

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Cayton Guard Station

other names/site number Cayton Ranger Station; Johnson Springs Ranger Station; 5ME.6161

2. Location

street & number Forest Service Road 814.1 [N/A] not for publication

city or town Silt [X] vicinity

state Colorado code CO county Mesa code 077 zip code 81652

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant [ ] nationally [ ] statewide [X] locally. ([ ] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

State Historic Preservation Officer

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Colorado Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. ([ ] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- [ ] entered in the National Register [ ] See continuation sheet.
[ ] determined eligible for the National Register [ ] See continuation sheet.
[ ] determined not eligible for the National Register.
[ ] removed from the National Register
[ ] other, explain [ ] See continuation sheet.

Four horizontal lines for signature and date input.

Cayton Guard Station  
Name of Property

Mesa County/ Colorado  
County/State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not count previously listed resources.)

Contributing

Noncontributing

1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing.**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Function**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/ single dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/ single dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER/ Pioneer Log  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE  
CONCRETE  
walls WOOD/ log  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof WOOD  
other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Cayton Guard Station  
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County/State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**  
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**  
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**  
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**  
(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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  
# \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

CONSERVATION  
POLITICS/ GOVERNMENT  
ARCHITECTURE

**Periods of Significance**  
1909-1954

**Significant Dates**  
1910

**Significant Person(s)**  
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**  
N/A

**Architect/Builder**  
CAYTON, JAMES G.  
ROBINSON, JOLLY BOONE

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:  
Colorado Historical Society  
White River National Forest

Cayton Guard Station  
Name of Property

Mesa County/ Colorado  
County/State

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** less than one

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. 13 278895 4353619  
Zone Easting Northing

2. Zone Easting Northing

3. Zone Easting Northing

4. Zone Easting Northing

[ ] See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Allison Bohn, Intern and Bridget Roth, Special Projects Archaeologist (Edited- staff)  
organization USDA Forest Service- Rocky Mountain Region date 8 November 2004  
street & number 740 Simms Ave. telephone (303) 275-5047  
city or town Golden state CO zip code 80401

## Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

### Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

## Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name USDA Forest Service, White River National Forest  
street & number P.O. Box 948 telephone (970) 945-2521  
city or town Glenwood Springs state CO zip code 81602

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**Cayton Guard Station  
Mesa County/ ColoradoSection number 7 Page 1**DESCRIPTION AND ALTERATIONS**

The Cayton Guard Station is located just inside the White River National Forest boundary about 18 miles south of the town of Silt, Colorado. The Station is a three-room cabin, hand-built from local trees and completed in 1910. The immediate property has a gentle, easterly-draining slope dominated by aspen trees. The area surrounding the nominated property once part of the Cayton Guard Station complex included corrals, a barn, the original outhouse, and a developed spring approximately 75 to 100 feet southeast of the cabin. The barn was removed at an unknown date before 1960, as were the corrals and the outhouse. The flagpole erected by James Cayton was relocated from the east side of the Ranger Station to the north side and propane-run amenities (lights, refrigerator, and stove) were added between sometime between 1972 and 1983.

**Cabin**

The main building of the Cayton Guard Station is a log cabin constructed of hand hewn Colorado blue spruce trees between 1909 and 1910. The three-room cabin is a Pioneer Log, L-shaped dwelling measuring approximately 31" x 28". Constructed with handsaws and axes, the log walls create a simple building of approximately 650 square feet with square notched exterior and interior corners.

**Exterior**

The foundation of the building consists of loose uncut stone laid with no apparent coursing pattern. The face of the loose stones was covered with poured concrete to stabilize the foundation. The exact date the poured concrete was added is unknown, although it is thought to be after the Caytons' occupation of the building and before 1961 (personal communication, Larry Foreman). The added curb projects out from the sill logs approximately 4" and appears to sit on grade. Remnant stones are visible in the southwest corner and along the north side of the cabin.

The exterior walls of the cabin consist of 8-10" diameter logs with flat hewn shoulder lap corners and are in good condition overall. Most of the corner joints are toe-nailed with 4"-6" spikes. Openings also have flat hewn shoulders. The logs are daubed with a concrete-like daubing. A varnish type coating was applied to the logs at some point in the recent past on both the interior and exterior surfaces.

The cabin roof is cross-gabled with an overhung, common rafter system constructed of milled lumber overlaid with wood shingles. These wood shingles replaced the original wood shingles (visible only on the interior of the west shed porch) in 1980. Gable ends have 1" x 12" horizontal lapped siding over vertical 1" x 6" sheathing. Roofing consists of thick, split wood shakes with an 8" reveal. The shakes are installed over a layer of stiff roofing felt on open plank sheathing. A 1" x 2" fascia is applied at all roof edges. Roof framing of the cabin is 2' x 4' at 24" on center, braced with 2"-3" logs diagonally up from the 2" by 6" ceiling rafters. Roof sheathing consists of 1" planks with 1" to 2" gaps between. Rafter tails are 2' x 2' with a 1" fascia. The floor system is inaccessible although it appears that it may well consist of sleepers on grade.

A tan brick chimney extends through the ridge of the south gable. The chimney has a curve in it, due to the inexperience of the original builder James Cayton, which creates a unique pattern of smoke emission (Joslin 1995:64-65). The chimney is missing mortar in some joints and the parged grout cap has several cracks.

All interior and exterior doors are original four-panel raised stile and rail wood doors. There are three exterior and interior doors, and are all shaped to match unsquare doorframes.

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All of the windows are original and consist of 4/4 double-hung, wood frame windows with 1" x 6" wood trim inside and out. Windows and window frames are all painted. The southernmost window on the east side has a single pane in the upper sash. Each window is fully shuttered on the exterior. Shutters on the windows do not appear in any of the historic photographs as late as 1939, but were installed on the exterior to protect the windows and interior of the building between 1988 and 1993 (Hartley and Schneck 1993).

There are two porches on the cabin. An L-shaped porch encloses the southeast area in the cabin and has a poured concrete foundation. The roof on this porch has a shallow (2:12) pitch with milled lumber rafters and beams. The wood framed porch consists of 1" x 4" tongue and groove wood decking. The roofing is supported on five 4" diameter logs posts. The flooring and posts were coated with varnish. A semi-enclosed shed roof porch is present on the west elevation of the building. The roof of the porch partially extends over the west roof slope of the cabin, exposing and preserving the original roof shingles in this area only. The screened-in west porch has horizontal siding on its lower walls with 1" x 6" tongue and groove flooring. Located outside the door to the kitchen, this porch appears to be set on a shallow concrete foundation.

**Interior**

The interior of the cabin consists of three rooms: a kitchen, a living room and a bedroom. All interior ceilings are painted 2 1/4" tongue and groove beadboard applied to the bottom of the rafters. The ceiling edge is trimmed with painted doorstop material. The walls are exposed log with split log daubing and a coat of varnish. The wood chinking is in fair condition with some loose pieces and some missing pieces. Floors appear to be 1" x 4" tongue and groove in all rooms. The floor has a significant heave in the middle of the living room and also appears to fall away considerably at the east end of the bedroom.

Heat is provided for the cabin by a small, wood burning stove in the kitchen that vents to the kitchen chimney. Additional heat is generated in the kitchen by way of the central coal/wood burning stove and propane oven/stove. Light is provided through a series of wall mounted propane lamps. Propane, installed in the 1970s, is piped from two canister tanks located on the west porch.

The kitchen has two windows, one exterior door, two interior doors, a propane refrigerator, a propane oven/stove, an original "Majestic" wood stove, and a small closet behind the wood stove. The floor has sheet linoleum trimmed at the edges of the 6' x 8' sheet with a 1" brass strip. James Cayton's diaries indicate the flooring was placed down on April 14, 1918 (Cayton n.d.).

