
**National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory
2025**



**Whiskeytown Visitor Center Historic District
Whiskeytown National Recreation Area**

**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
SACRAMENTO, CA 95816-7100
(916) 445-7000 Fax: (916) 445-7053
calshpo@parks.ca.gov
www.ohp.parks.ca.gov



December 9, 2016

Reply In Reference To: NPS_2016_1104_001

Jim Milestone, Superintendent
National Park Service
Whiskeytown National Recreation Area
P.O. Box 188
Whiskeytown, CA 96095-0188

Subject: Visitor Center Determination of Eligibility, Whiskeytown National Recreation Area

Dear Mr. Milestone:

Thank you for the November 1, 2016, letter requesting concurrence from the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) with regard to the determination of eligibility for the Whiskeytown National Recreation Area Visitor Center. The National Park Service (NPS) submitted a report dated October 31, 2016, that concludes the Visitor Center and associated features are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criteria A and C with a period of significance of 1965 – 1967. Contributing and character defining features are described in the report.

After reviewing the information submitted, the SHPO concurs that the Whiskeytown National Recreation Area Visitor Center is eligible for listing in the NRHP.

Thank you for seeking SHPO comments and considering historic properties as part of your project planning. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact State Historian Mark Beason, at (916) 445-7047 or mark.beason@parks.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Julianne Polanco'.

Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer

Table of Contents

Introduction	5
Cultural Landscapes in the Cultural Resources Inventory System	5
The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI)	5
General Information	7
Cultural Landscape Inventory Name	7
Cultural Landscape Inventory Number	7
Park Name	7
Park Alpha Code	7
Park Org Code	7
Property Level	7
Landscape Description	7
Landscape Hierarchy Description	8
Landscape Type	8
Site Plan	9
Other Names	10
Concurrence Information	11
Park Superintendent Concurrence	11
Park Superintendent Concurrence Date	11
Completion Status Explanatory Narrative	11
Geographic Information	12
Area (Acres)	12
Boundary Description	12
Latitude/Longitude	12
Regional Landscape Contexts and Narratives	13
Cultural	13

Political.....	13
Physiographic	13
Location Map Graphic Information	14
State and County.....	14
Management Information.....	15
Management Category	15
Management Category Date.....	15
Management Category Explanatory Narrative.....	15
Management Agreements.....	15
Legal Interests	16
Adjacent Lands Information.....	16
Do Adjacent Lands Contribute?	16
Uses Information.....	17
Functions and Uses.....	17
Public Access	17
Public Access Narrative	17
National Register Information	18
Documentation Status.....	18
Documentation Narrative Description.....	18
Concurrence Eligibility	18
Date.....	18
Narrative	18
National Register Significance Level.....	18
National Register Significance -- Contributing/Individual	18
National Register Classification.....	18
Statement of Significance.....	18

National Register Significance Criteria	21
National Register Periods of Significance (with Historic Context Themes)	21
National Register Areas of Significance.....	21
National Historic Landmark	22
Status	22
World Heritage Site	22
Status	22
National Natural Landmark	22
Status	22
Chronology & Physical History	23
Chronology	23
Physical History	25
Analysis & Evaluation.....	41
Analysis and Evaluation Summary	41
Integrity	42
Landscape Characteristic Narratives and Features	44
Natural Systems and Features	44
Spatial Organization.....	46
Land Use	49
Vegetation	50
Circulation.....	55
Buildings and Structures	59
Views and Vistas.....	65
Small-Scale Features	68
Condition Assessment	80
Condition	80

Condition Date	80
Narrative.....	80
Impacts	80
Stabilization Measures	81
Narrative	81
Treatment	82
Approved Treatments	82
Type	82
Completed.....	82
Document.....	82
Narrative	82
Bibliography and Supplemental Information.....	84
Bibliography.....	84

Introduction

Cultural Landscapes in the Cultural Resources Inventory System

The Cultural Resources Inventory System (CRIS) is the National Park Service's database of cultural resources on its lands, consisting of archaeological sites, historic structures, ethnographic resources, and cultural landscapes. The set of CRIS records for cultural landscapes is referred to as CRIS-CL. CRIS-CL records conform to a standardized data structure known as the Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI).

The legislative, regulatory and policy directions for conducting and maintaining the CRIS are Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act, NPS Management Policies (2006), Director's Order 28 (Cultural Resources), and Director's Order 28a (Archeology).

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI)

The CLI is the data structure within CRIS used to document and evaluate all potentially significant landscapes in which NPS has or plans to acquire any enforceable legal interest.

Each CRIS-CL record is certified complete when the landscape is determined to meet one of the following:

- Landscape individually meets the National Register of Historic Places criteria for evaluation
- Landscape is a contributing element of a property that is eligible for the National Register
- Landscape does not meet the National Register criteria, but is managed as cultural resources because law, policy, or decisions reached through the park planning process

Cultural landscapes are varied in type and include historic sites, historic designed landscapes, historic vernacular landscapes, and historic ethnographic landscapes; however, a cultural landscape also may fit within more than one type. Those cultural landscapes eligible for the National Register have significance in the nation's history on a national, state, or local level, as well as integrity.

The legislative, regulatory and policy directions for conducting and maintaining the CLI within CRIS are as follows:

- The *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 USC 470h-2(a)(1))*, which states that "Each Federal agency shall establish...a preservation program for the identification, evaluation, and nomination to the National Register of Historic Places...of properties..."

- *Executive Order 13287: Preserve America, 2003. Sec. 3(a)*, which states that “...Each agency with real property management responsibilities shall prepare an assessment of the current status of its inventory of historic properties required by section 110(a)(2) of the NHPA...No later than September 30, 2004, each covered agency shall complete a report of the assessment and make it available to the Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Secretary of the Interior...”
- *Executive Order 13287: Preserve America, 2003. Sec. 3(c)*, which states that “each agency with real property management responsibilities shall, by September 30, 2005, and every third year thereafter, prepare a report on its progress in identifying...historic properties in its ownership and make the report available to the Council and the Secretary...”
- The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and Guidelines for Federal Agency Historic Preservation Programs Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, 1998, which provides under Standard 2 the guidance that follows: “An agency provides for the timely identification and evaluation of historic properties under agency jurisdiction or control and/or subject to effect by agency actions (Sec. 110 (a)(2)(A) and Sec. 112.”
- *Management Policies 2006. 5.1.3.1 Inventories*, which states that “The Park Service will (1) maintain and expand the following inventories...about cultural resources in units of the national park system...Cultural Landscape Inventory of historic designed landscapes, historic vernacular landscapes,...and historic sites...”
- *Cultural Resource Management Guideline, 1997, Release No. 5, page 22 issued pursuant to Director’s Order #28*, which states that “As cultural resources are identified and evaluated, they should also be listed in the appropriate Service-wide inventories of cultural resources.”

General Information

Cultural Landscape Inventory Name

Whiskeytown Visitor Center Historic District

Cultural Landscape Inventory Number

976305

Park Name

Whiskeytown National Recreation Area

Park Alpha Code

WHIS

Park Org Code

8750

Property Level

Landscape

Landscape Description

The Whiskeytown Visitor Center Historic District is located in the eastern portion of Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, about 6.5 miles west of Redding, California. The approximately 1.2-acre landscape is situated on a hillside that provides views of Whiskeytown Lake and Shasta Bally. This location was recognized by National Park Service (NPS) staff as an opportunity to expand visitor facilities within Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. Thus, under the guise of the Mission 66 program, the Whiskeytown Visitor Center Historic District was constructed to house an administrative space and provide visitor services to those traveling to Whiskeytown National Recreation Area.

The Whiskeytown Visitor Center Historic District is located near the intersection of State Route 299 and John F. Kennedy Memorial Drive—two of the main roads throughout the park. A parking lot with one-way circulation and a barbell-shaped island provides visitor access to the visitor center, promenade, and overlook of Whiskeytown Lake and Shasta Bally. As well as being a visitor hub, the historic district is one of the major gateways to Whiskeytown National Recreation Area's interior, as it is located near the entrance to the park and along major roads that lead to the park's main attractions—Whiskeytown Lake and Whiskeytown Dam.

The historic district conveys its historic significance as a Mission 66-era visitor center and developed landscape and retains its integrity of location, setting, design, feeling, and association. Its integrity of materials and workmanship have been impacted by several additions and alterations since its period of significance (1965-1967). The district retains several characteristics of Mission 66-era planning, design, and construction. The Whiskeytown Visitor Center building is the only contributing building that dates to the period of significance (1965-1967). This was previously determined individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in 2016. Designed by NPS staff, the visitor center is characteristic of the Modern architectural style utilized throughout Mission 66 with its glazed façades, efforts to blend in with the surrounding landscape, geometrically-shaped roof, views of the park's main features, and its proximity to the park's entrance. Contributing landscape characteristics of the historic district include natural systems and features, spatial organization, land use, vegetation, buildings and structures, views and vistas, and small-scale features.

Several alterations have been made to the historic district, including but not limited to, alterations to the visitor center, promenade, and several small-scale features. Many of these alterations were made to accommodate growing visitor and employee needs, and some were constructed in a way that is compatible with the Mission 66 design. In 2025, the NPS completed an extensive rehabilitation of the visitor center building, which included: replacing the vinyl windows with aluminum windows similar to the original dark metal windows; repairing or replacing window mullions, frames, and trim; cleaning historic masonry; remodeling the interior of the visitor center; restoring the south and west entrances to the visitor center building; and upgrading electrical wiring. A combination of deferred and inappropriate maintenance has also impacted the historic district's integrity. Despite these changes and alterations, the key characteristics that historically defined the Whiskeytown Visitor Center Historic District remain intact. Together, the landscape characteristics and contributing features help convey the design intent and historic character of the cultural landscape within the historic district.

Landscape Hierarchy Description

This is a cultural landscape with no component landscapes.

Landscape Type

Historic Designed Landscape

Site Plan

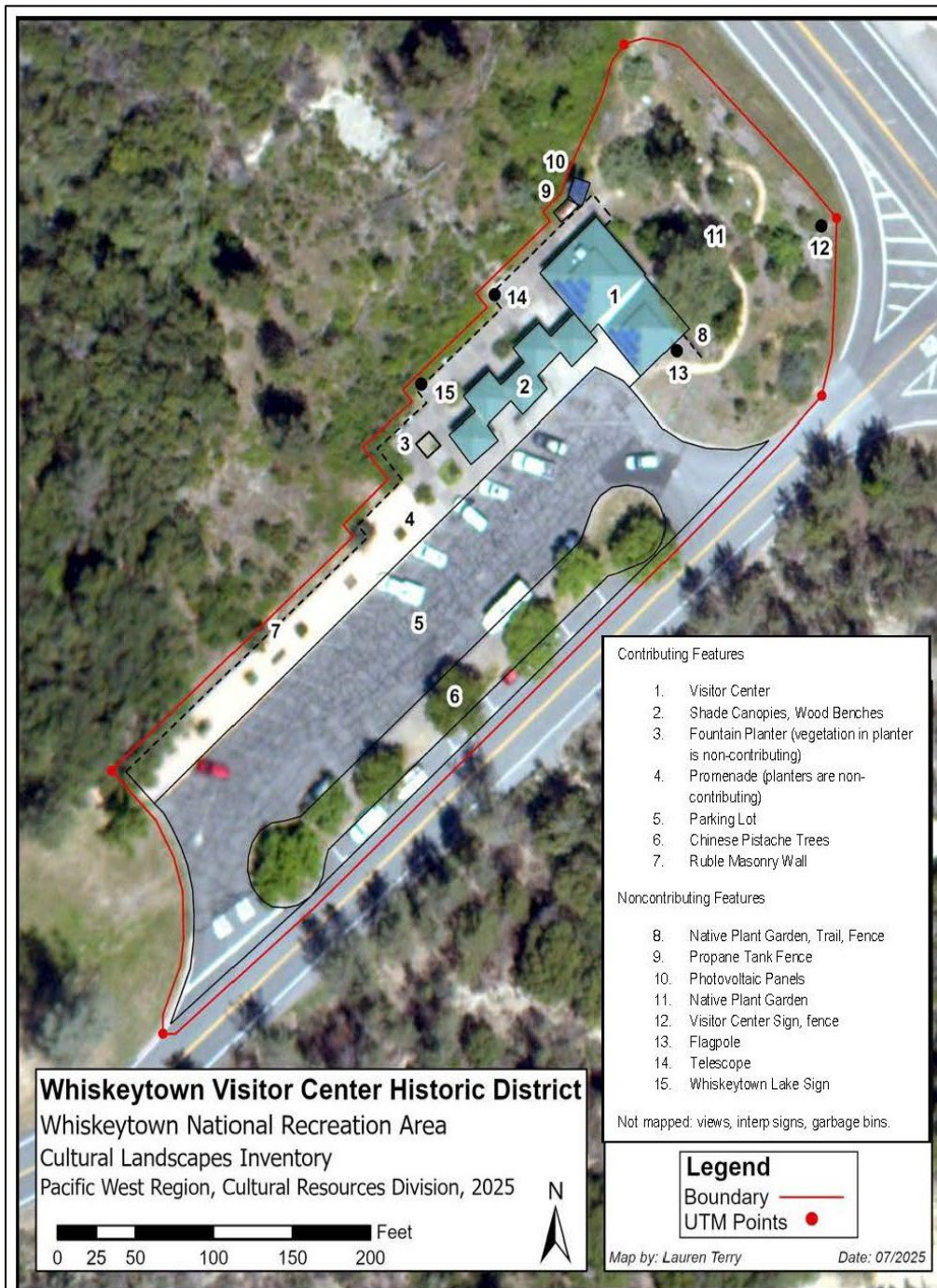


Figure 1. Site plan for the Whiskeytown Visitor Center Historic District (Logan, et al. 2020).

