitigating measure to address the loss of the property, a historic study was prepared to capture as much of the known history as possible, to contextualize the role the cabin played within the Coconino National Forest and nearby communities, and to document the cabin's final condition just prior to collapsing.

In turn, the US Forest Service (FS) recommends that the Mormon Lake Lookout Cabin be delisted from the National Register of Historic Places.

Steere, Peter L., and Keith E. Miller

1989 *Lookouts in the Southwestern Region*. Cultural Resources Management Report No. 8.
USDA Forest Service Southwestern Region, Albuquerque.

Mormon Lake Lookout Cabin

Name of Property

Coconino County, Arizona

County and State

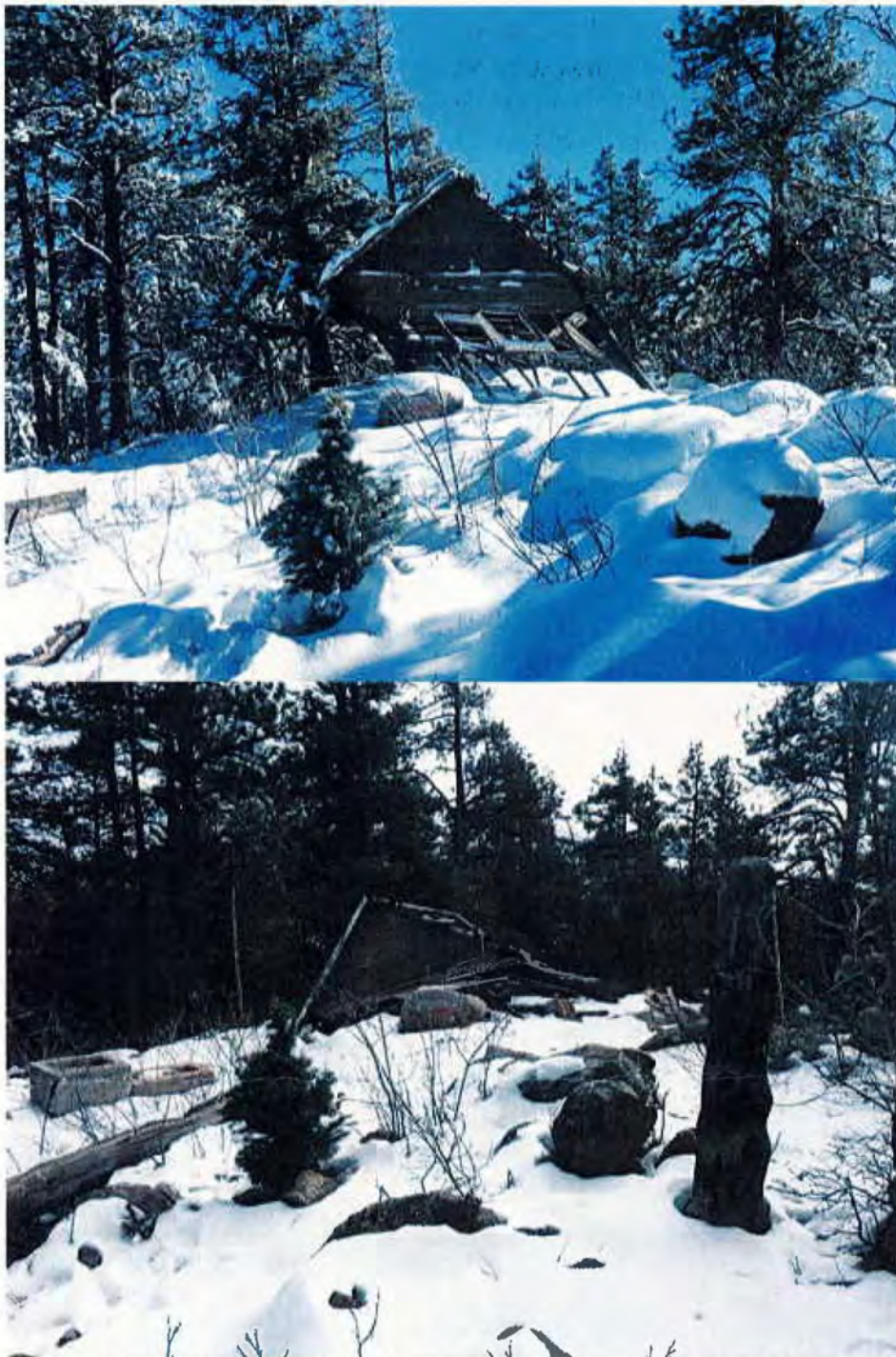


Figure 1. The Mormon Lake Lookout Cabin on 12/03/2018 (top), and then on 12/17/2018 (bottom), after it had collapsed.

Mormon Lake Lookout Cabin
Name of Property

Coconino County, Arizona
County and State

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

**DOCUMENTATION TO MITIGATE THE LOSS
OF THE MORMON LAKE LOOKOUT CABIN,
COCONINO NATIONAL FOREST,
COCONINO COUNTY, ARIZONA**

Prepared for:

United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Coconino National Forest
1824 S. Thompson St.
Flagstaff, AZ 86001

Prepared by:

Pat H. Stein
Arizona Preservation Consultants
6786 Mariah Drive
Flagstaff, AZ 86004

Coconino National Forest Site AZ03040500277
Project/Report No. 2018-53-A

November 2018

SHPO ABSTRACT

DATE: November 2018* minor updates in Jan 2019

AGENCY: USDA Forest Service, Coconino National Forest

LAND STATUS: Federal – USDA

PROJECT TITLE: Documentation to Mitigate the Loss of the Mormon Lake Lookout Cabin, Coconino National Forest, Coconino County, Arizona

PERMIT: N/A

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Documentation of the National Register of Historic Places/NRHP-listed cabin was conducted because the building, part of a fire lookout station last used in 1980, has deteriorated beyond repair. The Forest Service proposes to demolish the cabin to remove a public health and safety hazard.

LOCATION:

County: Coconino

Description: Township 17 North, Range 9 East, Section 3, NE¼ (USGS Mormon Lake 7.5 minute quadrangle)

UTM Coordinates: 12/460860E/3860360N

ACREAGE: Less than 1

NUMBER OF PROPERTIES: 1 property (Mormon Lookout Station; CNF Site AZ03040500277) with 1 structure (Mormon Lake Lookout Tower) and 1 building (Mormon Lake Lookout Cabin). The station was evaluated as part of the multiple property study titled "National Forest Fire Lookouts in the Southwestern Region, USDA Forest Service" (Steere 1987). The 1927 tower was determined ineligible because it had lost historic integrity. The 1928 cabin was determined eligible under Criteria A and C, and was NRHP-listed in 1988. The cabin has since collapsed in December 2018.

NATIONAL REGISTER INFORMATION SYSTEM ID: 87002459

COMMENTS: The USDA Forest Service last used the Mormon Lake Lookout Station in 1980. Since that time, the facility has continued to be a popular destination for hikers and other off-road enthusiasts. Vandalism, weathering, and lack of routine maintenance have caused the 12-by-14-ft mountain cabin to deteriorate beyond repair. Prior to its collapse, more than half of the historic fabric was missing and the building leaned strongly to one side. The property had already experienced the adverse effects of benign neglect and has arguably ceased to meet the criteria for listing in the NRHP because the qualities which caused it to be originally listed have been lost. The Coconino National Forest proposes to demolish the collapsed remains of the cabin and dispose of the remainder of the property for reasons of public health and safety. As a mitigating

measure to address the loss of the property, this study was initiated to capture as much of the known history as possible, to contextualize the role the cabin played within the Coconino National Forest and nearby communities, and to document the cabin's current condition. Ultimately, the present study recommends that the Mormon Lake Lookout Cabin be de-listed from the National Register of Historic Places.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Many hands and minds made the documentation of the Mormon Lake Lookout Cabin possible. Jeremy Haines (Flagstaff District Archaeologist, Coconino National Forest) coordinated the work and rectified the project when it tilted nearly as sideways as the cabin we studied. Raymond Holt (Facilities Engineer, Coconino and Kaibab National Forests) provided invaluable data from Forest Service files. Bill Bishop, Ann Johnson, Arnold Johnson, Jean Rukkila, and Jim Webb generously recalled memories of their lookout tower or firefighting experiences; Ms. Rukkila also indicated where the names and service dates of lookout guards are sometimes hidden on tower cabs. Gratitude is expressed to Dr. Richard Ciolek-Torello, Director of the Statistical Research, Inc., archaeological field school, for encouraging his students to help document the current condition of the property; those students who braved monsoon weather to participate in the mountain-top effort were Leah Arias, Jacob Carothers, Annes Kim, Eduardo Toscano, and Heather Warner. The author felt especially privileged to work alongside the Sedona Friends of the Forest crew as they imaged the cabin for 3-D photogrammetry; crew members were Spence Gustav, Ed Hodges, Peg Kern, Brian Painchaud, Jon Petrescu, Mike Vitek, and Frank Wirkus. Finally, special thanks are extended to Frank McGee, Jr., for sharing memories of his father, Frank McGee, Sr., who served at the station in the late 1930s. It was a great pleasure to work with each and every one of you.

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Documentation to Mitigate the Loss of the Mormon Lake Lookout Cabin,
Coconino National Forest, Coconino County, Arizona

Introduction

This report records the history and current condition of the Mormon Lake Lookout Cabin, a property listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Located approximately 30 miles southeast of Flagstaff and 0.75 miles east of Forest Highway 3, the cabin is the property of the federal government (United States Department of Agriculture/USDA). The building is situated on the former Mormon Lake Ranger District, now within the Flagstaff Ranger District, of the Coconino National Forest (CNF).

Historically the cabin functioned as part of the Mormon Lake Lookout Station (Figure 1), a facility for detecting wildland fires south of Flagstaff. The station mainly consisted of a lookout tower, and an adjacent cabin that housed personnel assigned to the tower. The station was evaluated for the NRHP during the study titled "National Forest Fire Lookouts in the Southwestern Region, USDA Forest Service" (Steere 1987; see also Steere and Miller 1989). The study found that the tower was not NRHP-eligible because it had lost integrity. The study further recommended that the cabin be considered eligible under Criteria A and C. The cabin was entered into the NRHP on January 28, 1988.

