

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

6-011VE D
MAY 16 1990

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable". For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Moose Creek Administrative Site

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Nez Perce National Forest / /not for publication

city, town Grangeville / X/vicinity

state Idaho code 10 county Idaho code 049 zip code 83530

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<u> </u> private	<u> </u> building(s)		
<u> </u> public-local	<u>X</u> district	<u> 9 </u>	<u> 4 </u> buildings
<u> </u> public-State	<u> </u> site		<u> </u> sites
<u>X</u> public-Federal	<u> </u> structure	<u> 1 </u>	<u> 1 </u> structures
	<u> </u> object		<u> </u> objects
			<u> </u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

Number of contributing resources
previously listed in the National
Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Erin D. Blum

Signature of certifying official

Date

4-12-90

USDA Forest Service
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Thomas J. Allen
Signature of commenting or other official

Date

3-7-90

Idaho Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 90000932

Date Listed: 6/25/90

Moose Creek Administrative Site
Property NameIdaho
CountyID
StateMultiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Antoinette Lee
Signature of the Keeper6/25/90
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Geographical Data: The boundary of the Moose Creek Administrative Site is delineated by the polygon whose vertices are marked by the following UTM reference points: A 11 660800 5110660, B 11 661335 5110405, C 11 660590 5105890, D 11 660030 5106210.

This information was confirmed with Emily Eggleston of the Idaho SHPO.

=====

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

5. National Park Service Certification

☒ I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

Antwrenth G Lee

June 25, 1990

determined eligible for

the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for

the National Register.

removed from the National

Register.

other, (explain:)

for Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

government: government office

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

government: government office

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

other: USFS rustic architecture

Materials enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete: post

walls wood: log

wood: shake

roof wood: shake

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Moose Creek Ranger Station is situated at the confluence of the Selway River and Moose Creek in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. While the Valley in which it sits has an elevation of 2400 feet, the steep ridges on both sides rise to over 5,000 feet. This rapid increase in elevation and the rugged terrain provide a spectacular setting for the Ranger Station. The Selway River was one of the original seven rivers recognized for outstanding qualities and beauty included in the 1968 Wild and Scenic River Act. Its treacherous white water, striking scenery and isolation make it a favorite with rafters and kayakers each spring. The wilderness is home to a large variety of animal life and its hunting and fishing draws many visitors to the area.

The area now included in the Moose Creek Ranger District was originally administered out of the Three Forks Ranger Station about three miles to the north up Moose Creek. It first appeared on the 1911 Selway Forest Map, but the two cabins which comprised it were actually built before the turn of the century by trappers and eventually abandoned. In 1920 when the Moose Creek Ranger District was created, Jack Parsell lived there for a year before he moved the District Headquarters to its present location which was more centrally located. The District was transferred to the Bitterroot National Forest in 1934 and to the Nez Perce National Forest in 1956.

X See continuation sheet

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The first building at the Moose Creek Ranger Station was constructed in 1921 and the rest of the buildings have been added at various times since. While several of the buildings were constructed according to USFS plans, they come very close to being vernacular as they were built by local workmen using native materials and traditional techniques to serve very functional purposes. They are basically of two types. One type is constructed of logs and the other is of a frame construction with board and batten siding. All of the buildings at the site have shake roofs. The logs came from the surrounding area and most of the boards were sawn on site. Because of the use of local materials, the buildings blend in very nicely into the heavily forest setting in which they sit. This compatibility with the natural environment has always been an important consideration in constructing buildings at Moose Creek.

Presently, the Moose Creek Ranger Station consists of a cookhouse/office with a nearby woodshed, two small bunkhouses, a bathhouse, warehouse/residence, warehouse, gas house, barn, saw filing shack, tack shed, Ranger's residence and nearby washhouse, and two connected airstrips. In the complex, there are nine contributing buildings, one contributing structure, four noncontributing buildings, and one noncontributing structure as defined in the National Park Service Guidelines for Counting contributing and Noncontributing Resources for National Register Documentation (May 1985).

Contributory Buildings:

The cookhouse/office (#1), built in 1921, is a log building 30' x 40' with a porch attached on the north end (see attached floor plan). The building has a concrete post foundation and is skirted with shakes on the west and south sides. Logs are 8-12" in diameter and are dove-tail notched in the corners. The walls are 12 logs high. Chinking is split logs and tar. Gable ends are log and the roof is shaken. The west side of the roof has sawn and split 30" shakes (recently replaced) and the east side has split 36" shakes. A chimney is located in the south end of the building and is made with a conglomeration of native granite and broken brick mortared together. Presently the main floor is set up with two offices in the south end, and a bathroom, bedroom, and kitchen in the north end. The attic is used for storage and is accessed by a stairway. Originally, a door was located where the southernmost window in the east wall now exists. Also, the window in the south wall on the east side of the door and the porch on the north end were added in the mid-1930's. No other significant alterations have taken place to the exterior since the building was constructed.

