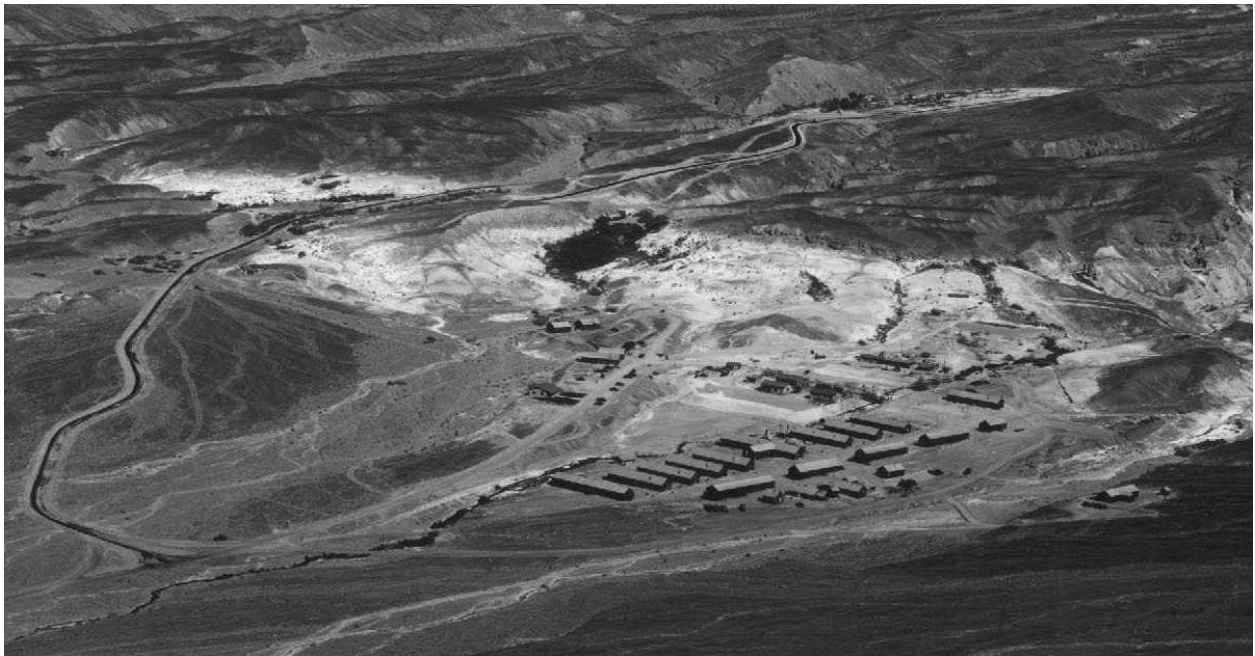

National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory
2004



Cow Creek Historic District
Death Valley National Park

Level II
Cultural Landscape Inventory
Death Valley National Park

Death Valley National Park concurs the findings of the Level II inventory for the Cow Creek Historic District including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY B: **Should be preserved and maintained**

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: **Fair**

The Level II Cultural Landscape Inventory for the Cow Creek Historic District in Death Valley National Park is hereby approved and accepted.



Superintendent, Death Valley National Park

13 JUNE 2001

Date

COW CREEK HISTORIC DISTRICT

DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

California SHPO Eligibility Determination

Section 110 Actions Requested:

- 1) SHPO concurrence with the boundary established for the Cow Creek Historic District.
- 2) SHPO concurrence with the addition of structures to the List of Classified Structures (LCS). (See chart below).

 ☒ **I concur,** **Additional information is needed to concur,**
 I do not concur with the proposed boundary expansion for the Cow Creek Historic District as described in the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI).

 ☒ **I concur,** **Additional information is needed to concur,**
 I do not concur that the **Setting** as described in the CLI contributes to the Cow Creek Historic District (see the following landscape characteristics: cluster arrangement, land use, natural systems and features, spatial organization, topography, vegetation, and views and vistas).

The following structures, located within the proposed historic district, are already listed on the National Register as contributing elements of the Cow Creek Historic District (no concurrence required):

LCS number	Structure Name
009073	Cow Creek Old Administration Building
057805	Cow Creek Warehouse
057806	Cow Creek Warehouse
057807	Cow Creek Warehouse
057808	Cow Creek Warehouse
057809	Cow Creek Oil House
057810	Cow Creek Trades Workshop
057811	Cow Creek Radio Building
057812	Cow Creek Carpenter Shop
057813	Cow Creek Warehouse
057814	Cow Creek Adobe Workshop
057815	Cow Creek Reservoir
057816	Cow Creek Swimming Pool
057817	Cow Creek Adobe Wall
057833	Cow Creek Entrance Sign
332658	Cow Creek Stone Stairs

Based on the information provided in the CLI, the following previously unevaluated structures have been identified as **contributing** to the Cow Creek Historic District:

LCS number	Structure Name	Structure Built	Concur	Do not Concur
330083	Cow Creek Administration Bldg. Walkway & Curbs	ca. 1939	X	
330086	Cow Creek Parking Lot at CC-48	by 1942	X	
330088	Cow Creek Historic Roads	1933-1935	X	
330090	Cow Creek Administration Building Flagpole	ca. 1940	X	
330093	Cow Creek CCC Incinerator	ca. 1941		
330095	Cow Creek Masonry Spillway	Unknown – but appears to date to historic period	X	

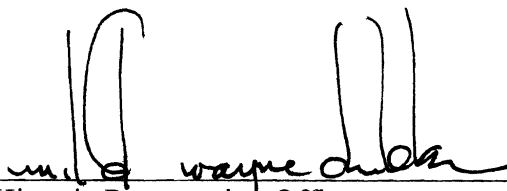
Based on the information provided in the CLI, the following previously unevaluated structures have been identified as **not contributing** to the Cow Creek Historic District:

LCS number	Structure Name	Concur	Do not Concur
N/A	Administration Area Comfort Station	X	
N/A	Cow Creek Storage Building	X	
N/A	Curatorial Building	X	
N/A	District Ranger and Fire Station	X	
N/A	Maintenance Office	X	
N/A	Pool Storage Shed	X	
N/A	Pump House	X	
N/A	Quonset Huts (7)	X	
N/A	Trailer	X	
N/A	Concrete Path from Pool Heading West	X	
N/A	Spur Road to Park Village	X	
N/A	Spur Road to Salt Pan Vista	X	
N/A	Pool Side Barbeque	X	
N/A	Propane Tanks and Foundations	X	
N/A	Shuffleboard Court	X	
N/A	Utility Poles	X	
N/A	Wood Pole Retaining Walls	X	
N/A	Chain Link Fences	X	

Reasons/comments why 'Additional Information Is Needed To Concur' or 'Do Not Concur' were checked:

NOTE: While the SHPO concurs in the proposed Cultural Resource Landscape proposal, it should be noted that the "Small Scale Features" states that the integrity of small features has been lost due to removal of a number of elements within this category. However, the signage and flagpole do retain integrity and are included among the contributing features of the district. This causes some confusion and needs to be clarified.

Also it should be noted that the number of non-contributing buildings and structures is dangerously close to outnumbering the historic elements within the District boundaries. This indicates that the integrity of the district as a whole may be somewhat fragile and that special attention needs to be given to restraining new construction and alteration within the district boundaries.



California State Historic Preservation Officer
Milford Wayne Donaldson
18 AUG 2004
Date

Please return forms to the attention of:
Kimball Koch
Cultural Landscape Program Lead-Oakland
National Park Service
Pacific West Regional Office-Oakland
1111 Jackson St. Suite 700
Oakland, CA, 94607
(510) 817-1398
kimball_koch@nps.gov

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Executive Summary

General Introduction to the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) is a comprehensive inventory of all historically significant landscapes within the National Park System. This evaluated inventory identifies and documents each landscape's location, physical development, significance, National Register of Historic Places eligibility, condition, as well as other valuable information for park management. Inventoried landscapes are listed on, or eligible for, the National Register of Historic Places, or otherwise treated as cultural resources. To automate the inventory, the Cultural Landscapes Automated Inventory Management System (CLAIMS) database was created in 1996. CLAIMS provides an analytical tool for querying information associated with the CLI.

The CLI, like the List of Classified Structures (LCS), assists the National Park Service (NPS) in its efforts to fulfill the identification and management requirements associated with Section 110(a) of the National Historic Preservation Act, NPS Management Policies (2001), and Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management (1998). Since launching the CLI nationwide, the NPS, in response to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), is required to report on an annual performance plan that is tied to 6-year strategic plan. The NPS strategic plan has two goals related to cultural landscapes: condition (1a7) and progress on the CLI (1b2b). Because the CLI is the baseline of cultural landscapes in the National Park System, it serves as the vehicle for tracking these goals.

For these reasons, the Park Cultural Landscapes Program considers the completion of the CLI to be a servicewide priority. The information in the CLI is useful at all levels of the park service. At the national and regional levels it is used to inform planning efforts and budget decisions. At the park level, the CLI assists managers to plan, program, and prioritize funds. It is a record of cultural landscape treatment and management decisions and the physical narrative may be used to enhance interpretation programs.

Implementation of the CLI is coordinated on the Region/Support Office level. Each Region/Support Office creates a priority list for CLI work based on park planning needs, proposed development projects, lack of landscape documentation (which adversely affects the preservation or management of the resource), baseline information needs and Region/Support office priorities. This list is updated annually to respond to changing needs and priorities. Completed CLI records are uploaded at the end of the fiscal year to the National Center for Cultural Resources, Park Cultural Landscapes Program in Washington, DC. Only data officially entered into the National Center's CLI database is considered "certified data" for GPRA reporting.

The CLI is completed in a multi-level process with each level corresponding to a specific degree of effort and detail. From Level 0: Park Reconnaissance Survey through Level II: Landscape Analysis and Evaluation, additional information is collected, prior information is refined, and decisions are made regarding if and how to proceed. The relationship between Level 0, I, and II is direct and the CLI for a landscape or component landscape inventory unit is not considered finished until Level II is complete.

A number of steps are involved in completing a Level II inventory record. The process begins when the CLI team meets with park management and staff to clarify the purpose of the CLI and is followed by historical research, documentation, and fieldwork. Information is derived from two efforts: secondary sources that are usually available in the park's or regions' files, libraries, and archives and on-site landscape investigation(s). This information is entered into CLI database as text or graphics. A park report is generated from the database and becomes the vehicle for consultation with the park and the

SHPO/TPO.

Level III: Feature Inventory and Assessment is a distinct inventory level in the CLI and is optional. This level provides an opportunity to inventory and evaluate important landscape features identified at Level II as contributing to the significance of a landscape or component landscape, not listed on the LCS. This level allows for an individual landscape feature to be assessed and the costs associated with treatment recorded.

The ultimate goal of the Park Cultural Landscapes Program is a complete inventory of landscapes, component landscapes, and where appropriate, associated landscape features in the National Park System. The end result, when combined with the LCS, will be an inventory of all physical aspects of any given property.

Relationship between the CLI and a CLR

While there are some similarities, the CLI Level II is not the same as a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR). Using secondary sources, the CLI Level II provides information to establish historic significance by determining whether there are sufficient extant features to convey the property's historic appearance and function. The CLI includes the preliminary identification and analysis to define contributing features, but does not provide the more definitive detail contained within a CLR, which involves more in-depth research, using primary rather than secondary source material.

The CLR is a treatment document and presents recommendations on how to preserve, restore, or rehabilitate the significant landscape and its contributing features based on historical documentation, analysis of existing conditions, and the Secretary of the Interior's standards and guidelines as they apply to the treatment of historic landscapes. The CLI, on the other hand, records impacts to the landscape and condition (good, fair, poor) in consultation with park management. Stabilization costs associated with mitigating impacts may be recorded in the CLI and therefore the CLI may advise on simple and appropriate stabilization measures associated with these costs if that information is not provided elsewhere.

When the park decides to manage and treat an identified cultural landscape, a CLR may be necessary to work through the treatment options and set priorities. A historical landscape architect can assist the park in deciding the appropriate scope of work and an approach for accomplishing the CLR. When minor actions are necessary, a CLI Level II park report may provide sufficient documentation to support the Section 106 compliance process.

Park Information

Park Name: Death Valley National Park
Administrative Unit: Death Valley National Park
Park Organization Code: 8130
Park Alpha Code: DEVA

Property Level And CLI Number

Property Level: Landscape
Name: Cow Creek Historic District
CLI Identification Number: 725105
Parent Landscape CLI ID Number: 725105

Inventory Summary

Inventory Level: Level II

Completion Status:

Level 0

Date Data Collected - Level 0: 7/22/1998
Level 0 Recorder: Bright Eastman
Date Level 0 Entered: 7/22/1998
Level 0 Data Entry Recorder: Bright Eastman
Level 0 Site Visit: No

Level II

Date Level II Data Collected: 5/13/2001
Level II Data Collection: Koch, K., Luellen, M., Provencher, S.
Date Level II Entered: 5/13/2001
Level II Data Entry Recorder: Koch, K.; Luellen, M.; Provencher, S.
Level II Site Visit: Yes
Date of Concurrence: 6/13/2001

Explanatory Narrative:

The Level 0 Cultural Landscape Inventory for the Cow Creek Historic District was entered into the national CLAIMS database on July 22, 1998. Death Valley National Park reviewed and concurred with this Level II inventory for the Cow Creek Historic District on June 13, 2001. The data has been transmitted to the National Center.

A potential historic landscape associated with the Cow Creek Historic District that may be investigated for future inventory is the Park Village area. This residential cluster to

the north of Cow Creek was built concurrently with the utility area by the Civilian Conservation Corps and was later significantly changed by the Mission 66 Program.

The Cow Creek Historic District Level II inventory has been compiled by Shaun Provencher (PGSO CLI technician) and Mark Luellen (PGSO historian) and reviewed by Kimball Koch (PGSO CLI Coordinator) and staff from the Resources Management Division.

Landscape Description

The Cow Creek Historic District is a designed landscape covering approximately two acres in Death Valley National Park. Located in California, four miles north Furnace Creek Ranch, Cow Creek contains administrative, maintenance, and recreational facilities built by the Civilian Conservation Corps between 1933 and 1942. The developed areas are situated below sea level along a wash descending from the hills into Death Valley. The complex is comparatively lush in contrast with the surrounding Mojave Desert landscape. One of the reasons the site was chosen for development as a CCC camp was because of its close proximity to water. This access to water was essential to the subsequent landscaping of the area.

At Cow Creek, the CCC constructed a park headquarters, a utility (maintenance) area, barracks, water tanks, a swimming pool, and housing in the adjacent Park Village development before the CCC program was phased out and the country moved into World War II. The period of significance for the district, 1933 to 1942, is based on the work accomplished by CCC at Cow Creek during that nine-year period.

As a whole, the cultural landscape in the Cow Creek Historic District is in fair condition. The most pressing need is for repair and maintenance of the adobe structures, a project which is currently under design review at the park. It is anticipated that the proposed rehabilitation of the adobe wall and buildings within the utility area will restore these structures to a good condition. Other landscape features include the trees related to the CCC period around the Administration Building and parking area, many of which are declining and in poor health from neglect and lack of water. The trees around the pool complex appear to be in better health.

Although numerous changes have occurred within the historic district since the period of significance, most have been associated with the ongoing use of the site as both an administrative and maintenance area. Although these changes have impacted the historic setting, they have not irreparably altered it and substantial work associated with the CCC period is still evident. Individual landscape characteristics which retain integrity include natural systems and features, spatial organization, land use, topography, vegetation, circulation, buildings and structures, cluster arrangement and constructed water features. Only small-scale features have been altered to such a degree that they no longer contribute to the integrity of the district as a whole.

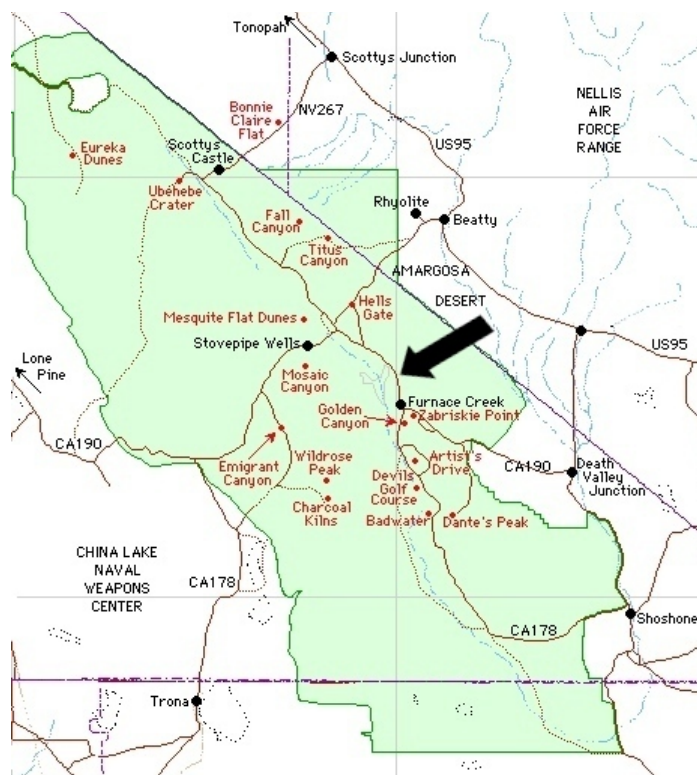
Accordingly, the designed landscape at Cow Creek retains integrity and contributes to the significance of the historic district.

Cultural Landscapes Inventory Hierarchy Description

As identified in the Level 0 inventory, the Cow Creek Historic District is a designed landscape with no component landscapes . The boundary was established in the 1989 Determination of Eligibility but has been modified for the purposes of this landscape inventory to include such landscape features as the entry road which extends from State Highway 190 to the maintenance area. The district contains both cultural and natural features related to the period of significance of 1933 through 1942. The built environment includes the park maintenance area, the original park headquarters, the road, and remnant buildings and features associated with the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) activities.

The adjacent NPS housing area, Park Village, was built in conjunction with the Cow Creek development. It was heavily altered during the Mission 66 program and no longer retains integrity as part of the original CCC development, although individual features remain . As a result, Park Village was included in the DOE boundary for the Cow Creek Historic District, however relevant aspects of its history and development are discussed within this document.

Location Map



Location: Cow Creek is located four miles north of Furnace Creek.

Boundary Description

The boundary of the Cow Creek Historic District was established in the 1989 Determination of Eligibility (DOE). That boundary consists of four points that create a rectangle around the general vicinity of Cow Creek. This boundary was meant to take in the features of the district and is not based on any ownership or physiographic information.

However, for the purposes of this landscape analysis, the DOE boundary has been amended to include additional cultural and natural landscape features which retain integrity and contribute to the site due to their relation to the period of significance from 1933 to 1942. (see Existing Conditions, Supplemental Information #1) The amended district boundary contains approximately two acres and includes all historic features within the original district boundary.

Park Village, to the north, is directly related to the development of the Cow Creek area. However, the removal and/or modification of the original housing and subsequent construction of additional housing since the period of significance has substantively altered the Village such that it no longer retains integrity and therefore is not included in the Cow Creek Historic District.

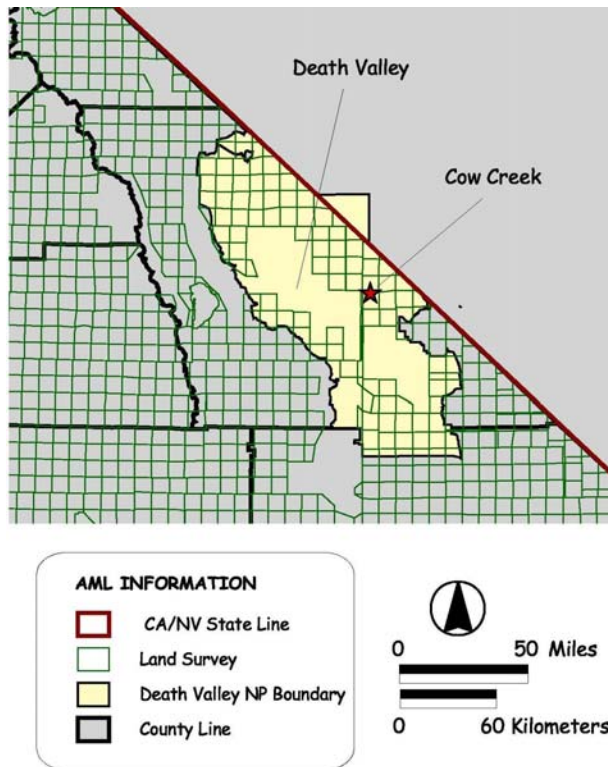
The revised Cow Creek Historic District boundary is as follows:

The northwestern corner of the district takes in the northernmost of the two stepped concrete entrance curbs along State Highway 190, then continues to the northeast for approximately 1570 feet, at a distance of thirty feet to the north of the entrance road. This encompasses all ground disturbances associated with the road. The boundary then runs to the north and northeast to encompass the entrance sign, administrative area, and all vegetation and topographical changes associated with it. Continuing from its most northeastern point, the boundary runs east, approximately thirty feet from the pool road and ends immediately northeast of the reservoir, the northernmost feature of the district. The eastern side then runs south for 475 feet to a point on the south side of the wash, at which point the south side of the boundary runs west along the southern edge of the wash back to State Highway 190. Taking in the southern of the two stepped concrete entrance curbs, the boundary turns north to join the northwest corner. The wash has been included to both document the vegetation planted there and provide a consistent topographic feature for the entire southern side of the district.