Other Names

Name	Type
Whiskeytown Information Station and Overlook	Historic
Whiskeytown Visitor Information Center	Historic

Concurrence Information

Park Superintendent Concurrence

Yes

Park Superintendent Concurrence Date

11/01/2016

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative

Allison Isham, National Council for Preservation Education (NCPE) Cultural Landscapes intern, completed the Cultural Landscape Inventory with the assistance of Glendee Ane Osborne, Cultural Resource Program Manager at Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, and Vida Germano, Regional Historic Structures and Cultural Landscape Program Manager for Interior Regions 8, 9, 10, and 12. Allison Isham completed fieldwork documentation of the landscape on June 25 and 26, 2025. Much of the historic context was provided by the Historic Structure Report for the Whiskeytown Visitor Center completed in 2022 and the draft National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Whiskeytown Visitor Center completed in 2024. Park staff created the site plan and location map and provided several historic photographs.

Geographic Information

Area (Acres)

1.2 acres

Boundary Description

The boundary of the landscape consists of the north and east ends of the native plant garden located at the east part of the landscape, John F. Kennedy Memorial Drive to the south, the terminus of the parking lot to the west, and the rubble masonry wall to the north. These boundaries encompass the original visitor center building and other features constructed during the period of significance (1965-1967) as well as the various alterations that have affected the property and visitors' experiences after the period of significance. These boundaries are concurrent with the boundaries used in the 2016 Determination of Eligibility for the Whiskeytown Visitor Center building.

Latitude/Longitude

Geometry	Latitude	Longitude	GeoDatum	Position Accuracy
Point	40.6144824°N	-122.5209668°W	1983 North American Datum	1 m
Point	40.6141664°N	-122.5208770°W	1983 North American Datum	1 m
Point	40.6149312°N	-122.5197245°W	1983 North American Datum	1 m
Point	40.6151444°N	-122.5196979°W	1983 North American Datum	1 m
Point	40.6153532°N	-122.5200700°W	1983 North American Datum	1 m

Regional Landscape Contexts and Narratives

Cultural

The general human overlay on the physical form of the Whiskeytown Visitor Center Historic District is characterized by Mission 66 development within national park sites. The Whiskeytown Visitor Center Historic District was constructed during the era of the Mission 66 program (1956-1966), which was the last major period of development in national parks. During this initiative, the National Park Service constructed hundreds of new buildings across numerous park sites in an effort to invite and accommodate an increase in visitors to national parks during the postwar period.

Political

The Whiskeytown Visitor Center Historic District is located within Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity Recreation Area in Shasta County, California. The Whiskeytown Unit, authorized November 8, 1965, and established October 21, 1972, is the only unit of the national recreation area administered by the National Park Service (Public Law 89-336, H.R. 797).

Physiographic

Whiskeytown Visitor Center Historic District is located to the southeast of Whiskeytown Lake in Northern California, approximately 6.5 miles west of Redding. The site is located on a hillside above Whiskeytown Lake, along the historic Shasta Divide wagon route, providing views of Shasta Bally and Whiskeytown Lake. The flat topography of the landscape reflects the cut and fill construction method used to grade the hillside for the original overlook and later visitor center. The landscape is physically contained by John F. Kennedy Memorial Drive, Highway 299, the west end of the parking lot and promenade, and the hillside's drop off.

Location Map Graphic Information



Figure 2. Location Map of Whiskeytown Visitor Center Historic District. Maps throughout this report were created using ArcGIS® software by Esri. ArcGIS® and ArcMap™ are the intellectual property of Esri and are used herein under license. Copyright © Esri. All rights reserved. For more information about Esri® software, please visit www.esri.com (Esri, DeLorme, HERE, et al., “World Topographic Map,” www.esri.com).

State and County

State: California

County: Shasta

Management Information

Management Category

Should be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date

11/01/2016

Management Category Explanatory Narrative

The Whiskeytown Visitor Center Historic District meets the management category “Should be Preserved and Maintained” because it meets National Register Criteria A and C at the local level of significance. The unit is significant under National Register Criterion A for its association with the Mission 66 program. It is also a significant example of Modern architecture, thus it is significant under Criterion C. The historic district is also compatible with Whiskeytown National Recreation Area’s legislated significance, which is described in greater detail below.

The Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area was established by an Act of Congress on November 8, 1965, Public Law 88-336 (79 Stat. 1295). This Act provided for “...public outdoor recreation use and enjoyment of the Whiskeytown, Shasta, Clair Engle, and Lewiston reservoirs and surrounding lands in the State of California by present and future generations and the conservation of scenic, scientific, historic, and other values contributing to public enjoyment of such lands and waters” (Public Law 88-336 (79 Stat. 1295)).

Management Agreements

Management Agreement	Other Management Agreement	Management Agreement Expiration Date	Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative
None	N/A	N/A	No management agreement is related to the cultural landscape

Legal Interests

Legal Interest Type	Fee Simple Reservation Expiration Date	Other Organization/Agency	Legal Interest Narrative
Less Than Fee Simple	N/A	California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)	The NPS has legal interest in most of the inventory property, but Caltrans has a right of way on the east portion of the landscape along Highway 299 (per abandonment deed, filed February 19, 1965, book 7 of Highway Maps at page 7).

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute?

No

Uses Information

Functions and Uses

Major Category	Category	Use/Function	Historic Use	Current Use	Primary Use
Government	Visitor Contact (Visitor Center)	Visitor center	Yes	Yes	Yes
Scenic Landscape	Overlook	Scenic overlook	Yes	Yes	No
Transportation	Road-Related	Parking area	Yes	Yes	No
Landscape	Functional Landscape	Vehicular circulation	Yes	Yes	No
Government	Comfort Station (Latrine)	Restroom	Yes	Yes	No
Recreation / Culture	Museum (Exhibition Hall)- Other	Interpretive exhibits and signage	No	Yes	No

Public Access

Other Restrictions

Public Access Narrative

The interior of the visitor center building is restricted to certain times of the day (when it is open to the public).

National Register Information

Documentation Status

SHPO – Documented

Documentation Narrative Description

The consensus determination of eligibility (DOE) for the Whiskeytown Visitor Center and associated features was completed and signed by the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) in 2016. NPS submitted a DOE to SHPO in October 2016 concluding that the Whiskeytown Visitor Center and associated features is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C.

Concurrence Eligibility

Eligible – SHPO Consensus Determination

Date

12/09/2016

Narrative

In 2016, the California SHPO concurred that the Whiskeytown Visitor Center and associated features is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C at the local level with a period of significance of 1965 to 1967.

National Register Significance Level

Local

National Register Significance -- Contributing/Individual

Individual

National Register Classification

District

Statement of Significance

The Whiskeytown Visitor Center Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A and C in association with the NPS Mission 66 program planning and design.

The following information is adapted from the draft National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Whiskeytown Visitor Center and the Historic Structure Report prepared for

the Whiskeytown Visitor Center (Avery 2024, 11; Siegel & Strain Architects and architecture + history, llc 2022, iv.2).

CRITERION A

Whiskeytown Visitor Center is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A at the local level for its association with the National Park Service's Mission 66 program. Mission 66 (1956-1966) was the last major period of development in national parks, during which the National Park Service constructed hundreds of new buildings—including 111 visitor centers—as well as campgrounds, roads, utility systems, and other resources in an effort to accommodate the increase in visitors to national parks during the postwar period. The visitor center emerged during Mission 66 as a new building type that combined visitor services and administrative functions. Whiskeytown National Recreation Area itself was a product of Mission 66, as the National Park Service sought to diversify the type of NPS units in the system. Mission 66 was the most significant development period in Whiskeytown National Recreation Area's history. Whiskeytown Visitor Center is the only visitor center in the recreation area and was planned and built under the Mission 66 program. The visitor center has served as the principal point of visitor orientation within Whiskeytown National Recreation Area since the completion of its construction in 1967.

CRITERION C

Whiskeytown Visitor Center is also eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C at the local level for its representation of Park Service Modern architecture at Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. The building is a successful expression of a Mission 66-era visitor center and contains the character defining features of the property type as defined in the National Park Service Mission 66 Era Resources Multiple Property Documentation Form.

The Whiskeytown Visitor Center, originally called the Whiskeytown Information Station and Overlook, was designed and built from 1965 to 1967 by NPS architects and landscape architects. It remains the central expression of the Park Service Modern style within the Whiskeytown National Recreation Area and directly reflects the planning and design practices developed by the NPS during the Mission 66 era.

Sarah Allaback in *Mission 66 Visitor Centers: The History of a Building Type* lists four characteristics that NPS Mission 66-era visitor centers must have to be considered eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. They are as follows (Allaback 2000, 273-5):

1. The visitor center should be one of the important precedents of the Mission 66 program (1945-1956), be one of the visitor centers originally planned and built as part of the Mission 66 program (1956-1966), or as part of the Parkscape program (1966-1972). The property's period of significance should fall within the years 1945-1972.
2. The visitor center should retain most, or all, the physical characteristics described in the description of the property type. The visitor center should be a centralized facility that includes multiple visitor and administrative functions with a single architectural floor plan or compound. Programming elements should include interpretive displays, space for slideshows and films, visitor contact, restrooms, and other services. The visitor center should be intended to serve the public by interpreting scenery, natural resources, and cultural sites, and should be a major point of visitor arrival, orientation, and service.
3. The visitor center should possess physical integrity to the period of significance. Examples of alterations or remodeling that may impair the historical integrity of a visitor center include (but are not limited to): addition of new façade or other major exterior alteration that transforms the outward appearance of the building; complete alteration of entrance and sequence through building because of addition of new buildings, wings, or other major alterations; new roof structure that completely alters exterior appearance of building; extensive interior remodeling that alters definition of interior spaces, functions of spaces, and sequence through spaces.
4. The visitor center should embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction that represent high artistic values and reflect the principles of the Park Service Modern style.

The Whiskeytown Visitor Center Historic District is a significant example of the Mission 66-era visitor center building type. Mission 66-era visitor centers symbolized new attitudes toward resource conservation, visitor experience and interactions in parks, and NPS stewardship. The Whiskeytown Visitor Center, along with approximately 100 others constructed during the Mission 66 era, provided a central location for visitors to interact with park staff, enjoy

interpretive programs, learn about the area and activities offered, and have access to restroom facilities. NPS Mission 66 architects intended for visitor centers to mix modern aesthetics with rustic principles; thus, they provided designs that integrated interior and exterior spaces. The Whiskeytown Visitor Center accomplishes this. The building features a native stone wall on two faces which gives way to a wraparound window wall that provides expansive views of Whiskeytown Lake and Shasta Bally from the interior. The siting and visitor flow also affords significant views of the park resources from the promenade and shade of the canopy. The stone walls at the hillside edge blend nature with the functional elements of the building and designed landscape. The visitor center building contains glazed façades, ribbon windows, a distinct roof system, open interior, and integration of indoor and outdoor spaces. The modernist plaza in front of the building includes geometrically-shaped pavers and a uniquely-shaped shade canopy comprised of several pyramidal hipped roofs that mimics the building's roofline.