The woodshed (#2) for the cookhouse, built in 1930, is of post and beam construction and is sided and roofed with handsplit 3' long shakes. The dimensions are 16' N-S and 16' E-W and it is open to the east. No alterations have taken place since its construction.

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The bathhouse (#3) is a small 16' x 18' log building that was built in 1937. It is constructed of 8-10' logs with dove-tail corner notching. The foundation is concrete and concrete has been used to replace the sill log for the north wall (see attached photo). A log in the north wall and a log in the east wall have been replaced. The roofing is 2' long handsplit shakes.

The residence/warehouse (#4) is constructed with 8-10" diameter dove-tail notched logs. It is 27' x 21'6" and was built in 1930. The main floor is used as a living area and the attic is used for storage. A 7'6" wide covered porch is located on the north and west sides, and tools, firewood, etc., are stored under it. The porch was removed in the late 1960's and rebuilt with the original configuration in the 1970's. At the same time the foundation, floor joists, floor, and roof were replaced. Although extensive work has been done on the building, it retains most of its integrity and should be considered contributory.

The warehouse (#5) is a small 16' X 18' building built in circa 1930 with 8-10" diameter dove-tail notched logs. It has an inset porch on the west side that is 7'10" wide (see attached photo). The attic is utilized for storage and is accessed by stairs. The roofing is handsplit cedar shakes and the foundation is concrete posts. The exterior is unaltered and the building is considered contributory.

The barn (#6) built about 1921, is a log/frame combination. The log portion was originally designed for storage of loose hay and has a 3-6" gap between logs 10-14" in diameter. The corners are saddle-notched. The frame part has rough-cut board and batten siding with plywood sheeting on the inside to keep out rodents. The barn has recently been reroofed with sawn and split cedar shakes and the granary has the original handsplit cedar shakes. Inside the barn is a newly constructed storage room built with 2 x 4" planed studs with plywood sheeting. No significant alteration to the exterior has been made since construction and it is a contributing building.

The tack shed (#7), built circa 1940, is of log post and beam construction sheeted with rough-cut board and batten. It is roofed with handsplit shakes. A porch has recently been added to the north side and the double door in the east wall has been boarded over. The tack shed did not originally have a double door on the east or west sides, but had open slots that were used as entries. The openings were covered with canvas in the winter.

The Ranger's residence (#8), constructed in 1933, is built with 10-12" diameter dove-tail notched logs. Like the warehouse, the roof features extend out forming a roof over the porch. It is a 1-1/2 story house with a bedroom and bath in the attic, a bedroom, livingroom, and kitchen on the main floor, and a wood storage area and furnace in the basement. The roof was originally cedar shingles, but has since been covered with handsplit cedar shakes. The exterior appearance of the building has not been significantly altered since its construction.

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The saw filing shack (#9), built circa 1940, is 8' E-W x 10' N-S. It is of frame construction with rough-cut board and batten siding. Windows are located all along the north wall and the door is on the east side. The foundation is concrete block posts and the roofing is handsplit cedar shakes. The exterior has not been altered, but as it is set on skids it probably been moved short distances in the past to adjust for variances in natural lighting. Saw filing (crosscut saws) is a very precise task and it is essential to have good lighting. As a result, it is common for saw shacks to be on skids in areas where artificial light is not available.

Noncontributory Buildings:

All of the noncontributing buildings are compatible to the site and with time and historical perspective could become contributory.

The washhouse (#10) associated with Ranger's residence was constructed in 1963. It is a frame building set on a concrete pad that measures 18'6" x 11'6". It is sided with rough-cut board and batten siding and is roofed with handsplit cedar shakes.

The gas house (#11), constructed in about 1950, is 12' N-S x 14' E-W. It is a rough-cut board and batten building with a cedar shake roof. The door is in the west side and windows are located in the north and east walls. A 6' leanto is situated on the north side.

The two bunkhouses (#12 & #13) are identical in construction technique and materials. They were built in 1959 and no changes have been made since their construction. They are constructed with rough-cut lumber that was sawn on site. The dimensions are 20'6" x 14'. The siding is vertical board and batten with full dimension 1 x 10's and 1 x 4's. The walls are sheeted inside with plywood and the floor is plywood. A 5'2" x 4' porch extends over the door. Shake skirting is located around the foundation.

