# INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

## FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN **HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS**

**TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**

### 1 NAME

**HISTORIC**
Grand Canyon Inn, North Rim Inn, and NPS campground

**AND/OR COMMON**
North Rim Inn and campground

### 2 LOCATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STREET &amp; NUMBER</th>
<th>CITY, TOWN</th>
<th>VICINITY OF</th>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>North Rim</td>
<td>Kanab, Utah</td>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>CODE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Third (Arizona)</td>
<td>Coconino</td>
<td>005</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>PRESENT USE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X DISTRICT</td>
<td>X PUBLIC</td>
<td>X OCCUPIED</td>
<td>X AGRICULTURE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_ BUILDING(S)</td>
<td>_ PRIVATE</td>
<td>_ UNOCCUPIED</td>
<td>_ COMMERCIAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_ STRUCTURE</td>
<td>_ BOTH</td>
<td>_ WORK IN PROGRESS</td>
<td>_ EDUCATIONAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_ SITE</td>
<td>_ PUBLIC ACQUISITION</td>
<td>_ ACCESSIBLE</td>
<td>_ ENTERTAINMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_ OBJECT</td>
<td>_ IN PROCESS</td>
<td>_ YES: RESTRICTED</td>
<td>_ RELIGIOUS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>_ BEING CONSIDERED</td>
<td>_ YES: UNRESTRICTED</td>
<td>_ GOVERNMENT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 4 AGENCY

**REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (if applicable)**
National Park Service - Western Regional Office

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STREET &amp; NUMBER</th>
<th>CITY, TOWN</th>
<th>VICINITY OF</th>
<th>STATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>450 Golden Gate Avenue - Box 36063</td>
<td>San Francisco</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>California</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC</th>
<th>STREET &amp; NUMBER</th>
<th>CITY, TOWN</th>
<th>STATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coconino County Courthouse</td>
<td>North San Francisco Street (no number)</td>
<td>Flagstaff</td>
<td>Arizona</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

**TITLE**
Architectural Survey, Grand Canyon, North Rim and Cross Canyon Corridor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>FEDERAL</th>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>LOCAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td>x</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS</th>
<th>CITY, TOWN</th>
<th>STATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Denver Service Center and Western Regional Office, Nat'l Park Service</td>
<td>Denver and San Francisco</td>
<td>Colorado &amp; California</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Grand Canyon Inn, also called the North Rim Inn, consisted of a main building, 27 exposed frame cabins, and ten duplex log cabins. It offered a lower priced tourist accommodation than the more elegant Grand Canyon Lodge. Adjacent to it the National Park Service established a campground whose physical plant consisted of roads, outdoor fireplaces, stone enclosures for firewood, rest rooms and shower facilities, and an amphitheater for interpretive programs. The Inn and the campground stand in a forest of Ponderosa pine and quaking aspen above the head of, but screened by the forest from view of, Transept Canyon, and the Grand Canyon itself. Its location, therefore, was less desirable from the perspective of most tourists than Grand Canyon Lodge, which featured magnificent views from the tip of Bright Angel Point.

Main Inn Building

Built in 1929, the main building of Grand Canyon Inn, which serves today as a store and recreation hall, originally provided a food service facility for the tourists using the frame and log cabins, and the nearby campground. Later it was called the Cafeteria, and today it is a store and recreation hall. It is a large, gable roofed structure, rectangular in floor plan, measuring 73 1/2 feet by 41 feet, 10 inches, with an extension 22 1/2 by 30 feet on the rear, and a smaller extension 12 feet square on the east side. The rustic design of the structure employs exposed frame construction between large peeled log corner posts. A shed-roofed porch on peeled log posts occupies two thirds or more of the front of the building, but has been enclosed to create more indoor room. This is an important alteration, but the alterations still have not significantly changed the character of the original design concept, and are reversible. The vertical peeled logs serve as a visual focus in harmony with the surrounding pine forest, and consequently are the primary contributors to the structure's rustic character.

Exposed Frame Duplex Cabins - Nos. 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, Manager's cabin, 90-91

Immediately behind the main building of Grand Canyon Lodge are four, exposed-frame duplex cabins, arranged in two rows, now used as employee quarters. These small gable-roofed structures have exterior frames with planking inside. The frame is dominated by the heavier 4 by 4 corner posts which replicate the verticality of the forest. Built in 1934, they were remodeled on the interior in 1961. The interior walls are covered with wallboard, painted, and the floors are finished in linoleum. Each room has its own small bathroom with toilet, sink, and stall shower. One half of each bathroom, side by side, forms a gable roofed extension to the main structure, so that the floor plan is basically a "T" with a very shallow upright leg.
These cabins, excluding the extension, measure roughly 16 by 29 feet. One
which lacks the bathroom extension was the manager’s, its interior space
divided into two rooms and a bathroom.