The living room has three windows, one interior door and one exterior door. A built-in triangular corner hutch made of vertical 1" x 8"s sits in the southwest corner of the room. A wood stove keeps the room warm and is connected on the backside of the kitchen chimney.

The bedroom has two windows, one interior door and one exterior door. A built-in triangular corner hutch, similar to the one in the living room, sits in the northeast corner of the room. Access to the open attic space is available from this room along the west wall.

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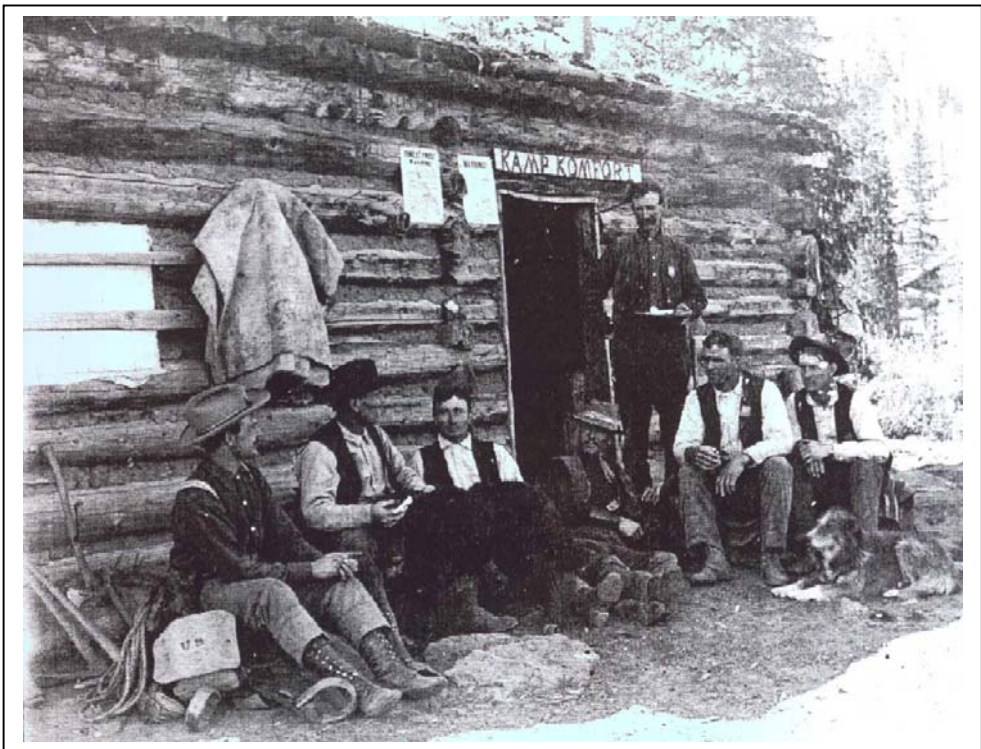
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James Cayton raising the flag in 1916 at the Johnson Spring Ranger Station (now the Cayton Guard Station). Photo courtesy of USDA Forest Service and Cayton family.



James Cayton at Kamp Komfort, 1905. Photo courtesy of USDA Forest Service and the Cayton family.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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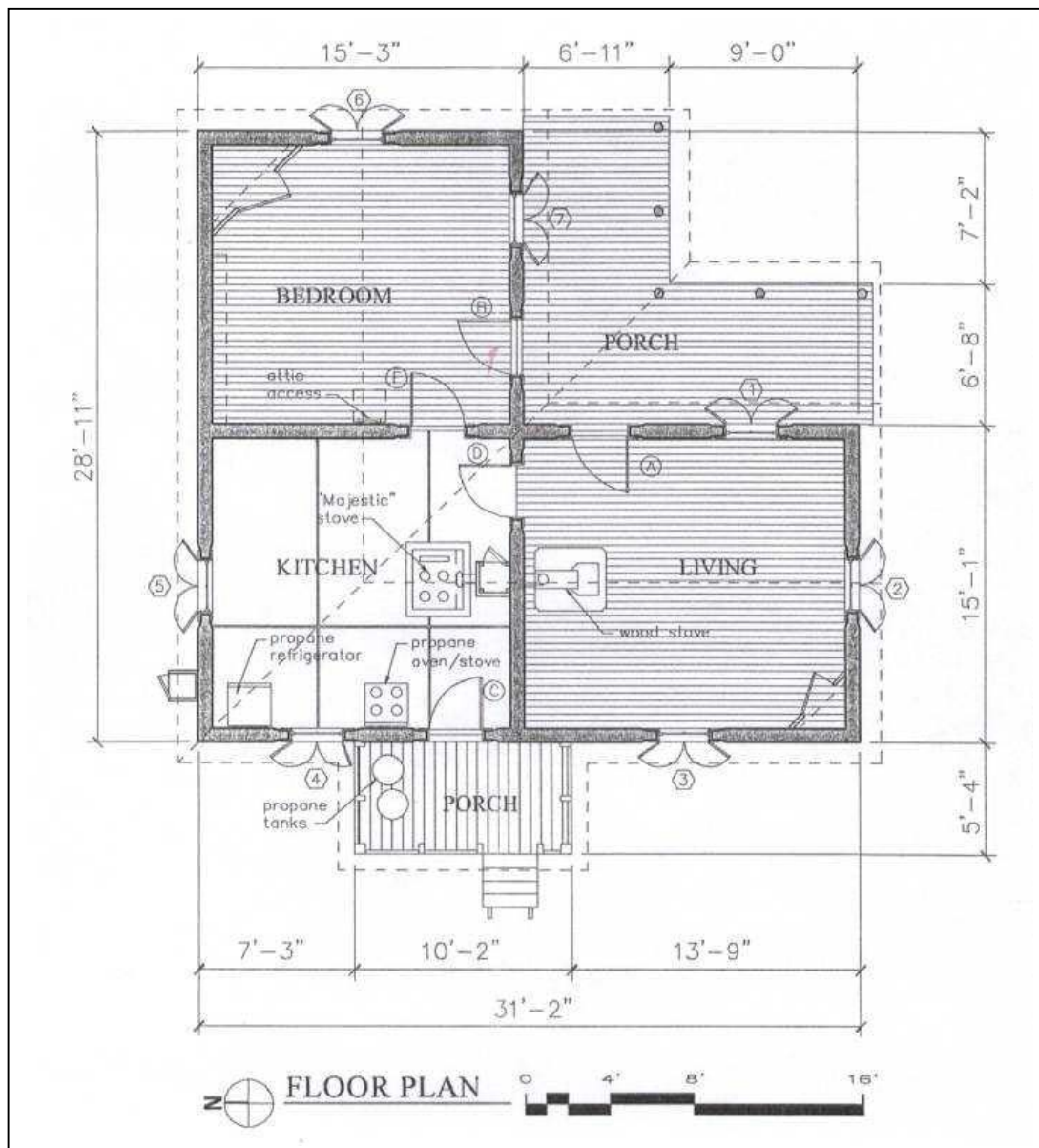
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## Yard

Aspen trees planted by the Caytons in 1918 and 1919, memorializing three Forest Service boys killed in France in World War I, surround the cabin, as does a historic fence (although modern improvements to the fence are indistinguishable from original elements). A flagpole erected at the time of the cabin's construction is also in the yard. The yard has excellent potential for subsurface historic and prehistoric archaeological remains (McKibbin 2004). The extent of subsurface potential has yet to be effectively evaluated due to poor surface visibility; however, the geomorphological setting suggests excellent potential for in situ significant cultural materials related to Forest Service use and occupation of the site.