Contributory Structures:

Construction on the short airstrip (#14 on attached site plan) began in 1930 and was completed in 1932. It has a natural surface with the trees removed and was built with "muscle power and mules" according to a 1957 article in the Missoulian. Don Chamberlain who was one of the men sent in to work on the airstrip recalled that the first landing occurred on July 1, 1931. The short airstrip is a contributing structure because it meets the National Register guidelines concerning age.

Noncontributory Structures:

The long airstrip (#15), built in 1959, was artificially leveled with a bulldozer that was dismantled and flown into the site. The long airstrip is compatible and may gain significance in the future with historical perspective, but is noncontributory at this time.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

1921-1945 Forest Service Administration ☐ nationally ☒ statewide ☐ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions) Period of Significance Significant Dates

Architecture	1921-1940	N/A
Conservation		

	Cultural Affiliation
	N/A

Significant Person	Architect/Builder
N/A	Jack Parsell

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Moose Creek Ranger Station is eligible for inclusion on the National Register under criteria A and C. It is directly associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of Forest Service history as it relates to wilderness management and fire fighting. Architecturally, the Ranger Station represents the development of Forest Service building patterns, as well as a type and method of construction predominant in the agency during the 1920's and 1930's. For the past 69 years the Moose Creek Ranger Station has served as the main base of operations to manage the 559,920 acres of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. Today, Moose Creek is the only existing all-wilderness Ranger District in the USDA Forest Service. The area was first designated a primitive area in 1936 and later granted wilderness status with the passage of the 1964 Wilderness Act. In 1921 the station was established at the confluence of Moose Creek and the Selway River where two major trail systems for the upper Selway drainage basin converge. The station was constructed specifically to accomodate crews for trail and phone line maintenance and fire suppression. Many of the trails maintained by the crews were routes used in prehistoric times and also in the middle 1800's and early 1900's by gold seekers and fur trappers. Current Forest Service crews continue to maintain many of the same trails.

The period of significance for the site, 1921-1940, represents a time of rapidly developing and changing land management strategy in the Forest Service. In this period, from the end of World War I to the end of World War II, forestry science became a recognized field with an increasing number of people pursuing it as a career. Prior to this time, trained foresters, although actively recruited by the Forest Service, were limited in number. With the increased demand for timber products to support the war effort (WWI), young people (under 18) were recruited by the Forest Service as workers. Eventually, many of these people pursued an education in forestry and a career with the Forest Service.

X See continuation sheet

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Because of its remote location, Moose Creek Ranger Station played an important role in the development of strategies to move workers and supplies into remote areas. It was also a focal point for communications via telephone between remote fire lookouts in the area and the rest of the Forest. In 1923, a lookout guard training session was held at Moose Creek Ranger Station. In three days, newly hired lookout guards had to learn how to orient and read a contour map, use an azimuth circle and alidade, run a compass line, put out a forest fire and to accomplish various other activities expected of an isolated lookout post.

Beginning in 1921 with mules and horses, Moose Creek advanced to air travel in 1931 with the construction of a runway. Back country flying was in its infancy during this time and Moose Creek Ranger Station served as a center of development. In the late 1930's, the Forest Service began experimenting with parachuting firefighters and supplies into fires in remote areas (smoke jumping). One of the first smoke jumper bases was established at Moose Creek in 1940 and the first fire jump made by the Forest Service originated from the Station. From this early beginning, Forest Service smoke jumping has developed to a point where the organization is recognized as a leader in the deployment of airborne crews in remote areas.

One of the major changes in Forest Service policy arose from the development of tourism. The recreation potential of remote areas was recognized and in 1936 the Selway country, of which Moose Creek is part, was designated as a primitive area. This management direction eventually led to the 1964 Wilderness Act. Moose Creek has played a very significant role in the development of wilderness management, from the conception of the idea (1936) until the present. Today, the Ranger District continues to be a leader in originating new wilderness management concepts.

Moose Creek Ranger Station buildings also contain a sense of historic cohesiveness through their design, setting, materials, workmanship and association. The log buildings at Moose Creek provide excellent examples of the evolution of Forest Service architecture. In the early days of the Forest Service, buildings reflected the personal experience of the builder. As the agency grew and professional architects joined the organization, standard plans were created for the buildings. The cookhouse/office, although it is not from a standard Region 1 plan, is very similar to other structures from the same time period. The building was constructed by Jack Parsell, the first District Ranger in 1921. Parsell was Ranger from 1920-1922 and from 1945-1955. It served originally as an office, residence and cookhouse, and these functions determined the plan. Personnel was limited and only the District Ranger spent much time at the station itself. As the Forest Service expanded its operations and its work force, additional structures were added to the site. These were from standard Region 1 plans and the blueprints are available.

