Form No. 10-306 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Yakima Park Stockade Group

AND/OR COMMON
North and South Blockhouses, Museum, and Stockade at Sunrise

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Sunrise (Yakima Park)   —NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN   CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Mount Rainier National Park__ VICINITY OF   3rd

STATE Washington   CODE 53   COUNTY Pierce   CODE 053

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
X DISTRICT	X PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED (Seasonally)	—AGRICULTURE	X MUSEUM
—BUILDING(S)	—PRIVATE	—UNOCCUPIED	—COMMERCIAL	—PARK
—STRUCTURE	—BOTH	—WORK IN PROGRESS	—EDUCATIONAL	—PRIVATE RESIDENCE
—SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	—ENTERTAINMENT	—RELIGIOUS
—OBJECT	—IN PROCESS	—YES: RESTRICTED	—GOVERNMENT	—SCIENTIFIC
	—BEING CONSIDERED	—YES: UNRESTRICTED	—INDUSTRIAL	—TRANSPORTATION
		—NO	—MILITARY	X OTHER Gov't Residence

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: *(If applicable)*
National Park Service -- Pacific Northwest Regional Office

STREET & NUMBER
Westin Building, 2001 Sixth Avenue

CITY, TOWN   STATE
Seattle   ____ VICINITY OF   Washington

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. National Park Service--Pacific Northwest Regional Office

STREET & NUMBER
Westin Building, 2001 Sixth Avenue

CITY, TOWN   STATE
Seattle   Washington

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
1) List of Classified Structures inventory
2) Pacific Northwest Regional Office inventory
3) National Register

DATE
1) 1976
2) 1982   3) In Process   X FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS National Park Service

CITY, TOWN 1) and 3) Washington   STATE D.C.
2) Seattle   Washington

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X __ORIGINAL SITE
X GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED (Partial)	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Yakima Park Stockade group, sometimes referred to only as the Stockade, consists of three buildings and a vertical log "stockade" fence enclosing a utility yard. The buildings were constructed between 1930 and 1943, from a design with roots in frontier architecture of the Pacific Northwest.

The first building constructed was the south blockhouse, completed in 1930. The building is a wood-frame structure on a stone foundation with log siding. The two-story building is square in plan and has a hip roof finished with cedar shakes. The log siding has saddle-notched corners. The stone foundation wall, which has a stepped batter at the corners, extends to the height of the window sill. The batter of the wall was chosen "to essentially reduce the squareness of the first floor." The second story overhangs the first story and the whole log rafters project from the overhangs. The building originally served as the administrative and interpretive center for the Yakima Park region. Since the completion of the remainder of the development in the 1940s, the building has been used for seasonal housing. The building was remodelled in 1954. During a second remodelling in 1980-82 plumbing and electrical fixtures were replaced, and new drywall, acoustical tile ceilings, and vinyl floor covering were installed. The present cedar shake roof dates from 1976 and is identical in material to the original roof. A few of the projecting log rafter tails were also replaced at the same time.

The stockade is a vertical log fence surrounding a small utility area to the west of the visitor center. Large double gates that allow vehicular access are in the north wall of the stockade fence. The stockade originally housed a 1930s utility building which doubled as a mess hall. That building was torn down. A new one-story chlorinator plant of grooved, "split-face" concrete blocks was constructed inside the stockade along the north wall during 1985. The stockade functions well in hiding maintenance and utility paraphenelia that could otherwise disturb the magnificent scenery.

The north blockhouse and the visitor center were both started in 1939, but construction was not finished until 1943. The north blockhouse on the exterior is similar in design to the south blockhouse. The building's wood frame sits on a stone foundation wall that extends to sill height. The hip roof is finished with cedar shakes. The logs of the exterior walls have saddle-notched corners and axe-cut ends. The second story overhangs the first and the log beam ends project out emphasizing that overhang. The battered stonework of this building is more regular than that of

⊟ SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
—PREHISTORIC	—ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	—COMMUNITY PLANNING	—LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	—RELIGION
—1400-1499	—ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	—CONSERVATION	—LAW	—SCIENCE
—1500-1599	—AGRICULTURE	—ECONOMICS	—LITERATURE	—SCULPTURE
—1600-1699	X.ARCHITECTURE	—EDUCATION	—MILITARY	—SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
—1700-1799	—ART	—ENGINEERING	—MUSIC	—THEATER
—1800-1899	—COMMERCE	—EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	—PHILOSOPHY	—TRANSPORTATION
x-1900-Present	—COMMUNICATIONS	—INDUSTRY	—POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	—OTHER (SPECIFY)
		—INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1930 – Present   BUILDER/ARCHITECT Ernest A. Davidson and A. Paul Brown, National Park Service Landscape Engineering Division

