

Columbine Ranger Station, Garage
(Columbine Work Station, Garage)
Coronado National Forest
Milepost 143, Arizona Highway 366
Safford Vicinity
Graham County
Arizona

HABS No. AZ-160-B

HABS
ARIZ,
5-SAF.V,
IB-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

**Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Western Region
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California 94107**

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
COLUMBINE RANGER STATION, GARAGE
(COLUMBINE WORK STATION, GARAGE)

HABS
ARIZ,
5-SAFV,
1B-

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Location: Columbine Work Station
Coronado National Forest
Milepost 143, Arizona Highway 366
Safford Vicinity
Graham County
Arizona

USGS Webb Peak, Ariz. Quadrangle (7.5')
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:
12.601900.3618750

Present Owner: Coronado National Forest
300 W. Congress
Tucson, Arizona 85701

Present Occupant: Same

Present Use: Equipment and tack storage

Significance: The Columbine Ranger Station garage is an element of a National Register thematic group entitled "Depression-Era USDA Forest Service Administrative Complexes in Arizona" The station is significant for its association with the expansion of Forest Service administration from custodial superintendence to active resource management. Built by the Civilian Conservation Corps, it reflects the role of the Forest Service in relieving unemployment during the Depression. It is also significant because it embodies the use of standard plan architecture developed by Forest Service architects and represents a distinctive Forest Service design style (Cameron and Spoerl 1989).

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. **Date of erection:** Circa 1935 (USDA Forest Service, Coronado N. F. cultural resources files). The Columbine Civilian Conservation Corps camp was located about five miles south of the station. The camp was first occupied in the summer of 1934 and it is likely that camp enrollees built the garage in the following summer. During a roof replacement project, "1935" was found inscribed in the roofing material of the nearby residence (Cameron and Spoerl 1989).
2. **Architect:** USDA Forest Service, Region 3
3. **Original and subsequent owners:** The Columbine garage has been the property of the USDA Forest Service, since its construction (USDA Forest Service, Coronado N. F. Lands files). When constructed, it was an element of the seasonal ranger headquarters for the Mt. Graham Ranger District of the Crook National Forest. The Mt. Graham Ranger District became part of the Safford Ranger District of the Coronado National Forest when the Crook was disestablished circa 1952.
4. **Builder, contractor, supplier:** USDA Forest Service; Civilian Conservation Corps
5. **Original plans and construction:** The garage was not constructed according to a standard plan, and no drawings are extant on the Coronado. The garage is a five-room rectangular building, one story in height. The foundation is poured concrete, the frame is nailed wood, and the roof is a side-gable type of medium pitch. Exterior walls are board-and-batten, and the roof is shingled. Windows are generally six-light swinging sash, arranged in groups of three. There are two groups on the north end and three groups on the west rear. There is also a four-light fixed sash window on the east front. There are three X-braced garage bay doors with six lights on the east front, plus a board-and-batten door. There is an X-braced door on the south end, plus two open manglers. There is an X-braced door with a four-light window on the west rear.

6. Alterations and additions: Tack room door on east front is a post-1947 addition, as it does not appear in a photo of that date (Photograph B-6).

B. Historical Context: A 1947 recreation plan (USDA Forest Service, Coronado National Forest) describes the Columbine Ranger Station as consisting of the residence and garage. The station was the summer headquarters for the Mt. Graham District Ranger.

The Columbine Guard Cabin was described as "adjacent" to the Ranger Station, but administratively was considered a separate site. Following 1947, various buildings were built in the vicinity, supporting the more active management role assumed by the Forest Service. Some were constructed in place, others were moved to the station from locations such as the Columbine CCC camp. The guard cabin lost its distinct administrative identity during this period, as buildings were added in the vicinity of both sites.

Currently, the Columbine Work Station includes seven other major buildings in addition to the garage and residence: three cabins, two storage sheds, a fuel storage building and a shower building. Two latrines are also present.