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The log buildings represent a type, period and method of construction that was prevalent in the Forest Service of the 1920's and 1930's. They also are good examples of local craftsmanship. Most of the building material was obtained from the immediate vicinity. Handsplit cedar shakes were used as opposed to sawn cedar shakes that were normally the roofing material on the majority of Forest Service buildings. Materials which could not be obtained locally were either flown in or packed in by mule. One such item was the cast-iron bathtub in the Ranger's residence which was packed over 25 miles by mule. The small airstrip was built in 1930-1932 using only hand tools and mules. The airstrip facilitated access and transportation of materials to the site. The current District Ranger has made a commitment to maintaining the airstrip with draft animals to comply with modern wilderness management direction.

All of the log buildings at Moose Creek were built by a local work force, but only the original cookhouse/office building is documented as being built by a specific individual. Surprisingly there are no CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) or WPA (Works Progress Administration) constructed buildings on the site. Buildings constructed by the CCC or the WPA are prevalent on Forest Service land throughout Idaho, but possibly the remote location of Moose Creek Ranger Station presented too many logistical problems to efficiently deploy a large group of people. The quality of construction at the site demonstrates the expert workmanship of the local workforce. The building types reflect the prevalent building styles of the Forest Service in rural or wilderness areas in the western United States at the times that they were built.

Individual buildings as well as the layout of the Moose Creek Ranger Station reflect the purpose for which each was built. The feeding, housing and administrative support of backcountry Forest Service personnel has always been the primary consideration in the evolution of the site. The simple design of the buildings reflects their functional purpose and the meager budget available for remote administrative sites. The buildings are a good example of local workmanship, materials and building styles in association with distinct historical periods in Forest Service history.

The Moose Creek Ranger Station demonstrates the integrity of location and setting designed to enhance the wilderness experience. The buildings were designed to be compatible with the rustic nature of the site. The use of all wood buildings blends in well with surrounding forested environment. As new buildings have been added an effort has been made to keep them in harmony with the previous buildings and the remote setting of the Ranger Station. The feeling at the Ranger Station is one of a time when work was done with draft animals and hand tools. A commitment has been made by District to preserve this feeling by not using power tools and by keeping modern conveniences to a minimum.

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The Ranger Station has had few alterations to the original buildings and almost no intrusions of nonwood ornamentation. The rustic nature of the architecture and the integrity of the site makes it a rare good example of a remote Forest Service administration site in the early part of this century. It reflects well the time in which it was built and the people who built it.

9. Major Bibliographical References

☒ See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☐ State hist. preservation office
☐ Other State agency
☒ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other

Specify repository:

Moose Creek Ranger District
Grangeville, Idaho

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 160 Acres

UTM References

A 111 6608000 5110660
Zone Easting Northing
C 111 6605900 5105890
Zone Easting Northing

B 111 661335 5110405
Zone Easting Northing
D 111 660030 5106210
Zone Easting Northing

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The Moose Creek Ranger Station is located in unsurveyed sections 11, 12, 13 and 14 of T. 32 N., R. 12 E., B. M. The site is approximately 55 air miles east-northeast of Grangeville, Idaho in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries correspond with the property historically associated with the Moose Creek Ranger Station.

