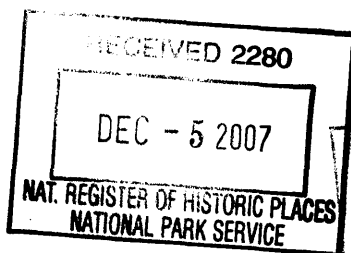


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



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This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Muir Woods National Monument

other names/site number Muir Woods National Monument Historic District

2. Location

street & number Muir Woods Road ☐ not for publication

city or town Mill Valley ☒ vicinity

state California code CA county Marin code 041 zip code 94941-2696

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☒ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. ( ☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

James J. Wagoner  
Signature of certifying official/title

13 JUL 2007  
Date

California Office of Historic Preservation  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ( ☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Joe Wallis  
Signature of commenting or other official

12-3-07  
Date

NPS  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

☒ entered in the National Register  
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the  
National Register  
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the  
National Register

☐ removed from the National  
Register

☐ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

[Signature]

1/9/2008



Muir Woods National Monument  
Name of Property

Marin County, California  
County and State

## 5. Classification

### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☒ public-Federal

### Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☐ building(s)  
☒ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

### Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
5	4	buildings
3	0	sites
20	9	structures
5	1	objects
33	14	Total

### Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

### Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

## 6. Function or Use

### Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

LANDSCAPE/conservation area  
LANDSCAPE/forest  
LANDSCAPE/park  
RECREATION/outdoor recreation  
RECREATION/marker  
DOMESTIC/institutional housing  
COMMERCE/specialty store

### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

LANDSCAPE/conservation area  
LANDSCAPE/forest  
LANDSCAPE/park  
RECREATION/outdoor recreation  
RECREATION/marker  
DOMESTIC/institutional housing  
COMMERCE/specialty store

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: rustic  
Moderne

### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE/rock, CONCRETE  
roof WOOD/shingle, ASPHALT  
walls WOOD/weatherboard, shake; GLASS, METAL

other WOOD/log, STONE, ASPHALT, EARTH

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)



## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

CONSERVATION

ARCHITECTURE

### Period of Significance

1907-1947

### Significant Dates

December 26, 1907; January 8, 1908;

September 22, 1921; April 5, 1935;

May 19, 1945

### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

### Cultural Affiliation

### Architect/Builder

W. G. Carnes, Thomas Carpenter, Daniel Hull, Edward Nickel, L. H. Skidmore

### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

### Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☒ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Park Archive

And Records Center



Muir Woods National Monument  
Name of Property

Marin County, California  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 427.79 acres

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
2	—	—	—	4	—	—	—

☐ See continuation sheet.

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title John Auwaerter, Historical Landscape Architect

organization State University of New York, College of Environmental Science & Forestry date April 2007

street & number Faculty of Landscape Architecture, Marshall Hall 331, 1 Forestry Drive telephone (315) 470-6995

city or town Syracuse state NY zip code 13210

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

### Continuation Sheets

### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Golden Gate National Recreation Area

street & number Ft. Mason, Building 201 telephone (415) 561-4813

city or town San Francisco state CA zip code 94123

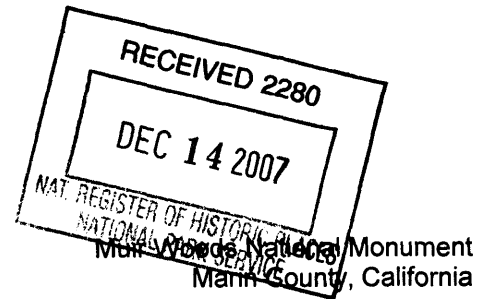
**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.



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**Description**

**Summary**

Muir Woods National Monument was established by President Theodore Roosevelt on January 8, 1908 through Proclamation 793 (35 Stat. 2174), the tenth National Monument designated under the Antiquities Act of 1906. The monument, established through a gift of private land by William Kent and Elizabeth Thatcher Kent, preserves the heart of a rare surviving old-growth redwood forest in Marin County, California, a short distance north from the City of San Francisco. In 1917, administration of Muir Woods was transferred within the Department of Interior from the General Lands Office to the newly created National Park Service. In 1921, based on additional gifts of land by the Kents, Muir Woods National Monument was expanded under the Antiquities Act through Proclamation 1608 (42 Stat. 2249) and again in 1935 through Proclamation 2122 (49 Stat. 3443) (see district sketch map). Further expansions were made, primarily to provide buffer and administrative support areas in 1951 (Proclamation 2932, 65 Stat. C20) and 1959 (Proclamation 3311, 72 Stat. C76). Another parcel was legislatively added to the Muir Woods National Monument park unit for administrative support purposes in 1972, but was not given National Monument status. Muir Woods National Monument is today administered as part of Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and is a popular tourist attraction in the San Francisco Bay Area, attracting annual visitation of more than 750,000.

The nominated property includes the original monument parcel and lands added in 1921 and 1935. This property embraces the heart of the old-growth redwood forest and the cultural core of the monument that extends along the canyon floor. This core, following the main trail and Redwood Creek, includes the largest trees, groves, memorials, and visitor facilities. The nominated property includes all federally-owned parcels given National Monument designation through the end of the period of significance in 1947, including the original monument tract, and the Hamilton, Kent, Railway, and Entrance Tracts. Excluded from the nominated property are the 1951, 1959, and 1974 additions (Kent West Buffer, Kent Entrance, and Church Tracts, the state-leased parking lot parcel, and the Camino del Canyon Tract). Adjoining state-owned lands that historically functioned as extensions of the national monument are excluded from the nominated property. These lands include the Parking Lot Tract leased by the National Park Service that is within the current National Monument boundary as expanded in 1951, and the former Mt. Tamalpais and Muir Woods Railway Tract that is outside of the monument boundary.

The nominated property overall retains integrity to its period of significance that begins in 1907 and ends in 1947. Of the seven aspects of integrity, those most important to Muir Woods are location, setting, materials, feeling, and association. Primary resources include the redwood forest (a natural resource that has gained cultural significance) with its old-growth character and major spaces including Bohemian and Cathedral Groves; memorials associated with important individuals in the American conservation movement; a trail system reflecting the use and



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organization of the site dating back to the earliest years of the monument; and buildings, structures, and objects dating prior to World War II that reflect a rustic aesthetic and conservation practices characteristic of National Park Service development during the first half of the twentieth century. Since the end of the period of significance, changes that have affected the historic integrity of the property include the removal of comfort stations dating from the 1920s and 1930s; alterations to the 1940 Administration-Concession Building; removal of log footbridges, signs, and benches built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC); deterioration of stone revetments along Redwood Creek; and realignment and surface changes to sections of trails. These changes have affected some details of the property, but not its overall character. Within the nominated property are thirty-five contributing resources and fourteen non-contributing resources. Associated landscape features (features not counted as resources) include minor non-historic footbridges, contemporary site furnishings (benches, signs, trash bins), boardwalks, and split-rail trail fencing.

**Setting (Context)**

Muir Woods National Monument is situated within Redwood Canyon, a deep, forested valley at the southern foot of Mount Tamalpais approximately eight miles north of the Golden Gate Bridge and two miles east of the Pacific Ocean. Muir Woods is located within an extensive conservation area extending across the western half of the Marin Peninsula, from the Golden Gate on the south to Point Reyes and beyond in the north. Within the vicinity of Muir Woods, this area is publicly managed at the local, state, and federal level primarily by three agencies: the Marin Municipal Water District, California State Parks (Mount Tamalpais State Park), and the National Park Service (Golden Gate National Recreation Area). Notable changes to the setting since the end of the period of significance in 1947 include the loss of agricultural grasslands to natural succession, and the expansion of suburban residential development along the ridge to the east, on the periphery of the City of Mill Valley. This development is generally not visible from within or immediately adjoining Muir Woods.

Muir Woods National Monument was historically a relatively isolated redwood forest with access by Muir Woods Road located just off its southern boundary and a network of hiking trails leading in from all sides. Muir Woods Road (also known as Muir Woods-Frank Valley Road), a twisting, narrow two-lane asphalt-paved road, remains little changed from its historic appearance and still serves as the only vehicular entrance to the monument, connecting with Shore Highway (US Route 1) on the west and the Panoramic Highway and City of Mill Valley on the east. The network of hiking trails, leading toward the Pacific Ocean, Mill Valley, and the summits of Mount Tamalpais, also remains. This network includes the Tamalpais Conservation Club (TCC), Stapelveldt, Ocean View, Bootjack, Dipsea, and Fern Canyon Trails, which were built prior to 1947. During the historic period (1907-1947), the monument was also accessible via the Mt. Tamalpais and Muir Woods Railway, which had the terminus of its Muir Woods Branch a short distance north of the monument. The railway discontinued service to Muir Woods in 1929 during the historic period.



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Muir Woods National Monument was closely associated with adjoining lands that belonged to William Kent, the Mt. Tamalpais and Muir Woods Railway Company, and Mount Tamalpais State Park. All surrounding property except the Camino del Canyon Tract (also known as Camp Monte Vista) was once owned by William Kent as part of his Redwood Canyon land he acquired in 1905, and adjoining ranchlands he acquired in subsequent years. With a few exceptions, there was little distinction historically between Muir Woods and these lands, which were tied together not only by a common ecosystem, but also by a network of trails and often were developed with a similar rustic aesthetic. Because of this historic association, the lands surrounding the nominated property are an especially important part of the historic setting of Muir Woods National Monument. (These lands have been excluded from the nominated property because they were not part of the National Monument designation during the period of significance, and also because they overall lack historic integrity). The following is a description of the lands adjoining Muir Woods, listed in general cardinal direction to the nominated property, with discussion of changes to these lands since the end of the historic period in 1947. The parcels are indicated by name on the accompanying sketch map.

Lands to the South

Overall, the lands to the south of the nominated property occupying the lower canyon floor have changed from a largely open character composed of fields and scattered groves, to mostly deciduous woods.

*Parking Lot Tract* (Mount Tamalpais State Park, incorporated within National Monument boundary in 1951, leased from the state park by the National Park Service since 1934, 19 acres): This tract, incorporated into the state park in 1934, historically served as a south buffer and included the main vehicular entrance and main parking lot for Muir Woods. Since the end of the period of significance, major changes have included the addition of a trail to the lower parking lot (c.1956), a new entrance gateway/sign at Muir Woods Road (1965), a comfort station (1968), and visitor center (1989); dispersal of the lower rock check dam built by the CCC in Redwood Creek in 1940, and alterations to the configuration and furnishings of the parking lot built by the CCC in 1938. Despite these changes, the open space of the parking lot proper remains an important part of the setting of the nominated property located immediately to its north, providing one of the few opportunities for visitors to see redwood trees in full view. A grove of redwoods along the western side of Redwood Creek on this tract is an extension of the redwood forest within the nominated property.

*Kent Entrance Tract* (incorporated into National Monument in 1951, 11 acres): This tract is not contiguous to or visible from the nominated property. Major changes since 1947 aside from natural succession include the addition of the lower parking lot (1956). The tract contains the site of the Keeper's House, a building probably constructed by William



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Kent in c.1890, possibly as the Tamalpais Sportsman's Association clubhouse (The Alders), and subsequently used as the residence for the first custodian of Muir Woods. It is not known if any archeological resources remain at its site.

*Church Tract* (incorporated into National Monument in 1959, 6 acres): This tract is not contiguous to or visible from the nominated property. Major changes since 1947 aside from natural succession include addition of sewage holding tanks (1990) and a native plant nursery (1992).

*Camino del Canyon Tract* (legislatively added to Muir Woods National Monument park unit in 1972, property purchased c.1974-1984, 50 acres): Originally developed as a church camp named Camp Kent (after William Kent) and a subdivision named Camp Monte Vista, this tract was a mixture of private cottages and youth camps during the historic period. Upon acquisition by the National Park Service, many of the cottages were abandoned and the property today is used primarily for maintenance and natural resource protection purposes. A portion of the property continues to be used under special use permit as a youth camp by the Hillwood School. Known as Hillwood Camp, this portion of the Camino del Canyon Tract has been determined National Register eligible at the local level.

*Former Kent South Buffer Tract* (Mount Tamalpais State Park, 31 acres): This tract, located north and east of the state-leased parking lot tract, is contiguous to the nominated property and is crossed by Muir Woods Road. It was incorporated into the state park in 1934 and contains part of the Muir Woods Service Drive, built in c.1892 as Sequoia Valley Road (original alignment of Muir Woods Road). This road served as the upper south entrance to the National Monument from Mill Valley prior to the construction of the Muir Woods Toll Road in 1925. Major changes since 1947 aside from natural succession include abandonment of the service road, and removal of a portion of the roadbed in c.2003 due to a failed culvert. The service road continues in use as a trail.

Lands to the East

*Kent East Buffer Tract* (Mount Tamalpais State Park, 34 acres): This tract, located along the eastern boundary of the nominated property, was incorporated into the state park in 1930. This tract contains sections of the Ocean View Trail (1908), one of the original trails at Muir Woods, which crosses back and forth across the boundary of the nominated property. Since 1947, changes have included natural succession from primarily grassland and chaparral to mostly forest; loss of ocean views from the Ocean View Trail; removal of water tanks built in 1921 by the National Park Service to supply Muir Woods; and loss of the Tourist Club Trail, which extended across the tract down to the Main Trail in Muir Woods. This trail began at the c.1912 lodge of the privately owned



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Tourist Club, one of the early hiking clubs on Mount Tamalpais. The lodge adjoins the east boundary of the Kent East Buffer Tract.

Lands to the North

*Former Mt. Tamalpais and Muir Woods Railway Tract* (Mount Tamalpais State Park, 138 acres): This tract is an important part of the setting of Muir Woods, and has numerous historical ties to the monument. The tract encompasses the northern extent of the redwood forest along the floor of Redwood Canyon and Fern Canyon, a primary side canyon. The parcel contains upper portions of Camp Alice Eastwood Trail (c.1906), Fern Creek Trail (pre-1905), Ocean View/Lost Trail (1908/ c.1970), and Bootjack/Main Trail (pre-1905), all of which extend into the nominated property. The tract also contains the site of the upper picnic area maintained by the National Park Service along Redwood Creek. The picnic area was developed in c.1923 and removed in c.1950. Nearby is the Cross Memorial, a brass plaque/boulder monument along the Bootjack (Main) Trail erected in c.1928 to the memory of Andrew J. Cross, a pioneering optometrist but without any known connection to Muir Woods or the Conservation Movement.

During the early years of Muir Woods, the Mt. Tamalpais and Muir Woods Railway Tract served as the main entrance to the monument, since the majority of visitors apart from hikers arrived via the railway. Through the 1920s, there was little distinction between this tract and the monument in either administration or physical character. Here, the railway company maintained the terminus of its Muir Woods Branch (1907-1929): the first or upper terminus of the rail line, completed in 1907-1908, was located at the site of present Camp Alice Eastwood. The railway built a rustic inn and cabins there, and extended a road (present Camp Alice Eastwood Trail) down the canyon wall to the Main Trail in Muir Woods. The inn and cabins were destroyed by fire in 1913, but the concrete foundations of the inn remain today. Following the fire, the railway company extended its branch line farther down the canyon wall, and built another rustic inn and set of cabins a short distance north of the national monument boundary. The branch line and second inn were removed in 1930. The bed of the branch line remains intact, and the topography surrounding the second inn site reflects the footbridge that connected it with the railway platform further uphill. Two of the second set of cabins remained standing until c.1932.

In 1933, the site of the first terminus was redeveloped as a CCC camp (Muir Woods Camp), and a road was built along a portion of the old rail bed extending down from the Panoramic Highway (present Alice Eastwood Road). All of the camp structures were removed by c.1949 except for a small explosives shed built into an embankment along the old rail bed, which remains standing, although in poor condition. The state park redeveloped the site of the CCC camp as Camp Alice Eastwood, dedicated in 1949. An



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archeological survey has not been undertaken to determine the extent of subsurface remains from the railway and CCC development.

*Newlands-Magee Tract* (Mount Tamalpais State Park, 532 acres): This tract, bordering the northwestern boundary of the nominated property, was incorporated into the state park in 1930. It contains the upper margins of the redwood forest, headwaters of Redwood Creek, and the upper extent of the Bootjack (Main) Trail, Stapelveldt Trail, and TCC (Tamalpais Conservation Club) Trail that extend into the nominated property. No known major changes have occurred to this tract in the vicinity of the nominated property since the end of the historic period in 1947.

Lands to the West

*Kent West Buffer Tract* (incorporated into National Monument in 1951, 42 acres): This tract is contiguous with the western boundary of the nominated property, and contains the upper margins of redwood and Douglas fir forest and grassland along the western ridge of Redwood Canyon. These forested margins have grown in since the end of the historic period. A timber and wire fence built by the CCC in 1934 existed along the boundary of this tract, but was removed at an undetermined date after 1947.

*Former Brazil Ranch Tract* (Mount Tamalpais State Park, 2,150 acres): This extensive tract of former pasture and wooded canyons was incorporated into the state park in 1968. Once owned by William Kent, the tract (Ranch W, X) is contiguous with the northwestern boundary of the nominated property and its adjoining Kent West Buffer Tract. It contains the Dipsea Trail (c.1905) and CCC-built Dipsea Fire Road (1933-34) that extend into the nominated property. Changes since the historic period in the vicinity of the nominated property are limited mostly to natural succession from open grassland to forest. The ridge-top adjoining Muir Woods remains primarily grassland with panoramic views of the ocean to the southwest.

**Present Physical Description of Nominated Property**

The following description of the nominated property is organized by resource type. Each resource begins with a summary description and is followed by a descriptive list of contributing and non-contributing resources. Each resource is keyed by number to the accompanying sketch map, and is cross-referenced where applicable to the park's building code (MW-#) and NPS List of Classified Structures (LCS). A summary list of resources is at the end of this section.



