

**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: 93000519 Date Listed: 6/10/93

Big Springs Ranger Station  
Property Name

Coconino County AZ State

Depression-Era USDA Forest Service Administrative Complexes in  
Arizona MPS  
Multiple Name

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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 A. Rice*  
Signature of the Keeper

6/10/93  
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

**Statement of Significance:** This property has been evaluated at the statewide level of significance.

This information was confirmed with Michael A. Sullivan, Archeologist with the Tonto National Forest, and Evan I. DeBlois, Federal Preservation Officer, USDA Forest Service.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

MAY 12 1993

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

1. Name of Property

historic name Big Springs Ranger Station  
other names/site number AR-03-07-03-1020

2. Location

street & number N/A /NA/not for publication  
city, town Big Springs, Kaibab National Forest /XX/vicinity  
state Arizona code AZ county Coconino code 005 zip code N/A

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)		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input 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>1</u>	<u>      </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> objects
		<u>4</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
DEPRESSION-ERA USDA FOREST SERVICE  
ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEXES IN ARIZONA

Number of contributing resources  
previously listed in the National  
Register none

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.

Guan S. DeStovis 5/7/93  
Signature of certifying official Date

USDA - Forest Service

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

Jessica J. Palma 6-5-92  
Signature of certifying official Date

State Historic Preservation Officer

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
- See continuation sheet. Autaweth Allee 6/10/93
- determined eligible for the National Register.
- See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

fr Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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## 6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/government office

DOMESTIC /institutional housing

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/government office

DOMESTIC/institutional housing

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## 7. Description

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Bungalow/Craftsman

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Materials enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls WOOD, weatherboard

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roof ASPHALT

other board-and-batten

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

### Summary

Big Springs Ranger Station is a large Forest Service administrative facility (Kaibab National Forest, Arizona) with a core of 3 historic buildings and associated corral set apart from more recent developments. The historic core, built in 1934, is a typical assemblage of Depression-era buildings: a dwelling, office, and barn/garage with attached corral. All are contributors to the historic district. Twelve other buildings or sheds are located outside the historic core. With the exception of one building which has lost integrity, all postdate the historic period and are ineligible for the National Register. Despite their ineligibility, the buildings are compatible in design and materials to the historic buildings, and they do not intrude on the historic setting. The historic buildings retain their original appearance. The setting has changed very little over the years and contributes to the integrity of the site.

### Setting

Big Springs Ranger Station is located on the remote Kaibab Plateau, north of the Grand Canyon, at about 7,000 feet in elevation. It is set at the base of a limestone cliff. Water from Big Springs cascades down this cliff and flows into two ponds located on site. The pond in front of the office and residence dates to the historic period and contributes to the overall setting. The natural vegetation includes ponderosa pine, gambel oak, and aspen. Deciduous trees brought in from southern Utah include green ash and willow. These trees, along with the lush lawn, thrive in the well-watered area and give the administrative site a lush appearance.

### Physical Description

The dwelling at Big Springs is a standard A-1N two-bedroom Bungalow. The frame building has relatively low pitched cross gable roofs sheathed in asphalt shingles. Compared with other standard plan bungalows, it has simple detailing, with exposed purlins and rafters (no knee braces) under wide eaves. The open two bay porch is supported by square posts, compared with the stone or cement piers called for in the

|X| See Continuation Sheet

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plans. (See the Camp Clover Ranger Station nomination form for a discussion of pier styles.) The walls are of narrow clapboard siding. An external stone masonry chimney is flanked by 6 light casement windows. Windows elsewhere are generally 6/1 or 4/1 wood sash. The well-maintained building retains a high degree of integrity.

The office building is a standard B-2 Bungalow office plan. It is one of only two examples of the B-2 style remaining in Arizona (the other is at Crown King on the Prescott National Forest). It is very similar in materials and detailing to the dwelling, and those need not be repeated here. The simple rectangular building has a gable roof with cross-gabled open two bay porch. Two front entrance doors open from the porch. The office retains a high degree of integrity.

The Big Springs barn is a standard plan C-1 bungalow style. It is of frame construction with board-and-batten siding. It is side gabled with the garage roof set lower than the barn roof. Rafter ends are exposed under wide eaves. The solid core wood plank doors have exposed diagonal framing. The windows have multiple panes. This building retains its original swing-out doors, and thus possesses a high degree of integrity. Attached to the barn is a corral which appears to date to the historic period, and is therefore a district contributor.

An adjacent one bedroom board-and-batten residence was built in about 1925. However, a circa 1957 addition which doubled its size has impacted its historic integrity to such a degree as to exclude it from National Register eligibility. Eleven other buildings or sheds are located primarily east of the historic core. These were all built in the mid-1950s. They are of wood frame construction with beveled wood siding and are compatible in design to the historic structures. Due to their recent age, however, they are ineligible for the National Register.

### Integrity

The nominated property is a good example of a Forest Service administrative site built during the Depression-era. It retains all of its original buildings, unaltered, in their historic setting. This is a typical collection of standard plan constructions which illustrate Forest Service site layout and administration during the Depression-era. It retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, 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

ARCHITECTURE      1934-1942      1934

SOCIAL HISTORY      \_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_\_

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT      \_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_\_

CONSERVATION      \_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_      Cultural Affiliation      \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_      N/A      \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person      Architect/Affiliation  
N/A      USDA Forest Service, Region 3

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

Summary

Big Springs Ranger Station is significant under criterion "A" for its association with the history of the development of the US Forest Service and the Federal response to the Depression in Arizona. It is also significant under criterion "C" because it embodies a distinctive style of architecture developed by the Forest Service during the Depression-era. The Period of Significance dates from 1934, when the first building was constructed, to 1942, corresponding with the end of the Great Depression and disbanding of the CCC.

