NPS Form 10-900a

OMB No. 1024-0018

(8-86)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section _____ Page ___

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 14000408 **Date Listed: 7/18/2014**

Merced Lake Ranger Station	Mariposa	CA
Property Name	County	State

Yosemite National Park MPS
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
	7/18/2014

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Amended Items in Nomination:

Classification:
The name of the related multiple property listing should read: *Yosemite National Park MPS.*
The Number of Previously Listed Resources should read: *0*

Significance:
The Significant Dates that postdate the identified period of significance (*1974, 2000, & 2010*) are deleted.
[All significant dates must fall within the identified period of significance.]

Bibliographical References:
The property was not previously determined eligible by the Keeper of the National Register.
[The determination was made by the NPS for compliance purposes only.]

These clarifications were confirmed with the NPS FPO office.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

408

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name **Merced Lake Ranger Station**

other names/site number **Merced Lake Cabin, Merced Lake Snow Survey Cabin, Yosemite National Park Building No. 3400**

2. Location

street & number **Jct. of the Merced Lake Trail and Lewis Creek, Yosemite National Park** ☐ not for publication

city or town **Yosemite National Park (YOSE)** ☒ vicinity

state **California** code **CA** county **Mariposa** code **043** 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 X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date: FPO June 4, 2014

National Park Service
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property x meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Carol Roland-Nawi, Ph.D.
Signature of commenting official — Date

State Historic Preservation Officer — California Office of Historic Preservation
Title — State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action: 7/15/2014

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- [ ] private
- [ ] public - Local
- [ ] public - State
- [X] public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

- [X] building(s)
- [ ] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		district
		site
	2	structure
		object
1		**Total**

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC – Institutional housing
OTHER – Station for field operations & research

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC – Institutional housing
OTHER – Station for field operations & research

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: National Park Service Rustic style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: **STONE – granite rubble**
walls: **WOOD - log**
roof: **WOOD - shingles**
other: **CONCRETE – poured concrete flooring**
other: **CHIMNEY – granite rubble**

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Merced Lake Ranger Station is located near the confluences of Fletcher and Lewis Creeks along the Merced Lake Trail in the backcountry wilderness of Yosemite National Park in California. The boundary area, approximately five acres, occupies a level clearing within a small river valley and encompasses all contributing and non-contributing resources. The ranger station is a single story, log-frame building constructed in the National Park Service Rustic style. The rustic architectural details and use of local materials serve to visually harmonize the building with the surrounding landscape. The main portion of the building is T-shaped in plan, approximately 560 square feet, with a tack room addition affixed to a rear corner. The exterior walls consist of painted horizontal logs joined by both V-notches and saddle notches. The building has a moderately pitched cross-gable roof clad in single-course sugar pine shingles and a modest foundation of granite rubble laid in a recessed mortar bed. The interior living space consists of a kitchen, living room, bedroom, and tack room. The Merced Lake Ranger Station is in good condition and retains all seven aspects of historic integrity, as defined by the National Register of Historic Places.

Narrative Description

Setting

The Merced Lake Ranger Station was constructed in the south central region of Yosemite National Park to serve as an outlying shelter cabin. The building was initially utilized by the Merced Irrigation District during winter snow surveys and the National Park Service as a seasonal patrol headquarters. The location was strategically selected along a primary route of travel midway from the park's administrative center, Yosemite Valley, and the high elevation snow pack of Tuolumne Meadows. As discussed further in Section 8, this building became the first joint venture between the National Park Service and an outside enterprise, other than a park concessionaire, to build infrastructure within the Yosemite backcountry. The building stopped being utilized for snow surveys in 1938; however, it has been used continuously by Yosemite National Park as a field post associated with resource management activities since its initial construction.

The Merced Lake Ranger Station sits at an elevation of 7,300 feet along the northeastern edge of a small river valley roughly a mile east of Merced Lake. Access to the ranger station is limited to foot or stock traffic from multiple trailheads stemming from Yosemite Valley, approximately fourteen miles by trail to the west, or Tuolumne Meadows, approximately fourteen miles by trail to the northeast. During the period of significance, snow surveyors conducted "out-and-back" cross-country ski trips from Yosemite Valley by way of the primary access trail that follows the Merced River Canyon east to snow courses located at Merced Lake and Tuolumne Meadows. This trail corridor passes a number of Yosemite National Park's well-known iconic landmarks including Vernal and Nevada Falls, Half Dome, Mt. Clark, Little Yosemite Valley, as well as countless scenic vistas. Historically, this trail corridor was also the primary access route to the Yosemite high country and popular High Sierra Camps. The corridor has continuously accommodated high traffic volumes from High Sierra Camp guests, wilderness backpackers, and National Park Service staff throughout its history. The authorization of a building at this location was granted, in part, because Yosemite administrators recognized the need to have a permanent ranger's headquarters in the vicinity of Merced Lake.

The Merced Lake Ranger Station is located approximately fifty feet from the junction of the Merced Lake Trail and Lewis Creek. The building is situated facing roughly east towards the trail, with a clearing and other infrastructure extending beyond the building to the southwest. The clearing occupies a level parcel of land bordered by a sparsely dense forest of Jeffery pine, lodgepole pine, and an assortment of firs. Log pole, buck and rail fencing wraps the periphery of the clearing encompassing the ranger station and an associated facility to service the needs of park rangers traveling with pack stock. Log pole hitch rails and a stock corral, approximately fifty feet square, are located 100 feet southwest of the ranger station. Similar to the surrounding fencing, the stock corral is also constructed of buck and rail log fencing. The placement of fencing within the property, as well as the type of construction used, has changed significantly over the course of history. (Secondary structures located within the property boundaries will be discussed further in the subsequent section "Non-contributing Resources".) Photographs dating to the period of significance show a dense forest encroaching on the ranger station, suggesting that the building's immediate surroundings were cleared at one point to accommodate the stock facility. Despite notable landscape changes, the remote property has not had any substantial development in its immediate vicinity and still maintains the feeling of a remote field station.

Due to the Merced Lake Ranger Station's backcountry setting, no formal property boundary has been designated by the National Park Service. A boundary area of five acres for the building has been determined by Yosemite National Park's Branch of History, Architecture, and Landscapes for purposes of this nomination. The boundary perimeter follows the natural contour of Lewis Creek to the northwest of the ranger station, erected fence lines to the west and south, and the Merced Lake Trail to the east. This area encompasses the ranger station as a contributing resource and all non-contributing resources, such as the corral and fencing, associated with the property.

Merced Lake Ranger Station

The Merced Lake Ranger Station was constructed in 1927 to building specifications produced by Yosemite National Park Resident Engineer, Oliver G. Taylor, in consultation with the National Park Service Regional Chief Landscape Architect, Daniel Hull. Taylor designed the ranger station in the National Park Service Rustic style, with special attention to architectural detailing reminiscent of past homestead cabins common to the Yosemite region. The ranger station is a single-story log frame building, T-shaped in plan with a small tack room extending from the southwest corner. Exterior walls are constructed of peeled lodgepole pine logs supported by a modest granite rubble foundation. The building is capped by a moderately pitched, cross gable roof with exposed wide overhanging eaves. Other exterior features include a battered masonry chimney and painted steel shutters. The interior living space consists of a kitchen, living room, bedroom, and tack room.

The building was originally constructed as a two-room cabin, rectangular in plan measuring 16' by 22', and capped by a gable roof. In 1934, Yosemite's superintendent requested a bedroom addition be constructed onto the ranger station. The addition is approximately 13' by 15' and extends from the rear, or west, elevation forming a cross gable roofline. The tack room addition on the southwest corner of the building was constructed outside of the period of significance, sometime between 1972 and 1974. The overall form of the tack room addition is a lean-to structure capped by a shed roof that has been incorporated into the south facing roof slope of the bedroom addition.

Exterior

The main portion of the Merced Lake Ranger Station is T-shaped in plan and occupies an area of 560 square feet. A rectangular tack room extension on the southwest corner extends the footprint 117 square feet. The building is supported by log pole sills resting on a modest foundation wall of granite rubble laid in a recessed mortar bed. As discussed further in the subsequent "Interior" section, the historic tongue and groove flooring within the building was replaced following the period of significance with a poured concrete slap. During the period of significance, the ranger station would presumably have had foundation piers that have since been removed. The exterior foundation wall, on average, measures approximately a foot high. Stones for the foundation wall were harvested locally at the time of construction. During preservation efforts completed in 2000 by the Yosemite Historic Preservation crew, the sill log of the east elevation was removed due to severe deteriorated and erosional creep of the surrounding soil. Removal of the log was deemed the best alternative to ensure the structural integrity of the east wall. At this time the height of the foundation wall was raised to compensate for the loss of building fabric. The foundation wall addition on the east elevation is comprised of slightly different local material and can be interpreted as a later addition. Linear local granite rubble was used in regular courses, as opposed to the more rounded granite rubble laid in irregular courses used elsewhere on the building. An entry fieldstone patio of local granite laid in-grade is centrally located along the east elevation. The patio is approximately four feet square and was put in place at the time of construction. A raised entry patio is incorporated into the foundation wall of the south elevation. This entry patio is comprised of granite rubble laid in a recessed mortar bed. It is unclear if this patio was in place at the time of construction or shortly thereafter.

The exterior walls of the ranger station are peeled lodgepole pine logs painted in a modern National Park Service brown color. At the time of construction the logs were harvested from the surrounding landscape and left unfinished to expose the natural tones of the wood. By 1942, the building had been stained a dark brown color. The building began being painted in a brown color in the 1950s. The construction of the exterior walls is a bit unusual, but serves to document the transformation of the building over time. The log walls comprising the main portion of the building, constructed in 1927, are joined by V-notches within the lower courses and saddle notches within the upper courses. Within this portion of the building, the log ends were left roughly hewn. The log walls comprising the bedroom addition, constructed in 1934, are joined with saddle notches and have sawn ends, presenting a much more finished look. The exterior log walls on the main portion of the building and the addition have been chinked with jute and finished with a tooled cement mortar. The tack room addition, constructed between 1972 and 1974, does not exhibit the same level of craftsmanship as the main portion of the building and can therefore be interpreted as a much later addition. The log walls of the tack room are joined by V-notches and have sawn ends. The chinking on the tack room addition is untooled cement mortar. Log crowns on each façade of the building extend approximately eighteen inches beyond the exterior walls.

A masonry chimney is located along the north elevation. The chimney was constructed in 1934 at the time of the bedroom addition. This feature is comprised of local granite rubble and extends from grade to approximately two feet above the ridgeline of the building. The granite rubble is laid in a recessed mortar bed of Portland cement with no course pattern. The battered base of the chimney is approximately six and a half feet wide and tapers in to approximately two feet wide at its top.

At the time of construction, a square, granite rubble flue was located near the southern gable end of the building along the ridgeline. The flue was later deemed "dangerous" and replaced by a cylindrical metal flue pipe in

1934.[i] This flue serviced a wood burning kitchen stove that is no longer in place. During preservation work on the building in 2010, the Yosemite Historic Preservation crew removed the remaining metal flue and covered the opening with roofing material. Material evidence suggesting that a flue was once present in this location can still be seen within the attic space.