National Register Significance Criteria

Criterion A: Event

Criterion C: Design/Construction

National Register Periods of Significance (with Historic Context Themes)

Start Year/Era and End Year/Era	Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet
1965 CE-1967 CE	Expressing Cultural Values	Architecture	NPS Mission 66
1965CE-1967CE	Expressing Cultural Values	Landscape Architecture	NPS Mission 66— Landscape Architecture

National Register Areas of Significance

Category	Subcategory	Narrative
Architecture	N/A	This property eligible for the NRHP for its significance as a Mission 66-era visitor center that employs key characteristics of this building type
Landscape Architecture	N/A	This property is eligible for the NRHP for its

		significance as a Mission 66-era visitor center that employs several key characteristics of the landscape's design
Politics / Government	N/A	This property is eligible for the NRHP for its significance as a Mission 66-era visitor center

National Historic Landmark

Status

No

World Heritage Site

Status

No

National Natural Landmark

Status

No

Chronology & Physical History

Chronology

Start Year	Start Era	End Year	End Era	Major Event	Major Event Description
1953	CE	1953	CE	Established	Secretary of the Interior, Oscar Chapman, approves the Trinity Dam and Power Houses.
1956	CE	1966	CE	Developed	The NPS Mission 66 program occurs. The program sought to improve visitor services and facilities across NPS sites by the fiftieth anniversary of the creation of the NPS.
1960	CE	1963	CE	Built / Established	Whiskeytown Dam and Whiskeytown Lake are constructed. President John F. Kennedy dedicates the dam on September 28, 1963.
1962	CE	1962	CE	Built / Established	The NPS assumes formal management of the proposed Whiskeytown Lake and future shoreline recreation facilities. NPS begins design work for facilities along the lakeshore.
1963	CE	1965	CE	Designed	NPS staff designs the Whiskeytown Information Station and Overlook.
1964	CE	1964	CE	Established	NPS regional office establishes a master plan for Whiskeytown ahead of the unit's formal congressional authorization.
1965	CE	1965	CE	Established	President Lyndon B. Johnson officially establishes the Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area. The NPS oversees the Whiskeytown Unit.
1965	CE	1967	CE	Built	Original visitor center block, shade canopies, parking lot, and promenade of the Whiskeytown Visitor Center Historic District are built.
1984	CE	1984	CE	Removed / Built	Comfort station addition constructed on the east side of the original visitor center building, two of the east façade's window assemblies are infilled, door systems are reconfigured, interior of the visitor center remodeled, flagpole repositioned, and some pavers,

					curbing, and planters are removed or replaced. Wood shake roofing on the visitor center and canopies are replaced with asphalt shingles.
1998	CE	1998	CE	Reconstructed / repaired	Replacement of several planters and the conversion of the fountain into a planter. Refurbishment of sidewalk on the east portion of the promenade and the central area of the promenade beyond the canopies.
2001	CE	2001	CE	Reconstructed	Water line distribution replaced.
2005	CE	2005	CE	Built	Addition of photovoltaic panels to the southern roof slope of the main building and comfort station addition. Addition of stand-alone photovoltaic panels to the north of the visitor center building.
2006	CE	2006	CE	Removed / Built	Green, standing seam metal roof replaced asphalt shingles from 1984.
2007	CE	2007	CE	Planted	Native plant garden added to the north of the visitor center between the building and Highway 299.
2009	CE	2009	CE	Removed / Built	Original visitor center windows are replaced with light tan vinyl windows.
2010	CE	2010	CE	Built	Septic system upgraded with two new 6,000-gallon tanks.
2014	CE	2014	CE	Removed / Built / Planted	Some components of the promenade paving are replaced, removal of trees and landscaping, new trees added in planters at the south portion of the promenade, addition of seating area with a picnic table bench at the south portion of the promenade.
2021	CE	2021	CE	Built	New HVAC unit installed on the visitor center's western roof slope.
2025	CE	2025	CE	Planned	A repair and rehabilitation project is completed that restores elements of the historic building and upgrades utility service for the Whiskeytown Visitor Center.

Physical History

CALIFORNIA WATER RECLAMATION PROJECTS

The Trinity River Diversion, 1940s-1960s

In the early-twentieth century, California's increasing population and the subsequent need for further agricultural development caused a push for innovative approaches to providing a fresh water supply across the state. San Francisco's Hetch Hetchy Reservoir project (1913-1925) within Yosemite National Park is one of the earliest examples of this, and several other large-scale water projects followed. Federal Congressional Acts provided funding for many of these large infrastructure projects throughout the 1930s (Seigel & Strain Architects and architecture + history, llc 2022, P1.A1).

In the 1940s, Shasta County officials began gathering support for a Trinity River diversion project. The Bureau of Reclamation already constructed the Shasta Dam at the headwaters of the Sacramento River between 1938 and 1945. In October 1951, the Bureau of Reclamation completed a full draft plan for the Trinity River diversion and completed the Trinity Reservoir in 1962 as a component of the larger Central Valley Project—a series of reservoirs and canals throughout central California overseen by the Bureau of Reclamation (Seigel & Strain Architects and architecture + history, llc 2022, P1.A1).

Other ideas for components of the Central Valley Project emerged in the 1950s, including one that would divert water from Trinity River at Lewiston Dam via the Clear Creek Tunnel to a reservoir held at Whiskeytown. J.D. Galloway, a civil engineer on the engineering advisory committee of the Sacramento Basin Investigations, produced a study in 1930 that proposed a dam at Whiskeytown to store 600,000 acre-feet of water. In 1956, engineers identified a “take line” for the Whiskeytown Reservoir after they determined a water line for the proposed 278-foot-high Whiskeytown Dam. This required the purchase of private property by the Bureau of Reclamation as authorized by Congress. The Bureau of Reclamation established a 300-foot perimeter around the reservoir to include both private property and Bureau of Land Management property that would be purchased or transferred as part of the project.

Clair Hill, a local engineer, organized the City Council of Redding and the Shasta Board of Supervisors to take the position that if the Bureau of Reclamation built another major dam in Shasta County, the local population should strive to secure long-term benefits from the project.

Locals benefitted from the jobs created to build the dams in Shasta County; however, the water benefitted agricultural practices downstream in the San Joaquin Valley. In the mid 1950s, Hill worked with James K. Carr, a Bureau of Reclamation engineer and native of Redding, to promote the idea of building a series of dams near Whiskeytown. Hill believed that these dams would provide the region with a source of irrigation water, hydroelectric power, drinking water, and flood control (Milestone and Timpson 2003, 9-10).

Several proponents of the Central Valley Project recognized the recreation potential at the reservoirs constructed throughout the state as part of the project. However, the responsibility for determining recreation potential did not fall under the scope of the Bureau of Reclamation. As a result, some agencies, including the National Park Service (NPS), United States Forest Service (USFS), California State Parks, and Shasta County, expressed some level of interest in managing recreation at Whiskeytown Lake—the reservoir located behind Whiskeytown Dam. California State Parks rejected its incorporation into the state park system because the park proposal consisted of a shoreline park with three small units covering about 6,000 acres. Furthermore, California State Parks did not believe Whiskeytown possessed the scenic qualities necessary for admission into the state park system. Shasta County expressed interest in overseeing recreation at Whiskeytown to generate revenue through tourism. The NPS assisted with planning, however, the Bureau of Reclamation did not support the NPS' efforts to expand the take line to optimize recreational possibilities. With the appointment of Carr as the Undersecretary of the Interior in 1961, local leaders abandoned the idea of a county park at Whiskeytown and instead began to advocate for a national recreation area (Milestone and Timpson 2003, 7, 12-5; Seigel & Strain Architects and architecture + history, llc 2022, P1.A.4).

The Development of National Recreation Areas, 1930s-1965

The NPS positioned itself as the federal government's recreation leader at the end of World War II. In the postwar era, national parks saw a rise in annual visitation numbers, which placed greater pressure on existing park and recreation facilities across the nation. Most NPS sites contained spectacular landscapes in remote areas of the country, often in a high mountain setting. For day-use recreation, state, county, and city parks provided recreation opportunities designed for large crowds. With this in mind, newly-constructed reservoirs associated with water reclamation projects in the American West became attractive to park planners as potential park sites. The NPS recognized that these man-made reservoirs, especially those with picturesque scenery and close to

urban centers, could provide additional recreational opportunities for hundreds of thousands of Americans. The national recreation area designation emerged from this with the establishment of Lake Mead National Recreation Area behind Hoover Dam in 1936. National recreation areas were planned and built through an agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation to develop large reservoirs for recreational use overseen by another government agency (Milestone and Timpson 2003, 13; Seigel & Strain Architects and architecture + history, llc 2022, P1.A.4; Carr 2007, 28).

The possibility of establishing a national recreation area at Whiskeytown became feasible under the Kennedy Administration (1961-1963), which made recreational planning a priority. The administration encouraged the development of recreational opportunities for the public, especially those that utilized federal water project reservoirs (Seigel & Strain Architects and architecture + history, llc 2022, P1.A.5; Milestone and Timpson 2003, 19).

The appointment of James Carr as Undersecretary of the Interior opened a new opportunity for Whiskeytown. Carr, a native of Redding, recognized that his role as undersecretary provided him with the chance to convince politicians to establish a national recreation area at Whiskeytown. In early 1961, the attitudes of Shasta County, the Bureau of Reclamation, NPS, and the Department of the Interior shifted from focusing on a potential reservoir park at Whiskeytown with minimal recreational facilities to a major park facility with maximum recreational potential. Carr continued to advocate for national recreation area status for Whiskeytown and gained the support of the city of Redding, Shasta County officials, and local congressional representatives (Milestone and Timpson 2003, 19-23).

The Bureau of Reclamation completed construction of the Whiskeytown Dam in the summer of 1963. On September 28, 1963, President John F. Kennedy visited Whiskeytown and formally dedicated Whiskeytown Dam as part of his Conservation Trip in the West. President Kennedy delivered a speech that touched on Whiskeytown's unique name, conservationism, and the important role of water and water projects in the West (Milestone and Timpson 2003, 32-3, 39-40; Seigel & Strain Architects and architecture + history, llc 2022, P1.A.5, P1.A.8).



Figure 3. The crowd greeting President John F. Kennedy for his dedication of Whiskeytown Dam, Cecil Stoughton, photographer (Seigel & Strain Architects and architecture + history, llc 2022, P1.A.6).

The assassination of President Kennedy in November 1963 delayed efforts in formally establishing Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. In July 1965, Congress proposed the creation of Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area. The proposal stated that the United States Forest Service would administer the Trinity, Lewiston, and Shasta Units, while the Whiskeytown Unit would fall under the National Park Service. On November 8, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the bill into law, establishing the Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area (Milestone and Timpson 2003, 44-6; Public Law 89-336, H.R. 797).

MISSION 66 AND THE VISITOR CENTER, 1956-1966

The idea for Mission 66 emerged in 1955 under National Park Service Director Conrad L. Wirth. Influenced by the multi-year federal highway development program in the 1950s, Director Wirth believed that a similar systematic, long-term program for construction, improvements, and development would greatly benefit the NPS. In 1955, Director Wirth proposed a ten-year construction program that would accommodate increased visitation rates and provide more

opportunities for leisure. Called “Mission 66,” the program intended to modernize, enlarge, and reinvent the national park system from 1956 to 1966 in time for the fiftieth anniversary of the National Park Service (Carr et al. 2015, E3, E8).

In 1955, Mission 66 planners, including Director Wirth and other NPS architects, engineers, and other professionals, determined the goals for the Mission 66 program. These included fixing road and trail systems to allow visitors to experience and enjoy “important” park resources, constructing visitor facilities, and expanding park use to reach a greater number of people (Carr et al. 2015, E7-E8).

Across the ten-year program, Congress spent about \$1 billion on land acquisition, the authorization of seventy new NPS units, new staff and training, general operations, and construction projects. The National Park Service constructed and repaired over 2,700 miles of roads, over 900 miles of trails, and hundreds of park residences, comfort stations, administration facilities, and public-use properties. Mission 66 funded the construction of more than 100 visitor centers, which were at the heart of park master planning. The NPS constructed these buildings in the Modern Movement, or Park Service Modern, style, which helped forge a new identity for the National Park Service (Carr et al. 2015, E3).

