United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
MULTIPLE PROPERTY DOCUMENTATION FORM

This form is for use in documenting property types relating to one or more historic contexts. See instructions on How to Complete National Register Forms (revised 1985). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. For additional space use continuation sheets and identify the section being continued. Type all entries.

A. NAME OF MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING
USDA Forest Service Administrative Buildings in the States of Oregon and Washington built by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

B. ASSOCIATED HISTORIC CONTEXTS
The Federal Response to the Depression: Developmental Force

Public Land Management - National Forest Administration: Function

Rustic Architecture: Period Design

C. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

The geographical area encompasses the 19 National Forests in the Pacific Northwest Region (Region 6) located in the States of Oregon and Washington.

___ See continuation sheet

D. CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this multiple property documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements consistent with the National Register criteria for the listing of related properties. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60 and the Secretar of the Interior's Standards for Evaluation and Registration.

Signature of State or Federal historic preservation officer — April 11, 1988 Date

Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation
State or Federal agency and bureau

I, hereby, certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by th National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the Nationa Register.

for Signature of the Keeper of the National Register — March 6, 1991 Date

E. STATEMENT OF HISTORIC CONTEXTS

Discuss each historic context listed in Section B.

1. The Federal Response to the Depression: Developmental Force

The Great Depression was one of the turning points of American history. Even at the time, it was recognized as a watershed, identified as a point of historical reference in ordinary conversation--"Before the Depression. . ." Cutting across all sectors of the American population, the Depression had a profound impact on the economic, social, and political make-up of the nation. Unemployment and dislocation were commonplace, and industrial disruption was unexceptional. Unable to find work in their home environments, almost two million men and women adopted a vagrant existence. Among them were nearly 250,000 young people between the ages of fifteen and twenty-four. Many more similarly jobless youths never left home. Depression unemployment fell with disproportionate severity on the young workers just entering the labor force. Untrained, unskilled, and unable to obtain necessary experience, they were singularly unqualified for placement in a nonexistent job market.

At the same time, the Nation faced the consequences of three generations of exploitation and ill-usage of its natural resources. Land use ethics governed by economic self-interest had resulted in exhausted soil, denuded forests, and over-grazed grasslands. The failure to replace the lost elements had resulted in increasing erosion by wind and water, and in the continuing threat to remaining resources.

> "The Civilian Conservation Corps was thus, in one sense, a catalyst. Through it . . . Franklin D. Roosevelt, brought together two wasting resources, the young men and the land, in an attempt to save both." (Salmond, 1967).

On March 21, 1933, the President's message on the "Relief of Unemployment" went to Congress accompanied by identical bills for "The Relief of Unemployment through the Performance of Useful Public Work and for Other Purposes" which, if enacted, would authorize the President to create a civilian conservation corps from the unemployed to be used on public works projects such as reforestation, prevention of soil erosion, and flood control.

The first New Deal emergency relief measure passed on March 31, 1933. The agency authorized by the Act was called Emergency Conservation Work (ECW), but the name "Civilian Conservation Corps" as used by the President in his March 21 message to Congress quickly supplanted the official title. (A statutory CCC was created by Act of Congress on June 28, 1937.) Executive Order #6101, issued by the President on April 5, 1933, established the official existence of the Civilian Conservation Corps. More than any other New Deal agency, the CCC bore the personal stamp of President Roosevelt.

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The CCC organization was designed to operate through the existing machinery of the Departments of Labor, Agriculture, War, and Interior. Labor was to select the men for enrollment through local relief agencies; the War Department was to enroll the men, feed, clothe, house and condition them, and transport them to the camps; Agriculture and Interior, through their various technical agencies, were to select work projects, to supervise the work, and to administer the camps. The tasks of building, equipping, staffing, and operating the camps were initially given to the technical agencies, but were almost immediately reassigned to the Army, which alone had the resources and experience to handle the logistics and meet mobilization schedules. Program coordination was the responsibilty of the ECW Director, Robert Fechner.

The Forest Service was able to identify needed work projects quickly, based on the findings of a recently completed comprehensive study of forests and forestry nationwide. The agenda for active resource development and reclamation outlined in the study was a significant departure from custodial maintenance, and greatly enhanced the Forest Service's managerial role. Expanding agency responsibilities required additional men, machinery, and buildings to shelter their routine activities. The Forest Service's needs for supplemental administrative facilities coincided with the creation of the Civilian Conservation Corps.

The Forest Service administrative buildings represent the theme of the Federal response to the Depression as accomplishments of the Civilian Conservation Corps. The scope of the CCC program was broadly defined to include useful and needed conservation work. Much of their work directly involved natural resources: their project activities included erosion control, watershed restoration, timber stand improvement, range betterment, fire protection and suppression, reforestation, forest disease and pest control, and recreational development. While the benefits of this work are still being realized, there remains little visible evidence to attest to their effort. The construction projects remain, however, as tangible proof of the success of Corps work.

The association of the Forest Service buildings with the CCC recalls the immediate benefits of the program to the Pacific Northwest through the employment of individual local residents, both young men and experienced craftsmen, and through the financial relief provided to their families. Substantial economic stimulus was provided to local communities through purchase of supplies and materials--for construction, maintenance and provisioning of the CCC camps as well as for their construction projects. Local businesses were

also assisted by the trade of the CCC enrollees themselves. Of wood-frame construction, the administrative buildings illustrate the necessarily large expenditures for lumber, dimension, and other building materials paid to local mills and suppliers.

