Oregon Historic Site Record

LOCATION AND PROPERTY NAME

address: ADDRESS RESTRICTED vcty, Lake County
assoc addresses:
location descr:

PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS

resource type: site
height (stories):
total elig resources: 1
NR Status: Individually Listed
date indiv listed: 10/18/2018

elig evaluation: eligible/significant
prim constr date: 1947
second date:

primary orig use: Other
sec orig use:
primary style:
secondary style:
primary siding:
secondary siding:
plan type:
architect:
builder: Beechcraft Aircraft Company

comments/notes:
In 1995 the Fremont National Forest erected a concrete monument on the site. Initial review memo sent out 7-3-2013 by IJ. Second draft responded to 3-2-2016. DJP

GROUPINGS / ASSOCIATIONS

Survey/Grouping Included In:
Fremont National Forest
Type of Grouping
National Forest
Date Listed
106 Project(s):
NR Status:
Federal Tax
Special Assess
Project(s): None
Project(s): None

SHPO INFORMATION FOR THIS PROPERTY

NR date listed: 10/18/2018
ILS survey date:
RLS survey date:

ARCHITECTURAL / PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

(Includes expanded description of the building/property, setting, significant landscape features, outbuildings and alterations)

The Governor Earl W. Snell Aircraft Crash Site is proposed for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A at the statewide level of significance. It is the site of the 1947 airplane crash that killed Oregon Governor Earl W. Snell and his party, including the Secretary of State, Robert Farrell, and the President of the Oregon Senate, Marshall Cornett, as well as the pilot, Cliff Hogue. The site is located at an elevation of approximately 5,900 feet above sea level on the Fremont-Whinemap National Forest, in a remote ridge-top area. The crash debris that remains on-site is distributed within the 1947 impact area.

HISTORY

(Chronological, descriptive history of the property from its construction through at least the historic period - preferably to the present)

The Governor Earl W. Snell Aircraft Crash Site is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, for politics/government, at the statewide level of significance. The period of significance is 1947, the year of the airplane crash that took the lives of Governor Earl W. Snell and two other prominent Oregon Republican politicians. The site is associated with the immediate post-World War II years in Oregon, a time of dramatic changes that began during World War II but that accelerated after the end of the War. Earl Wilcox Snell was a popular and ambitious politician, elected Oregon’s Governor in 1942 and subsequently re-elected in 1946. His untimely death the following year – along with those of his companions and colleagues, Secretary of State Robert Farrell and President of the Senate Marshall Cornett – left Oregon without key leadership positions in the capital. As a direct result, state laws were enacted after the crash to restrict the number of officials travelling in the same airplane. Of more significance is the fact that the deaths of Snell and Farrell created a sudden leadership vacuum in Oregon’s Republican party, one that profoundly affected the state’s resulting politics during the subsequent ten-to-twelve years, and almost certainly contributed in substantial measure to the return of long-absent Democratic leadership (such as the election of Richard Neuberger to the U.S. Senate in 1954 and Robert Holmes as governor in 1956), as well as to younger Republican politicians, such as Mark O. Hatfield, advancing more rapidly to the forefront of the party organization. As a consequence of the crash, the site, which has a commemorative plaque mounted on a concrete-and-stone monument, is known to many people in Oregon; the locally used geographic name “Governor’s Ridge” increases the breadth of that knowledge.

RESEARCH INFORMATION

Title Records
Sanborn Maps
Obituaries
City Directories

Census Records
Biographical Sources
Newspapers
Building Permits

Property Tax Records
SHPO Files
State Archives
State Library

Local Histories
Interviews
Historic Photographs

Local Library:
University Library:

Historical Society:
Other Repository:

Bibliography: