# 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 determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions 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 any 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				11.	-
nistoric name_Ava Ranger Station Historic District					
other names/site numberN/A					·
2. Location				,	
street & number _Route 5S, P.O. Box 188				not for pu	blication N/A
city or town _Ava				vicinity N/A	
stateMissouri	_codeMO c	ounty _Dougla	<u> </u>	code _067	zip code_65608
3. State/Federal Agency Certification				- 44	
As the designated authority under the Nat request for determination of eligibility me and meets the procedural and professional the National Register Criteria. I recomm continuation sheet for additional commen	eets the documentation I requirements set fortuend that this property	on standards for th in 36 CFR Pa	registering prop rt 60. In my opi	perties in the National linion, the property	Register of Historic Places meets does not meet
Signature of certifying official		Date		_	
State or Federal agency and bureau  In my opinion, the property meets _	does not meet the	National Regis	ter criteria. (	See continuation sheet	for additional comments.)
Signature of commenting or other official	1	Date		_	
State or Federal agency and bureau					
4. National Park Service Certification		<del></del>			
, hereby certify that this property is:  entered in the National Register  See continuation sheet.  determined eligible for the  National Register  See continuatio  determined not eligible for the  National Register  removed from the National Register  other (explain):					
	Signature of Keep	er I	Date of Action		

_Ava Ranger Station Name of Property	Historic District		_Douglas County, Missouri_ County and State	
5. Classification	1			
Ownership of Prop	erty (Check as many boxes as ap	ply) Category of Property (Chec	k only one box)	
priva publi x_ publ	ic-local	building(s) _X_ district site structure object		
Number of Resource (Do not include prev	ces within Property riously listed resources in the coun	t).		
Contributing  5  0  0  0  5	Noncontributing  _1 buildings _0 sites _0 structures _0 objects _1 Total			
Number of contribut Register _N/A	ing resources previously listed in t	he National		
	Itiple property listing (Enter "N/A"	if property is not part of a multiple	property listing.)	
6. Function or	Use			
GOVERNM DOMESTI DOMESTI	CC	government office single dwelling secondary structure	<u></u>	
		government officesecondary structure	<del>-</del>	
7. Description				
_LATE 19TH _/Colonial Rev	Tication (Enter categories from inst AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVA vival	LS_		
foundation roof	Concrete Asphalt			
walls other	Stone/limestone Wood Wood			
<b></b>		<del> </del>		

Narrative Description

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

#### 8. Statement of Significance Applicable National Register Criteria Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions). (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property \_CONSERVATION for National Register listing) **ARCHITECTURE** Property is associated with events that have made POLITICS/GOVERNMENT X\_ A a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. В Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past. \_X\_\_ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics Period of Significance of a type, period, or method of construction or \_\_1936 - 1950\_ represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction. Significant Dates \_\_1936\_\_\_ Property has yielded, or is likely to yield D information important in prehistory or history. Significant Person Criteria Considerations (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.) N/A owned by a religious institution or used for Cultural Affiliation religious purposes. N/A\_\_\_\_ removed from its original location. a birthplace or a grave. Architect/Builder Architect/Unknown a cemetery. Builder/Civilian Conservation Corps a reconstructed building, object, or structure. a commemorative property. Gless 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 (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 # Primary Location of Additional Data \_\_\_ State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency X\_ Federal agency Local government University \_\_\_ Other

Name of repository: \_Headquarters, Mark Twain National Forest, Rolla, Missouri\_

_Ava Ranger Station Historic District Name of Property	_Douglas County, Missouri_ County and State
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property _5.7 acres	
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)	USGS Quad: Ava, MO
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing	
1 15 530150 4087785 3	
2 4	
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 she	eet.)
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title_Philip Thomason/Teresa Douglass	
organization_Thomason and Associates	date May, 2000
street & mumber_P.O. Box 121225	telephone_(615) 385-4960
city or town Nashville	state_TNzip code _37212
Additional Documentation	
Submit the following items with the completed form:	
Continuation Sheets	
Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the prope	erty's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having last	rge acreage or numerous resources.
Photographs	
Representative black and white photographs of the property	ty.
Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)	
Property Owner	
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)	
name	
street & number telep	hone
city or townstate	zip code

