orm No. 10-306 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTME)F THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS (ONLY
RECEIVED JUL 1 0 1979
DATE ENTERED FEB 1 8 1981

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Magee Ranger Station Historic District

AND/OR COMMON
old Magee Ranger Station

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
West of Prichard
On Forest Service Road 422, north of Road 265 junction,

Fernan District _NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Pritchard

X VICINITY OF In the Coeur d'Alene National Forest

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE
Idaho

CODE

COUNTY
Shoshone

CODE

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
X DISTRICT	X PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED seasonally	_AGRICULTURE	_MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	_PRIVATE	X UNOCCUPIED winter	_COMMERCIAL	_PARK
_STRUCTURE	_BOTH	_WORK IN PROGRESS	_EDUCATIONAL	_PRIVATE RESIDENC
_SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	_ENTERTAINMENT	_RELIGIOUS
_OBJECT	_IN PROCESS	_YES: RESTRICTED	X GOVERNMENT	_SCIENTIFIC
	_BEING CONSIDERED	X YES: UNRESTRICTED	_INDUSTRIAL	_TRANSPORTATION
		_NO	_MILITARY	_OTHER:

AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: *(If applicable)*
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northern Region

STREET & NUMBER
Federal Building

CITY, TOWN
Missoula

_ VICINITY OF

STATE
Montana 59807

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Supervisor's Office, Idaho Panhandle National Forests

STREET & NUMBER
Box 310

CITY, TOWN
Coeur d'Alene,

STATE
Idaho 83814

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Informal and partial historic and photographic documentation by Forest Service personnel: August, 1977; April, 1978; May, 1979.

DATE
As above.

X FEDERAL _STATE _COUNTY _LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Supervisor's Office, Idaho Panhandle National Forests

CITY, TOWN
Coeur d'Alene,

STATE
Idaho 83814

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
_EXCELLENT	_DETERIORATED	_UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
X GOOD most bldgs.	_RUINS	X ALTERED	_MOVED DATE_____
_FAIR	_UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The appearance of the Magee site and improvements has changed considerably since 1900. Most of the extant buildings represent the old Magee Ranger Station (active 1908-1973), but other features reflect the use of the vicinity as a homestead, Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp and work area, World War II emergency landing field, and, most recently, as a Forest Service seasonal work center.

The first recorded non-Indian settlement in the Trail Creek-Tepee Creek confluence was the 160-acre homestead entry of Charles Magee (in the NW SW sec. 17, E 1/2 SE sec. 18, and NE NE sec. 19, T.52 N., R.2E., Boise Meridian), filed September 29, 1905. The Magee homestead was issued its final certificate on September 26, 1912, and its patent on January 6, 1913. Little is known of the buildings constructed by Charles Magee. One (undated) photograph from the Frank Bishop collection (Museum of North Idaho) shows the Magee homestead with four log buildings situated on the west bank of Tepee Creek (cf. attached photograph). These structures appear to include: (1) a cabin of rectangular plan with an attached room; (2) a shed, perhaps a stable, adjacent to a pole fence enclosure; (3) a barn (?) with an unfinished roof; and (4) a small building, perhaps a toolshed or tackroom, near the apparent barn. The streambank near the structures is lined by a pole fence.

A brief glimpse of life on the Magee homestead is provided in an account by Gordon A. Needham (b. 09/08/1898), transcribed on December 18, 1971:

> Charles (Charley) Magee came with the stampede to Chloride, as the town died after about six months many of these men stayed in the area... In 1908, my Uncle Charley Magee took me to his homestead on Teepee (sic) Creek for a two weeks vacation. He and one other man were the only two living on that part of the Coeur d'Alene River. It was a wonderful two weeks as he had dogs, horses, and the best fishing I had ever seen. You could put the skillet on the fire with grease in it, go catch the fish before the grease would burn. We saw deer and bear as well as other game—a really beautiful trip.

