

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

P.O. BOX 942896
SACRAMENTO, CA 94296-0001
(916) 653-6624 Fax: (916) 653-6624
calshpo@ohp.parks.ca.gov
www.ohp.parks.ca.gov



August 23, 2004

Dr. Stephanie Toothman
National Park Service
Pacific West Region
909 First Street
Seattle, Washington 98104-4159

Dear Dr. Toothman:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the National Register Multiple Property nomination for Yosemite National Park. I concur that the properties identified and evaluated in the nomination do constitute a coherent group of geographically dispersed resources that are eligible for listing in the National Register. The nomination does an excellent job of defining separate, but related contexts that make clear the significance of the individual resources, as well as the reasons that they collectively constitute a multiple property. The inclusion of a number of the park's less elaborate, high altitude resources is particularly noteworthy. The context statements synthesize a large amount of historic documentation in a clear and concise manner and the descriptive material that is provided for the individual resources or resource groupings is excellent.

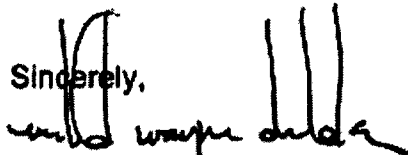
We concur in all of your findings regarding the resources enumerated in the multiple property nomination. We agree that the following properties are eligible for the National Register as a part of a multiple property.

Lake Vernon Cabin Building #2450
May Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District
Hetch Hetchy Comfort Station Building #2104
Henness Ridge Fire Lookout Building #5300
The Golden Crown Mine
Glen Aulin Sierra Camp Historic District
Chinquapin Historic District
Buck Creek Cabin Building #4800
Snow Flat Cabin Building #3501
Snow Creek Cabin Building #3450
Sachse Springs Cabin Building #2452
Ostrander Ski Hut Building #5110
Old Big Oak Flat Road
New Big Oak Flat Road
Merced Lake Ranger Station Building #3400
Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District

Wawona Tunnel
Vogelsang High Sierra Camp Historic District
Tuolumne Meadows High Sierra Camp Historic District

I have signed the application as commenting authority. If you have any questions, please call
Gene Itogawa of my staff (916) 653-8936.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Milford Wayne Donaldson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with some vertical strokes.

Milford Wayne Donaldson
State Historic Preservation Officer

Cc: Kimball Koch

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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

1. Name of
Property

historic name Hetch Hetchy Comfort Station
other names/site number Building #2104

2.
Location

street & number N/A not for publication ☐
city or town Yosemite National Park (YOSE) vicinity ☐
state California code CA county Tuolumne code 109 zip code 95389

3. State /Federal Agency Certification

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

Signature of certifying official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:
☐ entered in the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the
National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many as apply)