The Mt. Graham Ranger District is usually said to have been incorporated into the Coronado National Forest when the Crook National Forest was disestablished in 1952 or 1953 (Wilson 1987: 389; Tucker 1992: 151). However, the 1947 recreation plan cited above is titled "Coronado National Forest, Crook Addition." It appears that the Forest Service had administratively realigned the Forests during the 1940's, with Congressional recognition of the transfers occurring in the 1950's,

but existing files are silent on the details. Little else is known about the history of the station or its buildings, as individual building historical records were never prepared or have been lost, and no comprehensive administrative history of the station has been compiled.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. **Architectural character:** While essentially a vernacular building of simple construction, the garage displays several elements of Forest Service architectural design. Native materials, gabled roofs and multi-paned windows were widely employed by the Forest Service during the Depression.

Wood structural members, siding, and roofs were believed to be responsive to and appropriate for forested environments.

Gabled roofs were common, and were adapted to the prevailing precipitation conditions; pitch was adjusted to total precipitation and snow loads.

Multi-paned windows decorated as well as illuminated the Region's buildings, and had the incidental effect of recalling the Nation's historic roots by reflecting an element of Georgian architecture.

2. **Condition of fabric:** Remaining original fabric consists of structural members, siding, roofing, interior finish and windows.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. **Overall dimensions:** 56 x 21 feet
2. **Foundation:** Poured concrete
3. **Walls:** Board-and-batten

4. **Structural systems, framing:** Wood frame construction of 2 x 6 inch members, 24 inches on center.
5. **Porches, stoops, balconies, bulkheads:** None
6. **Chimneys:** Metal, centered on west rear
7. **Openings:**
 - a. **Doorways and doors:** Three double garage doors with six lights offset to right on east front. One board-and-batten door offset to left on east front. One X-braced door offset to right on south end, two open manglers. One X-braced door with four lights offset to right on west rear.
 - b. **Windows and shutters:** One six-light fixed sash window on east front. Louvered vent under gable on south end. Six-light swinging-sash windows on west rear in three groups of three. Six-light swinging-sash windows on north end in two groups of three. Louvered vent under gable on north end.
8. **Roof:**
 - a. **Shape, covering:** End-gable with shingles
 - b. **Cornice, eaves:** Eaves with exposed rafters, east front and west rear
 - c. **Dormers, cupolas, towers:** None

C. Description of interior:

1. Floor plan: Rectangular
2. Stairways: None
3. Flooring: Poured concrete slab
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Exterior walls unfinished. Partition walls finished with false bevel siding.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Panel doors between workshop and tool storage rooms, panel doors to interior storage rooms.
 - b. Windows: Flush frames
6. Decorative features and trim: None
7. Hardware: Strap hinges and hasp-and-padlock closures on exterior doors.
8. Mechanical equipment:
 - a. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation: Wood stove
 - b. Lighting: Incandescent, with bare bulbs
 - c. Plumbing: None
 - d. Other equipment: None
9. Original furnishings: None

D. **Site:**

1. **General setting:** The Columbine Ranger Station is located on the crest of the Pinaleno Mountains near Soldier Creek in an area of dense pine forest, with a meadow adjacent to the northwest. The Swift Trail, Arizona Highway 366, is a gravel road running to the north of the site. There are no other developments visible from the site.

Corrals with metal fences formed from 1-1/2 inch square tubing adjoin the barn on the south and west. These are of post-Depression origin.

2. **Historic landscape design:** There is no formal landscape design. The existing administrative site layout conforms to Forest Service design principles in a general way, by placing the service buildings to the rear of the site, but does not show the clear separation into office, residential and service areas that characterizes many other administrative sites.
3. **Outbuildings:** The garage can be considered an outbuilding of the Ranger Station residence, which lies nearby to the north. In addition to the residence, the existing landscape includes nine other major and minor buildings, including three cabins, two storage buildings, a fuel storage building, a shower house, and two latrines. None of the latter are located within the National Register boundary for the Columbine Work Station.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. **Architectural drawings:** None found
- B. **Historic views:** None
- C. **Interviews:** None
- D. **Bibliography:**

1. **Primary and unpublished sources:**

USDA Forest Service, Coronado National Forest, Supervisor's Office, Tucson. Lands files.

USDA Forest Service, Coronado National Forest,
Supervisor's Office, Tucson. Cultural resource
files.