On June 19, 1908, a 114.9-acre parcel in the SE NW and SW NE sec. 19, T.52N., R.2E. was reserved as a Forest Service Administrative site by order of the Secretary of Agriculture. An additional 80 acres in the SE and NW quarters of sec. 19 were added on July 10,

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	X ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	X CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	X AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	X MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	X ENGINEERING (airstrip)	__MUSIC	__THEATER
__1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
X 1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	X OTHER (SPECIFY) Administrative center.
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Magee Ranger Station Historic District is architecturally and historically significant as the site of an early twentieth-century Forest Service station with examples of service construction dating from the 1920s and through 1940s. Individual structures are visual evidence that the service was influenced by the bungalow: the quarters have wide eaves overhanging full front porches, and half-story dormers. Buildings still exhibiting the log-building techniques used by the service include a log bridge and cabin with the typical round logs overlapping well beyond their corner joints.

This historical district incorporates a Forest Service ranger station which was the local administrative headquarters between 1908 and 1973. Hundreds of square miles of land were managed during this 65-year period by personnel assigned to the Magee Ranger Station. In a word, one cannot understand local historic land use without reference to the Magee facility.

The Magee Ranger Station was also the focus of non-Forest Service activities through the years, most notably those of the Army Corps of Engineers and the Civilian Conservation Corps. Within or very near the historical district boundaries are well-preserved evidences of early homesteading, ranching, Forest Service administrative activities, a CCC camp, and a World War II-era emergency landing field. The various extant structures are of considerable historic, historic-archaeological, and historic-architectural interest.

Lastly, the Magee Ranger Station and appurtenances hold immense potential for public interpretation--perhaps including the development of a living history center. The structures remain in good condition; access is quite good throughout the snow-free season; and the integrity of context and setting have been well preserved. The ranger station would be a good place to develop interpretive devices and programs related to the history of the Forest Service locally, the 1910 fire, homesteading, CCC activities, and the effects of World War II on the Idaho Panhandle region.

In brief, the Magee Historical District is significant to local history, archeology, and architecture; it holds interpretive potential; and it relates to several important historical themes of the early 20th century.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

There are no known published histories of the Magee Ranger Station. Informants who have provided or may provide accounts regarding the Magee Ranger Station are listed in the attached documents.

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 45.59

UTM REFERENCES Please refer to continuation sheet.

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A				B			
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Idaho. Shoshone County. T. 52 N., R. 2 E., E 1/2 section 19. From the north edge of the road at the south end of the airstrip, the boundary runs along the west side of the airstrip 1150' (377.3 m), then west 250' (82 m), then north 650' (213.3 m), then east to the north edge of Trail Creek, then continuing east along Trail Creek to Tepee Creek, then south along the north bank of Tepee Creek to the road at the south end of the airstrip (cont'd.)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Dr. Michael J. Moratto, Forest Archeologist, assisted by Mr. Daniel Mattson, Social Science Technician, Idaho Panhandle National Forests

ORGANIZATION Idaho Panhandle National Forests

DATE 05/30/79

STREET & NUMBER 1201 Ironwood Drive

TELEPHONE (208) 667-2561 x 306

CITY OR TOWN Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

STATE Idaho 83814

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES X NO ___ NONE ___

Merle Wells

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is ___National ___State ___Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE Nat'l Office of Environmental Quality USDA DATE 9/10/81

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Bruce Rae Dougal DATE 2-17-81

~~DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION~~

ATTEST: Emma Jane Saxe DATE 2-18-81

~~KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER~~

Regional Coordinator

1908, followed by further reservations of 40 acres on July 19, 1909, and 20 acres on April 7, 1924.

According to the accounts of local informants, in 1908 the Forest Service assigned seven men—including the district's first Ranger, Howard Drake—to work at the administrative site. The first headquarters building was reportedly a log cabin constructed by Charles Magee sometime between 1905 and 1908. From the start, the Forest Service facility was known as the Magee Ranger Station and the area that it served as the Magee District. The exact location of the first administrative structure is unknown, although most informants believe that it was located on the west side of Tepee Creek within a few hundred meters of the present complex of buildings.

It is generally agreed that the Magee Ranger Station was always used on a seasonal basis only. The site was occupied each year as soon as roads were free of snow. During the frenetic summer season, Forest Service personnel stationed at Magee maintained trails, served as fire lookouts, fought fire, supervised timber harvests, constructed roads, planted trees, and otherwise managed the resources of the District. The winter season was spent in Coeur d'Alene.