The primary entrance to the ranger station is located on the front, east-facing, façade. The door is constructed of vertical, rough-sawn planks, roughly twelve inches wide, with a high-set, single lite window. The planks are adjoined by three horizontal steel plates, approximately four inches wide, and large through bolts. The existing window is a modern plexi-glass material; however, historical photographs document that a glass pane was initially in place. The entryway is flanked by two pairs of six-lite casement windows. A secondary entrance is located on the south elevation of the building. This door is constructed in similar fashion as the front entry. Both entryways contain dimensional lumber door jambs that have been documented as original features to the building. A large nine-lite awning window is located to the east of the doorway. The western bedroom addition contains two pairs of six-lite casement windows, similar to those present on the east façade. One pair is centrally located along the west wall and the other is centrally located along the north wall. All window sashes are currently painted black with white muntins. It is unclear exactly when the windows were first painted; however this treatment is first seen in photographs dating to 1976. During the period of significance, the windows sashes were stained. All windows have externally mounted security shutters to deter vandalism and inquisitive black bears. Wooden, vertical plank shutters were first installed following the period of significance, sometime between 1942 and the 1950s. These were later replaced with steel shutters sometime before the late 1980s.

The tack room addition is accessed by an exterior door along its western wall. The door is constructed of vertical dimensional lumber, roughly five and a half inches in width, and is approximately five feet in height. The south elevation of the tack room contains two square openings, presumably intended as feeding windows for stock animals. The openings can be closed-off by small wooden doors hinged to the interior wall.

The ranger station is capped by a moderately pitched cross gable roof with exposed, wide overhanging eaves. The principle ridgeline runs roughly north-south with a secondary cross gable ridgeline running perpendicular, or east-west. The southern slope of the cross gable extends from the ridgeline to approximately four and a half feet above grade to cap the later tack room addition. The building's roofing structure is comprised of lodgepole pine log rafters (seven to eight inches in diameter), ridge logs (six inches in diameter), and log tie beams (five to six inches in diameter). During the period of significance, exposed rafter tails extended beyond the roofline at varying lengths. These rafters were docked sometime between the 1950s and 1976. The exposed rafter tails now aligned with the plane of the roofline. The roof is clad in single course, sugar pine shingles with a ten inch reveal and is finished with a peeled lodgepole pine ridge cap. The roofing material, including the ridge cap, was last replaced in 2010 using in-kind material. The use of sugar pine shingles and log ridge cap was incorporated into the original design of the building and has remained unchanged throughout the building's history.

The Merced Lake Ranger Station is presently in good condition and maintained as a significant historic resource for Yosemite National Park. The vast majority of exterior building fabric dates to the period of significance; the only exceptions being the later tack room addition and selective fabric replacement conducted by

[i] Thomson, C.G., Yosemite National Park Superintendent, "Final Report: Merced Lake Cabin Addition F.P 70 (Acct 417)", United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Yosemite National Park, California.

the Yosemite Historic Preservation Crew. The present state of the building can be largely attributed to the continued use of the building as an outlying field post for the National Park Service and preservation efforts completed by the Yosemite Historic Preservation Crew in 2000 and 2010. Further description of work completed during these projects can be found within the "Modifications" section below. Thoughtful construction of the Merced Lake Ranger Station exemplifies the National Park Service Rustic style and stays true to the style's fundamental principles. Architectural features found on the building that are characteristic of the style include: the predominant use of natural and local materials, wide overhanging eaves, exposed log framing, wood shingles, and an overall low profile. As mentioned previously, the architect intentionally used architectural detailing reminiscent of past homestead cabins common to the Yosemite region. These details include the use of local peeled logs, hand hewn logs crowns, saddle and V-notched logs, and a wood shingled roof.

Interior

The interior T-shaped plan of the Merced Lake Ranger Station consists of a kitchen, living room, bedroom, and bedroom closet. The additional tack room, constructed outside of the period of significance, is only accessible through the exterior but is considered an interior space for the building. The total interior living space constitutes approximately 675 square feet.

Flooring throughout the building, including the tack room, is poured concrete. According to the superintendent's completion report of the building, flooring during the period of significance was stained "Oregon vertical grain pine" [Douglas-fir] tongue and groove. It is unclear when the wooden flooring was replaced by concrete; however, it is presumed to be installed around the same time period as the tack room. The concrete flooring of the tack room has been inscribed with "1974" and two names. A ghost outline of hatch door, measuring fifty three inches square, is present within the poured concrete floor of the kitchen. The hatch once accessed a below grade food cache. It is rumored that the cache was highly susceptible to rodent and pest intrusion and was therefore filled in when the building received the poured concrete flooring.

Interior walls and the ceiling of the main portion of the building are finished with painted paneling and battens. This treatment is original to the construction of the building and has been documented in a completion report written by the park superintendent. The interior walls of the living room have been finished with a board and batten treatment along the lower portion of the walls and tongue and groove panels with widely spaced battens along the upper portion. The kitchen is finished with tongue and groove panels with widely spaced battens. The ceiling of both spaces is also tongue and groove panels with widely space battens. The bedroom differs slightly; the walls and ceiling have been finished with a beaded tongue and groove panels with widely spaced battens. Four inch wide trim has been used as a baseboard, crown molding, and trim molding for openings within the interior space of the building.

The building contains two interior doorways: one separating the living room and bedroom and an additional door on the bedroom closet. Both doors are constructed of rough-sawn vertical planks, roughly twelve inches wide, supported by horizontal wooden plates. At one point, there was a Dutch-door separating the living room and kitchen; however this door has since removed and stored elsewhere in the building. The majority of original door hardware remains in place and is in good working condition. Built-in cabinets, a basin sink, and open shelving are located within the kitchen space. The kitchen contains modern appliances - such as, a refrigerator, tankless water heater, and stove – that operate off of propane gas. During the period of significance, the kitchen also contained a wood burning stove; however this was removed at an unknown time. A large masonry fireplace, measuring

approximately six feet wide, is centrally located along the north wall of the living room. The fireplace is constructed of local granite rubble, in similar fashion as the exterior chimney, and finished with a rough-sawn wooden mantel. Furniture throughout the ranger station is modest movable pieces such as wooden tables, metal framed bunk beds, and camp chairs.

The tack room has been left unfinished exposing the log walls and rafters. This space serves primarily as storage for maintenance supplies and stock feed. A make-shift shower stall and plumbing for a shower spigot have been installed within the northeastern corner of the space. The walls of the shower stall are constructed of dimensional lumber lined with galvanized sheet metal.

Modifications

The Merced Lake Ranger Station maintains a high degree of historic integrity and has had very few modifications since its period of significance, 1927 – 1938. In 1934, a rear bedroom addition was constructed on the west elevation of the building and a battered masonry chimney on the north elevation. The ranger station did receive a tack room addition following the period of significance sometime between 1972 and 1974; however, as mentioned previously, this addition can easily be interpreted as a later addition through material evidence and does not detract from the overall historic integrity of the ranger station. The current overall usage of the building, architectural design, and bulk of historic fabric has remained constant over time.

Given the remote setting of the ranger station, there are a number of potential threats to the building's physical integrity including: vandalism, animal and pest intrusion, and extreme weather conditions. In 2000 and 2010 the ranger station underwent preservation maintenance from the Yosemite Historic Preservation (YHP) crew. All work adhered to the Secretary of the Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and therefore did not diminish the building's historic integrity. All necessary fabric replacement was done using in-kind materials. Prior to the preservation work in 2000, the building was given a condition assessment by the YHP crew and architectural drawings were produced to document the building as-is.

Exterior Changes

- Bedroom addition and battered masonry chimney constructed in 1934; at this time an additional masonry chimney was removed from the south end of the building and replaced by a cylindrical metal flue
- The ranger station began being stained by 1942 and then painted in the 1950s
- Wooden shutters were installed in the 1950s to deter vandalism and pest intrusion. These were replaced with metal shutters sometime between 1976 and 1986.
- The tack room addition was constructed between 1972 and 1974. (The concrete floor within the tack room has "1974" inscribed in it; however, historical documents state the addition might have been in place prior to this time.)
- Ranger station was "refinished" in 1976; At this time, or shortly prior, the extended rafter tails were docked to aligned with the roofline.
- Window sashes and muntins painted black and white by 1976
- Solar panel to power radio communication devices was installed on the southern slope of the bedroom addition at an unknown time.
- Preservation treatments completed in 2000:

- Replaced damaged logs on the south wall of the tack room that had been severely damaged by bears
- The east (front) sill log was removed and the foundation wall height was raised.
- Replaced deteriorated log crowns and rafter tails as needs using splicing techniques

- Preservation treatments completed in 2010:
  - Removed metal flue of the kitchen
  - Installed a metal flue chimney cap; a chimney cap had first been installed in the 1980s but was then later removed. The existing cap was necessary to protect the chimney opening from pest, debris, and snow. The YHP crew designed a cap that was similar to other backcountry cabins in Yosemite.
  - Replace severely deteriorated sill log on the south wall of the kitchen
  - Removal of cracked and settled section of the concrete flooring within the kitchen. Re-poured concrete section
  - Repaired deteriorated and failed chinking
  - Repair to doors and windows to restore proper operation
  - Reroofed the entire building, replace deteriorated ridge log

Interior Changes

- Poured concrete flooring replaced "Oregon pine vertical grain" [Douglas-fir] tongue and groove sometime following the period of significance. It is believed to have been installed at the same time the concrete flooring of the tack room was installed, 1974. The food cache located in the kitchen flooring was filled in during this time.
- Modern kitchen appliances installed at an unknown time
- Preservation treatment completed in 2010:
  - Extensive rodent exclusion
  - Installation of rodent resistant cabinets and open shelving along the south and west wall of the kitchen

Non-contributing Resources

Non-contributing resources located within the property boundary of the Merced Lake Ranger Station consists of a corral and stock fencing. Other secondary features, considered "minor resources" , include several log hitch rails, a composting toilet and wooden benches. These features are not considered contributing. The non-contributing resources were erected within the property boundaries to service the needs of park rangers traveling with pack stock. Photographs dating to the period of significance do not show any secondary resources within the property boundaries, but rather a dense forest encroaching on the ranger station. A review of historic photographs suggests that the property may have been cleared specifically to accommodate a stock facility; however, the exact date when this occurred is unclear. The first photographic documentation of fencing dates to the late 1970s, well outside of the period of significance. The present buck and rail fencing replaced an older post and rail fence constructed sometime between 1942 and 1976. Even though the modern fencing, hitch rails, and corral are beneficial to the present use of the ranger station, these resources are considered non-contributing since they were constructed outside of the period of significance and have been altered multiple times.

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.)

