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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 Leighton Encampment
other names/site number Yellowhammer Camp (FS 05-16-53-0053/CA-TUO-4021H)

2. Location

street & number Emigrant Wilderness, Stanislaus National Forest

N/A	not for publication
X	vicinity

city or town Pinecrest

state California code 06 county Tuolumne code 109 zip code _____

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 X statewide X local

Gren Conway / Regional Archaeologist 02/07/2012
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
USDA Forest Service - Pacific Southwest Region
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
Paul Robert Jones 1/16/2013
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): _____
Lee Edson H. Beall 4-9-13
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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5. Classification

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

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

Category of Property
 (Check only one box.)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
6	1	buildings
		sites
1		structures
3		objects
		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

None

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/camp

Current Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER

Materials
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Concrete, wood (log, plank)
 walls: Wood (log - square hewn and round),
 wood (pine shake)
 roof: Wood (pine shake), Metal (galvanized, tin
 sheet)
 other

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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 Yellowhammer Camp is located in Section 9 of Township 3N, Range 20E of the Cooper Peak Quadrangle. Situated within the Emigrant Wilderness area of the Stanislaus National Forest, approximately 12 miles southeast of Pinecrest, CA and 0.5 miles northeast of Yellowhammer Lake's northern arm, the site comprises an area of approximately 350 x 290 feet. The Stanislaus National Forest, headquartered in Sonora, CA, is responsible for the management of the Yellowhammer Camp site. The site includes six extant buildings and one structure built by Fred Leighton. The Yellowhammer Camp also includes three objects associated with Leighton's activities at the camp.

Yellowhammer Camp Contributing Resources

This section describes Yellowhammer Camp's ten contributing and resources one non-contributing resource. Contributing resources include two cabins, a cookhouse, barn, shower building, outhouse, corrals, water pump, work table, and a log carrier. Remnants of a buckhouse make up the only non-contributing resource.

Old Cabin

Physical Description

Constructed in 1922 at the site of an 1890s shake-walled "cow camp cabin," this rectangular, single story cabin is oriented along a southwest-northeast axis near the center of the camp site and is situated on a poured concrete foundation. The lodgepole pine beams that comprise the front-gabled roof structure are covered with long-cut sugar pine shakes and cut log ends are visible on northeast and southwest elevation gable ends. The southwest gable end is also covered in long-cut sugar pine shakes, while the vertically oriented hewn logs of northeast elevation gable end are covered with tin sheathing. Horizontally oriented round logs, joined at the building's four corners with a rough square notching system, comprise the building's walls. An opening in the northeastern elevation log wall accesses the cabin, while a boarded square wooden window sash with cross-shaped wooden muntin is found on the southwestern elevation. Attached to the northeastern elevation gable end is a tin sign with an inscription that reads:

"Camp Yellowhammer
Est. 1922
Fred Leighton
and
Bill Burnham
Sonora, California
Art Header 12-39"

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Alterations

Aside from the boards covering the building's rear window opening, the cabin appears relatively unaltered since its construction.

New Cabin

Physical Description

This two-story front-gabled building, which was constructed between 1956 and 1958, is located to the northwest of the Old Cabin and oriented along a north-south axis. The building sits on slightly raised hewn logs. Roofing is composed of tin sheathing over hewn log purlins of various sizes. Eaves are open and slightly overhang to show exposed purlin ends. The square saddle-notching system that comprises the cabin's exterior walls is nearly seamless and largely negates the use of chinking between courses of hewn planks. In areas where gaps have formed between courses, such as on the lower portions of eastern and western elevation walls, strips of tin are used as filler. The approximately 4' x 10" planks are oriented horizontally and comprise the building's gable ends in addition to its exterior walls. The southern elevation gable end is clad in randomly sized sections of tin sheathing and contains a small hinged door that accesses the second story. The main entry is also located on the southern elevation and contains a wooden door covered in metal sheathing with metal trim. Hinged metal shutters are present on the western elevation. A circular metal pipe vent is visible on the eastern elevation, while four structural beams protrude slightly through the walls on both the eastern and western elevations.

Alterations

The cabin appears relatively unaltered since its construction.

Barn

Physical Description

Located near the southwestern portion of the camp site, the barn is a single-story, front-gabled, rectangular (approximately 17' wide and 19' long) log building. Roofing is sheets of corrugated metal and overhangs slightly on gable ends and side walls. Exposed log purlins are visible along the outer perimeter of both the eastern and western gable ends. The building's exterior walls are clad in tiered, vertically oriented sugar pine shake siding from the ground up to gable ends. There is a centered opening on the eastern elevation that providing primary access into the building, while a secondary opening accesses the building on the western elevation. Constructed on concrete piers on the eastern and western elevations, the floor is dirt and the northern and southern elevations each feature a large peeled lodgepole sill log. There are no windows. Structural components of the building are fully exposed on the interior and reveal unpeeled logs of various sizes spaced approximately 8" to 10" apart. Also, roofing and siding materials appear directly affixed to structural logs, without an intermediate layer of sheathing or underlayment. Built by at least 1951, the barn was likely built during the 1920s.

Alterations

Approximately 20% of the building's structural logs and log wall spacers were replaced with in-kind materials in 2008. The building's siding was also replaced with in-kind materials at that time. This work was accomplished in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Restoration.