Regional Context

Political Context

The Cow Creek Historic District is located in Township 27 North, Range 1 East within Death Valley National Park. The vast majority of park lands are located in the California counties of Inyo and San Bernardino, but a small portion of the park is located in the Nevada counties of Nye and Esmeralda. The Cow Creek Historic District lies within Inyo County in California Congressional District 40.



Political Context: Various political boundaries associated with Death Valley. (PGSO, CLI, ArcView image. Source: U.S. Census Tiger Files)

Physiographic Context

The Cow Creek Historic District is located on the eastern edge of Death Valley. The valley is a 156 mile-long north/south-trending trough between two major block-faulted mountain ranges: the Amargosa Range on the east and the Panamint Range on the west. The study area is located in the foothills of the Funeral Mountains, a portion of the broader Amargosa Range. The Funeral Mountains rise immediately to the east of the historic district with peaks over 5000 feet.



Physiographic Context: View of Cow Creek and Death Valley to the Panamint Range, looking west. (PGSO, CLI, negative #DEVA-N-0002-19, 2000)

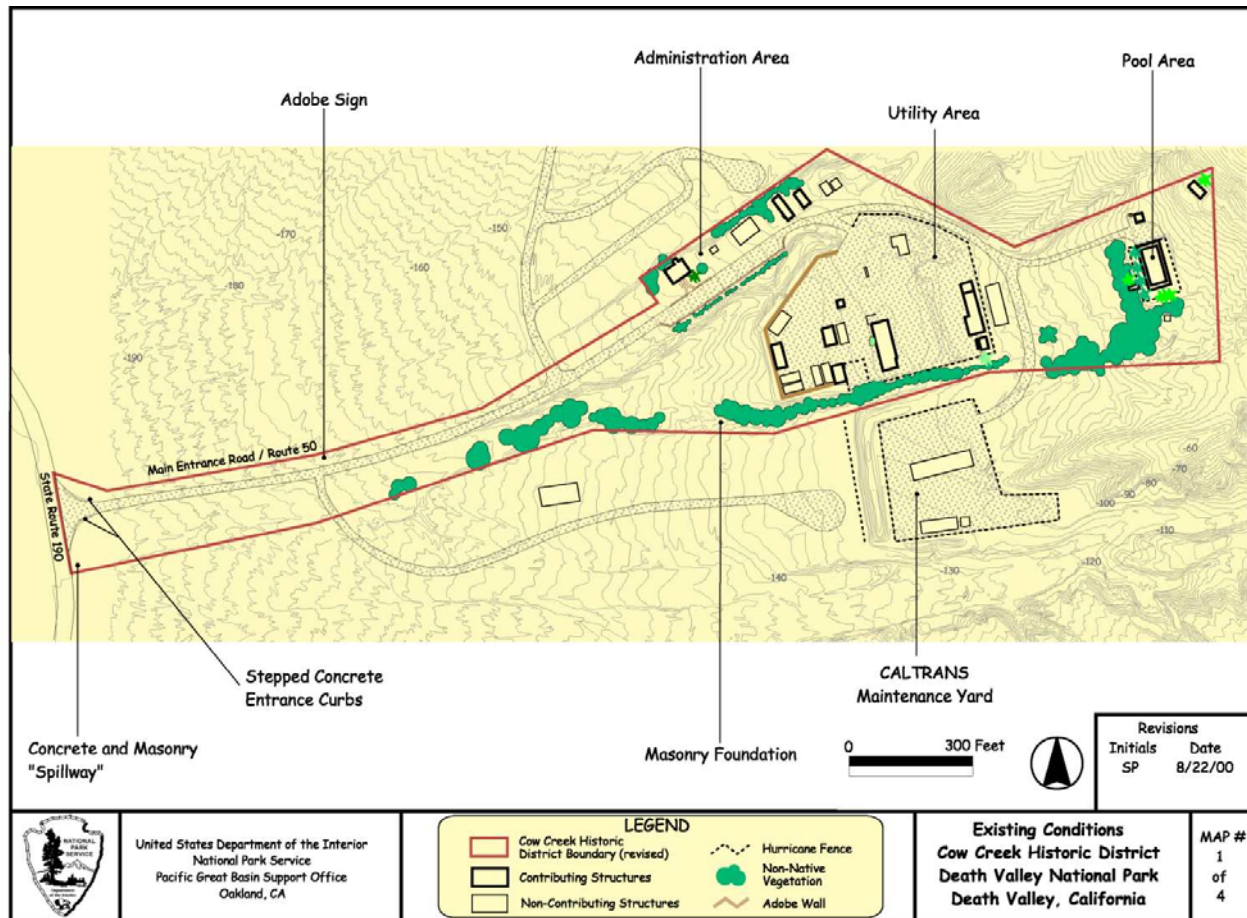
Cultural Context

No prehistoric or historic Native American sites are known to exist within the Cow Creek Historic District. However, the district is located within the traditional homeland of the Timbisha tribe, which has been granted a reservation four miles to the south near Furnace Creek. Considering the district's location at a spring, and extensive prehistoric sites in the surrounding area, pre-contact Native American use of the area can be assumed.

The historic cultural context for the salt pan area is strongly associated with borate mining, which began in the late nineteenth century, as evidenced in the Harmony and Eagle Borax Works. The subsequent tourist industry was focused in Furnace Creek and Stovepipe Wells beginning in the 1920s and continues in both places today.

Site Plan

Site Map: See full size Existing Conditions maps at end of document, Supplemental Information #1.



Chronology

Year	Event	Description
1933 AD	Built	Company 530, a 200 plus-man unit of enrollees from Ohio and Kentucky sets up two tent camps in the Cow Creek area.
1933 AD	Built	The following buildings are constructed: CC-39/warehouse (army offices/recreation hall), CC-49/ warehouse (infirmary), CC-40 and CC-93/storage buildings, and PV-1, 2, 3/residences in Park Village, are built to house park staff.
1933 AD	Destroyed	Soon after Camp Funeral Range was occupied and while Camp Cow Creek was unoccupied, a severe windstorm destroys every tent and structure set up in the cleared area by Cow Creek Wash.
1933 AD	Established	Death Valley is declared a National Monument on February 11, 1933, as one of the last official acts of President Herbert Hoover.
1933 AD	Established	The National Park Service authorizes two Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camps, NM-1 and NM-2 at Funeral Range and Cow Creek. The camps are intended to house approximately 500 enrollees.
1934 AD	Built	CC-144/comfort station (now PV-069/reverse osmosis plant) is built in Park Village.
1934 AD	Built	CC-91/ 22,000-gallon reservoir, is constructed. PV-10/residence is constructed in Park Village.
1935 AD	Built	Building CC-51/warehouse, becomes the first building in the camp constructed of adobe for use by the National Park Service.
1935 AD	Built	The following buildings from Camp Funeral Range are constructed: CC-94/bachelor quarters, CC-95 and CC-96/barracks, CC-97/mess hall, CC-98/hospital, CC-99/bathhouse, CC-100/generator house, CC-101/storage.

1936 AD	Built	Building CC-50/warehouse, CC-292/swimming pool, and a well were constructed in the utility/headquarters area.
1936 AD	Destroyed	Camp Cow Creek burns and the former two camps are consolidated into one. The surviving buildings, CC-39/army office/recreation hall and CC-49/infirmarary, are incorporated into the new camp.
1937 AD	Built	Building CC-57/carpenter shop and CC-90/incinerator are constructed. The new entrance road to the utility area is completed. PV-42/residence is constructed in Park Village.
1938 AD	Built	Building CC-118/equipment storage is constructed.
1938 AD	Built	The following buildings are constructed: CC-55/utility building (radio building), CC-56/utility building (radio generator building); CC-62/warehouse, CC-63 and CC-65/comfort stations .
1939 AD	Built	Building CC-48/administration and headquarters building is constructed on the former site of Cow Creek Camp barracks #4. CC-52/oil house and CC-64/adobe workshop are built.
1940 AD	Built	The adobe wall surrounding the utility area is built.
1942 AD	Abandoned	The CCC program ends and the camps are abandoned.
1942 AD	Built	Building CC-54/machine shop is one of the last buildings constructed by the CCC in Death Valley.
1942 - 1943 AD	Rehabilitated	Cow Creek houses 65 Japanese Americans from Manzanar, their Army guards, and a nurse who made use of the barracks, infirmarary, mess hall, and pool. During their two month stay, the evacuees volunteered for maintenance work around the park.
1950 - 1960 AD	Removed	Most of the old camp structures such as barracks and latrines are removed.
1951 AD	Destroyed	The Cow Camp blacksmith shop burns down.

1951 AD	Removed	CC-58, 59, 60, 61/equipment sheds, and PV-70/lath house in Park Village, are removed.
1954 AD	Built	The National Park Service builds CC-145/comfort station.
1954 AD	Removed	CC-40/storage building, CC-63 and CC-65/comfort stations, CC-90/incinerator, and CC-93/storage building, are removed.
1954 AD	Removed	The following buildings are removed from Camp Funeral Range: CC-94/bachelor quarters, CC-95 and CC-96/barracks, CC-97/mess hall, CC-98, infirmary, CC-99/bathhouse, CC-100/generator house, and CC-101/storage.
1955 AD	Rehabilitated	The front of CC-39/warehouse, is cleaned out and converted into a shop and storeroom for roads and trails equipment.
1958 AD	Built	Eighteen single family residences (PV-120, 121, 122, 126, 127, 128, 129, 138, 139, 140, 205, 206, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214) are constructed in Park Village as part of the Mission 66 program.
1959 AD	Built	PV-220/six-unit apartment building is constructed in Park Village.
1963 AD	Altered	A concrete block powerhouse is added to the north end of CC-57/carpenter shop.
1966 AD	Built	PV-222/six-unit apartment building is constructed in Park Village.
1976 AD	Built	CC-300, CC-301, CC-302, CC-303, CC-304, CC-305, CC-306/seven surplus World War II quonset huts are erected in the utility area and administrative area.
1977 AD	Removed	CC-56/radio generator building is removed.
1985 AD	Rehabilitated	CC-48/administration building, is converted into offices for the Resources Management Division of Death Valley National Monument.

1988 AD	Built	CC-321/district ranger station and fire station is constructed.
1989 AD	Preserved	Cow Creek Historic District determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places by the State Historic Preservation Officer.
1992 - 1997 AD	Built	PV-323/superintendent's residence and PV- 324, 328, 329, 330, 331/residences, are built in the Park Village housing area.
1997 - 1998 AD	Built	PV 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343/residences, are built on the "Bench Site" of the Park Village housing area. PV-343/ four-unit apartment building is also constructed on the "Hillside Site."
1998 AD	Built	Coyote Loop in Park Village is constructed.

Statement Of Significance

Summary

The Cow Creek Historic District is historically significant as a fine example of Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) adobe architecture, the construction of which was integrally linked with the early development of Death Valley National Park. The Cow Creek Historic District is nationally significant under Criterion A and C for its period of CCC occupation, dating from 1933 to 1942. The district is significant under Criterion A for its association with the CCC program and its involvement with the early development of Death Valley National Park. Under Criterion A, the district represents the “Creating Social Institutions and Movements” area of significance with an emphasis on the sub-facet of “Poverty Relief and Urban Social Reform.” The Cow Creek Historic District is also nationally significant under Criterion C as a fine example of CCC architecture. The district represents the “Architecture” and “Landscape Architecture” areas of significance under Criterion C.

Statement

The Civilian Conservation Corps and its work represent the most concentrated and wide-reaching social program ever undertaken in the United States to promote economic recovery and the welfare of American society by providing conservation service jobs for unemployed, single young men during the Great Depression. The CCC was an important, innovative aspect of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal, designed to provide both on-the-job training for a specific segment of the population and some financial security for their families during a time of economic crisis. The CCC program not only boosted the morale, improved the health, and developed the technical skills of numerous young men, it helped shape the landscape of America's national and state parks. The CCC was responsible for opening Death Valley to the public by improving access, constructing NPS and visitor use facilities, installing utility systems, and by serving informally in various staff positions. Development of Cow Creek by the CCC integrally links the historic district to the New Deal and provides national significance under Criterion A..

Several buildings and landscape features within the Cow Creek Historic District are significant as well-preserved examples of the National Park Service’s architectural and landscape architectural development between 1933 and 1942. During this period, CCC enrollees constructed numerous park buildings and developed landscapes under the professional supervision of NPS landscape architects and engineers. Each of the contributing buildings and structures was constructed in the rustic architectural style, emphasizing use of native materials, non-intrusive design, and compatibility with the natural surroundings. The use of adobe block for the buildings and a combination of native and non-native drought-tolerant plant material, provided a unique and highly successful response to the harsh desert conditions at the site. This unique construction and landscaping by the CCC embodies both the stylistic characteristics of CCC rustic style architecture and the unique characteristics of regional adobe construction.

During the first period of development, 1933 to 1936, the CCC built two residential camps within Cow Creek. Camp Cow Creek and Camp Funeral Range were built next to each other on the site. Between the two camps, the “corporation yard” was leveled with the intent of connecting it to the utility (maintenance) area. In its initial configuration, it contained a service garage, radio hut, blacksmith shop, wash rack, and power plant housing. Today, this area remains as the primary maintenance area for the park.

In 1936, a fire at Camp Cow Creek destroyed all but two of the original wood frame buildings. After the fire, the remains of the Cow Creek and Funeral Range camps were combined. Following the fire of

1936, National Park Service structures built by the CCC in the Cow Creek area made use of local materials such as wood, stone, and clay. The original maintenance facilities at Cow Creek are prime examples of National Park Service rustic building practices and standards. Throughout the park system, maintenance buildings were traditionally designed to be minimally intrusive to visitors, while remaining convenient for park staff. Park Service yards were often enclosed by a fence or wall to keep visitors out and unsightly equipment contained. The CCC service buildings and the six-foot-high perimeter wall around the Cow Creek utility area were made of adobe, a traditional building material in Death Valley. Between 1935 and 1942, eleven adobe buildings were built at Cow Creek.

The Civilian Conservation Corps program ended in 1942 due to declining enrollment as the nation's energies were directed toward the possibility of war. At the start of the war, the CCC housing at Camp Cow Creek was virtually abandoned. During the war, Death Valley National Monument was severely understaffed, underfunded, and in need of repairs, and no new construction would occur until 1954.

Today, the majority of CCC-era structures standing in 1942 are still extant and retain their original or related functions. These include: the CCC-era utility area (maintenance yard), the original administration building for the monument with associated parking lot and landscape, the pool and its surrounding landscape, the reservoir, and other buildings, structures and landscape features that are remnants of the CCC camp area. All of the above are connected by a road that is in essentially the same 1942 configuration.

The Cow Creek Historic District is significant as a fine and well preserved collection of maintenance buildings, administrative buildings, and CCC site planning configurations and plantings. The district retains integrity relating to the period of significance (1933-1942) under Criteria A and C.

(Portions of this Statement were derived from information in Linda Greene's 1989 National Register Nominations: "Residential, Administrative, Maintenance, and Visitor Use Facilities in Death Valley National Monument Built by the Civilian Conservation Corps" and "Cow Creek Historic District.")

Physical History

1933-1936

Death Valley was declared a National Monument on February 11, 1933, as one of the last official acts performed by President Herbert Hoover. During Hoover's administration, the country had begun coping with the severe economic and social crisis occasioned by the crash of the American stock market and the encroaching Great Depression.

In 1933, Franklin Delano Roosevelt became President of the United States and within two months of his inauguration, Congress passed New Deal legislation that created and funded the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Immediately thereafter the Department of Labor and the U.S. Army mobilized an army of formerly unemployed youths to undertake conservation projects on public lands all over the country.

Soon after the establishment of Death Valley National Monument in 1933, the National Park Service authorized the location of two CCC camps within its boundaries. Those enrollees were to develop the monument to meet the future needs of the visiting public. In 1933, the decision was made to have centralized twin camps that would provide access to the park. The two CCC camps, NM-1 and NM-2, were established at Funeral Range and Cow Creek, on either side of the Cow Creek Wash four miles north of Furnace Creek (see photo, History #1). The Cow Creek site was chosen for its access to an ample water supply. The spring was known as Lower Cow Creek and was cross-cut and walled up by the CCC. The spring's total daily flow was between 20,000 and 30,000 gallons and was used for the camps and the park housing area, Park Village. (Final Report to Chief Architect through the Superintendent of Death Valley N.M., 1933/1934 Season, Death Valley National Park, California, Department of the Interior, Research Library and Museum Collection, Archives Record Group 1)

Two companies from San Bernardino National Forest were selected to come to Death Valley. Company 530, a 200-plus unit of enrollees from Ohio and Kentucky, entered Death Valley on October 6, 1933 with the charge to set up two tent camps in the Cow Creek area in preparation for the arrival of Company 529. On October 21, 1933, Camp Funeral Range (NM- 1) was officially occupied. Eight days later, just one day before Co. 529 was scheduled to occupy Camp Cow Creek (NM-2), a severe windstorm blew down every tent and structure set up in the cleared area by Cow Creek Wash. The decision was immediately made to build more permanent barracks. These barracks were completed in mid-November 1933 (see drawing, History #2).

Companies 1240 and 1246 succeeded the original companies in the fall of 1934. These two companies were utilized as a single unit, with Co.1240 working south of the camps and Co. 1246 working north of the camps. In addition to the Park Service work there was a considerable amount of work, often traded between the various companies, around the camps themselves. Enrollees from both camps participated in electrical and plumbing work, as well as the construction of fireplaces, cesspools, boxing, and basketball platforms.

Camps Cow Creek and Funeral Range were intended to be the winter season (October to May) utility and administrative center for the park. (see photo, History #3). When Cow Creek Wash became too hot, Camp Wildrose, located in the Panamint Mountain Range, was used. The bulk of enrollees as well as park staff alternated between Wildrose and Cow Creek every six months, with a detachment of technicians or enrollees with special skills left at each vacated camp to continue developments on a year-round basis.

The development of Cow Creek as the park administration and utility area was considered by the park engineer, T. R. Goodwin, to be almost ideal because of its location and proximity to Furnace Creek, which 90 percent of the park visitors passed through. In addition, the Cow Creek area was located high enough to be free from the dust, noise, and traffic in the valley. There was ample room for all the necessary structures for both administration and maintenance, with access to plenty of water already developed. Cow Creek was within sight of Furnace Creek and easy to access for anyone having business at headquarters. The proposed realignment of the main valley highway would bring it within five hundred yards of the area. (Final Report to Chief Architect through the Superintendent Death Valley N.M., 1933/1934 Season, Death Valley National Park, California, Department of the Interior, Research Library and Museum Collection, Archives, Record Group 1)

In 1934, the resident engineer recommended that the administration building be placed on the west side of the highway, facing east, which would remove it from other park activities and make it more accessible to visitors (see photo, History #4). He also proposed a small museum building to house perishable exhibits to be constructed on the east side of the highway, facing the administration building, with an open plaza big enough to exhibit old wagons and other large objects of historical value. There would also be an area landscaped with native plants and various specimens of rocks for exhibit. A proposed museum and plaza was not executed at Cow Creek but was remarkably similar to the building program developed for the Mission 66 visitor center constructed at Furnace Creek. In 1934-35 the utility area, called the "corporation yard," was constructed between the two CCC camps. It contained a service garage, radio hut, blacksmith shop, wash rack, and power plant housing.

The area north of the camps was designated for park staff housing. By 1934, the CCC constructed three temporary winter season residences at Park Village (PV-1, 2, 3), near Cow Creek (see photo, History #5). The original plans called for a twenty-by-twenty-foot house constructed of pressed pulp board walls inside and out, asphalt roll roofing, and a stone paved porch with stone roof pillars. Landscape architect John H. Bergen designed the native stone fireplaces, patios, and decorative pools.

