

FINAL

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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NATIONAL REGISTER

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries. Use letter quality printers in 12 pitch. Use only 25% or greater cotton content bond paper.

1. Name of Property

historic name: Saddlehorn Comfort Station

other names/site number: Loop A Comfort Station

2. Location

street & number: Colorado National Monument

(N/A) not for publication

city, town: Grand Junction, Colorado

(X) vicinity

state: Colorado

code: CO

county: Mesa

code: 077

zip code: 81521

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

() private

() public-local

() public-State

(X) public-Federal

Category of Property

(X) building(s)

() district

() site

() structure

() object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

Noncontributing

1

_____ buildings

_____ sites

_____ structures

_____ objects

1

_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Colorado National Monument MPS

Number of contributing resources previously

listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 (X) meets () does not meet the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official
Edmond [Signature]

Date
3/8/94

State or Federal agency and bureau
National Park Service

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

Signature of Commenting or Other Official
[Signature]

Date
March 24, 1993

State or Federal Agency and Bureau
State Historic Preservation Office

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

(X) entered in the National Register.

() See continuation sheet

() determined eligible for the National Register. () See continuation sheet

() determined not eligible for the National Register.

() removed from the National Register.

() other, (explain): _____

Beth Boland

4/21/94

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Recreation: park restroom facility

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Recreation: park restroom facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: National Park Service Rustic

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls sandstone

roof wood

other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Summary

The Saddlehorn Comfort Station (HS-3H) is located on Campground Road B, Loop A of the Saddlehorn campground, approximately 5 miles from the west entrance of Colorado National Monument. The building is a rectangular, one-story structure designed by the National Park Service and constructed of native red sandstone masonry by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in 1937. Closely resembling other historic buildings in the Saddlehorn area, the style of the comfort station is an excellent example of National Park Service Rustic Architecture. The building is in good condition and has suffered no alterations, maintaining integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association from the historic period.

Setting

The campground in which the comfort station is located is in the northwest portion of Colorado National Monument. The topography of the 32-square mile park includes the northern rim of the Uncompahgre Plateau with its deeply cut canyons and towering rock formations. The setting in the vicinity of the comfort station includes juniper and pinon pine trees and native brush vegetation. The area is named for the distinctive sandstone monolith about one-quarter mile to the west, "Ca-Roo-Nump-Ta-Chee" or "Saddlehorn". The park's modern headquarters building/visitor center is located just under one-half mile to the southwest of the comfort station. The relationship of the comfort station to the other historic buildings in the area (the caretaker's residence and garage, and utility area) as well as to buildings of post-historic construction are shown on the accompanying site map.

Description

This one-story, rectangular building has a women's restroom and men's restroom on either end with a janitor's area (utility space) between them. Constructed from massive native red sandstone blocks on a concrete foundation, the opposing side walls of the structure are mirror images of one another, and the placement of blocks in the front and back walls are also symmetrical with reference to their respective centerlines. In a technique called "built by detail," not only were the walls' gross dimensions specified by the architect, but also each component block's shape, size and location.¹ The stone masonry is a random ashlar pattern with stepped corners. The gable roof is covered with cedar shingles with exposed ridge beam and rafters. Each gable end is covered with weatherboard siding and has a centrally located vent. On either side of the building, (north and south elevations) is

(X) See continuation sheet

¹ The practice of erecting opposing walls that are mirror images of one another was called "built by detail", according to CCC project foreman Sidney W. Johnson as told to Chief Ranger Hank Schoch in the mid-1980s.

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a row of seven 2-light, wood sash, hopper windows. All windows are screened. The comfort station has three doors, one on the east and the west elevations leading into the toilets, and one on the north elevation that enters the utility space. The east and west doors are constructed of vertical wood planks and have original wrought iron hardware. The shiplap door into the utility space is Z-braced. (See attached Drawing #2001A, dated November 1936.)

The interior plan of the comfort station includes a concrete floor with 4 flush toilets on the women's side and 3 toilets and one urinal on the men's side. Doors for stalls are wood tongue-and-groove. The building is in good condition and has suffered no modifications to either the interior or exterior, both of which maintain a high degree of integrity from the historic period.

Several changes have been made to the campground since the historic period. Two additional loops have been added on the northern side, each with a comfort station built in 1962. What was once the CCC baseball field (discussed later in Item 8) is now a parking area for the picnic grounds, where another comfort station was constructed in 1959. On the far east end of the campground, an overlook shelter was erected during the MISSION 66 construction phase in the monument.² These alterations, while rendering the campground ineligible for the National Register, are far enough away from the 1937 comfort station as to not impair the integrity of its setting.

² MISSION 66 was a ten-year service-wide program instituted by the National Park Service in 1956 to upgrade and expand park facilities.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: ___ national ___ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria X A ___ B X C ___ D
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance **Significant Dates**

1937 - 1944 1937

Architecture

Social History

Entertainment/Recreation

Conservation

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

National Park Service

Civilian Conservation Corps

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

Summary

The Saddlehorn Comfort Station has local significance under National Register Criterion A for its association with the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Works Progress Administration. It also has local significance under National Register Criterion C as a good example of National Park Service Rustic Architecture. The materials and architectural design of this resource reflect the philosophy of incorporating natural landscape elements into planning and design. As a national park facility used to manage conservation of the monument and maintain it for visitor use and enjoyment, the building is also significant in the areas of conservation and recreation. The period of significance for the comfort station dates from its date of construction in 1937 to 1944, the end of the historic period as defined by the National Register of Historic Places. Significant dates relate to the date of construction.