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section \_\_7\_ Page \_1\_

\_Ava Ranger Station Historic District\_ name of property \_Douglas County, Missouri\_ county and State

The Ava Ranger Station Historic District is located in the community of Ava (1990 pop. 2,938) in Douglas County, Missouri. The Ranger Station is located on State Route 5, approximately 0.75 mile south of the downtown area. The Ava Ranger Station Historic District is composed of five frame and limestone buildings constructed by the Pond Fork Camp (also known as the Ava or Thornfield Camp) of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and workers of the Emergency Relief Administration (ERA) during 1936. Their construction was under the supervision of a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project. The complex includes a ranger's office, dwelling, garage, warehouse, and an oil house. Primary facades of the office and dwelling face west. These two buildings are connected by a concrete walkway, which continues to a paved and gravel parking area. The garage sits to the east of the dwelling, and in front of the garage is a paved parking area. Northeast of the dwelling and office are a warehouse and oil house. These secondary structures are presently used for storage purposes. The primary facade of the oil house faces south, and the primary facade of the warehouse faces west. South of the warehouse is a non-contributing, frame open air garage constructed ca. 1970. Split rail fences frame the property on the west and north, and a metal hurricane fence extends along the eastern and southern property lines.

The most unifying characteristic of the district is its construction materials. All five contributing buildings are of frame construction with limestone veneer exteriors. The exteriors are identical and are of rock faced stone with deep mortar joints. The stonework is in excellent condition and displays its original craftsmanship. The designs for the district's buildings are based upon standardized plans used throughout the country by the Forest Service.

The Ava Ranger Station Historic District is representative of the Administrative Sites property type defined in the Multiple Property Documentation Form "Historic and Architectural Resources of the Mark Twain National Forest." The buildings within the district meet registration requirements of this property type through their physical characteristics and associative qualities. The buildings display native stone construction, gable roofs, multi-light windows, and use local materials in their landscaping and physical layout. The Ava Ranger Station Historic District retains all of its original buildings, and each of these buildings retains a high degree of its original architectural design and integrity. The district's original natural setting also remains intact.

#### INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY DESCRIPTIONS

1. Ranger's Office - This is a one- and one-half story frame and stone Colonial Revival influenced building with a gable asphalt shingle roof, an interior stone chimney, an exterior of limestone veneer, and a concrete foundation. On the main (west) facade is a central projecting gable entry bay. The main entrance has a ca. 1990 fifteen-light glass and wood door with an original wood lintel. Windows in the building are original eight-over-eight and six-over-six wood sash. Windows retain original wood lintels and concrete sills. Leading from the main entrance is a set of concrete steps and a concrete walkway, which extend to a paved and gravel parking area. A concrete walkway extends to the south side of the building and connects to the dwelling. On the south elevation of the office is a secondary entrance with a ca. 1990 fifteen-light glass and wood door. In front of this entrance is a ca. 1990 concrete stoop with a metal railing. The stoop has a set of concrete steps to the south and a concrete handicap ramp to the east.

The interior of the office has added carpet, dropped acoustical tile ceilings, and ca. 1980 flush wood doors. A closet has been added in the entry bay, which has a linoleum floor. The bathroom was remodeled in 1999 and is handicap accessible. The stairs are original with added carpeting. The stairwell has original knotty pine wood paneling. The upper floor retains its original open floor plan and original built-in wood cabinets with original hardware. Added ca. 1970 wood paneling has been installed between the cabinets and is also on wall surfaces and the chimney. An original wood railing with square wood balusters frame the staircase. The basement level has an original concrete floor and open floor space. (Contributing)

OMB No. 1024-0018

**United States Department of the Interior** National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2

\_Ava Ranger Station Historic District\_ name of property \_Douglas County, Missouri\_ county and State

