

Coronado National Forest Huachuca Mountains Carr House Info Center



History

The historic Carr House, which now operates as an information center on weekends from early spring through late fall, offers exhibits and information relating to the local area in its lovely setting under the oaks and towering rock cliffs of scenic Carr Canyon. The house, built of native stone and stucco, was the home of three families between 1932 and 1973 before being sold to the Forest Service. Family reminiscences, old photos, and construction details indicate that each family had a part in building and expanding Carr House into the structure that you can visit today. A.E. and Effie Davis and their son and daughter-in-law, Myron and Matred, are thought to have built the southern-most room, which is now the kitchen but once would have stood alone as a small stone cabin. The stucco and rock “East Room” was likely an addition built by the Davises. Cicero Martin and Virginia Moson Martin, pioneering ranchers with a long history in Southeastern Arizona, were the next to live here, from 1939 to 1942. A letter by their granddaughter, Virginia Culin Roberts, indicates that the Martins built the living room section with the stone chimney. They sold the property to Henry and Adeline Anderson in 1942 and moved to Sonoita as their herd of prized quarter horses expanded. The Andersons held the property until 1973, during which time the final section of Carr House was built, which has wiring and construction details indicative of the 1950’s or early 1960’s. After their departure the property was sold to the Forest Service, who used it for employee housing before it fell into disrepair. In 1996, concerned local residents formed the Friends of the Huachuca Mountains and began restoring Carr House.

More of the area’s history and scenery can be viewed by walking a short section of the Nature Trail down the hill from Carr House. In less than ¼ mile you will come to the ruins of Carr Ranch. Now a collection of foundations, a few rock and adobe walls, and several gnarled fruit trees, this site was once the home of several entrepreneurial-minded settlers beginning around 1880. A plaque at the site will tell you more about these early Carr Canyon pioneers. You will also find several loops of the Nature Trail winding through the wooded riparian areas of Carr Creek, great for birdwatching and photography. Viewing benches along the trail offer places to pause and relax.

Above Carr House, the present-day version of the road built in 1881 by James Carr (the Canyon’s namesake) can be hiked, bicycled, ridden on horseback, or driven with a high-clearance vehicle. On the flanks of Carr Peak you will find trailheads accessing the Miller Peak Wilderness and two small campgrounds operated by the Forest Service, Reef Townsite and Ramsey Vista. Carr Canyon Road, which is unpaved and which may be closed seasonally, rises to 7400’ in a series of switchbacks and dead-ends 5.4 miles above Carr House.

Attractions: Natural and cultural history exhibits and videos, maps, and area information
Discovery Room for children
Nature Trail and birdwatching
Interpretive programs

Season: Weekends from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., early spring through late fall

Elevation: 5,500’ (Carr House)

Access: Drive south of Sierra Vista seven miles on AZ Highway 92 to Carr Canyon Road (FR 368). Follow FR 368 about 2.3 miles to Carr House. Pavement ends when road enters the National Forest.

For further information contact: Sierra Vista Ranger District, 4070 South Avenida Saracino, Hereford, Arizona 85615, (520) 378-0311. Alternatively, visit the Friends of the Huachuca Mountains website at www.huachucamountains.org.