

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	SEP 10 1986
DATE ENTERED	OCT 23 1986

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Los Burros Ranger Station

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Forest Road 20

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN McNary VICINITY OF 4
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Arizona CODE 04 COUNTY Apache CODE 001

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

USDA Forest Service, Southwestern Region

STREET & NUMBER

517 Gold Avenue, SW

CITY, TOWN Albuquerque VICINITY OF New Mexico STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Supervisor's Office, Apache-Sitgreaves N.F.'s

STREET & NUMBER

South Mountain Avenue

CITY, TOWN Springerville STATE Arizona

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
N/A

DATE
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Summary/Context:

The Los Burros Ranger Station was built in 1910 to serve as seasonal quarters for the Lake Mountain fire guard/lookout and as a temporary base for fire-fighting crews. It is located on Forest Road 224 (the Vernon-McNary Road), and some six miles northwest of McNary, Navajo County. Lake Mountain is situated slightly over one mile to the north-northeast (see attached Vicinity Map).

The general setting of the Station is adjacent to gently sloping flats amid cinder cones of the White Mountains volcanic field. At an average elevation of about 8000 feet, most of the area is forested, with Ponderosa pine being the dominant species. The flatter areas, because of clayey, poorly drained soils, support only grasses and forbs in meadowland associations.

Los Burros, as nominated, contains two standing structures and a developed spring. The two-room frame house/office and frame barn are situated among oak, Ponderosa pine and aspen, overlooking a meadow. This location was selected because of the presence of a perennial spring and the availability of pasture for the fire crew's pack animals. The physical context of the Station has changed little in the past century. In addition to the nominated structures, the vicinity also contains a small corral, but this appears to be of relatively recent construction; it may be presumed that this replaces an earlier corral. Some 15-20 years ago, aspen log fences were built around each of the nominated structures to provide a measure of protection from recreationists and hunters who camp here. The corral and protective fences are explicitly excluded from further consideration here.

Architectural Description:

The two-room quarters is of 1x12" board and 1x4" batten construction. Exterior dimensions are 16'4" by 32'10" with the longer, front side facing west toward the meadow. The internal dividing wall is 16'11" from the north wall. In the center of the internal wall is the chimney facility, which consists of an open box of 2x12" planks surmounted by an enclosed, plastered brick box with a hole for a stove pipe. The larger room (the one more likely used as an office) has a door and 1/1 double sash window in both the east and west walls; the doors are directly opposite each other, as are the windows. The smaller, south room has a door on the west side and a 1/1 double sash window on the south and east sides.

The simple gable roof was likely shingled with wood originally, but is currently covered with green asphalt shingles. The exterior walls appear to have been red originally, but are now painted cream.

This building was built on a slight slope. The northeast corner appears to rest on native soil, with the remainder sitting on unshaped basalt footings. The footings appear to have been mostly dry-laid although some cement was used.

The barn is located 263' south of the quarters (see attached Site Plan). It is of the same board and batten construction as the house/office and is also oriented

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National Park Service**

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Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 2

north-south. It measures 24'3" by 26'7". It has a steep-pitched gable roof with wood shingles. None of the original interior features remain (because of deterioration, the main internal supports were replaced with 2x4"s some 15-20 years ago). There are only two indications of internal subdivision. One is metal sheeting nailed to the lower portion of the walls in the northeast corner; presumably, this area was used for storing grain and/or tack. The other is a loft door on the south end of the building, but no evidence of the extent of the loft is visible.

The spring, located between, and uphill from, the structures, has been developed with a concrete liner and cap. The whole has been covered with native stone, so the outward appearance is similar to surrounding terrain. This perennial water source was certainly one of the main reasons for selecting the site as a guard station.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1910

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Forest Service/Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary:

The Los Burros Ranger Station, Built in 1910, is significant as the oldest of the extant Forest Service structures on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests. Other National Forests in Arizona may have structures of similar age and function, but Los Burros appears to be the sole survivor in terms of mode of construction. While architecturally unexceptional, the quarters and barn are typical of the facilities used at the beginning of active management of forested, public lands in the western United States. The Station's rural setting evokes the management situation of the time, initially the need to protect the timber resource from wildfire and later to administer the controlled harvesting of that resource. The Los Burros Ranger Station meets the National Register criteria for its historic association with the inception of Federal policy for the conservation of the nation's timber and watershed resources, and, less generally, with the establishment of the Sitgreaves National Forest.