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Yakima Park Stockade, as it is now known, is a classic example of an exaggerated rustic style. The complex was designed by landscape architect Ernest A. Davidson and architect A. Paul Brown. The complex is a thoughtful combination of natural materials used in traditional forms, thus meeting the standards that were forming within the National Park Service for an architecture suitable to the magnificent scenery of western parks.

The buildings were constructed to serve as the administrative offices, living quarters, and community building for the Yakima Park area. The park did have problems funding the ambitious project through the years, so portions were constructed as funding became available.

The idea for log buildings with a frontier bent came from landscape architect Davidson who explained his choice as follows:
> Some time was spent on consideration of a suitable type of Government headquarters building for erection in Yakima Park. It was desired to make our construction there as well suited to its landscape environment as possible, and more than that, we wished to build into the structures as much of local or historical interest as might be secured without sacrificing other values. Yakima Park was known as a summer rendezvous of Yakima and other Indian tribes. Since their "architecture" offered no possibility of adaption, the next step was taken to the time when white pioneers of the locality erected buildings for protection against Indians or other enemies. The Historical Museum at Tacoma was searched for pictures of old structures, with a log blockhouse type in mind, which seemed quite adaptable. In December of 1929 I made a rough sketch of a headquarters building along these lines, and the preliminary plan was completed in our office by A. Paul Brown in February, 1930, approved, and final plans

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See attached.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY __Approx. 3.5__

UTM REFERENCES

A |1,0| |6|0,3|3,8,5| |5,1|9,6|2,5,0| B |_,_| |_,_,_,_,_| |_,_,_,_,_,_|
  ZONE EASTING   NORTHING   ZONE EASTING   NORTHING
C |_,_| |_,_,_,_,_| |_,_,_,_,_,_| D |_,_| |_,_,_,_,_| |_,_,_,_,_,_|

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The landmark boundary begins at a point at the southwest end of the plaza, then due west to a point 100 feet west of the stockade, then due north to a point 100 feet north of the stockade, then due east to a point northwest of the comfort station, then due ~~[illegible]~~ enclosed map.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/a			

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Laura Soullière Harrison	Architectural Historian
ORGANIZATION	DATE
National Park Service - Southwest Regional Office	1985
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
P.O. Box 728	(505) 988-6787
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Santa Fe	New Mexico

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES____   NO____   NONE____

_____
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is ____National ____State ____Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE   DATE

GPO 899-214

NPS Form 10-900-a
(3-82)

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the south blockhouse. The interior of this building, like the south blockhouse, has been completely remodelled although the exterior remains as it looked originally. The building is used for seasonal housing.

The most imposing of the structures is the visitor center, originally known as the "campers' shelter" and then the museum. Its front elevation to the east is flanked and partially hidden by the north and south blockhouses which frame it so masterfully. To the west and rear of the building is the rectangular stockade. An enormous picture window on the building's south wall looks out to the snow-covered slopes of Mount Rainier and provides some passive solar heat for the building. The log walls of this one-and-a-half story structure rest on a stone foundation, like the blockhouses. The logs are saddle-notched at the corners. The gable roof is finished with cedar shakes and it has a ridge log that overhangs both gable ends. Gable ends are finished with vertical log slabs as are the sections of wall between the clerestory windows above the entrance. That entire upper section of wall on the east overhangs the building's first floor, but not to the exaggerated extent found in the blockhouses. The clerestory windows are repeated on the west elevation. New fireproof doors provide access to the building's main room from the exterior.

The exposed roof structure of logs and rough-cut decking provides a rugged appearance on the interior. The pratt-truss logwork supports the roof purlins and rafters above. The trusswork is reinforced with tie rods, undoubtedly necessary because of the heavy snow loads. New spotlights have been attached to the historic fabric on the interior to highlight the interpretive exhibits. Some appear to be placed where original lights were. Suspended acoustical panels were also added to cut down on interior noise. Interior walls are the exposed logs. On a sunny day the most used portion of the room is the south end which is outfitted with a telescope through which a viewer can see parties climbing the northwest slopes of Mount Rainier. At the north end of the main room is an enormous coursed rubble fireplace, added in 1952. The fireplace opening is approximately 4.5x6 feet and holds simple andirons. Behind the fireplace at the north end of the building are two levels of office and storage space, the partitions of which appear to have been moved several times. The new floor of the main room is wood boards laid diagonally.

