



Whiskeytown Visitor Center VOLUME 1

HISTORIC STRUCTURE REPORT | AUGUST 2022



COMPLETED BY

Siegel & Strain Architects
architecture + history, llc

Task Order No. 140P8521F0082

Whiskeytown Visitor Center Historic Structure Report August 2022

Recommended by:

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Table of Contents

VOLUME I

- i **List of Figures**
- ii **Project Team**
- iii **Executive Summary**
- iv **Administrative Data and Management Summary**

PART 1 Developmental History

- A Historical Background and Context
- B Chronology of Development and Use
- C Statement of Significance
- D Physical Description
- E Character-Defining Features
- F Conditions Assessment
- G Integrity Analysis

PART 2 Future Use, Treatment and Recommendations

- A Historic Preservation Objectives and Preferred Use
- B Requirements for Work
- C Treatment Recommendations

I Bibliography

VOLUME II

Appendices (Bound Separately)

- A Original As Built drawings
- B 1984 Comfort Station addition As Built drawings
- C 2016 Determination of Eligibility document

i : List of Figures

List of Figures

Cover Photo Historic View of Whiskeytown Visitor Center, shortly after it's completion.
Source: NPS Whiskeytown NRA Archive.

1A - Historical Background and Context

- Figure 1** Shasta Dam under construction, October 22, 1942. Source: California State University, Chico, Digital Collections, sc22500.
- Figure 2** Detail of a Bureau of Reclamation Map, April 1964. Source: California State University, Chico, Meriam Library, Historical Map Collection, G4362 C4 N2 1964 U5.
- Figure 3** Whiskeytown Dam under construction, with the Glory Hole taking shape, 1962-1963. Source: NPS Whiskeytown Archive.
- Figure 4** Crowds at Hemenway Harbor, Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Nevada, April 9, 1955, J. M. Good, Photographer. Source: NPS Digital Collection, 4472-TDT.
- Figure 5** Whiskeytown Dam under construction. Source: University of California, Davis, Library Special Collections, Jervie Henry Eastman Photographer, Eastman Collection, D-051/B-9-B-9590.
- Figure 6** The crowd greeting President Kennedy, September 28, 1963, Cecil Stoughton, Photographer. Source: John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, Boston, Ma, ST-C310-11-63.
- Figure 7** President Kennedy speaking at dedication ceremony, September 28, 1963, Cecil Stoughton, Photographer. Source: John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, Boston, Ma, ST-C310-8-63.
- Figure 8** Postcard of Kennedy Memorial at Whiskeytown Dam, Private Collection.
- Figure 9** *Mission 66 in Action*, Cover of NPS Brochure. Source: National Park Service.
- Figure 10** Dinosaur National Monument, Quarry Visitor Center, Designed by Anshen & Allen, San Francisco, Ca, completed 1958. Source: Utah Historical Quarterly, Vol 28, No 3, July 1960: 323.
- Figure 11** Historic view of Whiskeytown Visitor Center, May 1966. Source: NPS Whiskeytown NRA Archive.
- Figure 12** Preliminary plan for Whiskeytown Visitor Information Station and Overlook, May 1963. Source: NPS eTIC Drawing # RA-WHI 611 3018A, 1 Sheet.

- Figure 13** Historic view of Whiskeytown Visitor Center, Spring 1966. Source: NPS Whiskeytown NRA Archive.
- Figure 14** Zion National Park, Visitor Center, Designed by Cecil Doty and the NPS WODC. Carl E. Jepson, Photographer, February 1961. Source: Zion National Park Museum and Archives, 004_01097; ZION 7817.
- Figure 15** Moose Visitor Center, Grand Teton National Park, Designed by Spencer, Ambrose & Lee of San Francisco, Ca, Photographer Jack E. Boucher, 1959. Source: National Park Service, Negative Number, 59-JB-1259.
- Figure 16** Historic view of Whiskeytown Visitor Center, shortly after completion. Source: NPS Whiskeytown NRA Archive.
- Figure 17** The Brandy Creek Beach Store and Bathhouse, Circa 1968. Note the roof structure is similar to the roof at the Visitor Center, Source: NPS Whiskeytown NRA Archive.

1B – Chronology of Development and Use

- Figure 1** Preliminary Site Plan for Overlook, February 1962. Source: NPS eTIC Drawing # RA-WHI 611 3010, 1 Sheet.
- Figure 2** Preliminary Site and Building Plan for Whiskeytown Visitor Information Station and Overlook, May 1963. Note the L-shaped layout of the shade canopy and the building placed at the east side of the site. Source: NPS eTIC Drawing # RA-WHI 611 3018A, 1 sheet.
- Figure 3** The final site plan for the Whiskeytown Visitor Center. “As Constructed” drawings dated September 1965. Source: NPS eTIC Drawing # RA-WHI 3018-E. Sheet 1 of 13.
- Figure 4** Historic view of the Visitor Information Center under construction. Source: NPS Whiskeytown Archive.
- Figure 5** Historic view of the Visitor Information Center, shortly after completion, May 1966. Source: NPS Whiskeytown Archive.
- Figure 6** 1984 Comfort Station Addition under construction. Source: NPS Whiskeytown Archive.
- Figure 7** Comfort Station addition shortly after completion, 1984. Source: NPS Whiskeytown Archive.
- Figure 8** A view of the completed interior renovations at the 1984 ribbon cutting. Source: NPS Whiskeytown Archive.
- Figure 9** The official ribbon cutting for reopening of the Visitor Center. Source: NPS Whiskeytown Archive.
- Figure 10** The 1984 project included replacement of portion of the promenade sidewalk. Source: NPS Whiskeytown Archive.
- Figure 11** The completed sidewalk replacement. Source: NPS Whiskeytown Archive.

1D – Physical Description

Figure 1	Map showing location of Visitor Center. Source: NPS.
Figure 2	View of Whiskeytown Lake, sign and stone wall at Visitor Center site, looking west.
Figure 3	View of the barbell shaped island adjacent to the parking lot, looking south.
Figure 4	Detail of the aggregate concrete paving along the parking island, looking north.
Figure 5	View of the promenade paving and wall, looking south.
Figure 6	Detail of the 18-inch rubble masonry wall and paving at promenade, looking south.
Figure 7	The canopy, looking south.
Figure 8	Built in benches under the canopy.
Figure 9	View of interpretive signage and the telescope, looking west toward the lake.
Figure 10	The solar panels at the northwest corner of the Visitor Center site, looking north.
Figure 11	The aggregate paving panels and planters at the promenade, looking southwest.
Figure 12	Example of the replacement paving at the promenade which does have the same aggregate quality as the original.
Figure 13	Detail showing replacement integrally colored concrete at south end of the promenade.
Figure 14	The picnic area at the south end of the promenade.
Figure 15	Detail of one of the planting beds at the promenade.
Figure 16	The planting bed that was originally a pool and fountain. This photograph also illustrates the original concrete paving aggregate and the replacement paving that does not match the original, looking south.
Figure 17	Historic view of the pool and fountain. Source: NPS Whiskeytown NRA Archive.
Figure 18	Recently planted trees with fences and the newer integrally-colored concrete at the south end of the promenade, looking south.
Figure 19	The bear-proof garbage bins at the north end of the promenade and an example of the replacement concrete that does not match the original concrete aggregate use throughout the promenade.

- Figure 20** Interpretive exhibit panels and the underside of the canopy, showing the plywood panels, battens and recessed lighting, looking west.
- Figure 21** The flagpole at the northeast corner of the Visitor Center.
- Figure 22** The Visitor Center sign adjacent to Eureka Way.
- Figure 23** Historic view of the integral flagpole and sign on the wall north façade east wall extension. Source: NPS Whiskeytown NRA Archive.
- Figure 24** View of the northwest wall and path to the native garden, looking west.
- Figure 25** A view of what was originally called the Whiskeytown “Information Station and Overlook” shortly after its completion, looking west towards Whiskeytown Lake. Note the transparent nature of the building as it was approached from the state highway. Source: NPS Whiskeytown NRA Archive.
- Figure 26** A view of what was originally called the Whiskeytown “Information Station and Overlook” shortly after its completion, looking east, showing its dramatic siting, Modern glazed pavilion, and canopy extension. Source: NPS Whiskeytown NRA Archive.
- Figure 27** Detail of the west elevation roof overhang and soffit, looking south.
- Figure 28** A view of the Visitor Information Center shortly after its completion showing the south wall glazing, pair of entry doors, canopy extension, heavy roof shakes, under canopy seating and aggregate paving with wood dividers. Source: NPS Whiskeytown NRA Archive.
- Figure 29** Detail of original Information Station. Source: NPS eTIC Drawing # RA-WHI 3018.E Sheet 1 of 13.
- Figure 30** Detail of 1983 plan for Comfort Station extension. Source: NPS eTIC Drawing # 611.80009 Sheet 1 of 5.
- Figure 31** Floor to ceiling windows at the south and west elevations.
- Figure 32** The south facade entry door, a glazed single-pane commercial door, is located toward the east end of the south facade.
- Figure 33** South elevation from 1965 drawing set. NPS eTIC Drawing # RA-WHI 3018.E Sheet 4 of 13.
- Figure 34** Planting bed at south façade, looking northwest.
- Figure 35** The canopy extends from the southeast corner of the original Visitor Information Center, looking north.
- Figure 36** The first bay of the original Visitor Information Center remains but the additional elements of the east façade were obscured by the Comfort Station addition.
- Figure 37** View of the south façade of the Comfort Station, looking north.

Figure 38	East elevation from 1965 drawing set. NPS eTIC Drawing # RA-WHI 3018.E Sheet 4 of 13.
Figure 39	East façade of the Comfort Station, looking north.
Figure 40	North façade ribbon of clerestory windows above the solid masonry wall, looking west. There are some surface mounted conduits and utility boxes at this wall.
Figure 41	North elevation from 1965 drawing set. NPS eTIC Drawing # RA-WHI 3018.E Sheet 4 of 13.
Figure 42	The masonry wall extension at the east end of the north façade, looking southeast. This image also illustrates the mortar repairs and the biological growth on the east end of the north wall.
Figure 43	The ribbon of clerestory windows at the north façade of the original Visitor Information Center, looking southeast.
Figure 44	North facade of Comfort Station addition showing clerestory windows with wood wall panels between and with screens. There are no screens in the clerestory windows in the original Visitor Center, looking west.
Figure 45	South end of the west façade, showing glazed window wall. The central two bays originally included two entry doors with a post between.
Figure 46	West elevation from 1965 drawing set. NPS eTIC Drawing # RA-WHI 3018.E Sheet 4 of 13.
Figure 47	West façade north end masonry wall with clerestory windows above.
Figure 48	View of the canopy structure, looking north.
Figure 49	East elevation from 1965 drawing set, including the canopy. NPS eTIC Drawing # RA-WHI 3018.E Sheet 4 of 13.
Figure 50	Detail of the under-canopy bench structure and attachment to canopy pole.’
Figure 51	Information booth, looking northwest.
Figure 52	Shelving, looking southwest
Figure 53	South and west window walls with typical window configuration.
Figure 54	Visitor Center door at south façade.
Figure 55	West window wall, looking west.
Figure 56	Detail of the southwest corner of the building.
Figure 57	Clerestory ribbon at the west and north walls.
Figure 58	Detail of clerestory windows at the center of the north wall with masonry below.

- Figure 59** Detail of clerestory window at the east end of the north wall.
- Figure 60** Exhibit cases.
- Figure 61** The original clerestory windows may exist behind the wall board at the east wall.
- Figure 62** Door to the storage room/ office.
- Figure 63** The north wall of the office is a continuation of the rubble coursed masonry wall.
- Figure 64** Detail of the door and wall at the storage room/ office.

1F – Conditions Assessment

- Figure 1** Portions of the original exposed aggregate concrete have been replaced.
- Figure 2** Incompatible material was used to fill a previous post location.
- Figure 3** The portion of concrete replaced south of the promenade has a different texture and pinkish color.
- Figure 4** At the shaded northern section of the perimeter rubble wall, extensive bio growth is evident.
- Figure 5** A large stone is missing at the west side of the perimeter rubble wall.
- Figure 6** Seen here, an opening resurfaced with mismatched color stones and the typical light colored repair mortar.
- Figure 7** Peeling paint at a typical redwood canopy fascia. Note that the original 1x4 redwood fascia trim is covered by the metal roofing.
- Figure 8** Redwood trim is missing from this canopy soffit likely due to a water leak in the roof above
- Figure 9** Typical worn edges and paint at an original built-in redwood bench.
- Figure 10** The original promenade plan, as seen here in the as built drawings has shifted slightly overtime to accommodate new planter sizes (shown in blue.) Source: NPS eTIC Drawing #RA-WHI 3018 E. Sheet 1 of 13.
- Figure 11** The original redwood siding at planters has been replaced with concrete curbs.
- Figure 12** A planter has replaced the original fountain location. Truncated planter at far south location seen beyond.
- Figure 13** A surface root from a cottonwood tree undermines the rubble wall at the north elevation.
- Figure 14** The watershed view is blocked by inappropriately placed map, fee pay stations and trash receptacles.

Figure 15	Ceiling staining is indicative of water failure at converging roof valleys above.
Figure 16	Portions of gutter are damaged and require replacement.
Figure 17	Organic debris has built up at the valley gutter.
Figure 18	The 1965 As Constructed Drawings of the Visitor Center detail the vented portion of attic between the lower and upper hipped roof structures. Source: NPS eTIC Drawing # RA-WHI 3018.E Sheet 8 of 13.
Figure 19	Large grouted cylinders of wall with metal wall anchors exist where a flagpole was previously mounted.
Figure 20	Small holes remain where items were previously attached to the rubble stone wall
Figure 21	The western portion of the northern rubble wall is very dirty with excessive bio growth.
Figure 22	Structural posts within the window walls are framed out with redwood mullions and trim, as shown in this detail from the As Constructed Visitor Center drawings. Source: NPS eTIC Drawing #RA-WHI 3018 E. Sheet 6 of 13.
Figure 23	Typical deteriorated redwood window trim.
Figure 24	The interior carpet is puckered and stained in locations
Figure 25	The packaged mechanical unit and solar panels are poorly placed on the roof of the primary building elevation

ii : Project Team

Project Team

National Park Service

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iii : Executive Summary

Executive Summary

This Historic Structure Report (HSR) for the Whiskeytown National Recreation Area Visitor Center was developed by a consultant team consisting of Siegel & Strain Architects and architecture + history, llc with input and guidance from the National Park Service (NPS), both park and regional staff.

Purpose

As stated in NPS Director's Order 28 Cultural Resource Management, restoration or extensive rehabilitation of qualified historic resources may not be undertaken without an approved HSR for the resource. The HSR will inform future rehabilitation, restoration, and maintenance activities at the Whiskeytown Visitor Center. HSRs are the primary planning documents for historic resource treatment projects. Historic resources are buildings, structures, objects, archaeological sites, sites, and historic districts that are eligible for listing or are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties defines four treatments for historic resources: preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction. These treatments guide the recommendations put forward in an HSR. The development of an HSR is the preferred first phase of any historic preservation effort, preceding design and implementation of the selected treatment and use for the property. HSRs document existing conditions and changes over time to the historic resource and serve as a basis for proposing any future physical, functional, and operational changes to the known resource.

Methodology and Document Organization

The information included in this report stems from research of both primary and secondary source materials and comprehensive field observations of the building and site. The HSR follows the National Park Service's Technical Preservation Service's *Preservation Brief 43: The Preparation and Use of Historic Structure Reports* (2004) by Deborah Slaton. The HSR includes a comprehensive contextual and chronological history of the building, descriptive information, character-defining features, a conditions assessment, an assessment of the overall integrity of the resource, and recommendations for future treatment and use. It should be noted that there has not previously been a thorough documentation of the entire Visitor Center site in the form of a Cultural Landscape Inventory or Cultural Landscape Report. Site features are described for context, but a thorough conditions assessment of the landscape was not included in the scope of work for this HSR, nor was a landscape architect included on the consultant team.

Several previously completed documents and published works informed this HSR, including, in chronological order:

- Gregory M. Gnesios, *Whiskeytown National Recreation Area*. Tucson, Arizona: Southwest Parks and Monuments Association, 1993;
- Jim F. Milestone 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;
- Al M. Rocca, *Whiskeytown National Recreation Area: A History*. Redding, California: Renown Publishing, 2010; and
- Ashley Phillips, Whiskeytown Visitor Center National Register of Historic Places Determination of Eligibility, October 31, 2016.

The project team conducted field work at the site on October 27 and 28, 2021. A detailed condition assessment of the 1984 Comfort Station addition at the east side of Visitor Center was not part of the scope of work for this project. Architectural Historian, Bridget Maley, viewed and selected historic photographs held in the office of park Cultural Resource Program Manager Glendee Ane Osborne. NPS staff then scanned these photographs for use in illustrating the HSR. The project team had the benefit of the original architectural drawings of the building and associated landscape, as well as some park maintenance records to inform the building chronology.

Summary Statement of Significance

The Whiskeytown Visitor Center Complex, both the building and its associated landscape features, was formally determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) by the California State Historic Preservation Officer on December 9, 2016, based on a Determination of Eligibility (DOE) document completed by the park on October 31, 2016. The building is eligible for the National Register at the local level under Criterion A, within the context of the NPS Mission 66 program of park infrastructure improvements and expanding amenities to better serve an increasing number of park visitors. It is also eligible for the National Register under Criterion C, as a distinctive example of an NPS visitor center, a building type specifically created and refined during the Mission 66 program. The period of significance for the building was defined in the DOE as 1965-1967.

Summary Assessment of Historic Integrity

The October 2016 National Register of Historic Places Determination of Eligibility (DOE) concluded that:

The Visitor Center retains nearly all of character-defining features of its building type and style: Double-hipped roof, window wall, coursed stone rear wall, public lobby with vaulted ceiling, exteriorly accessed restrooms, hipped roof courtyard canopy, concrete paver courtyard with raised planters, and the view of the lake. The Whiskeytown Visitor Center, even with cumulative changes, still clearly reads as Park Service Modern and retains integrity in location, design, materials, setting, workmanship, feeling, and association.¹

The cumulative changes alluded to in the DOE include the east side Comfort Station addition, replacement of original wood shake roofing material, replacement of all windows (in a similar configuration), removal of the west façade exterior door, replacement of the visitor information desk, and installation of exhibits and park store shelving that were not originally part of the building program. Nonetheless, the Whiskeytown Visitor Center possesses historic integrity of each of the seven aspects of integrity - location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association - to enable it to illustrate the important aspects of the Mission 66 Visitor Center building type and convey its historic significance.

¹ Philips, Ashley, "Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, Whiskeytown Visitor Center, Determination of Eligibility," 31 October 2016: 11

Summary Assessment of Conditions

The Visitor Center was visually surveyed during a site visit conducted on October 13, 2021 by Siegel and Strain Architects in conjunction with architecture + history, llc. Structural and mechanical observations were completed under a separate NPS scope of work for scoping trip. The observations were cursory and completed from photographic documentation taken by the architect. cursory observations are included herein.

With regard to the site, the original courtyard configuration and its features, including the shade canopy, remain intact and are in fair condition. Portions of the concrete pavers and some areas of curbing have been replaced with incompatible material that does not match the original aggregate. Repointing at portions of the perimeter rubble stone wall employ mortar with contrasting color from the original. Water damage is evident at the soffits and associated trim at the underside of the site canopies.

The Visitor Center building is in fair condition. The structural components are in good condition; however, they are inadequately designed to resist lateral loads. The replacement vinyl windows and replacement aluminum storefront door are in good condition and the original or replacement surrounding redwood trim is in fair condition. The interior finishes include carpet (in poor condition), rubble stone wall (in good condition) and original vaulted gypsum board ceilings (in fair condition). The gypsum board ceiling at the electrical/storage room is stained and patched from water staining. This is due to failure of the roofing above where two valleys meet.

The packaged mechanical unit located on west slope of the roof is in good condition but is likely undersized. The electrical system is undersized and antiquated.

Summary of Future Needs and Treatment Recommendations

The visual character of the Whiskeytown Visitor Center has been modified over time, resulting in a modified experience of the site. Restorative intervention to key components of the plaza and Visitor Center would go a far way in re-establishing the experience of the Visitor Center as it was originally intended. Additionally, the current operational needs of the site and building are not being met. When originally constructed, the Visitor Center served only as an information station and a view overlook. When the Comfort Station addition was completed in 1984, additional program elements such as the gift shop and the exhibits were inserted into the building. Currently, it is very difficult for the building to serve all these program needs within the existing square footage.

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties defines four primary treatments: Preservation, Rehabilitation, Restoration and Reconstruction. The approach to the Whiskeytown Visitor Center should be a mingling of both rehabilitation and restoration.

The primary objectives for the continued use of the Whiskeytown Visitor Center are:

- Restoration to reinstate character-defining features of the original building and site design that have been compromised through modification or replacement;
- Rehabilitation maintenance actions / items to preserve and repair extant character- defining features;
- Rehabilitation to address current operational needs through sensitive interventions.

The approach to future projects or upgrades proposed for the Whiskeytown Visitor Center should focus on both rehabilitation and restoration, with key character-defining features carefully repaired rather than replaced. The building has already been significantly altered, especially its materials. Further, the Comfort Station addition obscured the original east façade impacting the modern, transparent design and its perception as floating above the Lake. Future projects should have as minimal impact as possible to character-defining features and spaces. This approach is compatible with the historic resource as it will provide for the repair and protection of key features, spaces, materials, and elements while simultaneously allowing for the necessary or required code and functional upgrades and rehabilitative measures that will enhance the visitor experience. The building should continue its historic use as a visitor center and comfort station.

Priority restoration recommendations include:

- Repaint wood trim and siding to more closely reflect the original color scheme.
- Replace light tan vinyl windows with dark colored frames and sash that would be more in keeping with the original windows.
- When roofing replacement at the building and canopies is necessary, reestablish original shake roof with 1x4 redwood fascia trim. If this approach is infeasible due to fire hazard, newly installed roofing should evoke the original. If a metal roof is required, it should be a neutral color that blends with the landscape.
- Reinstate the exterior door at the west façade to facilitate visitor flow through the building at peak times.
- Remove the museum exhibit cases from the interior north wall to highlight the rubble wall as a primary feature in the Visitor Center.
- Reinstate the clerestory windows into the storage room to bring natural light into this space.
- Remove existing carpet and glue, and repair/refinish original integrally-colored concrete floor.
- Relocate poorly placed site items (signage, trash bins etc.) that block public viewing of the viewshed from John F Kennedy Memorial Road.

Priority rehabilitation action items for preservation and maintenance include:

- As additional repointing is required at the site perimeter stone wall, install a mortar that more closely matches the original mortar color.
- As concrete plaza pavement and site curbing wears, replace these concrete features using an aggregate and color that more closely matches the historic.
- Create a cycle of maintenance of the following character-defining features and elements:
 - Wrap-around wood benches under the Plaza canopies
 - Plywood canopy soffits
 - Rubble stone walls at the site and the Visitor Center building
 - Redwood window trim

Considerations for the placement, size, scale and materiality of any new addition is crucial to ensuring that it will be easily differentiated from, but compatible with, the historic site. Consideration may be given to expanding to the south; however, this has the potential to adversely impact the public vista to the viewshed, the south window wall, and roof form of the Visitor Center and the layout of the plaza. Extending the existing eastern Comfort Station addition would be most in keeping with the recommended preservation and rehabilitation priorities.