- [x] 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.
- [x] 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

CONSERVATION

ARCHITECTURE

SCIENCE

Period of Significance

1927 - 1938

Significant Dates

1927 – Merced Lake Cabin designed and Constructed by the National Park Service

1934 – The west bedroom addition and chimney were constructed

1938 – Snow survey activities to Merced Lake Ranger Station were discontinued

1974 – Tack room and shower addition constructed

2000 – Restoration work completed by the Yosemite Historic Preservation Crew

2010 – Preservation maintenance work completed by the Yosemite Historic Preservation Crew

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Architect: National Park Service Chief Landscape Engineer, Daniel Hull

Builder: National Park Service

Period of Significance (justification)

1927 - 1938

The period of significance for the Merced Lake Ranger Station is 1927 – 1938. This timeframe corresponds to the development of the ranger station for functions associated with acquisition of hydrologic data within the Merced River drainage and its initial usage as a backcountry snow survey shelter. The location of the ranger station was strategically selected within the vicinity of the headwaters of the Merced River and along a popular route of travel within the Yosemite backcountry. In 1926, the Merced Irrigation District furnished funds for the construction of the building. Architectural plans were produced in 1927 by the resident Park Engineer Oliver G. Taylor, under the consultation of National Park Service's Regional Chief Landscape Architect, Daniel Hull. The ranger station was utilized by winter snow surveyors until 1938, when winter routes to the building were deemed too dangerous. The ranger station has had some alteration since its original construction; however, it remains in good condition and retains a high degree of historic integrity. The period of significance aligns with the architectural development of the Merced Lake Ranger Station, for Criterion C, and the timeframe in which the building was utilized as an outlying field station for collecting hydrologic data, for Criterion A.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Merced Lake Ranger Station is locally and regionally significant in the area of natural resource conservation under *Criterion A*. The building is associated with the development and deployment of the California Cooperative Snow Surveys program, as well as, the evolution of natural resource management within Yosemite National Park. The building was originally constructed in 1927 to serve as a summer field headquarters for National Park Service wilderness rangers and winter accommodations for snow surveyors collecting hydrologic data along the Merced River drainage. The building also illustrates the first joint venture between the National Park Service and an outside enterprise, other than the park concessionaire, to construct infrastructure within the Yosemite backcountry. The period of significance for the Merced Lake Ranger Station is 1927 – 1938. The building is a fine example of the National Park Service Rustic style, making it locally significant under *Criterion C*.

Today, the Merced Lake Ranger Station continues to function in its original capacity as an outlying patrol headquarters within Yosemite National Park. The building has continuously played a substantial role in the management of Yosemite's backcountry for over seventy years. It's primary function today supports wilderness law enforcement and resource protection presence in a heavily used area of Yosemite wilderness. The building is also used as a staging area for backcountry projects such as trail work, forestry, cultural resource management, backcountry utilities, and fire management. The building is managed as a historic resource and has previously been deemed eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. It is in good condition and retains all seven aspects of historic integrity, as defined by the National Register of Historic Places.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Historical Context

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) estimates that as much as seventy-five percent of water supplies in the Western United States are derived from snowmelt. Winter snowpack is rightly referred to as the "lifeblood" of the West. How wet or dry a year is predicted to be has many economic and natural resource management impacts. Local, state, and regional governments, along with irrigation districts and industry, rely heavily on the implementation of widespread, systematic snow surveys to determine the annual water runoff from high elevation snowpack. The scientific data collected during these surveys provides scientists and resource managers with the tools they need to predict the availability of water supplies for human consumption, hydroelectric power, agriculture, industry, transportation, and recreation, as well as to predict the potential for spring flooding.

The resource tools available for snow surveying have gradually evolved through the years. Improved technology and advanced scientific calculations have led to more precise measurements of water runoff from snow melt. However, one essential element of snow survey programs has remained constant: the human part of the equation, the snow surveyor. And those hearty individuals rely on remote backcountry shelters to carry out their field work during the extreme winter weather conditions common in mountain environments.

Snow Survey in the Sierra Nevada

The scientific study and prediction of water supplies available from snowmelt began in the Sierra Nevada during the early 20th century. Lands bordering the Sierra to the east, south, and west are dominated by Mediterranean and desert climates, with little to no precipitation falling between May and October. The precipitation of the preceding winter is retained by natural and artificial reservoirs and then distributed by a vast network of irrigation systems to provide a reliable, uninterrupted water supply for all the downstream requirements. Heavily populated cities along the west coast of California and the central San Joaquin Valley, which has been transformed into an agricultural epicenter for the United States, are heavily reliant on these systems for necessary water supplies.

During the early development of irrigation systems in the western United States, government officials and business enterprises relied on anecdotal snow pack reports from animal trappers and mountaineers who ventured into the Sierra during the winter months. In 1895, a professor at the University of Nevada, Dr. James E. Church, began contemplating the effects of orographic precipitation near Lake Tahoe in Northern California. Over the next several decades, Church's research interest in weather provided unprecedented scientific determinations of water availability and altered the course of natural resource management in the West. Church and his colleagues developed specialized equipment and methodologies to measure the water content of snow that are, for the most part, still utilized today by scientists and snow surveyors.

During the early phase of his research, Church immediately recognized the need to have overnight accommodations located near his high elevation experimental sites. The ability to stay overnight provided the opportunity to collect more thorough weather data and study the effects of the environment on snow conservation. With the assistance of federal funds, Church and his coworkers erected the first snow survey shelter in the Sierra, the Summit Observatory, on Mount Rose in August 1906. Soon thereafter, Church developed the Mount Rose

Snow Sampler and Scale, a patented device that measured the depth and water content of snow pack to determine snow density. Although scientific calculations have evolved during the last century of snow surveying, Church's sampling device has remained essentially unchanged and is still in use by snow surveyors today. In 1910, Church laid out the first official snow courses in the Sierra, within the Lake Tahoe and Truckee River basins. (The techniques of establishing and using snow courses will be described below.) The research findings derived from the courses allowed Church to predict seasonal water runoff within multiple watersheds and led to the management of Lake Tahoe's water level to avert seasonal flooding.

Building upon Church's pioneering work, states throughout the American West began developing snow survey programs of their own. California's Department of Engineering, in consultation with Church's staff, began establishing snow courses and constructing snow survey shelters in selected watersheds within the central Sierra Nevada in 1917. Although the state recognized the need for scientific determinations of spring runoff, funding for snow survey programs was far from stable. In 1923, state-allocated funds for snow surveys were temporarily discontinued. The expansion of the snow survey courses, however, did continue through the 1920s, but this depended upon various smaller enterprises such as irrigation districts and local agencies.

Between 1929 and 1934, severe droughts swept across the entire United States. In California, the drought was the worst citizens had witnessed since statehood in 1850. State administrators were forced to make drastic changes to the way they managed natural resources. In response to the drought, the California legislature established the California Cooperative Snow Survey Program, to be coordinated by the newly formed Division of Water Resources (now the Department of Water Resources). The purpose of the program was to gather, analyze, and distribute data relating to the overall annual snowpack. The program was initially organized – and continues to operate today – as a collaborative effort among state and federal agencies, local municipalities, irrigation districts, and public utility companies. In the first year of the California Cooperative Snow Survey Program, the Division of Water Resources (DWR) established 150 snow courses and associated infrastructure throughout the Sierra Nevada. Funding for the equipment and construction of snow survey shelters was provided by DWR as well as water and power companies. The brunt of the snow survey fieldwork fell to federal agencies, such as the National Forest Service and the National Park Service, who oversaw the vast majority of lands within the Sierra. The data collected during field surveys was given to scientists within DWR, who then paired the findings with precipitation records and other scientific data relating to environmental factors to predict seasonal spring water runoff. These official predictions were then distributed to all interested parties to help guide natural resource management decisions across the region.

Snow Survey in Yosemite National Park

Yosemite National Park's participation in the California Cooperative Snow Survey Program over the last eighty years has been vital to the compilation of information and statistics for estimating the annual snow melt runoff and water supply of the Sierra Nevada. Centrally located within the Sierra, the park encompasses the headwaters of the Tuolumne and Merced Rivers, two of the largest watersheds in the region. These watersheds provide water resources for the San Francisco Bay Area and the San Joaquin Valley of California.

Yosemite rangers began conducting a limited number of high country snow surveys in 1912. The early surveys were far less scientific then the research being undertaken by Church and his coworkers on Mount Rose,

but nonetheless marked the beginning of established snow courses within the Yosemite region. A system of fixed "snow poles," approximately ten to twelve feet in height, were set up at strategic sites (or "courses") throughout the park. The slender poles were constructed of wooden dimensional lumber posts, painted white with black incremental measurements and notched on top to shed snow. Park rangers were assigned to record the depth of winter snowpack using the snow poles while conducting routine patrols. Winter trips were conducted from Yosemite Valley to Tenaya Lake, Tuolumne Meadows, and Tioga Pass via the Tioga Road. The information collected during the snow surveys was then passed on to United States Geological Survey (USGS) and used by Yosemite administrators to predict seasonal openings of park infrastructure at the higher elevations.

In the mid-1920s, the Merced Irrigation District (MID) completed construction of the impressive Exchequer Dam, along with associated canal systems and power facilities, outside of Yosemite National Park's western boundary. The reservoir was intended for water conservation, flood control, and power generation for multiple municipalities within the San Joaquin Valley. The principal water source for the MID project was the Merced River drainage, which originated almost entirely within the boundaries of Yosemite National Park. To accurately predict the amount of yearly water supply available from the headwaters of the Merced River, the MID proposed a snow survey course and overnight snow survey shelter within the park modeled after Church's.

The proposed snow survey shelter was the first joint venture between the National Park Service and an outside enterprise, other than a park concessioner, to construct infrastructure within the Yosemite backcountry. The shelter and snow course were to be located near Merced Lake at the confluence of Fletcher and Lewis Creeks, approximately fourteen miles from Yosemite Valley. Yosemite's superintendent readily acquiesced to the planned infrastructure because there was a recognized need to have a proper ranger's headquarters in the vicinity. The building would function as a National Park Service ranger station for most of the year and be occupied seasonally by snow surveyors employed by the MID. The district furnished $1000 for the construction of the shelter, while the design, construction labor, maintenance, and ownership of the building fell to the National Park Service. There was brief discussion of a secondary snow survey shelter at Moraine Meadows in the far southwest region of the park; however, plans for this particular building never materialized. The Department of the Interior issued a special use permit for the MID to construct snow survey courses throughout the Merced River drainage and to utilize the Merced Lake Ranger Station during the winter months. The MID established several snow courses in the central region of the park and made use of an existing snow course in Dana Meadow, laid out in 1926.

The Merced Lake Ranger Station was designed in the National Park Service Rustic style by the resident Park Engineer Oliver G. Taylor, under the consultation of National Park Service's Regional Chief Landscape Architect, Daniel Hull. Yosemite National Park staff completed construction of the single-story, two room shelter building in 1927, which was then expanded in 1934. The exterior walls were of log construction and capped by a moderate, cross-gabled roof. Snow survey activities at Merced Lake Ranger Station continued until 1938, when it was deemed access routes to the building were far too hazardous during the winter months. Since that time, the building has been used continuously by the National Park Service for ranger patrol activities and natural resource management activities.