## Cabin Site Plan





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Mesa County/ ColoradoSection number 8 Page 5**SIGNIFICANCE**

The Cayton Guard Station is eligible to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, in the areas of Conservation and Politics/Government. It is associated with federal activity and conservation of natural resources during the initial development of the National Forest system and the White River National Forest. Cayton Guard Station also represents the expansion and domination of the federal government's control over lands in the West.

Cayton Guard Station is also eligible under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The cabin has been maintained while retaining the original Pioneer Log construction. The Station is a rare example of Forest Service Ranger dwellings constructed and modified during a period when Forest Service architectural plans were not standardized, and built based on the abilities and knowledge of the occupying Ranger. Typologically, the Guard Station is associated with the terminus of the Pre-Design phase of Forest Service Administrative Structure construction developed by consultants Hartley and Schneck (1996), which occurred generally from 1890-1910. Construction of the Cayton Guard Station began in 1909 and was completed in 1910. The building and property retains good integrity, and the construction and style embodies the struggles and determination of early Forest Rangers.

**Criterion A**

The Ranger Station is significant in the area of Conservation for its association with the beginning of administrative development of the National Forest System and the Rocky Mountain Region (also known as Region 2) of the United States Forest Service (USFS). As a federal land managing agency, the policies of the USDA Forest Service are rooted in the conservation ethic and its administrative functions are representative of conservation laws, policy, and regulation. The Ranger Station is also significant in the area of Politics and Government as it represents the establishment and expansion of the federal government's control over natural resources throughout the western United States. Cayton Ranger Station has played an important role in the White River National Forest area. The Ranger Station and its Ranger represent one of the earliest interfaces between the public and the newly established Forest Service. Rangers like James Cayton maintained a friendly relationship with those in the surrounding community while carrying out the administrative needs of the Forest Service. Cayton Ranger Station was constructed at a time when Forest Service administration was first gaining a presence in the area.

**Historic Background**

The American Forestry Association, established in 1875 by resolution, supported timber conservation and urged Congress to establish a National Forest policy. The result of studies by the Department of Agriculture resulted in the creation of the Division of Forestry in 1881. In 1891 the Forest Reserve Act, a bill that repealed the Timber Culture Act of 1873, was passed. Prior to the end of 1873, Forest Reserves began to be established throughout the United States. The primary role of these Reserves was custodianship and management of forest resources namely timber, but including mining, grazing, and water resources. Rapidly increasing populations and resource extraction in the nation's Forests required that these resources be actively managed to avoid the deleterious impacts of increasing resource use. Creation of the Forest Reserves put in place a nation-wide administrative structure and management protocol that would have an influence on the nation as a whole, but especially in the western states, where management of the vast government-owned property was previously at a minimum.

Five Forest Reserves had been originally established in Colorado: the White River, Battlement Mesa, Pike's Peak Timberland, Plum Creek Timberland, and the South Platte. Of these Reserves, the last three were established primarily for watershed protection. Timber harvesting and sawmills, cattle

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grazing, and the construction of the Denver, South Park and Pacific Railroad combined to jeopardize the drainage system in a part of Colorado that had a high population density relative to the rest of the state. The conservation intent of the Forest Reserves largely failed, however. Timber cutting and overgrazing continued mostly unchecked through the turn of the twentieth century. The local communities often disliked rangers, in part because most were from the east, but also because they were rarely effective in protecting the Reserves from fire (Dana 1956:81-84, 100-107; McCarthy 1976).

The year after the Organic Act of 1897 was passed, authorizing an administrative system for the Division of Forestry, Gifford Pinchot became its first leader. That same year, eleven Districts (now called Regions) were established. The headquarters for Colorado and Utah was located in Denver. Each District was divided into Supervisor Districts of one or more Reserves, and each Reserve divided into Ranger subdivisions. By design, the organization of this administrative structure involved local Rangers who were autonomous, independent, and networked into the local community. Rangers were generally furloughed for the winter (Cayton 1925a). Supervisors were demoted to Rangers for the winter and occasionally also furloughed. Rangers often lacked basic necessities as noted by James Cayton, Ranger on the Battlement National Forest (now part of the White River National Forest) in a letter to the Forest Supervisor. He stated "At this time practically no tools were furnished the rangers, there not being more than six shovels and six axes on the whole Battlement Forest Reserve, these being about the extent of the tools furnished for all of the rangers" (Cayton 1925a:3-4).

In 1905, when the United States Forest Service was formalized, fifteen Reserves had been established in District No.2 (Region 2), six of which were in Colorado. Two years later, when the designation of National Forest replaced that of Reserve, sixteen Forests were delineated in the state. Arguments supporting the creation of Forests in southern and western Colorado focused on watershed protection. Following severe water shortages during the summers of 1880 and 1889, irrigation farmers and some cattlemen supported the protection of Forests at the heads of streams forming in the mountains. For example, in 1903 Louis Paquin, a Ranger near Mancos initiated a petition that was forwarded to the Bureau of Forestry requesting a Reserve be established to help protect farms and ranges from an anticipated water shortage (Hartley and Schneck 1996:8).

Colorado soon became recognized as a "hotbed" of opposition to Forests by cattlemen who favored preservation of the unrestricted grazing privileges they had enjoyed up to this point (Hinton 1988:111-122). As Reini notes, "...the forests are so closely interwoven with the story of mining and grazing of our state that it is very difficult to separate them" (1931:30).

An extensive administrative reorganization of the Forest Service took place in 1908, resulting in the present regional organization (Shoemaker 1944:183; Dana 1956:393). In District No.2 (now Region 2) six field headquarters under the direction of a District Forester were established that year. The headquarters remained in Denver. Also that same year, reconfiguration and consolidation of the Forests in District No.2 resulted in many of the named Forests that exist today.

In 1907, the Department of Agriculture published a booklet entitled *The Use of the National Forests* by Gifford Pinchot. The intent of this document was "to explain just what they [Forests] mean, what they are for, and how to use them" (Pinchot 1907:5). Pinchot described the internal organization of the Forests: "The Supervisor has direct charge of all the business. His office is located at some town convenient to the users. The Rangers are his field force. They live at the central points throughout the Forests and carry out the business on the ground" (1907:26). Prior to that time many of the Supervisors' headquarters in District No.2 were located at the rear of the residences. Gradually headquarters were established at local banks or Post Offices (Hinton 1988:111-133). Some Rangers,

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residents of the Districts or Forests to which they applied, worked out of their ranches for the duration of their careers (Hinton 1988:111-128). As J. H. Ratliff, future Forest Supervisor of the Routt National Forest, noted in 1906, "I furnished my own horses, paid my own expenses, left my wife to run the range and started to ride. I had about twenty-five arguments a day and lost about half of them." A short time later Ratliff was directed to take the Ranger examination. He was then formally appointed a "Forest Guard" and paid \$720 per year (Ratliff 1948).

Early Ranger or Guard Stations were often one-room log cabins with a dirt roof, but sometimes were only a tent (Cayton 1925a:3; Philips 1910). Ranger Tibo Gallegos used a tent as his headquarters from September 1906 until the spring of 1908, at which time a cabin was completed for him, his wife, and two children (Hinton 1988:111-131). Early dwellings were small and functional; for example, an early residence for a Ranger and his family on the Montezuma National Forest was described as "a two room log house, log stable 16 X 24, a 100 barrel cistern, and an eighty acre pasture. The house is small, and not altogether satisfactory" (U.S. Forest Service 1911:17). Adequate housing for rangers in Colorado was a common problem for the Forest Service.