General Treatment recommendations (to repair existing deficiencies) include:

- Replace water-stained plywood in kind at all roof and Plaza canopy soffits.
- Engage a licensed roofing investigation company to further evaluate condition of standing metal seam roofing, with special attention given to valleys.
- Consider future design schemes that provide options for fire hardening the building.
- Implement structural upgrades to building.
- Upgrade existing 100-amp electrical service to 200 amps.
- Provide fire sprinklers throughout the entire building.

iv : Administrative Data and Management Summary

Administrative Data and Management Summary

A/E Contract Number:

140P8519D0010

Task Order Number:

140P8521F0082

Park Information:

Park Name: Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area

Administrative Unit: Whiskeytown Unit

Park Organization Code: 8758

Park Alpha Code: WHIS

Preferred Structure Names:

Whiskeytown Visitor Center

Historic Structure Names:

Whiskeytown Information Station and Overlook

List of Classified Structures Numbers:

Visitor Center: 1168891

VC Hipped Roof Canopy: 1168892

VC Wrap Around Benches: 1168893

VC Stone Wall (low): 1168894

VC Courtyard & Planters: 1168895

VC Circulation System: 1168896

National Historic Landmark:

No

World Heritage Site:

No

National Register:

Determination of Eligibility – Documentation Completed October 31, 2016

SHPO Concurrence – December 9, 2016

Short Significance Description

The Whiskeytown Visitor Center has been formally determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under criterion A, within the context of the NPS Mission 66 program of park infrastructure improvements and expanding amenities to better serve an increasing number of park visitors. It is also eligible under Criterion C, as a distinctive example of an NPS visitor center, a building type specifically created and refined during the Mission 66 program. The Whiskeytown Information Station and Overlook was designed and built in 1965 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. It is a good example of the Visitor Center building type as NPS explored expanding and honing the visitor experience during the 10 years of the Mission 66 program. The Visitor Center building type, as developed symbolized new attitudes toward resource conservation, visitor experience and interactions in parks, and NPS stewardship. The Whiskeytown building, 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 designers intended for visitor centers to mix modern aesthetics with rustic principles, providing designs integrated interior and exterior spaces. The Whiskeytown Visitor Center accomplishes this. The low building features a native stone wall on two faces which gives way to a wraparound window wall that provides expansive views of the lake and Shasta Bally from the interior. The siting and visitor flow also afforded 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.

Period of Significance

The period of significance for the building is the year of construction through the end of the Mission 66 program; 1965-1967.

Photographs

All existing condition photographs of the building and site were taken by the project team, Siegel and Strain and architecture + history, llc, during the site visit on October 27 and 28, 2021, unless otherwise noted. Historic photographs, drawings, and maps shown are individually cited in captions.



PART 1

Developmental History

PART 1 A

Historical Background and Context

Historical Background and Context

Water Reclamation Projects in California & The Trinity River Diversion

California's history is intrinsically linked to its almost insatiable thirst for water. Over time, increased population centers and agricultural requirements pushed innovative approaches to providing fresh water supply across the state. Beginning as early as the Hetch Hetchy project in the 1910s, additional large-scale water diversion efforts would follow. These projects were both reviled and demanded by California citizens. Several federal Congressional Acts set the stage for funding larger infrastructure projects through the 1930s.

In Shasta County, local proponents of a Trinity River diversion project began to gather support in the 1940s.¹ Bureau of Reclamation engineers conducted surveys and compiled reports regarding the river's diversion with a full draft plan issued in October 1951. The plan to transfer some of the Trinity's flow to the Sacramento River drainage system was placed under the larger Central Valley Project of the Bureau of Reclamation. The Shasta Dam of the Sacramento River had been completed between 1938 and 1945 (Figure 1). To the west of the Sacramento River, the Trinity, a tributary of the Klamath River, was the next prize in California's water system. The Trinity Reservoir was completed in Trinity County, north of Lewiston, between 1957 and 1962 (Figure 2).

¹ This section summarized from: Jim F. Milestone 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; Al M. Rocca, *Whiskeytown National Recreation Area: A History*. Redding, California: Renown Publishing, 2010; and Ashley Phillips, NPS Historical Architect, Whiskeytown Visitor Center, National Register of Historic Places Determination of Eligibility Documentation, October 31, 2016.

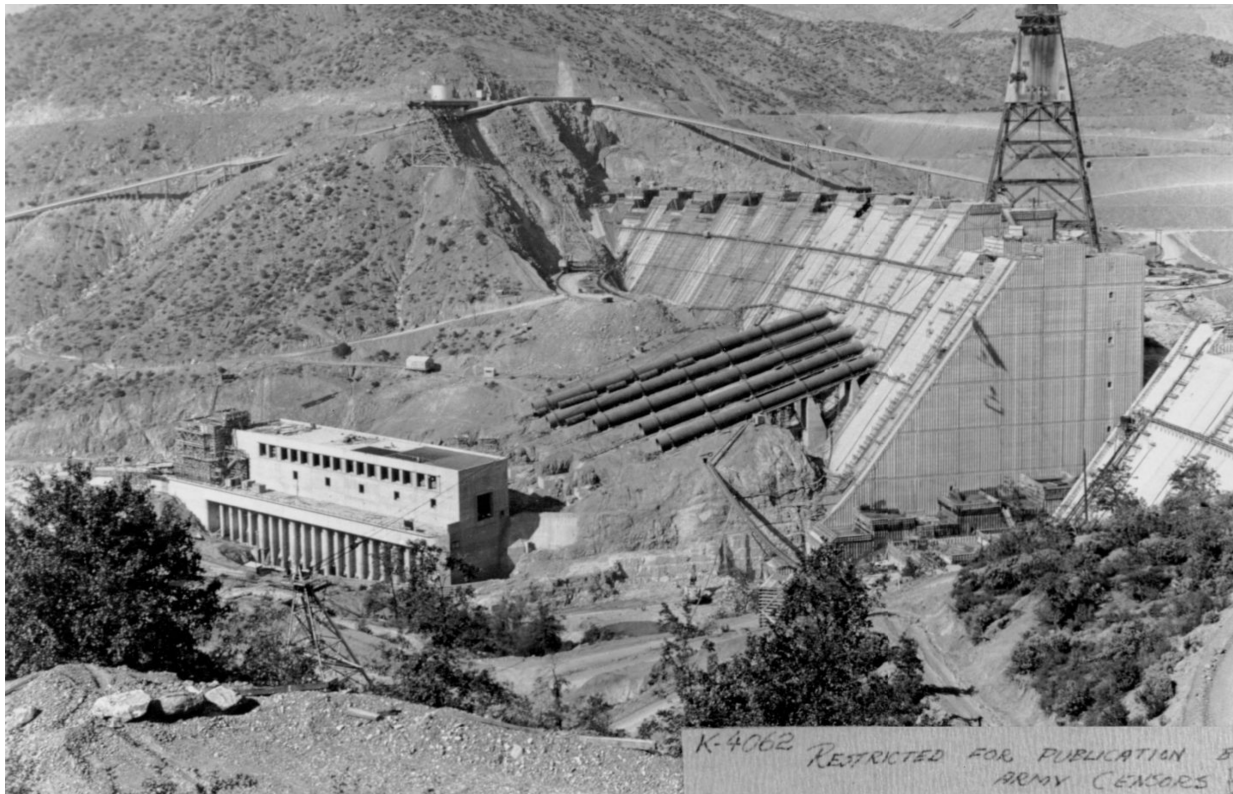


Figure 1
Shasta Dam under construction, October 22, 1942. Source: California State University, Chico, Digital Collections, sc22500.

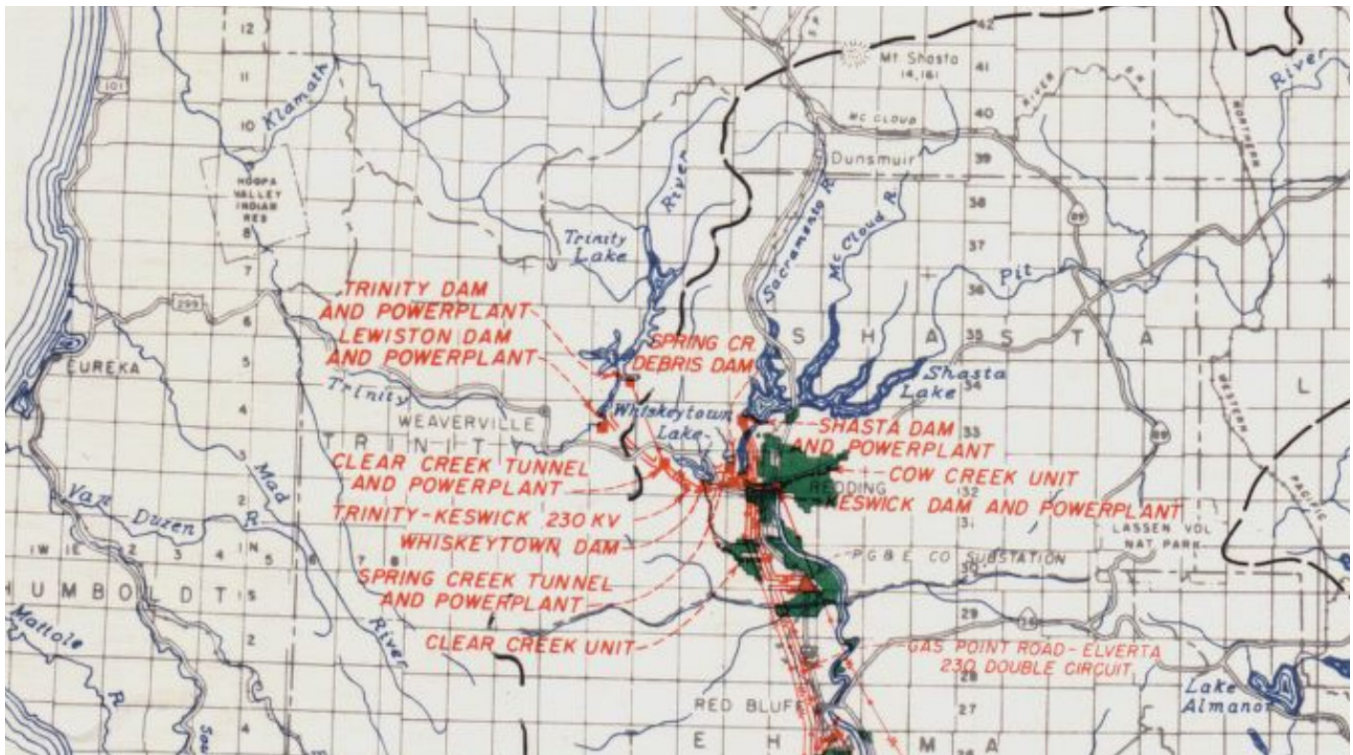


Figure 2
Detail of a Bureau of Reclamation Map, April 1964. Source: California State University, Chico, Meriam Library, Historical Map Collection, G4362 C4 N2 1964 U5.



Figure 3
Whiskeytown Dam under construction, with the Glory Hole taking shape, 1962-1963.
Source: NPS Whiskeytown Archive.



Figure 4
Crowds at Hemenway Harbor, Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Nevada, April 9, 1955,
J. M. Good, Photographer. Source: NPS Digital Collection, 4472-TDT.

With the Trinity project came the idea of several Shasta County-based engineers to construct additional water storage on Clear Creek and the concept of another dam began to formulate as an important component of the larger water diversion system, the Central Valley Project. The Clear Creek, a tributary of the Sacramento River, and the Clear Creek Tunnel with water diverted from the Trinity River at Lewistown Dam, would meet at a reservoir held by the Whiskeytown Dam (Figure 3). Following several years of planning and community input, a “take line” was identified including all lands necessary to accommodate the Whiskeytown reservoir and its associated facilities. Within the take line, all private property would be purchased by the Bureau of Reclamation as authorized by Congress. Additionally, engineers identified the maximum height of the proposed reservoir’s water line based on a 278-foot-high dam structure to be built on Clear Creek. The Bureau established a 300-foot perimeter around the reservoir to include blocks of private property and existing Bureau of Land Management land to be transferred in whole to facilitate the project. This area was initially labeled the Whiskeytown County Park and included around 6,000 acres. Potential recreational use for the State’s reservoirs was always considered as a contributing benefit with fishing, swimming, and boating. However, recreation was not one of the missions authorized for the Bureau of Reclamation.

National Park Service and National Recreation Areas

The National Park Service (NPS) had been positioning itself since the end of World War II as the federal government’s recreational leader. An increasingly mobile population placed more and more pressure on existing recreational and park facilities across the nation. In the west, newly constructed reservoirs associated with water reclamation projects were attractive to park planners (Figure 4). Historian Ethan Carr has noted:

National Recreation Areas, for example, were planned and built through an inter bureau agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation specifically to develop the potential of large reservoirs for boating, camping, and swimming. Lake Mead National Recreation Area (Nevada, 1936) behind Hoover Dam set the precedent for a national park area conceived almost entirely around the demand for access by recreationists.²

The NPS recognized that these man-made reservoirs, especially those in picturesque locations and relatively close to urban centers, could provide additional recreational opportunities and their stewardship of these areas would add new outdoor opportunities for hundreds of thousands of Americans.

² Ethan Carr, *Mission 66: Modernism and the National Park Dilemma*, Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 2007: 28.



Figure 5
Whiskeytown Dam under construction. Source: University of California, Davis, Library Special Collections, Jervie Henry Eastman Photographer, Eastman Collection, D-051/B-9-B-9590.

In the 1950s, the Eisenhower Administration encouraged state and local counties to take over the recreational programs, but most did not have access to proper funding; thus, the NPS began to plan for these new facilities and welcomed these site into their jurisdiction.

In the case of Whiskeytown, California State Parks undertook a study to determine Whiskeytown Reservoir's viability as part of the state park system. Ultimately, State Parks rejected Whiskeytown. This gave Shasta County the opportunity to consider a county park at Whiskeytown Lake. In April 1958, the Shasta County Board of Supervisors approved a plan to develop a Master Recreation Plan of Shasta County. The master plan's principal component was "Unit One", the Recreation Plan of Whiskeytown Reservoir. However, it was not until the Kennedy administration came to power in 1961, and Shasta County native, James K. Carr, was appointed Undersecretary of the Interior that local leaders in Redding would abandon the county park concept and push for a larger National Recreation Area under the aegis of the NPS.

Completion of the Dam

Meanwhile, construction of the Whiskeytown Dam continued with extensive earthmoving beginning in 1960 (Figure 5). The project included clearing the land, blasting hillsides, constructing massive water diversion tunnels, and creating the spillway's glory hole. The massive, complicated project culminated in summer 1963 with the filling of the dam.

In late September 1963, Redding enthusiastically welcomed President Kennedy to the formal dedication ceremony of Whiskeytown Dam (Figure 6).



Figure 6
The crowd greeting President Kennedy, September 28, 1963, Cecil Stoughton, Photographer. Source: John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, Boston, Ma, ST-C310-11-63.



Figure 7
President Kennedy speaking at dedication ceremony, September 28, 1963, Cecil Stoughton, Photographer. Source: John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, Boston, Ma, ST-C310-8-63.

On a five-day conservation focused trip, the President addressed a large crowd at Whiskeytown, giving credit to others who came before him and the nation's evolving conservation movement (Figure 7). Of the Whiskeytown project, Kennedy noted:

With the Trinity division completed and the upper reaches of the Sacramento now harnessed, Shasta County and its neighbors are assured of water and power. They can enjoy new chances for recreational use, and new access to open space. And of great importance, the flow of two watersheds can now be regulated for the benefit of farms and cities in the lower valley. For too long this water ran used to the sea. For too long surplus water in one area was wasted, while there was a deficit nearby. Now, by diverting these waters to the eastern slope, we can irrigate crops on the fertile plains of the Sacramento Valley and supply water also for municipal and industrial use to the cities to the south.³

The President's visit was covered extensively by the local press with the *Sacramento Bee* declaring "Kennedy's visit to Shasta Will be Long Remembered."⁴

³ President John F. Kennedy, Jr., remarks September 28, 1963, as transcribed in Rocca, *Whiskeytown National Recreation Area*, 87; original recording JFK Library, Boston, MA.

⁴ Charles D. Driscoll, "Kennedy's Visit to Shasta Will Be Long Remembered." *Sacramento Bee*. 29 September 1963: 1, 2.



Figure 8
Postcard of Kennedy Memorial at Whiskeytown Dam, Private Collection.

The same publication followed up a month later with an article headlined, "Vast Outdoor Playland is Envisioned in Lake Studded Shasta-Trinity Area," stating that:

Late in November or early in December, as soon as congressional representatives can. . . a joint hearing will be held in this area on the feasibility of forming the Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity Recreation Area which could cover 236230 acres in Shasta and Trinity Counties. The area, with four lakes set amidst pine trees, would provide swimming, boating, water skiing, fishing, picnicking, camping, horse-back riding at a cost of \$5 million to the nation.⁵

Kennedy was assassinated only seven weeks after his participation in the Whiskeytown Dam ceremony. Following his death, local Redding residents formed the Kennedy Memorial Fund Committee to establish a structure to commemorate his visit. Subsequently, Shasta County Board of Supervisors voted to approve renaming Paige Bar Road leading to the dam from State Highway 299 to John F. Kennedy Memorial Drive. A monument to President Kennedy was constructed at the dam near the site of his speech (Figure 8).

⁵ "Vast Outdoor Playland is Envisioned in Lake Studded Shasta-Trinity Area."
Sacramento Bee. 27 October 1963: B1.



Figure 9
Mission 66 in Action, Cover of NPS Brochure. Source: National Park Service.

Formalization of the National Recreation Area

President Kennedy's shocking death contributed to a delay in finalizing the establishment of the Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. However, on July 12, 1965, the 89th United States Congress brought House Resolution 797, Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area to the floor. Under the proposed act, the Forest Service administered the Trinity, Lewiston, and Shasta Units while the Whiskeytown Unit fell under the NPS administration. On November 8th, 1965, President Johnson signed the bill into law and the Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity National Recreation Area was established.

Building Type and Style - NPS Mission 66 Visitor Centers

As both the Trinity River Diversion project and its associated Whiskeytown National Recreation Area were established within the NPS Mission 66 program, the Whiskeytown Visitor Information Station and Overlook had many elements typical of other NPS projects constructed during this pivotal era in the agency's history. Conceived by NPS Director Conrad Wirth, the Mission 66 was a ten-year program, which commenced in 1956, and was intended to dramatically expand park visitor services by 1966. The culmination of the program was timed as a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the NPS. (Figure 9)

The visitor center building type is often defined as the most "complete and significant expression" planning and design during the Mission 66 Program.⁶ The term "visitor center" was coined by Mission 66 park planners to describe a distinctly modernist building that would serve as the "centerpiece of a new era of planning."⁷ The design process began in both the eastern and western NPS Offices of Design and Construction (EODC and WODC).

These offices were formed as part of the park service's 1954 reorganization and were overseen by the central planning and design office in Washington, D.C. Ill-prepared for the amount of work generated by Mission 66, EODC and WODC often contracted out work on a project-by-project basis to private architectural firms.⁸

However, in the case of the smaller Visitor Information Station planned for Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, NPS completed the project in-house with its own design team.

⁶ Sarah Allaback, *Mission 66 Visitor Centers: The History of a Building Type*. Washington, D.C. 2000: 24-26.

⁷ Allaback, *Mission 66 Visitor Centers*, 24.

⁸ Allaback, *Mission 66 Visitor Centers*, 24-25

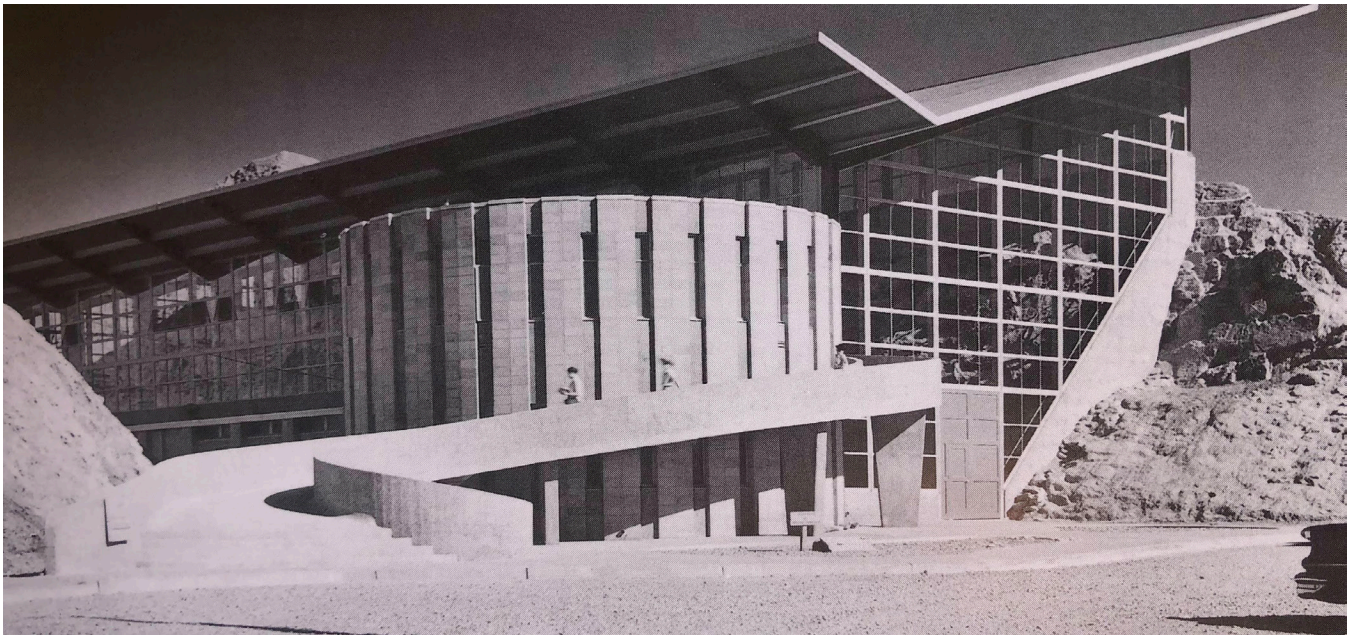


Figure 10
Dinosaur National Monument, Quarry Visitor Center, Designed by Anshen & Allen, San Francisco, Ca, completed 1958.
Source: NPS photograph by Art Hupy, circa 1958.