During the 1930s, snow surveying within Yosemite National Park gained momentum with the creation of the California Cooperative Snow Survey Program. As mentioned previously, 1929 marked the beginning of a five-year drought for the western United States. Large state government appropriations and coordinated efforts were put

forth for the determination of available water resources statewide. A multitude of snow courses were laid out and mapped throughout the Sierra Nevada under the direction of the Department of Water Resources (DWR). During this time, four separate snow survey routes were established along the headwaters of the Tuolumne and the Merced Rivers within Yosemite. The main route was a loop extending from Yosemite Valley to the eastern boundary of the park. The other routes consisted of "out-and-back" paths of travel to Moraine Meadows from Glacier Point Road, to Gin Flat from Yosemite Valley, and to Beehive Meadows from Hetch Hetchy Ranger Station. A Yosemite Nature Notes article issued in January 1953, described the manner in which snow courses were designed:

> Each permanent [snow] survey site is established by selecting an area that is open, protected from drifting winds, and representative of a large section of surrounding country. This site is known as a snow course, and here the measurements are taken at spaced intervals, usually 50 feet apart, along straight lines crossing the snow. ...The measurements are made with a hollow steel tube which is thrust downward into the snowpack until it strikes the ground beneath. When the tube is withdrawn it contains a sample or core of snow from the full depth of the pack. The loaded tube is then weighed on specially designed scales that convert the weight of the snow into water content, expressed in inches...
>
> – Assistant Chief Ranger Duane Jacobs, *Yosemite Nature Notes*, Jan. 1953.

The snow survey trips were conducted by National Park Service rangers in a coordinated effort with other agencies across the state. "Traveling through wind and storm, the snow patrol often [covered] twenty to twenty-five miles a day to secure data on snow conditions for irrigation districts, power users, and the State." [ii]

In 1931, the DWR appropriated $600 for the construction of a snow survey shelter at Buck Camp and additional funding for the rehabilitation of an existing cabin at Deer Camp to be used for snow surveys. Deer Camp was located within a day's trek of the Wawona Road in the southern portion of the park. The shelter at Buck Camp served as the midway point between Deer Camp and Moraine Meadows, approximately fourteen miles to the east. The architectural plans for the Buck Camp Patrol Cabin were prepared by the National Park Service's Landscape Architect and Field Architect for Yosemite National Park, John Wosky. The plans incorporated principles of National Park Service Rustic style, with special attention to architectural detailing reminiscent of 19th-century homestead cabins common to the Yosemite region. The cabin was a single-story, two-room building situated along the edge of a large seasonal meadow. The building was clad in vertical log posts and capped by a moderately pitched gable roof. Like the Merced Lake Ranger Station, the Buck Camp Patrol Cabin was to be utilized by the National Park Service during the summer field season and the California Cooperative Snow Survey Program during the winter months. The cabin was completed and ready for occupation by January 1, 1932. The existing cabin at Deer Camp (also known as Eleven Mile Annex) was originally constructed in 1916 by the Yosemite Lumber Company during its period of logging within the park. The small cabin was clad in board and batten siding and capped by a gable roof. During the winter of 1935-1936, only a few years after the rehabilitation was complete, the cabin was destroyed by a large falling Ponderosa pine and is no longer standing. The snow survey activities at Buck Camp Patrol Cabin continued through the late 1930s and early 1940s. Since that time, the building has been used continuously in connection with National Park Service ranger patrol activities in the southern region of the park.

While the Buck Camp and Deer Camp cabins were still in use, the National Park Service also authorized the use of existing ranger stations in conjunction with ongoing snow survey activities. These included Tenaya Lake, Tuolumne Meadows, Tioga Pass, Chinquapin, Crane Flat, Mather, and Yosemite Creek. For varying reasons, only a

[ii] Jacobs, Duane D., "Snow Surveying." *Yosemite Nature Notes* 32, No. 1 (January 1953).

limited number of buildings utilized during the 1930s snow surveys remain intact today – the Buck Camp Patrol Cabin and the Merced Lake, Chinquapin, and Tuolumne Ranger Stations.

Due to pressures on the state budget during the Great Depression, funding for the state-coordinated snow surveys program was unavailable during 1934 and 1935. The cooperating agencies, however, independently continued to conduct surveys using state-owned equipment that remained in the field. Because of this continuation, the disruption to the scientific record was not as great as anticipated. By 1936, the California legislature was again able to appropriate funds for the snow survey program, which has remained in operation with no subsequent interruption in survey activities since that time.

The expansion of the snow survey program within Yosemite National Park resumed in the 1940s, with the construction of snow survey shelters and associated snow courses in the Tuolumne River drainage. The first phase of the expansion was initiated by the City and County of San Francisco's Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), a member of the California Cooperative Snow Survey Program, to provide hydrologic data for the Hetch Hetchy Water & Power Project. By a congressional act in 1913, the SFPUC acquired water rights, land appropriations, and the authorization to construct the O'Shaughnessy Dam within Yosemite's Tuolumne River drainage. The primary objective of the SFPUC was to secure and transport clean, reliable water supplied by the Tuolumne River to the city of San Francisco. In order to collect hydrologic data within the drainage, the SFPUC and DWR funded the construction of two snow survey shelters, at Lake Vernon and Wilmer Lake (also known as Wilma Lake), as well as numerous snow courses along a primary tributary of the drainage.

The Lake Vernon and Wilmer Lake Snow Survey Shelters were designed by the SFPUC and approved by the commission's Chief Engineer J. H. Turner in April 1945. The architectural plans for both shelters incorporated the design philosophies of the National Park Service Rustic style, including the use of local materials to harmonize with the surrounding environment, while also incorporating features that allowed the buildings to be functional during extreme winter weather. The shelters were sensible, one-room buildings of log construction capped by a moderately pitched gable roof. In anticipation of the deep snow pack, the architectural designs incorporated a sizable portico within a gable end to shelter the entrance from heavy snow drifts and an alternate attic access door. The Lake Vernon Snow Survey Shelter was constructed on an existing parcel owned by SFPUC located within a day's trek of the O'Shaughnessy Dam developed area. The Wilmer Lake Snow Survey Shelter was constructed approximately six miles from Lake Vernon in a secluded location along the Jack Main Canyon Trail.

The second phase of 1940s snow survey expansion in Yosemite National Park was initiated by the Division of Water Resources. In June 1946, the DWR issued a memorandum proposing additional snow survey infrastructure within the northern region of Yosemite National Park. This proposal was part of a larger plan to greatly expand the California Cooperative Snow Survey Program statewide. The expansion came about in response to a statewide population increase and heightened demand on water resources. The proposal for Yosemite National Park included the installation of six snow courses, four shelter cabins, and eight precipitation gauges in addition to the existing snow survey infrastructure. The proposal also incorporated architectural specifications and design schematics for future shelter cabins: "The proposed shelter cabins would be twelve feet by fourteen feet in plan and depending upon accessibility and materials available at the site, would be constructed of sawed lumber, logs, or

stone."[iii] Each shelter cabin would contain a set of double bunks, wood burning stove, and modest furniture pieces. The proposal stated that funding for the added infrastructure would be provided by the state and any other interested organizations or agencies, specifying that the development would be provided at no cost to the National Park Service. The estimated cost for each of the shelter cabins was between $800 and $1000. Yosemite administrators would provide guidance regarding the location of the new infrastructure to ensure it did not conflict with other natural resource management objectives.

Despite the vast importance of previous snow survey activity for natural resource management within the state, the only infrastructure in Yosemite National Park that resulted from the 1946 DWR proposal was a single snow survey shelter at Snow Flat. This would be the last snow survey shelter erected within the park, with the only exception being the rebuilding of Wilmer Cabin following an avalanche in 1986. It is unclear whether the proposed development was hindered by a lack of state funding or if the proposal met opposition from the National Park Service. However, additional proposed shelter cabins and associated snow courses located just beyond the boundaries of the park, within the Stanislaus National Forest, were constructed during the 1940s in accordance with the proposed specifications. These shelters include the Sachse Spring, Huckleberry, and Bond Pass Snow Survey Shelters. The Sachse Spring Snow Survey Shelter falls within feet of Yosemite's northwest boundary and has been subject to debate as to which agency, the National Park Service or the National Forest Service, owns the building. Although official title records have not been located, other archived records indicate that ownership falls to the National Park Service. By 1973, the SFPUC and Stanislaus National Forest "relinquished any interest [they had] in the snow cabins in the park". At that time, Yosemite National Park stepped in to take responsibility for the maintenance and operation of the Sachse Spring Snow Survey Shelter. A DWR document dated August 1981 states that ownership of the Sachse Spring Snow Survey Shelter had been transferred to the National Park Service.

In 1947, the Sachse Spring, Snow Flat, Bond Pass, and Huckleberry Snow Survey Shelters were all constructed to the design specifications outlined by the DWR proposal. (For purposes of this historic context, only the development history for snow survey infrastructure under the jurisdiction of Yosemite National Park will be discussed: the Sachse Spring and Snow Flat Snow Survey Shelters.)The Sachse Spring Snow Survey Shelter was constructed along the crest of Kibbie Ridge, which straddles the northwest boundary of Yosemite National Park. Given its remote location and available local materials, the shelter was built of log construction with a moderately pitched gable roof. The Snow Flat Snow Survey Shelter was constructed near an existing snow course centrally located within the park. The building was in close proximity to the May Lake Road and the developed infrastructure of the May Lake High Sierra Camp. Due to the surrounding development, this shelter cabin was built of frame construction with a moderately pitched gable roof. Similar to the Lake Vernon Snow Survey Shelter, the Sachse Spring building both buildings incorporated a sizable portico to shelter the entry from heavy snow drifts and an alternate attic access door.

Although snow survey shelters located throughout Yosemite were constructed at different times and by varying parties, the terms of agreement regarding each building were very similar. All snow survey shelters, snow courses, and other snow survey infrastructure were erected under special use permits issued by the Department of the Interior. Funding for the installation of snow survey infrastructure was provided by the Merced Irrigation

[iii] California Division of Water Resources, Department of Public Works, California, Memorandum Covering Proposed Additional Snow Survey Work in the National Parks in California, June 1946.

District, the California Division of Water Resources, or the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission. Snow surveyors working within Yosemite National Park consisted of hired employees from the National Park Service, National Forest Service, and the agencies listed above. The shelters, once constructed, were owned and maintained by the National Park Service. Authorization was given to the snow surveyors by Yosemite National Park to utilize the buildings during the winter months. During the summer season, the buildings were utilized by park personnel as outlying field stations for purposes associated with natural resource management.

Through the years, the methodology of snow surveying has incorporated improved technology and advanced scientific calculations; however, the foundation of the snow surveys program, the snow surveyor and backcountry snow survey shelters, has always endured. Following World War II, the ease and expediency of aerial observation of snowpack led to the placement of aerial snow depth markers in remote areas of the Sierra. Within Yosemite National Park, aerial markers were placed along snow courses at Beehive Meadow, Lake Vernon, Wilmer Lake, Sachse Spring, and Dana Meadow. While this method did reduce the manpower needed for survey work, field crews on the ground were still essential to the program in order to record the water content data of the snowpack. During the late 1950s and 1960s, snow survey programs across the United States turned to the use of automated snow sensors and the use of mechanized equipment to transport ground crews. Snow surveyors in Yosemite and elsewhere began conducting backcountry trips in snow cats and helicopters, which greatly reduced the need for snow survey shelters for a temporary time period. However, this steady progression towards a more mechanized method of snow survey in Yosemite would be nullified in the 1980s with the passage of the California Wilderness Act.

