

PHD362859  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**  
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

**DATA SHEET**  
RECEIVED NOV 17 1975  
DATE ENTERED MAR 6 1977

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

**NAME**

**HISTORIC**  
Tharp's Log

**AND OR COMMON**  
Tharp's Log

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Not applicable (Log Meadow, Giant Forest)

CITY/TOWN

Not applicable (Sequoia NP)

STATE

California

06

Tulare

101

**CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

☐ DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

☐ STRUCTURE

☐ SITE

☐ OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

☒ PUBLIC

☐ PRIVATE

☐ BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

☐ IN PROCESS

☐ BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

☐ OCCUPIED

☒ UNOCCUPIED

☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**

☐ YES RESTRICTED

☒ YES UNRESTRICTED

☐ NO

**PRESENT USE**

☐ AGRICULTURE

☐ COMMERCIAL

☐ EDUCATIONAL

☐ ENTERTAINMENT

☐ GOVERNMENT

☐ INDUSTRIAL

☐ MILITARY

☐ MUSEUM

☒ PARK

☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

☐ RELIGIOUS

☐ RECREATION

☐ TRANSPORTATION

☐ OTHER

**AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS (if applicable)

National Park Service, Western Regional Office

STREET & NUMBER

450 Golden Gate Avenue, Box 36063

CITY/TOWN

San Francisco

STATE

California 94102

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE

REGISTER OF DEEDS FILE

Tulare County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Mineral King & Honey Blvds.

CITY/TOWN

Visalia

STATE

California

**REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

FILE

None

DATE

REGIONAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

SURVEY NUMBER

CITY/TOWN

STATE

**DESCRIPTION**

COUNCIL

PRECEDENT

REMARKS

FILE

Tharp's Log is edge of Log has been made quite old, the log is present standing tree the log also section is in portion close hollow log chamber is three feet improved end south side of The character of the interior which includes frame. The cut on site probably date fireplace is inside the slabs. A par end door. An angular corner includes 175 been extensive the cabin. on the terrace cabin site up to three log is also

200 0 577

FORMS

207

PRESERVE

207

California 92202

California

# DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION                                |                                       | CHECK ONE                                   | CHECK ONE                                         |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT       | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR            | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED    |                                             |                                                   |

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Tharp's Log is a fallen, fire hollowed Sequoia (giant Redwood) log on the northern edge of Log Meadow in the Giant Forest of Sequoia National Park. This hollow log has been modified for human use as a shelter. The fallen Sequoia is apparently quite old, possibly having fallen before the end of the eighteenth century. The log is presently resting in two sections. The western or upper portion of the standing tree remains where it fell and is not hollow. The eastern portion of the log also remains in place and is the portion used as a cabin. This eastern section is hollow throughout its approximately 70-foot length, but the hollow portion closest to the east or stump end of the log is small. The portion of the hollow log large enough for human use is approximately 55 feet in length. This chamber is very roughly round except for the dirt floor. The diameter varies from three feet near the stump end of the room to almost six feet near the western, improved end of the log. A window with a heavy shutter has been cut through the south side of the log near the west end. The hinges were made from hornshoes. The shutter itself consists of shakes attached to a redwood frame. The west end of the inhabited portion of the log has been enclosed with a shake structure which includes a fireplace. The end wall includes a door of shakes placed on a frame. The roof over the west end is also shakes. These shakes were originally cut on site from a missing portion of the log, but most that are now in use probably date from the several restorations the building has experienced. The fireplace is made of local granite boulders; only the lowest portions are original. Inside the log are a rude bed, table, and bench. All are built of massive redwood slabs. A partition prevents visitor entry more than several feet beyond the west end door. A modern Sequoia-wood rail surrounds the entire structure. A triangular corral built of redwood posts stands to the southwest of the log. It includes 175 feet of fencing. It appears to be of recent construction or has been extensively restored. A modern stone drinking fountain is also found near the cabin. The larger setting is one of particular beauty. Tharp's Log stands on the northern fringe of the half-mile-long Log Meadow. Surrounding both the cabin site and the meadow are numerous Sequoias of all ages. Several Sequoias up to three feet in diameter are adjacent to the northwest end of the log. The log is also flanked by numerous seedling Sequoias.

# SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

1800-1850

1850-1900

1900-1950

1950-1990

2000-2050

SPECIFIC DATES

1800

The founder of the Forest, Tharp's settlement, is on upper level

Standing along National Park local pioneer Giant Forest after 1800, Tharp for his cattle several hired National Park apparently ce- later his son bought the 120 opened for pub received errors in the early 1 few low quality

## SIGNIFICANCE

COPY ONE

R. No. 2, 744 S. 74

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Paid \_\_\_\_\_

## PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE - CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

|              |                            |                          |                          |                       |
|--------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| — PREHISTORY | — ANTHROPOLOGY PREHISTORIC | — COMMUNITY PLANNING     | — LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | — RELIGION            |
| — 1400-1499  | — ANTHROPOLOGY HISTORIC    | — CONSERVATION           | — LITERATURE             | — SCIENCE             |
| — 1500-1599  | — ANTHROPOLOGY             | — ECONOMICS              | — LITERATURE             | — SCULPTURE           |
| — 1600-1699  | — ANTHROPOLOGY             | — EDUCATION              | — MUSIC                  | — SOCIAL HUMANITARIAN |
| — 1700-1799  | — ART                      | — ENGINEERING            | — MUSIC                  | — THEATER             |
| — 1800-1899  | — COMMERCE                 | — EXPLORATION SETTLEMENT | — PHOTOGRAPHY            | — TRANSPORTATION      |
| — 1900       | — COMMUNICATIONS           | — INDUSTRY               | — PUBLIC GOVERNMENT      | — OTHER SPECIALTY     |
|              |                            | — INVENTION              |                          |                       |

**SPECIFIC DATES**

ca. 1861

## NUMBER AND MEAN

## Rule 24.03

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The gleam rattle cry of the first barbedwire to enter and enclose the Giant Forest, Sharp's Log is of local significance in the state of exploration/settlement. It was without doubt, the first cabin to be built in the middle or upper elevation portions of what is now Sequoia National Park.

Standing along the northern edge of Log Meadow in the Giant Forest of Sequoia National Park, Tharp's Log was first visited by European man in 1893 when local pioneer Hale Tharp made the first recorded over-snowshoe entrance into Giant Forest and carved his name and the year on the side of the log. Shortly after 1890, Tharp began using the remains of Giant Forest as a summer range for his cattle, and adapted the hollow log for use as a cabin. Tharp and several hired hands used the cabin from the early 1890s until 1900 when Sequoia National Park was established. After the creation of the park, Tharp apparently ceased to use the Giant Forest location for grazing, although he and later his son kept title to the land. In 1903 the National Park Service bought the 120 acre tract that included the log for \$13,170. The cabin was opened for public display soon after the purchase. In the early 1930s, the cabin received extensive restoration work, and it was apparently again partially rebuilt in the early 1950s. In the 1950s it was used as a trailside museum, but only a few low quality artifacts still remain in the cabin.

# MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Miscotic Structures Report, Tharp's Log, in files of Sequoia National Park
2. Buildings Folder, Tharp's Log, Bldg. 44-A, in files of Sequoia National Park

## GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF UNIMPROVED PROPERTY 0.91

UTM REFERENCES

400  
A 1 1 014 411 5 0 8 2 4 7 1 7 0

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

a 1 1 014 411 5 0 8 2 4 7 1 7 0

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Commencing at the center of an eight (8) foot diameter by 4 foot high (uphill side) boulder located 126 feet north, 65 degrees east of the southeast corner of Tharp's Log (entrance door) and 200 feet north 25 degrees east of 10 foot diameter Sequoia which is approximately 100 feet south 8 degrees east of the entrance to Tharp's Log, proceed south two hundred (200) feet; thence west two hundred (200) feet; thence north two hundred (200) feet; thence east two hundred (200) feet to point of beginning

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

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

## FORM PREPARED BY

NAME TITLE

William C. Tweed, Historian (Revision of form submitted by F. Ross Holland, January 14, 1972)

ORGANIZATION

National Park Service, Western Regional Office September 13, 1975

STREET ADDRESS

450 Golden Gate Avenue, Box 36063 415-356-4165

CITY OR TOWN

San Francisco California

## CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES ☒ NO ☐ NONE ☐

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

FEDERAL REGISTER DATE

TITLE

DATE 11 1 1975

FOR THE USE OF

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

DATE 3 1 1976

ATTEST

DATE 3 1 1976

RECEIVED BY NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Form 10-107a  
Rev. 10-75

UNCLASSIFIED

NATIONAL  
PROPERTY

NAME

Tharp's Log

LOCATION

Not applicable

PHOTO REEL

PHOTO REEL 1975

IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

View of cabin at



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

NOV 17 1976

MAR 8 1977

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*

TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Tharp's Log

AND/OR COMMON

Tharp's Log

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN

Not applicable - (Sequoia National Park)