H.K. Porter, Forest Supervisor for the Uncompahgre National Forest, wrote to Chief Forester Clyde Leavitt in 1908 recommending that a "community location ... for several rangers" be established for each District. Rangers at these "Stations" would have the "responsibility for the farming of this ranch and the distribution of the feed ... barns and storage of all features that could be used advantageously in common" (Hartley and Schneck 1996:11). Porter reasoned that this "Station" idea would be economical for the subsistence of the Ranger and for telephone costs and rent, that an "office" could be a part of the establishment to "meet all the needs of the rangers," and that someone would consistently occupy the site. He also acknowledged that to get "a good class of men" with families they would need to have access to "good schools." Leavitt answered that "with regard to year-long Ranger Stations [you] are exactly right and that we should work toward that idea as rapidly as we possibly can" (Leavitt 1908).

These functions were evident in *The Use Book* published that year, a handbook for Rangers outlining their duties and the philosophy under which they were to be evaluated. "Eventually all the rangers who serve the year round will be furnished with comfortable headquarters. It is the intention of the Forest Service to erect the necessary buildings as rapidly as funds will permit. Usually they should be built of logs with shingle or shake roofs" (Pinchot 1908:179).

Forest uses often largely determined the general location of Ranger Stations. For example, Philips asked for a "one room log cabin, with a floor and good shingle roof" for the North Mesa Station on the Montezuma Forest because "it will be impractical for a ranger to supervise a [timber] sale from another Station, on the account of the deep canyons which separate it from the Norwood Station" (1910:16). Likewise he requested a Ranger Station be located in the town of Telluride "since the work consists principally of the examination of mining claims and Telluride is the center of operations" (Philips 1910:7). The mobility of Rangers was also a consideration in the placement of cabins. Philips' rationale for cabin construction at the Alta Park Station exemplifies the needs and constraints of this period in Colorado:

This is necessary for effective fire patrol, and is also of considerable value as a camping place when crossing the country. The house should be of two rooms, 14 X 24 feet. It should be built of logs, peeled but not hewn, with shake or shingle roof. The cabin must be very strongly built to hold the unusually heavy snows that fall in the winter. The total cost should not exceed \$250.00, since the necessary timber is near the building site (Philips 1910:3).

The public use of buildings constructed for fire protection was permitted, at least in the early part of the

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century (Price 1991:60). Shoemaker warned that Rangers would initially be equipped with only a tent, a telephone, field glasses, compass and maps, and basic drafting equipment. Loneliness and the monotonous viewing will limit the work to a "few men" who "are capable of doing the work" and fewer that are "willing to undertake it" (1944).

By 1911, the Weeks Law established cooperative activities in forest fire protection between federal management institutions and state governments (Dana 1956:183-184, 221-223; Steen 1976:130, 173). Within twenty years it was estimated that 75 percent of Colorado fires were the result of human activities and "Every able-bodied man living in or near the National Forests is listed in his most useful capacity in the local cooperative fire-protection organization under a definite agreement with the Forest Service" (U.S. Forest Service 1928:3).

***History of Forest Service Design, Construction, and Location of Administrative Buildings***

Prior to and including 1910, Forest Reserve administrative buildings were largely reflective of the Rangers' personal preferences, as well as the materials, tools, and amount of time available to them. Probably in 1901, what is believed to be the first Ranger Station was built in Montana at the Alta Ranger Station on the Bitter Root Forest Reserve. Little is known about its construction, except that the Station was constructed using the Ranger's personal funds (Joslin: 1995:1). By 1903 Ranger William Kreutzer was constructing Ranger Stations on the Grand Mesa National Forest of Colorado, then known as the Battlement Forest Reserve. Kreutzer enlisted the help of nearby Rangers in the construction, a common practice during this time. It was also during 1903 that the nation's first officially funded Ranger Station was constructed, appropriately enough, on the nation's first National Forest, Shoshone, located in northwestern Wyoming.

In 1906, the Reserve Engineering Section was formed by the USFS. This division, consisting of civil engineers and draftsmen, supervised all engineering work done by the Reserves or private interests on USFS land (U.S. Department of Agriculture 1990:3). In *Light vs. USFS*, settled that year, the court established once and for all the Forest Service's obligation to govern the use of Forest resources. The resultant increase in supervision of grazing and other activities on the Forests intensified the need for administrative buildings.

In 1908, Gifford Pinchot established a set of values for guiding the administration of the newly designated National Forests. These included utility, conservation, and respect for the land, and they were to guide all aspects of Forest Service development, including its architecture. They were outlined in *The Use Book*, which also contained the first official guidelines for the development of administrative sites:

Eventually all the rangers who serve the year round will be furnished with comfortable headquarters. It is the intention of the Forest Service to erect the necessary buildings as rapidly as funds will permit. Usually they should be built of logs with shingle or shake roofs. Dwellings should be of sufficient size to afford comfortable living accommodations to the family of the officer. He will be held responsible for the proper care of the buildings and the grounds surrounding them. It is impossible to insist on proper care of camps if the Forest officers themselves do not keep their homes as models of neatness (Pinchot 1908:179).

An early Ranger, C. B. Mack, describes the state of administrative buildings prior to these guidelines:

One instance comes to mind wherein a herder had been trespassing on cattle range and we had considerable difficulty with him. He came to the summer Ranger Station where I was camped, and this Station by the way was an old purchased relinquishment, the cabin having been built from old ties cut years before and left in the woods by an outfit that had attempted to drive the San Juan River without success. The ties had been set on end and gave the building the appearance of an old Mexican picket house. Underneath

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one room was dug a pit approximately 5 X 5 X 6 ft. in depth, presumably used by the former occupant as a root cellar. The opening was covered by a trap door and descent made down a ladder. It was intensely dark in this hole and harbored nothing but mice and mountain rats. The sheep herder was invited into the house and in talking with him concerning his delinquency he was informed that the next time he encroached on cattle territory I intended to bring him to the Station and put him in that hole... Suffice to say that we had no further trouble... (Mack 1940:5).

The Washington Division of Engineering was created in 1908, the same year that Forest administration was decentralized into eight Districts, each with its own Engineering Division (Steen 1976:333). The decentralized administration suggests that the national influence upon Divisional architecture was for the most part limited to design regulations, publications containing tips and instructions for design and construction, and improvement funding. Later, design assistance became available through the Office of the USFS Consulting Architect. Despite the establishment of the Engineering Divisions in 1908, "comfortable living accommodations" in the Rocky Mountain Region were not yet a reality for the most part. Rangers typically used their own skills with axe and adze to construct Ranger Stations. This practice continued throughout what has been termed the "custodial era" of the Forest Service. Administrative buildings from this time predominantly reflect the pioneer traditions of their builders.

Forest Supervisor H. K. Porter initiated discussion on the establishment of Ranger Stations in his 1908 letter to the Chief Forester. Though not all of Porter's ideas were adopted, the correspondence set several design precedents in the District. Among these were the placement of Ranger Stations near "good schools" and "the people who use the range," the efficiency of site layout for "a minimum expense to the Forest Service," and the design of "individuality in every home..." which Porter considered "essential to the retaining of good and efficient men" (Porter 1908:3).

1908 also saw a major reorganization effort at the Forest level. Many small Forests were consolidated, and the supervisors' offices were relocated. Washington Chief Forester Clyde Leavitt solicited Rangers for suitable locations (Leavitt 1908). District Rangers were highly mobile and required accommodations near the primary type of workload, e.g., grazing, timber sales or mining claims. The type of Station (permanent, summer or temporary) required and location were determined by the work the Rangers would oversee. Stations served as staging areas for the resupply of backcountry Rangers, seasonal forest guards and lookouts (Caywood 1961:24).

Temporary Ranger Stations were often established at intervals of one day's ride on horseback, approximately eleven miles. They were used for fire patrols and overnight camping (Philips 1909:3). Livestock pasturage was substantial in District 2; therefore, many administrative site locations echoed seasonal grazing patterns. Some Ranger Stations were constructed exclusively for a timber sale (Otis et al. 1986:2; Philips 1909:6).