In 1984, nearly ninety percent of federal lands within Yosemite were designated wilderness. Under the Wilderness Act, the use of mechanized equipment was strongly discouraged – to be utilized only in cases of emergency or when the use of such equipment could be justified as a "minimum tool." This meant that operations were to be carried out with as little impact to the environment as possible or feasible by the National Park Service. By 1990, it was agreed that snow surveys conducted on ski, without the assistance of helicopters or other mechanized transport methods, were the best alternative to meet all National Park Service and natural resource management objectives. The use of helicopters for snow surveys was only considered during conditions of high avalanche risk. These implications of the Wilderness Act inadvertently revived interest in maintaining the use of backcountry snow survey shelters for field crews. Throughout the 1990s and into the early 2000s, nearly all backcountry snow survey shelters received some degree of restoration or preservation maintenance by the Yosemite Historic Preservation Crew to ensure their longevity. The wilderness designation of park lands placed heavy restrictions on new development and ensured that remaining structures in the Yosemite backcountry were of special interest to the park. This designation also protected the historic context of backcountry properties to be interpreted as significant natural resource management facilities.

Since the drought of the early 1930s, most of the American West has relied on federal and state snow survey programs to help guide the management of water supplies. Today in California, snow surveys are conducted within all of the main watersheds on the eastern and western sides of the Sierra Nevada – twenty-four in total. The development of backcountry snow shelters, in conjunction with snow courses, became an essential component of the program. As Dr. James E. Church discovered at the turn of the 20th century, these shelters facilitated surveyors' research on high elevation snowpack and by doing so, provided more accurate data collection on water supplies. The National Park Service and the California Cooperative Snow Survey Program continue to conduct seasonal

snow surveys and utilize the snow survey shelters located throughout Yosemite. Small groups of snow surveyors conduct four separate trips each winter to thirteen snow courses within the Yosemite backcountry. In order to maintain an accurate statistical record of snow pack in the Sierra, it is essential to take snow survey measurements in the same location near the same time period year after year. The courses presently surveyed in Yosemite have remained essentially unchanged since 1947, and in some cases longer. All information obtained from the snow surveys is funneled to state researchers and scientists within the Department of Water Resources, which assembles data and publishes snow melt runoff forecasts. The existence of backcountry snow survey shelters has proven to be an absolute necessity to the fieldwork conducted during the harsh winter conditions common to the Sierra Nevada. Additionally, the shelters have become an indispensible tool for National Park Service personnel, aiding in backcountry ranger patrols, search and rescue missions, fire management operations, and other natural resource management activities. Fieldwork and the collection of scientific data within the Yosemite backcountry would be greatly hindered without these overnight facilities. The snow survey shelters that remain functioning in their original capacity today serve to document the evolution of natural resource management not only for Yosemite National Park, but also for the American West.

Additional historic context information

Architectural Significance

The Merced Lake Ranger Station was constructed in the National Park Service Rustic style. Rustic style dominated National Park Service architectural design from 1916 to 1942. With the Rustic style, early park administrators sought to create a unifying theme for all park structures that tied them together into a cohesive unit that was distinct from the larger world and still remained unobtrusive from the surrounding environment. It reflected the growing conservation ethic and fostered development of a unique architectural style with the building as an accessory to nature. Ultimately the Rustic style enabled the National Park Service to project an image as the federal agency most concerned with preservation of the nation's treasured natural heritage.

> *"Rustic style, when successfully handled, through the use of native materials in proper scale and through the avoidance of rigid, straight lines, and over-sophistication, gives the feeling of having been executed by pioneer craftsmen with limited hand tools. It thus achieves sympathy with natural surroundings, and with the past."* [iv]

The National Park Service rustic style is characterized by use of local materials, battered masonry foundations and chimneys, horizontal emphasis, shallow pitched roof, exposed structural members, wide over-hanging eaves, and most importantly harmonization with the surrounding landscape.

The design plans for the Merced Lake Ranger Station were produced by Yosemite Resident Engineer Oliver G. Taylor in consultation with National Park Service Regional Chief Landscape Architect, Daniel Hull. The building was intended to be utilized as an outlying shelter cabin within the Yosemite backcountry and was constructed to withstand the harsh winter conditions of the Sierra Nevada. The architectural design of the building embodies the philosophies and distinct characteristics associated with the National Park Service Rustic style. The use of natural finishes and local materials serve to harmonize the building with the surrounding landscape. The Merced Grove Ranger Station, constructed in 1934, is a comparable structure within the central western region of the park.

[iv] Good, Park Structures and Facilities, 3-4

Exterior character defining features include:

- Use of local materials (such as a granite rubble foundation and chimney)
- Horizontal emphasis
- Log walls with joints of saddle and V-notching
- Rough hewn log ends
- Single course sugar pine roofing shingles
- Low profile and shallow pitched roofline
- Wide, over-hanging eaves with exposed log rafter tails
- Pairings of six-lite casement windows
- Granite rubble chimney
- Tooled cement chinking

Interior character defining features:

- Beadboard wall and ceiling finishes
- Board and batten wall finishes
- Door hardware
- Vertical plank doors
- Wide four inch trim molding
- Wood burning fireplace

Historic Integrity

The Merced Lake Ranger Station retains all seven aspects of historic integrity as defined by the National Register of Historic Places' standards: ***location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, association, and feeling.***

The Merced Lake Ranger Station remains in its original ***location*** along the Merced Lake Trail near the confluences of Fletcher and Lewis Creeks in the backcountry wilderness of Yosemite National Park. The ranger station initially served as an outlying shelter cabin for employees of the Merced Irrigation District conducting surveys along the Merced River drainage and also for National Park Service wilderness rangers. The ranger station was constructed at a centralized location within the drainage along a primary route of travel. Because of the remote location, the ***setting*** was remained essentially unchanged. The building is situated within a small river valley with dispersed populations of Jeffery pines and firs. Log pole fencing and hitch rails have been added to the property following the period of significance; however, these secondary resources are in-keeping with the natural materials used for the construction of the ranger station and do not detract from the overall interpretation of the historic building. In 1984, lands immediately surrounding the property boundary were designated wilderness. This protection ensures that no new development will occur outside of the property boundary or within the viewshed of the ranger station.

The Merced Lake Ranger Station was ***designed*** in the National Park Service Rustic style by Yosemite's Resident Engineer Oliver G. Taylor, under the consultation of National Park Service's Regional Chief Landscape Architect, Daniel Hull. The building embodies characteristics of the style including the use of local materials, low-pitch gable roof, wide overhanging eaves, as well as exposed structural and architectural detailing. Other comparable National Park Service structures are located throughout the Pacific West Region; most notably a Fire Patrol Cabin designed for Olympic National Park (1939) and the Merced Grove Cabin constructed in Yosemite National Park

(1934). The building is seasonally used and has remained functioning in a comparable capacity as an outlying shelter for natural resource management activities since its construction.

Over the years, the building has had limited modifications. It retains its overall historic character and majority of its original ***material*** including: exterior architectural details and finishes, interior finishes and details, and hardware. The building has been preserved intact; in part due to its remote setting and also to its continued use by the National Park Service as backcountry accommodations for wilderness travelers. Present day maintenance work is conducted by the Yosemite Historic Preservation Crew, who consciously retains as much historic fabric as possible without jeopardizing the structural integrity of the building. If and when materials need to be replaced, the crew does so with in-kind materials using historic techniques.

The building is currently in good condition and has only received repairs to correct expected wear. This serves to demonstrate the high level of ***workmanship*** that went into the construction of the ranger station. The building was intended to be a permanent outpost station within the backcountry of Yosemite National Park and was constructed accordingly by skilled workers. Great effort went into harvesting local materials for the log walls and granite rubble chimney.

The rustic architectural styling of the Merced Lake Ranger Station ***associates*** the building with other National Park Service facilities and conveys a ***feeling*** of a backcountry outpost for the management of park resources. The surrounding land designation as wilderness places heavy restrictions on new development outside of the property boundary and ensures that remaining structures within the Yosemite backcountry are of special interest to the park. This designation protects the context of the property to be interpreted as a significant natural resource management facility.

Previously Determined Eligible for the National Register of Historic Places

The Merced Lake Ranger Station was first recognized for its historical significance during a historic resource case study conducted by Yosemite National Park in the 1980s. National Park Service Historian, Linda Green, recommended the property, among other significant cultural and historic resources throughout the park, to be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places in her 1987 multi-volume publication, Yosemite: the Park and its Resources. A Draft Multiple Property Document (MPD) was composed in 2004 by the University of Las Vegas' History Department. The Draft MPD used historic contexts from Greene's resource study and recognized twenty buildings, which included the Merced Lake Ranger Station, for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The Draft MPD has yet to be finalized by Yosemite National Park staff; however, it has received concurrence from the California State Historic Preservation Office. (*See Continuation Sheet III*) The Merced Lake Ranger Station has been indentified for its historic significance and is said to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. The current nomination concurs that the property is significant under the listed criteria and recognizes additional non-contributing resources – such as the corral and stock fencing.

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Pavlik, Robert C., "A History of Snow Survey in Yosemite National Park." 1984. Typescript, 3pp.

Pavlik, Robert C., *In Harmony with the Landscape: a History of the Built Environment of Yosemite National Park, 1915-1940.* Thesis Submittal to the University of California, Santa Barbara, Dec. 1986 [Copy obtained from the Yosemite Research Library, Yosemite National Park, CA.]

Peterson, Ned R., "California Cooperative Snow Surveys Program." Portion of MS dated October 1980. Included in letter from Jack G. Pardee to Robert C. Pavlik dated November 20, 1984.

Russell, Carl P., "Why Are Snow Surveys Made?" *Yosemite Nature Notes* 6, No. 3 (March 1927).

Thomas, Don, "Sierra Snowpack Slipping Below Normal, Snow Survey Shows." *The Fresno Bee.* February, 27, 2002. http://www.yosemite.org/newsroom/clips2000/february/022702.html.

Thomson, C.G., Yosemite National Park Superintendent, "Final Report: Merced Lake Cabin Addition F.P 70 (Acct 417)", United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Yosemite National Park, California.

United States Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service Agriculture Information Bulletin 536. *Snow Surveys and Water Supply Forecasting* (Washington DC: June 1988, Revised September 1996).

Yosemite National Park, Monthly Reports of the Superintendent: Oct. 1926, Nov. 1926, Nov. 1927, Nov. 1930, Sept. 1931, Oct. 1931, Nov. 1931, March 1932, Oct. 1932, Nov. 1933, Jan. 1934, Oct. 1934, May 1935, July 1935, Aug. 1936.

Yosemite National Park, Division of Facilities Management, Building Files, "Merced Lake Ranger Station."

Archive repositories consulted: Yosemite National Park Archives & Research Library; Hetch Hetchy Water & Power – Moccasin Archives; Merced Irrigation District; National Park Service's National Archives in San Bruno, California; and the National Park Service's Electronic Technical Information Center (ETIC).

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

___ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
___ previously listed in the National Register
_X_ previously determined eligible by the National Register
___ designated a National Historic Landmark
___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #_____
___ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #_____

Primary location of additional data:

___ State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
_X_ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
___ Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property **Approximately 5 acres**
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	11S	288932	4179468	3			
2				4			

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property boundary encompasses approximately five acres near the juncture of the Merced Lake Trail and Lewis Creek in the south central region of Yosemite National Park. This boundary designation has been determined by the Yosemite National Park's Branch of History, Architecture, and Landscapes for purposes of this nomination.

Northeastern boundary – The northeastern boundary begins at the junction of the Merced Lake Trail and Lewis Creek and runs approximately 450 feet southeast along a foot path to log pole gated fence.

