INVENTORY OF SIGNIFICANT STRUCTURES

ARCHITECTURAL CHARACTER GUIDELINES

SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

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Architectural Character Guidelines

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In these great areas the landscape architect and the architect must approach their problems with humility. In the natural areas the landscape work is done. The landscape architect is in the position of placing intrusions (for human convenience) in the natural picture, knowing full well the landscape will be less perfect when he is through. The architect must subdue his design [so] that the work of man will not attempt to dominate that of nature. Likewise, in historical areas they must endeavor to let the past dominate the present. Their task is a delicate one.

Tom Vint

Introduction

This architectural Character Guidelines project for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks is a small but significant study. It will serve as a source book for designers, and it will guide the architectural future of those park areas. In a deeper sense, the guidelines eventually will delineate the image the parks will project to the public.

This document is one portion of a larger study. In this segment the author provides a capsule history of building design in Sequoia and Kings Canyon. Also included is a synthesis of architecturally significant elements. Based on this inventory, a second volume entitled *Architectural Character Guidelines: Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks* provides the guidelines for new construction.

This study is unique in one particular way. In recent years National Park Service architects have completed architectural guidelines studies for new construction in historic districts. This project, however, deals with guidelines for new construction in developed areas of the natural parks. At Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, the historic structures are considerably less important than the prime park resources. The historic structures are secondary to the natural environment. The significance of the rustic lodges and old ranger residences is relatively minor when compared to the international significance of the giant sequoias. This study discusses appropriate design in a park-specific setting. The landscape for this architectural guidelines study is not an urban landscape but a natural one.

In recent planning documents for both Sequoia and Kings Canyon the emphasis on the natural environment is most evident. The plans call for the demolition of nearly all of the two largest historic districts in both parks. As a result, the globally significant Giant Forest will return to a less impacted life as a forest. Yet some remnants of the architectural fabric will remain. These key buildings may provide a sound architectural basis for the future, or they may end up as architectural novelties left over from days gone by. The designers of the new structures may use these older structures for inspiration, or they may discard any lessons the buildings have taught us and start from scratch. We are at the proverbial fork in the road.

From an architectural standpoint, the eventual demolition of most of the parks' historic districts will leave a significant architectural void. New construction will physically fill the void. New lodging complexes will adequately house the visitors. New buildings will provide expanded visitor services to take care of their needs. Yet architecture is more than building. Architecture is more than an envelope to house a function. Architecture articulates space and presents an image. Architecture in a National Park is an integral part of National Park experience. With careful thought to design, these new structures and those that follow in the future may fall into the category of architecture instead of the category of mere building.

Development at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

History

The earliest inhabitants of the foothills and mountains in the vicinity of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks left virtually no structural remains. Most of these people were of the Shoshonean language group. The western Mono (Monache) occupied the Kaweah and Kings watersheds, the Tubatulabal lived in the Kern River drainage, and the Owens Valley Paiutes occupied the eastern slopes. Yokuts also probably visited the area. Trading occurred among all of the Indian groups. The Monaches had summer camps near Cedar Grove and at Hospital Rock. Their subsistence was based on hunting and gathering, and it included seasonal migrations to the high country from year-round base camps at lower elevations. In constructing their shelters, they used rocks, timber, branches, bark and similar materials that were easily obtainable. Their architecture was simple, functional, and durable.

A settler from Three Rivers named Hale Tharp was the first known white man to venture up into the mountains of Sequoia and Kings Canyon. In 1856 Tharp received an invitation from the local Indians to travel up into the mountains with them. There Tharp found lush meadows for summer range for his cattle and the enormous giant sequoias. By 1861 Tharp was using Log Meadow near Giant Forest for cattle grazing. He shaped a modest shelter (B-44) out of a downed sequoia log and various bits of hewn wood, and he constructed a crude granite fireplace to warm the interior. James Wolverton, a hunter and trapper who helped Tharp look after his cattle, constructed another simple shelter under an overhanging rock on a trail just above Lodgepole. Later shelters such as the Squatter's Cabin (circa 1880, B-45), Cattle Cabin (pre-1890, B-46), and Gamlin Cabin (1872, B-350) took on more traditional designs. Their log construction was typical of frontier architecture in many parts of the isolated west.

In 1890 a utopian group of settlers called the Kaweah Colony finished constructing a logging road into Giant forest. Following up the North Fork of Kaweah River, the Colony Mill Road rose through the chaparral of the foothills up to the huge conifers of Giant Forest. The Colony's plans to log the Giant Forest failed for a variety of reasons – not the least of which was the establishment in 1890 of Sequoia and General Grant (later Kings Canyon) National Parks. The construction of that small road, however, opened up Giant Forest to development. By 1898 mule trains carried tourists from a tent camp on the North Fork up to Giant Forest. By 1900 small tent platforms at Round Meadow provided overnight accommodations for the hardy guests. Early innkeepers furnished meals in an open-air dining room. These first simple camps offered flimsy but practical shelters for their occupants.[1]

Following a period of deterioration during the 1890s, the Colony Mill Road re-opened in 1903 as a stage road to Giant Forest. Five years later Giant Forest contained a tent camp, cookhouse, dining cabin, small store, and a log post office named "Ranger." By 1915 the buildings around Giant Forest had more solid construction, and they were more permanent in nature. A "neat redwood studio" and curio shop operated by resort photographer Lindley Eddy provided an additional attraction. A small hotel in Giant Forest housed visitors in a

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1. William C. Tweed, "Sequoia National Park Concessions 1898-1926," *Pacific Historian* (Spring, 1972): 36-60.

more comfortable structure and under a tighter roof. During the Army's pre-Park Service jurisdiction over Sequoia and General Grant National Parks, most of its federal architecture consisted of simple tents.[2]

Development at Sequoia and General Grant continued in a relatively haphazard fashion until the establishment of the National Park Service in 1916. The new agency had received strong lobbying support from the American Society of Landscape Architects and the American Civic Association. Those two organizations firmly believed in the aesthetic value of park lands. Their influence on the National Park Service was so great that the Service's first "Statement of Policy" stressed: 1) harmonizing any improvements with the surrounding landscape; and 2) employing trained professionals who possessed a knowledge of landscape architecture or who had "a proper appreciation for the aesthetic value of park lands." Through World War II these principles guided National Park development.[3]

Sequoia's early Park Service buildings followed those principles. The first administration building, constructed in Giant Forest in 1921, was a hewn, exposed-frame structure with Sequoia-bark infill. The adjacent superintendent's residence and employee cabins followed similar design. These were all simple, rugged buildings suited to their environments because of their compatible materials, size, and scale. They firmly established the exposed-frame-with-infill tradition.

Part of the new agency's power extended into the area of concessions management. The National Park Service had the authority to license concessions operations in park areas and oversee their development. The agency could approve or change architectural and development plans. Guided by the design ethic established in the first "Statement of Policy," the National Park Service ensured that concessions outfitted themselves with buildings and services that were compatible with and suitable for the delicate environments of the National Parks.

At Sequoia and General Grant, National Park Service Director Stephen T. Mather knew that the concessions operation was the key to future park development. Mather decided to allow a well-established company – the Yosemite National Park Company – to finance a subsidiary called the Kings River Park Company. Mather's scheme, however, was postponed for a few years. Although the company drew up a master plan and started on improvements, financial problems plagued the organization. Finally, in 1926, a new company called the Sequoia and General Grant National Parks Company took over operations at both parks and started on a "total redevelopment" of the concessions.[4]

The Sequoia and General Grant National Parks Company constructed the Giant Forest and Grant Grove Lodges, Pinewood Auto Camp, the Hospital Rock concessions development, and other rustic visitor facilities throughout both parks. The small developments usually followed a similar pattern of one or two larger buildings housing relatively public features,

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2. Ibid.

3. William Tweed and Laura Soulliere Harrison, *Rustic Architecture and the National Parks: The History of a Design Ethic* Lincoln: The University of Nebraska Press, at press, p. 5.

4. Tweed, "Sequoia National Park Concessions 1898-1926."

surrounded by clustered rustic cabins set gently on the land. Most often the wood-frame cabins had post-and-block foundations, some type of wood siding, and wood-shingle roofs. Others had exposed frames with a siding or bark infill. Despite the large numbers of these buildings, their impact on the landscape was minimal. In most cases the only excavations required for the small structures were for water and sewer lines. The buildings were constructed with little or no masonry or other permanent features; but they were constructed with a style that predominated the concessions structures of those two parks through World War II.

While the concessions operations were generally constructed in the higher elevations, the Park Service operations extended from the foothills outside of Three Rivers to the high country. When the concessions operation began its "total redevelopment" in 1926, the Park Service had already begun establishing its architectural image in Sequoia and General Grant. Only three years before, the agency had moved its headquarters from Giant Forest to Ash Mountain. In 1926 the new road opened up to Giant Forest, and, with the addition of Mount Whitney and the Kern River Canyon, the park doubled in size. Lack of funding for major building construction programs and other pressing park needs limited the size, type, and number of buildings the Park Service erected. Yet by 1930 two specific architectural images had developed. The styles of choice for the small-scale facilities were distinct. In the higher elevations around Giant Forest, the small buildings often had hewn or sawn exposed frames with wood-shingle or shake roofs. Bark or shakes filled in the spaces between the framing members. In the foothills, the norm was a simple structure sheathed with wood shakes and capped with a shingled, low-pitched gable roof.

By 1931 new ideas emerged. Complaints about Lodgepole's ranger station (described as "one movable cabin") and the Ash Mountain checking station (called "a very temporary shake and pole booth") pointed to the need for better Park Service facilities.[5] The 1931 construction of the solid Giant Forest Ranger Residence (B-55), designed by landscape architect Merel Sager, was the first step in improving the park's architecture. That same year the park submitted for approval its six-year program request that outlined the basic needs. That document defined the architectural theme for Giant Forest and Lodgepole.

In most large park areas the park landscape architect, in concert with the park staff, wrote up the six-year plan. The six-year plan established program directions, justified facility needs, and often outlined architectural themes. Sequoia's plan, like those of many other areas, even stressed specific architectural elements. At Ash Mountain, the plan called for a predominance of Spanish-style buildings. Proposed residences were scheduled to be stucco-over-frame buildings with tile roofs, and maintenance structures of hollow tile and fireproof construction. At Lodgepole, the planners wanted "heavy frame type" construction to withstand the tremendous weight of winter snows. For instance, the project description on the Lodgepole equipment shed required frame construction with substantial doors to

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5. L.F. Cook to Superintendent White, October 9, 1931, 6-Year Program of Development, File 600-02, Lands, Buildings, Roads and Trails 6-Year Program 1931-40, Box 429147, San Bruno Federal Records Center files available at Sequoia National Park headquarters.

protect the equipment. The document also called for concrete floors, heavy bracing, and steep roofs. All other forms for Lodgepole required heavy construction to withstand the harsh winters.[6] Although these six-year plans stressed utility and practicality, some aspects of architectural style emerged out of those practical requirements.

The National Park Service buildings at Lodgepole and Grant Grove were particularly successful at incorporating practicality and utility in a rustic style. At Lodgepole, the Recreation Hall and Fire Dormitory (B-67, 1934) had steeply pitched gable roofs and sturdy stone foundations. The vertical board-and-batten siding in the gable ends offset the horizontal rustic siding on the buildings' exterior walls. Beveled outlookers gave additional articulation to the wide eaves. The Superintendent's Residence at Grant Grove was built with a style equivalent to that of other classic rustic structures of the period at Crater Lake, Lassen, and Yosemite. The front entrance had a particular grace defined by the curves of the eave and the bracket, and the placement of the door. The Colonial Revival aspects of its architectural character remained subservient to its rusticity. Despite the utilitarian functions of these buildings and their placement away from public view, the structures possessed an air of strength, solidity, and rustic identifiability.

While the architectural proposals presented in the six-year plans for Lodgepole and Grant Grove generally were implemented, those for park headquarters at Ash Mountain underwent major modification. The proposed stucco and tile-roof entrance station at Ash Mountain ended up as a stone-and-timber structure more suited to the higher elevations. The only Spanish style structure built in Ash Mountain was the Superintendent's residence (1933). For a time, the area's smaller cottage residences continued to receive wood-shake exteriors with composition shingle roofs.[7]

Undoubtedly the superintendent's preference for "temporary" (i.e., lacking masonry or cement) structures built to last less than twenty years overruled other construction ideas for a time. Sequoia's superintendent, Col John R. White, firmly believed in "the subordination of all buildings and structures, to the surroundings."[8] One of the ways he approached that subordination was through "temporary" construction until well-thought-out plans provided a permanent solution.[9]

With Sequoia's park headquarters permanently located at Ash Mountain, the period documents reveal that the park staff gave considerable thought to architectural development for its year-round home. In 1934 the acting superintendent asked that the designers consider designing L-shaped houses for Ash Mountain. The intent was to add an

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6. 1931, 6-Year Program, File 600-02, Lands, Buildings, Roads, Trails, 6-Year program Employment Stabilization, Box 429147, San Bruno Federal Records Center files available at Sequoia National Park Headquarters..

7. File 619, Final Report Civil Works Program, May 9, 1934, Box 429147, San Bruno Federal Records available at Sequoia National Park headquarters.

8. Colonel John R. White to the Director, August 21, 1934, File 600-02, Lands, Buildings, Roads and Trails, 6-year Program, 1931-40, Box 429147, San Bruno Federal Records available at Sequoia National Park headquarters.

9. Ibid.

additional wing to make the building U-shaped in plan forming a small patio. His idea was to follow the Spanish traditions of watering only the patio to conserve water. He also wanted the buildings sited to catch the canyon breezes during the summer months.

Another consideration given to design of structures around Ash Mountain was in materials. As early as 1934 the park superintendent requested that the Branch of Plans and Design consider adobe construction for buildings at Ash Mountain.Under the Emergency Conservation Work programs of the 1930s, the park also oversaw the construction of two adobe buildings in the area – a state fire suppression station on the Mineral King Road, and a fire guard station at Lookout Point.[10] Exactly why more adobe buildings were not constructed remains somewhat of a mystery, especially considering the cheap labor and available materials that the work-relief programs provided.

By the mid-1930s, the National Park Service had established its rustic design ethic, and the buildings at Sequoia and General Grant exemplified that philosophy. As a result of years of experimentation with different styles and types of construction in park areas, the Park Service summarized this architectural philosophy in a book entitled *Park Structures and Facilities*. In short, the philosophy proposed that:

> through the use of native materials in proper scale, and through the avoidance of rigid, straight lines and oversophistication, gives the feeling of having been executed by pioneer craftsmen with limited hand tools. It thus achieves sympathy with natural surroundings, and with the past.[11]

While the Giant Forest, Lodgepole, and Grant Grove areas had fairly well-defined architectural programs that followed the rustic design ethic, Ash Mountain still possessed some architectural confusion. The deciding factor in the architectural program for Ash Mountain, however, ended up being an environmental one.

Although the early designers recognized the potential for fires in the lower elevations of Sequoia National Park, they did little to incorporate major amounts of fire-resistant materials into their designs. A report recommending "reconditioning" buildings to eliminate fire hazards had been distributed about a year before a hot fire destroyed two equipment sheds and the machine shop at park headquarters in Ash Mountain in November, 1939. The headquarters area sat in the foothills in an enormous drainage that began miles away to the east in the High Sierra. With the right wind conditions in that drainage, the fire could have destroyed even more. Frightened of the potential of a similar conflagration during the summer fire season, Superintendent E.T. Scoyen wrote his concerns to the Regional Director:

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10. Superintendent John White to Thomas Vint, December 8, 1934, File 620, Buildings-General, Box 429148, San Bruno Federal Records available at Sequoia National Park headquarters; also Acting Superintendent Daniel Tobin to Click Relander, *Visalia Times-Delta*, Visalia, California, March 17, 1936, same file.

