

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

1. Name of Property

historic name: Council Ranger Station
other name/site number: 10-AM-162 and PY-540 (agency number)

2. Location

street & number: Council Ranger District, Payette National Forest, Highway 95 and Whiteley Avenue
city/town: Council, Idaho
state: Idaho code: ID county: Adams code: ID 003 zip code: 83612

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:	Category of Property:	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	5	1
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district		2
<input type="checkbox"/> public-state	<input type="checkbox"/> site		1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		4
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	5	4
			TOTAL

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: None
Name of related multiple property listing: NA

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.

Walter J. DeChavis
Signature of certifying official
Forest Service
State or Federal agency and bureau
Date: 4/29/92

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

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

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): _____

Robert J. DeLoe
Signature of Keeper
Date of Action: 11/19/92

KEEP
(SHPO Sig.)

689

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National Park Service

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Ewan D. DeChavis
Signature of certifying official
Forest Service
State or Federal agency and bureau
Date: 4/29/92

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

James P. [Signature]
Signature of commenting or other official
Idaho State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau
Date: 9/29/92

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 Keeper
Date of Action

Council Ranger Station

6. Function or Use

Historic functions (enter categories from instructions):

Government
USDA Forest Service Administration

Current functions (enter categories from instructions):

Government/Forest Service administration

Sub: Maintenance/equipment storage

7. Description (enter categories from instructions):

Architectural Classification

Materials

Late 19th and 20th Century American
Vernacular

foundation - concrete
roof - tin roofing
walls - frame, shiplap siding
other -

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Council Ranger Station is located in the northern Weiser River Valley near the base of Council Mountain within the city limits of Council, Idaho. The station consists of five frame buildings and a variety of other support features (e.g., propane tank storage, storage enclosure, rain gauge, weather station, and trailer). The five frame buildings are good examples of structures constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps for the Forest Service between 1933 and 1936. The CCC also landscaped the property with trees and sidewalks.

Contributing Buildings

Feature 1 is a one story, gable roofed building which formerly served as the district office. It is of frame construction covered by shiplap siding and tin roofing. The rectangular structure has a concrete basement foundation and exposed eaves. The office has nine 6 over 6 light, double-hung windows and a centrally located brick chimney. Above the front entrance is a gabled roof porch supported by four pillars over a concrete stoop. A smaller two pillared porch is at the back. The interior is divided into several offices, two rest rooms and has a full basement. The building is 24'x44' and was constructed by the CCC's between 1933 and 1934 using the Standard Plan R-4, No. 54 design. It is now used as a bunkhouse for seasonal help.

Feature 2 is a gabled roof, frame constructed garage with exposed eaves and concrete foundation and floor. This one-and-a-half-story, rectangular building has shiplap siding on three sides and corrugated metal siding on a fourth. The eastern facade has five horizontally sliding garage doors set over a concrete apron. The building's south side has four 6-light windows and one 2-light window, while the west and north sides have 6-light windows. The attic story is illuminated by two 6-light windows placed side-by-side just below the gable on the north and south facades. This garage is 32'x54' and was constructed by the CCC's between 1933 and 1934 using the Standard Plan R-4, No. 33 design.

[X] See continuation sheet

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Architectural Description (cont.)

Feature 3 is a gabled roof, one-and-a-half story, frame workshop and storage building. It was also constructed by the CCC's between 1933 and 1934 using the Standard Plan R-4, No. 33 design. This rectangular structure has exposed eaves, shiplap siding, corrugated metal shingling and a concrete foundation and floor. The north facade is characterized by a shed-roofed porch over a concrete stoop shingled with corrugated metal. There are two 6-light, single sash windows placed side-by-side in the attic just below the gable and two more of the same type placed on either side of the door on the ground floor. The east side has a horizontally sliding freight door with two 6-light windows on either side of it. The south side has six 6-light, single sash windows and there are six racks for drying fire hoses. A brick chimney rises above the freight door and a window on the eastern elevation. The west side is characterized by six 6-light single sash windows. The structure is 33'x54' and the interior is divided into a 20'x15' storage room and a 20'x26' workshop.

