2012 GOVERNOR'S HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS

Smith River National Recreation Area Fire Warehouse Restoration



(Top) The original fire warehouse. (Bottom) The renovated warehouse.

The Fire Warehouse located on the Smith River National Recreation Area of the Six Rivers National Forest was built in 1936 by the Gasquet Camp of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). From 1933 to 1942, the CCC enrolled young men to work in the nation's forests, rangelands and historic sites on conservation and preservation projects.

The fire warehouse was originally two separate single-story, side-gabled equipment and storage sheds built in 1933 and 1934, respectively. In 1936, the two buildings were joined together with the construction of a three-storied, front-gabled barn. The warehouse was determined eligible and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1997 as the Gasquet Ranger Station Historic District.

As years went by, the warehouse's condition deteriorated. The restoration project began in June 2010 and was completed in July 2011. The project adhered to the Secretary of the interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and entailed exterior restoration, new interior retrofit, new mechanical, plumbing, and electrical systems, new wood windows, new interior walls and finishes, new roofing, new ramp, interior and exterior painting, and some site work.

The restored Fire Warehouse now serves its original purpose as a multi-purpose facility. It continues to house two garage bays for fire engines. The east side has a new conference room, the west has become

an exercise room and laundry facility for fire crews. The third floor loft is storage space. Restoration of the building presented its challenges, but great care was taken to maintain the historical integrity of the structure and mimic craftsmanship found in the original construction. The fire warehouse was improved to meet ADA standards. This project has successfully preserved a key structure of one of the few remaining CCC compounds in northern California.

To view more photos of the restoration, visit the USDA Forest Service website:

https://www.fs.usda.gov/photogallery/srnf/news-events/gallery/?cid=3859&position=Promo