Included in this nomination is the landscape approach immediately

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in front of the buildings, including the stone curbing and
terracing, the stone steps, the paths, and the flagstaff.

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completed in July.[1]

The plans were drawn so that the development could be constructed in three stages. The first unit--the south blockhouse--was constructed during the summer and fall of 1930 as well as a temporary equipment shed (used as a mess hall) within the vertical log stockade. The foundation stones for the blockhouse were brought in from a slide about one mile away. A stand of white pine for the log walls and framing came from the White River area, about 12 miles from the site. The roof shakes were made in the Carbon River district and hauled 80 miles to the site. The south blockhouse, then known as the administrative building had two offices, a living and dining room, and a kitchen on the first floor, and six bedrooms and two baths above. Funding for the rest of the development did not appear until 1939, when Public Works Administration funds were set aside for the construction of the north blockhouse and the community building, then known as the "campers' shelter." Due to further money problems, the buildings were not completed until 1943.

The designer of the development, Ernest A. Davidson, commented on the development:

> It is true that, purely from a landscape viewpoint, the whole development might be classed as a failure since the area is far less attractive than it was before the development took place. On the other hand, the project may be considered one of the great successes since the general result obtained is far superior in appearance to those other development with which comparison may be made, and which, "just grew," like Topsy.[2]

Part of the development's success was due to its visual impact. The large grassy setback at the front (east) elevation, the open

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[1] Ernest A. Davidson, Associate Landscape Architect, Landscape Work in Connection with Development of the Yakima Park Area including approach Highway within Mt. Rainier National Park, a report to Thomas C. Vint, Chief Landscape Architect, no date or pagination, circa fall 1930.

[2] Erwin N. Thompson, Historic Resource Study: Mount Rainier National Park (Denver: National Park Service, Denver Service Center, 1981), p. 168, quoting from Davidson, White River Inspection Trip, October 28-31, Park Development, Construction Programs, Archives, Mount Rainier National Park.

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feeling of the low, sub-alpine vegetation to the west and south, and the snow-covered slopes of Mount Rainier as a backdrop gave the development the vast expanse it needed to present that wild, frontier appearance.
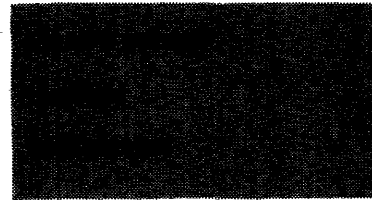
Ernest A. Davidson was a landscape architect who did lots of fieldwork, particularly design of roadways and bridges in parks in the Pacific northwest. Davidson was not formally trained as a landscape architect. He had been a bank cashier prior to joining the Park Service, and had taken some courses in landscape architecture at Washington State. His drafting was good, though, so the chief landscape architect of the service hired him and Davidson received on-the-job training and learned fast about environmental design.[3] A Paul Brown was an Englishman who worked for Gilbert Stanley Underwood, architect of the Ahwahnee and other monumental rustic buildings. His particular strengths, according to one of his peers, were in the design of structures as evidenced by his fine work in this complex.[4]

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[3] Telephone interview with Merel Sager, retired NPS landscape architect, conducted by William C. Tweed, August 18, 1976.

[4] Telephone interview with William Carnes, retired NPS landscape architect, conducted by William Tweed, August 31, 1976.

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Davidson, Ernest A. Landscape Work in Connection with
Development of the Yakima Park Area including approach Highway
within Mount Rainiter National Park, A Report to Thomas C. Vint,
Chief Landscape Architect, no date but probably autumn, 1930. On
file at Mount Rainier National Park.

National Park Service, Pacific Northwest Regional Office,
Cultural Resources Division. Historic Building Inventory, Mount
Rainier National Park. Seattle: National Park Service, 1983.

Telephone interview with William G. Carnes, retired NPS landscape
architect, August 31, 1976.

Telephone interview with Merel Sager, retired NPS landscape
architect, August 31, 1976.

Thompson, Erwin N., Historic Resource Study, Mount Rainier
National Park. Denver: National Park Service, 1981.