This nomination is part of the "Colorado National Monument Multiple Property Submission." The Saddlehorn Comfort Station is associated with the historic context "National Park Service Rustic Architecture and Public Works Construction, 1933-1942". Two other related individual nominations associated with the multiple property submission are the nearby Saddlehorn Utility Area, and the Saddlehorn Caretaker's Residence and Garage. The relationship of these three areas is shown on the accompanying site map. While the resources of all three are closely tied by architectural style, historic context, and period of significance, their distance from each other, topography, and intrusions (Mission 66-era buildings) preclude nominating them as an intact district.

Background History

Designed in 1936 by architect W. G. Carnes of the National Park Service's Western Division of the Branch of Plans and Design, the Saddlehorn Comfort Station was constructed in 1937 with Emergency Conservation Works funding. It was built to accomodate the needs of visitors to the Saddlehorn campground. Like other historic buildings in the area, the comfort station was built by craftsmen hired for their specific skills under the New Deal Relief appropriations. Many of these craftsmen were LEMs (local experienced men), reputed to be stonemasons of Italian descent, that trained a number of the CCC enrollees. The construction was administered by the Public Works Administration and built by contract labor. Sandstone blocks, quarried in Colorado National Monument by CCC men, either from the immediate vicinity or from the Rim Rock Drive construction project, were the primary building material.

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The larger Saddlehorn area, which in addition to the campground included a utility area, caretaker's residence and garage, and a CCC camp, was also built in response to the need for a permanent base camp for CCC workers, as they were employed in the construction of Rim Rock Drive and other park facilities. Much of Rim Rock Drive had been completed by 1938, making the area accessible to visitors and creating a demand for recreational facilities.² The monument caretaker's residence (HS-1H) and garage (HS-2H) were the first permanent buildings to be constructed, followed by the campground's Comfort Station and utility area's Roads and Trails Shop (HS-4H) in 1937. A second building, the Oil House (HS-5H), was added to the utility area in 1938; another two buildings were completed in the utility area by 1941 (HS-6H and HS-7H).

The campground was located about one-quarter mile northeast of the main administrative area of CCC camp NM-2-C and the monument caretaker's residence and garage. The campground served to augment the main administrative area of CCC camp NM-2-C, located about one-half mile to the east. A number of CCC camps were established in or near the monument to support the crews working on Rim Rock Drive and other projects. Camp NM-2-C was temporarily established at Monument Canyon trailhead in March of 1933, but was disbanded and moved to Saddlehorn, when the permanent camp was established. (Additional information about the workforce is included in Section E of the Colorado National Monument Multiple Property Submission.)

The earliest plans for a comfort station in the campground were first laid out in 1934, as shown on the attached map entitled "Campground and General Plan, Colorado National Monument" (#3006). The following year, two maps drawn by the Branch of Plans and Design showed the comfort station sited further north ("Camp Ground Areas", #3013), one showing it at the current location ("Headquarters Area", #4963). These early plans indicate the park's intention to build a park headquarters area that included the CCC administrative and residential area, the caretaker's residence and garage, and a park administration building just north of the residence. (The proposed administration building was never constructed where sited.) Up until the time CCC Camp NM-2-C was built in the area, there had not been a permanent administrative facility for the CCC. The CCC buildings in this camp included an administration building, recreation hall, mess hall, latrine, and 5 barracks. In addition, the 1935 maps show the campground with a baseball field, planned for the enjoyment of CCC workers. The architectural plans (#2001A) for the comfort station were approved in November 1936. As were the other CCC-constructed buildings in the headquarters area, the architect for the building was W. G. Carnes. (Copies of maps/plans #3006, #4963, #3013, #2001A are attached as additional documentation.)

The CCC program was phased out at the start of World War II. As men were called to military duty, projects were abandoned and camps dispersed. Most work by the CCC within Colorado National Monument had ended by 1941, and the program was completely shut down in 1942.

(X) See continuation sheet

² See Rim Rock Drive Historic District individual nomination, part of the Colorado National Monument multiple property submission.

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The exact fate of the buildings which the camp NM-2-C occupied has yet to be documented with regard to their dates and method of removal. According to Hank Schoch, the monument's Chief Ranger, at least one was burned as a fire training exercise. By the early 1960s the only buildings in that area were the latrine/washhouse and several staff residences that may have been moved into the area. When new housing was constructed north of the utility area in the late 1950s and early 1960s as part of MISSION 66, all remaining buildings in the CCC camp area were removed. The CCC camp baseball field has since been turned into a picnic area parking lot. There still remain some foundations and stone walkways that are evidence of the work camp. A large midden (most likely CCC camp related) also exists near the base of a nearby sandstone cliff. The grounds have not been inventoried for historic archeology thus the site's eligibility under criterion D has not been determined.

