The attached property, the Gamlin Cabin in Fresno County, California, reference number 77000123, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the Keeper of the National Register on 03/08/1977, as evidenced by FEDERAL REGISTER/WEEKLY LIST notice of Tuesday, February 6, 1979, Part II, Vol. 44, No. 26, page 7429. The attached nomination form is a copy of the original documentation provided to the Keeper at the time of listing.

Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

Date

3/27/2009
NAME
HISTORIC Gamlin Cabin

AND/OR COMMON Gamlin Cabin

LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER Not Applicable
CITY, TOWN Kings Canyon N. Park
STATE California
STATE CODE 06
COUNTY Fresno
COUNTY CODE 019

CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY DISTRICT BUILDINGS)
STRUCTURE
SITE
OBJECT

OWNERSHIP PUBLIC
PRIVATE
BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
IN PROCESS
BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS OCCUPIED
UNOCCUPIED
WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
YES: RESTRICTED
YES: UNRESTRICTED

PRESENT USE
AGRICULTURE
COMMERCIAL
PARK
EDUCATIONAL
PRIVATE RESIDENCE
ENTERTAINMENT
RELIGIOUS
GOVERNMENT
SCIENTIFIC
INDUSTRIAL
TRANSPORTATION
MILITARY
OTHER

AGENCY
REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: Western Regional Office, National Park Service
STREET & NUMBER 450 Golden Gate Avenue, Box 36063
CITY, TOWN San Francisco
STATE California

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Fresno County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER 1100 Van Ness Avenue
CITY, TOWN Fresno
STATE California

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE NONE
DATE
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN
STATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED
SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

None
The Gamlin Cabin is a one-room log cabin built in 1872 and located approximately 200 feet northwest of the General Grant Tree in Kings Canyon National Park. The single room measures 24 1/2 feet by 18 feet. The very distinctive walls are made of hand-hewn squared timbers; each log averages about 7 inches thick and 1 foot, 3 inches high. The walls are without chinking as they were designed to fit together closely at the time of construction. The logs are held together by corner notches and rest directly on the ground. Two doors open through the front of the cabin while windows pass through each side. The rear wall has a masonry fireplace built into it. The cabin is roofed with extremely large shakes resting on a frame of poles. The cabin has a dirt floor and no interior finishing.

The building has been moved twice and restored after the second move. This restoration in 1933-1934 was done with the cooperation of Thomas Gamlin, brother of the cabin’s builder, Israel Gamlin. Thomas Gamlin helped locate the exact original location of the cabin so that it could be rebuilt there. Both the current roof and the fireplace date from this 1933-1934 work. Their historical accuracy is problematical as no photographs showing the original configuration of the structure have yet been located. Every attempt was made in 1933-1934 to return the cabin to its original state.

The setting of the cabin has changed considerably since the 1870’s. The most obvious change is the removal of the corrals which probably surrounded the original cabin. Today the area is developed for tourist use with asphalt nature trails and interpretive displays. Despite these changes, the cabin retains a high degree of integrity.
As the first building erected within the Grant Grove of the Giant Sequoias, the Gamlin Cabin is of local significance in the fields of exploration/settlement. In its function as storage building for the cavalry troops which guarded General Grant National Park from 1891 through 1901 and as residence for the first civilian park ranger in General Grant National Park during the years 1902-1915, the cabin is of local significance in the field of conservation. The distinctive, hand-hewn logs which make up the walls of the cabin also make it of local architectural significance as an example of a rare type of pioneer construction.

The Gamlin Cabin was erected in 1872 by Israel Gamlin, a New Englander who had taken a squatter's claim on the Grant Grove of the Big Trees. (Israel's brother, Thomas, may have assisted in the construction of the cabin, but later generations of Gamlins have given conflicting testimony on this matter.) Israel Gamlin brought stock into the forest and developed a primitive road to the grove over which he apparently removed posts and shakes cut from fallen giant sequoias. He also provided hospitality and supplies to visitors who braved the mountain roads and trails hoping to see the Big Trees.

Several years after Gamlin had established his claim, Grant Grove was surveyed by the General Land Office of the Federal government. The field surveyor noted the exceptional scenic value of the grove and recommended that it be preserved as a public park. On his own initiative the surveyor struck an agreement with Gamlin in which Gamlin relinquished all claims to the Grant Grove in return for timber lands elsewhere. Gamlin kept his part of the bargain and abandoned his cabin. The government never supplied Gamlin with other lands, however, and Gamlin eventually traveled to Idaho in search of unclaimed timberlands.

The movement to make Grant Grove a public park languished until 1890 when General Grant National Park was established. The following summer, U.S. Army troops were sent to the new reservation to protect the Big Trees. The cavalry troops soon appropriated the abandoned Gamlin Cabin for use as a feed storage shed. In 1892 soldiers dismantled the cabin and moved it, one log at a time, to a new site about 2/3 mile southeast of its original location near the General Grant Tree. The soldiers used the cabin for grain storage until
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Files of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Three Rivers, California
1. "History - Dedications, 101-01-3 Gamlin Cabin"
2. "History - History - Kings Canyon 101-12"
3. Gamlin Cabin Folder in history section

(All files located in Park Naturalist's Office)

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.22

ZONE EASTING NORTHING
A 1 1 3 2 4 1 0 6 8 6 0 1

ZONE EASTING NORTHING
B 1 1 1

ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C 1 1 1

ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D 1 1 1

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point six hundred sixty-five (665) feet north, 22 degrees west of survey control station ten as shown on General Grant National Park Topographic Drawing No. NP-GG-5311, proceed north 25 degrees west one hundred (100) feet; thence north 65 degrees east one hundred (100) feet; thence south 25 degrees east one hundred (100) feet; thence south 65 degrees west one hundred (100) feet to point of beginning.

