FROM RANGER VERNACULAR TO STANDARD PLANS: A HISTORICAL CONTEXT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF BOISE NATIONAL FOREST ADMINISTRATIVE SITES, 1905-1942

5.

۰. ۱

Project Number BS-93-1053

by

Douglas W. Dodd

Historian

USDA Forest Service Boise National Forest Boise, Idaho

12 September 1993

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	Establishing the Early Ranger Stations1
II.	A New Deal for the National Forests4
III.	Historic Administrative Sites Today6
IV.	The Historic Administrative Sites
	Mountain Home Ranger District (D-1) Trinity Lakes
	Idaho City Ranger Distirct (D-3) Atlanta
	Cascade Ranger District (D-4) Stolle Meadows12
	Lowman Ranger District (D-5) Elk Creek
	Emmett Ranger District (D-6) Boiling Springs
Notes	
Appendix	: Region Four Standard Building Plans, 1935

PREFACE

This study establishes a historic context for the development of ranger stations on what is now the Boise National Forest, from its earliest days as the Sawtooth Forest Reserve, to the Boise and old Payette National Forests of the New Deal period. While the context applies to all stations established on the forest between 1905 and 1942, I have limited the specific case histories to only nine stations--those currently in the Boise National Forest's rustic recreation rental cabin program. These stations represent some of the best and most intact historic stations on the forest.

I hope this document will serve in helping to establish the significance of historic administrative sites on the forest, and will provide guidance in the production of interpretive materials for cabins in the rental program. Ultimately, this report should be expanded beyond its current scope, to include all stations on the forest, whether extant or not. It should also be expanded temporally, to include the modern stations.

I. ESTABLISHING THE EARLY RANGER STATIONS

President Theodore Roosevelt established the Sawtooth Forest Reserve in 1905 to protect the timber, range, and watershed values of the southwestern Idaho mountains. In 1908, Roosevelt created the Boise National Forest from portions of the Sawtooth and Payette Reserves.¹ Abuse and fraud had marked the use of public lands in the nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century West, and the Forest Service hoped to eliminate them from the new National Forests. Rangers patrolled the forest to detect and fight fires, to monitor grazing, regulate logging, inspect homesteads, investigate mining claims, and prevent illegal use of forest resources.

Early rangers worked in the saddle and camped in the forest. Since they were out of contact from their superiors while in the field for days, communications were difficult or nonexistant. They could not report fires, request assistance, or receive instructions. Efficiency and the rational use of resources lay at the heart of the National Forest idea, but these goals could not be met without an improved system of communications and administration.

Idaho's rugged mountain country held but a limited number of areas suitable for ranger stations--areas with flat ground, pasture land, water, and trees for buildings, fences, and fuel. Qualities which made a site suitable as a ranger station also made it suitable for farming, ranching, or mining. By the time the Boise and old Payette National Forests were created, many potential administrative sites had already been claimed by private parties under the 1862 Homestead Act, 1872 Mining Act, and the 1878 Timber and Stone Act. A new law, the Forest Homestead Act of 1906 made agricultural settlement more feasible by allowing metes-and-bounds property description, which let settlers select irregularly-shaped tracts of suitable land along river and creek bottoms. Prior to the Act, land claims were 160-acre quarter-section squares, only a small portion of which might be suitable for settlement. The Forest Homestead Act protected administrative sites. Rangers inspected potential claims settlers intended to enter and recommended against opening the land to homesteading if they found the land was unsuitable for agriculture or needed as a ranger station.

The Forest Service also protected potential administrative sites by withdrawing or reserving them from entry under the public land laws. Once withdrawn or reserved, homesteaders, grazers, loggers, and miners could no longer claim these lands. To withdraw land, rangers had find a suitable site, survey it and make a legal description of the parcel, draw a site map, and complete a "Report on Proposed Administrative Site" form. Many more administrative sites were withdrawn than were eventually needed for permanent stations, but all of them were likely used as campsites and pastures for patrolling rangers. To protect lands for use by forest officers, establishing administrative sites became an early priority on the Boise National Forest.

L.L. Hammer, who began rangering on the Boise National Forest in 1907, when it was still the Sawtooth Forest Reserve, recalled that ranger stations in the early days existed more on paper than on the ground: "We had a superabundance of ranger station sites staked off but few stations under whose roof we could find shelter--a 7 x 9 tent was our standby."² The Forest Service eventually sought construction of ranger stations at many of the withdrawn sites. At the 1910 supervisors' meeting for District 4 Forests in Idaho and Wyoming, Sawtooth National Forest Deputy Supervisor H.G. McPheters presented a paper offering guidelines for locating and constructing administrative facilities:

There should be three sizes of cabins constructed on most forests. One for summer stations; one for all-year-round or winter stations; and one for lookout stations. The summer stations should consist of at least two rooms of reasonable size. Although they are used for a comparatively short time on some forests, only during the summer and fall months, even an unmarried Ranger does not desire to have a kitchen, bedroom, office, saddleroom, etc. all in one room, and it should hardly be expected of a man with a family.

The winter stations should contain not less than three rooms.

One room cabins are sufficiently large for stations which are more or less inaccessible, as lookout stations, stations on short period grazing allotments, fire patrol stations, etc., which are visited at indefinite times only. Since there is not much equipment, besides a fire-fighting outfit, and a few unperishable provisions needed at these stations[,] a one-room house is large enough.

At a station, rangers required a house to serve as a dwelling and office. Since horses and mules were their chief means of transportation, they also needed a pasture, corral, and a barn. Privies, woodsheds, warehouses for fire supplies, telephone lines and other supporting structures completed the list of improvements.

From the 1900s through the 1920s, budgetary restrictions imposed by Congress limited expenditures for construction. Initially set in 1908 at \$300 per building, the limit rose to \$500 by 1910, and \$650 by 1920.* Beyond this ceiling, regulations required the District Forester's approval. Anti-conservation members of Congress, like Idaho's U.S. Senator Weldon Heyburn, intended spending caps to hobble the new agency's efforts to develop a modern system of forest administration and check the growth of its power. To circumvent caps, the Forest Service generally used the entire construction appropriation to buy materials. Rangers then worked on building stations and improvements after completing their regular duties. In winter, for example, rangers would gather to build stations, roads and telephone lines when snow in the high country had relieved them of their fire and grazing patrol obligations. Charged to a separate account, the value of their "contributed time" helped increase the funding available for construction. In 1910, District Fiscal Officer Q.R. Craft explained to forest supervisors how "contributed time" worked:

Expenditures for materials or for services for construction or repair of permanent improvements, even if for small amounts, must be charged to the Improvements appropriation.

The time of a Forest officer can be utilized in the construction or repair of permanent improvements for a temporary period of say one, two or three months, and the salary still be charged to General Expenses, if the

appointee was primarily appointed for executive duties, so that the employment on permanent improvements is only incidental.

Rangers had options other than building new facilities themselves. The Forest Service occasionally purchased the improvements from departing homesteaders, miners, and loggers, repairing and using them as stations.⁶ Again, contributed time paid for the labor to make repairs and modifications. Buildings at abandoned mining operations also served as temporary quarters. As Forest Ranger Elmer Ross reported in 1918, the Service used the abandoned Edna Mine near the present Beaver Creek Guard Station as a "sort of headquarters for the summer season." Throughout the early period, opportunism and fiscal sleight-of-hand--creativity, in short--put roofs over rangers' heads.

"Vernacular" architecture--folk building done without the benefit of formal plans by the occupants or their neighbors--characterized buildings constructed or acquired by rangers." Decentralized Forest Service administration gave rangers maximum discretion in designing and building their stations. The 1906 "Use Book," the early Forest Service manual, gave only broad direction: "Whenever possible cabins should be built of logs, with shingle or shake roofs." By 1908, amended instructions retreated, suggesting, "usually they should be built of logs."¹⁰ By the later 1910s and 1920s, with larger construction budgets available, ranger cabins became larger and better built than the earliest structures. Log construction continued in remote locations where only local timber was available, but when rangers could acquire dimension lumber and other building materials, they took advantage of them to build more substantial and permanent dwellings. H.G McPheters stated:

I would, however, prefer lumber for constructing material where it can be purchased reasonably and transportation facilities are good. For the roofing, I believe corrugated iron is preferable to other material on [buildings] which are located in rather isolated places where there are no wagon roads, since it can be packed quite easily and is much more durable. Shingles should be used wherever practicable.

McPheters' advice manifested itself in several stations on the Boise and old Payette National Forests. The stations at Atlanta, Bear Valley, Cottonwood, Danskin, Crawford, High Valley, Idaho City, Landmark, and Long Gulch all exhibited extensive use of manufactured materials. They also reflected a departure from the vernacular log tradition in favor of vernacular frame construction. Much as settlers replaced their initial shelters of logs or sod with frame houses as their circumstances improved, so to did the U.S. Forest Service.

The 1920s brought greater professionalization of the Forest Service and a greater emphasis on forest administrative improvements. W.B. Rice, supervisor of the old Payette National Forest at the time, wrote that improvement funds were beginning to be provided "in more liberal amounts," when he took charge of the forest in 1925. New buildings reflected the changes in the agency:

The earlier period of the Forest Service, from 1905 to 1925, had been characterized by inexperienced personnel groping for the solutions of unfamilar problems and working with meager funds that permitted only the most sketchy organization and facilitating improvements. [After 1925,] We were beginning the period of trim well-kept stations, of pyramiding office

work, or work plans, fire plans, grazing plans, recreation plans, and what-not. 12

Substantial log dwellings at Beaver Creek, Elk Creek, and Stolle Meadows, and a new frame building at Lowman revealed the influence of increasing budgets and technical skill, but most seasonally occupied field stations remained small, deteriorating log or frame structures, inadequate for the agency's growing administrative needs. The 1928 Forest Service Manual provided more guidance than the old Use Book. It announced a \$1500-per-building limit, and recommended that auxilliary structures, such as offices, barns and increasingly automobile garages, be constructed only where "regarded by the Superior officer as essential to the work to be done."¹³ No standardized plans were evident, and forest construction continued to be a hodgepodge of styles and techniques. Evolving Forest Service policies and the federal government's unemployment relief and conservation measures of the 1930s, however, would dramatically change ranger facilities in the National Forests.