Historical Background:

There is no physical evidence, historic or prehistoric, of prior use of this area. However, Forest Road 224 is generally accepted as more-or-less following the route taken by Francisco Vasquez de Coronado in 1540 during his initial search for the Seven Cities of Cibola. Additionally, the General Land Office township plat, based on an 1882 survey, shows the name of one D. Martin associated with a house south of the spring. No other relevant records can be found, but this is not unusual for the period involved; few people in this general area formally filed on their homesteads before the turn of the century. Thus, recorded history of Los Burros essentially begins with the advent of the Forest Service.

As the culmination of long-term efforts by foresters, other scientists, conservationists and politicians, the Forest Reserve Act of March 3, 1891 gave the President the authority to set aside forested public lands in order to halt the uncontrolled exploitation of timber and the consequent deterioration of watersheds. This Act was supplanted by the Pettigrew amendment to the Sundry Civil Appropriations Bill which has come to be known as the Organic Act of June 4,

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Steen, Harold K. The U.S. Forest Service: A History. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1976.

Hansen, Ben - Interview, August 1983.
 Watkins, Harvey - Interview, October, 1985.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4.15

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 2	6 1, 3 8, 8, 0	3, 7 7, 8 3, 6, 0	B	1, 2	6 1, 3 8, 8, 0	3, 7 7, 8 2, 2, 0
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C	1, 2	6 1, 3 7, 16, 0	3, 7 7, 8 2, 2, 0	D	1, 2	6 1, 3 8, 8, 0	3, 7 7, 8 3, 6, 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Within E $\frac{1}{2}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 26, T9N, R24E, Gila and Salt River Base and Meridian. UTM boundaries are minimum mappable rectangle.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Bruce Donaldson, Forest Archeologist

ORGANIZATION

Apache-Sitgreaves N.F.'s

DATE

10/85

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 640

TELEPHONE

(602) 333-4301

CITY OR TOWN

Springerville

STATE

Arizona

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

Edward J. Schuler
 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

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

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Edward J. Schuler

TITLE

AGENCY PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE

AUG 26 1986

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HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Patrick Anders

DATE

10/23/85

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

**United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

1897. The forest reserves were administered by the Bureau of Forestry. In 1905 the Bureau was moved from the Department of Interior to Agriculture, and renamed the United States Forest Service shortly thereafter. The Act of March 4, 1907 declared that the forest reserves would hence forth be known as national forests, reflecting the determination that the public timber resources should be used for the nation's benefit rather than being reserved from such uses. In Arizona Territory, the Black Mesa Forest Reserve was established on August 17, 1898. On July 1, 1908, a portion of this was proclaimed the Sitgreaves National Forest.

The actual day-to-day management of a national forest in the early 1900's was no easy chore. A few people were responsible for a large area where competing interests--for timber, grazing land and homesteads--were plentiful. And, of course, there was the threat of wildfire. The Sitgreaves country, especially along the Mogollon Rim, has one of the highest incidence rates of lightning strikes known, so this threat was very real and continuous for at least one-third of the year. One of the ways to meet the threat was to station lookouts, or guards as they were called, at various places around the Forest from which fires could be quickly spotted and suppressed. Lake Mountain was one such place, it being, at 8500 feet in elevation, the highest eminence in the vicinity. Another critical factor is the general isolation of the area. The local climate is unsuited for subsistence farming and usually will limit grazing to summertime, so there has been virtually no permanent occupation nearby. The District Ranger's Office was located in Show Low at this time, some 25 miles distant over dirt roads. With the large, virgin stands of Ponderosa pine surrounding Los Burros, apparently it was deemed necessary to have a fire guard present so a rapid response could be made to any flareup.

In order to accommodate the creature comforts of the fire guards and their horses (the only means of reliable and rapid transit), facilities had to be made available. In some instances it would appear that a line shack and corral belonging to a local rancher could be used, but in others, as with the case of the Lake Mountain guard, nothing was at hand, so accommodations had to be built. A request was made in 1909 to construct quarters and a barn at Los Burros. This was adjacent to what was then the only road in the area, water was in dependable supply here, and the nearby meadows would provide pasture for a large number of pack animals in the event that a crew of fire-fighters needed to be called in. Communication with the Ranger's office in Show Low was by telephone or perhaps telegraph, along a bare-wire line strung from insulators nailed to trees. For the time and the locale, this could be considered state-of-the-art. A lookout tower was built atop Lake Mountain in 1926 or '27, and the fire guard may have moved his quarters there at this time. (There is no available record on the Lake Mountain facilities before this tower was constructed.)