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SITES

There are three contributing sites within the nominated property: the redwood forest and two spaces within it, Bohemian Grove and Cathedral Grove. During the period of significance there were three additional sites that no longer exist: the lower, middle, and Fern Creek picnic areas.

1. *Redwood Forest* (contributing) Photo Key: 1

Muir Woods National Monument was created to protect an old-growth redwood forest, which remains the primary resource within the nominated property. The boundaries of the nominated property correspond largely with the historic limits of the redwood forest, with the exception of the northeast end (Mt. Tamalpais and Muir Woods Railway Tract). Muir Woods is one of the few old-growth or virgin (unlogged) redwood forests to survive in the San Francisco Bay Area. The redwoods are the coast redwood, *Sequoia sempervirens*. They belong to the *taxodium* family, but are a distinct species from their well-known and larger cousin, the giant sequoia, *Sequoiadendron giganteum*, found in the Sierra Mountains two hundred miles to the east, most famously in Yosemite National Park. The coast redwood is the tallest tree species in North America, reaching mature heights of two hundred to well over three hundred feet. Compared with the giant sequoia, however, the coast redwood is a relatively slender tree, with trunks generally not exceeding twenty feet in diameter at breast height. It is also a very long-lived tree, with a potential lifespan of more than two thousand years. The extent of the redwood forest within the nominated property corresponds with a cool microclimate, loamy soils, and ample moisture from fog, rain, and groundwater. The canyon floor bordering Redwood Creek generally contains the largest and most widely spaced trees. In circumference, the largest tree at Muir Woods today measures 13.5 feet in diameter at breast height, while the tallest tree is 254 feet high. Although most of the old trees in Muir Woods are probably five to six hundred years old, a few old specimens may be upward of 1,500 years in age. Many of the trees grew from bud tissue of parent trees (rather than from seedlings) in groupings known as family circles, and thus trace their genetic lineage back much farther. The redwood forest naturally supports a rich variety of understory plants, including sword fern (*Nephrolepis exaltata*), huckleberry (*Gaylussacia*), redwood sorrel (*Oxalis spp.*), tanoak (*Lithocarpus densiflorus*), and California bay or laurel (*Umbellularia californica*). At higher and drier elevations along the margins of the nominated property, the redwood forest transitions to Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*). Some individual redwoods, known as interest trees, have gained distinction due to unique physical attributes or commemorative associations. These include the Gifford Pinchot tree, the Emerson tree, the curly redwood, the largest tree, and the albino tree.

Changes to the redwood forest since the end of the period of significance have been limited to natural succession from grassland and chaparral along the upper margins, and loss of several interest trees, most probably due to soil compaction resulting from heavy foot traffic. Notable losses include the William Kent tree, a Douglas-fir that fell in 2004 but remains on the forest floor; the bridge tree (a fallen tree across the Hillside Trail), station tree; leaning tree, and the walk-through tree (bear stump). The natural understory of the forest, which had been trampled



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in areas along the Main Trail by the later years of the period of significance, has today regenerated due to changes in management practices and improved crowd control.

**2. *Bohemian Grove* (contributing) Photo Key: 2**

Bohemian Grove is an area of open understory within the redwood forest along the west side of Redwood Creek along a side trail. A large family circle, which is a grouping of second-growth trees that have suckered from the roots of a central parent tree, marks the center of the grove. It is named after the Bohemian Club of San Francisco, which held its summer encampment here in 1892. The physical features of the encampment, which included a stage set with a forty-three foot high plaster Buddha statue, were removed prior to the period of significance, but the lore of the encampment continued through the historic period, and continues to be interpreted today. From the earliest years of the monument, Bohemian Grove was listed as one of the chief attractions in the forest, and was featured on period post cards. The exact site of the Buddha statue within the Bohemian Grove is not known.

**3. *Cathedral Grove* (contributing) Photo Key: 3**

Cathedral Grove is an area of open understory within the redwood forest along the east side of Redwood Creek, along the Main Trail and a minor spur trail. A large family circle (see above) marks the center of the grove. Apparently named after the lofty height of the trees within the grove, Cathedral Grove was listed as one of the chief attractions in the forest from the earliest years of the monument. It was often used as a place for special events, most notably the 1945 service held by the United Nations Conference on International Organization (UNCIO) in memory of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

**BUILDINGS**

There are a total of five contributing and four non-contributing buildings in the nominated property, all clustered at the south end of the monument. The non-contributing buildings were added after the end of the period of significance. (The new visitor center, adjoining the main entrance gate, is outside of the nominated property.) Five buildings dating to the period of significance have since been demolished: the main comfort station (built 1928), the Bohemian Grove comfort station (built 1937), the Cathedral Grove comfort station (built 1934), and two privies in Deer Park (built 1934). These were all rustic structures that employed an exposed milled timber-framing motif used on all monument buildings erected prior to 1940.

**Contributing Buildings**

**4. *Superintendent's Residence* (MW-1, LCS 058170, contributing) Photo Key: 4a, 4b (see Entrance Area Detail on sketch map)**

The Superintendent's Residence, historically known as the Custodian's Cottage, was constructed in 1922 and expanded in 1935 and 1939. It is located within the monument's present utility area at the original upper south entrance along the service drive (Old Muir Woods



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Road). Aside from privies, it was the first building to be constructed within the monument boundaries, and replaced the Keeper's House, a frame building located south of the monument on land belonging to William Kent (present Kent Entrance Tract). The rustic-style frame building, which served as a residence as well as park office, was initially designed by NPS landscape architect Daniel Hull and built by Henry T. McKallor of Oakland. This original section, measuring 18 by 20 feet, comprises the central and southern parts of the existing building. It is one story tall with a gable roof, stone foundation, and wood six-light casement windows. The siding features an exposed milled framing detail and shingle infill, originally stained a dark brown (probably creosote diluted with coal oil), contrasting with white-painted window sashes. The building originally had a log pergola on the north side. The 1935 addition, measuring 18 by 14 feet and built on the northwest side of the building in place of the pergola, was designed in the same style and materials as the original by NPS Regional Architect Edward Nickel and W. G. Carnes, Regional Landscape Architect, and was built by the CCC. Due to the slope, this addition has a frame lower level, sided in clapboards. The 1939 addition was designed in the same style and materials as the older sections by NPS Assistant Architect L. H. Skidmore. Construction of this second addition was funded through the Public Works Administration and contracted to J. Henry Ross of Mill Valley. The addition, measuring 9 by 16 feet, is a cross-gable wing built into the southwest (downhill) side of the building, and like the 1935 addition, has a lower frame level above a stone foundation. This addition features a living room finished in knotty pine paneling. At some point after the historic period, the building was painted red and a deck was added on the east side. Aside from minor interior alterations, no further changes have been made to the building. Both the existing color and deck detract from the building's historic character. The building remains in use as a residence for park staff.

5. *Superintendent's Storage Shed* (MW-2, contributing) Photo Key: 5 (see Entrance Area Detail on sketch map)

The Superintendent's Storage Shed, measuring approximately 8 by 12 feet, was constructed in 1924 as a woodshed and storage shed. It is located southeast of the superintendent's residence at the end of a non-historic deck, and features a shed roof with wood novelty siding (without the exposed timber framing detail of the superintendent's residence). The roof is presently being replaced and the door has been removed temporarily for repair. Aside from these changes, the building appears to retain integrity to the historic period.

6. *Superintendent's (Lower) Garage* (MW-3, LCS 058172, contributing) Photo Key: 6 (see Entrance Area Detail on sketch map)

The Superintendent's Garage, located along the service drive (Old Muir Woods Road) in the utility area, was completed in May 1931 and was constructed of lumber salvaged from the second (1913) Muir Inn at the lower terminus of the Mt. Tamalpais and Muir Woods Railway, which had closed in 1929. Probably designed by NPS Landscape Architect Thomas Carpenter, the rustic-style garage measures 20 by 22 feet and features the same milled exposed timber-framing detail as the superintendent's residence, but with plank infill rather than shingles. The building is on a concrete foundation and has a front-gable roof, six-light windows on the



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sidewalls, and two pairs of side-hinged plank garage doors on the front. The Superintendent's Garage replaced a smaller garage built in the same location in 1923. The superintendent's garage has not been altered, although the existing brown paint is lighter than the historic creosote-coal oil stain, and the window sashes, now brown, were historically white.

*7. Equipment Shed (Main Shop) (MW-4, LCS 058169, contributing) Photo Key: 7 (see Entrance Area Detail on sketch map)*

The Equipment Shed, located in the utility area on a concrete spur off the Service Drive (Old Muir Woods Road) north of the superintendent's residence, was constructed in 1934 by the Civil Works Administration. Designed through the NPS San Francisco district office (individual designer not known), the rustic-style building measures 25 by 33 feet and features the same exposed timber framing detail with plank infill as used on the Superintendent's Garage. The building has a side-gable roof with two original skylights, concrete foundation, six-light windows, and two pairs of side-hinged plank garage doors across the front. The building has an attic level used for storage. The building has not been altered, although the existing brown paint is lighter than the historic creosote-coal oil stain, and the window sashes, now brown, were historically white.

*8. Administration-Concession Building (MW-8, contributing) Photo Key: 8a, 8b (see Entrance Area Detail on sketch map)*

The Administration-Concession Building, located in the monument entrance area between the Main Trail and Service Drive (Old Muir Woods Road), was constructed in 1940 by John Branagh of Piedmont, California with Project Works Administration funding. The design was developed by the NPS San Francisco Regional Office, with Thomas Vint, Chief of Planning, and C. L. Gable, Chief Park Operators Division, involved in the planning, and Regional Architect Edward Nickel probably responsible for the final design. As originally envisioned, the building contained three parts: administration wing, operator wing (lunchroom and gift shop), and museum wing. Due to the high cost of labor and materials, the museum wing was dropped from the project. Designed in a streamlined rustic style that became typical of post-war park architecture, the building was the first in the monument to depart from the exposed timber-framing motif. It features two rectangular blocks (the larger concession wing on the north, and the small administration wing to the south), low-slung gable roofs with wide overhanging eaves, wide clapboard siding, large areas of glazing with plate windows facing Redwood Creek, and doors with horizontal muntins. Although there have been a number of changes since 1947, overall the building retains its historic massing and details characteristic of its streamlined rustic style, and it continues to house the park's gift/food concession and administrative offices. Changes include enclosing of the connecting porch, addition of two rear wings, some changes in fenestration, and interior renovations. The most significant change to the character of the building has been the alteration of the approach from the Main Trail, including the addition of a raised deck over the original terrace paved with redwood rounds. This terrace, parts of which may still exist beneath the deck, was built in 1941 by the CCC (Camp Alpine Lake) as its final project at Muir



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Woods. It featured log benches, log post and rail fences, and wood steps with log cheek walls. The existing deck detracts from the historic character of the building.

Non-Contributing Buildings

9. *New Main Comfort Station* (MW-17, non-contributing) Photo Key: 9 (see Entrance Area Detail on sketch map)

This one-story building, located immediately north of and set back from the Administration-Concession Building, was completed in 2002. It was built as a replacement for the old main comfort station (1928 with later additions), which was located approximately one hundred feet to the north and was demolished with the completion of the new building. A new site was selected to avoid building within a redwood grove. The new main comfort station has a low-slung gable roof and wood siding that is similar to the Administration-Concession Building.

10. *Trailer Office* (non-contributing) Photo Key: 10 (see Entrance Area Detail on sketch map)

This manufactured trailer is located behind (east of) the Administration-Concession Building along the west side of the Service Drive (Old Muir Woods Road). It was brought to the monument in 1990 to provide additional office space, and has been painted brown. Although not in a highly visible location, the trailer is incompatible with the historic character of the landscape.

11. *Power Tool (Paint) Shed* (MW-15, non-contributing) Photo Key: 11 (see Entrance Area Detail on sketch map)

This small metal building, located in the utility area between the equipment shed and storage shed, was built in 1966. Its position extends in front of the equipment shed. Originally bright metal, it is now painted brown to blend in with the adjoining historic buildings. Its design and materials are incompatible with the historic character of the utility area.

12. *Hand Tool (Storage) Shed* (MW-12, non-contributing) Photo Key: 11 (see Entrance Area Detail on sketch map)

This small frame building, located in the utility area between the Power Tool Shed and the Superintendent's Garage, was built in c.1985, and once served as a restroom. It has a front-gable roof and vertical board-like siding, and is painted brown to match the adjoining buildings. Its overall design is compatible with the historic character of the utility area, although its placement detracts from the historic setting of the Equipment Shed.

STRUCTURES

Structures within the nominated property include roads & trails, bridges, and flood control structures, among others. The network of built trails are collectively the most significant structure and remain largely intact except for the addition of boardwalks, the addition of asphalt paving and split-rail fencing in heavily used areas, and the loss of several minor spur trails. These include the loop from the Main Trail to the site of the Cathedral Grove Comfort Station,



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the lower section of the Tourist Club Trail extending to the Ocean View Trail, the loop to the Bohemian Grove comfort station, and the northern side trail along the west bank of Redwood Creek. The existing trails have also undergone minor changes that are historically typical of this feature type, including regrading, replacement of waterbars and culverts, and limited realignment. Other notable surviving structures within the nominated property include the stone-arched Fern Creek Bridge, stone walls and stairway at the Superintendent's Residence, and a log dam and system of stone revetments in Redwood Creek. The most significant loss of structures since the end of the historic period has been the removal of thirteen log footbridges across Redwood Creek between the Main Trail and the trails on the west side of the creek, most of which were built by the CCC. These log bridges were removed during the 1950s and 1960s due to safety concerns and deterioration (four of the log bridges were replaced with larger, laminated wood bridges). Three historic log bridges remain on the Ben Johnson Trail.

Contributing Structures

13. *North Steps to Superintendent's Residence* (LCS 058182) (contributing) Photo Key: 13 (see Entrance Area Detail on sketch map)

The steps to the Superintendent's Residence provide access up the hill from the Service Drive. These steps were built by the CCC in 1936, supplementing an earlier and smaller set of steps to the residence from the north side (see superintendent's stone walls). The three-foot wide steps are built of rough quarried stone, and include twenty-six risers with stone cheek walls. A concrete walk extends up to the residence. Aside from the addition of non-historic wood railings, there have been no significant changes to steps since the end of the historic period.

14. *Superintendent's Residence Stone Walls and Steps* (LCS 058171, contributing) Photo Key: 14a, 14b (see Entrance Area Detail on sketch map)

A series of retaining walls and steps provide access to the Superintendent's Residence from the service drive. Two retaining walls of quarried and rounded stone extend to either side of the superintendent's residence, extending 60 feet and incorporating two stone stairways that served as the original (1922) access to the building prior to construction of the north steps in 1926. The stone wall to the south of and below the residence along the service drive, built by the CCC in 1935, is 35 feet long and averages 6 feet high. This wall contains two sets of steps. The wall's rustic character is enhanced by moss and ferns growing in the wall. Aside from a deck added above the south wall, there have been no changes to the walls and steps since the historic period.

15. *Service Drive (Old Muir Woods Road)* (LCS 058181) (contributing) Photo Key: 15

The service drive is an asphalt-paved road extending from the parking area to the monument's utility area. It predates the monument, most of it built in 1892 as Sequoia Valley Road (later renamed Muir Woods Road), which extended from Mill Valley to the canyon floor at Bohemian Grove. The section of the service drive from the rear of the Administration-Concession Building to the main parking lot was built in 1905 by William Kent as a bypass to Frank Valley Road. The



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service drive served as the main south entrance to Muir Woods into the 1920s. It became a separate road in 1925 when it was bypassed by the Muir Woods Toll Road. At this time, the drive was closed to public vehicles and became a service entry. A spur drive to the new equipment shed was built by the CCC in 1936. During the historic period, the service drive had a compacted earth and/or gravel surface, and was approximately ten feet wide, except for the spur to the equipment shed which was built of concrete and was narrower. Changes since 1947 include asphalt paving of the section below the Superintendent's Residence, and abandonment of the section above leading to Muir Woods Road; the concrete spur remains intact. In c.2004, a large section of the abandoned roadbed above the Superintendent's Residence was graded away as part of a culvert removal project, but a portion is maintained as a trail.

16. *Main (Bootjack) Trail* (LCS 058180) (contributing) Photo Key: 16

The Main Trail, the primary visitor corridor in Muir Woods, extends along the entire length of the canyon floor within the nominated property, and continues north into Mount Tamalpais State Park as the Bootjack Trail. It is most likely one of the oldest cultural resources within the nominated property, well predating the monument. In c.1892, the section from the vicinity of Bohemian Grove south was reconstructed as a wagon road named Sequoia Valley Road, later known as Muir Woods Road. In c.1906, this road was extended north across Fern Creek and up the canyon wall (present Camp Alice Eastwood Trail) to access the terminus of the Muir Woods Branch of the Mt. Tamalpais and Muir Woods Railway. In 1921, the road within Muir Woods was closed to public vehicular traffic and dedicated as a foot trail, but was still used by monument vehicles and as vehicular access to the railway terminus. During the historic period, the Main Trail had a compacted earth surface approximately ten feet wide, and served as the primary visitor corridor in the monument. Since 1947, the Main Trail has been paved in asphalt from Bridge #4 to the entrance gate, and has undergone minor realignment. Split-rail fencing has been added along most of the length. A substantial change in appearance to a portion of the trail has occurred with the addition of boardwalks along two sections: from north of the Administration-Concession Building south to the entrance arch, and north of Cathedral Grove. These boardwalks, built without handrails mostly along the existing trail alignment except for the segment north of Cathedral Grove, were designed to keep visitors on the trail and reduce compaction on the forest floor that results from trampling. While a substantial visual change, the boardwalks impact only a portion of the trail and do not change its alignment or overall character as a circulation corridor. In addition, the original trail remains intact beneath the boardwalks.