11. Albert Good, *Park Structures and Facilities* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office), 2.

> I think it essential that we cease immediately the construction of buildings in the Ash Mtn. area consisting of shake sidewalls and shingles on the roof. We found large quantities of partly burned shakes and shingles as much as a mile away from Ash Mtn. If conditions for spread of fire had been favorable on that particular day, the entire Middle Fork of the Kaweah River Valley would perhaps have been burned out. It is therefore recommended that all existing residence plans for the Ash Mtn. area be revised to provide for a reasonable fire resistant roof and stucco side walls.[12]

A letter to the Regional Director four months later also recommended that any maintenance buildings in Ash Mountain be constructed of reinforced concrete.[13] Thus the preference for California cottages and wood-frame maintenance buildings succumbed to the harsher realities of nature in the Sierra foothills.

Following the change in policy concerning fire-resistant construction, the Ash Mountain buildings assumed a different look. Although the exact reason did not appear in the documents, the justification for deleting the tile roofs from the stucco residences was probably one of economics. By 1944 the General Foreman reported to the Superintendent that the two garages and four residences built in Ash Mountain since the 1939 fire had Johns Manville Cedar Grain asbestos shingle roofs and stucco exteriors. He also recommended that more of the roofs be covered with asbestos shingles.[14]

Fire was not the only enemy for the parks' buildings. Woodpeckers constantly drilled away at the structures in search of food. Wet conditions during the winter and spring encouraged insect infestation and rot. Falling trees destroyed a number of buildings, and vehicles demolished two entrance stations. Yet in many ways the design staff only dealt well with those problems in a cursory manner. Hazard trees were cut back around many structures. Concrete bollards defended the tiny entrance stations against logging trucks and runaway cars. The designers considered rot and woodpeckers facts of life in the parks and they refused to substitute less aesthetically sympathetic materials outside park headquarters.

The buildings at the higher elevations continued to face the ravages of nature. The harshness of winter storms was often severe. A look at some of the winter storms of the past revealed that enormous amounts of precipitation fell in very short periods of time and caused considerable damage to buildings. During the winter of 1931-32 Judge Fry's cabin in

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12. Superintendent E.T. Scoyen to the Regional Director, December 27, 1939, File 620 1/1/39-12/31/40, Box 13, San Bruno Federal Records Center files available at Sequoia National Park Headquarters.

13. Daniel Tobin to Regional Director, April 3, 1940, File 620 1/1/39-12/31/40, Box 13, San Bruno Federal Records available at Sequoia National Park Headquarters.

14. General Foreman Hugh Parks to Superintendent, Sequoia, File 600-03.5, Lands, Buildings, Roads, and Trails, Post-War Planning, Box 429147, San Bruno Federal Records available at Sequoia National Park Headquarters.

Giant Forest collapsed. The Swiss carpenters who constructed the cabin gave its roof a steep pitch, but the first snows turned to ice on the roofs that held on the subsequent snows. That particularly rough winter also caused the collapse of the General Grant Park Lodge and thirty-seven privately owned houses at Wilsonia.[15] In May, 1968, snow collapsed the maintenance shed at Lodgepole.[16]

While the higher elevations historically contended with huge amounts of snow during these storms, the lower elevations dealt with the ravages of heavy rains and high winds. Between January 20 and 23 in 1943, a severe winter storm dropped 17.00" of rain whipped by high winds. In early March of that same year another 10.15" of rain fell, followed by 4.5" of rain during the middle of the month. Landslides caused by the rain closed 22 miles of the Generals Highway between Ash Mountain and Lodgepole.[17] Storms such as these always stressed buildings' structural capabilities, weather-tight capacities, and suitability to the climate.

The advent of World War II slowed construction in the parks to a standstill. On the slim chance that some funding might be available, agency staff members continued to fill out requests for projects. Between 1941 and 1945 those were very general in nature. Functional reasons justified each building. The only vague mentions of aesthetics were comments like: "based on similar CCC construction". Often the documents contained information on the material – frame for the front country and log for the backcountry – but no discussion about how those materials would be assembled.[18] At the same time Park Service architects were looking toward the new, progressive designs emerging from the private sector. Their frustration with the earlier design strictures was rising. They were no longer content with the Hansel-and-Gretel cottage fantasies of the 1920s and 1930s.[19]

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15. Supt. John R. White to the Director, March 12, 1932, file 620, Buildings, General, Box 429148, San Bruno Federal Records available at Sequoia National Park Headquarters.
16. Sequoia National Park photo collection, negative 4248.
17. Form 10-174, Project Completion Report for Repair of Generals Highway, File 202, Rehabilitation of General's Highway, 1943, Box 016910, San Bruno Federal Records Center files available at Sequoia National Park Headquarters.
18. Forms 10-412, File 600-07.5, Completed or Abandoned Projects, Box 429147, San Bruno Federal Records Center files available at Sequoia National Park Headquarters.
19. Tweed and Harrison, *Rustic Architecture and the National Parks: The History of a Design Ethic*, passim.

By 1942 the master plans did not discuss the architectural themes that had appeared throughout similar documents during the previous decade. Fostered by the meager funds available during the War, the simpler concepts in the plans rejected most proposals for expansion and development. The plans approved only the construction of utilities, buildings, and roads required for the public benefit and administration of the park.[20] The heyday of rustic architecture had ended.

After World War II architects and planners had started to alter their thinking about park development. The 1950 master plan for Sequoia and Kings Canyon noted that change in theme. This new plan quoted John Muir: "none of Nature's landscapes are ugly so long as they are wild." The document also quoted from House Report 1076 (re Yellowstone) of the 49th Congress, March 16, 1866: The park should so far as possible be spared the vandalism of improvement."[21] Rather than viewing facilities as necessary evils and working to fit them in harmoniously with their environment, the document made no mention of architectural compatibility with the natural environment. Although the planning documents stressed the preservation of natural resources, the documents also did little to consider the aesthetics of development on those fragile ecosystems.

The next big push affecting park planning and design came after the Korean war. In an effort to update all park facilities by 1966 – the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the National Park Service – Director Conrad Wirth started a program called Mission 66. Despite Wirth's commitment to distinctive park architecture, the use of standardized plans for certain facilities became commonplace in Mission 66 architecture.[22] The clean lines of the International Style drew Park Service designers away from the rustic, romantic styles of the 1920s and 1930s. The cheap labor and materials that the work-relief programs provided during the 1930s no longer existed. This gave further economic incentive for supporting the progressive architectural choices.

The resultant buildings possessed a generic feel that lacked the character and distinction of the earlier structures. Examples of this period's construction were the park headquarters building at Ash Mountain and some of the housing at Lodgepole. Although these structures

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20. *Master Plan and Development Outline – General Information*, submitted March 5, 1942. This document appears with no file number in Box 429147, San Bruno Records Center files available at Sequoia National Park Headquarters.

21. Master Plan draft, April 25, 1950, File 600-01, Lands, Buildings, Roads, and Trails, Box 429147, San Bruno Federal Records Center files available at Sequoia National Park Headquarters.

22. Memo to all Field Offices from Director Conrad Wirth, November 20, 1952, File 620, buildings, General, Box 429148, San Bruno Federal Records Center files available at Sequoia National Park Headquarters. Wirth stated in that memo: . . . the use of standardized plans for National Park Service buildings should not be encouraged since such plans are of little or no value. In many areas of the National Park System, the architecture is distinctive and should remain so. The Service's construction programs are too small to obtain much advantage from building plan standardization."

seemed dull when compared with the parks' rustic buildings, they possessed redeeming characteristics. The interior layouts of the Lodgepole residences were functional and comfortable. The Ash Mountain headquarters building had excellent siting: it's front elevation revealed less than twenty-five percent of the building's actual size.[23] Other large buildings constructed at Ash Mountain were hidden from public view. These latter techniques allowed the scenery to dominate the visitor's view of the park he just entered. What the buildings lacked however, was any connection with that scenery. For the most part, the newer structures did not use the natural materials that appeared so frequently in the older structures. Gone were the stones and timber of the same type and size of the surrounding landscape. The organic connection between the building and its site no longer existed.

Through the years of development, the architectural programs of Sequoia and Kings Canyon had some consistency that gave character to the parks. The Giant Forest/Lodgepole and Grant Grove areas received the greatest amount of architectural character. The predominance of rustic buildings at these higher elevations created the woodsy, non-urban feel that fashioned the special sense of place the areas projected. Ash Mountain was not as fortunate. Although the park headquarters area had the benefit of good site planning, its architectural program lacked strength of character. Two factors caused this architectural boredom: the failure of the proposed Spanish-Californian (or any unifying) design scheme; and the dilution of the remaining character through the addition of so many modern buildings (entrance station, administration building/visitor center, fire dormitory, and maintenance facilities).

Over the past decade an extensive planning process has resulted in the proposal of major changes for Sequoia and Kings Canyon. The area that will receive the most impact is the Giant Forest/Lodgepole vicinity. The relocation of all overnight facilities from Giant Forest to Clover Creek, the replacement of Grant Grove Lodge, and the construction of additional facilities at both parks' developed areas will dramatically alter the architecture and, consequently, the image that the parks project to the public. As part of the eventual changes the concessioner constructed new (temporary) units at Giant Forest Lodge and Giant Forest Village. The National Park Service constructed a new maintenance facility and an addition to the sewage treatment plant. Other facilities are in the design stages.

Following the traditions established just after World War II, these new planning schemes carefully measured the effects of all actions on the internationally significant natural environment. What the documents did not assess was the aesthetic quality of this new built environment to be constructed on the edges of that significant natural environment. Few of the humble rustic buildings, most of which were extremely compatible with the natural environment, will remain. The new structures scheduled for completion over the next ten

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23. National Park Service architect Cecil Doty designed the Ash Mountain headquarters building. Doty was a prime example of an architect trained in the rustic tradition who moved in to modern design after World War II. Doty's masterpiece was the National Park Service Region III Headquarters building in Santa Fe – the largest adobe office building in the United States. The stylistic differences between the Ash Mountain and the Santa Fe buildings are remarkable, but Doty's sensitivity for site design is comparable in both structures.

years will establish a new sense of place and an entirely new character of development. Although faithfully returning to the rustic methods and styles of construction is out of the question, returning to the guiding principles of that design ethic is feasible.

Illustrations

In the late nineteenth century, primitive shelters such as this one constructed by hunter and trapper James Wolverton, were common in the Sierra Nevada. Just as Hale Tharp did with Tharp's log, Wolverton enhanced a natural feature and turned it into a shelter. This large boulder had a natural overhang. Wolverton added a front wall of poles, a rubble chimney, and some additional roofing materials. This photograph shows the structure in 1947, decades after its abandonment.

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Photo Collection

The Squatter's Cabin in Giant Forest was typical of the late nineteenth-century structures built for more comfortable and more frequent occupancy. Considerably more time and thought went into the construction of this generation of shelter. Notching and fitting the logs, splitting the shakes, and laying the chimney masonry took time and considerable effort.

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Photo Collection

The main building of Giant Forest Lodge (circa 1920) sported a shake roof and Sequoia bark siding. The bright green paint around the window frames and mullions duplicated the green lichen that frequently appeared on adjacent fir trees. Although this building had a simple, functional form, its exterior materials tied the building with its setting.

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Photo Collection

In the early 1920s the National Park Service established a strong physical presence in Giant Forest. The superintendent's residence (above) and the Giant Forest museum (below) established the agency's architectural direction. Hewn timber frames separated wall areas of sequoia-bark infill. Rubble masonry chimneys added to the buildings' rustic character. Exposed-frame construction continued in popularity through the 1960s. Post-World War II construction, however, lacked the strength of character that the earlier buildings possessed.

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Photo Collection

A simple style developed for utilitarian Park Service structures such as this comfort station in Giant Forest. Following the rustic pattern established by the earlier Park Service buildings in Giant Forest, the exposed framing defined the building's edges and structure. The shake infill added the rough texture equivalent to the roughness of the surrounding trees.

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Photo Collection

In 1921 the concessions operation constructed this rustic cabin as the writing room for guests of Giant Forest Lodge. The gentle batter of the chimney, the rough shake exterior, the wood shingle roof, and the wrought-iron hinges contributed to the structure's rusticity. Architect Herbert Maier, who later designed a number of National Park museums and influenced the designs of hundred CCC structures, designed this building.

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Photo Collection

As part of upgrading concessions facilities during the late 1920s, architect Gilbert Stanley Underwood designed a market and photography studio. The latter, depicted here in a 1938 photograph, had many elements of the style that had developed for the Giant Forest area: the exposed frame with bark infill, the granite rubble chimney, and the wood-shingle roof. Double-coursing the shingles every fifth row relieved the flatness and monotony of the roof finish.

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Photo Collection

The concessioner offered a variety of overnight accommodations in Giant Forest. The small duplexes (above) dated from 1921. Their shake exteriors, lichen-green trim, wood-shingled roofs, and wrought-iron door hardware were carefully repeated in cottage after cottage. Architect Herbert Maier designed these buildings. The cleaner lined cottages of the mid-1930s (below) had enough architectural variety to defy boredom. Vertical siding defined the corners. Horizontal siding covered the remaining wall spaces. The shingle pattern added even more texture.

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Photo Collection

Tent cabins (above) in Giant Forest and budget cabins at Pinewood auto camp (below) served less wealthy clientele. These simple structures had a modicum of style and created minimal impact on the land.

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Photo Collection

During the 1930s the six-year plans for Lodgepole and Giant Forest called for buildings with "heavy frame type" construction such as that seen here in the Last Hill dormitory. The rubble-veneer foundation, thick structural members, and roof shingling pattern developed into a consistent style for comfort stations and small utilitarian structures.

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Photo Collection

Other buildings at the 7,000-feet elevation possessed a decidedly rustic air. The vertical board-and-batten siding in the gable ends provided a counterpoint to the wide, horizontal boards of the principle siding. The buildings possessed both style and practicality. Above is B-89, a seasonal residence at Wolverton. Below is the Lodgepole Fire Dormitory.

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Photo Collection

Simple pole-and-shingle buildings such as these housed functions at park headquarters in Ash Mountain. Colonel White's preference for "temporary" (lacking masonry or cement) structures prevailed through the mid-1930s.

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Photo Collection

During the mid-1930s the Branch of Plans and Design chose Spanish-Californian architecture as its design theme for Ash Mountain. The only building constructed entirely in this style, however, was the Superintendent's residence. Funding restraints probably limited the finer details such as the tile roofs on other residences. Wood shingles were a considerably cheaper material. By 1940 all new residences in Ash Mountain were constructed with stucco-finished exterior walls and asbestos-shingled roofs. Concern over fireproofing brought about these changes.

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Photo Collection

Heavy snows have caused considerable stress to buildings in the higher elevations. In 1952 (above), 1969 (below), and 1983, record snows buried buildings under tons of snow.

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Photo Collection

The Ash Mountain fire of November 11, 1939 destroyed several maintenance buildings and could have taken most of the woodframe headquarters development with it. Luckily conditions for spread of fire were minimal on that day. Even so, the hot drafts from the fire blew roof shingles a mile away. As a result of this fire, all new construction in Ash Mountain had to be fireproof.

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Photo Collection

Vehicles have long been the bane of entrance stations. In 1950 the Lost Grove entrance station (above) fell victim to one. In 1957 a logging truck left only a pile of rubble where the Big Stump entrance station once stood (below).

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Photo Collection

Hazard trees have destroyed a number of buildings in the parks. Both of these photographs taken in different decades in Giant Forest show the absolute destruction that a single tree can cause.

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Photo Collection

Moving buildings is a tradition in Sequoia and Kings Canyon. Among the many benefits of the post-and-block foundation is its lightness on the land. The building can be picked up easily and transported to another location. The building leaves a minimal scar.

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Photo Collection

Although the Park Service and the concessioner have built aesthetically incompatible structures in the past twenty years (above), newer buildings (Lodgepole Market Center, below) show some effort to use designs that better harmonize with their natural surroundings. The results, however, lack the character and style of the earlier Park Service and concession structures.