The Park Service Modern style combined tenets of Modern architecture with aspects of Rustic design to create a new NPS adaptation of Modern architecture. The widespread application of the Park Service Modern style across NPS sites indicated a growing awareness of nationwide social, economic, and political change. Buildings designed with the Park Service Modern style were intended to meet the demands of millions of visitors, not aesthetic pleasure as with the Rustic style. The style considered the availability of new building technology and higher labor and material costs. Mission 66 designers embraced prefabricated materials, open plans, glazed façades, flat or distinctive roof shapes, ribbon windows, and other elements of Modern design to allow for seamless circulation of visitors (Seigel & Strain Architects and architecture + history, llc 2022, P1.A.13-P1.A.14; Allaback 2000, 10-1, 272).

Mission 66 planners proposed that visitor centers—a new property type invented by Mission 66 planners—serve as centerpieces for the program. Visitor centers were designed to act as a centralized location for visitors, providing interpretive displays, restrooms, and administrative areas close to park entries and significant park sites in order to guide visitors through the park’s natural and cultural resources. Furthermore, park and resource planning adjusted to focus on the

influx of vehicles into the parks and how to manage vehicular circulation and parking. As a result, planners prioritized parking facilities near visitor centers. The site design funneled pedestrian traffic to an entry into the visitor center accessed from the parking area (Seigel & Strain Architects and architecture + history, llc 2022, P1.A.8-P1.A.10, P1.D.1; Allaback 2000 24-8, 35).

In her research on Mission 66 visitor centers, Sarah Allaback provides a list of distinctive characteristics of the building type that reflect the principles of Park Service Modern architecture and Mission 66 (Allaback 2000, 267-278):

- Building is sited in relation to an overall plan of “visitor flow” in the park, either near the park entrance, en route to a major park destination, or at a park destination.
- Building design emphasizes plan organization (the design of the floor plans). Floor plan organization allowed separation of public areas from administrative areas and emphasized efficient “visitor flow” through the building itself. A central lobby space is often the arrival point, with trails or other park destinations often accessed as the visitor moves through the building.
- Building’s program centralizes numerous park services, including information, interpretation, restrooms, and administration offices.
- Building makes use of the formal vocabulary and materials of contemporary (1945-1972) modern architecture, including flat roofs (as well as other types of roofs), window walls (and other unorthodox fenestration), exposed steel supports, and concrete and concrete block construction.
- Overlapping functional spaces (free plans) sometimes evident in floor plan. Public areas usually on one level, or on split levels, segregated from administrative areas.
- Integration of interior and exterior public spaces, often separated by windows, window walls, glass doors, or wooden doors with windows.
- Entrances, exits, and other doorways are often wide, providing easy movement for crowds. Entrances are often sheltered by porches, ramadas, arcades, etc. Restrooms are often nearby, with a separate outdoor entrance.
- Building emphasizes visitors’ experience of spatial procession. This sequence of spaces often features ramps, as well as significant views of park landscapes either from terraces or through large windows.

- Siting of visitor center near landscape or attraction to be interpreted sometimes allows interpretive programs to be extended into the visitor center itself.
- Building's elevations create a mostly low-profile, horizontal effect.
- Building "harmonizes" with its setting through horizontality of massing, color, and texture of materials. Use of textured concrete, concrete block, and stone veneers in façades often gives the building a generally rough exterior texture, often featuring earth toned colors.
- Building footprint is often ell-shaped, rectangular around a central courtyard, or a variation on these themes.
- Use of naturalistic planting to partially screen building, utility areas, and parking, as well as to repair areas distributed in construction. Planter boxes often used to define entrances.
- Outdoor spaces and site work, including parking lots, paths, amphitheaters, terraces, and patios are often incorporated into the visitor center complex.

Development of Whiskeytown Visitor Center Historic District, 1965-1967:

Whiskeytown Visitor Information Station and Overlook was built from 1965 to 1967; thus, it had many design elements typical of Mission 66 buildings. The NPS placed the visitor center near the main entrance to Whiskeytown National Recreation Area at the intersection of Highway 299 and John F. Kennedy Memorial Drive. This location had expansive views of the park's two main attractions—Shasta Bally and Whiskeytown Lake. The NPS completed the design for the visitor center with its own design team and developed "visitor sequence diagrams," or flow diagrams, to establish the most effective interior floorplan for efficient visitor circulation (Seigel & Strain Architects and architecture + history, llc 2022, P1.A.8, P1.A.10; McClelland 1998, 452-3; Carr 2007, 149).

The visitor center went through a few different plans before the finalized design. The NPS abandoned earlier construction plans because they did not take full advantage of the view of Whiskeytown Lake. Many Mission 66 visitor centers were conceptually designed as a viewing platform for visitors to be able to experience these views from interior and exterior spaces. As a result, the Whiskeytown Visitor Center incorporated window walls, employed local stone as building materials for low site walls and parts of the visitor center's façades, and featured an outdoor promenade with canopies and seating to allow for both an indoor and outdoor visitor experience (Seigel & Strain Architects and architecture + history, llc 2022, P1.A.11).

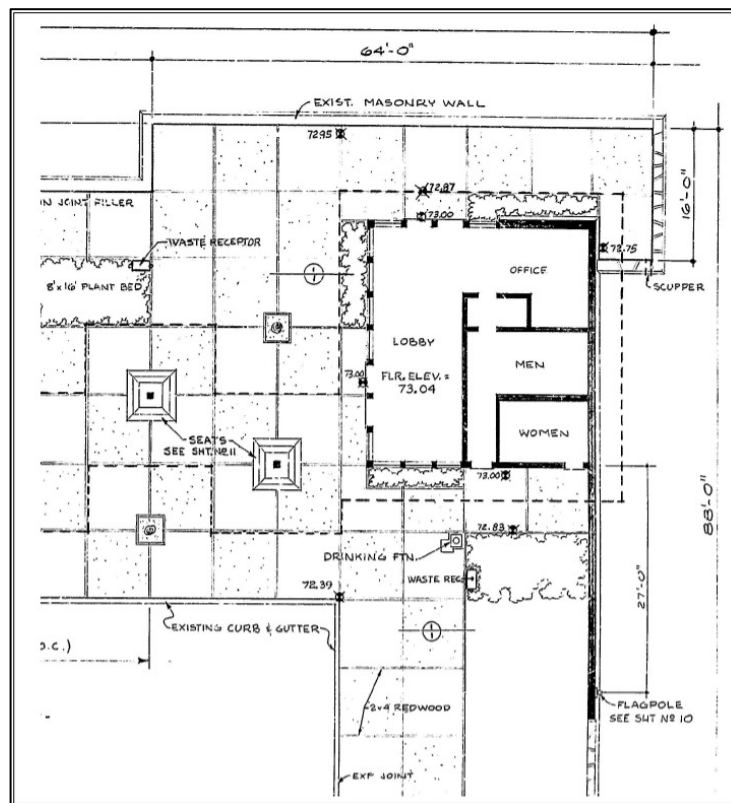


Figure 4. Whiskeytown Visitor Center's as-constructed plan. The building originally included administrative space, restrooms, and two sets of double doors (National Park Service, Division of Architecture, Western Office of Design and Construction, September 1965).

The visitor center at Whiskeytown remains the central expression of the Park Service Modern style within the Whiskeytown National Recreation Area and directly reflects the planning and design practices developed by the NPS during the Mission 66 era. While the building is of a smaller scale than some of the more iconic NPS visitor centers, like the Dinosaur National Monument Quarry Visitor Center, its modular design created opportunities for later expansion to meet visitor demand (Siegel & Strain Architects and architecture + history, llc 2022, P1.A.15; Allaback 2000, 273; Carr et al. 2015, E12).

The Whiskeytown Visitor Center Historic District contains many features of Mission 66 era visitor centers. The visitor center is sited to maximize visitor flow with its location near the park entrance and en route to Whiskeytown Dam and several Whiskeytown Lake access points. The visitor center also centralizes numerous park services, including information, interpretation, restrooms, and administrative offices. The original block utilizes the materials and style of modern architecture, including the double-hipped roof and hipped-roof shade canopies, window

walls that provide a view of Whiskeytown Lake and integrate interior and exterior spaces, and walls constructed using rubble masonry. The low-profile, horizontal elevation of the shade canopy and building as well as their materials harmonizes well with the setting (Allaback 2000, 274-5).

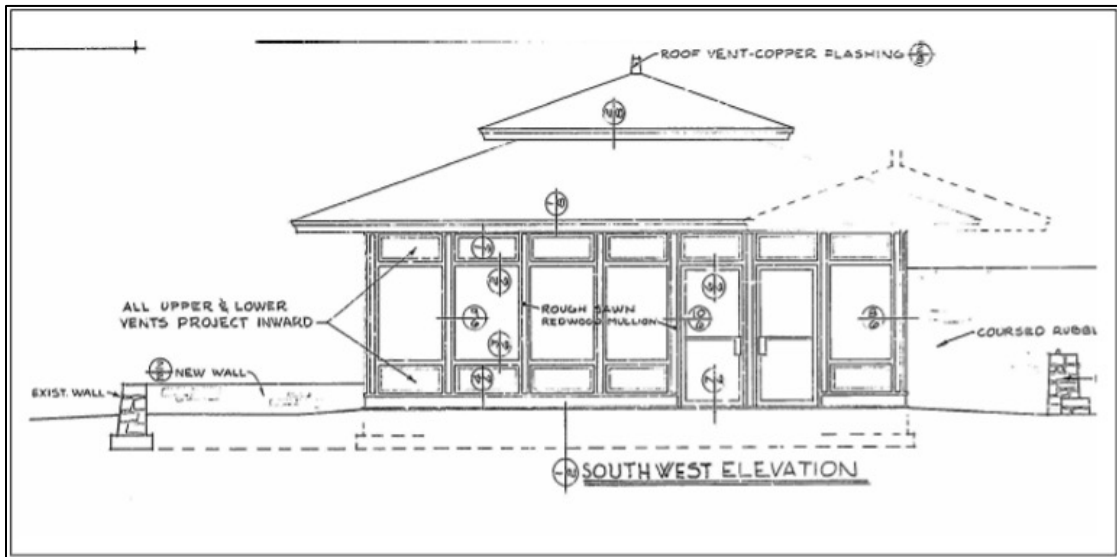


Figure 5. The visitor center's south façade as originally constructed (National Park Service, Division of Architecture, Western Office of Design and Construction, September 1965).

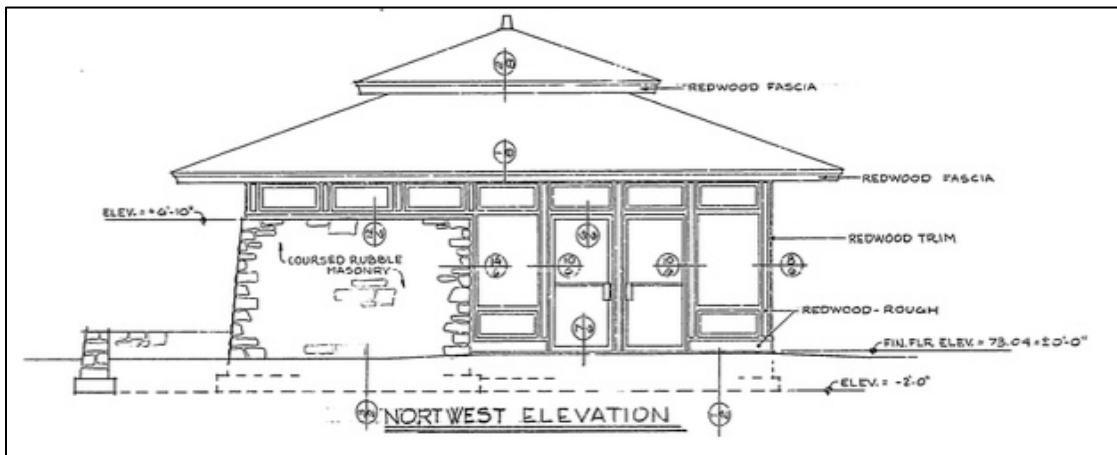


Figure 6. West façade of the visitor center as originally constructed. Note the double doors (National Park Service, Division of Architecture, Western Office of Design and Construction, September 1965).

