

PH0503215

DATA SHEET

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	AUG 29 1977
DATE ENTERED	JAN 31 1978

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Shorty Lovelace Historic District

AND/OR COMMON
Shorty Lovelace Historic District

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
(Not applicable) *E of Pinehurst
KCNP*

CITY, TOWN
Kings Canyon National Park *situated within* _____

STATE
California _____

____NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
17th

2 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: *(if applicable)*
Western Regional Office, National Park Service

STREET & NUMBER
450 Golden Gate Avenue, P. O. Box 36063

CITY, TOWN
San Francisco _____

STATE
California

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Headquarters, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN
Three Rivers

STATE
California

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
None

DATE
____FEDERAL ____STATE ____COUNTY ____LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN
STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Between 1910 and 1940 fur trapper Shorty Lovelace developed a shelter system of as many as thirty-six units in the watershed of the South Fork of the Kings River. With only one known exception, these sites contained either a small, single-room log cabin or a shelter developed among natural boulders. As a part of the study preparatory to this nomination, nine of these sites were successfully located. At least two more sites believed to have structures escaped discovery.

Shorty's first cabin development was at Crowley Canyon, where he erected two log cabins about 1912. These cabins, which are in ruins today, were larger than most of the later cabins Shorty built. They measured 11.5 by 16 feet and 9 by 14.75 feet, respectively. Corrals and pelt-drying racks were also present at Crowley Canyon. The roofs of both cabins have collapsed and the wall logs are decaying.

Following the development of the Crowley Canyon site, Shorty built cabins and shelters at other sites. Usually these were small log huts with dirt floors and shake roofs. These line cabins were seldom more than 5 by 7 feet in size. None was taller than six feet. Cabins of this type have been located in Kings Canyon National Park at Williams (Quartz) Meadow, Cloud Canyon, Sphinx Creek, Vidette Meadow, Woods Creek Crossing, Gardiner Basin and Granite Pass. Only two of these remain sufficiently intact to allow structural preservation--Cloud Canyon and Vidette Meadow. The other cabins are badly decayed and collapsing ruins. No rock shelters are known to remain intact. In each of the known sites the setting retains a high degree of integrity. Because Kings Canyon National Park has been managed largely as wilderness, all of Shorty's remaining cabins stand in unblemished natural settings. In most cases the sites are now more natural than they were during Shorty's time, when grazing of cattle was more common.

The National Park Service has not succeeded in obtaining good historic photos of Shorty's cabins during their period of use, so that their historic appearance is problematical. There is no evidence to suggest, however, that any of the remaining cabins or cabin ruins have suffered significant alteration aside from natural deterioration.

The following sites compose the Shorty Lovelace Historic District:

Williams (Quartz) Meadow: A small log line cabin remains in partly collapsed condition.

Crowley Canyon: The ruins of two log cabins remain. Both are partly collapsed and decaying.

Cloud Canyon: The site contains a small line cabin in fair condition. It is partly out of plumb, but the roof remains intact as does the fireplace and chimney. Decay is minimal. This is one of the two cabins believed to be preservable.

Sphinx Creek: This small cabin has collapsed and is decaying.

Lower Bubbs Creek: Before the 1976 Bubbs Creek fire, the site contained a shelter developed between several boulders. The shelter consisted of a shake roof between two stones. Now only the boulders remain.

Vidette Meadow: This is the largest remaining Shorty cabin aside from those at Crowley Canyon. It remains in fair condition. The roof and chimney are intact. Some decay is present in the basal wall logs. This cabin is believed to be preservable.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES *1910-1940*

BUILDER/ARCHITECT *Shorty Lovelace*

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Shorty Lovelace Historic District contains structures, ruins, and sites which exhibit local significance in the fields of architecture, exploration/settlement, and industry. Joseph Walter ("Shorty") Lovelace, 1886-1963, spent most of his life fur trapping in the Sierra Nevada. Beginning in 1910 and ending about 1940, when Kings Canyon National Park was created, Shorty trapped the watershed of the South Fork of the Kings River. As a necessary adjunct to this trapping, he established a system of small cabins and shelters which may have numbered as many as thirty-six. Nine sites have been specifically identified for this nomination. Several others were sought without success.