Use by the fire guard was probably the primary role for Los Burros Ranger Station until 1918. In that year, 250 million board-feet of timber from the surrounding area were sold to the McNary Lumber Company, and the Station would accommodate the Forest Service timber sale administrator for the next two to three decades. The role of the sale administrator--indeed, the primary role of the agency during this period--

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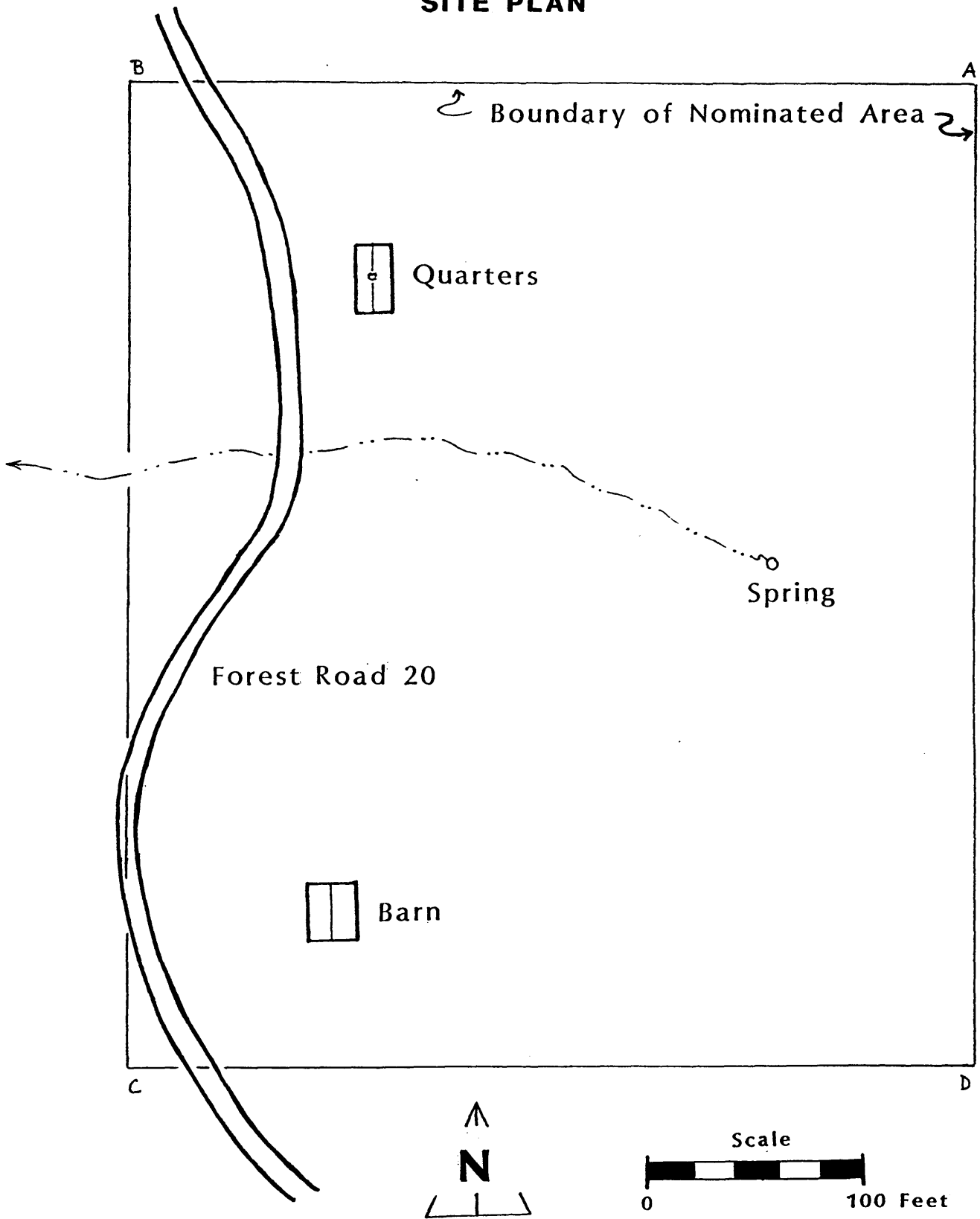
ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

was to ensure that proper harvesting techniques were employed. Although silvicultural science was still a relatively young discipline, the objective of long-term, sustained yield of timber outputs was at the core of agency philosophy. This timber sale was one of the first large releases by the Forest, and served to stimulate community growth in the area, most notably McNary's development as a mill and logging town.

With the end of the large timber sale in the late '40's or early '50's, the Station fell into disuse. Despite a certain amount of neglect in the interim, the structures remain in fair condition, providing a focus for public interpretation and a window on early Forest Service history.