Designed to represent a modern image of NPS, the creation and refinement of the visitor center, in many ways, represented the emergence of “new attitudes towards resource conservation, visitor responsibility, and Park Service stewardship.”⁹ The building type was intended to centralize interpretive displays and presentations, administrative offices, restrooms and various other visitor facilities, making it possible for visitors to park their cars at a central point and allowing them pedestrian access to a “range of services and attractions.”¹⁰ The centralization of these activities allowed parks to more effectively and efficiently serve the increasing numbers of visitors: a vast improvement over the decentralized, rustic “park villages” reflective of earlier NPS planning practices. Concentration of public activities also contributed to park resource preservation by consolidating visitor impact. Visitor centers were carefully sited by Mission 66 planners to intercept visitors at park entries and near significant park sites, provide a point of orientation, and efficiently guide visitors through the park or monument’s natural and cultural resources.¹¹ (Figure 10).

⁹ Allaback, *Mission 66 Visitor Centers*, 35.

¹⁰ Allaback, *Mission 66 Visitor Centers*, 24.

¹¹ Allaback, *Mission 66 Visitor Centers*, 25-27.



Figure 11
Historic view of Whiskeytown Visitor Center, May 1966. Source: NPS Whiskeytown NRA Archive.

Depending on the character of the park or monument, there were three potential placements for a visitor center: at the park entrance, or en route to or at major park attractions. Each placement fulfilled a different purpose – for example, a visitor center constructed at the entrance of a park or monument “established the mood” of the park and immediately introduced the visitor to the interpretive materials.¹² With the Whiskeytown project, the NPS placed the building just off the Highway, on the primary road leading to the dam, and with expansive views of the park resource, in this case, Whiskeytown Lake (Figure 11).

After designers and NPS staff chose the location of the visitor center, the architects, landscape architects, and engineers examined the cultural and natural resources unique to the park or monument. Based on these observations, “visitor sequence diagrams” or flow diagrams were developed to establish the most effective interior floor plan for efficient visitor circulation.

12 Allaback, *Mission 66 Visitor Centers*, 27-28.

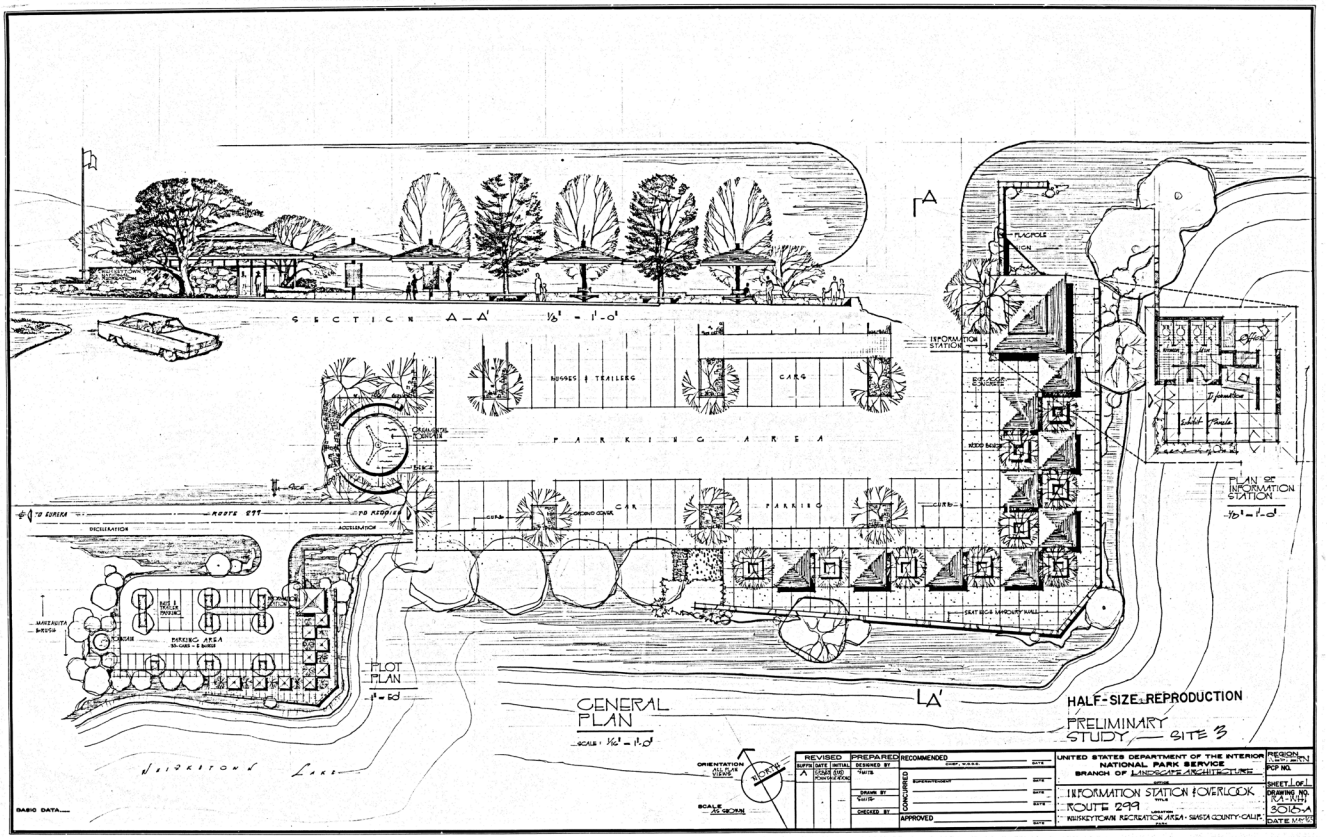


Figure 12
Preliminary plan for Whiskeytown Visitor Information Station and Overlook, May 1963. Source: NPS eTIC Drawing # RA-WHI 611 3018A, 1 Sheet.

In the Whiskeytown example, a preliminary scheme was abandoned, likely because it did not take full advantage of the site's views of the lake (Figure 12). As with an earlier era of park buildings, vistas were the "driving force of design" and the most important views were often visible through the "large window of plate glass and metal sash of the modern visitor center."¹³ These buildings were intended to be "seen from, not to be seen," they were conceptually designed as a "viewing platform, in which views from interior spaces, roof terraces, and adjacent outdoor terraces or amphitheatres were calculated as a flowing sequential experience."¹⁴ At Whiskeytown, the Visitor Information Station incorporated large expanses of glass, employed local stone for low site walls and building material, and the outdoor promenade, with its canopies and seating, allowed for both an indoor and outdoor experience (Figure 13).

13 McClelland, *Historic Landscape Design and Construction: Building the National Parks*, Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press, 1998: 452-3.

14 Carr, *Mission 66: Modernism and the National Park Dilemma*, 149.



Figure 13
Historic view of Whiskeytown Visitor Center, Spring 1966. Source: NPS Whiskeytown NRA Archive.

Park Service Modern Style

In order to transform the NPS to meet post-war visitation expectations and create an image imbued with the promise of progress, the initiators of Mission 66 recognized the need to both maintain a certain level of consistency and to depart from past architecture and planning programs.

As a result, Mission 66 managed to continue established NPS planning and design traditions, while also responding to the social, demographic, and economic conditions of post-war America. In the period that followed the war, American architects became increasingly influenced by European Modernism. The clean lines of the Modern aesthetic quickly became the “ubiquitous stylistic choice of corporations, government agencies, cultural institutions, housing developers, and retailers who together were remaking the American landscape.”¹⁵ Across the nation, labor-intensive, craft-based construction was abandoned by government agencies, for more economically competitive, efficient, labor-saving Modernist designs. Constructed with industrial materials, such as concrete, steel, glass, and plywood, Modern buildings offered a departure from historical styles (Figure 14). Modernism was well-suited for the “new programmatic and technical requirements faced by National Park Service architects of the era.”¹⁶

15 Carr, *Mission 66: Modernism and the National Park Dilemma*, 137.

16 Allaback, *Mission 66 Visitor Centers*, 272.

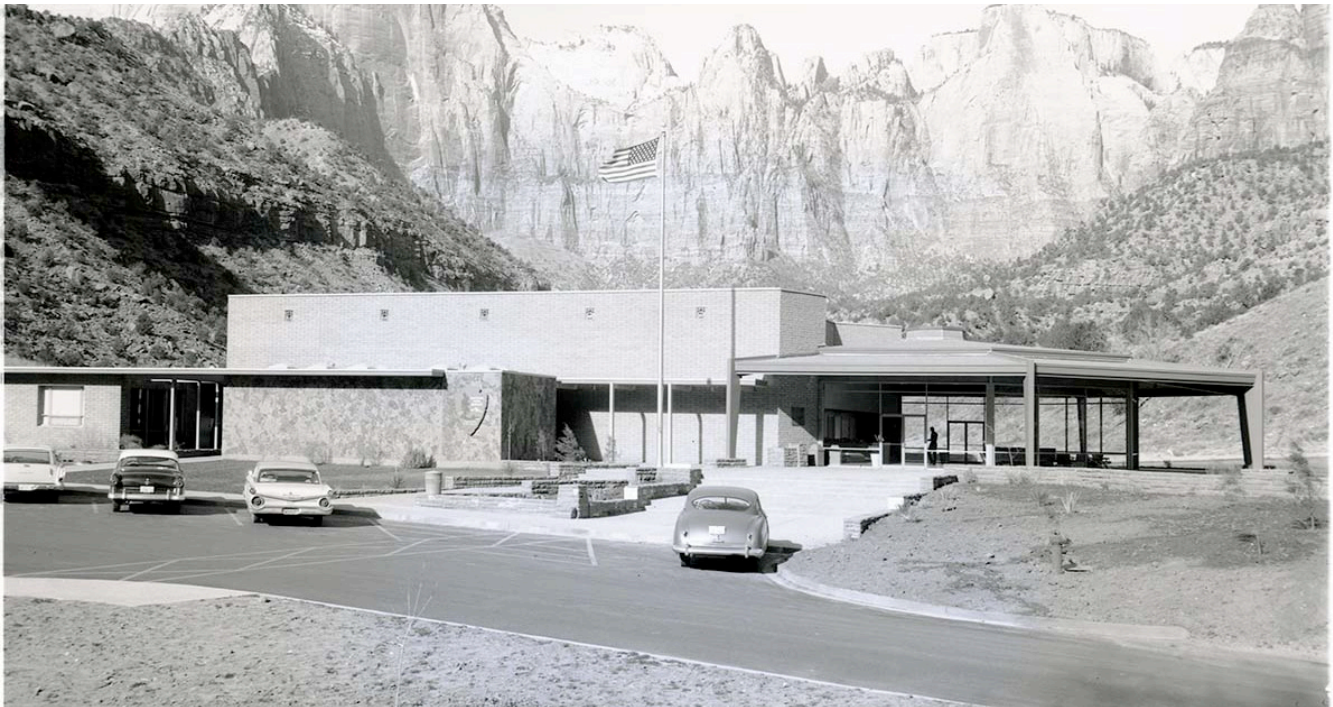


Figure 14
Zion National Park, Visitor Center, Designed by Cecil Doty and the NPS WODC. Carl E. Jepson, Photographer, February 1961. Source: Zion National Park Museum and Archives, 004_01097; ZION 7817.

With the NPS Mission 66 came a replacement of the earlier Rustic style or “Parkitecture” that had been prevalent before the war. Park Service Modern put forward contemporary designs that “expressed progress, efficiency, health and innovation” and represented the “values the NPS hoped to embody over the next decade.”¹⁷ Soon however, NPS designers combined the tenets of Modern architecture with past precedents of Rustic design, creating a “distinctive new style of park architecture that amounted to a Park Service adaptation of contemporary American modern architecture.”¹⁸

In a few special cases, with NPS oversight, contemporary architects in private practice were engaged to design unique modern park facilities through the Mission 66 program.¹⁹

¹⁷ Allaback, *Mission 66 Visitor Centers*, 10-11.

¹⁸ Allaback, *Mission 66 Visitor Centers*, 272.

¹⁹ Allaback, *Mission 66 Visitor Centers*, 255-261. Some examples of these architect designed projects include: Neutra & Alexander (Gettysburg NMP Visitor Center, 1958-62, Pennsylvania); Neutra & Alexander (Petrified Forest NP Painted Desert Visitor Center, 1959-63, Arizona); Eero Saarinen (Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, 1960-65, Missouri); Anshen & Allen (Dinosaur NM, Quarry Visitor Center, 1956-58, Utah); Anshen & Allen (Sequoia-Kings Canyon, Lodgepole Visitor Center, 1963-66, California); Taliesin Associated Architects (Rocky Mountain NP, Beaver Meadows Visitor Center, 1964-66, Colorado); Leo A. Daly & Associates (Homestead NM Visitor Center, 1961-62, Nebraska); Welton Becket & Associates (Death Valley, Furnace Creek Visitor Center, 1957-59, California); and Spencer, Ambrose & Lee (Grand Teton NP, Moose Visitor Center, 1957-59, Wyoming).



Figure 15
Moose Visitor Center, Grand Teton National Park, Designed by Spencer, Ambrose & Lee of San Francisco, Ca.
Photographer Jack E. Boucher, 1959. Source: National Park Service, Negative Number, 59-JB-1259.

Firms such as Anshen & Allen, Taliesin Associated Architects, Welton Becket & Associates, Spencer, Ambrose & Lee, and John Morse & Associates were engaged to design unique modern park facilities (Figure 15).²⁰

The widespread application of the Park Service Modern style in the parks indicated a growing awareness of nationwide social, economic, and political change. Buildings designed in this style were not intended for “atmosphere, whimsy, or aesthetic pleasure, but for change: to meet the demands of an estimated eighty million visitors,” in a “reasonable efficient way, considering the availability of new building technologies and higher costs of labor and materials.”²¹

As the style evolved and NPS designers experimented, they embraced prefabricated materials, open plans, glazed façades, flat or distinctive roofs, ribbon windows, and other established elements of Modern design to create spaces in which “larger numbers of visitors could circulate easily and locate essential services efficiently.”²²

Many of these elements appear in the small Visitor Information Station developed for Whiskeytown (Figure 16).

20 Allaback, *Mission 66 Visitor Centers*, 255-261.

21 Allaback, *Mission 66 Visitor Centers* 12-14; Carr, *Mission 66: Modernism and the National Park Dilemma*, 139.

22 Allaback, *Mission 66 Visitor Centers*, 271.



Figure 16
Historic view of Whiskeytown Visitor Center shortly after completion, Spring 1966.
Source: NPS Whiskeytown NRA Archive.



Figure 17
The Brandy Creek Beach Store and Bathhouse, Circa 1968. Note the roof structure is similar to the roof at the Visitor Center, Source: NPS Whiskeytown NRA Archive.

Within Whiskeytown National Recreation Area several other Mission 66-era projects were completed. This included two Developed Areas Master Plans, the Brandy Creek Developed Area and the Oak Bottom Developed Area – both built in 1964. These areas featured similar buildings and amenities; each one had a marina, snack store, bath house, contact station, and multiple comfort stations. Oak Bottom retains one comfort station and its contact station. Brandy Creek retains its store and bathhouse (Figure 17). All other Mission 66-era buildings in these two Developed Areas are no longer extant. The Whiskeytown Visitor Center 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.

Although sometimes criticized in retrospect, the Park Service Modern of the Mission 66 Program has become as “influential and significant in the history of American national and state park management as the Park Service Rustic style.”²³ The Whiskeytown Visitor Center is a good example of NPS adapting its evolving Visitor Center building type for use at a National Recreation Area site. While the Whiskeytown building was originally of a smaller scale than some of the more iconic NPS Visitor Centers, its modular design created opportunities for later expansion to meet visitor demand.

²³ Allaback, *Mission 66 Visitor Centers*, 273.

The Whiskeytown Visitor Center was designed to blend with its setting. Its original design created a series of simple transparent pavilions with pyramidal hipped roofs floating above the lake, with the larger, transparent pavilion housing the Visitor Center. The understanding of this intent was furthered by the cohesive nature of the original materials - stone walls, wood shake roof, clear finished redwood window mullions, and dark metal windows - which allowed the complex to sit lightly on the site and blend with its surroundings. These features and elements, common to Mission 66 buildings, will be further described, defined, and identified in the Chronology and Physical Description sections of this HSR.

PART 1 B

Chronology of Development and Use

Chronology of Development and Use

1963-1965

Whiskeytown Visitor Information Center and Overlook Design and Construction

Prior to President Kennedy's September 1963 dedication of Whiskeytown Dam, the U.S. Department of the Interior, Branch of Landscape Architecture developed a preliminary study for a Whiskeytown Recreation Area Overlook Site. The study was concurrent with the culmination of the dam construction. The NPS designers listed on a February 1962 drawings were Marc Malik and A. C. Kuehl. The project for an "Overlook Site" was created from cut and fill and located along existing state highway 299 at the Whiskeytown Dam access road, close to the entrance to what would formally become the Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. In this early scheme a parking area, island, berm, and a guardrail were included, but no building and the long, undulating stone wall was also not indicated.¹ (Figure 1).

¹ NPS Drawing, "Overlook Site at the Junction of U.S. HWY and Dam Access Road." Branch of Landscape Architecture, Western Office of Design and Construction, Malik and Kuehl, Dwg No. RA-WHI-3010, 1 Sheet, February 8, 1962, NPS, eTIC. A. C. Kuehl and Marc Malik appear to have been long-time NPS employees working mostly in Western Parks.

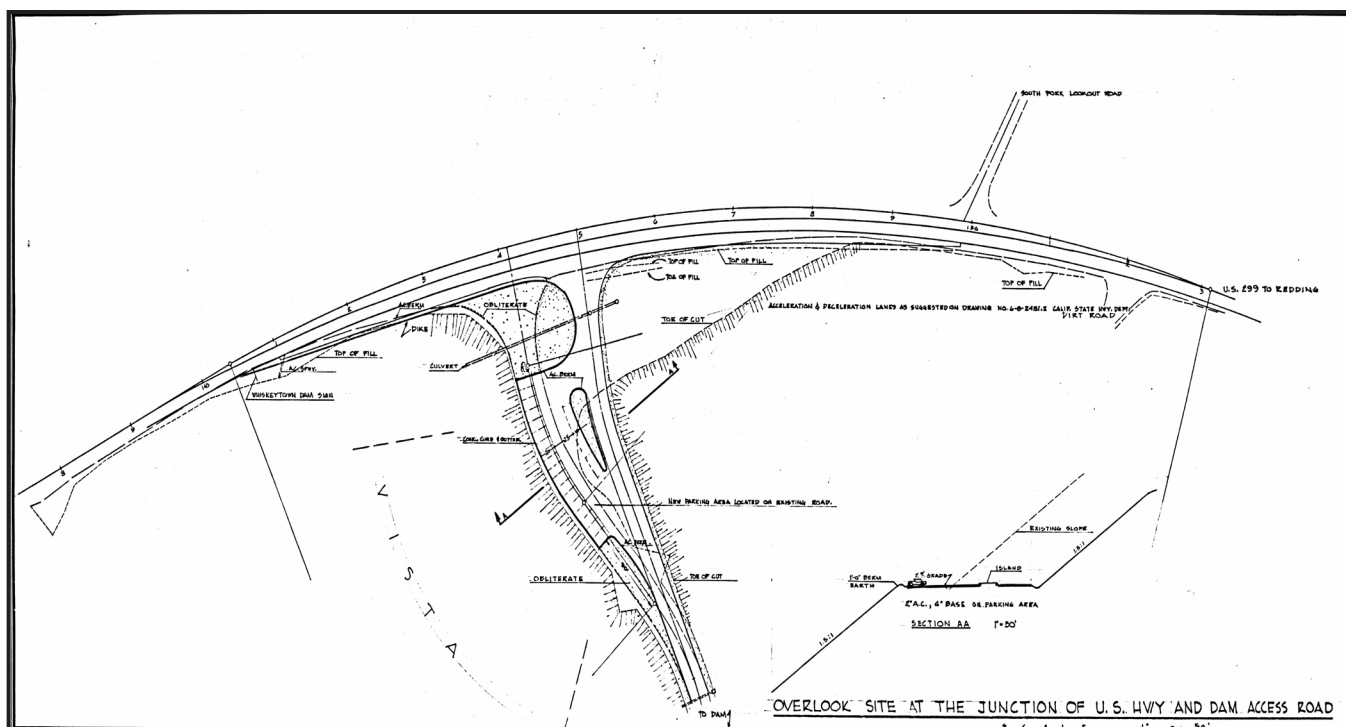


Figure 1
Preliminary Site Plan for Overlook, February 1962. Source: NPS eTIC Drawing # RA-WHI 611 3010, 1 Sheet.

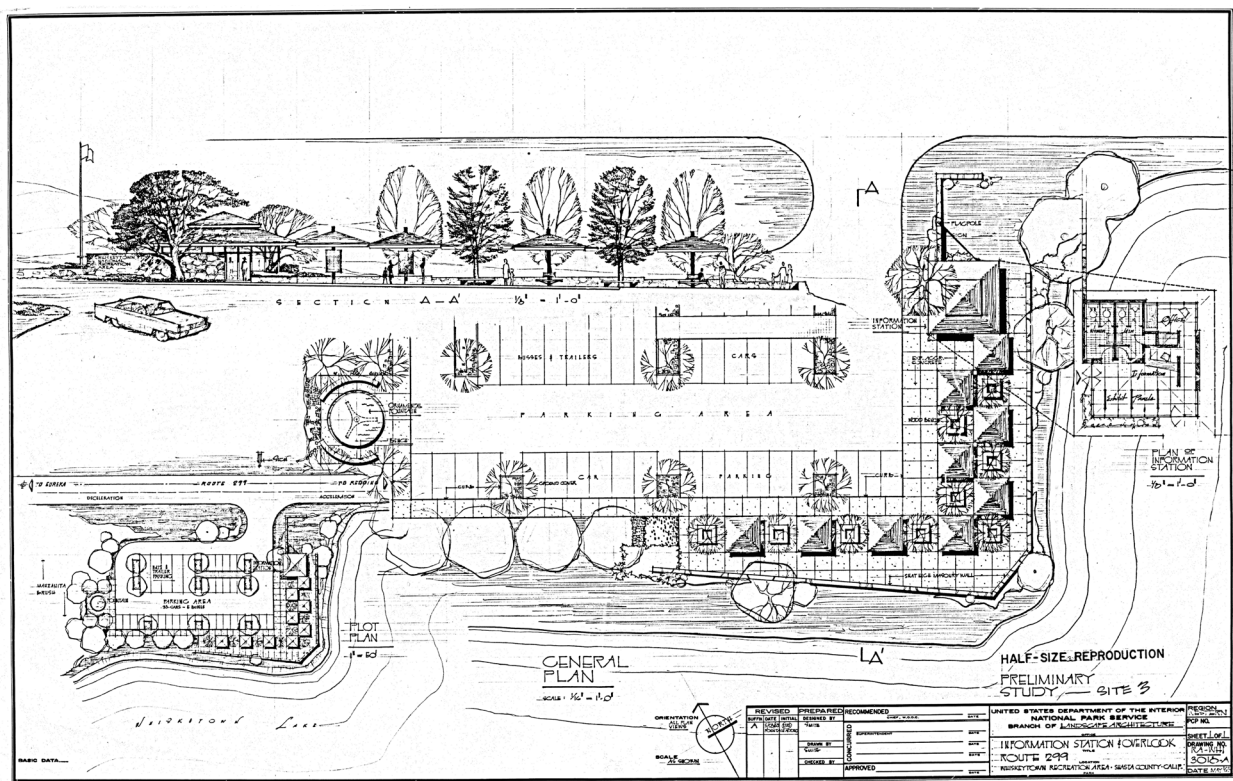


Figure 2
Preliminary Site and Building Plan for Whiskeytown Visitor Information Station and Overlook, May 1963. Note the L-shaped layout of the shade canopy and the building placed at the east side of the site. Source: NPS eTIC Drawing # RA-WHI 611 3018A, 1 sheet.