NPS photos by Laura Soulliere Harrison

Architectural Inventory of Significant Structures

Methodology

This study is one based on aesthetics. In the National Park Service most people familiar with the term "architectural significance" think of it in relation to the criteria for the National Register of Historic Places. To the National Register architectural significance "embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction." This study uses a different approach.

In National Parks architecture traditionally has been used as a tool to create an image and an identifiable sense of place. The railroads employed this technique at Glacier National Park and Grand Canyon. During the 1920s and 1930s the National Park Service staff became adept in using similar techniques. During later periods of construction in National Parks – the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s architecture became less identifiable. Yet some hints of character remained. This inventory examines the structures in the developed areas of Sequoia and Kings Canyon that retain some aspect of architectural character.

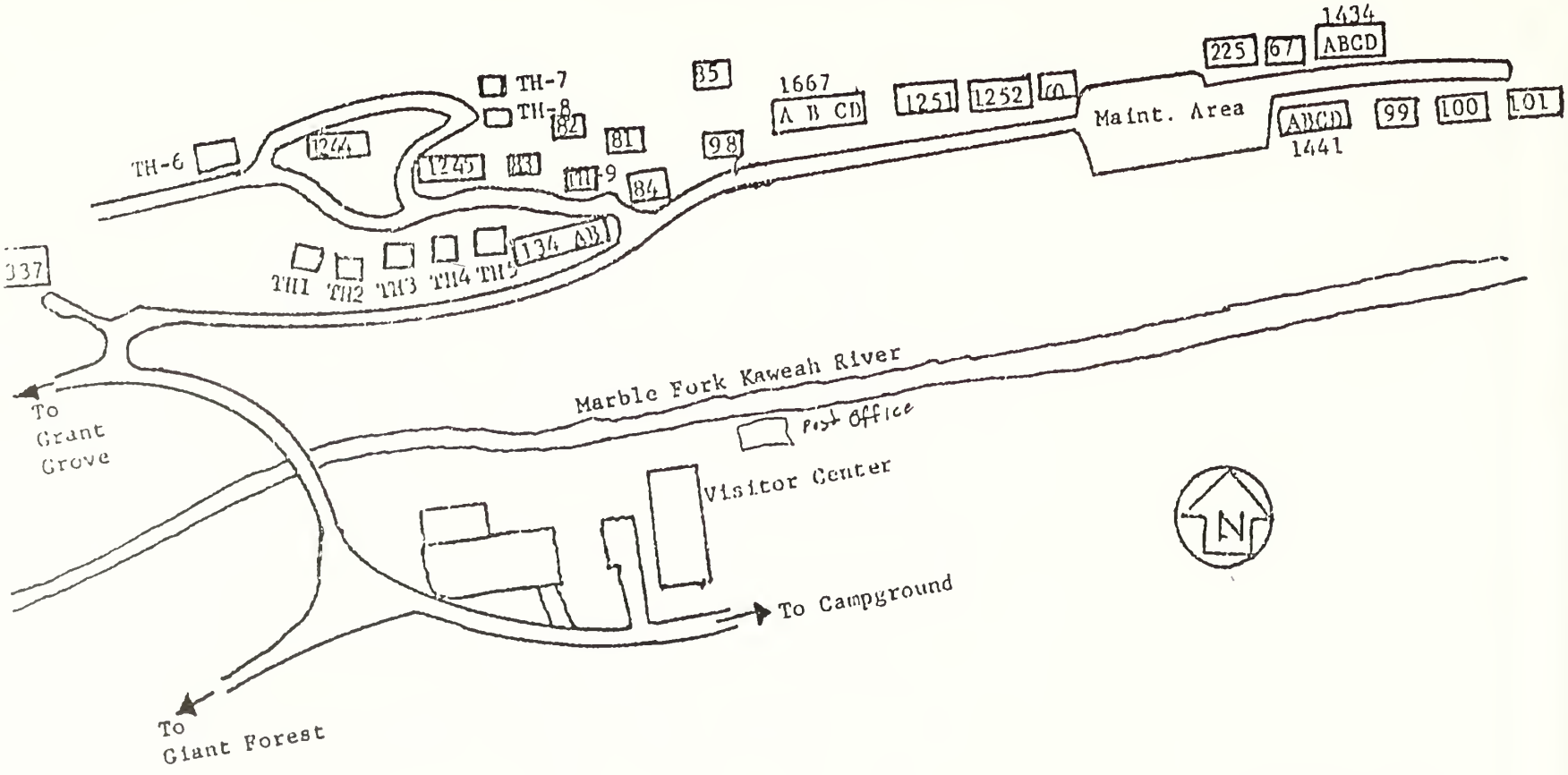
The buildings inventoried for this study are included for specific reasons. Each building presents at least one architectural lesson worth studying. Some of the buildings, such as the Meadow Camp Showers, lack quality construction but possess architectural elements contributing to the character and image of the Sequoia and Kings Canyon. Other buildings, such as the Giant Forest Ranger Residence, are well-designed and retain the strong architectural intent with which they were originally built. All of the buildings included here contribute individually or collectively to the sense of place at Sequoia and Kings Canyon.

All of the buildings included in this inventory are in the developed areas of the parks. Structures in the backcountry do not fall under the scope of this project, so they are not included. Mineral King, also, is not included in the scope of work. Although some of the buildings listed below may meet criteria for the National Register of Historic Places, none are evaluated here for that purpose. Again, this study is one of aesthetics. The buildings listed here contribute to the rustic architectural character of the parks. They create one aspect of that special National Park experience.

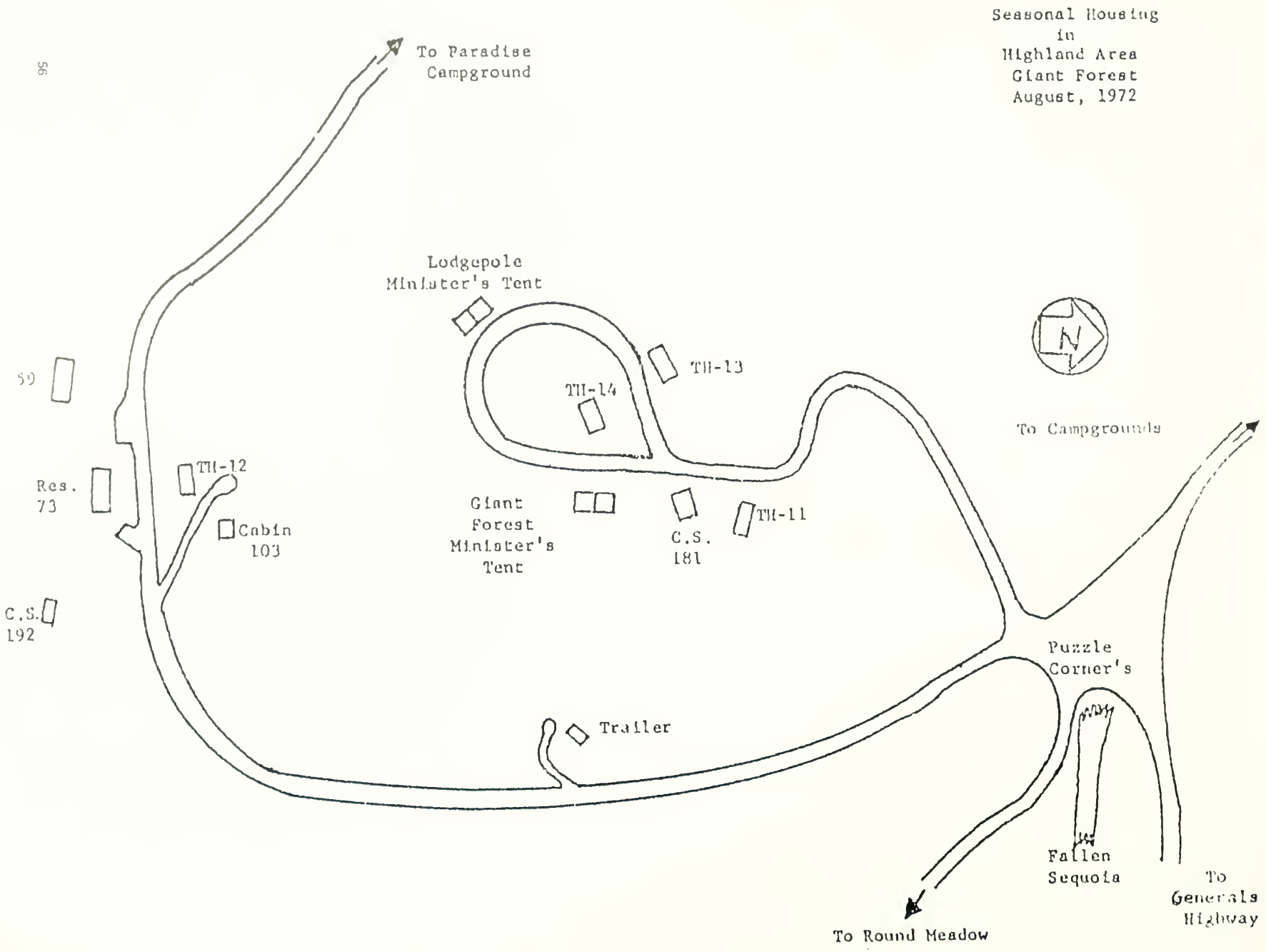
List of Buildings Inventoried

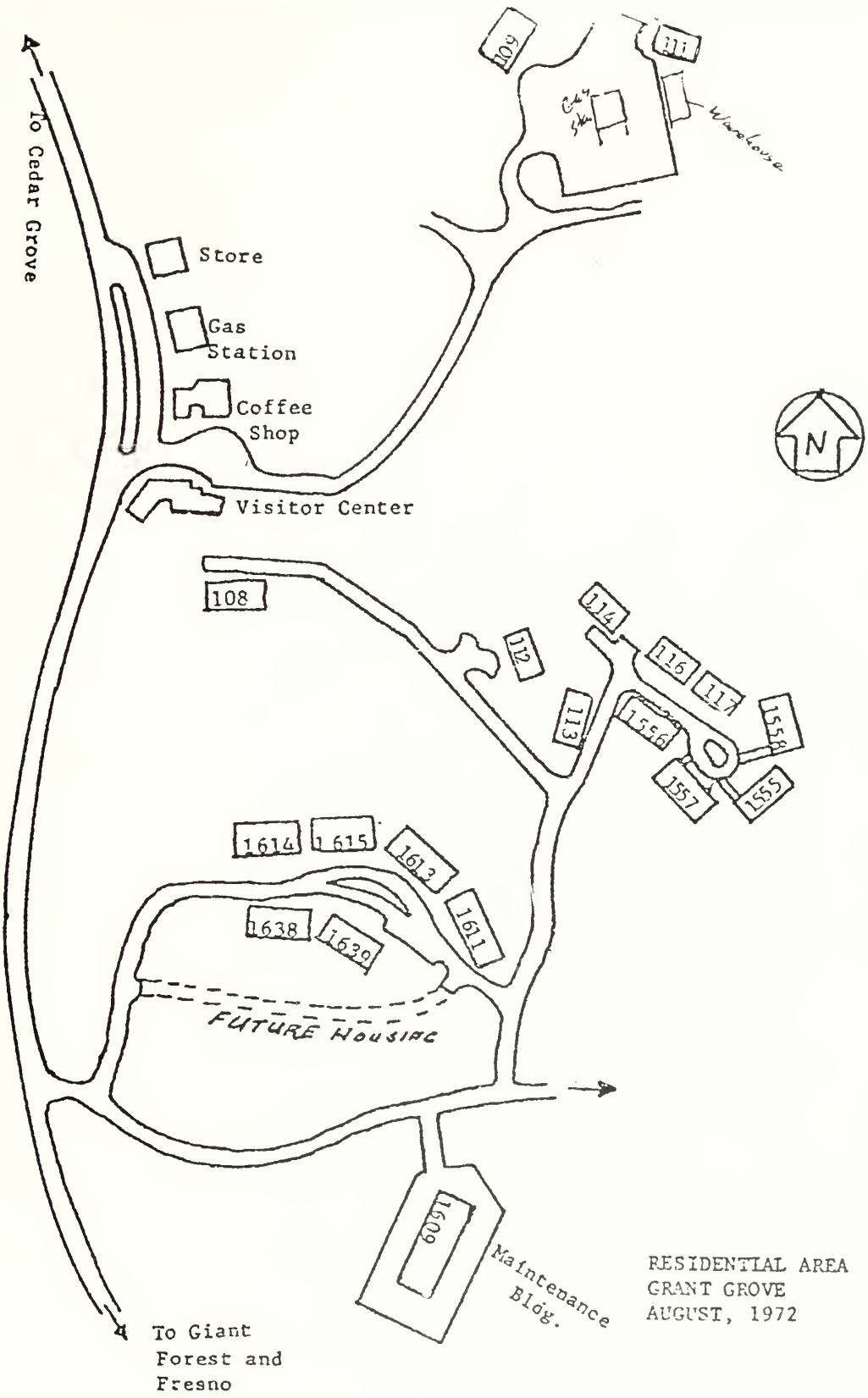
The author inventoried the following buildings for this study:

Vicinity Maps



RESIDENTIAL AREA
LODGEPOLE
AUGUST, 1972


Seasonal Housing
in
Highland Area
Giant Forest
August, 1972
To Paradise
Campground
Lodgepole
Minister's Tent
TH-13
TH-14
59
Res.
73
TH-12
Cabin
103
Giant
Forest
Minister's
Tent
C.S.
181
TH-11
C.S.
192
To Campgrounds
Puzzle
Corner's
Trailer
Fallen
Sequoia
To
Generals
Highway
To Round Meadow