The buildings also depict the longer-term benefits to the Forest Service in the construction of permanent, efficient and functionally appropriate facilities needed for ongoing and expanding forestry operations. In addition, the buildings demonstrate the vocational skills in construction, carpentry, and stone masonry acquired by the CCC enrollees through their work experience.

The broad pattern of American history to which the Federal response to the Depression relates is the institutional development of the National Government in the United States, including its proper function within the Federal union, its powers, its limitations, and its obligations. The New Deal, which composed the Federal government's response to the Depression 1933-1940 was instrumental in recasting American political thinking on the responsibilities of Government. The New Deal did not change the essential form of government, nor alter the economic system. It did alter the role of the Federal Government in National life from neutral arbiter to promoter of society's welfare and guarantor of economic security. Thus, the context signifies a major turning point in the historical development of the national government. An important and noticeable shift in the outlook and approach of Government toward society occurred as result of the New Deal.

2. Public Land Management - National Forest Administration: Function

The administrative function of the buildings reflects a second historical theme of public land management, specifically National Forest administration. The buildings characterize the physical establishment of the Forest Service at the field level. Administratively, the Ranger Stations were the District headquarters for Forest Service operation. The buildings and spaces of the Ranger Stations represent the physical facilities required to execute the agency's responsibilities at the District level.

Federal retention of prime timber resources in the National Forest Reserves (1890's) had an important effect on the historic development of the timber industry in the region. These set-asides prevented the depletion of the Northwest's supply of raw materials through timber "liquidation," the practice of completely cutting over a timber stand, that had occurred earlier in the pineries of the South and in the Lake States. Assured of a continuing supply of timber, the traditionally migratory lumber industry acquired a more permanent character, greater stability, and increased and more diversified production. Regulation of forest use by the Forest Service (1905) similarly influenced industrial growth. Forest Service requirements for the elimination of destructive logging techniques, restocking of cutover land, careful slash disposal, and fire protection resulted in enhanced forest productivity and greater returns to the timber industry, as well as to the public. The change in industrial practice from forest liquidation to forest replacement affected by the Forest Service, produced a higher degree of economic security which encouraged capital investment and resource development by the industry.

With over half of the commercial forest lands in Oregon and Washington contained in the National Forests, the region's reliance on public resources is demonstratable, and the implications for the regional economy are manifest. From the turn of the century the areal economy was based largely on the production of lumber. From the 1930's, manufacture of wood products including plywood, veneer, pulp, and paper were of significant added value. Through management and development of the timber and other resources, the USDA Forest Service has had an important and definable role in the historic development of the communities in and around the National Forests. As an administrator and as an employer, the Forest Service has contributed to the economic growth and social stablity of these communities. The National Forests constitute an important element in both protecting the timber supply and perpetuating the forest industries.

The early history of the Forest Service describes a largely custodial superintendence of the National Forests. The Forests were intended for use, with primary consideration given to local interests. The major responsibilities of field officers were protective in nature. Routine duties included grazing regulation, examination of mining and homestead entries, and prevention of fire, game poaching, and timber theft. Timber was offered for sale though in relatively limited quantities. Grazing regulations were instituted to protect and conserve range land and forage, as well as to contribute to the well-being of the livestock industry. Loss of the timber resource through fire from human agency or theft was minimized by regular patrols. Resource improvement, however, was largely confined to reforestation and reseeding rangeland. Administration was decentralized to take maximum advantage of local judgment, and peripatetic to cover the vast acreages with a handful of field employees and limited funding. For these reasons, permanent administrative facilities were not common. Those that were built were simple log or frame buildings, erected by the field officer himself, and situated in a strategic location for maximum public/user contact and backcountry access.

In the 1910's and 1920's, forestry activities were expanded to include cooperative programs in fire protection and control, and reforestation with State forestry departments and private concerns. The number of permanent administrative facilities increased as transportation and communications were improved. In this formative period, buildings were simple frame structures, indistinguishable from those in the nearest town, and limited to an office with living quarters, a barn, and perhaps a garage, built when and where they were needed.

The period of 1905--ca 1930 was one of pioneering in practical field forestry. Through proclamation and purchases, the National Forest system was greatly expanded, and the Forest Service had undertaken the planned management of the common wealth to prevent exploitation, destruction, and neglect. Although the forests were still in an early stage of economic development, their resources were becoming increasingly important to regional prosperity. In 1932, the Forest Service undertook a comprehensive study of the situation of forests and forestry nationwide, including estimates of the supply of and demand for

forest resources, and projected future needs. "A National Plan for American Forestry," better known as the Copeland Report, described and evaluated virtually all aspects of forestry, public and private, taking in timber, water, range, recreation, wildlife, research, State aid, and fire protection. This document, which became the New Deal blueprint for forestry, advocated more planning and more extensive management of all forest lands, including more resource development. The Copeland Report provided the basis for a major shift in emphasis and a significant change in Forest Service policy. It marked the agency's departure from its earlier custodial role. To accomplish the work identified in the report, a larger work force was needed, and buildings to house the personnel and necessary machinery. Establishment of the CCC coincided with the submission of the Report to Congress. This temporary labor pool was vital in the Forest Service's resource restoration and development programs. The CCC would be the mechanism for beginning and expanding the forest conservation tasks outlined in the Copeland Report.