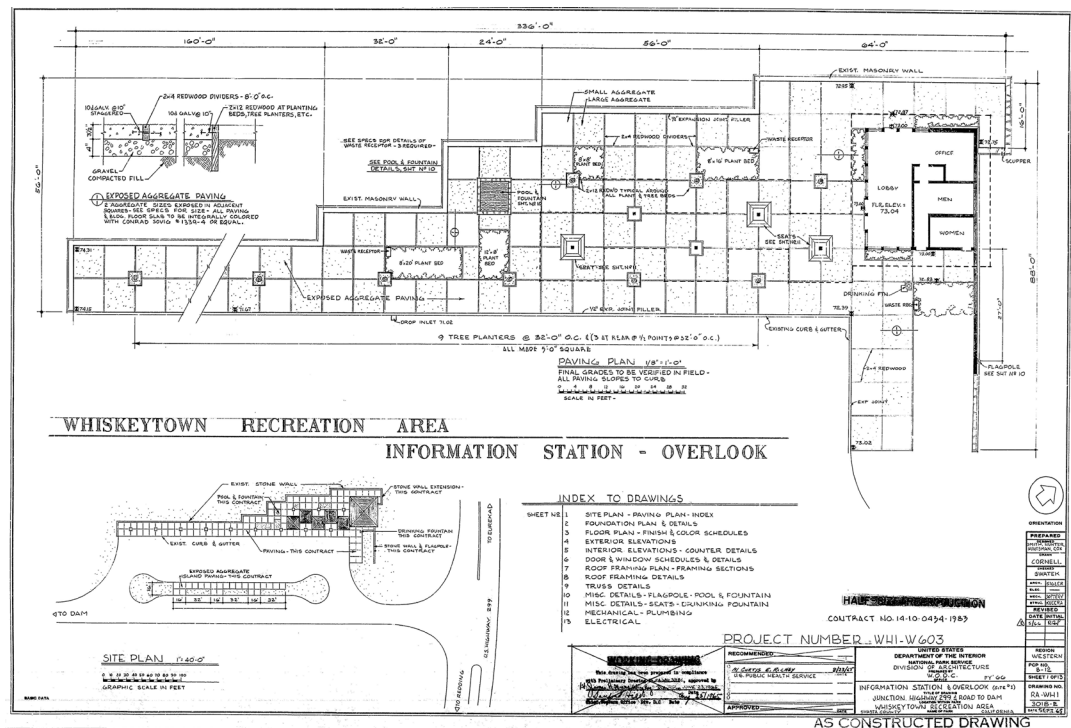


Figure 3

The final site plan for the Whiskeytown Visitor Center. "As Constructed" drawings dated September 1965. Source: NPS eTIC Drawing # RA-WHI 3018-E. Sheet 1 of 13.



Figure 4

Historic view of the Visitor Information Center under construction. Source: NPS Whiskeytown Archive.

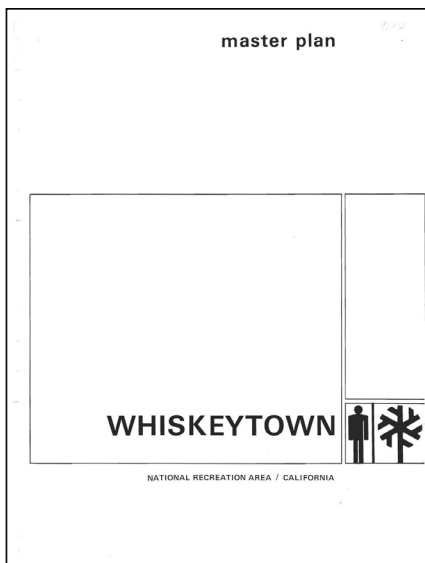
Later, in May 1963, a drawing titled “Preliminary Study for Whiskeytown Recreation Area, Information Station and Overlook, Route 299,” illustrated a much more formalized site plan and introduced the idea of an “Information Station” or Visitor Center at the site.² In this early, but eventually unbuilt scheme, the Visitor Center was placed to the east of the parking area and the entry from Highway 299, and a canopied shelter including nine interlocking pyramidal roofed “umbrellas”, were arranged in an L-shape. Elements that were eventually built for the Whiskeytown Visitor Center project included: the shade canopies with pyramidal roofs and with wood wrap around benches underneath, exposed aggregate concrete pavers and curbing, a fountain, a rubble masonry site walls, the flagpole and sign attached to the rubble masonry wall extending from the building, and geometrically sited tree plantings. (Figure 2).

In May 1964, NPS incorporated additional recreational facilities in a Whiskeytown Recreation Area Master Plan and as a result the proposed facilities at the juncture of state highway 299 became more urgent and the project was further developed. The drawings for this further defined project included changes to the site configuration from the May 1963 drawing set, but a similar architectural vocabulary and landscape approach were employed.³ The revised plan showed the already constructed long, low, stone wall hugging the top of the steep hillside and running north south. However, the layout of the parking area, the promenade, the number of pyramidal roofed shade canopies, and the orientation of the proposed Visitor Center also changed, so that the building sat west of the entry from the highway and the promenade radiated on a north-south axis (Figure 3). This change allowed the visitor to take full advantage of the views of the lake as the parking area was placed behind, not in front of a promenade.

The “Information Station” or Visitor Center project that was eventually constructed by NPS included a one-story, wood frame building, with a portion of the north wall and all of the west wall of masonry construction (Figure 4). These rubble masonry walls complimented the hillside site wall to the west of the building. The remainder of the west façade and the entire south façade were expansive window walls. Historically, each vertically-oriented bay of the window wall assembly consisted of a central, fixed-pane, wood framed picture window with inward-projecting, medium-bronze anodized aluminum, single-pane, hopper windows above and below. Each assembly was 4’-0” wide, with the corner bays, slightly wider, at 4’-2”. Redwood mullions and trim were dark stained to match the dark anodized aluminum of the hopper windows.

2 NPS Drawing, “Information Station & Overlook Site, Route 299,” Branch of Landscape Architecture, Smith, Drawing Number RA-WHI 3018-A, 1 Sheet, May 1963, NPS, eTIC. Robert Smith appears in other National Park Service project records including as Park Planner for various projects in Western Parks.

3 NPS Drawing, “Information Station and Overlook Site #1 (Junction of US 299 & Road to Dam)” Division of Architecture, Western Office of Design and Construction, Smith & Huntsman, Drawing Number RA-WHI 3018-B, 1 Sheet, April 1964, NPS, eTIC.



The east façade had three of the typical window wall assemblies at the south end and the entries to restrooms at north end. The other primary exterior materials included wood shake roofing material over the pyramidal, hipped roofs, a double board redwood fascia, and rough sawn redwood plywood between the restroom doors.

At the interior, the small building included a visitor lobby, a small office, and men's and women's restrooms. The final scheme included two sets of entries, both with two doors, one at the south façade accessed from the parking lot, and one on the west elevation accessing the view of the lake. This allowed visitors to enter through the door closest to the parking lot and exit out the west door, assisting with pedestrian flow through the building, to the north end of the promenade. The floors were integrally-colored concrete and the interior wall finish was redwood paneling with a natural finish. The lobby, at the south side of the building, was an open rectangular space with a vaulted ceiling. The information counter, ranger office, storage and restrooms occupied the west side of the building and did not have vaulted ceilings.

The effect of the highly glazed south side of the building with minimal interior furnishings or features at the lobby was that the small Modern building appeared as a pavilion floating above Whiskeytown Lake. This effect was furthered by the shade canopy that radiated southward from the Visitor Center along the promenade.

The canopy had five "umbrellas" and incorporated benches under three of the five. The "umbrellas" had the same pyramidal hipped roof shape as the Visitor Center. The final scheme eliminated the L-shaped plan layout of the shade canopy of the earlier proposal for a more linear approach. The drawings show the long promenade with exposed aggregate paving with 2x4 redwood dividers, the planters at the promenade and along the south and west elevations, the fountain feature, and the three wrap-around wood benches located under the canopy shelter. The attached park signage and flagpole at the north façade rubble masonry wall was illustrated in the project drawings and are visible in historic photographs. The planter boxes are also evident, but only the tree plantings nearest the entry sign and flagpole rubble masonry wall appear in early photographs (Figure 5).

The final as-constructed drawings list the NPS designers involved as Smith, Hunter, Huntsman, and Cox from the WODC. The roads, parking areas, and utilities for the Overlook and Information Center site were designed by Haldeman of the Division of Landscape Architecture. ⁴

Historic photographs show the completed Visitor Center and associated landscaping as well as the bifurcated on and off lanes leading from Highway 299 to the parking area and the bar-bell shape island.

⁴ "Grounds Development - Overlook 1", Division of Landscape Architecture, W.O.D., Haldeman, 3 of 7 sheets, Drawing Number RA-WHI 3115, NPS. eTIC.



Figure 5
Historic view of the Visitor Information Center, shortly after completion, May 1966. Source: NPS Whiskeytown Archive.

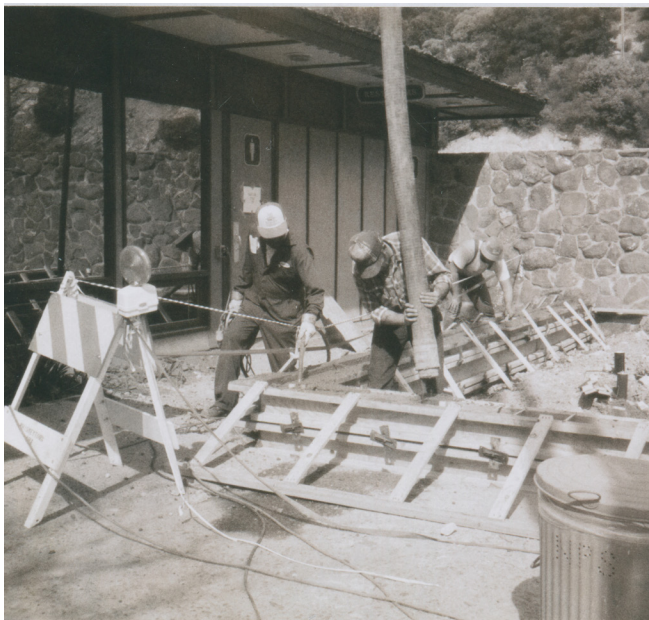


Figure 6
1984 Comfort Station Addition under construction.
Source: NPS Whiskeytown Archive.



Figure 7
Comfort Station addition shortly after completion, 1984.
Source: NPS Whiskeytown Archive.



Figure 8
Visitor Center Addition ribbon cutting, 1984. Source: NPS
Whiskeytown Archive.



Figure 9
Visitor Center Addition ribbon cutting, 1984.
Source: NPS Whiskeytown Archive.

Draft Master Plan 1972

A Whiskeytown National Recreation Area Master Plan drafted by consultants Theodore Osmundson and Associates Landscape Architects for the National Park Service was published on September 1, 1972. The executive summary describes the primary concept for the management and development plan.

The fundamental purpose of this plan is to analyze the natural and special resources of the unit to plan their development and use so that the broadest spectrum of recreational experience, complementary to the recreation opportunity offered in the other two units, may be offered throughout the area to meet the needs of visitors at all age and income levels commensurate with the reasonable conservation, development and replenishment of the area's total resources.⁵

The report states that "since the establishment of the national recreation area in 1965...the unit has experienced increased user visits with these facilities from 389,932 in 1964 to 1,164,354 in 1970."⁶ The draft plan stated that there would be "specific facilities and means around which an interpretive program will be centered."⁷ The role of the Visitor Center was "for orientation and general information, water safety, backcountry survival, and fire prevention."⁸ This report, however, did not lay out a plan for interpretive uses in the building and it does not appear that any significant changes to the building or the site occurred until 1984.

5 Theodore Osmundson & Associates, Landscape Architects, Preliminary Review Draft, Master Plan for Whiskeytown NRA, Prepared for the Denver Service Center, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1 September 1972: 1

6 Osmundson & Assoc., 1972: 41.

7 Osmundson & Assoc., 1972: 50.

8 Osmundson & Assoc., 1972: 50.



Figure 10
Installation of new paving and planting beds, 1998. Source: NPS Whiskeytown Archive.



Figure 11
Installation of new paving and planting beds, completed 1998. Source: NPS Whiskeytown Archive.

Development – 1980s to 2021

From “Information Center” to Visitor Center

By the early 1980s, the configuration of what had originally been intended as an “Information Center” with a small lobby, limited ranger space, and small restrooms was not meeting the needs of the park and its visitors as the primary Visitor Center. This resulted in the design and construction of an addition to the east of the original building and simultaneous interior remodel of the existing Visitor Center. The project, completed in 1984, included a rectangular-shaped addition, which carried over the double-hipped, pyramidal roof and increased the height and length of the rubble masonry wall at the west face (Figure 6).⁹

The 1984 project relocated the restrooms to the addition, freeing up space to reconfigure and convert the original restrooms in the historic Visitor Center to other uses. The interior remodel included a new, built-in information desk and cash register area, merchandise display cases and shelves, and three new interpretive and exhibit cases (Figure 7).¹⁰ These interventions resulted in the loss of the interior redwood paneling and the space was likely carpeted at this time, covering the original integrally-colored concrete floor. A storeroom and office were created at the junction of the 1965 building and the new addition, running in a north-south direction. This plan element extended in front of two of the three window assemblies at the east façade. The storage room door was inserted at northeast corner of the historic building.

The Comfort Station portion of the addition included a men’s and women’s room separated by a utility room running the building length also on a north south axis. The addition incorporated the masonry wall that extended from the original building into the Comfort Station addition. The stone wall was then extended so that it would project beyond the east wall of the addition, in the tradition of the original building.

Archival photographs of the 1984 ribbon cutting for the expanded Visitor Center, illustrate the completed project (Figures 8 and 9). The exterior cladding of the addition included composite panels with narrow vertical dividers, differentiating it from the original. Historic photographs from this period also show what look to be newly installed asphalt shingles as the roofing material of the historic Visitor Center, the new Comfort Station Addition and the shade canopy roofs.

⁹ Comfort Station Addition to the Whiskeytown Unit, Whiskeytown-Shasta-Trinity NRA by Cox- Henderson July 1983 5 sheets, Henderson, Drawing Number:WHIS-611/80009, NPS, eTIC

¹⁰ NPS Drawing, “Whiskeytown Visitor Center”, Promotion Products Incorporated, 4 Sheets, Drawing No. WHIS_ 611-1300, May 28, 1984, NPS, eTIC.

Further, the 1984 project included removal of some aggregate pavers and curbing as well as a planting bed at the east side of the historic Visitor Center and a new concrete walkway along the south and east edge of the newly expanded building. Also at this time, the flagpole was repositioned to the paved area southeast of the Comfort Station Addition.

The 1984 project changed the character of the original Mission 66-era Visitor Center. The placement of the addition and the addition of interior features, shelving, and displays diminished the Modern aesthetic of the Visitor Center and its feeling of a glazed pavilion perched above the lake.

In 1998, the promenade paving and some planter boxes were refurbished or in some cases fully replaced (Figure 10). The work replaced the original exposed aggregate with poured concrete in both the southern area of the promenade, as well as the area northeast of the shelter canopy. The stone coping of the fountain element to the south of the canopy was retained, but plantings replaced the original fountain and pool. The planter boxes west of the canopy were also rebuilt with new concrete edging (Figure 11).

During the 2000s, additional upgrades were made at the Visitor Center. In 2001, the water line distribution was replaced.¹¹ Photovoltaic panels were added in 2005 to the southern roof slope of the main building and restroom wing, as well as a separate stand-alone array northwest of the building.¹²

In 2006, a green, standing seam metal roof replaced the asphalt shingles that had been installed in 1984. This material was used to re-roof the original Visitor Center, the 1984 addition, and the shade canopies.¹³ It appears that the metal roofing material was installed to overlap the original double board redwood fascia such that the line of the double board no longer reads as such.

The following year, in 2007, a native plant garden was added on the north side of the building.

In 2009, all of the remaining windows at the original Visitor Center were replaced with light tan vinyl windows.¹⁴ Each assembly is similar in overall configuration, but the materials and color palate are very different and incompatible. This intervention further diminished the Modern aesthetic of the Visitor Center.

11 2001_OV1-HQ - Water Line Replacement Plans, Visitor Center/Overlook/HQ, Whiskeytown- Shasta-Trinity National Recreational Area Shasta, Pacific West Region, 10 Sheets, June 2001.

12 Memorandum PEPC15280 – Replace Roofing on Visitor Center, 2006.

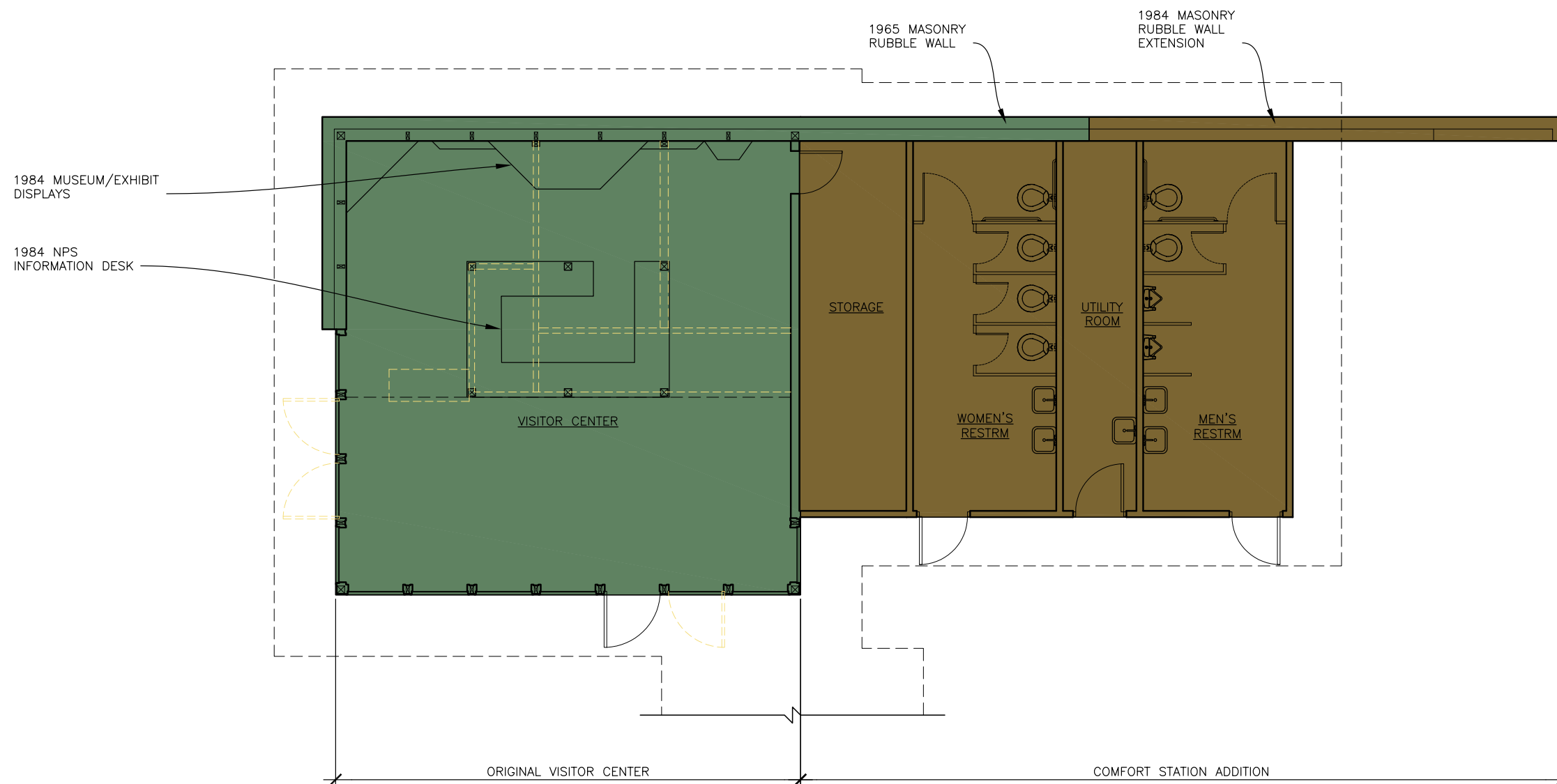
13 Memorandum PEPC15280 – Replace Roofing on Visitor Center, 2006.

14 Memorandum PEPC17978 – Visitor Center Native Plant Garden – Developing and Implementing a Plan, 2007.

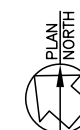
The septic system was upgraded with two new 6,000 gallon tanks in 2010. Additional components of the promenade paving were replaced in 2014 and this included the removal of trees and landscaping.¹⁵ New trees were added in at-grade planter boxes at the south portion of the promenade. A new HVAC unit was placed on the Visitor Center's west roof slope in 2021.