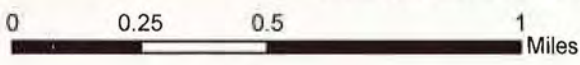
The lookout station was last used by the Forest Service in the fall of 1980. Since that time the remote and obsolete facility has remained a popular destination for hikers and off-road enthusiasts. Vandalism, heavy snow loads, and lack of maintenance have caused the 14-by-12-ft wood frame cabin to deteriorate beyond repair. Today more than half of the historic fabric is missing and the building leans strongly to one side. The Forest Service previously removed the lowermost treads of the fire tower stairs to deter public access. The Forest now proposes to demolish the cabin and dispose of the remainder of the property for reasons of public health and safety. As a mitigating measure to address the loss of the property, this study was initiated to capture as much of the known history as possible, to contextualize the role the cabin played within the Coconino National Forest and nearby communities, and to document the current condition of the property.

The study incorporated data from direct observation, historical research, and interviews. Field work included taking measurements, photographs, and notes, plus imaging the cabin for 3-D photogrammetry. Documentary material was located at the Coconino National Forest Supervisor's and Flagstaff District offices, Special Collections & Archives/Northern Arizona University (SCA/NAU), Newspaperarchives.com, ChroniclingAmerica.loc.gov, Ancestry.com, and the Forest Fire Lookout Association. Names of potential interviewees emerged from archival research, field work, or word of mouth; interviews were conducted, variously, in person, by telephone, or via email.



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Mormon Lake Lookout Cabin Location
 Township 17N R9E Section 3
 Mormon Lake USGS 7.5 Quad



1:24,000

**Figure 1. Location of the Mormon Lake Lookout Station,
 CNF Site AZ03040500277, in T17N, R9E, Section 3.**

Historic Context

The historical process leading to the development of the Mormon Lake Lookout Station and its cabin began in 1906-1907, when the Department of the Interior withdrew 240 acres of public domain land at the southern end of Mormon Lake to be used as a future forest administrative site. When the Coconino National Forest was formed in 1908, the 240-acre withdrawal became the site of the Mormon Lake Ranger Station. The CNF constructed a ranger cabin at the station in 1908. By 1915, the station had grown to include a well, barn, large fenced pasture, cultivated field, and telephone line. The facility established a watchful government presence in a locality of growing interest to settlers, hunters, anglers, and lumber companies. Its ranger routinely inspected homestead entries, grazing leases, and timber-cutting operations; monitored recreational use; and reported on forest and range conditions (Baker et al. 1988; Burrall 1915; Stein 2018).

One of the most important functions of the Mormon Lake Ranger Station involved wildfire suppression. The ranger was sometimes the first and only “boots-on-the-ground” responder to local fires. To assist in the early detection of such events, the Forest Service in 1915 built a lookout tower on an unnamed 7,977-ft peak approximately 1.5 miles south of the ranger station. The lookout tower afforded a limited but critical view of the Mormon Lake and Lake Mary areas (Miller 1928).

The 1915 tower, built at a cost of \$139.63, was made of log poles likely harvested from ponderosa pines surrounding the lookout station site (Miller 1928). A historical photograph (Figure 2) indicates that the tower consisted of five tiers of cross-braced poles. A ladder mounted on the exterior of the structure provided access to an open observational platform at the top. Features of the platform included a simple railing around the perimeter, and a fire-finding device of some sort. It is known that the tower had a telephone line for transmitting fire information to the Mormon Lake Ranger Station and beyond (Burrall 1915); that device is probably the box mounted vertically on the platform railing in Figure 2.

There were no formal on-site living accommodations for the guard posted to the station; the guard could have camped in a tent or commuted up from Mormon Lake. The earliest known guard was Albert Irvin “Bert” Menzies (b 1895, d1964), who manned the tower during the 1916 fire season. He went on to serve in World War I, became Jerome District Ranger after his discharge, and left the Forest Service in 1921 following his marriage to a woman named, appropriately enough, Forrestine (*Coconino Sun/CS* 1916; *Weekly Journal-Miner/WJM* 1921).

The Mormon Lake Lookout Station was part of a network of fire protection resources described in a contemporary newspaper article (*CS* 1916). The Coconino National Forest had three primary lookout guards, on Mount Elden, Mahan Mountain, and Bakers Butte, whose sole duty was to keep watch for any and every smoke from 7:30am to 6:00pm and to report each incident to the district rangers and the supervisor’s office. In addition to the primary lookouts, there were three secondary lookout guards, at Woody Mountain,

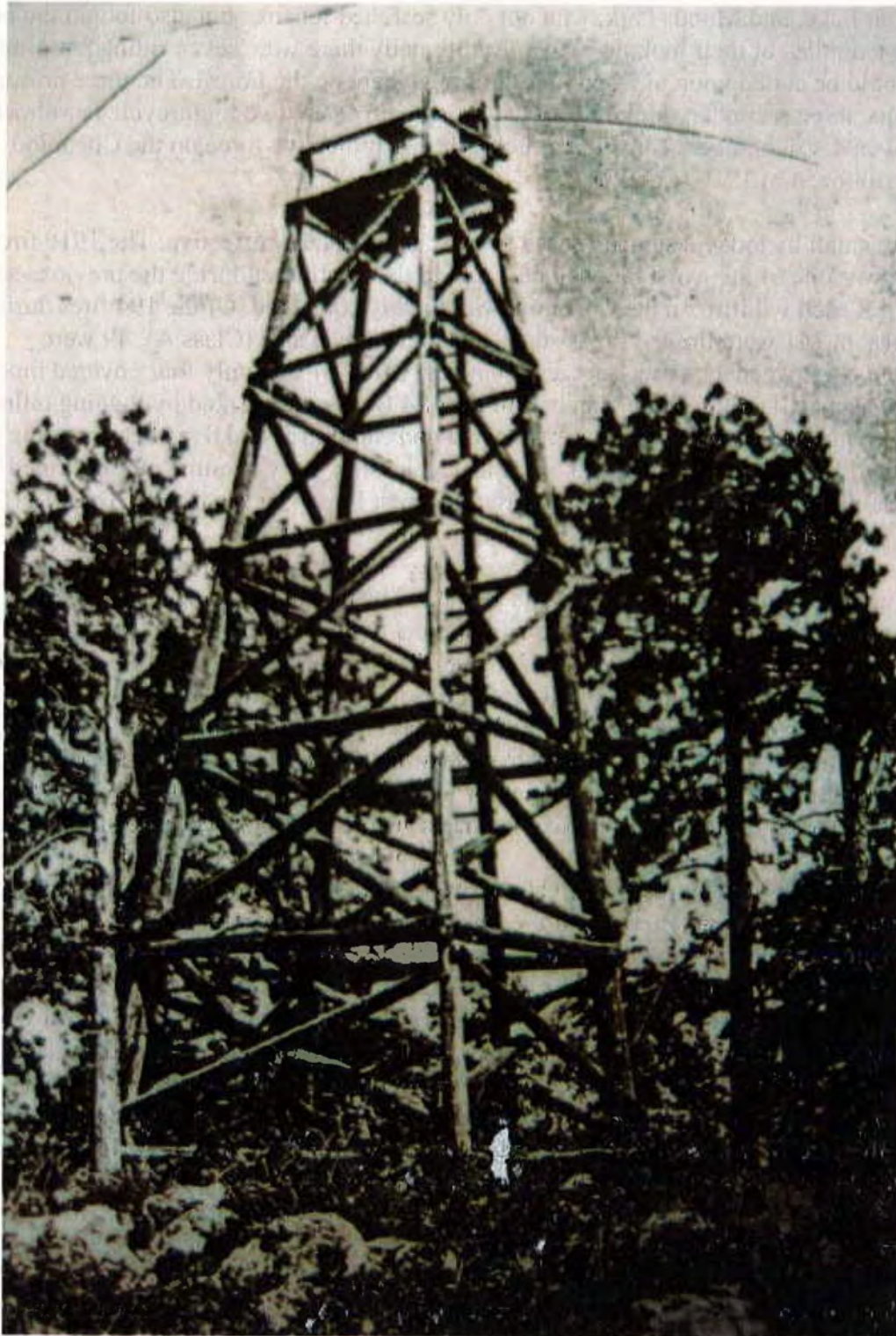


Figure 2. The First Mormon Lake Lookout Tower, Built in 1915

Mormon Lake, and Munds Park, who not only searched for fires but also fought the ones within ten miles of their lookout points. Additionally there were seven riding patrolmen who could be called upon to respond to fires anywhere on the Forest. The three primary lookouts, three secondary lookouts, seven riding patrolmen, two motorcycle patrolmen, and seven district rangers constituted the entire fire protective force on the Coconino National Forest in 1916 (CS 1916).

Though small by today's standards, the force was remarkably effective. The 1916 fire season was one of the worst that had occurred in the Southwest during the previous seven years, yet each wildfire on the Coconino was quickly contained. Of the 194 fires during that season, 141 were limited to less than a quarter-acre in size (Class A), 49 were confined to between a quarter-acre and 10 acres (Class B), and only four covered more than 10 acres (Class C). More than half of the 194 fires were sparked by logging railroad engines. Lightning caused 68 smokes. Unattended camp fires and livestock-branding fires accounted for the rest. In fire discovery and suppression, the Coconino outperformed 13 other Southwestern Region forests to earn the Forest Fire Prize for the 1916 season (CS 1917).

The Coconino continually upgraded and expanded its lookout system. The Forest requested \$600 for fiscal year 1923 to build a steel tower and shelter for the Mormon Lake Lookout Station. The project was postponed for two reasons and several years. In a letter to the District Forester, the Forest Supervisor explained that the money had become more urgently needed to complete upgrades at the Mahan Mountain Lookout Station. The Supervisor added that it would be best to postpone the Mormon Lake work until the extension of the Flagstaff Lumber Company logging railroad became surveyed, so that the best location for the Mormon Lake facility could be determined (Miller 1922).