Soon after the three residences were completed in 1934, plans were drawn up by the park landscape architect to expand their living space. He proposed the addition of a bedroom, a larger kitchen area, and a larger living room by tearing out the present bedroom partition. The remodeling was intended to make them more livable and convenient for a single family. The landscape architect prepared to utilize CCC labor to veneer the outside walls of the residences with fieldstone and add a tile roof. These improvements were intended to extend the life of the structure, insulate it from the weather, and reduce the maintenance.

The park engineer, T. R. Goodwin, considered the new residences at Park Village to be ill-designed, poorly constructed, and unable to accommodate air conditioning, which would make the house uninhabitable during the Death Valley summers. He suggested that future houses be built for year-round occupancy, designed to be the "wing type, rectangular with one wing open." The open wing would contain two bedrooms and a bathroom on the south side from which most of the night breezes blew. The north wing would contain the kitchen and dining room. The living room would form a closed side of the rectangle across the rear. A large front patio would be enclosed on three sides by the wings and living spaces. Unlike the park landscape architect, the park engineer favored adobe brick construction. Historic plans and photographs indicate that the rest of the housing built with CCC labor was constructed of wood, and with the exception of the stonework, possessed similar designs to the original three bungalows.

In 1934, CC-144/comfort station and a sewage and water system were completed for the Park Village. The stone comfort station provided toilets and bathing facilities for the six to eight families who were

quartered in tents in the area. The tents were determined to be uneconomical in addition to being very hot during the day, difficult to heat in the evening, and very dirty to live in. The sun's rays destroyed the fabric rapidly, and the frequent windstorms usually completely destroyed them. A design was prepared by the landscape architect for two-room portable cabins until additional permanent housing could be built. (Final Report to Chief Architect through the Superintendent Death Valley N.M., Death Valley National Park, Department of the Interior, California, 1933/1934 Season, Research Library and Museum Collection, Archives, Record Group 1)

Various native and non-native plants were set out in the Park Village during the 1933/1934 work season. The Pacific Coast Borax Company donated fifteen large offshoots from the staminate (male) date palms at the Furnace Creek Ranch. These were planted around the patios of the Superintendent and Engineer's residences in Park Village. The park botanist, French Gilman, grew Palo Verde from seeds and planted them, but due to unseasonably hot weather, all died. About 200 cuttings of Athel tamarisk were planted along the drainage ways for the various springs at Park Village. Considerable landscape work as well as plans for continued development of the area were drafted by the resident landscape architect. (Report & Recommendations for Future Construction Projects, April 26, 1934, Death Valley National Park, California, Department of the Interior, Research Library and Museum Collection, Archives, Record Group 1)

In the 1934/1935 work season, six small two-room employee cabins were constructed at Park Village. They were simple frame structures without baths, but containing sinks and running water. The surrounding grounds were landscaped with native stone walls. (Emergency Work Corps Report, Camp Funeral Range, No. 1, October 11, 1934 to March 31, 1935, Death Valley National Park, California, Department of the Interior, Research Library and Museum Collection, Archives Record Group 1)

Official park documents reported that in 1935, the entire Park Village had been landscaped. Works of native stone were constructed, trees and plants laid out, and species native to Death Valley and surrounding areas were transplanted. During the work season of 1935/36, the CCC completed five cabins in Park Village. A two-car garage was also built, bringing the total number of garages to three. It was the park's goal to provide garages for all the cars belonging to housed employees and to keep the residence area neat and orderly. (Emergency Work Corps Final Report, Cow Creek Camp No. 2, October 11-March 31, 1935, Death Valley National Park, California, Department of the Interior, Research Library and Museum Collection, Archives Record Group 1)

Plant Nursery and Propagation

A nursery for the collection and propagation of Death Valley's flora was constructed southwest of PV-3 in Park Village during the 1934/1935-work season. A lath house for growing plants was built and installed with a pipe irrigation system (see photo, History #6). French Gilman, park botanist, would spend the spring and summer months filling the nursery with plantings for next fall's work season. Gilman furnished the nursery with native plant species collected from Daylight Pass, Rhyolite, Greenwater, Furnace Creek Wash, Ash Meadows, and Wildrose. He also collected desert willow cuttings from Cave Springs. (Report to the Chief Architect through the Superintendent Death Valley NM. February 26-March 29, 1936, Death Valley National Park, California, Department of the Interior, Research Library and Museum Collection, Archives Record Group 1)

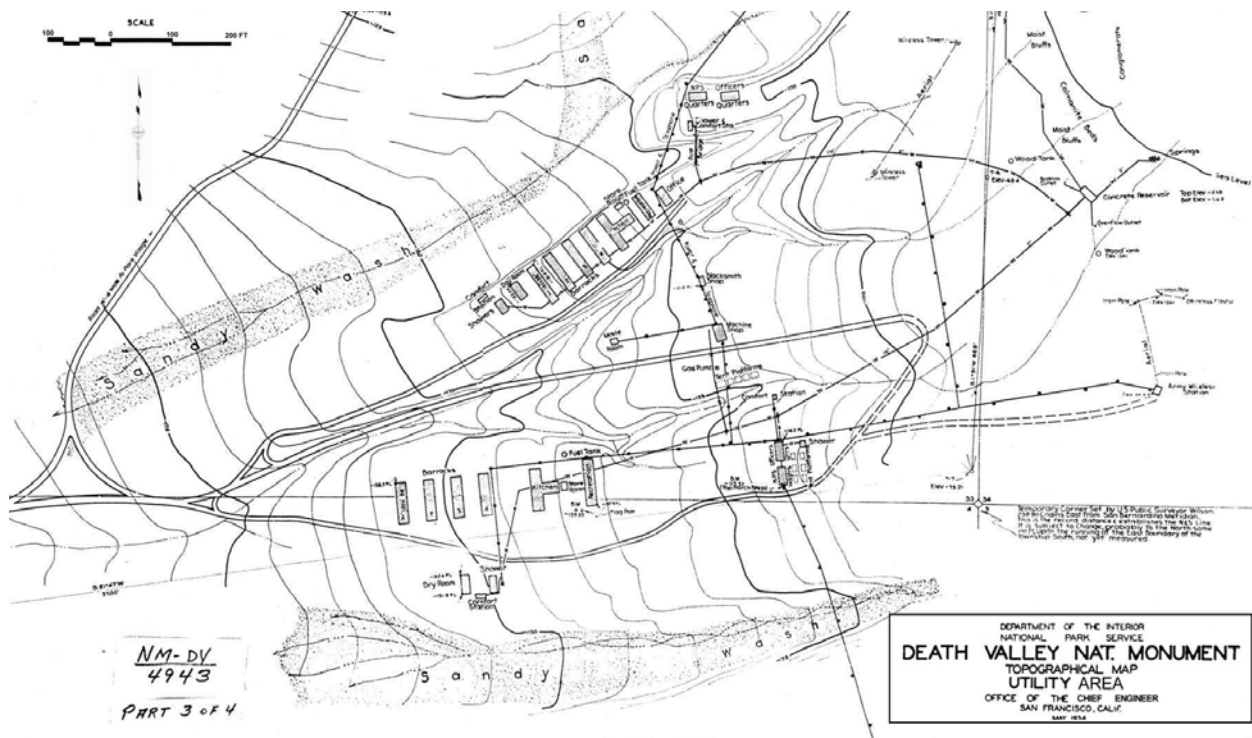
Gilman experimented with a systematic program of seed planting, attempting to find the best time for planting screw bean seedlings successfully. He experimented with many soil mixtures under all kinds of moisture conditions and discovered that desert plant material could not be coerced, except in a few instances, into germinating and growing satisfactorily except during the season they were accustomed

to.

In 1936, the nursery had between five and six thousand seedlings. The plants were used to landscape developed areas all over the valley as well as to revegetate denuded areas along the highways. Soon after its development, the nursery was a point of interest for visitors to Death Valley. The park's plant collection was considered outstanding by those with knowledge of desert flora. (Report to the Chief Architect through the Superintendent Death Valley NM. February 26-March 29, 1936, Death Valley National Park, California, Department of the Interior, Research Library and Museum Collection, Archives Record Group 1)



History #1: Original Cow Creek adobe entrance sign. (Death Valley National Park archives, Sheridan Hopkins collection, no Acc. #, no DEVA #, ca. 1938)



History #2: Camps Cow Creek and Funeral Range. (Death Valley National Park archives, no Acc. #, DEVA #4943, 1934)



History #3: Panoramic photo of Camps Cow Creek and Funeral Range, looking west. (PGSO, ARG digital file #30494, no date)



History #4: Administration building before replacement of adobe columns, looking north. (PGSO, ARG digital file #38677, no date)



History #5: Original Park Village configuration, looking north. (Death Valley National Park archives, Acc. #1715, DEVA #47195, 1934)



History #6: Park Village nursery and renovated residences, looking east. (Death Valley National Park archives, Acc. #651.54, DEVA #887, 1935)



History #7: Adobe brick making. (Death Valley National Park archives, Acc. #651.54, DEVA #733, 1934)

1936-1942

After the CCC closed Camp Cow Creek in the summer before going to camp Wildrose, miners or nearby residents frequently took electrical wiring and fixtures that they might need from the first barracks nearest the road. When the companies moved into the stripped barracks in the fall, they were without light and the men had to use candles. On November 1, 1936, the men lit candles to get dressed and left them burning when they left for the mess hall. Fire broke out and burned from barracks to barracks, destroying all four as well as the kitchen/mess hall building. Only two wooden buildings from the camp survived.

After the fire, the camp was rebuilt on the south side of Cow Creek Wash. In reconstruction, the remains of Cow Creek and Funeral Range camps were consolidated into one camp, which permitted further development of the utility area as outlined in master plans. This development could not have been done had the destroyed camp remained. After the final cleanup, the two surviving Camp Cow Creek buildings, CC-39 and CC-49, originally an army office/recreation hall and an infirmary, were incorporated into the new camp.

In 1937, the swimming pool was completed after two years of construction. Water sports were very popular in the desert climate and it was hoped that the pool would maintain good morale among the enrolled men. Once the CCC was disbanded, the pool was used by park staff. (Final Report to Chief Architect through the Superintendent Death Valley N.M., 1933-1934 season, Death Valley National Park, Department of the Interior, California, Research Library and Museum Collection, Archives Record Group 1)

In 1936, a system for the utilization of pool wastewater for irrigation in the utility area was developed. Ditches were widened and banks were flattened to prepare the utility area for planting. All the waste water was collected in a pool near the entrance to the administration area from the main highway (The Superintendent's Report listed below is the only reference to this pool structure, see "unidentified concrete and masonry structure on map, Supplemental Information #1). This pool was to be later worked into the plans for the entrance development. The new entrance road to the utility area was completed in early 1937, banks of the wash were flattened and rounded, and the road surface was oiled. (Report to the Superintendent of Death Valley N.M. through the Senior Project Superintendent in charge, Feb. 20 to March 20, 1937, Death Valley National Park, California, Department of the Interior, Research Library and Museum Collection, Archives Group 1) The Administration Building was constructed in 1939 by the CCC on the former site of Cow Creek Camp Barracks #4. The building functioned as the park administration office and contact building in the headquarters area. The 1939 planting plan shows native stone walls, walks, and a flagpole were built in front of the building. (A Planting Plan for administration building, Branch of Plans and Design, October 24, 1939, Research Library and Museum Collection) A total of 222 trees and shrubs in addition to a lawn were suggested for planting, though to what extent this plan was completed is unknown.

The administration building and the maintenance facilities were built in a similar fashion to other maintenance areas throughout the park system according to NPS design standards that were both harmonious with the natural environment and convenient for park staff. The new service buildings at Cow Creek were made of adobe, the traditional building material in Death Valley. The first adobe bricks for Cow Creek came from near the Harmony Borax Works. After much experimentation with various deposits of clay and sand, an adobe yard was established at Cow Creek immediately adjacent to Park Village (see photo, History #7). In all, eleven adobe buildings were built at Cow Creek between 1935 and 1942. These buildings included: the administration building, warehouse buildings, garages, storage buildings, and a corporation yard all surrounded by a six-foot-high adobe wall (see photo, History #8).

(Emergency Conservation Work, Final Report, October 1 1935 to March 31, 1936, Death Valley National Park, California, Department of the Interior, Research Library and Museum Collection, Archives Record Group 1)

The Civilian Conservation Corps program ended in 1942 with the outbreak of World War II and the drafting of young men into military service, at which point Cow Creek was virtually abandoned. The NPS-CCC program had made a conscious effort to develop the infrastructure of the National Park System as well as improve the lives of the enrollees. When the CCC first started work in Death Valley area, there were no conveniences, improvements, dwellings, or roads suitable for the average visitor. The Pacific Coast Borax Company maintained the few facilities that existed for public comfort and necessity and travel by automobile was difficult at best. The only roads in the area, which were actually motor trails, had either been washed out or were otherwise impassible. The CCC program at Death Valley National Monument was a success, laying the foundation for all park development that has taken place since. Few areas of the monument were left untouched as enrollees worked to improve access, living conditions, and sightseeing opportunities. In addition to opening up the monument to visitor use and enjoyment, the CCC program gave many young Americans a new lease on life when their morale and economic condition were at their lowest.



History #8: General view of utility yard area, looking west. (Death Valley National Park archives, Acc. #725.1, DEVA #1657, 1958)

1942-present

During World War II, Americans of Japanese ancestry living on the West Coast were removed from their homes and businesses and sent to relocation centers in the interior of the United States. Most of these centers were in otherwise unpopulated areas including Manzanar Relocation Center, located in the Owens Valley to the west of Death Valley. In the winter of 1942, there was a conflict at Manzanar between the internees who were angry with the United States Government and those who were encouraging their sons to volunteer for the U.S. Army. As a result, sixty-five Manzanar internees were temporarily relocated to Death Valley. The abandoned Cow Creek camp was hastily prepared for the arrival of the internees on December 10, 1942. The Japanese-Americans, their Army guards, and a nurse utilized the barracks, infirmary, mess hall, and pool at Cow Creek. Because of the war, Death Valley National Monument was severely understaffed, under-funded, and in need of repairs. During their two-and-a-half month stay at Cow Creek, many of the male internees painted signs, repaired roads, and helped with various other tasks.

The removal of the former CCC camp buildings began in the early 1950s. In 1951 the blacksmith shop burned down (see photo, History #9). In 1952, four equipment sheds in Cow Camp and the lath house in Park Village were removed. By 1954, the remains of the Funeral Range camp were removed or razed, and a storage building (CC-118) was renovated. A contract was awarded for the sale of twelve CCC barracks from the Funeral Range camp. The amount of \$556 was received from Mr. Curtis Cline of Tonopah, Nevada, who completed the removal work in March 1954. In the same year the park maintenance crew removed two adobe comfort stations from the site. Adobe blocks that were left by the CCC were used to construct a new comfort station northeast of the administration building. (Superintendent's Report, 1954, Death Valley National Park, California, Department of the Interior, Unprocessed Archives, Cow Creek, Curatorial & Research Facility)

In 1956, Cow Creek was found to be unsuited for further expansion. This was the determining factor in the recommendations to move the entire headquarters. (Superintendent's Report, 1956, Death Valley National Park, California, Department of the Interior, Research Library and Museum Collection, Archive Record Group 1) Consequently, a new visitor center and administration building complex was constructed near Furnace Creek during the Mission 66 program in 1958.

Park Village was dedicated in 1960 and significantly expanded during the Mission 66 era (1956-1966). During this time the Park Service built housing, maintenance areas, roads, entrance stations, parking lots, campgrounds, comfort stations, picnic shelters, concessionaire buildings, and other park facilities intended to serve park visitors and facilitate park management. In 1958, eighteen single-story 2 and 3-bedroom residences were constructed in the Cow Creek Residential Area using NPS standardized plans prepared by a contract architect (PV-120-122, 126-129, 138-140, 205, 206, 209-214). These houses were constructed of wood frame on concrete foundations, sided with stucco, and covered with gravel roofs for the cost of \$314,208. In 1959, the yards were installed with sprinkler systems, seeded with grass, and planted with trees, shrubs, vines and succulents according to an eleven-page planting plan (NM-DV 3200) drafted by the Western Office Division of Design and Construction. Railroad ties were used to construct retaining walls; gravel was used for walks and yards. Seven thousand five hundred linear feet of irrigation ditches were dug to supply the vegetation with water. The loop road and driveways that access the eighteen houses were realigned and surfaced in 1961.

Two 6-unit apartment buildings were constructed in the housing area in 1959 (PV220) and 1966 (PV222). Both were constructed of concrete block and had gravel roofs. The areas around the buildings were planted with trees and shrubs in a similar manner as the residences. The most significant alteration

to occur to the Mission 66-era housing is the change of the siding material from stucco to vinyl. The vinyl siding simulates the appearance of wooden clapboards and negatively impacts the buildings' original design.

In 1976, World War II surplus metal quonset huts from Camp Pendleton were erected in the utility area to provide much needed additional storage space. Over the next twenty years, the Cow Creek facilities were minimally maintained and fell into disrepair. Since that time repair and rehabilitation treatments have occurred and new buildings have been added to the utility area. In 1988, building CC-321, the district ranger and fire station was constructed northeast of the administration building. In 1999, a new curatorial building was constructed on the eastern edge of the utility area. In 2001, the park plans to rehabilitate the utility area by constructing new buildings within the historic facility, repairing the historic structures, and removing intrusive non-contributing structures. (ARG, 2000:42)

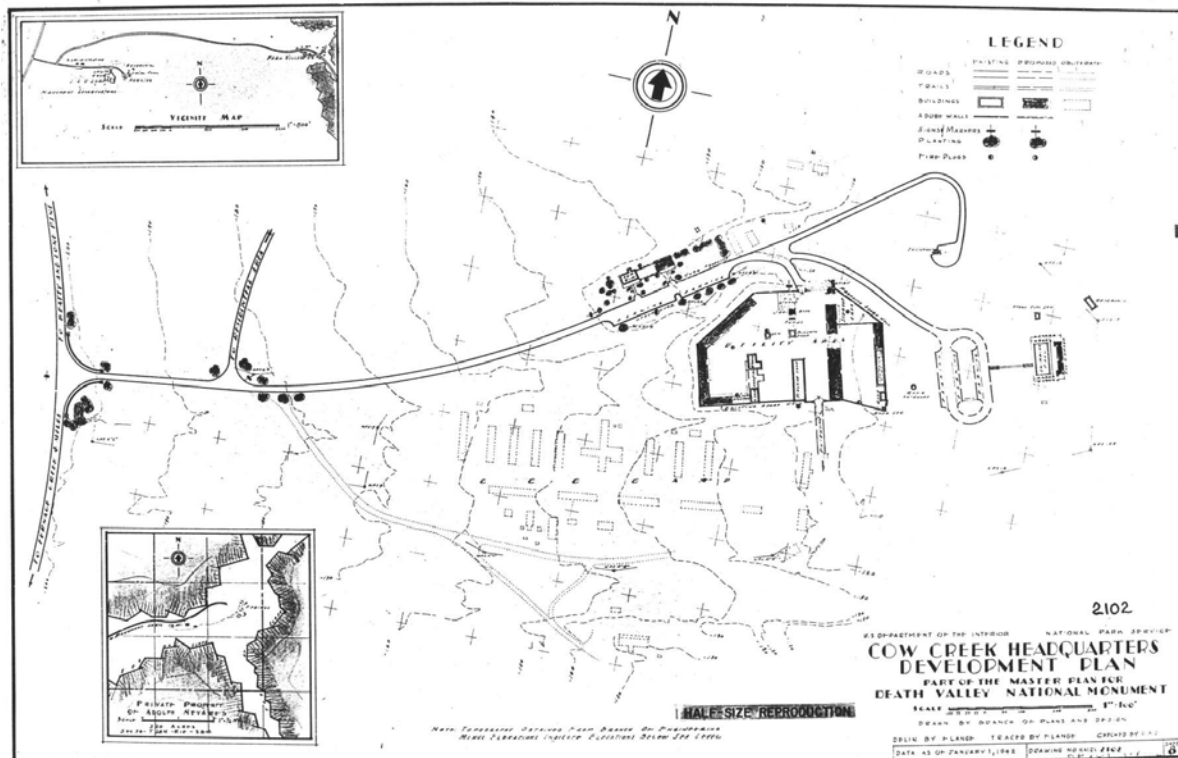
The Park Village housing area has been further developed to meet the park's needs. Additional duplexes and apartment buildings along the Nevares Road (Hillside Site) and Coyote Loop (Bench Site) were built in 1997 and 1998 and landscaped with a variety of nursery-purchased California native trees and small shrubs. (DEVA Drawing 80067-L6, National Park Service, Technical Information Center, date unknown)



History #9: Aerial view of Camp Cow Creek. (Death Valley National Park archives, no Acc. #, no DEVA #, ca. 1939)



History #10: Remains of the blacksmith shop after a fire, looking west. (Death Valley National Park archives, Acc. #725.1, no DEVA #, 1951)



History #11: Cow Creek Development Plan. (DSC Technical Information Center, #NMDV 2102, 1942)

Analysis And Evaluation

Summary

The following landscape characteristics contribute to the district as they relate to the 1933-1942 period of significance and include natural systems and features, spatial organization, land use, topography, vegetation, circulation, buildings and structures, cluster arrangement, views and vistas, and constructed water features. Only one landscape characteristic, small-scale features, does not retain integrity due to the loss of a number of utilitarian features. Continued use of the historic structures within the district for their original administrative, storage, and maintenance functions has helped preserve the integrity of the district. Although many changes have occurred within the district since the period of significance, most of these are either reversible or are consistent with the site's ongoing use as an administrative and maintenance facility.

