CRATER LAKE LODGE

CRATER LAKE LODGE

CRATER LAKE NATIONAL PARK

OREGON

041

KLAMATH

035

PRESENT USE

X COMMERCIAL

X PARK

 educational

private residence

religious

scientific

industrial

transportation

 military

 OTHER:

AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE/PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGIONAL OFFICE

4th and Pike Building

WASHINGTON 98101

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Klamath County Courthouse

316 Main Street

KLAMATH FALLS

OREGON

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

National Register of Historic Places/ 2(b) classification/
List of Classified Structures

DATE

03/26/76 (L.C.S.)

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Pacific Northwest Regional Office/National Park Service

CITY, TOWN

Seattle

STATE

WASHINGTON
Crater Lake Lodge, as originally constructed, consisted of four major areas on the ground floor connected with guest rooms above. Three of these major areas were rectangular in plan, running along the rim of the crater butted end to end with each other; east to west, lobby, lounge, and dining hall. A kitchen wing on the south side of the dining hall is connected perpendicular to the main axis of the lodge. These first floor areas' walls were constructed with rubble stone masonry up to the level of the second floor. There was a full basement under the lobby, dining hall, and kitchen, with only a crawl space under the lounge. The approximate dimensions of these areas in plan were: lobby, 48' x 32'; lounge, 64' x 44'; dining hall, 52' x 32'; and kitchen, 27' x 42'.

The second level over the public areas on the ground floor consisted of a continuous corridor with guest rooms on either side. The eaves of the steeply pitched roof began just above the second story with shed roof dormers for the third story rooms and a row of fourth story dormers over the lounge area. The roof had a 12/12 pitch with the ridge running parallel to the length of the building (east to west). The roof over the lounge was slightly higher than the two areas on either side. Each ridge came to a jerkinhead end rather than a regular gable. The kitchen wing had only one story above the stonework, with the eaves beginning at the level of the top of the stone walls. This roof was constructed as the others, with shed roof dormers and a jerkinhead on the south end.

Although the lodge was opened during the 1915 season, the exterior wasn't completed until 1921. Prior to completion, the exterior frame walls and the roof appear to have been covered with building paper. When the exterior was finished, these areas were covered with wood shingles. It appears that at some point the wall shingles were stained brown and the roof shingles were stained green. This practice has stopped and only small areas remain with staining on them.

There were three major chimneys on the exterior, one for a large stone fireplace at the east end of the dining hall, one for a large stone fireplace in the south wall of the lounge, and the third for a large stone fireplace on the exterior west wall of the lobby that was used for evening campfire programs. The exterior fireplace was removed when the annex wings were constructed in 1922.

The stone rubble walls were left exposed on the interior of the public areas, and the partitions and columns in these spaces were constructed of unpeeled logs; the timber framing was left exposed at the ceiling. The original wood floor is now carpeted. The dining hall had interior columns of unpeeled logs about 20" in diameter; one of these columns is now encased to conceal plumbing. Mark Daniels, General Superintendent and Landscape Engineer of the early national parks, proposed a decorating scheme for the interior of the lounge area of the lodge; existing evidence indicates that this proposal was not executed by the Crater Lake Company.

The interior finish of the corridors and guest rooms was plain in comparison with the public spaces, and there were complaints about the accommodations from the very beginning. Today, most of the rooms are finished with either plywood or fiberboard.
Crater Lake Lodge is of regional significance as an example of the architecture associated with the early 20th century movement for development of the western national parks. Its construction was initiated earlier than other high mountain lodges in the northwest, but due to funding difficulties, it was not actually completed until later than other surviving examples in the region. The original portions of the lodge were completed c. 1922, and the exterior of the additions was completed in 1924. The lodge's exterior appearance and ground floor public areas have not been greatly altered since 1924 and are a surviving example of the western lodges of that era.

The lodge is the result of an effort early in the 20th century to utilize development to attract more tourism to national parks and, thus, more public support for national parks. This support was needed for the existence of the parks as well as for securing appropriations for adequate operations and further development (roads and trails). Segments of commerce and government joined together in a common cause while anticipating different rewards. Government wanted to preserve the scenic wonders and instill national pride in them, and commerce wanted the tourist trade.

Around the first part of the twentieth century, many of the Americans who comprised the "tourist trade" were still going to European resorts. National Parks were a relatively new concept. Part of the concept was to develop pride in our national heritage through the unique scenic wonders of America. Many of these beautiful areas relied on architectural elements similar to Swiss chalets as part of the package to attract tourists. Why should a traveler go abroad for an atmosphere that could be obtained by staying in one of the rustic lodges of a national park, and the scenery was certainly as spectacular as any Europe had to offer.