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Cookhouse

Physical Description

Located to the northeast of the Old Cabin, the cookhouse is a rectangular log building that is oriented along an east-west axis. Large peeled logs, which stand on concrete pads at random intervals, form the open eastern portion of the building's structural perimeter, while the enclosed western portion features peeled log walls. The open eastern portion provides primary access to the building. The front-gabled roof structure is comprised of a peaked log purlin system, the ends of which are exposed under wide overhanging eaves on each gable end. The roof is covered in sheets of corrugated metal. An opening in the western elevation log wall serves as a secondary entry to the building. There are no windows and the floor is dirt. The enclosed walls of the building's western portion, from the ground to the gable end, are clad in tiered, vertically oriented sugar pine shake siding. The eastern gable end is also clad in shake siding. Centrally located in the cookhouse, and set in hand-laid masonry, is an iron woodburning oven with warming box and flu. Built by at least 1951, the cookhouse was likely built during the 1920s.

Alterations

The cookhouse appears relatively unaltered since its construction.

Showerhouse

Physical Description

Built in 1955 and oriented along a north-south axis, on a wooden plank floor, the showerhouse is a rectangular front-gabled building located near the southeastern portion of the camp site. The building is constructed of alternating horizontally oriented peeled logs and chainsaw-hewn planks. Roofing is one tier of long-cut wooden shake and the wooden water tank located on northern portion of the roof peak is clad in a shake-covered housing. A plank framed opening is located on the southern elevation and provides access to the building. There are no windows. A small ladder, made of logs and milled lumber, reaches the water tank on the western elevation roof slope.

Alterations

The showerhouse appears relatively unaltered since its construction.

Outhouse

Physical Description

The outhouse is a rectangular building located approximately 150 feet west of the New Cabin. Constructed on a concrete slab, the building is framed with peeled horizontally oriented logs with cut logs as spacers on the western elevation. The Western elevation features an opening in the log wall, which serves as the building's primary entry. The log walls and shed roof are clad with tiered horizontally lapped lumber strips. A "one-seater" toilet is situated inside the building. The construction date for this building is unknown.

Alterations

The outhouse appears relatively unaltered since its construction.

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Corral

Physical Description

Likely built during the same building period as the barn, the corral surrounds the eastern, southern, and western perimeter of the barn building. It is constructed with whole peeled logs, which are horizontally strung on log rounds, and utilized a steep granite outcrop as the southwestern edge. There is a centered opening in the eastern corral wall that serves as the entry point.

Alterations

The corral appears relatively unaltered since its construction.

Objects

Physical Description

1. An iron, hand-powered water pump with a log and plank scrub counter is located to the east of the Old Cabin.
2. A hand-made wooden plank work table is located to the southeast of the Old Cabin.
3. A log carrier, fashioned with steel pipe frame and iron wheels by Leighton, is located near the New Cabin.

Alterations

The objects do not appear to have undergone any major alterations.

Non Contributing Building

Buckhouse

Physical Description

Originally a rectangular, log-framed building wrapped on all sides with screening, only remnants of the buckhouse exist. In original location of the buckhouse, the nearly intact rectangular gabled roof with pine shakes that once covered the building rests directly on the ground. The buckhouse was constructed in 1939.

Alteration/Determination

The original roof is the only remaining component of the buckhouse and, therefore, the building no longer retains significant integrity to be considered a contributing element to the historic district.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Conservation

Invention

Period of Significance

1922 - 1958

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Leighton, Fred

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Leighton, Fred

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins in 1922 with Fred Leighton's initial construction of buildings at Yellowhammer Camp, encompasses Leighton's use of the site as a backcountry base for servicing check dams, and ends in 1958 when the last significant building was constructed and California Department of Fish & Game took over the responsibility for the check dams.

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

Yellowhammer Camp was constructed as a base for promoting, building, and servicing check dams throughout the Emigrant Basin. The check dam concept was an integral part of the watershed and fish and game habitat conservation movement in California beginning in the late 1920s. Considering its association with this significant period in California history, the Yellowhammer Camp is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district under Criterion A. For its association with Fred Leighton, the prominent Californian who built the camp for use as a base for both the construction and maintenance of his innovative check dams located throughout the Emigrant Basin, the site is eligible under Criterion B.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Yellowhammer Camp is eligible for listing in the NRHP as an historic site. The camp was developed, constructed, and utilized by Fred Leighton as a base for his trips into the Emigrant Basin area of the Stanislaus National Forest to build and maintain check dams. The camp is significant at the local level under Criterion A for its association with the conservation movement in California that championed responsible watershed and fish and game management within which Leighton worked and received funding and support.

Yellowhammer Camp is also eligible under Criterion B for its association with prominent resident of California's High Sierra region, Fred Leighton. Leighton, who built and used the camp for over half a century, was the inventor of stream flow maintenance "check dams." Often working with the California Chamber of Commerce, the Stanislaus National Forest, and the California Department of Fish & Game, Leighton received numerous accolades from these organizations, among others, for his contribution to the fish habitat and watershed conservation movement. Leighton dedicated most of his life to promoting and winning financial support for his vision, which can be seen in the legacy of his innovative check dam construction throughout the Emigrant Basin.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

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Fred Leighton, who died on June 19, 1979, was highly regarded among California conservation and sporting circles; particularly during the 1930s through the 1950s. Leighton pioneered the concept of building small "check" dams at the drainage points of small high country lakes. All of the dams built by Leighton are unobtrusive and ensure annual stream flow when streams would have normally dried up during fall months. For nearly 57 years, Leighton used the camp he called Yellowhammer as a base for promoting, building, and servicing check dams throughout the Emigrant Basin. The camp has also been used by the Stanislaus National Forest and the California Department of Fish & Game as a base from which to inspect and maintain the dams.

Leighton was first introduced to the Emigrant Basin as early as the summer of 1896 when, alongside his uncle Alvah Shaw, he drove cattle through the area. In 1897, Leighton spent another summer driving cattle from the Sonora area into the Emigrant Basin for Dave Rosasco. During these excursions, Leighton noticed the lack of fish in Emigrant Basin streams and made some of the first recorded attempts to stock fish in streams that typically only flowed with runoff in spring and early summer. Leighton hoped that trout would "congregate in the few larger holes for survival during the year when the stream completely dried up."¹ According to a long-time friend and fishing partner, Andy Weaver, Leighton first envisioned the check dam concept in 1903 at the age of 18 to maintain stream flow through dry fall months.² Later, the construction of check dams in the Emigrant Basin provided the solution to Leighton's desire for fish habitat conservation and natural water flow regulation. Furthermore, during his stays at Rosasco's old camp, which was appropriately referred to as Rosasco Camp, Leighton found the location where he would construct the Yellowhammer Camp more than twenty years later for use as a base for construction and maintenance of check dams throughout the Emigrant Basin.³

Fred Leighton was born in Arcata, California on January 23, 1885 to John S. Leighton and Lizzie Shaw Leighton. When Fred was three or four years old, his parents moved the family to the Haslam Ranch near Columbia, California. Fred's father John, who leased the Haslam Ranch from the late 1880s to the late 1890s, made a living by logging the property and using six and eight-horse teams to haul hand-hewn timbers to mines in the area. He also broke colts for Dave Rosasco and drove cattle to summer pastures near Dodge Ridge. While the Leightons lived at the ranch, Fred was one of twelve children at a one-room school located on Big Hill, around five miles from his home. Fred continued to attend the one-room school until his father and uncle, Alvah Shaw, purchased a ranch from Dave Rosasco in the vicinity of Bald Mountain and near the Phoenix Power House. John Leighton continued in the cattle business, but also labored in the Bellevue and Jumper Mines. While employed at the Jumper Mine, John sold his interests in the old Rosasco ranch and moved his family to Stent, California where the mine was located. While in Stent, at the age of thirteen, Fred was enrolled at the two-room Poverty Hill School. In an interview, Fred Leighton recalled his youth stating, "We learned how to raise vegetables and milk cows. We didn't have much money in those days. We only had

¹ Steve D. Bowman, *Leighton's High Sierra Check Dam Legacy: A Photographic Journal* (Bloomington: Xlibris Corporation), 6.

² Pamela A. Connors, National Register of Historic Places Nomination for Yellowhammer Camp and Three Check Dams," (Sonora: Stanislaus National Forest, 1982) 3.

³Bowman, 6.

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to buy sugar and a little meat. When it was good weather, you went out and worked. For me, I always had to work outdoors. On winter nights I stayed in the house and did schoolwork."⁴

After graduating from Poverty Hill School in 1900, Fred Leighton, at the age of fifteen, began working at the Jumper Mine as a mill car driver. During his ten hour work day at the mine, Leighton made a daily wage of \$2.25. His duties typically included guiding cars to a 60-stamp mill at a distance of around 400 yards down a gentle slope and pushing the empty cars back up the slope. While living at home during his employment at the Jumper Mine, Leighton often reflected on the strenuous labor at the mine and decided to save enough money to further his education. In 1903, Leighton pursued this goal and moved to San Francisco where he boarded with the Baker family. The Bakers were friends with the Leightons while the family lived in Stent and moved to San Francisco so their children could benefit from the city's educational opportunities. Leighton, along with two of the Baker's boys, enrolled at Heald's Business College where he studied penmanship, spelling, and bookkeeping.⁵

By 1909, Leighton was married to Edna Hales of Sonora, which is where the couple eventually settled in 1914 after Leighton completed additional schooling in San Francisco. While in Sonora, Leighton worked for Union Construction Company during the company's construction of a powerhouse and relief dam high in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. In September 1917, Leighton and his wife returned to the Emigrant Basin and packed in along the North Fork of Cherry Creek. Again, Leighton noted the lack of water flow in streams during the late summer. Specifically, Leighton noticed a small naturally made check dam in Hayatt Lake that discharged water flow through a small natural opening in a rock. Downstream, in Cherry Creek, water was stored throughout the late summer and early fall in small pools that provided ideal fish habitat. Such observations sparked Leighton's interest in regulating flow levels in streams to maintaining fish habitat and drove him to carry out a check dam construction program that lasted for nearly forty years.⁶

As the first step in Leighton's long career of constructing and annually maintaining check dams within the Emigrant Basin, he and Bill Burnham applied for a permit with the Stanislaus National Forest to set up a camp site and horse range at the location of Rosasco's old camp. Leighton named his new camp Yellowhammer Camp and utilized it nearly every summer between the 1920s and late-1950s as a base for his many forays into the Emigrant Basin.⁷

The first check dam was constructed by Fred Leighton and Bill Burnham in 1920 on an outlet of a then unnamed lake that Leighton had been stocking with fish since 1919. Leighton later named the lake Yellowhammer Lake. The early dam was responsible for raising the lake level a few feet, but Leighton and Burnham set their sights on creating a self-sufficient fishery. With the construction of another check dam at 50 Acre Lake, now named Leighton Lake, stream flow was created above Yellowhammer Lake and fish spawning grounds increased, resulting in the development of a self-sufficient fishery between the two lakes. Although this initial construction experiment was only intended to create a self-sufficient fishery at Yellowhammer Lake, it served as the foundation for the construction of fifteen additional rock and mortar check dams throughout

⁴ Sharon Marovich, "Fred William Leighton," *Tuolumne County Historical Association's CHISPA*, January – March 1977, 553.

⁵ Marovich, 553

⁶ Ibid, 555

⁷ Bowman, 6-7.

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the Emigrant Basin between 1931 and 1951. Also, as the initial check dams were built by two men with largely natural materials, the initial construction project demonstrated that check dams could be constructed with relatively limited labor and materials.⁸

By the 1920s and 30s, conservation of natural resources in California was an important social and political issue due to the state's rapid population increase and subsequent environmental impacts during the first decades of the century. Along with timber and rangeland conservation, watershed and fish and game conservation were important issues among Californians – especially within the newly renamed Region 5 of the US Forest Service (USFS). According to USFS historian Anthony Godfrey, water on Forest Service land in California provided water to a population of more than three million people in 1931, supported an irrigation supply to three million of the state's five million acres of irrigated land, and generated 72 percent of the state's total electricity through hydroelectric plants. Additionally, in efforts to conserve fish and game populations in an era of increased hunting and fishing, forest officers in Region 5 worked to regulate over-hunting and also maintained fish populations through planting fry in national forest waters (totalling an estimated 4.6 million fry in 1930).⁹ Although Fred Leighton's conservation projects were on a smaller scale than the cumulative efforts of Region 5, his check dam idea was born out of the same conservation ethic that permeated the agency and the state, during the 1920s and 30s. Due to such a prominent emphasis on conservation, Leighton's grass-roots organizing efforts secured funding and support from various private and public organizations for continuing his check dam construction program throughout the Emigrant Basin.

After his initial stream flow maintenance experiment on Yellowhammer and Leighton Lakes proved successful, Leighton went on a promotional campaign to gain support for building a series of dams on the small lakes that comprise the headwaters of Cherry Creek in the Emigrant Basin. In 1930, Leighton, along with Stanislaus National Forest Supervisor J.R. Hall and A.E. Burgduff, an official of the California Division of Fish and Game, set off from Yellowhammer Camp to survey the area for feasibility of habitat conservation through regulation of seasonal water flows. The resulting report was favorable and subsequently used to garner enthusiasm and financial support for future check dam construction projects on Long, Bigelow, Emigrant Meadow, Lower Buck, and Emigrant Lakes.¹⁰

With financing from Tuolumne County, the City and County of San Francisco, and the State Division of Fish and Game, in addition to labor and materials contributed by captivated individuals, five dams were built. Leighton also met with the California Chamber of Commerce, various sporting organizations, and enlisted M.M. O'Shaughnessey, the City of San Francisco lead engineer who led construction of Hetch Hetchy Reservoir seven years earlier. These dams, constructed in 1931 and 1932, were hailed by Burgduff in his 1933 testimonial *Cherry Creek Development Paper* as an "outstanding conservation achievement."¹¹ Prior to construction, Leighton secured \$1,000 contributions from each of the involved groups, including the California Fish and Game, the City and County of San Francisco, and Tuolumne County. Camp equipment and

⁸ Bowman, 7.

⁹ Anthony Godfrey, *The Ever-Changing View: A History of the National Forests in California* (Washington D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2005), 227-228.

¹⁰ Bowman, 16

¹¹ P.R. Needham, "A Brief Report of Observations Made on Trip to Cherry Creek Stream Improvement Project, September 20th-24th, 1933." On file at the Stanislaus National Forest Supervisor's Office.

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transportation was provided by Stanislaus National Forest, Pacific Gas & Electric Company donated cables and pipe, Hales and Symons Lumber donated various materials, numerous other individuals and entities donated what amounted to \$1,619 in tools and supplies, and Leighton donated his time to act as foreman of the construction program. With two crews of seven men each – all members of the Tuolumne County Fish and Game organization – construction of the five check dams was completed by October 4, 1931.¹²

Continuing with their successful conservation lobbying efforts, Leighton and his team had constructed eleven check dams throughout the Emigrant Basin by 1934, which were responsible for improving the flow of 92 miles of streams. Beginning in 1932, Leighton organized annual inspection trips into the Emigrant Basin with a team of prominent officials from various agencies and organizations to inspect the effectiveness of existing check dams and determine locations for future dam construction. The members of the inspection party overwhelmingly approved of the check dam idea after viewing streams flowing out of check dams that were identified as important fish habitats and spawning areas. After a 1933 inspection trip, prominent fisheries biologist Dr. P.H. Needham observed that the stream flowing out of the check dam built in 1930 below Lower Buck Lake contained many trout ranging from three to twelve inches long, while the stream below Upper Buck Lake that was not regulated by a check dam had largely dried up and hundreds of potential trout were in the process of being destroyed by low water. Additionally, Needham pointed out that check dams paid for themselves in the amount of fish and food organisms saved.¹³ After overwhelming praise following the successful inspection trips in 1932 and 1933, Leighton procured \$10,000 from Regional Forester Glen Show for continuation of stream flow maintenance activities.¹⁴

In 1933 and 1934 Leighton took advantage of available Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) labor for additional dam construction. With the establishment of two CCC sub-camps of 10 to 20 men each, check dams at Bear Lake, Y-Meadow, Horse Meadow, Cow Meadow, Huckleberry Lake, and Snow Lake were built by the CCC under the direction of the Stanislaus National Forest.¹⁵ By the mid-1930s, all ideal sites for check dams in the Emigrant Basin had already been constructed and the dams constructed by the CCC marked the last major construction period for check dam construction in the Emigrant Basin. Because the project proved successful, Leighton garnered continued support from the Forest Service, as well as local conservation and sporting organizations, to make annual check dam inspection and maintenance trips throughout the following decades.¹⁶

Utilizing Yellowhammer Camp as a base of operations, a notable inspection trip was organized in 1947 by Allen Miller, Stanislaus National Forest Supervisor, and Leighton who was by that time the head of the Stream Flow Maintenance Committee of the California State Chamber of Commerce. Consisting of members of agencies and organizations that originally provided the majority of funding and support for the check dam construction projects – including the California Division of Fish & Game, Pacific Gas & Electric, California State Automobile Association, Associated Sportsmen of California, US Forest Service, and the Tuolumne County Chamber of Commerce – the group of twenty-four riders and twelve pack animals was, at that time,

¹² Bowman, 17

¹³ Bowman, 43; Needham, 1

¹⁴ Bowman, 43

¹⁵ Bowman, 44

¹⁶ Bowman, 44; Fred Leighton, "Letter to Stanislaus National Forest, April 27, 1978," 2. On File at Stanislaus National Forest Supervisor's Office.