Accordingly, the designed landscape of the Cow Creek Historic District contributes to its significance as it relates to the CCC period. The landscape retains integrity as determined by the seven aspects, or qualities, that in various combinations define integrity according to National Register standards: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. As a whole, the designed landscape in the Cow Creek Historic District is in fair condition, although the condition of individual landscape characteristic features varies from poor to good.

Landscape Characteristics And Features

Buildings And Structures

Over thirty buildings and structures are included within the boundaries of the Cow Creek Historic District. Of these, fifteen structures are contributing and are included on the List of Classified Structures. Two of these, the reservoir (CC-91, see photo, Buildings and Structures #2) and the pool (CC-292), are discussed later in the Constructed Water Features and the adobe sign is discussed in Small Scale Features. The remaining twelve contributing structures have been determined to be historically significant due to their association with the Civilian Conservation Corps. These were built by the CCC to serve the administrative, maintenance and residential needs of Death Valley National Monument as well as to serve as camp facilities associated with the CCC's daily lives and recreational activities. Sixteen structures are non-contributing and are linked with later periods of development.

CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES

CC-39, Cow Creek Warehouse

Building CC-39 was part of the original Camp Cow Creek (see photo, Buildings and Structures #3). The building measures twenty feet, one inch by sixty-three feet, one inch and was constructed in 1933. This one-story, four-room structure is one of the oldest buildings within the historic district, having survived the 1936 fire that destroyed most of Camp Cow Creek. A 1934 site plan labels this building a recreation hall, while a 1942 site plan labels it as a dormitory. No historic construction documents remain for the building.

Constructed of wood frame with vertical board and batten exterior siding, the structure is raised above grade on wood posts that sit on woodblock foundations. Originally, the exterior walls were tar-papered and the building had rolled roofing that came down over the fascia. Both the tar-paper and roofing were removed in 1956. The gable roof is now sheathed in galvanized, corrugated sheet metal. Six-light wood casement windows occur along the long walls of the building (east and west facades) and the south gable

end wall. There is a masonry staircase and landing at the entrance door at the west elevation and a temporary metal step leading to a single main door at the north elevation. The south elevation has a large cargo door with metal strap hinges, sheathed in vertical board and batten to match the rest of the walls. The building is currently used for curatorial storage.

Building CC-48, Cow Creek Administration Building

Building CC-48, constructed in 1939, is a six-room adobe structure with a red transite-shingle gable roof and large covered porch (see photo, Buildings and Structures #4). A seventh room, a concrete vault with adobe exterior, was added to the rear of the building in 1940. This addition has a separate gable roof situated perpendicular to that of the rest of the building. The original six square adobe columns supporting the porch roof have been removed and replaced with wooden posts. Irrigation of the lawn adjacent to the porch resulted in the gradual destruction of the original adobe columns. Typical details similar to other adobes on the site include: wood rafters and exposed rafter tails, ridge vents at the gable end walls, and concrete sills and thick wood lintels with concrete bearing pads at the window and door openings. The two-foot-thick adobe wall sits on a low concrete stem wall. Built as the park administration office and headquarters, this structure, located at the north end of the historic district along the entry road, has housed the offices of the Resources Management Division since 1985.

CC-49, Cow Creek Warehouse

Building CC-49 was part of the original CCC Camp Cow Creek. Constructed in 1933, this one-story, four-room structure is one of the oldest buildings in the historic district, having survived the 1936 fire that destroyed most of Camp Cow Creek. A 1934 site plan labels this building an office, while a 1942 site plan labels it as an engineering office. The National Register Nomination states that CC-49 was built as the infirmary for the CCC Camp. No historic construction documents remain for the building.

Constructed of wood frame with vertical board and batten exterior siding, the structure is raised above grade on wood posts that sit on wood block foundations. The exterior walls were originally tar-papered, and the building originally had rolled roofing that came down over the fascia. Both the tar-paper and roofing were removed in 1956. The gable roof is now sheathed in galvanized, corrugated sheet metal. Six-light wood windows occur on all four facades. There are two doors at the east elevation and a single window at each of the gable ends. The building is currently used for storage.

CC-50, Cow Creek Warehouse

Building CC-50 is located at the southern end of the historic district in the utility area abutting the adobe wall and was constructed as a utility building in 1936. This one-story, three-room adobe structure is raised above ground on concrete perimeter footings. The gable roof, originally covered in tar-paper or composite roll roofing, is now sheathed with galvanized, corrugated sheet metal. The building features triangular clay tile vents, six-by-six-inch outriggers at its gable ends, exposed wood rafter tails, but lacks both gutters and downspouts. The front (east elevation) has two doorways with stone steps and stoops. The double doors to the south are a modern replacement. A pair of original glass doors are extant at the north doorway, but are currently sheathed with plywood on their exterior face. Wood window sash, typically six-light paired casements, occur on all of the elevations. The north half of the building is used as storage; the south half of the building contains an office and additional storage room.

CC-51, Cow Creek Warehouse

Building CC-51, located near the southwest corner of the utility area, was constructed as a warehouse in 1935 and was the first adobe structure built within the complex (see photo, Buildings and Structures #5). This one-story, one-room structure with adobe walls is raised above ground on concrete perimeter footings. The gable roof, originally covered in tar-paper or composite roll roofing, is now sheathed in galvanized corrugated sheet metal. The building features triangular clay tile vents, and six-by-six-inch

outriggers at its gable ends, and exposed wood rafter tails, but lacks both gutters and downspouts. Wood windows with six-light casement sash and three-light casement sash occur at all building elevations. Historic photographs show that a metal shed was once attached to the east side of the building. This was removed some time after 1964, leaving a scar where the roof of this building met the adobe wall. The building currently houses a metal storage unit for the climatically controlled storage of museum objects.

CC-52, Cow Creek Oil House

Building CC-52 is a one-room adobe structure with a galvanized, corrugated sheet metal gable roof located in the utility area (see photo, Buildings and Structures #6). Built in 1939 as a generator shelter, this structure became an oil house after a larger hydroelectric plant was built that same year further up the hill to the west. It is currently used for tire storage. There is a single door opening at the south elevation, wood casement windows at the east and north façades, and wood hopper window sash above wood louvers at the west façade. Typical details include: wood rafters and exposed rafter tails, triangular ridge vents with clay tile infill at the gable end walls, and concrete sill and wood lintels with concrete bearing pads at the window and door openings. The two-foot-thick adobe walls sit on a low concrete stem wall.

CC-54, Cow Creek Machine Shop and Wash Rack

Plans dated August 5, 1940, show that building CC-54 had already been constructed as a machine shop. (DSC Technical Information Center, # NMDV 2023A, 1940) The HSR attributes CC-54's construction to the 1942 date listed in the building files which would appear to be inaccurate. Assuming 1940 is the correct construction date, then the statement in the HSR that CC-54 was the last of the adobe buildings constructed by the CCC in Death Valley would also be incorrect.

This one-story structure, the largest in the district, has exterior adobe walls and multi-light industrial steel sash windows. There are six open bays at the front (east) elevation containing overhead doors. The southernmost bay is larger than the other five. This distinction is accompanied by a structural system change between the five smaller and one larger bay from a wood gable trussed system to a flat truss. Three additional bays at the north end of the east façade are filled with concrete stem walls supporting multi-light industrial steel sash.

An outdoor concrete pad for washing vehicles abuts the north side of the building. Documentation is unclear as to when the pad was constructed, but it may date from the CCC era. Historic photos show several phases of development in this area beginning in 1941 when the exit door on the north side of the building was approximately one and a half feet above ground level. Subsequent photos show that this area was filled and leveled, and an undated photo (pre-1954) shows the existing wash pad with a car dating from the historic period parked on it (see photo, Buildings and Structures #7). The wash rack was constructed using an existing stone foundation as its base on its north and western sides. The rock foundation predated the construction of CC-54 and was probably the foundation of a garage constructed between 1933 and 1935. Because the stone foundation was not removed when the CCC constructed CC-54, it is probable they intended to use the wall. Whether this was for the foundation of a wash rack, a platform, or some other use, has not been confirmed. Until such time that additional information can be found that indicates otherwise, the platform should be considered a contributing structure to the historic district.

CC-55, Cow Creek Radio Building

Building CC-55 is located immediately south of CC-57 in the utility area and was constructed in 1938. This one-story, two-room structure with adobe walls, concrete floor, and covered porch originally served as a radio building and later as the electric shop. It now functions as paint storage.

According to the construction documents, this building was originally comprised of two rooms: a bedroom with attached bathroom and a radio and telephone room. The construction documents also show that the porch was to be paved in flagstone with three adobe columns supporting the roof, similar to the completed design of the administration building (CC-48). Historic photos verify that the adobe columns were never installed.

CC-57, Cow Creek Carpenter Shop

Building CC-57 was constructed in the utility area as a nine-bay equipment shed in 1937. The structure is currently used as a carpentry, plumbing, and electrical shop. Located towards the east end of the historic district, the west side of this rectangular adobe and wood frame structure has an open post and beam façade. According to historic drawings, the space was originally divided between bays four and five by a four-by-four-inch wood-stud firewall, sheathed in galvanized iron. The two southernmost bays of the building were partitioned off in 1956 to create a ranger office and sign shop. This is now the electrical shop. A concrete powerhouse was added to the north end of the building in 1963. A series of wood frame additions, used for storage, were added to the four southernmost bays at the west elevation between 1986 and 1988. These additions cover a portion of the original adobe wall and wood posts at the west façade.

CC-62, Cow Creek Warehouse

Building CC-62 was intended as temporary storage for equipment and supplies requiring protection from the elements. This one-story, one-room building was constructed in the utility area in 1938. An example of a CCC "Portland porta-perm" structure, which could be moved easily and put together with crescent wrenches, it is constructed of four-inch-wide prefabricated panels with horizontal fir shiplap siding, bolted together at double studs. Two-by-six-inch cross bracing stabilizes the walls on the interior. The building originally had an earthen floor, tarpaper roof, and five bays at its east elevation. Each of these bays contained a pair of strap-hinged, vertical-plank wood doors.

Only the north, south, and west sides of the building retain the original fir one-inch shiplap siding. The open post and beam structure of the east façade was removed and replaced with a plywood-sheathed stud wall in 1985. According to the National Register Nomination for the Cow Creek Historic District, the original support posts and truss elements were photographed and marked, in place, prior to removal and are presently stored in the rafters of the building. No historic construction documents remain for this building.

CC-64, Cow Creek Adobe Workshop

This one-room adobe structure located at the extreme western end of the historic district, near the reservoir and swimming pool, has a galvanized, corrugated sheet metal gable roof. Built in 1939 as a hydro-electric generator shelter, this structure is almost identical in plan and elevation to building the oil house (CC-51). It originally housed a large Pelton wheel (a form of impulse turbine or water wheel, consisting of a row of double cup-shaped buckets arranged round the rim of a wheel and actuated by one or more jets of water playing into the cups at high velocity), the stand for which still remains. The building was later used as an adobe workshop and is now used as storage. There is a single door opening at the north elevation, wood casement windows at the east and north facades, and wood hopper windows with divided lights above louvered panels at the west façade. The building's details include: wood rafters, and exposed rafter tails, triangular tile ridge vents at the gable end walls, concrete sills, and thick wooden lintels with concrete bearing pads at window and door openings. The two-inch-thick adobe walls sit on a low concrete stem wall.

CC-200, Cow Creek Adobe Wall

The adobe wall was built by the CCC in 1940 as part of the original corporation yard and is a prominent

feature of the utility area (see photo, Buildings and Structures #1). It encloses the area on the west side, and partially along the north and south sides. Historic plans to enclose the entire utility area within the wall were never completed. The six-foot wall is constructed in two widths of adobe brick on a concrete foundation without an exterior plaster coat. There is a waterproofing membrane between the concrete and adobe. Originally constructed with pre-cast concrete block caps, now missing, the wall has vertical breaks at grade changes. These breaks were intended to allow for a similar grade on either side of the wall in order to avoid retaining wall-type footings. The original construction drawings called for a bond course every fourth course of brick; these bond courses are evident in the remaining wall. The existing length of the wall is approximately 350 linear feet although two twenty-foot sections located immediately to the west of the utility area entrance gate and to the west of CC-303 have collapsed.

NON-CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES

Cow Creek

CC-118, Storage Building

This building was constructed as a one-story, one-room temporary storage facility in 1938. The building is currently used for storage and is identical to building CC- 62, the warehouse. It was a CCC “Portland porta-perm” structure with vertical-plank wood double doors at the south elevation. The structure was almost totally rebuilt in 1954 for fire engine storage and use as a meeting hall. At that time, the east and west exterior walls were rebuilt of CMU (concrete masonry unit), and new rear column supports and pier footings replaced the original structure. The north wall of the building abuts the perimeter wall of the historic district. Sometime after 1964, the overhead doors at the south façade were replaced with wood-frame walls with door and window openings and plywood sheathing.

The building, in its current state, lacks architectural integrity and is not listed as a contributing structure in the National Register Nomination for the Cow Creek Historic District. It is, however, built in the location of a previous building and has a similar plan and massing to CC-62, the historic storage building adjacent to it.

CC-145, Comfort Station

This adobe comfort station, with two single-occupancy toilet rooms, was built by the National Park Service in 1954. The exterior adobe walls are constructed of adobe blocks hauled from the stockpile left by the CCC at Park Village. The cement-based mortar between the blocks gives the building a different appearance from the historic adobes. The structure sits on a concrete slab foundation, has a wood frame roof with galvanized, corrugated sheet metal roofing, and wooden doors and lintels.

CC-300, Quonset Hut (Roads and Trails)

This is the first of seven World War II-era metal quonset huts (CC-300 – CC-306) acquired through the GSA from Camp Pendleton (see photo, Buildings and Structures #8). They were dismantled and re-erected in the Cow Creek maintenance area in 1975, and consist of arched metal frames with corrugated metal roofing on four-foot-high concrete block stem walls which rest on concrete slab foundations. The building is used for sign and tool storage.

CC-300 is located at the south edge of the utility area adjacent to CC-301. The end walls are covered with plywood. The north end wall has a ten-foot-tall overhead door covered with corrugated galvanized sheet metal, with a man door at the center. The roof has six ridge vents. The corrugated metal roof is painted and interrupted with three fiberglass skylight strips.

CC-301, Quonset Hut (Sign Shop)

This metal quonset hut is located at the southern end of the historic district and sits on four-foot-tall

concrete block stem walls. The corrugated sheet metal roofing is covered with a sprayed-on insulation, ¼ inch thick, painted white. The end walls are plywood with an overhead door at the north end. The building is used as the sign shop.

CC-302, Quonset Hut (B&U Warehouse)

This metal quonset hut sits on four-foot-tall concrete block stem walls on a concrete slab. The end walls are wood frame with a plywood exterior. There is a ten-foot overhead door at the north end wall, and a main door at the south end wall. The building is used for storage.

CC-303, Quonset Hut (B&U Warehouse) & 304, Quonset Hut (Plumbing Warehouse)

These identical buildings sit adjacent to each other in the southwest corner of the utility area. Both are metal quonset huts on four-foot-tall concrete block stem walls with concrete slab floors. End walls are wood frame with plywood exteriors. The corrugated metal roofs have fiberglass skylight strips at each side and three roof vents. The buildings are covered with sprayed-on insulation, painted white. Both buildings are used for storage.

CC-305, Quonset Hut (Resource Management)

This metal quonset hut sits on two-foot, six-inch high concrete block stem walls on a concrete slab. End walls are wood frame with plywood exterior. The corrugated sheet metal roofing is covered with a sprayed-on insulation, painted white. There is an eight-foot-deep, wood-frame covered porch with a flat roof across the south end. The building is currently used for office space.

CC-306, Quonset Hut (Natural History Association)

This metal quonset hut sits on two-foot, six-inch-high concrete block stem walls on a concrete slab. End walls are wood-frame with plywood exterior. The corrugated sheet metal roof and plywood end wall at the south have sprayed-on insulation and are painted white. The building is used for storage.

CC-316, Maintenance Office

Located immediately to the east of the utility area entrance, CC-316 was originally a square concrete block building constructed as a paint locker. The original construction date is unknown. A wood frame addition on a concrete slab with a stucco exterior and standing-seam metal roof was added in 1985. The building was converted to the maintenance division office at that time. An additional 572-square-foot addition was added to the south end of the building in 1998.

CC-321, District Ranger Station and Fire Station

Building CC-321 is a prefabricated metal “Butler” building erected in 1988 along the access road outside the utility area between the comfort station (CC-145), and the wood CCC Camp Warehouse (CC-39). This building has two overhead doors for vehicle storage. It is used as the Cow Creek district ranger and fire station.

CC-345, Curatorial Building

This wood-frame building on a concrete slab, with stucco exterior and standing-seam metal roof, was built as a curatorial center in 1999. It is located along the access road to the east of the utility area, adjacent to the carpenter shop building (CC-57).

CC-307, Pump House

This concrete-block building with a wood-frame roof and asphalt-rolled roofing is located south of the pool. Construction date unknown, it contains pump equipment for the pool. The building is hidden from view by the vegetation in the surrounding wash.

Pool Storage Shed

This small storage shed on the west side of the swimming pool has no foundation. It does not appear in any historic plans or photographs.

Gas Pumps (Fueling Station)

The fueling station consists of a concrete pad and raised platform for the gas pumps. No elements of the station appear to be historic. A 1954 site map indicates an earlier station was located in a different location.

Trailer

A trailer is located along the west side of CC-39 and is non-contributing.

Removed Structures

Structure Number	Name	Date Built/Removed
CC-40	Storage Building	1933/1954
CC-53	Blacksmith Shop	unknown/1951
CC-61	Equipment Shed	1938/1950
CC-63	Comfort Station	1938/1954
CC-65	Comfort Station	1938/1954
CC-90	Incinerator	1937/1954
CC-92	Garage	unknown/1960
CC-93	Storage	1933/1954
CC-94	Bachelor Quarters	1935/1954
CC-95	Barracks	1935/1954
CC-96	Barracks	1935/1954
CC-97	Mess Hall	1935/1954
CC-98	Hospital	1935/1954
CC-99	Bath House	1935/1954
CC-100	Generator House	1935/1954
CC-101	Storage	1935/1954

Summary

Fifteen historic and fifteen non-historic buildings and structures are located within the Cow Creek Historic District. Of the fifteen historic structures listed, twelve are discussed in this section, two are described in Constructed Water Features, and one in Small Scale Features. Although the buildings have been modified over time, they retain their general character as administrative and maintenance structures. Several historic structures have been removed since the period of significance and fifteen non-historic structures added. However, the addition of non-historic buildings over time has been done in such a way that most are compatible with the general pattern of development established during the historic period in both the administration and utility areas. Although structural alterations and material deterioration have negatively affected the condition of the historic buildings and structures, they retain integrity as a contributing landscape characteristic of the historic district.

The above descriptions for buildings within the utility and administrative areas were abstracted from the Historic Structures Report for Cow Creek Historic District, Death Valley National Park, ARG, February, 2000.