Along with the building guidelines established by Gifford Pinchot in 1908, he also instituted a "Ranger Exam" to eliminate undesirable Ranger candidates. Applicants were expected, among other things, to be able to handle an axe and were tested on their knowledge of cabin construction (Williams 1994). A good Ranger could fell and prepare enough trees for a small cabin in three days. Rangers were resourceful with their materials as moving them to the job site was often the hardest part of a project (Hartley and Schneck 1996).

From the inception of the USFS in the late nineteenth century through approximately 1910, the mission of the Forest Service evolved from one of custodianship to one of conservation. This, and constant additions to the Forest system, would require ever increasing numbers of Forest personnel and buildings in which they would live and work. A major effort to subdivide large Forests was begun in

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1910 (Williams 1991:2). This was the first national attempt to improve the newly reorganized Forests, and included a major effort to establish Ranger Stations that corresponded to the new Forest boundaries. Four hundred sixty-four cabins and other improvements were constructed throughout the nation during 1910 (U.S. Department of Agriculture 1990:3).

**Early History of the Johnson Spring/Cayton Ranger Station**

The Cayton Ranger Station (formerly known as the Johnson Spring Ranger Station) was constructed by James "Jim" Grimshaw Cayton, a Ranger for the Forest Service from 1903 to 1939. Early Rangers led a rugged life requiring physical stamina and courage on a daily basis. Cayton was well known regionally for his outstanding commitment, dedication and integrity. Sensitivity and diplomacy were the most exemplary facets of his character as he balanced the interests of the public and cattle and sheep ranchers with the need to conserve Forest resources (Starbuck 2004).

Born in Hooper, Dodge County, Nebraska, on October 8, 1878, Ranger Cayton had done ranching, mining, and worked on the Gunnison Tunnel before joining the Forest Service (Gibson 1986; Joslin 1995:66). As the son of an immigrant and working odd jobs, his diverse background provided him with the right approach to be a valuable public servant.

In 1905, Congress transferred the National Forests, then referred to as the Forest Reserves, from the Department of the Interior to the Department of Agriculture. President Theodore Roosevelt was keenly interested in the Division of Forestry and wanted it out of the control of the corrupt General Land Office. Shortly after the transfer was made, the agency name was changed to the Forest Service. James Cayton joined Gifford Pinchot's new Forest Service in 1905 (Joslin 1995). At the time there were only 71 Foresters in the entire country (Gibson 1986:1).

Cayton's appointment brought him to the Battlement area. He rode many miles daily, in every kind of weather, and generally camped by creeks or the Colorado River. His normal work schedule was nine to twelve hours per day, six and even seven days per week. His duties included counting and examining cattle, issuing application forms and permits for grazing on Forest lands, and for the building of hay derricks and hunting licenses (Gibson 1986).

The hard work paid off for Jim. He married Adelaide D. "Birdie" Miller on September 26, 1909 and after the wedding brought her to his new post, the Johnson Springs Ranger Station. The month before the wedding, Cayton and Forest Ranger Jolly Boone Robinson began to build a log barn and a cabin on the property, although it was incomplete when the Caytons moved in.

The first several months the Caytons lived in the barn as they finished building the three-room cabin that would serve as the Guard Station. The process was slow, but it was a required duty of early Forest Rangers and Jim built the Station with care. James Cayton himself describes this process:

*In September 1909 Forest Ranger Jolly Boone Robinson and I first started the improvements at this station. They consisted of a log barn and a three-room house. After starting Ranger Robinson at cutting and peeling the green Colorado blue spruce for the logs along the West Divide Creek, I went out on a trip doing my ranger district work for a few days.*

*When I returned I took my bride of just a few days to the station site, where we lived in tents, cooking over a camp fire, then later on an old cook stove. One evening Mrs. Cayton made the remark that if she had a rolling pin, she would build us a pie. Boone picked up a small green aspen stick and proceeded to whittle out a rolling pin with his pocket knife. We had the pie the next day...*

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*We built the barn first and put the shingle roof on it, then moved into it as there was nearly two feet of snow on the ground and snowing most of the time. We chinked the barn, then dug a hole in the dirt floor, mixed the mud and daubed it on the inside. The barn made quite comfortable living quarters as compared to the tents.*

*We laid up four rounds of the logs for the house. Then discontinued work on it for the winter. Next spring Rangers Robinson and Jack Hughes came and we completed laying up the logs for the house, with log partitions, got the shingle roof on it, and put in the doors and windows, when Robinson and Hughes had to return to their ranger districts.*

*During the summer season of 1910 Mrs. Cayton and I put the chinking in the house and daubed it with mud. We also built the brick chimney, she being the hood carrier. The hole had been cut in the roof for the chimney and in order to make the chimney go out the hole (this was the first brick chimney I had ever built or seen built) I had to make about two curves in it. The first time Supervisor John W. Lowell, Jr., came after the chimney was built, he looked at it and said to me 'Jim I understand now why the smoke curls so nicely when it comes out of your chimney, it's because of the artistic curves you put in it' (Joslin 1995:64-65).*

Between 1909 and 1919, the Caytons made the Johnson Spring Ranger Station their happy home. Cayton was promoted during his stay at the Station because of his dedication to his work. In March 1914, Jim was appointed Forest Ranger for the Battlement National Forest at Collbran, Colorado with a \$1,200 per year salary. On February 26, 1917, he was appointed Special Game Warden by the State of Colorado and served without pay until March 31, 1919 (Gibson 1986).

Diaries were kept by early Rangers to submit to their supervisors. While the James Cayton diaries from April 17, 1910 to January 1, 1917 are missing, much is known about the duties Cayton performed during his years at the Ranger Station (Joslin 1995). Among his work duties were checking on homestead improvements, making timber estimates, stamping logs, blazing tree lines, monitoring man-made waterways, repairing fences, and surveying to update the Forest Atlas and establish phone lines.

Cayton's duties at the Ranger Station also included maintenance of the cabin and the yard. Excerpts from his diary include detailed information about the type of work that he did to maintain this property and are reflective of the responsibility he felt in accomplishing these tasks. Cayton planted potatoes, radishes, and strawberries, as well as foliage (no longer present), to beautify the property (Cayton 1918).

Cayton installed a telephone line that ran between Cayton and Hightower Ranger Station, 7.5 miles to the west of Cayton Guard Station as the crow flies (Forman 2004). He also built and repaired other telephone lines, often in heavy brush and deep snow. At one time he had to use barbed wire from a fence to temporarily repair a phone line after more than 125 feet had been broken and lay under deep snow (Gibson 1986).

Many of the Forest Service Rangers' wives assisted their husbands in various phases of their work. Birdie rode with Jim, helped with clerical work and mapmaking; carried chains in surveying up hills through brush and mud; helped in the planting of seeds and trees; and a number of other jobs including repairing phone lines in his absence. The Caytons put in a half-acre lawn and planted many trees and a large garden. This meant grubbing brush, plowing and seeding. Grouse sheltered in the lawn and became so tame that they ate with the chickens, even coming onto their porch during rainstorms. When they put in a pasture fence, Jim cut the posts while Birdie dragged them with a rope attached to the horn of the saddle on her horse. The holes were dug and posts set, then while Birdie pulled the wire by attaching it to a rope tied to her saddle, Jim stapled the wire to the post (Gibson 1986).