When the Mormon Lake project resurfaced in 1927, the site of the existing tower was selected for the new one; erection of the steel tower required removal of the log pole structure (Miller 1928). The new tower was a 48-ft Aermotor LX-24 with a 7x7-ft metal cab (Figure 3). Shipment details were printed directly on the steel structure, and can still be seen today: "Forest Supervisor [sic] /Flagstaff, Ariz./Coconino National Forest Ord. No. 628-R3 [Region 3]-5:[District 5, Mormon Lake]." The structure arrived in Flagstaff in July or August 1927. Its erection was delayed when the Forest's construction expert, C. N. Lochman, discovered that four angle plates were missing from the shipment. The Aermotor Company of Chicago replaced the missing parts, and the tower was completed in the fall of 1927 (Aermotor Company 1927; Lochman 1927a; Miller 1927a). Showing admirable consideration for future historians, Lochman and crew inscribed "1927" in a concrete pad anchoring one leg of the tower, and "MLR" (Mormon Lake Ranger) in a second one.

The tower's cab was too small for a lookout guard to work *and* live in, so the Forest included the construction of a cabin (and cistern) in the project cost. Such cabins,

were built to provide living quarters for the lookout guards, particularly for those sites with 7 feet by 7 feet observation towers. Information on cabin plans and designs was not always recorded. The cabins at lookout sites were not specifically designed for



Figure 3. The 1927 Aermotor Tower

lookout sites, but also were used at other administrative sites...The earliest structures used for living quarters were log cabins built from materials at hand. Starting in the 1920s, these were gradually replaced by more standardized wood frame cabins [Steere and Miller 1989:38].

Coconino officials weighed the relative merits of a log versus wood frame cabin for Mormon Lake. "In your opinion," the Forest Supervisor wrote, "would we save any money by building a one-room log cabin for the Mormon Lake lookout-fireman, or would it be just as cheap to build a house something like the one on Mahan?" (Miller 1927b). The recipient of the memo was C. N. Lochman, who opted for the wood frame alternative. His requisition list provides a precise view of lumber used for the Mormon Lake job (Table 1).

Table 1. List of Lumber to Build the Mormon Lake Lookout Cabin

Quantity (# of pieces)	Dimensions (inches)	Quality
9	2 x 6 x 14	#1 common grade rough surfaced
14	2 x 6 x 12	" "
40	2 x 4 x 8	" "
18	2 x 4 x 12	" "
8	2 x 4 x 14	" "
20	2 x 4 x 10	" "
46	1 x 4 x 14	#1 common grade tongue-and groove flooring
42	1 x 6 x 14	#1 common grade California siding
50	1 x 6 x 12	" "
108	3/8 x 4 x 14	#1 common grade V-grooved bead ceiling
60	3/8 x 4 x 12	" "
15	1 x 6 x 10	#1 common grade surfaced 2 sides
18	1 x 6 x 16	" "
12	1 x 6 x 14	D select grade surfaced 2 sides
16	1 x 4 x 14	" "
2	? x 6 x 12	" "
2	1 x 8 x 16	" "
2	1 x 10 x 12	" "
5	1 x 12 x 12	" "
150 linear feet	1/4 round 7/8	?

Source: Lochman 1927b

Charles Nimrod "Charley" Lochman (b1877, d1957) was called the Forest's "improvement man at large" (CS 1919:9). His numerous construction projects for the Coconino included a barn at the Clear Creek Ranger Station (1920), a ranger cabin at

Long Valley (1921), the Mahan Mountain Lookout Cabin (circa 1923), the Beaver Creek flume (1927), the Mormon Lake Lookout Station's Aermotor tower, cabin, and cistern (1927-1928), and a lookout cabin at Deadman Flat (1928) (CS 1920a, 1921, and 1928a; Miller 1927b). A career forester, Lochman started working for the CNF in the 1910s as a riding patrolman and remained with the Forest Service until his retirement in the 1940s.¹

Historical photographs show the newly-completed cabin (Figures 4 and 5). It was of one story with lap-seamed siding, paired windows, sheet-metal roofing, and a single, screened door. The gabled roof was steep enough to enclose a small attic, perhaps accessed by the ladder stored horizontally on the exterior west wall (see Figure 5). Eaves were guttered, with interconnected downspouts; the harvested water likely supplied the station's concrete cistern. Outside the door was a flagpole. A flue projected from the southwest corner of the roof.

The aforementioned upgrades to the station occurred as visitation to Mormon Lake and Lake Mary was increasing. The rising popularity of the automobile in the 1920s brought more recreational users, many seeking overnight accommodations. Lodges, private cabins, and campgrounds developed to meet the demand. In 1927 the Mormon Lake Townsite was platted, offering lots for sale on the southwest shores of the lake (*Winslow Daily Mail/WDM* 1927). District Ranger Roy Rice noted that recreational use of the area was becoming heavier each year (CS 1928b). The lookout station itself became a sight-seeing destination: 357 visitors enjoyed the view during the 1928 season (CS 1928c).

Fortunately, more forest users did not translate directly into more fires or acres burned. The annual report for the 1927 fire season indicated that the CNF experienced 184 fires (almost three times as many as any other Arizona forest), of which 150 were Class A, 33 were Class B, and 1 was Class C. Of those, 141 were caused by lightning, 17 by smokers, 15 by unattended campfires, 7 by logging railroads, 2 by unauthorized brush burning, 1 by blasting, and 1 by unknown factors. The 184 smokes burned a total of just 61 acres (CS 1928a and 1928d).

The Great Depression hampered development of the Mormon Lake Townsite but brought temporary occupants to the area in the form of Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) workers. One and possibly two CCC camps were based on the western shores of Mormon Lake. In July of 1933, carpenter E. B. Raudebaugh and a contingent of 14 CCC boys delivered a privy outhouse to the Mormon Lake Lookout Station (Raudebaugh 1933). It was a board-and-batten "one-holer" with a shed roof of corrugated metal. The outhouse was the only documented CCC improvement to the station. In 1996, the then-collapsed structure was removed by a volunteer clean-up crew.

¹ Despite his legacy as a builder, Lochman's 15 minutes of fame involved an incident reported by a local newspaper under the title "Foresters' Accident Saved Other Lives" (CS 1920b). Lochman and a colleague were riding in Lochman's Ford when Lochman drove the vehicle into a flooding creek, causing the car to capsize. Driver and passenger narrowly escaped with their lives. "An auto mail carrier, with a full load of passengers, was about to cross the creek, but after seeing the accident, was thankful that he hadn't arrived earlier, as his car would have had the same experience, perhaps resulting in several being drowned" (CS 1920b:1). Lochman was hailed as a hero rather than as a motorist of questionable judgment.



Figure 4. The Mormon Lake Lookout Cabin in 1928.



Figure 5. The Mormon Lake Lookout Cabin circa 1928.

The station underwent a second improvement in 1932 when the Forest Service replaced the exterior ladder to the lookout cab with six interior flights of stairs (Miller 1934). The stairs led to a trap door in the floor of the cab (Figure 6).

Lookout stations such as the one at Mormon Lake were seasonally staffed. A guard was posted to each station minimally from April through September, but the term of employment was often lengthened or shortened depending on forest conditions. The greatest number of fires typically occurred in June and July. The summer monsoon season was particularly troublesome, when lightning ignited smokes, wreaked havoc with phone lines, and imperiled guards at their aerial lofts. The metal tower cabs—including the 14 x 14-ft ones that guards lived in, and the 7 x 7-ft ones with separate guard cabins—were designed to perform as Faraday cages, i.e., enclosures of conductive material that blocked the transmission of electromagnetic fields. Lightning rods mounted at the corners of the cabs would vibrate and hum as storms approached. When storms arrived, guards took added precautions by sitting on special chairs or beds equipped with glass insulators on the four legs. Despite such devices, accidents did occur. For example, in 1922 a bolt of lightning at Bakers Butte traveled into the tower on the phone line, fried the telephone instrument, shattered every pane of the cab, and temporarily deafened the lookout guard (CS 1922; Arnold Johnson, personal communication 2018).

For some individuals, the isolated job of a lookout guard offered an entry-level position into long-term government service. For others, the post was an unusual summer job that provided a little income and abundant solitude with no expectation of future employment.

- Wendell Frank McGee, Sr. (b1916-d1980) served at the station during the 1937, 1938, and 1939 seasons. During World War II he joined the Army Air Force at Falcon Field (Phoenix) as an instructor pilot. After the war he married, started a family, and worked at several jobs before ending his career with the state highway department in Flagstaff (Frank McGee, Jr., personal communication 2018).
- Glenn H. Stauffer (b1924, d2007) staffed the station in 1945 and 1946. In 1948 the Flagstaff newspaper reported that he was arrested on burglary charges in connection with the disappearance of tools from a Forest Service guard cabin near Mormon Lake (*Arizona Daily Sun/ADS* 1948). Stauffer again came to the attention of the press in 1967 when he and his wife were shot upon during the abortive holdup of a transport guard outside a Phoenix bank; Stauffer returned fire, killing one of the three robbers (*Arizona Republic* 1967). Stauffer became an accomplished hunter and guide, as well as an outspoken gun rights advocate (*Arizona Silver Belt* 1978).
- Jim Webb (b circa 1942) was an award-winning forestry student at the Arizona State College at Flagstaff (now Northern Arizona University) when he tended the station as a relief guard in 1965. He rose in the ranks from fire guard to firefighter to forest supervisor during his 34-year career with the Forest Service. Upon retiring from the agency in 1999, he founded Forest Stewardship Concepts, a consulting firm based in Colorado (*Lumberjack* 1964; www.coloradolandcan.org).



Figure 6. The Aermotor Tower in 1932, Showing New, Interior Stairs

Jim Webb's memories of serving at the Mormon Lake Lookout Station in 1965 remain vivid. He was hired at a GS-3 level, working five days a week. One day was spent relieving the normal guard at the station. During the other four days, Webb ran a pumper truck or worked on fire suppression or pre-suppression activities. The 7x7-ft tower cab was too tiny for this active college student, and he dreaded going back to it each week. "With the Osborne firefinder, not even a table would fit in it," Webb recalled. To pass the time, which seemed interminable, he would take along a Louis L'Amour book. He'd usually finish the book and his lunch by 10am. He never did get to call in a fire. Despite Webb's negative memories of the station, he was grateful that the job launched his long career with the Forest Service (Jim Webb, personal communication 2018).