As the physical remains of CCC base camps are now primarily archeological, the permanent roads and buildings of Colorado National Monument are often the only tangible evidence to visitors that hundreds of men labored there during the Great Depression. The rustic style of architecture displays the history of the development of Colorado National Monument, and also reflects the craftsmanship of the CCC and the LEMs (local experienced men). Employed for various assignments, enrollees of the CCC were essential in the development of many parks and other government facilities. In Colorado National Monument, the CCC, LEMs, and workers from other relief agencies, not only supplied valuable labor in the construction of park facilities for administrative use but, with the construction of Rim Rock Drive, opened up the park for thousands of visitors.

The Saddlehorn Comfort Station is an excellent and well-preserved example of the design methodology of National Park Service Rustic Architecture, with its emphasis on the use of natural and native materials. The topography of Colorado National Monument is a spectacular display of carved sandstone monoliths and valleys amongst semi-desert terrain. In the construction of these buildings, architects, landscape architects, and the CCC manipulated native stone and wood supports to blend with the surrounding landscape. Earthtones are the predominant colors, with natural cream to red for the stone and brown and rust for the wood supports. The buildings in the Saddlehorn headquarters area and campground were designed in such a way as to not intrude on the natural landscape, but to blend with the terrain and to be in harmony with their surroundings. The construction techniques of the CCC are also exemplified in these buildings. Through the use of native materials and stone masonry craftsmanship, the structures reflect the National Park Service's design philosophy of maintaining a sense of rusticity in construction. Unified in design and construction techniques, the comfort station and contemporary buildings in the Saddlehorn headquarters and campground area represent the lasting contribution made by public relief projects during the Great Depression, and the rustic architecture design philosophy that prevailed in the National Park Service during the 1930s, even in the most humble of utilitarian buildings.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Baume, Lawrence and Mildred Harris, National Register of Historic Places Draft Nomination, Colorado National Monument, National Park Service, Rocky Mountain Regional Office, Denver, 1987.

Good, Albert, Park Structures and Facilities, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Branch of Planning, Washington, D.C., 1935.

(X) See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # CO-74
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:
 State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Specify Repository:
Park files, Colorado National Monument
NPS, Rocky Mountain Regional Office

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A 1/2 6/9/5/4/4/0 4/3/3/0/6/3/0
Zone Easting Northing

B / / / / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

C / / / / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

C / / / / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

Situated approximately 30 feet from Saddlehorn Loop Road, the rectangular boundary includes 20 feet on each side of the building to incorporate the natural vegetation and topographic setting. The southwest boundary line, which runs parallel to Saddlehorn Loop Road, measures 60 feet in length. The northwest boundary measures 50 feet, while the opposite southeast boundary measures the same. The northeast boundary is 60 feet long.

() See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the comfort station and its immediate natural setting. No other buildings are in the vicinity of the comfort station.

() See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kathy McKoy, Historian
organization National Park Service
street & number 12795 W. Alameda Parkway
city or town Denver

date December 28, 1992; rev. 1/94
telephone (303) 969-2878
state CO zip code 80228

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Law, Henry, G., Laura E. Soulliere, William C. Tweed, National Park Service Rustic Architecture: 1916-1942, National Park Service, Western Regional Office, Division of Cultural Resource Management, 1977.

Newspaper Articles, Colorado National Monument 1935-1947, National Park Service, Rocky Mountain Region, Denver, CO.

Paige, John, C., The Civilian Conservation Corps and the National Park Service, 1933-1942: An Administrative History, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, 1985.

U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Denver Service Center Technical Information Center files: Drawing No. 2001A; Topographical Maps Nos. 3006, 3013 3006, 4963, 4970. Denver, CO.

Williams, Lance, List of Classified Structures survey forms, National Park Service, Rocky Mountain Region, Denver, CO, 1976.

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Section number photographs Page 1

INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS

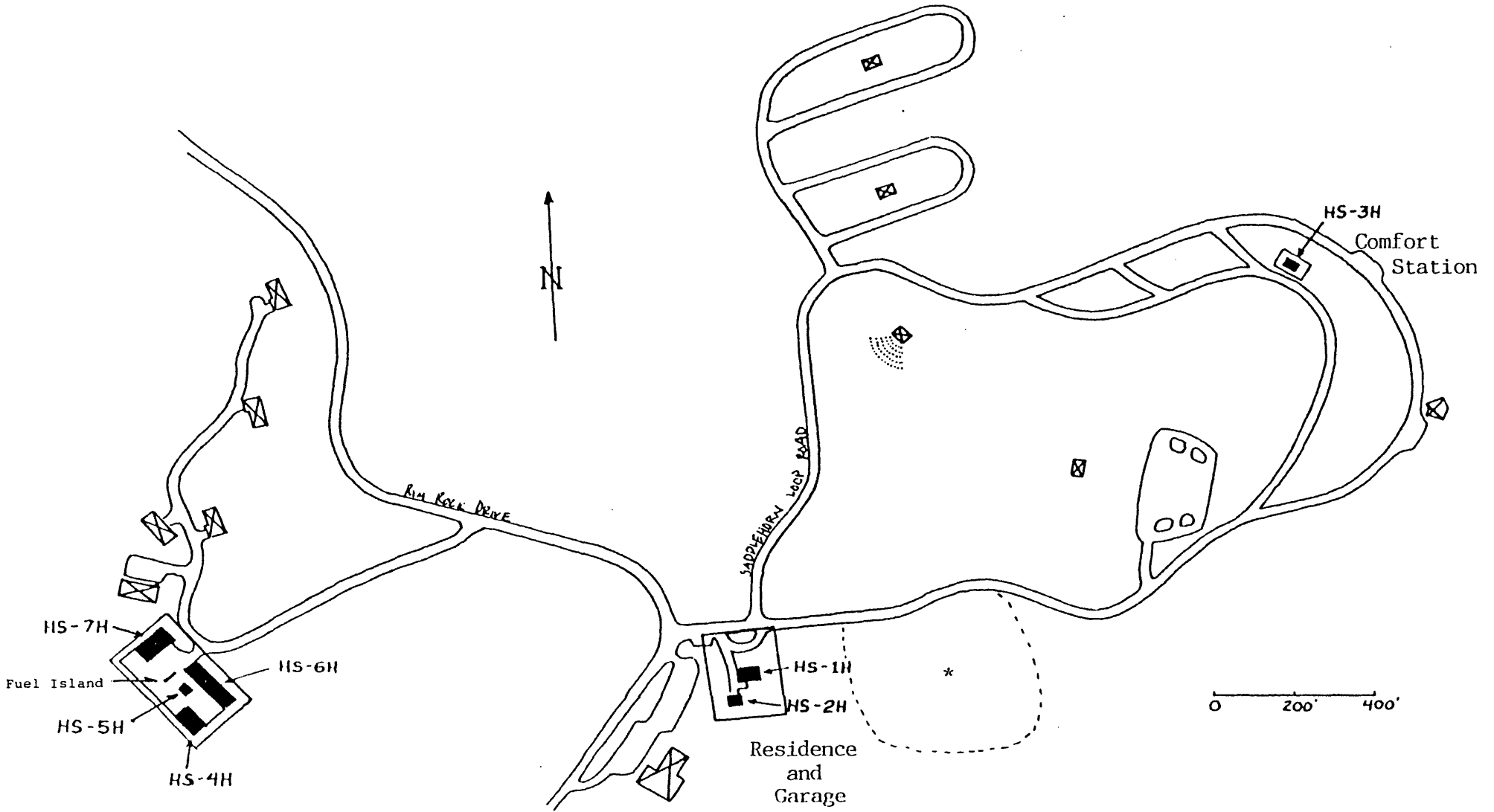
The following information applies to photographs #1-2 listed below:

- 1) Property: Saddlehorn Comfort Station, Colorado National Monument
- 2) Location: Mesa County, Colorado
- 3) Photographer: Eunice Fedors
- 4) Date taken: November, 1989
- 5) Location of negatives: National Park Service, Rocky Mountain Regional Office,
Denver, Colorado

The property, its location, and location of negative for photo #3 is the same as above,
however the photographer and date taken are as follows:

- 3) Photographer: Clayton B. Fraser
- 4) Date taken: September, 1984

PHOTO NUMBER	DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION
1	Comfort Station (HS-3H), view to SE
2	Comfort Station (HS-3H), view to E
3	Comfort Station (HS-3H), view to SE



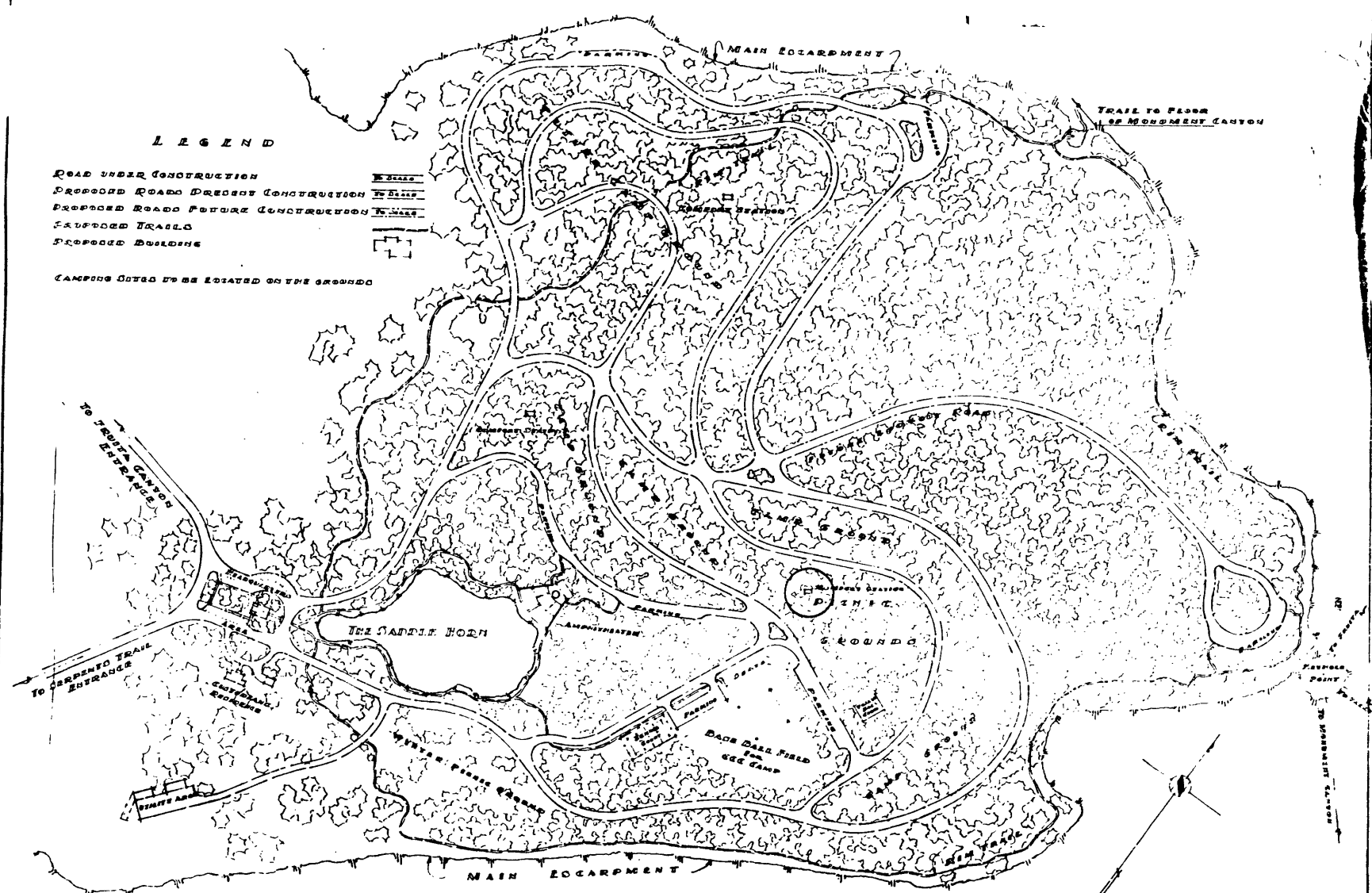
Saddlehorn Utility Area
Historic District