15 Memorandum PEPC30284 – Construct 12,000 gallon Visitor Center Septic System, 2010.

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WHISKEYTOWN VISITOR CENTER
CHRONOLOGY DIAGRAM



LEGEND

- 1965 ORIGINAL VISITOR CENTER
- 1984 COMFORT STATION ADDITION
- ORIGINAL INTERIOR LAYOUT & DOOR LOCATION

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Whiskeytown National Recreation Area Information Center and Overlook				
Mission 66-era resource - Constructed 1965-66				
Chronology				
Year	Month	Day	Event	Source / Citation
1953	January	2	Secretary of the Interior, Oscar Chapman, approves the Trinity Dam and Power Houses.	Letter from Chapman to Congressman Rayburn, stating Trinity River Division of the Central Valley project was found feasible, as cited in "From the Whitehouse to Whiskeytown: An Administrative History of the Creation of Whiskeytown National Recreation Area" (2003): 9; and the <i>Sacramento Bee</i> , June 23, 1955: 48.
1956	January		Initiation of the National Park Service Mission 66 program.	Mission 66 for the National Park System, January 1956.
1960	August		Whiskeytown Dam construction commences.	Bureau of Reclamation document "Trinity Division, Central Valley Project" by Eric A. Stene (1996).
1962	August		Revision to Bureau of Reclamation Central Valley Project, Whiskeytown Recreation Area.	"Revised Bureau of Reclamation Take Line and Boundary", Branch of Landscape Architecture, W.O.D.C., M. Malik, Drawing No. RA-WHI 3003.
1963	February	6	"Preliminary Drawing Overlook Sites Along U.S. HWY 299, Overlook site at Junction of U.S. HWY and Dam Access Road," U.S. Department of the Interior, Branch of Landscape Architecture, designed by Kuehl and Malik. This drawing shows cut and fill details, parking layout and an island for traffic flow but it does not show a stone wall along the hillside.	Branch of Landscape Architecture, Western Division of Design and Construction, M. Malik and Kuehl, Dwg no. 611-3010, 1 sheet, May 1963, NPS. eTIC.
1963	February	7	Whiskeytown Lake Dam construction completed.	Bureau of Reclamation document "Trinity Division, Central Valley Project" Eric A. Stene: 1996.
1963	May		"Preliminary Study Information Station & Overlook Route 299," Whiskeytown Recreation Area, Shasta County, Ca designed by Robert M. Smith of U.S. Department of the Interior, Western Region. Note: In this scheme, the Visitor Center building is located at the far end of the parking area, perpendicular to Lake with nine shade canopies, and in an L-shape plan and situated at the east side of the site with no stone wall shown along the hillside.	
1963	September	28	President John F. Kennedy dedicates Whiskeytown Dam and Lake.	JFK Library, historic photographs and recording of event; digital resources
1964	April		"Preliminary Study Information Station and Overlook Site #1" Whiskeytown Recreation Area, Shasta County, Ca Division of Architecture, W.O.D.C., Smith, Note reads: "Junction of US 299 & Road to Dam." This shows building and site in similar configuration as constructed.	"Information Station and Overlook Site #1 (Junction of US 299 & Road to Dam)" Division of Architecture, W.O.D.C., Smith, 1 sheet, Drawing Number RA-WHI 3018-B, NPS. eTIC.
1964	December	1	Approval of Overlook #1 near access road from U.S. 299W.	"Overlook Site 1 - Whiskey Creek, & Headquarters, Part of the Master Plan" Branch of Landscape Architecture, W.O.D.C., M. Malik, Drawing No. RA-WHI 3048 (Page 17 of Master Plan drawing set).
1965	January		Roads, Parking and Utilities, including intersection change at existing U.S. 299W and Whiskeytown Dam access road, retaining wall included.	Division of Landscape Architecture, W.O.D., Serrano, 9 Sheets, Dwg No. RA-WHI 3107, NPS. eTIC
1965	March		"Roads, Parking and Utilities, Overlook N. 1" Whiskeytown Recreation Area." Labeled working drawing.	Division of Landscape Architecture, W.O.D., Serrano, 9 sheets, Dwg No. CRA-WHI 3107, NPS. March 1965, eTIC
1965	June		Preliminary design for Whiskeytown Recreation Area, "Information Station and Overlook #1." completed by Robert M. Smith of the NPS W.O.D.C.	Preliminary drawing "Information Station & Overlook (Site #1)", Division of Architecture, W.O.D.C., R.M. Smith, 1 sheet, Drawing Number RA-WHI 3018-C, NPS. eTIC

Whiskeytown National Recreation Area Information Center and Overlook				
Mission 66-era resource - Constructed 1965-66				
Chronology				
Year	Month	Day	Event	Source / Citation
1965	June		Grounds developed with plantings, "Overlook and Information Center," drawing also show other areas of Whiskeytown Recreation Area.	"Grounds Development - Overlook 1", Division of Landscape Architecture, W.O.D., Haldeman, 3 of 7 sheets, Dwg No. RA-WHI 3115, NPS. eTIC
1965	September		Visitor Center as built drawings dated September 1965.	"Information Station & Overlook (Site #1)," Junction Highway 299 & Road to Dam, Whiskeytown Recreation Area, Shasta Co., Western Region, United States Department of the Interior, Division of Architecture, W.O.D.C., Smith, Hunter, Huntsman, Cox, Designed; Cornell, Drawn; Swatek, Checked; Sigler, Arch; Dottery, Mech.; Kucera, Struc; 13 Sheets, September 1965. WHIS_611_3018E, NPS eTIC.
1965	November	8 th	Congress establishes the Whiskeytown National Recreation Area under Public Law 89-336.	Whiskeytown Draft Master Plan (1972)
1966	May		Visitor Center photographed	Series of photographs dated May 1966. Park archives.
1968	November	15 th	Information Center evaluated by National Park Service - Condition "excellent".	C. Miller, U.S. Dept Interior, NPS, Assessment Report, Individual Building Data - Bldg 104, Visitor Information Station
1972	September	1 st	Draft Whiskeytown Master Plan completed.	NPS archives
1978	October		Historic Resource Study completed.	"Historic Resource Study: Whiskeytown National Recreation Area"(Toogood 1978) NPS D1346_0179pg
1984			Comfort Station Addition and interior remodel of historic Visitor Center completed.	"Comfort Station - Overlook", 5 sheets, Henderson, Dwg no. 611/80009 and "Whiskeytown Visitor Center", 611/13001, 10 sheets, Promotion Products, Inc.
1984	December	14 th	Ribbon cutting ceremony to open the new "Whiskeytown Lake Visitor Information Center"	National Park Service, Whiskeytown historic photograph collection; "Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony and Open House" celebration invitation.
1998	November		Visitor Center sidewalk replaced northeast end of promenade, central area promenade beyond the canopy, and the planter boxes west of canopy.	Whiskeytown NPS archive photos
2001	June		Water line distribution replaced.	Drawing no. 7383 611/80040, 10 sheets, HMJ
2005			Photovoltaic System installed.	NPS PEPC12469
2006			Visitor Center, Comfort Station Addition and Shade Canopy existing asphalt roofing material, likely dating to 1984 replaced with green standing seam metal roof.	"Replace Roofing on Visitor Center", NPS PEPC15280
2007			Native Plant Garden installed at north side of Visitor Center.	"Visitor Center Native Plant Garden - Developing and Implementing a Plan", NPS PEPC17978
2009			Visitor Center renovated with new carpet and new windows. Window project resulted in all original historic windows removed from Mission 66-era portion of the Visitor Center. No drawings have been located of this project.	"Renovate Visitor's Center - Replace carpet and windows", NPS PEPC26017
2010			New septic system installed, two 6,000 gallon tanks.	"Construct 12,000 gallon Visitor Center Septic System" NPS PEPC30284
2014			Part of existing promenade sidewalk replaced with poured concrete, some trees and landscaping removed.	"Replace Visitor Center Sidewalk and Landscaped Trees" NPS PEPC51193
2016	October	31 st	Determination of Eligibility report completed.	"Whiskeytown Determination of Eligibility" Ashley Philips for National Park Service
2011	February	23 rd	Design of a proposed Whiskeytown Visitor Center's addition. - Not built.	"Construct Visitor's Center Addition" PEPC 35407
2018			Proposed Whiskeytown Visitor Center's addition.	"Approved Whiskeytown Visitor's Center Addition" NPS Facility Planning Model Report
2021			HVAC unit replaced at Information Center roof west slope.	NEED to pinpoint date this was first installed

PART 1 C

Statement of Significance

Statement of Significance

Whiskeytown Visitor Center

The Whiskeytown Visitor Center Complex, both the building and its associated landscape features, was formally determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) by the California State Historic Preservation Officer on December 9, 2016, based on a Determination of Eligibility (DOE) document completed by the park on October 31, 2016. The building is significant at the local level under National Register Criterion A, within the context of the NPS Mission 66 program of park infrastructure improvements and expanding amenities to better serve an increasing number of park visitors. It is also eligible under National Register Criterion C, as a distinctive example of an NPS Visitor Center, a building type specifically created and refined during the Mission 66 program. The DOE defined the period of significance for the Visitor Center as 1965-1967.

The Whiskeytown Visitor Center was completed in 1965 from designs produced by NPS architects and landscape architects from the Western Office of Design and Construction. 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. It is a good example of the Visitor Center building type as NPS explored expanding and honing the visitor experience during the 10 years of the Mission 66 program. The Visitor Center building type, as developed, 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 designers intended for visitor centers to mix modern aesthetics with rustic principles, providing designs integrating interior and exterior spaces.

The Whiskeytown Visitor Center accomplished the NPS Mission 66 goals for improved and modern visitor services in its materials, siting, and program. The building featured a native stone wall on two facades which gave way to expansive window walls at both the west and south façades, affording views of Whiskeytown Lake and Shasta Bally from the building interior. Sited on a hill, the building, with its glazed window walls and pyramidal hipped roof shade canopies stretching to the south, appeared to float above the Lake. When completed, the building's interior configuration with an information desk, ranger office, and public restrooms met both the visitor and park needs in the newly established Whiskeytown National Recreation Area.

PART 1 D

Physical Description

Physical Description

Site & Landscape Features

The Whiskeytown Visitor Center is located 6.5 miles west of Redding, California at the intersection of SR 299 (Eureka Way) and John F. Kennedy Memorial Road, the primary route to the Whiskeytown Lake Dam (Figure 1). The building is situated on a prominent overlook providing significant views of Whiskeytown Lake and Shasta Bally (Figure 2). The plateau site was created from a cut and fill during the construction of “Dam Access Road” now called John F. Kennedy, Jr. Memorial Drive.

When originally completed, the Visitor Center took advantage of its site and was placed so that it took full advantage of the views afforded by the site. The building was designed to blend with the setting. Its original design created a series of simple transparent pavilions with pyramidal hipped roofs floating above the lake, with the larger, transparent pavilion housing the Visitor Center. The understanding of this intent was furthered by the cohesive nature of the original materials - stone walls, wood shake roof, clear finished redwood window mullions, stained redwood, and dark metal window frames, and redwood plywood siding - which allowed the complex to sit lightly on the site and blend with its surroundings.

Vehicles arriving at the Visitor Center access the parking lot from John F. Kennedy Memorial Road via a one-way lane entering from the northeast and exiting from the southeast. A long barbell-shaped island delineates the parking area from the road (Figure 3). The island features eight trees as well as a walkway formed by large, 8' x 8' exposed aggregate paving squares (Figure 4). Parallel parking is provided along the island and pull-in passenger vehicle spots are located opposite along the overlook promenade area.

Park and resource planning during the Mission 66-era adjusted to focus on the influx of vehicles into the parks and how to manage vehicular circulation and parking. This resulted in prioritizing parking areas near new park Visitor Centers funded during this era. After a visitor parked their car, the site design was developed to funnel pedestrian traffic to an entry into the Visitor Center, accessed from the parking area.

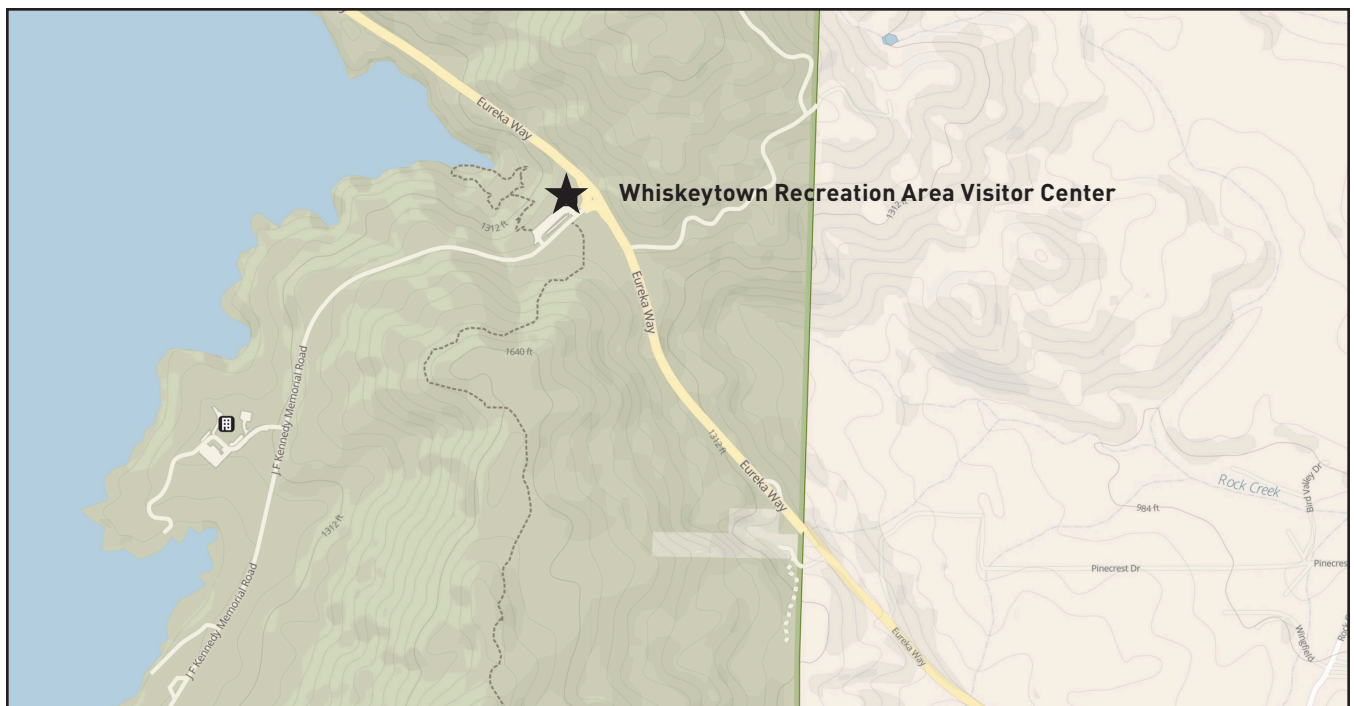


Figure 1
Map showing location of Visitor Center. Source: NPS.



Figure 2
View of Whiskeytown Lake, sign, and stone wall at Visitor Center site, looking west.



Figure 3
View of the barbell shaped island adjacent to the parking lot, looking south.

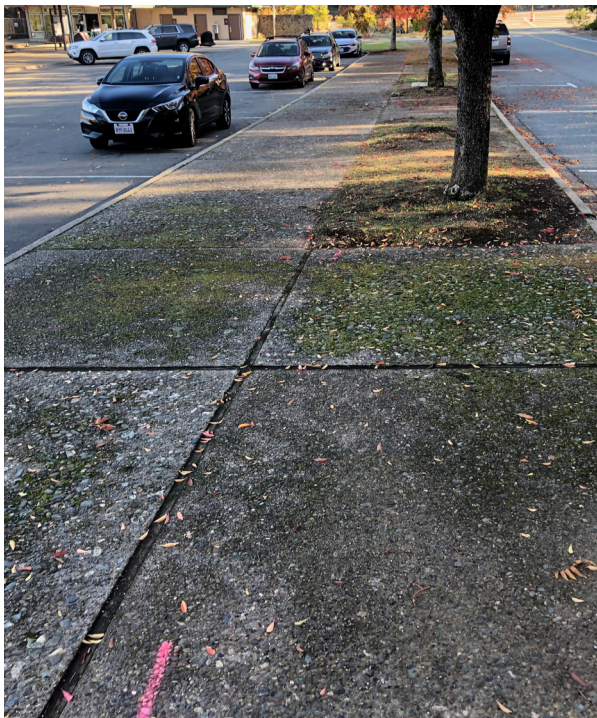


Figure 4
Detail of the aggregate concrete paving along the parking island, looking north.



Figure 5
View of the promenade paving and wall, looking south.



Figure 6
Detail of the 18-inch rubble masonry wall and paving at promenade, looking south.



Figure 7
The canopy, looking south.



Figure 8
Built in benches under the canopy.



Figure 9
View of interpretive signage and the telescope, looking west toward the lake.

In the Visitor Center, individuals were oriented to the park, its resources, and mission, and were then disbursed to experience the resources, usually via an exit separate from the parking area-oriented entry. This allowed the visitor to go directly out to a park experience. In this case the view to Whiskeytown Lake was accessed via a second set of doors that fed the visitors out to the west side to view the lake.

The overlook area features a 336-foot-long hardscape promenade bounded by the parking lot on the east and a vegetated slope and rubble stone wall overlooking Whiskeytown Lake to the west (Figure 5). The eighteen-inch-tall, mortared rubble masonry wall follows the edge of the hillside, and is staggered in plan (Figure 6). The masonry wall has received some mortar repairs and repointing does not match the original. The Visitor Center building sits at the north end of the paved promenade. Extending from the building is a fixed, open-air, shade canopy with five pyramidal roofed “umbrellas” that undulate southward from the building, approximately one third the length of the promenade (Figure 7).

The underside of the canopy is finished in plywood sheets with redwood battens and has recessed light fixtures that provide down-lighting at night, complimenting the Visitor Center lighting in the soffits. Two of the canopy supports have built-in wood benches at their base (Figure 8).



Figure 10
The solar panels at the northwest corner of the Visitor Center site, looking north.



Figure 11
The aggregate paving panels and planters at the promenade, looking southwest.



Figure 12
Example of the replacement paving at the promenade which does have the same aggregate quality as the original.



Figure 13
Detail showing replacement integrally-colored concrete at south end of the promenade.



Figure 14
The picnic area at the south end of the promenade.



Figure 15
Detail of one of the planting beds at the promenade.

A wood sign for Whiskeytown Lake, several NPS interpretive panels, and a telescope stand along the retaining wall (Figure 9). A free-standing c.2005 solar panel array is located northwest of the Visitor Center (Figure 10). The promenade is approximately 64' wide at the north end, but progressively steps in until it measures 16' at the south end. The promenade features 8' x 8' aggregate concrete paving squares separated by 2x4 redwood dividers creating a checkerboard-like pattern interspersed with planting beds (Figure 11).

Some areas of the original checkerboard pavers have been replaced with poured, smooth concrete paving in 1998 (Figure 12). The south end paving was replaced with integrally-colored, smooth concrete in 2014 (Figure 13).

A seating area with a picnic table and bench and featuring metal tube handrails was added to the promenade's south end c.2014 (Figure 14).

Two, large, raised concrete planters, one 8' x 8' and the other 8' x 16', interrupt the exposed aggregate pavers west of the canopy before the retaining wall, while three, square 8' x 8' planters are located just south of the canopy (Figure 15). One planter features mortared stone coping and originally contained a pool and fountain (Figures 16 and 17). The other two planters, originally rectangular, and the two planters west of the canopy were replaced in 1998. Additionally paved areas east, west, and south of the canopy as well as some of the curbs, were replaced in 1998.



Figure 16
The planting bed that was originally a pool and fountain. This photograph also illustrates the original concrete paving aggregate and the replacement paving that does not match the original, looking south.



Figure 17
Historic view of the pool and fountain. Source: NPS Whiskeytown NRA Archive.

Five tree planters, at the south end of the promenade, surrounded by chain link fencing were installed in 2014. These tree planters are placed at the original equal intervals and on axis with the shade canopy (Figure 18).

Six, bear-proof, metal trash and recycling bins are also located near the canopy while four are located on the 2014 paved promenade area (Figures 18 and 19). Interpretive and information panels are located under the center portion of the shade canopy (Figure 19). Two, green-painted, metal poles with banner attachments stand east of the canopy just before the street curb. A metal flagpole stands near the northeast corner of the Comfort Station Addition, to the south of the masonry wall extension (Figure 21). A concrete plinth with rubble masonry veneer and upright painted metal faux wood logs support the current c.1984 National Park Service Whiskeytown Visitor Center sign (Figure 22). The original flagpole and "Whiskeytown Recreation Area" sign were historically attached to the face of the northeast section of the masonry wall; they were not separate free-standing features (Figure 23).

To the north of the Visitor Center, a small native plant garden was installed around 2007. At far northwest corner of the site, the low wall and paving wraps around the north façade of the building about four feet before terminating. Along the north portion of the low wall, a cut out has been inserted and a path created to access the native plant garden (Figure 24).



Figure 18
Recently planted trees with fences and the newer integrally-colored concrete at the south end of the promenade, looking south.



Figure 19
The bear-proof garbage bins at the north end of the promenade and an example of the replacement concrete that does not match the original concrete aggregate used throughout the promenade.



Figure 20
Interpretive exhibit panels and the underside of the canopy, showing the plywood panels, battens and recessed lighting, looking west.



Figure 21
The flag pole at the northeast corner of the Visitor Center.



Figure 22
The Visitor Center sign adjacent to Eureka Way.



Figure 23
Historic view of the integral flag pole and sign on the eastern expanse of the north rubble wall.
Source: NPS Whiskeytown NRA Archive.



Figure 25

A view of what was originally called the Whiskeytown “Information Station and Overlook” shortly after its completion, looking west towards Whiskeytown Lake. Note the transparent nature of the building as it was approached from the state highway. Source: NPS Whiskeytown NRA Archive.



Figure 24

View of the northwest wall and path to the native garden, looking west.

The original landscape design of the Visitor Center integrated a modernist orthogonal design intention that has been somewhat modified by alterations. The vegetation north of the current Visitor Center is dense and obscures the site from the road. Just after its completion in spring 1966, the site had very limited landscaping (Figure 25). The paving plan illustrated in the as built drawings indicated low shrubs in the planters and around the building.

Visitor Center Building

The Visitor Center is a one-story building set on a poured concrete slab foundation, designed in a Modern aesthetic, dramatically set above Whiskeytown Lake to take advantage of the expansive views (Figure 26). The building employs natural materials such as stone and redwood trim to blend into the natural setting.

Historically, the redwood features were stained or had a clear finish instead of painted. The building has two pyramidal-shaped, hipped roofs, one set back and stacked over the other, with a redwood double board fascia and a deep overhang with a plywood soffit. The soffit has regular punched vents and intermittent recessed light fixtures that down-light the building at night (Figure 27).



Figure 26

A view of what was originally called the Whiskeytown "Information Station and Overlook" shortly after its completion, looking east, showing its dramatic siting, Modern glazed pavilion, and canopy extension. Source: NPS Whiskeytown NRA Archive.

The lighting scheme is a continuation of the recessed down-lights found on the shade canopy. The roof is sheathed in standing seam metal roofing material, but it was originally covered with thick wood shakes that allowed the building to blend more naturally with its surroundings. Additionally, the current metal roof extends over and covers the 1x4 trim piece at the redwood double fascia. When first constructed, the Visitor Center had expansive window walls with unpainted redwood trim at the east, south, and west façades (Figure 28). The north façade was a solid rubble masonry wall with a ribbon of operable, hopper style clerestory windows above. The masonry wall extended beyond the east façade forming a site wall and location for park signage.

The pyramidal hipped roofs appeared to float over the ribbon of window walls and clerestory windows. Two pyramidal hipped roof forms were used, one set back and stacked over the other, to provide an area of concealed attic ventilation at the vertical framing between the two roofs. In plan, the building had a lobby and office, accessed from the south façade and an exit out to the promenade at the west façade. There were men's and women's restrooms located within the footprint of the building. The men's room could be accessed from both the interior of the Visitor Center and an exterior entry door at the east elevation, whereas the women's room was only accessible from the exterior east façade (Figure 29).



Figure 27
Detail of the west elevation roof overhang and soffit, looking south.



Figure 28
A view of the Visitor Information Center shortly after its completion showing the south wall glazing, pair of entry doors, canopy extension, heavy roof shakes, under canopy seating and aggregate paving with wood dividers. Source: NPS Whiskeytown NRA Archive.

In 1984, a one-story, Comfort Station addition was constructed to the east of the Visitor Center almost doubling the size of the building. It incorporated the original masonry wall that extends from the Visitor Center into the north façade of the addition. At the east façade, it covered over all but one of the windows at the south end. The 1984 addition created additional interior space in the Visitor Center for exhibits and visitor information, as well as a rectangular storage room, now used as an office, and provided new separate men's and women's restrooms (Figure 30).