17. *Fern Creek (Fern Canyon) Trail* (contributing) Photo Key: 17

The Fern Creek Trail is an earthen foot trail extending from the Main Trail up Fern Canyon to the Ocean View and Lost Trails in Mount Tamalpais State Park. Approximately 300 feet of the trail are within the nominated property. The trail predates the establishment of the monument, and was improved by the CCC and the Civil Works Administration in 1933-1934. The trail today has an earthen surface and is approximately three to four feet wide. Aside from a 2004-realignment around the downed William Kent tree and addition of split-rail fencing, there have been no major alterations to the trail within the nominated property since the end of the historic



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period. The trail is identified as Fern Canyon (rather than Fern Creek) Trail by the state park because there is a another Fern Creek Trail higher up the mountain.

18. *Camp Alice Eastwood Trail* (contributing) Photo Key: 18

Camp Alice Eastwood Trail is a former wagon road extending from the Main Trail north of Fern Creek to Camp Alice Eastwood in Mount Tamalpais State Park. Approximately 300 feet of the trail are within the nominated property. It was built in c.1906 by the Mt. Tamalpais and Muir Woods Railway Company as an extension of Sequoia Valley Road (Main Trail) to the terminus of the Muir Woods Branch and Muir Inn (today Camp Alice Eastwood). The trail today has an earthen surface and is ten feet wide, and as with the main trail, is wider than typical for foot trails due to its original design for vehicular use. It appears to be unaltered since the end of the historic period aside from the addition of split-rail fencing and waterbars.

19. *Ocean View Trail* (contributing) Photo Key: 19

The Ocean View Trail extends from the Main Trail near the Pinchot Memorial up the east canyon wall, looping back and forth along side canyons across the eastern boundary of the nominated property into Mount Tamalpais State Park. Approximately 1,200 feet of the trail are within the nominated property. The trail extends to the Redwood Trail/Panoramic Highway and the Lost Trail leading to Camp Alice Eastwood. The Ocean View Trail was built in 1908 by the Mt. Tamalpais and Muir Woods Railway Company as part of its initial development of Muir Woods. It served along with the Hillside Trail as part of a system of firebreaks that was recommended by forester F. E. Olmsted. The trail, located along the upper grassland/chaparral edge of Redwood Canyon, was initially named Scenic Trail for its expansive views to the ocean. In 1933-1934, the trail was improved by the CCC. Within the nominated property, the trail today retains its historic alignment and earthen surface, approximately three to four feet wide. Since the end of the historic period, the ocean views have been entirely lost due to natural succession, but this change has occurred outside of the boundaries of the nominated property. Aside from this change and replacement of culverts and minor footbridges, the trail overall remains largely intact.

20. *Bohemian Grove Trail* (contributing) Photo Key: 20

The Bohemian Grove Trail (also known as the west leg of the main trail) extends along the west side of Redwood Creek from Bridge #1 to Bridge #3, passing through Bohemian Grove. William Kent and the Mt. Tamalpais and Muir Woods Railway Company laid out the trail in c.1905, prior to the establishment of the monument, as part of their initial improvements to Redwood Canyon. The Bohemian Grove Trail was the southern of two side trails built along the west side of Redwood Creek (the northern trail was removed after the period of significance). Since 1947, changes to the trail have included widening (to approximately 8 feet), asphalt paving and removal of four spurs to the Main Trail that crossed Redwood Creek over log bridges. A loop trail in Bohemian Grove, extending to the comfort station (since demolished), was also removed and split-rail fencing was added along sections of the trail. While the paving has changed the



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visual appearance, the trail retains its overall alignment and essential character as a circulation corridor.

21. *Hillside Trail* (LCS 058179, contributing) Photo Key: 21

The Hillside Trail extends from the Bohemian Grove Trail and runs approximately 100 feet above the canyon floor north to the Ben Johnson Trail, entirely within the nominated property. Completed in September 1908, the Hillside Trail, originally named the Nature Trail, was built by the Mt. Tamalpais and Muir Woods Railway Company as part of the initial development of Muir Woods. It served along with the Ocean View Trail as part of a system of fire breaks that was recommended by forester F. E. Olmsted. The Hillside Trail originally extended to the south end of the canyon, and beyond the north boundary of the monument, but these segments were abandoned by c.1930. In 1931, Muir Woods Superintendent Herschler improved the existing segment and renamed it the Hillside Nature Trail, managing it to maintain a wild character and as a place to interpret the canyon's native flora, which was identified by plant labels on redwood stakes. The trail today has an earthen surface and is approximately two to three feet wide. Although the trail no longer serves the interpretive function it did during the 1930s and has dropped "Nature" from its name, it does retain its overall alignment, narrow width, and naturalistic character. Aside from loss of the plant labels and realignment of the north end at the Ben Johnson Trail, there have been no major changes to the trail since the end of the historic period.

22. *Ben Johnson Trail* (LCS 058177, contributing) Photo Key: 22

The Ben Johnson Trail extends from the Main Trail at the northern boundary of the monument west along a side canyon. Beyond Muir Woods and outside of the district, the trail becomes the Stapelveldt Trail, which extends to the Pantoll picnic area and head of Steep Ravine in Mount Tamalpais State Park. The trail was purportedly built by Ben Johnson, the warden of the Tamalpais Sportsman's Association, soon before his death in September 1904. Also known as Sequoia Trail, the trail was probably improved by William Kent and the Mt. Tamalpais and Muir Woods Railway between 1905 and 1907 as part of their initial development of Redwood Canyon into a public park. The trail was again improved by the CCC and Civil Works Administration in 1933-1934. The trail retains a high level of integrity, with many of its associated features from the CCC improvements intact, including three log bridges and a log bench. The trail has an earthen surface and is approximately three to four feet wide. Since the end of the historic period, the only known major change to the trail have been the replacement of its paired log bridges and "Y" intersection at the Main Trail by a single span in 1968, and replacement of two minor plank bridges.

23. *Ben Johnson Trail Spur* (contributing) Photo Key: 23

In March 1936, a connecting spur was built at the west end of the Ben Johnson Trail to connect with Deer Park and the recently improved Dipsea Trail and Dipsea Fire Road. This spur ascended a steep slope by means of switchbacks and log steps. Since the end of the historic period, the log steps have been replaced with milled timber and split-rail fencing has been



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added to keep people from cutting across the switch back. The trail appears to retain its historic alignment.

*24. Dipsea Trail (contributing) Photo Key: 24*

The Dipsea Trail is a seven-mile trail that extends from Mill Valley to Stinson Beach on the Pacific. The middle section of the trail follows the western ridge above Redwood Canyon, and crosses the northwestern part of the nominated property within the Hamilton Tract. Approximately 1,500 feet are within the nominated property (the Dipsea Trail also crosses Muir Woods National Monument at its southern end, but outside of the nominated property). The portion of the trail near and through Muir Woods predates the monument, originating as the Lone Tree Trail or Trail to Willow Camp (Stinson Beach), believed to be one of the earliest trails in the region. In 1905, the trail became the course for the Dipsea Race, lending the trail its current name. The Dipsea Trail was improved by the CCC and the Civil Works Administration in 1933-1934. The trail today has an earthen surface and is approximately three to five feet wide. It extends through woods, while to the south it is primarily on the open ridge. There have been no significant changes to the section of the Dipsea Trail through the nominated property since the end of the historic period.

*25. Dipsea (Deer Park) Fire Road (contributing) Photo Key: 25*

The Dipsea Fire Road extends along the western ridge above Muir Woods from Frank Valley Road on the southeast to the northwestern corner of the monument; here, it becomes the Old Mine Truck Trail, which extends to the Panoramic Highway. The road parallels and in places crosses the Dipsea Trail. Approximately 1,500 feet of the road are within the nominated property. Originally known as the Muir Woods Fire Road, the Dipsea Fire Road was conceived as part of a network of fire roads on Mount Tamalpais. It was built in 1934-1935 by the CCC, mostly through land belonging to the Estate of William Kent (Ranch X), which became part of Mount Tamalpais State Park in 1968. The road is approximately fifteen feet wide and has a compacted earthen/gravel surface that is not routinely graded. Within the monument, it is within woods, but to the south it runs primarily on open ridge. The road is closed to public vehicular use. Changes since the end of the historic period have been limited to primarily erosion and rutting.

*26. Main Trail Wooden Bridge #1 (LCS 058167, contributing) Photo Key: 26*

The Main Trail wooden bridge #1 is located over a minor tributary of Redwood Creek south of Cathedral Grove. The bridge is one of three matching bridges built by the CCC in c.1937. The new bridge replaced a corrugated iron culvert, which clogged with debris during rainstorms. Because the Main Trail was still in use as a monument service road, the bridge was built to support trucks. The stringer-type bridge is twelve feet wide with a plank deck, redwood log curbs, and stone-lined embankment. It matches bridge #2 located north of Cathedral Grove. There have been no significant changes to the bridge since the end of the historic period.

*27. Main Trail Wooden Bridge #2 (LCS 058167, contributing) Photo Key: 27*



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The Main Trail wooden bridge #2 is located over a minor tributary of Redwood Creek north of Cathedral Grove. The bridge is one of three matching bridges built by the CCC in c.1937. The new bridge replaced a corrugated iron culvert, which clogged with debris during rainstorms. Because the Main Trail was still in use as a monument service road, the bridge was built to support trucks. The stringer-type bridge is twelve feet wide with a plank deck, redwood log curbs, and stone-lined embankment. It matches bridge #1 located south of Cathedral Grove. There have been no significant changes to the bridge since the end of the historic period aside from the addition of split-rail fencing.

28. *Fern Creek Bridge* (LCS 058168, contributing) Photo Key: 28

The Fern Creek Bridge is located on the Main Trail where it crosses Fern Creek. The concept of a substantial bridge at this location was apparently suggested in 1933 by National Park Service Chief Engineer F. A. Kittredge, but the final design for a concrete-arch bridge with stone facing was drawn up in the fall of 1933 by Regional Architect Edward A. Nickel. In February 1934, Civil Works Administration crews tore down the old timber bridge built in c.1906, erected a temporary bridge downstream, and during the spring poured the concrete arch of the new bridge. The CCC completed the construction in August. The single-span arched bridge is twelve feet wide with rough, uncoursed, face-bedded stone veneer with large voussoirs and parapet walls. Aside from the addition of asphalt paving to the trail surface, there have been no changes to the bridge since the end of the historic period.

29. *Ben Johnson Trail Lower Log Bridge* (LCS 058178, contributing) Photo Key: 29

The lower log bridge on the Ben Johnson Trail spans a small ravine near the east end of the trail, a short distance west of the intersection of the Hillside Trail. The bridge was most likely constructed in c.1934 by the CCC as part of its improvements to the Ben Johnson Trail. The bridge is a single, 3.5-foot diameter and 27-foot long redwood log with a three-foot wide flat walking surface and rock abutments. There have been no apparent changes to the bridge since the end of the historic period.

30. *Ben Johnson Trail Middle Log Bridge* (contributing) Photo Key: 30

The middle log bridge on the Ben Johnson Trail spans a shallow drainage near the middle of the trail, extending between two redwoods. The bridge was most likely constructed in c.1934 by the CCC as part of its improvements to the Ben Johnson Trail. The bridge is a single redwood log, approximately twenty-five feet long and three feet in diameter with a two-foot wide flat walking surface and rock abutments. There have been no apparent built changes to the bridge since the end of the historic period.

31. *Ben Johnson Trail Upper (Double) Log Bridge* (contributing) Photo Key: 31

The upper log bridge on the Ben Johnson Trail spans the top of a minor ravine at the western end of the trail. The bridge was most likely constructed in c.1934 by the CCC as part of its improvements to the Ben Johnson Trail. The bridge is built of two redwood logs laid side-by-side, approximately twenty feet long and four feet wide, with rock abutments. The bridge is



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partially built around a redwood tree. There have been no apparent built changes to the bridge since the end of the historic period.

32. *Log Check Dam* (contributing) Photo Key: 32

The log check dam, located in Redwood Creek near the Emerson Memorial, was built in September 1932. The dam, listed as an attraction in the monument's first brochure (1934), was designed under the oversight of Superintendent Herschler to slow the velocity of water and create an area of visual interest. The dam consisted of a thirty-six inch diameter redwood log with stone gabion (mesh-enclosed) bed and revetments that were finished with stone for a naturalistic appearance. The dam created a small pool and waterfall. Today, the dam remains with the log remarkably intact, but the creek bed has apparently filled in so that there is no longer a perceptible waterfall except during times of low water.

33. *System of Stone Revetments* (LCS 058251, contributing) Photo Key: 33

The stone revetments along the banks of Redwood Creek extend from south of the monument (outside of nominated property) upstream to Fern Creek. Built between 1934 and 1938, the revetments consist of non-contiguous areas of three-to-five foot high stone facing intended to protect the soft banks from erosion during times of high water. The idea for stabilizing the banks with revetments was conceived with the support of William Kent following a major flood in 1925. At the time, park staff believed revetments were needed to protect the creek from undermining the redwoods and the Main Trail, and to enhance the appearance of the landscape. The first, consisting of temporary brush revetments and more stable stone-filled wire basket revetments (gabions), were installed in the late 1920s and early 1930s. Following the construction of two stone check dams in the lower part of Redwood Canyon in 1934, the NPS San Francisco Regional Office devised plans for building more permanent stone protection along the creek banks, made possible in large part through the availability of cheap labor supplied by the CCC. Constructed of stone quarried from Kent Estate lands about one mile south of Muir Woods off Frank Valley Road, the revetments were built by toeing in large slabs of stone into graded banks, mostly along bends, near bridges, and at the entrance of tributaries. The Landscape Division of the NPS regional office directed the CCC to make the stonework as inconspicuous as possible, and to limit the revetments only to those areas where irreparable damage might be done during times of flood. By 1938, the revetment system was considered complete. Today, most of the stone revetments remain intact, although certain areas have collapsed and others have been removed in order to restore the natural character of the creek and improve spawning grounds for steelhead and silver salmon.

34. *Redwood Cross-Section Pavilion* (contributing) Photo Key: 34 (see Entrance Area Detail on sketch map)

The redwood cross section, located along the Main Trail near the Administration-Concession Building, is five feet in diameter and is housed in a rustic pavilion built of two log posts supporting a shingled roof with log rafters. The cross-section dates the growth rings corresponding with historic events. The pavilion measures four by nine feet, and is



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approximately ten feet tall. The cross-section was made in August 1931 as one of the first interpretive displays in the monument, modeled after a similar display at Yosemite National Park. Since the end of the historic period, the position of the pavilion has been shifted, but is still within the same general area, and the pavilion was reconstructed in c.1999, replicating the original design (although with a different color stain). While the pavilion structure has been reconstructed, the cross-section remains intact except for changes to its annotation. It is the earliest surviving interpretive device in the monument.

Non-Contributing Structures

35. *Bridge #1* (non-contributing) Photo Key: 35 (see Entrance Area Detail on sketch map)  
Bridge #1, carrying the Bohemian Grove Trail over Redwood Creek across from the Administration-Concession Building, is a wood laminate single-span bridge with concrete abutments built in c.1965. It replaced a log bridge in approximately the same location built in 1938 by the CCC. The existing bridge is a departure from the romanticized rustic aesthetic that characterized the landscape during the historic period.

36. *Bridge #2* (non-contributing) Photo Key: 36  
Bridge #2, carrying a connecting spur between the Main Trail and Bohemian Grove Trail over Redwood Creek, is a wood laminate single-span bridge with concrete abutments built in c.1965. It replaced the natural log bridge (a fallen tree that was made into a natural log bridge in 1926), located a short distance upstream. The existing bridge is a departure from the romanticized rustic aesthetic that characterized the landscape during the historic period.

37. *Bridge #3* (non-contributing) Photo Key: 37  
Bridge #3, carrying the north end of the Bohemian Grove Trail over Redwood Creek near Cathedral Grove, is a wood laminate single-span bridge with concrete abutments built under contract by Ceccotti & Sons, Inc. and completed in January 1963. It replaced a log bridge in approximately the same location built in 1934. The existing bridge is a departure from the romanticized rustic aesthetic that characterized the landscape during the historic period.

38. *Bridge #4* (non-contributing) Photo Key: 38  
Bridge #4, carrying the Ben Johnson Trail over Redwood Creek at the northern boundary of the monument near the Main Trail, is a wood laminate single-span bridge with concrete abutments built under contract by A. E. FitzGerald and completed in 1968. It replaced two 1930s-era log bridges that formed a "Y" intersection of the Ben Johnson Trail with the Main Trail. The existing bridge is a departure from the romanticized rustic aesthetic that characterized the landscape during the historic period.

39. *Remains of Upper Rock Check Dam* (non-contributing) Photo Key: 39 (see Entrance Area Detail on sketch map)



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The remains of the upper rock check dam consists of stone rubble in the bed of Redwood Creek upstream from Bridge #1, across from the Administration-Concession Building. The dam was completed by the Civil Works Administration in March 1934 using stone quarried on Kent Estate land off Frank Valley Road, about one mile south of Muir Woods. Crews hauled 135 truckloads of rock to the creek bed, extending an apron of stone for approximately thirty feet downstream. The dam created an area of white water downstream and slack water upstream. Since the end of the historic period, much of the rock in the dam has been dispersed to improve the spawning habitat for the steelhead and silver salmon, which had difficulty swimming upstream over the dam.

40. *Remains of Middle Rock Check Dam* (non-contributing) Photo Key: 40 (see Entrance Area Detail on sketch map)

The remains of the middle rock check dam consist of stone rubble in the bed of Redwood Creek near the main gate, in an area generally not seen by visitors. The dam was initially built by the CCC in May 1934 using stone quarried on Kent Estate land off Frank Valley Road, about one mile south of Muir Woods. The dam extended an apron of stone for approximately thirty feet downstream, creating an area of white water downstream and slack water upstream. After a flood in 1935, the creek banks below the dam were reinforced with stone revetment. Since the end of the historic period, much of the rock in the dam has been dispersed to improve the spawning habitat for the steelhead and silver salmon, which had difficulty swimming upstream over the dam.