The Forest Service administrative buildings built by the CCC between 1933 - 1942 clearly reflected the expanded responsibilities assumed by the agency. The range of functional building types increased to include staff residences, crew houses, machine storage, automotive shops, gas and oil houses, and warehouses for fire control, road and trail, and various other kinds of equipment. These buildings were arranged in efficient compounds, sometimes located at extant administrative sites, but more frequently situated strategically at new sites having better public access and room for expansion. The number of permanent administrative sites, including Supervisor's Warehouses, Ranger Stations, and Guard Stations, was also doubled at this time. In addition, the architecture was distinctive, as it was intended to have Forest Service identity for easier public recognition. The new administrative facilities, symbolic of the Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest, were the outward manifestation of policy change. They signaled that the emphasis had shifted from just forest protection to woods practice planned to produce new timber crops.

The broad patterns of American history to which National Forest Administration relates are the evolution of public land policy, the development of colonial and Federal policies on forest and range, and natural resource conservation.

The setting aside of forest reserves marks a change in the pattern of land aquisition for the public domain and its disposal through a variety of measures to encourage settlement. The retention of large tracts of land in Federal ownership primarily in the western states has had a profound effect on the subsequent development of those states. The regulation of resource use has had an influence on such industries as lumbering, stockraising, and to an extent, mining. Settlement, land use, and resource exploitation patterns reflect the impact of Federal land, forest, and resource conservation policies. National Forest administration signifies a notable change in policy and practice in public land management.

3. Rustic Architecture: Period Design

Styles in architecture are seldom the creation of a single individual but, rather, the outgrowth of particular social and economic periods. The rustic style of architecture is closely associated with the Great Depression, for maturity and eloquence of its expression was achieved at that time. On National Forest System lands, rustic is exclusive to that period. Its foundations, however, were laid in the nineteenth century. Its concept was found in the romantic perceptions of nature and the western frontier, its theory drawn from the picturesque ideas of Andrew Jackson Downing and other landscape architects, and its philosophy derived from the conservation ethic engendered by the recognition of the loss of wilderness and the closure of the frontier.

The basis of rustic architecture was a design philosophy founded on an ethic of nonintrusiveness. Architectural design related to the landscape, expressed in forms and materials reponsive to the environment in scale and proportion to the physical features.

The earliest articulation of the relationship between architecture and its environment is found in landscape architect Andrew Jackson Downings's book, Cottage Residences, published in 1842. Later, Frederick Law Olmstead, Sr., a friend and student of Downing, significantly reinforced the connection between architecture and landscape architecture in his work.

The "Great Camps" of the Adirondacks were perhaps the first conscious expressions of rustic architecure. Primarily built of logs and stone, "native" materials, these elaborate, sometimes ornate, complexes were nonetheless in harmony with nature.

In the San Francisco Bay area, Bernard Maybeck, Charles and Henry Greene, and others explored the possibilities of "natural" building materials, correlating architectural forms to the landscape of the building site. Innovative in composition, their designs often replaced explicit ornamentation with textured richness, juxtaposing shapes and materials to achieve a subtle decoration.

The National Park Service was the first Federal agency to examine the appropriateness of the emerging rustic style. As stewards of the lands set aside for protection of their natural and scenic values, the Park Service was challenged to create architecture that was subordinate to its setting, an accessory of nature rather than a man-made feature dominating the scene. Drawing together the threads of antecedence, the Park Service worked to develop nonintrusive architecture through sensitive use of native materials and architectural forms proportional to the surrounding environment. Architects also experimented with new construction methods that visually imitated pioneer building techniques. In so doing, the Park Service wove a principle fabric that defined rustic.

Rustic was appropriate to rural environments, but neither rude nor artless. Successfully handled, it was style which, through the use of native materials in proper scale and through the avoidance of rigid straight lines and

over-sophistication, achieved sympathy with natural surroundings and intimacy with landscape. Basic to this ethic of nonintrusiveness were the concepts of subordination, retirement, and assimilation. Regularity and symmetry were rejected. Important factors in the achievement of "accessories to nature" were predominantly horizontal lines, low silhouette, organic forms, and scale, proportion and texture of the building materials.

Vigor and forthrightness of design, complexity of plan and richness of detail distinguish rustic from contemporary derivative styles. Most distinctive is the conscious appreciation of the environment. Thus the rustic idiom recalls tradition, but at the same time, transcends convention in its suitability or fittingness. In contrast to the pragmatism of traditional construction, the rustic style was a cognizant articulation of aesthetic principles, a studied expression of rapprochement.

In the definitive text on nonintrusive design, Park Structures and Facilities, published in 1935 by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, editor Albert H. Good, Architect for the State Park Division of the National Service, Branch of Planning, stated "that the so-called 'rustic' style offers, if anything, more pitfalls to failure than do the more sophisticated expressions, is not widely enough understood." Assuasive resolution of building(ś) to site was not the result of chance, but of consummate skill and sound professional judgment. Adroit correlation of building forms and fabrics in proper scale and proportion was the consequence of training, imagination, effort, and artistry. Satisfactory character enjoined the quality of native materials, not the fact of nativeness. Stylistic ambiance demanded informal presentation, textural interest, and natural rhythm. Correct structural interpretation depended upon a clear perception of the aesthetic qualities of a setting and a comprehensive understanding of that setting's circumstantial requirements. Insensitive translation resulted in mediocrity if not in failure.

Differing substantially from the National Park Service in purpose and operation, the USDA Forest Service had had little reason to develop a sympathetic architectural style. Administrative adaptions of domestic vernacular architecture had previously suited its utilitarian functions and limited needs.

In the early years of the Depression, Forest Service evaluation studies identified critical deficiencies in facilities development as well as in resource conservation work. Analysis of the broad architectural tendencies of existing Forest Service buildings revealed dissatisfactions with their appearances, primarily because they were not considered representative of the Service itself. At the same time, it was recognized that forests were not only areas of economic value, but also areas which were developing an increasing social value. This amplified awareness of the need to safeguard the aesthetic qualities and to preserve the natural aspects of the forests. Accordingly, an idiom was sought that would possess Forest Service identity, and express its

ideals and purposes. Further criteria for design included harmony with the natural environment, economy of materials, and appropriateness to specific function.

