

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 92000333 Date Listed: 4/10/92

Judith River Ranger Station  
Property Name

Judith Basin      MT  
County                      State

N/A  
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.

*for* Antoniotti Dece  
Signature of the Keeper

4/14/92  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

Statement of Significance: The Level of Significance is local.  
The Period of Significance is amended to read: 1908-1942.

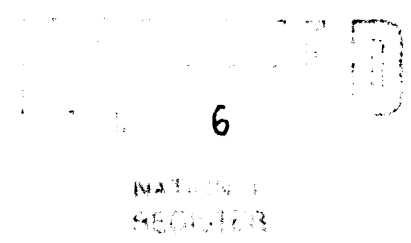
This information was confirmed with Evan DeBloois of the USDA Forest Service.

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

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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.

1. Name of Property

historic name Judith River Ranger Station  
other names/site number Judith Guard Station, 24JT72, Region 1 Property 01-15-04-301

2. Location

street & number Lewis & Clark NF, Judith Ranger District  not for publication  
city, town Utica  vicinity  
state MT code MT county Judith Basin code 045 zip code 59452

3. Classification

|  |  |                                     |                         |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Ownership of Property                              | Category of Property                         | Number of Resources within Property |                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> private                   | <input type="checkbox"/> building(s)         | Contributing                        | Noncontributing         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-local              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district | <u>3</u>                            | <u>      </u> buildings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-State              | <input type="checkbox"/> site                | <u>      </u>                       | <u>      </u> sites     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal | <input type="checkbox"/> structure           | <u>      </u>                       | <u>2</u> structures     |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> object              | <u>3</u>                            | <u>2</u> objects        |
|  |  |                                     | <u>      </u> Total     |

Name of related multiple property listing: n/a

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official *Maull* *Sheffy* Date 9-13-91  
State or Federal agency and bureau Montana SHPC

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

Signature of commenting or other official *Guan D. DeBlois* Date 2-14-92  
State or Federal agency and bureau USDA Forest Service

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

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:)

Signature of the Keeper *Antoniella Allee* Date of Action 4/10/92

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Government - government office  
Domestic - single dwelling and secondary structures

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

vacant/not in use  
recreation - outdoor recreation

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)

HOUSE (contrib. prop.)  
OTHER: rustic

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation ~~brick veneer~~ concrete  
walls log

roof shingles, resingled in 1930s

other wooden porches, 1908  
brick chimney, replaced after 1945 chimney fire

continued:

~~HOUSE (contrib. prop.)  
OTHER: rustic~~

BARN (contributing prop.)

Other: rustic

foundation: concrete

walls: log

roof: shingle

GARAGE: (contrib. prop.)

Other: rustic

foundation: concrete

walls: wood siding

roof: shingle

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

RANGER STATION AND RESIDENCE (written by Ken Sievert, Hist. Architect)

**SITE**

The site of the Judith Ranger Station complex is in the timbered foothills along the eastern downslope of the Little Belt range of the Rocky Mountains. Built along a big bend of the Middle Fork of the Judith River, the station is situated in a mountain meadow that is surrounded by ponderosa pine and other conifers. The "pocket" created by the bend in the river is sheltered from the more exposed prairie environment nearby and is oriented to catch the winter sun. The complex includes the station, a horse barn, a single car garage, corrals, and the meadow/pasture. Contemporary restroom facilities are located on the hillside immediately above the garage, and Forest Service picnic tables can be seen near the bank of the river a few hundred yards to the southeast.

The complex was planned in a linear progression: the station is the northeasternmost structure, the garage is located adjacent to the station to the southwest, and the horse barn is considerably further to the southwest of the garage and station. The corral is at the northeast corner of the barn and the pasture extends to the south of the barn down to the banks of the river. A long established road winds down the hillside to the station from the northeast, continues past the front of the station, and turns to the south to ford the river in front of the station complex. An early day log bridge occurred at this crossing but has been removed.

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**RANGER STATION AND RESIDENCE**

The Judith Ranger Station is a square (24x24') story-and-a-half log structure with a moderate to steeply sloped pyramidal roof. The simple massing has been supplemented by a full width, open sided hip-roof porch across the main southeast elevation and a shed roof enclosed porch (or lean-to) across the west one-half of the back elevation.