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

Category of Property

(Check only one)

```

_X_ building(s)
___ district
___ site
___ structure
___ object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

Historic Resources of Yosemite National Park, California

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6.Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/NPS Comfort Station

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

_OTHER/NPS Comfort Station

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: NPS Rustic

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls	Wood – redwood shingle and frame
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granite veneer

roof Wood – redwood shingle

other _____

Narrative Description

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

Hetch Hetchy Comfort Station
Name of Property

Tuolumne, CA
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1934-1938

Criteria Considerations

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

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

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

National Park Service

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register

Primary location of additional data

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

Hetch Hetchy Comfort Station

Name of Property

Tuolumne, CA

County and State

☐ designated a National Historic Landmark

☒ Other

☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

Name of repository:

Yosemite National Park, California

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering

Record # _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>11</u>	<u>255750</u>	<u>4203350</u>	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			
							See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

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

The National Register boundary includes the Hetch Hetchy comfort station and its immediate surroundings.

Boundary Justification

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

The boundary includes only the architecturally significant comfort station and its immediate setting.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Andy Kirk, Richard Coop, Charles Palmer

organization UNLV Public History date 3/8/04

street & number 4505 Maryland Parkway Box 455020 telephone (702)895-3544

city or town Las Vegas state NV zip code 89135-5020

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

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

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is

Hetch Hetchy Comfort Station

Tuolumne, CA

Name of Property

County and State

required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Hetch Hetchy Comfort Station
name of property
Tuolumne, California
county and State
Historic Resources of Yosemite
National Park, California
name of multiple property listing
Page 1

Section 7

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Summary

Plans for the Hetch Hetchy comfort station were prepared by the NPS Branch of Plans and Design. The resulting redwood frame structure with granite veneer face, completed in 1934, was considered by the superintendent to be a distinctive addition to the park and far superior to earlier park structures of that type. Its simple, yet pleasing lines and tasteful blending of redwood siding and stone veneer resulted in a beautiful example of the mature NPS rustic architecture style. It represents a conscious attempt to construct a modern, functional, but visually nonintrusive park visitor facility. It is in excellent condition.

General Description

Building #2104 is located near the edge of Hetch Hetchy Reservoir and was built to replace unsightly and unhealthy pit privies. The NPS Branch of Plans and Design designed a wood frame structure with a stone veneer face extending to the window sills and to the roof at the corners. Redwood siding comprised all exposed wood exteriors. The 1:1 roof slope was covered with 24-inch Royal shingles 10 inches to the weather. Outside dimensions of the structure are 17'-4" by 30'-4". It houses one room for men, 10'-6 " by 14'-8", with a concrete floor, tongue and groove interior finish throughout, and nine fixtures. A room for women of identical size and finish has seven fixtures. The structure also houses a 4'-9" by 14'-8" utility space with an earth floor. Interior paint consisted of a light gray color with sanded walls. The exterior exposed redwood was treated with two coats of oil and the shingles with two coats of creosote green stain. Fourteen cubic yards of concrete were poured for the foundation and floors; thirty-five cubic yards of rubble masonry veneer were built around the comfort station walls. Windows consist of four four-light hopper windows side-by-side on each side wall. End walls contain a centered door framed by two opposing 9-light hopper windows. All windows had "Cathedral" glass. Periodic maintenance work has been accomplished with the intent of preserving the building's architectural integrity.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Hetch Hetchy Comfort Station

name of property

Tuolumne, California

county and State

Historic Resources of Yosemite
National Park, California

name of multiple property listing

Page 2

Section 8

Significance

Property Type: Resources Associated with Architecture and Design (1856-1964)
 Subtype: Rustic Architecture—Heavy Log, Stone, Wood Frame
Period of Significance: 1934-1938.

Building #2104 is considered architecturally significant as an outstanding example of the type of design desired by the National Park Service during the 1920s and 1930s for visitor use facilities. The rather formal lines of the building, complemented by the use of native stone and a limited amount of redwood siding, result in a structure displaying the maturity achieved in the NPS rustic architecture program. Construction of the comfort station preceded the raising of the O’Shaughnessy Dam and the construction of the chalet and other city of San Francisco buildings in the same location after 1935. It would appear that the architectural style of the comfort station influenced the design of the later buildings put up by the city for dam service and maintenance.

Context

The National Park Service and the City of San Francisco, which had completed the O’Shaughnessy Dam at Hetch Hetchy Valley in 1923, reached an agreement in 1932 providing for administrative control of the area by the National Park Service. Under that agreement the Park Service assumed full responsibility for sanitation in the Tuolumne River watershed supplying water for the city. Paragraph 7 of that agreement stated that the Park Service should immediately provide allotments for the construction at Hetch Hetchy of a comfort station and sewage disposal layout. The comfort station replaced old pit privies that presented the potential hazard of polluting the water in the reservoir and that were also a very unsightly intrusion on the grounds adjacent to the dam, which was even then being visited by approximately 300 people daily from all over the country.

The project was executed by local workers under the supervision and direction of the park engineering department. H.S. Shiiko, Assistant Park Engineer, had direct charge. He was assisted by John B. Wosky, landscape architect, on questions concerning landscaping problems.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Hetch Hetchy Comfort Station
name of property
Tuolumne, California
county and State
Historic Resources of Yosemite
National Park, California
name of multiple property listing
Page 3

Section 9
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Bibliography

Finley, Michael V., Superintendent, Yosemite National Park to Regional Director, Western Region “Review of National Register forms for factual data,” September 7, 1989.

Gray, Albert H. *Park & Recreation Structures*. Boulder, Colorado: Graybooks,1990.

Greene, Linda W. *Historic Resource Study. Yosemite: The Park and Its Resources*. 3 volumes, Denver: NPS, 1987.

McClelland, Linda Flint. *Building the National Parks*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998.

Thompson, C. Monthly Superintendent’s Reports. March 1934 – May 1934.

_____. Superintendent’s Final Report: Comfort Station Hetch Hetchy. September, 1934.