Each Forest Service Region undertook to design buildings appropriate to climatic characteristics, vegetation and forest cover, utilizing the predominant native building materials. Some regions were able to take advantage of their traditional or native architecture while others found it necessary to develop original designs based only in part on Regional prototypes. The style that emerged from the Pacific Northwest Region had no clearly identifiable regional architectural prototype, but drew heavily on rural vernacular models. The character of the old growth forest environment provided inspiration as well. The Region 6 expression conveyed a feeling of enduring substance in sturdy designs with a vocabulary that spoke of big timber, and communicated the wealth of a timber-rich Region in an almost lavish use of wood. While the architecture's outward appearance adhered to traditional forms, albeit stripped of superfluous decorative elements, Forest Service rustic was very modern in terms of interior arrangements and planning. Distinguished by a symbolic vocabulary which established Forest Service identity, the overall architecture suggested the agency's pragmatic mission in its strictly utilitarian design. The extensive use of wood and wood products was simultaneously economical and associative, and underscored the Forest Service's stated policy of fostering the use of wood as well as the production of it. The Region 6 expression of rustic was intended to characterize the Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest. The Architecture Group in the Regional Office responsible for all building design and site planning included architects Linn A. Forrest, Howard L. Gifford, James Pollock, and W.I. "Tim" Turner, and Landscape Architect Emmett U. Blanchfield.

Comprehensive site planning, which represents a significant advance in administrative site development, was also initiated at this time. Architectural and landscape designs were integral parts of planning for optimum serviceability and utility, as was provision for logical future expansion. Administrative, service, and residential buildings or building groups were organized separately to achieve maximum efficiency of operation and minimum interruption of activity. While the function of each respective building was clearly articulated, a uniformity of style was achieved through similarity of character and appearance. Continuity of forms and materials produced a textural harmony which contributed significantly to the overall ensemble character of the site.

Rustic architecture was a function of its time, uniquely suited to the social and economic conditions of the Depression-era. Labor-intensive, handcrafted rustic architecture required the efforts of many men, highly trained professionals, skilled and unskilled workmen, in planning, design, and execution.

As a theme group, the Forest Service Depression-era administrative buildings compose a finite resource. Although the actual number of buildings constructed in this Region by the CCC is unknown, about 725 remain: of these approximately 550 retain sufficient integrity to convey their historic identity. The buildings represent a unique architecture in that the programs and the times that motivated them no longer exist.

Rustic architecture is confined to the pre-World War II period because of labor and cost factors. Intensive labor projects became uneconomical, and even if affordable, the necessary expertise in stone masonry and log building was no longer abundantly available.

The values of solid and quality construction, and pride of skill and craftsmanship in work well done are reflected in the Depression-era constructions of the Civilian Conservation Corps on the National Forests in the Pacific Northwest Region, and, in a sense, symbolize a past way of life.

The rustic style represents an early twentieth century movement in American architecture. Based on a philosophy of nonintrusiveness, it was particularly appropriate to rural environments. It was picturesque, romantic architecture that recalled the American past, was wholly integrated with the landscape and responsive to the environment. The idiom was developed as a solution to the problem of providing facilities for the public, in National Parks and Forests, and in state parks that did not compete with natural or scenic values. Administrative buildings as well as public buildings were built in the style. While rustic differed substantially from the traditional urban expressions of the power and presence of government, the architecture was nonetheless symbolic. Representing authority at the local level, the buildings were functional and accessible places for government work. Rustic helped to create an image, and to convey an ethic of conservation. It strongly influenced public expectations about the appropriate character and appearance of recreational and administrative buildings in parks and forests. In the eloquence of its expression and in its divergence from the trend toward functionalism in urban architecture, rustic made an important contribution to twentieth century American architectural thought.

Description

The administrative structures of the Pacific Northwest Region are not highly stylized log and stone buildings reminiscent of pioneer technologies. More refined, they are still distinctively rustic. Characteristic elements of the idiom include asymmetrical composition, generally rectangular with roof and porch projections, and prominent chimneys. Intersecting gables and dormers are frequent features. Typically, the buildings are of frame construction, clad with rough-sawn weather boards, vertical board and batten, shakes, shingles, or stone. Gable roofs predominate with variations such as hipped gables and gabled hips common. Hipped roofs are less frequently utilized. Porches, hoods, and dormers repeated the roof shape and trim.

The roof is a dominant element of rustic design. It is normally a simple but strong design element, with moderate roof pitches (6:12 or steeper, with 4:12 minimum). The proportion of the roof in its vertical dimension in relationship to the overall building height is normally in the range of 40% - 60% with an average of about 50% of the overall height in roof mass. Roof forms relate to major and minor interior uses through change in direction or height of the roof element. Entries were always well defined as a separate element either extending beyond the wall line or recessed, forming an alcove (Ragland, 1984).

Chimneys, both interior and exterior, are common. Most were at least veneered with the stone native to the locality, although brick was used in areas where the indigenous stone was unsuitable or where brick was felt to be a more appropriate medium. Frequently, the chimney masonry repeated the material and texture of the porches, steps, foundation veneer, and landscaping details.

Recalling the big timber of Northwest old-growth forests, the heavy squared timbers often used as porch supports were highly functional, but achieved a decorative purpose as well when arranged in binary or trinary combinations. The brackets which served as structural reinforcement were also formed in a visually pleasing manner in proportion to the porch timbers.