41. *History of Muir Woods Pavilion* (non-contributing) Photo Key: 41

This display, featuring a rustic pavilion similar in design to the historic redwood cross-section pavilion, is located on the Main Trail near the Pinchot Memorial. It was built in 2005, and features framed text that tells the story of the "Saving of Muir Woods." Although a modern structure, its design does not detract from the historic character of the landscape.

42. *Entrance Gate (Arch)* (non-contributing) Photo Key: 42 (see Entrance Area Detail on sketch map)

In April 1935, the CCC completed a rustic log gate and sign at the main pedestrian (south) entrance to Muir Woods, on the south National Monument boundary. In 1968, the gate was removed as part of the reconfiguration of the entrance area that included the construction of an entrance kiosk. In 1990, the kiosk was removed and a new timber gate was built in approximately the same location as the original. Its design is similar to the historic gate, but with slightly different proportions, sign, and stone footings. It is compatible with the historic character of the landscape.

43. *Steel Water Tank* (non-contributing) Photo Key: 43 (see Entrance Area Detail on sketch map)

A steel tank for supplying water to the monument was installed on the hillside above the utility area in 1957, after the end of the historic period. It replaced three wooden water tanks that were



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located on land leased from Mount Tamalpais State Park at the head of Pipeline Canyon near the Ocean View Trail. The steel tank is set into the wooded hillside and is not visible except from the rear of the Equipment Shed.

OBJECTS

The most significant objects within the nominated property—the memorials to key individuals in conservation and transcendental literature—remain intact. Most other objects extant at the end of the period of significance 1947 have disappeared. These included rustic redwood post signs and drinking fountains, log benches, and picnic tables built by the CCC during the 1930s. None remain except for one log bench on the Ben Johnson Trail. Existing benches and interpretive/directional signage date primarily from the past three decades. While different in appearance from those used historically, these contemporary site furnishings still maintain a rustic style and use of unfinished wood that is generally compatible with the overall historic character of the landscape. Rough split-rail fencing has also been installed since the end of the historic period along many of the trails to keep visitors from trampling the forest floor.

Contributing Objects

44. *Ben Johnson Trail Log Bench* (contributing) Photo Key: 44

A log bench, built out of redwood log and set into the embankment, is located toward the western end of the Ben Johnson Trail. It was probably made by the CCC and installed when similar benches were put out along the Main Trail between 1934 and 1936. It is approximately five feet long and four feet high. In 2006, the seat portion of the log broke off, revealing rot within the log. The log bench is the only remaining example of its type left in the monument.

45. *Emerson Memorial* (LCS 058176, contributing) Photo Key: 45

The Emerson Memorial is a large redwood tree marked by a small brass plaque located between the Main Trail and Redwood Creek near the terminus of the Ocean View Trail. The memorial was dedicated in 1903 by a group of prominent writers from San Francisco, including the novelist Jack London, to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of Ralph Waldo Emerson's birth. The plaque reads "1803 / EMERSON / 1903" and measures approximately 8 inches by 14 inches. It is unseen by most park visitors because it is located on the creek-side of the tree, out of view from the Main Trail. (The Main Trail may have originally run between the creek and the tree.)

46. *Gifford Pinchot Memorial* (LCS 058164, contributing) Photo Key: 46

The Gifford Pinchot Memorial is a large redwood tree marked at its foot by a brass plaque mounted on a boulder, located on the west side of the Main Trail near the terminus of the Ocean View Trail. The plaque and boulder were erected by the Sierra Club with the guidance of William Kent in honor of Gifford Pinchot for his key role in the establishment of Muir Woods National Monument. The monument was dedicated in May 1910 during Pinchot's lifetime. In contrast to



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the Emerson Memorial, the Sierra Club decided to place the bronze plaque on a boulder rather than damage the tree. The brass plaque measures 1 by 2 feet, and the boulder is approximately 4 feet high by 4 feet wide. The plaque reads: "THIS TREE IS DEDICATED TO / GIFFORD PINCHOT / FRIEND OF THE FOREST / CONSERVER OF THE COMMON-WEALTH / SIERRA CLUB / MAY MCMX." There have been no changes to the boulder and plaque since its construction, and the Pinchot tree remains standing.

*47. William Kent Memorial* (LCS 058174, contributing) Photo Key: 47

The William Kent Memorial is a fallen Douglas fir marked by a bronze plaque mounted on a boulder located along the Fern Creek Trail approximately 175 feet from the Main Trail. The memorial was dedicated by the Tamalpais Conservation Club (TCC) in honor of William Kent, who donated Muir Woods to the federal government and was instrumental in its preservation and management up until his death on March 13, 1928. The Douglas fir, believed to have been the tallest in the monument and a favorite of Kent's, was selected as the memorial by NPS Chief Landscape Architect Thomas Vint, Muir Woods Custodian John Needham, and James Wright, a past president of the TCC. As with the Pinchot Memorial, the TCC decided to mark the tree by placing a plaque mounted on a boulder near its foot. On May 5, 1929, the memorial was dedicated in a ceremony attended by Horace Albright, Director of the National Park Service, and members of the TCC, the Sierra and California Alpine Clubs, and the Tourist Club. The plaque measures 15 by 20 inches and is mounted on a boulder, brought down from the upper reaches of Fern Creek, measuring approximately 4 feet wide and 3 feet high. The plaque reads: "WILLIAM KENT / WHO GAVE THESE WOODS AND OTHER NATURAL BEAUTY SITES / TO PERPETUATE THEM FOR PEOPLE / WHO LOVE THE OUT-OF-DOORS / 1864 1928 / TAMALPAIS CONSERVATION CLUB." The boulder is positioned east of the tree facing southwest, with the trail running between. In 2003, the Douglas fir fell and today remains across Fern Creek; the trail was rerouted to the east side of the boulder. Although a dramatic change to the William Kent Memorial, the plaque and boulder remain intact. A number of small stones outline an area in front of the boulder; it is not known if these are historic.

*48. Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial* (LCS 058165, contributing) Photo Key: 48

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial is a bronze plaque mounted on a redwood log located along the east side of the Main Trail in Cathedral Grove. The memorial originated as part of a ceremony held in Cathedral Grove by the United Nations Conference on International Organization on May 19, 1945 in honor of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who died on April 12, 1945, two weeks before he was to open the conference being held in San Francisco. A temporary memorial was erected for the ceremony on the east side of the Main Trail, facing the audience that gathered across from it. Two years later, in May 1947, a permanent memorial was erected in the same location. Designed in a naturalistic style based on the suggestion of Regional Director O. A. Tomlinson, the memorial is a partially buried, six-foot long redwood log with a bronze plaque measuring 2 by 3 feet mounted on a planed surface at approximately a forty-five degree angle. The log was donated by the Log Cabin Ranch School in La Honda, California. The plaque reads: HERE IN THIS GROVE OF ENDURING REDWOODS,



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PRESERVED FOR PROSPERITY, MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION MET ON MAY 19, 1945 TO HONOR THE MEMORY OF FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT, THIRTY-FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, CHIEF ARCHITECT OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND APOSTLE OF LASTING PEACE FOR ALL MANKIND." Since the end of the historic period, there have been no changes to the memorial. A redwood tree fell to the north side of the memorial and its splintered trunk remains on the slope immediately to the rear.

Non-Contributing Objects

*49 Bicentennial Tree Marker (non-contributing) Photo Key: 49*

The bicentennial tree marker is a bronze plaque mounted on a boulder located at the base of a redwood on the Bohemian Grove Trail south of Bohemian Grove. The tree was estimated to be 200 years old when the marker was dedicated in May 1976, after the end of the historic period. The marker does not detract from the historic character of the landscape.

ARCHEOLOGY

To date, there have been no prehistoric or historic subsurface remains identified within the boundaries of the nominated property. A comprehensive archeological overview and assessment has not been completed for Muir Woods.

During the prehistoric period, the canyon floor was most likely used by the native Coast Miwok peoples for hunting and gathering. From the historic period, there are several areas where lost features are presently interpreted to the public, including the general location of the log cabin (c.1905-1925) along the Main Trail north of Fern Creek; and the general location of the Bohemian Club's Buddha statue (1892). Other historic-period features no longer standing include the lower and middle picnic grounds, comfort stations at Bohemian Grove and Cathedral Grove; log footbridges over Redwood Creek, and privies near the middle picnic grounds, Cathedral Grove, and at Deer Park. There are no visible above-ground remains associated with these sites.



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**List of Resources**

(Numbers are keyed to sketch map)

**Sites**

1. Redwood Forest (contributing)
2. Bohemian Grove (contributing)
3. Cathedral Grove (contributing)

**Buildings**

4. Superintendent's Residence (MW-1, LCS 058170, contributing)
5. Superintendent's Storage Shed (MW-2, contributing)
6. Superintendent's Garage (MW-3, LCS 058172, contributing)
7. Equipment Shed (MW-4, LCS 058169, contributing)
8. Administration-Concession Building (MW-8, contributing)
9. New Comfort Station (non-contributing)
10. Trailer Office (non-contributing)
11. Power Tool (Paint) Shed (non-contributing)
12. Hand Tool (Storage) Shed (non-contributing)

**Structures**

13. North Steps to Superintendent's Residence (LCS 058182, contributing)
14. Superintendent's Residence stone walls and steps (LCS 048171, contributing)
15. Service Drive (Old Muir Woods Road) (LCS 058181; incorrectly identified as Muir Woods Toll Road, contributing)
16. Main (Bootjack) Trail (contributing)
17. Fern Creek (Fern Canyon) Trail (contributing)
18. Camp Alice Eastwood Trail (contributing)
19. Ocean View Trail (contributing)
20. Bohemian Grove Trail (contributing)
21. Hillside Trail (LCS 058179, contributing)
22. Ben Johnson Trail (LCS 058177, contributing)
23. Ben Johnson Trail Spur/Steps (contributing)
24. Dipsea Trail (contributing)
25. Dipsea (Deer Park) Fire Road (contributing)
26. Main Trail Wooden Bridge #1 (LCS 058167, contributing)
27. Main Trail Wooden Bridge #2 (LCS 058167, contributing)
28. Fern Creek Bridge (LCS 058168, contributing)



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29. Ben Johnson Trail Lower Log Bridge (LCS 058178, contributing)
  30. Ben Johnson Trail Middle Log Bridge (contributing)
  31. Ben Johnson Trail Upper (Double) Log Bridge (contributing)
  32. Log Check Dam (contributing)
  33. System of Stone Revetments (LCS 058251, contributing)
  34. Redwood Cross Section Pavilion (contributing)
  35. Bridge #1 (non-contributing)
  36. Bridge #2 (non-contributing)
  37. Bridge #3 (non-contributing)
  38. Bridge #4 (non-contributing)
  39. Remains of Upper Rock Check Dam (non-contributing)
  40. Remains of Middle Rock Check Dam (non-contributing)
  41. History of Muir Woods Pavilion (non-contributing)
  42. Entrance Gate (Arch) (non-contributing)
  43. Steel Water Tank (non-contributing)

**Objects**

44. Ben Johnson Trail Log Bench (contributing)
45. Emerson Memorial (LCS 058176, contributing)
46. Gifford Pinchot Memorial (LCS 058164, contributing)
47. William Kent Memorial (LCS 058174, contributing)
48. Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial (LCS 058165, contributing)
49. Bicentennial Tree Marker (non-contributing)



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**Significance**

**Summary**

Muir Woods National Monument, anticipating the one-hundredth anniversary of its designation in 2008, remains an enduring and renowned example of natural resource conservation in the United States. This nomination documents that the redwood forest, long recognized for its significance as a natural resource, is historically significant along with its overlay of cultural resources for its association with the history of the American Conservation Movement and early conservation efforts in the Bay Area, and for illustrating the legacy of rustic design in the National Park Service.

Muir Woods National Monument is nationally significant under National Register Criterion A in the area of conservation for its association with the maturation of the American Conservation Movement, and in particular as a pioneering and enduring manifestation of federal preservation legislation. The proclamation of Muir Woods as a National Monument occurred at the beginning of the federal government's proactive role in the preservation of natural and historic resources. The redwood forest was designated a National Monument on January 9, 1908 by President Theodore Roosevelt, who acted on the advice and support of Gifford Pinchot, Chief of the United States Forest Service. It was the tenth monument designated under the Antiquities Act of 1906, and the first located in close proximity to a major city. Most importantly, it was the first National Monument created through a donation of private land—a gift from William and Elizabeth Thacher Kent. Representing a milestone in the role of citizen initiative in the land conservation movement in our nation, the proclamation of Muir Woods as a National Monument established the precedent at the federal level for private-public partnerships and the land-trust model of natural resource and open space conservation, a tool that is widely applied today. Further, the proclamation of Muir Woods represented the federal government's first achievement in preserving redwoods on the West Coast, an act that inspired the establishment of the Save-the-Redwoods League and spurred subsequent efforts to conserve redwoods and recognize them as icons of the nation's natural heritage. Lastly, Muir Woods gained national and international renown in the decades following its monument designation as a place that expressed the ideals of American conservation, culminating historically in a ceremony held in 1945 by the United Nations Conference on International Organization in memory of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, a great champion of conservation.

Muir Woods is also locally significant under National Register Criterion A in the area of conservation for its association with early conservation achievements in the Bay Area. It was the first public park established in the extensive conservation district that today extends along much of the western Marin Peninsula, directly across the Golden Gate from the City of San Francisco. This area is administered at the federal, state, and local levels by Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Mount Tamalpais State Park, Marin Municipal Water District, and Marin



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County Open Space District, an administrative structure that traces its origins back to the management structure William Kent established for Muir Woods and the adjoining lands under his ownership.

In addition to its primary significance in the area of conservation, the buildings and major structures at Muir Woods, dating from 1922 through 1940, are also significant under National Register Criterion C in the area of architecture as representative examples of pre-World War II rustic design in the National Park Service. Designed by well-known park service architects and landscape architects and built in part through New Deal-era federal work-relief programs including the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), the buildings and structures at Muir Woods reflect the system-wide effort to harmonize built features into the natural landscape.

In the area of archeology, there is insufficient documentation to nominate Muir Woods under Criterion D. It is supposed that the canyon was used by the Coast Miwok for hunting and gathering, and there are numerous historic features that are no longer extant, such as the Bohemian Club's Buddha statue (1892), the log cabin along the main trail north of Fern Creek Bridge (c.1905), and rustic log footbridges dating from the 1930s. However, there is presently no documentation supporting the existence of subsurface remains known to yield information important to prehistory or history.

**Period of Significance**

The period of significance for Muir Woods National Monument begins with the gift of 298 acres in Redwood Canyon by William Kent and his wife, Elizabeth Thacher Kent, to the United States on December 26, 1907 under the provisions of the American Antiquities Act of 1906. The date of the Kents' gift (the date that they signed their deed over to the United States) marks the beginning of the period of significance because it marked the beginning of federal ownership of the redwood forest. Two weeks later on January 9, 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt proclaimed Muir Woods a National Monument. The years prior to 1907 are not included within the period of significance for two primary reasons: 1. With the exception of the redwood forest and the Emerson Memorial, the extant resources generally do not retain integrity to the pre-1907 period; 2. The extant pre-1907 resources gained significance in the area of conservation primarily after 1907 through the effort to conserve the natural resources of Redwood Canyon by means of public acquisition.

The period of significance extends to 1947 to encompass the first four decades of federal ownership and management. During this time, Muir Woods was expanded as part of the Mount Tamalpais park movement, was adapted by NPS in the face of rising visitation and changing conservation practices according to a consistent rustic design vocabulary, and attained renown as a major tourist attraction and as a place that embodied the ideals of conservation in the United States. The end-date of 1947 marks the installation of the permanent memorial to President Franklin D. Roosevelt resulting from the memorial ceremony held two years earlier by



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the United Nations Conference on International Organization. The years after 1947 are excluded from the period of significance because they mark a distinct shift in the management of the property. The distinction of the post-1947 period is evident through the implementation of the National Park Service MISSION 66 program beginning in the 1950s, which resulted in changes to built features in a departure from the romanticized rustic style of the pre-war years; the enlargement of the monument for operational purposes rather than for specific preservation of old-growth redwood forest (the tracts added after 1947 did not contain old-growth redwood forest); and a shift toward ecological conservation in place of the more intensive natural resource management characteristic of the historic period.

**Setting**

Muir Woods National Monument is located on the Marin Peninsula approximately six miles north of the Golden Gate Bridge and the City of San Francisco, and two miles east of the Pacific Ocean. The monument is situated within Redwood Canyon, a narrow, deep valley at the foot of Mount Tamalpais, which at 2,754 feet above sea level is the highest peak on the Marin Peninsula, visible from San Francisco. Nearly the entire western half of the Marin Peninsula surrounding Muir Woods is public parkland, while the eastern half is primarily suburban and includes the communities of Mill Valley, Sausalito, and San Rafael. The boundaries of the nominated property, encompassing 428 acres, are the boundaries of Muir Woods National Monument at the end of the period of significance in 1947, an area that excludes approximately 128 acres later added to the monument and the park unit at its south and west sides. The monument is accessible by vehicle from Muir Woods Road, a two-lane county road, and by foot through a network of hiking trails. Muir Woods is surrounded by Mount Tamalpais State Park, consisting primarily of forest with open grassland along the ridges. A short distance east of the monument is the Panoramic Highway, a two-lane road that winds toward the summit of Mount Tamalpais. Along and east of this road is mid-twentieth century residential development on the outer fringes of Mill Valley.