**Duplex Log Cabins - Nos. 30-31, 32-33, 34-35, 36-37, 38-39, 40-
41, 42-43, 44-45, 46-47**

Northwest of the main building is a complex of ten "sharing shower" duplex
log cabins on limestone foundations with a limestone porch and steps at
each end, which duplicate in original design the "standard", "regular", or
"economy" cabins of Grand Canyon Lodge. Built in 1929 along with the main
Inn building, these are true log cabins with notched corners, divided
basically into two rooms with a bathroom containing a sink, toilet, and
shower stall, which is accessible from each room. The toilet is, in fact,
entered from a tiny hallway which is separated from each of the bedrooms
by a door; thus the cabin can be opened up for use by a single family
although to pass from one bedroom to the other it is necessary to pass
through two doors and the small hallway between. The gable roofs are
finished with wood shingles. A small log extension at the middle of one
side contains a heater. Each cabin contains about 318 square feet, and is
about 12 by 27 feet.

**Exposed Frame Cabins - Individually Number 1 through 27 (Old Nos.
935-961)**

Northeast of the Main building is a complex of 27 small, square, gable-
roofed exposed frame single family cabins, each basically 13 feet square
(exterior dimensions), not counting a six foot wide bathroom wall which
extends two feet beyond the basic square of the floor plan on the
exterior. The tiny four foot square bathroom contains a toilet, sink, and
stall shower. This bathroom is to the immediately left of the entrance
door, and occupies one half of the front wall. The other half features a
single window, while each of the other three sides has two windows. The
roofs are shingled. As with the employee quarters behind the main
building, the verticality of the exposed frame replicates that of the
mixed forest of the North Rim.

**Miscellaneous Inn Structures Nos.922, 923, 924**

In the complex of exposed frame cabins, one such structure, (No. 923) of
typical exterior design and size, is a Laundry and Firehose House. Its
interior lacks the usual bathroom.

Also in that complex is a double-size exposed frame structure with gable
roof which served as a washroom (Old No. 922) which at one time appears to have been a women's dormitory.

Outside of the complex to the north but adjacent to it is a linen house built in 1929 (old No. 924), which was a typical gable-roofed exposed frame building except that it had a shed-roofed porch along its longer axis on one side, and its roof was refinished in corrugated aluminum.

Amid the complex of log "sharing shower" cabins was a log rest room building of identical exterior size and design, with the interior equally divided into men's and women's rest rooms, each with four toilets. The men's with two sinks and two urinals, the women's with three sinks.

#### Campground Structures

Adjacent to the south to the Grand Canyon Inn is the North Rim Campground, which contains some modern rest rooms and an entrance kiosk, as well as six rustic stone woodpile enclosures, now used for garbage, two log restrooms, a stone drinking fountain, and an amphitheater with split log seats. The log restrooms and the stone enclosures and drinking fountain are considered to have local significance in terms of their rustic design. The amphitheater is not considered significant but it is harmonious and not an intrusion.
**SIGNIFICANCE**

**PERIOD**  
- PREHISTORIC  
- 1400-1499  
- 1500-1599  
- 1600-1699  
- 1700-1799  
- 1800-1899  
- 1900-  

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW**  
- ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC  
- ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC  
- AGRICULTURE  
- ARCHITECTURE  
- ART  
- COMMERCE  
- COMMUNICATIONS  
- COMMUNITY PLANNING  
- CONSERVATION  
- ECONOMICS  
- EDUCATION  
- ENGINEERING  
- EXPLORATION-SETTLEMENT  
- INDUSTRY  
- INVENTION  
- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  
- LAW  
- LITERATURE  
- MILITARY  
- MUSIC  
- PHILOSOPHY  
- POLITICS/GOVERNMENT  
- RELIGION  
- SCIENCE  
- SCULPTURE  
- SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN  
- THEATER  
- TRANSPORTATION  
- TOURISM  
- OTHER (SPECIFY)  
- TOURIST INDUSTRY

**SPECIFIC DATES 1928**  
**BUILDER/ARCHITECT** Utah Parks Co.

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

8. Significance

Grand Canyon Inn is of local historical significance as part of The Utah Parks Company's original developments on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. It is of local architectural significance as an example of inexpensive "rustic" architecture intended, without highly stylized or sophisticated design or expensive materials, to replace the original tent camp with a more substantial yet still low cost tourist facility.