The principal roof has a modest overhang without a fascia, does not have a soffit, and is punctuated by a north-of-center masonry chimney. The underside of the 1x sheathing boards and the ends of the rafter tails can be seen under the overhang. The roof covering is sawn 16" standard wood shingles laid random width with normal weather exposure. The hips of the roof are protected by preformed stepped metal ridge flashings. The front porch roof is low slope and is also surfaced with wood shingles to match the principal roof; the hips of the front porch roof are preformed metal flashing to match the principal roof. A plain 1x6 fascia articulates the edge of the porch roof. The porch currently has a plywood ceiling. The back porch is protected by a low slope shed roof of wood shingles that does not have a fascia. The porch roof essentially is without an overhang and the edge of the roof is not trimmed.

The walls of the structure are 6" - 10" peeled native softwood logs and the corner cope is an unsophisticated tenon flat half-lap joint. The logs are not nested (coped linearly) and the space between logs is chinked with hand split wood billets supplemented by willow saplings nailed on the outside of the lower log. The saplings act as mortar stops for the lime-mortar dobbling. The dobbling is reinforced with a single strand of barbed wire within the joint. The log walls have been treated and stained.

The pattern of openings in the front (southeast) elevation is asymmetrical: the first floor fenestration includes an entry door right-of-center, a single window left of the door at approximately the third point of the wall, and a pair of windows between the door and the right corner of the building. Second story windows on the front align over the the first floor windows below with the exception that the upper right pair of windows are slightly offset toward the center of the station. The southeast elevation is symmetrical: both floors feature single windows at the quarter points of the walls. The back door entrance to the porch is at the extreme north end of the southwest elevation. The northeast elevation is similar except that the upper floor has only one window at the east quarter point. The rear elevation also has a symmetrical void pattern with windows at the quarter points of the upper floor and a left window and right entry door, respectively, at the quarter points of the lower floor.

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The 8" - 12" logs in the walls are not lapped or notched at the corners but are held in position by vertical corner plank nailed into the log ends; the corner plank from adjacent walls forms a re-entrant shape at each corner of the building. The logs are not nested or seated, the chinking is of wood billet, and the dobbing is lime mortar. The gable end walls of the barn are infilled with vertical ruff-sawn boards; there are no battens and the jointing is not articulated but is a simple butt joint.

A 6' sliding access door for man and horse is centrally located on the southeast wall; a hay luke accesses the hayloft on the south end of the barn. The northeast gabled wall of the structure has been infilled with more recent construction of wood framing and is surfaced with sawn wood shingles that are uniquely deployed horizontally.

A concrete foundation wall can be seen around the perimeter of the structure; the flooring inside is heavy plank. Two horse stalls occur on the northwest side of the interior near the west corner; the northeast end of the plan is a large open space. A ladder in the south corner of the barn accesses the hayloft above. The horse stalls are constructed of solid wood boards on each side of log verticals and are approximately 5' high.

A round corral is located immediately northeast of the barn. According to a local informant, it was built in the 1960s by Doc Cornell, the District Ranger. It is made of wood posts and rails. Hardware is limited to nails, spikes, and hasps at the gates. There is an external chute and two gates. It measures about 40' in diameter. It is not in good condition. It is not counted as either a contributing or non-contributing property on the resource list, due to its insubstantial size and scale and the relatively recent construction date. However, its style and function are compatible with the historic theme of the Station.

**GARAGE AT THE JUDITH RANGER STATION**

The detached garage at the Judith Ranger Station is a small one-story rectangular utility structure with a moderate-to-steep slope gable roof aligned in the long direction. It measures 24' 3" northwest-southeast by 12' 5" northeast-southwest.

Built to house a single car, the structure has a pair of outswinging vehicular doors in the southeast endwall and a single wood panel passage door on the far north end of the northeast sidewall. A pair of narrow horizontal wood sliding windows are centered on the back (northwest) elevation. Similar sliding windows are found near the south end of the two sidewalls. A small wooden diamond shaped window adorns the gable end of the southeast wall above the garage door.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

architecture  
conservation  
politics/government  
agriculture

Period of Significance

1908-1931

Significant Dates

1908  
1909  
1925

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Significant Person

n/a

Architect/Builder

Myers, Thomas Guy, Ranger  
blueprints: Mr. Work

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

CABIN

Historical:

The cabin qualifies for the National Register under Criterion A of 36CFR60.4. This addresses significance based on a site's association with events that have made an important contribution to the broad patterns of our history. The main historic events represented by the cabin include the establishment and operation of an early day Forest Service field office. Areas of significance include conservation, politics and government, and agriculture in the form of timber harvesting and stock grazing. The Ranger arrived at the site in 1906 and built the station himself in 1908. Establishment of the station provided locals with a Forest Service representative, a Ranger, to interpret and administer Forest Service policies regarding public use of newly set aside "federal" timber, water, and mineral resources. These were all crucial issues in that part of the Little Belt Mountains at that time and still.