Buildings and Structures #1: Cow Creek adobe wall, looking east. (Death Valley National Park archives, ARG digital images #27045, ca. 1940)



Buildings and Structures #2: Cow Creek reservoir, looking south. (PGSO, CLI negative # DEVA-N-0006-12, 2000)



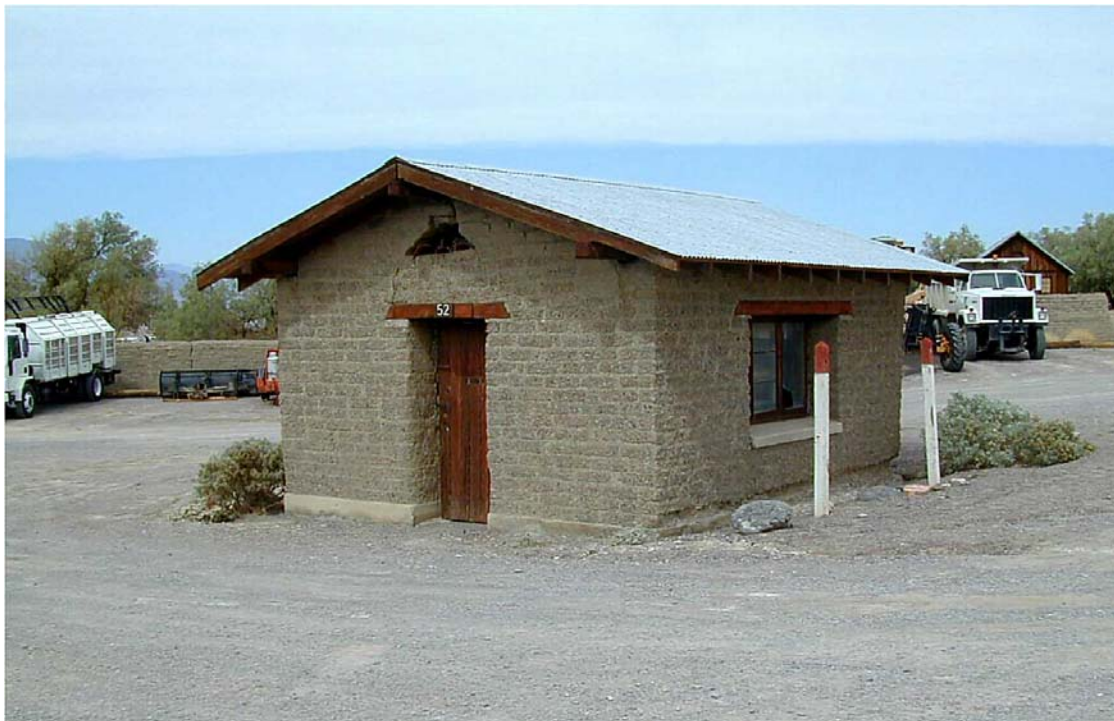
Buildings and Structures #3: Cow Creek warehouse with stone steps, looking north. (PGSO, CLI slide #DEVA-S-0001-12, 2000)



Buildings and Structures #4: Administration Building with early landscaping, looking north. (Death Valley National Park archives, ARG digital images #46818, ca. 1940)



Buildings and Structures #5: Cow Creek warehouse with loading dock, looking east. (PGSO, LCS digital file #DEVA-18, 2000)



Buildings and Structures #6: Cow Creek oil house, looking north. (PGSO, LCS digital file #DEVA-24, 2000)



Buildings and Structures #7: CC-54 with washrack. (Death Valley National Park archives, ARG digital images #46823, no date))



Buildings and Structures #8: Cow Creek quonset huts, looking south. (PGSO, LCS digital file #DEVA-11, 2000)

Characteristic Feature	Type Of Contribution	LCS Structure Name	IDLCS Number	Structure Number
Cow Creek Adobe Wall	Contributing	Cow Creek Adobe Wall	057817	CC-200
Cow Creek Adobe Workshop	Contributing	Cow Creek Adobe Workshop	057815	CC-091
Cow Creek Carpenter Shop	Contributing	Cow Creek Carpenter Shop	057812	CC-057
Cow Creek Machine Shop and Wash Rack	Contributing	Cow Creek Trades Workshop	057810	CC-054
Cow Creek Oil House	Contributing	Cow Creek Oil House	057809	CC-052
Cow Creek Old Administration Building	Contributing	Cow Creek Old Administration Building	009073	CC-48
Cow Creek Radio Building	Contributing	Cow Creek Radio Building	057811	CC-055
Cow Creek Swimming Pool	Contributing	Cow Creek Swimming Pool	057816	CC-292
Cow Creek Warehouse 1	Contributing	Cow Creek Warehouse	057805	CC-039
Cow Creek Warehouse 2	Contributing	Cow Creek Warehouse	057806	CC-049
Cow Creek Warehouse 3	Contributing	Cow Creek Warehouse	057807	CC-050
Cow Creek Warehouse 4	Contributing	Cow Creek Warehouse	057808	CC-051
Cow Creek Warehouse 5	Contributing	Cow Creek Warehouse	057813	CC-062
Administration Area Comfort Station	Non-Contributing			CC-145
Cow Creek Storage Building	Non-Contributing			CC-118
Curatorial Building	Non-Contributing			CC-345
District Ranger and Fire Station	Non-Contributing			CC-321
Maintenance Office	Non-Contributing			CC-316
Pool Storage Shed	Non-Contributing			
Pump House	Non-Contributing			

Quonset Huts (7)	Non-Contributing	CC- 300/301/302 /303/304/30 5/306
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Trailer	Non-Contributing
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Circulation

Circulation patterns within the Cow Creek Historic District changed throughout the CCC period but were firmly established by the time the camp closed in 1942. However, in areas outside but adjacent to the district boundary, significant changes have occurred between 1942 and the present day.

Concurrent with the establishment of the CCC at Cow Creek in 1933, three primary circulation routes were established in the the Cow Creek area: the main entrance road (Route 50) into Cow Creek, the loop road through Camp Funeral Range, and a northeastern branch road to Camp Cow Creek (see graphic, Circulation #2). The main entrance road was built off of the newly realigned State Route 190 (now California Highway 190) approximately four miles from Furnace Creek. It ran east into Cow Creek for approximately 300 feet to a “Y” intersection whose left branch led to Park Village. Approximately 100 feet further along the main entrance road was another “Y” with a branch leading south as the beginning of the Camp Funeral Range loop road. This loop road was treated with oil. It ran south and west for approximately 2100 feet through Camp Funeral Range at which point the oiling stopped. It then turned north for approximately 370 feet (with an un-oiled spur up the slope to the east to a “wireless station”). The road then turned west over the most level portion of the site for another 2100 feet back to the beginning of the loop. The road into Camp Cow Creek turned north off the loop road at a “Y” intersection just before it completed its circuit. It ran parallel to the wash on the northern side, ending at buildings CC-39 and CC-49.

Photos, maps, and landscape architect’s reports from 1934 indicate that these roads were graded and oiled soil. The roads were raised above grade where possible, compacted, and oiled, although no road construction specifications have been located. A 1934 report states that “For surfacing...nothing so far known can compare with a good oil cake...The natural material is an almost perfect oil mix, the brownish-black color blends and harmonizes well with the surroundings and oiling is by far the cheapest method of treating these roads.” (Comments on ‘Report and Recommendations for Future Construction Projects, Goodwin, T.R., Death Valley National Park, California, Department of the Interior, Research Library and Museum Collection, Archives, Record Group 1, 1934:2) By 1937, a report states that “The new entrance r[oa]d to the Utility Area is completed, banks have been flattened and rounded, and the road surface partially oiled. More oil will be added soon and the entire surface scarified and relaid.” (Report to the Superintendent, Death Valley National Monument, through the senior project superintendent in charge, Feb. 20-March 20, Death Valley National Park, California, Department of the Interior, Research Library and Museum Collection, Archives, Record Group 1, 1937: 7) Within the camps, pedestrian routes around the structures consisted of untreated soil delineated by rows of stones (see photo, Circulation #1).

A 1935 “Topographical Map of the Headquarters Area” shows significant changes in circulation within the current historic district boundary. The eastern dirt portions of the Camp Funeral Range loop road and “wireless” spur road were oiled, providing a continuous oiled surface throughout the area. The eastern and northern portions of the loop road were completely re-aligned in anticipation of further development on the future site of the “corporation yard” (a number of new structures appear there between 1934 and 1935). The eastern portion of the loop was brought to its approximate present alignment, with an eastern spur upslope to the new reservoir, a southward spur into the area of the “corporation yard,” and a northeastern spur to the newly erected Camp Cow Creek recreation and office structures. Further, the northern portion was completely replaced with a new route which crossed over the wash and continued west, downslope, in its present configuration. Lastly, the three “Y” intersections at the beginning of the loop road were condensed into two.

With the consolidation of the two camps in 1936, and the subsequent establishment of park headquarters

at Cow Creek in 1939, circulation patterns became much more elaborate. To serve the administration building, a stone walkway approximately 30 feet long was installed from the parking lot to the porch. Two loop roads to the south of what is now the historic district were established to serve Camp Funeral Range, while the new primary route into Cow Creek provided access to the administration building and utility area. Lastly, the road to the Camp Cow Creek recreation and office buildings was rerouted to the south to reach the new incinerator northeast of the utility yard (see graphic, Circulation #2).

By 1942, the road in front of the administration building was widened to accommodate a parking lot approximately 325 feet long and bounded on both sides with stone curbing. Pedestrian routes included the stone paved walkway to the administration building and an “oiled trail” from the northeast end of the parking lot, south past the utility area to Camp Funeral Range. At the beginning of the entrance road at State Route 190, two stepped-concrete curbs were built to edge the road where it flairs for those vehicles entering and exiting Route 50. They are shown in an undated photo that would appear to have been taken during the period of significance (see photo, Circulation #3). Within the utility area, circulation was contained within adobe walls in a large flat staging area that provided easy access for large vehicles to such buildings as the garage and blacksmith shop. Because of the steep terrain on east side of the yard, a road was constructed on the incline leading to the upper utility area (see map, Supplemental Information #2).

Following the period of significance, the roads within the historic district changed little while those leading to adjacent areas were heavily altered. Within the district, the route to the incinerator was eliminated by 1981, roads leading to the former Camp Funeral Range areas were relocated, and the routes to and within Park Village were rerouted (see graphic, Circulation #4).

In 1942, the roads to Park Village and Camp Funeral Range left the main entrance road opposite each other approximately 400 feet from State Route 190. By 1957 another route to the rear of the administration building left the north side of the main entrance road approximately 800 feet from Route 190. Between 1961 and 1981, the road to the rear of the administration building was eliminated (as was called for in the 1961 Master Plan for the monument), and the south road to the trailer area (present day Salt Pan Vista) remained unchanged. The road to Park Village was moved to its current location approximately 1500 feet from Route 190 by 1961.

Major changes have also occurred outside but adjacent to the district. Between 1961 and 1981, the two loop roads in the Camp Funeral Range area were eliminated (originally called for in the 1942 Master Plan) and replaced with a new road for trailer access. New development behind the administration building has added a dead end and a cul-de-sac (see Existing Conditions map, Supplemental Information #1). Within Park Village, the top portion of Old Ghost Road contained a small loop around a “trailer park” in 1957 that was eliminated by 1961. Further, the Coyote Loop was installed off of lower Skyline Drive in 1998.

The current names for the circulation routes in and around Cow Creek are the following: Route 50 for all Cow Creek Area roads, Old Ghost Road for the route to the top of the Park Village Loop, Canyon View Drive for the spur from the top of Old Ghost Road Loop, Skyline Drive for the bottom of the Park Village Loop, Nevares Road for the eastern spur from Skyline Drive to Nevares Spring, and Coyote Loop for the southern loop from Skyline Drive.

Other circulation features include the steps on the swimming pool embankment which were reportedly built by the CCC (ARG, 2000:49). However, no documentation has been found to verify a construction date (see photo, Circulation #5). This masonry staircase runs from the west side of the pool area down-slope towards what was an informal parking area. The staircase is edged by low mortared stone walls.

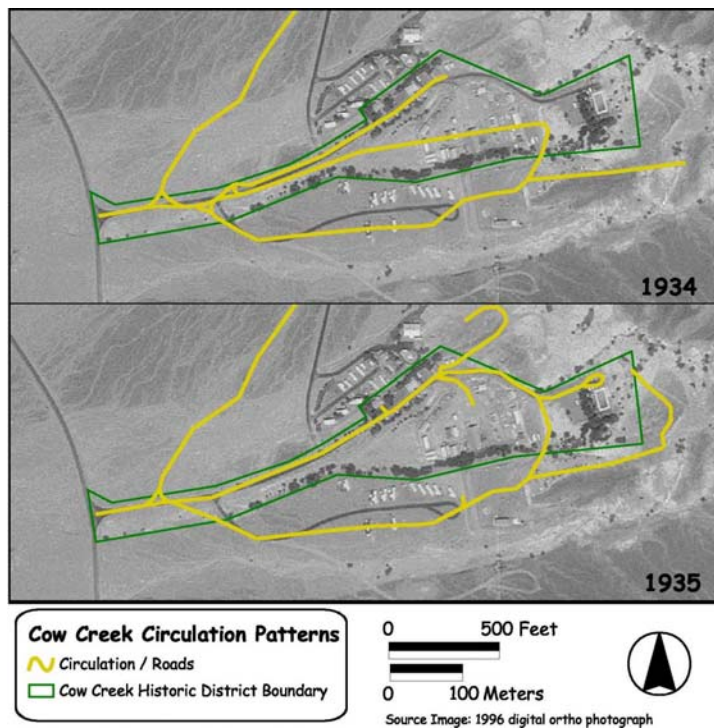
The stairs are obscured by heavy vegetation. A concrete walk which extends west from the pool to the embankment slope was built after 1942 and therefore is considered non-contributing.

Summary

Although changes in the circulation patterns were made within the Cow Creek Historic District during the period of significance, they reflected the consolidation of the CCC Camps and the expanded development of the utility area. Those circulation patterns established within the district by 1942 have remained essentially the same. Accordingly, circulation retains integrity as a contributing landscape characteristic of the historic district.



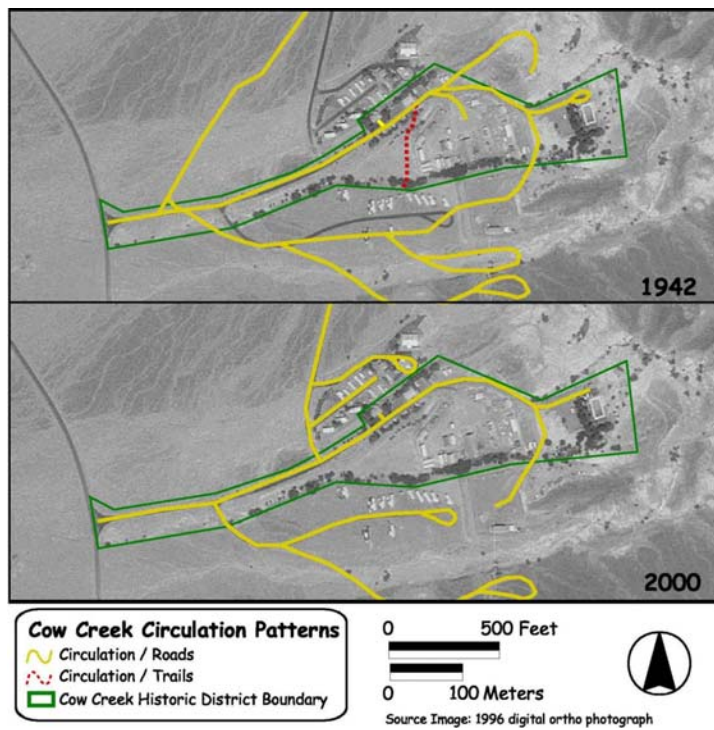
Circulation #1: CCC Camp Funeral Range with pathways delineated by stones, looking west. (PGSO, Death Valley National Park Acc. #651.54, DEVA #4485, 1937)



Circulation #2: Changes in circulation patterns from 1934 to 1935. (PGSO, CLI GIS files, 2000)



Circulation #3: Stepped concrete entrance curbs at the junction of State Route 190 and Route 50, looking west. (PGSO, Death Valley National Park Archives Acc. #1152, DEVA #27058.A, no date)



Circulation #4: Changes in circulation patterns from 1942 to 2000. (PGSO, CLI GIS files, 2000)



Circulation #5: CCC-era stairs leading to pool area, looking north. (PGSO, CLI print #DEVA-P-0007-2, 2000)

Characteristic Feature	Type Of Contribution	LCS Structure Name	IDLCS Number	Structure Number
Administration Building Walkway	Contributing	Cow Creek Administration Building Walkway And Curbs	330083	
Parking Lot at CC-48	Contributing	Cow Creek Parking Lot At Cc-48	330086	
Pool Stairs	Contributing	Cow Creek Stone Stairs	332658	
Road Spur to CALTRANS Lot	Contributing	Cow Creek Historic Roads	330088	
Route 50	Contributing	Cow Creek Historic Roads	330088	
Utility Area Roads and Staging Area	Contributing	Cow Creek Historic Roads	330088	
Concrete Path from Pool Heading West	Non-Contributing			
Spur Road to Park Village	Non-Contributing			
Spur Road to Salt Pan Vista	Non-Contributing			

Cluster Arrangement

Site development within the Cow Creek area during the CCC period was an ongoing process. Maps and photographs show constant construction and therefore change throughout the CCC occupation of the site. By the end of the period of significance, five "clusters," or functional groupings of buildings and structures, existed in the Cow Camp area. These included: 1) the CCC camp, 2) the administration area, 3) the Cow Creek utility area, 4) the Park Village housing area, and 5) the pool area.

Three of the original clusters are located within the boundaries of the existing historic district and include the administrative area, the utility area, and the pool complex. Two clusters are not part of the district: Park Village and the CCC camp. Park Village, an NPS housing area, has been highly modified over time and no longer contributes to the historic district. The CCC camp, which consisted primarily of Camp Funeral Range immediately to the southwest of the present district, no longer exists. Originally laid out on a military-style grid system, the cluster contained over a dozen buildings now removed. This site currently houses the CALTRANS yard and trailer area (see Existing Conditions map, Supplemental Information #1).

Administration Area

The administration area is linear in arrangement following a narrow ridge of land accessed by Route 50 which extends down to the main highway. The buildings are aligned along the same axis that was laid out for the original CCC camp at Cow Creek. Only two buildings (CC-39 and 49) remained after the fire which destroyed the original Camp Cow Creek. Following the fire, the park headquarters/administration building (CC-48) was built on the site of the former barracks. Because this was also a visitor contact point, the building was constructed of adobe and surrounded by formal landscaping. Up the road are the buildings that survived the fire and subsequently have provided a variety of functions including storage for the administration building. These functions continue to this day.

Having served as the location of the original park headquarters, the administrative cluster is the first to be encountered upon entering Cow Creek. Non-contributing buildings have been added to this cluster which are either administrative or support the administrative use of the area. These buildings include a district ranger and fire station (CC-321), a restroom (CC-145), and two quonset huts (CC 305-306) which are used for offices and storage. A mobile trailer is also located on site between CC-321 and CC-39 but is considered temporary and is not included as part of the analysis. This entire cluster of buildings is bounded by Athel tamarisks on its northern, western, and southern sides.

Although the buildings added after the period of significance have impacted the integrity of this cluster as a whole, they are laid out in a similar linear manner and are consistent with the administrative function of the area.

Utility Area

The utility area (maintenance yard) is located on the opposite side of the wash from the administrative cluster. The upper portion of the area is terraced and the lower portion of the area is enclosed by an adobe wall which screens it from the road and administration area. The walls partially enclose the north, west, and south sides of the area. Entry to the area was off of the main entrance road (Route 50). The gas pump is located in the center of the area and is surrounded by a large open area which is necessary for the movement of large equipment within the yard. The maintenance office is located near the entry to the area. The buildings dating to the end of the period of significance are adobe and are laid out parallel to one another as they descend the hill. The historic buildings are CC-50, 51, 54, 55, 57, and 62.

Although numerous buildings have been demolished, the lost buildings were relatively consistent in terms of their scale and location. Today, the non-contributing buildings on site include CC-118, 300,

301, 302, 303, 304, 316, and the gas pump. The buildings are used typically as utilitarian, storage, and maintenance office buildings and are compatible with utility area configurations from the CCC era. Delineated by the original adobe wall and contemporary chain link fencing that surrounds the utility area, this cluster retains its original function as a utility and maintenance area for the park.

The Pool Area

The pool area is composed of five structures, three of which are historic and two of which have been added since the period of significance. The structures dating to the CCC period include the reservoir (CC-91), the pool (CC-292) located below the reservoir, and the adobe workshop (CC-64) located across the road from the pool. Non-contributing buildings include the pump house and the pool house. Non-contributing structures include the chain-link fence surrounding the pool, the shuffleboard court, the barbecue, a concrete path leading to the fence and an equipment shed near the west end of the pool. Stone steps lead down the slope from the pool to an area that has been identified in various plans as a parking area.

The functions were located away from the rest of the camp up at the end of Route 50. This makes sense for a variety of reasons: the reservoir needed to be uphill from the camp to provide adequate pressure and the generator would have produced noise and therefore would have been located outside the working and living areas below. The pool, built as a recreational feature for the enrollees and park residents, was probably sited to provide some auditory and visual distance between it and the park offices, visitors, and the utility area. Based on the analysis of photos and plans, only relatively minor changes have occurred within the pool area so that the cluster arrangement is similar to that which existed during the historic period.

