

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

732

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination 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 an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and area of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use typewriter, word processor or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Altair Campground Community Kitchen

other name/site number Altaire Campground Community Kitchen (USGS name spelling correction 2004)

2. Location

street & number Altair Campground is roughly 12 miles S.W. of Port Angeles, 4 miles

☐ not for publication

south of Highway 101: Elwha Sub-district

city or town Olympic National Park Headquarters, Port Angeles

☒ vicinity

state Washington

code WA

county Clallam

code 009

zip code 98362

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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.)

[Signature]  
Signature of certifying official/Title

4-25-07  
Date

WASHINGTON STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

State of Federal agency and bureau

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

[Signature]  
Signature of certifying official/Title

6-8-07  
Date

National Park Service

State of Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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] Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

7/13/2007

## 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 |
|--------------|-----------------|
|              | buildings       |
|              | sites           |
| 1            | structures      |
|              | objects         |
| 1            | Total           |

### Name of related multiple property listing

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

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

Historic Resources of Olympic National Park

## 6. Function or Use

### Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation: Outdoor recreation;  
Other: Outdoor kitchen-shelter

### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation: Outdoor recreation;  
Other: Outdoor kitchen-shelter

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Rustic

### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete  
walls N/A  
roof Wood Shake  
other Wood Log

### Narrative Description

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

Summary: The Altair Campground Community Kitchen is a rectangular, 1-story, log, Rustic Style open-air shelter with a hip roof. The wood shake hip roof is supported by peeled logs, set on a concrete foundation. An end chimney is built of coursed stone set in mortar. The kitchen is located in the Olympic National Park Altair Campground, a forested area approximately 4 miles south of Highway 101, and approximately 12 miles southwest of Port Angeles. The kitchen is in good condition and has had very little alteration (other than the concrete piers) since constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1935. The building has integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

---

**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.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Criterion A: Politics/Government

Criterion C: Architecture

**Period of Significance**

circa 1935 - 1942

**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 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.

**Significant Dates**

1935

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

**Cultural Affiliation****Architect/Builder**

Civilian Conservation Corps

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

---

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

---

**Bibliography**

(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)
- ☐ 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:

Altair Campground Community Kitchen  
Name of Property

Clallam County, WA  
County and State

---

## 10. Geographical Data

---

**Acreage of Property:** Less than one acre

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

|      |        |         |   |
|------|--------|---------|---|
| 1 10 | 455876 | 5317540 | 3 |
| zone | eastng | northng |   |
| 2    |        |         | 4 |

— See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary is formed by lines completing a rectangle 100 feet out from the sides of the building.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the structure, a portion of the campground (with which the kitchen has been historically associated), and a section of dense forest and hillside to the south, to convey a sense of the historic setting.

---

## 11. Form Prepared By

---

name/title Gail E.H. Evans, Historian / Stephanie Toothman, Regional Historian(1986), Gretchen Luxenberg, Historian (1998), and Jacilee Wray, Anthropologist (2005).

organization National Park Service, Columbia Cascade Support Office

date 1986/1998

street & number 909 1st Avenue

telephone (206) 220-4138

city or town Seattle

State Washington

zip code 98104-1060

---

## Additional Documentation

---

Submit the following items with the completed form:

### Continuation Sheets

### Maps

A **7.5 minute USGS map** 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 SHPO or FPO.)

name

street & number

telephone

city or town

state

zip code

---

**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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

# **National Register of Historic Places**

## **Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 and 8      **Altair Campground Community Kitchen: Clallam County, WA**      Page 1

---

**Narrative Description:** The Altair Campground Community Kitchen was constructed by CCC corpsmen (company 946) based at the Elwha CCC Camp, presumably in the opening months of 1935. Sited in a wooded setting about 100 feet from the Elwha River and within the Altair Campground (named after the destroyer tender, USS Altair, whose crewmen came here for R and R in the 1920s or early 30s). The community kitchen is approximately 27' x 17' and 1-story in height with a concrete pier foundation. The structure has a wood shaked hipped roof that has slight overhangs and exposed rafters. A stone and mortar fireplace and chimney for cooking was set in the central area of the shelter; the chimney rises up through the wood roof. There are two stoves for cooking in this shelter/kitchen. The Altair Kitchen is a simple, functional structure of a straightforward design. The rustic design ethic was applied to produce a structure that blends well with its surroundings.