Another lookout, Nathan Benson, was a relief lookout during the summer of 1970. His name can be found written on the outside of the lookout cab. Mr. Benson recalls reporting to the lookout once a week for a total of maybe 8 times during that summer.

Recalling the following story, he confessed that he wasn't the best lookout guard. One day Happy Jack radioed him to say they had a power outage and he should call APS for a repair. As he was about to do that when the Mt. Elden LO radioed to report a smoke right along his azimuth; Mt Elden asked him for a second reading. He never could spot the fire, but it turned out to be only two miles from his tower. It was started by downed power lines, hence the power outage at Happy Jack. A large airtanker had to be brought in, and it was the biggest fire on the Mormon Lake District that summer. It was Mr. Benson's

last summer job before starting medical school at the UofA. He is currently a urologist in Flagstaff.

Although most of the known names of Mormon Lake lookout guards are those of men, it would be misleading to state that the station was "manned." The Southwestern Region of the Forest Service employed both men and women as guards from an early date and throughout the historic period (Ashworth 2001; CS 1928e; *Copper Era* 1920). At least one of the guards assigned to Mormon Lake was a woman: Mary Beth White, who served circa 1970. It also became common for the CNF to assign husband-and-wife teams to the towers (ADS 1959). One such duo at Mormon Lake was Samuel and Bernice Saunders. They served during the 1953 season while tending their infant daughter (ADS 1953).

By the summer of 1959, the Forest's 1.856 million acres were invigilated by guards at 13 lookout stations: Mormon Lake, O'Leary Peak, Mount Elden, Saddle Mountain, Woody Mountain, East Pocket, Bakers Butte, Deadman Flat, Turkey Butte, Lee Butte, Hutch Mountain, Buck Mountain, and Moqui. Two additional facilities were planned, at Apache Maid Peak and Kendrick Peak. The Coconino experienced an average of 400 fires per year in the 1950s, yet damage was minimal. For example, in 1957 there were 338 incidents, with 56 acres burned. In 1958 there were 446 incidents, with only 45.11 acres destroyed. The use of air patrols, initiated in the 1950s, increased the effectiveness of the fire protection system (ADS 1959).

Advanced technologies as well as new stations with broader viewsheds caused some old stations to be deactivated in the modern era. In 1970 CNF engineers recorded problems at the Mormon Lake Lookout Station (Wolke 1970). The cabin's roof was leaking due to improper installation. The building's screen door, paint, flooring, and appliances had passed their life spans or were nearing the end of them. Problems mounted in trying to keep the aging facility in working order (Clark 1980). In the end, the cost to maintain and staff the station outweighed the benefit of continuing to use it, especially given the tower's limited viewshed. The Forest decided to discontinue use of the station at the end of the 1980 fire season (Reid 1982).

The obsolete facility received subsequent attention but not maintenance or repair. In 1980 the CNF inventoried the station as a cultural resource. Circa 1985, vandals broke windows of the cabin and the tower, riddled the tower cab with bullets, tore out its fire-finder, and damaged the interior of the cabin. In response to the vandalism, the Forest removed the lowermost steps of the tower to deter visitors from climbing the structure. That measure did not work, as visitors continued to make their way to the top (King 1986). In 1986-1987 the station was included in a study of lookout stations in the Southwestern Region, culminating in the 1988 listing of the cabin on the NRHP (Steere 1987; Steere and Miller 1989). The actual lookout tower was determined to be ineligible. In 1996 a volunteer clean-up crew removed the collapsed CCC-built privy outhouse. The Forest meanwhile explored new owners and uses for the tower. One idea was to move the structure, or sections of it, to the Ghost Ranch Living Museum in New Mexico. Another was to transfer the tower to the Immigration & Naturalization Service for use on the

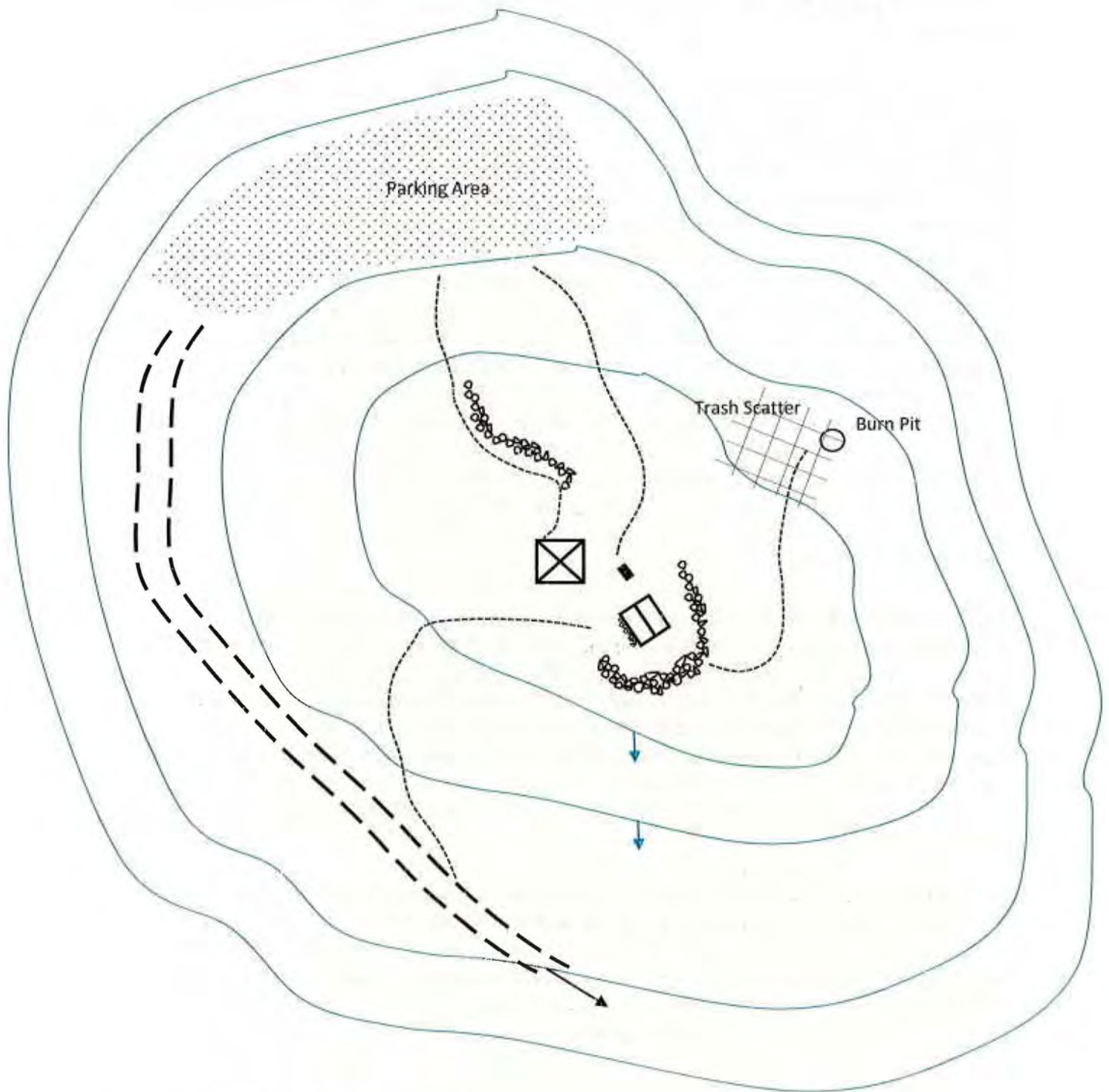
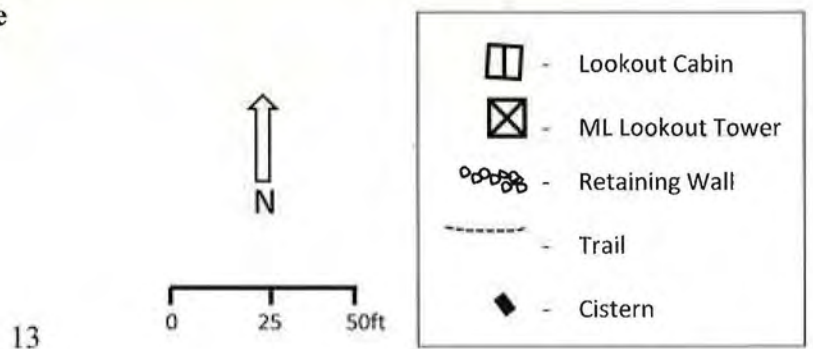


Figure 7. Site Sketch Plan of the Mormon Lake Lookout Station.



border with Mexico. Neither notion came to fruition (Propper 1988; Miller 1993; Moore 2011).

Description

This section and the Appendix ("Historic Property Inventory Form") describe and depict the Mormon Lake Lookout Cabin. Figure 7 provides a site sketch plan. A 3-D photogrammetric image may be viewed through this link: <https://sketchfab.com/models/becd3a8c6c86465ca9797e9c1d3cc18a>.

The property is accessed from Forest Highway 3 via primitive Forest Roads 124C to 124B. A dirt driveway off 124B leads through a fence, continues a short distance uphill, and terminates at the foot of the station. The tower is situated on the tallest point of the mountain, at an elevation of 7,977 ft. The cabin is about 45 ft east of and slightly downhill from the tower. The remains of a concrete cistern lie about 20 ft northwest of the cabin. Ponderosa pine, Gambel oak, fir, and spruce are the dominant plant species. On the slope directly north of the cistern is a dense thicket of New Mexico locust; historic and modern domestic trash is concentrated in that area.

The cabin is a one-story, wood frame, gable-front building with a rectangular plan. The longer axis of the 12-by-14-ft edifice is oriented approximately east-west. The building site was prepared by creating a small, U-shaped terrace of rock and earth around the downhill (north, east, and south) sides of the site. The eastern portion of the terrace once supported a flagpole as well as steps leading to the building's one door, positioned off-center along the east elevation. The elevation is minimal, consisting of a one-to-two-coursed rock and concrete stem wall directly on the terrace. The rim joists rest on the stem walls, and floor joists span the width of the building.