Summary

Although all three clusters within the district boundaries have been modified to varying degrees since the CCC camp closed, the administrative, utility, and pool areas retain integrity as contributing landscape characteristics of the Cow Creek Historic District.

Characteristic Feature	Type Of Contribution	LCS Structure Name	IDLCS Number	Structure Number
Administration Area	Contributing			
Maintenance Area	Contributing			
Pool Area	Contributing			

Constructed Water Features

CC-91, Cow Creek Reservoir

Located up the hill to the east of the swimming pool, this now-abandoned reservoir was built in 1934 by the CCC to store water for fire protection (see photo, Buildings and Structures #2). Constructed to hold 22,000 gallons, it had a working capacity of 18,500 gallons. The subsurface walls and floors are concrete and the reservoir is covered by wood trusses and galvanized, corrugated sheet metal roofing. The structure is still intact.

CC-292 Cow Creek Swimming Pool and Pool Deck

The Cow Creek swimming pool (CC-292) was completed in 1937 following two years of construction (see photo, Constructed Water Features #1). The pool was built for the use of CCC enrollees and is now actively used by the park staff. The pool was constructed uphill and to the east of the utility area (maintenance yard). The hillside was graded to create a large terrace that would accommodate the structure. Constructed of concrete, the pool is rectangular in shape and ranges from three feet, three inches in depth to eight feet, nine inches in depth. An eight-foot-wide concrete deck surrounds the swimming pool (see photo, Small Scale Features #4). Historic plans indicate that the deck was constructed at the same time as the pool. It serves as a walkway and lounging area around the pool and separates the pool from the turf area. The original diving board was removed at an undetermined point in time. A ramada to the east of the pool had been proposed but never constructed. (DEVA Drawing 2102, National Park Service Technical Information Center, 1942)

Summary

Although the reservoir is no longer in use, both it and the swimming pool remain intact from the period of significance. Accordingly, these constructed water features retain integrity as a contributing landscape characteristic of the historic district.



Constructed Water Features #1: Cow Creek pool before landscaping and Camp Funeral Range, looking west.

(Death Valley National Park archives, ARG digital image #25442, ca. 1938)



Constructed Water Features #2: Contemporary view of the Cow Creek pool with landscaping, looking west. (PGSO, LCS digital file #DEVA-10, 2000)

Characteristic Feature	Type Of Contribution	LCS Structure Name	IDLCS Number	Structure Number
Cow Creek Swimming Pool and Deck	Contributing	Cow Creek Swimming Pool	057816	CC-292
Reservoir	Contributing	Cow Creek Reservoir	57815	CC-91

Land Use

From 1933 to 1942, land use at Cow Creek had three primary functions: 1) an administrative area for the monument, 2) a utility (maintenance) area, and 3) a winter camp for the CCC. For a brief period in 1942/43, Cow Creek had a fourth function as a temporary interment camp for Japanese-Americans.

With the construction of the administration building and parking area in 1939, the area on the north side of the development took on an administrative function which continues today due to the presence of the Resource Management Division office and the Cow Creek District Ranger Station. Other contributing and non-contributing structures in the area provide additional office space to support this administrative function.

The utility area, originally called the “corporation yard”, was established to provide a centralized area for utilitarian maintenance activities for Death Valley National Monument. The utility area land uses were typically synonymous with the names of the structures which included three warehouses, a generator building, a machine shop, a radio building, a carpenter shop, a vehicle wash rack, and a truck shed. The utility area remains primarily intact and continues as a park maintenance area with similar land use functions.

With the establishment of Camp Cow Creek as the winter quarters of the CCC in Death Valley in 1933, the Cow Creek area became, for part of the year, the living, working, and recreation center for a number of CCC companies. Although many of those types of land uses occurred outside the historic district boundary, buildings associated with them that remain within the boundary include CC-39 and CC-49 which were used for a variety of purposes by the CCC, and the swimming pool. An adobe workshop was also located at Cow Creek following an initial attempt to manufacture adobe at Harmony Borax Works (see photo, Land Use #1). In the 1950s, the CCC barrack buildings at Cow were removed. This portion of the site is not contained within the historic district boundary since the resources no longer exist.

Following the CCC occupation, Camp Funeral Range became a temporary internment camp for Japanese-Americans for a two month-period beginning in December 1942. The last of Camp Funeral Range was dismantled in the 1950s, eliminating the last remnants of the camp land use function.

In summary, both the administrative and utility areas within the Cow Creek Historic District boundary function the same today as during the period of significance. Remnants of other land uses, such as those that supported the daily life in the CCC camp, exist only as fragments within the historic district boundary.

The administrative and maintenance land use functions within the Cow Creek Historic District retain integrity relating to their original purpose by both the park and the CCC and contribute to the significance of the historic district.



Land Use: Adobe bricks made at Camp Funeral Range, looking east. (Death Valley National Park Archives, Acc. #1240, DEVA#30342-30377, 1935)

Natural Systems And Features

Cow Creek Historic District lies within Death Valley, a 156-mile-long north/south-trending trough between two major block-faulted mountain ranges: the Amargosa Range on the east and the Panamint Range on the west. Telescope Peak, the highest peak in the park and in the Panamint Mountains, rises 11,049 feet above sea level and lies only fifteen miles from the lowest point in the United States in the Badwater Basin salt pan, 282 feet below sea level. Average rainfall in the valley is 2.4 inches per year and the average temperature is 75.7 degrees Fahrenheit. Groundwater is found in aquifers underneath the park and varies greatly in depth and quality. The valley's groundwater basins are recharged from surface and subsurface infiltration. Known surface water sources in the Death Valley region include seeps, wells, springs, and ponds; these include a spring at Cow Creek that was integral to choosing the site for development. Soils in the vicinity of Cow Creek consist of desert sand, silt, and clay that have washed down the Funeral Mountains of the Amargosa Range into the bajadas of the eastern side of Death Valley. These soils become extremely fluid when wet and in turn dry to desert hardpan with evaporation.

Death Valley's location within the Mojave Desert, when combined with large changes in elevation, from 282 feet below sea level to 11,049 feet above sea level, supports vegetation typical of three biotic life zones: the lower Sonoran, the Canadian, and the Arctic/Alpine. (Jepson 1993) Based on Munz and Keck (1970) classifications, seven plant communities can be categorized within these life zones, each characterized by dominant vegetation and representative of three vegetation types: scrub, desert woodland, and coniferous forest. Microhabitats further subdivide some communities into zones, especially on the valley floor. Cow Creek lies within the desert scrub life zone (community). Although the vegetation at Cow Creek was significantly affected by CCC and NPS planting practices (see planting plan species list in Vegetation section), native vegetation is still prevalent within the district boundaries. Native species were propagated at the Park Village nursery during the CCC era for use throughout Death Valley. However, it is not clear if those native species found at Cow Creek are naturally occurring or the result of planting, stabilization, or revegetation practices.

Death Valley National Park and the adjacent desert support a variety of wildlife species. These include 51 species of native mammals, two species of exotic mammals, 307 species of birds, 36 species of reptiles, three species of amphibians, and five species (and one subspecies) of native fishes.

The natural systems and features retain integrity as a contributing landscape characteristic of the historic district.

(The above information was retrieved primarily from two web sites: the Death Valley National Park Draft Environmental Impact Statement and General Management Plan available at <http://www.nps.gov/deva/FrameSet-rm.html>, and <http://www.worldclimate.com/>)

Small Scale Features

Small scale features changed frequently during the period of significance as the CCC continued to improve and expand the camp. Some of these features remain, some have been modified, and others have simply disappeared. Small scale features that have changed over time to meet changing needs are associated with utility systems and include such features as fire hydrants and utility poles. Other features that have disappeared include two signs that identified the entrances to the administrative and utility areas, a radio antenna on the eastern end of the utility area, and an incinerator at the northeast end of the site (see photo, Small Scale Features #1). (DEVA Drawing 2102, National Park Service Technical Information Center, 1942)

Contributing Features

CC-201, Cow Creek Entrance Sign

This freestanding adobe signpost was built by the CCC as part of the original Cow Creek complex (see photo, Small Scale Features #2). It is located on the north side of the access road immediately east of the trailer area spur road leading south. The signpost is constructed of adobe bricks with no apparent foundation. There is a concrete cap, a later addition, at the top portion of the signpost and at the top of the base where the signage is anchored. The sign is hung from a cantilevered wooden arm. The original sign, which read "Death Valley National Monument," has been replaced with a metal sign that reads "Fasten Seat Belts."

Administration Building Flagpole and Base

The flagpole was originally placed in the center of the walkway to the administration building. It was later moved to its current position around 1940 (see photo, Small Scale Features #3). The pole is mounted in the center of a stepped, two-level square base and measures approximately seven square feet. The base is constructed of stone similar to the building's walkways and curbs.

Administration Building Area Stone Curbs

In 1939, the CCC constructed stone curbing around the administration building's front lawn and the parking area. The curbing runs along the edge of the front lawn, curving in along the entrance to the administration building. The rock along the entrance is mortared so that there is a thin concrete core to the wall with rock on either side. The curb along the parking area is single course, mortared, and runs along the southern edge of the parking area adjacent to the row of Athel tamarisk. Both curbs are constructed with mortared stone similar to the building's walkway.

Route 50 Stepped Concrete Curbs

The entry to the Cow Creek area is marked by a stepped concrete curb that delineates the flaring of the road at the entry and exit onto Route 50 (see photo, Circulation #3).

Masonry Spillway

Approximately fifty feet south of the entrance to Cow Creek from State Route 190 are the concrete and masonry remains of what appears to be a spillway. It contains two steps of concrete approximately one and a half feet wide with upright flat stone edging. Although the origins of this feature are unknown, it should be considered contributing to the district until further research can be conducted.

CCC Incinerator

Located approximately 800 feet to the northwest of the Park Village loop intersection, halfway between the Administration Building and Park Village, are the remains of a CCC incinerator. Constructed of poured concrete with rubble masonry wing-walls, the incinerator has numerous examples of CCC-era

graffiti painted on the outside which date it to at least 1941. This incinerator is not included within the boundary but is considered a contributing outlying feature of the historic district.

Non-Contributing Features

A number of non-contributing features have been added to the landscape following the period of significance. In the pool area, non-contributing elements include the chain link fence, a concrete block barbecue, two shuffleboard courts to the east of the pool, and a valve cover to the west of CC-64. Within the utility area, non-contributing elements include three propane tanks with concrete foundations, two wood pile retaining walls, three fire hydrants, chain link fences, gates, intermodal shipping containers, jersey barriers, and small boulders around buildings and utility poles. The culvert located under the road leading into the utility area entrance appears to have been replaced since the period of significance. In the administration area, recent additions include three utility boxes located to the rear and east of the building.

Summary

Small scale features at the camp changed as the CCC camp developed, however, few from the period of significance remain today. Those that do are important features in the district and include much of the stone masonry work around the administration building, the entrance sign, and the flagpole. However, because so few of them remain in comparison to what existed during the period of significance, small scale features no longer retain integrity as a contributing landscape characteristic of the historic district.



Small Scale Features #1: Cow Creek with radio antenna and incinerator area, looking west. (Death Valley National Park archives, ARG digital image #28036, no date)



Small Scale Features #2: Adobe entrance sign, looking west. (PGSO, CLI negative #DEVA-N-0006-3, 2000)



Small Scale Features #3: Flagpole, Athels, and mesquite in front of the administration building, looking west. (PGSO, LCS digital file #DEVA-3, 2000)



Small Scale Features #4: Pool patio area showing swimming pool deck and barbecue, looking south. (PGSO, CLI negative #DEVA-N-0006-17, 2000)



Small Scale Features #5: CCC Incinerator with wingwalls and graffiti, looking north. (DEVA, park digital photo, no identifier, 2001)

Characteristic Feature	Type Of Contribution	LCS Structure Name	IDLCS Number	Structure Number
Administration Building Flagpole	Contributing	Cow Creek Administration Building Flagpole	330090	
Administration Building Stone Curbs	Contributing	Cow Creek Administration Building Walkway And Curbs	330083	
Adobe Entrance Sign	Contributing	Adobe Entrance Sign	057833	CC-201
CCC Incinerator	Contributing	Cow Creek Ccc Incinerator	330093	
Masonry Spillway	Contributing	Cow Creek Masonry Spillway	330095	
Chain Link Fences	Non-Contributing			
Fire Hydrants	Non-Contributing			
Jersey Barriers	Non-Contributing			
Poolside Barbeque	Non-Contributing			
Propane Tanks and Foundations	Non-Contributing			
Shuffleboard Court	Non-Contributing			
Utility Poles	Non-Contributing			
Wood Pile Retaining Walls	Non-Contributing			

Spatial Organization

The Cow Creek area contains administrative, utilitarian, and non-residential masses of structures and functions situated on the western foothills of the Funeral Mountains. The placement of these masses was directly related to the following: access to the Cow Creek water supply which originally provided enough water for 500 men, the site's central location within Death Valley, and the site's close proximity to the highway and visitor resources at Furnace Creek. "This mesa...is high enough to be free from the dust, noise and confusion of travel through the Valley, yet within sight and easy reach of anyone having business at headquarters." (Final Report to Chief Architect through the Superintendent Death Valley N.M, Death Valley National Park, California, Department of the Interior, 1933/34 Season, Research Library and Museum Collection, Archives, Record Group 1) Its residential counterpart, Park Village, is a separate entity located further upslope to the north, outside of the historic district.

The spatial organization of Cow Creek retains integrity as a contributing landscape characteristic of the historic district.

Topography

The Cow Creek utility and administrative facilities were built immediately north of Cow Creek Wash. The land generally slopes from east to west, dropping approximately twenty vertical feet every 500 horizontal feet. However, grading of the utility and administrative areas resulted in significant topographic manipulation of the landforms to meet the needs of CCC and NPS activities. Historic photos taken at various times during the CCC development of the area show that the grade of the whole utility area was constantly being manipulated to meet changing needs.

The stepped terraces and embankments begin at the water reservoir where the water was stored underground. The next terrace was built for the pool and lawn surrounding it. Below the pool is a terrace for building CC-345 and its parking area. This embankment drops down into what becomes the upper maintenance yard. Another embankment occurs between CC-55 and the lower maintenance yard. The lower maintenance yard is the largest of the graded terraces. The embankments created by this large terrace are also the banks of the washes which bound the maintenance yard on its northern and southern sides. The lower maintenance yard embankment eventually drops into the wash.

The gradually descending ridge upon which the Resources Management building (CC-48) and other buildings including CC-39 and CC-49 are located was graded and flattened to accommodate construction of the numerous buildings built on this site over time. Two terraces and embankments were created. The upper (and smaller) terrace no longer has any structures on it but was originally the location of officers' quarters and a shower. The lower terrace, which follows the ridgeline, is where the Resources Management building and Camp Cow Creek barracks were located. The embankment created to the north of these buildings by this grading is steep and descends into a flattened graded area currently used as the school area and VIP RV parking. All of these terraces and embankments were the result of CCC grading projects.

Maps and photographs provide a good record of how the land was shaped over time by the CCC. A 1934 map shows the gently sloping topography around the two CCC camps with the initial structures of the utility yard in between them (DEVA Map #4943, National Park Service Technical Information Center, 1934). While the two washes are visible, no significant changes had yet been made to the topography in the vicinity of what would become the utility area (maintenance yard) or the pool area. However, the administrative area has been clearly graded to allow for a level building surface with a plateau extending west on the south side of the wash.

A 1936 photo shows workmen leveling the wash between the two camps (see photo, Topography #1), and a 1940 photo shows the same wash considerably filled with material from surface grading of the utility area (see photo, Topography #2). This work is documented in a 1937 Report To The Superintendent which states, "Ditches are being widened and banks flattened in preparation for planting in the Fall...the new entrance road to the Utility Area is completed, banks have been flattened and rounded..." (Report to the Superintendent Death Valley National Monument through the Senior Project Superintendent in charge, Death Valley National Park, California, Department of the Interior, Feb. 20-March 20, 1937, Research Library and Museum Collection, Archives, Record Group 1)

Within the utility area walls, a 1939 grading plan shows a gentle slope to the west from the gate towards the west adobe boundary wall. However, to the east of the gate the ground rises sharply to the upper maintenance area. An access ramp cuts across the middle of this slope. This configuration within the utility yard remains today although the slope is held in one place by a timber retaining wall (see photo, Topography #3).

An undated map (ca. 1942) shows significant increases in slope to the north and west sides of the utility area and to the north side of the administrative area. The wash between the two areas has been partially filled and a culvert installed to allow for runoff.

Lastly, while the maps from the CCC era do not provide information on grade alterations around the pool area, this location had in fact been significantly changed. The surface was graded to accommodate the pool and surrounding lawn area. The embankment was steep enough that stairs were built into it to allow access down the steep slope.

Topography in the Cow Creek Historic District retains integrity as a contributing landscape characteristic of the historic district.



Topography #1: Leveling the wash between Camp Cow Creek and Camp Funeral Range, looking east. (PGSO, Death Valley National Park Archives, Acc. #1240, DEVA #30524, 1936)



Topography #2: Comparison of Cow Creek Wash topography from 1940 to 2000, looking west. (Top: Death Valley National Park Archives, Acc. #725.1, DEVA#620, 1940. Bottom: PGSO, CLI negative # DEVA-N-0003-14, 2000)



Topography #3: Change in slope from lower to upper utility areas, looking east. (PGSO, CLI negative #DEVA-N-0004-17, 2000)

Characteristic Feature	Type Of Contribution	LCS Structure Name	IDLCS Number	Structure Number
Administration Area and Embankments	Contributing			
Embankment Behind CC-345	Contributing			
Lower Utility Yard and Embankments	Contributing			
Pool Area and Embankments	Contributing			
Upper Utility Yard and Embankments	Contributing			

Vegetation

Early photographs of the Cow Creek area show that the native vegetation on the site was primarily a desert scrub community with mesquite brush growing in the washes (see photo, Vegetation #1) and along the slope below the Cow Creek Spring (see photo, Vegetation #2). As the CCC began revegetating disturbed areas around the camp, this desert scrub was augmented or replaced with a palette of plants that included both native and non-native species.

Landscaped areas included the administration building and parking area (CC-48), the pool area, and Cow Creek Wash. Landscaped areas within the Park Village complex still contain material planted during the CCC era but the village is no longer considered part of the historic district due to extensive modifications made in the area since the period of significance (some buildings are individually significant). However, individual landscape features still remain at Park Village such as the mature Canary Island palms and the detailed rock-paved patios and walls.

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING AREA

A planting plan for the surrounding site and adjacent parking lot was produced in conjunction with the construction of the administration building in 1939. Although undated, this is the only planting plan located for Cow Creek. The plan does not appear to have been implemented exactly as laid out, but it provides a good idea of both the plant material available and the design intent of the landscape around the building. The following plants were identified in the plant palette for the administration building:

Washington Palm	(Washingtonia filifera) - 5
Canariensis Palm	(Phoenix canariensis) - 2
Creosote Bush	(Larrea tridentata) - 6
Encelia	(Encelia farinosa) - 11
Desert Holly	(Atriplex hymenelytra) - 51
Paloverde	(Cercidium sp.) - 4
Sporobolus	(Sporobolus sp.) - 8
Mesquite	(Prosopis sp.) - 12
Screw Bean	(Prosopis pubescens) - 2
Desert Fir	(unknown) - 10
Death Valley Sage	(Salvia funerea) - 3
Cottonwood	(Populus sp.) - 3
Athol (sic.)	(Tamarix aphylla) - 65 plus 20 temporary trees

The plan proposed enclosing the building and visitor parking areas with a variety of trees and shrubs that drew from a native plant palette and were augmented by non-native plants including various palms, mesquite and tamarisk species. The landscape that exists today is a simplified version of that original plan. Many of the natives on the plant list, if they were planted, are no longer visible on site. Non-native species that survive today at the administration building include the California fan palm (*Washingtonia filifera*), Chilean mesquite (*Prosopis chilensis*), and Athel tamarisk (*Tamarix aphylla*). Today, one of the most dominant features of the landscape around the building consists of the rows of Athel tamarisk which line both the road/parking areas in front of the building and form an edge of the graded area for Buildings CC-48, CC-49, CC-145 and CC-39. The only Canariensis palms (a.k.a. Canary Island Date palm /*Phoenix canariensis*) in the area that would have dated from this period are found in Park Village and are outside the historic district boundary.

Along both sides of the entrance road are ten dead palms (*Phoenix* sp.) that were planted near the intersection with the road to Park Village (see photo, Vegetation #3). Had these grown, they would

have created a small alley leading into Cow Creek. These palms are evident in a 1950 photograph and appear to be less than ten years old (see photo, Vegetation #4). Their apparent age would place them within the period of significance. They are also mentioned on an updated (date unknown) 1959 Water Rights map of Cow Creek which also highlighted groupings of Athel tamarisk and mesquite along both the road corridor and the length of Cow Creek Wash. Many of the Athel tamarisk along the parking lot are not watered and appear in poor condition.