During the great conflagration of 1910, fires burned nearly three million acres of timberland in northern Idaho and contiguous states, claiming the lives of 85 firefighters. At one point during the "Big Burn" flames threatened the ranger station while all of its personnel were away fighting fire on Devils Creek. Men at the Magee homestead are credited with starting a backfire that saved the ranger station from destruction.

From all accounts, the first building actually constructed at the Magee Ranger Station was the ranger's house. This structure of square-hewn logs was built under the supervision of Ranger Frank Bishop in 1922. Several photographs (on file in the Supervisor's Office, Idaho Panhandle National Forests) document various phases of construction. Simulated round log siding was added during the early 1930s.

Most of the buildings at the Magee Ranger Station were constructed between 1922 and 1935. (A low-elevation aerial photograph dated June 5, 1935, shows the ranger's house, office, warehouse, bunkhouse, and barn as well as smaller structures such as a woodshed and platform tents.) Also during this interval, Ranger Dean Harrington in 1926 supervised the construction of a log warehouse at the administrative site. (The exact location of this building is uncertain, as it was removed before the 1935 photograph was taken.) After the completion of the ranger station, the structure(s) at the original site (i.e., the building(s) erected by Charles Magee before 1908 and subsequently occupied by the Forest Service) were intentionally burned. The old site was reportedly abandoned because it was too marshy and serviced too many squadrons of mosquitoes.

During the early 1930s, a CCC camp was established in the Tepee Creek-Trail Creek vicinity. Aerial photos dated 1935 show the largest concentration of buildings (not less than eight frame structures and 21 large tents) at and near the site of the present Trail work center, about 200 m south-southwest of the ranger station. This camp is said to have accomodated some 400 men at its peak. A major activity of the CCC crews was the removal of gooseberry (*Ribes sp.*) bushes—a host to white pine blister rust. Between June and September, 1935, bulldozers with brush blades were used to strip gooseberry bushes from the Tepee Creek drainage around the Magee Ranger Station. The brush was piled into windrows to dry, then burned. This work significantly altered the biota in the Tepee Creek bottomland and probably erased most evidence of archaeological occupation in the vicinity. Aerial photos by the 116th Photo Section (U.S. Army) document the extent of disturbance to the valley.

It was also during the early 1930s that simulated round log siding was added to the (1922) ranger's house and other structures at Magee. In 1934, the log warehouse (1926) was dismantled and moved to the Schutze Erne ranch about 1.6 km up Trail Creek. It was also in 1934 that Charles Magee died and was buried in the I.O.O.F. cemetery in Athol. Thereafter, the Magee homestead buildings were abandoned.

World War II brought a number of changes to the Idaho Panhandle, including the development of the large Farragut naval facility adjacent to Lake Pend Oreille and the establishment of several internment camps for Japanese Americans and (separately) for impressed seamen of Axis nations. In 1942 or 1943, the Army Corps of Engineers constructed at the Magee Ranger Station an emergency landing field for fighter aircraft. Located between the Forest Service buildings and Trail Creek, this gravel-surfaced airstrip was about 900 m (2750') long and 79 m (240') wide. Military personnel also constructed a small, log bunkhouse near the northwestern end of the runway. The emergency airstrip was reportedly never visited by military aircraft during the War.

After the War, Magee continued to serve as the district headquarters. During the field seasons, approximately 50 persons were employeed at Magee. The physical features of the administrative site changed little between 1945 and 1973 apart from a succession of platform tents and house trailers brought in to augment the "permanent" accomodations. One exception was the removal in 1951 of a frame generator shed to Magee from the old Breakwater CCC camp near the Little North Fork, Coeur d'Alene River. This structure was a two-story (but floorless) precut frame building with nominal 1 x 6" horizontal shiplap siding, a simple gable roof, and wooden shingles. It was erected at Magee approximately 35' east of the warehouse. A concrete pad floor and three concrete generator mountings were added to this 31' x 31' "shed" in 1954 or 1955. The building collapsed in 1978. Only the foundation and pad remain today.