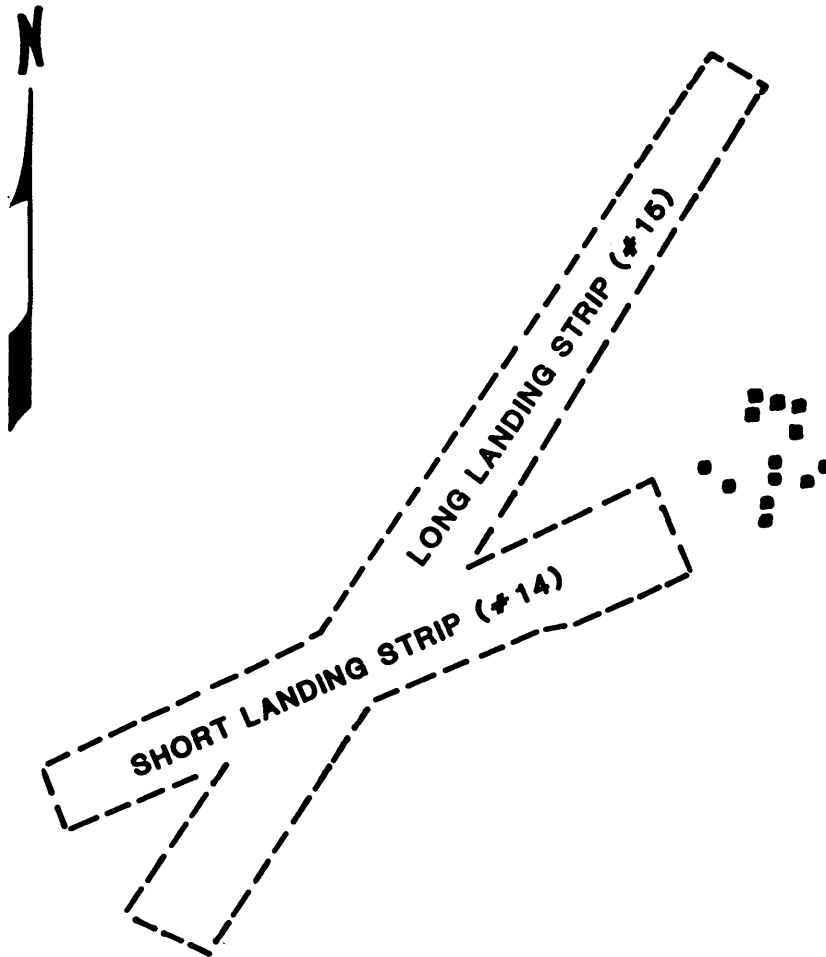
☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title James Heid, Forest Archaeologist
organization Nez Perce National Forest
street & number Rte. 2, Box 475
city or town Grangeville