Current vegetation around the administration building includes the lawn area surrounded by approximately six *Tamarix aphylla*, two *Prosopis chilensis* and one *Washingtonia filifera* (see photo, Vegetation #5). Around the building, the current locations of the Athel tamarisk are similar to those proposed on the plan but the *Washingtonia filifera* was clearly planted in a different location. The two remaining *Prosopis chilensis*, though not the same species recommended on the plan (*Prosopis pubescens*), are located where originally proposed. Along the parking lot, the locations of the Athel tamarisk are also consistent with the original plan. Not mentioned on the planting plan, but consistent with the CCC practice of planting Athels for slope stabilization, are those trees behind CC-321, CC-39, and CC-49. This row of Athel tamarisk is located at the top of a steep slope from the school area and serve as both soil stabilization agents and windbreaks. Overall, the vegetation massing has a similar effect on the administration building as the original plan would have. The Athel tamarisk along the parking lot effectively screen out the utility yard wall, an effect most likely part of the original intent.

POOL AREA

Two California fan palms (*Washingtonia filifera*) appear in a 1940 photograph of the pool area and are part of a row of four palms planted along the pool that still exist today (see photos, Vegetation #6 and #7). These palms, combined with the lawn surrounding the pool (also appearing in this 1940 photograph), are considered contributing landscape features and create a lush setting compared to the surrounding desert landscape. However, other California fan palms growing within the historic district do not appear in historic photographs and are probably the result of seeds germinating in moist wash areas. The cluster of California fan palms south of the pool area are not visible in a 1964 building file photograph and are therefore not considered contributing. The slopes of the embankment around the pool area appear to have been planted primarily with Athel tamarisk which are now mature.

Within the park archives is additional information about the proposed irrigation of the plantings in the Cow Creek area. Although there is no evidence that these were implemented, they provide important information about the thinking at that time. For example, regarding the construction of the swimming pool at Cow Creek, a 1934 report by the Resident Engineer states "...the overflow and flushing would provide a much needed irrigation water supply for growing trees and plants and landscaping the area." (Report and Recommendations for Future Construction Projects, Goodwin, T.R., Death Valley National Park, California, Department of the Interior, Research Library and Museum Collection, Archives, Record Group 1, 1934:13)

COW CREEK WASH

The changes in topography associated with the grading of the utility area in Cow Creek created some extremely steep slopes which would have increased the potential for erosion during storms events. Beginning below the pool area, the washes are lined in various locations with Athel tamarisk. The size and location of the Athels along the disturbed slopes suggest that those Athels in Cow Creek Wash were probably planted by the CCC for erosion control along the graded slopes within the washes.

A group of date palms behind CC-55 appear in photos from the 1960s but are not readily visible in photos dating back to the 1940s. Whether these were planted or have seeded on site could not be determined.

Salt Cedars (*Tamarix chinensis*) growing in the washes do not appear to have been planted as part of the CCC effort and are considered non-contributing.

SUMMARY

The landscape within the Cow Creek Historic District still retains the character and feel of that planted by the CCC as reflected in photographs and plans from the period. The three primary areas which appear to have been extensively planted include the administration building, the pool area, and the embankments along the washes. Although the plantings have matured and changed over time, and all three areas appear to retain most of the larger plant material, much of the remaining landscape appears water stressed.

However, the vegetation retains integrity as a contributing landscape characteristic of the district.



Vegetation #1: Early photo of mesquite brush community in washes around Cow Creek, looking east. (Death Valley National Park archives, Acc. 1240, DEVA# 30465, 1935)



Vegetation #2: Working a trench below Cow Creek spring, with mesquite, looking east. (Death Valley National Park archives, Acc. #1715, DEVA #47195, 1934)



Vegetation #3: Dead palms along Cow Creek roadside, looking east. (PGSO, CLI, Print #DEVA-P-0007-1, 2000)



Vegetation #4: Young palms along road to Cow Creek, looking south. (Death Valley National Park Archives, Acc. 651.54, DEVA #1605, 1952)



Vegetation #5: Planted vegetation around the Administration building, looking west. (PGSO, CLI negative #DEVA-N-0003-16, 2000)



Vegetation #6: Pool turf with young California fan palms, looking north. (Death Valley National Park archives, ALM Coltzhou collection, no Acc. # or DEVA #, 1940)



Vegetation #7: Contemporary view of pool and mature California fan plams, looking south. (PGSO, CLI slide #DEVA-S-0002-24, 2000)

Characteristic Feature	Type Of Contribution	LCS Structure Name	IDLCS Number	Structure Number
Athel Tamarisk along south side of parking lot	Contributing			
Athel tamarisk along the south side of the utility yard	Contributing			
Athel tamarisk around the pool	Contributing			
Athel tamarisk from CC-48 to CC-49	Contributing			
Lawn (pool and administration areas)	Contributing			
Prosopis chilensis (2 at administration area)	Contributing			
Washingtonia filifera (4 at pool)	Contributing			
Washingtonia filifera (at administration area)	Contributing			
Group of Washingtonia filifera south of the pool	Non-Contributing			
Prosopis pubescens at CC-54	Non-Contributing			
Tamarix chinensis in washes	Non-Contributing			
Washingtonia filifera at CC-91	Non-Contributing			

Views And Vistas

Cow Creek is located on a hillside approximately sixty feet above the floor of Death Valley which, at its deepest, is 282 feet below sea level. The expansive views toward the west of the valley include the Panamint Mountain Range which is visible from most points in Cow Creek District. Because numerous other factors resulted in the location of the CCC camp on the hill, the views of Death Valley and the Panamint Mountains were not the primary factors in the development of the camps or maintenance facility. Although no specific views or vistas are considered contributing features of the district, the unobstructed views provided by its location on a hillside overlooking Death Valley and the Panamint Mountains are certainly an important part of the setting for the district as a whole. The viewshed at Cow Creek retains integrity as a contributing landscape characteristic of the historic district.



Views and Vistas: View from Cow Creek across Death Valley to Panamint Mountains, looking west. (PGSO, CLI slide # DEVA-S-0002-15, 2000)

Management Information

Descriptive And Geographic Information

Historic Name(s): Camp Cow Creek, NM-2
Camp Funeral Range, NM-1
Cow Creek Administrative Area
Cow Creek Corporation Yard

Current Name(s): Cow Creek Utility Area

Management Unit:

Tract Numbers:

State and County: Inyo County, CA

Size (acres): 2.00

Boundary UTM

Boundary UTM(s):	Source	Type	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing
	USGS Map 1:24,000	Area	NAD 27	11	511592	4039532
	USGS Map 1:24,000	Area	NAD 27	11	511650	4039592
	USGS Map 1:24,000	Area	NAD 27	11	511945	4039615
	USGS Map 1:24,000	Area	NAD 27	11	512082	4039677
	USGS Map 1:24,000	Area	NAD 27	11	511779	4039686
	USGS Map 1:24,000	Area	NAD 27	11	511661	4039575
	USGS Map 1:24,000	Area	NAD 27	11	512099	4039532
	USGS Map 1:24,000	Area	NAD 27	11	511232	4039375
	USGS Map 1:24,000	Area	NAD 27	11	511440	4039411
	USGS Map 1:24,000	Area	NAD 27	11	511257	4039438
	USGS Map 1:24,000	Area	NAD 27	11	511219	4039458
	USGS Map 1:24,000	Area	NAD 27	11	511422	4039463
	USGS Map 1:24,000	Area	NAD 27	11	511743	4039474
	USGS Map	Area	NAD 27	11	511615	4039483

1:24,000 USGS Map	Area	NAD 27	11	511538	4039504
1:24,000 USGS Map	Area	NAD 27	11	511986	4039512

GIS File Name: D:\claims\devagis\cowcreek.apr

GIS File Description: This .apr file is organizes a number of .shp files obtained from the park, internet sites, and created in the PGSO.

National Register Information

National Register Documentation: Undocumented -- SHPO

Explanatory Narrative:

Two Determinations of Eligibility (DOEs) include resources in the Cow Creek area.

The "Residential, Administrative, Maintenance, and Visitor Use Facilities in Death Valley National Monument Built by the Civilian Conservation Corps" multiple property nomination form was completed on November 28, 1988. This form describes resources "associated directly with CCC occupation of the area, such as camp sites and other facilities related to the daily life and recreation of enrollees" (Greene, 1988) The SHPO concurred with the DOE on May 10, 1989.

The "Cow Creek Historic District" Determination of Eligibility was also prepared by Linda Greene in 1989. The period of significance is 1933-1938. The form lists fourteen CCC-era buildings and structures clustered around the 'corporation yard' as contributing to the district.

National Register Eligibility: Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination

Explanatory Narrative:

The California SHPO concurred with the findings of this CLI on August 18, 2004. The SHPO agreed that the proposed district is eligible for listing on the National Register, that the setting contributes to the significance, and that the list of contributing/non-contributing features is correct.

Date of Eligibility Determination: 5/19/1989

National Register Classification: Multiple Property

Significance Level: National

Contributing/Individual: Contributing

Significance Criteria:

A -- Inventory Unit is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history

C -- Inventory Unit embodies distinctive characteristics of type/period/method of construction; or represents work of master; or possesses high artistic values; or represents significant/distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction

Period Of Significance

Time Period: 1933 - 1942 AD

Historic Context Theme:	Creating Social Institutions and Movements
Historic Context Subtheme:	Social and Humanitarian Movements
Historic Context Facet:	Poverty Relief And Urban Social Reform

Area Of Significance:

Category:	Architecture
Priority:	1
Category:	Social History
Priority:	3
Category:	Landscape Architecture
Priority:	4

National Historic Landmark Information

National Historic Landmark Status:	No
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World Heritage Site Information

World Heritage Site Status:	No
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Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type:	Historic Designed Landscape
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Current and Historic Use/Function:

Use/Function Category:	Domestic (Residential)
Use/Function:	Multiple Dwelling
Detailed Use/Function:	Dormitory (Bunkhouse)
Type Of Use/Function:	Historic
Use/Function Category:	General Storage
Use/Function:	Equipment/Vehicle Storage
Detailed Use/Function:	Equipment/Vehicle Storage
Type Of Use/Function:	Both Current And Historic

Use/Function Category:	General Storage
Use/Function:	General Storage-Other
Detailed Use/Function:	General Storage-Other
Type Of Use/Function:	Both Current And Historic

Use/Function Category:	Government
Use/Function:	Public Works
Detailed Use/Function:	Public Works
Type Of Use/Function:	Historic

Use/Function Category:	General Storage
Use/Function:	Storage Yard (Open Area Used)
Detailed Use/Function:	Storage Yard (Open Area Used)
Type Of Use/Function:	Both Current And Historic

Ethnographic Information

Ethnographic Survey Conducted: No Survey Conducted

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? No

Adjacent Lands Description:

General Management Information

Management Category: Should Be Preserved And Maintained

Management Category Date: 6/13/2001

Explanatory Narrative:

The district has been determined eligible at the national level of significance, under Criteria A and C, for its association with the CCC program and the development of Death Valley National Park. Therefore, the district falls under Management Category B.

Condition Assessment And Impacts

The criteria for determining the condition of landscapes is consistent with the Resource Management Plan Guideline definitions (1994) and is decided with the concurrence of park management. Cultural landscape conditions are defined as follows:

Good: indicates the landscape shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The landscape's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the landscape shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character-defining elements will cause the landscape to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the landscape shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

Undetermined: Not enough information available to make an evaluation.

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 09/30/1998

Date Recorded: 09/30/1998

Park Management Concurrence: Yes **Concurrence Date:** 6/13/2001

Level Of Impact Severity: Moderate

Stabilization Measures:

Impact:

Type of Impact: Deferred Maintenance

Internal/External: Internal

Description:

Two portions of the adobe wall, one immediately adjacent to the entrance gate of the utility area and one south of CC-303, have collapsed. Current plans for the rehabilitation of the utility area include the repair and reconstruction of damaged portions of this feature. The disintegrating adobe in the entry sign and adobe buildings will also be repaired.

Type of Impact: Neglect

Internal/External: Internal

Description:

Most of the trees, excluding lawn areas, are no longer irrigated and show signs of stress, particularly along the parking area adjacent to the main entry road.

Type of Impact: Vegetation/Invasive Plants

Internal/External: Internal

Description:

Non-native vegetation eradication programs (tamarisk, palms, etc.) should be carefully developed to ensure that plants being removed are not part of the historic setting for any National Register eligible properties. If this material is to be removed, Section 106 compliance obligations would need to be addressed.

Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access

Management Agreement: None

Explanatory Narrative:

NPS Legal Interest: Fee Simple

Explanatory Narrative:

Public Access: Unrestricted

Treatment

Approved Treatment: Undetermined

Approved Treatment Document:

Document Date:

Explanatory Narrative:

The General Management Plan for Death Valley is still in draft, therefore no treatments have been approved. However, the "Historic Structures Report for Cow Creek Historic District" recommends the restoration of the district by removing "almost all of the non-contributing structures, restore and seismically upgrade the historic structures, continue to use the enclosed yard as a maintenance facility, and to expand, as necessary, within the District to meet the needs of the maintenance division." (ARG, 2000: 42).

Approved Treatment Completed: No

Approved Treatment Cost

LCS Structure Approved

Treatment Cost: \$0

Landscape Approved

Treatment Cost: \$0

Cost Date:

Level of Estimate:

Cost Estimator:

Explanatory Description: The LCS has not identified ultimate approved treatment costs for the buildings and structures and no landscape treatment costs have been identified in a park document.

Stabilization Costs

LCS Structure Stabilization Cost: \$103,000

Landscape Stabilization Costs: \$4,000

Cost Date: April 1, 1995

Level Of Estimate: C - Similar Facilities

Cost Estimator: Denver Service Center

Explanatory Description: The LCS stabilization costs estimate was derived from the Interim Treatment Costs on the LCS for structures

in Cow Creek. No stabilization costs are associated with the ARG Historic Structures Report.

Landscape Stabilization Costs

The park has identified \$4000 of work remaining to remove non-historic palm trees from the wash adjacent to the maintenance area.

Documentation Assessment and Checklist

Documentation Assessment: Fair

Documentation:

Document: General Management Plan

Year Of Document: 1999

Amplifying Details: DRAFT, Environmental Impact Statement and General Management Plan

Adequate Documentation: Yes

Explanatory Narrative:

The purpose of a GMP is to provide general management strategies. The "Death Valley National Park Draft Environmental Impact Statement and General Management Plan" identifies the Cow Creek Historic District as a significant CCC period cultural landscape.

Document: Other

Year Of Document: 2000

Amplifying Details: Historic Structures Report for Cow Creek Historic District

Adequate Documentation: No

Explanatory Narrative:

The HSR for the Cow Creek Historic District provides a detailed history and site development graphics for the district. The document focuses on large scale buildings and structures but does not thoroughly address small scale structures and features.

Appendix

Bibliography

Citations:

Citation Author:	Greene, Linda W
Citation Title:	Historic Resource Study, A History of Mining in Death Valley National Monument, Volume I of II, Part 2 of 2
Year of Publication:	1981
Source Name:	CRBIB
Citation Number:	011348
Citation Type:	Narrative
Citation Location:	PGSO

Citation Author:	Munz and Keck
Citation Title:	A California Flora
Year of Publication:	1970
Source Name:	Library Of Congress/Dewey Decimal
Citation Number:	59-5146
Citation Type:	Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location:	PGSO

Citation Author:	NPS
Citation Title:	Historic Site Plans
Source Name:	DEVA Archives
Citation Type:	Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location:	DEVA Archives Flat Files

Citation Author: Greene, Linda
Citation Title: Cow Creek Historic District National Register
Nomination
Year of Publication: 1989
Source Name: PGSO
Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location: PGSO

Citation Author: Greene, Linda
Citation Title: Residential, Administrative, Maintenance, and Visitor
Use Facilities in Death Valley National Monument
Built by the Civilian Conservation Corps National
Register Nomination
Year of Publication: 1989
Source Name: PGSO
Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location: PGSO

Citation Author: Hickman, James C.
Citation Title: The Jepson Manual : Higher Plants of California
Year of Publication: 1993
Source Name: PGSO
Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location: PGSO

Supplemental Information

Title: Mission 66 Planting Plan List

Description: CCC-era plants that were identified as existing on the Mission 66 plans.

Palo Verde, *Cercidium* sp.
Mesquite, *Prosopis* sp.
Athel Tree, *Tamarix aphylla*
California Fan Palm, *Washingtonia filifera*

The Mission 66 List Of Planting Material Called For in Park Village
Included (but is not limited to):

Mulberry, *Morus alba*
Dwarf Myrtle, *Myrtus communis compacta*
Heavenly Bamboo, *Nandina domestica*
Oleander, *Nerium oleander*
Olive, *Olea europaea*
Jerusalem Thorn, Mexican Palo Verde, *Parkinsonia aculeata*
Virginia Creeper, *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*
Passion Fruit, *Pasiflora edulis*
Senegal Date Palm, *Phoenix reclinata*
New Zealand Flax, *Phormium tenax*
Golden Bamboo, *Phyllostachys aurea*
Pittosporum, *Pittosporum tobira*
Variegated Pittosporum, *Pittosporum tobira variegata*
Cottonwood, *Populus fremontii*
Honey Mesquite, *Prosopis glandulosa*
Screw Bean, *Prosopis pubescens*
Arrow Bamboo, *Pseudosasa japonica*
Pomegranate, *Punica granatum*
Lemonade Berry, *Rhus integrifolia*
Sugar Bush, *Rhus ovata*
Castor Bean, *Ricinus communis*
Black Locust, *Robinia pseudoacacia*
Rose, *Rosa Paul's scarlet*
Rosemary, *Rosmarinus officianus*
Brazilian Pepper Tree, *Schinus terebinthifolius*
Spanish Broom, *Spartium junceum*
Athel Tree, *Tamarix aphylla*
Rice Paper Plant, *Tetrapanax papyrifera*
Yellow Oleander, *Thevetia peruviana*
Siberian Elm, *Ulmus pumila*
Dwarf Periwinkle, *Vinca minor*
Edible Grape, *Vitis vinifera*
California Fan Palm, *Washingtonia filifera*
Wisteria, *Wisteria sinensis*

Title:	Park Village Housing Area Buildings
Description:	PV-1, 3, 10, and 42 Residences Four residences (PV-1, 3, 10, and 42), were constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps between 1933 and 1937 and remain in the Cow Creek housing area. They are located primarily in the northern portion of the loop road. The original plans called for a twenty-by-twenty-foot house constructed of pressed pulp board walls inside and out, with an asphalt roll gable roof. The buildings' distinguishing features include the native stone chimneys, patios, and pools. The residences have been remodeled a number of times over the years. One of the most significant changes to the exteriors took place in 1963 when the original celotex siding was covered with asbestos cement siding. Further research is needed to determine when the exterior siding was changed again to the present board and batten. The four residences were determined ineligible for the National Register by the State Historic Preservation Officer in 1989. PV-67, Garage for Residence PV-1 PV-67 is a wood frame building with asphalt shingle gable roof. The siding, like that on the residences, is board and batten. A large sliding door on the south elevation allows vehicle access. PV-67, Comfort Station (RO Plant) The comfort station was constructed by the CCC in 1936. The single-story, 3-room structure, is constructed of stone on a concrete foundation. The building contains equipment for reverse osmosis of the ground water. The comfort station was found to be individually eligible for the National Register in 1989. Its period of significance extends from its construction in 1934 to 1939, when it was enlarged to accommodate the hydroelectric equipment. It is included on the List of Classified Structures (IDLCS 057820). PV-120-122, 126-129, 138-140, 205, 206, 209-214, Residences These residences were constructed in 1958 as part of the Mission 66 program and were designed based on NPS standardized plans. The residences are situated around the north and south portions of the residential loop road. The single-story houses were constructed of wood frame, on concrete foundations, sided with stucco, and covered with gravel roofs. The most significant alteration to occur to the Mission 66-era housing is the change of the siding material from stucco to vinyl (date unknown). The vinyl siding simulates the appearance of wooden clapboards and negatively impacts the building's original design. PV-220, PV-222, Apartment Buildings Two 6-unit apartment buildings were constructed in the housing area in 1959 (PV220) and 1966 (PV222). Both were constructed of concrete block, on concrete foundations, with gravel gable roofs. Both buildings are located at the extreme eastern end of the loop road.

PV-323, 324, 328, 329, 330, 331, Residences

These residences consist of the new Superintendent's house, PV-323, single-family houses, and duplexes. A CCC-constructed residence, PV-2, was removed to build the current superintendent's house. The original stone patio remains behind it. All residences except the superintendent's house are located at the eastern extreme of the housing area loop road. The buildings are standard NPS-designed ranch style houses with vinyl clapboard siding. They were constructed at the rate of one or two structures per year between 1992 and 1997.