SADDLEHORN HEADQUARTERS & CAMPGROUND
COLORADO NATIONAL MONUMENT






□ rectangles surrounding
resources denote boundaries

*This area was the site
of CCC Camp NM-2-C.

■ contributing
⊠ noncontributing



LEGEND

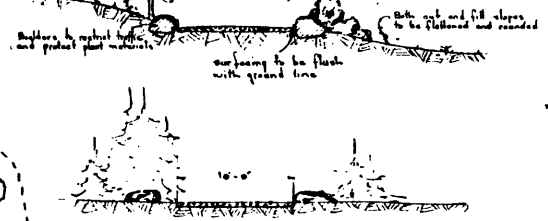
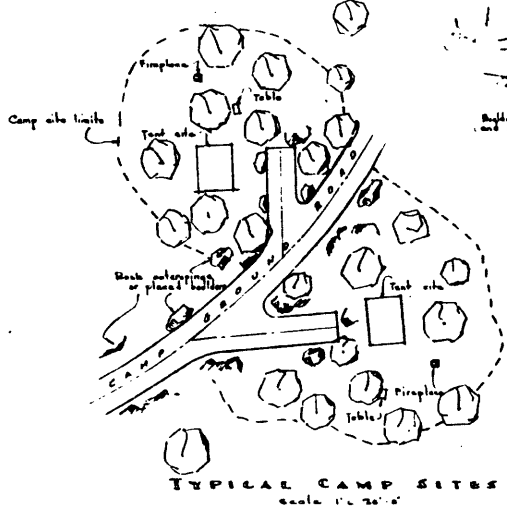
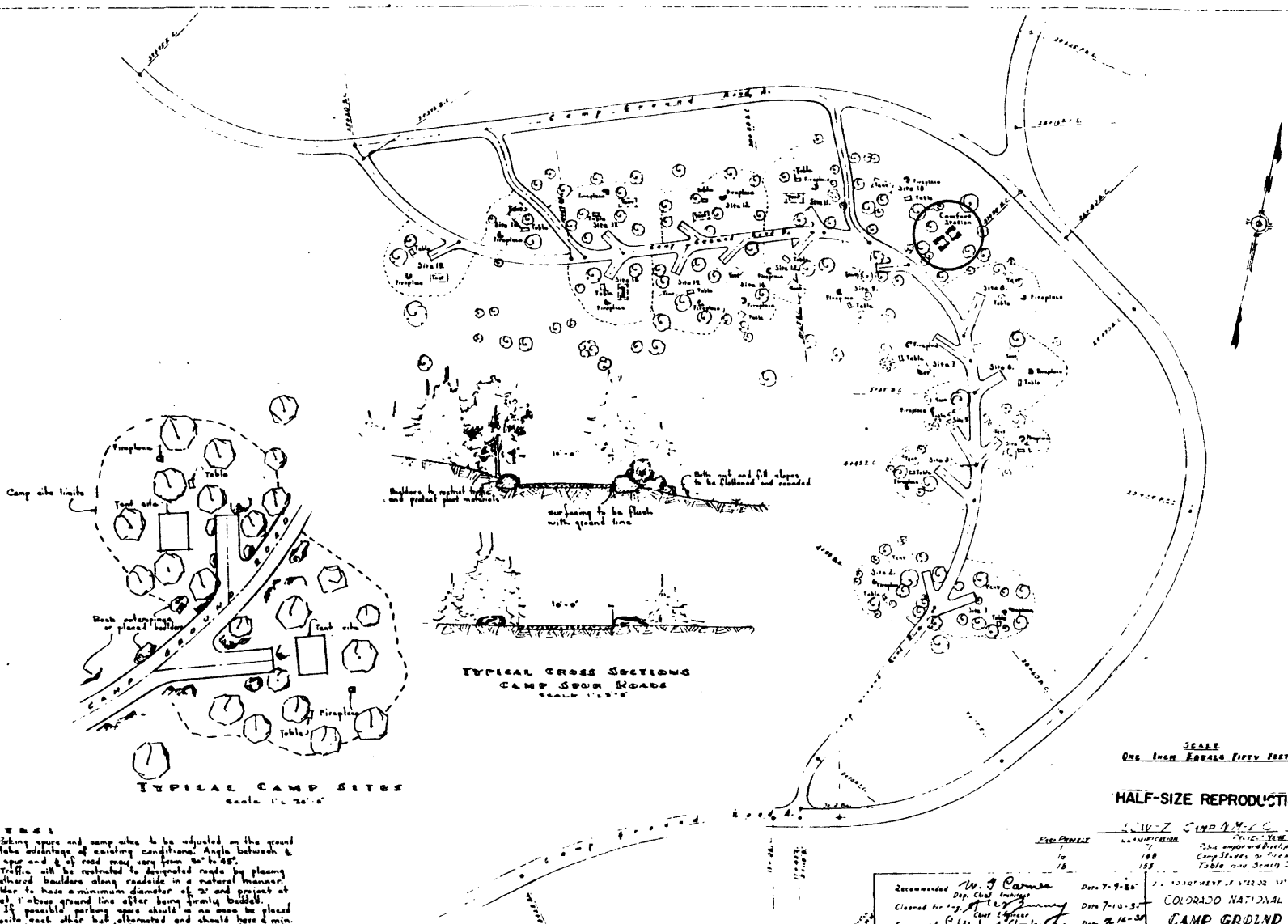
- ROAD UNDER CONSTRUCTION 
 - PROPOSED ROAD DRESENT CONSTRUCTION 
 - PROPOSED ROAD FUTURE CONSTRUCTION 
 - PROPOSED TRAILS 
 - PROPOSED BUILDING 
- CAMPING SITES TO BE LOCATED ON THE GROUND