**Chronological Overview**

Prior to European settlement of the Marin Peninsula in the early nineteenth century, Redwood Canyon was part of the homeland of the Coast Miwok people. Little archeological evidence has been found on their habitation within or near the nominated property, but the Coast Miwok most likely used the area for hunting, fishing, and gathering, and certainly considered the redwood forest a part of their homeland. In the early nineteenth century soon after the establishment of Spanish missions at present-day San Rafael in c.1817, the Coast Miwok people were decimated by European disease, and by 1840, their population was reduced by an estimated ninety percent. Four years earlier, in 1836, much of the Marin Peninsula, including Redwood Canyon, was granted by the Mexican government to William Antonio Richardson, who named the land "Rancho Sausalito." In 1856, Richardson sold Rancho Sausalito to Samuel R. Throckmorton, who rented out subdivided parcels to farmers. Throckmorton retained a large



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tract encompassing Redwood Canyon and extending north to the upper reaches of Mount Tamalpais as his own private hunting preserve. Although most of the redwood groves on the Marin Peninsula were being logged up through Throckmorton's ownership of Rancho Sausalito, the forest in Redwood Canyon escaped the ax, purportedly due to its remote location, but most likely also due to Throckmorton's desire to preserve his hunting grounds. In 1883, Throckmorton died and left the 14,000-acre Rancho Sausalito to his daughter, Susanna Throckmorton.

Unable to pay off her father's debts, Susanna Throckmorton sold Rancho Sausalito in 1889 to the Tamalpais Land & Water Company, which began planning for the development of the ranch in eastern Marin County into the community of Mill Valley. To the west, the company rented out the ranchlands, but retained Samuel Throckmorton's hunting preserve that included Redwood Canyon and granted its use to the Tamalpais Sportsman's Association. With the help of William Kent, one of the club's prominent members and neighbor from nearby Kentfield, the club cared for the redwood forest through the turn of the century. Its stewardship corresponded with a time of increasing visitation that resulted in large part from the development in the region by the Tamalpais Land & Water Company and rail access to the summit of Mount Tamalpais. By the close of the nineteenth century, local developers proposed damming Redwood Creek for water supply, a plan that failed but represented the first attempt to extract the natural resources of the canyon. At the same time, local conservation and hiking groups began to press for public acquisition and protection of Mount Tamalpais. William Kent responded by acquiring 612 acres of Redwood Canyon in 1905 to safeguard its redwood forest and improve its accessibility to the public. Together with the Mill Valley and Mt. Tamalpais Scenic Railway (later the Mt. Tamalpais and Muir Woods Railway, a steam and gravity line commonly known as the mountain railway), Kent developed Redwood Canyon into a public park with rail access (a new branch line was built to the north end of Redwood Canyon), improved road access, and visitor amenities such as footpaths, bridges, and benches, all designed in a rustic style then fashionable for parks and forested landscapes. An inn at the terminal of the mountain railway, which formed the main entrance to the park, was also planned as part of the improvements.

In the fall of 1907, a year after the great earthquake and fire in San Francisco and the resulting surge in demand for water and timber, the private North Coast Water Company filed the second plan for damming Redwood Creek, which called for condemning forty-seven acres of William Kent's Redwood Canyon tract in order to build a reservoir. This plan would have flooded the upper portion of the canyon floor, destroying old-growth redwoods as well as the park improvements made by Kent and the mountain railway. In order to circumvent the condemnation proceedings and secure the long-term preservation of the redwood forest, Kent gifted 298 acres of his 612-acre Redwood Canyon tract to the federal government on December 26, 1907, a gift that excluded the terminus of the mountain railway. This event marks the beginning of the period of significance. On January 9<sup>th</sup>, 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt proclaimed Muir Woods a National Monument under the provisions of the Antiquities Act of 1906, the tenth National Monument so designated, the first from a gift of private land, and the first in close proximity to a major city. Kent chose to name the monument Muir Woods after the



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noted wilderness preservationist, John Muir, who lived in Martinez across the San Pablo Bay from Marin County. Muir had no known association with Redwood Canyon aside from a visit he had made there in 1904, nor had Kent met Muir at the time.

Muir Woods National Monument was initially managed through the General Land Office (GLO) within the Department of the Interior up until 1917. During this time, the GLO made few improvements to Muir Woods, and it was largely managed by the mountain railway and William Kent. Kent had difficulty obtaining funding and other assistance for Muir Woods under the GLO, and this experience almost certainly was one of the reasons that as a congressman he introduced the bill establishing the National Park Service (NPS) in 1916. His first-hand knowledge of the needs of park management no doubt helped make him a persuasive advocate for the bill, which aimed to improve the management of federal parks, reserves, and monuments then administered by a wide arrange of agencies. The year following passage of the bill, management of Muir Woods was transferred to the NPS. For the next decade, the NPS took the lead in management of Muir Woods, although the mountain railway and William Kent continued to play key roles. Administration was initially carried out through Yosemite National Park and regional NPS offices in San Francisco.

In its early years of NPS administration, Muir Woods underwent a number of significant improvements, including the addition of signs, an entrance gate, new footbridges, a residence for the custodian, and comfort stations, all designed according to a particular rustic style developed by the NPS based on similar improvements at other forested parks in the region, notably Sequoia and Yosemite National Parks. Another improvement was the addition of 150 acres along the northwest side of the monument, a gift from William Kent and incorporated into the monument by proclamation of President Harding in 1921 under the provisions of the Antiquities Act.

The late 1920s witnessed a number of important shifts in administration and use at Muir Woods. In 1928, William Kent died, and the following year a fire destroyed the branch line to Muir Woods. In 1930, the railway went out of business, leading to a reorientation of Muir Woods primarily to the automobile entrance at the south end of the monument, off the Muir Woods Toll Road. Kent's death and closure of the mountain railway gave NPS full charge for the administration of Muir Woods. Much of the land bordering Muir Woods that had been owned by William Kent became part of Mount Tamalpais State Park, established in 1927. Beginning in 1933 and lasting through 1941, workers from the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and other federal work-relief programs undertook extensive improvements both in Muir Woods and the state park, based out of a camp located on the site of the railway terminus, a short distance from the monument boundary.

Many of the CCC improvements to Muir Woods were built to accommodate increasing visitation, which had jumped markedly with the opening of the Muir Woods Toll Road in 1925, the Panoramic Highway in 1928, and the Golden Gate Bridge in 1937. Work by the CCC, designed



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mostly by NPS regional architects and landscape architects, included massive log footbridges over Redwood Creek, a stone-faced arch bridge over Fern Creek, a log entrance gate, improved trails, new signs and picnic facilities, and several new buildings. These features were all designed in a romantic rustic style featuring log construction, exposed timber framing, hand-hewn signs, and naturalistic plantings. In 1940, the largest building at Muir Woods to date—the Administration-Concession Building—was completed through the Project Works Administration and CCC in a streamlined rustic style that was a departure from the earlier rustic style. It was sited on a one-acre expansion that had been incorporated into the monument through a proclamation by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1935. Improvements at Muir Woods ceased during World War II, but the monument continued to be a popular place to visit. In what would become the most famous gathering at Muir Woods, the United Nations Conference on International Organization held a ceremony in Cathedral Grove in honor of FDR in May 1945, one month after his death. In 1947, a permanent memorial to FDR was installed at Cathedral Grove, marking the end of the period of significance.

After 1947, two parcels without old-growth redwood forest were acquired at the south end and west side of the monument, and these together with the nineteen-acre state-leased parking lot parcel were incorporated into the monument in 1951 (the parking lot parcel remained in state ownership). By this time, visitation had risen dramatically after a period of relative stability during the 1940s, leading to significant crowding that strained the improvements made by the CCC, which had suffered due to lack of maintenance and funding during the war and post-war years. This situation set the stage for a new era of development, coinciding with broad shifts in design, natural resource management, and planning throughout the National Park System. In 1956, NPS launched a ten-year improvement program coined "MISSION 66," and park staff developed an ambitious plan for Muir Woods which included removing buildings from within the woods, building a visitor center and employee housing, expanding parking, and acquiring additional land for park support purposes. Muir Woods realized few of these improvements, but did build a new parking area and acquired additional land at the south end of the monument along Frank Valley Road. The park also removed comfort stations, signs, bridges, and the main gate that had been built by the CCC, and built a new comfort station and footbridges that represented a departure from the romantic rustic style of the CCC era. In 1972, legislation was passed authorizing NPS to acquire land for park support purposes south of the nominated property in the Camino del Canyon Tract (Camp Monte Vista), which had been developed earlier for youth camps and seasonal cottages (this land was not given national monument designation). This period also saw the expansion of Mount Tamalpais State Park to encompass nearly all of the land surrounding Muir Woods, as well as the creation in 1972 of a metropolitan national park, Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Muir Woods was identified as part of the new park, and by 1984 had become fully integrated into it for administrative purposes. Despite this, Muir Woods retained its distinct identity and national monument designation.

In the past two decades, there have been few major changes in the management or appearance of Muir Woods National Monument, with the exception of natural succession from



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open grasslands and chaparral to forest along Frank Valley Road and the upper edges of the monument (outside of nominated property). Within the nominated property, NPS has made several improvements in recent years to better safeguard the forest from the impact of heavy visitation, including removal of the main comfort station (1928), and the construction of a new comfort station and boardwalks. In 1990, the park constructed a new main gate reminiscent of the one built by the CCC. The following year, a rustic-style visitor center was built along the south boundary of the monument (outside of nominated property).

**Significance in the Area of Conservation**  
National Register Criterion A

Association with the American Conservation Movement

Muir Woods National Monument, created through Presidential Proclamation in 1908, is nationally significant as an early and enduring manifestation of federal preservation legislation that reflects the maturation of the American Conservation Movement—the movement for the protection and sustainable use of the country's natural resources and areas of scenic beauty. As John Muir wrote upon proclamation of Muir Woods, "This is the best tree-lover's monument that could possibly be found in all the forests of the world." (John Muir to William Kent, 6 February 1908, Kent Family Papers, Yale University) Muir's reference to Muir Woods as a monument was not just about the majesty of the trees, but more importantly about the unprecedented act of preservation that had taken place. While the federal government had earlier set aside remote areas of great natural beauty and scientific interest such as Yosemite and Yellowstone National Parks as well as several remote national monuments, it had never before intervened as quickly as it did at Muir Woods to halt a threat from private development interests within a metropolitan area. This achievement by the federal government, made more remarkable through its success in the face of development pressures in the aftermath of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire, would not have been possible without the contribution of William Kent, who gifted Muir Woods to the federal government to be proclaimed a national monument. The designation of Muir Woods as a result of this private gift to the federal government distinguishes the property as a precedent-setting example of private-public partnership for conservation at the federal level.

William Kent was a businessman from Chicago with a family home in Kentfield, California, a short distance northeast of Muir Woods in Marin County. Here, his father had established a country home in 1871, when Kent was seven. Raised with a love of vigorous outdoor life, Kent was, however, shaped in large part by his urban experience in Chicago. In that great city of the Midwest, Kent fought for reforms that placed private interests serving basic needs under public ownership, and had worked to provide public recreation for everyone, providing land for the city's first public playground. By the time he gifted Muir Woods to the federal government in 1907, Kent was a veteran of progressive politics and a strong advocate of conservation. He was motivated by the ideal of managing the nation's resources responsibly and efficiently, and in



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using them to achieve social justice. He objected not only to the waste of natural resources, but also to their control by private interests for the benefit of a few. Like John Muir and the landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, William Kent saw contact with nature as a fundamental human need and spiritual recovery from the effects of urban life.

By the time Kent was working to preserve Muir Woods during the first decade of the twentieth century, the American Conservation Movement was reaching the end of its formative period that had begun in the years after the Civil War during a time of rapid industrialization and urbanization. Initial momentum came from the 1864 publication of George Perkins Marsh's *Man and Nature*, widely considered the fountainhead of the Conservation Movement. During this formative period, farmers and owners of country estates began to experiment with conservation practices, and state and federal governments began to consider legislation to protect timber and water supplies, and to set aside natural areas for health and recreation. These pioneering conservation efforts fell largely within two ideological camps: the so-called wise use or utilitarian camp that stressed the human and economic benefit of conservation; and the preservation camp that fought for the protection of wilderness for nature's sake and for spiritual benefit. Major public achievements of the Conservation Movement during its formative period include establishment of a state park in Yosemite Valley through federal legislation in 1864; creation of Yellowstone National Park, the first national park in the world, in 1872, followed by national parks at Yosemite, Sequoia, and General Grant (later Kings Canyon) in 1892 (all in California) and Mount Rainier in 1899 (Washington); and New York State's establishment of the Reservation at Niagara Falls in 1883, the Adirondack Forest Preserve in 1885, and the Adirondack State Park in 1892. Creation of these parks and preserves reflected a wide range of conservation interests, from scenic preservation and tourism to sustainable timber production and protection of watersheds. At the federal level, utilitarian conservation was achieving success during this formative period through passage of the federal Forest Reserve Act in 1891 and Forest Management (Organic) Act in 1897; and creation of the United States Forest Service in 1905. This period also witnessed the founding of private groups that advocated for nature preservation, notably the Sierra Club in 1892 and the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society in 1901.

At the turn of the twentieth century, conservation still faced resistance of private interests and their allies in Congress despite its past achievements and growing public support. However by 1907, the year that William Kent gifted Redwood Canyon to the federal government, conservation had become an urgent national issue, with President Theodore Roosevelt championing its benefits as part of the Progressive platform. The utilitarian conservation camp had a strong voice at the national level in Gifford Pinchot, confidant of Roosevelt and head of the young U. S. Forest Service. The preservation camp also had a powerful advocate in John Muir, and in the growing ranks of hikers and naturalists who were especially active in the Bay Area. The year before Kent's gift, the preservationists received an enormous boost that in large part defined the maturation of the Conservation Movement: passage of the American Antiquities Act on June 8, 1906. The Act, the first federal preservation legislation, gave the



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President the power to "...declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic and scientific interest that are situated upon the lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States to be national monuments, and may reserve as part thereof parcels of land, the limits of which in all cases shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with proper care and management of the objects to be protected..." (16 USC 431-433) Significantly, the Act also authorized the Secretary of the Interior to accept the relinquishment of private land when objects of historic or scientific interest were located on such lands. According to historian Hal Rothman, the Antiquities Act was "...the most important piece of preservation legislation ever enacted by the United States government." (Rothman, 1989) Muir Woods was the tenth National Monument to be proclaimed, following soon after proclamation of prehistoric sites such as Chaco Canyon, New Mexico, and geologic wonders such as Devils Tower, Wyoming, located in remote regions already under federal ownership. Muir Woods was the first forest or biotic resource to be proclaimed a National Monument.

The proclamation of Muir Woods as National Monument, executed in a controversy over exploitation of natural resources, was the first instance in which the Antiquities Act was truly tested as a preservation tool, setting precedent for its recent use in places undergoing similar threats. William Kent, working with Gifford Pinchot, recognized the Act as the only means to avoid condemnation of Redwood Canyon in the local public interest of water supply for the San Francisco metropolitan region. By 1907, Congress had also already acted to prevent the President from creating any more forest reserves. The only alternative—a special act of Congress accepting the deed to the property—required a great deal of time and effort, as well as an unlikely outcome. The Antiquities Act provided a quick and sure means of preservation through its absence of bureaucratic or political hurdles—less than two weeks after the federal government received the Kents' gift of land, President Roosevelt proclaimed Muir Woods a National Monument on January 9, 1908, thus removing the threat of destruction.

The impact of the proclamation was immediately recognized and heralded in conservation circles. Two weeks after the proclamation, Gifford Pinchot, who was instrumental in guiding Muir Woods through the Antiquities Act process, wrote that the Kents' gift was helping the cause of conservation: "Your service in giving the Muir Woods...is a very growing one. It is doing much more good than I had any idea it could at first, and my idea was not a small one, as you know." (Gifford Pinchot to William Kent, 27 January 1908, Kent Family Papers, Yale University) When John Muir saw that his name had been attached to the grove of Sequoias, he wrote William Kent:

*...Saving these woods from the axe and saw, from money-changers and water-changers, and giving them to our country and the world is in many ways the most notable service to God and man I've heard of since my forest wanderings began. A much needed lesson and blessing to saint and sinner alike and credit and encouragement to God. That so fine and divine a thing should have come out of*



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*money made in Chicago!* (Muir to Kent, February 6, 1908, Kent Family Papers, Yale University)

Other letters of praise for Kent's gift were received from all over the country, from the Sierra Club in San Francisco to the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society in New York City. The San Francisco *Bulletin* published in 1908: "Fifty years from now this tract of magnificent trees will be more precious than the hanging gardens of Babylon and more beautiful than anything the genius of man can create. It is even now of immeasurable worth, and every school child and invalid and tired merchant, the rich and poor, share in its possession. Mr. Kent has given it to the government—that is, to the people." (*San Francisco Bulletin*, 6 February 1908) As this article expresses, Muir Woods was understood from the time of its initial proclamation as expressing the ideal of American conservation—that individuals and society as a whole benefit from the protection and sustainable use of natural resources.

Muir Woods at once expresses the ideals of both the preservation and utilitarian (wise-use) philosophies of the conservation movement. The proclamation signed by President Roosevelt declared that Muir Woods is "...of extraordinary scientific interest and importance because of the primeval character of the forest in which it is located, and of the character, age, and size of the trees." (Proclamation 793, 35 Stat. 2174) Although not specified in the proclamation but clearly expressed in prior studies, Muir Woods was designated due in large part to its accessibility to San Francisco—there were other redwood forests with larger trees elsewhere on the West Coast, but none in the backyard of a major city. William Kent believed the highest and best use of Muir Woods was therefore as a public park, in which the natural resources would be preserved for public enjoyment. He saw contact with nature as one among a set of basic urban needs, along with good water, power, and transportation. At the time Kent was working to protect Muir Woods, another seminal conservation battle—the damming of Hetch-Hetchy Valley in Yosemite National Park—was also looming. Unlike the situation at Muir Woods, Kent ultimately sided with the bill that passed in 1913 to dam the remote valley for public use in order to provide much-needed water supply to San Francisco. Muir Woods endures as a testament to the early unity of the conservation movement that existed prior to Hetch-Hetchy. The monument today poignantly illustrates this through its naming after John Muir, the great preservation conservationist, and its monument to the great utilitarian conservationist, Gifford Pinchot.