Exterior wall materials were primarily wood, and often two or more textures were combined. Stone was used as a supplementary medium, although some structures exhibit whole facades of native rock. Buildings often integrated base materials with the surrounding ground elements, either in the use of rock or concrete, thereby fitting in more naturally with the site, giving the feeling of "growing" out of the ground.

Windows are perhaps the most distinguishing feature of the Depression-era buildings. Single and double-hung sash windows with multiple lights served the utilitarian purposes of lighting and ventilating the interior of a building: singly and in combinations with mullions, the window treatments became an element of subtle decoration. The vertical area of wall allocated to windows ranged from 20% - 35% of overall building height, with 25% typical. This created a horizontal "band" between the larger roof shapes and the building

base. Within this horizontal band, windows emphasized vertical joint separation and vertical window panes, thus counterpointing the horizontal line. The windows usually began at the top plate line extending downward. The glass line of the window was set to the middle or back of the jamb, thus creating interesting shadow patterns on the exterior elevation. Extensive massings of window divisions in proportion to their size were characteristic of the larger service buildings such as machine shops, with identical treatments, or elements thereof repeated on all elevations. Where the plan of each elevation of a building differed substantially, the reiteration of window treatment gave the structure a design unity otherwise lacking.

Dwellings, particularly Ranger's residences, used windows as explicit decoration. Window surrounds have architrave trim with semi-lunate molding or dentils. Attractive arrangements of window divisions are recurrent. Side lights and transom lights were used infrequently, but are occasionally found in mullion windows, rather than as entry features. Paneled or board and batten shutters, also, were a regular element of design.

Interior materials, like the exterior fabrics, were inexpensive and locally obtained. Wood, whether pine, fir or cedar, was chosen for its grain or natural appearance, then stained or varnished to produce a rich effect. Principal rooms were elaborately finished with full paneling. Plywood, similarly stained and varnished, was used as wall and ceiling fabric in secondary areas.

Comprehensive site planning also was initiated by the Forest Service during the Depression era. Architectural and landscape designs were integral parts of planning for optimum serviceability and utility, as was provision for logical future expansion (USDA Forest Service n.d., 1935-40, 1938). While the function of each building was clearly articulated, a uniformity of style was achieved through similarity of character and appearance. Continuity of forms and materials produced a textural harmony which contributed significantly to the overall ensemble character of the site. Remaining Depression-era administrative complexes show evidence of the practical synchronization of site plan, design and construction achieved by landscape architect, architect, engineer, and builder (USDA Forest Service 1938).

Significance

The USDA Forest Service administrative buildings in the States of Oregon and Washington built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) compose 162 sites located on National Forest lands in the Pacific Northwest Region. As a thematic group, the Depression-era buildings are related on the basis of developmental force, function, and period design. These buildings compose the largest, most elaborate "collection" of extant Forest Service Depression-era structures in the United States. As such, the collection is valuable because it includes the full range of properties of this type. This assemblage offers particular insight into Depression-era history--a period of dynamic change in the nature of the Federal Government's role. The buildings illustrate these changes in four ways. They show a pattern of labor-intensive handcrafted construction projects that were the hallmark of the CCC--a means of providing work and relief to unemployed craftsmen as well as training and experience to unskilled young workers. The collection also illustrates the full range of functional building types needed by the Forest Service to support its expanding administrative responsibilities. In this respect, it depicts the major historical change in Forest Service land management policy (in part the result of the Roosevelt Administration's emphasis on natural resource conservation) from one of maintaining existing resources to one of developing and improving them for increased production, and restoring resources that had been lost or damaged. In addition, the building assemblage describes the evolution of a Regional architectural idiom. While particular to the Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest, this Regional idiom reflects a nonintrusive design philosophy that was pervasive in the architecture of Federal land-managing agencies during the period of the Depression, and nearly exclusive to it. The collection also shows the individuality and variation that occurred within the Regional expression of the rustic style of architecture. Further, it provides a broad base for comparison with the rustic interpretations of other agencies in the same and other geographic areas.

The buildings meet National Register criterion a (36 CFR 60.4 (a)) because of their direct association with the political and legislative events of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal. These events signify the unprecedented intervention of the federal government in the economic life of the country and in the welfare of its citizens. Specifically associated with the CCC, the buildings now recall the agency created to put unemployed young men to work reclaiming and developing the nation's natural resources, and illustrate its significant contributions to relief, recovery, and reform.

The buildings also meet criterion a because of their association with the USDA Forest Service. The creation of the National Forest's (initially the Forest Reserves) and the establishment of the Forest Service resulted in a radical change in the methods of and approaches to harvest of timber on public lands. Conservation of resources became a focal point of Federal land management increasing both employment and economic development of local communities who were directly tied to these public resources. From its inception, the Forest Service had a marked effect on the historic development of the Pacific Northwest, but this even increased during the Depression when the Agency (through work relief programs such as the CCC) was a major employer of local citizens, and changed its management philosophy from one of stewardship to one of active resource development and utilization. The result is a vast public resource base being actively managed for the Region's economic betterment--a system whose effects are so strong that exploitation of Federally managed resources is the major economic factor in more than half of the counties in the Pacific Northwest.

The administrative buildings also meet National Register criterion c because they embody the distinctive characteristics of the rustic style of architecture particular to the Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest Region, and exclusive to the Depression-era, 1933-1942. All buildings included in the nomination have sufficient integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association to convey their historic identity as early Forest Service administrative buildings, and their strong linkage with the Civilian Conservation Corps.

