

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: 91001962 Date Listed: 1/13/92

Cooper Ridge Lookout Tree
Property Name

Coconino AZ
County State

National Forest Fire Lookouts in the Southwestern Region TR
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.

Robert G. Lee
for _____
Signature of the Keeper

1/23/92
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Statement of Significance: Under Areas of Significance, Engineering is added.

This information was confirmed with Evan DeBlois of the U.S. Forest Service.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

1962

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name Cooper Ridge Lookout Tree
other names/site number AR-03-07-03-1041

2. Location

street & number Forest Road 248 / /not for publication
city, town Fredonia / x/vicinity
state Arizona code AZ county Coconino code 005 zip code 86022

3. Classification

Ownership of Property		Category of Property		Number of Resources within Property	
				Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/>	private	<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)		buildings
<input type="checkbox"/>	public-local	<input type="checkbox"/>	district		sites
<input type="checkbox"/>	public-State	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	site	<u>1</u>	structures
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/>	structure		objects
		<input type="checkbox"/>	object	<u>1</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Number of contributing resources
previously listed in the National
Register 0

NATIONAL FOREST FIRE LOOKOUTS IN THE
SOUTHWESTERN REGION, USDA FOREST SERVICE

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.

Gwan D. DeBorja 7-30-91
Signature of certifying official Date

USDA - Forest Service

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

Shereen Berner 4/8/91
Signature of certifying official Date

State Historic Preservation Office

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- Entered in the National Register. Autumneth J. Lee 1/13/92
- 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:)

ph Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/ Lookout Facility

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials enter categories from instructions)

foundation

walls

roof

other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Summary

This isolated historic lookout tree is located west of FR 248 just .7 miles north of Highway 67. It is situated on an unnamed ridge northeast of Moquitch Canyon within the interior of the Kaibab Plateau on the North Kaibab Ranger District, Kaibab National Forest. It is within an open Ponderosa pine forest at an elevation of 7850 feet. The tree is still alive. The site maintains sufficient integrity to qualify for National Register listing.

Physical Description

This lookout tree is a "squatty" (three trunks) ponderosa pine measuring 75 feet high and 4 feet in diameter with a ladder constructed up its eastern side where the branches have been lopped off. Five contiguous segments of ladder works remain. The ladder is in good condition. The construction is typical of other ladders on lookout trees: 2" X 4" lumber sidepieces with 1" x 12" crosspieces. It is attached to the tree with spikes

Setting

Vegetation surrounding the site currently consists of an open Ponderosa pine forest and some grasses and forbs. The lookout tree is the largest tree in the immediate vicinity. This area was logged last year (1989) and much of it is heavily littered with duff and debris vegetation. This tree offers a panoramic view to the "Grand Staircase" to the north. The setting retains its historic character.

Integrity

The Cooper Ridge Lookout Tree is still in good condition, despite having been abandoned for approximately 30 years. The ladder is intact and the tree is still identifiable as a lookout tree facility and thus retains the integrity of location, design, feeling, materials, workmanship, setting, and association.

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) Period of Significance Significant Dates

Conservation
Politics/Government 1905-1940

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person Architect/Affiliation

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

Summary

Cooper Ridge Lookout Tree is significant under Criterion A [36 CFR 60.6] for its association with 1) the development of forest fire prevention, detection, and control by the USDA Forest Service between 1905 and 1940, and 2) the conservation movement and its influence on public land management from 1905 to 1940. It is also significant under Criterion C [36 CFR 60.6] because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type of construction, the earliest and simplest form of fire detection structure, built into a living tree.

Historic Contexts/Background

The construction and abandonment dates for the Cooper Ridge Lookout Tree are presently unknown. They might be ascertained, however, through oral history. In the late 1960's, lookout trees on the North Kaibab Ranger District fell out of use entirely, replaced by towers and aerial observation technology.

Although much remains to be learned about the history of this lookout tree, it had an important function in the earliest fire detection network on the Kaibab National Forest. It continues to evoke a sense of the past.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Judd, Veldon 1989 Personal Communication.

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 hist. preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Kaibab National Forest
Williams, AZ

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one

UTM References

A 1|2| 3|9|1|2|5|0| 4|0|6|7|2|5|0|
 Zone Easting Northing

C | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
 Zone Easting Northing

B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
 Zone Easting Northing

D | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
 Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the site is a square measuring 10 x 10 meters centering on the tree itself (see accompanying sketch map)

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the lookout tree and its immediate area only.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Marietta A. Davenport District Archaeologist North Kaibab RD

organization USDA Forest Service Kaibab Natl Forest date 5-24-90

street & number 430 S. Main telephone (602)643-7395

city or town Fredonia state AZ zip code 86022

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

PHOTOGRAPHS Page 1

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS THE SAME FOR ALL PHOTOTGRAPHS ACCOMPANYING THIS
NOMINATION:

- 1). Cooper Ridge Lookout Tree
- 2). Vicinity of Grand Canyon, North Rim, north of Jacob Lake, Kaibab Plateau,
Arizona.
- 3). John C. Davenport
- 4). May 1990
- 5). North Kaibab Ranger District, Kaibab National Forest, Fredonia, Arizona

INFORMATION FOR INDIVIDUAL PHOTOGRAPHS:

- 6). Close up of ladder-works.
- 7). #1
- 8). Facing north, tree in its setting, showing ladder-works (note trifurcated
trunk).
- 9). #2
- 7).