Tweed, William, Laura E. Soulliere, and Henry G. Law, National
Park Service Rustic Architecture: 1916-1942. San Francisco:
National Park Service, 1977.

South (left) and North (right) Blockhouses

Yakima Park Stockade Group
Mount Rainier National Park

NPS Photo by Laura Soullière Harrison
8/85

Front Elevation of Museum (left) and
North Blockhouse (upper right)

Yakima Park Stockade Group
Mount Rainier National Park

NPS Photo by Laura Soullière Harrison
8/85

North and South Blockhouses and
Museum with Mount Rainier in background

Yakima Park Stockade Group
Mount Rainier National Park

NPS Photo by Laura Soullière Harrison
8/85

Parking Lot and North Blockhouse

Yakima Park Stockade Group
Mount Rainier National Park

NPS Photo by Laura Soullière Harrison
8/85

North Blockhouse, Northeast Corner

Yakima Park Stockade Group
Mount Rainier National Park

NPS photo by Laura Soullière Harrison
8/85

North Blockhouse, Southwest Corner

Yakima Park Stockade Group
Mount Rainier National Park

NPS Photo by Laura Soullière Harrison
8/85

South Blockhouse (left), Museum (center),
and North Blockhouse (right)

Yakima Park Stockade Group
Mount Rainier National Park

NPS Photo by Laura Soullière Harrison
8/85

Corner detail of North Blockhouse (right)
with Museum in Background

Yakima Park Stockade Group
Mount Rainier National Park

Corner Detail of North Blockhouse with
Museum in Background

Yakima Park Stockade Group
Mount Rainier National Park

NPS Photo by Laura Soullière Harrison
8/85

Front Entrance, Museum

Yakima Park Stockade Group
Mount Rainier National Park

NPS Photo by Laura Soullière Harrison
8/85

Looking South between South Blockhouse
and Museum

Yakima Park Stockade Group
Mount Rainier National Park

NPS Photo by Laura Soullière Harrison
8/85

Blockhouse Corner Detail

Yakima Park Stockade Group
Mount Rainier National Park

NPS Photo by Laura Soullière Harrison
8/85

South Elevation of Museum with Picture
Windows looking out toward Mount Rainier

Yakima Park Stockade Group
Mount Rainier National Park

NPS Photo by Laura Soullière Harrison
8/85

Stockade Looking East toward North
Blockhouse

Yakima Park Stockade Group
Mount Rainier National Park

NPS Photo by Laura Soullière Harrison
8/85

Southern Portion of Stockade

Yakima Park Stockade Group
Mount Rainier National Park

NPS Photo by Laura Soullière Harrison
8/85

Museum (left) and North Stockade Wall

Yakima Park Stockade Group
Mount Rainier National Park

NPS Photo by Laura Soullière Harrison
8/85

Looking North out of the Stockade Gates

Yakima Park Stockade Group
Mount Rainier National Park

NPS Photo by Laura Soullière Harrison
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North Stockade Fence

Yakima Park Stockade Group
Mount Rainier National Park

Stockade Gate

Yakima Park Stockade Group
Mount Rainier National Park

NPS Photo by Laura Soullière Harrison
8/85

Stockade Gate

Yakima Park Stockade Group
Mount Rainier National Park

NPS Photo by Laura Soullière Harrison
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Stone Steps and Ramp in front of North
Blockhouse

Yakima Park Stockade Group
Mount RainierNational Park

Stone Curb Bordering Parking Lot and
Stone Terracing in front of (East) the
Yakima Park Stockade Group.

Yakima Park Stockade Group
Mount Rainier National Park

NPS Photo by Laura Soullière Harrison
8/85

Stone Steps and Adjacent ramp leading
up to Yakima Park Stockade Group.

Yakima Park Stockade Group
Mount Rainier National Park

NPS Photo by Laura Soullière Harrison
8/85

Fireplace, Museum Lobby

Yakima Park Stockade Group
Mount Rainier National Park

NPS Photo by Laura Soullière Harrison
8/85

Details of Roof Structure, Museum Lobby

Yakima Park Stockade Group
Mount Rainier National Park
NPS Photo by Laura Soullière Harrison
8/85

Interior, Museum Lobby

Yakima Park Stockade Group
Mount Rainier National Park

NPS Photo by Laura Soullière Harrison
8/85

Looking out the Observation Window,
South Elevation of the Museum

Yakima Park Stockade Group
Mount Rainier National Park

NPS Photo by Laura Soullière Harrison
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