

**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.

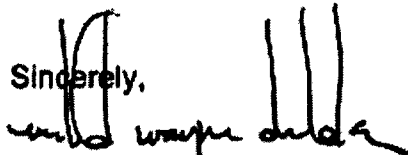
We concur in all of your findings regarding the resources enumerated in the multiple property nomination. We agree that the following properties are eligible for the National Register as a part of a multiple property.

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 White Wolf Lodge
other names/site number Building #6301

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

White Wolf Lodge
Name of Property
_____ removed from the National Register
_____ other (explain): _____

Tuolumne, CA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)	
☐ private	☒ building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
☐ public-local	☐ district	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
☐ public-State	☐ site	_____	_____ sites
☒ public-Federal	☐ structure	_____	<u>16</u> structures
	☐ object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>16</u> 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
0

6.Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>DOMESTIC/lodge</u>	<u>DOMESTIC/lodge</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
Other: NPS Rustic	foundation <u>concrete blocks</u>
<u>Vernacular Wood Frame</u>	walls <u>wood: vertical board and batten siding</u>
_____	_____
	roof <u>wood: shingle</u>
	other _____

Narrative Description

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

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.)

- ☐ **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.

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1915-1938

Significant Dates

1968-1969

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

John D. and Alice Meyer (Original)

Yosemite Park and Curry Co. (Reconstruction)

Primary location of additional data

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

White Wolf Lodge

Name of Property

___ designated a National Historic Landmark

___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

___ recorded by Historic American Engineering

Record # _____

Tuolumne, CA

County and State

X Other

Name of repository:

Yosemite National Park, California

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1/4 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>11</u>	<u>267025</u>	<u>4194425</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 main White Wolf Lodge building and its immediate environment. None of the cabins or tent structures are included within this nomination

Boundary Justification

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

The boundary includes only the architecturally significant White Wolf main building 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

White Wolf Lodge

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

White Wolf Lodge
name of property
Tuolumne, California
county and State
Historic Resources of Yosemite
National Park, California
name of multiple property listing

Page 1

Section 7

Summary

White Wolf Lodge is located about 1½ miles north of the Tioga Road about 3-1/4 miles southeast of the east end of Hetch Hetchy Reservoir. The lodge complex consists of the main building, two cabin duplexes, guest and employee tent cabins, a wrangler's cabin, a bathhouse, and a laundry facility. The camp is sited around a granite outcrop. The main lodge is an L-shaped wood frame structure with log post and beams supported by concrete blocks or bricks. A green latticework trellis conceals the foundation structure and two-by-eight floor joists that support the wood floors. The foundation system is inadequate and, despite annual jacking of the building, appears unstable. The building's vertical board and batten siding is painted white and the simple door and window framing is painted green. A wood framework supports a canvas covering over the front (east) and north sides of the structure. The porch is surrounded by a simple vertical slat railing.

General Description

In 1915, with the purchase of the Tioga Road by Stephen Mather and its ensuing rehabilitation by the National Park Service, traffic over the route increased. John D. and Alice Meyer, who owned the property on which the lodge was built, decided to establish a wayside station for visitors traveling through the northern part of the park and over Tioga Pass. They converted their homestead into a lodge with a dining room, sitting room, and kitchen and erected two duplex cabins and twelve wood-floored, wood-framed tents. A small electric light plant completed the complex. Across the road from the lodge stood a soda fountain with a single gasoline pump. That building was later enclosed and moved behind the lodge to provide linen storage.

By 1930 the lodge had been improved and consisted of a building containing the main dining room, lobby, and kitchen; two cabins, each with two rooms and bath; a service station with one pump; a small store; and nine tent platforms with tents. The lodge could accommodate about thirty guests. Cabins 5 and 6 were added during the 1930s. After the Park Service acquired the property in 1951, the lodge was leased to the Yosemite Park and Curry Company. Changes were made gradually to adapt to the times and requests for more amenities. In 1961 cabins 5 and 6 were consolidated into one duplex with bath. Along with added improvements came new customers. Another duplex cabin with bath was created out of the old housekeeping cabins, and modern toilets and shower rooms were added. During the winter of 1968-69, a heavy snow load on the lodge roof caused its collapse and the crushing of cabins 5 and 6, which were removed. Although this was considered an appropriate time to update the main lodge facilities, plans for that work had not been approved, and the lodge was rebuilt without any changes to the original design. The only structure being nominated for distinction in architecture is the main lodge building. Other noncontributing structures include:

Tents: Ten guest tent cabins surrounding the granite outcrop sit on concrete foundations. Metal frames support the canvas walls, which are secured by wood studs. Stoves are located near the front of the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

White Wolf Lodge
name of property
Tuolumne, California
county and State
Historic Resources of Yosemite
National Park, California
name of multiple property listing

Page 2

Section 7

=====

cabins. Beyond the road are seven employee tent cabins similar to these.

Cabins (#2A, 2B, 3A, 3B): The two duplex structures' wood frames are supported by 1' x 1' concrete blocks. The wood floors are supported with 2" x 8" joists. Vertical board and batten siding is painted white. Exposed rafters are also painted white and window and door trim is dark green. The wood-shingle gabled roofs are in fair to poor condition. Composition shingles cover the back side of cabins #2A and #2B. A water heater shed is attached to the north side of y/2B. Open wood porches with steps are located at the front of each cabin.