II. A NEW DEAL FOR THE NATIONAL FORESTS

Taking office in March 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt moved aggressively to counter the Great Depression. A lifelong advocate of conservation and natural resource planning, part of FDR's "New Deal" bolstered the Forest Service's administrative capability. Most popular among his programs, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) provided the conservation agencies, especially the U.S. Forest Service, with an army of nearly three-and-one-half million men between 1933 and 1942. Unemployed during the Depression, these young men found work helping conserve America's public lands for \$30 a month (\$25 of which they sent home to their families).

Arriving in March 1933, just one month before the creation of the CCC, the Forest Service's report to Congress, <u>A National Plan for American Forestry</u>, identified an enormous backlog of forest development projects, and called for more intensive management of the National Forests.¹⁴ With increased funding to help stimulate the economy, a flood of CCC manpower, and a plan, the Forest Service rapidly began making these long-needed improvements. By 1933, even the new ranger-built buildings on the forest needed replacement. W.B. Rice wrote in 1940:

[M] any of the buildings constructed between 1925 and 1933, while a vast improvement over previous structures, soon became as badly out date when compared to present standards as the original buildings were in 1925. Many of the 1925 to 1933 period were subsequently either replaced or remodeled again to bring them reasonably up to standards which prevailed after the beginning of the emergency period in 1933.

CCC boys affected these changes as they built ranger and guard stations, fire lookouts, and roads. They also blazed trails, strung telephone lines, laid pipe, dammed streams to halt erosion, developed campgrounds, erected fences to control grazing, and fought forest fires.

With increased planning came standard building plans. Each region had architects and landscape architects design plans for most types of administrative and recreational structures. In 1933, Region 4 published its

<u>Building Construction Manual</u>. Like Andrew Jackson Downing's pattern books of homes and cottages in the 1840s, the building construction manual made uniform plans for a variety of buildings widely available. According to historian Thomas Alexander, planning deserves credit for making the New Deal building program a success:

The Forest Service benefitted so much from the CCC largely because the engineering division planned facilities effectively, forest officers implemented the plans with sensitivity and forest officials conducted thorough inspections of ongoing work.

The manual detailed what building types could be used at particular sites, depending on whether they were occupied yearround or seasonally. It urged that ranger headquarters be placed in cities, towns, or at least on highways, so that rangers and their staffs could be accessible to the public. Instructions accompanying the plans specified such minutiae as how far from a dwelling a woodshed could be located. Guidelines further demanded that improvements to existing structures be considered carefully, so as not to waste money on severely deteriorated or cheaply constructed buildings.

Under an explosion of New Deal spending, the maximum expenditure per building rose to \$2500, with no limit on CCC projects.²⁰ The Forest Service quickly erected new stations throughout the National Forests. Most of these administrative sites, originally little more than a single cabin, became multiple-structure compounds. Building types constructed during the CCC period reflected the evolving nature of National Forest administration. The R4-7 plan for guard station dwellings--the design used most widely on the Boise and old Payette National Forests--had three rooms: an office/living room, kitchen, and bedroom. An increase in Forest Service paperwork, especially in the form of management plans, necessitated office space in the station. Plans called for telephones in most guard station offices, connecting them to the forest's ground-return telephone system. The separate bedroom and kitchen provided more living space, something H.G. McPheters had identified as important to employee morale as early as 1910.

Other structures at forest stations illustrated changes. While the Forest Service continued to build barns for livestock, most stations also received new garages to house the trucks and automobiles that began to eclipse transportation by horse and mule as roads and truck trails penetrated deeper into the forest. Larger stations had garages for several vehicles, as well as machine sheds for maintenance and repair of vehicles and other mechanical equipment. Warehouses at larger yearround stations stored firefighting gear. In an effort to speed fire suppression, smaller warehouses at guard stations and lookouts held forward-deployed "fire caches" of tools, such as pulaskis, mattocks, shovels, and water sprayers.

· · · · ·

While administrative structures changed along with Forest Service policies and programs, structures which served domestic needs showed more continuity with the past. Woodsheds, for example, while larger and better-built, illustrate that most stations still relied on wood for heat and cooking. Underground root cellars and above-ground icehouses reveal that refrigeration had not come to the backcountry by the 1930s. The persistence of latrines also show that not much had changed in the way of sanitation and plumbing.

The 1930s building program pursued two goals. First, it served the interests of effiency. Rangers could turn to standard, off-the-shelf plans for buildings, instead of designing them themselves. Second, the standard plans sought to convey a sense of permanence and professionalism. Neatly organized administrative compounds of architect-designed buildings replaced ramshackle log cabins and houses built by the rangers themselves. Plans in other Forest Service regions, such as the Pacific Northwest (R-6) and the Northern (R-1), called for log and stone construction in their buildings, but the Intermountain Region (R-4) did not make extensive use of this rustic style. Improvements on the Boise and old Payette National Forests instead reflected the regional office's preference for clean, trim, designs echoing the Colonial and Greek Revival styles. When located in wooded areas, these buildings were sided with a simulated log veneer, which recalled the vernacular tradition of the earlier stations. The regional Building Construction Manual prescribed appearance right down to the paint color, determined by the structure's building materials and surrounding vegetation. Clearly, the days of ranger vernacular were at their end.

III. Historic Administrative Sites Today

Early rangers on the Boise required a system of stations a day's horseback ride apart. After the New Deal and World War II, however, improved communications obviated the need for the forest's large number of administrative sites. Good forest roads, aerial fire detection, and portable radios meant that Forest Service workers spent less time in remote locations and commuted to their work sites from ranger stations. The Boise and old Payette National Forests were merged in 1944. Following ranger district consolidation in 1972, the Boise's ten districts shrank to six. In 1993, the Mountain Home and Idaho City Ranger Districts absorbed the eliminated Boise Ranger District, further reducing the number to five. Ranger stations in the forest's hinterlands -- Atlanta, Long Gulch, Landmark, Elk Creek, High Valley, Garden Valley, Cottonwood--were demoted to guard stations as the District Rangers' headquarters moved to more urbanized and often off-forest locations near highways--Boise, Mountain Home, Cascade, Lowman, Idaho City, and Emmett. At ranger stations which continued to receive heavy use, historic buildings were altered, remodeled or replaced. Guard stations which continued to operate, had many of their historic structures removed and replaced with concrete slabs for parking trailers which could serve as temporary housing. At stations no longer needed for administrative purposes, the Boise National Forest removed or destroyed historic buildings in the interest of reducing maintenance costs and liability risks.

Remaining historic ranger and guard stations occasionally house Forest Service crews and volunteer campground hosts during the summer. Some stations have entered the Boise National Forest's rustic recreational cabin and lookouts program and are available for rental. Money generated from cabin rentals goes to a fund dedicated to stabilizing and rehabilitating historic Forest Service buildings. By promoting continuing uses for these buildings the Boise National Forest helps ensure their preservation for years to come. This latest use for administrative buildings helps illustrate the U.S. Forest Service's evolving mission and goals. Originally a natural resource conservation agency, legislation such as the Sustained-Yield Multiple-Use Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and the National Forest Management Act have mandated that the





Fig. 1 Trinity Lakes Guard Station dwelling under construction, 1933.

for patrolling the trail network.³⁰ A two-car garage and storeroom (R4-21) accomodated the Forest Service's new and growing form of forest transportation--trucks and automobiles.³¹ A piped water development and latrine (R4-70) tended some of the administrative personnel's other needs.³² CCC crews also updated the guest cabin, covering the interior walls with fiberboard, installing a standard cupboard/table, and adding a sink with cold running water.

In 1935, a recreation management plan for the forest resulted in construction of nearby recreation sites. The new guard station no doubt served as headquarters for that effort. 25 men on the Idaho relief rolls were employed by the Emergency Relief Administration (ERA) to develop Trinity Lakes campgrounds. These campgrounds served an administrative as well as recreational purpose--by clearing and improving campsites, the agency could concentrate campers in fire-safe areas, and could reduce the risk that they would cause accidental forest fires.³³ Guards at Trinity Lakes now had an additional task: maintain and clean the campgrounds.

While the post-World War II reduction in the number of stations spared Trinity Lakes Guard Station, some changes came to administrative sites in the Trinities. The 1922 Trinity Mountain lookout house was removed and replaced by a new observation station in 1956, ³⁴ and the barn at Trinity Lakes Guard Station was moved to Lester Creek Guard Station, near Anderson Ranch Reservoir, in 1960.

Boise Ranger District (D-2)

The Boise Ranger District was eliminated in 1993 and split between the Mountain Home and Idaho City Ranger Districts.

Idaho City Ranger District (D-3)

Atlanta

In 1908, Charles T. Gray, the first ranger on the Atlanta district, located the Montezuma Ranger Station to replace the earlier Greylock Administrative Site located one-and-one-half miles east of the Atlanta townsite. The new site, on Montezuma Creek, offered more pasture for Forest Service livestock and aided the ranger by placing him nearer to the people of Atlanta. From Montezuma Ranger Station, Gray supervised construction of the Boise-Atlanta Wagon Road, being constructed by the State of Idaho with cooperation from the Forest Service. Ranger Gray located ranger stations and recreational sites, inspected homesteads, and established trails, helping to shape the present historical landscape of the surrounding area.

