UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME
HISTORIC
Yosemite Transportation Company Office
AND/OR COMMON
Wells Fargo Office

2 LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER
N. 6 Wawona or WNP
Pioneer Yosemite History Center
CITY, TOWN
Yosemite National Park — VICINITY OF Wawona
STATE
California

3 CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY
—DISTRICT
—BUILDING(S)
—STRUCTURE
—SITE
—OBJECT

OWNERHIPS
—PUBLIC
—PRIVATE
—PRIVATE: UNOCCUPIED
—PRIVATE: UNOCCUPIED: IN PROCESS
—PRIVATE: BEING CONSIDERED

—SITE
—PRIVATE: BEING CONSIDERED
—PRIVATE: BEING CONSIDERED: IN PROCESS

—PUBLIC ACQUISITION
—PRIVATE ACQUISITION

STATUS
—PUBLIC OCCUPIED
—PRIVATE OCCUPIED
—PRIVATE OCCUPIED: ACCESSIBLE
—PRIVATE OCCUPIED: IN PROCESS
—PRIVATE OCCUPIED: BEING CONSIDERED

—PRIVATE UNOCCUPIED
—PRIVATE UNOCCUPIED: ACCESSIBLE
—PRIVATE UNOCCUPIED: IN PROCESS
—PRIVATE UNOCCUPIED: BEING CONSIDERED

—PRIVATE WORK IN PROGRESS
—PRIVATE WORK IN PROGRESS: ACCESSIBLE
—PRIVATE WORK IN PROGRESS: IN PROCESS
—PRIVATE WORK IN PROGRESS: BEING CONSIDERED

—PRIVATE IN PROCESS
—PRIVATE IN PROCESS: ACCESSIBLE
—PRIVATE IN PROCESS: IN PROCESS
—PRIVATE IN PROCESS: BEING CONSIDERED

—PRIVATE BEING CONSIDERED
—PRIVATE BEING CONSIDERED: ACCESSIBLE
—PRIVATE BEING CONSIDERED: IN PROCESS
—PRIVATE BEING CONSIDERED: BEING CONSIDERED

—PRIVATE ACQUISITION
—PRIVATE ACQUISITION: ACCESSIBLE
—PRIVATE ACQUISITION: IN PROCESS
—PRIVATE ACQUISITION: BEING CONSIDERED

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

4 AGENCY
National Park Service
REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)
Western Regional Office
STREET & NUMBER
450 Golden Gate Ave., Box 36063
CITY, TOWN
San Francisco
STATE
CA

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
National Park Service
STREET & NUMBER
P.O. Box 577
CITY, TOWN
Yosemite National Park
STATE
CA

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE
Historic Structures Report/Inventory
DATE
1961
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
same as #5
CITY, TOWN
STATE
The Yosemite Transportation Company Office was constructed in Yosemite Valley in 1910 and moved to Wawona in 1960. Originally housed in the building were a variety of transportation and communication facilities. It is a 1 1/2 story frame structure 23' x 21'. The building consists of an unpeeled log frame, vertical posts, and horizontal beams, with infill panels of natural cedar bark and thin, unpeeled logs arranged in decorative patterns (predominantly herringbone). It has a steeply pitched overhanging roof of wood shingles, supported on log rafters, which measures over half of the height of the building. A king post truss of peeled logs is used both functionally and decoratively in the front gable, which overhangs four feet.

The casement windows have diamond-pane sash which are placed horizontally in the frames.

The building receives adequate preservation maintenance through its inclusion in the Pioneer Yosemite History Center. An historic structure preservation guide should be completed for this building.

The justification for moving the building is in paragraph two of the significance statement. The roof structure was removed to facilitate passage through the Wawona tunnel. It was replaced at the new site and the building was treated with wood preservative. An interior fire prevention sprinkler system was installed at this time.
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Yosemite Transportation Company Office (Wells Fargo Office) is of local significance in the fields of architecture and transportation. These significances are based on the design of the structure and on its use for many years as a transportation facility for visitors to Yosemite Valley.

The building is an exceptional and rare example of the Rustic Style of architecture as it first developed in the Yosemite region. Characteristic of the style was the use of cedar bark strips applied in decorative patterns, as exterior sheathing material on wood frame buildings. Structures which are similar in design include the Yosemite Valley Railroad Station at El Portal (destroyed by fire, 1949) and four buildings extant in Yosemite Valley: the Curry Cabin, Tresidder Cabin, original Camp Curry Registration Office, and the Pohono Studio (all nominated to the National Register). These rustic structures represent an effort to design facilities which would not be intrusive or incompatible with the natural environment.

The transportation significance of the structure results from its function as a horse and motor stage terminal. The building was erected at the Old Village site, near the Sentinel Hotel, in 1910 with funds and design provided by the Yosemite Valley Railroad Company. The railroad had recently completed a line to El Portal on the western boundary of Yosemite National Park. Horse and later "auto-stages" connected the El Portal depot with Yosemite Valley. During the stagecoach years the building also served as a telegraph and express office and it was then that the name "Wells Fargo" became associated with it.

After the all-year highway was opened in 1927 the popularity of the Yosemite Valley railroad began to diminish in favor of private vehicles and commercial buses. The Yosemite Transportation Company shifted its transactions to the "front desk" at lodgings throughout the park. In the late 1930s the vacant Y.T.C. building was converted to an employee residence.

In 1959 the "Wells Fargo Office" was slated for demolition as part of the National Park Service's "Mission 66" program that dismantled the majority of buildings in the Old Village and restored the meadow to its natural state. Recognition of the building's unique design and local history led to the
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 10

UTM REFERENCES

ZONE EASTING NORTHING
A 2 6 5 4 5 0
2 1 5 6 4 4 4
4 1 1 5 7 7 6 2

ZONE EASTING NORTHING
B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries are defined by the walls of the building.

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Leslie Starr Hart/Historian
Merrill Ann Wilson/Historical Architect

ORGANIZATION Denver Service Center/National Park Service
DATE 8/76 (rev. 11/76)

STREET & NUMBER 655 Parfet, P.O. Box 25287
TELEPHONE (303)234-4509/Hart or -5545/Wilson
CITY OR TOWN Denver
STATE CO
CODE 80225

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION
YES X NO

NAME

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

DATE MAY 25 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND ULTIMATE DECISION MAKER

ATTEST:

DIRECTOR OF ARCHAELOGICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL PERSERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 6/9/78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 6/7/78
allocation of funds for removal rather than destruction. The building was acquired from Yosemite Park and Curry Company and moved to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center in Wawona. There the building was restored to a circa 1912 appearance and opened for interpretive use.

Because the building was moved from its historic location in 1959, the sole significant value requiring management protection is the physical integrity of the present structure.
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Yosemite Transportation Company Office

AND/OR COMMON
Wells Fargo Office

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN
Yosemite Nat'1 pk, Wawona.Pioneer History Center

VICINITY OF

COUNTY
Mariposa

STATE
California

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT
Dean Shenk
National Park Service

DATE OF PHOTO
10/75

NEGATIVE FILED AT
Western Regional Office, NPS, 450 Golden Gate Ave., Box 36063, San Francisco, California

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET
Yosemite Transportation Co. Southwestern and Southeastern sides