Crater Lake Lodge relied on rustic architectural elements to appeal to the romanticism of the tourist. Through the use of rubble stone masonry, unpeeled logs, large stone fireplaces, and heavy timber framing in the public spaces, the lodge created an atmosphere similar to a European hunting lodge. These rustic elements were very deliberate. The steeply pitched shingled roofs with the shed dormers, quite functional in heavy snow environments, were also reminiscent of the rustic qualities in European resorts and those in such notable areas as the Adirondack Park of New York.

As a counterpoint to the public spaces, the guest rooms seemed of secondary value; the early management of the lodge didn't provide first class accommodations. When Stephen Mather, first director of the National Park Service, visited the lodge in 1919, he was very upset at the standard accommodations. The rooms were very small, most of them without bathrooms.
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES
Historical photographs from the So. Oregon Hist. Society, Oregon Hist. Society and the par

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.4 acres

ZONE EASTING NORTHING
A 1 1 0 5 7 0 2 1 5 0
B
C 4 7 5 0 7 8 0
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION
The site is bounded on the north by a stone wall running along the rim of the caldera, on the south by the curb of the parking area, on the west by the juncture of three major sidewalks, and on the east by the limit of the paved service area.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

FORM PREPARED BY
Henry G. Law, Historical Architect; revised and edited by the Pacific NW Regional Office
National Park Service/Denver Service Center
755 Parfet, P.O. Box 25287
Denver, CO 80208

CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION
YES X NO

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE
Assistant Director, Cultural Resources

FOR NPS USE ONLY
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

REGIONAL REVIEWER

DATE 3-5-81

DATE 5-5-81

DATE 5-5-81
Under the new management of 1921, plans were drawn up and construction began in 1922 for the annex portions of the structure. The annexes were constructed in much the same manner as the lodge, matching in materials, scale, and style. The exterior was completed in 1924 with only a few rooms finished and ready for occupancy. The annex consisted of two wings, each having four floors. One wing extended west from the lobby and measured about 80' x 37'. The other extended at an angle to the southwest from the main building and measured about 75' x 37'. As time and funding permitted, the rest of the rooms from the first through the third floors were finished.

The general appearance of the lodge's exterior hasn't changed significantly since the additions were completed. The condition of the building has deteriorated, however. The structural framing is not sufficient for the heavy winter snows. The lounge portion of the building has been reinforced with the installation of cables and turnbuckles secured to the exterior masonry.

In the southeast corner, where the kitchen wing joins the dining hall, a more recent small concrete structure has been added to serve as a transformer vault. This area of the exterior is viewed the least by the public and is not easily seen from any of the usual approaches.

The interior public spaces appear much as they did in early photographs, but columns have been added to mitigate structural deficiencies which are a result of the failure of the onsite construction to follow the original construction plans by R. L. Hockenberry and Co., Architects. A dropped ceiling of rough sawn boards has been added to cover the addition of plumbing into the guest rooms, and all of the flooring has been carpeted. Finishes in the corridors and guest rooms have been significantly altered over the course of the lodge's operation.
The concept of developing Crater Lake as a tourist attraction began with a man who dedicated his life to the creation of the area as a national park and then to the development of that park. William G. Steel began campaigning for Crater Lake National Park in 1885. He was the first president of the Crater Lake Co. which constructed the lodge, and in 1913, he was named the second superintendent of the park. Alfred L. Parkhurst then became president of the Crater Lake Co. Parkhurst was the only individual willing to invest in the development of the park, and almost everything he had went into the lodge. Eventually, Parkhurst ran short of funds, and as a result, the exterior was not finished until new management took over in 1921. The problems of construction were compounded by the remoteness of the area, poor roads, and one of the heaviest snow accumulations in the Cascade Mountain Range.
CRATER LAKE LODGE, VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH-SOUTHWEST, NOTE UNFINISHED APPEARANCE OF EXTERIOR PROBABLY TAKEN CIRCA 1915

CRATER LAKE LODGE (BUILDING NO. 565)

THIS PHOTOGRAPH IS RELEASED FOR REFERENCE USE ONLY.
NOT FOR PUBLICATION. SOUTHERN OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY,
JACKSONVILLE MUSEUM, BOX 480, JACKSONVILLE, OREGON 97530
SOHS NEG. NO. 2639

Circa 1915

Grater Lake Lodge, Crater Lake NP
View from the south/southwest
Klamath County, Oregon
Southern Oregon Historical Society Neg #2639
APR 2 1981 MAY 5 1981
CRATER LAKE LODGE LOOKING FROM NORTHEAST