By 1920, the ranger and his crews had built a wood frame house with a $\frac{36}{36}$ pyramidal roof for use as a dwelling and office. Locals had for years called the site Atlanta Ranger Station, the Forest Service made the name change official in 1926. While construction of a toolhouse, woodshed, and above-ground cellar signalled a small expansion of the station between 1930 and 1932, the New Deal brought major development. Between 1933 and 1934, CCC enrollees from Alexander Flats Camp F-175, under the direction of Forest Service engineers and Local Experienced Men (LEMs), built several new structures at the Atlanta Station: a ranger dwelling (R4-7), guard dwelling (R4-7), office/storeroom (R4-51), shop/storeroom (R4-33), four-horse barn (R4-11), and two latrines (R4-70). Because the station adjoined the tow Because the station adjoined the town of Atlanta (an "urban" area), the Building Construction Manual called for the station's buildings to be finished in white-painted clapboard siding with green-stained shingle roofs. The ranger's dwelling burned to the ground on Christmas Eve, 1937, and had to be rebuilt in 1938. A two-room addition to the north elevation was approved in 1941, and the building was remodeled in 1942.



Fig. 2 Montezuma Ranger Station, Atlanta, Idaho, 1920.



Fig 3. Atlanta Ranger Station compound, 1934 (Plans R4-20, 51, and 7).

To complete the station, CCC enrollees installed a water piping system and landscaped the site with a grass lawn and foundation plantings. Other projects carried out by the CCC on the Atlanta Ranger District included recreational developments such as a hot springs bathhouse and campground a mile up the river from Atlanta. By 1938, CCC crews had improved and reopened the Middle Fork Boise River road, providing a year-round connection with Boise and the outside world.

During the 1950s, the interiors of the station buildings were altered to create a more open floor plan. Walls were removed and the kitchens were updated. A 1958 proposal to move the district ranger's residence from Atlanta to Dutch Creek Guard Station relegated Atlanta Ranger Station to guard station status. The new Dutch Creek compound served as headquarters for District Four of the Boise National Forest, until the district was consolidated with the Cottonwood Ranger District to form the Boise Ranger District in 1972. Atlanta Guard Station came under administration of the Idaho City Ranger District in 1993.

Removing the Atlanta Station from the center of the district's administrative activities helped preserve the compound's historic character by reducing the pressure for modernization. Today, Atlanta Historic Ranger Station remains the most intact CCC-era administrative site on the Boise National Forest and is therefore eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Barber Flat

At Barber Flat, the Barber Lumber Company (antecedent to the Boise Cascade Corporation) had a headquarters for their logging operations in the North Fork Boise River drainage during the 1900s and 1910s. To get their logs from the hills to the mills, the company staged log drives down the river to Boise. Forest Supervisor Emile Grandjean opposed the log drives as a waste of trees. Damage from rocks--and the dynamite used to free log jams--rendered

large percentages of river-driven logs unsuitable for lumber. Completion of the Reclamation Service's Arrowrock Dam effectively ended the Boise River timber drives. Although a log conveyor was installed to move logs over the dam, it proved inadequate.

After the Barber Lumber Company had abandoned Barber Flat, the Boise National Forest withdrew 80 acres of the flat in 1923 for use as an administrative site.⁴⁴ The Forest Service may have recycled Barber's buildings for use as a ranger station, a common practice in the agency's early days. In 1933, CCC labor developed a standard-plan guard station compound, consisting of an R4-7 guard dwelling, R4-13 barn, R4-33 garage/shop, R4-66 woodshed, and wellhouse. The Ponderosa pine forest setting at the flat necessitated log-veneer Shevlin siding painted or stained red-brown, and green-stained shingle roofs. Because it is an intact representation of a New Deal-era facility, the Barber Flat Guard Station is considered eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Beaver Creek

In 1907, the Forest Service located a ranger station at Hurdy Flat, one-and-one-quarter miles from the present Beaver Creek Guard Station. Occupying a small, one-room cabin abandoned by miners, rangers enclosed a pasture with wire fencing and used the site for shelter and an office when passing through the area or while on fire duty. The inadequate little station was abandoned in 1912, when the Forest Service estalished Beaverlaw Ranger Station on Little Beaver Creek.⁴⁵ Between 1914 and 1918, rangers used abandoned building from the Edna Mine and Mill.⁴⁶ Lyle F. Watts, Chief of the U.S. Forest Service from 1943 to 1952, served at this station during the 1918 field season.⁴⁷

In 1929, during rangers built a substantial, four-room log cabin at the present administrative site on Beaver Creek. In 1933, the Forest Service established an administrative compound here as the New Deal construction program commenced. CCC laborers from Camp F-72 at Idaho City built a three-room R4-53 guard station dwelling, an R4-7 two-room guard station dwelling, an R4-23 one-car garage/shop, an R4-33 three-car garage/shop, and an R4-11 four-horse barn.⁴⁸ The CCC-era buildings at Beaver Creek departed from the strict specifications of the Building Construction Manual. Despite their coniferous forest surroundings, the structures were sided with shiplap instead of Shevlin log veneer and were painted white instead of red-brown. CCC crews also undertook other forest development projects at Beaver Creek, such as treating telephone poles with creosote.

In the 1950s, Beaver Creek Guard Station became a work center for Forest Service crews during the field season. A generator shack (1955), a propane storage shed (1956), and a gas house (1954) were built and CCC-era bunkhouses and a kitchen joined them in 1956, as the site expanded with the Forest Service mission. Between 1973 and 1976₄₉ Youth Conservation Corps crews lived at Beaver Creek during the summer months. As older facilities were closed and removed during the 1980s, the agency removed the old Beaver Creek Ranger Station log cabin, the CCC bunkhouses, and CCC kitchens. Most of the 1933 administrative buildings remain, however, and are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Deer Park

Ranger Elmer C. Ross, an early ranger on the Garden Valley and Idaho City Districts, located and named the administrative site at Deer Park in 1913, due to its "great value as an administrative work, being located at the where two main trunk trails cross or intersect."⁵¹ Located at a flat on the North Fork Boise River, Deer Park offered good pasture for grazing and 20 acres of agricultural land. A 12-foot-by-14-foot log cabin occupied the site. Ranger Ross built a new cabin in October, 1917.

CCC enrollees of the 1261st Company at Deer Park Camp F-74 developed the administrative complex at Deer Park in 1933, constructing an R4-7 dwelling with log-veneer siding, an R4-66 log woodshed, and a nonstandard storage shed. A latrine and a small barn, tack shed, or garage--generally built at similar stations--might also have been part of the compound. Located in an area forested with Ponderosa pine, the buildings at this station received a deep red-brown stain, and green roofs. A lodgepole corral enclosed a pasture for Forest Service horses and mules, which carried rangers and their gear through the vast and roadless forest.

The agency removed the early ranger station in the 1970s, but most of the New Deal structures remain. A pumphouse and toilet of recent design also occupy the site today.

Cascade Ranger District (D-4)

Stolle Meadows

Originally named South Fork [Salmon River] Administrative Site, the Forest Service withdrew land for the Stolle Meadows Ranger Station in three parcels in 1907, 1908, and 1913. Although Forest Service engineering records state that the buildings presently on the site were built in 1914, historic

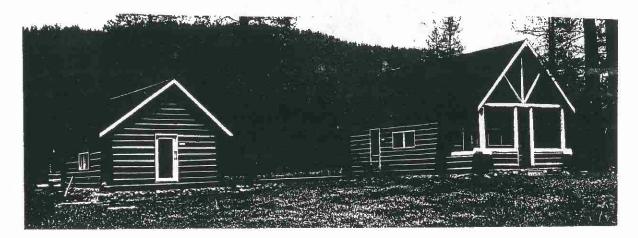


Fig. 4. South Fork (Stolle Meadows) Ranger Station.

photographs indicate the original buildings were crude, vernacular log cabins, perhaps the abandoned cabins repaired by the rangers and used as the first headquarters on the district. ⁵⁵ The buildings at Stolle Meadows today appear to date from the 1925-1933 period, when the Forest Service's larger construction budgets allowed for better-designed, better-built, and larger facilities.

The Forest Service located a temporary CCC camp at Stolle Meadows during the summer of 1933. Enrollees maintained and upgraded the station and built a new garage, which had the same dimensions as the 84-24 single-car garage but was built of logs rather than frame construction. Warm Lake recieved the new CCC improvements and eclipsed Stolle Meadows as the major Forest Service work station in the area. Thus, outside the center of administrative activity, Stolle Meadows Guard Station survived intact without significant alterations or construction of additional buildings to intrude on the historic landscape.

Lowman Ranger District (D-5)

Elk Creek

Withdrawn in 1907, the Elk Creek Administrative Site was first used by Rangers Elmer Ross and Francis Wallis. During the 1920s, Bear Valley District Ranger Arthur Smith planned the buildings at Elk Creek, but even though some of them were built during the CCC period, only one of them (a log woodshed, R4-66) used a standard plan. "Ranger vernacular" log buildings held over into the 1930s at Elk Creek. A fine example of the style is the Ranger's Dwelling, a rustic H-plan log cabin (1934). Other structures designed by Ranger Smith include the ranger alternate's dwelling (1931), warehouse (1924), gas house (1933), barn (1926), and fire cache (1924).



Fig. 5 Elk Creek Ranger Station.

Serving as the headquarters for the Bear Valley Ranger District until 1972, Elk Creek Ranger Station was the center of Forest Service acitivity within the district, growing and evolving as a result. The present compound at Elk Creek is composed of buildings moved in from stations around the district--Big Meadows Guard Station, Upper Deadwood Guard Station, and Bear Valley Lookout--between 1954 and 1962. Most of these buildings were CCC-built standard-plan structures, erected on their original sites in 1933 and 1934.