Feature 4 is a one story, gabled roof, frame constructed oil house built in 1936 by the CCC's using Standard Plan R-4, No. 95-A. The 18'x20' rectangular building is covered with shiplap siding and has a corrugated metal roof and a concrete foundation. Located on the south facade is a concrete loading dock covered by a gabled roof porch which is supported by four square pillars. It has exposed eaves, a 6-light window on each gable end, and two 6-light single sash windows on the north side. There is a concrete pad on the west side of the structure used as a vehicle washing area. The interior is a single room with a concrete floor.

Feature 5 is a gabled roof, frame constructed garage/workshop sided and shingled with corrugated metal. It is 32'x71' in size and has a concrete foundation and floor. On the south side are two sets of 16-light windows placed side-by-side and two horizontally-sliding garage doors. Above the windows is a brick chimney. The west side is characterized by a bank of 16-light, fixed sash windows. The north facade has five horizontally-sliding garage doors set above a concrete apron. The interior is divided into a car parking area and a repair room. This building was constructed by CCC workers between 1933 and 1934 using a special plan (United States Forest Service Building Plans, 1933).

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Architectural Description (cont.)

Other Aspects of Site

The CCC were also involved with the landscaping of the ranger station. Trees such as ponderosa pine, alder, and spruce were planted near Buildings 1, 2, and 3. Additional landscaping includes juniper, dogwood and rose bushes as well as a sidewalk around Building 1 which was installed in 1941.

Feature 6 is a propane storage enclosure. Feature 7 is a semi-permanent trailer. Feature 8 is a storage enclosure surrounded by a wire storm fence. Feature 9 is an electronic rain gauge enclosed within a wood rail fence. These are considered non-contributing because they were added at a later date and were not part of the original 1930s construction.

Summary

In general the Council Ranger Station looks as it did when constructed in the mid 1930s. The later added features either do not detract, i.e., the rain gauge or are moveable, i.e., the trailer.

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 and C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : _____

Areas of Significance: Conservation/Architecture/Politics-Government

Period(s) of Significance: 1933-1941 Significant Dates: N/A

Significant Person(s): N/A Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: U. S. Forest Service and Civilian Conservation Corps

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

The Council Ranger Station is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A for its association with the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) which has regional significance because it represents a major expansion and change in philosophy of the Forest Service. It is also eligible under Criteria C, as a well-preserved example of Depression Era Forest Service architecture. The architecture is distinctive and consistent with the simple frame construction and white with green trim paint scheme. All buildings are original, none have been removed and the original landscaping has been retained. The few non-contributing features are ancillary and portable. This station is one of the two best examples of CCC work on the Payette National Forest.

History of the U.S. Forest Service and the Payette

The current Payette National Forest was formed in 1944 when the Weiser and Idaho National Forests were consolidated and the name was changed to the Payette (Hockaday 1968:28). The Weiser Forest Reserve was created in 1905 and covered a large portion of federally administered lands in central Idaho, as well as lands in Utah and Nevada. This Forest was then sub-divided into three Ranger Districts known as the Indian Valley, Council, and the West Mountain Areas. J. B. (Jake) Laffery was appointed the first Forest Supervisor of the Weiser National Forest. Up until the 1930s administration of the Weiser National Forest (and other western forests) was essentially custodial. Fire protection, replanting lands cut for timber, regulation of grazing, timber and mining were the primary emphases of the early years of the Forest Service. The main philosophy was to maintain the forests for the people and not just for big corporations or one industry to exploit. Fire protection was especially important after the summer of 1910 when much of the forested lands in Idaho and Montana burned.

The creation of the Weiser and other forest reserves came about as public concern rose regarding conservation of resources on public lands. Numerous forests were destroyed by private corporations for their own profit, primarily in the South and upper Midwest, and public reaction forced Congress to enact some changes. A division of forestry was created

[X] See continuation sheets

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Statement of Significance (cont.)

within the U. S. Department of Agriculture in 1881. Sixteen years later Congress set aside 13 forest reserves covering 21 million acres of virgin timber. Gifford Pinchot, a professional forester and friend of future president Theodore Roosevelt, was appointed to head the Division of Forestry. However, the Department of Interior continued to maintain control over the forest reserves. Frustrated by the bureaucratic system, Pinchot streamlined the administration of the forests by giving more autonomy to the districts. Forest supervisors were instructed to give more responsibility to the local ranger, because in most cases the "man on the ground" was the best judge of many situations (Steen, 1976).