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the largest to enter the Emigrant Basin. The driest season since 1920, the inspection party found ideal conditions to observe the efficiency of the check dams. The party visited all sixteen check dams over the course of four days and was overwhelmingly impressed with the healthy fish population in streams that would have been dry before the dams were built. In the official report from the trip, the group commented that "a proven practical method of stream development and water conservation applicable to California conditions has been established."¹⁷ Following subsequent successful inspection trips, the California Chamber of Commerce recognized Leighton in an official resolution for his check dam idea and commitment to conservation in California. Leighton received more accolade for his check dam work when in 1964 the California Department of Fish & Game selected Yellowhammer Camp for the Governor's Inspection Trip. Due to an ankle injury sustained just prior to the trip, Governor Edmund G. Brown was unable to attend. However, a full contingent of his staff and reporters inspected the check dams and stayed at Yellowhammer Camp as guests of Leighton and his wife. Following the favorable reports resulting from the governor's staff inspection, the tour signified official and statewide recognition of Leighton's check dam idea.¹⁸

The California Department of Fish & Game, in collaboration with the Stanislaus National Forest, constructed two more check dams on Middle Emigrant Lake and High Emigrant Lake in 1951. These were the last two dams constructed in the Emigrant Basin, which brought the total number to eighteen. Beginning in 1952 and lasting until the early 1970s, maintenance of check dams officially changed hands when the California Department of Game and Fish and Division of Safety of Dams assumed responsibility, rather than Leighton himself. The Department of Fish & Game continued to use Yellowhammer Camp as a base of operations and the construction of the New Cabin in 1958, under Leighton's direction, provided additional accommodations for field crews. Inspection and maintenance trips continued until the mid-1970s when the Emigrant Basin was designated as a wilderness area under the Wilderness Act of 1968. Since around 1975 – and especially after his death in 1979 when his special use permit for Yellowhammer Camp site expired – the approach to managing Leighton's check dams and camp has been precarious, and at times controversial, as the buildings and structures now exist within a wilderness area.¹⁹

¹⁷ Bowman, 72

¹⁸ Bowman, 73; Connors, 3-4.

¹⁹ Bowman, 82-83; Fred Leighton, "Letter to Stanislaus National Forest District Ranger Frank J. Waldo 1977," 3. On File at Stanislaus National Forest Supervisor's Office.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Bowman, Steve D. *Leighton's High Sierra Check Dam Legacy: A Photographic Journal*. Bloomington: Xlibris Corporation, 2006.

Connors, Pamela A. National Register of Historic Places Nomination for Yellowhammer Camp and Three Check Dams." Sonora: Stanislaus National Forest, 1982.

Godfrey, Anthony. *The Ever-Changing View: A History of the National Forests in California*. Washington D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2005.

Leighton, Fred. "Letter to Stanislaus National Forest District Ranger Frank J. Waldo 1977." On File at Stanislaus National Forest Supervisor's Office.

Leighton, Fred. "Letter to Stanislaus National Forest, April 27, 1978." On File at Stanislaus National Forest Supervisor's Office.

Marovich, Sharon. "Fred William Leighton." *Tuolumne County Historical Association's CHISPA*. January - March, 1977.

Needham, P.R. "A Brief Report of Observations Made on Trip to Cherry Creek Stream Improvement Project, September 20th-24th, 1933." On file at Stanislaus National Forest Supervisor's Office.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: Stanislaus National Forest

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

Yellowhammer Camp
Name of Property

Tuolumne, CA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property Approx. 2 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>11</u>	<u>256470</u>	<u>4223250</u>	3	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	4	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

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

The northern boundary is defined by a small drainage channel adjacent to the remnants of the buckhouse and the extant New Cabin. The western boundary is comprised of the steep granite wall of the basin. A fence line connecting the basin wall to the meadow edge comprises the southern boundary. The eastern boundary is the meadow itself.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

Boundaries were selected based on the property owned by the USFS that was leased to Fred Leighton during the camp's period of significance. Additionally, the boundaries are aligned with distinct landscape elements.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Prepared by Josh Weinberg/ Architectural Historian; (Project Contact: John Ferguson)
organization Heritage Stewardship Group date
street & number 1001 SW Emkay Dr. telephone 970-290-2104
city or town Bend state OR zip code 97702
e-mail jferguson@fs.fed.us

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Yellowhammer Camp
Name of Property

Tuolumne, CA
County and State

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: Yellowhammer Camp

City or Vicinity: Pinecrest

County: Tuolumne State: CA

Photographer: Stanislaus National Forest Staff

Date Photographed: 2008

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- 1 of 20. Close-up of sign on primary elevation Old Cabin.
- 2 of 20. Old Cabin; Contributing. Northeastern elevation.
- 3 of 20. Old Cabin; Contributing. Southwest elevation.
- 4 of 20. New Cabin; Contributing. Southeastern elevation.
- 5 of 20. New Cabin; Contributing. Northeastern elevation.
- 6 of 20. New Cabin; Contributing. Western elevation.
- 7 of 20. Barn; Contributing. Southwestern elevation.
- 8 of 20. Barn; Contributing. Southeastern elevation.
- 9 of 20. Cookhouse; Contributing. Northeastern elevation.
- 10 of 20. New Cabin and Cookhouse; Contributing. Western elevation.
- 11 of 20. Outhouse; Contributing. Northeastern elevation.
- 12 of 20. Outhouse; Contributing. Northern elevation.
- 13 of 20. Showerhouse; Contributing. Southern elevation.
- 14 of 20. Ranger Showerhouse; Contributing. Eastern elevation.
- 15 of 20. Barn and Corral; Contributing. Eastern elevation.
- 16 of 20. Washtable and pump; Contributing. Northwestern elevation.
- 17 of 20. Worktable; Contributing. Western elevation.
- 18 of 20. Log carrier; Contributing. Close-up.
- 19 of 22. Buckhouse roof; Non-contributing. Southern elevation.
- 20 of 20. Buckhouse roof; Non-contributing. Eastern elevation.