Emmett Ranger District (D-6)

Boiling Springs

The old Payette National Forest withdrew the Boiling Springs administrative site in 1906. Ranger Elmer C. Ross, of Garden Valley, patrolled the Middle and South Fork Payette River country. He wrote in his 1908 diary that he and other rangers used Boiling Springs a campsite while on fire patrol and fire suppression duty. Between August 6 and 11, 1908, Ross fought a fire alone on the ridge dividing the Middle Fork and Silver Creek, camping part of that time at Boiling Springs, where his horses could find ample feed. While Ross undertook or supervised construction of ranger the stations at Garden Valley, Gallagher Flat, Hardscrabble, Deer Park, and Idaho City, his diaries give no indication that Boiling Springs was developed into anything more than campsite and pasture. The administrative site's pasture, closed to grazing by stockmen due to the withdrawal, would have been important to a patrolling ranger--something like a gas station for horses.

In 1934, the Forest Service developed Boiling Springs Guard Station, constructing a guard dwelling, a bathhouse, a garage/toolhouse, and fly shed. The dwelling is standard R4-4 in its plan, but nonstandard in its log construction. The log R4-14 fly shed was added to the rear of the dwelling in the 1960s, to expand the living space. A bath house (1935), with hot water piped in from Boiling Spring, provided guards with an amenity unique among the forest's administrative sites. The garage/storehouse, an R4-23 (revised), housed the guard's vehicle and served as a woodshed and storage space for equipment. Unlike other buildings at the site, the garage and bath house were frame buildings with Shevlin log-veneer siding, rather than log structures. CCC enrollees from Silver Creek Camp F-95 may have construced the Boiling Springs Guard Station, as most improvements on the forest between 1933 and 1942 made use of CCC labor.

Third Fork

Around 1908, Ranger Horace Burr and his fire guards erected a two-room log cabin to house the Third Fork heaquarters. CCC enrollees from Third Fork Camp F-62 replaced in in 1933, building the present guard station on the Third Fork Squaw Creek. A standard-plan R4-7 dwelling and an R4-23 (revised) garage/storehouse, both frame buildings with log-veneer siding, constituted the major improvements of the CCC period. Enrollees also installed a water-supply system and built a fence around the station.

¹Elizabeth M. Smith, <u>History of the Boise National Forest</u> (Boise: Idaho State Historical Society, 1983), 40-42.

²L.L. Hammer, I-STUDIES-Historical Information, 1940, 2, Boise National Forest Historical Files.

³H.G. McPheters, "The Location and Proper Construction of Improvements in National Forests," pp. 230-36 in U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, "District 4: Minutes of Supervisors' Meeting, Idaho and Wyoming Forests," Boise, Idaho, January 2-4, 1910, Boise National Forest Historical Files.

⁴Smith, 44; Q.R. Craft, District 4 Fiscal Agent, comments in U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, "District 4: Minutes of Supervisors' Meeting, Idaho and Wyoming National Forests," Boise, Idaho, January 2-4, 1910, pp. 238-39, Boise National Forest Historical Files.

⁵Craft, 238.

⁶The Cline Ranger Station near Warm Lake is an example. Douglas W. Dodd, "From Homestead to Ranger Station: A History of Cline Ranger Station," unpublished manuscript, 1993, Boise National Forest Historical Files; Jennifer Eastman Attebery, <u>Building Idaho: An Architectural History</u> (Moscow: University of Idaho Press, 1991), 125.

⁷Elmer C. Ross, "L-Claims-Boise, Edna Lode & Millsite, Estabrook, W.H., Claimant," 25 June 1918, copy on file in Boise National Forest Historical Files.

⁸James Deetz, <u>Small Things Forgotten</u>, (Garden City, N.J.: Anchor Book Company, 1977), 93, in Cort Sims, "Ranger Stations of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests," (Cour d'Alene, Ida.: USDA Forest Service, Idaho Panhandle National Forests, 1986), 12.

⁹USDA Forest Service, "The Use Book. Regulations and Instructions for the Use of the National Forest Reserves," (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1906), 108.

¹⁰Sims, 13.

¹¹McPheters, 232.

¹²W.B. Rice, "Memorandum for Supervisor," 21 June 1940, 1, Boise National Forest Historical Files.

¹³USDA Forest Service, <u>The National Forest Manual: Regulations and</u> <u>Instructions</u>, (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1928), 64-A.

¹⁴U.S. Congress, Senate, <u>A National Plan for American Forestry</u>, Senate Doc. No. 12, 73 Cong., 1 Sess., March 1933, vol. 1, 600.

¹⁵W.B. Rice, 3.

¹⁶Thomas G. Alexander, <u>The Rise of Multiple-Use Management in the</u> <u>Intermountain West: A History of Region 4 of the Forest Service</u>, (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1987), 108.

¹⁷USDA Forest Service, <u>Building Construction Manual, Region 4</u>, rev. ed., (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1934), 14-15.

¹⁸Building Construction Manual, 18.

¹⁹Building Construction Manual, 18.

²⁰<u>Building Construction Manual</u>, 18.

²¹Building Construction Manual, 29-30c.

²²Rexford G. Tugwell to Harold Ickes, 14 April 1934, p. 1, copy in file "L-Stations-Boise-Trinity Lakes R.S.," Boise National Forest Historical Files.

²³USDA Forest Service, "Land Classification, Boise National Forest, Idaho," 1917, p. 24, Boise National Forest Historical Files.

²⁴Dana Parkinson to Frank S. Moore, 27 January 1941, p. 2, Boise National Forest Histororical Files.

²⁵USDA Forest Service, "Improvement Plans, Region Four, Boise National Forest," 1939, n.p., Boise National Forest Historical Files.

²⁶"Improvement Plans," 1939, n.p.

²⁷C.N. Woods, "Adjustments-Boise-Trinity A.S.," 1933, p. 1, in file "L-Stations-Boise-Trinity Lakes R.S.," Boise National Forest Historical Files.

²⁸<u>Ibid.</u>, 1; segments of wire and porcelain insulators, remnants of the old ground-return telephone line system linking the guard station are still visible on the ridge leading to the peak of Trinity Mountain, as are remnants of the original trail to the summit.

²⁹ "Improvement Plans," 1939, n.p.

³⁰Ibid., n.p.

³¹<u>Ibid</u>, n.p.

³²<u>Ibid</u>., n.p.

³³Frank Elder and Leroy Sprague, et al., "Boise National Forest History," unpublished typewritten manuscript, 1966, n.p., Boise National Forest Historical Files.

³⁴Mary Wilson, "Administrative Site Records," Trinity Lookout, Site No. P-739, 1983, Boise National Forest Historical Files.

³⁵Emile Grandjean to Gifford Pinchot, 8 November 1908, p. 15, copy in Boise

National Forest Historical Files.

³⁶ "Improvement Plans," 1939, n.p.

³⁷<u>Ibid.</u>, n.p.

³⁸Smith, 56; USDA Forest Service, Region Four, "Improvement Plans," 1939, n.p., Boise National Forest Historical Files.

³⁹Building Construction Manual, 30-c.

⁴⁰Ibid., n.p.

⁴¹Howard Ahlskog to Floyd Iverson, 15 September 1958, p. 1, File: 5650 Buildings, Water and Sanitation, Atlanta Ranger Station D-4, Boise National Forest Historical Files.

⁴²Emile Grandjean, "A Short History of the Boise National Forest," n.d., unpublished manuscript in the Boise National Forest Historical Files.

⁴³Smith, 153-4.

⁴⁴R.E. Gery to E.C. Shepard, 2 November 1923, p. 1, File: L-Stations-Boise, Barber Flats R.S., Boise National Forest Historical Files.

⁴⁵B.L. Wheeler to the District Forester, 5 July 1912, p. 1, File: 5650 Buildings, Water and Sanitation, Beaver Creek Ranger Station D-5, Historical Files, Boise National Forest.

⁴⁶Elmer C. Ross, Report on Edna Mine and Millsite, 25 June 1918, p. 5, File: L-Claims-Boise-Edna Mine and Millsite, Historical Files, Boise National Forest.

⁴⁷Elmer C. Ross, Diary, 19 July 1918, n.p., MS 419, Idaho State Historical Society Library and Archives, Boise, Idaho.

⁴⁸Mary Wilson, Administrative Site Records, 1983, n.p., Boise National Forest Historical Files.

⁴⁹Smith, 68.

⁵⁰Wilson and Petersen, "Administraive Evaluations: Deer Park Historic Guard Station," 1985, 1.

⁵¹Elmer C. Ross, "Report on Proposed Administrative Site," 15 July 1913, pp. 1-4, File: L-Stations-Boise-Deer Park R.S., Boise National Forest Historical Files.

⁵²Ross, Diary, 11-15 October 1917, n.p.

⁵³U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, <u>Building Construction</u> <u>Manual, revised edition (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office,</u> <u>1935), 29-30.</u>

⁵⁴USDA Forest Service, Boise National Forest Land Status Atlas, n.d., n.p.,

Boise National Forest Historical Files.

⁵⁵Guy B. Mains, "Memorandum for Supervisor Van Meter, Payette National Forest," 31 October 1940, 9, Boise National Forest Historical Files; USDA Forest Service, Boise National Forest, "Facilities Master Plan," 1985, n.p., Boise National Forest Historical Files; Glenn Blickenstaff, Cascade Ranger District Facilities and Engineering Forestry Technician, telephone conversation with the author, 9 September 1993.

⁵⁶Smith, 57; "Improvement Plans," 1939, n.p.

⁵⁷ Mains, 1940, 3.

⁵⁸ "Improvement Plans, " 1939, n.p.

⁵⁹Wilson, "Administrative Evaluations: Elk Creek (BS-800)," 3 October 1984, n.p., Boise National Forest Historical Files.

⁶⁰ Mary Wilson, Administrative Site Record, Elk Creek Ranger Station, site no. P-499, 1983, n.p., Boise National Forest Historical Files.

⁶¹ Mary Wilson, "Administrative [Site] Evaluations," June 1984, File: BS-735, Boise National Forest Historical Files.