South Façade

Floor to ceiling windows fill the south façade of the Visitor Center (Figure 31). The main entry door, an aluminum glazed single-lite commercial door, is located toward the east end of the south façade (Figure 32). There is a transom above the entry door. The original entry at this façade featured two identical single entry doors with a post between. (Figure 29). The doors occupied the second and third bay from the east corner. The original doors were metal with a medium bronze finish and tempered glass. There was a second pair of identical entry doors at the west façade.

The typical window assembly includes a tall, fixed pane, wood picture window with smaller, rectangular windows below and above. The windows have redwood mullions and trim that cover a structural post behind.

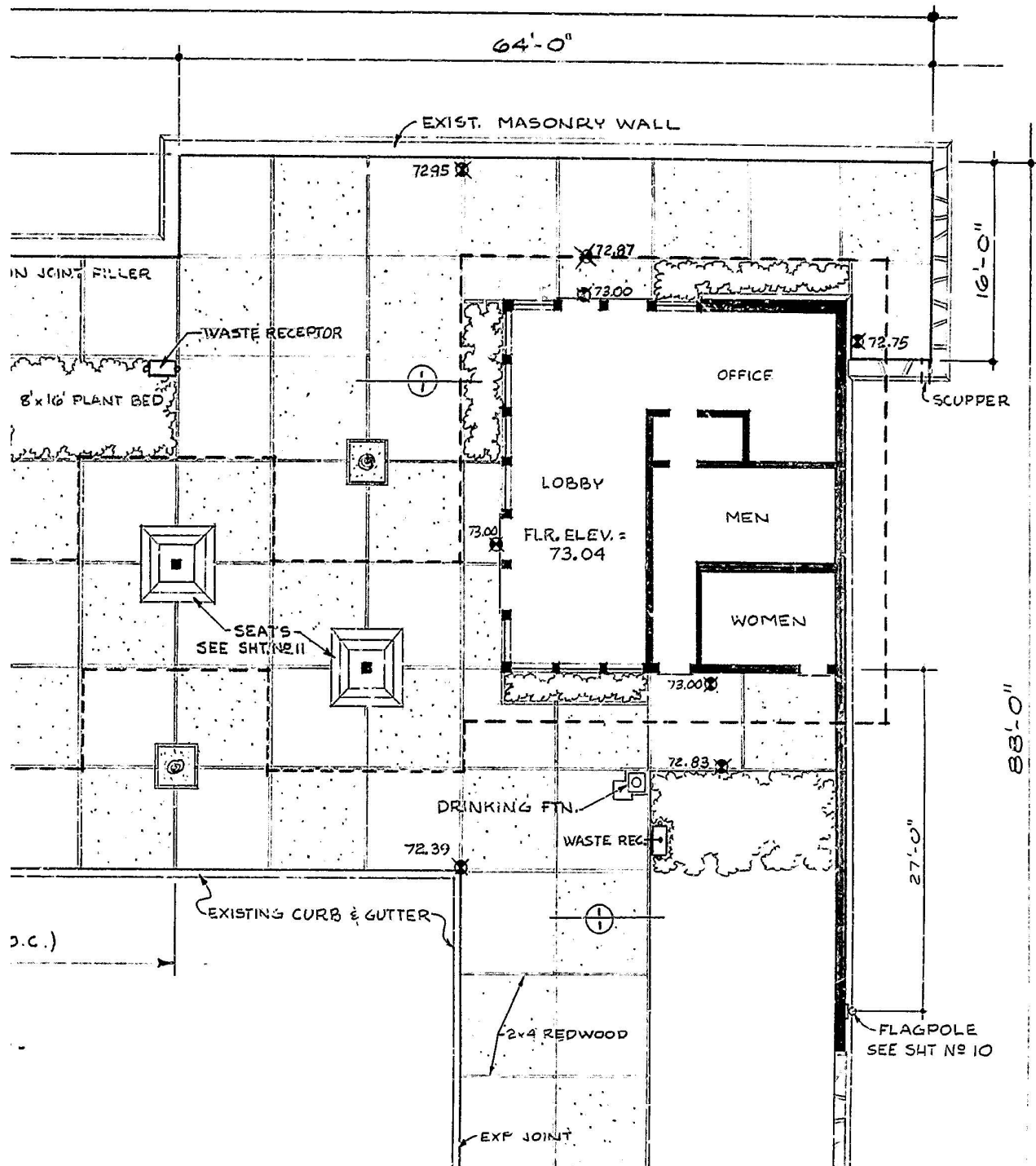


Figure 29
Detail of original Information Station. Source: NPS eTIC Drawing # RA-WHI 3018.E Sheet 1 of 13.

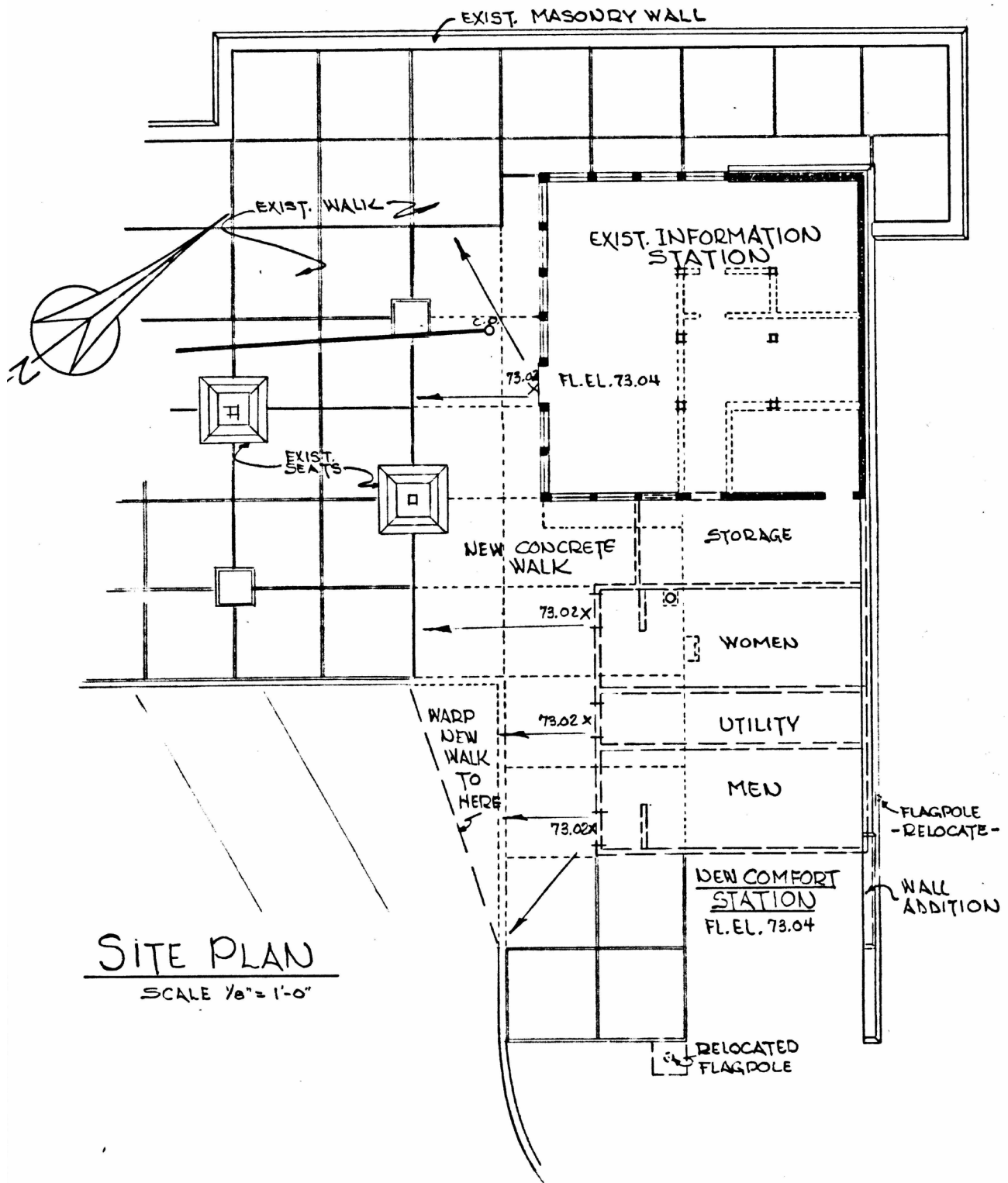


Figure 30
Detail of 1983 plan for Comfort Station extension. Source: NPS eTIC Drawing # 611.80009 Sheet 1 of 5.



Figure 31
Floor to ceiling windows at the south and west elevations.



Figure 32
The south facade entry door, a glazed single-pane commercial door, is located toward the east end of the south facade.

The windows are not original, but are of a similar configuration to the original assemblies (Figure 33).

A rectangular planter bed extends between the southwest corner and the main entrance (Figure 34). There are several roof-mounted solar panels on the south slope of both the lower and upper pyramidal hipped roofs. The promenade canopy connects to the building at the southeast corner of the Visitor Center (Figure 35). (See Canopy section on P1.D.26 for full description of canopy).

The south façade of the 1984 Comfort Station addition is set back approximately 4' 2" from the glazed primary façade of the original building (Figure 36). It features wide horizontal cement board siding. Three flush panel doors with narrow surrounds provide access to the men's and women's restroom as well as a central utility area in the Comfort Station. The utility room door is the center door and is narrower than the two doors to the restrooms.

Clerestory, horizontal screened windows with brown trim are tucked under the wide eaves and interrupt the upper façade between each restroom and the utility closet (Figure 37). A green metal water fountain is attached to the south façade just west of the utility closet. The restroom's concrete foundation is visible where the siding terminates at the base of the building. A payphone stands between the utility closet and the east restroom. A painted metal downspout extends from the gutter to attach to the west end of the restroom façade.

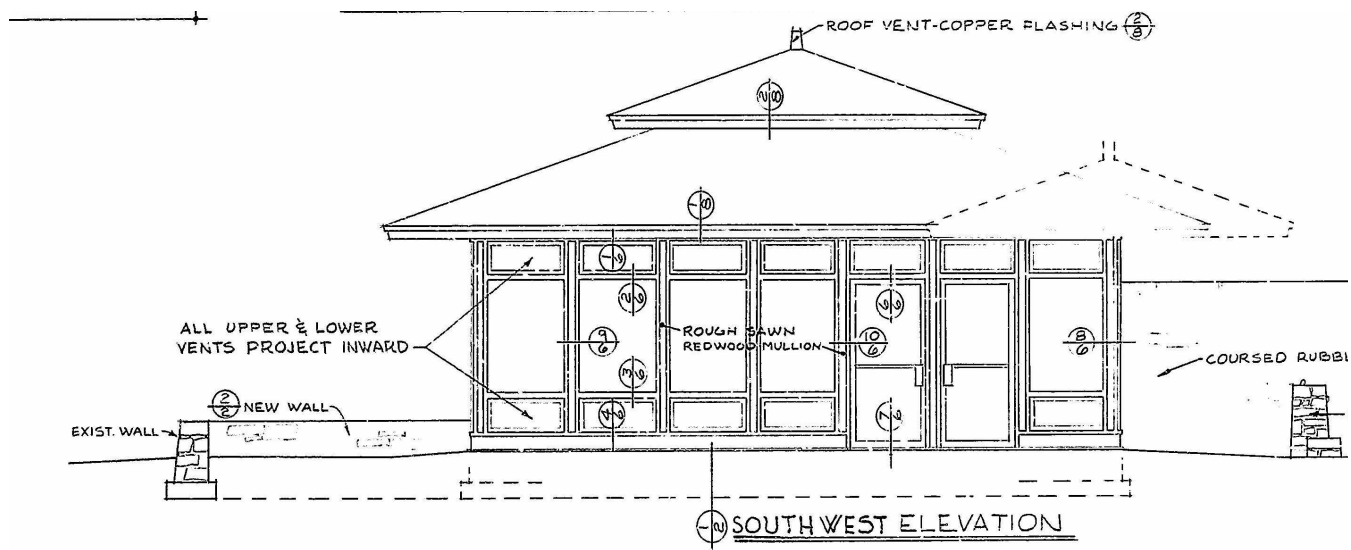


Figure 33
South elevation from 1965 drawing set. NPS eTIC Drawing # RA-WHI 3018.E Sheet 4 of 13.



Figure 34
Planting bed at south façade, looking northwest.



Figure 35
The canopy extends from the southeast corner of the original Visitor Information Center, looking north.



Figure 36
The first bay of the original Visitor Information Center remains but the additional elements of the east façade were obscured by the Comfort Station addition.



Figure 37
View of the south façade of the Comfort Station, looking north.

East Façade

The Visitor Center east façade is one window bay wide which contains the same window configuration as the main south façade; a tall, fixed pane, wood framed picture window with smaller rectangular hopper style windows above and below. This element of the façade is original to the 1965 Visitor Center. The east façade originally had openings for the men's and women's restrooms (see Figures 29 and 38). However, the 1984 Comfort Station addition obscured all but the southern-most window of the original Visitor Center façade. (Figure 36)

The Comfort Station east façade features horizontal wood siding. Two, paired clerestory windows with screens and brown painted trim and wide mullions interrupt the upper façade and are tucked under the wide eaves; this is a similar configuration to the south façade. A stainless steel plate and metal spigot are located at the south corner. The concrete foundation is visible at the base where the wall cladding terminates and there is a gutter at the far north side of the east façade (Figure 39).

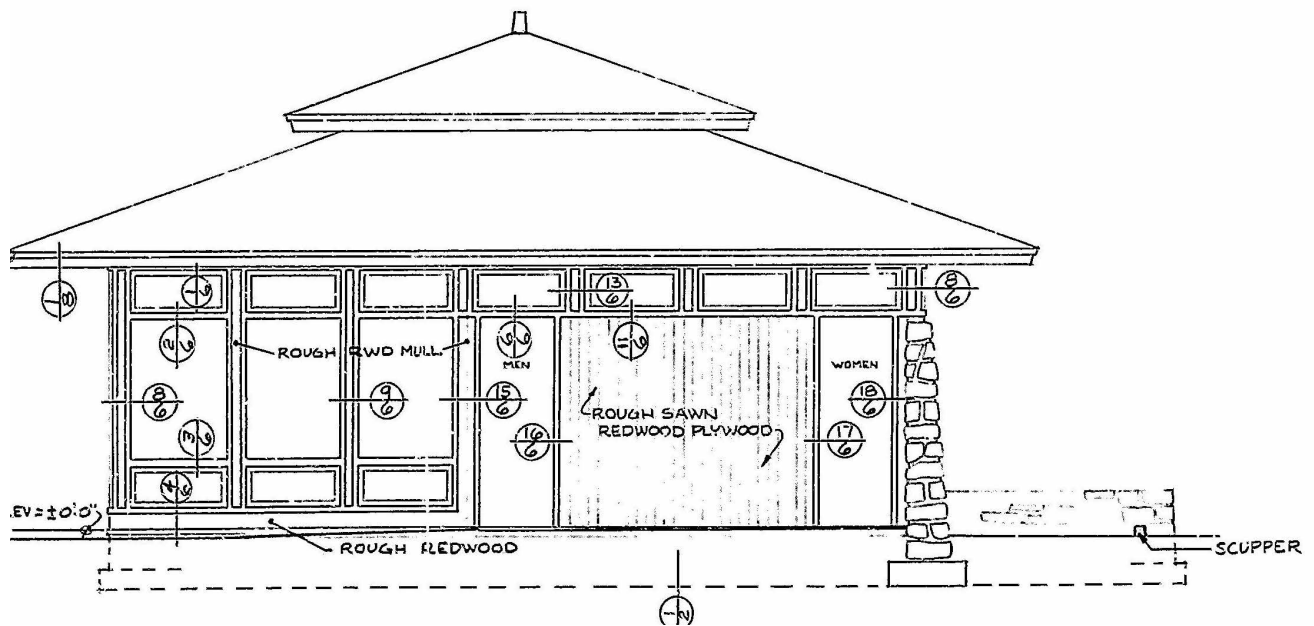


Figure 38
East elevation from 1965 drawing set. NPS eTIC Drawing # RA-WHI 3018.E Sheet 4 of 13.



Figure 39
East façade of the Comfort Station, looking north.



Figure 40
North façade ribbon of clerestory windows above the solid masonry wall, looking west. There are some surface mounted conduits and utility boxes at this wall.

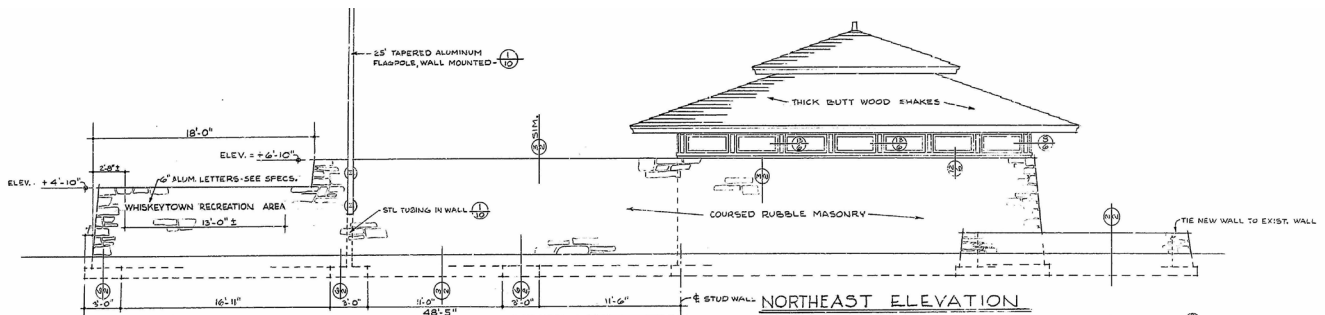


Figure 41
North elevation from 1965 drawing set. NPS eTIC Drawing # RA-WHI 3018.E Sheet 4 of 13.



Figure 42
The masonry wall extension at the east end of the north façade, looking southeast. This image also illustrates the mortar repairs and the biological growth on the east end of the north wall.



Figure 43
The ribbon of clerestory windows at the north façade of the original Visitor Center, looking southeast.



Figure 44
North facade of Comfort Station addition showing clerestory windows with wood wall panels between and with screens. There are no screens in the clerestory windows in the original Visitor Center, looking west.

North Façade

The north façade features a slightly battered, mortared rubble masonry wall and a ribbon of operable, hopper style clerestory windows (Figure 40). In its original configuration, the masonry wall continued 27' beyond the Visitor Center to form a 6'-10" high masonry site wall (Figure 41). In 1984, the wall extension was incorporated into the Comfort Station Addition and further extended to continue beyond the Comfort Station (Figure 42). The ribbon of clerestory windows brings natural light into both the Visitor Center and Comfort Station interiors. At the Visitor Center, the clerestory windows are continuous (Figure 43). At the Comfort Station, the windows correspond to the interior spaces with simple wood wall finish between them. (Figure 44).



Figure 45
South end of the west façade, showing glazed window wall. The central two bays originally included two entry doors with a post between.

West Façade

The west façade of the Visitor Center faces Whiskeytown Lake. At the south end there are four tall fixed pane, wood framed picture windows with operable hopper style windows above and below (Figure 45). The original 1965 design included a pair of entry doors centered within these four bays, but these doors are no longer extant – or it is not known when they were removed, except it appears to have been before 1984 (Figure 46). The original design, which included a pair of entry doors at both the west and south façades, allowed visitor circulation to flow through the Visitor Center from the primary entry at the south façade to a separate exit at the west façade.

The current glazing is organized into vertical rectangular windows with smaller horizontal windows below and above, identical to the south façade. These windows feature narrow light tan window sash with stained redwood trim mullions and painted trim. The original coursed rubble masonry clads the remainder of the west façade. The upper horizontal sash continues above the battered masonry forming a ribbon of clerestory windows that then wraps around to the north façade (Figure 47).

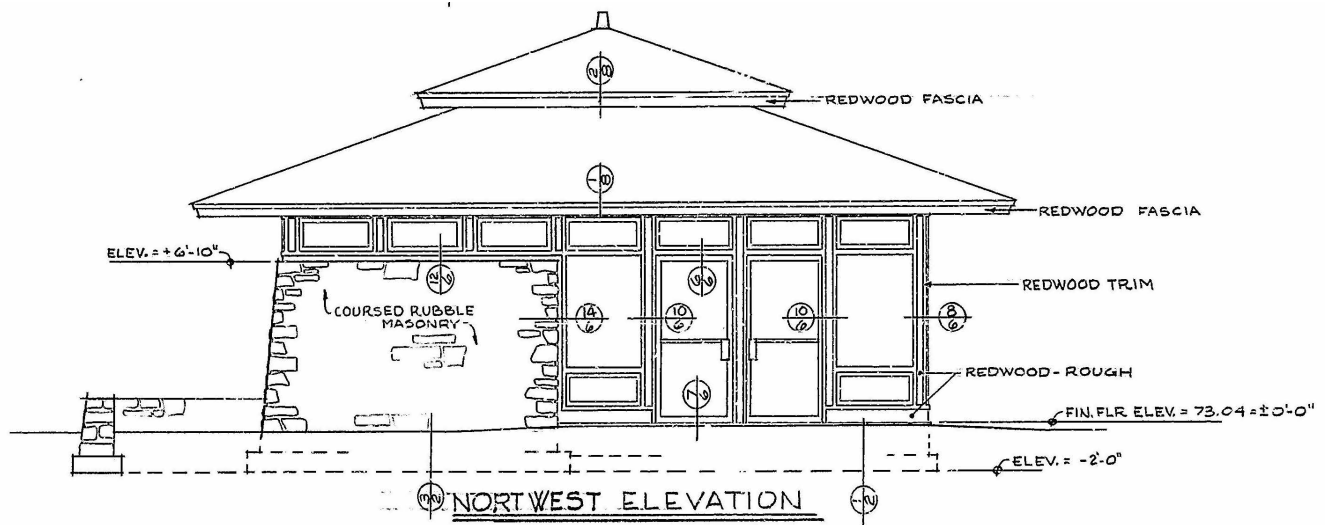


Figure 46
West elevation from 1965 drawing set. NPS eTIC Drawing # RA-WHI 3018.E Sheet 4 of 13.



Figure 47
West façade north end masonry wall with clerestory windows above.



Figure 48
View of the canopy structure, looking north.

Canopy

A shade canopy forms a dramatic extension to the Visitor Center, undulating southward and forming a spine along the promenade (Figure 48). Originally, there were five, pyramidal hipped roof, 16' x 16' shade "umbrellas," as part of the canopy with three of these having built-in wood wrap around benches below (Figure 49). Each canopy featured a 6" square steel tube that rose above the peak of the pyramidal roof. The roofs were sheathed in redwood shakes. The benches are of redwood slat construction and radiate from the canopy's center pole with metal brackets for support (Figure 50). The canopies originally had wood shake roofs similar to the Visitor Center. A built-in information panel has replaced the middle wood bench. The underside of the canopy has similar materials to the underside of the Visitor Center roof overhang with similar soffit or ceiling material, small vents, battens, and recessed lighting.