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The Caytons created not only a home at the Ranger Station, but also a lasting memorial to the times in which they lived there. Jim commented to a reporter upon receiving recognition in the renaming of the Station as follows:

*Also we rode out in the hills always horseback, dug up aspen trees about two feet tall, took them to the station and planted them eight feet apart all around the half acre lawn with a double row from the front gate to the house.*

*Our little dog Curly, a beautiful water spaniel and Chesapeake Bay bird dog, was our constant companion. He kept Mrs. Cayton company while I was gone out on my district. The poor fellow had the flu in the spring of 1919 and died and is buried inside the yard near the northwest corner.*

*In the spring of 1919 we planted memorial [aspen] trees for three of the forest service boys who were killed in action in France.*

*During all those years this station was a happy home for us and we will always love it and cherish it in our fondest memories of a home (n.d. 1940).*

James Cayton made some of his greatest contributions to the Forest Service by establishing a working rapport with ranchers. At the invitation of the Stock Growers Association he attended their meetings and gave information regarding the number of stock each permit holder could have. Cayton was friendly with the cattlemen and avoided some of the antagonism directed toward the Forest Rangers by some of the cattle growers around the state (Gibson 1986). They had used Forest lands freely for many years and resented having this free use taken from them. Legal measures, such as Light vs. USFS, caused additional distrust of the government and tensions ran high. In his talks with cattlemen, Jim convinced them of the dangers of overgrazing, convinced them to allow him to count their herds and even made friends with a few ranchers (Cayton 1925b).

The Caytons left the Ranger Station in 1919 because of the failing health of Birdie. By leaving, Jim gave up his post at the Station. An often thankless job, Jim was dedicated to the government, the land, the community and his family. He is an example of an exceptional citizen and public servant as an early Ranger, making profound headway in the community relations and in land conservation.

### Untitled Poem by Ranger James G. Cayton

Have you ridden through the forest with the shadows at your feet  
While the grouse were drumming 'round you, and you hadn't any meat

And the quail were thick as spatter, and you couldn't take a shot  
Did the badge on your suspender help your feelings out a lot?

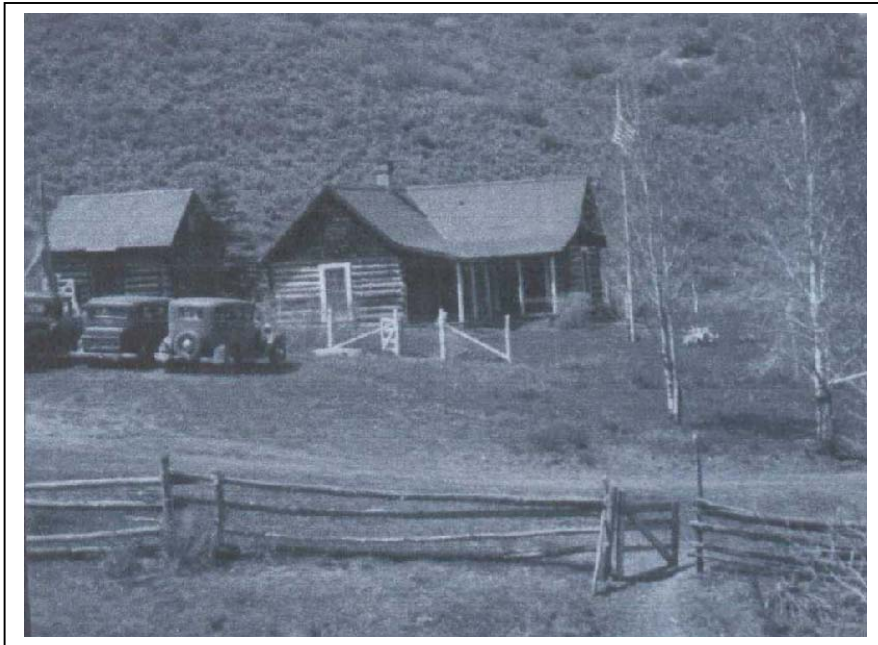
And at night when you're so tired you can hardly even eat  
Did some tourist "drop in on you," take your only seat  
Stick his feet up on your stove hearth, and although his is a stranger  
Tell you calmly as he lolls there, "It's a snap to be a Ranger."

The Station was maintained during the Depression by enrollees from CCC Camp F-67-C. With the introduction of vehicles to the Forest Service, the site saw use primarily as a work center. The Collbran District Ranger drove horses to the Station in trailers. He then rode the range on horseback from there. The Station became part of the White River National Forest in 1954 when lands south of the Colorado River were transferred from the Battlement National Forest and renamed the Rifle Ranger District



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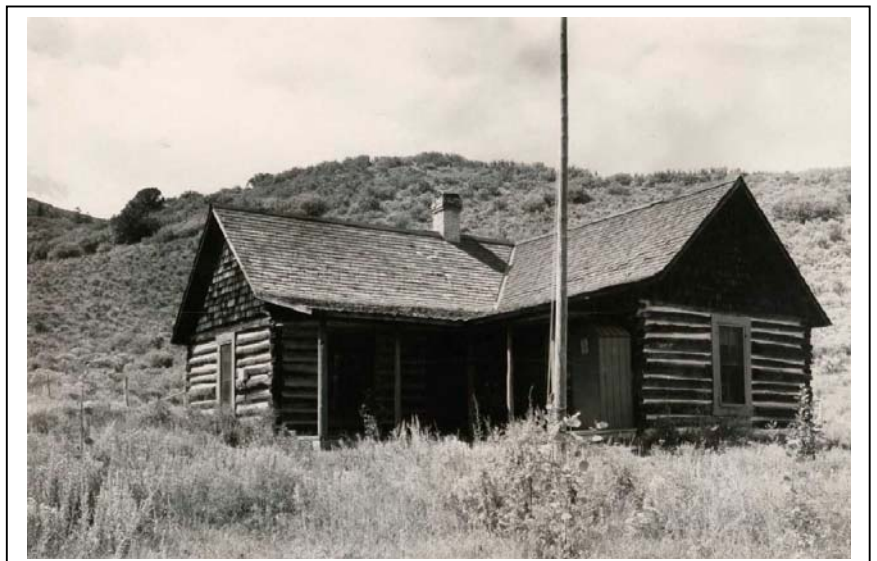
(Andrews and Anderson 2004). Currently the Station is not permanently occupied, although it is utilized occasionally by the Forest Service as seasonal housing and by the descendants of James and Adelaide Cayton for family reunions.



Johnson Springs Ranger Station, 1939. Photo courtesy of the USDA Forest Service and the Cayton family.



Cayton Guard Station, 1948. Photo courtesy of the USDA Forest Service and the Cayton family.



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Mesa County/ ColoradoSection number 8 Page 14**Criterion C**

Cayton Guard Station is significant under Criterion C as a rare example of a Forest Service Ranger Station constructed during a period when Forest Service architectural plans were not standardized, and built based on the abilities and knowledge of the Ranger. Its style and method of construction are representative of the early establishment of the USDA Forest Service in western Colorado. The Cayton Guard Station is one of the earliest of those constructed in the White River area that is still functioning today. Wood used to construct the cabin reflect the Ranger's reliance on locally available materials with notching and stone work of the chimney and foundation reflecting the Ranger's personal abilities. Construction of the Cayton Guard Station began in 1909 and was completed in 1910.

***Forest Service Architectural Typology***

Phases I, II, and III were developed by Hartley and Schneck (1996) to detail the general design of phases of Forest Service Administration buildings. Phase I, the "Pre-Design" phase, incorporates "buildings built from the inception of the Forest Reserves [1891] until the start of formal design within the Forest and Regional engineering divisions in about 1910, Phase I administrative buildings predominately reflect the pioneer traditions of their builders." Phase I marks the period of Forest Service construction when formalized plans were not typically used in building construction. Phase II, or the "Pre-CCC" phase, "runs from approximately 1911 to 1933, the start of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). During this era, Regional and Forest designers established a formal architectural vocabulary, based on primarily the Bungalow, Arts and Crafts, and Rustic styles. Though based upon formal architectural plans, pioneer construction methods are common" (1996:34). Phase III, the "CCC-era" phase, saw the standardization of the Forest Service's interpretation of the Rustic style during the CCC-era from 1933 through 1942. Construction in this era, predominantly executed by New Deal labor, was typified by its standard design, Rustic appearance, and labor-intensive composition.