date 2-15-90
telephone 208-983-1950
state ID zip code 83530

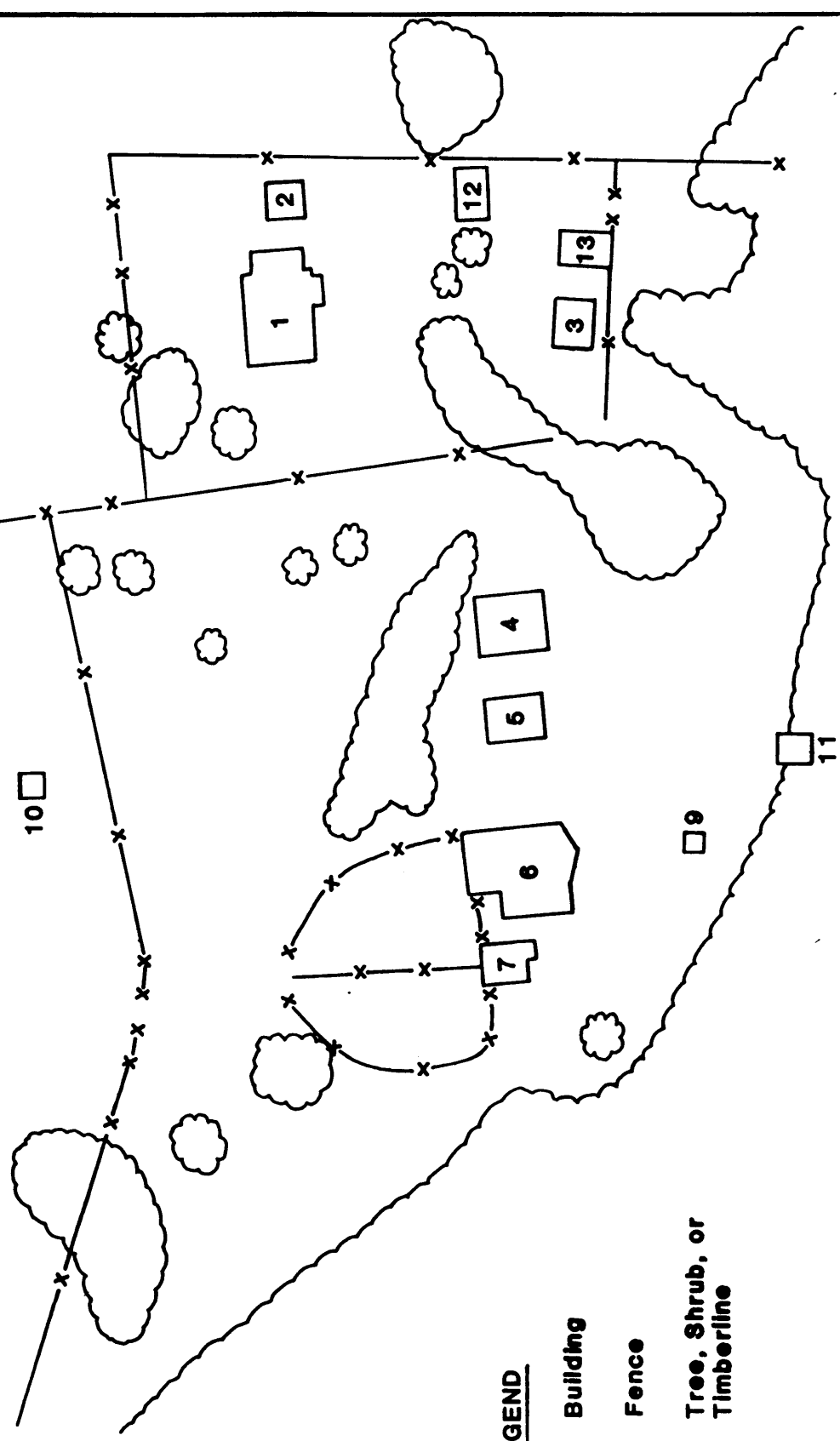
Moose Creek Ranger Station



■ BUILDINGS

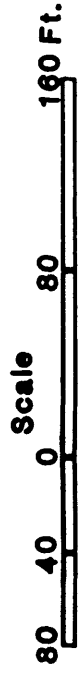
NOT TO SCALE

Moose Creek Ranger Station



LEGEND

-  Building
-  Fence
-  Tree, Shrub, or Timberline



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Biddison, Donald and Carol Simon Smolinski
1989 Moose Creek District Historical Information Inventory and Review.
Nez Perce National Forest, Grangeville, Idaho.

Chamberlain, Don
1964 Letter dated July, 26, 1964.

Cochrell, Albert N.
1970 A History of the Nez Perce National Forest. USDA Forest Service,
Missoula, Montana.

Hartig, Louis
1986 A Summer At Moe Peak: As Remembered by the Lookout Sixty Three Years
Later. Nez Perce National Forest, Grangeville, Idaho.

Missoula Missoulan
1957 Article dated October 10, 1957.

Parsell, Neal
1986 Major Fenn's Country. Kooskia, Idaho.

Turner, George
1988 Personal Communication, August 1988.

Weholt, Carl
1985 The Smokechasers, Grangeville, Idaho.



- 1) Moose Creek Ranger Station
- 2) Idaho
- 3) James Heid
- 4) October, 1989
- 5) Nez Perce N.F. Supervisor's Office
- 6) Building #1 facing west



- 1) Moose Creek Ranger Station
- 2) Idaho
- 3) James Heid
- 4) October, 1989
- 5) Nez Perce N.F. Supervisor's Office
- 6) Building #1 facing east



- 1) Moose Creek Ranger Station
- 2) Idaho
- 3) James Heid
- 4) October, 1989
- 5) Nez Perce N.F. Supervisor's Office
- 6) Building # 2 facing west.



- 1) Moose Creek Ranger Station
- 2) Idaho
- 3) James Heid
- 4) October, 1989
- 5) Nez Perce N.F., Supervisor's Office
- 6) Building #3 facing east



- 1) Moose Creek Ranger Station
- 2) Idaho
- 3) James Heid
- 4) October, 1989
- 5) Nez Perce N.F. Supervisor's Office
- 6) Building #4 facing east