The above statement of significance is based on the following historical summary:

Grand Canyon had been established as a National Monument under U.S. Forest Service management in 1908, although it had then been promoted as a tourist attraction from the south side by the Atlantic & Pacific Railroad and its successor, the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad, for more than a quarter of a century. Still, there was no tourist development of the North Rim until 1916, when William W. Wylie, a well-known concessioner in Yellowstone National Park, established his tourist camp above the head of Transcend Canyon in the trees near Bright Angel Point. At first, the Wylie Way Camp consisted of a main dining tent and ten sleeping tents, accommodating about twenty people. Due to the severity of North Rim winters, it was operated only during the summer months.

Before the beginning of the 1924 season, Wylie's daughter, Elizabeth, and her husband, Thomas H. McKee, took over the camp. In 1926, they began adding frame cabins to the camp, enhancing both its capacity and its permanence.

By 1927, the camp included a main pavilion, 38 wood-roofed cabins, sixteen tent-roofed cabins, sheds, and a Kohler light plant.

The same year Wylie began development of the North Rim the National Park Service was formed, and three years later, 1919, Grand Canyon was made a National Park under the new agency. Subsequently its Director toured the parks in nearby southern Utah (Zion and Bryce Canyons) and then approached the Union Pacific Railroad, whose subsidiary San Pedro, Los Angeles & Salt Lake Railway crossed the region, asking the company's help in developing the parks for tourism. The railroad undertook to do so by building a
branch line from Lund to Cedar City, by promoting the development of good paved roads in the region, and after incorporating in 1923 as a wholly owned subsidiary the Utah Parks Company to manage such interests, buying out the concessions at Zion, Bryce, and the McKee camp at the North Rim of the Grand Canyon, as well as the Escalante Hotel in Cedar City.

The Utah Parks Company hired Architect Gilbert Stanley Underwood to design a new lodge to provide more expensive, "deluxe" accommodations at the tip of Bright Angel Point and to rebuild the Wylie Way Camp to provide lower cost accommodations.

The Utah Parks Company erected a main building of stylized but still simple rustic design, as well as a group of log cabins identical to the "Standard" or "economy" cabins at the new lodge. Native log structures on native sandstone foundations, these harmonized well with the Kaibab forest in which they stood. They also built a group of exposed frame cabins not duplicated architecturally elsewhere on the North rim. The Grand Canyon itself was not visible through the trees from this location.

Adjacent to this development on the south, the National Park Service established a campground with numerous campsites, whose patrons could also make use of the services offered by the main building of the Inn. The only structures in this area were also of a rustic design, and consisted of log rest rooms, stone enclosures for campfire wood, later used for trash, and an amphitheater for interpretive programs.

All of the buildings and structures of "rustic" design in the Grand Canyon Inn area and the campground contribute to the significance of this historic district.

In later years, the main Inn building was converted into a Cafeteria, and still more recently it has served as a store and recreation room without food service, while the adjacent family and "sharing shower" cabins run by the Union Pacific's Utah Parks Company have been converted exclusively into employee quarters for both the National Park Service (the log cabins, principally) and the concessioner which replaced Utah Parks, TWA Industries.
GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 77

UTM REFERENCES

ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

A[1,2] H[1,0]0[2,1] 0[1,0]0[7,8,2,5] B[1,2] H[1,0]0[4,4] 0[1,0]0[7,1,8,0]

C[1,2] H[1,0]0[4,8,0] 0[1,0]0[7,1,7,0] D[1,2] H[1,0]0[4,9,0] 0[1,0]0[7,1,8,5]

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary constitutes a rectangle with the longer axis running 2100 feet north-south, and the shorter sides 1600 feet east-west, encompassing more than 50 buildings and structures, most grouped into three complexes extending around the north and west of the North Rim Inn main building, the remainder widely spaced throughout the campground. The corners of the rectangle are established by the above UTM points.

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

STATE CODE STATE CODE

N/A N/A

COUNTY CODE COUNTY CODE

N/A N/A

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Revision of form by:

Gordon Chappell, Regional Historian

Ron Johnson, Historian, and

Anthony Crosby, Historical Architect.

ORGANIZATION

Western Regional Office, National Park Service

DATE

October 9, 1981

TELEPHONE

(415) 556-4165

CITY OR TOWN

San Francisco

STATE

California

CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES X

NO

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

IN COMPLIANCE WITH EXECUTIVE ORDER 11593, I HEREBY NOMINATE THIS PROPERTY TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER, CERTIFYING THAT THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER HAS BEEN ALLOWED 90 DAYS IN WHICH TO PRESENT THE NOMINATION TO THE STATE REVIEW BOARD AND TO EVALUATE ITS SIGNIFICANCE. THE EVALUATED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE IS 6 National/State/Local.

SIGNED

DATE

JUL 01 1992

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

9/30/82

ATTEST:

DATE

8/31/82
Site Plan

Grand Canyon Inn
(North Rim Inn)
Coconino County, Arizona

[Diagram of Grand Canyon Inn site plan]

Prepared by Gordon Chappell