NPS PHOTO FROM THE PARK
NEG. NO. 569

AS THE LODGE APPEARS TODAY
PROBABLY TAKEN 1950-60's
NOTE PLYWOOD ON EAST WALL

Crater Lake Lodge, Crater Lake NP
"As the lodge appears today"
Klaqmath County, Oregon
NPS photo from the park's neg. no. 569
Circa 1950-60
APR 2 1981
CRATER LAKE LODGE ANNEX ADDITIONS UNDER CONSTRUCTION, LOOKING FROM THE SOUTHWEST CIRCA 1923

NPS. PHOTO FROM PARK SCRAPBOOK

CRATER LAKE LODGE (BUILDING NO. 565)

Crater Lake Lodge, Crater Lake NP
The lodge annex additions under construction, looking from the southwest
APR 2 1981
NPS photo from park scrapbook
Circa 1923
Crater Lake Lodge, Crater Lake NP
Looking from the southwest
Southern Oregon Historical Society Neg.
# 2651
Circa 1925
CRATER LAKE LODGE LOOKING FROM NORTHEAST PRIOR TO ANNEX ADDITIONS, BUT AFTER SHINGLE SIDING, PROBABLY CIRCA 1921

NPS PHOTO FROM PARK SCRAPBOOK

CRATER LAKE LODGE (BUILDING NO. 565)

Crater Lake Lodge, Crater Lake NP
Klamath County, Oregon
Looking from northeast prior to annex additions
NPS photo from park scrapbook
Circa 1921
Crater Lake Lodge from the southwest
Crater Lake National Park
Klamath County, Oregon
By Henry Law of the Denver Service Center (NPS), October 1980
CRATER LAKE LODGE 10/80

WEST END OF ANNEX AND ANNEX WING
CRATER LAKE NATIONAL PARK, OREGON

NPS PHOTO BY

HENRY G. LAW

CRATER LAKE LODGE (BUILDING NO. 565)

Crater Lake Lodge, Crater Lake NP
West end of annex and annex wing
Klamath County, Oregon
By Henry Law of the Denver Service Center (NPS), October 1980

APR 2 1981
Crater Lake Lodge, Crater Lake NP  
North side of main building  
Klamath County, Oregon  
By Henry Law of the Denver Service Center (NPS), October 1980
Crater Lake Lodge, Crater Lake NP
South elevation, east end
Klamath County, Oregon
By Henry Law of the Denver Service Center (NPS), October 1980
Crater Lake Lodge, Crater Lake NP
Looking west along north facade of the lodge, prior to construction of patio and rim walk wall
NPS photo from park scrapbook

APR 2 1981

MAY 5 1981
CRATER LAKE LODGE (BUILDING NO. 565)

Crater Lake Lodge, Crater Lake NP
East Elevation
Klamath County, Oregon
By Henry Law of the Denver Service Center (NPS), October 1980

APR 2 1981
CRATER LAKE LODGE
INTERIOR HALL, ANNEX WING 10/30
CRATER LAKE NATIONAL PARK, OREGON

NPS PHOTO BY

HENRY G. LAW

Crater Lake Lodge, Crater Lake NP
Klamath County, Oregon
Interior Hall, Annex Wing
By Henry Law of the Denver Service
Center (NPS), October 1980
Crater Lake Lodge, interior view of lounge fireplace, looking from northeast. Note lighting fixtures. Probably early, at least 1940s or earlier.

Crater Lake Lodge (Building No. 565)

NPS photo from park scrapbook

Crater Lake Lodge, Crater Lake NP
Interior view of lounge fireplace
Klamath County, Oregon
NPS photo from park scrapbook

MAY 5 1981
Crater Lake Lodge, Crater Lake NP
Early view of dining hall looking east
NPS photo from the park scrapbook

CRATER LAKE LODGE, DINING HALL LOOKING SOUTHEAST, 1/80
CRATER LAKE LODGE, LOUNGE LOOKING EAST 1980
FROM LOUNGE STAIRWAY

Crater Lake Lodge, Crater Lake NP
Klamath County, Oregon
Lounge, looking east from lounge stairway
By Henry Lay of the Denver Service Center (NPS), October 1980
CRATER LAKE LODGE, Lounge Stairway,
From ground floor, 10/80
CRATER LAKE LODGE, DINING HALL LOOKING NORTHEAST, 1930

Note enclosed log post and carpentry.

CRATER LAKE LODGE (BUILDING NO. 565)

Crater Lake Lodge, Crater Lake NP
Klamath County, Oregon
Dining Hall looking northeast
By Henry Law of the Denver Service Center (NPS), October 1980

APR 2 1981
MAY 5 1981