2. Ranger's Dwelling - This is a one- and one-half story frame and stone dwelling. The dwelling reflects the Colonial Revival style and has a gable asphalt shingle roof, exterior wall and interior stone chimneys, a concrete foundation, and an exterior of rock faced limestone veneer. On the main (west) facade is a partial-width inset porch with ca. 1980 square wood posts and railing. The porch has a concrete floor and a tongue-and-groove ceiling, and concrete steps lead to the porch. The main entrance has a ca. 1990 nine-light glass and wood door with an original wood lintel. Windows in the dwelling are original six-over-six wood sash with original concrete sills and wood lintels. At the roofline of the main facade is a large shed roof dormer with three six-over-six wood sash windows. The dormer has an exterior of weatherboard siding. On the north elevation of the dwelling is a secondary entrance with a ca. 1990 nine-light glass and wood door with an original wood lintel. Above the door is an original asphalt shingle shed roof canopy with a tongue-and-groove ceiling. The canopy is supported by original knee brace brackets. At the roofline of the rear elevation is a small shed roof dormer with a six-over-six wood sash window and an exterior of weatherboard siding. At the basement level of the rear elevation is an entrance with a ca. 1980 flush steel door. Concrete steps extend down to the basement entrance and are lined by a poured concrete retaining wall with an iron railing.

The dwelling is now used as office space, and its interior has been modified for this use. In 1994, a wall was added in the living room to provide separate office and hall space. In 1997, carpet and linoleum were added to floor surfaces, and ceilings are dropped acoustical tile design. The building was also modified to adhere to the American Disabilities Act (ADA) ca. 1998. At this time the bathroom was enlarged and the bathroom door relocated. A wall was moved to accommodate this arrangement, and the side entrance was enlarged. The interior retains the original limestone fireplace and mantel, original four-panel wood doors, plaster walls, and some original wood paneling. The staircase is also original, but the original newel post has been replaced with a spiral design. The basement has a poured concrete floor, dropped tile ceiling, frame partition walls, post and beam supports, and added wood paneling. (Contributing)

- 3. Garage This is a one-story, two-bay, frame and limestone garage with a poured concrete foundation, an asphalt shingle gable roof, and an exterior of limestone veneer. On the main (west) facade are two garage bays with ca. 1980 aluminum garage doors. A pedestrian entrance on the north elevation has an original six-light and two-vertical panel glass and wood door. On the north and south elevations, the garage has gable returns and original arched wooden vents with concrete sills. Windows in the garage are original six-over-six wood sash and retain original wood lintels and concrete sills. The garage retains its original interior space. (Contributing)
- 4. Warehouse This is a one- and one-half story frame and limestone warehouse. The warehouse was built in a rectangular plan and has an asphalt shingle gable roof, a concrete foundation, an interior stone chimney, and an exterior of limestone veneer. The warehouse contains five original garage bays and a single-door pedestrian entrance on the main (west) facade. Original double doors of vertical panel and diagonal bracing design with original metal hinges have been retained at each garage bay. The pedestrian entrance is of similar design with vertical panels and diagonal bracing. Above this entrance is an original wood lintel. Knee brace brackets support a full-width shed, tongue-and-groove awning over the primary facade. At the roofline of the main facade is a large gable dormer with a nine-light fixed glass and wood window. The dormer has an exterior of weatherboard siding. First floor windows are original six-light glass and wood sliding design with original concrete sills and wood lintels. In the half story are original six-light glass and wood fixed windows.

The interior of the warehouse retains its original open floor plan with a separate workshop at the south end of the building. The warehouse also retains an original concrete slab floor, original interior door of vertical panels and diagonal bracing, an original built-in workshop work benches. Original wood steps lead to the half story, which retains wood floors and exposed rafters. (Contributing)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section \_\_7\_ Page \_3\_

\_Ava Ranger Station Historic District\_ name of property \_Douglas County, Missouri\_ county and State

- 5. Oil House Located near the warehouse is a one-story frame and limestone building that serves as a storage facility for oil, gas, and other products. The building has an asphalt shingle gable roof, a concrete foundation, and an exterior of limestone veneer. The main (south) elevation has original double doors with a vertical board and diagonal bracing design. Above the doors is an original wood lintel and an original metal light fixture. The building has exposed rafters at the eaves. The oil house retains its original interior with a concrete floor, exposed interior rafters, diagonal board walls, and wood shelving. (Contributing)
- 6. Open Air Garage South of the warehouse is a ca. 1970 open air frame garage. (Non-contributing)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section \_\_8\_ Page \_4\_

\_Ava Ranger Station Historic District\_ name of property \_Douglas County, Missouri\_ county and State