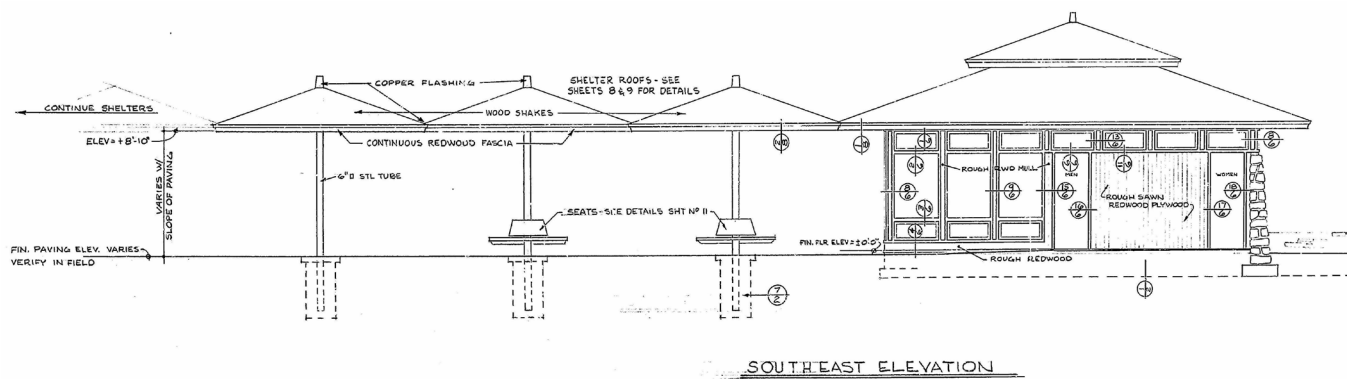


Figure 49
East elevation from 1965 drawing set, including the canopy. NPS eTIC Drawing # RA-WHI 3018.E Sheet 4 of 13.



Figure 50
Detail of the under canopy bench structure and attachment to canopy pole.

Figure 51
Information booth, looking northwest.



Figure 52
Shelving, looking southwest.



Interior

In plan, the original Whiskeytown Visitor Center was almost square with a shade canopy extending southward from the southeast corner. In 1984, a Comfort Station wing was added at the east façade (Figures 29 and 30). The height and length of the original rubble coursed masonry wall at the north façade was increased east of the restroom addition during the 1984 construction. The rubble coursed stone wall is exposed at the interior of the Visitor Center along the north wall, extends into the storage room, through both restrooms of the Comfort Station, and extends beyond the east wall. The mortar color at the interior wall is much closer in color to the stone and has not been patched to the extent that the exterior masonry walls.

In its current configuration, the Whiskeytown Visitor Center has three interior components: the original Visitor Center, the 1984 Comfort Station addition, and the 1984 storage area that divides these two spaces. For the purposes of this HSR, the interior of the 1984 Comfort Station addition is not described in any detail.

The interior space of the 1965 Visitor Center was extensively remodeled during the construction of 1984 Comfort Station. The space is essentially one open room with an information booth at the center (Figure 51). The information booth is not original to the building.

Custom-made exhibit displays are situated along the back, north wall, with gift shop merchandise cases, shelving, and moveable displays occupying most of the remainder of the space (Figures 52).

Despite the interior reconfiguration, the original ceiling configuration remains intact. There is a vaulted ceiling that mirrors the hipped roof form in the southern portion of the interior with a lowered ceiling (to accommodate mechanical ventilation) in all other spaces. Low-pile carpet covers the floors throughout the space.



Figure 53
South and west window walls with typical window configuration.



Figure 54
Visitor Center door at south façade.



Figure 55
West window Color photo of interior of Visitor center and gift shop items near a window. wall, looking west.



Figure 56
Detail of the southwest corner of the building.



Figure 57
Clerestory ribbon at the west and north walls.

The south wall is a glazed window assembly with a single door (Figure 53 and 54). The south end of the west wall continues the same window assembly found at the south wall (Figure 55 and 56). At the north end of the west wall, the rubble coursed stone wall is exposed and topped with a ribbon of operable clerestory, hopper style windows (Figure 57). The north wall consists of the exposed rubble coursed stone wall and topped with a ribbon of operable clerestory windows (Figure 58 and 59). In front of this wall are a series of display cases for exhibits (Figure 60). These are not original to the building.

At the far southern portion of east wall there is a single, fixed pane, wood framed picture window with operable hopper style windows above and below. The operable clerestory windows that once lined the east exterior façade may remain behind a wall board finish (now covered with decorative banners). Additional investigation is required (Figure 61). At the far north end of the east wall there is a door that accesses a narrow administrative office and storage room which was a component of the 1984 addition (Figure 62). The masonry wall continues into the storage room (Figures 63 and 64).



Figure 58
Detail of clerestory windows at the center of the north wall with masonry below.



Figure 59
Detail of clerestory window at the east end of the north wall.



Figure 60
Exhibit cases.



Figure 61
The original clerestory windows may exist behind the wall board paneling at the east wall.



Figure 62
Door to the storage room / office.



Figure 63
The north wall of the office is a continuation of the rubble coursed masonry wall.



Figure 64
Detail of the door and wall at the storage room / office.

PART 1 E

Character-Defining Features

Character-Defining Features

Building character-defining features are the visual aspects and physical features that comprise the appearance of an historic building. Character-defining features may include the overall shape of the building, its materials, craftsmanship, stylistic elements, decorative details, interior spaces and features, as well as the various aspects of its site and environment. Landscape characteristics are tangible and intangible aspects of the landscape that relate to the period of significance and give a landscape its historic character.

The Whiskeytown Visitor Center has been altered by previous design interventions and additions that have resulted in somewhat diminished historic integrity and impacts to the character-defining features of both the site and building.

The 1984 Comfort Station addition obscures the east façade of the original Visitor Center altering the view of the building as approached from the east. Its original design intent - a series of pavilions with pyramidal hipped roofs floating above the Lake, with the larger, transparent pavilion housing the Visitor Center - has been impacted. The understanding of this intent was furthered by the cohesive nature of the original materials - stone walls, wood shake roof, clear finished redwood window mullions, stained redwood and medium dark metal frames, and redwood plywood siding - which allowed the complex to sit lightly on the site and blend with its surroundings. The current highly contrasting color of the replacement vinyl windows, the painted window mullions and frames, and the metal roofing material create the opposite effect. The cumulative effect of these interventions have diminished the overall integrity of design.

Identification of these important features will inform future decisions with regard to rehabilitation, restoration, and maintenance of the building and its associated landscape.

Visitor Center Building – Overall

- Rectangular footprint of the original Visitor Center plan
- Double pyramidal-shaped, hipped roofs at Visitor Center one set back and stacked over the other and the pyramidal hipped roof forms over the shade canopies extending to the south
- Original shake roofing on Canopy and Visitor Center roofs (no longer extant)
- Prominent siting on hillside overlooking Whiskeytown Lake
- Geometric patterns of the landscape design and features
- Relationship of building to the parking area, parking island, canopy, and promenade

Site, Canopy, Promenade, and Landscape Features

- Viewshed: Uninhibited view from east to west of Whiskeytown Lake and Shasta Bally.
- Continuous shade canopy that extends to the south along the promenade, but which reads as five, undulating “umbrellas” in the landscape
- Five pyramidal hipped roofs of the shade canopy which mimic the Visitor Center roof
- Continuous redwood double board fascia at canopy (partially covered by metal fascia of standing seam roof)
- Plywood canopy ceilings with redwood battens
- 6” square, steel tube posts centered under and supporting each canopy pyramidal roof
- Under canopy redwood slat, wrap-around benches and metal supports
- Exposed aggregate concrete pavers and curbing
- 2x4 redwood strip dividers defining the geometry of the aggregate paving
- Masonry coping at former fountain and pool feature (now a planter)
- Rubble masonry retaining and site walls which match the masonry walls at the Visitor Center north and west façades.
- Original aggregate planter locations and dimensions
- Bar bell shaped island in parking lot with aggregate paving and curbing with paving geometry similar to the promenade and with same redwood dividers.

Visitor Center – Exterior

- Locations, configuration and shapes of the original, three-part storefront windows (as part of larger window wall) at the south and west facades. Each vertically -oriented bay consisted of a central, fixed-pane, wood framed picture window with inward-projecting, medium-bronze anodized aluminum, single-pane, hopper windows above and below (no longer extant).
- Location of the single remaining three-part, anodized, window assembly at the east façade. See above for typical window wall description. (other two window assembly locations no longer extant - removed during 1984 Addition).
- Redwood mullions, frames, and trim at windows and south door (now painted, originally clear finished or stained)
- Location of entry door at south façade; original configuration was two identical entry doors with a post between.
- Rubble coursed masonry walls at north façade and north end of west façade
- Location of inward-projecting metal hopper clerestory windows and redwood mullions and trim above rubble coursed masonry walls at north façade and north end of west façade - original windows have been replaced
- Double hipped pyramidal roof - roofing material is not original
- Vented attic space with metal screening between lower and upper hipped roofs
- Deep roof overhang, with double board redwood fascia and plywood soffit with vents and recessed lighting (redwood fascia partially covered by metal fascia of standing seam roof)

Visitor Center - Interior

- South, heavily glazed window wall affording views from the interior to Whiskeytown Lake
- Location of entry door at south facade, original configuration was two identical entry doors with a post between.
- South entry door location (half the size of original opening)
- Partially glazed west wall
- Location of the ribbon of operable, hopper style, clerestory windows at north wall and north end of west wall - original windows have been replaced
- Exposed rubble masonry wall below clerestory windows at the north end of the west wall which turns the corner and continues along the north wall
- Single remaining typical window assembly at the south end of the east wall - other two window assemblies removed for 1984 addition
- Integrally colored, sealed concrete floor underneath existing carpet. Vaulted gypsum board ceiling that mirrors hipped roof form above and dropped gypsum board ceiling.

PART 1 F

Conditions Assessment

Conditions Assessment

Survey Methodology

Siegel & Strain Architects, and architecture + history, llc completed a site visit to the Whiskeytown Visitor Center in Whiskeytown National Recreation Area on October 27-28, 2021 in order to observe and record typical material deficiencies, confirm the character-defining features of the Visitor Center and landscaped promenade, and to generally understand the changes to the building and site over time. Note that material deficiencies were not recorded for the Comfort Station addition located east of the original Visitor Information Center, except as they relate to systems consistent with the Visitor Center or the larger site. Further, a full landscape assessment was not part of the scope of work for this HSR. Observations were visual only, made from the ground and in easily accessed spaces only. No material testing, sampling or selective demolition occurred. Interior spaces were observed by walking room to room and noting conditions through photography and field notes on drawings.



Figure 1
Portions of the original exposed aggregate concrete have been replaced.



Figure 2
Incompatible material was used to fill a previous post location.



Figure 3
The portion of concrete replaced south of the courtyard has a different texture and pinkish color.

Condition Definitions

The condition of the building elements that were evaluated are categorized in a standard good, fair, and poor rating systems, defined as:

Good – The building or structural element, feature or components appears to be functionally and structurally sound and exhibits only minor wear and tear or minor deterioration of surfaces. Repair or rehabilitation is not required; however, routine (cyclical) maintenance will ensure continued good condition.

Fair – The building or structural element, feature or components show signs of aging, deterioration, and possible future failure. While the element or feature may still be structurally adequate, corrective maintenance and repair is required within a moderate period of time (approximately 3-5 years).

Poor – The building or structural element, feature or components shows extensive deterioration, is missing, or shows signs of imminent failure if corrective action is not immediately taken. Major corrective repair or replacement is required. Most features or elements needing further investigation are likely to fall into this category in part or in full.



Figure 4
At the shaded northern section of rubble wall, extensive bio growth is evident.



Figure 5
A large stone is missing at the west side of the rubble wall.



Figure 6
Seen here, an opening resurfaced with differentiated stone and the typical light colored repair mortar

Site Features

See Part 1D for physical description of promenade components. Generally, the original promenade configuration and features remain intact and are in fair condition.

Aggregate Concrete Paving Squares

- The promenade and parking lot island paving consists of 8'x8' square blocks of concrete set in an alternating pattern of large and small (pebble) exposed aggregate separated by 2x4 redwood dividers. These elements are in fair to poor condition.
- A portion of pavers at the northern end of the promenade, near the Visitor Center, was replaced with smooth concrete in 1998. This new paving is in an inconsistent pattern (Figure 1).
- At the northern side of the promenade a post was removed and filled with incompatible material (Figure 2).
- Approximately 4,500 square feet of the aggregate concrete pavers at the south end of the promenade, near the picnic area, was replaced in 2014 with smooth-finish, integrally colored concrete that is not compatible with the original aggregate (Figure 3).

Perimeter Rubble Masonry Wall

- The original 18" high rubble masonry wall runs along the west and partial north side of the courtyard and is in fair condition.
- There is extensive bio growth at the northeast corner where the wall receives less sun, and significant section have been repaired with a light-colored mortar that does not match the original (Figure 4).



Figure 7
Peeling paint at a typical redwood canopy fascia. Note that the original 1x4 redwood fascia trim is covered by the metal roofing.



Figure 8
Redwood trim is missing from this canopy soffit likely due to a water leak in the roof above



Figure 9
Typical worn edges and paint at an original built-in redwood bench

- A large stone is missing from top of the wall on the west side near the south edge of the promenade (Figure 5).
- Portions of wall along its entire length have been repaired with an inconsistent light-colored mortar that does not match the original (Figure 6).
- An opening was cut in the wall near the northwest corner of the Visitor Center to allow for pedestrian access to the native garden; the patching used mismatched rocks (Figure 6).

Shade Canopies

- The original wood shake roofing material on the shade canopies was replaced with asphalt shingles at an unknown time (likely 1984). In 2004, the asphalt shingles were replaced with green standing metal seam roofing. The new metal roofing is used consistently at the Visitor Center, the 1984 Comfort Station addition, and on the shade canopies. This roofing material is in good condition.
- The 1x4 redwood canopy fascia board was covered with metal roofing material when the standing seam metal roofing was installed. At the visible 2x8 redwood fascia board, paint has failed, and many wood fascia boards have cracked and are deteriorated (Figure 7). The fascia is in fair to poor condition.
- There is evidence of water damage at the painted plywood soffit and portions of the redwood trim have deteriorated and/ or fallen off (Figure 8). The soffits are in fair to poor condition.

Wood Benches

- The original redwood benches are heavily worn with failed and scratched paint, worn wood edges, and missing slats (Figure 9). They are in fair condition.



Figure 14
The watershed view is blocked by inappropriately placed map, fee pay stations and trash receptacles.



Figure 15
Ceiling staining is indicative of water failure at converging roof valleys above.



Figure 16
Portions of gutter are damaged and require replacement.

Building Exterior

The following discussion of exterior conditions of the Visitor Center describes conditions that occur in many locations at the exterior façades and are representative of overarching building failures and deficiencies:

Roofing

- The original wood shake roofing material was replaced with asphalt shingles at an unknown time (likely 1984). In 2004, the asphalt shingles were replaced with green standing seam metal roofing. The new metal roofing is used consistently at the Visitor Center, the 1984 Comfort Station addition, and the promenade canopy. This roofing material is in good condition.
- There is evidence of water damage at the plywood soffit at the south façade above the main entry door.
- At all locations where the hipped roofs of the original Visitor Center and the 1984 Comfort Station meet and create a valley, there is indication of failure of the standing metal seam roofing assembly. This pervasive deficiency requires more immediate attention. Although staff did not indicate that any leaks are current, this site receives considerable rain during winter months. The consistent stained and deteriorated ceiling material at the interior indicates both poor roof design and a poorly installed or failing roof system (Figure 15).
- Portions of the Comfort Station gutter are damaged and require replacement (Figure 16).



Figure 17
Organic debris has built up at the valley gutter.

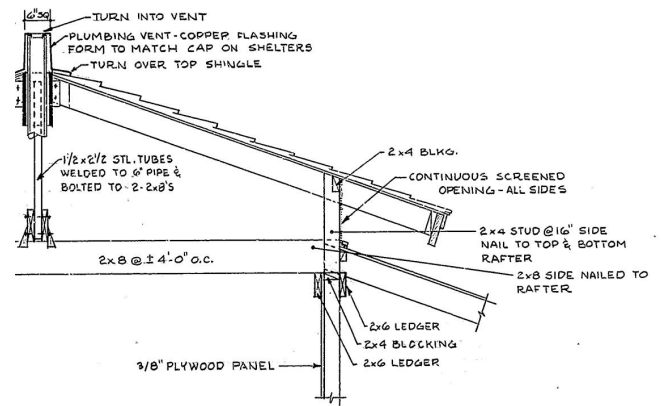


Figure 18
The 1965 As Constructed Drawings of the Visitor Center detail the vented portion of attic between the lower and upper hipped roof structures. Source: NPS eTIC Drawing #RA-WHI 3018 E. Sheet 8 of 13.



Figure 19
Large grouted cylinders of wall with metal wall anchors exist where a flagpole was previously mounted.

- A downspout, at the south façade of the 1984 Comfort Station, outpours directly onto pavement.
- Organic debris buildup accumulates at valley areas of the roof (Figure 17).
- The area of exposed wall at the attic between the lower and upper pyramidal hipped roofs of the original Comfort Station employs metal screening on all four sides to provide natural ventilation (Figure 18). The screening is in poor condition.

Structure

- The building structure is in good condition; however, it is inadequately designed to resist lateral loads. The roof diaphragm is primarily disconnected from the walls as any interior walls that may have provided vertical shear resistance were removed in the 1984 renovation work.
- The lateral load resisting systems for the Visitor Center and Comfort Station vary substantially. There is no significant structural connection between the two buildings.

Exterior Walls

- The rubble masonry wall at the west and north façades is generally in good condition.
- Multiple small holes (approx. one-half inch in diameter) appear at location the historic National Park Service arrowhead signage near the east end of the north façade (Figure 19). Large diameter grouted openings with metal wall anchors remain where a flagpole was previously mounted near this same location (Figure 20).



Figure 20
Small holes remain where items were previously attached to the rubble stone wall.



Figure 21
The western portion of the northern rubble wall is very dirty with excessive bio growth.

- The portion of full height stone wall that extends beyond the restroom roof eave is very dark with extensive biological growth (Figure 21). This portion of the wall is not beneath the roof overhang and is more exposed to moisture and weather. Additional testing is required to determine cause of stone discoloration.

Windows

- The original expansive window walls (comprised a central, fixed pane, wood framed picture window with inward-projecting, medium-bronze anodized aluminum, single-pane, hopper windows above and below, as well as the Kawneer medium bronze, anodized aluminum hopper clerestory windows above the rubble wall, were replaced with light tan vinyl windows in 2009. The replacement vinyl windows at the south and west façades receive harsh sunlight and show some signs of deterioration, but these replacement windows are generally in good condition.
- Some redwood mullions and trim elements are deteriorated showing cracked and missing paint coatings (Figures 22 and 23). The redwood mullions and trim were not originally painted, but stained.

Doors

- Only one contemporary aluminum store door remains at the south façade of the Visitor Center. As originally constructed, the Visitor Center had a pair of entry doors at both the west and south façades. The west doors were replaced with windows, and the south entry revised to one door in 2009.
- The existing aluminum storefront door at the south façade is in fair condition.

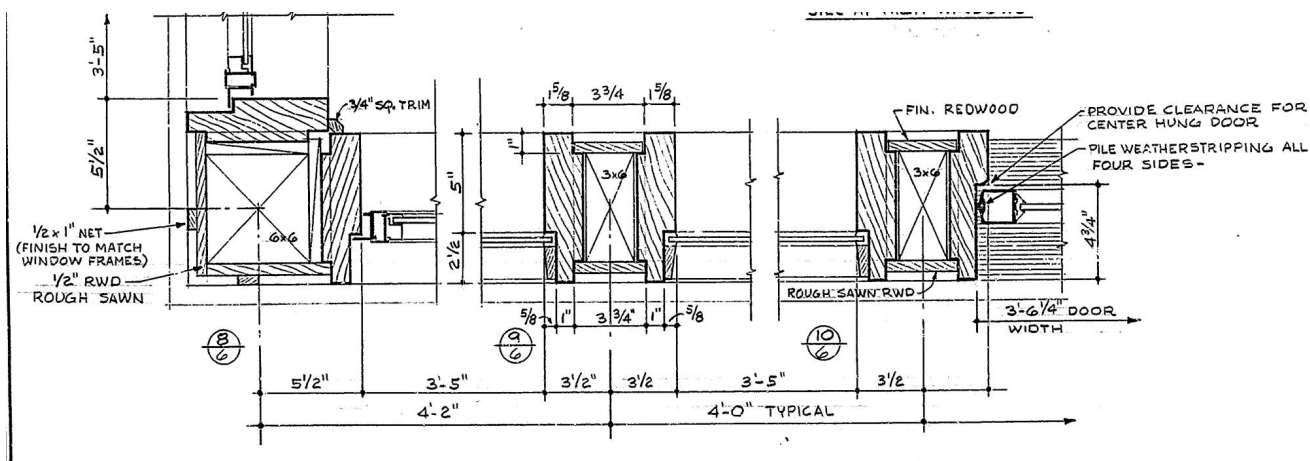


Figure 22

Structural posts within the window walls are framed out with redwood mullions and trim, as shown in this detail from the As Constructed Visitor Center drawings. Source: NPS eTIC Drawing #RA-WHI 3018 E. Sheet 6 of 13.

Building Interior

The 1984 interior remodel of the original Visitor Center resulted in removal of most of the original interior finishes with the exception of the exposed rubble masonry at the west and north walls and the original flooring may be extant. Interior conditions for the 1984 Comfort Station were not assessed as part of this HSR.

Walls/ Ceiling

- The vaulted gypsum board ceiling and dropped ceiling beyond is presumed to be original and is in fair shape.
- Aside from the exposed rubble masonry at the west and north walls, the majority of the interior finishes appear to be contemporary and were installed for retail display or exhibit purposes. The exhibit and displays along the west and north wall were installed during an interior remodel completed in 1984 and are not historic.
- The original operable clerestory windows that once lined the east exterior facade may exist behind a wall board paneling above the built in displays.
- The rubble masonry walls at the west and north are in good condition with limited alteration and minimal mortar repairs in contrast to the exterior condition.

Doors

- Only one interior door separates the primary visitor space from a small office/ storage room. This wood door was installed during the 1984 remodel.



Figure 23
Typical deteriorated redwood window trim.



Figure 24
The interior carpet is puckered and stained in locations.

Floors

- The existing carpet (installed in 2009) is in poor condition and beyond its usable life. It is presumed that the original, integrally colored concrete floor (not viewed) is likely in fair shape under the existing carpet (Figure 24).