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

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE (Revision of form submitted by F. Ross Holland, Jr.
William C. Tweed, Historian January 14, 1972)

ORGANIZATION National Park Service, Western Regional Office

STREET & NUMBER 450 Golden Gate Avenue, Box 35063

CITY OR TOWN San Francisco,

STATE California

CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES X NO NONE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER 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 ___National ___State ___Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
they were replaced in 1902 by L. L. Davis, the first civilian park ranger of General Grant National Park. Davis cleaned out the old cabin and it became his residence. The cabin served as the General Grant National Park ranger cabin until after 1915.

When the cabin was finally replaced by a more modern ranger station, it reverted to its older role as storage building. A falling tree during the winter of 1931-1932 landed on a corner of the structure and destroyed the roof. The age of the building made its repair difficult, so plans were made to dismantle it. Several residents of nearby communities objected to the destruction of the old cabin, however, so General Grant National Park Superintendent John R. White agreed to have the cabin moved back to its original site near the General Grant Tree and restored. The cabin was dismantled and moved home in the fall of 1932 with the help of volunteer labor. Volunteers returned again in 1933 to add a new roof and restore the fireplace. Since 1933 the Gamlin Cabin has stood near the base of the General Grant Tree as a reminder of the early history of the district.
NAME
HISTORIC Gamlin Cabin
AND/OR COMMON Gamlin Cabin

LOCATION
CITY, TOWN Not applicable (Kings Canyon NP)
VICINITY OF Grant Grove
COUNTY Fresno
STATE CA

MAP REFERENCE
SOURCE U. S. Geological Survey
SCALE 1:62500
DATE 1956 Limited revision 1967

REQUIREMENTS
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES
VERBAL DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point six hundred sixty-five (665) feet north, 25 degrees west of the survey control station as shown in General Grant National Park Topographic Drawing No. 99-99-99, proceed north 25 degrees west 100 feet, then north 65 degrees east one hundred (100) feet, then south 25 degrees west 100 feet to point of beginning.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>TYPE OF PROPERTY</th>
<th>NAME OF PROPERTY</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>DEscription</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Object</td>
<td>Grant Grove</td>
<td>Kings Canyon National Park</td>
<td>Building</td>
<td>18x24', restored log cabin, constructed of square log, double doorway and window in each side, earthen floor &amp; split beam roof, located in Sequoia National Park.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Object</td>
<td>General Grant Tree</td>
<td>Grant Grove</td>
<td>Tree</td>
<td>2,500 years old. Second largest sequoia in the park, 267' tall with base diameter of 10.3', estimated 2,500 years old. Second largest sequoia in the park. Nurtured since 1667, erected in 1926 as the national tree. Congress in 1956 designated it a national shrine and living memorial to all U.S. war dead.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Structure</td>
<td>General Grant Tree</td>
<td>Grant Grove</td>
<td>Tree</td>
<td>2,500 years old. Second largest sequoia in the park, 267' tall with base diameter of 10.3', estimated 2,500 years old. Second largest sequoia in the park. Nurtured since 1667, erected in 1926 as the national tree. Congress in 1956 designated it a national shrine and living memorial to all U.S. war dead.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**1 NAME**

**HISTORIC**
Gamlin Cabin

**AND/OR COMMON**
Gamlin Cabin

**2 LOCATION**

**CITY, TOWN**
Not applicable - (Kings Canyon National Park) Grant Grove

**VICINITY OF**
Fresno

**COUNTY**

**STATE**
CA

**3 PHOTO REFERENCE**

**PHOTO CREDIT** NPS Photo by Gordon Chappell

**DATE OF PHOTO** July 1975

**NEGATIVE FILED AT**
National Park Service, Western Regional Office, Box 36063
450 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco, CA 94102

**4 IDENTIFICATION**

**DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET**
Side and rear of cabin, showing chimney

**PHOTO NO**
1
| **1 NAME** |  |
| HISTORIC | Gamlin Cabin |
| AND/OR COMMON | Gamlin Cabin |

| **2 LOCATION** |  |
| CITY, TOWN | Not applicable - (Kings Canyon National Park) Grant Grove Fresno |
| COUNTY | CA |

| **3 PHOTO REFERENCE** |  |
| PHOTO CREDIT | NPS Photo by Gordon Chappell |
| DATE OF PHOTO | July 1975 |
| NEGATIVE FILED AT | National Park Service, Western Regional Office, Box 36063 450 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco, CA 94102 |

| **4 IDENTIFICATION** |  |
| DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET | Front of cabin and interpretive sign |
| PHOTO NO | 2 |