The buildings' exceptional importance is twofold. Associated with events of extraordinary impact, they symbolize the most significant aspects of the New Deal--unemployment relief, economic recovery, social reform, and humanitarian concern.

Historically and architecturally, they characterize the Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest as the manager of lands and resources that were of fundamental importance to the lumbering, wood products, tourism, fisheries, and livestock industries. The thematic group is exceptional in the depth and breadth of its capacity to illustrate these historic associations, and to recall the period of the Depression.

Registration Requirements

1. As a property type, Forest Service Depression-era Administrative Buildings are significant under criteria a, for their direct association with the political and legislative events of President Franklin D. Rossevelt's New Deal. These events signify the unprecedented intervention of the Federal government in the economic life of the country and in the welfare of its citizens. The broader historical pattern inherent in these events is the recasting of American thinking on the responsibilities of government, and the resultant change in the role played by the Federal government.

As a property type, Forest Service Depression-era Administrative Buildings are significant under criterion a, for their association with a pivotal Federal land-managing agency whose administration of public timber resources influenced the historic development of the timber industry in the Pacific Northwest, and of the communities dependent on timber. The broader historical patterns described by the activities, policies, and programs of the Forest Service are those of natural resource conservation and development and public land management.

The areas of significance for which the property type--Forest Service Depression-era Administrative Buildings - are important are (1) Politics/Government and (2) Conservation.

As a property type, Forest Service Depression-era Administrative Buildings are significant under criterion c, as they embody the distinctive characteristics of the rustic style of architecture particular to the Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest Region, and exclusive to the period 1933-1942. The architectural idiom is symbolic, and therefore invested with special aesthetic qualities and meaning for the agency that created it. In the broader perspective, rustic is part of a twentieth century movement in American architecture, based on principles of nonintrusiveness, and harmony with the natural environment.

The area of significance for which the property type - Forest Service Administrative Buildings - is important for Architecture.

2. The physical characteristics that qualify an example of the property type, relevant to criterion c, include:

- Small scale nailed-frame buildings.
- Native/natural materials--e.g., species particular to area, materials procured locally.
- Varied exterior treatment--two or more contrasting textures.
- Gable, hipped gable, and gablet roof shapes.
- Heavy timber posts, with proportional brackets: binary and trinary arrangement common.
- Multi-paned windows--single and double-hung sash, singly and in groups with mullions.
- Covered entries--repeat roof shape and trim.
- Dormers--complimentary to roof shape.

2. continued:

- Shutters--functional and decorative.
- Interior and exterior chimneys--frequently massive chimneys--masonry materials, textures, joinery consonant with foundation, porch, steps, and adjacent built landscape features.
- Tree symbol decoration.

The associative qualities that qualify an example of the property type, relevant to criterion a, include:

- Built by CCC, 1933-1942: end products of New Deal direct-aid, work-relief program.
- Recall Federal government's response to the Depression, and the problems of unemployed youth.
- Represent the physical establishment of the USDA Forest Service at the local level.
- Tangible manifestation of the expansion of Forest Service responsibilities for natural resource conservation, development, and rehabilitation: the transition to extensive management of National Forests.
- Translation of needed work identified in 1933 "A National Plan for American Forestry" (the Copeland Report) into work projects for CCC, supervised by technical agency.

3. The property type--Forest Service Depression-era Administrative Buildings--includes properties that are fewer than 50 years old. The exceptional importance of these buildings as a group, under criteria consideration (g), is the depth and breadth of their capacity to describe the extent and impact of the CCC's on the Pacific Northwest, the evolution and maturation of a particular architectural idiom, and the range of that expression, and to recall the period of the Depression.

4. All facets of significance of the property type are closely tied to the Depression-era, and are in many ways interrelated. The buildings have both associative and architectural values: the architecture itself is also associative. Thus, much of their significance is carried in their character and appearance. While location, setting, feeling, and association are important to a property's capacity to convey its past, integrity of design, workmanship, and materials are more important.

To meet the applicable criteria and criteria considerations, a property must have retained most of the physical features that characterize the Region 6 rustic, and a preponderance of historic materials; the original design must be clearly discernible, and workmanship in construction and finish evident. The property should be in its original location, with the natural or built setting at least partially intact. A property that has been relocated to a wholly compatible environment will be considered, if the building retains its historic appearance and character.

4. continued

As noted, the architectural character of the property type ranges from very plain and simple to highly stylistic. The plain buildings tolerate less change than the more elaborately styled ones, that is, relatively fewer modifications can be made before the historic identity is lost.

5. A thematic survey of the property type identified 725 Forest Service buildings built between 1933 and 1942 by the Civilian Conservation Corps. The historical associations with the important events of the period and with the significant trends of the era are common to all properties within the group. Hence, these historical values are constant. The quality of the rustic architectural expression varies among the properties, from plain and simple to highly stylistic. Most of the buildings exhibit a majority of the physical characteristics of rustic, and are easily recognizable. Similarly, the number and severity of modifications to materials or structure, and the building's physical condition vary. Of the 725 buildings identified in the inventory, approximately 550 were found to retain sufficient integrity to convey their historic identity in the evaluative process described below.

6. There are no apparent registration priorities for eligible properties within this group. All are Federally-owned, and requirements for nomination are binding.

G. SUMMARY OF IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION METHODS

Discuss 1) the basis for determining the geographical and temporal limits of property type, and 2) the methods used to determine the requirements for listing related properties in the National Register.