LOS BURROS RANGER STATION

SITE PLAN



LOS BURROS RANGER STATION

VICINITY MAP

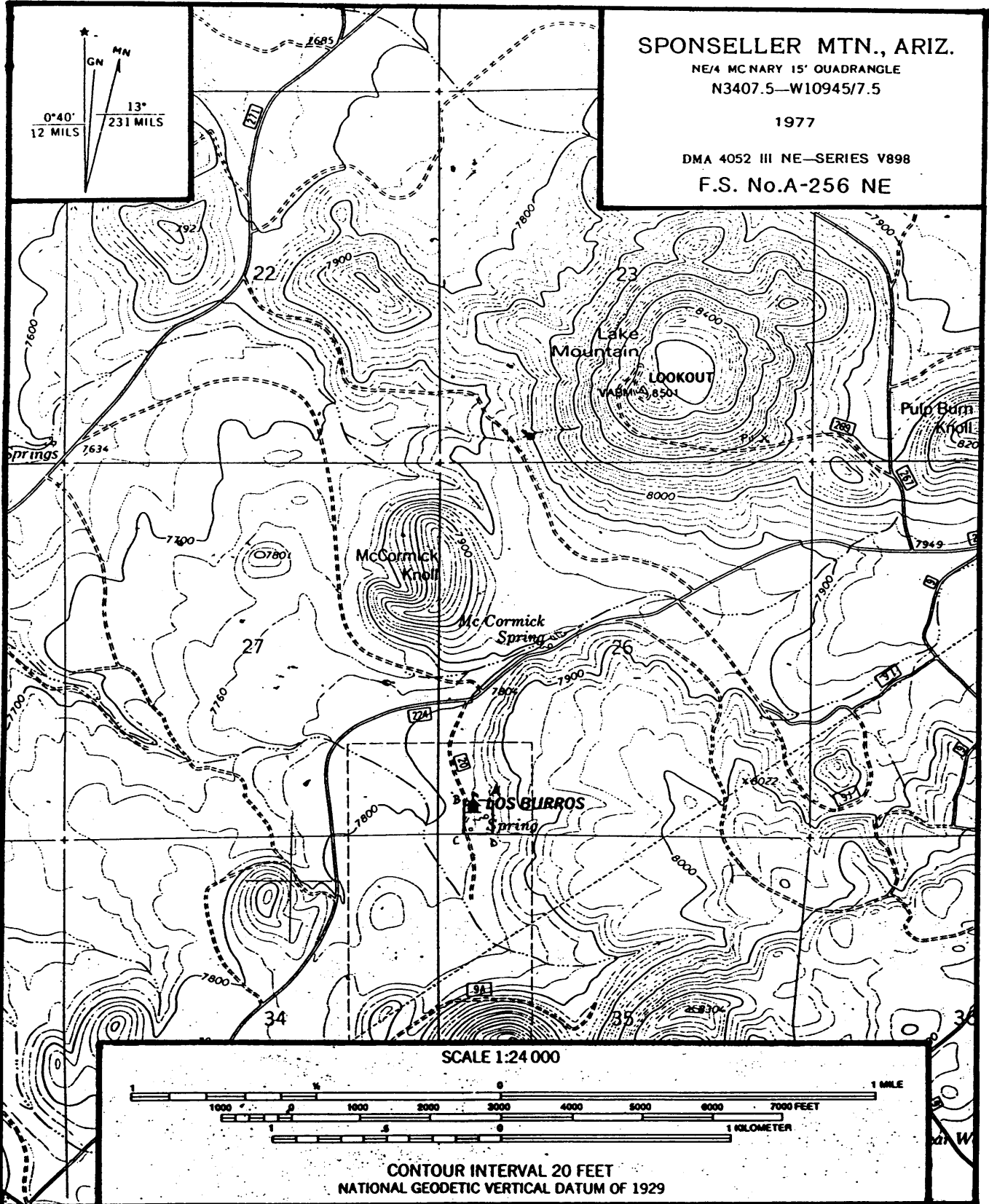
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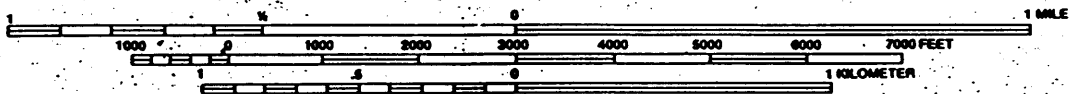
1977

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F.S. No.A-256 NE



SCALE 1:24 000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929