

DATA SHEET

PH0699233

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 6 1979

DATE ENTERED APR 13 1979

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Chris Jorgenson Studio

AND/OR COMMON

Jorgenson Studio

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Pioneer Yosemite History Center (Wawona District)

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Yosemite National Park

VICINITY OF

Fifteenth

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

California

06

Mariposa

043

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

National Park Service, Western Regional Office

STREET & NUMBER

450 Golden Gate Avenue, Box 36063

CITY, TOWN

STATE

San Francisco

VICINITY OF

California 94102

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Administration Building

STREET & NUMBER

Government Center/Yosemite Village

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Yosemite National Park

California

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

National Register of Historic Places-Preliminary Inventory

DATE

1971

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

National Park Service, Western Regional Office

CITY, TOWN

STATE

San Francisco

California 94102

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE 1962

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Jorgenson Studio was built in 1904 by artist Chris Jorgenson in Yosemite Valley. It was moved to Wawona in 1962.

It is a one story, one room log structure measuring 22' x 37'. It has a steeply pitched overhanging gable roof, covered with wood shingles. The front gable projects ten feet beyond the front wall of the cabin and covers the porch; it is supported by five log posts. The gable end is treated decoratively with infill logs placed in a vertical pattern. On the interior, this projected gable is used as a small sleeping loft, reached by ladder.

The structure is placed on a rubble granite foundation and is built of peeled logs in alternating tiers, interlocked at the corners with a V-notched joint. The horizontal spaces between the logs are chinked with white cement. An exterior chimney is located on the south end of the building; it is made of granite in an uncoursed rubble pattern. An original stained glass window, in a sunburst design, is located on the facade of the cabin.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1899-1918

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Christian Jorgenson

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Yosemite National Park has been a lodestone for artists since 1856 when lithographer Thomas Ayres accompanied the first tourist party to the Valley. One of the park's most prolific scenic interpreters was the noted California painter Chris Jorgenson, who maintained a seasonal residence and studio in Yosemite Valley for 20 years. This studio, now an integral part of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center, is of local significance in Art.

In 1962 the Jorgenson studio was moved from Yosemite Valley to the Pioneer History Center in Wawona. The move was deemed necessary in 1959 with the National Park Service "Mission 66" directive to raze the structures in and near the Old Village and return the meadow to a natural state. The historic significance of this building, then in use as an employee residence, was recognized and funds were allocated to salvage it. In its new, compatible setting the building's interior was authentically restored as the studio. Aside from the rationale behind the move, the studio is the remaining structure associated with this significant Yosemite artist and thus merits consideration for the National Register.

Chris Jorgenson arrived in Yosemite Valley in the late 1890's already an established artist. At 14 he had been the first student at the California School of Fine Arts, organized in San Francisco in 1874. From 1881 to 1883, he served as Assistant Director, as well as an instructor, at the school. Jorgenson and his wife, Angela Ghiardelli, had studies for two years in Italy in the early 1890's but discovered their true milieu during those first visits to Yosemite. They established their studio on the bank of the Merced River in 1899. Jorgenson did several canvases depicting the local Indians and began an extensive collection of Native American Basketry, specializing in California products. Both the paintings and the baskets are part of the Yosemite Museum Collections and provide a valuable resource in visually interpreting the ethnic history of the park around the turn of the century. (In Galen Clark's book, "Yosemite Indians" (1904), are four Jorgenson drawings and the cover design and drawing are by Angela Jorgenson.) Jorgenson used both watercolors and oil to record Yosemite scenes, accumulating an extensive portfolio in the process.

The National Park Service acquired the Jorgenson studio in 1919 and in 1920, it began service as the first Yosemite Museum. Jorgenson donated his basket collection to this fledgling interpretive effort in 1923. After his death in 1935, his widow donated over 150 Chris Jorgenson originals to the new Museum. For years there was a separate "Jorgenson Room" to house the collection. When the Museum was closed, the paintings were placed in storage or exhibited in offices or the visitor center. Today, the Jorgenson Studio is used as part of the living history program at the Pioneer History Center. NPS employees portray Jorgenson or his wife and a large number of his original canvases are once again on display in the studio.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Superintendent Annual Report, Yosemite National Park 1956-1966
 Annual Report of Chief Naturalist, Yosemite National Park, 1959
 Interpretive Prospectus/Pioneer Yosemite History Center, (Douglass Hubbard) 1959
Yosemite Nature Notes 1923, 1944
 Jorgenson biographical file/Yosemite Research Library

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY N/A
 UTM REFERENCES

less than one
m. A. Wilson . 3.16.79

A	1 1	2 6 5 4 0 0	4 1 5 7 7 5 5	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries are defined by the walls of the building.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Leslie Starr Hart/Cultural Resources Specialist (Historian)
Merrill Ann Wilson/Historical Architect

ORGANIZATION	DATE
<u>National Park Service, Denver Service Center</u>	<u>6/2/76</u>
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
<u>P. O. Box 25287</u>	<u>(303) 234-4509 (Hart)</u>
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
<u>Denver (Lakewood)</u>	<u>Colorado 80225</u>
	<u>5545 (Wilson)</u>

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION
 YES NO NONE

Herbert Hubbard
 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE *[Signature]*
 TITLE Asst. Dir., Cultural Resources DATE 2/1/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE <u>4/13/79</u>
ATTEST: <i>William Johnson</i>	KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE <u>March 15, 1979</u>