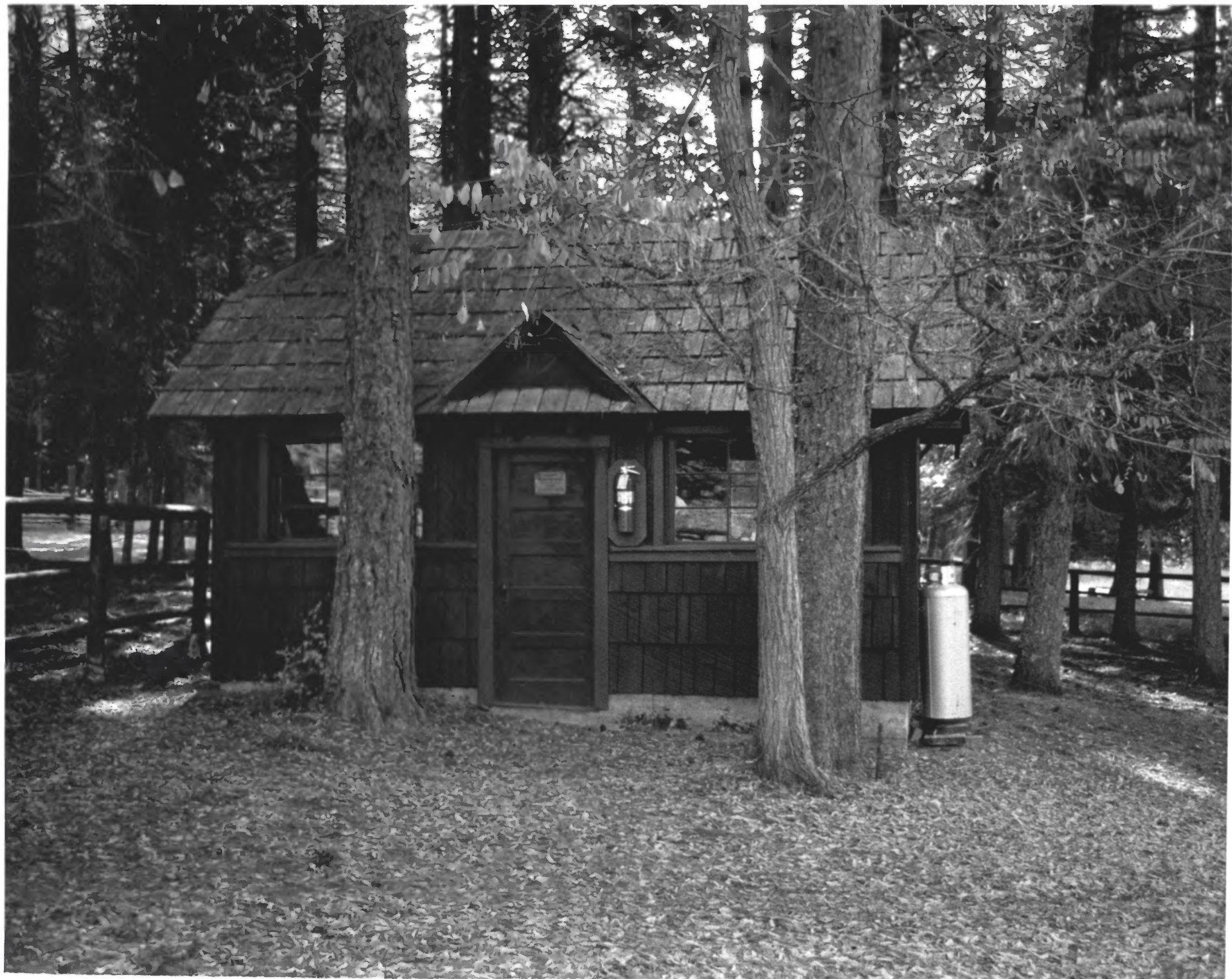
- 1) Moose Creek Ranger Station
- 2) Idaho
- 3) James Heid
- 4) October, 1989
- 5) Nez Perce N.F. Supervisor's Office
- 6) Building # 5 facing east



- 1) Moose Creek Ranger Station
- 2) Idaho
- 3) James Heid
- 4) October, 1989
- 5) Nez Perce N.F. Supervisor's Office
- 6) Building #7 facing east



- 1) Moose Creek Ranger Station
- 2) Idaho
- 3) James Heid
- 4) October, 1989
- 5) Nez Perce N.F. Supervisor's Office
- 6) Building #8 facing southwest



- 1) Moose Creek Ranger Station
- 2) Idaho
- 3) James Heid
- 4) October, 1989
- 5) Nez Perce N.F. Supervisor's Office
- 6) Building #10 facing south