Southeastern boundary – The southeastern boundary follows the log pole fencing southwest for approximately 500 feet to the southern corner of the stock corral.

Southwestern boundary - The southwestern boundary begins at the southern corner of the stock corral and follows a log pole and wire fence approximately 450 feet northwest to Lewis Creek.

Northwestern boundary - The northwestern boundary begins at the northern terminus of the said fence at Lewis Creek and runs approximately 500 feet to the point of origin paralleling Lewis Creek.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The location for the Merced Lake Ranger Station was strategically selected by Yosemite National Park and the Merced Irrigation District along a snow survey route stemming from Yosemite Valley to Tuolumne Meadows. The boundary designation contains all that is significant and contributing to the historic character of the property, as well as, more modern infrastructure (i.e. the existing stock corral and fencing) associated with the current operation of the ranger station.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title **Jennifer Self, Architectural Historian**

organization **Yosemite National Park** date **July 21, 2011**

Division of Resources Management and Science

Branch of History, Architecture, and Landscapes

street & number **5083 Foresta Road** telephone **209.379.1222**

city or town **El Portal** state **CA** zip code **95318**

e-mail **Jennifer_Self@partner.nps.gov**

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

I. Location Map:

Merced Peak Quadrangle, California – Mariposa County, 7.5 Minute Series (topographic), United States Department of the Interior, Geological Survey, 1992.

II. Snow Survey Map

Reference map showing historic and current snow survey infrastructure at Yosemite National Park.

III. Property Boundary Map:

Reference map showing the Merced Lake Ranger Station property boundary and associated features.

IV. Architectural Drawings

As-found architectural drawings completed by Historic Preservation Intern, Kimber Keagle. Drawings were produced prior to preservation maintenance work completed on the ranger station in 2000. Yosemite National Park, Division of Facilities Management, Historic Preservation Crew.

V. Concurrence Letter

Concurrence letter from the California State Historic Preservation Office dated August 23, 2004. States properties identified within a draft Multiple Property Document for Yosemite National Park, including the "Merced Lake Ranger Station Building 3400", are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

VI. Historic Photographs

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Merced Lake Ranger Station
City or Vicinity: Yosemite National Park
County: Mariposa State: CA
Photographer: Jennifer Self
Date Photographed: August 2009
Location of original digital files:
Yosemite National Park
Division of Resources Management and Science
Branch of History, Architecture and Landscapes
5083 Foresta Rd, Bldg. 759, El Portal, CA 95318

Photo #1 (CA_Mariposa County_Merced Lake Ranger Station_0001)
East façade, camera facing south-southwest.

Photo#2 (CA_Mariposa County_Merced Lake Ranger Station_0002)
South façade, camera facing north.

Photo #3 (CA_Mariposa County_Merced Lake Ranger Station_00030
Interior living room, camera facing north.

Property Owner:

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

name **Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Yosemite National Park**

street & number **5083 Foresta Road** telephone

city or town **El Portal** state **CA** zip code **95318**

Association with *Historic Resources of Yosemite National Park* Multiple Property Submission

The Merced Lake Ranger Station is associated with the *Historic Resources of Yosemite National Park* Multiple Property Submission. It is representative of the following historic contexts, as defined in Section E of the MPS cover document: Settlement and Industry in Yosemite, 1851-1951; State and Federal Administration of Yosemite, 1864-1966; and Architecture, Landscape Design, and the Construction of the Visitor Experience in Yosemite, 1856-1964. It is an example of the following property types, as defined in Section F: Resources Associated with Settlement and Industry (1851-1951), with a subtype of Exploration, Settlement, and Resource Exploitation; Resources Associated with State and Federal Administration of Yosemite, with a subtype of NPS Administration; and Resources Associated with Architecture and Design (1856-1964), with a sub-type of Heavy Log, Stone, Wood Frame.

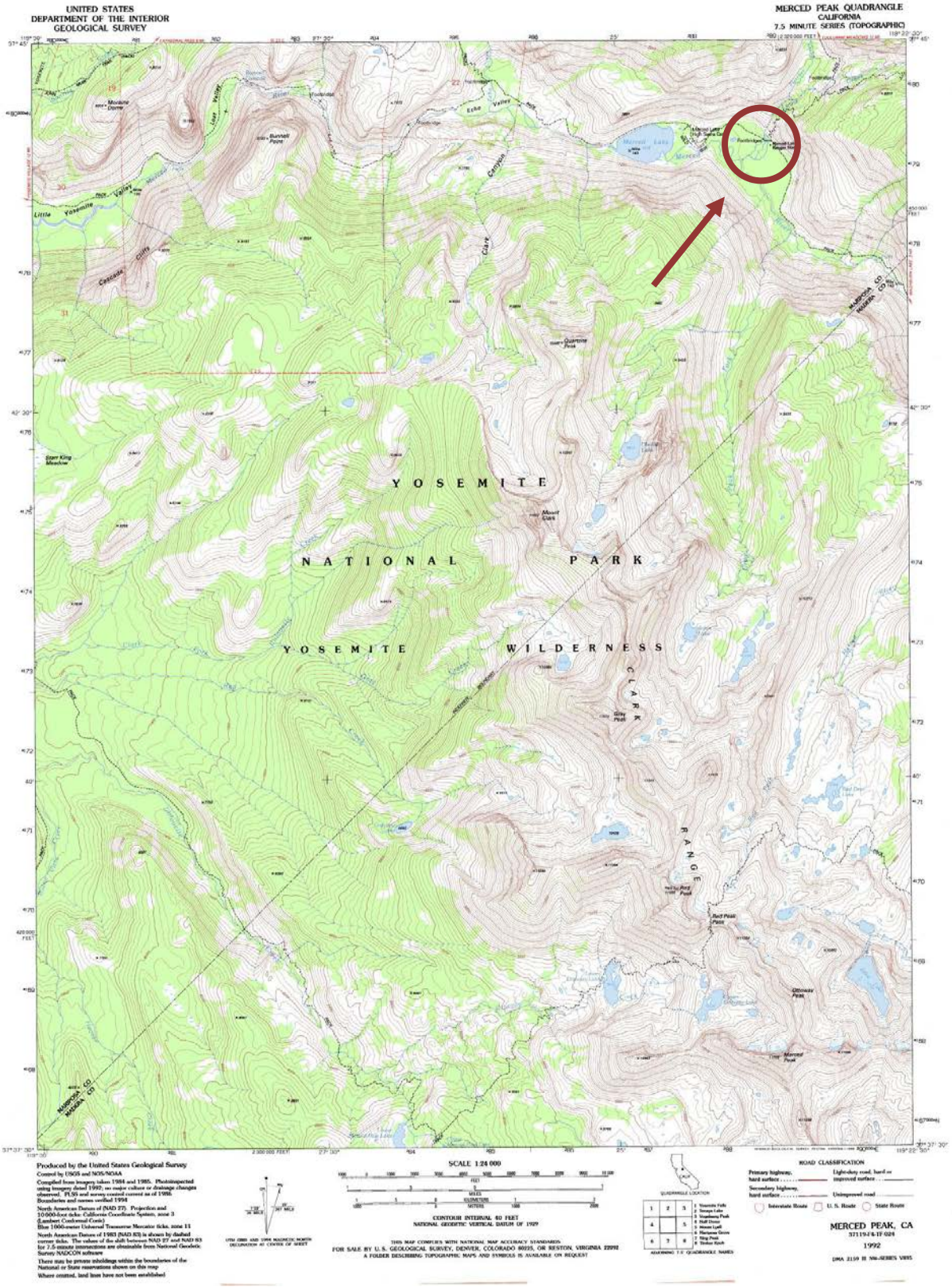
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Merced Lake Ranger Station	Name of Property
Mariposa County, CA	County and State
n/a	Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number **Additional Documentation** Page .. 1

This map has been formatted to fit this page and is NOT TO SCALE.



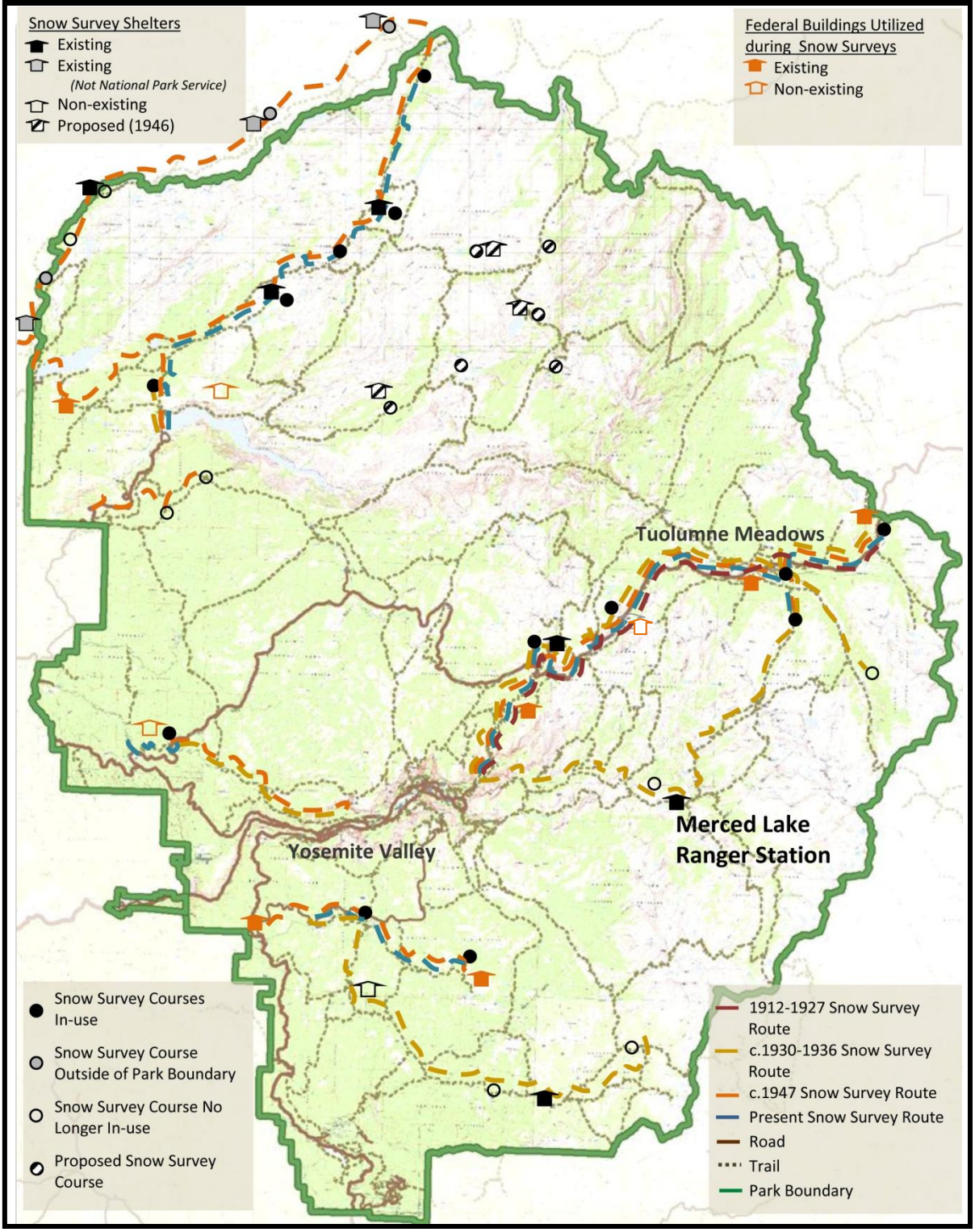
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Merced Lake Ranger Station
Name of Property
Mariposa County, CA
County and State
n/a
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number **Additional Documentation** Page 2