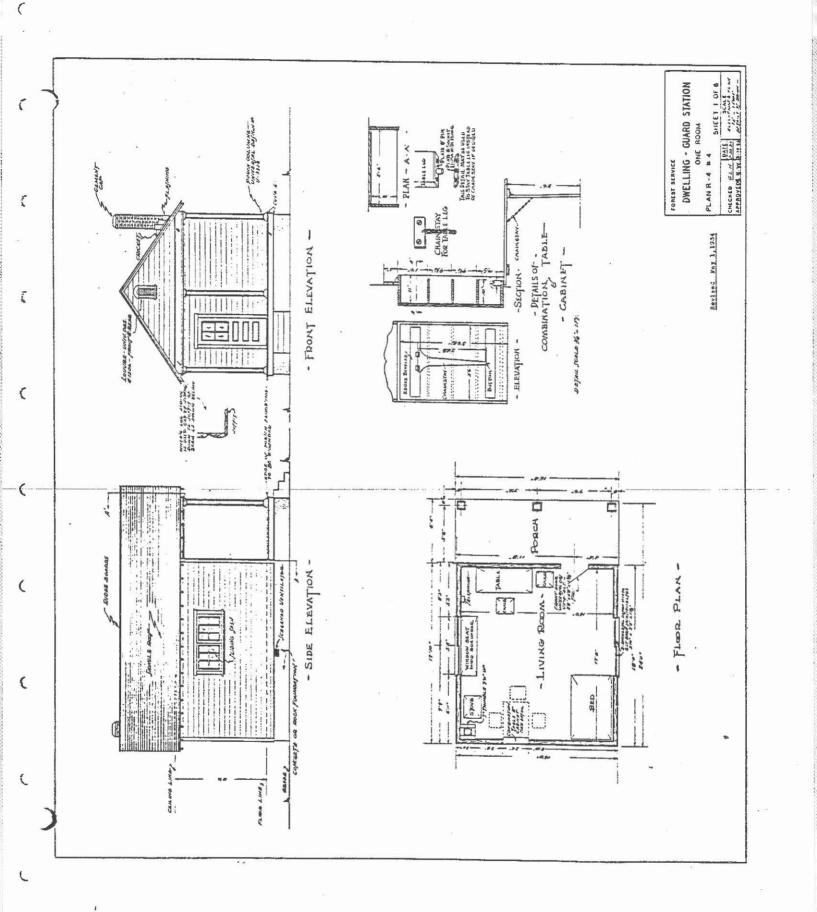
⁶²Elmer C. Ross, 2-11 August 1908, n.p., unpublished ranger diary, MS 419 at Idaho State Historical Society Library and Archives, Boise, Idaho.

⁶³Guy B. Mains, "Memorandum for Supervisor Van Meter, Payette National Forest," 31 October 1940, 9, Boise National Forest Historical Files.

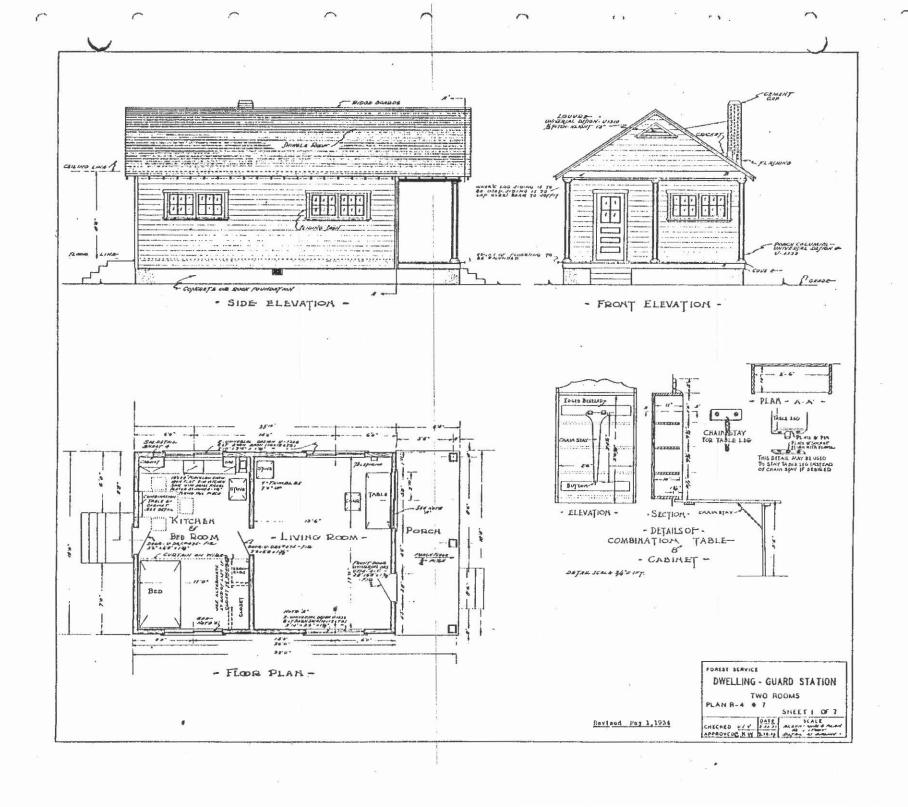
⁶⁴USDA Forest Service, "Improvement Plans, Region Four, Boise National Forest," ca. 1937, n.p., Boise National Forest Historical Files.

Appendix:

Region Four Standard Plans, 1935.

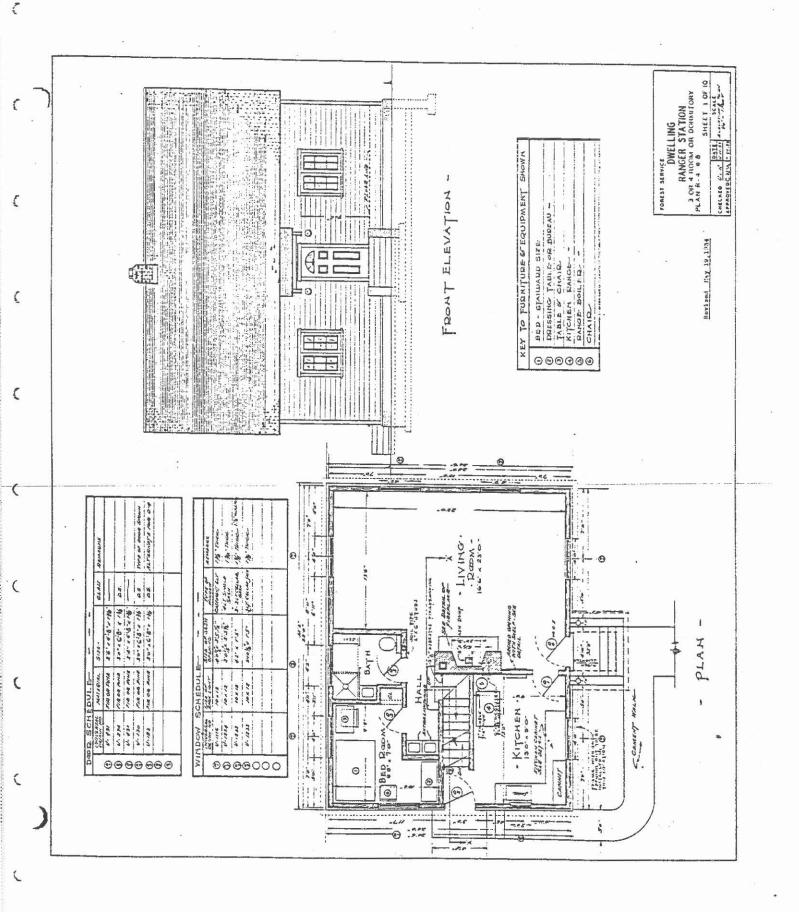


× 7'