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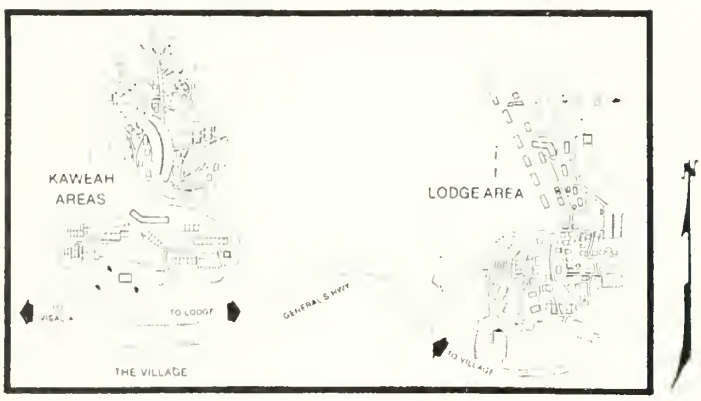
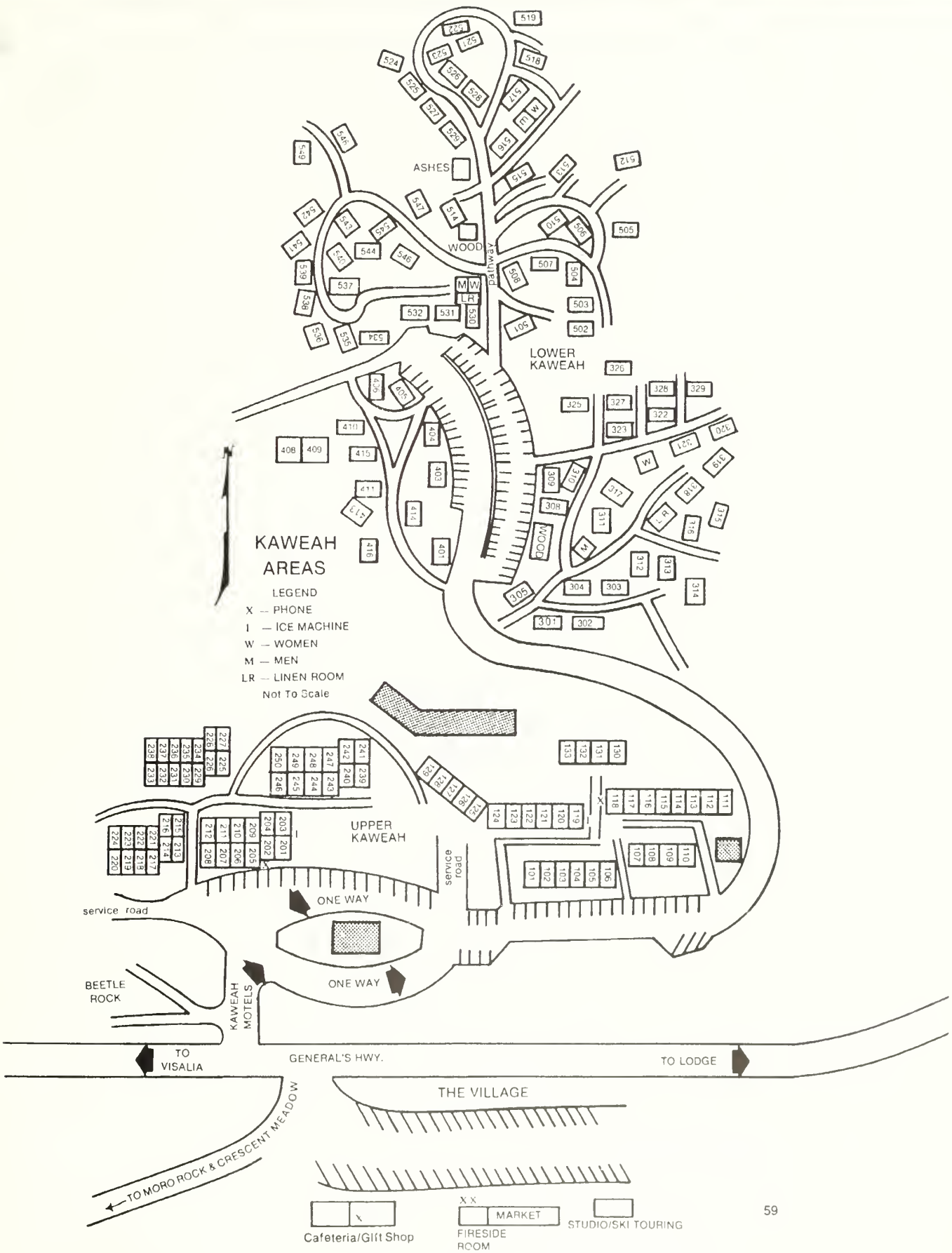
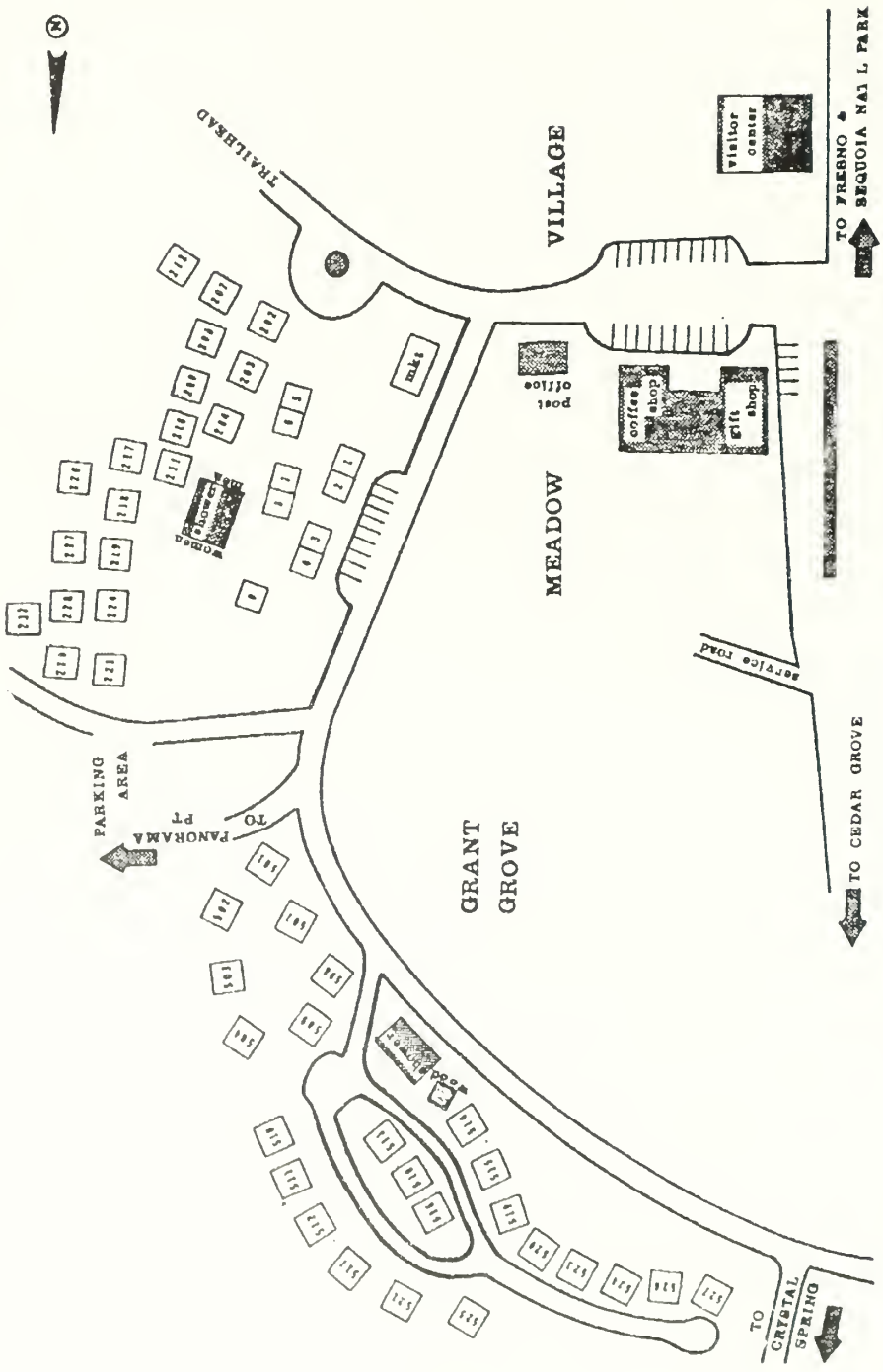
GRANT GROVE
AUGUST, 1972


KAWEAH
AREAS
LODGE AREA
TO LODGE
GENERAL'S HWY
THE VILLAGE

LODGE AREA
LEGEND
X — Phone
I — Ice Machine
W — Women
M — Men
LR — Linen Room
Not to Scale
TO WOLVERTON LODGEPOLE & KINGS CANYON
service road
parking lot #3 & 4
GENERAL'S HWY
dining room
service road
LR
parking lot #2
general offices
service road
M W
front desk
exit
employee parking
parking lot #1
ENTRANCE
lodge parking
TO ROUND MEADOW
TO VILLAGE


KAWEAH AREAS
LEGEND
X — PHONE
I — ICE MACHINE
W — WOMEN
M — MEN
LR — LINEN ROOM
Not To Scale
ASHES
WOOD
LOWER KAWEAH
UPPER KAWEAH
ONE WAY
ONE WAY
service road
service road
BEETLE ROCK
KAWEAH MOTELS
TO VISALIA
GENERAL'S HWY.
TO LODGE
THE VILLAGE
TO MORO ROCK & CRESCENT MEADOW
Cafeteria/Gift Shop
MARKET
FIRESIDE ROOM
STUDIO/SKI TOURING


TRAILHEAD
VILLAGE
visitor center
TO FRESNO & SEQUOIA NATL PARK
post office
coffee shop
gift shop
MEADOW
service road
PARKING AREA
TO PANORAMA PT
GRANT GROVE
TO CEDAR GROVE
TO CRYSTAL SPRING

Building: Tharp's Log B-44

Location: Log Meadow, Giant Forest, Sequoia National Park

Date of Construction: circa 1858

Significant Architectural Features:

This building is a classic of vernacular architecture. The builder began with a downed giant sequoia tree and articulated the remainder of the shelter – windows, a door, and a chimney out of materials available in the immediate vicinity. The split boards, shakes, and rough granite are the exact color and texture of the surrounding timber and rocks. The structures extremely human scale and handmade nature make it a particularly appealing piece of architecture.

Other Comments:

Constructed by Tharp and Wolverton as a seasonal shelter for watching over cattle grazing in the adjacent meadow. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Building: Squatter's Cabin B-45

Location: Giant Forest, Sequoia National Park

Date of Construction: circa 1880

Significant Architectural Features:

This one-room cabin has typical frontier construction. The peeled logs are notched to fit snugly. Wood shakes cover the gable roof. A dry-laid rubble chimney is attached to the north gable-end wall. The gable roof sensibly sheds rain and discourages build up of snow.

Other Comments:

This building is typical of the early log structures built in the Sierra Nevada. The structure is used interpretively, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Building: Cattle Cabin B-46

Location: Giant Forest, Sequoia National Park

Date of Construction: pre-1890

Significant Architectural Features:

Rather than just being a simple box of a log cabin, this structure has more spatial articulation than the Squatter's Cabin. Also constructed of peeled logs, this building's more complex feature is the recessed front porch. Wood shakes cover the gable roof. Tucked away under the large roof, this porch could serve as an extra room during good weather.

Other Comments:

The building has been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The structure is used interpretively.

Building: Giant Forest Ranger Residence B-55

Location: Giant Forest, Sequoia National Park

Date of Construction: 1931; renovated 1964

Significant Architectural Features:

This fine structure possesses a sense of compactness, function, and style. Significant architectural features are: the granite foundation and chimney; the exposed frame and rustic siding; the multi-light casement windows; the traditional NPS, brown with green trim colors; the cedar shingle roof; the building's massing. The building's main axis runs parallel to the topographic contours. Landscape architect Merel Sager, the designer, combined all of those elements into a masterful structure.

Other Comments:

This building is a classic example of a structure built following the rustic design ethic. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of Giant Forest Village Historic District.

Building: Lower Highlands Residence B-59

Location: Giant Forest Vicinity, Sequoia National Park

Date of Construction: 1932

Significant Architectural Features:

This seasonal residence has a number of character-defining features that tie it in with other rustic structures of its vintage. These include: 1x12 rustic siding; vented gable ends; main entrance on a gable-end wall; cedar-shingle roof; board-and-batten skirting camouflaging the foundation; beveled outlookers; and the traditional NPS brown color with green trim. The wide eaves add more shadow to the structure helping it to recede into its forest setting. The building's main axis runs parallel to the topographic contours.

Other Comments:

The building will be removed when facilities are moved out of Giant Forest.

Building: Wolverton First-Aid Hut B-61

Location: Wolverton Ski Area

Date of Construction: 1934; moved 1973; renovated 1987

Significant Architectural Features:

Despite the new metal roof, sliding windows with anodized aluminum sashes, and bright metal drip plates (just above the sole plate), the strength of the original design remains. The heavy exposed frame, the moderate pitch of the roof, and the deep NPS-brown color allow this building to retain some of its original architectural intent. Again, visualizing the structure sheathed with T1-11 siding would show the importance of the exposed frame in the definition of its architectural character.

Other Comments:

This building was originally the Last Hill dormitory. The structure was moved to this location in 1973.

Building: Cabin Creek Residence B-65

Location: Cabin Creek, north of Lodgepole, Sequoia National Park

Date of Construction: 1935

Significant Architectural Features:

The building is a fine rustic structure typical of what the Branch of Plans and Design produced during the mid-1930s. Significant architectural features include: horizontal rustic siding; stone foundation of thick polygonal granite slabs; bracketed eaves of log outlookers that retain knots and gnarls; vertical tongue-and-groove siding in the gable ends; roughly coursed granite chimney; dark NPS-brown color with pale green trim; recessed entrances; gable roof of moderate pitch with wood shingles. The building has a good interplay between horizontals and verticals, solids and voids. This creates more texture, light, and shadow.

Other Comments:

The building is used as a seasonal residence. The structure is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Building: Cabin Creek Residence B-66

Location: Cabin Creek, Sequoia National Park

Date of Construction: 1935

Significant Architectural Features:

This building's significant architectural features are similar to those of its neighbor B-65: applied trim that mimics an exposed frame; horizontal tongue-and-groove siding; vertical tongue-and-groove in gable ends; wood shingle roof; granite foundation; stone chimney; painted iron grilles over garage windows; recessed entrances; log outlookers projecting beyond eaves; three-over-three double-hung windows with vertical emphasis; NPS-brown with pale green trim. The solids and voids and horizontal and vertical emphases break up the building's mass.

Other Comments:

The building is occupied seasonally. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Building: Pinewood Residence B-73

Location: Giant Forest Vicinity, Sequoia National Park

Date of Construction: 1926

Significant Architectural Features:

This small seasonal residence has construction details similar to period buildings at Ash Mountain. The lightness of its exposed frame recalls the pole framing of the old Chief Naturalist's office. The shake siding and shingle roof are also similar. The difference between this structure and contemporary Ash Mountain buildings is that this building's frame is sawn lumber. Its minimal impact on the land is the effect that Col. White wanted to achieve in using "temporary" (lacking masonry or cement) structures.

Other Comments:

This building will be demolished when facilities are moved out of the Giant Forest area and new seasonal housing is constructed.

Building: Lodgepole Residence B-81

Location: Lodgepole Housing Area, Seqouia National Park

Date of Construction: 1938

Significant Architectural Features:

This humble cottage like its counterparts B-82 and B-85 was typical of Lodgepole seasonal accomodations from the late 1930's. Character-defining features are: the wood-shingle gable roof; the rustic horizontal siding, and the vertical board-and-batten in the gable ends; the vertical plank skirting around the foundation; the recessed, screened porch; the traditional NPS colors. Like the other cottages of the group, the building's main axis runs parallel to the contour of the land.

Other Comments:

The building will be removed when new housing is constructed in Lodgepole.

Building: Lodgepole Residence B-82

Location: Lodgepole Housing Area

Date of Construction: 1938

Significant Architectural Features:

This simple summer cottage has a handful of character-defining features: the traditional dark-brown color set off by green trim; the wood-shingle gable roof; the rustic siding; the post-and-block-foundation camouflaged by a skirting of vertical siding; and a small granite chimney poking out of the roof ridge. Although the structure by itself is not particularly noteworthy, its design fits it gently in with the 1920s and 1930s architectural theme for the developed areas at the higher elevations.

Other Comments:

The building will probably be demolished when new housing is constructed for Lodgepole.

Building: Lodgepole Residence B-85

Location: Lodgepole Housing Area, Sequoia National Park

Date of Construction: 1938; remodeled 1956, 1959, 1986.

Significant Architectural Features:

This seasonal residence has the character-defining elements similar to those of its neighbors. Those elements are: rustic siding; wood-shingled gable roof; recessed, screened porch; double-hung windows; characteristic NPS brown color with green trim. The building's axis runs parallel to the topography. Groups of buildings like these created an identifiable agency image even in areas not seen by the public. In a subliminal way this reinforced the National Park ideal in the minds of the park employees.

Other Comments:

The building will probably be demolished when new housing is constructed in Lodgepole.

Building: Wolverton Residence B-89

Location: Wolverton Pack Station

Date of Construction: 1938

Significant Architectural Features:

This building incorporates elements typical of mid-1930s construction in these parks: rough-sawn, horizontal rustic siding; board-and-batten gable ends; wood-shingle roof with double courses every fifth row; evidence of green stain on roof shingles; NPS-brown color with green trim; four-over-four, double-hung windows; skirting of rough-sawn siding set vertically to camouflage post-and-block foundation. The combination of natural materials and the texture of their assembly create this building's architectural interest.

Other Comments:

The building is used as a seasonal residence. The entire Wolverton Pack station area is scheduled to be turned into multiple parking lots and a tram stop.