When Theodore Roosevelt became president after William McKinley's assassination, he immediately took up the cause of forest conservation of public lands. With the president's full support, the administration of the forest reserves was transferred from the Interior Department to the Department of Agriculture in 1905 and renamed the U. S. Forest Service. Pinchot wanted the new agency's name to reflect its commitment to serving the people. Two years later the forest reserves were renamed national forests, as Pinchot felt the term "reserve" implied the federal forests were to remain untouched. This action was to decrease the bureaucratic inefficiency which put foresters in the Department of Agriculture and the forest reserves in the Department of the Interior. Placement in the former department was preferred since, it was argued, forests were crops and should be overseen as such (Steen, 1976). About this same time Pinchot issued the *Use Book*. This 142 page volume contained regulations as to how forest lands were to be regulated. Policies concerning timber sales, grazing, mineral leases and forest fires were set in this pocket sized book, and many are still used today.

The Forest Service and the CCC

The Great Depression had a profound effect on the nation and on the Forest Service throughout the West. The drought had caused unemployment and human suffering but it also served to emphasize the past generations of unchecked land exploitation, the results of which were over-grazed lands, cut and devastated forest lands and exhausted soil and removed vegetation from poor agricultural practices. In 1933, one of many emergency relief measures was enacted, the Emergency Conservation Work Act. This allowed President Franklin D. Roosevelt to issue Executive Order #6101 which established the official existence of the Civilian Conservation Corps which aimed to use unemployed workers on public works projects to improve environmentally impacted lands through construction of roads and telephone lines, tree planting efforts, fire control, and construction of permanent facilities for recreation and better management of the forests. The CCC recruited young, unemployed men, often from urban environments and these men received training in a variety of job skills. The CCC was hired by the Department of Labor, mobilized, fed and clothed by the Department of the Army, and employed by the Departments of Agriculture and Interior.

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Statement of Significance (cont.)

The forests in Idaho were profoundly affected by the CCC and coincident new forest policies with new directives and greater responsibility as described in the Copeland Report. The Copeland Report called for the Forest Service to evaluate the timber supply, as well as actively manage the timber for greater sale. The timber industry was expanding and looking for new sources of wood for plywood, veneer and a greater range of paper products. The Forest Service also was to further emphasize recreation and construct campgrounds and facilities to serve the public. As a result of all of these factors, construction began on forest administrative sites in Idaho and throughout the west. Idaho was second in the nation in CCC expenditures and 40 percent of the camps in Idaho worked on USDA Forest Service projects.

Council and the Ranger Station

The town of Council was so named because of its popularity as a meeting place for the various local Indian tribes. The first white settlers to the area are believed to have been the George Moser family, who arrived at the present site of Council in 1876. Soon, others joined them, attracted to the Council Valley by the plentiful timber, grass and good conditions for raising grain and alfalfa crops. Many settlers also raised livestock to supply the miners in the surrounding areas. The Pacific and Idaho Northern Railroad arrived in 1901 and the town was incorporated in 1903 (Conley, 1944; Snow, 1963). It became the county seat of Adams County, which was carved from Washington County on March 3, 1911 (IMPWG, 1967).

In April of 1933, a 200 man CCC camp was established at Council, one of four camps on the Idaho National Forest. These men, who were mostly from New York and New Jersey, constructed 300 miles of trail, laid 80 miles of telephone line and erected the Council Ranger Station Headquarters, the Mill Creek Guard Station, the Krassel Ranger Station and the Hornet Creek Ranger Station. In 1933 construction on the Council District Ranger Station was begun by the CCC on land purchased from the Pacific and Idaho Northern Railroad Company. Prior to that time, the Forest Service rented office and warehouse space in Council because the administrative facilities, like most other national forests in the West, were primitive or nonexistent (Hockaday, 1968). Many other historic features found on the Payette National Forest have their origins during the 1930s and can be linked to the work of the CCC (Sutherland 1968). The Corps had a profound impact on the Payette National Forest and mark a significant era in the forest's history.