**Pre-Design Phase**

The Cayton Guard Station exhibits many elements of the Pre-Design phase (Phase I). The Pre-Design phase begins with the creation of the Forest Reserves in 1891 and ends with the start of the protection/custodial era and the development of standardized plans about 1910. Early Rangers and supervisors were often political appointees or untrained local residents whose tenure was uncertain (Reini 1931:10). They found that the size of the area, the topography, and the absence of roads and trails made it impossible to cover their Districts (Hinton 1988:11-42). Construction of administrative buildings began almost immediately after the creation of the Reserves in 1891. A one or two-room cabin, barn, corral, and flagpole were considered all that early Rangers needed. The spatial relationships between these buildings were similar to homestead layouts.

Administrative buildings were largely reflective of the Rangers' personal preferences, as well as the materials, tools, and amount of time available to them. Log construction was diverse, with local building traditions and ethnic influences adding to the variability with which the logs were cut, prepared, and laid up. One common element of Phase I log construction is defined by Wilson (1984). This includes single pen configurations, rock foundations, and low to moderately pitched gable roofs that overhung the entrance. Other cabins Wilson refers to as "pioneer" style exhibit gabled "L" or square configurations. Most buildings were heated with stoves or fireplaces.

Phase I incorporates buildings constructed at the inception of the Forest Reserves (now called National Forests) until the start of formal design and Regional Engineering Divisions. Utility, time, and the availability of materials were the principal forces behind their method of construction and appearance.

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Depending largely on the availability of milled lumber, houses were wood frame or log construction.

Construction Elements: Both wood frame and log building types were characterized by low to moderate-pitched gable roofs, deep overhangs, and minimal ornamentation, although because buildings were constructed without guidelines, variation among these elements are evident. Many log cabins built in the mountains after the 1880s emulated the Rocky Mountain Cabin Style, which experienced its zenith in the 1920s (Wilson 1984). By 1905, the Pioneer Log style was popular throughout the state (Pearce and Wilson 1983:70). Construction methods varied widely. Foundations were stone, log, or slab concrete. Buildings were constructed of axe-cut or hand-sawn logs, or rough-milled lumber. Log buildings displayed a variety of notching systems. Finishes include both peeled and unpeeled surfaces, and hewn faces on one, two, or four sides. Joints included the square, saddle, "V," ½ dovetail, and full dovetail notches. Roofing systems were gabled, with log or milled wood rafters and ridge beams. Gables on log buildings were sometimes log also, though they were usually framed. Sheathing was frequently milled lumber. Roofing material included shakes, wood shingles, flat metal, and corrugated metal sheets. Fenestration ranged from single-pane windows with rough milled frames to double-hung windows. Operable plank shutters were occasionally present. Buildings of this Phase were influenced by the Rocky Mountain Cabin typology (e.g. Fitton Guard Station, Rio Grande National Forest) as well as vernacular traditions. Variations in this typology included the method of construction of the gable ends (some are framed, some are formed with logs), the method of corner notching and log finish, the type of bracing in the porch gable end (some are cantilevered, some are supported by log trusses and columns), the depth of the porch, the steepness of the roof pitch, and placement of entry and fenestration.

Materials: Construction materials included logs, stone, gravel, and other indigenous materials found on site, as well as rough-milled and dimensional lumber, wood stained or creosote shingles, and iron or tin roofs. Windows and shutters were fashioned on site if commercially produced windows were not available. Logs and trim were oiled, painted or varnished. Milled lumber was both rough-milled and commercially finished. Interior materials included processed wood products like Nu-Wood, Celotex, plywood, Masonite or board. Walls and ceilings were sometimes plastered (Hartley and Schneck 1996:39).

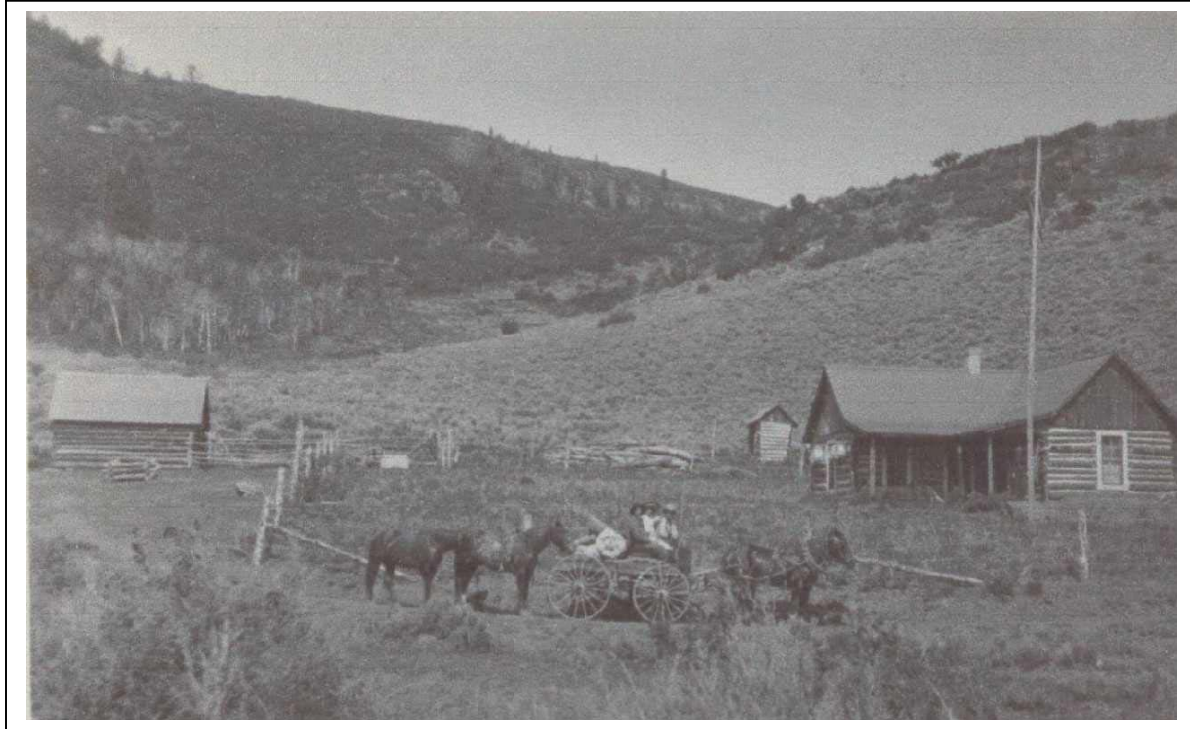
Site Placement: Sites were often located on flat areas near springs or streams. Sites were usually in rural areas. Sites could include a log dwelling, bunkhouse, wood frame or log barn, and a wood frame or log privy. Associated features could include spring development, hitching posts, flagpoles, corrals, pasture fences and an identifying sign, usually posted on the building or a nearby tree. Other important considerations for site placement included protection from the elements, accessibility to mail delivery, and existing or potential access to telephone lines, though established phone systems were rare (Philips 1909). As part of the Region's effort to link all Stations, many roads and phone lines in Colorado were originally established by the Forest Service for administrative use. Several cabins constructed along phone line routes originally housed line crews, but were later used for Forest Service administration.