As evidenced by the press it received, the proclamation of Muir Woods as a National Monument was widely seen as a model of conservation through the public-private partnership used to secure its protection. President Theodore Roosevelt suggested this in his letter to William Kent thanking him for his gift: "All Americans who prize the natural beauties of the country and wish to see them preserved undamaged...must feel that you have conferred a great and lasting benefit upon the whole country." (Theodore Roosevelt to William Kent, 22 January 1908, Kent Family Papers, Yale University) The success at Muir Woods in many ways set the foundation for the land trust model of conservation prevalent today. At the time, national parks and monuments had been set aside from land already owned by the federal or state governments,



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and public action in preserving private property was largely unheard of. The public-private partnership at Muir Woods was made possible through unprecedented use of the so-called relinquishment clause in the Antiquities Act. Muir Woods had willing private owners—William Kent and his wife Elizabeth Thatcher Kent—who deeded the original 298-acre tract to the federal government on December 26, 1907 specifically for its proclamation as a national monument. This precedent of Muir Woods was specifically influential in at least two cases. The Kents' gift was cited as legal precedent for the proclamation in 1916 of Lafayette National Monument (Acadia National Park) in Maine, gifted by the Hancock County Trustees to the federal government under the provisions of the Antiquities Act. Outside of the Antiquities Act, the Kents' example of private individuals contributing to the creation of a government owned park became a model for the efforts of the Save-the-Redwoods League, founded in 1918. The journal *California Out-of-Doors* published in 1919, "The gift of Muir Woods is an example of how to save the redwoods—by individual contributions...intended to serve, as it were, as 'Exhibit A' of what ought to be done concerning the redwoods...to point the way for the State and the Nation to join with counties and individuals in saving scattered groups, groves, parks and forests of redwoods." (Jonathan E. Webb, *California Out-of-Doors*, October 1919)

As the *California Out-of-Doors* article indicates, Muir Woods served as a wellspring for the growing movement for the protection of old-growth redwood forests on the West Coast. Although its designation followed the establishment in 1901 of the first state redwood preserve at Big Basin State Park south of San Francisco in the Santa Cruz Mountains, the federal involvement in Muir Woods bestowed upon redwoods a newfound recognition of significance as American antiquities comparable to the cultural antiquities of Europe. In so doing, Muir Woods set the stage for the subsequent establishment of state and national redwood parks through the twentieth century, culminating in the establishment of Redwood National Park (California) in 1968.

In the decades following its proclamation as a National Monument, Muir Woods became nationally renowned as a place that expressed the ideals of American conservation—a symbol of the nation's rich natural heritage and its legacy of conservation. Well known to local hikers in the Bay Area since the late nineteenth century, the national renown came about in part to being named after John Muir, the most famous of American conservationists, but perhaps more importantly, because of its proximity to San Francisco. Much as William Kent had envisioned, Muir Woods became a popular tourist destination with annual visitation that reached over 100,000 by the late 1920s. The monument was visited by numerous well-known organizations and dignitaries such as the American Federation of Labor, United Nations, and members of Congress. During the historic period, Muir Woods was often the site of special events and ceremonies, many related to conservation. Notable events include the Sierra Club's dedication of the Gifford Pinchot Memorial in May 1910, attended by over three hundred people to honor Pinchot's role in saving Muir Woods and his contributions to conservation at the federal level. In 1929, the Tamalpais Conservation Club held a ceremony to dedicate a memorial to William Kent. The dedication ceremony was attended by the Director of the National Park Service,



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Horace Albright, reflecting Kent's close association with the NPS as well as the monument's prominence within the national park system. The most significant event at Muir Woods was the memorial ceremony held on May 19, 1945 by the United Nations Conference on International Organization (UNCIO) in memory of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who had died a month earlier. The ceremony, attended by five hundred UNCIO delegates, had been envisioned as a tribute to FDR's leadership in conservation. The National Park Service issued a press release that noted the appropriateness of the location of the ceremony in Cathedral Grove:

*The site in the monument chosen for the meeting is aptly named—Cathedral Grove, it was pointed out. In this quiet grove is the impressiveness of a temple. Massive fluted columns, the trunks of the great coast redwoods, support a ceiling of green, and the sunlight filters in as through a church window. It is a place designed by nature to engender a feeling of peace and reverence, in keeping with the humanitarian ideals responsible for the United Nations Conference. (Department of the Interior, Information Service, National Park Service, May 12, 1945)*

Association with Conservation in the San Francisco Bay Area

Muir Woods National Monument is locally significant for its association with the movement for the public acquisition and conservation of Mount Tamalpais and the larger Marin peninsula extending north from San Francisco. With its proclamation as a National Monument in 1908, Muir Woods became the first state or national park established on Mount Tamalpais, as well as the first national park established in the Bay Area. Over the next several decades, the success at Muir Woods helped spur creation of an expansive park area on Mount Tamalpais that in turn led to creation of one of the largest urban national parks in the world.

The origin of the Mount Tamalpais park movement dates to the first decade of the twentieth century at a time when Marin County was experiencing rapid growth as a suburb of San Francisco. The movement was part of a larger regional plan conceived by William Kent and other park supporters to provide natural resources and spiritual respite for the nearby urban population. In keeping with the utilitarian philosophy of American conservation, Kent envisioned a Mount Tamalpais park not just for preservation of nature, but also for recreation, a source for public water, a boon for property values and the regional economy, and a check on forest fires. Kent also saw the social benefit, later writing: "Suburban homes are displacing farmland and pasture. Children are our best crop. It is good to know that mountain and forest will be there, open and unspoiled for them, so that they may know nature to the health of their souls." (William Kent, *Reminiscences of Outdoor Life*, 1929)

The organized Mount Tamalpais park movement began with an initial goal of creating a single national park, but largely due to the proclamation of Muir Woods in 1908, the movement shifted toward a vision of a park area administered by multiple agencies. While Muir Woods



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represented the first achievement in the public acquisition and protection of Mount Tamalpais, it was necessarily restricted to a small area by the limitations of the Antiquities Act. Despite this, in gifting Muir Woods to the people of the United States, Kent from the beginning envisioned the monument as the first step in achieving the larger park. In 1908, he confided to Gifford Pinchot, "The start we have made will probably bring the bigger park on the mountain." (Kent to Pinchot, 19 February 1908, Gifford Pinchot Papers, National Archives) The first achievement of the park movement following Muir Woods was the creation of the Marin County Municipal Water District in 1912, based largely on William Kent's vision for a publicly owned water supply. By 1928, when Kent died, 10,000 acres of the Tamalpais watershed had been incorporated into the district; much of this land, located uphill from Muir Woods, was also used for public recreation. By this time, another park entity was created: Mount Tamalpais State Park. Established through legislation passed in 1927, the state park opened to the public in 1930, encompassing nearly nine hundred acres surrounding Muir Woods on three sides. The subsequent enlargement of Mount Tamalpais State Park in the 1950s and 1960s to the ranchlands south and west of Muir Woods; and the establishment of Point Reyes National Seashore in 1962, Golden Gate National Recreation Area in 1972, and Marin County Open Space District in 1972, are the legacy of the Mount Tamalpais park movement that had its first success at Muir Woods. Although today administered as part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Muir Woods retains its distinct identity as the oldest public park entity in the Mount Tamalpais park area (West Marin).

Muir Woods National Monument is also significant for its association with the development of outdoor recreation in Marin County, a key impetus to conservation in the Bay Area during the first half of the twentieth century. Hiking became the primary form of outdoor recreation on Mount Tamalpais in the late nineteenth century, aided by improved road and rail access. By the time of the proclamation of Muir Woods as a National Monument in 1908, hikers had developed an extensive network of trails across the mountain. The proclamation of Muir Woods National Monument and its expansion prior to World War II owes much to advocacy by the Sierra Club, the Tamalpais Conservation Club, the California Alpine Club, and the Tourist Club, organizations that counted many Mount Tamalpais and Muir Woods hikers among their members. The clubs were also active and influential in the management of Muir Woods as well as the larger park area with its multiple administrative entities at the private, local, state, and federal levels. Following World War II, the hiking clubs decreased markedly in popularity as the region and Muir Woods in particular shifted primarily toward automobile-based tourism. Today, although hiking has enjoyed a resurgence, it does not retain the organization it had earlier in the century. Despite this, trails at Muir Woods remain as a legacy of the hiking community, along with their connection to the regional trail network that extends into Mount Tamalpais State Park. In addition, the Gifford Pinchot (1910) and William Kent (1928) memorials, which cite the Tamalpais Conservation Club and the Sierra Club, illustrate the monument's long-standing association with hiking and outdoor recreation in the region.

*Integrity under Criterion A*



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The redwood forest and its existing cultural resources testify to the monument's enduring association with the history of American conservation. The integrity of Muir Woods is also enhanced by the retention of its National Monument designation, especially in the context of the expansion of surrounding park areas. Of the nine National Monuments established prior to Muir Woods, five have been greatly expanded and redesignated as National Parks or National Historical Parks. The boundaries of Muir Woods National Monument continue overall to reflect the original intent of the Antiquities Act to preserve the smallest area associated with the significant resource (redwood forest). The landscape overall retains a high level of integrity, reflecting the character of the place during the period of significance (1907-1947). The redwood forest retains its old growth trees, notably the groupings at the Bohemian and Cathedral Groves, and interest trees including the Pinchot and Emerson memorials, and the curly and albino redwoods. Due to changes in management practices, the forest floor has been restored in large part to its lush natural condition, replacing the heavily managed and compacted ground that had become characteristic along the main trail by the end of the historic period due to heavy visitation and management practices that favored a more groomed appearance. The remote upper margins of the monument have changed since the historic period through natural succession from grasslands and chaparral to Douglas-fir and redwood forest.

Many existing cultural features trace back to early use by hikers and park development by William Kent and the Mount Tamalpais & Muir Woods Railway, the National Park Service, and Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Built features are concentrated along a narrow corridor on the canyon floor, location of the oldest and largest trees as well as Redwood Creek. The Main Trail remains the primary spine on the canyon floor extending from the site of the former railway entrance on the north, to the automobile entrance (current main entrance) on the south. Bohemian Grove and Cathedral Grove remain as the primary nodes within the larger forest—sites of events and ceremonies as well as areas of interest for everyday visitors engendered by the natural grandeur of the high redwood canopy. Beyond the canyon floor, the monument retains the secondary system of trails that extend up the canyon walls, leading to the surrounding state park lands and larger Mount Tamalpais trail network. These include the Ben Johnson, Fern Creek, Ocean View, and Hillside Trails. In addition to visitor amenities, historic efforts at protecting the redwood forest—conservation practices—also remain evident in the stone revetments in Redwood Creek built by the CCC during the 1930s, and the Hillside Trail and Deer Park Fire Road, which are remnants of a fire protection system dating back to the initial establishment of the monument in 1908 through the 1930s. Muir Woods' association with American conservation luminaries is also evident in the memorials to Gifford Pinchot (1910), William Kent (1928), and Franklin D. Roosevelt (1945). An earlier monument to Ralph Waldo Emerson dating to 1903, as well as the name Bohemian Grove associated with the 1892 encampment of the Bohemian Club of San Francisco, testify to the redwood forest's long-standing cultural associations. While most small-scale built features have been lost since the end of the historic period, the cultural landscape still conveys the overall historic intent to harmonize built features with the natural environment, an effort that became a hallmark of



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conservation practice and park design across the nation during the first half of the twentieth century.

**Significance in the Area of Architecture**  
National Register Criterion C

The buildings and structures surviving at Muir Woods National Monument from the historic period (1907-1947) are additionally significant as representative examples of rustic design employed by the National Park Service prior to World War II (NPS rustic style). They represent the system-wide effort at harmonizing built features to the natural environment and cultural setting as documented in "National Park Service Rustic Architecture 1916-1942" (William C. Tweed, Laura E. Soulliere, and Henry G. Law, 1977), and *Presenting Nature: The Historic Landscape Design of the National Park Service, 1916-1942* (Linda Flint McClelland, 1993). The buildings and structures are concentrated in the Utility and Entrance Areas at the south end of the monument, along the Main Trail, and on the Ben Johnson Trail.

The development of a rustic style within the National Park Service is categorized into a formative period between the years 1918 and 1928. During this time, a rustic design vocabulary was institutionalized as a means to achieve the ideals of landscape preservation and harmonization, in which built features became subordinate to the natural environment. Buildings, structures, and small scale features typically employed native stone and wood materials, and were sensitive to local building traditions, often with markedly romanticized references to primitive building techniques epitomized by log construction. After 1928 through the beginning of World War II, National Park Service architects and landscape architects executed plans for vast improvements made possible by federal work-relief programs such as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), designed in what has been identified as the mature phase of the so-called NPS rustic style. NPS Director Arno Cammerer summed up this design philosophy in 1935:

*In any area in which the preservation of the beauty of Nature is a primary purpose, every modification of the natural landscape, whether it be by construction of a road or erection of a shelter, is an intrusion. A basic objective of those who are entrusted with development of such areas for the human uses for which they are established, is, it seems to me, to hold these intrusions to a minimum and so to design them that, besides being attractive to look upon, they appear to belong to and be part of their settings. (Arno B. Cammerer, Foreword to Albert Good, *Park Structures and Facilities*, 1935)*

The buildings and structures at Muir Woods National Monument have their origins in the formative period of the NPS rustic style, although a tradition of rustic design had been established earlier by William Kent and the Mt. Tamalpais and Muir Woods Railway Company in the development of structures outside of the monument boundary, such as the Muir Woods Inn



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(not extant). With its proximity to San Francisco, location of the NPS regional design office, and its association with the well-connected William Kent, Muir Woods enjoyed close attention by NPS architects and landscape architects who were responsible for developments at the other national parks in the region such as Yosemite and Sequoia. The first building constructed within the monument by the NPS was the Custodian's Cottage (Superintendent's Residence), built in 1922. Here, NPS designers established a motif of exposed timber framing that was used on all subsequent monument buildings through 1940. The motif was similar to that used at the Giant Forest Village complex at Sequoia National Park developed the year before, but with milled timber framing rather than logs, perhaps a nod to the less remote setting of Muir Woods. The small residence with its log pergola, shingle infill, white-painted multi-paned casement windows, and stone foundation was designed by NPS landscape architect Daniel Hull, reflecting the expansive role of landscape architects in park design and development. A small garage was built along with the residence in 1922, which was replaced in 1931 with a larger garage (present Superintendent's Garage), attributed to the design of NPS Landscape Architect Thomas Carpenter. The garage maintained the timber framing motif, but substituted plank infill for the shingles used on the residence.

With the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and other federal work-relief programs in the Mount Tamalpais park area between 1933 and 1941, Muir Woods underwent the busiest period of development in its history. The remaining buildings and structures erected prior to 1947 all date from this time, and reflect the mature phase of the NPS rustic style and continued use of the exposed timber framing motif. Buildings include the Equipment Shed, built in 1934 by the Civil Works Administration according to plans developed by the San Francisco district office (individual designer not known), and two wings to the Superintendent's Residence: one built by the CCC in 1935 to the design of NPS Regional Architect Edward A. Nickel and Regional Landscape Architect W. G. Carnes; and a 1939 addition, designed by NPS Assistant Architect L. H. Skidmore and built through the Public Works Administration. Aside from changes to exterior color and the addition of a deck adjoining the Superintendent's Residence, these buildings remain largely unaltered.

In addition to buildings, five extant bridges are representative of the NPS rustic style. Most notable is the Fern Creek Bridge, built in 1934 by the Civil Works Administration and the CCC according to plans by Regional Architect Nickel. The bridge, a vehicular, single-arch concrete structure with rough stone facing, employs concealed modern construction that was a hallmark of the mature phase of the NPS rustic style. A prototype for this design was the Ahwahnee Bridge over the Merced River in Yosemite National Park, built in 1928. The other bridges, built during the 1930s probably by the CCC, include two single-log footbridges on the Ben Johnson Trail, and two wood vehicular stringer bridges on the Main Trail with plank flooring, log curbs, and rubble stone abutments. These structures all display the hallmarks of the NPS rustic style through their visual harmonization with the natural environment. The bridges remain largely as constructed.



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The Administration-Concession Building, the largest building within the nominated property, is significant in the area of architecture for illustrating the shift in the NPS rustic style during the late 1930s away from romanticized, primitive characteristics toward a more streamlined rustic style, foretelling park architecture of the post-war years. In addition to the increasing need for economy of labor in the dwindling years of the CCC, this shift reflected growing appreciation within the NPS for the Modern Movement, with its emphasis on expression of volume and structure, functionalism, lack of ornament, and disdain for romanticism. The design of the Administration-Concession Building was developed by the NPS San Francisco Regional Office, with Thomas Vint, Chief of Planning, and C. L. Gable, Chief Park Operators Division, involved in the planning, and Regional Architect Edward Nickel probably responsible for the final plan. It was constructed under private contract through the Public Works Administration. The building, a two-winged low-slung structure with a broad hipped roof, departed from the exposed timber framing motif and instead used wide clapboards, large expanses of glazing, and doors with horizontal muntins. It consisted of two wings—one for the concessionaire and one for the NPS administrative offices—and an open connecting porch. In overall massing, lines, and details, it was a stylistic precursor to the Administration Building completed at Olympic National Park the following year. The Muir Woods building also featured a stylized rustic terrace, built by the CCC in 1941 that featured paving of redwood rounds, massive redwood benches, and smoothly-finished log curbing on the approach walks. After the end of the period of significance, the terrace was replaced (or concealed) with a raised deck, and a number of alterations were made to the building, including two rear shed additions and enclosing of the connecting porch between the two wings. Despite these changes, the overall massing, siding, and fenestration remain largely intact. The interior has been substantially altered, although the concession wing appears to retain its original knotty pine paneling.