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK
Snow Survey Infrastructure & Routes
Merced Lake Ranger Station and Associated Features



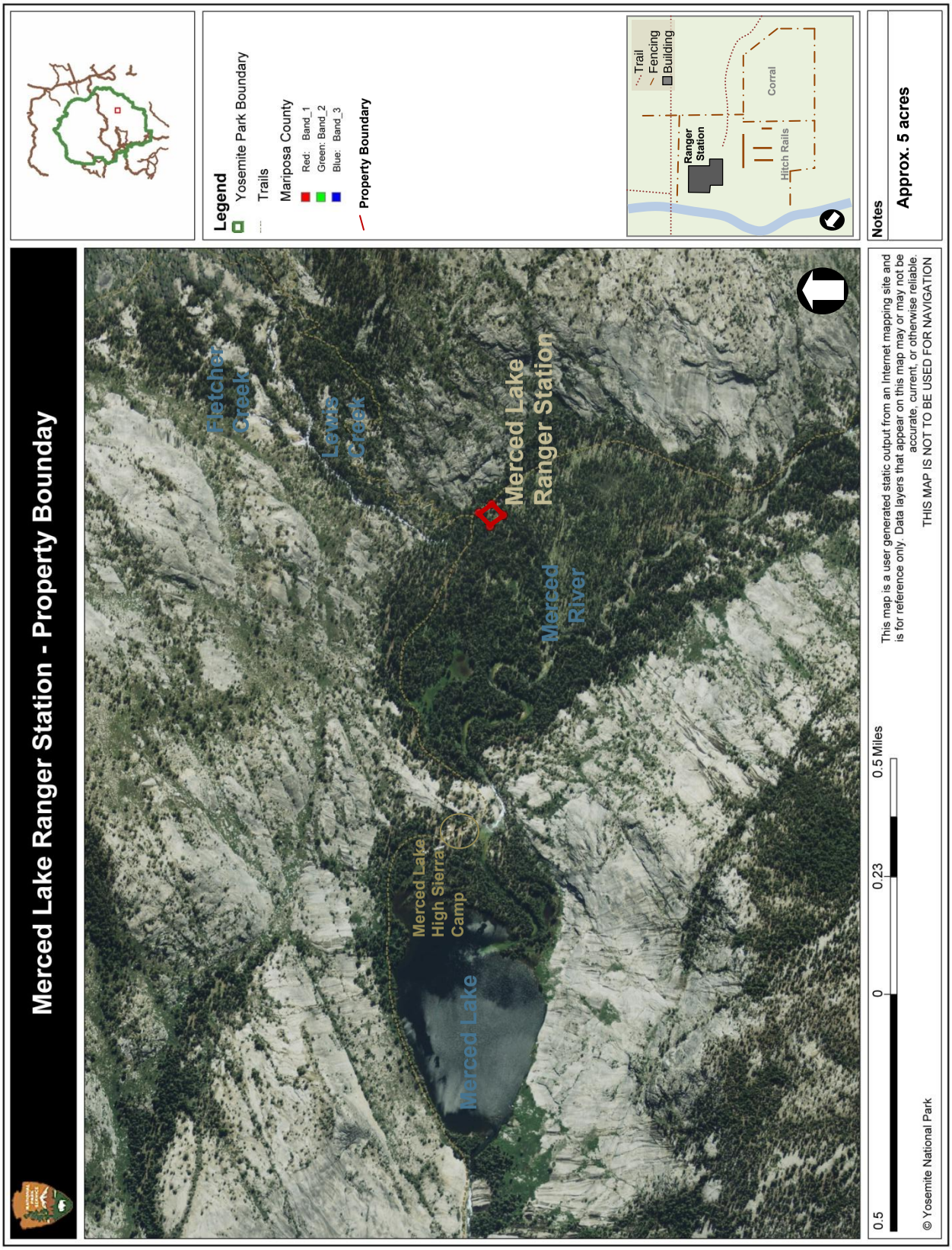
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Merced Lake Ranger Station
Name of Property
Mariposa County, CA
County and State
n/a
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number **Additional Documentation** Page 3

This map has been formatted to fit this page and is NOT TO SCALE.

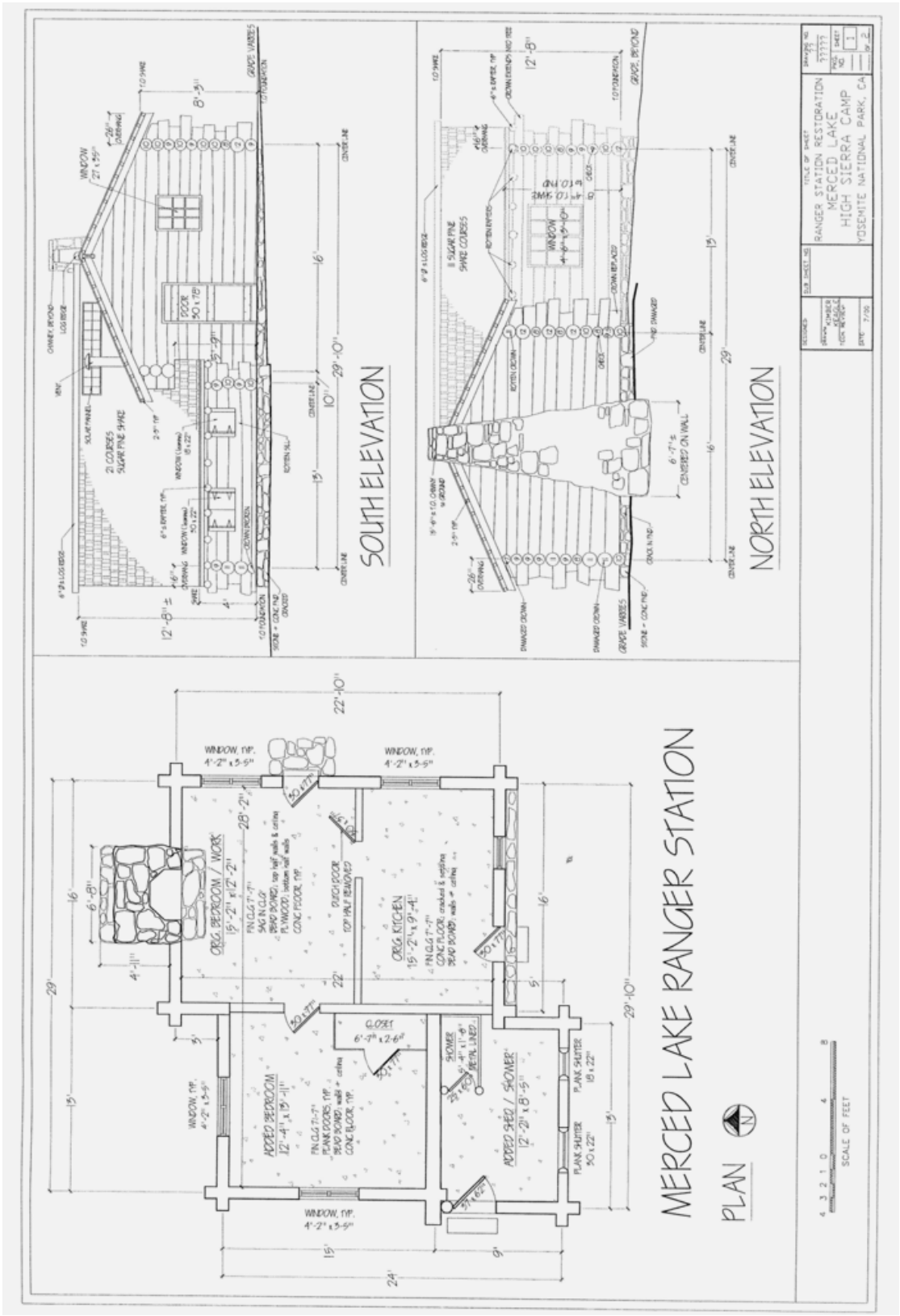


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Merced Lake Ranger Station
Name of Property
Mariposa County, CA
County and State
n/a
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number **Additional Documentation** Page 4

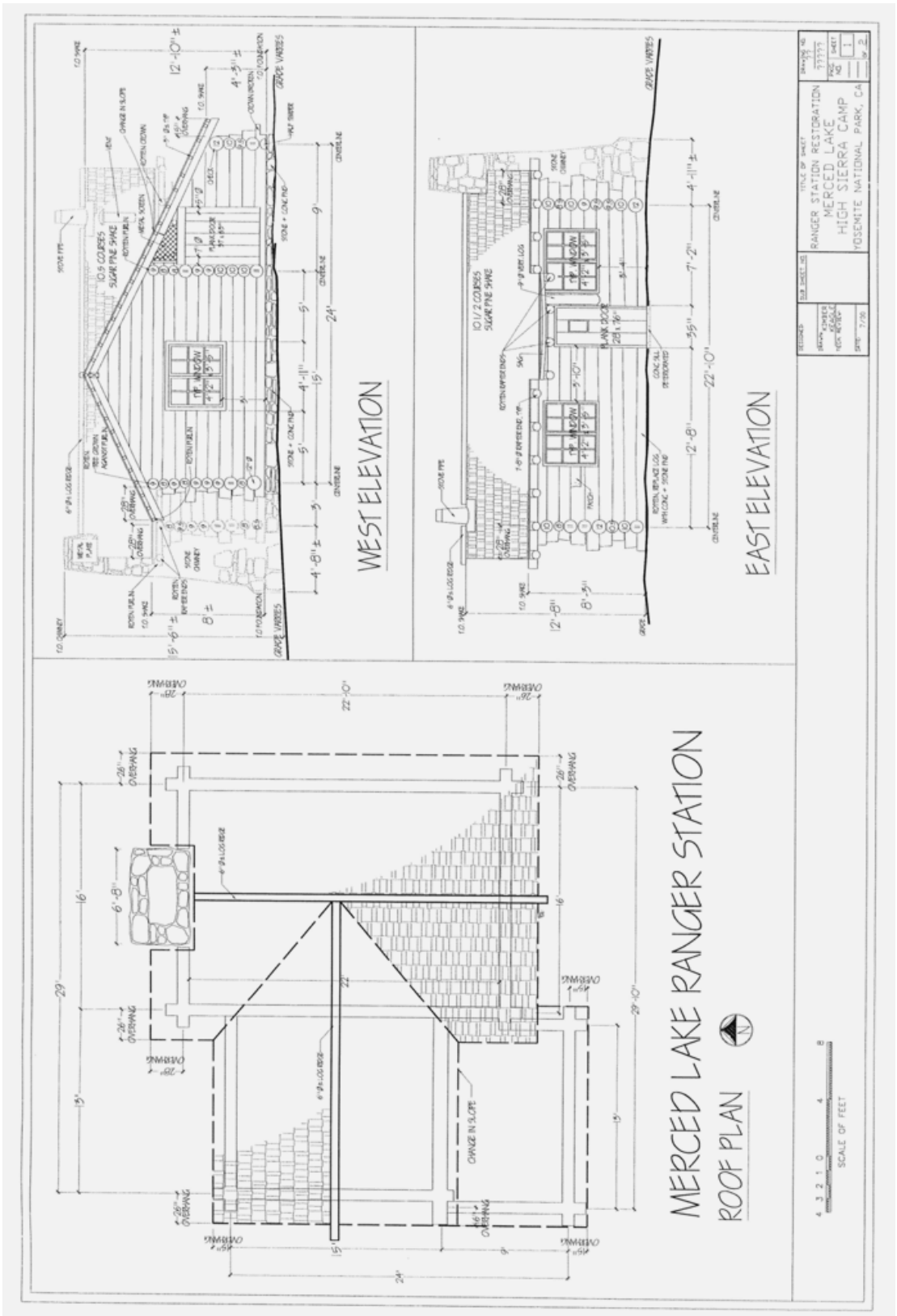


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Merced Lake Ranger Station
Name of Property
Mariposa County, CA
County and State
n/a
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number **Additional Documentation** Page 5