The framing material throughout the building is pine. Walls are constructed of dimensional studs placed 16 inches on center. The roof has rafters (no trusses) tied to a small ridge board. Walls are 8 ft tall and the eave height is 6 ft tall, for a total building height of 14 ft from wall base to gable ridge. Siding is lap-seamed. Historical photographs and engineering records indicate that the roofing material was corrugated sheet metal. None of it remains in place today. Paired windows are centrally positioned on the north, west, and south elevations. The window frames remain, but not the glass or screens they once held. Small remnants of pigment indicate that the cabin at various times was painted green, brown, or cream, with contrasting trim.

The 168 square-foot cabin has one room. Interior wall surfaces are tongue-and-groove pine. Flooring is also tongue-and-groove, covered with linoleum. Ceiling material is largely missing. Remnants of built-in shelving are seen in the northwest corner of the room.



Figure 8. The Cabin in 1987 When Nominated to the NRHP

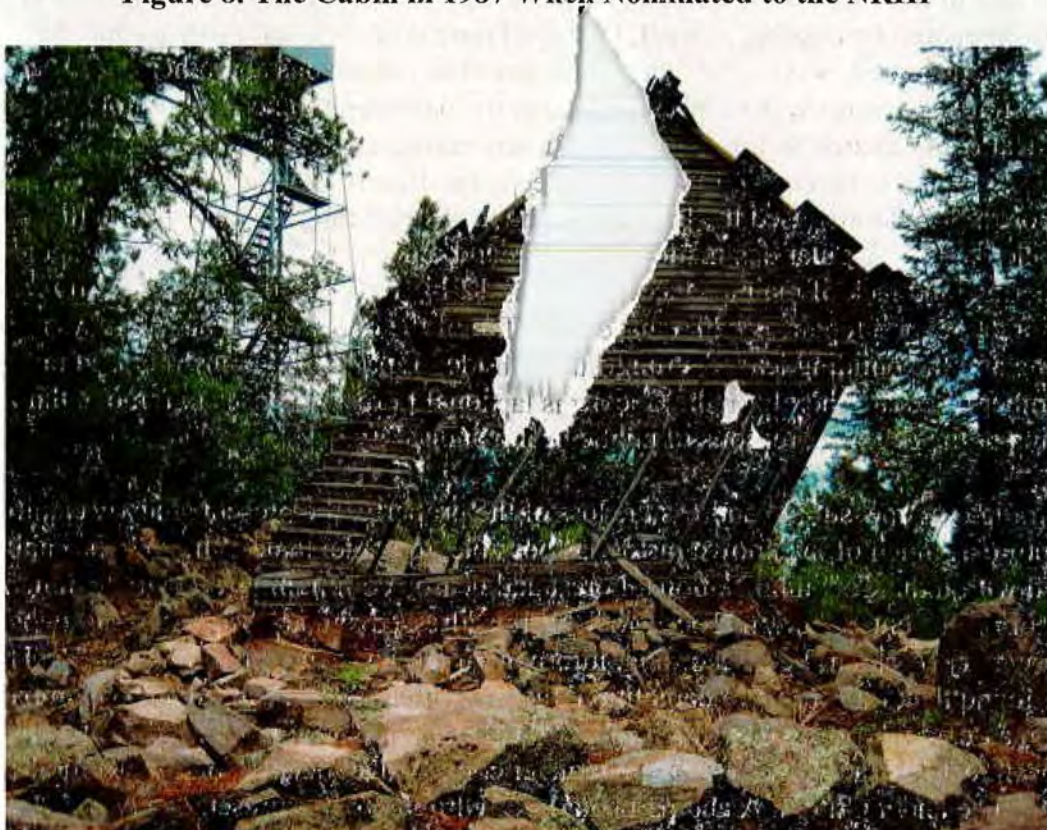


Figure 9. The Cabin in July 2018

Engineering records from 1985 provide details about features which are no longer present. In the southwest corner of the room was a stove. Nearby was a refrigerator. They were fueled by two 25-gallon liquid propane tanks, positioned on the leveled terrace just outside the northeast corner of the cabin. A half-inch diameter service line connected the tanks to the appliances. The building had an attic. The entry to it was located in the ceiling over the stove. The cabin had no sewer, no electricity, and no running water. Extramural amenities for the cabin consisted of a pit toilet, and a concrete cistern with hand pump (CNF 1985).

Figures 8 and 9, respectively, show the cabin in 1987 (at the time of its nomination to the NRHP) and the building as it appears today. The contrast is remarkable. Vandalism, lack of maintenance, and weather conditions on the 7,977-ft peak have taken heavy tolls. Today (2018) less than half of the historic fabric is present. The cabin leans strongly to one side and is in imminent danger of collapse.

Summary

The Mormon Lake Lookout Cabin was listed on the NRHP in 1988 under Criteria A and C. At the time of its nomination, the cabin qualified under Criterion A because of its association with the historic contexts of fire detection, public land management, and the conservation movement in the Southwestern Region of the Forest Service between 1925 and 1949. It qualified under Criterion C because it embodied a type, period, and method of construction used by the Forest Service at fire lookout stations and other administrative sites in the Southwestern Region, and had experienced no major modifications (Steere 1987).

The Forest Service last used the lookout station in 1980. Since that time, the facility continued to be a popular destination for hikers and other outdoor enthusiasts. Vandalism, weathering, and lack of maintenance caused the 12-by-14-ft wood frame cabin to deteriorate beyond repair. By 2018 more than half of the cabin's historic fabric was missing and the building leaned strongly to one side. Finally the cabin collapsed in December of 2018. Therefore, the Coconino National Forest proposes to remove the remains of the cabin for reasons of public health and safety.

As a mitigating measure to address the loss of the property, the present study was initiated to capture as much of the known history as possible, to contextualize the role the cabin played within the Coconino National Forest and nearby communities, and to document the cabin's current condition. These goals were addressed and accomplished through documentary research, field recording, informant interviews, and photogrammetry. The study found that, even prior to demolition, the property had experienced adverse impacts to such a degree that qualities which caused the cabin to be originally listed on the NRHP had been lost; arguably, the resource no longer conveyed associative or architectural significance under Criteria A and particularly C. Ultimately, the present study recommends that the Mormon Lake Lookout Cabin be de-listed from the National Register.



Figure 10. The Mormon Lake Lookout Cabin on 12/03/2018 (top), and then on 12/17/2018 (bottom), after it had collapsed. Photos compliments of Sue Priest.

- 1928c "News of Coconino National Forest." November 2:4.
- 1928d "News of Coconino National Forest." April 20:3.
- 1928e News item re female guard at Bakers Butte. August 30:7.

Copper Era (Clifton)

- 1920 "Women Help in Forest Fire Fighting." November 19:6.

King, Raymond M.

- 1986 Memo dated July 28 from the District Ranger to the Forest Supervisor re Mormon Lake Lookout. On file, Coconino National Forest, Arizona.

(The) Lumberjack (Flagstaff)

- 1964 "Webb Receives Title in Forestry Contest." October 28:2.

Lochman, C. N.

- 1927a Memo dated August 20 to the Forest Supervisor re missing Aermotor parts. On file, Coconino National Forest, Flagstaff.
- 1927b List dated July 22 of building materials for Mormon Lake Lookout Cabin & Cistern. On file, Coconino National Forest, Flagstaff.

Miller, Edward G.

- 1922 Letter dated July 13 from the Forest Supervisor to the District Forest re Mormon Lake lookout. On file, Coconino National Forest, Flagstaff.
- 1927a Memo dated June 7 from the Forest Supervisor to the District Forester re Mormon Lake Lookout. On file, Coconino National Forest, Flagstaff.
- 1927b Memo dated July 13 from the Forest Supervisor to Ranger Lochman re the Mormon Lake lookout cabin. On file, Coconino National Forest, Flagstaff.
- 1928 Property Lost or Damaged Form: Mormon Lake Lookout Tower. On file, Coconino National Forest, Flagstaff.
- 1934 Memo dated April 27 from the Forest Supervisor to Mr. Ancona re inside stairs for lookout towers. On file, Coconino National Forest, Flagstaff.

Miller, Rich

- 1993 Message dated August 20 as forwarded to Peter Pilles re need for a surplus lookout tower by Immigration & Naturalization Service. On file, Coconino National Forest, Flagstaff.

Moore, Eileen

- 2011 *Standing Watch: The Fire Towers of Arizona* (second edition). Morten Moore Publishing, Flagstaff.

Propper, Judith G.

- 1988 Message dated April as forwarded to Shannon Clark re lookout tower for Ghost Ranch Living Museum. On file, Coconino National Forest, Flagstaff.

Raudebaugh, Edgar B.

1933 Work Journals for 1933. E. B. Raudebaugh Collection (NAU MS 19). Northern Arizona University Special Collections & Archives, Flagstaff.

Reid, Tom

1982 Maintenance Condition Survey Checklist: 000207 Mormon L.O. Cabin. On file, Coconino National Forest, Flagstaff.

Steere, Peter L.

1987 *National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form: National Forest Fire Lookouts in the Southwestern Region, USDA Forest Service*. National Park Service, Washington DC.

Steere, Peter L., and Keith E. Miller

1989 *Lookouts in the Southwestern Region*. Cultural Resources Management Report No. 8. USDA Forest Service Southwestern Region, Albuquerque.

Stein, Pat H.

2018 "A Brief History of the Mormon Lake Ranger Cabin." On file, Coconino National Forest, Flagstaff.

Weekly Journal Miner/WJM (Prescott)

1921 News item re Forest Ranger Bert I. Menzies. January 12:6.

Winslow Daily Mail/WDM (Winslow)

1927 "A Summer Home in the Pines." November 13:6.

Wolke, W. Kemp

1970 Maintenance Condition Survey Checklist: 000207 Mormon Lookout Cabin. On file, Coconino National Forest, Flagstaff.

Personal communications to Pat Stein (2018)

Bill Bishop, former Coconino Hotshots crew chief, August 12.

Ann Johnson, former Hutch Mountain Lookout guard, July 15.