Building: Lower Highlands Residence B-103

Location: Giant Forest Vicinity, Sequoia National Park

Date of Construction: 1936

Significant Architectural Features:

This variation on the cottage theme has some character-defining elements that elevate it above the level of simple box. Board-and-batten siding covers the gable ends. Rustic lap siding covers the main wall sections. Brackets reinforce the outlookers at the eaves. A skirting of vertical planks hides the post-and-block foundation. Wood shakes finish the gable roof.

Other Comments:

The building will probably be removed when most facilities are taken out of the Giant Forest area.

Building: Grant Grove Residence B-108

Location: Grant Grove, Kings Canyon National Park

Date of Construction: 1923; remodeled 1974.

Significant Architectural Features:

This Park Service building, constructed for General Grant National Park, is the result of an early period of Park Service experimentation. The building has a number of character-defining features that are typical of this type of architecture: the recessed corner porch, the gable roof, the stone foundation, the ventilated gable ends, and the dark brown color. A number of other elements are unusual. The exterior walls are large slabs of redwood planks with battens. This arrangement is the reverse of what is found in buildings of a decade later.

Other Comments:

The property is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the General Grant National Park Historic District.

Building: General Grant N.P. Supt.'s Res. B-112

Location: Grant Grove, Kings Canyon National Park

Date of Construction: 1934

Significant Architectural Features:

This building is another classic rustic structure similar to other residences at Yosemite National Park. Significant features include: rustic siding; alternating shingle pattern in the gable ends; wood-shingle roof; double-hung windows; vented gable ends; beveled outlookers at the eaves; and the finely constructed granite chimney. The building's most elegant feature is the front entrance. A curved bracket gracefully extends the gentle curve of dutch gable that shelters and defines the entrance.

Other Comments:

This building is the former Superintendent's Residence for General Grant National Park. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the General Grant National Park Historic District.

Building: Residence B-113

Location: Grant Grove, Kings Canyon National Park

Date of Construction: 1936; remodeled 1947

Significant Architectural Features:

Although this building lacks the elegance and high style of some of the other structures in Sequoia and Kings Canyon (such as B-55 or B-112), it does possess a number of character-defining features: recessed corner porch; rustic siding; vented gable ends; wood-shingle roof; beveled outlookers; a handsome stone foundation; and the traditional brown-with-green-trim colors. This building's strongest architectural feature is the stone foundation that mimics the adjacent bedrock. Like most of the other rustic buildings of the period, this structure's main axis parallels the gentle contour of the land.

Other Comments:

The building is used as a year-round residence.

Building: Grant Grove Residence B-114

Location: Grant Grove, Kings Canyon National Park

Date of Construction: 1936, remodeled 1960

Significant Architectural Features:

This building's character-defining features are: the intersecting gable roofs; the projecting entrance porch; the rustic siding; the vented gable ends; the beveled outlookers; the traditional brown color; the skirting around the foundation; and the gentle siting among the trees. The building contributes to the collective rustic presence at Grant Grove.

Other Comments:

The building is used as a residence for permanent employees.

Building: Redwood Mountain Ranger Station B-115

Location: Redwood Mountain, Kings Canyon National Park

Date of Construction: 1940

Significant Architectural Features:

Like its counterpart the Redwood Mountain equipment storage building (B-320), this structure is a progressive interpretation of the principles of the rustic design ethic. Granite walls, recalling the adjacent bedrock, define the lower portions of the building. Rustic siding has the traditional brown color that makes the wood recede visually. Wood shingles finish the gable roof. The panes of the multi-light windows adds texture to the building by breaking up reflected light.

Other Comments:

The building is loosely related to some of the structures of resort architect Gilbert Stanley Underwood (the Ahwahnee, Bryce Lodge, etc.) in the strength of its design.

Building: Grant Grove Residence B-116

Location: Grant Grove, Kings Canyon National Park

Date of Construction: 1940

Significant Architectural Features:

The key elements that tie this in with the park's rustic structures of the 1920s and 1930s are the siding, cedar shingles, and brown color. The low pitch of the roof and the lack of eaves make the building rather boxy in appearance. The resultant modern feel that this building has exemplifies the move away from the romantic rustic designs of previous decades into more progressive, cleaner-lined buildings.

Other Comments:

The building is used as a permanent residence.

Building: Grant Grove Residence B-117

Location: Grant Grove, Kings Canyon National Park

Date of Construction: 1940

Significant Architectural Features:

Like B-116, this simpler building reflects the NPS designers' move toward more progressive architecture. The virtual lack of eaves, the lower slope of the roof, and the louvered windows are elements from a modern era. Features that hark back to rustic architecture of the past are the materials and color. The brown rustic siding and the cedar roof shingles tie the structure into its architectural context.

Other Comments:

The building is used as a permanent residence.

Building: Cedar Grove Ranger Station B-118

Location: Cedar Grove, Kings Canyon National Park

Date of Construction: 1930

Significant Architectural Features:

Built by the U.S. Forest Service as a ranger station, this small log building possesses a number of character-defining elements: the wood-shingle gable roof; horizontal shake gable ends; log walls; and log cornerposts. The building's NPS brown color easily identifies the structure with its agency.

Other Comments:

At the time of its nomination to the National Register (1977), the building was determined ineligible because it was not fifty years of age.

Building: Giant Forest Village Comfort Station B-179

Location: Giant Forest, Sequoia National Park

Date of Construction: 1933; remodeled 1962

Significant Architectural Features:

This building's character-defining features are: the gable-end entrances; the heavy exposed frame; the beveled and bracketed outlookers at the eaves; the shingle (replacement) siding; the granite foundation; the cedar shingle roof with the double-coursing every fifth row; and the band of single-pane hinged windows that wraps around the building.

Other Comments:

Note: the 1924 date is listed on the Lodgepole building folder; the 1933 date appears on the Ash Mountain copy of the building folder. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Giant Forest Village Historic District. Because of the repetition of this style of building in so many comfort stations in both parks, the visitor soon identifies this building type as a National Park Service comfort station.

Building: Upper Highlands Comfort Station B-181

Location: Giant Forest Vicinity

Date of Construction: 1924; remodeled 1962

Significant Architectural Features:

This building is typical of the comfort stations constructed in both parks during the 1920s. Its character-defining features are: the gable-end entrance; the exposed, hewn timber frame; the wood shake exterior walls and gable roof; and the bracketed outlookers at the eaves. The thickness of the exposed structural timbers and the width of the eaves gives the building a solidity in appearance. The use of natural materials blends the structure in with its forest setting.

Other Comments:

The building will be removed when most facilities are taken out of Giant Forest.

Building: Wolverton Residence B-195

Location: Wolverton Pack Station

Date of Construction: 1935

Significant Architetural Features:

This building possesses many of the architectural elements characteristic of period structures in these parks: rough-sawn rustic siding; exposed frame; board-and-batten gable ends; outlookers providing more definition at the gable ends; shingle roof of moderate pitch; post-and-block foundation; NPS-brown color with pale green trim. Although it is just a simple cottage, visualizing the building sheathed with T1-11 siding provides a good comparison. Here the light and shadow that the siding and framing create adds an architectural strength and presence to the building that does not exist with a simple plywood sheathing.

Other Comments:

This building originally functioned as the Giant Forest tool house. It was later moved to this location and converted to a seasonal residence.

Building: Moro Rock Comfort Station B-200

Location: Moro Rock, Sequoia National Park

Date of Construction: 1934

Significant Architectural Features:

This smaller version of the parks' rustic comfort station design has a particularly strong character. The rounded boulders of the granite foundation project several inches out from the mortar joints. This treatment gives the building a rugged texture. The thick shingles (replacement) and the wide bracing timbers further contribute to the building's strength. The use of such large framing members on such as small building gives the structure a medieval feel. The smaller number of bays, and the bracketed outlookers at the gable end reinforce this strong design.

Other Comments:

Building: Lodgepole Comfort Station B-218

Location: Lodgepole Campground, Sequoia National Park

Date of Construction: 1934

Significant Architectural Features:

This exposed-frame building has many of the identifiable features of its style: the exposed frame; wood-shingle roof; gable-end entrances; hinged, multi-light casement windows; vented gable ends; beveled outlookers just under the eaves; battered stone foundation; and the traditional brown color. The use of smaller pieces of lumber on this building make the structure seem almost timid when compared with the Moro Rock comfort station. Yet the building has enough of the typical features of this style that the visitor can readily identify the function it serves.

Other Comments:

Building: Lodgepole Comfort Station and Showers B-219

Location: Lodgepole Residential Area, Sequoia

Date of Construction: 1934

Significant Architectural Features:

This small building has a number of character-defining features of note. Minimal exposed framing appears on the gable ends, but most of the walls have 1x12 rustic siding like the early residences in the Lodgepole housing area in which it sits. Entrances are at the gable-end walls. The vented gable ends have board-and-batten siding. A granite chimney projects through the roof ridge. The building's color is the traditional NPS brown with pale green trim. The building blends in very well with its architectural context. The roof ridge parallels the contour of the land.

Other Comments:

The building will be demolished when new housing is constructed in Lodgepole.

Building: Lodgepole Carpenter's Shop B-221

Location: Lodgepole Maintenance Area, Sequoia

Date of Construction: 1938

Significant Architectural Features:

This is one of the few remaining maintenance buildings in the Lodgepole area that retains most of its original character-defining elements. Those elements are: the steep gable roof finished with wood shingles; the 1x12 rustic siding; the multi-light casement windows; the board-and- batten gable ends; the granite chimney; the beveled outlookers under the eaves; and the traditional color scheme. This building was designed to fit it with its architectural context of residential and maintenance structures all with similar details.

Other Comments:

The building will be removed when new housing is constructed in Lodgepole.

Building: Lost Grove Comfort Station B-231

Location: Lost Grove, Sequoia National Park

Date of Construction: 1936

Significant Architectural Features:

During the 1930s rustic comfort stations assumed a variety of forms in National Parks. Here the natural materials predominate. Significant features include: very wide roof shingles with traces of green stain (perhaps naturally caused); log ends protruding beyond the eaves; exposed timber (sawn) frame with sequoia-bark infill; stone foundation; peeled-log rafters with knots. This building may be unique in the National Park system as the only remaining type of its kind constructed in this manner (exposed frame with sequoia bark infill).

Other Comments:

The building is open seasonally.

Building: Old Maintenance Warehouse B-237

Location: Grant Grove, Kings Canyon National Park

Date of Construction: 1936

Significant Architectural Features:

Like some of the utilitarian buildings in the Lodgepole maintenance area, this structure is simple and practical, but its designers imbued it with style. The building's character-defining features are: The rustic 1x12 siding; the wood-shingle gable roof; the six-over-six, double-hung windows; the uncoursed rubble masonry foundation; the granite chimney; the traditional dark brown color with pale green trim. This building's style makes it a contributor to the collectively rustic atmosphere of Sequoia and Kings Canyon.

Other Comments:

Building: Pine Camp Comfort Station B-248

Location: Grant Grove, Rings Canyon National Park

Date of Construction: 1936; renovated 1970

Significant Architectural Features:

This comfort station possesses the typical design of most of the comfort stations throughout Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Its character-defining elements are: the exposed framing on the building's exterior; the gable-end entrances; the vented gables; the horizontal siding; the wood-shingle gable roof; the beveled outlookers; the doors of wide planks and large iron hinges; the hinged, multi-light casement windows; and the traditional brown color. The building contributes to the collectively rustic feeling that the exposed frame park buildings create.

Other Comments:

Building: Sunset Campground Comfort Station B-249

Location: Grant Grove, Kings Canyon National Park

Date of Construction: 1934; renovated 1970.

Significant Architectural Features:

This exposed-frame comfort station has the design typical of most of the comfort stations throughout Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. The character-defining elements are: the exposed framing on the building's exterior; the gable-end entrances; the vented gables; the horizontal siding; the wood-shingle gable roof; the beveled outlookers; the doors of wide planks; the hinged casement windows; and the traditional brown color. As part of the large group of exposed-frame buildings in both parks, the structure contributes to an identifiable architectural character.

Other Comments:

Building: Swale Comfort Station B-250

Location: Grant Grove, Kings Canyon National Park

Date of Construction: 1938; renovated 1970

Significant Architectural Features:

This is another of the typical exposed-frame structures of Sequoia and Kings Canyon. Its character-defining features include: the exposed framing on the building's exterior; the gable-end entrances; the vented gables; the horizontal siding; the wood-shingle gable roof; the beveled outlookers; the doors of wide planks; the hinged, multi-light casement windows. Individually this building lacks the impact that it possesses when considered as part of the group of rustic, exposed-frame structures.

Other Comments:

Building: Grant Grove Village Comfort Station B-251

Location: Grant Grove Village, Kings Canyon National Park

Date of Construction: 1940

Significant Architectural Features:

This comfort station is a slight departure from its exposed-frame predecessors. Although the building's layout is similar to the others, its exterior treatment gives the building a slightly different bent. The structure's character-defining features are: the 1x12 rustic siding; the vented gable ends; the beveled outlookers; the gable-end entrances; the wood-shingle roof; the stone foundation; the traditional brown color; and the broken band of hinged casement windows.

Other Comments:

This building is a slight variation on the rustic theme, and it contributes to the collective architectural identity of the parks.

Building: Crystal Springs Campground Comfort Station B-252

Location: Grant Grove, Sequoia National Park

Date of Construction: 1928

Significant Architectural Features:

This relatively early comfort station is a classic structure. Its character-defining elements include: the granite rubble foundation; the exposed frame of hewn timbers; the shake infill; the wood-shingle gable roof; the bracketed outlookers under the eaves; the band of hinged, single-light casement windows just below the eaves; the main entrances at the gable ends. The size of the exposed framing members and the shadows they cast adds depth, texture, and a nearly sculptural quality to the structure.

Other Comments:

Building: Columbine Comfort Station B-254

Location: Columbine Picnic Area, Grant Grove

Date of Construction: 1928

Significant Architectural Features:

This tiny comfort station has a number of rustic features: the wood-shingle gable roof, the shake exterior walls, the vented gable ends; and the entrances on the gable-end walls. A band of screened windows wrap around the upper wall sections. Five-panel wood doors provide access to the interior. The building is not fancy, but it is quite suitable for its use.

Other Comments:

Building: Azalea Campground Comfort Station B-257

Location: Grant Grove, Kings Canyon National Park

Date of Construction: 1925

Significant Architectural Features:

This unusual building has many of the character-defining features found in buildings at Sequoia and Kings Canyon with a slightly different twist. The character-defining features are; the hewn exposed frame; the wood-shingle gable roof; the main entrances on the gable ends; the band of hinged casement windows around the upper walls; the shakes on the gable ends; the bracketed outlookers; and the traditional brown color. The unusual aspect of this building is the puncheon infill between the timber uprights.

Other Comments:

The building possessed a handcrafted look because of the hewn timbers and puncheons. The building has a wonderful rough texture that relates it to the texture of the surrounding forest.

Building: Swale Bathhouse B-259

Location: Swale Campground, Kings Canyon National Park

Date of Construction: 1937

Significant Architectural Features:

This small bathhouse has enough of the exposed-frame style characteristics to retain an architectural personality. The character-defining elements are: the partial exposed frame; the vented gable ends; the board siding; the wood-shingle roof; and the traditional brown color. The minimal framing definition on the exterior gives the structure a flatter appearance than some of its counterparts. This flatter, less sculpted appearance results in the building being more visible in its forest environment.

Other Comments:

Building: Sunset Campground Comfort Station B-260

Location: Grant Grove, Kings Canyon National Park

Date of Construction: 1934

Significant Architectural Features:

Like its counterparts in both parks, this building's design is typical of many of the comfort stations and small, utilitarian structures. The character-defining elements are: the exposed framing on the building's exterior walls; the vented gable ends; the horizontal siding; the wood-shingle gable roof; the beveled outlookers; and the traditional brown color.

Other Comments:

Building: Guest Minister Residence B-276

Location: Cedar Grove, Kings Canyon National Park

Date of Construction: 1933 (U.S. Forest Service)

Significant Architectural Features:

This tiny summer residence of half-logs (perhaps on frame) has paired, six-light casement windows. A corrugated metal roof replaces the original split shakes. The building rests on a log foundation. Its form and materials compliment the adjacent Cedar Grove Ranger Station.