The Magee Ranger Station was decomissioned in 1973 at which time its district was reassigned partly to the Wallace District and partly to the Fernan District, Coeur d'Alene National Forest. The old ranger station itself falls within the Fernan District. Since 1973, the buildings at Magee have been used intermittently on a seasonal basis to accomodate Forest Service crews working on tree planting, trail maintenance, and other projects.

Five major structures and twelve minor ones remain at the old ranger station. These may be described briefly as follows:

1. Ranger's House
Constructed ca. 1922; roof and upper floor remodeled sometime thereafter; concrete foundation; square-hewn log construction; simulated round log siding with shiplap joints; gable roof with dormer; metal roofing over old shingles; dimensions 7.4 m x 10.2 m; dark brown with white trim.

2. Woodshed/Storage Shed
Small building at the northwest corner of the ranger's house; date of construction ?; wood frame building with simulated round log siding with shiplap joints; simple gable roof; cedar shingles; dimensions 4.05 m x 4.05 m; brown.

3. Meat House
Small building between the woodshed and the office/kitchen; construction date ?; 2 x 4" frame construction on log piers; clapboard siding; hip roof with cedar shingles; dimensions 2.52 m x 2.52 m, with a porch 0.28 m wide; reddish-brown.

4. Office/Kitchen
Constructed between 1923 and 1935; log structure on concrete foundation; simulated round log siding with shiplap joints; gable roof with three dormers on the front (east side); metal roofing over old shingles; dimensions 9.28 m x 12.3 m; brown with white trim.

5. Cellar
Connecting the office/kitchen with a steep slope behind the building; construction date ?; concrete with wood trim; dormer roof extends over cellar from kitchen/office; metal roofing over old shingles; dimensions 2.44 m x 7.95 m, physically separated from the office/kitchen by a distance of 1.4 m.

6. Warehouse
Constructed before 1935; frame building on concrete foundation; log siding with shiplap joints; gable roof with three dormers on one side (east); cedar shingle roofing; dimensions 12.33 m long x 9.25 m wide, or 11.9 m wide including porch; bath house of the same construction, 3.9 m x 4.8 m, is attached to the west side of the warehouse.

7. Woodshed # 2
Small building near the southwest side of the garage; frame construction with log siding; simple gable roof with cedar shingles; dimensions 2.65 m x 3.13 m; brown.

8. Garage/Fire Cache/Shop
Constructed ca. 1935; 2 x 6" frame building on concrete foundation; clapboard siding; gable roof; metal roofing; dimensions 7.4 m x 18.43 m; partitioned into three units: a garage (in the south 1/2 of the building), a fire cache area in the middle, and a shop at the northern end.

9. Gas House
Small building near the northeast corner of the shop; frame construction with simulated log siding; gable roof with cedar shingles and a metal ridgecap; dimensions 1.97 m x 1.65 m.

10. Barn
Constructed prior to 1935, after 1922, to shelter horses and mules; later used for storage; 2 x 6" frame construction on a concrete foundation; clapboard siding; gambrel roof with a cupola; metal roofing over old cedar shingles; dimensions 8.06 m x 15.33 m.

11. Bunkhouse
Constructed ca. 1943 by the Corps of Engineers; saddle-notch log structure with mortar caulking; gable roof; metal roofing over old cedar shingles; dimensions 6.53 m x 12.8 m.

12. Paint House
Construction date ?; small building at northwest corner of site; framed 2 x 4" construction with clapboard siding; simple gable roof with cedar shingles; dimensions 3.31 m x 3.2 m.

13. Oil House/Grease Rack
Oil house of framed 2 x 4" construction on concrete piers; simulated log siding; gable roof with cedar shingles. Grease rack is of heavy timbers on log piers. Grease rack 3.75 m x 13.5 m; oil house 2.46 x 2.2 m; dock 3.36 m x 3.20 m.

14. Oil Dock
Heavy timber underpinnings and 3 x 8" framing; shed roof of 1 x 4" boards; dimensions 2.23 m x 5.5 m.

15. Weather Station House
Framed 2 x 4" construction with clapboard siding; gable roof with cedar shingles; dimensions 0.94 m x 0.87 m.