The roof was originally supported with peeled logs. Because of deterioration, the lower portion of the logs were removed (the bases) and replaced with round concrete piers set on the concrete slab. The cement repair was completed to mitigate an ongoing moisture problem due to the structure's siting in a wet and shady area. The only alterations to the building include the replacement of the lower sections of the log supports with concrete piers to address the extreme moisture conditions found here, and the removal of peeled pole railings between the major supporting log posts, both occurring at an unknown date. The roof on the structure was replaced in-kind in 2002.

This kitchen shelter, along with the Elwha kitchen shelter, are the only two extant CCC kitchen structures in the park. Despite its changes, the Altair Kitchen continues to exhibit the qualities of the Rustic Style through the use of local materials (wood and stone), simple yet functional design, sensitive siting, and scale. It retains a high degree of integrity in its location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

SEE ATTACHED INVENTORY CARD PREPARED IN 1982 FOR PROPERTY.

### **Statement of Significance:**

**Summary:** The Altair Campground Community Kitchen is significant for its association with politics and government activities within what is today Olympic National Park (criterion A) and as an example of Rustic Style architecture within the park (criterion C). Built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1935, this building is representative of the types of activities that the CCC accomplished on behalf of first, the United States Forest Service, and later, the National Park Service, on federal lands on the Olympic Peninsula. These activities had a tremendous impact on federal lands and greatly enhanced the work of the USFS and the NPS. In addition, the building exemplifies the Rustic Style of architecture in the use of indigenous materials (wood shakes, logs, and stone) applied in a manner that is harmonious with the surrounding environment. The kitchen is indicative of two property types identified in the Multiple Property Documentation form for the Historic Resources of Olympic National Park: Government and Architecture (NPS Rustic). It has integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association, and meets the registration requirements set forth for these properties in the Multiple Property Documentation form.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