Architectural:

The cabin exhibits distinctive architectural characteristics, as required by Criterion C of 36CFR60.4 concerning National Register eligibility. It combines locally available materials and simple log cabin technology with more sophisticated materials and technology. Examples of the simple local elements include the logs obtained locally and the crude, pinned building corners. Examples of the sophisticated elements include the pyramid hip roof and interior beadboard and wallpaper. Elements of the overall style, such as the square shape and hip roof, demonstrate the conservation ethic applied to building features. Both conserve materials, although construction of a hip roof is labor intensive. This choice to invest much labor in a structure which represents conservation through both its features and functions is consistent with the ideal image of the Forest Service in its formative years.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Thompson, Jessie, editor; Early Days in the Forest Service; Volume 1; U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Northern Region; Missoula, MT; 1944, pages 177-183

Weisgerber, Bernie; report on the Judith Guard Station; June, 1989

**INFORMANTS**

Arnott, Ed, long-time area resident, oral interviews, 1/30/90, 3/29/90

Goodman, Bert, former area resident and Forest Service employee, oral interviews, 3/2/90, 3/29/90

Knoepke, Esther Hansen, former Station resident, oral interview, 3/18/90

see continuation sheet

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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- 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: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property about 9 acres

**UTM References**

A 

|      |         |   |   |   |   |   |   |          |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|------|---------|---|---|---|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1    | 2       | 5 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 5        | 1 | 8 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Zone | Easting |   |   |   |   |   |   | Northing |   |   |   |   |   |   |

C 

|      |         |   |   |   |   |   |   |          |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|------|---------|---|---|---|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1    | 2       | 5 | 5 | 4 | 0 | 7 | 5 | 5        | 1 | 8 | 8 | 3 | 3 | 5 |
| Zone | Easting |   |   |   |   |   |   | Northing |   |   |   |   |   |   |

B 

|      |         |   |   |   |   |   |   |          |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|------|---------|---|---|---|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1    | 2       | 5 | 5 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 5        | 1 | 8 | 8 | 2 | 8 | 0 |
| Zone | Easting |   |   |   |   |   |   | Northing |   |   |   |   |   |   |

D 

|      |         |   |   |   |   |   |   |          |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|------|---------|---|---|---|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1    | 2       | 5 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5        | 1 | 8 | 8 | 3 | 8 | 0 |
| Zone | Easting |   |   |   |   |   |   | Northing |   |   |   |   |   |   |

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description** - Point A is the northwest corner of the pasture fence. Point B is on the north fence of the pasture, 335.6 feet northeast of Point A. Point C is on the crest of the ridge northeast of the corral, in line with the east-west fence north of the house. Point D is the fence corner northeast of the house. Point E is where the east fence ends at the river.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification** - The boundary includes the house/office, garage, barn, corral, pasture and surrounding land that has historically been considered as part of the Station. Boundaries of this surrounding land are fenced or defined by natural barriers. A picnic area at the river is included in the boundary because informants indicate it has been a popular picnic site since the Station was built.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

|                 |  |        |   |
|-----------------|--|--------|---|
| name/title      | <u>Ken Sievert, Historical Architect / Kelly Keim, Archeological Tech.</u> | XXXX   | <u>U.S.D.A. Forest Service</u>            |
| organization    | <u>Davidson Kuhr Architects</u>  | XXXXXX | <u>Judith District</u>                    |
| street & number | <u>Davidson Building</u>   | state  | <u>Stanford, MT</u> zip code <u>59479</u> |
| city or town    | <u>Great Falls, MT 59401</u>   | phone  | <u>1-406-566-2292</u>                     |
| phone           | <u>1-406-761-2277</u>  | date   | <u>2/28/91</u>                            |
| date            | <u>4/4/90</u>  |        |   |

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Other architectural features contribute to building significance. The front of the cabin displays asymmetrical fenestration upstairs. A double window on the right is opposed by a single one on the left. Also, the door is offset, to the right. Log daubing is reinforced by what appears to be Baker barb wire, a relatively old style with flat barbs. This is tucked into the daubing to hold it together, in place. The ridge caps on the porch roof are roof ridge corner pieces all lined up. The back porch was an add-on done at the time of construction. Roof pitch is steep and the 11:12 ratio is unusual, due to blueprint modifications made by Myers, the builder, at the time of construction.