Historic Contexts/Background

Big Springs Ranger Station is significant for its association with expansion of Forest Service administration from custodial superintendence to active resource management. Built by Forest Service crews supported by National Industrial Recovery Act funds, it reflects the role of the Forest Service to relieve unemployment in the Depression-era. As an ensemble of standard plan architecture developed in the 1930s by Regional Office architects, it represents a distinctive Forest Service architectural design style and philosophy. (See "Depression-Era USDA Forest Service Administrative Complexes in Arizona Multiple Property Form" for additional context information.)

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Big Springs Ranger Station was withdrawn from public use in 1908, three years after formation of the US Forest Service as an agency within the Department of Agriculture. The site was a particularly good one because of its proximity to Big Springs, a rare and prolific water source. Local settler Levi Stewart had previously lived there; he operated a portable lumber mill. His ranch is mentioned in Fredrick Dellenbaugh's diary of the 1872 John Wesley Powell Survey expedition. Soon after the Forest Service acquired the site, they constructed a board-and-batten frame building with hipped roof to house the ranger. This building served the Forest Service well for the next two decades. The area was little-used; small scale lumbering and ranching were the primary activities in the area. Big Springs played an important role in the 1920s management of the famous "Kaibab deer herd." Rangers set traps for fawns at Big Springs and shipped the excess deer elsewhere to help relieve the overcrowded range.

By the early 1930s, the Forest Service needed to upgrade their facilities at Big Springs. They tore down the old residence and built new buildings. The dwelling, office, and barn were constructed in 1934 using National Industrial Recovery Act funds to employ local workers. Old timer Cecil Cram from Kanab, Utah remembered assisting a Casey Jones in construction of the dwelling. The office was used as headquarters for the Big Springs Ranger District, which merged with the Jacob Lake Ranger District to form the North Kaibab Ranger District in 1974.

Forest personnel stationed at Big Springs performed the normal range of administrative functions. A trail led up the cliff from the site to a fire lookout tower. Ranching, homesteading, lumbering, and mining in the area were all overseen by rangers stationed at Big Springs. This was a typical Forest Service ranger station.

Large-scale timber operations did not occur in the area until the post-WWII housing boom and trucks made logging both lucrative and feasible. By the 1950s, logging was extensive on the North Kaibab Ranger District. The Forest Service built additional cabins at Big Springs to house new crews aiding in the preparation of timber sales. They continue to serve that function today.

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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Oral interview: Stephen Carr with Cecil Gram of Kanab, Utah, 11/88.

Forest Service Facilities, Withdrawal, and Historical files, Kaibab National Forest, Williams, AZ.

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

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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreage of property 2 Acres

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UTM References

A 12 379280 4051520  
Zone Easting Northing

C           
Zone Easting Northing

B           
Zone Easting Northing

D           
Zone Easting Northing

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary is a rectangle 470 feet N-S by 150 feet E-W encompassing the historic buildings at the ranger station. It includes the pond in front of the residences, which is part of the historic setting. The southeast corner of the rectangle is a point 40 feet south and 30 feet east of the southeast corner of the dwelling. See accompanying site plan.

see continuation sheet

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**Boundary Justification**

The boundary includes only those buildings which date to the historic period of significance and their immediate setting.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Teri A. Cleeland, Assistant Forest Archeologist

organization Kaibab National Forest

street & number 800 S. Sixth St.

city or town Williams

date September 19, 1989

telephone (602) 635-2681 x. 277

state AZ zip code 86046

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CLIFF

Storage tank

Residence 1 Bedroom 1957

Residence 1 Bedroom 1957

ca. 1925 remodeled ca. 1957

Residence 2 Bedroom 1934

1934

office

dwelling

1934

Barn

Graveled Area

Graveled Area

Graveled Area

Gas Pump Oil + Paint Storage ca. 1955

1955

Cattleguard

WEST SIDE ROAD 422

TO FREDONIA

Power Plant 1955

Parking Area

Pond

Pond

Pond

Cattleguard

Parking Area

Mess Hall

Rec. Hall 1957

Kitchen 1957

Bath 1957

Sun

1953

1953

1953

1953

1953

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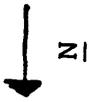
1953

1953

1953

BIG SPRINGS RANGER STATION

Kaibab National Forest, Arizona



0 50 100 Feet

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PHOTOGRAPHS Page 1

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THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS THE SAME FOR PHOTOGRAPHS #1-6 ACCOMPANYING THIS NOMINATION:

- 1). Big Springs Ranger Station
- 2). Big Springs, Arizona (Kaibab National Forest)
- 3). Teri A. Cleeland
- 4). October, 1988
- 5). Kaibab National Forest, Williams, Arizona

INFORMATION FOR INDIVIDUAL PHOTOGRAPHS:

- 6). Facing east, primary elevations of office, left and dwelling, right.
- 7). #1
  
- 6). Facing northeast, primary elevation of the barn.
- 7). #2
  
- 6). Facing northeast, overview of site setting: dwelling left, c. 1925/1957 residence right (outside historic district).
- 7). #3
  
- 6). Facing southeast, overall view of 1950s cabins at the site (outside the historic district, shows setting).
- 7). #4
  
- 6). Facing northeast, primary elevation of office.
- 7). #5
  
- 6). Facing southeast, primary elevation of dwelling.
- 7). #6

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS FOR PHOTOGRAPH #7:

- 3). Photographer unknown (USFS photo).
- 4). June, 1940
- 6). Facing southeast: office left, dwelling right
- 7). #7