# **National Register of Historic Places**

## **Continuation Sheet**

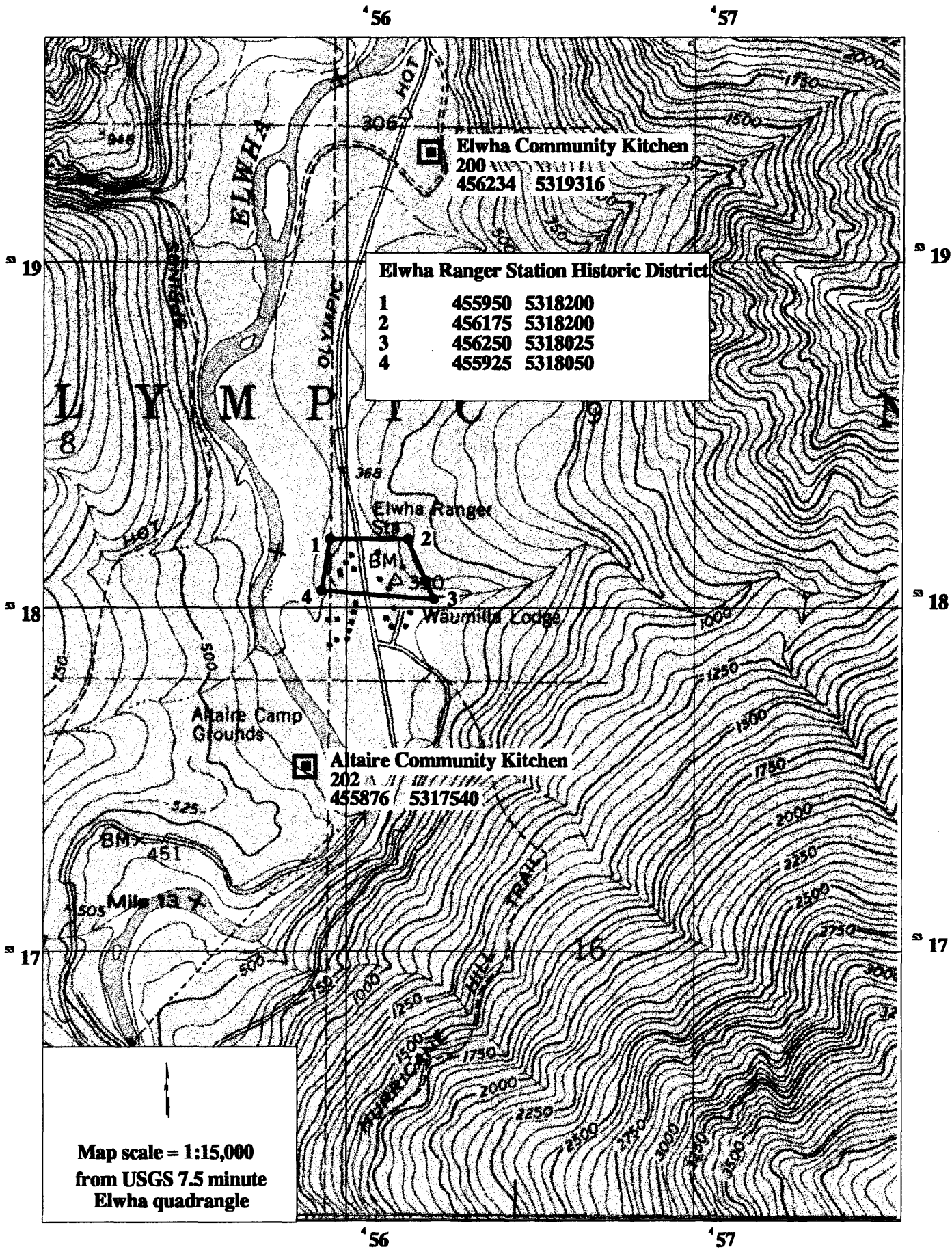
Section number 8 and 9      **Altair Campground Community Kitchen: Clallam County, WA**      Page 2

Narrative: Among the most active CCC camps within the present Olympic National Park was Camp Elwha, located on a gently sloping hillside several hundred yards south of the present Elwha Ranger Station. It was one of the first CCC camps established on the north Olympic Peninsula, and the arrival of the "forest army" on the Elwha River aroused great interest among local residents. The work program outlined for both the main Elwha Camp, and the side camp at Slab Camp in the foothills southeast of Port Angeles, included the construction of roads, the widening and straightening of existing roads, and the improvement of several campgrounds. This CCC camp was transferred from the Forest Service to the National Park Service in the winter of 1938, becoming NP-9. The camp was transferred to the US Army on August 11, 1942—then vacated in March of 1943.

In the spring of 1935 "improvements" were made to both the Elwha and Altair public campgrounds. Improvements at these two campgrounds included work on roads, trails, camping spots, playground equipment, horse-shoe courts for adults, the installation of water pipes, and the construction of sturdy, open-sided community kitchens. The local paper exuded enthusiasm in its description of the improvements, noting the splendid kitchens of rustic design, complete with 54-inch stoves built of rock and cement with long tables nearby.

The Altair and Elwha community kitchens are the only remaining CCC structures of this type within the park. It is believed that these are the only extant CCC-built kitchen shelters left on the Olympic Peninsula. Built of natural peeled logs, shakes, and masonry, these structures with their rustic materials and careful proportions blend well with their immediate surroundings. The Altair and Elwha community kitchens are representative examples of Rustic Style architecture, which became the hallmark of the CCC throughout the country. The work of the Elwha CCC camps is not unique but is representative of the kinds of projects pursued by several other work camps supervised by the USFS on the Olympic Peninsula, bringing design continuity to areas "improved" for use by the visiting public. The significance of these properties increases when it is recognized that the exact locations of many Camp Elwha projects are not always readily identifiable. In fact, much of their work has been obliterated over the years. The overall effect of the various CCC projects undertaken by the Elwha Camp, however, is very much a part of the overall development of recreational use in certain areas in the northern part of Olympic National Park.