2. **Secondary and published sources:**

Cameron, Cathy and Patricia M. Spoerl
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National Forest, Tucson.

Tucker, Edwin A.
1992 The Early Days: A Sourcebook of Southwestern
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Management Report 12, USDA Forest Service,
Southwestern Region, Albuquerque.

USDA Forest Service, Coronado National Forest
1947 Coronado National Forest, Crook Addition,
Recreation Plan. By W. A. Daniels and Crook
personnel (1939); revised by Wm. H. Woods, Jr.
(1947). Typescript on file, Coronado National
Forest Supervisor's Office, Tucson.

Wilson, John P.
1987 Islands in the Desert: A History of the
Uplands of Southeast Arizona. Typescript on
file, Coronado National Forest, Tucson.

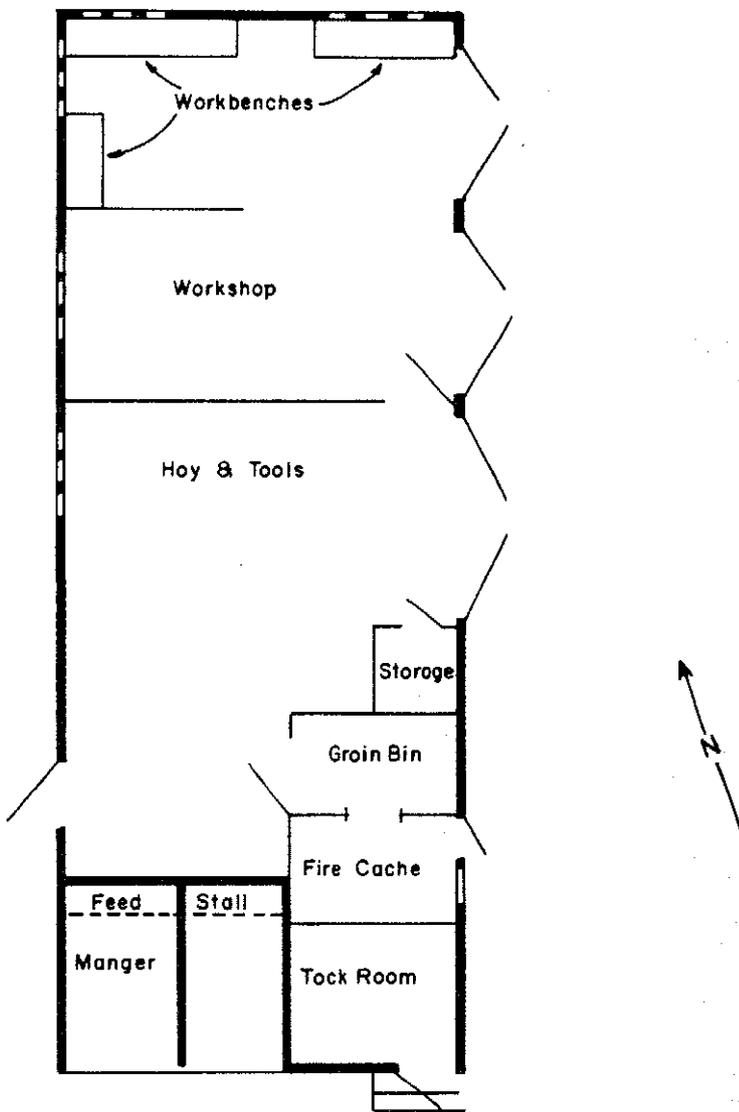
- E. **Likely sources not yet investigated:** USDA Forest
Service Southwestern Region, Albuquerque, NM
(engineering drawings); USDA National Agriculture
Library, Beltsville, MD (historic views)
- F. **Supplemental material:** None

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This documentation was prepared to mitigate the effects of a rehabilitation project, as stipulated in a Programmatic Memorandum of Agreement between the USDA Forest Service and the Historic American Buildings Survey, for the documentation of the Columbine Work Station, and dated November 13, 1991. The USDA Forest Service, Coronado National Forest, prepared this documentation, completed June 30, 1993.

Prepared by: James A. McDonald
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Affiliation: Coronado N. F.
Date: June 30, 1993

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Map 1
Sketch