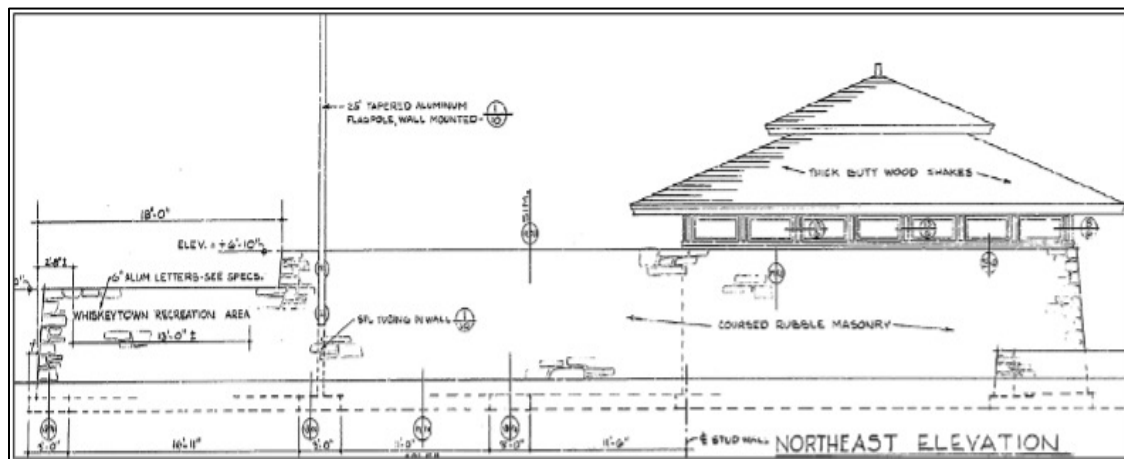


Figure 7. North side of the visitor center with the rubble stone wall and original flagpole, as originally constructed (National Park Service, Division of Architecture, Western Office of Design and Construction, September 1965).

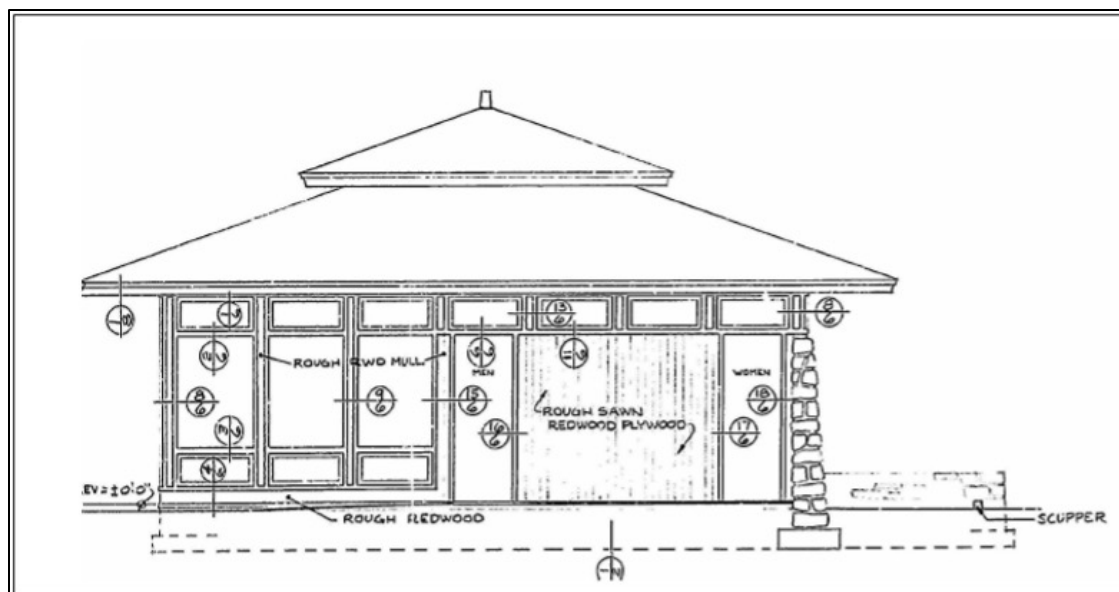


Figure 8. The east side of the visitor center as originally constructed. Only the window bay located furthest to the left remained after the comfort station addition was constructed to this side in 1984 (National Park Service, Division of Architecture, Western Office of Design and Construction, September 1965).

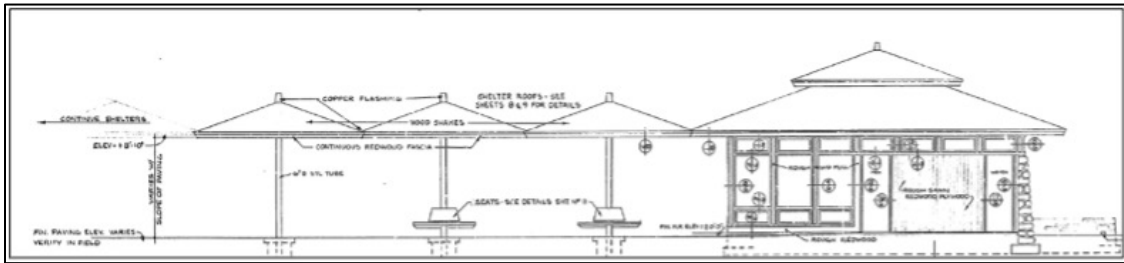


Figure 9. The visitor center and shade canopies from the east, as constructed (National Park Service, Division of Architecture, Western Office of Design and Construction, September 1965).



Figure 10. The Whiskeytown Visitor Center Historic District in 1966 (Whiskeytown NRA files).



Figure 11. Visitor center and shade canopies, ca. 1966. Note the presence of the double doors and the window wall on the south façade. The bench underneath the shade canopy has since been removed (NPS Whiskeytown Archive).



Figure 12. The fountain in the visitor center promenade, ca. 1966. The fountain was converted into a planter in 1998 (NPS Whiskeytown Archive).

Changes to the Whiskeytown Visitor Center Historic District, 1980s-2021

The original configuration of the visitor center was intended to reflect its use as an “Information Center.” The building’s original layout consisted of a lobby, small administration area, and restroom facilities. However, the visitor center no longer met the needs of the park as visitation rates grew. As a result, in 1984, a rectangular comfort station addition was constructed on the building’s east side and the interior of the visitor center’s original block was remodeled. The comfort station addition extended the double-hipped, pyramidal roof and increased the height and length of the rubble masonry wall at the north face. Photographs suggest that asphalt shingles were installed on the roofs of the original building, new addition, and the shade canopies. The addition’s cladding included horizontal cement board siding to differentiate it from the original building. Furthermore, the restrooms were moved to the addition to free up space in the original building for other uses. A storage room that doubled as an office was added at the junction of the original building and the comfort station addition. The addition required the removal of two of the three window assemblies on the east side of the original visitor center. A door to the storage room was added to the interior at the east corner of the original building. The interior remodel of the original building consisted of installing a new, built-in information desk, merchandise display cases and shelves, and three new interpretive and exhibit cases. These alterations resulted in the loss of interior redwood paneling and the original concrete floor was covered with carpet. These changes diminished the Modern aesthetic of the visitor center, and its feeling of a glazed pavilion perched above the lake, as the comfort station addition required the removal of the majority of the visitor center’s eastern window wall (Seigel & Strain Architects and architecture + history, llc 2022, P1.B.9-P1.B.10).

The 1984 alterations and additions also resulted in the removal of aggregate pavers and curbing as well as a planting bed at the east side of the original building. A new concrete walkway was constructed along the south and east edges of the comfort station addition. The flagpole was moved from the rubble masonry portion of the visitor center’s north façade to a small, paved area near the comfort station’s east façade (Seigel & Strain Architects and architecture + history, llc 2022, P1.B.10).

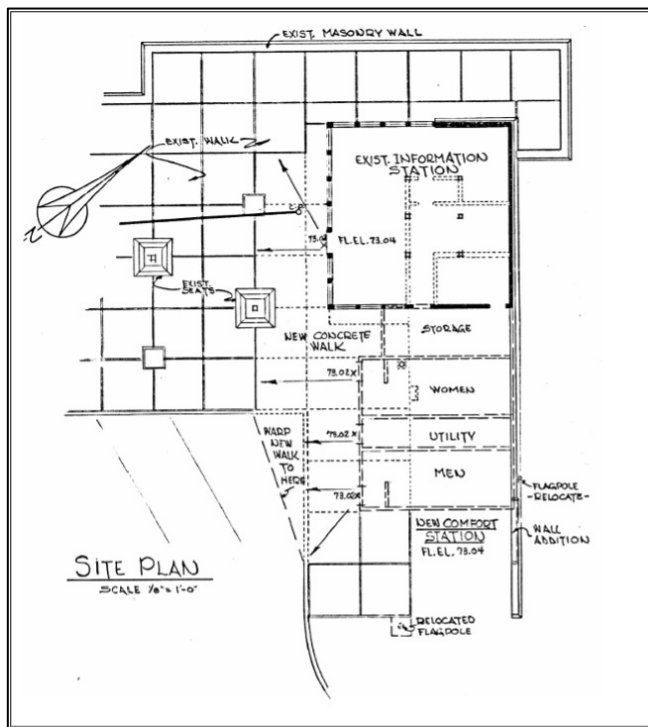


Figure 13. The site plan for the comfort station addition (National Park Service, July 1983).



Figure 14. The interior of the original visitor center block during the 1984 ribbon cutting of the comfort station addition and the remodel of the main block of the visitor center building (NPS Whiskeytown Archive).



Figure 15. Ribbon cutting of the comfort station addition and remodel of the interior of the visitor center building in 1984. Note the new location of the flagpole (NPS Whiskeytown Archive).



Figure 16. Installation of new paving and planters in 1998 (NPS Whiskeytown Archive).

Further alterations were made to the shelter canopy area and promenade paving in 1998. Some planter boxes were refurbished or replaced. Several exposed aggregate pavers in the areas south and north of the canopies were replaced with poured concrete pavers. The planter boxes north of the canopies were rebuilt with new concrete edging. The original fountain and pool were filled and is now used as a planter (Seigel & Strain Architects and architecture + history, llc 2022, P1.B.10).

Additional upgrades and changes were made to the Whiskeytown Visitor Center Historic District in the 2000s. The water distribution line was replaced in 2001. In 2005, photovoltaic panels were added to the southern roof slope of the main building and addition, as well as a separate stand-alone array of panels to the north of the building. In 2006, green, standing seam metal roofing replaced the 1984 asphalt shingles on the original building, comfort station addition, and shade canopies. The roof overlapped the double board redwood fascia. A native plant garden was added along the north side of the visitor center in 2007. All the remaining windows of the original building were replaced with light tan vinyl windows in 2009. The assemblies are similar in configuration, however, the materials and colors chosen are incompatible with the Modern aesthetic of the visitor center. In 2010, two new 6,000-gallon septic tanks were added. The promenade underwent further changes in 2014, resulting in additional replacement of the paving, and the removal of trees and landscaping. New trees were also added at in-grade planter boxes at the southern portion of the promenade. A seating area with a picnic table and bench with metal handrails was added as well. A new HVAC unit was added to the original building's western roof slope in 2021 (Seigel & Strain Architects and architecture + history, llc 2022, P1.B.10-P1.B.11).

Analysis & Evaluation

Analysis and Evaluation Summary

The Whiskeytown Visitor Center Historic District, constructed between 1965 and 1967, continues to convey its significance as Mission 66-era visitor center. Eight landscape characteristics help convey the historic integrity of the historic district. These characteristics include natural systems and features, spatial organization, land use, vegetation, circulation, buildings and structures, views and vistas, and small-scale features.

Natural systems and features, along with views and vistas, allowed for an overlook opportunity along the promenade of the Whiskeytown Visitor Center Historic District. The district was constructed on a graded hillside overlooking Shasta Bally and Whiskeytown Lake. This provided a unique opportunity for the district to provide visitors with a view of the main features of the park shortly after entering Whiskeytown National Recreation Area.