#3006, September 1934

SCALE 1"=100'-0"

HALF-SIZE REPRODUCTION

Recommended by <i>N. S. Carleton</i>	Date <i>12-23-33</i>	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	Date
Checked by <i>Ed. C. Johnson</i>	Date <i>1-2-34</i>	CAMP ROOSEVELT - GENERAL PLAN	<i>1-2-34</i>
Consented <i>Ed. C. Johnson</i>	Date <i>1-2-34</i>	COLORADO NATIONAL MONUMENT	<i>1-2-34</i>
Approved <i>W. B. Stewart</i>	Date <i>1-2-34</i>	DESIGNED BY THE SERVICE PLANNING DIVISION	<i>1-2-34</i>



NOTES

Parking space and camp sites to be adjusted on the ground to take advantage of existing conditions. Angle between θ of spur and θ of road may vary from 90° to 135° .

Traffic will be restricted to designated roads by placing weathered boulders along roadside in a natural manner. Boulder to have a minimum diameter of 2' and project at least 1' above ground line after being firmly bedded.

If possible parking space should be no more be placed opposite each other but alternated and should have a min. width of 20' on their short side. Each campsite should be allowed an area approx. 10' in diameter. Maximum grade permissible in parking space is 8%.

SCALE
One Inch Equals Fifty Feet.