### Statement of Significance

The Ava Ranger Station Historic District is representative of the Administrative Sites property type and is included as part of the Multiple Property Documentation Form "Historic and Architectural Resources of the Mark Twain National Forest." The Ava Ranger Station Historic District is significant under Criterion A for its association with the USDA Forest Service and Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) of the 1930s. In addition to these conservation programs, the district is illustrative of the federal approach to natural resource management as exemplified in its New Deal programs. The district is also significant under Criterion C as an example of the Forest Service's emphasis on "rustic" architectural designs of the period. The district represents the Forest Service's intent to integrate public facilities in a natural environment without detracting from the beauty of the surrounding forest. The district retains all of its original buildings and few major alterations or changes have occurred to the district's buildings. The district possesses its integrity of site and location and continues to be used as a Ranger Station for the Mark Twain National Forest.

#### **Historical Background**

The Mark Twain National Forest, Missouri's only national forest, was created during the early 1930s and is presently viewed by the Forest Service as a "recovering forest." By the time that the Mark Twain National Forest was established, the area barely supported its impoverished population, which continued to farm exhausted lands. Efforts were underway in 1931 to correct previous land abuse by establishing a National Forest in Missouri. A law passed in 1933 created the Mark Twain National Forest, and a preliminary examination of the Ozark region was initiated by Forest Service personnel. Emphasis of the study was placed upon the protection and rehabilitation of forest resources with hopes of re-establishing timber productivity. It was also during this period of time that provisions were set aside for developing recreational sites within the newly created forest system.

The Mark Twain National Forest was established during the era of the Great Depression and extensive federal relief programs. The 1930s was also a time in which the nation faced the consequences of exploitation of its natural resources. Land use was largely determined by economic self-interests, which often resulted in soil exhaustion, diminishing forests and over-grazed grasslands. In response to the problems of unemployment and loss of natural resources, President Franklin D. Roosevelt set up a series of federal programs which were collectively known as "the New Deal." Roosevelt's first New Deal act, the Emergency Work Program, also known as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), addressed the problems of America's unemployed youth and rapidly diminishing natural resources. As one of Roosevelt's most popular programs, the CCC constructed many of the Forest Service's facilities.

New Deal programs such as the CCC did much to improve the national conservation movement and provided significant aid to the Forest Service. Prior to arrival of these programs, the Forest Service's building program was quite limited. Within the State of Missouri, such projects were non-existent prior to 1933. Once confronted with the responsibility of developing work projects and operating schedules for proposed relief programs, a concerted effort was made by the Forest Service to include future needs as well as immediate needs in the planning process. This thoughtful planning resulted in a balanced arrangement of buildings and grounds, as well as economical development and conformity to existing physiographic conditions.

The administrative site at Ava was established in 1936. The Forest Service purchased 5.85 acres from Clarence H. and Mabel Osborn, and Charley H. and Maud Taber on February 27, 1936. Construction of the site began that spring and was largely undertaken by enrollees of the Emergency Relief Administration (ERA). Members of the Pond Fork CCC Camp, sometimes referred to as the Ava or Thornfield Camp quarried the stone and did the landscaping. The CCC workers obtained limestone from a quarry located several miles north and west of Ava. Tracy Wright, an enrollee of the CCC, recalls that "Small amounts of dynamite was used to move small pieces of the limestone out from the lense. It was then shaped on the site and sent to the skilled mason at the building site. Apparently

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section \_\_8\_ Page \_5\_

\_Ava Ranger Station Historic District\_ name of property \_Douglas County, Missouri\_ county and State

the mason was picky and did not hesitate to send the bricks back if they were not shaped correctly." In November of 1937, the total cost of the Ava complex was estimated at \$37,836.46.

The Ava Ranger Station Historic District complies with the Forest Service's 1937 and 1938 guidelines, while also allowing deviations in original plans including the use of local limestone as the exterior building material. This style is repeated throughout the Mark Twain National Forest Ranger Stations constructed by the CCC. Layout of the Ava station reinforces the Forest Service's ideal placement of offices, dwellings and service buildings, taking care to allow ease of public access to the office and placement of service buildings in an area which minimally detracts from surrounding natural areas.