Other Comments:

The US Forest Service constructed this building in 1933 as a storage shed adjacent to the Cedar Grove Ranger Station.

Building: Redwood Mountain Equipment Storage Building B-320

Location: Redwood Mountain

Date of Construction: 1940

Significant Architectural Features:

This building, like its counterpart the Redwood Mountain ranger station (B-115), shows an evolution into a more sophisticated rustic style. The stone (veneer) piers strongly define the building edges. The wood-shingle gable roof adds character and texture. Partially banking the building into the hillside diminishes its size. The multi-light windows contribute additional texture: the individual panes of glass break up the reflected light.

Other Comments:

The form, materials, and interplay of masses and voids on this building are similar to those of architect Gilbert Stanley Underwood, designer of the Ahwahnee Hotel in Yosemite. This building is successful in its progressive rustic style and in its updated use of materials.

Building: Gamlin Cabin B-350

Location: Grant Grove, Kings Canyon National Park

Date of Construction: 1872

Significant Architectural Features:

Along with the other classic vernacular structures in the park, the Gamlin Cabin presents a rugged frontier image. Character-defining elements are: the large, squared logs; the three tiers of thick planks on the roof; the hewn boards set horizontally in the gable ends; the double entrance; the type of notching with which the logs are fitted together; the texture that the broad-axe marks left on the building's wood; the structure's compact size; and the size of the logs and planks in relation to the size of the trees in the surrounding landscape.

Other Comments:

The cabin is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Building: Knapp Cabin B-371

Location: Cedar Grove, Kings Canyon National Park

Date of Construction: 1920

Significant Architectural Features:

The simplicity of the Knapp Cabin is typical of High Sierra vernacular buildings. Yet the structure possesses a good degree of character. The character-defining elements are: the shake exterior walls and roof; the location of the entrance in the gable-end wall; the recessed porch; and the small bracket panels covering the porch post brackets.

Other Comments:

The Knapp Cabin is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Building: Lodgepole Campground Comfort Station B-1233

Location: Lodgepole Campground, Sequoia National Park

Date of Construction:

Significant Architectural Features:

This building's simple, patent design is typical of most comfort station designs throughout Sequoia and Kings Canyon. Character-defining elements are: the exposed framing on the building's exterior; the gable-end entrances; the vented gables; the horizontal siding; the wood-shingle gable roof; the beveled outlookers; and the traditional brown color.

Other Comments:

Building: Wolverton Trailhead Comfort Station B-1255

Location: Wolverton Trailhead, Sequoia National Park

Date of Construction: 1959

Significant Architectural Features:

Although this building is of considerably newer construction, the builder successfully followed an established design. The exposed frame with diagonal bracing at the corners, and the outlookers poking out from under the eaves makes it fit in with the other comfort stations of similar design scattered throughout both parks.

Other Comments:

Building: Wolverton Ski Area Comfort Station B-1256

Location: Wolverton Ski Area, Sequoia National Park

Date of Construction: 1959

Significant Architectural Features:

Like its neighbor (building 1255) this simple structure of more recent vintage reflects some of the architectural character of the older exposed-frame buildings throughout both parks. Its design is quite simple. The use of the exposed framing is a strong unifying element that subliminally suggests "National Park building" in the mind of the visitor.

Other Comments:

Building: Lodgepole Campground Comfort Station B-1436

Location: Lodgepole Campground, Sequoia National Park

Date of Construction:

Significant Architectural Features:

Again, this building possesses the design typical of most of the comfort stations throughout Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. The character-defining elements are: the exposed framing on the building's exterior; the gable-end entrances; the vented gables; the horizontal siding; the wood-shingle gable roof; the beveled outlookers; the doors of wide planks and large iron hinges; and the traditional brown color.

Other Comments:

Building: Lodgepole Campground Comfort Station B-1445

Location: Lodgepole Campground, Sequoia National Park

Date of Construction:

Significant Architectural Features:

This building, too, has the design typical of most comfort stations throughout Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. The character-defining elements are: the exposed framing on the building's exterior; the gable-end entrances; the vented gables; the horizontal siding; the wood-shingle gable roof; the beveled outlookers; the doors of wide planks and large iron hinges; and the traditional brown color.

Other Comments:

The preponderance of this style of comfort station makes the design readily identifiable in the visitor's mind.

Building: Lodgepole Visitor Center B-1664

Location: Lodgepole, Sequoia National Park

Date of Construction: 1967

Significant Architectural Features:

Built with an effort toward harmony with its setting, the Lodgepole Visitor Center possesses some redeeming qualities. The granite cobble veneer around the foundation, the stained wood siding, and the wood-shingle gable roofs help the large building seem less intrusive in its environment. The building is sited in a slight depression; this also helps reduce its size. The way that the building's mass is broken up into a series of forms, the lack of continuous roofline, and the linear plan also diminish the perceived size.

Other Comments:

Building: Ash Mountain Entrance Sign

Location: Ash Mountain entrance, Sequoia National Park

Date of Construction: 1936

Significant Architectural Features:

This massive entrance sign, shaped out of huge chunks of sequoia wood, marks the main entrance to the park. In a way, this blocky feature sets the tone for much of the rustic architecture of the developed areas in the mountains above. The sign's character-defining features include: the stepped granite foundation; the wrought-iron supporting bracket; the simple block lettering; the roughly worked wood; and the overall handcrafted character. In a subliminal manner, the sign lets the visitor know that he is entering a special place separate from the outside world.

Other Comments:

The sign is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The sign has been moved a short distance from its original location.

Building: Entrance Sign

Location: Sequoia National Park/National Forest Boundary

Date of Construction: circa 1936

Significant Architectural Features:

This huge sign serves several purposes. It is an extremely important feature that contributes to the park image. The sign defines the boundary and lets the visitor know he is entering a special place. Its overscaled size and rusticity subliminally contribute to that special sense of place. A flat, rectangular, non-sculptural sign subliminally would not accomplish what this rustic sign does. Significant architectural elements are: its enormous scale, traditional lettering, and minimally worked wood.

Other Comments:

The sign directly relates to the Ash Mountain Sequoia sign through scale, design, and material. The two signs tie the boundaries together into a neat package.

Building: Giant Forest Lodge Business Office

Location: Giant Forest Lodge, Sequoia National Park

Date of Construction: circa 1920

Significant Architectural Features:

Although this building has undergone a number of alterations and additions, many of its original features still remain character-defining elements. The exposed framing, seqouia bark infill, lichen-green trim, intersecting gable roofs, and low profile all contribute to the structure's rustic feeling.

Other Comments:

The building will be demolished when visitor facilities are removed from Giant Forest.

Building: Giant Forest Lodge Manager's Residence

Location: Giant Forest Lodge

Date of Construction: 1921; remodeled by 1940 and in 1970

Significant Architectural Features:

Although this building has been added to a number of times, each addition has been sympathetic to its rusticity. The building's character-defining elements are: the intersecting gable roofs and structural massing; the wood-shingle roof finish and shake exterior-wall finish; the post-and-block foundation; the bracketed outlookers at the eaves; the traditional color scheme (dark red-brown stain, lichen-green trim, dark green eaves); the wrought-iron hinges and hardware on the thick plank doors; and the hole cut in the roof (above, far right) to accomodate a fir tree.

Other Comments:

The building will be demolished when concessioner facilities are removed from Giant Forest. This structure contributes to the collective identity of Giant Forest Lodge.

Building: Giant Forest Lodge Cabin A

Location: Giant Forest Lodge

Date of Construction: circa 1910

Significant Architectural Features:

This charming structure has a number of character-defining features. The exposed framing is covered with sequoia bark. The bark also fills the spaces between the framing members. The gable roof is finished with wood shingles. A simple post-and-block foundation supports the structure. Most of the structure retains its natural bark color. Lichen-green trim covers the mullions. The use of bark on the framing members, around the window and door frames, and on the door strongly relates the building to the traditions of Adirondack rustic architecture.

Other Comments:

This building is probably the former George Belden photographic studio. The building is part of the Giant Forest Lodge Historic District, and it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The building will be removed when concessions operations are taken out of Giant Forest.

Building: Giant Forest Lodge Cabin B

Location: Giant Forest Lodge

Date of Construction: 1918 with later addition

Significant Architectural Features:

This tiny cabin has a number of character-defining features: the steeply pitched gable roof finished with wood shingles; the shake exterior walls; the thick plank door of vertical tongue-and-groove boards; the wrought-iron door hardware; the dark red-brown stain with lichen-green trim; the multi-light windows. The steep pitch of the roof, the length of the shingles, and the thin silhouette of this building give the structure a particularly vertical emphasis.

Other Comments:

The building is probably the 1918 Chester Wright residence. The structure has been on its present site since 1921. The building is part of Giant Forest Lodge Historic district, and it is scheduled for demolition.

Building: Giant Forest Lodge Cabin H (cabin 90)

Location: Giant Forest Lodge

Date of Construction: 1921; remodeled 1970

Significant Architectural Features:

Because of its original use as a public space, this building is larger than the surrounding cabins in Giant Forest. The structure's character-defining features are: the battered chimney of finely laid rubble masonry; the shake exterior walls; the wood shingle roof; the wrought-iron hardware on the doors; the traditional dark red-brown color with lichen-green trim; and the multi-light windows. The building's highly textured appearance caused by the use of natural materials and its low profile brought about by the small pitch of the gable roof combine to make the building fit well into its environment.

Other Comments:

The structure was built as a lounge or writing room for Giant Forest Lodge. It is part of Giant Forest Lodge Historic District and is scheduled for removal when the concessions operation is taken out of Giant Forest. Architect Herbert Maier designed the building.

Building: Giant Forest Lodge Cabins 1-4

Location: Giant Forest Lodge

Date of Construction: 1932

Significant Architectural Features:

This building dates from the last historic period of construction in Giant Forest. Its character-defining elements are typical of that period: the wood-shingle gable roof; the V-channel siding running horizontal over the main wall spaces and vertical at the corners; the traditional dark brown color with lichen-green trim; the post-and-block foundation; the six-light casements set in pairs or groups of four; the original exterior light fixtures; and the thick plank doors with wrought-iron hardware.

Other Comments:

The building is listed on the National Register as part of Giant Forest Lodge Historic District. It is scheduled for demolition when concessions facilities are removed from Giant Forest.

Building: Giant Forest Lodge Cabin 5-8

Location: Giant Forest, Sequoia National Park

Date of Construction: 1932

Significant Architectural Features:

Like its counterpart, quadruplex 1-4, this building dates from the last historic period of construction in Giant Forest. Its character-defining elements are typical of that period: the wood-shingle intersecting gable roofs; the V-channel siding running horizontal over the main wall spaces and vertical at the corners; the traditional dark brown color with lichen-green trim; the post-and-block foundation; the six-light casements usually set in pairs or groups of four; the original exterior light fixtures; and the thick plank doors with wrought-iron hardware.

Other Comments:

The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of Giant Forest Lodge Historic District. It is scheduled for removal when the concessions facilities are taken out of Giant Forest.

Building: Giant Forest Lodge Cabin 9

Location: Giant Forest, Sequoia National Park

Date of Construction: 1921; remodeled 1927 and 1930.

Significant Architectural Features:

This guest cottage has the features most typical of the early phases of Giant Forest Lodge. Gently placed along the contours of this hilly site, the cabin contributes to the collective identity of Giant Forest Lodge. Character-defining elements are: the shake exterior walls; the wood-shingle roof that has shingles double-coursed every fifth row; the beveled and bracketed outlookers; the wide eaves; the traditional brown color with lichen-green trim; the thick, V-channel plank door with wrought-iron hardware; the original lighting fixture; and the paired six-light casement windows. The small bathroom addition at the rear of the building follows through with the same rustic character as the original wing.

Other Comments:

This building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Giant Forest Lodge Historic District. The structure is scheduled to be removed when the concessions facilities are taken out of Giant Forest.

Building: Giant Forest Lodge Cabin 10

Location: Giant Forest, Sequoia National Park

Date of Construction: 1921; remodeled 1927 and 1930.

Significant Architectural Features:

The building has the features most typical of the early phases of Giant Forest Lodge. These character-defining elements are: the shake exterior walls; the wood-shingle roof with shingles that are double-coursed every fifth row; the beveled and bracketed outlookers; the wide, sheltering eaves; the traditional brown color with lichen-green trim; the thick, V-channel plank door with wrought-iron hardware; the original lighting fixture; and the paired, six-light casement windows. This small cottage sits gently on the surrounding topography in company with similar cottages.

Other Comments:

The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of Giant Forest Lodge Historic District. The structure is scheduled to be removed when the concessions facilities at Giant Forest are taken out. Architect Herbert Maier designed the building.

Building: Giant Forest Lodge Cabin 11

Location: Giant Forest, Sequoia National Park

Date of Construction: 1927

Significant Architectural Features:

Like the adjacent cabins making up most of Giant Forest Lodge, this building has the features most typical of the early phases of the Lodge. These character-defining elements are: the shake exterior walls; the wood-shingle roof with double-coursing every fifth row; the beveled and bracketed outlookers; the wide, sheltering eaves; the traditional brown color with lichen-green trim; the thick, V-channel plank door with wrought-iron hardware; the original lighting fixture; and the paired, six-light casement windows. This highly textured building fits well into the Giant Forest environment.

Other Comments:

The building is on the National Register of Historic Places as part of Giant Forest Lodge Historic District. It is scheduled for removal when concessions facilities are taken out of Giant Forest.

Building: Giant Forest Lodge Cabin 12

Location: Giant Forest, Sequoia National Park

Date of Construction: 1921; remodeled in 1927 and 1930.

Significant Architectural Features:

This building, like its neighbors, contributes in a collective sense to the architectural image of Giant Forest Lodge. Its character-defining features are: the shake exterior walls; the wood-shingle roof with double-coursing every fifth row; the beveled and bracketed outlookers; the wide, sheltering eaves; the traditional brown color with lichen-green trim; the thick, v-channel plank door with wrought-iron hardware; the original lighting fixtures; and the paired, six-light casement windows. The intersecting masses of the original portion and the shed-roofed bathroom addition contribute to the building's appropriateness in this setting.

Other Comments:

The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of Giant Forest Lodge Historic District. It is scheduled for removal when concessions facilities are replaced in Giant Forest. Architect Herbert Maier designed the building.

Building: Giant Forest Lodge Cabin 13-14

Location: Giant Forest, Sequoia National Park

Date of Construction: 1934

Significant Architectural Features:

Like the quadruplexes, this building dates from the last historic period of construction in Giant Forest. Its cleaner lines depict that fact. The building's character-defining elements, typical of that period, are: the wood-shingle gable roof; the V-channel siding running horizontally over the main wall spaces and vertical at the corners; the traditional dark brown color with lichen-green trim; the simple post-and-block foundation; the six-light casements usually set in pairs; and the thick plank doors with wrought-iron hardware. Although its lines are more modern than the shake cottages, this building also fits well into the Giant Forest environment.

Other Comments:

The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of Giant Forest Lodge Historic District. It is scheduled for removal when the concessions facilities are taken out of Giant Forest.

Building: Giant Forest Lodge Cabin 15

Location: Giant Forest, Sequoia National Park

Date of Construction: 1921; remodeled 1927-30

Significant Architectural Features:

Like the older cottages of Giant Forest Lodge, this building has architectural elements particularly appropriate for this setting. The character-defining elements are: the shake exterior walls; the wood-shingle roof with double-coursing every fifth row; the beveled and bracketed outlookers; the wide, sheltering eaves; the traditional brown color with lichen-green trim; the thick, V-channel plank door with wrought-iron hardware; the original lighting fixtures; and the paired, six-light casement windows.

Other Comments:

The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of Giant Forest Lodge Historic District. It is scheduled for removal when the concessions facilities are taken out of Giant Forest. Architect Herbert Maier designed the building.