Mechanical System

- The existing packaged unit mechanical system was installed in October 2021. Although newly installed, the unit is inappropriately placed on the west sloping roof with no attempt to conceal it from public view. It is unsightly, negatively impacts the experience of the site, and may be undersized for the size of space that it serves (Figure 25). The unit has no vibration isolation and the steel platform to which it is mounted shows signs of corrosion. The condensate drainpipe from the unit discharges at the edge of the west roof slope. An existing propane tank fuels the packaged rooftop unit. It is currently a rented unit, is located on the west side of the Visitor Center in a fenced off area and was not surveyed.



Figure 25
The packaged mechanical unit and solar panels are poorly placed on the roof of the primary building elevation.

Electrical System and Lighting

- The existing electrical system is antiquated and past the manufacturer's recommended life expectancy. All existing interior and exterior lights are LED.
- The existing solar panels are visually intrusive in their placement on the south slope of roof of the Visitor Center. They are currently disconnected and are unused due to a failed inverter. (Figure 25)

Sewer and Plumbing Systems

- Two 6,000-gallon septic storage tanks were installed in 2010. The existing sewer and plumbing systems were reported to have adequate capacity and be in good shape. Staff indicated that the existing leach field may require replacement; additional observation was not completed at this time.

PART 1 G

Integrity Analysis

Integrity Analysis

Evaluation of Integrity

The October 2016 National Register of Historic Places Determination of Eligibility (DOE) concluded that:

The Visitor Center retains nearly all of character-defining features of its building type and style: Double-hipped roof, window wall, coursed stone rear wall, public lobby with vaulted ceiling, exteriorly accessed restrooms, hipped roof courtyard canopy, concrete paver courtyard with raised planters, and the view of the lake. The Whiskeytown Visitor Center, even with cumulative changes, still clearly reads as Park Service Modern and retains integrity in location, design, materials, setting, workmanship, feeling, and association.¹

The cumulative changes alluded to in the DOE have somewhat diminished the building's historic integrity. The original design motif of a transparent pavilion situated above and providing views of Whiskeytown Lake has been changed by these past cumulative interventions. However, the Whiskeytown Visitor Center possesses historic integrity of each of the seven aspects of integrity - location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association - to enable it to illustrate the important aspects of the Mission 66 Visitor Center building type and convey its historic significance.

The alterations include: the east side Comfort Station addition; replacement of original wood shake roofing material with standing seam metal roofing; replacement of all windows (in a similar configuration) and painting of redwood mullions; removal of the west façade, the exterior entry doors and inserting windows in this location; replacement of the original visitor information desk; and installation of exhibits and park store shelving which replaced or covered interior wood panel wall finishes. Additionally, the original program of the building which included only an information desk, small ranger office, and restrooms has been expanded to also include exhibits and a gift shop.

¹ Philips, Ashley, "Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, Whiskeytown Visitor Center, Determination of Eligibility," 31 October 2016: 11.

A discussion of each of the seven aspects of integrity is provided below:

Location

The Visitor Center has very strong integrity of location. It remains in its original location overlooking Whiskeytown Lake. The original orientation of the building is intact, the primary visitor entrance at the south elevation remains easily accessible from the parking area, and the site continues to be the visitors' first experience of the park.

Site Design

The Visitor Center site retains a fair degree of design integrity in its original site features such as stone walls, aggregate concrete features, planting beds, shade canopies, and wood benches. Further, the site circulation, important to the overall design has been retained, however the removal of the set of doors at the west facade altered the site circulation.

Building Design

The 1984 Comfort Station addition obscures the east façade of the original Visitor Center altering the view of the building as approached from the east. Its original design intent - a series of pavilions with pyramidal hipped roofs floating above the lake, with the larger, transparent pavilion housing the Visitor Center - has been impacted. The understanding of this intent was furthered by the cohesive nature of the original materials - stone walls, wood shake roof, clear finished redwood window mullions, stained redwood and dark metal window frames, and redwood plywood siding - which allowed the complex to sit lightly on the site and blend with its surroundings. The current highly contrasting color of the vinyl replacement windows, the painted window mullions and frames, and the metal roofing material create the opposite effect. The cumulative effect of these interventions has diminished the overall integrity of design, however many of the impactful changes to the building could be reversed to restore the integrity.

Originally, the interior of the Visitor Center included an L-shaped room with a lobby and small office for the park ranger at the south and west portions of the building and restrooms in the northeast corner of the building. The lobby and office were an open plan that allowed access from the interior of the Visitor Center to the men's restroom. This was likely so that the ranger on duty had easy access to this amenity. The women's room was only accessed from the exterior of the building at the east facade.

In 1984, a Comfort Station Addition was constructed at the east facade and the original interior of the Visitor Center was remodeled altering the original floor plan of the building and it also remove or concealed interior finishes such as the vertical redwood paneling. Further, additional program uses were introduced within the building that required a new information and check out desk, exhibit area and gift shop.

All of these highly visible interior uses are visible through the window walls diminishing the feeling of a glazed pavilion. These cumulative changes have impacted the integrity of design, however many of the impactful changes to the building could be reversed to restore the integrity.

Setting

The setting of the Whiskeytown Visitor Center remains largely unchanged. While SR 299 (Eureka Way) has been widened over time, the overall setting remains primarily intact. The native garden to the north of the Visitor Center is not original but the landscape design is in keeping with the historic setting. The built features of the parking area remain, adding to the high level of integrity of setting.

Materials

With regard to the site, some of the original aggregate concrete paving and curbing has been replaced with new poured integrally-colored concrete or poured smooth concrete without an aggregate. The integrity of building materials has been impacted by a change from the original wood shake roofing material at both the Visitor Center building and its associated shade canopies to green standing seam metal roofing. The replacement metal roofing material does not blend with the natural setting. Further, replacement light tan vinyl windows have been installed, and window frames and mullions have been painted. While the replacement windows were inserted in their historic locations, the material and color choice alter the intended perception of the building as a glazed pavilion. Further, at the interior the redwood wall paneling was covered over or removed at the time of the 1984 interior remodel.

Workmanship

The integrity of workmanship has been impacted by the 1984 addition and the extensive interior remodel of the Visitor Center. The original intent was to convey a glazed pavilion in the landscape; the Addition and interior remodel and accumulation of items inside the pavilion diminish the integrity of workmanship. Nonetheless, the coursed rubble masonry wall, the remaining aggregate concrete at the promenade, and the original wood window wall construction convey a high level of workmanship.

Feeling

The building and landscape retain much of their integrity of feeling, with both components having a similar feel to the historical conditions. Some of the design and material interventions have impacted the feeling of a glazed pavilion perched above the lake. However, the building and its site are understood as a Visitor Center and associated overlook area, and convey their historic use.

Association

The building retains a strong association with the establishment of the Whiskeytown National Recreation Area and with the Mission 66-era.



PART 2

Future Use, Treatment, and Recommendations

PART 2 A

Historic Preservation Objectives and Preferred Use

Historic Preservation Objectives and Preferred Use

The visual and historic character of the Whiskeytown Visitor Center has been altered, through modifications and additions, resulting in an altered visitor experience. Most significantly, the 1984 Comfort Station addition changed the view of the building upon arrival. Further, replacement of the original wood shake roofing with green standing seam metal roofing, painting of the originally stained redwood window mullions and trim, and replacement of the dark metal window sash with light tan vinyl sash have impacted the visitors ability to perceive the structure as originally conceived – a modern, glazed pavilion floating over the Lake. The inappropriate placement of interpretive signage and bear resistant trash cans on the promenade additionally impacts the public vista to the Whiskeytown Lake viewshed. Restorative intervention to key design elements and features of the promenade, shade canopy, and Visitor Center would re-establish the intent of visitor experience.

Despite previous interior remodeling, the current operational needs of the park and its concession partner are not being met by the current configuration of the site and building. The building, initially designed as an “Information Station & Overlook,” serves important functions in the public facing services of the park including fee collections, permit sales, visitor information, public access to park rangers, and display and interpretation of historical artifacts and site history. All of these program elements were not intended for the small building originally constructed in 1965. Even accounting for the 1984 Comfort Station addition, the building fails to meet the program needs required, both in its square footage and in its plan configuration.

Additionally, the Visitor Center offers the only public restrooms in the area. At the time of initial construction, Whiskeytown National Recreation Area had an estimated visitation of 250,000 visitors per year. Visitation is now in the range of one million visitors per year. With visitation higher than ever, there is a further need to provide visitation services in an effective and timely manner. Additional square footage is needed within the Visitor Center complex for storage, office use, a mechanical and electrical closet, increased queuing capacity, retail displays, and additional interpretative services and exhibit areas, including the ability to conduct ranger-guided programs.

Providing additional indoor space also would offer relief to visitors from both heavy winter rains and extremely high summer temperatures that are frequent in the area. Rehabilitation, in the form of interior remodeling and a second addition to the building, both of which would be executed with the intent to preserve and highlight the important features of this significant Mission 66-era building and site, offers an opportunity to continue using the building for visitor services, but with improved functionality.

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties offer four defined approaches for the potential treatment of historically significant structures which reflect increasing levels of intervention into the original fabric of the building. The four levels are as follows: Preservation, Rehabilitation, Restoration, and Reconstruction. Each level of treatment provides guidance on the approach to building intervention.

The primary objectives for the continued use of the Whiskeytown Visitor Center are:

- Restoration to reinstate character-defining features of the original building and site design that have been compromised through modification or replacement;
- Rehabilitation maintenance actions to preserve and repair extant character-defining features;
- Rehabilitation to address current operational and program needs through sensitive interventions.

The approach to future projects or upgrades proposed for the Whiskeytown Visitor Center should focus on both rehabilitation and restoration, with key character-defining features carefully repaired, rather than replaced. The building has already been significantly altered, especially its materials. Further, the 1984 Comfort Station addition obscured the original east façade, impacting the Modern, transparent design and its perception as floating above the Lake. Future projects should have as minimal impact as possible to character-defining features and spaces. This approach is compatible with the historic resource as it will provide for the repair and protection of key features, spaces, materials, and elements while simultaneously allowing for the necessary or required code and functional upgrades and rehabilitative measures that will enhance the visitor experience. The building should continue its historic use as a Visitor Center and Comfort Station.

PART 2 B

Requirements for Work

Requirements for Work

Codes, Regulations and Applicable Laws

The following regulations are applicable:

Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards (ABAAS)

The Secretary of the Interior Standards for the

Treatment of Historic Properties

National Park Service Director's Order #28: Cultural

Resource Management Guideline

Applicable and most current Building Codes shall

be referenced at the time of construction.

Applicable laws, codes, regulations and other requirements must be considered before any rehabilitation work can begin. The work must be in conformance with applicable federal regulations and codes, including Executive Orders, National Park Service Management Policies and Director's Orders. Other site-specific jurisdictional criteria also relevant to the project's location should be consulted and implemented as required.

Additional functional requirements which are recommended herein include improvements for fire protection, energy conservation, and hazardous material abatement.

PART 2 C

Treatment Recommendations

Treatment Recommendations

The Treatment Recommendations are presented in two components. First, the considerations, projects, and tasks recommended to realize the proposed historic preservation treatment objectives outlined in Section 2A. Some of these recommendations focus on actions that could be implemented immediately (at the Parks' discretion). However, many of these reflect longer term goals and actions that would assist in reinstating (and maintaining) the historic character of the promenade and original Visitor Center.

The second section is a series of short-term treatment recommendations to address material deficiencies. These more directly correspond to the conditions elaborated in Section 1F.

Recommendations to Achieve Historic Preservation Treatment Objectives

Restorative Intervention

Restoration of select site and building components offers an opportunity to reestablish a number of features that contributed to the original design of the Mission 66-era Whiskeytown Visitor Center but have been insensitively modified or replaced over time.

Priority restoration recommendations include:

- Stain/refinish wood window mullions, wood frames and wood trim to more closely reflect the original color scheme.
- Consider painting the 1984 Comfort Station siding a darker color that would more easily blend with the site and landscape.
- Replace light tan vinyl windows with windows that have a dark colored frame and sash that are more in keeping with the original medium bronze anodized aluminum storefront and fixed pane wood windows. Aluminum windows with profiles similar in size to the original should be selected for the hopper windows that sit above and below the fixed window and for the clerestory windows at the west and north façades. Given the harsh climate, insulated glazing units should be considered.
- When roofing material replacement is necessary, reestablish original wood shake roof. If this approach is infeasible due to fire hazard, newly installed roofing should evoke the original. If a metal roof is required, it should be a neutral color that blends with the landscape.
- When re-roofing occurs, expose, and restore or replace in kind the original 1x4 redwood fascia board.
- Reinstate the exterior doors at the west façade and pair of entry doors at the south facade to facilitate visitor flow through the building at peak times. Doors should be selected that closely approximate the original storefront metal doors with narrow stiles. Given the harsh climate, insulated glazing units should be considered. Replace mismatched framing members surrounding the west door openings with rough sawn redwood to replicate the wood window mullions and trim.
- Relocate poorly placed small-scale site features (signage, trash bins etc.) that impede public perception of the viewshed from John F Kennedy Memorial Road and the approach to the building from Highway 299.
- Remove the museum exhibit cases from the interior north wall so that the rubble coursed stone wall is visible and understood as a primary character-defining feature of the Visitor Center. Clean and maintain the surface of the exposed masonry stone wall.

- Reinstall the extant operable clerestory windows at the east elevation (presumably covered) to bring natural light into the storage room.
- Reinstall the extant operable clerestory windows at the east elevation (presumably covered) to bring natural light into the storage room.

Rehabilitation – Maintenance

All ongoing and future maintenance and repair work at the site and historic building should incorporate the Secretary of the Interior's Rehabilitation Standards as an established practice. Particularly, the rehabilitation of distinctive materials, finishes, and construction techniques should be mandatory. Deteriorated historic features should be repaired rather than replaced. Previously completed maintenance and repair work that was insensitively executed should be reversed through proper material selection and carefully planned construction techniques to match or be more in keeping with the original.

Priority rehabilitation action items for preservation and maintenance of extant character-defining features include:

- When repointing is required at the site perimeter stone wall or the Visitor Center stone walls, employ a mortar that more closely matches the original mortar color.
- As concrete promenade pavement and site curbing wears, replace these concrete features using an aggregate and color that more closely matches the historic.
- Create a cycle of maintenance to address the following character-defining features and elements:
 - o Wrap-around wood benches under the promenade canopies
 - o Plywood canopy soffits
 - o Rubble stone walls at the site and the Visitor Center building (interior and exterior surfaces)
 - o Redwood window mullions and trim
- Create a cycle of maintenance to address building and systems upkeep, including but not limited to the maintenance of:
 - o HVAC Unit(s)
 - o Gutters and downspouts
 - o Photovoltaic arrays

These cyclical maintenance actions would include cleaning, maintaining paint coatings, and inspection of features to ensure proper repair.

Rehabilitation – Address Operational Needs and Facilitate Continued Use Through a Carefully-Designed and Sited Building Addition

As previously established, building alteration (namely, a building addition) is required to accommodate pressing operational needs. The design of an historically sensitive addition must prescribe especially to two of the *Secretary of Interior Standards for Rehabilitation*:

- New additions, exterior alterations or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work will be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.
- New additions and adjacent or related new construction will be undertaken in such a manner that, if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

The site presents limited opportunity for a direct extension to the existing Visitor Center. To the north, busy Highway 299 is noisy and would warrant a generous setback from the roadway. Additionally, a northern addition would require new openings in the rubble stone wall, which is a significant interior and exterior character-defining feature of the Visitor Center. Expansion to the west is infeasible due to the sharp drop off in grading. The uninhibited view across the site from east to west is a character-defining feature of the site and should be maintained. Additionally, the original uninterrupted expansive window walls at the Visitor Center south and west façades provide views through the site and to the Lake and their configuration should be preserved. Expansion to the south would require considerable effort if both the historic south window wall and the uninterrupted views are to be maintained. In particular, the size and placement of a second addition, as well as the roof shape and the materiality of components, require considerable attention to determine if an intervention of this scale would be appropriate to the resource. Separation between the historic south window wall and any new construction is preferred in order to maintain the essential form and integrity of the original structure.

The construction of an extension to the existing eastern 1984 Comfort Station would likely be most in keeping with the recommended preservation priorities. The existing Comfort Station employs an appropriate height, scale, and roof form in relation to the original structure and could be continued eastward in a pavilion-inspired, one-story addition.

The use of compatible, but differentiated building materials at any new addition is encouraged to assist the user in differentiating the various building campaigns that have occurred at that site. Consideration of the placement, size, scale, and materiality of any new addition is crucial to ensuring that it would be easily differentiated from, but compatible with, the original Mission 66-era Visitor Center.

Rehabilitation – Address Operational Needs and Facilitate Continued Use via Interior Alteration

To accommodate more efficient and increased visitor services, as well as NPS staff and concession employee requirements within the Visitor Center, modification of the interior space will be required. When originally constructed, the Visitor Center was designed as, and served only as, an “Information Station and Overlook.” In its early configuration the building had a small lobby, information desk, a small ranger office, and men’s and women’s restrooms. There was a simplicity of spatial layout and materiality that should be embraced and reinstated through future alterations.

Priority rehabilitation items for the Visitor Center interior space includes:

- Avoid blocking south and west window walls with built in shelving, signage, or other furniture/appurtenances. If shelving is required along these walls, it should match the height of the lower, hopper style window.
- Maintain the vaulted ceiling that mirrors the hipped roof form, with gypsum board finish.
- Reinstatement as much open floor space within the building as possible; originally there was limited furniture and built-in items, aside from a ranger desk. Infill of any additional full height walls should be minimized and located only at the northeast corner if required.
- Finish materials and the color palette at the interior should remain neutral and in keeping with the natural color scheme of the original building.
- Openings through the east wall may be appropriate but should maintain the sizes/ rhythm of the original window openings in the east facade.

Recommendations to address Material Deficiencies

The following are short-term treatment recommendations to address material deficiencies. This section corresponds directly with Section 1F: Conditions Assessment.

Site Recommendations

Aggregate Concrete Paving and Curbing

- Remove incompatible patching material at previous post location within the promenade and replace with compatible concrete aggregate material.
- Test clean the historic exposed aggregate paving and curbing to determine best methods to remove dirt and biological growth without damaging the materials, this includes force of water and type of cleaning solution.

Perimeter Rubble Masonry Wall

- Perform test cleaning at darkened stones to determine source of coloring (water/ dirt staining, atmospheric pollutants, patina). Determine cleaning methods and materials to restore stone to lighter color, as possible. Remove biological growth from rubble wall at all instances of occurrence.
- Provide compatible fill at (4) holes in north masonry wall at location of historic NPS Arrowhead Sign. Patch material color to match stone to the extent possible.

Canopies

- Replace water-stained plywood in kind at soffits. Plywood that is structurally stable may remain in place and be painted to match adjacent. Maintain historical paint colors of soffit panels (light) and trim pieces (dark).
- Remove paint at redwood fascia. Survey fascia for deterioration. Epoxy, dutchman repair, or replace in kind deteriorated fascia components and stain to match historical color.

Wood Benches

- Strip paint from wood benches and lightly sand to remove large scratches. Boards with heavily worn edges may be replaced in kind. Stain benches to match original appearance.

Planters

- Consider reinstating a fountain within the planter in its original location on the promenade.
- Consider restoring the size of shortened planter bed at far south location in promenade to match original size.

Vegetation

- When feasible, remove the Cottonwood tree at the north end of the site as the roots are undermining the building.
- Vegetation management, including clearing of built-up debris at the building base and cutting back of adjacent vegetation, especially at the west slope below the low masonry site wall and to the north at the Native Garden. This will be continually required throughout the life cycle of the building and site.

Building Exterior - Recommendations

Roofing

- Engage a licensed roofing contractor to inspect and further evaluate the condition of standing metal seam roofing, with special attention given to roof connections, underlayment, and intersections of all valleys. This may require water testing to see where leaks are occurring. Repair underlayment and flashing to correct leaks.
- Develop and implement a system of cyclical maintenance to remove debris and foliage from the roof.
- Install batt insulation in existing attic spaces and between ceiling joists.
- Replace existing attic screening at the vented portion of the attic between the lower and upper the double hipped roof of the Visitor Center.
- Remove and replace damaged gutters at building perimeter.
- Revise gutter downspouts to direct water away from building. Provide gutter extensions to eject water 5 feet clear of building perimeter and away from public circulation paths.
- Repair damaged roof fascia at north façade at the east corner.
- Dutchman repair, epoxy inject or replace in kind 2x8 redwood double board fascia as needed and restore original stained finish.
- Replace plywood soffit and wood trim in kind where damaged or deteriorated at roof soffit.

Structure

- Future design schemes to incorporate design of lateral load resisting system for the Visitor Center and to address structural connection between the Visitor Center and Comfort Station.

Exterior Walls

- Perform test cleaning at darkened stones to determine source of coloring (water/ dirt staining, atmospheric pollutants, patina). Determine cleaning methods and materials to restore stone to lighter color, as possible. Remove bio growth from rubble wall at all instances of occurrence.

Windows

- Dutchman repair or replace original redwood posts, jambs, sills, and trim between window openings in kind where deteriorated. See Priority Restoration Recommendations for proposed tasks pertaining to finishes.
- Given the harsh climate, consider installation of window shades (custom built into existing window framing).

Doors

- Dutchman repair or replace original redwood posts, jambs, and trim between door openings in kind where deteriorated. See Priority Restoration Recommendations for proposed tasks pertaining to finishes.

Building Interior – Recommendations

Walls/Ceilings

- New finishes should be compatible, but clearly differentiated from, the historic finishes, to the extent possible. New finishes should employ colors that are in keeping with natural color scheme of original building.
- Ceiling at office/store to be replaced in kind to allow for exploration and repair of water intrusion at roof juncture above.
- Provide insulation at ceiling joists

Fire Hardening

- Future design schemes to consider options for fire hardening the building. Consideration may be given to the following alterations/installations:
 - o Replace existing attic metal screening with louvers with integral fire dampers.
 - o Replace wood soffit with a more fire-resistant material, such as cement board.
 - o Continue the use for fiber cement siding at new exterior walls or determine similarly effective building wall assembly.

Accessibility

- Future design schemes to maintain accessible path of travel, entry, and visitor accommodations to meet current accessibility standards.
- Cyclical inspection of the aggregate paving is required to ensure the paving remains stable, firm and slip resistant to meet accessibility requirements for walking surfaces.

Mechanical System

- The existing HVAC packaged unit can be reused if it is determined that unit has capacity to meet the heating and cooling loads of the space. Engage a mechanical engineer to determine heating and cooling loads and the capacity of the existing unit. Removal of unit from rooftop is most in keeping with the preservation objectives for the building.
- An alternative approach to HVAC is to install a split system heat pump mounted at grade level with a ducted horizontal fan coil installed in the dropped ceiling area. The placement of the split system at grade level requires further study to consider the best location, the sizes and locations of new penetrations into the building, and how to shield unit from public view with a fence or other method.
- Install appropriate filters at intake/mechanical unit for poor air quality days.

Electrical System and lighting

- Upgrade existing 100-amp service to 200 amps (assume panel replacement).
- Refurbish existing pendant lighting to improve fixture efficiency and provide superior quality of light.
- Remove existing interior track and mounted lighting. Provide new recessed fixtures.

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As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historic places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under US administration.

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