**NAME**

HISTORIC: Glacier Point Trailside Museum

AND/OR COMMON: Glacier Point Lookout

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER: N/A

CITY. TOWN: Yosemite National Park

STATE: California

COUNTY: Mariposa

CODE: 06

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Fifteenth

**CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY: PUBLIC

OWNERSHIP: PUBLIC

STATUS: ACCESSIBLE

PRESENT USE: MUSEUM

**AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: National Park Service - Western Regional Office

STREET & NUMBER: 450 Golden Gate Avenue - Box 36063

CITY. TOWN: San Francisco

STATE: California

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: National Park Service Building Files, Park Headquarters

STREET & NUMBER: Government Center - Yosemite Village - Box 577

CITY. TOWN: Yosemite National Park

STATE: California

**REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE: None

DATE: None

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: None

CITY. TOWN: None

STATE: None
The Glacier Point "trailside museum" was built as part of the Yosemite Valley Museum in 1924. Both structures were designed by Herbert Maier and Ansel Hall.

The structure is a small observation pavilion with large segmental arched openings on the west, north, and east sides. The structure has an asymmetrical gable roof, supported on peeled logs with log infill in the gables, and covered with wood shingles. It has a semicircular walled terrace on the north side, which overlooks Yosemite Valley. The structure consists of rough-dressed granite laid on an uncoursed rubble bond, and the walls are slightly battered. The floor of the terrace is granite and concrete; the interior floor is wood. Inside the structure are three large wall plaques: engraved aluminum with embossed photographs that depict the various geological features seen from the observation deck.

The recommended level of preservation for this resource is routine maintenance. A new wooden floor was laid in 1975, and the geological exhibits were replaced in the late 1960s.
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As an integral component of the old Yosemite Museum, the Glacier Point "trailside museum" is of local significance in education. (The Museum, the first permanent teaching instrument of its kind in the National Park Service, is being nominated to the National Register as part of the Yosemite Village Historic District. The significant physical separation of the two facilities precluded adding the Glacier Point structure to the District nomination.) The building possesses architectural significance on the local level because it is exemplary of the Rustic style, as it developed in Yosemite. It was built with native natural materials, and was designed to blend into the surrounding environment. The building exhibits fine craftsmanship.

The geological importance of Yosemite National Park, and most significantly its glacier-carved Yosemite Valley, was a priority consideration in exhibit plans for the Yosemite Museum. There was to be a whole room devoted to geology; however the pioneering interpreters saw the importance of a museum "sub-station" located on the rim of the granite walls that would further enhance the visitor's knowledge of the forces that shaped Yosemite Valley. Glacier Point, 3200 ft. above the Valley floor and accessible by road and trail, was the ideal site. Funds were provided by the Yosemite Natural History Association. In 1925 the Glacier Point "branch" of the Yosemite Museum, the first trailside museum in the National Park system, opened to an immediate and steady stream of visitors. In the summer of 1927 over 15,000 visitors used the facility.

The Museum in Yosemite Valley was converted in part to office space in 1966 when the new Visitor Center, with an extensive geology exhibit, opened. The Glacier Point structure is still an interpretive facility with displays depicting points of interest that can be observed from the terrace, supplemented by ranger-naturalist lectures during the summer months.
### MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


Russell, Carl P., One Hundred Years in Yosemite. (Yosemite: Yosemite Natural History Association, 1957.

Reports of the Chief Park Naturalist, Yosemite National Park.

Yosemite Museum file, Yosemite Research Library

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### GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY | Less than 11,000

| UTM REFERENCES |

| A | 1 | 1 |
| ZONE| 27,325,0 |
| EASTING | 4,11,7,85,0 |
| NORTING |

| B | 1 | 1 |
| ZONE | 1111 |
| EASTING |
| NORTING |

| C | 1 |
| ZONE |
| EASTING |
| NORTING |

| D | 1 |
| ZONE |
| EASTING |
| NORTING |

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The building boundaries are defined by the outer limit of the walls.

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### FORM PREPARED BY

| NAME / TITLE | Leslie Starr Hart, Historian |
| Merrill Ann Wilson, Historical Architect |
| ORGANIZATION | National Park Service - Denver Service Center |
| STREET & NUMBER | 655 Parfet Street, P.O. Box 25287 |
| CITY OR TOWN | Denver (Lakewood) |
| STATE | Colorado |

### CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

State Historic Preservation Officer Recommendation

YES ☒ NO

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.

TITLE Deputy Assistant Secretary

DATE NOV 10 1977

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FOR NPS USE ONLY

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

ATTEST: [Signature]

DATE 3.16.78

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GPO 899-214
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Yosemite National Park

VICINITY OF
Glacier Point

COUNTY
Mariposa

STATE
CA

PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT
Thomas Mulhern/National Park Service

DATE OF PHOTO
7/26/75

NEGATIVE FILED
Western Regional Office/NPS/450 Golden Gate Ave., P.O. Box 36063
San Francisco, CA.

IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.
2.

East facade of structure, view to the west, shows protective rock wall "balustrade". Entrance is on opposite side. Observation area is extension to right of arch.
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PHOTO NO. 1

West facade, view to the east, shows projecting terrace on the north facade of structure.