Building: Giant Forest Lodge Cabin 16

Location: Giant Forest, Sequoia National Park

Date of Construction: 1921; remodeled 1927/1930

Significant Architectural Features:

This small cottage has the architectural features most typical of the early phases of Giant Forest Lodge. These character-defining features are: the shake exterior walls; the wood-shingle roof with double-coursing every fifth row; the beveled and bracketed outlookers; the wide, sheltering eaves; the traditional brown color with lichen-green trim; the thick, V-channel plank door with wrought-iron hardware; historic exterior lighting fixtures; and the paired, six-light casement windows. This small cottage sits gently on the surrounding topography in company with similar cottages.

Other Comments:

The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of Giant Forest Lodge Historic District. It is scheduled for removal when concessions facilities are taken out of Giant Forest. Architect Herbert Maier designed the building.

Building: Giant Forest Lodge Cabin 17

Location: Giant Forest, Sequoia National Park

Date of Construction: 1921; remodeled 1927 and 1930

Significant Architectural Features:

This cabin, too, has the architectural features found in the early phases of Giant Forest Lodge. These character-defining elements are: the shake exterior walls; the wood-shingle roof with double-coursing every fifth row; the beveled and bracketed outlookers; the wide, sheltering eaves; the traditional color pattern (brown, lichen-green trim, oxblood doors); the thick, V-channel plank door with wrought-iron hardware; the historic lighting fixture; and the paired, six-light casement windows. As part of the Lodge grouping, it gently nestles into the hillside.

Other Comments:

The building is included on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Giant Forest Lodge Historic District. The structure will be removed when concessions facilities are taken out of Giant Forest. Architect Herbert Maier designed the building.

Building: Giant Forest Lodge Cabin 18

Location: Giant Forest, Sequoia National Park

Date of Construction: 1921; remodeled 1927 and 1930.

Significant Architectural Features:

This guest cottage is typical of the early phase of construction of Giant Forest Lodge. The character-defining features are: the shake exterior walls; the wood-shingle roof; the beveled and bracketed outlookers; the wide, sheltering eaves; the traditional brown color with lichen-green trim around the fenestration; the thick, V-channel plank door with wrought-iron hardware; historic exterior lighting fixtures; and the paired, six-light casement windows. The small cottage contributes to the collective architectural identity of Giant Forest Lodge.

Other Comments:

The building is part of Giant Forest Lodge Historic District, and it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The structure will be removed when the overnight guest facilities are taken out of Giant Forest. Architect Herbert Maier designed the building.

Building: Giant Forest Lodge Cabin 19

Location: Giant Forest, Sequoia National Park

Date of Construction: 1921; remodeled 1927 and 1930.

Significant Architectural Features:

Like the others of this style, this guest cottage is typical of the early phase of construction of Giant Forest Lodge. The character-defining features are: the shake exterior walls; the wood-shingle roof; the beveled and bracketed outlookers; the wide, sheltering eaves; the traditional brown color with lichen-green trim around the fenestration; the thick, V-channel plank door with wrought-iron hardware; historic exterior lighting fixtures; and the paired, six- light casement windows. The cottage is one of the number of early rustic structures gently laid out over the topography of Giant Forest that create the sense of place of Giant Forest Lodge.

Other Comments:

The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of Giant Forest Lodge Historic District. It is scheduled to be removed when overnight concessions facilities are taken out of Giant Forest. Architect Herbert Maier designed the building.

Building: Giant Forest Lodge Cabin 20

Location: Giant Forest, Sequoia National Park

Date of Construction: 1921; remodeled 1927 and 1930.

Significant Architectural Features:

This cottage is part of the group of small rustic buildings laid out over the rolling terrain of Giant Forest. Individually these cottages do not have the significance that they do when considered as a group. Character-defining features include: the shake exterior walls; the wood-shingle roof; the beveled and bracketed outlookers; the wide, sheltering eaves, the traditional brown color with lichen-green trim around the fenestration; the thick, V-channel plank door with wrought-iron hardware; historic exterior lighting fixtures; and the paired, six-light casement windows.

Other Comments:

The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of Giant Forest Lodge Historic District. The structure will be removed when overnight concessions facilities are taken out of Giant Forest. Architect Herbert Maier designed the building.

Building: Giant Forest Lodge Cabin 21-22

Location: Giant Forest, Sequoia National Park

Date of Construction: 1934

Significant Architectural Features:

This duplex dates from the last historic period of construction in Giant Forest. Its cleaner lines are indicative of that trend in park architecture. The building's character-defining features are: the wood-shingle gable roof; the V-channel siding running horizontal over the main wall spaces and vertical at the corners; the traditional dark red-brown color with lichen-green trim; the simple post-and-block foundation; the six-light casements usually set in pairs; and the thick plank doors with wrought-iron hardware. Although its lines are more modern then the shake cottages, the building blends with its architectural and natural enviroment.

Other Comments:

The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Giant Forest Lodge Historic District. The building will be removed when overnight concessions facilities are taken out of Giant Forest.

Building: Giant Forest Lodge Cabin 23-24

Location: Giant Forest, Sequoia National Park

Date of Construction: 1934

Significant Architectural Features:

Like the quadruplexes, this duplex cabin dates from the last historic period of construction in Giant Forest. Its cleaner lines depict the move away from more romantic toward more practical architecture. The building's character-defining elements are: the wood-shingle gable roof; the V-channel siding running horizontal over the main wall spaces and vertical at the corners; the traditional dark red-brown color with lichen-green trim; the simple post-and-block foundation; the six-light casements usually set in pairs and the thick plank doors with wrought-iron hardware.

Other Comments:

The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of Giant Forest Lodge Historic District. It is slated for demolition.

Building: Giant Forest Lodge Cabin 25-26

Location: Giant Forest, Sequoia National Park

Date of Construction: 1934

Significant Architectural Features:

This duplex is typical of the buildings constructed during the last historic period of construction in Giant Forest. Its cleaner lines indicate a trend in park architecture away from the earlier romanticism toward a more practical functional architecture. The building's character-defining features are: the wood-shingle gable roof; the V-channel siding running horizontal over the main wall spaces and vertical at the corners; the traditional dark red-brown with lichen-green trim; the simple post-and-block foundation; the six-light casements usually set in pairs; and the thick plank doors with wrought-iron hardware.

Other Comments:

The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of Giant Forest Lodge Historic District. It is scheduled for removal when overnight concessions facilities are taken out of Giant Forest.

Building: Giant Forest Lodge Cabin 27

Location: Giant Forest, Sequoia National Park

Date of Construction: 1921

Significant Architectural Features:

In the 1950s this small rustic cabin was moved to this location from Hazelwood. The building is similar in design to the early rustic cottages of Giant Forest Lodge. The structure's character-defining features are: the shake exterior walls; the wood-shingle roof; the beveled and bracketed outlookers; the wide, sheltering eaves; the traditional brown color with lichen-green trim around the fenestration; the thick, V-channel plank door with wrought-iron hardware; and the paired, six-light casement windows.

Other Comments:

The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of Giant Forest Lodge Historic District. The structure is scheduled for removal when overnight concessions facilities are taken out of Giant Forest. Architect Herbert Maier designed the building.

Building: Giant Forest Lodge Cabin 28-29

Location: Giant Forest, Sequoia National Park

Date of Construction: 1934

Significant Architectural, Features:

This duplex overlooking Round Meadow is typical of the buildings constructed during the last period of historic development at Giant Forest. Its cleaner lines indicate a trend in park architecture away from the earlier romanticism toward a more practical, functional architecture. The building's character-defining features are: the wood shingle gable roof; the V-channel siding running horizontal over the main wall spaces and vertical at the corners; the traditional dark brown color with lichen-green trim; the simple post-and-block foundation; the six-light casements; and the wrought-iron hardware.

Other Comments:

The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Giant Forest Lodge Historic District. The structure is scheduled to be removed when overnight concessions operations are taken out of Giant Forest.

Building: Giant Forest Concessions Building A-3

Location: Giant Forest Village

Date of Construction: unknown (1920s?)

Significant Architectural Features:

This small storage building behind the Giant Forest cafeteria possesses a number of character-defining features. Bark siding covers the main wing and the concrete-block addition (left). The wood shingle roofs have double-coursing every fifth row. The six-light casement windows have lichen-green mullions and frames. The effort to hide this utilitarian structure in its forest setting by sheathing it with bark works successfully.

Other Comments:

The building will be removed when overnight concessions facilities are taken out of Giant Forest.

Building: Giant Forest Concessions Building B

Location: Giant Forest, Sequoia National Park

Date of Construction: unknown (1920s?)

Significant Architectural Features:

This large cottage for concessions employees has a number of character-defining features that help it fit into its architectural and natural contexts. The exterior walls are finished with shakes. The wood shingles on the roof are double-coursed every fifth row. The casement windows that are replacements of the originals retain the lichen-green trim around their frames. The building's color is the traditional dark brown.

Other Comments:

The building is scheduled for removal when overnight concessions facilities are taken out of Giant Forest.

Building: Giant Forest Cafeteria

Location: Giant Forest, Sequoia National Park

Date of Construction: 1920s

Significant Architectural Features:

Designed by architect Gilbert Stanley Underwood, the Giant Forest Cafeteria retains a number of its original character-defining elements. Although the roof has received a metal finish to better shed the snow, the broken masses of the original gable and shed dormer remain. The exposed frame has an infill of sequoia bark. The original chimney with its rough granite crenelation at the top still graces the east side of the building. Despite the numerous unsympathetic additions and alterations, the building's original intent remains.

Other Comments:

The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of Giant Forest Village Historic District. The structure will be removed when overnight concessions facilities are taken out of Giant Forest.

Building: Giant Forest Market

Location: Giant Forest, Sequoia National Park

Date of Construction: 1928-29

Significant Architectural Features:

Designed by architect Gilbert Stanley Underwood, this building is the key structure setting the architectural tone for the top of the mountain. This is the first development the visitor sees after driving for forty-five minutes up the twisting road that leads from the foothills to the cooler climate nearly seven thousand feet above. The market's character-defining features are: the heavy exposed frame; the symmetry; the broken masses of the building with its wings, intersecting gable roofs, and shed dormer (not original); the dark red-brown color; the heavy wrought-iron hardware; the multi-light transoms and display windows; the paired entrance doors with their herringbone patterns; and the lichen-green trim around the windows.

Other Comments:

The property is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of Giant Forest Village Historic District. The building will remain as a visitor contact/concession facility.

Building: Giant Forest Village Ski-Touring Center

Location: Giant Forest, Sequoia National Park

Date of Construction: 1920s?

Significant Architectural Features:

This simple structure fits in well next to the Giant Forest Market. Its setback, diminished size, and broken mass complement the architecturally significant market. This building's character-defining features are: the exterior siding of shakes; the intersecting gable roofs; the traditional dark brown color with lichen-green trim; the thick plank door; the paired, six-light casement windows; and the bracketed outlookers.

Other Comments:

The building is scheduled for removal when overnight concessions facilities are taken out of Giant Forest.

Building: Beetle Rock Recreation Hall

Location: Giant Forest, Sequoia National Park

Date of Construction:

Significant Architectural Features:

Although of newer construction, this building possesses the character-defining elements typical of concessionaire and park buildings in the Giant Forest/Lodgepole vicinity. Those elements are: the exposed frame construction; the wood-shingle gable roof with double-coursing evry fifth row; the paired, multi-light casement windows; the partial banking into the hillside setting; and the traditional dark red-brown color with lichen-green trim.

Other Comments:

The building will be removed when overnight concessions facilities are taken out of Giant Forest.

Building: Lodgepole Market Center

Location: Lodgepole, Sequoia National Park

Date of Construction: 1984-85

Significant Architectural Features:

Although this building lacks the style of the historic Giant Forest Market, its sheer size and public use make it perhaps the most visited structure in both parks during the summer. Its social importance, then, creates an impact. Unfortunately, its mediocre design leaves a great deal to be desired. The tiny cobbles used around the foundation lack any connection with the scale of the glacial boulders surrounding the site. Although the multiple dormers and intersecting roofs break up the building's mass, they create major problems with snow in the winter. The metal roof compounds the snow problem. Also, the sheen of the metal roof reflects so much light that the building stands out even more in its setting.

Other Comments:

The building will receive even more use in the future as overnight concessioner facilities are moved to Clover Creek.

Building: Grant Grove Village Ski-Touring Center

Location: Grant Grove, Kings Canyon National Park

Date of Construction: 1920s?

Significant Architectural Features:

This building has the characteristic materials and form of the concessions architecture from the 1920s at Sequoia and Kings Canyon. Its character-defining features are: the shake exterior walls; the wood-shingle roofs with double-coursing every fifth row; the six-light casement and double-hung windows; the traditional dark reddish-brown color with lichen-green trim; and the granite rubble chimney. The building is the central public structure for the surrounding Grant Grove Lodge.

Other Comments:

The building is scheduled for demolition when new concessions facilities are constructed in Grant Grove. Architect Gilbert Stanley Underwood designed the building.

Building: Grant Grove Village Cabin 1-2

Location: Grant Grove, Kings Canyon National Park

Date of Construction: 1920s

Significant Architectural Features:

Like the cabins of Giant Forest Lodge, these structures have a simple, rustic character that creates a good sense of place. The character-defining elements are: the shake exterior walls; the wood-shingle gable roofs with double-coursing every fifth row; the paired casement windows; the thick plank doors with wrought-iron hardware; the traditional dark reddish-brown color with lichen-green trim; and the ambling layout following the gentle topography of the land

Other Comments:

The cabin is scheduled for removal following the construction of new concessioner facilities in Grant Grove. Architect Gilbert Stanley Underwood designed the building.

Building: Grant Grove Village Cabin 3-4

Location: Grant Grove, Kings Canyon National Park

Date of Construction: 1920s

Significant Architectural Features:

This small cottage is part of the complex of identical rustic cabins of Grant Grove village. Like the cabins of Giant Forest, the collection of these cottages is more important than the individual building. The structure's character-defining features are: the shake exterior walls; the wood-shingle gable roof with double-coursing every fifth row; the paired, six-light casement windows; the thick plank doors with wrought-iron hardware; the traditional dark reddish-brown color with lichen-green trim; and its informal layout as part of the group of cabins.

Other Comments:

The building is scheduled for demolition so that new concessions facilities can be constructed in Grant Grove. Architect Gilbert Stanley Underwood designed the building.

Building: Grant Grove Village Cabin 5-6

Location: Grant Grove, Kings Canyon National Park

Date of Construction: 1920s

Significant Architectural Features:

This cottage, too, is part of the complex of identical rustic cottages of Grant Grove Village. Again, the group of cottages is more important than the individual structures. The building's character-defining features are: the shake exterior walls; the wood-shingle gable roof with double-coursing every fifth row; the paired, six-light casement windows; the bracketed and beveled outlookers; the traditional brown color with lichen-green trim; and the building's placement in the informal layout of the group.

Other Comments:

The building is scheduled for demolition when new concessioner facilities are constructed in Grant Grove. Architect Gilbert Stanley Underwood designed the building.

Building: Grant Grove Village Cabin 7-8

Location: Grant Grove, Kings Canyon National Park

Date of Construction: 1920s

Significant Architectural Features:

This cottage is also a part of the complex of rustic cottages of Grant Grove Village. The individual cottages of this group are not as important as the collection of cottages, their layout on the land, and the sense of place they create. The building's character-defining features are: the shake exterior walls; the wood-shingle gable roof with double-coursing every fifth row; the paired, six-light casement windows; the bracketed outlookers at the eaves; the traditional reddish-brown color with lichen-green trim; and the building's placement in the informal group.

Other Comments:

The building is scheduled for demolition pending construction of new overnight visitor facilities in Grant Grove. Architect Gilbert Stanley Underwood designed the building.