The Mission 66-era design principles that influenced the development of the Whiskeytown Visitor Center Historic District are evident in almost all the district's landscape characteristics. The location of the visitor center near the intersection of Highway 299 and John F. Kennedy Memorial Drive and the entrance to the park provided visitors with the opportunity to obtain visitor information and see the park's main features shortly after entering the park. The district's circulation and general spatial organization provided visitors with easy access to the visitor center building and overlook opportunity located on the promenade.

Small-scale features, including the perimeter rubble masonry wall, and building materials used to construct the visitor center building allow for the landscape to blend in with its setting, which is another key feature of Mission 66 visitor centers. The rubble masonry used in the wall and the visitor center's glazed façades allowed for the district to blend in with its surroundings as to not take away from the overlook opportunity.

Several changes to the Whiskeytown Visitor Center Historic District are evident as well, especially through its vegetation and small-scale features. Over time, various planters were replaced with poured concrete and in-ground planter beds. A native plant garden was added to the north part of the district in 2007. Some small-scale features were added, including interpretive signage and trash bins, that impact the view of Shasta Bally and Whiskeytown Lake from certain parts of the promenade.

The landscape characteristics of the Whiskeytown Visitor Center Historic District convey the historic character of the district from the period of significance (1965-1967). Some aspects of the district have undergone changes since the period of significance to accommodate increased visitation and repair deteriorating features. Overall, however, the landscape retains its historic integrity, and the landscape characteristics continue to convey the Whiskeytown Visitor Center Historic District's historical significance.

Integrity

The landscape retains integrity of location as it retains its original location overlooking Whiskeytown Lake and its accessibility from the parking area.

The landscape retains a fair degree of integrity of design in its original features, including stone walls, aggregate concrete features, planting beds, shade canopies, and wood benches. The site circulation has been retained, however, the removal of the doors at the west façade did alter the circulation for the visitor center. The design intention of the visitor center to blend in with its surroundings has been impacted by the comfort station addition and the loss of two of the window assemblies on the east façade of the original visitor center. Furthermore, the 1984 comfort station addition has impacted the view of Shasta Bally and Whiskeytown Lake from the area east of the building. However, the rehabilitation that occurred in 2025 restored the south and west façade's entrances and replaced the vinyl windows with metal-framed windows. This helped reestablish the original view from the interior of the visitor center looking outward to Shasta Bally and Whiskeytown Lake as well as circulation patterns within the original part of the visitor center. Furthermore, the rehabilitation efforts reestablished the clerestory windows on the east façade using faux windows, as the presence of the comfort station addition prevents the utilization of real clerestory windows. Though the landscape had several changes to its overall design since its period of significance, it retains its integrity.

The landscape retains integrity of setting, as it is largely unchanged. The property is situated to reflect Mission 66-era principles, including serving visitors close to the entrance of the park and providing visitors with an opportunity to view the park's main features. The historic district still acts as a gateway to Whiskeytown National Recreation Area and maintains its relationship to the main features of the park—Whiskeytown Lake and Shasta Bally. Visitors can view these features from both inside the visitor center building and from the overlook. Although the view is

compromised in some areas of the district, visitors can still obtain a clear view of these features from within and around the visitor center building.

The landscape's integrity of materials has been impacted by several alterations. Some of the original aggregate concrete paving and curbing has been replaced with new poured integrally-colored concrete or poured smooth concrete without aggregate. The roofing materials have been changed from the original wood shake roofing to green standing seam metal roofing that does not blend with the natural setting. Replacement light tan vinyl windows have been installed on the original visitor center building's window assemblies, but the material and color choice do not match the historic-era window assemblies. Furthermore, the interior redwood wall paneling was removed at the time of the 1984 interior remodel.

The landscape's integrity of workmanship has been impacted by the 1984 addition and the extensive interior remodel of the visitor center. The addition and remodel diminished the visitor center's workmanship as a glazed pavilion. The perimeter rubble masonry wall and rubble masonry façades have been repointed with different materials, or contain extensive bio growth, thus their integrity of workmanship is diminished. The replacement of several concrete pavers was not done with aggregate concrete; thus, the replacement pavers do not retain integrity of workmanship. Rehabilitating the masonry walls and replacing the poured concrete pavers with aggregate would help restore integrity of workmanship.

The landscape retains its integrity of feeling, as the landscape has a similar feel to the historic conditions. Some of the design and material interventions and alterations have impacted the feeling of a glazed pavilion perched above the lake; however, the landscape is still understood as a visitor center and overlook area and conveys its historic use.

The landscape does retain its integrity of association with the Mission 66 era as it still functions as a visitor center and overlook that greets visitors to Whiskeytown National Recreation Area.

Landscape Characteristic Narratives and Features

Natural Systems and Features

Natural systems and features are the natural aspects that have influenced the development and physical form of the landscape, and can include geology, geomorphology, hydrology, ecology, climate, and native vegetation. The design and use of the Whiskeytown Visitor Center Historic District was historically influenced by the area's geomorphology and hydrology.

Topography

Whiskeytown Lake is surrounded by numerous mountains and hillsides. When choosing a site for the construction of Whiskeytown Visitor Center, NPS staff wanted to find a location that not only was close to the park's entrance but would provide visitors with an overlook to view

Whiskeytown Lake and Shasta Bally—the park's tallest mountain. As a result, the NPS chose to construct the visitor center high on a nearby hillside that would give visitors a view overlooking Whiskeytown Lake and the mountains surrounding the lake. The visitor center is located on a terraced hillside.

Hydrology

The district's development was influenced by the park's hydrology. Whiskeytown Lake is a man-made lake constructed as part of the Central Valley Project. After the completion of Whiskeytown Dam in 1963, the Bureau of Reclamation would flood the area for a roughly 3,200-acre reservoir. The visitor center's location on top of a terraced hill in proximity to views of the reservoir resulted in little need for major drainage systems to move water away from the site.

Summary

The topography and hydrology influenced several aspects of the design of Whiskeytown Visitor Center Historic District, specifically the location and spatial arrangement of the visitor center building and overlook. The natural systems and features exist relatively unchanged from the period of significance and help convey the historic character of Whiskeytown Visitor Center Historic District.



Figure 17. View of the Whiskeytown Visitor Center Historic District from the southeast in May 1966. Note the graded hillside (NPS Whiskeytown Archive).

Spatial Organization

Spatial organization is the three-dimensional organization of physical forms and visual associations in a landscape, including the articulation of ground, vertical, and overhead planes that define and create spaces.

The visitor center's spatial organization contributing features include the visitor center building and parking lot.

Visitor Center Site (CRIS CLI Feature ID 210000) – Contributing

The overall design of the Whiskeytown Visitor Center Historic District was informed by Mission 66 design principles and Modern architecture. These features include blurred distinctions between interior and exterior space, strategic use of large expanse of glass, an emphasis on horizontality, using materials to allow the built environment to blend in with its natural surroundings, and the location of the visitor center itself at the entrance of the park or near a point of interest. The visitor center building is both located near the entrance to Whiskeytown National Recreation Area and near two points of interest—Whiskeytown Lake and Shasta Bally.

The spatial organization of Whiskeytown Visitor Center Historic District considers the views and topography of the site. The Whiskeytown Visitor Center was built on a hillside overlooking the Whiskeytown Lake. Prior to the construction of the visitor center and Whiskeytown Lake itself, the hillside overlooked the town of Whiskeytown as well as Brandy, Clear, and Boulder Creeks. The location of the visitor center building is at the east part of hillside, which was partially flattened using cut and fill methods, with the parking set back from the building allowed visitors to view Whiskeytown Lake and Shasta Bally both as they approached the visitor center and from the interior of the building. Mission 66 visitor centers were designed to provide visitors with overlook opportunities to view a park's main features, which the Whiskeytown Visitor Center Historic District accomplishes with the location and overall design of the building.

The window wall within the visitor center itself is a strategic use of a large expanse of glass and allows for a blurred distinction between interior and exterior space. However, the removal of the eastern window wall for the construction of the comfort station addition results in a loss of historic spatial organization. The canopy promenade emphasizes horizontality and gives the illusion that it is “floating” above the lake. But, the addition of interpretive signage under the

canopies and harms the historic-era spatial organization, as the view of Whiskeytown Lake is compromised from certain points of the canopy.

Furthermore, the materials and color schemes used in the initial construction of the visitor center were meant to allow the visitor center to blend in with the surrounding landscape. The “floating” canopy and window walls within the visitor center, along with the original wood shake roofs, allowed this effect to occur. These design choices were influenced by Mission-66 principles that emphasized the importance of a building blending in with its natural surroundings while still providing visitor services and an overlook opportunity. While some changes in materials and design have affected the visitor center—primarily the addition of the comfort station in 1984, the addition of interpretive signage, and the removal of the wood shake roof—it is evident that the visitor center was designed using Mission 66 design principles and techniques, thus it retains integrity of spatial organization.

Summary

Overall, the Whiskeytown Visitor Center Historic District maintains much of its spatial organization. The building remains set at the edge of the terrace with the parking adjacent to the main viewpoint and the road. Changes to the visitor center building and shade canopies have impacted its ability to blend in with the surrounding landscape. However, the location of the visitor center, shade canopies, and parking lot reflect Mission 66-era design principles. The continued use of the district for visitor services and as an opportunity for visitors to get an impressive view of the park’s main features reinforces the historic patterns of development and contributes to the spatial organization from the period of significance. Therefore, spatial organization is a landscape characteristic that continues to convey the historic character of the Whiskeytown Visitor Center Historic District as it was developed during Mission 66.



Figure 18. Whiskeytown Visitor Center Historic District from the intersection of John F. Kennedy Memorial Drive and Highway 299, camera facing west (NPS 2025).

Land Use

Land uses are the principal activities in a landscape that form, shape, and organize the landscape as a result of human interaction.

The Whiskeytown Visitor Center Historic District retains its historic land use as a location for visitor services and interpretation, and as an overlook opportunity to see key features of Whiskeytown National Recreation Area.

The visitor center's use for visitor services, overlook, and parking are all historic land uses for this landscape that dates to its period of significance (1965-1967), thus it retains its integrity. Interpretative information is shared both inside the visitor center and along the promenade using waysides. The exhibit cases were added to the north wall of the interior of the Visitor Center in 1984 as part of the reorganization and construction of the comfort station addition. Interpretive signage was added along the perimeter rubble masonry wall and beneath the shade canopies between 1984 and 1998.



Figure 19. Waysides are a key aspect of the land use, camera facing southwest (NPS)

Vegetation

Vegetation includes deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs, vines, groundcovers, and herbaceous plants and plant communities, whether indigenous or introduced in the landscape.

The Whiskeytown Visitor Center Historic District contains various vegetation throughout the district. The barbell-shaped island features seven Chinese Pistache trees within in-ground planter beds. Various planter beds are placed throughout the promenade which contain shrubs and trees. Most of these planter beds are not original and contain plants that are relatively new. A native plant garden featuring plants native to Whiskeytown National Recreation Area was added to the north of the visitor center building in 2007.

Chinese Pistache Trees (CRIS CLI Feature ID 210001) – Contributing

The seven Chinese Pistache trees located along the barbell-shaped island were planted during the period of significance. Although the as-built plans for the visitor center do not show details of the plants on the barbell-shaped island, aerial imagery and field survey analysis seem to suggest these trees are original to the period of significance.

Planter Vegetation (CRIS CLI Feature ID 210002) – Non-contributing

All the plants in the planters (except for those on the barbell-shaped island) are non-contributing vegetation. The vegetation in the planters were planted during the replacement of the planter beds in 1998 and 2014.

The original plan for the visitor center did not discuss vegetation, but merely suggested planting vegetation in the various planter beds scattered throughout the promenade. All these planter beds were replaced either in 1998 or 2014, and the fountain was converted into a planter bed in 1998. Field survey analysis points to these plants being relatively new and likely planted during and after the replacement of the original planter boxes.

Native Plant Garden (CRIS CLI Feature ID 210003) – Non-contributing

Although the native plant garden contains plants native to Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, they were planted after the period of significance and therefore do not contribute to the landscape. Prior to the addition of the native plant garden in 2007, the space north of the visitor center was not consistently maintained and was instead left alone with a lawn and a few planted trees and small shrubs. It was left alone and had relatively little plant growth. When the native

plant garden was added, the garden featured plants native to Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. This included, but is not limited to, wooly sunflower, McNab cypress, redbud, sulphur buckwheat, canyon live oak, Lemmon ceanothus, deerbrush, toyon, and California poppies. The addition of the garden largely obscured the view of Whiskeytown Visitor Center Historic District from Highway 299.