Bernie Weisgerber, National Park Service Restoration Specialist, was hired to evaluate the complex. He spent three days at the site. He thought that the interior of the cabin was quite significant. This is because the log work was relatively "quick and dirty", compared to the details evident inside. Beadboard forms walls and ceilings and original wallpaper covers other walls and ceilings. Architectural ghosts indicate period doors were recycled, possibly from other locations in the house, and one door was walled over. It is interesting that the cabin was both the Ranger's office and his home. The office was off the living room, in the southwest corner of the house. This is where the stairs lead to the second floor. The tread:riser ratio changes at the stair landing.

BARN:

Historical:

The horse barn derives most of its significance from its context within the site. Forest Archives indicate it was built by Myers in 1909. Construction of the horse barn represents site expansion in a traditional direction: reliance on horses for travel and work in the foothills and mountains. It indicates an orientation to a field approach to the job of Forest Ranger. Of the areas of significance represented by this proposed historic district, conservation and agriculture are most relevant to the Station barn. This is because the barn housed the horses used to do fieldwork related to resource conservation or utilization. Resource utilization often involved livestock grazing or timber sales, both classified as agriculture.

Architectural:

The log barn contributes to the architectural significance of the site, as described by Criterion C of 36CFR60.4. Barn features are included in the Description Section above. Its architectural features are simple and functional. Because it was built later, to serve a different function, its significant features vary from those of the house. Daubing is pure lime mortar, not Portland cement; corners are indented, fixed by nails through milled lumber aligned vertically; the second floor joists supporting the wall are pole. The broad sliding door is centered in the wide south elevation. It has a gable roof. Gable end walls are closed with plain vertical boards, not ship-lapped or sealed with battens.

Because the barn was built by Myers, it represents builder continuity while displaying structural and technical differences, compared to the house.



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SITE BACKGROUND:

There was a sawmill located on the terrace across the Middle Fork from the Station. It had been run by a Mr. Burke, but was abandoned when Myers arrived in 1906. No mill structures remain there today. An informant thought Burke's sawmill may have been associated with the Yogo sapphire mines or mills because other sawmills in the general area were associated with the sapphire operations.

There was a small old cabin on the north terrace of the Middle Fork before the Station was established there. The initial site form indicates it dated to 1876. It is shown on an undated photo. Myers lived in this old cabin when he first arrived in the area, and used it as a garage from the time he built the Station until the present garage was built in 1925. It was located about where the present garage is. Presumably, the old cabin was dismantled to make room for the garage.

No documentation could be found verifying the builder or context of this original cabin. One version of a local story suggests an explanation. Locals report that it is possible the old cabin was built by "Dirty Emil", a squatter at the site in the 1870s. He is alleged to have arrived in the area with many \$20 gold pieces which he buried on the site in a bean pot. He was murdered and vigilantes killed the accused murderer. The alleged gold was never recovered. This story is not widely accepted, however. Other versions of the tale involve Emil, a "hermit", who was thought to have been killed by his partner. The setting for one of these versions was tentatively reported as the terrace across the river from the Station, so it does not appear to explain the background of the original cabin. Neither version can be counted as objective, conventional documentation. Neither the Forest Service nor the county have retained records of the old cabin.

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Korell, Phil, former area resident, oral interview, 2/19/90

Setter, M. Jean, former area resident, oral interviews, 3/2/90, 3/29/90,  
and 4/12/90

Trask, Bill, former area resident, letter dated 2/21/90

Twiford, Barbara, long-time area resident, oral interview, 1/30/90

Walker, Norman, long-time area resident, oral interviews, 2/8/90 and 3/29/90

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UTM References, cont.:

E: Zone 12, 554230m easting, 5188240m northing

F: Zone 12, 554190m easting, 5188160m northing

G: Zone 12, 554035m easting, 5188130m northing

Verbal Boundary Description, cont.:

Point F is the east edge of the livestock water gap at the river. Point G is the southwest corner of the pasture fence, south southeast of Point A, the starting point.

Legal Location: S 1/2, NW, NE; N 1/2, SW, NE, Sec. 35, T13N, R11E

Measurements: A-B=417.5'  
B-C=242.2'  
C-D=275.6'  
D-E=359.1'  
E-F=434.2'  
F-G=442.6'  
G-A=375.8'

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