An irregularly shaped massive masonry and concrete structure built to conform to the topography of its site, Victory Rock, a cliff 50 feet below Crater Lake rim. Access is via a moderately steep asphalt and stone path and stairs with a stone parapet. Visitor entrance is via an elliptically shaped "observation room" on the north side of the structure, with the "museum," an L-shaped room, on the same level on the south of the observation room which is built into the cliff. Stone and concrete stairs on the southeast corner of the museum lead down to a partial basement below it, measuring 13' x 11'-6". The original asphalt-treated flat roof was rebuilt with heavy asphalt and lead flashing to stop leaking in 1931; in 1961 the massive exposed log room beams were replaced with steel beams and girders, supported by steel columns in the observation room, with steel decking and a built-up roof above. Most exterior walls and the wall between the observation room and museum are load-bearing native stone; the basement and first floors are concrete slabs, and the basement walls are concrete and frame construction. The south end of the building melds into the cliff; the north elevation faces the lake and has a 30" tall stone parapet below a 5'-6" tall unglazed opening offering an unobstructed view of the lake from the observation room. The entry on the west to the observation room is a full-height stone wall with double, glazed tongue and groove doors replacing earlier double french doors. The east elevation has a plate glass window in the observation room, and a door leading from the museum to the exterior stairs, shielded from view by a massive stone wall. Doors on the south wall of the observation room, which lead to the museum, have been altered.

From the time of its completion in 1931, the building has offered "...one of the most spectacular views of the lake that can be found within the park and is used by practically all visitors to the park." Its construction was authorized by Congress "in memory of the late Oregon Congressman Nicholas J. Sinnott in honor of his service to the state and to Crater Lake National Park." It was the first structure in the park to reflect Merel Sager's use of massive stone masonry, which later became part of the rustic architecture style dominating the headquarters area of Crater Lake National Park. The use of large stones required the development of new building techniques later used elsewhere in the park. It would be a contributing structure in a nomination of the park's rustic architecture to the National Register of Historic Places.
Building Maintenance File, Crater Lake NP: Sinnott Memorial Building #67.
Drawings: CL-311, 2 sheets; CL-3118-D, 4 sheets; Denver SC; microfilm at NPS-PNRO, Seattle.
Historic Photo File at Crater Lake NP: Neg. #4549; Neg. #4546, CRLA Files.
NPS, Branch of Plans and Design, Western Division. Landscape Architects Field Reports (Sager, Lange: 1930-1936).
Unpublished ms. in Federal Archives and Records Center (RG 79), San Bruno, CA.
NPS, Branch of Engineering, Omaha, Nebraska. Final Construction Report on Sinnott Memorial Building Completion,
NP, OR.
Seattle, WA.
Item #13 (continued):

In 1961 the interior was altered with the addition of a stained V-groove 1 x 6 ceiling, flagstone pavers, indirect lighting, and removal of exposed logs and supporting log posts. Mortar on exterior is cracked and some is missing; observation field glasses installed on parapet have been removed. The structure was designed by the Landscape Division of the National Park Service, and construction was supervised by E. E. Etherton, who had a Public Works Administration appointment.