**Bibliography:** Evans, Gail. Historic Resource Study. NPS. 1983.



# PNRO INVENTORY

National Park Service  
Pacific Northwest Region  
Cultural Resources Division

Westin Building, Room 1920  
2001 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle, Washington 98121

1. SITE I.D. NO

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

2. NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE

202

ALTAIRE CAMPGROUND COMMUNITY KITCHEN

5. ORIGINAL USE

Shelter  
Kitchen

7. CLASSIFICATION

9. RATING

10. DATE  
1935

3. SITE ADDRESS (STREET &amp; NO)

Altaire Campground; approx. 4 miles south of  
Highway 101

6. PRESENT USE

Shelter  
Kitchen

8.

UTM ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

10

4559255

317500

11. REGION

PNR

4. CITY/VICINITY

COUNTY

STATE

Approx. 12 miles S.W. of Port Angeles, Clallam, Washington

SCALE

1:24

( 1:62.5 )

OTHER

QUAD

NAME

Joyce

12. OWNER/ADMIN ADDRESS

Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Olympic National Park, 600 East Park Ave., Port Angeles, WA 98362

13. DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND HISTORY INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION DATE(S), PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS, MATERIALS, MAJOR ALTERATIONS, EXISTANT EQUIPMENT, AND IMPORTANT BUILDERS, ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS, ETC.

The Altaire Campground Community Kitchen is a product of a nationwide Depression-era work relief program. CCC corpsmen based at the Elwha CCC Camp erected the structure in the winter of 1934-35, as part of a plan to improve the already existing Altaire Camp. The local Port Angeles Evening News described the CCC activity in a 27 March 1935 issue of the newspaper: "Roads, stoves, a community kitchen, recreation trails, camping spots, and various other betterments are included in the planned improvements. There's a splendid community kitchen, of rustic design, with a concrete floor and two 54-inch stoves built of rock and cement." Over the years the campground itself evolved as various improvements were made to accommodate changing needs and technologies in transportation modes and camping equipment. At an unknown date the Altaire Community Kitchen incurred some alterations, including the placement of a metal protective sleeve on the lower portion of the supporting heavy posts, the removal of some wood railings between the supporting posts, and the minor modification of the stone fireplace.

Rectangular in shape; measures 27' x 17'; 1 story; large peeled log wall posts supporting a hip roof with cedar shakes; exposed peeled log rafters; poured concrete floor; lower portion of bench and table legs concrete. Alterations: addition of metal sleeve on lower portion of porch posts; change in fireplace; removal of some wood railings between posts. Siting: located in forested campground 100' from the Elwha River.