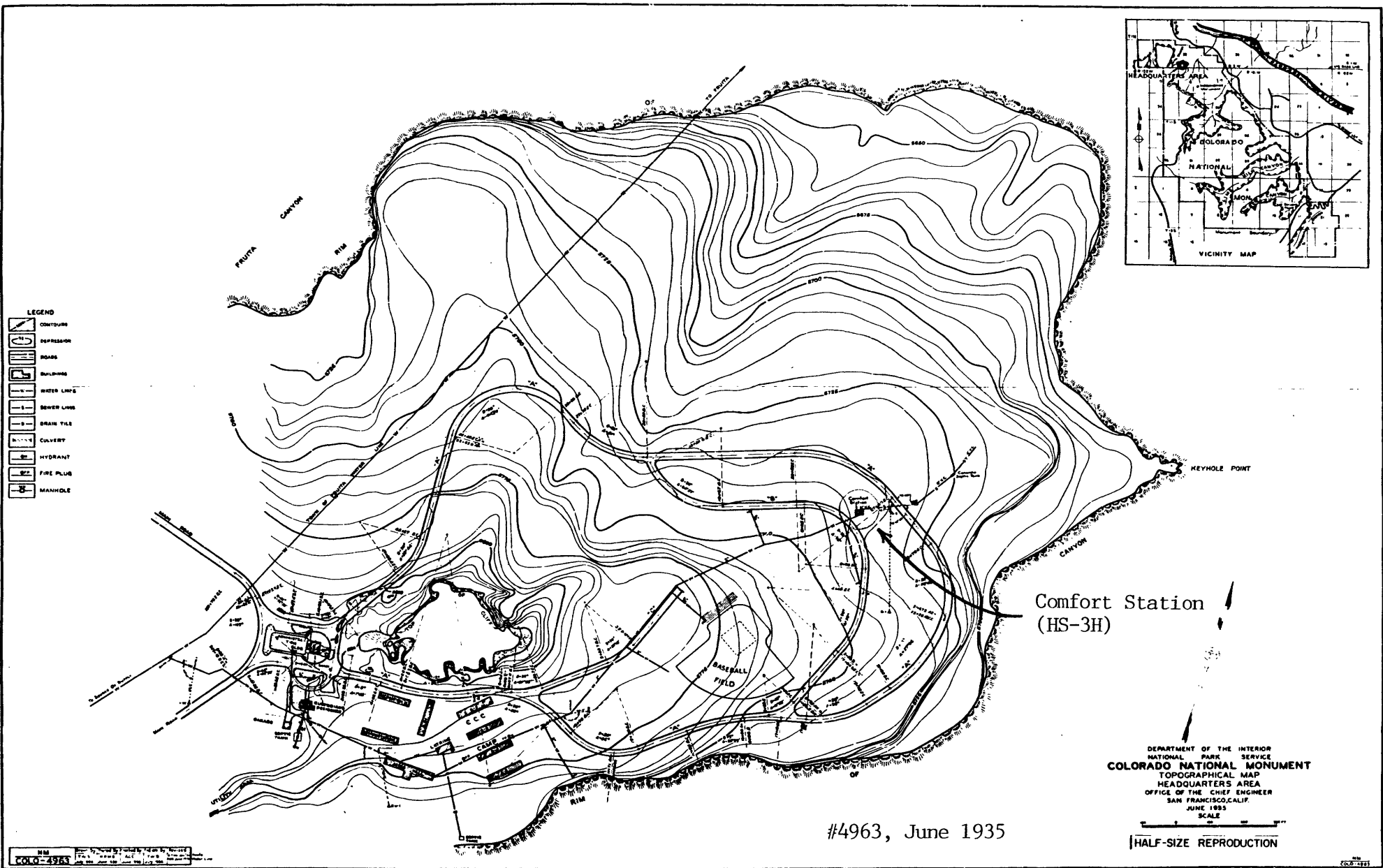
HALF-SIZE REPRODUCTION

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

RECOMMENDED BY: *W. J. Carver* DATE: 7-9-34
 CHECKED BY: *A. C. [unclear]* DATE: 7-10-34
 CONCURRED BY: *[unclear]* DATE: 7-16-34
 APPROVED BY: *[unclear]* DATE: 7-17-34

Director, National Park Service

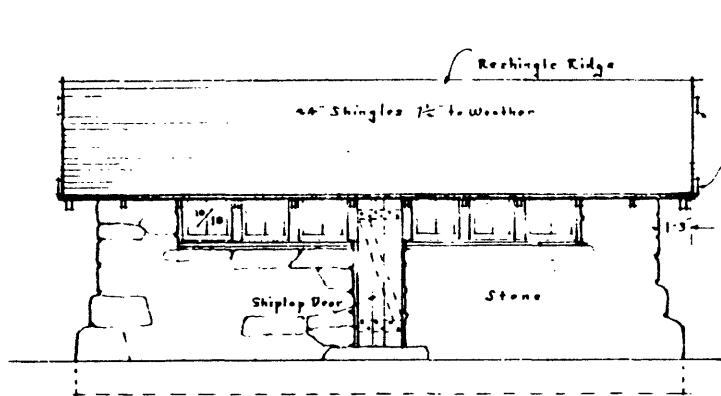
COLORADO NATIONAL MONUMENT
 CAMP GROUND AREAS
 CAMP GROUND ROAD B
 DESIGN BY BUREAU OF PLANS AND DESIGN



COLO-4963

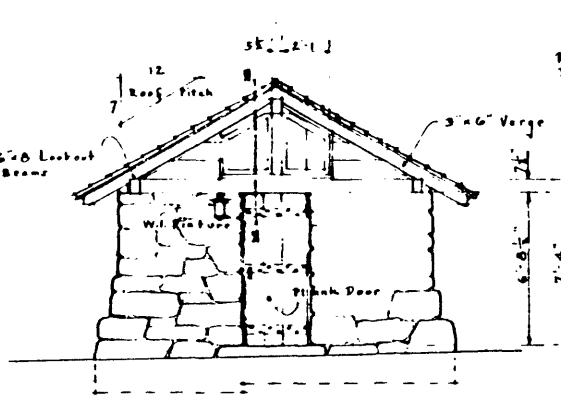
CC-2-1231

Notes:
 See Master Plan Drawing No. Colo 3010A for Location.
 See Dwg. No. NM for Sewer & Water Connections.
 See Specifications.



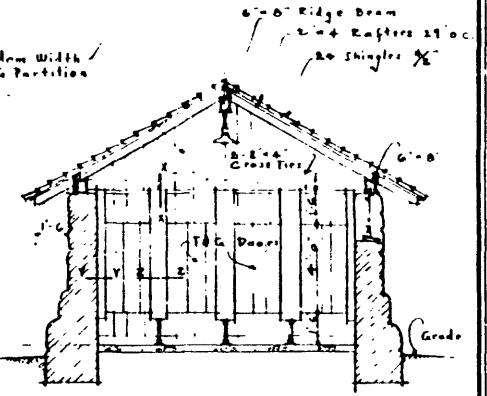
NORTH ELEVATION

Scale: South Side Similar, with no door.

