

Oregon Historic Site Record

LOCATION AND PROPERTY NAME			
address:	Smokeyjumper Way Cave Junction, Josephine County	historic name:	Siskiyou Smokejumper Base (Boundary Increase)
assoc addresses:		current/other names:	Siskiyou Aerial Project, "Gobi Desert" Cave Junction, CJ
location descr:	Illinois Valley Airport; 4 miles SW of Cave Junction off Oregon Highway 199	block/lot/tax lot:	
		twtnshp/rng/sect/qtr sect:	
PROPERTY CHARACTERISTICS			
resource type:	district	height (stories):	
elig evaluation:	eligible/significant	total elig resources:	5
prim constr date:	1944	NR Status:	Individually Listed
	second date: 1956	date indiv listed:	11/24/2014
primary orig use:	Fire Station	orig use comments:	
second orig use:	Air Facility	prim style comments:	
primary style:	Rustic	sec style comments:	
secondary style:		siding comments:	
primary siding:	Shingle	architect:	
secondary siding:		builder:	
plan type:			
comments/notes:			
The property is owned by Josephine County: Board of County Commissioners; Josephine County Courthouse; 500 NW Sixth Street, Dept 6; Grants Pass, OR 97526; 541 474-5221; bcc@co.josephine.or.us; Commissioner names: Cheryl Walker (Commissioner Chair and also the Airport Liaison), Keith Heck (Commissioner Vice Chair), Simon Hare (Commissioner), The person who oversees the property is the Airport Manager Larry Graves, Josephine County Airport Manager; 541-955-4535 Office, 541-660-2169 Cell, Lgraves@co.josephine.or.us			
GROUPINGS / ASSOCIATIONS			
Not associated with any surveys or groupings.			
Farmstead/Cluster Name:		Siskiyou Smokejumper Base	
SHPO INFORMATION FOR THIS PROPERTY			
NR date listed:	11/24/2014	106 Project(s):	None
ILS survey date:		Special Assess Project(s):	None
RLS survey date:		Federal Tax Project(s):	None
ARCHITECTURAL / PROPERTY DESCRIPTION			
<i>(Includes expanded description of the building/property, setting, significant landscape features, outbuildings and alterations)</i>			
<p>The Siskiyou Smokejumper Base (Boundary Increase) area is located in the Siskiyou Mountains of southwest Oregon and encompasses approximately 2 acres. The runway for the Illinois Valley airport borders the west side, providing an open vista to the north, west, and south. The property is further bound by the existing Siskiyou Smokejumper Base to the north; the airport property line to the east; and a water ditch to the south. The boundary increase area served as the crew residence area during the historic period, and is defined by a pleasant park-like setting with a lawn and ornamental and native shade trees. The majority of the historic features are dispersed within this landscaped area on a north-south axis, parallel to the airport runway. The contributing 1954 barracks and bathhouse and non-contributing, but compatible, 1954 cook house are rustic single-story rectangular volumes constructed on slab-on-grade foundations with wood-shingle siding and gabled roofs clad in composition shingle. There are multiple small-scale features on the site, including a contributing concrete exercise pad, volleyball court, and sump pump foundation. The design and materials of the contributing resources is reflective of the previously-listed district. Non-contributing features include cobble stone walls and steps, hose hutch, propane tanks, and interpretive signage, among other items, that are small in scale, generally constructed of compatible materials, and that do not significantly interrupt key sight lines between contributing resources. The non-contributing training area, located to the south of the boundary increase, is excluded from this nomination because of an absence of contributing historic resources.</p>			
HISTORY			
<i>(Chronological, descriptive history of the property from its construction through at least the historic period - preferably to the present)</i>			
<p>The Siskiyou Smokejumper Base (Boundary Increase) is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for its statewide significance under Criterion A in the areas of Conservation and Politics and Government for its association with federally-legislated efforts to protect and conserve vital timberlands prone to catastrophic fires. Reflective of the early developmental stage of Forest Service smokejumping, the Siskiyou Smokejumper Base served as an example for operations and training along the Pacific Coast, influencing the development of bases in Redding, California and Redmond, Oregon. The portion of the facility previously listed on November 17, 2006 (NRIS No. 06001035) includes the core resources most closely related to firefighting activities. The inclusion of the historically-associated crew residence area immediately south of the listed district provides a greater historic and physical context for the district as a whole, illustrating the daily activities associated with housing, feeding, training, and entertaining fire crews stationed at the base. The boundary increase area and the previously-listed district share the same period of significance, which begins in 1944 with the establishment of the facility and ends in 1955 when the last major improvements were made to the site.</p>			
RESEARCH INFORMATION			
Title Records	Census Records	Property Tax Records	✓ Local Histories
Sanborn Maps	Biographical Sources	✓ SHPO Files	✓ Interviews
Obituaries	Newspapers	State Archives	Historic Photographs
City Directories	Building Permits	State Library	
Local Library:		University Library:	
Historical Society:		Other Repository:	
Bibliography:			

Beckham, Stephen Dow, 1978. Cultural Resource Overview of the Siskiyou National Forest. Report submitted to the Siskiyou National Forest, Grants Pass, OR.
Beckham, Stephen Dow, 1979. An Inventory and Evaluation of the Historical Significance of the Civilian Conservation Corps Buildings on the Siskiyou National Forest. Report submitted to the Siskiyou National Forest, Grants Pass, OR. (200 pages with photographs and maps)
Block, Paul, 2004. Interview of former smokejumper. Photo collection from late 1940s
Boucher, Alan, 2004. Interview of former smokejumper. Photo collection from 1946 to mid 50s
Buck, Bill, 2006. Interview of former smokejumper. Photo collection from early 1950s
Clarke, Phil, 2004. Interview of former smokejumper. Photo collection from late 1940s to early 1950s
Collins, Stan, 2002. Book of Gobi, Siskiyou Smokejumper Base 1943-1981
Greene, Bill, 2004. . Interview of former smokejumper. Photo collection from late 1940s
Nolan, Robert, 2004. Interview of former smokejumper. Photo collection from 1948 to 1949.
USDA, 1981. Siskiyou Smokejumper Base Annual Reports, 1943 - 1981, Siskiyou National Forest, Oregon