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

name Stanislaus National Forest
street & number 19777 Greenley Road telephone (209) 532-3671
city or town Sonora state CA zip code 95370

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Yellowhammer Camp

Name of Property

Tuolumne County, California

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 1

List of Figures

Figure 1: Yellowhammer Camp, Tuolumne County, CA: Contributing Resources Sketch Map

Figure 2: Yellowhammer Camp, Tuolumne County, CA: Vicinity Map

Figure 3: Yellowhammer Camp, Tuolumne County, CA: Vicinity Map

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Yellowhammer Camp

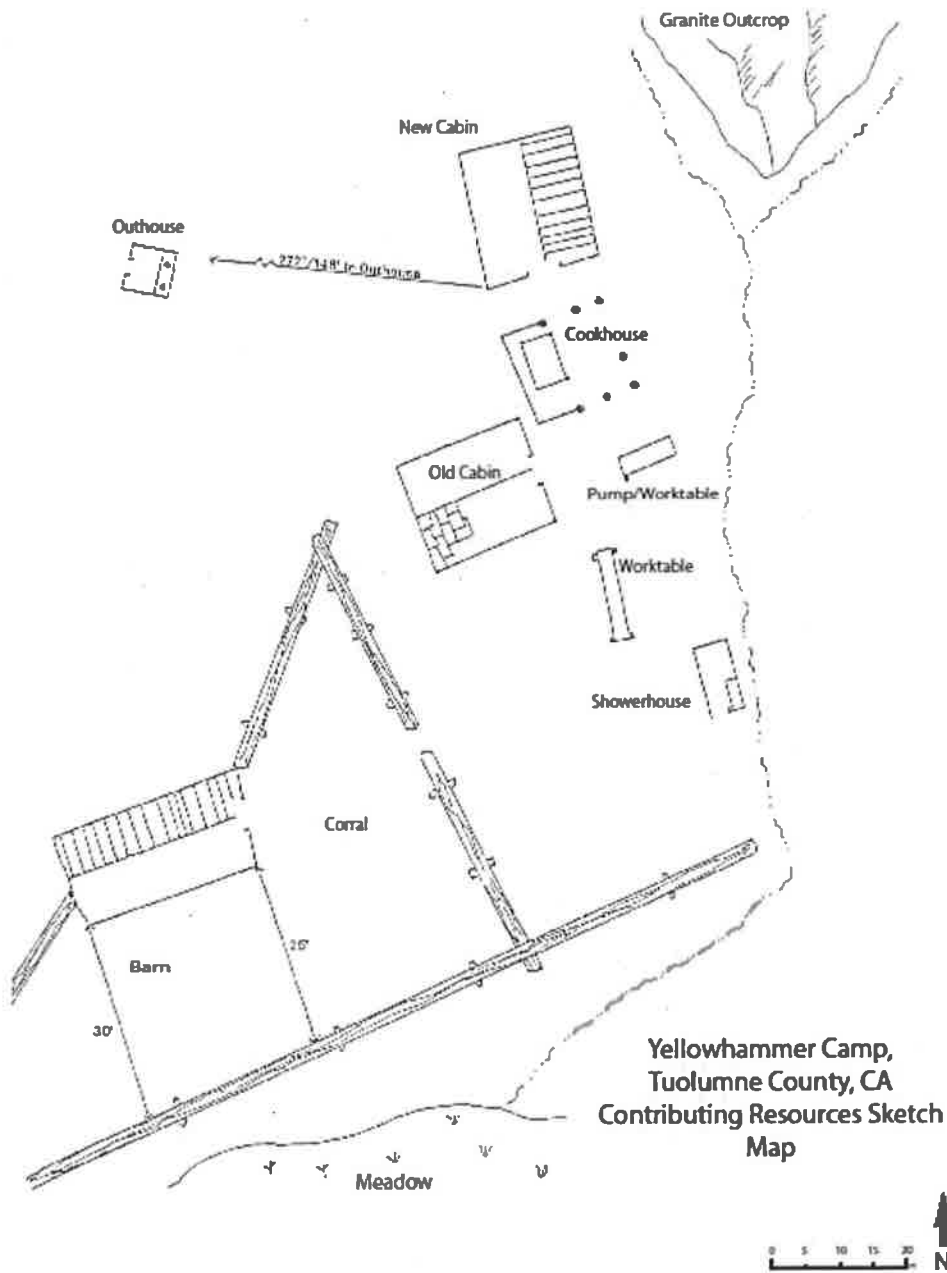
Name of Property
Tuolumne County, California
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 2

Figure 1:



Yellowhammer Camp,
Tuolumne County, CA
Contributing Resources Sketch
Map

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Yellowhammer Camp

Name of Property

Tuolumne County, California

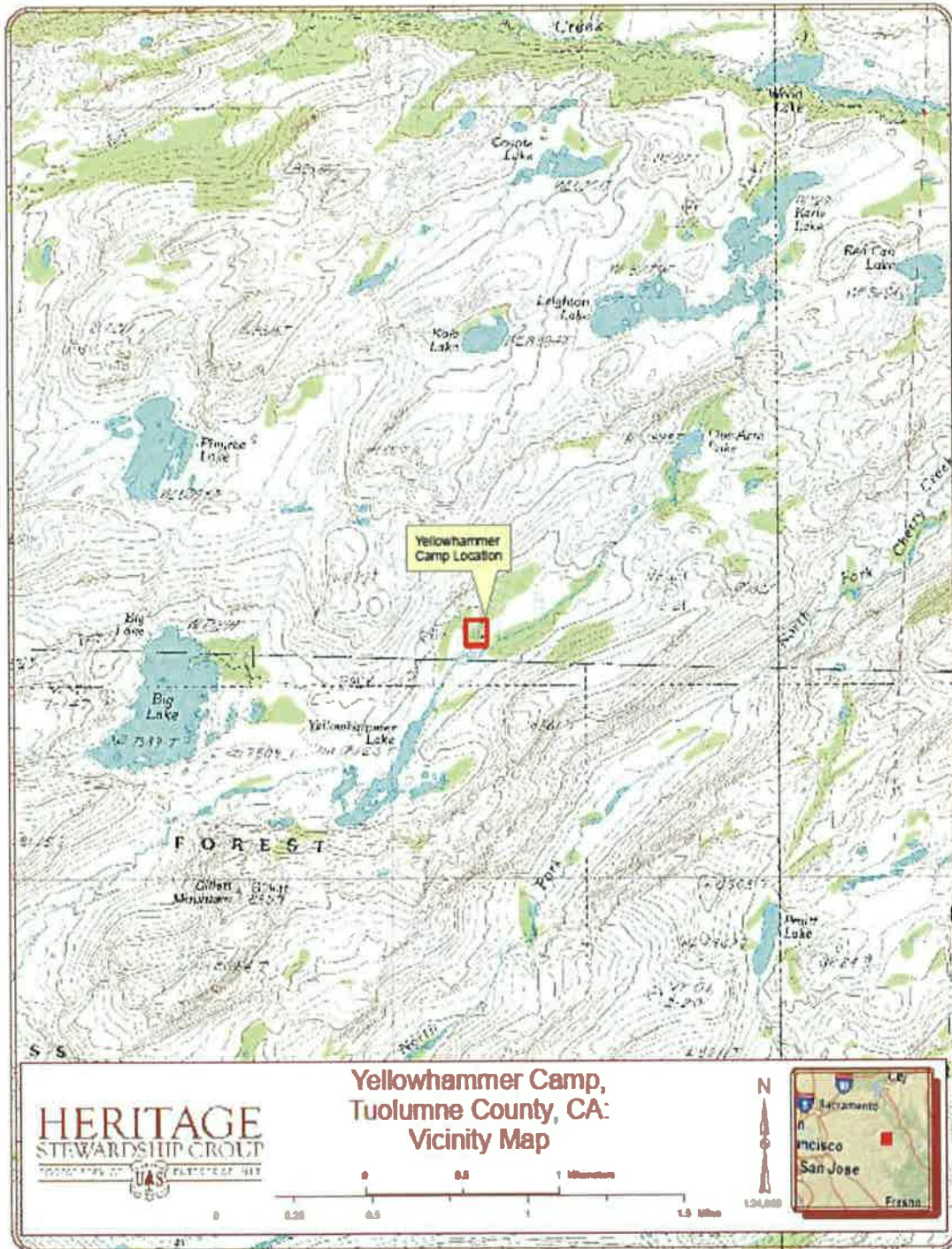
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 3

Figure 2:



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Yellowhammer Camp

Name of Property

Tuolumne County, California

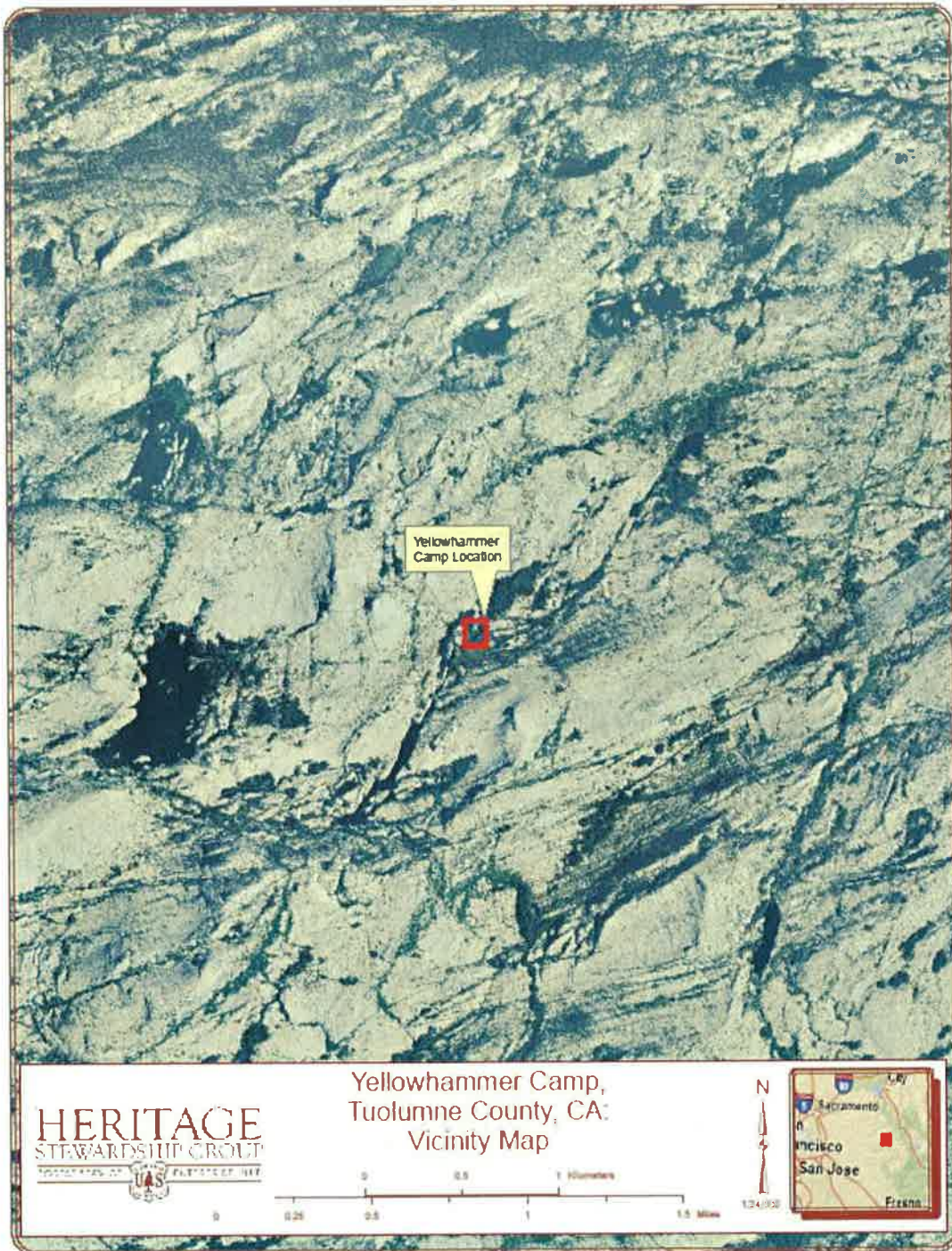
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 4