X See continuation sheet

H. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

X See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional documentation related to this property type:

___ State historic preservation office
___ Other State agency
X Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
___ Other

Specify repository: USDA Forest Service, Regional Office, Recreation Unit

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All of the Depression-era sites and structures were inventoried and recorded in a comprehensive thematic survey encompassing the 19 National Forests in the Pacific Northwest Region. The survey was conducted in 1978-80 by E. Gail Throop, Historian in the Regional Office, USDA Forest Service. As the first step, the Forests submitted lists of structures built between 1933-1942 compiled from building maintenance records, engineers' building inventories, and other available sources. The Forests then provided photographs of the identified properties including views of building elevations, views from opposing diagonals, and important design and construction details, together with maps indicating the properties' approximate locations. Detailed building and site descriptions were written from the photographic data, subject to on-site verification. In this manner, more than 700 Depression-era administrative sites and structures were identified, located, and recorded (Throop 1979).

The site and building-specific evaluation included all buildings identified in the survey. The evaluation process was designed to identify those Depression-era properties eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places and also to determine the relative importance of each eligible property with respect to management.

The National Register criteria (36 CFR 60.6) were basic to the first level evaluation of the Depression-era administrative buildings. Considering the historical associative values of these buildings to be constant, the second step in evaluation focused on the more variable architectural values. To this end, criteria were developed to assess the buildings' Pacific Northwest Region's rustic stylistic character and quality of design and execution. Specific standards for measuring building integrity were established. A series of verbal grades was assigned to the several criteria, with numerical values assigned to the various verbal grades. The final evaluation was derived from the sum of the scores for each criterion. (Throop, 1983)

Building integrity was measured by comparing the present appearance of a building with its original appearance. This comparison consisted of a systematic examination of three building elements: (1) form, including both primary and secondary structural components, (2) materials, and (3) setting or context. Any changes in a building's appearance were identified and assessed. The criteria for evaluating modifications include the relative importance of the element affected, the degree of severity of modifications found in each of the elements, and the significance of the modifications on the remainder of the building.

Modifications were defined according to degree of severity:

Slight (e.g., replacement of exterior wall or roof materials with new material that match the old in size, shape and texture),
Moderate (e.g., replacement of exterior wall or roof materials with unlike materials that are consistent in character),
Severe (e.g., resurfacing frame buildings with new materials which are inappropriate.

Definitions correlate to the Guidelines for Applying the Secretary of the Interior's Standards. Each building was given an integrity rating determined by the type and number of modifications found in the elements examined.

The evaluative strategy for assessing building design was developed in consultation with the Architectural Group in the Forest Service Regional Office. Five design factors were identified for systematic examination: form, function, structure, siting or orientation, and execution (Ken Reynolds, Personal Communication 1981). Criteria for evaluating building design were developed using these five factors. The criteria include the quality of form commensurate to aesthetics and material use, the suitability to function, the adequacy of structure, the competency of siting or orientation, and the quality of workmanship in execution.

The quality of form was assessed compositely by measuring the attributes of aesthetics (composition-mass, line, scale, proportion) and the effectiveness of materials use (surface/texture, shape, color) on a scale from 1-20 with 1 very low and 20 very high. Similarly a scale from 1-5 was used to gauge the suitability to function by degree of appropriateness to use and the adequacy of structure by degree of strength in resisting force, strain, and wear. The competency of siting/orientation by degree of concordance with environment, and the quality of execution by degree of skill exhibited in workmanship were assessed by scalar values ranging from 1-10. A maximum score was assigned to each detailed criterion while overall building design was rated on a flexible numerical system.

Quality of detail raises those elements of the architectural vocabulary above a pleasing functionality to an aesthetic individuality. An example of this elaboration is seen in the porch posts which in size and number exceed the actual physical needs for structural support.

Ten stylistic attributes were identified as definitive in the composition of the Pacific Northwest Regional rustic expression (Throop 1979, 1980). These basic attributes alone, however, do not represent the entirety of the style. Five of the ten attributes are commonly enhanced by varying qualities of detail.

Hence, the ten identified basic attributes and the five recognized variable qualities form the basis of a two-part scheme for evaluating each administrative building's rustic stylistic character.

Native materials were held to be most responsive and appropriate in environment, relating harmoniously to it. In the Pacific Northwest, wood not only reflected local building traditions but also conformed to environment

and economy. The materials used to characterize the Forest Service were locally processed or obtained and included rough-sawn boards, wood shingles, shakes and stone.

Varied exterior treatment was used to create visual interest through the application of materials differing in size, shape, and surface finished. The quality of detail in exterior treatment was enhanced by juxtaposing two or more contrasting textures.

Gable, hipped gable and gablet roof shapes were the primary designs, with pitch appropriate to climatic conditions. Roof configurations ranged from a single shape, varied in size, position, and number to complex designs incorporating two or more shapes which were then variously reiterated in porches, hoods, and dormers. The quality of detail in roof design was enhanced by the number and variety of shapes employed.

Heavy timber posts were used as functional elements of structure. Frequently arranged in pairs or groups of three, the squared-timbers were aesthetically appealing as well. The quality of detail was enhanced by the addition of brackets or corbels corresponding in dimension.

Multi-paned windows, both single and double-hung sash, were used to illuminate, ventilate and decorate. Window treatments differed in size and aspect, and ranged from single divisions to groups of two, three or more, with and without mullions. Arrangements also varied from regularity to asymmetry. The quality of detail in window treatment was enhanced by the complexity of arrangement.

Covered entries were uniform and reflected the Region's prevailing meteorological conditions. Porches were built to shelter main entries, while rear or other subsidiary doors were often covered with hoods. Vestibuled entries integral with the building fabric occurred less frequently. The covering structures repeated the roof shape and trim.