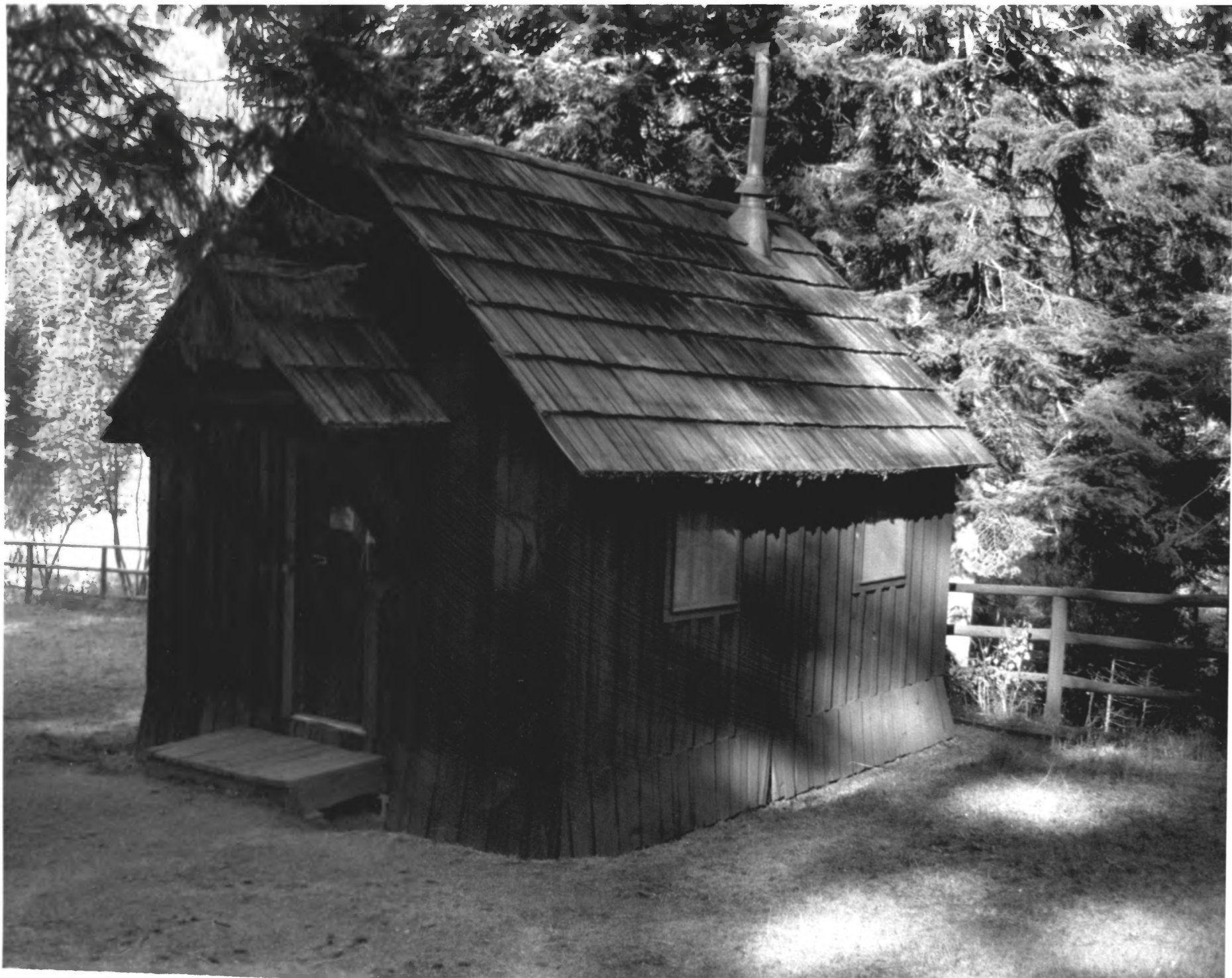
- 1) Moose Creek Ranger Station
- 2) Idaho
- 3) James Heid
- 4) October, 1989
- 5) Nez Perce N.F. Supervisor's Office
- 6) Building #6 facing northeast



- 1) Moose Creek Ranger Station
- 2) Idaho
- 3) James Heid
- 4) October, 1989
- 5) Nez Perce N.F. Supervisor's Office
- 6) Building # 11 facing east



- 1) Moose Creek Ranger Station
- 2) Idaho
- 3) James Heid
- 4) October, 1989
- 5) Nez Perce N.F. Supervisor's Office
- 6) Building #9 facing east



- 1) Moose Creek Ranger Station
- 2) Idaho
- 3) James Heid
- 4) October, 1989
- 5) Nez Perce N.F. Supervisor's Office
- 6) Building #12 facing northwest



- 1) Moose Creek Ranger Station
- 2) Idaho
- 3) James Heid
- 4) October, 1989
- 5) Nez Perce N.F. Supervisor's Office
- 6) Building #13 facing northeast



1) Moose Creek Ranger Station

2) Idaho

3) Unknown

4)

5) Nez Perce N.F. Supervisor's Office

6) E. Cooley (L), R. Robinson (R-Back)
and Frank Davvy (R-Front)
preparing for first smokejump
from Moose Creek Ranger Station
in 1940.



- 1) Moose Creek Ranger Station
- 2) Idaho
- 3) Leroy Lewis
- 4) 1930
- 5) Nez Perce N.F. Supervisor's Office
- 6) Building # 14 facing south



- 1) Moose Creek Ranger Station
- 2) Idaho
- 3) Unknown
- 4) Circa 1920's
- 5) Nez Perce N.F. Supervisors Office
- 6) Building #1 facing west