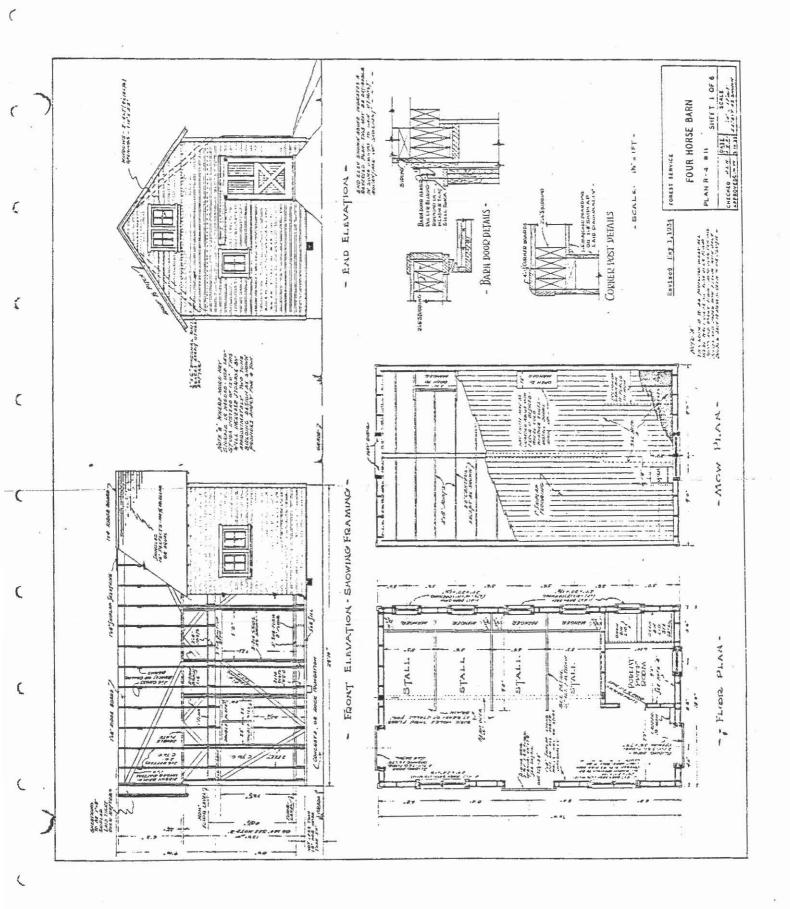


4

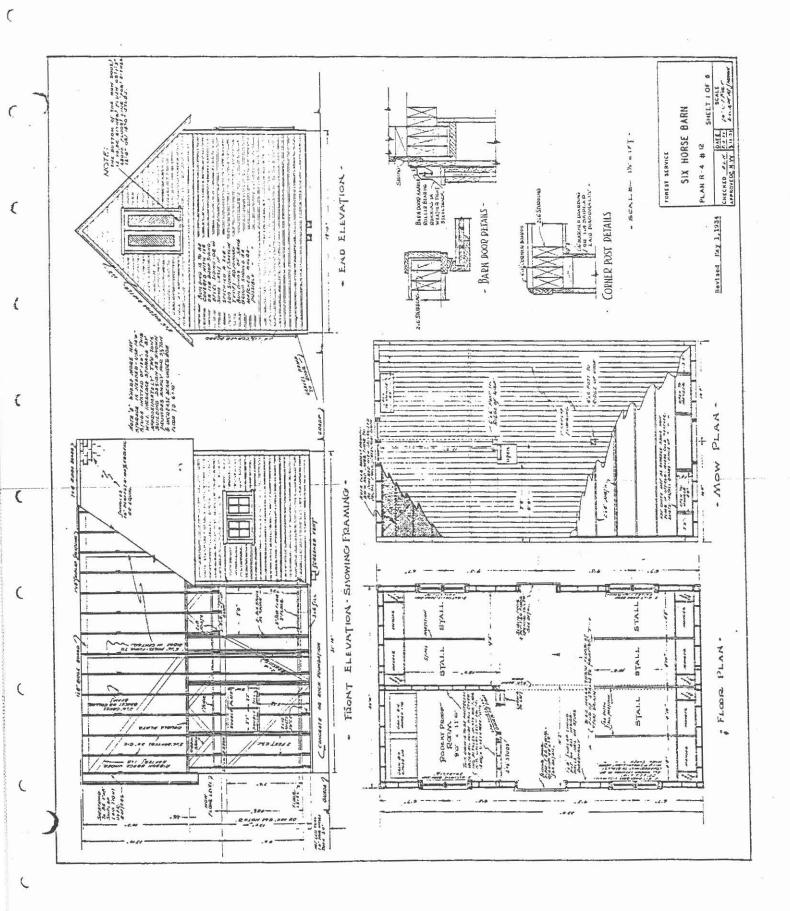
i vite



•



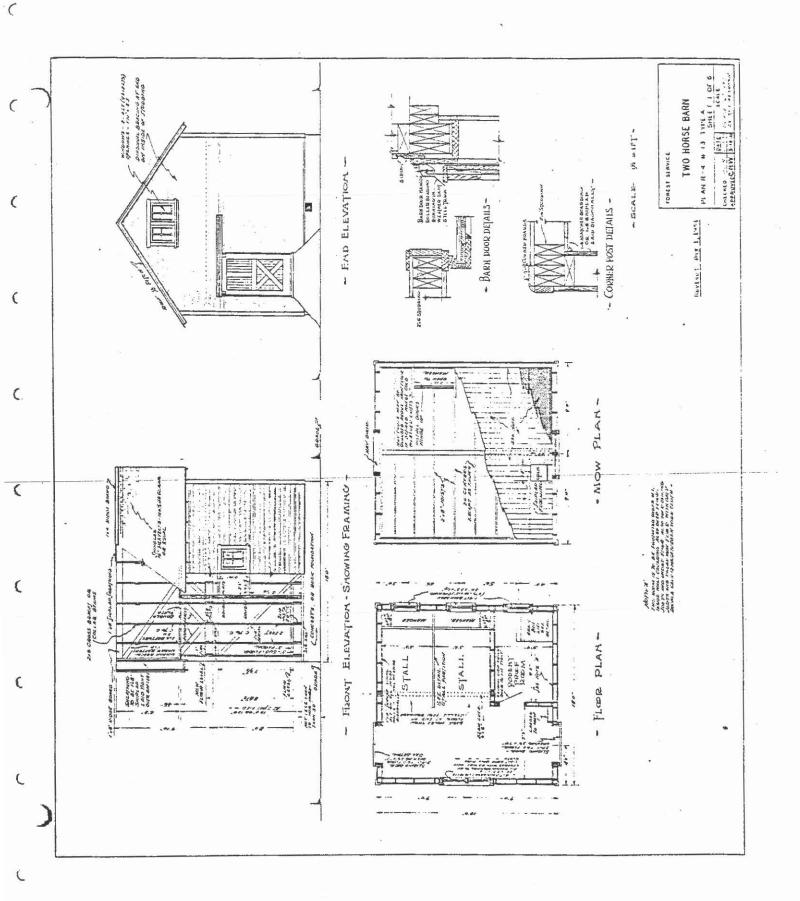
5.25



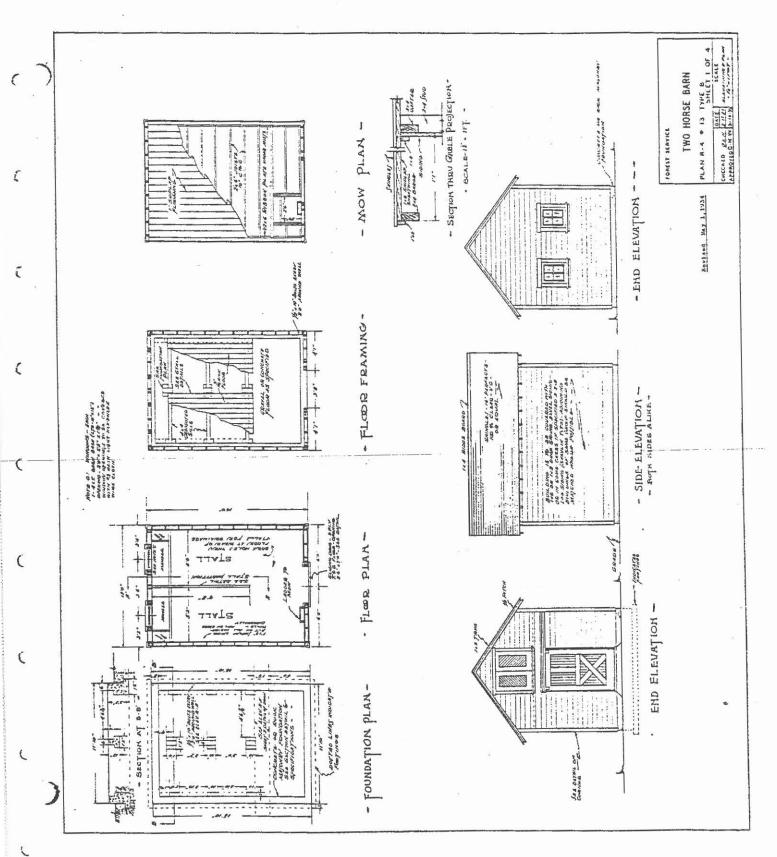
*,

175

ų,



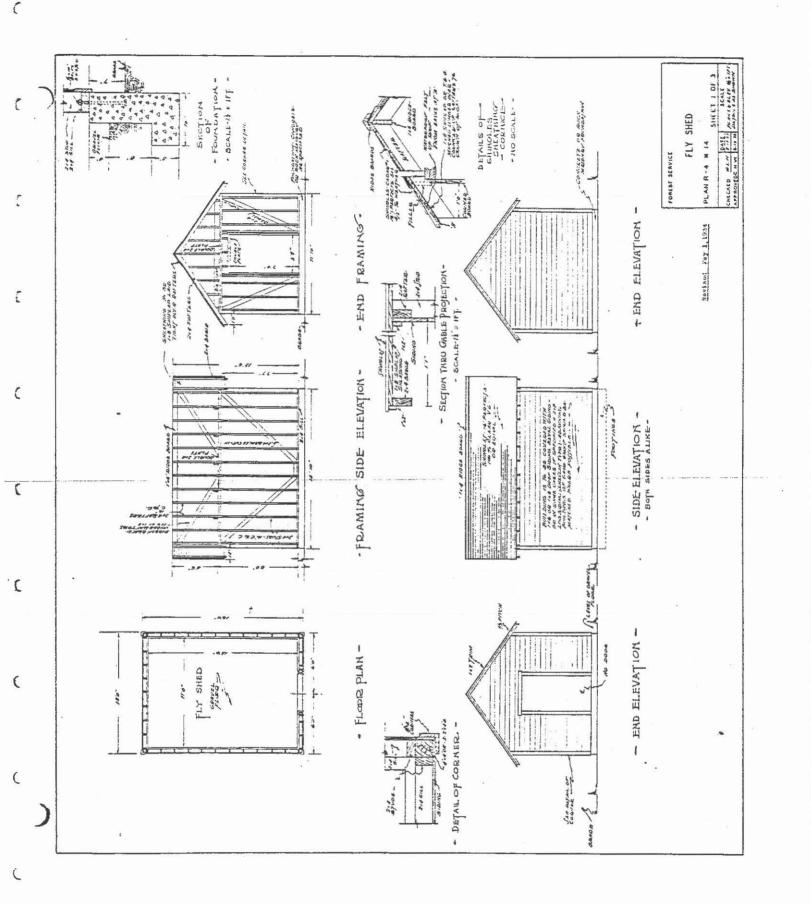
•;