16. Bridge
Footbridge across Trail Creek, probably constructed ca. 1943 to provide access to the landing strip; destroyed by spring floods in 1966 and rebuilt in 1969; log construction; dimensions 16.5 m long x 1.45 m wide.

Other Structures
Also situated at the old Magee Ranger Station are several small sheds, remnants of tent platforms, pads for house trailers, a covered sign, flagpole site, and remnants of a pole fence. These are well documented in historic photographs and plans.

Item 10 Page 1

then west-northwest along the north side of this road to the point of origin. The boundaries are drawn on the attached map.

1. Calley Ramsey, Fernan Ranger District, Coeur d'Alene National Forest.

2. Carl Krueger, Retired Forest Supervisor, Coeur d'Alene National Forest

3. 1977 notes by Bruce Womack (then Forest Archeologist) whose sources included:

   a. Calley Ramsey (supra).

   b. Mark and May House;

4. Museum of North Idaho Photo Collection;

5. Historical Photo Collection, Idaho Panhandle National Forests;

6. Coeur d'Alene National Forest Atlas (1917 maps).

UTMG Coordinates

(A) 11/5, 56, 360/52, 99, 130
(B) 11/5, 56, 220/52, 98, 760
(C) 11/5, 56, 950/52, 98, 350
(D) 11/5, 56, 800/52, 98, 400
(E) 11/5, 56, 925/52, 99, 125