Arnold Johnson, former Hutch Mountain Lookout guard, July 15.

Wendell Frank McGee, Jr., son of former Mormon Lake Lookout guard, September 24.

Jean Rukkila, former Grandview Lookout and O'Leary Peak Lookout guard, June 6.

Jim Webb, former Mormon Lake Lookout relief guard, October 17.

HISTORIC PROPERTY INVENTORY FORM

PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION

Historic Name(s): Mormon Lake Lookout Cabin

Address: N/A – Forest Highway 3 to Forest Road 124C to Forest Road 124B

City or Town: Mormon Lake ☒ vicinity County: Coconino Tax Parcel No. N/A - -

Township: 17N Range: 9E Section: 3 Quarter Section: NE Acreage: <1

Block: N/A Lot(s): N/A Plat (Addition): N/A Year of plat (addition): N/A

UTM reference: Zone 12 Easting 460860 Northing 3860360 USGS 7.5' quad map: Mormon Lake Ariz.

Architect: None ☐ not determined ☐ known (source: _____)

Builder: Charles Nimrod Lochman ☐ not determined ☒ known (source:7/13/1927 USFS memo)

Construction Date: 1928 ☒ known ☐ estimated (source: 7/13/1927 USFS memo)

STRUCTURAL CONDITION

☐ Good (well maintained, no serious problems apparent)

☐ Fair (*some problems apparent*) Describe: _____

☐ Poor (major problems; imminent threat) Describe:

X Ruin/Uninhabitable

USES/FUNCTIONS

Describe how the property has been used over time, beginning with the original use.

1928-1980: Lookout cabin

Fall 1980: Use discontinued

Sources: Coconino National Forest
Engineering Records

PHOTO INFORMATION

Date of photo: July 2018

View Direction (*looking towards*)

West

Negative No.:N/A



SIGNIFICANCE

To be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, a property must represent an important part of the history or architecture of an area. Note: a property need only be significant under one of the areas below to be eligible for the National Register.

A. HISTORIC EVENTS/TRENDS (On a continuation sheet describe how the property is associated either with a significant historic event, or with a trend or pattern of events important to the history of the nation, the state, or a local community.)

B. PERSON (On a continuation sheet describe how the property is associated with the life of a person significant in the past.)

C. ARCHITECTURE (On a continuation sheet describe how the property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values.)

Outbuildings: (Describe any other buildings or structures on the property and whether they may be considered historic.)

Mormon Lake Lookout Tower (not eligible DOE 1987); & concrete cistern

INTEGRITY

To be eligible for the National Register, a property must have integrity, that is, it must be able to visually convey its importance. Provide detailed information below about the property's integrity. Use continuation sheets if necessary.

1. LOCATION ☒ Original Site ☐ Moved (date _____) Original Site: _____
2. DESIGN (Describe alterations from the original design, including dates—known or estimated—when alterations were made)
Unaltered from original 1928 one-story, 14 x 12 ft woodframe cabin design; but vandalism, weathering, and lack of maintenance since 1980 have destroyed the original design qualities beyond repair.
3. SETTING (Describe the natural and/or built environment around the property)
Mixed conifer forest atop an unnamed mountain at elevation of 7,977 ft.
Describe how the setting has changed since the property's period of significance:
Setting is unchanged
4. MATERIALS (Describe the materials used in the following elements of the property)
Walls (structure): **Woodframe** Foundation: **Rock & concrete stem wall** Roof: **Gabled**
Windows: **Paired windows on the north, south, and west elevations**
If the windows have been altered, what were they originally? **Glass panes or screens are missing**
Wall Sheathing: **Lap-seamed**
If the sheathing has been altered, what was it originally?
Over half of the original sheathing and other fabric of the building is gone
5. WORKMANSHIP (Describe the distinctive elements, if any, of craftsmanship or method of construction)
N/A

NATIONAL REGISTER STATUS (if listed, check the appropriate box)

☒ Individually listed; ☐ Contributor ☐ Noncontributor to _____ Historic District
Date Listed: 1/28/1988 ☐ Determined eligible by Keeper of National Register (date: _____)

RECOMMENDATIONS OF ELIGIBILITY (opinion of SHPO staff or survey consultant)

Property ☐ is ☒ is not eligible individually.
Property ☐ is ☒ is not eligible as a contributor to a potential historic district.
☐ More information needed to evaluate.

If not considered eligible, state reason: **The property has ceased to meet the criteria for listing in the NRHP because the qualities which caused it to be originally listed have been lost to vandalism, weathering, and lack of routine maintenance.**

FORM COMPLETED BY:

Name and Affiliation: Pat H. Stein/Arizona Preservation Consultants

Date: September 2018

Mailing Address: 6786 Mariah Drive, Flagstaff AZ 86004-1232

Phone No.: 928-714-0585

STATE OF ARIZONA

HISTORIC PROPERTY INVENTORY FORM
CONTINUATION SHEET

name of property Mormon Lake Lookout Cabin

Continuation Sheet No. 3



View to north and up, showing south elevation and interior



View looking down at roof of cabin

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	DEC 14 1987
DATE ENTERED	

National Forest Fire Lookouts in the Southwestern Region, USDA Forest Service

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 24

design, structure, location, workmanship and materials; represents an exceptional type; and is over 50 years of age. It is recommended for National Register eligibility. The cabin, built in 1982, and associated outbuildings are not eligible. The boundary of the Woody Mountain lookout tower is a square which measures 40 ft by 40 ft with the tower at the center. The area surrounding the tower within the boundary is not considered a "buffer area," but is integral to the setting of the property (see attached map).

Mormon Lake Lookout Cabin (Figures 56 - 57) (NE 1/4, Section 3, T17N R9E) UTM 12/460860E/3860360N

Coconino County, Arizona
Mormon Lake, Coconino N.E.

This lookout is located on the Mormon Lake Ranger District and was erected in 1927. The steel tower is 50 ft high and has a 7 ft by 7 ft steel cab. It is an Aermotor LX-24 type. This lookout replaced a 1915 wooden tower. The associated wood frame cabin was built in 1928. The interior of the cabin was constructed using 2 by 4 studs, while the siding is shiplap pine. Study of historic photographs indicates that modification of the original windows in the tower has occurred. The cabin has experienced no major modifications. The cabin is a standard plan similar to the cabin at the East Pocket lookout. The lookout tower has lost its original integrity of design, construction, workmanship and materials due to the window replacement and is not recommended for National Register eligibility. However, the lookout cabin has retained these integrity factors and is recommended for National Register eligibility. The boundary of the Mormon Lake lookout cabin is a rectangle which measures 80 ft N-S by 80 ft E-W centered on the cabin. The area surrounding the complex within the boundary is not considered a "buffer area," but is integral to the setting of the property (see attached map).

Buck Mountain Lookout Tower (Figures 58 - 59) (SE 1/4, Section 20, T15N R9E) UTM: 12/461990E/3835980N

Coconino County, Arizona

Buck Mtn, Coconino N.E.

Located on the Long Valley Ranger District, this 30 ft high CT-2 wooden x-brace tower has a 14 ft by 14 ft L-4 wood cab on top. It was built in 1939, probably by a CCC crew. The steps were slightly altered in 1953. The timbers were treated for preservation in 1967

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

National Forest Fire Lookouts in the Southwestern Region, USDA Forest Service

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA FOR NOMINATED PROPERTIES

<u>Forest/Property</u>	<u>Quad</u>	<u>UTM</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>County</u>
<u>Apache/Sitgreaves NP</u>					
PS Knoll Lookout Complex	Big Lake	12/648400E/3735900N	Less than 1	AZ (04)	Apache (001)
Bear Mountain Lookout Complex	Blue	12/672350E/3711750N	1.4 acre	AZ (04)	Greenlee (011)
Lake Mountain Lookout Complex	Sponseller	12/613520E/3780140N	Less than 1	AZ (04)	Apache (001)
Deer Springs Lookout Complex	Clay Springs	12/553350E/3796100N	Less than 1	AZ (04)	Navajo (017)
Promontory Butte Lookout Complex	Promontory Butte	12/498900E/3802700N	Less than 1	AZ (04)	Coconino (005)
<u>Carson NP</u>					
Canjilon Mountain Lookout Cabin	Cebolla	13/379150E/4047600N	Less than 1	NM (35)	Rio Arriba (039)
<u>Coconino NP</u>					
Moqui Lookout Cabin	Blue Ridge Reservoir	12/484785E/3824550N	Less than 1	AZ (04)	Coconino (005)
Woody Mountain Lookout Tower	Bellefont	12/431755E/3888880N	Less than 1	AZ (04)	Coconino (005)
Mormon Lake Lookout Cabin	Mormon Lake	12/460860E/3860360N	Less than 1	AZ (04)	Coconino (005)
Buck Mountain Lookout Tower	Happy Jack	12/461990E/3835980N	Less than 1	AZ (04)	Coconino (005)
Lee Butte Lookout Tower and Cabin	Stoneman Lake	12/450970E/3854610N	Less than 1	AZ (04)	Coconino (005)
<u>Coronado NP</u>					
Atascosa Lookout House	Ruby	12/486100E/3476120N	Less than 1	AZ (04)	Santa Cruz (023)
Barfoot Lookout Complex	Rustler Park	12/663275E/3532280N	Less than 1	AZ (04)	Cochise (003)
Lemmon Rock Lookout House	Mt. Lemmon	12/519850E/3588475N	Less than 1	AZ (04)	Pima (019)
Webb Peak Lookout Tower	Webb Peak	12/601030E/3619620N	Less than 1	AZ (04)	Graham (009)
West Peak Lookout Tower	Blue Jay Peak	12/590175E/3622420N	Less than 1	AZ (04)	Graham (009)
Heliograph Lookout Complex	Mt. Graham	12/607960E/3612880N	Less than 1	AZ (04)	Graham (009)
Monte Vista Lookout Cabin	Chiricahua Peak	12/659500E/3522100N	Less than 1	AZ (04)	Cochise (003)
Silver Peak Lookout Complex	Portal	12/670325E/3531200N	Less than 1	AZ (04)	Cochise (003)
<u>Gila NP</u>					
Mogollon Baldy Lookout Cabin	Mogollon Baldy Peak	12/724120E/3683780N	Less than 1	NM (35)	Catron (003)
Mangas Mountain Lookout Complex	Mangas Mountain	12/748620E/3771000N	Less than 1	NM (35)	Catron (003)
Reeds Peak Lookout Tower	Reed's Peak	13/233780E/3670600N	Less than 1	NM (35)	Grant (017)
Bearwallow Mountain Lookout Complex	Bearwallow Mountain	12/716810E/3703340N	1.8 acre	NM (35)	Catron (003)
Black Mountain Lookout Cabin	Black Mountain	12/758000E/3696440N	Less than 1	NM (35)	Catron (003)
Hillsboro Peak Lookout Tower and Cabin	San Lorenzo	13/240260E/3649260N	Less than 1	NM (35)	Sierra (051)
El Caso Lookout Complex	Slaughter Mesa	12/731110E/3776220N	Less than 1	NM (35)	Catron (003)