After only three years, the CCC had put millions of unemployed Americans to work and had laid over 44,000 miles of telephone line, cleared over 11,000 miles of truck trails, maintained almost 63,000 miles of trail, constructed over 600 lookout towers and planted 570 million trees nationwide. The activities of the CCC on the Payette National Forest

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Statement of Significance (cont.)

between 1933 and 1942 set precedence for future work on the forest. Although personnel numbers and tasks on the forest took a quantum leap in the early 1960s, the 1930s remain a golden era of accomplishment on the Payette National Forest.

The Architecture

The site retains integrity since all five frame buildings and associated landscaping have received minimal alteration. No permanent structures have been added to the complex and none of the original structures have been removed. The design qualities of the buildings are constructed according to approved plans and blueprints. All plans are vernacular in architectural style, square to rectangular buildings with gabled roofs. The siding is shiplap and exterior design elements are basic. Windows are mostly multiple lights. The materials, color (white with green trim), workmanship and design make these buildings easily recognizable as Depression Era Forest Service administrative structures.

Summary

The buildings that create the Council Ranger Station are representative examples of federal government architecture from an important era of U. S. Forest Service history. The complex is significant in the context of the administrative history of the Payette National Forest in that they are examples of CCC craftsmanship and a visual reflection of the political change brought about by the New Deal which enlarged the government's role in American society and increased the role of the Forest Service in the local and regional economy. This architecture is characterized by a simplicity of design appropriate to the building's function and these structures are fine examples of this style. Unfortunately many of them are rapidly being replaced by structures adapted to contemporary activities.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Arnold, Mark,
1982 IMACS Inventory Form, Council Ranger Station, 10-AM-162, June 10. Payette
National Forest, Agency no. PY-540.

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: Payette National Forest, McCall, Idaho

10. Geographical Data

NW1/4 NW1/4 NW1/4 Section 14, T16N R1W

Acreage of Property: 1.8 acres

UTM References:

A. Zone 11 Easting 545040 Northing 4952970	B. _____
C. _____	D. _____

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: The site is roughly rectangular, longest from north to south. It is bordered on the south by the property line; on the west by Highway 95; on the east by a city street right-of-way; and on the north by Whiteley Avenue. The ranger station is located on city lots Nos. 1047, 1048 and 1049 of parcel #3.

See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification: The boundaries are essentially the extent of the facilities and follow the boundaries of the lot acquired by the Forest Service in 1933.

See continuation sheet.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Dale L. Decco/Historian and Lynn Fredlund/Archaeologist

Organization: GCM Services

Date: April 23, 1991

Street & Number: P.O. Box 3047

Telephone: (406) 723-4387

City or Town: Butte

State: MT ZIP: 59702

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Major Bibliographical References (cont.)

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1982 Idaho for the Curious: A Guide. Backeddy Books. Cambridge, Idaho

Hockaday, James

1968 History of the Payette National Forest. U.S Department of Agriculture,
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1967 The Idaho Story, Volume I. Ipas Publishing Co. Iona, Idaho.

Otis, Alison T., William D. Honey, Thomas C. Hogg and Kimberly K. Lakin

1986 The Forest Service and the Civilian Conservation Corps: 1933-42. U.S
Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Report FS-395, prepared by Pacific
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1918 Idaho: Chronology, Nomenclature Bibliography. W.B. Conkey Company,
Chicago. Reproduced in 1965 by the Shorey Book Store. Seattle

Rutledge, R. H.

1935 Building Construction Manual. U. S. Department of Agriculture, U. S. Forest
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Shovers, Brian

1991 National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form for the
National Resource Management on the Salmon National Forest in Central Idaho,
1907-1940. Prepared for the Salmon National Forest by GCM Services, Butte,
Montana

Snow, Elias B.

1963 History of Indian Valley. *Idaho County Leader*. Council, Idaho

Steen, Harold K.

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

Sutherland, Robert

1965 History and Development of the Council Ranger District. Unpublished manuscript
available from the Payette National Forest, McCall, Idaho.

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Major Bibliographical References (cont.)

Throop, Gail

1986 National register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form. USDA
Forest Service Administrative Buildings in the States of Oregon and Washington.
U.S. Forest Service Region 6. Portland

U.S. Forest Service

1933 United States Forest Service Standardized Building Plans. U. S. Department of
Agriculture, Office of Engineering. Ogden, Utah

U. S. Forest Service

n.d. Investment and Depreciation Records available from the Payette National Forest,
McCall, Idaho

Historic Council Ranger Compound