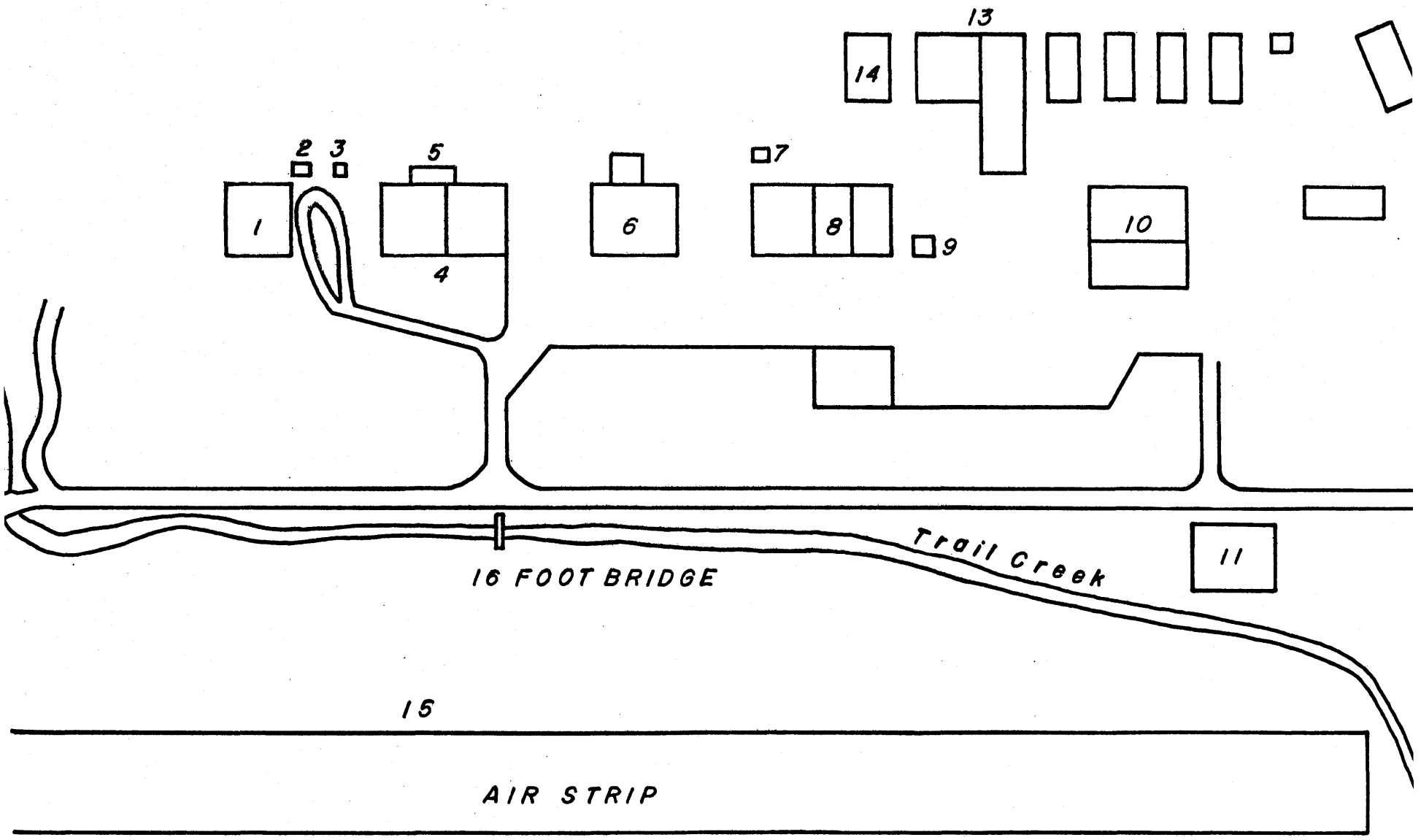
Magee Historical District

District Rangers*

Charles Mosier (1971-1973)
George Lunden (1963-1971)
Arthur Olsen (1959-1963)
Clem Pederson (-1959
Leonard Morris
Akridge
Larry Cummings
Howard Flint (1936-)
William Larsen (1932-1936)
Dean Harrington (1926-1932)
Frank Bishop 91922-1926)
Eisenstein (1919-1922)
A. O. Modlin (01918)
Howard Drake (1908-)

*Most of these data were provided by Calley Ramsey of the Fernan Ranger District, Coeur d'Alene National Forest.

MAGEE RANGER STATION



SEP 16 1980

MAGEE HISTORICAL DISTRICT
WOOD HOUSE
FACING WEST

79-5.197/e

Magee Ranger Station Historic District

SEP 16 1980

Shoshone Co. (ID)

FEB 18 1981

1/11

Charles Magee Homestead
ca. 1908
Tepee Creek Valley

79-5.191/a

Mazee Ranger Station Historic District

Shoshone Co. ID

SEP 16 1980

2/11

Aerial Photo of Tepee Creek Valley
Facing Northeast, SEPT. 16, 1935
Showing Effects of Bulldozing to
Remove Ribes sp. brush
(Magee Ranger Station is near center)

A 112
A 1129-1

19-5.177/C

Magee Ranger Station Historic District

FEB 16 1981

Shoshone Co.

