

WIND RIVER ADMINISTRATIVE SITE, BUILDING
No. 2327
Gifford Pinchot National Forest
Near Lookout Mountain Road
Carson Vicinity
Skamania County
Washington

HABS WA-232-F

HABS

WA-232-F

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
909 First Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

WIND RIVER ADMINISTRATIVE SITE

BUILDING #2327

HABS No. WA-232-F

Location: Wind River Administrative Site, Skamania County, Washington. This building is set in the open Nursery Fields.

U.S.G.S. Stabler 7.5' Quadrangle, 1983 Provisional Edition. Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 10.583250.5072110

Significance: Building #2327 has been determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under the thematic nomination titled "USDA Forest Service Administrative Buildings in the States of Oregon and Washington Built by the Civilian Conservation Corps." This building embodies the rustic style of architecture associated with the Forest Service and the CCC in the Pacific Northwest. As stated in the Internal Management Guidelines, Supplement to Depression-Era Building PMOA (1989): "The CCC provided the work force to build the necessary new facilities. Thus, the buildings are also directly associated with the Federal Government's response to the Great Depression. They are tangible evidence of the positive impact of President Roosevelt's first emergency relief program."

The Pole Shed was classified as having a tertiary level of historic importance under the National Register thematic nomination, receiving a numerical rating of 89 out of a possible 200 points. The structure is a fair example of the construction projects undertaken by the Civilian Conservation Corps and signifies aid to the local community provided by the emergency work relief program through employment of youth and experienced craftsmen, purchase of building materials and camp supplies, and personal experiences of enrollees. The property exemplifies the rustic architectural idiom developed by the Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest Region to impart Forest Service identity and to represent its purposes and ideals, and signifies the agency's particular interpretation of a singular expression of early twentieth century American architectural thought. Possessing the qualities of rustic design and execution, the structure is a good example of an architectural property invested with special aesthetic and associative values by the agency that created it.

Description: Building #2327, the Pole Shed, is a rectangular structure measuring 112'-9" x 30'-6", which sits on an east-west axis. The building has a gable roof that extends approximately 1' past the gable end walls, and is sheathed with large shakes. The gable end walls are sheathed with these same shakes with an 18" reveal between courses. The starter course has a 7" exposure. The north and south sides of the structure measure 12' in height and are open to the interior on all but the last 28' of the western end. A loft has been built into this western end of the building's interior and similar shake siding has been added to protect the upper loft area. An 8' opening

was built into these upper loft walls for loading and unloading of sprinkler equipment which was stored here. This section of the building interior is a later alteration that is comprised of a storage rack system built of milled lumber and large square posts, and includes a straight one-flight stair leading up to the loft that ascends from north to south.

The building's original frame is constructed entirely of peeled log posts and poles ranging from 3" to 10" in diameter. The building interior is free of partition walls, but is visually divided by the structural system into 8 identical 14' transverse sections or bays. The side of each bay (transverse bents) is comprised of a center post flanked on either side by a mid-height post and a short post at the out wall. These 8" to 10" diameter structural posts are connected across each bay at two levels by cross bracing and horizontal ties running both longitudinally and transversely through the structure. The cross brace and horizontal tie components measure from 3" to 5" in diameter. Milled skip sheathing used as nailing strips are attached to 5" diameter roof joists. These roof joists rest on 8" to 10" diameter purlins which support the roof structure. The roof joists project past the outer purlins to create a shallow eave and the purlins project through the gable end walls.

Several different types of cast in place concrete footings have been used throughout the structure. At both gable end walls, the structural posts rest on a 6" stem wall. Posts in the first 6 eastern bays sit at various heights on square tapered piers with beveled corners. The posts in the two western bays with the storage rack addition use square concrete footings in combination with a slab on grade in the western-most bay. Also, two 6" wide concrete curbs, running north south, are located in the second bay from the east end wall. Finally, several of the posts on the northern side of the building have had short sections of log of equal diameter spliced on to them where rot had likely compromised their structural integrity.

Historic Context:

Building # 2327, the Pole Shed, is listed as an important contributing structure on the National Register Nomination for the Wind River Administrative Site in Skamania County. The Pole Shed was built in 1942 by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) as an integral part of the nursery operations. The structure is a good example of the construction projects undertaken by the Civilian Conservation Corps and signifies aid to the local community provided by the emergency work-relief program through employment of youth and experienced craftsmen, purchase of building materials and camp supplies, and personal experiences of enrollees. Finally, the buildings' unique construction and rustic architectural style is a good example of the particular architectural aesthetic with which the Forest Service and the CCC were associated. This was the last new structure built at the Administrative Site for the Wind River Nursery by the CCC. It is also the latest of the historic structures present at the Wind River Administrative Site, a close contemporary of the CCC reconstructions of buildings 1045 and 1057. It is separated from these residences as the last historic utility structure within the Administrative Site.

Sources:

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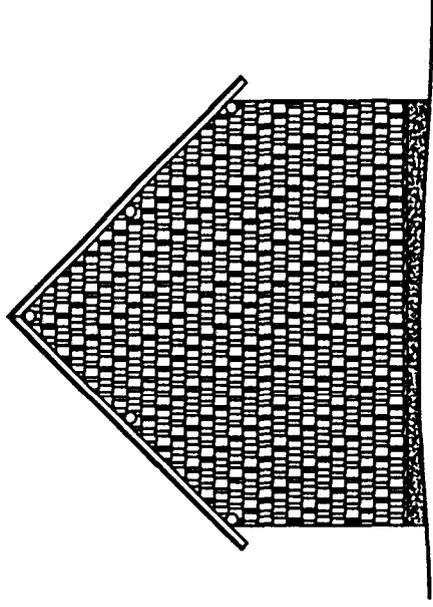
Throop, Elizabeth Gail. *Utterly Visionary and Chimerical: A Federal Response to the Depression. An Examination of Civilian Conservation Corps Construction on National Forest System Lands in the Pacific Northwest*. MA Thesis, Portland State University, Portland, Oregon.

USDA Forest Service. *1989 Amended Programmatic Agreement for Management of Depression-Era Administrative Structures on National Forest Lands in Oregon and Washington*.

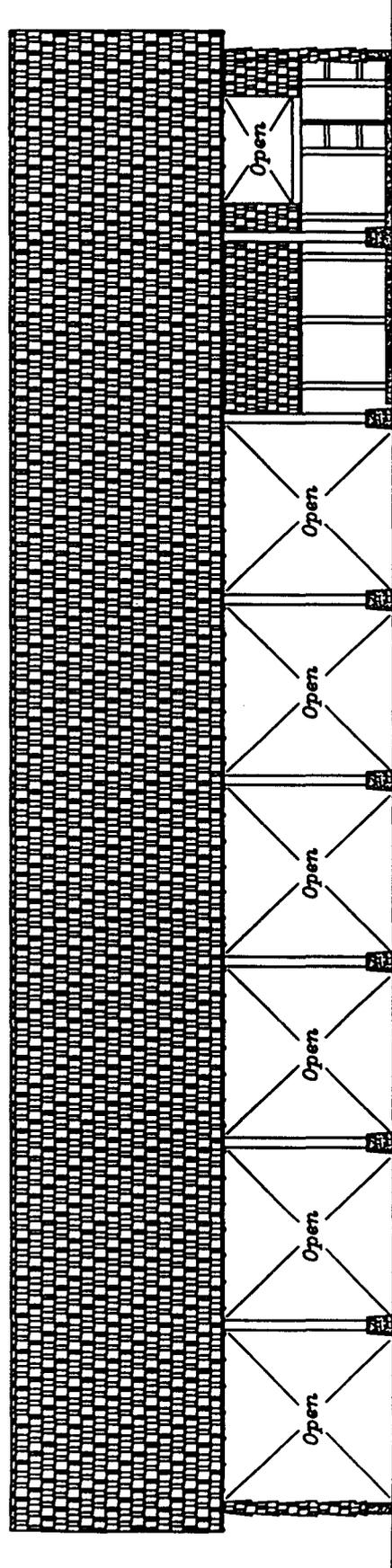
Project Information: This structure is being documented as a historic resource due to a land conveyance from the U.S.D.A. Forest Service to Skamania County, Washington. The structure is included within the boundary of the conveyance, and will be transferred to the county. The documentation was prepared by Alex McMurry of the University of Oregon's Historic Preservation Program and Kathryn Toepel of Heritage Research Associates in May of 1999.

**Pole Shed
Constructed 1942**

Building elevations adapted from USDA Forest Service drawing dated 1978 and Forest Service photographs dated 1986.



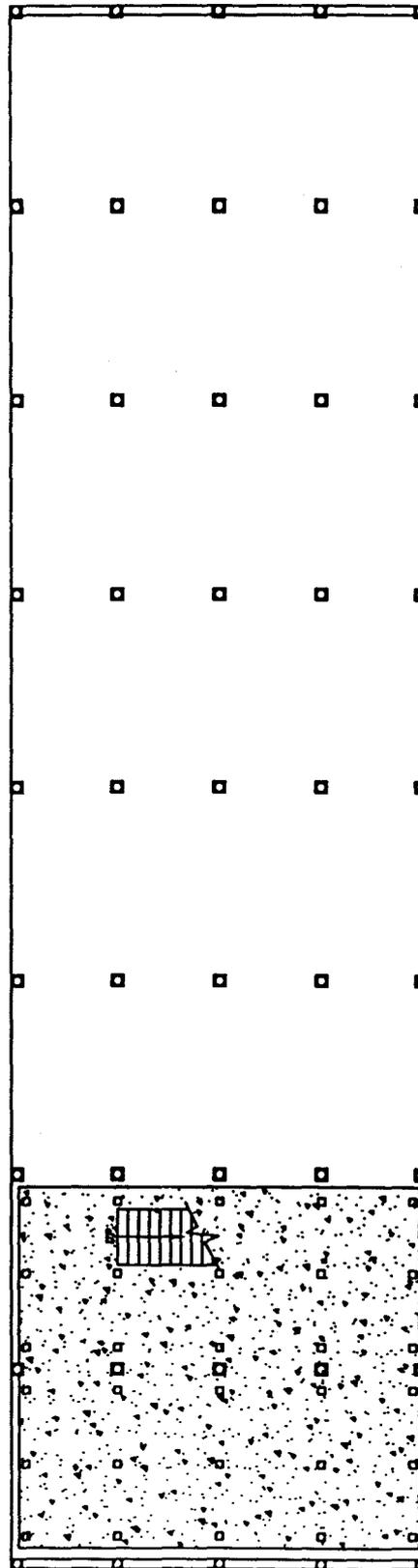
East Elevation



North Elevation

**Pole Shed
Constructed 1942**

Building plan adapted from USDA Forest Service drawing dated 1978
and Forest Service photographs dated 1986.



Ground Level Plan

**Pole Shed
Constructed 1942**

Building plan adapted from USDA Forest Service drawing dated 1978
and Forest Service photographs dated 1986.