12/14/87

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 5 Page 101Multiple Resource Area
Thematic GroupName National Forest Fire Lookouts in the Southwestern Region TRState ARIZONA and NEW MEXICO

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

Cover

~~Substantive Review~~(n) Keeper Patrick Andrus 1/28/88

1. PS Knoll Lookout Complex

~~Substantive Review~~Keeper Patrick Andrus 1/28/88

Attest

2. Bear Mountain Lookout Complex

~~Substantive Review~~Keeper Patrick Andrus 1/28/88

Attest

3. Lake Mountain Lookout Complex

~~Substantive Review~~Keeper Patrick Andrus 1/28/88

Attest

4. Deer Springs Lookout Complex

~~Substantive Review~~Keeper Patrick Andrus 1/28/88

Attest

5. Promontory Butte Lookout Complex

~~Substantive Review~~Keeper Patrick Andrus 1/28/88

Attest

6. Canjilon Mountain Lookout Cabin

~~Substantive Review~~Keeper Patrick Andrus 1/28/88

Attest

7. Moqui Lookout Cabin

~~Substantive Review~~Keeper Patrick Andrus 1/28/88

Attest

8. Woody Mountain Lookout Tower

~~Substantive Review~~Keeper Patrick Andrus 1/28/88

Attest

9. Mormon Lake Lookout Cabin

~~Substantive Review~~Keeper Patrick Andrus 1/28/88

Attest

10. Buck Mountain Lookout Tower

~~Substantive Review~~Keeper Ly A. Byers 1/27/88

Attest



USFS Lookout Thematic Nomination (Region 3)

Figure 57

1. Mormon Lake Lookout, Cabin - Coconino NF
2. Coconino Co., AZ
3. L. McCoy
4. 9/29-84
5. Recreation Dept., USFS Regional Office, Albuquerque, NM
6. view to E
7. COCO-1986-LM-1 #8 (7)



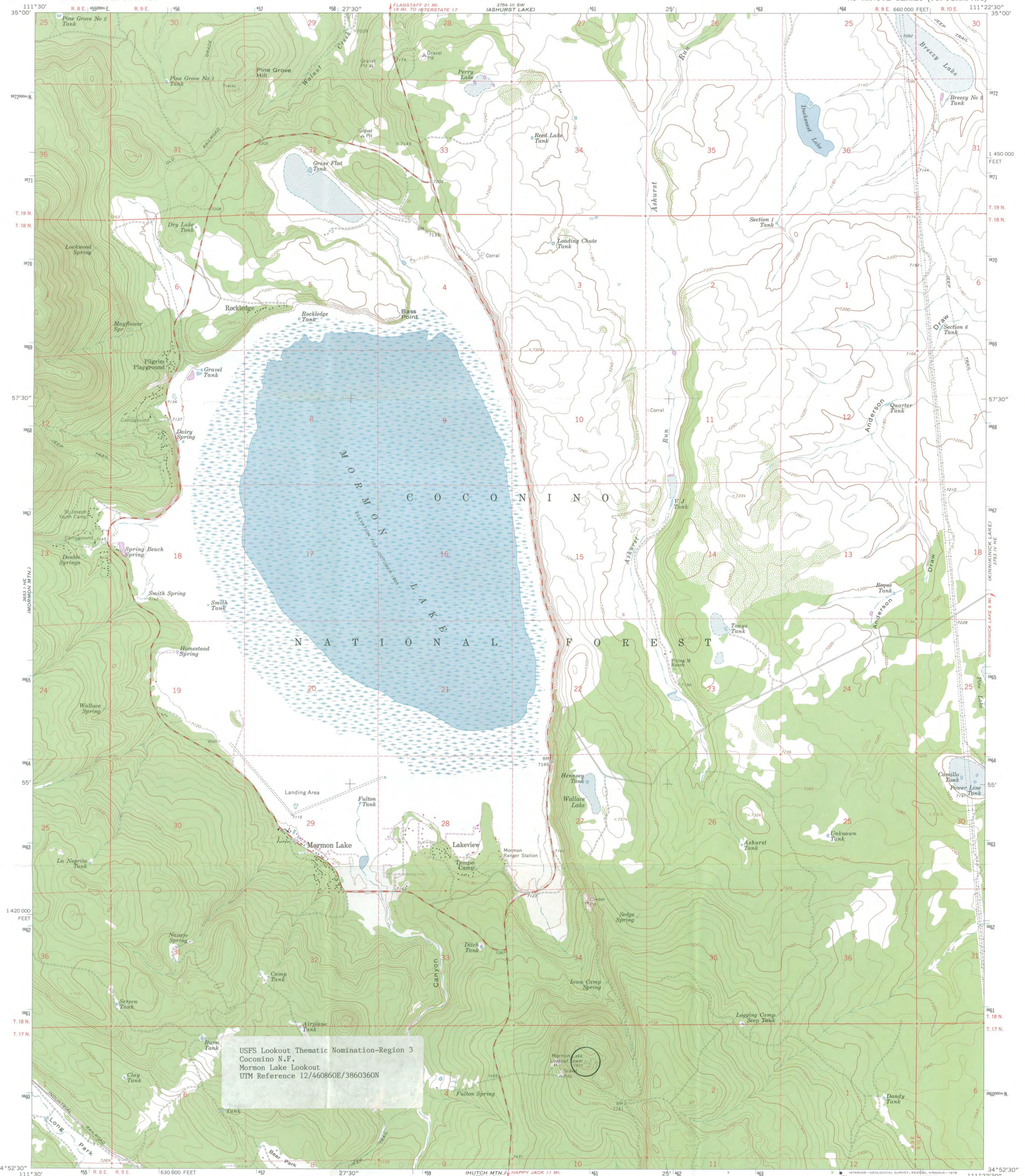
USFS Lookout Thematic Nominations (Region 3)

Figure 56

1. Mowen Lake Lookout, Cabin - Coconino NF
2. Coconino Co., AZ
3. L. McCoy
4. 9/29-86
5. Recreation Dept., USFS Regional Office, Albuquerque, NM
6. view to W
7. COCO-1986-LM-1 #10 (9)

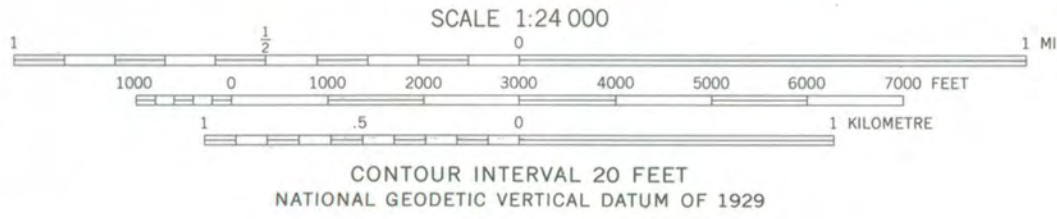
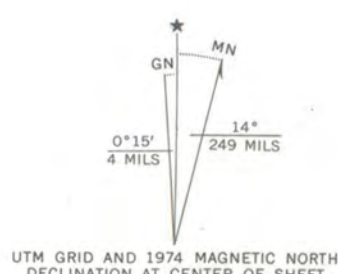
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

MORMON LAKE QUADRANGLE
ARIZONA-COCONINO CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



USFS Lookout Thematic Nomination-Region 3
Coconino N.F.
Mormon Lake Lookout
UTM Reference 12/460860E/3860360N

Mapped by the U. S. Forest Service
Edited and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and USFS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1962. Field checked by USGS 1965
Polyconic projection, 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Arizona coordinate system,
central zone
1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 12, shown in blue
Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from
aerial photographs taken 1974. This information not field checked



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

FOR ADMINISTRATIVE USE ONLY

Western Region
U.S. Forest Service

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Medium-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Unimproved dirt ———

MORMON LAKE, ARIZ.
N3452.5-W1122.5/7.5
1965
PHOTOREVISED 1974
AMS 3753 IV NW-SERIES V898

186 NW

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Mormon Lake Lookout Cabin (National Forest
Fire Lookouts in the Southwestern Region TR)
Coconino County
ARIZONA

Substantive Review

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☒ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

*Significant as an example of a
cabin built according to specs.
outlined in a standard US Forest
Service plan.*

Working No. DEC 14 1987
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/7/89
Date Due: 4/4/88 - 4/28/88
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 1-28-88
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT
Federal Agency: USFS

Recom./Criteria Accept - C
Reviewer Noble
Discipline Historian
Date 1/29/88
☐ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: ☐ technical corrections cited below
☐ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ moved date _____
☐ fair	☐ unexposed	
	☐ unaltered	
	☐ altered	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____

Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- ☐ summary paragraph
- ☐ completeness
- ☐ clarity
- ☐ applicable criteria
- ☐ justification of areas checked
- ☐ relating significance to the resource
- ☐ context
- ☐ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☐ justification of exception
- ☐ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title _____

date _____

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Flagstaff
Ranger District

5075 N. Highway 89
Flagstaff, AZ 86004-2852
Phone: (928) 526-0866
Fax: (928) 527-8288

File Code: 2360

Date: May 17, 2019



Dear NRHP Reviewer Roger Reed—

The Coconino National Forest and the Arizona State Historic Preservation Officer recently determined that the Mormon Lake Lookout Cabin, NRHP Reference Number 87002459, is no longer eligible to the National Register Places. Enclosed you will find an updated National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, Arizona SHPO Recommendation of Eligibility Form, a letter from the Arizona SHPO in support of this determination, a form documenting NHPA Section 106 compliance and SHPO concurrence, and lastly a detailed history and documentation of cabin.