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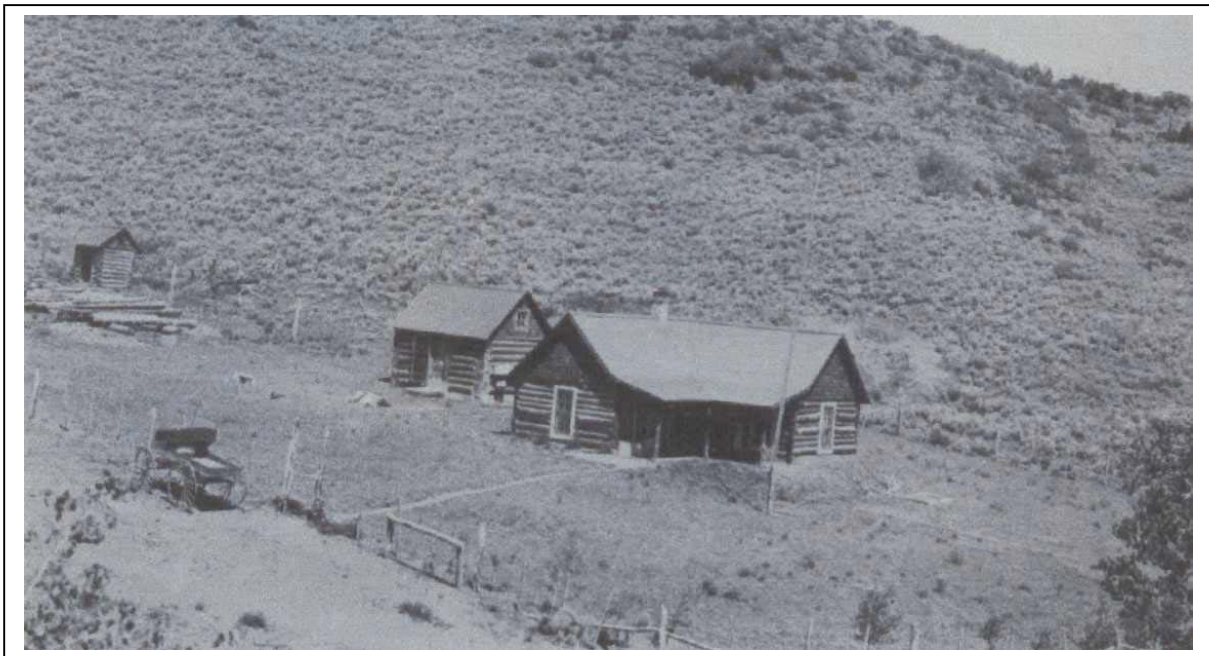
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Views of Johnson Springs Ranger Station in 1916. Photos courtesy of USDA Forest Service and the Cayton family.



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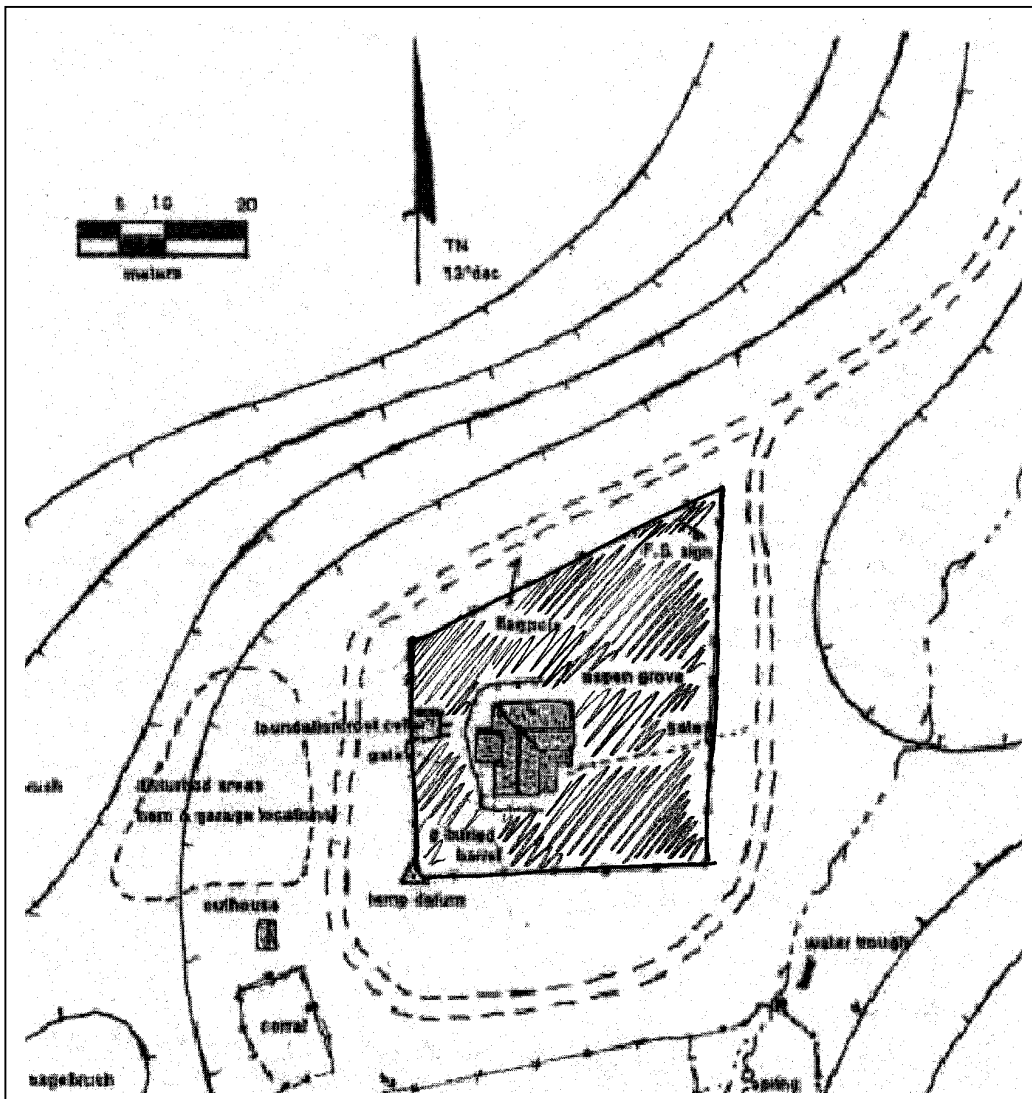
## GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated parcel includes the shaded portion noted in the scale map below.

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated boundary includes the building and surrounding property currently inside the fence line, which is associated with the historic use of the Cayton Guard Station in the White River National Forest.





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The following information pertains to photograph numbers 1-10 except as noted:

Name of Property: Cayton Guard Station  
Location: Mesa County, Colorado  
Photographer: David Cayton  
Date of Photographs: July 23, 2004  
Negatives: USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region

**Photo No.**      **Photographic Information**

- 1 Overview of property and west elevation of Guard Station, camera facing east.
- 2 Southeast façade (south and east walls), camera facing north.
- 3 Southeast façade (south and east walls), camera facing northwest.
- 4 East elevation, camera facing west.
- 5 North elevation, camera facing southwest.
- 6 Detail of notching on northeast corner and foundation, camera facing southwest.
- 7 West elevation, camera facing east.
- 8 Interior- original Majestic stove.
- 9 Interior- detail of notching in northwest corner of living room.
- 10 Aerial view of property.

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**USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP**  
Flatiron Mountain Quadrangle, Colorado  
7.5 Minute Series

UTM: Zone 13 / 278895E / 4353619N  
PLSS: 6<sup>th</sup> PM, T9S, R91W, Sec. 4  
SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>  
Elevation: 7481 feet