Eight of the nine sites successfully located contain structures or the ruins of structures. These nine structures (there were two at Crowley Canyon) were small one-room log cabins. These cabins are representative of pioneer vernacular construction in remote settings. They are little changed in design and function from those cabins erected by Rocky Mountain fur trappers in the 1820's. They represent a unique type of simple shelter particularly adapted to the needs of a winter fur trapper working in an alpine setting.

The significance in the field of exploration/settlement results from the fact that Shorty Lovelace was the first and only Caucasian ever to reside in the upper Kings Canyon region on a long-term, year-round basis. Since Shorty's departure, this region of approximately 200 square miles has remained uninhabited except for summer visitors.

The significance in terms of industry results from the cabins' association with fur trapping, the only industrial process ever to be undertaken successfully in the region in question with the single exception of grazing. During the nineteenth century, fur trapping was a major western industry, providing the impetus for the exploration of much of the West. By the early twentieth century, the full-time fur trapper had been relegated to isolated, back-water regions. Shorty Lovelace was one of these last remnants of the western fur trade, trapping in the remote reaches of Kings Canyon. Although the full extent of Shorty's cabin system is not known, sufficient cabins and identified sites remain to document in rare detail the operative patterns of an alpine fur trapping circuit. To the knowledge of the author, this is the only such opportunity present within the national park system.

Only two of the cabins, at Vidette Meadow and Cloud Canyon, retain sufficient structural integrity to allow preservation. The other seven cabins located for this nomination are collapsed or partially-collapsed ruins. This form does not envision reconstruction or preservation of the fabric of the seven ruined cabins, which would require replacement of most of the historic fabric, but it does encompass preservation of the Vidette Meadow AND Cloud Canyon structures.

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Gardiner Basin: This small cabin is leaning badly as a result of decay and snow movement. Collapse is imminent.

Woods Creek Crossing: This cabin is a bare ruin. It is badly out of plumb and most of the roof is gone. The fireplace and chimney stones are completely disorganized. Decay is extensive.

Granite Pass: This is yet another small log cabin with a collapsed roof. Like most of the other Shorty cabins it is leaning and decaying badly.

Each of the above sites consists of a square 100 feet on a side, centering around the structure or structural site, except for Crowley Canyon, where an area 100 yards by 50 yards includes both cabins' ruins.

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Significant values requiring management in this district vary according to site. All nine sites should be protected from alteration of the natural setting. This protection should not be interpreted as preventing prescribed or natural burning in the vicinity, as these are essentially natural processes. At the six sites where ruins are extant, these ruins should be allowed to decay naturally. However, temporary bracing to prolong decay and collapse is appropriate. At Cloud Canyon and Vidette Meadow, the existing cabins should be preserved intact or restored, if necessary historic data can be obtained, and these two cabins should be protected from prescribed burning.

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Woods Creek Crossing
Zone 11
N 40-81-630
E 3-72-270

Bubbs Creek
Zone 11
N 40-71-330
E 3-63-40

Vidette Meadow
Zone 11
N 40-68-250
E 3-74-930
780

Sphinx Creek
Zone 11 ⁶⁵⁰
N 40-69-680
E 3-64-380
400

Cloud Canyon
Zone 11
N 40-56-990
E 3-62-980

Crowley Canyon
Zone 11
N 40-62-990
E 3-49-780

Granite Pass
Zone 11
N 40-83-780
E 3-56-960

Williams Meadow
Zone 11
N 40-67-430
E 3-49-390

Gardner Basin
Zone 11
N 40-76-340
E 3-66-220