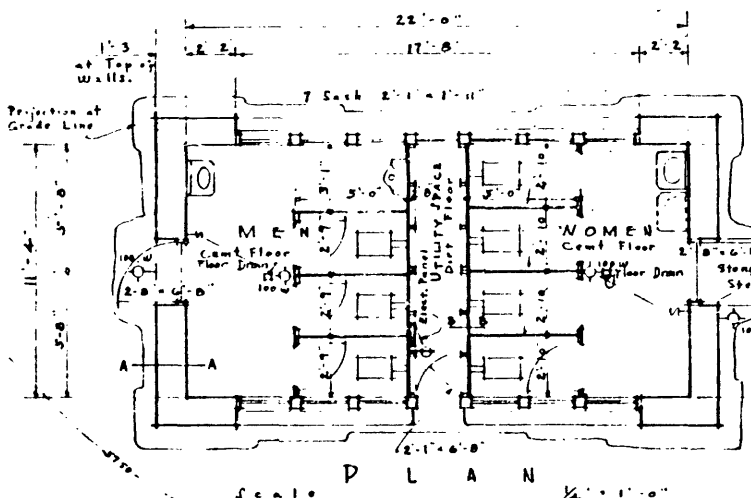


END ELEVATION

Scale: 1/2" = 1'-0"

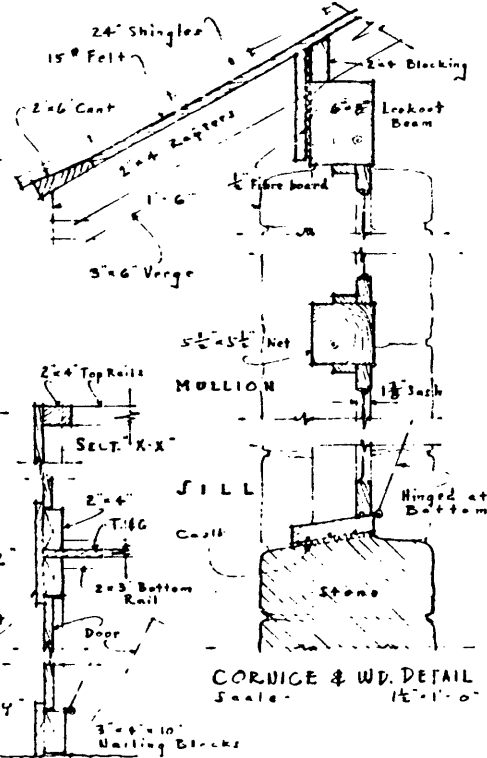


SECTION "C-C"



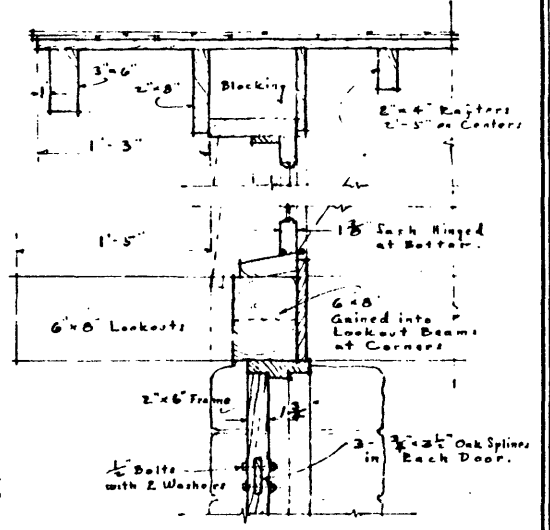
PLAN

Scale: 1/4" = 1'-0"



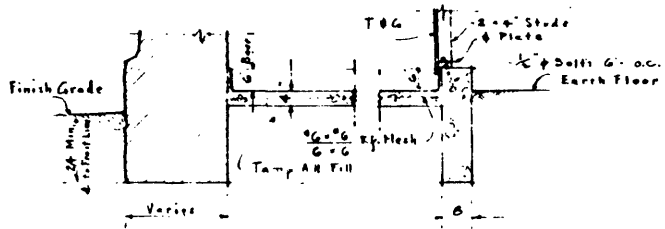
STALL DETAILS

Scale: 1/2" = 1'-0"



SECTION "H-H"

Scale: 1 1/2" = 1'-0"



SECTION "A-A"

Scale: 1/2" = 1'-0"

SECTION "B-B"

Scale: 1/2" = 1'-0"

REVISED - OCTOBER 16 1936
 BY THE REGIONAL OFFICE
 HEIGHT OF W.G. STALL DOOR REVISED.

HALF-SIZE REPRODUCTION

E.C.W. Prosser, Chief, 113, Camp NM2C, 7th Precinct
 Created for E.C.W. *Edward C. W. Prosser* Date 11-11-36
 Covered by *N.P.S. Plans Section* Date 7-28-36

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
 BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN

COMFORT STATION
 COLORADO NATIONAL MONUMENT

Approved by: *E. C. W. Prosser* 11-12-36
 Date: 11-12-36
 Scale: 1/2" = 1'-0"

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 94000305

Date Listed: 4/21/94

Saddlehorn Comfort Station
Property Name

Mesa
County

CO
State

Colorado National Monument MPS
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Beth Boland
Signature of the Keeper

5/14/94
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

The period of significance is 1937, the date of construction. This information was verified by Kathy McKoy, NPS RMRO.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)