Building: Grant Grove Village Cabin 9

Location: Grant Grove, Kings Canyon National Park

Date of Construction: 1910

Significant Architectural Features:

Like the writing room of Giant Forest Lodge (Building A), this small cottage has a slightly different identity than the surrounding cabins of the group; yet its rustic character possesses enough of the woodsy feel that the building adds the spice and variety to the village group. The structure's character-defining features are: the log slab siding; the wood-shingle gable roof with double-coursing every fifth row; the six-light casement windows; the lichen-green trim; and the building's placement at the edge of the village group.

Other Comments:

The building is scheduled for demolition so that new facilities can be constructed in Grant Grove. Originally the building was a stage stop. Later it became the writing room for Grant Grove Lodge.

Building: Grant Grove Village Shower Building

Location: Grant Grove, Kings Canyon National Park

Date of Construction: 1920s

Significant Architectural Features:

This utilitarian structure possesses architectural elements similar to those of the Grant Grove Village cabins. Those character-defining elements are: the exterior shake walls; the wood-shingle gable roof with double-coursing every fifth row; the traditional dark reddish-brown color with lichen-green trim; the multi-light windows; the bracketed outlookers; and the vented gable ends. The building contributes to the collective identity of the group, but it is not important as an individual structure.

Other Comments:

The building is scheduled for demolition so that new facilities can be constructed in Grant Grove.

Building: Meadow Camp Shower Building

Location: Grant Grove Village, Kings Canyon National Park

Date of Construction: ca. 1930?

Significant Architectural Features:

This unusual building is a good example of mountain vernacular architecture. The building was pieced together through the years with a very creative spontaneity. Its charm lies the additive way in which it was built: a porch here, a deck there, a new entrance here, another window there. Yet the building still fits together as a piece of what the author endearingly terms "mountain funk." The building is not dull. Its builders felt no need to adhere to the strictures of normal (yawn) construction practice. Like some of the free-form houses in adjacent Wilsonia, it responds to its mountain setting with a naive joy.

Other Comments:

The building will be removed when new facilities are constructed in Grant Grove.

Summary and General Observations

Summary

Through the years Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks have ended up with a confused architectural image. In the 1920s and 1930s the parks already contained a great deal of private and concessioner development. All park areas under development during that period of time fell under the guiding hand of National Park Service landscape architect Thomas Vint. His Landscape Engineering Division, later known as the Branch of Plans and Design, worked hard on developing a kind of architecture that was suitable for sensitive national park areas. Part of the task of the design professionals often included choosing appropriate architectural themes for park areas. As shown earlier, National Park Service design staff chose two architectural styles for the developed areas of Sequoia and General Grant (later Kings Canyon) National Parks. The Ash Mountain buildings were to be Californian in nature, while those of the developed areas in the higher elevations were to be rustic. The vast geographic expanse of the park areas and their different ecosystems required different types of architecture. From the early days of federal development in these two parks, no one style dominated the agency's designs.[1]

By the late 1930s practical reasons dictated the use of fireproof materials in Ash Mountain and the foothills. The typical residence in the foothills was a frame building with a stucco exterior and asbestos-shingle roof. The high country of Lodgepole, Giant Forest, Grant Grove, and even Cedar Grove required buildings more suitable to the harsher physical demands that winter imposed. Exposed-frame or rustic-sided buildings with roofs of intermediate pitch were the norm. The advent of the Mission 66 program brought in functional, generic architecture. The Mission 66 buildings lacked the strong character of earlier Park Service construction. The buildings of that era further diluted the architectural programs established for the parks during the 1920s and 1930s.

The lack of a unified architectural program for Sequoia and Kings Canyon meant that the visitor, too, was confused. Compared to a masterpiece of architectural unity like the development at Mesa Verde, Sequoia and Kings Canyon did not present a clear image to the public. Crater Lake, for instance, had a more unified architectural program. In both of those areas a visitor could identify the agency's buildings and know consciously or subconsciously that he was inside the boundaries of a national park. The purpose of the agency image that Tom Vint and his crew cultivated during the 1920s and 1930s served more than the purpose of aesthetics. It created a special feeling and strong sense of place that visitors identified with National Parks. Because Sequoia and Kings Canyon lacked a unified architectural program, the parks had to depend, even more than other large natural parks, on scenery and natural resources to create the public image. The architecture and landscape architecture helped form the visitor's National Park experience.

Despite this confusion, a handful of specific architectural features gave Sequoia and Kings Canyon some character. These features described in the preceding inventory are summarized here.

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1. As stated earlier, this report does not cover the design and construction history of buildings in the backcountry. Sequoia and Kings Canyon have an extraordinarily high number of architecturally significant buildings in the backcountry.

Color – Most of the exterior walls of the older Park Service and concessioner buildings are brown. The Park Service buildings are a dark, chocolate brown; the concessions buildings are a medium reddish brown similar to the color of sequoia bark. Many of the buildings have green trim around window frames. The older NPS buildings usually have a pale green/grey trim. Concessioner buildings usually have lime green (lichen green) trim. The use of these standard browns serves the same purpose that the NPS mint-green vehicles did in the past: identifiability. For decades the public associated the dark brown color with the buildings of the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service in the same way that it associated the mint-green vehicles with the agencies.

Roof Materials and Shape – Most of the roofs of the older Park Service and Guest Services, Incorporated buildings are finished with wood shingles. Double courses of shingles every fifth row are common. A few have shakes. Some of the wood shingled roofs (original?) retain a forest-green stain. The stain has faded through the years. The typical roof is a simple gable with an intermediate pitch. Dormers appear infrequently. The gable-ends usually are vented. Hip roofs are rare.

Foundations – Many of the foundations of the inventoried structures are concrete. Many of those concrete foundations have stone veneers. The stone is uniformly granite. Often it is roughly worked and laid in simple courses. However, the most frequently appearing type of foundation in the inventory is the post-and-block type camouflaged by a skirting of vertical wood boards. This simple type of foundation creates minimal impact on the land.

Superstructure – Nearly all of the buildings inventoried are of simple, wood-frame construction. Many of the buildings have exposed frames or exposed framing members. A few have hewn, heavy-timber frames. Some buildings such as the Cabin Creek Residences have applied 2x8 wood trim that mimics an exposed frame. The exposed-frame buildings have infills of Sequoia bark (rare), v-channel drop siding, shingles, or rustic siding (wide clapboarding of 1x8s). Other NPS and concessioner buildings of wood-frame construction have rustic siding, shingle, or sometimes shake exteriors. Board-and-batten siding usually finishes the gable ends of NPS buildings. A few structural log buildings (all historic) appear in the front-country areas inventoried.

Shape in plan – Most of the buildings inventoried have simple rectangular plans.

Size – Most of the buildings included in the inventory are quite small – less than 1000 square feet. Most contain only one function (lodging, rest room, residence, etc.).

Clustering – Clustering is most apparent in the Giant Forest and Grant Grove Lodge units. The buildings are grouped in a sensible but aesthetically pleasing fashion generally following the topography in both areas. Small pathways connect the tiny cabins. The layout is not linear. It gently ambles over the terrain and around rocks and trees. Most often the long line of the roof ridge parallels the contour of the land on which the building sits.

Fenestration – Most of the older buildings have multi-light wood-frame windows. Paired or single six-light casements appear frequently. Double-hung windows appear with less frequency. Elevations can be symmetrical (central door flanked by windows), or they can be asymmetrical but balanced (window left, door right).

Horizontal/vertical emphasis – Although vertical elements appear on nearly all of the buildings with regularity, most of the structures have a primarily horizontal emphasis. Wolverton Residence B-89 is a good example of the interplay between the horizontal and vertical elements. The rustic siding and double-coursed shingles establish the building's

horizontal lines, while the vertical board-and-batten siding in the gable ends gives some relief to the horizontality. This architectural counterpoint adds interest and expression to the structure.

Other – Many of the buildings have been moved from their original locations. The use of the post-and-block foundation allows for that type of informality and flexibility in architecture. It also makes minimal impact on the land.

Observations

During the course of this study a number of additional aspects came to light concerning the appropriateness of architecture to its natural setting at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. These also are included here.

Climate and materials – In a scenic, natural area like Sequoia/Kings Canyon, the use of natural materials in construction can visually minimize the intrusion of buildings on the landscape. Understanding the local seasons in a visual sense and studying the interaction between building materials and climatic changes brings out the subtle reasons why some buildings seem to fit their settings better than others.

From the standpoint of color in natural materials, Lodgepole, Grant Grove, and Cedar Grove have only three seasons. Winter is the time of greatest contrasts. The white or off-white color of the snow contrasts sharply with the dark, moisture-laden tree bark and hard, grey granite. The cold, crisp air is usually clear. The lack of haze sharpens the edges of all objects – trees, rocks, or buildings. Spring and early summer are the time of new growth, more vibrant colors, and less contrast. Moisture levels in the natural materials remain high. Although the hues (actual colors) may vary considerably, the brightness of new vegetative growth is similar to the brightness of the established growth. In general the natural palette possesses a brightness. During late summer and fall just before the snows the natural colors fade into more subtle browns, tans, and golds. The lack of moisture and temporary cessation of growth in preparation for winter deaden the natural colors. A haze, more prevalent in the mountains during the warmer months, also takes the brightness and sharp edges off the colors in nature.

The foothills around Ash Mountain have two seasons in a color sense. During winter the rains darken the landscape. The new growth of lush grasses and thick trees and shrubs begins. That natural palette, like the summer palette at the higher elevations, has brightness. That brightness fades as summer approaches. The hot, dry, dusty foothill summer saps the moisture out of all of the natural materials. The grass turns brown and dies off. The leaves on the trees shrink slightly in response to the heat and lack of moisture. Tree bark fades. A slight haze again softens the edges of objects seen at a distance.

These visual climates of the High Sierra and the foothills also change daily. Morning light, midday light, and evening light each possess individual characteristics. They, too, alter our perception of the environment. Changes in weather have the same immediate effect on our perceptions of the color of nature.

These natural occurrences of changing moisture levels, changing light conditions, and changing seasons also affect the built environment. Natural materials such as wood shingles and stone veneers respond to those changes in the same way that the natural environment

does. Building materials that undergo more manufacturing processes and are farther removed from a raw, natural state tend to have less response to the changing conditions of the natural environment. Sheet steel, for instance, remains static and aesthetically inflexible year round, when compared with wood shingles that lighten or darken, and shrink or swell depending on environmental conditions. In a park area where buildings should not intrude into the scenic environment, the emphasis on natural building materials is mandatory.

Texture – Hand-in-hand with the use of natural materials is the importance of texture in architecture of this sort. The irregularities of nature – the pebbly texture of a granite surface or the ridges of bark – reflect and refract the sunlight in specific ways. The textures tend to be rough, and the light hitting them reacts accordingly. Our eyes see the reflected and refracted light, and we see the natural textures.

When we aim to create buildings that blend in with their natural settings, we should use building materials that reflect and refract light in the same way that the *in situ* natural features do. The easiest way to do that, of course, is through the use of the natural materials themselves. In the high country of Sequoia and Kings Canyon, granite and logs are obviously appropriate. However designers of new buildings should also explore other materials that react to light in a corresponding manner. Concrete, for instance, can be toned and formed to imitate wood. Architect Gilbert Stanley Underwood successfully used this method in his Ahwahnee Hotel at Yosemite National Park. What looks like redwood beams and siding on that building are sections of concrete that have retained the rough wood texture of the formwork. The wood-toned color of the concrete reinforces that perception.

Massing and Scale – New construction scheduled for Sequoia and Kings Canyon will require, for the most part, buildings of a considerably larger scale than those constructed in the past. Designers of smaller-scale structures (comfort stations) can look back at the successful local examples from the past and adapt some of the same architectural elements. A new comfort station could include, for instance: a concrete foundation masked with a granite veneer; rustic siding; gable roof of intermediate slope; board-and-batten gable ends (vented); beveled outlookers; brown color. The scale of a small structure like that is fairly simple. The designer of the small structure has a fairly easy task. A solid box with a battered foundation, well-articulated eaves, and textured exterior walls accomplishes the purpose.

On the other hand the large structure is a far more difficult architectural problem. Making a building with an enormous amount of square-footage seem as if it fits into its natural environment is a very difficult task. Several architectural tricks to make the huge structure seem smaller have worked successfully in the past. In addition to the obvious camouflage that natural/native building materials provide, playing with *scale* and *massing* can add tremendously to the non-intrusive qualities of a building.

The architect can play with scale in two significant ways. If natural materials are used in a building, they can be overscaled to equal in size the features of the surrounding landscape. Structural wood members, for instance, do not have to have sizes limited by the calculations of an engineer. A slightly larger wood member might add considerably more character at minimal cost. Think of a roof purlin/outlooker. A small piece of wood could accomplish the job in a structural sense. A larger piece of wood could give the building a strong, blocky character. This simple technique can mean the difference between a basic, generic structure and a building of character.

Increasing the size of architectural features is another trick that can diminish the perceived size of larger buildings. Oversized windows, doors, and exposed structural members can make a huge building seem considerably smaller when seen from a distance. This trompe l'oeil effect is evident in the Grand Canyon Power House on the south rim of Grand Canyon National Park. In that building, the architect uses elements of the Swiss Chalet style – a balcony, wide eaves, and detailing typical of that style. In order to make the viewer perceive the huge structure as smaller than it really is, the architect makes the balcony approximately one-third larger than necessary. A person standing on the balcony rests a chin on the balcony railing rather than a hand. Because the architect does this with all of the building's architectural features, the structure seems considerably smaller than it actually is when viewed from a distance.

Large buildings are extremely noticeable in a natural setting. The need, however, for consolidating utilities and functions and easing the burden on maintenance are some of the reasons why Sequoia and Kings Canyon will receive more large buildings in the future. Variations in mass in a large building can help minimize its impact on the scenic landscape. Breaking up a large building form into a series of smaller shapes will make the building and its elements better scaled to the natural shapes of the surrounding landscape.

For instance, a large box can contain the same amount of space as a series of small boxes. In a similar manner a huge box of a building can contain the same square footage of a building made of two or three smaller, connecting boxes. Visualize a rectangular, 12,000-square-foot building in the conifer forest around Lodgepole. Now break up that large building into three sections – with a large wing containing 6,000 square feet and two smaller wings of 3,000 square feet. The square-footage is identical in both structures, but the latter building has distinct aesthetic advantages in this natural setting. The break-up of the building forms relieves the long, flat expanses of the exterior walls. The smaller forms possess more appropriate sizes for the mountain landscape. The interplay of light and shadow on the multiple forms more closely approaches what happens in nature.

Color – Based on personal observation, certain colors are appropriate in a national park setting, and other colors are inappropriate. Appropriate colors are those approaching the colors that appear in nature, or that recede into their setting because of their dark shade. Dark brown, for example, tends to recede into nearly any natural setting. Its popularity for Park Service buildings is justified by its subordinate tendencies. Mint green, on the other hand, is a color that does not exist in nature. It never blends in with a natural setting. Its pastel quality draws the viewer's attention toward a building of that color and away from the natural setting. Grey, too, can be a difficult color. A steely grey – a simple mixture of white and black – is too cold a color for use in a natural setting. The addition of brown can add depth and warmth to the grey. Careful choice of colors will relieve some of the periodic monotony of the dark brown while helping to maintain some identifiability for both Park Service and concessioner buildings.

In summary, designing buildings compatible with natural settings is a difficult task. No pat solution exists. Perhaps the best method of approaching the assignment is to consider the Philosophy of architect Herbert Maier. During the 1920s Maier designed a number of buildings in National Parks.[2] As one of the best designers of rustic structures, Maier saw all buildings in national parks as "necessary evils." His success was in minimizing the intrusion that architecture imposed by maximizing the use of indigenous materials in a way that made his buildings seem as if they had grown of their own accord.[3] We, too, should make our buildings as suitable to the fragile landscapes they occupy.

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2. Maier's most important buildings were the Yosemite Museum and his four museums in Yellowstone Fishing Bridge, Madison, Norris, and Old Faithful.

3. Laura Soullière Harrison, *Architecture in the Parks: A National Historic Landmark Theme Study* (Washington, D.C.,: Government Printing Office, 1987), p. 320.

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