

# Historic Avery Ranger Station

## Site History

Construction of the historic portion of this Ranger Station in Avery, Idaho was started in 1909 and completed in 1936. The core of the site, including two residences, an office, and a bunkhouse are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The location was chosen along the soon to be constructed Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railway line to take advantage of the relatively easy access the railroad allowed. The office building was constructed just prior to the 1910 fires that threatened to destroy both the town of Avery and the Ranger Station. Over the years it has been the center of management for the timber and recreation management in this section of the St. Joe drainage. While the official Ranger Station was moved to Hoyt Flat in 1967 the site is still used as a work center for housing Forest Service personnel, so please be courteous if you look around the historic buildings.

## Building Descriptions

All of the original buildings have been remodeled over time, however, they still have the general look and feel of the early Forest Service period. The two-story, gable roofed, log walled office originally had a room where the back porch can now be seen. The front of the building has the original full length porch and an added shed roofed dormer. The



Ca. 1928 bunkhouse.

two-story, gable roofed, log walled bunkhouse looks much as it did when constructed in 1928. The two residences, located closest to Avery, are one-and-a-half story log buildings with gabled roofs. The shed roofed dormers and full length front porches on both fit in well with the rest of the site. The original gas house and carpenter shop were removed in the late 1970s and the rest of

the bunkhouse buildings you see to the north were added after that.



Rear of ca. 1909 office building.

## How to Get There

Head west on State Highway 3 north of St. Maries for about 0.5 miles and turn north onto Forest Road 50. Follow the road along the St. Joe River for about 49 miles to Avery, Idaho. Take the Dunn Peak Road (Forest Road 1934) east and north through the town for about 0.3 miles. You will see the ranger station just above and north of town. The trip takes a little over one hour and is paved the entire way. An alternative route over Moon Pass on Forest Service Road 456 from Wallace, Idaho can also be taken with high clearance vehicles.

## Contact Information

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One of two early 1920s residences.