SEP 16 1980

3/11

ID

MAGEE HISTORICAL DISTRICT
GARAGE/SHOP
FACING WEST

79-5.197/h

Magee Ranger Station Historic District

Shoshone Co. ID

SEP 16 1980

FEB 10 1981

4/11

MAGEE HISTORICAL DISTRICT
WAREHOUSE
FACING WEST

19-5.197/g

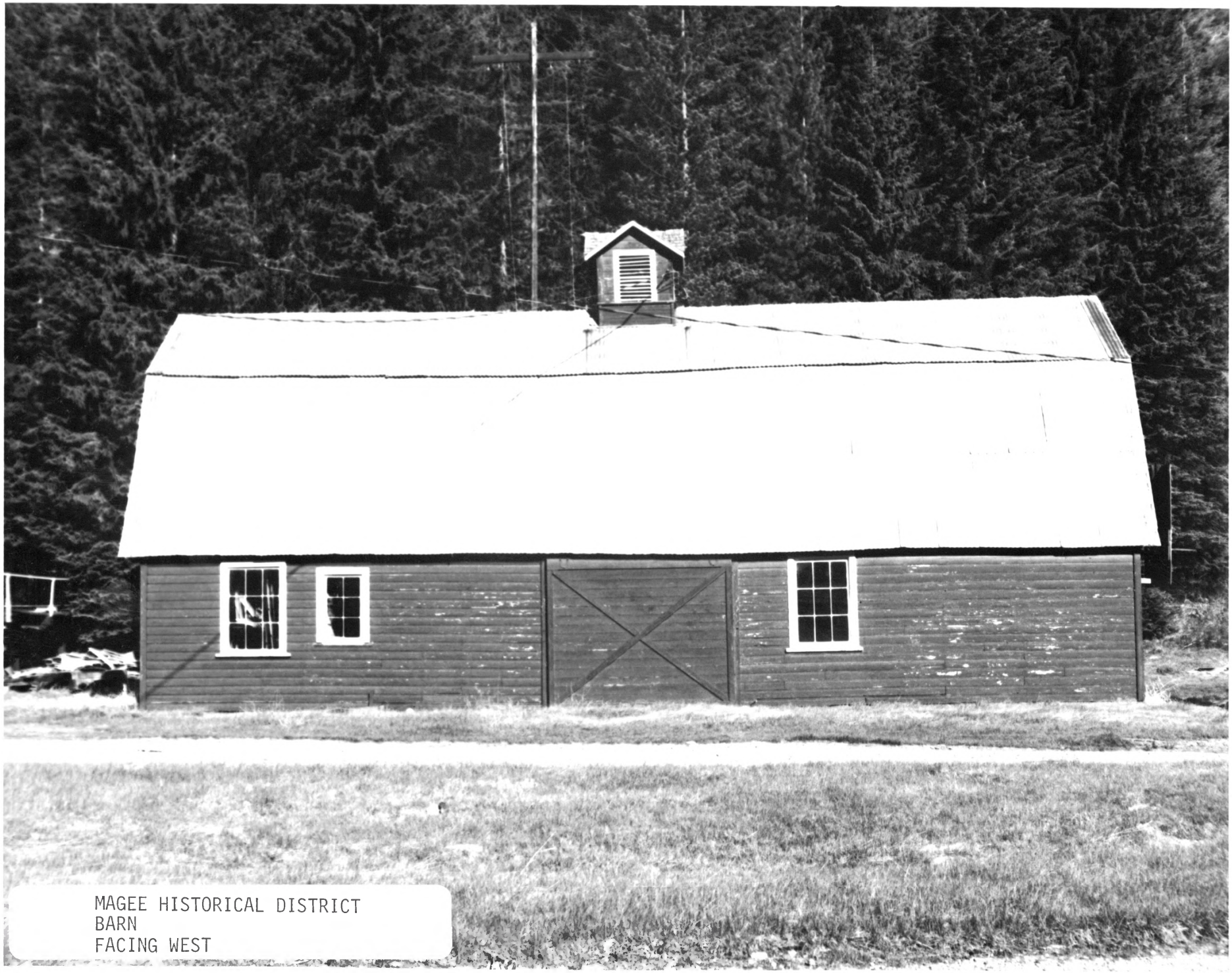
Magee Ranger Station Historic District

Shoshone Co. ID

SEP 16 1980

FEB 18 1981

5/11



MAGEE HISTORICAL DISTRICT
BARN
FACING WEST

79-5.197/j

Magee Ranger Station Historic District

Shoshone Co. ID

SEP 16 1980

FEB 18 1981

6/11

Magee Historical District
Office/Kitchen
Facing West

79-5.197/i

Magee Ranger Station Historic District
Shoshone Co. ID

SEP 16 1980

FEB 10 1981

7/11

MAGEE HISTORICAL DISTRICT
ARMY CABIN
FACING NORTHEAST

79-5.197/F

Magee Ranger Station Historic District
Shoshone Co. ID

FEB 1 0 1981

SEP 1 6 1980

8/11

MAGEE HISTORICAL DISTRICT
LOG BRIDGE
FACING SOUTH

79-5.197/b

Magee Ranger Station Historic District
Shoshone Co. ID

SEP 16 1980 FEB 18 1981

9/11

Aerial Photo of Tepee Creek Valley
Facing Northeast
June 5, 1935
(Magee Ranger Station is near center)

A 1129
79-5.197/b

Magee Ranger Station Historic District
Shoshone Co. ID

SEP 16 1980

10/11

FEB 18 1981

MAGEE HISTORICAL DISTRICT
"RANGER'S HOUSE"
FACING WEST

79-5.197/d

Magee Ranger Station Historic District

Shoshone Co. ID

SEP 16 1980

FEB 18 1981

11/11