100000 C

• • ,

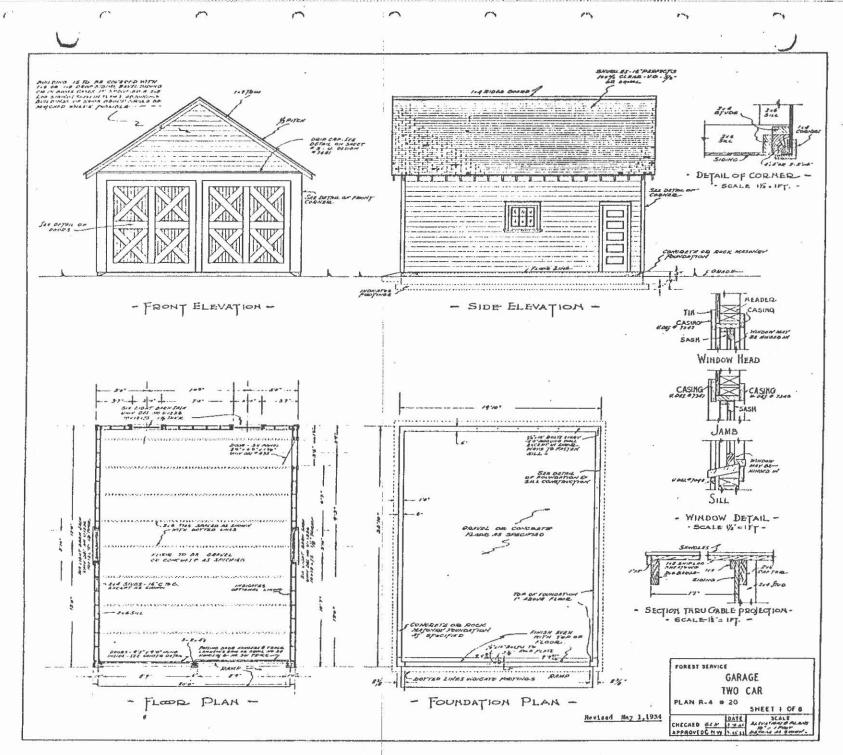
ċ



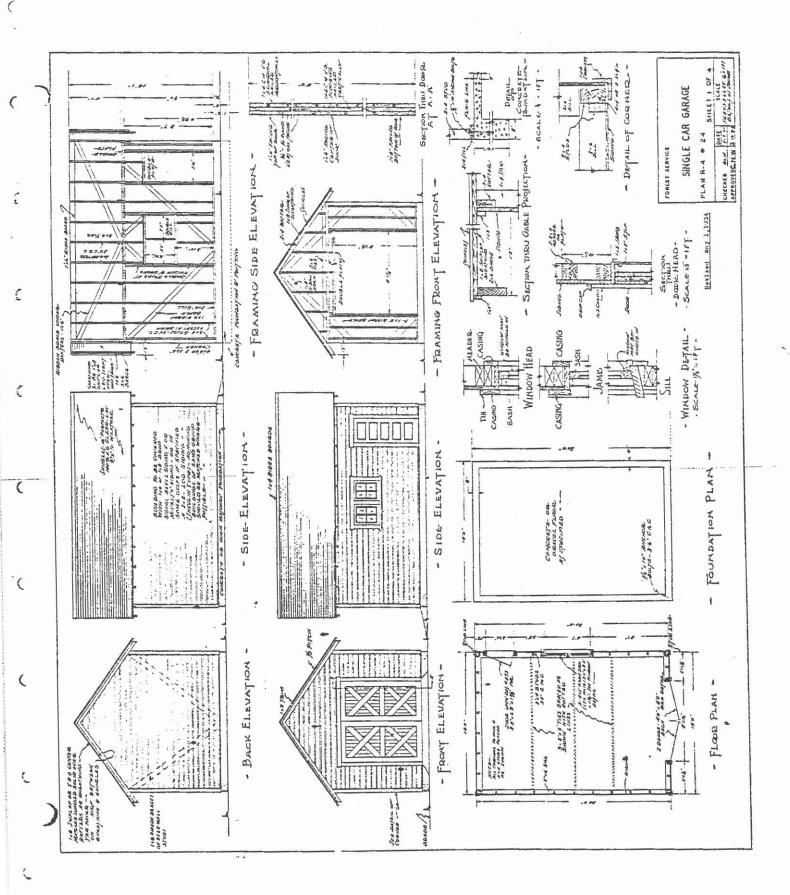
ć

, *, ,

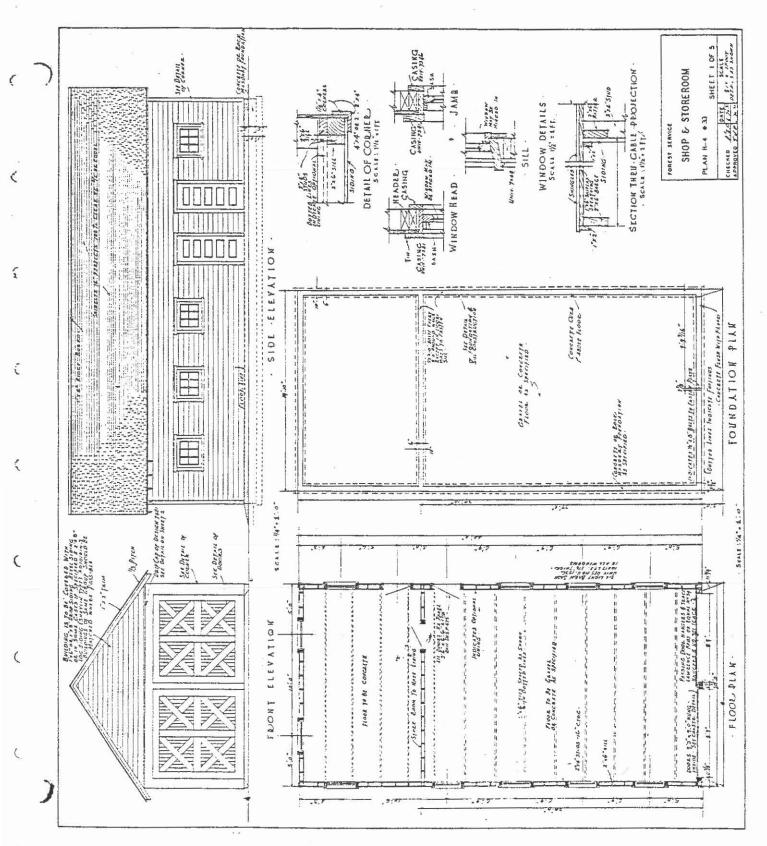
: ; ; 44

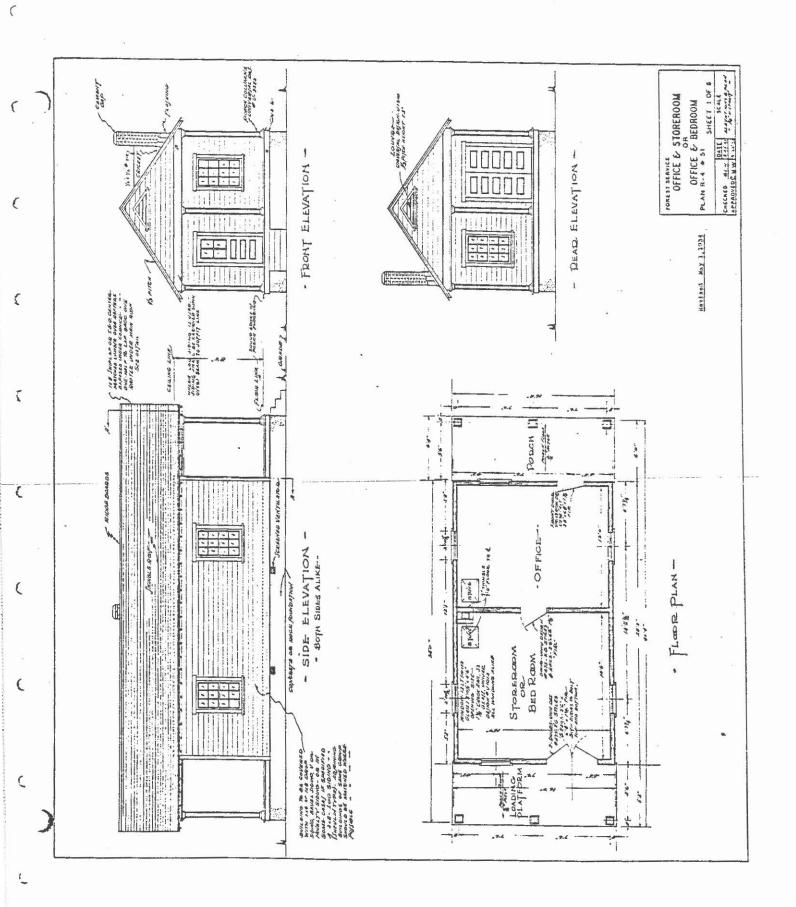


· SECTION THEU DODR SINCLE CAR COMBINATION SINCLE CAR CARACE AND WOODSHED ON SINCLE CAR CARACE VE SULLE HOD ON SINCLE CAR CARACE VE SURFACION PLAN R-4 H - 23 PAULAN VG CHECKO CAN DATE TOF 3 CHECKO CAN DATE SCALE C 6Rupr-1 1"8 FACING BOT TOM OF DANS Cantral OF BOILTAD LINES DR OF DAUNG ADA. FOREST SERVICE We bet a how 2 C furl of av 1, 1934 E Sumalar W. P. - REAR ELEVATION -- FRONT ELEVATION -14 RIDGE < A DESCRIPTION OF A DESC h A Signes & an PK CUVANA (and and () () (T. G.G. CENTRE JOLID PYAB . There are a (CPEACE DOORS 1. 0 June 1000 (LAPON-> GARAGE . GARAGE . GRAVIL OF CONTRIE C. T. Marken and C. T. T. DITE: N TO BE HELE OF 13 PUTEN (. - 2.6 -1.01 PIGHT END ELEVATION -- PLAN -- 2.84 Siration 600 02 La contraction and the SHEETS P.P. .. WEDSALD -SMALL SHOP o so mon 1 Seelan Door לגד מנואנ מר נימאנים - שר -0.6 • •