Dormers were used to light the upper levels of buildings. With form complimentary to roof shape, dormers frequently appeared on offices and service buildings as well as on dwellings.

Shutters were often used as a decorative element, though serving an equally functional purpose.

Interior and exterior chimneys were regular features, indicative of the prevalent use of wood and coal fuels. Chimney masonry varied from dissimilar textures to materials consonant with those of the

foundation, porch, steps, and surrounding built landscape features. The quality of detail in masonry was enhanced by the cohesive repetition of stone, pattern, and joinery.

Tree symbol decoration was emblematic of the Forest Service and served as the only explicit ornamentation. This distinctive motif was depicted most frequently as a cut-out in boards, but was also expressed in wrought-iron work and occasionally in stone.

The criteria for evaluating rustic stylistic character include the quantity of identifying attributes present and their quality. These were measured compositely on a scale from 1-15. A score of 1 represents the presence of 1 attribute with no added qualities of detail while a score of 15 indicates that 10 attributes were present, with 5 added qualities of detail. A maximum score was assigned to each detailed criterion, weighted by a factor of 5. Stylistic character was then rated on a flexible numerical system.

Important elements of style that have limited rather than general representation were evaluated separately. These include the presence of rare or unique features distinctively rustic in nature (e.g., USFS shield-shaped lock plates, wrought-iron tree-branch hinges, pine cone door knockers), particularly innovative or ingenious structural interpretation, notable contribution to ensemble character, and relative strength of "Forest Service identity" (e.g., special adherence to goals of USFS architectural idiom). Considered as exceptional values adding to the overall significance of a building or building group, these characteristics were not assigned numerical scores. The restricted distribution of these values was demonstrated by the completed evaluation: of the total inventory, only 160 buildings (24%) were identified as having one or more exceptional values.

Total scores possible ranged from 0-200, but actual scores ranged from 30-199. Eligibility was determined from the curve derived from plotting the total scores. Of a total of 665 administrative buildings evaluated using this system, 557 were judged eligible. Those buildings which are not considered eligible lack the capacity to convey their identity as early Forest Service administrative buildings.

Typically, Depression-era administrative complexes were developed according to a comprehensive site plan. Usually building arrangement corresponded to function, so that administrative, service, and residential

buildings were organized in spatially discrete units within the site. In addition, the complexes were homogeneous in appearance since construction utilized complimentary building forms and materials. In many instances landscaping was also used to integrate the building site and complex. Hence, individual buildings in a group were interrelated both functionally and aesthetically. This important aspect of Depression-era design provided the basis for the comparative analysis and evaluation of building groups.

As in the evaluation of individual buildings, the National Register criteria were fundamental. In the first level of evaluation, each adminstrative complex composing three or more major buildings was assessed in conformance to the National Register definition of a "district." For the second level, specific criteria were developed to evaluate the apparently eligible districts in comparison to each other. The criteria for building groups include integrity of site plan, quality of spatial organization, and quality of ensemble character.

Integrity of site plan was measured by comparing the present arrangement and number of buildings with the original grouping. This comparison consisted of a systematic examination of three elements: (1) configuration, (2) composition, and (3) setting. Any changes or modifications in the appearance of a building group were identified and assessed.

The criteria for evaluating modifications include the relative importance of the element affected, the degree of severity of modifications found in each of the elements, and the significance of the modification on the remainder of the building group.

Modifications were classified according to degree of severity:

slight (e.g., addition of compatible functional component located where original plan identified a "future building" site, addition or removal of minor out-building, paving service court, peripheral placement of compatible recent construction);
moderate (e.g., addition of compatible new construction within functional unit in non-intrusive location, removal of intermediate integrant of building group, addition of compatible built landscape features that do not substantially alter original foot traffic patterns, peripheral placement of imcompatible recent construction;
severe (e.g., addition of incompatible recent construction in intrusive location, removal of key building, including replacement with new construction, removal of built landscape features, or addition of landscape features inappropriate to period of construction).

Based on analysis of current and contemporary site plans, and of photographic data, each building group was given an integrity rating equivalent to a fixed score determined by the type and number of modifications found in the elements examined.

Quality of spatial organization was assessed by measuring the degree of adherence to period planning principles on a scale from 1-10. Similarly, quality of ensemble character was gauged using the same scale to mark the degree of visual cohesiveness obtained through continuity of forms and materials. Both quality of spatial organization and quality of ensemble character were subjectively evaluated based respectively on examination of current and contemporary site plans, and on photographic data and original building plans.

One additional factor entered into the evaluation of a building group: the overall merit of the component buildings. To introduce this factor into the evaluative process, the mean average of component building scores for each building group was calculated. This raw score was then added to the values derived for the building group evaluation criteria. Using this strategy, 66 administrative complexes identified as having potential value as districts, were evaluated. Of these, 25 complexes form significant building groups, clearly illustrating the comprehensive qualities of Depression-era planning and design. These significant building groups are categorized as districts. The other 41 administrative complexes were found to be so modified as to have no collective value. These groups of buildings are categorized as sites.

Analysis of the Depression era administrative buildings' integrity was basic to their evaluation and hence to their inclusion in the thematic group nomination. The qualifying buildings possess sufficient integrity of form, material, and environment to convey their association with the events and trends of the Depression, retaining the primary elements of fabric, setting, location, design, and workmanship. Although a number of the buildings have sustained some material modification, their rustic character and appearance are little diminished by nearly 50 years of constant use. Their feeling and association remain that of the period of construction. Those buildings lacking the capacity to convey their historic identity were eliminated from consideration.

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