The Ava Ranger Station Historic District is significant for its associations with Missouri's New Deal programs, its role in forest conservation, and for its architectural design and workmanship. Few changes have occurred since its initial construction during 1936, and the overall character and integrity of the district have been retained. The district continues to function as an important administrative center for the Mark Twain National Forest. Additional information on the district is located in the accompanying "Historic and Architectural Resources of the Mark Twain National Forest" Multiple Property Documentation Form.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Malouf, Richard T. "Thematic Evaluation of Administrative and Fire Lookout Tower Sites on the Mark Twain National Forest, Missouri." (Resource on file at the Supervisor's Office, Mark Twain National Forest, Rolla, Missouri), 1991, p. 79.

NPS Form 10-900-a (Rev. 10-90)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section \_\_9\_ Page 6\_

\_Ava Ranger Station Historic District\_ name of property \_Douglas County, Missouri\_ county and state

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NPS	Form	10-900-a
(Rev.	. 10-90	)

### OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section	10	Page	7
Section	10	rage	- /

\_Ava Ranger Station Historic District\_
name of property
\_\_Douglas County, Missouri\_\_
county and state

### Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Ava Ranger Station Historic District is illustrated on the accompanying not-to-scale site plan. The boundary shows the site plan of the buildings, parking area, and landscaping.

## Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundary for the Ava Ranger Station Historic District includes the entire parcel which encompasses the Ranger Station property. The boundary includes all property historically associated with the Ranger Station.

# NPS Form 10-900-a (Rev. 10-90)

#### OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Photos Page 8

\_Ava Ranger Station Historic District\_ name of property \_\_Douglas County, Missouri\_\_ county and state

Ava Ranger Station Historic District

Douglas County, Missouri

Photo by: Thomason and Associates

Date: November, 1999

Location of Negatives: Missouri Cultural Resource Inventory, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Jefferson City, MO

Photo No. 1: View of Ranger's Office, towards northeast.

Photo No. 2: View of Ranger's Office, main office area.

Photo No. 3: View of Ranger's Dwelling, towards northeast.

Photo No. 4: View of Ranger's Dwelling, living room.

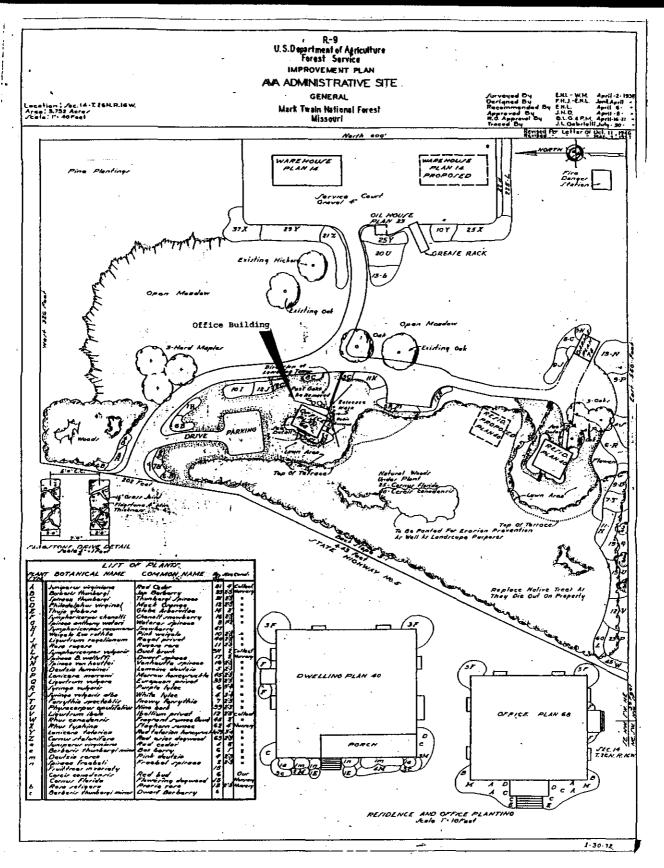
Photo No. 5: View of Ranger's Dwelling, staircase.

Photo No. 6: View of Garage, towards northeast.

Photo No. 7: View of Warehouse, towards north.

Photo No. 8: View of Oil House, towards northwest.

Photo No. 9: View of Modern Open Air Garage, towards northeast.



Site Plan - Ava Ranger Station Historic District Ava, Douglas County, Missouri Map not to scale