The landscape of Muir Woods historically illustrated characteristics of the NPS rustic style through naturalistic design of trails and roads, use of natural stone for Redwood Creek revetments, and a pervasive log motif applied to footbridges, signs, gates, benches, and drinking fountains. While overall the landscape retains its natural appearance, including the redwood forest, trails, and stone revetments, the loss of several rustic buildings, most of the log footbridges, and all of the small-scale log features has altered the historic rustic design. The designed landscape of Muir Woods therefore does not retain sufficient integrity to illustrate the NPS rustic style under Criterion C in the area of landscape architecture.



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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Muir Woods National Monument  
Marin County, California

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**Major Bibliographical References**

Auwaerter, John E. and John F. Sears. "Historic Resource Study for Muir Woods National Monument." Boston: National Park Service, Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, 2006. Much of the documentation in this nomination is taken from the chapter by John Sears entitled: "Muir Woods, William Kent, and the American Conservation Movement."

Library of Congress, American Memory Website. "The Evolution of the American Conservation Movement 1850-1920." Accessed 5/22/2006.  
<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amrvhtml/conshome.html>

McClelland, Linda Flint. *Presenting Nature: The Historic Landscape Design of the National Park Service, 1916-1942*. Washington, D. C.: Department of the Interior, National Register of Historic Places Program, 1993.

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[http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online\\_books/thematic87/theme3-32.htm](http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/thematic87/theme3-32.htm)

Rothman, Hal. *Preserving Different Pasts: The American National Monuments*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1989.

Tweed, William C., Laura E. Soulliere, and Henry G. Law. "National Park Service Rustic Architecture: 1916-1942." Unpublished, report, National Park Service Western Regional Office, February 1977.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

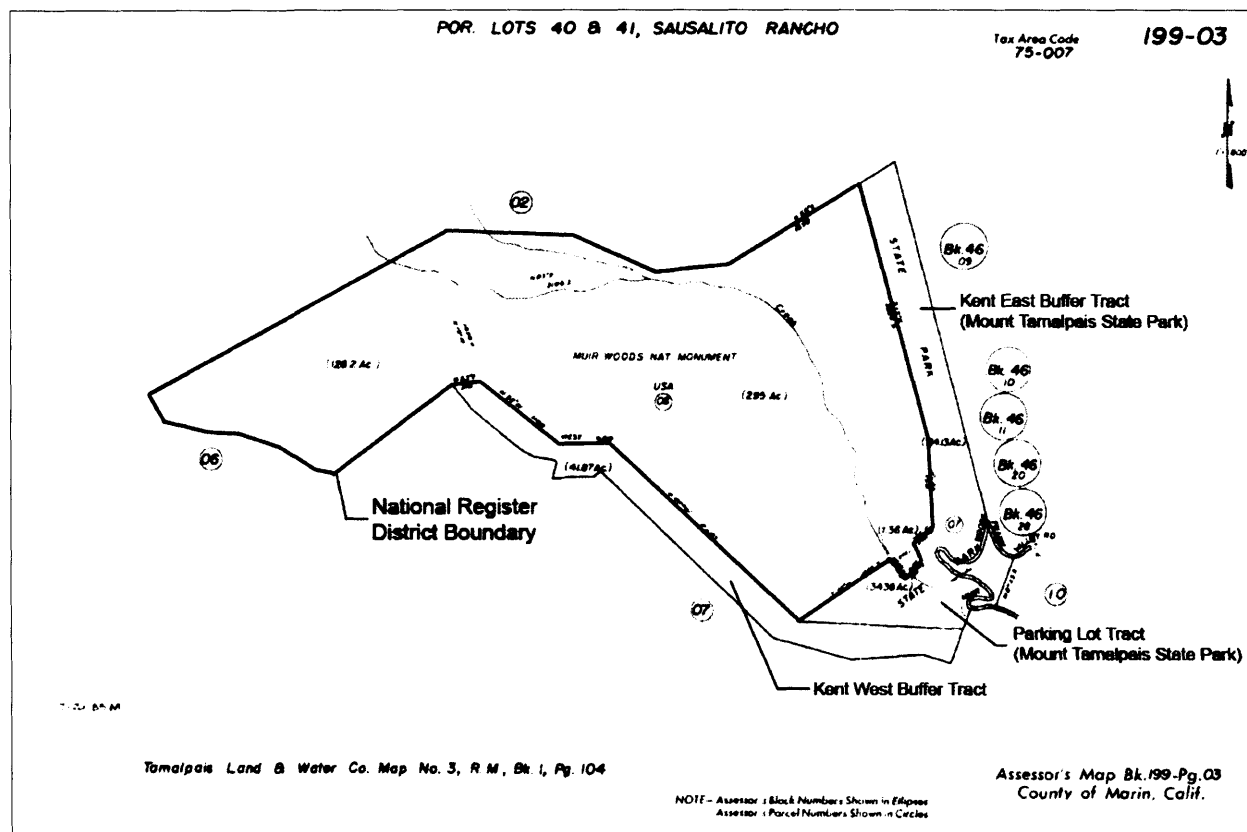
National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

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Marin County, California

Section number 10 Page 1

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary of the 427-acre nominated property forms an irregular polygon corresponding on all but the southwest side with the limits of Parcel 08 of Book 199, Page 03 of the current (2005) Assessor's Map, County of Marin, California. The portion of Parcel 08 excluded from the nominated property is the Kent West Buffer Tract (42 acres). Parcel 08 is illustrated below with the boundary of the nominated property. (This map does not show all tax parcels constituting the existing Muir Woods administrative park unit.)



**Boundary Justification**

The boundary of the nominated property coincides with the National Monument boundary as it existed at the end of the period of significance in 1947. All land within this boundary today remains federally owned and under the administration of the National Park Service, as it was in



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1947. The National Register boundary encompasses the original (1908) monument tract; the Kent, Railway, and Hamilton Tracts incorporated into the monument in 1921; and the Entrance Tract incorporated into the monument in 1935. The boundary encompasses the primary resources associated with the property's significance in the areas of conservation and architecture: Redwood Canyon and the heart of the redwood forest along the canyon floor, including the two major spaces—Cathedral Grove and Bohemian Grove; the main trail and primary side trails (Hillside, Ocean View, Ben Johnson, and Plevin Cut Trails); monuments to Ralph Waldo Emerson, Gifford Pinchot, William Kent, and Franklin D. Roosevelt; the utility area with garages and former superintendent's residence dating mostly to the CCC era; and the main visitor area centered at the Administration-Concession Building built in 1940.

The nominated property excludes four tracts to the west and south that are currently within the limits of the Muir Woods National Monument administrative unit of Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Of these, the following three tracts are part of the land presently having National Monument designation as part of Muir Woods National Monument: 1. The Kent West Buffer Tract (42 acres added in 1951), 2. The Kent Entrance Tract (eleven acres added in 1951); and 3. The Church Tract (six acres added 1958). These three tracts were excluded because they were added to the National Monument after the end of the period of significance for purposes other than preserving old-growth redwood forest: primarily as buffer and operational support lands. The fourth tract, Camino del Canyon (50 acres, acquired between 1974 and 1984), was incorporated into the Muir Woods National Monument administrative unit in 1972, but never given National Monument status. It does not contain redwood forest and is mostly unrelated to the conservation theme of the monument proper, having been developed for seasonal residences and youth camps.

The nominated property excludes two adjoining parcels that are part of Mount Tamalpais State Park but were historically closely associated with Muir Woods National Monument: 1. The state-owned National Park Service-leased Parking Lot Tract at the main vehicular (south) entrance to Muir Woods; and 2. The former Mount Tamalpais and Muir Woods Railway Tract at the former rail (north) entrance to Muir Woods. The Parking Lot Tract, although the first point of entry for most visitors today as well as historically, was excluded because it had not been designated part of the National Monument during the period of significance, and because it lacks historic integrity due to modern alterations and new additions. Despite these changes, the parking lot parcel remains an important part of the larger setting of the nominated property.

The former Mount Tamalpais and Muir Woods Railway Tract was excluded from the nominated property because it had also not been designated part of the National Monument during the period of significance, and because it lacks historic integrity. While most of the railway structures (inn, cabins, tracks) had been removed during the period of significance, the parcel was redeveloped by the Civilian Conservation Corps as the Muir Woods (later Mount Tamalpais State Park) Camp beginning in 1933. The camp buildings were removed at or very shortly after the end of the period of significance and the site redeveloped as Camp Alice Eastwood.



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Despite these changes, there remain many traces of historic development by the railway and CCC on the parcel that may provide important information on the historic use and operation of Muir Woods National Monument. The parcel, which retains the historic system of roads and rail bed, also remains an important part of the setting of the nominated property.

In addition to the Parking Lot and former Mount Tamalpais and Muir Woods Railway Tracts, there are three additional parcels and areas within Mount Tamalpais State Park that are part of the larger setting of the nominated property due to their proximity and inclusion of trails that extend into the nominated property. These include the Newlands-Magee Tract (532 acres), the Kent East Buffer Tract (34 acres), and the Kent Canyon area (former Brazil Ranch/Ranches X & Y).



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**List of Photographs**

All photographs keyed to sketch map by letters **a** through **cc**.

Information common to all photographs:

1. Muir Woods National Monument
2. Marin County, California
3. Name of photographer: Heather A. Miller
4. Date of photograph: February 2007
5. Location of original negative: digital (.tif) files on CD, Golden Gate National Recreation Area.
6. All photographs printed to National Register permanence standard using Epson UltraChrome pigmented ink on Epson Premium Luster Photo Paper.

**Sites**

CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods1\_redwoodforestoverview.tif  
View looking northwest across Muir Woods

CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods2\_BohemianGrove.tif  
View looking north into Bohemian Grove along Bohemian Grove trail.

CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods3\_CathedralGrove.tif  
View looking north into Cathedral Grove along main trail.

**Buildings**

CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods4a\_SuperintendentsResidence.tif  
The north wing (1935) of Superintendent's Residence looking southwest.

CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods4b\_SuperintendentsResidence.tif  
The west front of the Superintendent's Residence looking northeast at the original (1922) wing on the right and the 1939 wing on the left.

CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods5\_SuperintendentsStorageShed.tif  
The Superintendent's Storage Shed looking southeast.

CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods6\_SuperintendentsGarage.tif  
The Superintendent's Garage looking north from Service Drive.



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Muir Woods National Monument  
Marin County, California

Section number 11 Page 2

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CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods7\_EquipmentShed.tif

The Equipment Shed looking northeast from Service Drive.

CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods8a\_AdministrationConcessionBuilding.tif

The front (west side) of the Administration-Concession Building looking south, showing non-historic deck.

CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods8b\_AdministrationConcessionBuilding.tif

The north side of the Administration-Concession Building looking south.

CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods9\_NewMainComfortStation.tif

The west side of the New Main Comfort Station (upper restroom) looking northeast.

CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods10\_TrailerOffice.tif

The trailer office looking northwest, with the Administration-Concession building in the background.

CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods11-12\_PowerAndHandToolSheds.tif

The power tool shed (right) and hand tool shed (left) looking north, with the equipment shed in the background.

**Structures**

CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods13\_NorthStepsToSuperintendentsResidence.tif

The north steps to the Superintendents Residence looking southeast from the service drive spur.

CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods14a\_SuperintendentsResidenceStoneWallsSteps.tif

The stone walls and steps leading to the south entrance of the Superintendent's Residence looking northeast.

CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods14b\_SuperintendentsResidenceStoneWallsSteps.tif

The lower stone wall along the service drive below the Superintendent's Residence looking northwest.

CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods15\_ServiceDrive.tif

The service drive looking north near the Administration-Concession Building.

CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods16\_MainTrail.tif

The Main Trail looking north near Cathedral Grove, with Redwood Creek at left.



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CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods17\_FernCreekTrail.tif

Fern Creek trail looking east beyond the William Kent Memorial.

CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods18\_CampAliceEastwoodTrail.tif

Camp Alice Eastwood Trail (original road to Muir Inn) looking north near the mail trail.

CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods19\_OceanViewTrail.tif

The Ocean View Trail looking northeast within Muir Woods National Monument.

CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods20\_BohemianGroveTrail.tif

The Bohemian Grove Trail south of Bohemian Grove looking southwest with Redwood Creek to the left.

CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods21\_HillsideTrail.tif

The Hillside Trail looking southwest approximately half-way on the trail with the canyon floor to the left.

CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods22\_BenJohnsonTrail.tif

The Ben Johnson Trail looking west approximately half-way on the trail.

CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods23\_BenJohnsonTrailSpur.tif

The Ben Johnson Trail spur looking southwest at the lower portion showing steps.

CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods24\_DipseaTrail.tif

The Dipsea Trail looking southwest within the Hamilton Tract.

CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods25\_DipseaFireRoad.tif

The Dipsea Fire Road looking southwest within the Hamilton Tract.

CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods26\_MainTrailWoodenBridge#1.tif

The wooden (plank) bridge on the main trail south of Cathedral Grove, looking west toward Redwood Creek.

CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods27\_MainTrailWoodenBridge#2.tif

The wooden (plank) bridge on the main trail north of Cathedral Grove, looking west toward Redwood Creek.

CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods28\_FernCreekBridge.tif

Fern Creek Bridge on the main trail looking southwest (downstream) toward Redwood Creek.

CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods29\_BenJohnsonTrailLowerLogBridge.tif



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The lower log bridge on the Ben Johnson Trail looking west (up-trail).

CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods30\_BenJohnsonTrailMiddleLogBridge.tif

The middle log bridge on the Ben Johnson Trail looking east (down-trail).

CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods31\_BenJohnsonTrailUpperLogBridge.tif

The upper (double) dog bridge on the Ben Johnson Trail looking west (up-trail).

CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods32\_LogCheckDam.tif

The log check dam in Redwood Creek looking east from the Bohemian Grove Trail.

CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods33\_StoneRevetments.tif

Representative view of the system of stone revetments lining Redwood Creek, view looking east toward the main trail.

CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods34\_RedwoodCrossSectionPavilion.tif

The redwood cross-section pavilion looking north with the main trail boardwalk in the foreground.

CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods35\_Bridge#1.tif

Non-historic bridge #1 looking north from the Main Trail.

CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods36\_Bridge#2.tif

Non-historic bridge #2 looking west from the Main Trail toward the Bohemian Grove Trail.

CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods37\_Bridge#3.tif

Non-historic bridge #3 looking north with the Main Trail at right.

CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods38\_Bridge#4.tif

Non-historic bridge #4 looking west from the Main Trail toward the Ben Johnson Trail.

CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods39\_UpperRockCheckDam.tif

Remains of the upper rock check dam, beneath and upstream of Bridge # (partial view).

CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods40\_MiddleRockCheckDam.tif

Remains of the middle rock check dam.

CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods41\_HistoryofMuirWoodsPavilion.tif

Non-historic pavilion containing interpretive panel on history of Muir Woods, view looking north from main trail.



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CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods42\_Entrance Gate.tif

Reproduction (non-historic) entrance gate (arch) looking north with the main trail in the background.

CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods43\_SteelWaterTank.tif

Non-historic steel water tank looking southeast.

**Objects**

CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods44\_BenJohnsonTrailLogBench.tif

Log bench on the Ben Johnson Trail looking southeast.

CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods45\_EmersonMemorial.tif

The Emerson Memorial (brass plaque and tree) looking east from Redwood Creek.

CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods46\_GiffordPinchotMemorial.tif

The Gifford Pinchot Memorial showing boulder with brass plaque and associated redwood tree in background.

CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods47\_WilliamKentMemorial.tif

The William Kent Memorial showing boulder with brass plaque looking southeast; associated fallen Douglas-fir to the left.

CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods48\_FranklinDRooseveltMemorial.tif

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial looking northwest from Main Trail in Cathedral Grove.

CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods49\_BicentennialTreeMarker.tif

The Bicentennial tree marker looking from Bohemian Grove Trail.

**Historic Photographs**

CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods50\_MainTrail1928.tif

View of Muir Woods along the Main Trail in 1928. Courtesy Marin County Free Library, San Rafael, California, photograph 1639.002.002, Anne T. Kent California History Room.

CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods51\_NPSstaffMainGate1941.tif

National Park Service staff at the main gate, 1941. National Archives.

CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods52\_FDR-UNCIOMemorialService1945.tif



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Section number 11 Page 6

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The memorial service for Franklin D. Roosevelt held by the United Nations Conference on International Organization on May 19, 1945 in Cathedral Grove. National Archives.

CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods53\_PinchotMemorialPostCardc1941.tif  
Post card of the Gifford Pinchot Memorial (1910), c.1941. National Archives.

CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods54\_SuperintendentsResidencec1934.tif  
The Superintendent's Residence, photograph of original (1922) section looking southwest, 1934. Park Archives, Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

CA\_MarinCounty\_MuirWoods55\_Administration-ConcessionBuilding1941.tif  
The Administration-Concession Building, view of concession wing and adjoining rustic landscape, 1941.