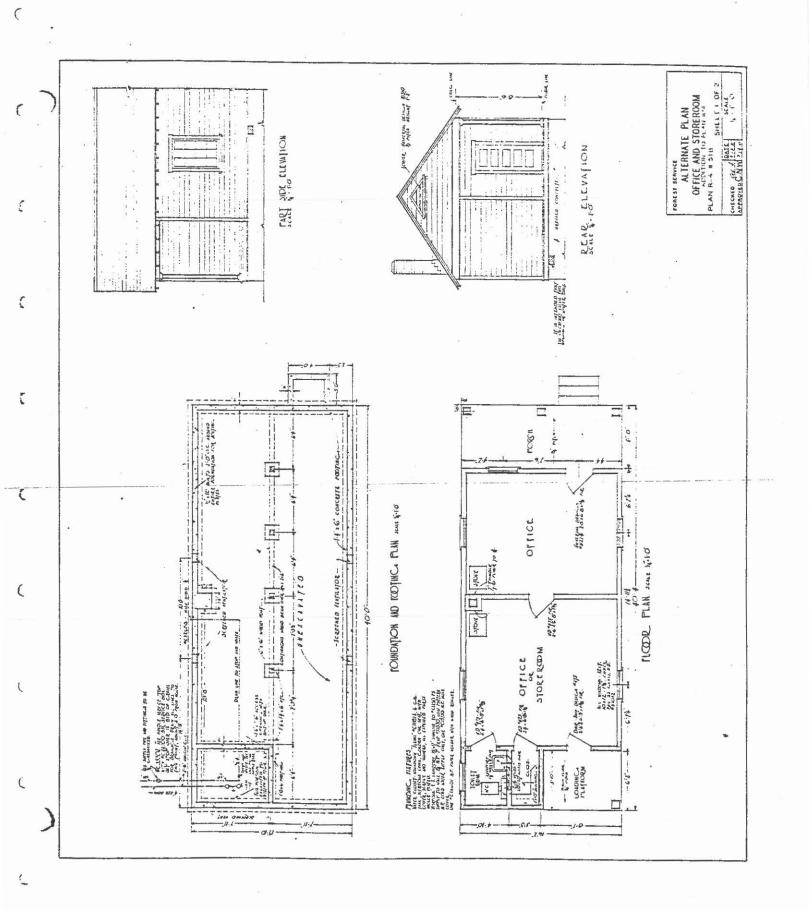


CONTRACTOR OF CONT

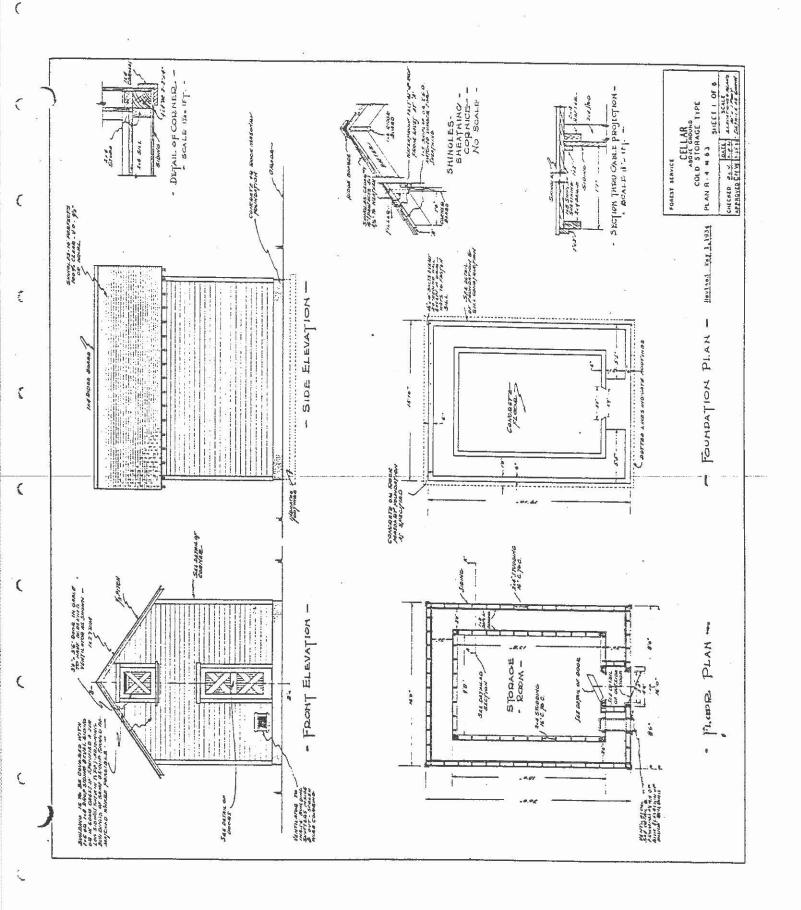




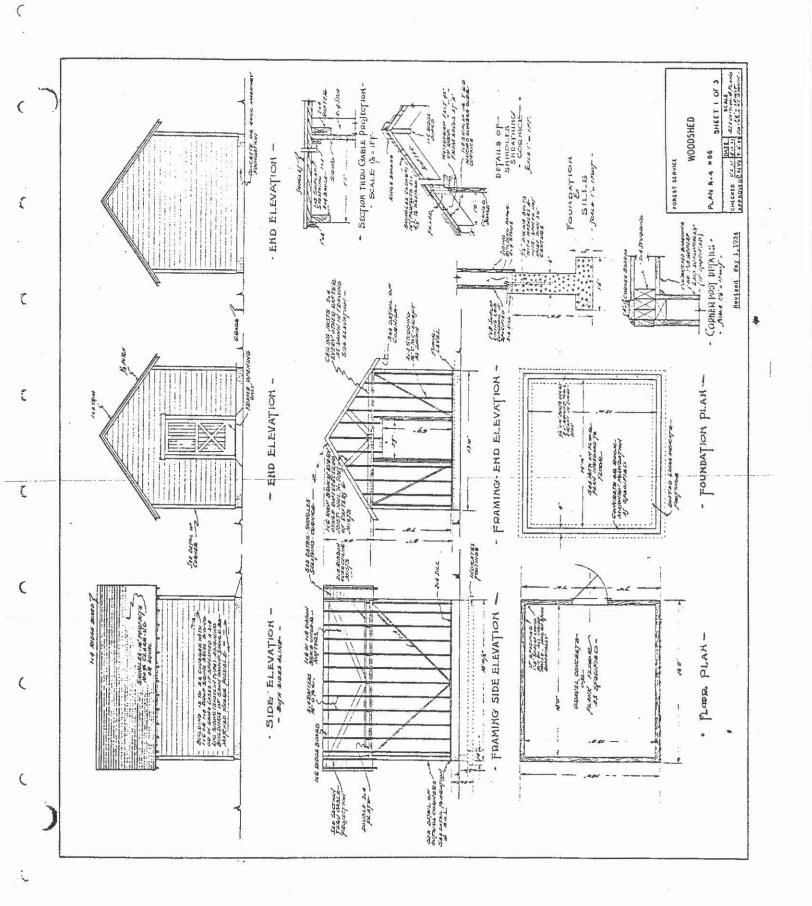
د م



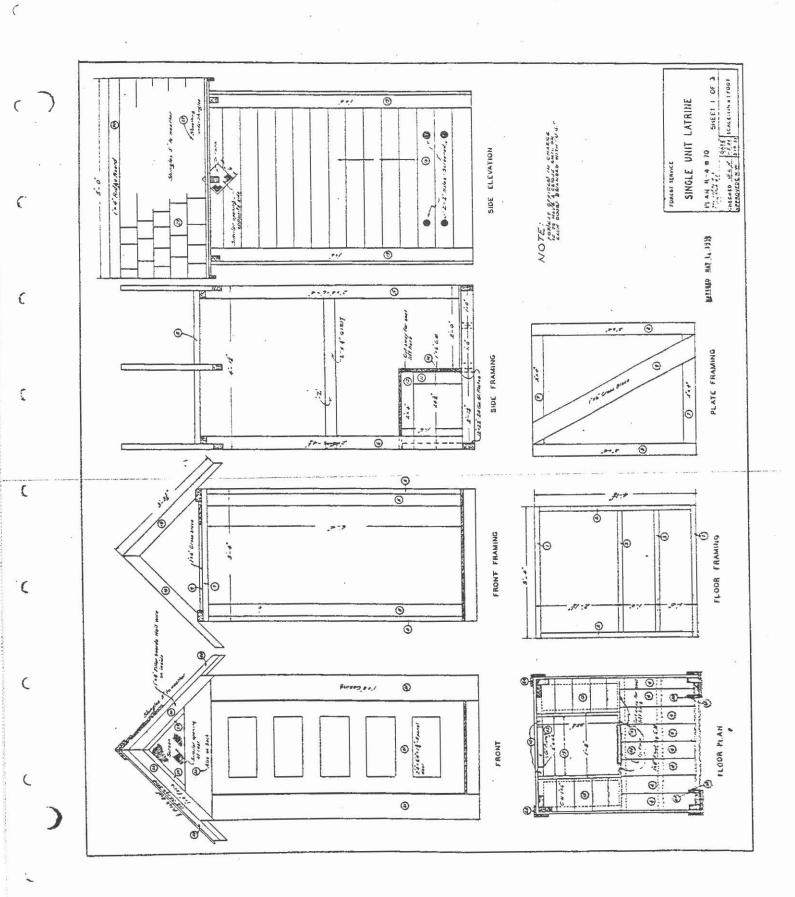
.



مىسى ب ئۇر ھۇرىر



17%



. *****

.....

مربع المحادث