Summary

The Whiskeytown Visitor Center Historic District has undergone various changes in its vegetation with the replacement of the plants in the various planter boxes in 1998 and 2014, and the addition of the native plant garden in 2007. However, the addition of the new plants in planter beds along the promenade and the addition of the native plant garden do not inhibit the district's ability to convey its Mission 66-era design principles. The vegetation does not impair views of Whiskeytown Lake or Shasta Bally and it further allows the built environment to blend in with its surroundings, as native plants were utilized. Furthermore, the seven original Chinese Pistache trees remain along the barbell-shaped island.



Figure 20. Trees on the barbell-shaped island, camera facing northeast (NPS 2025).



Figure 21. Various replacement planters and plants on the promenade, camera facing southwest (NPS



Figure 22. At-grade planter bed on south portion of promenade, camera facing northwest



Figure 23. Raised concrete planter bed near shade canopies, camera facing north (NPS)



Figure 24. At-grade planter bed in front of the visitor center's south façade, camera facing



Figure 25. Native plant garden, camera facing southwest (NPS 2025).

Circulation

Circulation refers to the spaces, features, and applied material finishes that constitute systems of movement in a landscape.

The Whiskeytown Visitor Center Historic District contains two contributing circulation features—the parking lot and promenade. The parking lot, located in the southern portion of the district, provides vehicular access to the visitor center from John F. Kennedy Memorial Drive close to its intersection with Highway 299. The promenade provides pedestrian access to the visitor center building, overlook, and picnic area at the south end of the promenade.

Parking Lot (CRIS CLI Feature ID 210004) – Contributing

The parking lot is located at the southern portion of the district and contains a barbell-shaped concrete island with seven trees that separates the parking lot from John F. Kennedy Memorial Drive. The parking lot features a row of twenty-four diagonal parking spaces along the promenade, with seven parallel parking spaces available along either side of the barbell-shaped divider. The parking lot employs Mission 66-era design principles in terms of its proximity to the intersection of Highway 299 and John F. Kennedy Memorial Drive—two main roads through Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. The eastern entrance to the parking lot provides easy vehicular access to the visitor center and overlook from these main roads and allows for orderly circulation through the district with its one-way design. A barbell-shaped island separates the parking lot from John F. Kennedy Memorial Drive.

The overall layout of the parking lot is nearly identical as it was designed and constructed during the period of significance. The parking lot has likely been repaved since its original construction in from 1965-1967, and various cracks have been filled with asphalt. The parking lot is still an open area that allows views of the Whiskeytown Visitor Center Historic District from John F. Kennedy Memorial Drive, it reflects the same materials and serves its historic purpose as the main parking area for visitors.

Promenade (CRIS CLI Feature ID 210005) – Contributing

As with most Mission 66 visitor centers, the pedestrian circulation at Whiskeytown Visitor Center Historic District is a character-defining feature and utilizes Mission 66-era design principles. The promenade serves the main pedestrian circulation through the complex, leading visitors from the parking lot to the visitor center and overlook. The promenade is a straight line running southwest

to northeast and gets incrementally wider as it reaches the visitor center and overlook. The southwest end of the promenade features a picnic area, complete with a concrete picnic table and metal railings where the rubble masonry wall terminates. Part of the promenade becomes covered by the five pyramidal hipped roof canopies extending west from the visitor center building on the northern portion of the promenade. The promenade has been somewhat altered since the period of significance, with the replacement of aggregate paving and curbing with poured concrete pavers in 1998 and 2014, the replacement of several planters on the southeast portion of the promenade in 1998, and alterations to the shade canopies in 1984 and 2006.

Native Plant Garden Trail (CRIS CLI Feature ID 210174) – Non-contributing

A dirt trail winds through the native plant garden, with access at the south and north ends of the visitor center. Two wood bridges allow for pedestrians to cross over two small ditches. The path was added in 2007 at the time of the native plant garden addition.

Summary

Contributing circulation features include the parking lot and promenade. Overall, the two contributing circulation systems have been modified with the replacement of various paving materials and alterations to the shade canopies but still retain their general Mission 66-era layout. Contributing circulation features include the parking lot and promenade. There is one non-contributing feature—the native plant garden trail.



Figure 26. Parking lot, camera facing northeast (NPS 2025).



Figure 27. Promenade and shade canopies, camera facing northeast (NPS 2025).



Figure 28. Native plant garden trail, camera facing west (NPS 2025).

Buildings and Structures

Buildings are elements constructed primarily for sheltering any form of human activity in a landscape, while structures are elements constructed for functional purposes other than sheltering human activity. The visitor center building and shade canopies are contributing to the Whiskeytown Visitor Center Historic District.

Visitor Center (CRIS CLI Feature ID 210006) - Contributing

The original block of the building features several window assemblies to provide views of Whiskeytown Lake and Shasta Bally and a pyramidal hipped roof. The original Whiskeytown Visitor Center, constructed from 1965-1967, consisted of a single-story, wood-frame building, with portions of the north and west walls constructed using rubble masonry. Parts of the west, south, and east façades each had large vertically-oriented window openings consisting of a central, fixed-pane, wood-framed picture window with inward-projecting, medium-bronze anodized aluminum, single-pane, hopper windows above and below. The windows were separated by dark-stained redwood mullions. The visitor center main block's original east façade contained three of the typical window wall assemblies. The pyramidal hipped roofs were covered with wood shakes and had a double board redwood fascia. Between the original exterior entrances to the restrooms on the east façade was rough sawn redwood plywood.

Note: The following has been adapted from the Historic Structure Report for the Whiskeytown Recreation Area Visitor Center (Siegel & Strain Architects and architecture + history, llc 2022, P1.B.9-P1.B.10).

Several alterations and additions have been made to both the visitor center building. In 1984, a comfort station addition was made to the visitor center building's east façade. The rectangular-shaped addition carried over the double-hipped, pyramidal roof and increased the height and length of the rubble masonry wall at the north face. A storeroom and office were constructed at the junction of the 1965 building and the new addition. This extended in front of two of the three window assemblies at the visitor center main block's east façade. The storage room door was inserted at the east corner of the main block of the visitor center. The addition's exterior cladding consisted of composite panels with narrow vertical dividers, differentiating it from the original. The wood shake roof on the visitor center was replaced with asphalt shingles. The placement of the 1984 addition and the alterations and additions to the visitor center's interior features

diminished the Modern aesthetic of the visitor center and its feeling of a glazed pavilion perched above the lake.

The interior of the building has been altered as well. The original layout of the visitor center's interior included a lobby occupying the western half of the building, an office in the north corner, and men's and women's restrooms in the east corner. The men's restroom had both an interior and exterior entrance, while the women's restroom had only an exterior entrance. The addition of the comfort station in 1984 moved the restrooms, administrative office, and storage spaces to the addition, and the interior of the original portion of the visitor center underwent changes. The remodel included a new, built-in information desk and cash register area, merchandise display cases and shelves, and three new interpretive and exhibit cases. These alterations resulted in the loss of the interior redwood paneling and likely led to the carpeting of the original integrally-colored concrete floor. The interior of the original portion of the building was now primarily dedicated to the visitor, with a large wood information desk placed in the center surrounded by interpretive displays and a gift shop.

The visitor center had further alterations in the 2000s. In 2005, photovoltaic panels were added to the southern roof slope of the main building and restroom wing. In 2006, a green, standing seam metal roof replaced the asphalt shingles from 1984. All the remaining windows at the original visitor center were replaced with light tan vinyl windows in 2009, further diminishing the Modern aesthetic of the visitor center. Finally, in 2021, a new HVAC unit was placed on the visitor center's western roof slope.

Shade Canopies (CRIS CLI Feature ID 210175) - Contributing

A series of five interconnected shade canopies extend southward from the visitor center building. The shade canopies consist of five pyramidal hipped roofs each supported with a central post that mirror the pyramidal hipped roof shape of the visitor center building. The wood shake roof on the shade canopy was replaced with asphalt shingles in 1984. In 2006, a green standing seam metal roof was added.

Summary

The Whiskeytown Visitor Center Historic District includes one contributing building, the visitor center with a non-contributing comfort station addition to the building. There is one contributing

structure, the shade canopy. Both the visitor center and shade canopy retain their Mission 66-era materials and design sufficient to convey its significance.



Figure 29. South and west façades of the original block of the visitor center, camera facing east (NPS 2025).



Figure 30. North and west façades of the original block of the visitor center, camera facing south (NPS 2025).



Figure 31. North façade of comfort station addition with the rubble masonry wall extension, camera facing northwest (NPS 2025).



Figure 32. South and east façades of the comfort station and original block of visitor center, camera facing north (NPS 2025).



Figure 33. Photovoltaic panels and HVAC unit atop the visitor center (NPS 2025). Note the replacement vinyl windows. Camera facing northeast.



Figure 34. View of shade canopy from the north portion of the parking lot, camera facing northwest (NPS 2025).

Views and Vistas

A view is the expansive and/or panoramic prospect of a broad range of vision that may be naturally occurring or deliberately contrived. A vista is a controlled prospect of a discrete, linear range of vision, which is deliberately contrived.

There is one contributing view from Whiskeytown Historic District toward Shasta Bally and Whiskeytown Lake.

View of Shasta Bally and Whiskeytown Lake (CRIS CL Feature ID 210007) – Contributing

The view of Shasta Bally and Whiskeytown Lake from the Whiskeytown Visitor Center Historic District contributes to the significance of the cultural landscape. The location and design of the visitor center was influenced by the view of Shasta Bally and Whiskeytown Lake. The visitor center's window walls, shade canopies, and the location of the overlook were designed with the intention of providing visitors access to view these points of interest at Whiskeytown National Recreation Area.

The view of Shasta Bally and the Whiskeytown Lake from within and around the Whiskeytown Visitor Center has been affected by the removal of most of the eastern window wall and the addition of the comfort station in 1984. Both Shasta Bally and Whiskeytown Lake are visible from within the visitor center itself, but visitors are not able to see either the lake or the mountain from the east side of the visitor center because of the comfort station addition.

The views from the rubble masonry wall overlook have remained relatively unchanged since the period of significance (1965-1967). A system of floating tanks that supports two curtains for temperature-regulation purposes was added to Whiskeytown Lake beneath the Whiskeytown Visitor Center Historic District in 1993 and is visible from this overlook. Despite this addition, the overlook at the rubble masonry wall retains its historic integrity, as the views of both Shasta Bally and Whiskeytown Lake are virtually unchanged.

The view of Shasta Bally from the promenade and parking lot have been largely unchanged as well. Plant growth has affected the visibility in some places, but Shasta Bally is still visible from certain parts of the parking lot and promenade that are closer to the visitor. The views of Whiskeytown Lake, however, has been impacted with the addition of trash bins in the promenade and interpretive signage under the shade canopies. These additions have impaired visitors' views of Whiskeytown Lake as they drive into the parking lot and as they walk toward the visitor center

along the promenade. Whiskeytown Lake is still visible at some points, but it is hidden at other places from view by these additions.

Summary

The view of Shasta Bally and Whiskeytown Lake is a contributing feature to the Whiskeytown Visitor Center Historic District because it reflects Mission 66-era design principles.



Figure 35. View of Shasta Bally and Whiskeytown Lake from the overlook, camera facing west (NPS 2025).



Figure 36. View of Shasta Bally and Whiskeytown Lake from the western portion of the visitor center's interior, camera facing northwest (NPS 2025).

Small-Scale Features

Small-scale features are elements that provide detail and diversity for both functional needs and aesthetic concerns in the landscape.

There are three contributing and eleven non-contributing small-scale features. The contributing small-scale features include the rubble masonry wall bordering the overlook and promenade, built-in benches under two of the canopies, and the planter that previously contained the fountain. The noncontributing small-scale features includes the Whiskeytown Lake sign, two wood fences, interpretive signage, telescope, photovoltaic panels, planters, banner posts, replacement paving, picnic area, replacement planting beds, garbage bins, and flagpole.