# National Register Nomination for Muir Woods National Monument

## District Sketch Map



National Park Service  
Olmsted Center for  
Landscape Preservation  
[www.nps.gov/olc/p](http://www.nps.gov/olc/p)

In cooperation with:  
Fainty College of Architecture  
School of Environmental  
Science and Forestry  
Syracuse, New York

### SCENARIOS

Historic Resource Study for  
Muir Woods National Monument (2006)

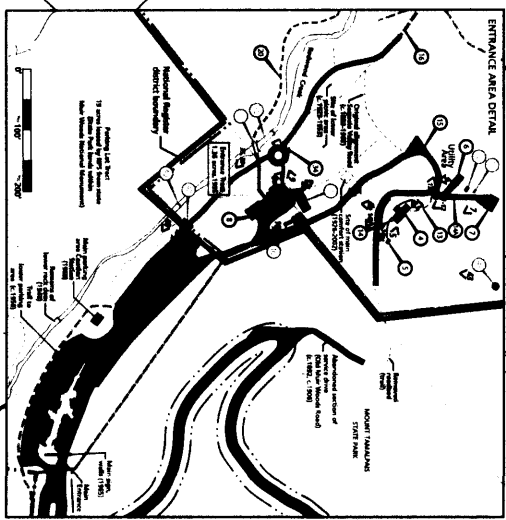
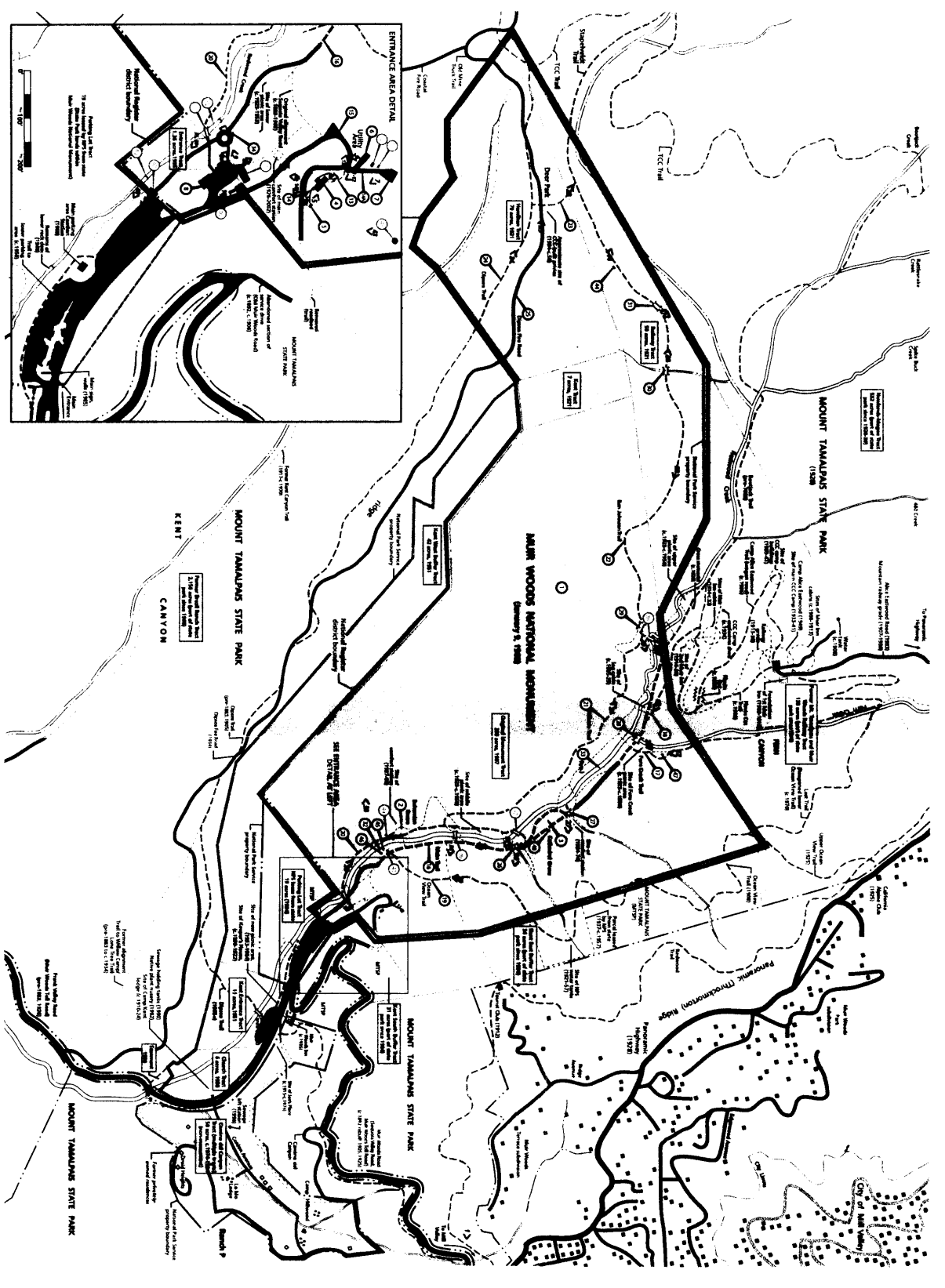
DESIGNED BY  
John Auerbach  
March 11, 2007

### LEGEND

- Contributing Resource
- Non-contributing Resource
- Photo key direction of view
- National Register district boundary
- National Monument boundary
- Property boundary
- Tract boundary
- Wooded forest
- Douglas fir forest
- Other forest cover
- Openland
- Grassland
- Road
- Unimproved trail
- Trail with boardwalk
- Building
- Bridge
- Creek
- Intermittent creek
- Removed feature
- Date feature built/removed

### NOTES

1. Features within unimproved property lines
2. All features shown in approximate scale 1" = 1 mile
3. Solid red lines, dashed, grey, and 1/2" = 1 mile
4. Shaded features removed prior to 1910
5. Shaded features removed prior to 1910





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National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 07001396

Date Listed: 1/9/2008

Muir Woods National Monument  
Property Name

Marin  
County

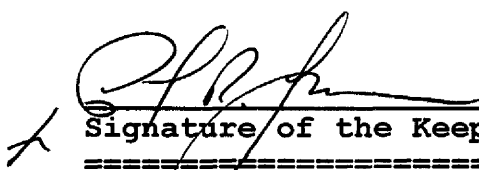
CA  
State

N/A

Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

1/9/2008  
Date of Action

-----

Amended Items in Nomination:

Resource Count:

The count should be revised to add *two (2) contributing structures*, bringing the total number of contributing resources to *thirty-five (35)*. [This corresponds to the nomination's narrative description.]

U. T. M. Coordinates:

The correct U. T. M. Coordinate for the property are:

A	10	535117	4194318
B	10	536067	4194888
C	10	537464	4195061
D	10	537769	4193954
E	10	537647	4193751
F	10	537337	4193624
G	10	535330	4194117

These clarifications were confirmed with the NPS FPO office.

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DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)







MNR Woods, Bohemian Grove, Marin County, CA, Heister A.

Miller, 2/15/2007, View North, # 2.







MNR HOOS. CATHEDRAL GROVE, MAEN COU 47",

CA. HEATHER A. MILLER, 2/15/2002, VIEW

V222, # 3.







Muir Woods, SUPERINTENDENT'S RESIDENCE, MARIN COUNTY, CA,

LEATHER A. MILLER, 2/15/2007, VIEW SOUTH, # 4a.







MUIR WOODS, SUPERINTENDENTS' RESIDENCE, MARIN COUNTY,  
CA, HEATHER A. MILLER, 2/15/2007, VIEW NORTHEAST,  
#46.







WIND WOODS. SUPERINTENDENT'S STORAGE SHED, MARIN COUNTY, CA.

HEATHER A. MILLER, 2/15/2007, VIEW SOUTHEAST, # 5.







Muir Woods, Superintendent's Garage, Marin County, Ca.

Heather A. Miller, 2/15/2022, View Northeast, #6







MAIR HOOPS, EQUIPMENT SHED, MARIN COUNTY, CA, LEATHER A.

MILLER, 2/15/2007, 1/2N NORTHEAST, #7.







Muir Woods. ADMINISTRATION CONCESSION BUILDING, MARIN COUNTY, CA.

HEATHER A. MILLER, 2/15/2007, VIEW SOUTH, # 8a.







Wm Woods. ADMINISTRATION CONCESSION BUILDING, HAZEN COUNTY, CO.

LESTER A. MILLER, 2/15/2021, NEW SOUTH, IL 80.







MAR WOODS, NEW MAIN COMFORT STATION, MARIN COUNTY, CA.

HEATHER A. MILLER, 2/15/2007, View Northeast, # 9.







MUR WOODS, TRAILER OFFICE, MARIN COUNTY, CA, HEATHER A. MILLER,

2/15/2007, VIEW NORTH, # 10.







MUR WOODS, POWER AND HAND TOOL SHEDS, MARIN COUNTY, CA.

HEATHER A. MILLER, 2/15/2002, VIEW NORTH, #11 AND #12.







MYR WOODS, NORTH STEPS TO SUPERVISED -  
IN RESIDENCE, MARIN COUNTY, CA, HEATHER  
A. MILLER, 3/15/2007, VIEW SOUTHWEST,

213.







112 NOOBS. SUPERVISENT'S RESIDENCE STONE WALL, MARIN

10444. CA, HEATH A. MILLER, 2/15/2007, VIEW NORTHWEST,

# 120.







MUR WOODS. SUPERINTENDENT'S RESIDENCE STONE WALL, MARIN COUNTY,

CA. HEATHER A. MILLER, 2/15/2007, VIEW NORTHWEST, # 146.







MNR WOODS. SERVICE DRIVE, MARIN COUNTY, CA. HEATHER A. MILLER,

2/15/2002, VIEW NORTHEAST, # 15.







MUR WOODS, MAIN TRAIL, MARIN COUNTY, CA, HEATHER A. MILLER,

2/15/2007, VIEW NORTH, # 16.







MUR WOODS, EEN CREEK TRAIL, MAEIN COUNTY,

CA, HEATHER A. MILLER, VEN EAST, #. 17.







YMC WOODS, CANDACE EASTWOOD TRAIL, MARIN COUNTY, CA,

HEATHER A. MILLER, 2/15/2007, VIEW NORTH. 2' 18.







Woods, Ocean View Trail, Marin County,

CA, Heather A. Miller, 2/15/2002, View

North, # 19.







MNR Woods, BOHEMIAN GROVE TRAIL, MAEN COUNTY, PA, HEATHER

A. MILLER, 2/15/2007, View South, # 20.







Muir Woods, Hillside Trail, Marin County, CA, Feather A. Miller,

2/15/2001. View South, # 21.







MUIR WOODS, BEN JOHNSON TRAIL, MARIN COUNTY,

CA. CLAUDE A. MILLER, 2/15/2003, VIEW

NORTHWEST, # 22.







MUR DOGS, BEN JOURNAL "RAIL SPUR, MARIN COUNTY, CA. WEATHER

A. MILLER, 2/15/2007. VIEW WEST, # 23.







MR WOODS, DISPER TEAM, MARIN COUNTY,

CA. LEATHER A. MILLER, 2/15/2007, 1211

SOUTH, # 24.







MIR Woods. DIPSEA FIRE ROAD, MARIN COUNTY, CA. LEATHER A.

MILLER, 2/15/2007, VIEW SOUTH, #25.







Muir Woods, MAIN TRAIL WOODEN BRIDGE # 1, MARIN COUNTY, CA.

DEATHER A. MILLER, 2/15/2007, VIEW NORTHWEST, # 26.







MUR WOODS, MAIN TRAIL WOODEN BRIDGE # 2, MARIN COUNTY, CA.

HEATHER A. MILLER, 2/15/2007, VIEW WEST, # 27.







MUR WOODS, FERN CREEK BRIDGE, MARIN COUNTY, CA, HEATHER A.

MILLER, 2/15/2007, VIEW NORTHWEST, # 28.







MNR Woods, Ben Johnson trail lower log bridge, Harin County,

Dr. Heather A. Miller, 2/15/2007, View Northwest, #29,







NIMR WOODS, BEN JOHNSON MIDDLE LOG BRIDGE, MARIN COUNTY, CA.

HEATHER A. MILLER, 2/15/2007, VIEW SOUTHEAST, # 30.







MUMR WOODS, BEN JOHNSON TRAIL UPPER LOG BRIDGE, MARIN  
COUNTY, CA, HEATHER A. MILLER, 2/13/2007, VIEW NORTHWEST,  $\pm 31$ .







Muir Woods, Log Creek Dam, Marin County, CA, Heather A.

Miller, 2/15/2007, View East, # 32







WINDY HILLS, STONE REVENEMENTS, MARIN COUNTY, CA, HEATHER A.

MILLER, 2/15/2007, VIEW EAST, # 33.







NMR Woods, Redwood Cross Section Pavilion, Marin County, CA,

HEATHER A. MILLER. 2/15/2007, VIEW EAST, # 34.







Muir Woods, Bridge #1, Marin County, CA. Heather A. Miller,

2/5/2003, View Northwest, #35.







MUR Woods, BRIDGE # 2, MARIN County, CA. HEATHER A.

MILLER, 2/15/2007, VIEW WEST, # 36.







MUS WOODS, BRIDGE # 3, MARIN COUNTY, CA. LEATHER A.

MUS, 2/15/2003, VEN NORTHWEST, # 33.







MAR WOODS. BRIDGE # 4, MARIN COUNTY, CA, HEATHER A. MILLER,

2/15/2007, VIEW NORTHWEST, # 38.







MILL WOODS, UPPER ROCK CHECK DAM, MARIN COUNTY, CA, HEATHER

A. MILLER, 2/15/2002, VIEW NORTHWEST, # 39.







MUR WOODS, MIDDLE ROCK CHECK DAM, MARIN COUNTY, CA,

HEATHER A. MILLER, 2/15/2007, VIEW NORTH, 4 Y.O.







MUR Woods, History of Mur Woods Pavilion, Marin County,

CA, Heather A. Miller, 2/15/2007, View Northeast, #41.





MUIR WOODS  
NATIONAL MONUMENT

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR



MNR Woods. ENTRANCE GATE, MARIN COUNTY, CA, HEATHER L.

MILLER, 2/15/2007. VIEW NORTH, # 42.







MUIR WOODS, STEEL WATER TANK, MARIN COUNTY, CA. HEATHER A. MILLER,

2/15/2007, VIEW NORTHEAST, # 43.







Muir Woods, BEN JOHNSON TRAIL LOG BENCH, MARIN County, CA.

HEATHER A. MILLER, 2/15/2007, VIEW SOUTHWEST, # 44.





1803  
EMERSON  
1903



Muir Woods, Emerson Memorial, Marin County, CA, Heather A. Miller,

2/15/2007, View East, # 45.





THIS TREE IS DEDICATED TO  
GIFFORD PINCHOT  
FRIEND OF THE FOREST  
CONSERVER OF THE COMMONWEALTH  
MAY 1900



Muir Woods, GIFFORD PINCHOT MEMORIAL, MARIN County Ca. HEATER

A. MILLER, 2/15/2002, VIEW WEST, # 46.



WILLIAM KENT

WHO GAVE THESE WOODS AND  
OTHER NATURAL BEAUTY SPOTS  
TO PRESERVE THEM FOR PEOPLE  
WHO LOVE THE OUT-OF-DOORS

1864

1926

FOREMAN CARPENTERS CO.



MUR WOODS, WILLIAM KENT MEMORIAL, MARIN COUNTY, CA. HEATHER A. MILL-

LER, 2/15/2007, VIEW SOUTH, # 47.



Here in this grove of towering redwoods,  
Assembled the forty-four members of the United Nations  
Conference on International Organization  
Met on May 19, 1945  
To honor the memory of Franklin Delano Roosevelt,  
Thirty-first President of the United States,  
Chief Architect of the United Nations  
And Apostle of lasting peace for all mankind



Muir Woods, FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL, MARIN COUNTY, CA,

HEATHER A. MILLER, 2/15/2007, VIEW NORTHEAST, # 48.



BICENTENNIAL TREE



AS THIS PEARWOOD TREE BEGAN  
ITS LIFE, ACROSS THE CONTINENT,  
A REVOLUTION OCCURRED WHICH  
TRANSFORMED 13 COLONIES INTO  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

A TRIBUTE TO THE UNITED STATES IN  
CELEBRATION OF 200 YEARS EXISTENCE



N. R Woods, BICENTENNIAL TRAIL MARKER, MARIN COUNTY, CA.

HEATHER A. MILLER, 2/15/2007, VIEW WEST, # 49







Muir Woods, Main Trail 1928, Marin County, CA.

Photographer unknown, 1928, View unknown, # 50.





MUIR ~ WOODS  
NATIONAL MONUMENT  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ~ DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR



MUR WOODS, NDS STATE AT MAIN GATE 1941, MARIN COUNTY, CA,

PHOTOGRAPHER UNKNOWN, 12/1941, VIEW NORTH, # 51.







Muir Woods, FDR - UNCLIO MEMORIAL SERVICE

1945, MARIN COUNTY, CA, PHOTOGRAPHER

UNKNOWN, 5/19/1945, VIEW WEST. # 52.





*Redwood  
dedicated to  
Gifford Pinchot  
Muir Woods National  
Monument, Calif.*

*Zan 49*



WINE WOODS, PINCHOT MONUMENT POST CARD

C. 1941, MARIN COUNTY, CA, PHOTOGRAPHER

UNKNOWN, C. 1941, VIEW WEST, #53.







MUR WOODS, SUPERINTENDENT'S RESIDENCE 1934, MARIN  
COUNTY, CA, PHOTOGRAPHER UNKNOWN, 1934, VIEW SOUTHWEST,  
# 54.







Muir Woods. ADMINISTRATION CONCESSION BUILDING, MARIN COUNTY, CA.

PHOTOGRAPHER UNKNOWN, 4/30/1941, VIEW EAST, #55.