VICINITY OF

Giant Forest

COUNTY

Tulare

STATE

CA

**3 PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT NPS Photo by Gordon Chappell

DATE OF PHOTO July 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT National Park Service, Western Regional Office  
450 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco, CA 94102

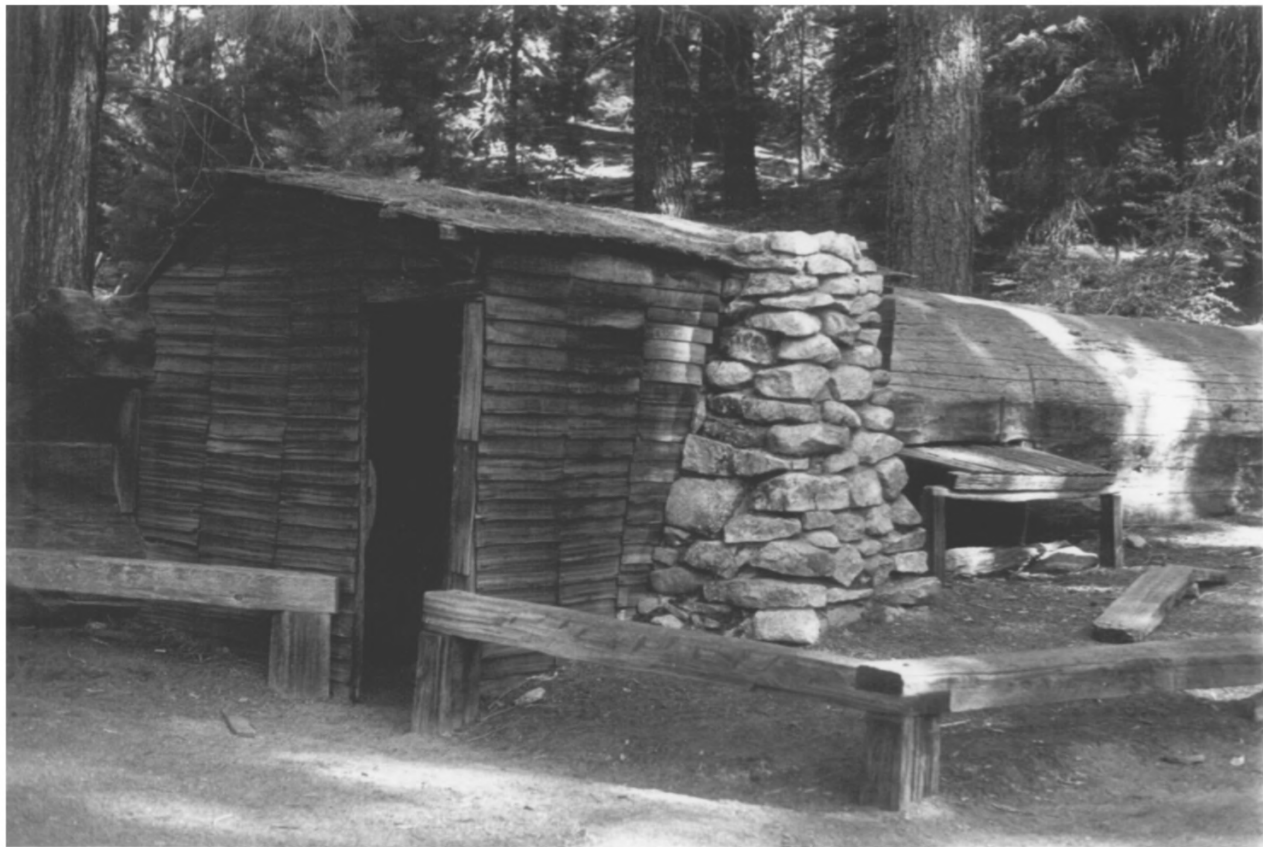
**4 IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO

View of cabin and attached hollow log from south

1



12-8 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 7 1976

DATE ENTERED

MAR 8 1977

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*

TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Tharp's Log

AND/OR COMMON

Tharp's Log

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN

\_\_\_\_VICINITY OF

COUNTY

STATE

Not applicable - (Sequoia National Park) Giant Forest Tulare

CA

**3 PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT NPS Photo by Gordon Chappell

DATE OF PHOTO July 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT National Park Service, Western Regional Office

Box 36063, 450 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco, CA 94102

**4 IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO

West end of cabin, hollow log to right

2