STATE OF CALIFORNIA – THE RESOURCES AGENCY ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor

OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
P.O. BOX 942896
SACRAMENTO, CA 94296-0001
(916) 653-6624 Fax: (916) 653-9624
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 n 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

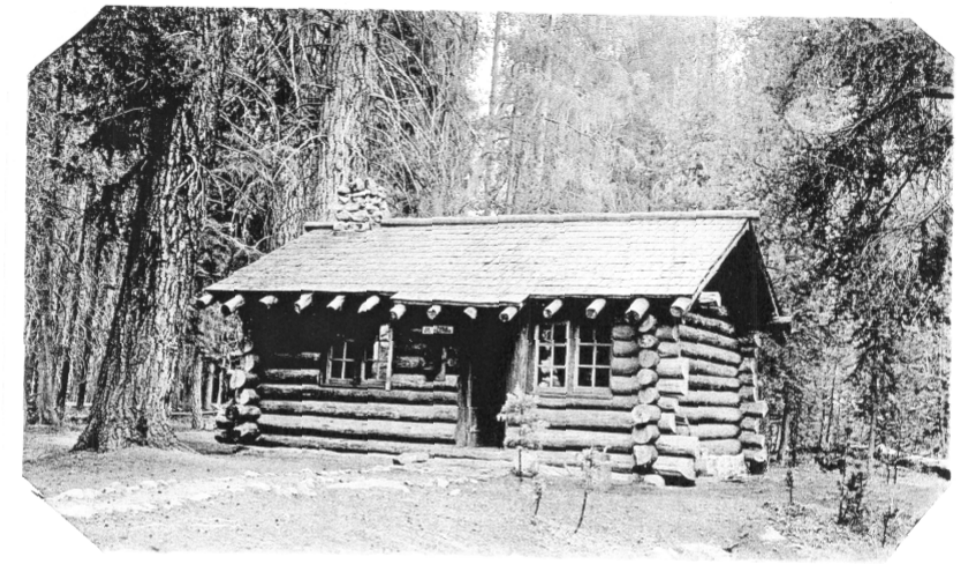
I have signed the application as commenting authority. If you have any questions, please call Gene Itogowa of my staff (916) 653-8936.

Sincerely,

Milford Wayne Donaldson
State Historic Preservation Officer

Cc: Kimball Koch

Historic Photos



Historic Photo #1. Merced Lake cabin before 1934 addition. East façade, camera facing roughly south-southwest. Photo is from final construction report, January 1935. Photographer unknown.
Photo: Yosemite National Park, Division of Resources Management and Science,
Branch of History, Architecture and Landscapes, El Portal, CA.

Historic Photo #2. West bedroom addition during construction. Photo is from final construction report, January 1935. Photographer unknown.
Photo: Yosemite National Park, Division of Resources Management and Science,
Branch of History, Architecture and Landscapes, El Portal, CA.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Merced Lake Ranger Station
Name of Property
Mariposa County, CA
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Historic Photos

Historic Photo #3. Merced Lake Ranger Station, 1942.
Photographer unknown. Photo: Yosemite National Park Research Library.

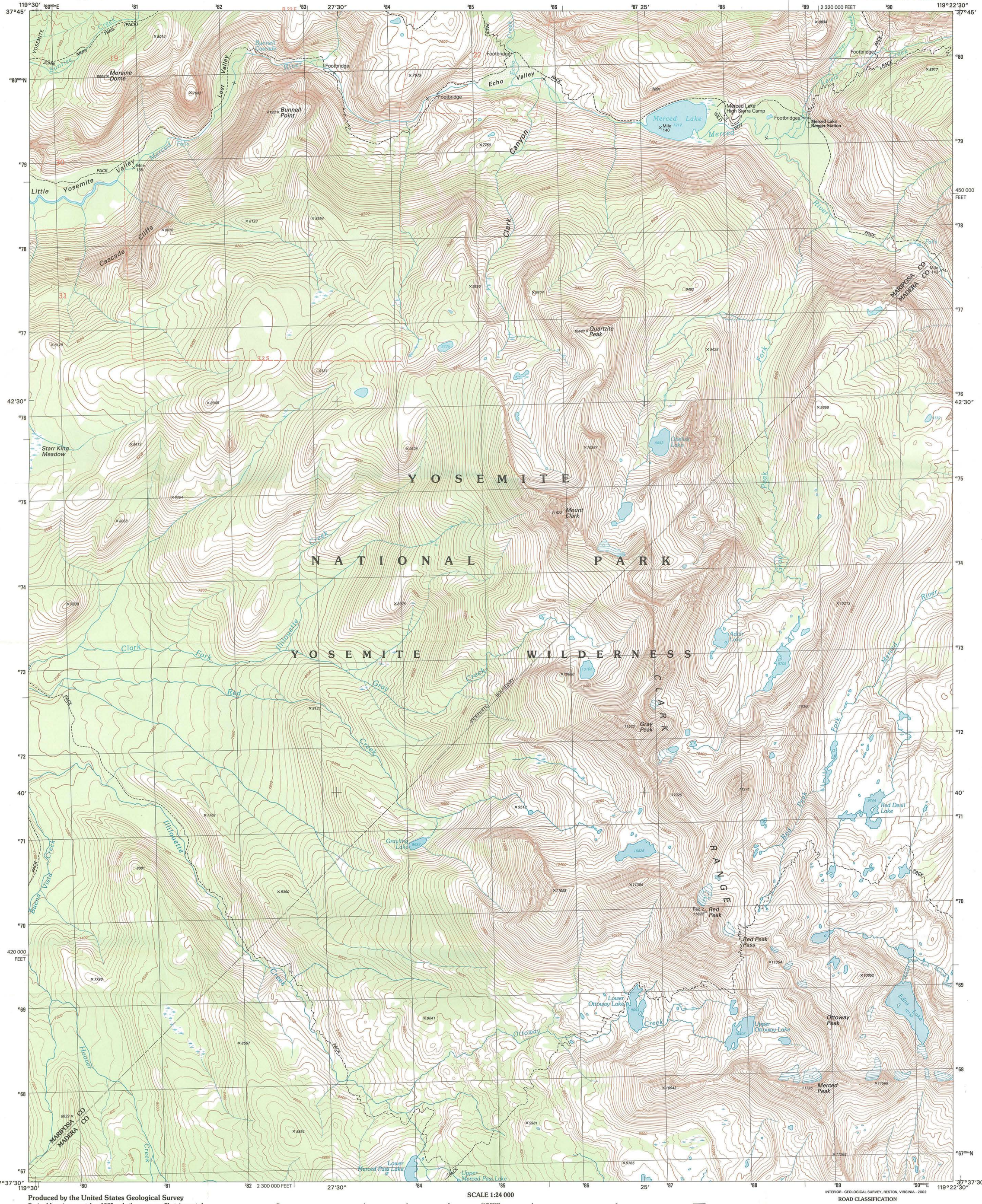
USGS
science for a changing world

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

11 S
288932
4179468

MERCED LAKE RANGER STATION

MERCED PEAK QUADRANGLE
CALIFORNIA
7.5-MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Produced by the United States Geological Survey

Derived from imagery taken 1985 and other sources. Photoinspected using imagery taken 1997; no major culture or drainage changes observed. Public Land Survey System and survey control current as of 1986 Boundaries verified 2002

North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27). Projection and 1 000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 11
10 000-foot ticks: California Coordinate System of 1927 (zone 3)

North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

Where omitted, land lines have not been established

UTM GRID AND 2002 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

GN MN 15° 267 MILS 1° 29′ 26 MILS

20% TOTAL RECOVERED FIBER

SCALE 1:24 000

1 .5 0 KILOMETERS 1 2
1000 0 METERS 1000 2000
1 .5 0 MILES 1
1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 8000 9000 10000 FEET

CONTOUR INTERVAL 40 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
(TO CONVERT ELEVATIONS TO THE NORTH AMERICAN VERTICAL DATUM OF 1988, ADD 5 FEET)
TO CONVERT FROM FEET TO METERS, MULTIPLY BY 0.3048

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

CA

1	2	3
4		5
6	7	8

1 Yosemite Falls
2 Tenaya Lake
3 Vogelsang Peak
4 Half Dome
5 Mount Lyell
6 Mariposa Grove
7 Sing Peak
8 Timber Knob

ADJOINING 7.5' QUADRANGLES

INTERIOR - GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA - 2002

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway hard surface
Secondary highway hard surface
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Unimproved road
Interstate Route
U.S. Route
State Route

46941
FOR $8.00

MERCED PEAK, CA
1997
NIMA 2159 III NW-SERIES V895

ISBN 0-607-88835-5


MERCED LAKE
RANGER STATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Merced Lake Ranger Station

MULTIPLE NAME: Yosemite National Park MPS

STATE & COUNTY: CALIFORNIA, Mariposa

DATE RECEIVED: 6/02/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/25/14
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/10/14 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/19/14
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14000408

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL:	N	DATA PROBLEM:	N	LANDSCAPE:	N	LESS THAN 50 YEARS:	N
OTHER:	N	PDIL:	N	PERIOD:	N	PROGRAM UNAPPROVED:	N
REQUEST:	Y	SAMPLE:	N	SLR DRAFT:	N	NATIONAL:	N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT _____DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The Merced Lake Ranger Station is locally significant under National Register Criteria A and C, in the areas of Architecture, Conservation, and Science. Completed in 1927, the rustic-style log cabin designed by the NPS was established as important part of the dispersed system of snow survey cabins built to aid in the scientific study of regional hydrology. Severe droughts in the late 1920s and early 1930s, highlighted the importance of water conservation in the areas served by the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Remote cabin sites such as this provided important shelter to winter survey crews and provided the Park with seasonal backcountry shelters and field stations. The Merced Lake survey cabin was one of the first joint ventures between the NPS and an outside party (other than a concessionaire) to construct infrastructure within Yosemite's backcountry wilderness. The property meets the registrations requirements set out in the Yosemite MPS

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept Criteria A+C

REVIEWER Paul R. Lusignan DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE _____ DATE 7/10/2014

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR (Y)/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.