Wrangler's Cabin: This wood frame structure of 4 x 4 post and beam construction rests on 1' x 1' concrete blocks or bricks. Exterior siding is rough-sawn unfinished board and batten. The wood flooring is supported by 2' x 8' joists. Rafters, 2" x 4", supporting the gabled, wood-shingle roof are exposed. A metal stovepipe protrudes from the back wall. Doors and windows have simple wood trim. An open 4-foot porch with one step is attached to the front of the cabin, whose general condition is poor.

Bathhouse: This is a wood frame structure supported by a concrete foundation, which has noticeable cracks. The siding is vertical board and batten painted white. Stationary windows are screened only. The flat-sloped roof is covered with tar and gravel and in poor to fair condition.

Corral and tackroom.

These structures are considered to be noncontributing resources because they do not display the architectural characteristics for which the main lodge building is being nominated and because alterations and modifications to those structures were made in later years by the Curry Company.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

White Wolf Lodge
name of property
Tuolumne, California
county and State
Historic Resources of Yosemite
National Park, California
name of multiple property listing

Section 8Page 3

Significance

Property Type: Resources Associated with Tourism, Recreation and the Preservation Ethic in Yosemite (1864-1973)
 Subtype: Camping, Hiking
Property Type: Resources Associated with Architecture and Design (1856-1964)
 Subtype: Heavy Log, Stone, Wood frame
Period of Significance: 1915-1938.

White Wolf Lodge is significant architecturally because it displays architectural characteristics similar to those later used in the Chinquapin Historic District, and on the Wawona Ranger Station and Residence, Buildings #4000-4001. White Wolf Lodge is especially interesting because the original building was constructed by private individuals, early homesteaders in the area, who utilized a design common in early California hostelries of that period. The structure, with its white vertical board and batten siding, sloping gabled roof, green trim, and wide porch enclosed by a simple slat railing, embodies all the characteristics of this distinctive architectural grouping of Yosemite 19th-century hotel-style buildings

Context

John D. Meyer and his two brothers journeyed to the California goldfields in the 1850s from Germany and soon began raising cattle in Tuolumne County. Sometime prior to 1882 Indians stole some of their horses pasturing in Smith Meadow, within the confines of the later Yosemite National Park. John Meyer did not find the thieves, but did locate another Indian band camped in a beautiful alpine meadow that he named White Wolf in honor of their headman.

By 1882 the land had been surveyed and the Great Sierra mining road had reached White Wolf Meadow. Although a teamster initially acquired title to the meadow in 1883, he conveyed it to John D. Meyer a year later. Meyer used the area to pasture cattle.

After Stephen Mather's purchase of the little-used Tioga Road in 1915 and its subsequent rehabilitation by the National Park Service, traffic over the route increased. In 1926 John Meyer and his wife Alice decided to convert their home into a lodge, establishing a dining room, sitting room, and kitchen, and building two duplex cabins and twelve wood-floored, wood-framed tents. Other buildings in the complex included a small electric light plant and a soda fountain with a gas pump across the road.

Over the years the lodge became increasingly popular with motorists on the Tioga Road. By 1930 improvements consisted of a main lodge building with dining room, lobby, and kitchen; two cabins, each with two rooms and bath; the service station; a small store; and nine tent platforms. Total accommodation was about thirty people.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

White Wolf Lodge
name of property
Tuolumne, California
county and State
Historic Resources of Yosemite
National Park, California
name of multiple property listing

Page 4

Section 8
=====

By 1931 the Meyers became interested in selling their White Wolf interests. Cabins 5 and 6 were added during the 1930s. Business increased during construction work on the new Tioga Road section from Crane Flat to the White Wolf intersection. After paving of the new road section ended in 1940, however, the old road segment from the Big Oak Flat Road intersection through Aspen Valley to White Wolf was closed, detrimentally affecting patronage. John Meyer died in 1940 and Alice in 1945. These events, coupled with gas rationing during World War II, curtailed the resort's activities.

In 1951 the Park Service bought the lodge with the stipulation that it continue to operate. The Yosemite Park and Curry Company, Yosemite Valley concessioners, leased it and continued to offer dining and store facilities and accommodations. In 1961 cabins 5 and 6 were consolidated into one duplex with bath. Another duplex cabin with bath was created out of the old housekeeping cabins and modern toilets and shower rooms were added to the complex. During the harsh winter of 1968-69, a heavy snow load on the lodge roof caused its collapse and cabins 5 and 6 were crushed, causing their removal. Because plans to update the lodge structure had not been approved by the Park Service, the lodge was rebuilt without any changes to the earlier design.

Although the walls and roof are not the original ones, their design, the type of materials used, and the color scheme are basically the same as the original. The structure, therefore, retains significance as an example of this early California Territorial style. This particular style began in Yosemite National Park with the erection of the Sentinel Hotel in 1876 and the Wawona Hotel in 1879. It is a style common in Yosemite hotel structures and unique in western national parks. The Park Service thought so highly of the design that it built several of its service facilities in that style in the 1930s. This architectural style, as exemplified by the Chinquapin complex, the Wawona ranger residences, and White Wolf Lodge is a unique and significant aspect of Yosemite's architectural history and of the NFS rustic architecture program in the 1930s.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

White Wolf Lodge
name of property
Tuolumne, California
county and State
Historic Resources of Yosemite
National Park, California
name of multiple property listing
Page 5

Section 9
=====

Bibliography

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

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