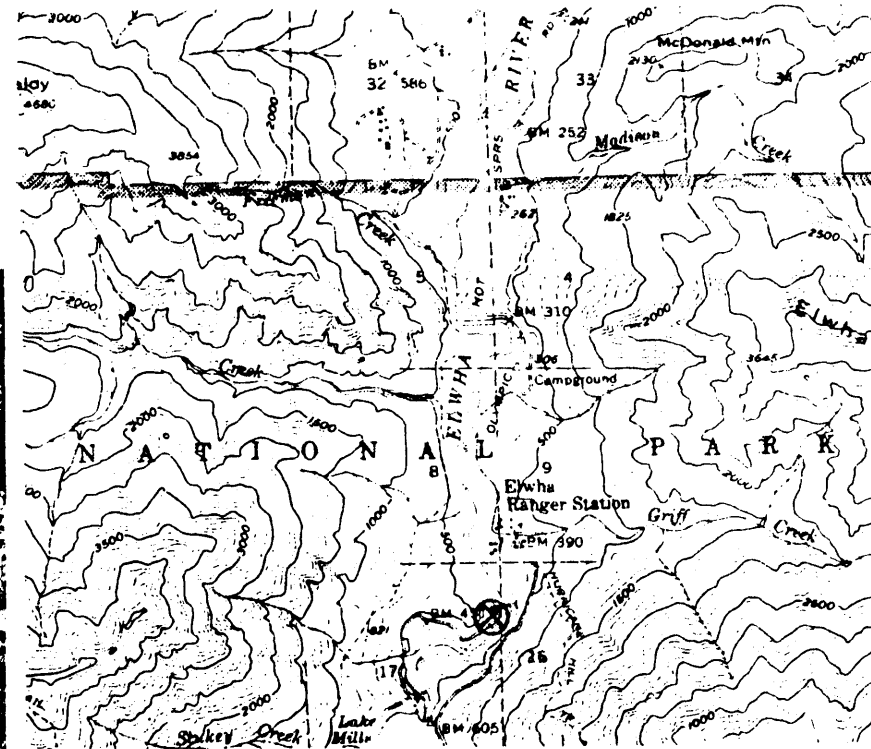
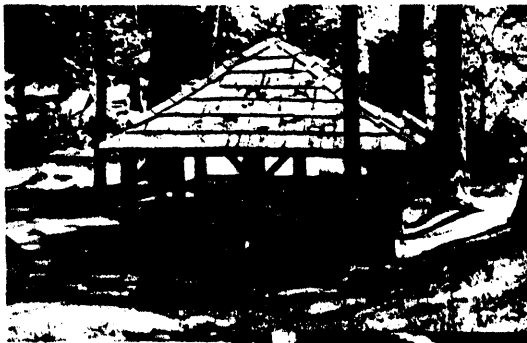
14. CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT☒ GOOD☐ FAIR☐ DETERIORATED☐ RUINS15. DANGER OF DEMOLITION?  
(SPECIFY THREAT)☐ YES☐ NO☒ UNKNOWN

16. SIGNIFICANCE

Altaire Campground Community Kitchen is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Historically, the Altaire Kitchen is significant for its association with the nationwide work relief program of the CCC, which throughout the Depression years of the 1930s, spurred recreational development and use of publically owned, undeveloped lands in the U.S. Shelter kitchens are a visible expression of the CCC's efforts to advance recreational development in Northwest forests. In the Pacific Northwest, the U.S. Forest Service was the largest employer of CCC enrollees. In 1984 there are fewer than 50 remaining community kitchens on National Forest land in the Northwest. Of the extant community kitchens, no two are exactly alike; although there are two basic plans for these structures (octangular and rectangular) the details of each is unique. Architecturally, there are no known duplicates of the Altaire Kitchen in the Pacific Northwest. Although minor alterations have occurred to the Altaire structure, the essential design elements and materials are unchanged. The structure successfully embodies the philosophy and physical characteristics of Rustic

(continued)



NEG. 21:4A

NEG. 21:1A

T.29N., R.7W., SEC.17, W.M.

18. LOCATED IN AN HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ YES ☒ NO ☐ NAME

19. PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY ☐ YES, LIMITED ☒ YES, UNLIMITED ☐ NO ☐ UNKNOWN

20. EXISTING SURVEYS ☐ NR ☐ NHL ☐ HABS ☐ HAER-1 ☐ HAER ☒ NPS ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL ☐ OTHER

21. REFERENCES—HISTORICAL REFERENCES, PERSONAL CONTACTS, AND/OR OTHER

(Item no. 16 continued) Style architecture, initiated and developed by the National Park Service beginning in the 1910s. The Altaire Community Kitchen possesses integrity of location, setting, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Evans, Gail E. H. with T. Allan Comp. 1983. Historic Resource Study: Olympic National Park. Seattle: National Park Service, Pacific Northwest Region.

Port Angeles Evening News, Port Angeles, Washington.

1935, 27 March. "Corpsmen Better Campgrounds in Elwha River Area."

Throop, E. Gail. 1979. "Utterly Visionary and Chimerical: A Federal Response to the Depression." Master's Thesis, Portland State University.

Throop, E. Gail. 1984. Phone communication with Gail Evans, 4 May.

22. INVENTORIED BY

Gail E. H. Evans

AFFILIATION

NPS

DATE

9/82, 1984



ALTAIRE CAMPGROUND COMMUNITY KITCHEN  
CLALLAM COUNTY, WA

1 of 1