Rubble Masonry Stone Wall (CRIS HS ID 210008) – Contributing

The rubble masonry stone wall along the overlook consists of an 18” tall wall that is comprised of rubble stone. The wall follows the edge of the hillside from northeast to southwest in an undulating pattern and acts as the northern boundary of the district. The rubble masonry wall is comprised of both original and replacement mortar and stones. Some repaired areas contain mortar and stones that do not match the original wall. In 2007, a small portion of the wall to the north of the visitor center building was removed to allow for access to the native plant garden.

Wood Benches (2) (CRIS CL Feature ID 210009) – Contributing

One built-in, wrap-around wood bench is located beneath two of the five shade canopies. There were originally three benches, but one was removed from the easternmost canopy during the 1984 remodel to make room for a built-in information panel. The two remaining benches are constructed of redwood slat and radiate from the canopy’s center pole with metal brackets for support.

Fountain Planter (CRIS CL Feature ID 210010) – Contributing

The original fountain location with a concrete stem wall and stone coping was converted to a planter in 1998. However, the planter still retains the original stem wall and stone coping and is the only original planter remaining in the district.

Whiskeytown Lake Signs (CRIS CL Feature ID 210011) – Non-contributing

Two signs for Whiskeytown Lake and the visitor center are present. A wood sign for Whiskeytown Lake stands along the overlook’s retaining wall. This sign was constructed at an

unknown date (sometime between 1984 and 2011). A metal sign for the visitor center sits atop a rubble masonry base on the northwest corner of the intersection of Highway 299 and John F. Kennedy Memorial Drive. This sign was likely constructed c. 1984, as it replaced the original “Whiskeytown Recreation Area” sign attached to the north face of the masonry wall along the rear of the visitor center.

Propane Tank Fence (CRIS CL Feature ID 210012) – Non-contributing

A rectangular wood fence with a wood gate is present to the north of the rubble masonry wall near its northern terminus. The gate is attached to the wood fence with simple metal hinges and can swing outward over the rubble masonry wall. This fence surrounds a cylindrical propane tank.

Highway 299 Fence (CRIS CL Feature ID 210013) – Non-contributing

A simple wood fence runs along the Highway 299, separating the native plant garden from the roadway. The fence terminates just before the intersection at John F. Kennedy Memorial Drive.

Wood Bridge (CRIS CL Feature ID 210014) – Non-contributing

Located in the native plant garden are two small wood bridges that appear to cross a small rock ditch. These bridges are located along the dirt pathway that leads through the native plant garden. These bridges were likely constructed when the native plant garden was added in 2007.

Interpretive Signage (CRIS CL Feature ID 210015) – Non-contributing

Interpretive signage is located along the overlook’s retaining wall and underneath the canopies. The interpretive signs at the overlook are scattered along the retaining wall. The large interpretive sign under the canopy replaced one of the original wrap-around benches and impacts the vista of Whiskeytown Lake. All the signs were added at an unknown date between 1984 and 1998.

Telescope (CRIS CL Feature ID 210016) – Non-contributing

A telescope is present at the overlook’s retaining wall to provide visitors with a magnified view of Whiskeytown Lake. The telescope was added at an unknown date between 1984 and 2011.

Photovoltaic Panels (CRIS CL Feature ID 210017) – Non-contributing

To the north of the visitor center building is an array of free-standing photovoltaic panels installed in 2005. This feature is comprised of a thin metal pole topped with two sets of one-over-four photovoltaic panels that are angled and face southward.

Planters (CRIS CL Feature ID 210018) – Non-contributing

All the planters (except for the one that previously contained the fountain) have been replaced or changed in some manner since the visitor center's construction in the 1960s. The planters are either 8'x8' or 8'x16'. The original redwood edging around the promenade planters were replaced with concrete curbs when most of the planters were replaced in 1998. In 2014, several tree planters located at equal intervals on axis with the shade canopy were installed.

Banner Posts (CRIS CL Feature ID 210019) – Non-contributing

Two banner posts are located along the north portion of the promenade close to the parking lot. These were added at an unknown date between 2000 and 2011.

Garbage Bins (CRIS CL Feature ID 210020) – Non-contributing

Several garbage bins have been added along the promenade and block the public viewing of Whiskeytown Lake from John F. Kennedy Memorial Drive.

Flagpole (CRIS CL Feature ID 210021) – Non-contributing

The flagpole is located along the paved area to the east of the comfort station addition. The original flagpole was attached to the north façade of the rubble masonry wall near the original southern terminus of the wall but was moved in 1984 to accommodate the construction of the comfort station addition.

Summary

The Whiskeytown Visitor Center Historic District contains three contributing small-scale features and eleven non-contributing small-scale features.



Figure 37. Missing masonry on the perimeter rubble masonry wall, camera facing north (NPS 2025).



Figure 38. Replacement rubble masonry on wall where the wall was cut to allow access to the native plant garden, camera facing north (NPS 2025).



Figure 39. Redwood bench under shade canopy (NPS 2025). Note the varying pavers with redwood dividers. The rubble masonry wall is in the background. Camera facing west.



Figure 40. Fountain planter, camera facing northeast (NPS 2025).



Figure 41. Wood sign at overlook, camera facing north (NPS 2025).



Figure 42. Visitor center sign along Highway 299, camera facing northwest (NPS 2025).



Figure 43. Fence and propane tank, camera facing northeast (NPS 2025).



Figure 44. Wood fence along Highway 299, camera facing southwest (NPS 2025).



Figure 45. An example of one of the bridges in the native plant garden, camera facing northeast (NPS 2025).



Figure 46. Examples of interpretive signage located along the perimeter rubble masonry wall at the overlook, camera facing northwest (NPS 2025).



Figure 47. Large interpretive sign located under the canopies, camera facing northwest (NPS 2025).



Figure 48. Telescope at overlook, camera facing northwest (NPS 2025).



Figure 49. Photovoltaic panels and propane tank fence, camera facing north (NPS 2025).



Figure 50. Example of replacement concrete planter, located on the promenade near the shade canopies, camera facing west (NPS 2025).



Figure 51. Example of planters added in 2014 along the south portion of the promenade, camera facing east (NPS 2025).



Figure 52. Banner post, camera facing northeast (NPS 2025).



Figure 53. Garbage bins located near the shade canopies on the north portion of the promenade to the south of the shade canopies, camera facing northwest (NPS 2025).



Figure 54. Flagpole, camera facing north (NPS 2025).

Condition Assessment

Condition

Good

Condition Date

08/22/2025

Narrative

Through analysis and evaluation of landscape characteristics and features, it has been determined that the Whiskeytown Visitor Center Historic District is in “good” condition. The landscape shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural or human forces. The district’s cultural and natural values are well preserved. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

There are a few specific impacts that should be corrected, but immediate action is not required. Portions of the rubble masonry wall have incorrectly been repaired several times, which resulted in the addition of incompatible materials. Furthermore, improper maintenance of the wall has led to extensive bio growth. Other impacts affecting the vegetation include the presence of deadwood and the intrusion of a cottonwood tree on the north side of the visitor center building.

Impacts

Type	Internal Source	External Source	Narrative	Date Identified
Inappropriate Maintenance	Yes	No	Incorrect mortar used on rubble masonry walls, incorrect materials used to patch aggregate pavers.	06/26/2025
Deferred Maintenance	Yes	No	Several missing stones on perimeter rubble masonry wall, cottonwood tree root undermining	06/26/2025

			north side of visitor center.	
Vegetation/Invasive Plants	Yes	No	Deadwood is present throughout the planted areas.	06/25/2025

Stabilization Measures

Narrative

The following stabilization measures have been identified for the Whiskeytown Visitor Center Historic District:

- Continually manage vegetation, including clearing built-up debris at the building base and cutting back adjacent vegetation.
- Remove biological growth from the rubble masonry wall.

Treatment

Approved Treatments

Type

Rehabilitation

Completed

In-progress

Document

Historic Structure Report

Narrative

A Historic Structure Report completed for the Whiskeytown Visitor Center was completed in 2022. This report outlined a series of treatment recommendations for not only the visitor center building, but several other aspects of the Whiskeytown Visitor Center Historic District's landscape. This report identified rehabilitation as the primary treatment strategy. The report states that rehabilitation through maintenance, addressing operational needs and facilitating continued use, an interior alteration, and addressing material deficiencies should be the main focuses to "[reinstate] (and [maintain]) the historic character of the promenade and original Visitor Center" (Siegel & Strain Architecture and architecture + history, llc 2022, P2.C.1).

The approved treatment recommendations listed in the Historic Structure Report include:

- Create a cycle of maintenance to address the visitor center interior and exterior, along with the masonry walls and canopy benches.
- Relocate small-scale features that impede the Whiskeytown Lake and Shasta Bally viewshed.
- Reinstate open floor space in the visitor center's interior, maintain the vaulted ceiling, remove interior exhibit cases, and avoid blocking the window walls.
 - New finishes should be compatible, but differentiated from the historic finishes, where possible. Employ colors that keep with natural color schemes of original building.
- Remove dirt and biological growth from concrete and masonry surfaces.
- Fill holes and remove incompatible patching and replace with compatible materials.

- Expose and restore or replace in kind the redwood fascia and soffits on the canopies.
- Repair or replace in kind the boards on the wood benches.
- Reinstall the fountain at the planter at its original location and restore size of the southern shortened planter.
- Remove the cottonwood tree at the north end of the visitor center building.
- Continually manage vegetation, including clearing built-up debris at the building base and cutting back adjacent vegetation.
- Repair leaks in the roof and repair or replace in kind damaged materials.
- Repair or replace in kind the wood window mullions, frames, and trim.
- Replace the vinyl windows with ones that have a dark colored frame and sash similar to the original storefront and fixed pane wood windows.
- Repair or replace original redwood posts, jambs, sills, and trim between window openings in kind where deteriorated.
- Restore the entrance at the north façade with aluminum doors with narrow stiles and replace framing surrounds to replicate the window mullions and trim.

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

Bibliography

Allaback, Sarah. *Mission 66 Visitor Centers: The History of a Building Type*. National Park Service, 2000.

An Act to Establish the Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area in the State of California, and for Other Purposes. Public Law 89-336, H.R. 797. November 8, 1965.

Carr, Ethan, Elaine Jackson-Retondo, Ph.D., Len Warner, Rodd L. Wheaton, John D. Feinberg, and Carly M. Piccarello. "National Park Service Mission 66 Era Resources." National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form. U.S. Department of the Interior, 2015.

Carr, Ethan. *Mission 66: Modernism and the National Park Dilemma*. University of Massachusetts Press, 2007.

Esri, DeLorme, HERE, TomTom, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, MapmyIndia, and the GIS User Community. "World Topographic Map." Accessed July 30, 2025. www.esri.com.

Logan, J. B., P. Dartnell, A.E. East, and A.C. Ritchie. 2020, Bathymetry, topography and orthomosaic imagery for Whiskeytown Lake, northern California (ver. 2. 0, July 2021): U. S. Geological Survey data release, <https://doi.org/10.5066/P9HEDYNT>.

McClelland, Linda Flint. *Historic Landscape Design and Construction: Building the National Parks*. University of Massachusetts Press, 1998.

Milestone, Jim F. and Meredith L. Timpson. *From the White House to Whiskeytown: An Administrative History of the Creation of Whiskeytown National Recreation Area*. National Park Service, 2003.

National Park Service. "Comfort Station, Overlook, Whiskeytown Unit, Whiskeytown Shasta Trinity NRA." July 1983.

National Park Service, Division of Architecture. "Information Station and Overlook." As-Constructed Drawing. Western Office of Design and Construction, September 1965.

National Park Service, Pacific West Regional Office. "Specifications for Renovate Whiskeytown Visitor Center." PMIS No. 199335. October 24, 2024.

Osborne, Glendee Ane. “Cultural Resources Inventory Report for Visitor Center Rehabilitation (CRP 21-044—PEPC 119786).” Prepared for National Park Service, Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. March 1, 2024.

Phillips, Ashley. “Whiskeytown Visitor Center.” National Register of Historic Places Determination of Eligibility Document. October 31, 2016.

Roca, Al M. *Whiskeytown National Recreation Area: A History*. Renown Publishing, 2010.

Seigel & Strain Architects and architecture + history, llc. “Whiskeytown Visitor Center.” Historic Structure Report. August 2022. Whiskeytown National Recreation Area files.

Whiskeytown National Recreation Area Archive.