

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 an 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 Substation and Substation Control House No. 1

other names/site number Meterhouse / Building 508

2. Location

street & number Building 508 ☐ not for publication

city or town Yosemite National Park ☐ vicinity

state California code CA county Mariposa code 042 zip code 95389

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Signature of certifying official/Title

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 official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

☐ entered in the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined eligible for the
National Register
☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register

☐ removed from the National
Register

☐ other explanation

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification**Ownership of Property**
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
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.)

Yosemite Village Historic District

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

6. Function or Use**Historic Functions**
(Enter categories from instructions)

Government: National Park Service

Substation and Substation Control House
for Yosemite Valley**Current Functions**
(Enter categories from instructions)

Government: National Park Service

Substation and Substation Control House
for Chapel in Yosemite Valley**7. Description****Architectural Classification**
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other/ National Park Service Rustic

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls wood frame

roof shake

other

Narrative Description

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

Summary:

Substation and Substation Control House No. 1, are a fenced in complex located in the western portion of Yosemite Valley in Yosemite National Park. Constructed in 1931, by the National Park Service, it is located on the north side of North Side Drive. It is the oldest and only surviving substation and "Rustic" Substation Control House in Yosemite Valley. The small gable - roofed, wood framed, structure measures eight feet -by- eleven feet and is simple in its construction. It is one room and contains electrical equipment.

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.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

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
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Community Planning and Development

Period of Significance

1931 - 1981

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Yosemite National Park Research
Library

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	1
---	---

2	7	0	6	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	1	8	0	1	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

2

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

3

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

4

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sylvia Rose Augustus, Historic Architect

organization National Park Service date 12/15/94

street & number Yosemite Research Cntr. P.O. Box 700 telephone 209 372-0464

city or town El Portal, state CA zip code 95318

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

street & number Yosemite National Park telephone _____

city or town Yosemite state CA zip code 95389

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127, and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (1024-0141), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

Narrative Description Continued

General Description

The Substation and the Substation Control House #1 is located within a wire fence of approximately forty - five by forty - five. Located along North Side Drive, in the west end of Yosemite Valley, it is accessible to pedestrians and motorists. The complex is immediately west of the Chevron Gas Station and is east of the Campground Four.

The eight -by- eleven foot substation control house has a concrete foundation and floor. The building is framed in wood. The exterior walls are shake sided. The _____ shake length has _____ inches exposed . The roof is shingled. The shingle _____ length has _____ inches exposed. The original roof also of _____ shingle covered was replaced in 1988.

The interior walls are tongue and grove. The ceiling is exposed wood framing.

On the north and south sides of the building there are double six light casement windows. A one-panel, six - light, wooden door with a brass lock set is located on the east side of the building.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Narrative Statement of Significance

Many historic buildings associated with the National Park Service are of a "Rustic" style. The Yosemite Valley contains many fine examples of Rustic Architecture. These buildings are inconspicuous and tend to blend with their surrounding landscape. Characterized by wood framing with exposed timbers and shake siding on stone or concrete foundations, this substation control house is an example of rustic architecture.

Built and constructed by the National Park Service in 1931 this substation complex was the first substation built to service the Yosemite Valley. An identical substation complex was once located in the vicinity of the Ahwahnee Hotel. It was known as Substation Control House #2, also built in 1931. It was demolished in _____. Beginning in the early 1980's, the substation equipment that was no longer necessary was disconnected but not removed.

Substation, and Substation Control House, #1 is the oldest and only surviving "Rustic" sub station control house and substation complex in Yosemite Valley.

The Substation, and Substation Control House, #1 (building #508) remain virtually intact. The original enclosure that was built to protect individuals from coming in contact with high voltage equipment was a wooden, vertical board fence. This fence was replaced in _____ by a wire fence. In addition Substation Control House, #1 was originally outside of the substation fence enclosure. This fence was replaced in _____ by a wire fence. In 19____ the wire fence was re routed to include Substation Control House, #1 within its boundaries.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 1

9. Major Bibliographical References

Chappell, Gordon and Robert Cox. "National Register of Historic Places Registration form: Yosemite Village Historic District." United States Department of Interior, National Park Service, Yosemite National Park, California September 1977.