PV 334-343, Residences

Located on the "Bench Site," these single-family and duplex residences were constructed in 1997/1998. They are wood frame, sided with stucco, and have standing seam metal roofs. The houses are accessed by Coyote Loop, which runs south off Skyline Drive. Each unit has an enclosed garage.

PV-343, 4-unit Residences

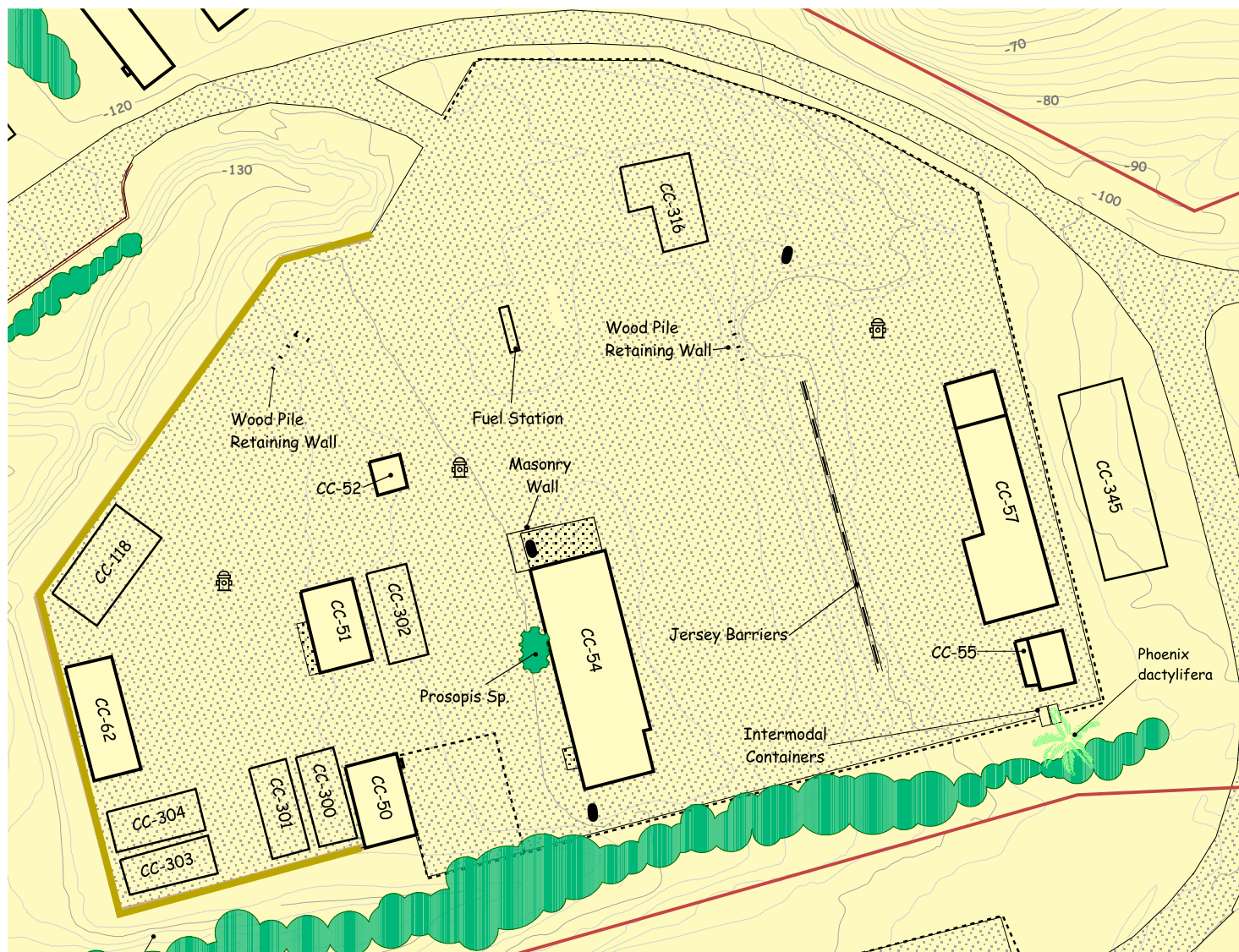
Located on the "Hillside Site," the four-unit, one-bedroom apartment building was constructed in 1997/98. The single-story wood frame building is sided with stucco and has a standing-seam metal gable roof.

Title: Park Village Mission 66 Preliminary Evaluation

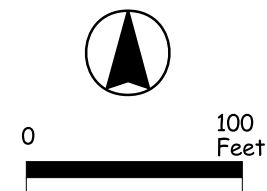
Description: As per memo dated January 5, 2000, from Acting Regional Director Jim Shevock, both Deputy Director Galvin and Associate Director Stevenson have issued specific directions concerning projects affecting Mission 66 resources. We are required to seek “determinations of eligibility” for all Mission 66 structures and landscapes that may be affected by proposed projects. This will require consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer. If there is consensus that the property is eligible, then the provisions of Section 106 will apply and must be complied with prior to the undertaking. When there is disagreement about the eligibility of a property, the Keeper of the National Register should be consulted. The park must be prepared to document that it is in the process of completing, or has completed this process when it requests project funding. If the park needs professional assistance in developing these determinations of eligibility, the cultural resource staff in the support offices can help.

Park Village was significantly expanded to further development of the area during the Mission 66 era (1956-1966). During this era the Park Service built housing, maintenance areas, roads, entrance stations, parking lots, campgrounds, comfort stations, picnic shelters, concessioner buildings, and other park facilities intended to serve park visitors and facilitate park management. In 1958, eighteen 2 and 3-bedroom residences were constructed in the Cow Creek Residential Area. (PV-120, 121, 122, 126, 127, 128, 129, 138, 139, 140, 205, 206, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214) The residences were constructed as part of the Mission 66 program and were designed based on NPS standardized plans. The completion reports indicated that the plans and specifications were prepared by a contract architect and were constructed for the cost of \$314,208. The single-story houses were constructed of wood frame, on concrete foundations, sided with stucco and covered with gravel roofs. In 1959, the yards were installed with sprinkler systems, seeded with grass, and planted with trees, shrubs, vines, and succulents. Railroad ties were used to construct retaining walls; gravel was used for walks and yards. Seven thousand five hundred linear feet of irrigation ditches were dug to supply the vegetation with water. The yards were planted according to a planting plan that was drafted by the Western Office Division of Design and Construction. The eleven-page drawing set (NM-DV 3200) indicates the placement and types of plants that were planted around the residences. The loop road and driveways that access the eighteen houses were realigned and surfaced in 1961.

Two 6-unit apartment buildings were constructed in the housing area in 1959 (PV220) and 1966 (PV222). Both were constructed of concrete block, with gravel roofs. The areas around the buildings were planted with trees and shrubs in a similar manner as the residences. The most significant alteration to occur to the Mission 66-era housing is the change of the siding material from stucco to vinyl. The vinyl siding simulates the appearance of wooden clapboards and negatively impacts the building's



Tamarix aphylla
and *Tamarix chinensis*



Revisions	
Initials	Date
SP	8/22/00

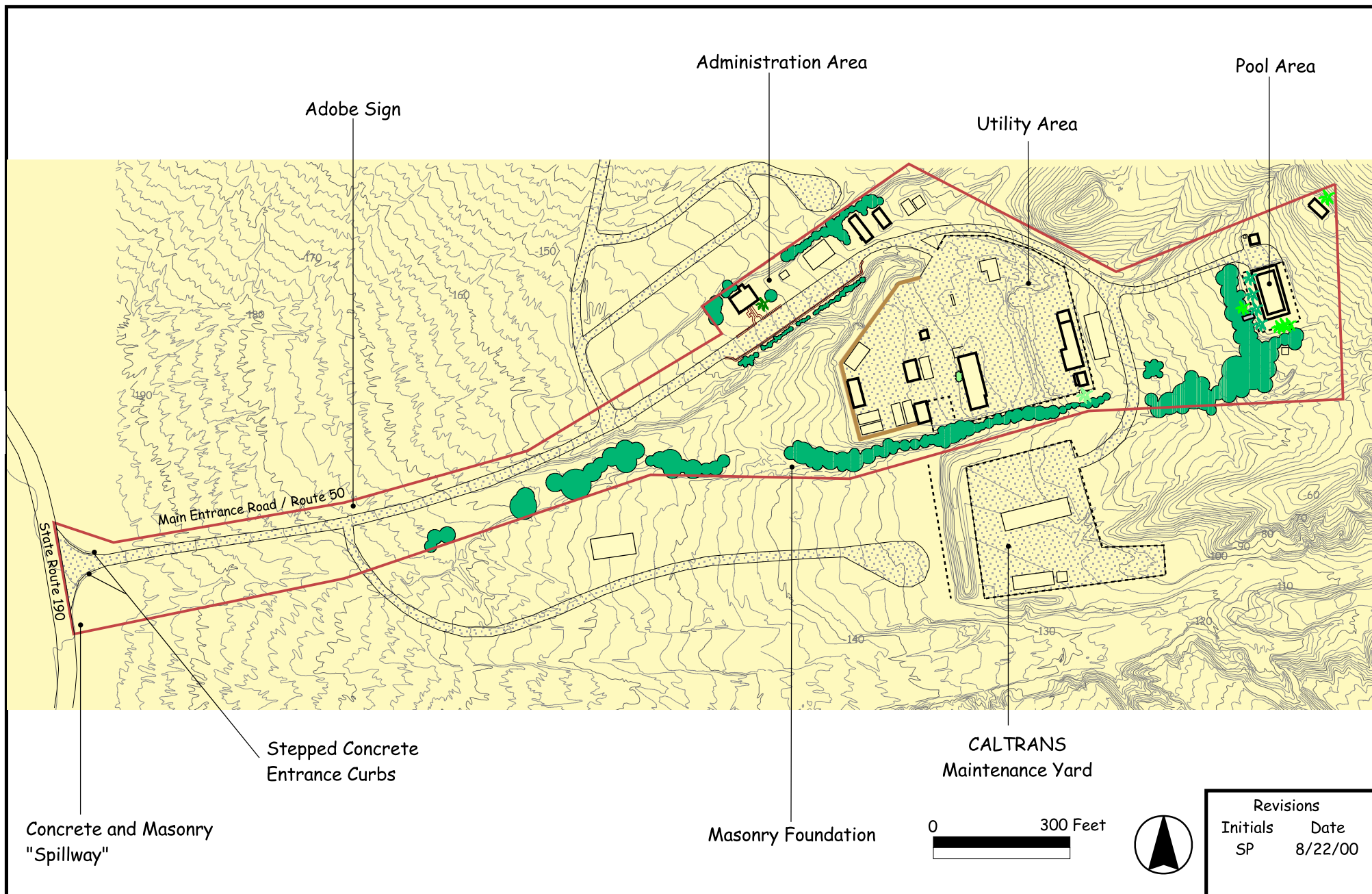


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Pacific Great Basin Support Office
Oakland, CA

LEGEND		
Cow Creek Historic District Boundary (revised)	Non-Native Vegetation	Adobe Wall
Contributing Structures	Concrete Slabs/Platforms	Hurricane Fence
Non-Contributing Structures	Hydrant	Propane Tanks

Existing Conditions
Cow Creek Utility Area
Death Valley National Park
Death Valley, California

MAP #
2
of
4



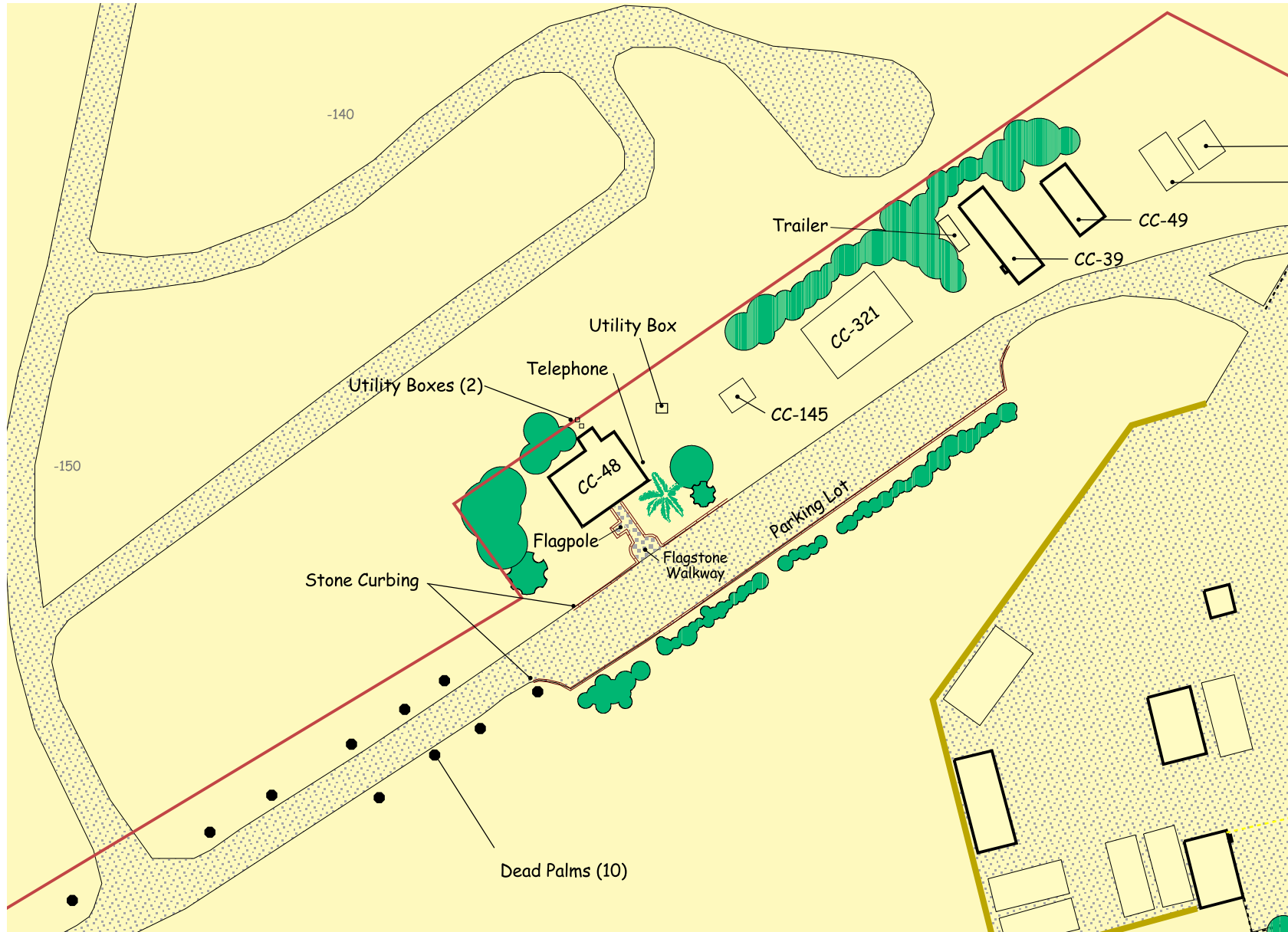
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Pacific Great Basin Support Office
Oakland, CA

LEGEND

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| Cow Creek Historic District Boundary (revised) | Hurricane Fence |
| Contributing Structures | Non-Native Vegetation |
| Non-Contributing Structures | Adobe Wall |

Existing Conditions
Cow Creek Historic District
Death Valley National Park
Death Valley, California

MAP #
1
of
4



CC-306
CC-305

CC-49
CC-39

Trailer

CC-321

CC-145

Utility Box

Telephone

Utility Boxes (2)

CC-48

Flagpole

Flagstone Walkway

Parking Lot

Stone Curbing

Dead Palms (10)



0 100 Feet

Revisions	
Initials	Date
SP	8/22/00



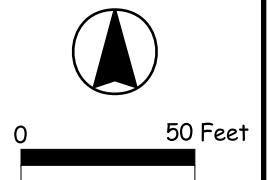
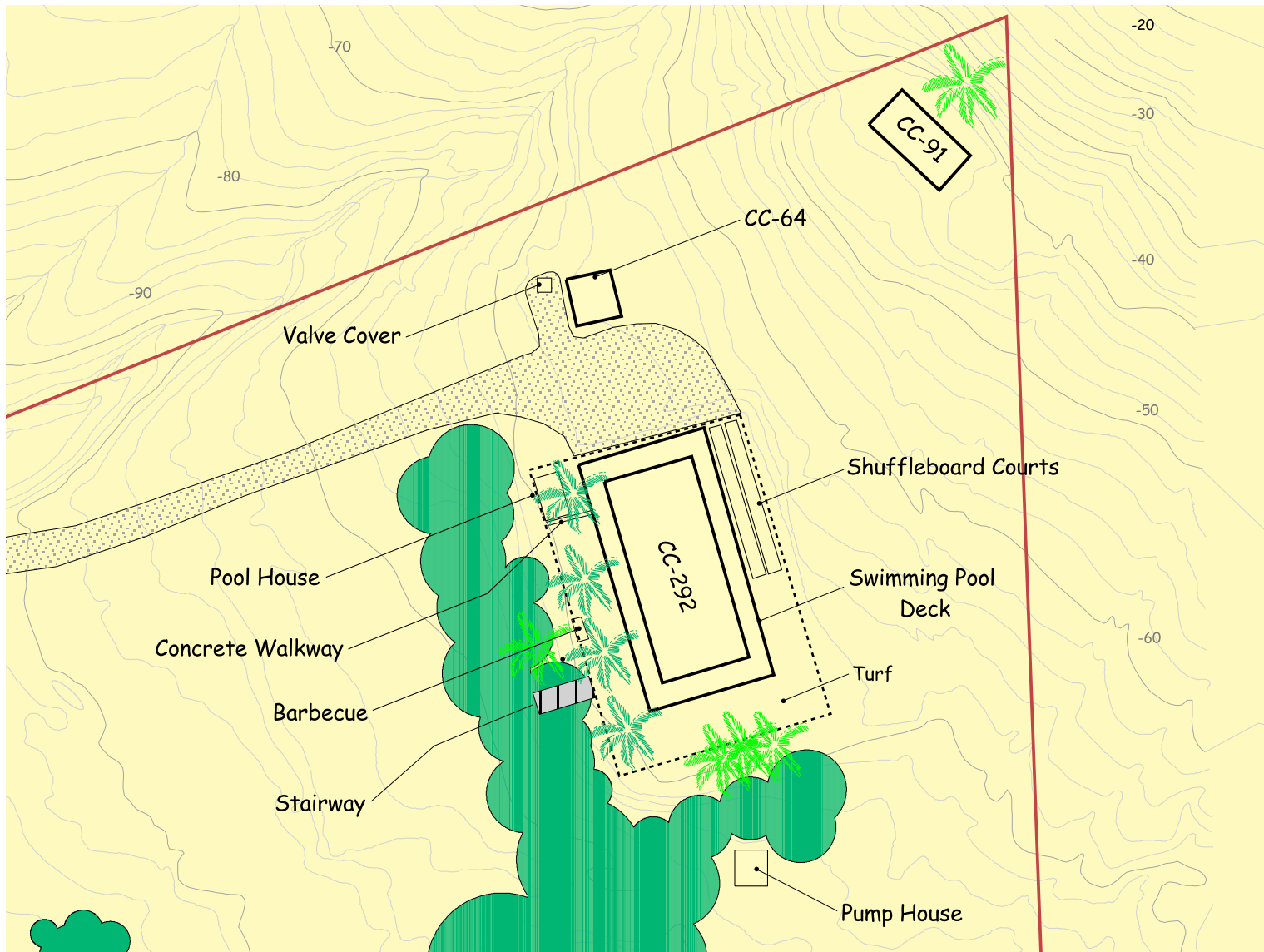
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Pacific Great Basin Support Office
Oakland, CA

LEGEND

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| Cow Creek Historic District Boundary (revised) | Chilean Mesquite |
| Contributing Structures | Athel Tree |
| Non-Contributing Structures | Palm Tree |

Existing Conditions
Cow Creek Administration Area
Death Valley National Park
Death Valley, California

MAP #
3
of
4



Revisions	
Initials	Date
SP	7/21/00



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Pacific Great Basin Support Office
Oakland, CA

LEGEND	
 	Cow Creek Historic District Boundary (revised)
 	Contributing Structures
 	Non-Contributing Structures
	Hurricane Fence
	Non-Native Vegetation
	Contributing California Fan Palm
	Non-Contributing California Fan Palm

Existing Conditions
Cow Creek Pool Area
Death Valley National Park
Death Valley, California

MAP #
4
of
4