The Mormon Lake Lookout Cabin was evaluated as part of the multiple property study titled "National Forest Fire Lookouts in the Southwestern Region, USDA Forest Service" in 1987. The cabin was entered into the NRHP on January 28, 1988. The cabin collapsed in December 2018 and is completely beyond repair.

We do hope that the historic overview report prepared as a part of this documentation package will make it into this property's record, as it provides considerable insight into the cabin's historic use, much beyond the original nomination.

Please contact Jeremy Haines at 928-527-8261, or at jhaines@fs.fed.us, or at the above letterhead, with any questions or comments regarding this submission to your office.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Haines
District Archaeologist



Arizona State Historic Preservation Office
RECOMMENDATION OF ELIGIBILITY

PROPERTY NAME: Mormon Lake Lookout Cabin

PROPERTY ADDRESS: Coconino County

TYPE OF RESOURCE: ☐ Site ☐ District ☐ Object ☒ Building ☐ Structure

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: ☐ A (History) ☐ B (Person) ☐ C (Design) ☐ D (Archaeology)

CRITERIA CONSIDERATION: ☐ A (Religious) ☐ B (Moved) ☐ C (Birthplace or Grave)
☐ D (Cemetery) ☐ E (Reconstructed) ☐ F (Commemorative) ☐ G (Less than 50 years)

SUGGESTED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: ☐ LOCAL ☐ STATE ☐ NATIONAL

INTEGRITY: ☐ GOOD ☐ FAIR ☒ POOR

We, the undersigned staff of the Arizona SHPO, hereby provide the following recommendations on the eligibility of the subject property for the National and State Registers of Historic Place. This recommendation is based on the information provided.

STAFF COMMENTS: ☐ ELIGIBLE ☒ NOT ELIGIBLE ☐ MORE INFORMATION NEEDED

Property no longer retains sufficient integrity to be considered eligible and should be delisted.

BY: W. Collins DATE: 2/11/2019

STAFF COMMENTS: ☐ ELIGIBLE ☒ NOT ELIGIBLE ☐ MORE INFORMATION NEEDED

BY: W. Baird DATE: 2/11/19

STAFF COMMENTS: ☐ ELIGIBLE ☒ NOT ELIGIBLE ☐ MORE INFORMATION NEEDED

BY: Er EVh DATE: 2/11/19

DEPUTY SHPO COMMENTS: ☐ ELIGIBLE ☒ NOT ELIGIBLE ☐ MORE INFORMATION NEEDED

BY: [Signature] DATE: 2/11/19
Deputy SHPO

I, the Arizona SHPO, ☒ AGREE ☐ DISAGREE with the above recommendation.

☐ **Schedule for review by Historic Sites Review Committee**

☐ See comments below

BY: Karen Keel DATE: 2/11/19
SHPO

demo
by
request
vl



Doug Ducey
Governor

ARIZONA

STATE PARKS & TRAILS

Robert Broscheid
Executive Director



In reply, refer to SHPO-2019-0236(146917)

February 20, 2019

Laura Jo West
Forest Supervisor
Coconino National Forest
1824 S. Thompson St.
Flagstaff, AZ 86001

Re: Delisting of the Mormon Lake Lookout Cabin

Dear Ms. West:

Thank you for consulting with the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office concerning delisting of the Mormon Lake Lookout Cabin from the National Register of Historic Places; the cabin is listed under criteria A and C. Dr. William Collins, SHPO Historian, and I have reviewed the information and concur that the building has lost integrity of workmanship and feeling. State Historic Preservation Officer, Kathryn Leonard concurs with the USFS decision to delist the property from the Register. Please find enclosed the necessary documentation that should be filed with the Keeper of the National Register to complete the delisting process.

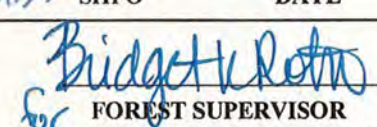
It is always unfortunate when the condition of buildings and structures declines to the point of integrity loss. Our office is available to help you develop techniques to stabilize or protect other historic properties before they fall into disrepair necessitating demolition. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 602-542-7142, or email me at jcogswell@azstateparks.gov.

Sincerely,

James Cogswell, Ph.D.
Archaeological Compliance Specialist
Arizona State Historic Preservation Office

JAN 31 2019

ARIZONA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

USDA FOREST SERVICE		Report NO.: 2018-53-A Coconino National Forest
INVENTORY STANDARDS AND ACCOUNTING (Reference: FSM 2361)		
1. REPORT NUMBER: YEAR FOREST NUMBER SERIES 2018 04 53 A	2. REPORT DATE: MONTH DAY YEAR January 31 2019	3. ROUTING: Copies to ☒ SHPO ☒ SO: Ray Holt ☒ SO: Peter Pillis ☐ GIS
4. AUTHOR(S): A. Stein, Pat H.		
5. PROJECT/REPORT TITLE: DOCUMENTATION TO MITIGATE THE LOSS OF THE MORMON LAKE LOOKOUT CABIN		
6. ABSTRACT/SUMMARY of report and findings: In the interest of public health and safety, the Coconino NF proposes to remove the Mormon Lake lookout tower and remains of the lookout cabin (03-04-05-277). The lookout tower has been previously determined not NRHP eligible due to loss of integrity (Steere 1987); the cabin was listed to the NRHP in 1987 under Criterion A and C (ibid), but it suffered neglect and lack of maintenance, eventually collapsing in Dec. 2018. Prior to its collapse, the CNF contracted historian Pat Stein to prepare a document to mitigate the loss of the building through architectural documentation and historic research. In addition, a 3D photogrammetric model of the building was also produced and is publicly available online, https://sketchfab.com/models/becd3a8c6c86465ca9797e9c1d3cc18a . As the building is now unfortunately lost, the CNF finds that the building should be removed or delisted from the NRHP as it is no longer eligible. Consequently, the removal of the collapsed building constitutes a No Adverse Effect to historic properties.		
7. CONSULTATION/ CLEARANCE A. CONDITIONS OF CLEARANCE: ☐ NONE (No sites in project area) ☐ AVOID sites specified below ☐ MONITOR sites specified below ☐ REPORT new sites to Forest Archaeologist ☒ OTHER/ ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: Follow through with delisting procedures in consultation with the Arizona SHPO and Keeper Continued on Page 3 B. ☐ ADDITIONAL FIELD WORK REQUIRED: ☐ EVALUATE SITES SPECIFIED BELOW: C. REPORT ACCEPTED: D. CLEARANCE RECOMMENDED: ☒ YES ☐ NO ☐ YES ☒ NO ☐ N/A  2/28/19 FOREST ARCHAEOLOGIST DATE		
E. EFFECTS ON CULTURAL RESOURCES: ☐ No Effect ☒ No Adverse ☐ Adverse ☐ N/A ☐ Beneficial F. TRANSMITTAL TO SHPO: Consultation for: ☒ Effect ☒ Eligibility ☐ Info Only ☐ N/A, as per R3 Programmatic Agreement  2/28/19 FOREST SUPERVISOR DATE		
G. SHPO CONCURRENCE: ☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ YES, per comment below Comments: <i>Please see enclosed documents</i> ☐ Case by case concurrence not required as per R3 Programmatic Agreement Dec. 23.2013  2/28/19 SHPO DATE		
H. CLEARANCE APPROVED: ☒ YES ☐ NO  2/28/19 FOREST SUPERVISOR DATE		

8. RANGER DISTRICT: 2 9. PROJECT FUNCTION: 71 10. PRIMARY ACTIVITY: T 11. SECONDARY ACTIVITY TYPE: 12. PROGRAMING: U 13. TOTAL PROJECT ACREAGE: .25 (Round to nearest 1/10 Acre) 14. ACREAGE NEWLY SURVEYED: 0 15. SAMPLE: NA 16. ACREAGE RESURVED: NA ACREAGE PREVIOUSLY SURVEYED: 17. TOTAL NO. SITES IN PROJECT AREA: 1 18. NEW SITES: 19. SITES EVALUTED ELIGIBLE: 20. SITES EVAL. NOT ELIG: 1 03-04-05-277 21. SITES INSPECTED, MONITORED, ENHANCED: 1 Site Numbers: 03-04-05-277 22. RECOMMENDED DETERMINATION OF EFFECT: Initial: () (By USFS Professional CRM Specialist) 1. No Effect/ No Potential to Effect ☐ 2. No Adverse Effect ☒ 3. Adverse Effect ☐ 4. Not Applicable: Not an Undertaking ☐ 5. Beneficial Effect ☐ 6. Not Applicable: No Cultural Res. Present ☐	23. PROJECT LOCATION (OPTIONAL): Township 17 North, Range 9 East, Section 3, NE¼ USGS Quadrangle: Mormon Lake 7.5 24. INSITUTION CONDUCT. PROJ/SURVEY: Arizona Preservation Consultants 25. AVE. NO. OF INDIV. USED: 2 26. AVE. INDIV./ TRANSECT SPACING: 27. FIELD HOURS: 24 28. LAB HOURS: 0 29. TRAVEL HOURS: 6 30. ADMIN HOURS: (RD: 32 SO: 4) 31. MILEAGE: 180 32. PER DIEM RATE: 0 33. DAYS OF PER DIEM: 0 34. COST WEIGHT FACTOR: 9 35. COST (CODE): B 36. ACTUAL COST: \$5680 Cost/Acre: \$ N/A Includes Contract Cost: \$ 2500 (Volunteer Work figured at \$ 22.83 /hr x hrs)
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 5/28/2019 Date of Pending List: 6/19/2019 Date of 16th Day: 7/5/2019 Date of 45th Day: 7/12/2019 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

 X Accept Return Reject 7/8/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

Recommendation/
Criteria

Reviewer Roger Reed Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2278 Date

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.