Greene, Linda Wedel. Yosemite: The Park and Its Resources. A History of the Discovery, Management, and Physical Development of Yosemite National Park, California. U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, September, 1987. Volumes 1 - 3.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description

The National Register boundary includes only the historical and architecturally significant Substation and Substation Control House No. 1.

Boundary Justification

The National Register boundary is drawn to include only the significant Substation and Substation Control House No. 1.

2059: SW
(TAMARACK FLAT)

270000mF

271 ✓ YOSEMITE CHULA CAMPGROUND 6 AM

35

273

4Y05A



FE

M11

KILOMETERS

METERS

CONTOUR INTERVAL 40 FEET

NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

HALF DOME QUADRANGLE

CALIFORNIA

7 5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

P.O. Box 577

Yosemite National Park, California 95389

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H32 (YOSE)

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Western Region
Attn: Acting Regional Historical
Architect

From: Acting Superintendent, Yosemite

Subject: Determination of Eligibility
for Substation and Substation
Control House No. 1, Yosemite
Valley, Yosemite National Park

Currently, Phase 8 Electrical (YOSE Package 473 H) calls for the demolition of a substation complex. We believe that the Substation and Substation Control House No. 1 are National Register Eligible under criteria A. We have enclosed a National Register Nomination Form with attachments, for "Substation and Substation Control House No. 1."

Denver Service Center (DSC) has requested that this determination be done as quickly as possible. We have verbally informed Mark Johnston (DSC) and Frank Willis (DSC) of our findings. They have been advised to leave the demolition of the Substation and Substation Control House out of the contract in order to meet their proposed schedule. If the Substation and/or the Substation Control House are found not eligible, their demolition can be handled under a separate contract.

Your contact person in this matter is Sylvia Augustus, Historical Architect at (209) 372-0462. Black and white photographs will be mailed separately.

R. Kevin Cann

Enclosures

OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

P.O. BOX 942896

SACRAMENTO 94296-0001

(916) 653-6624

FAX: (916) 653-9824



(916) 653-6624

FAX (916) 653-9824

March 7, 1995

NPS950111A

Bruce M. Kilgore, Acting
Associate Regional Director
National Park Service, Western Region
600 Harrison Street, Suite 600
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94107-1372

Re: Determination of Eligibility for the Substation and
Substation Control House No. 1, Yosemite National Park,
Mariposa County.

Dear Mr. Kilgore:

Thank you for submitting to our office your January 6, 1995 letter and supporting documentation regarding the eligibility determination for the Substation and Substation Control House No. 1, (Building 508) Yosemite National Park, Mariposa County. Constructed in 1931, Building 508 is located within the boundaries of the Yosemite Hydroelectric Power Plant Historic District which was determined, by consensus, to be eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

The determination of eligibility for Building 508 is being driven by a proposed electrical system upgrade of the Yosemite Valley area. It has been suggested that Building 508 be demolished as part of the upgrade. You are therefore seeking our comments on your determination of the eligibility of Building 508 for inclusion on the NRHP in accordance with Section 10 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

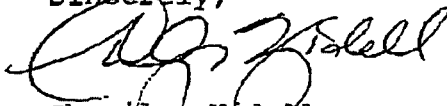
Our review of the submitted documentation leads us concur with your determination that Building 508 is eligible for inclusion on the NRHP under Criterion A as a contributing structure to the Yosemite Hydroelectric Power Plant Historic District. The structure has strong associations with the historic district's period of significance and is the only surviving "Rustic" electrical substation in the Yosemite Valley. The structure has also retained integrity of design and materials associated with its historic period of significance. We recommend that if you decide to demolish the structure at some future date that you do

OPTIONAL FORM 95 (7-90)	
FAX TRANSMITTAL	
2	# of pages
From	Sylvia Hughes
Phone	Kilgore
Fax #	
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION	
5099-101	
NSN 7540-01-917-7368	

so in consultation with our office. The project may involve the development of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the mitigation of a potential adverse effect to the historic district.

Thank you again for seeking our comments on your project. If you have any questions, please contact staff historian Clarence Caesar at (916) 653-8902.

Sincerely,



Cheryl Widdell
State Historic Preservation Officer