Figure 3:





1 of 20. Close-up of sign on primary elevation Old Cabin.



2 of 20. Old Cabin; Contributing. Northeastern elevation.



3 of 20. Old Cabin; Contributing. Southwest elevation.



4 of 20. New Cabin; Contributing. Southeastern elevation.



5 of 20. New Cabin; Contributing. Northeastern elevation.



6 of 20. New Cabin; Contributing. Western elevation.



7 of 20. Barn; Contributing. Southwestern elevation.



8 of 20. Barn; Contributing. Southeastern elevation.



9 of 20. Cookhouse; Contributing. Northeastern elevation.



10 of 20. New Cabin and Cookhouse; Contributing. Western elevation.



11 of 20. Outhouse; Contributing. Northeastern elevation.



12 of 20. Outhouse; Contributing. Northern elevation.



13 of 20. Showerhouse; Contributing. Southern elevation.



14 of 20. Ranger Showerhouse; Contributing. Eastern elevation.



15 of 20. Barn and Corral; Contributing. Eastern elevation.



16 of 20. Washtable and pump; Contributing. Northwestern elevation.



17 of 20. Worktable; Contributing. Western elevation.



18 of 20. Log carrier; Contributing. Close-up.



19 of 22. Bunkhouse roof; Non-contributing. Southern elevation.



20 of 20. Bunkhouse roof; Non-contributing. Eastern elevation.



Produced by the United States Geological Survey 1990
Revision by USDA Forest Service 2001

Topography compiled 1984-85. Planimetry derived from imagery taken 1998 and other sources. Public Land Survey System and survey control current as of 2003. Boundaries current as of 2003.

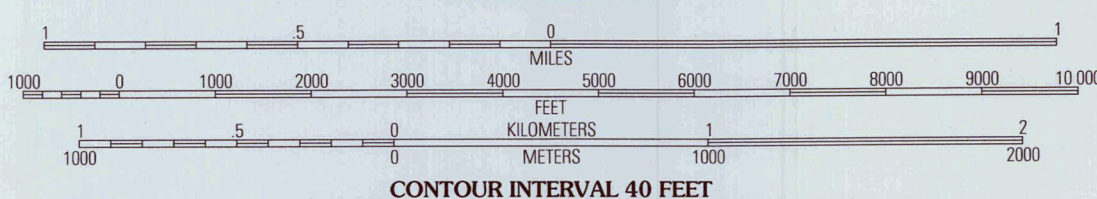
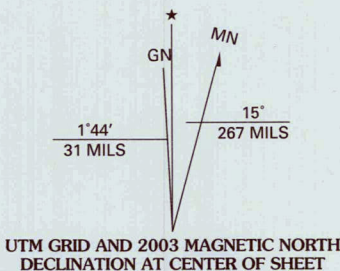
North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27). Projection and 10 000-foot ticks: California coordinate system, zone 3 (Lambert conformal conic). Blue 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator ticks, zone 11.

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.

Non-National Forest System lands within the National Forest. Inholdings may exist in other National or State reservations.

This map is not a legal document. Public lands are subject to change and leasing, and may have access restrictions; check with appropriate offices. Obtain permission before entering private lands.

Unsurveyed land net is not official.



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

Table with 8 columns and 2 rows showing grid coordinates for the quadrangle.

- 1 Donnell Lake
2 Dardanelle
3 Sonora Pass
4 Pinewest
5 Emigrant Lake
6 Cherry Lake North
7 Kibbie Lake
8 Hill Mountain

ADJOINING 7.5' QUADRANGLES

- Interstate
U. S.
State
County
National Forest, suitable for passenger cars
National Forest, suitable for high clearance vehicles
National Forest Trail
Primary highway
Secondary highway
Light-duty road
Composition: Unspecified
Paved
Gravel
Dirt
Unimproved; 4 wheel drive
Trail
Gate; Barrier

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225

CAMP
YELLOWHAMMER
EST. 1922
FRED LEIGHTON
AND
BILL BURNHAM
SONORA, CALIF.

WARRIOR
4215

EMMA

4215
SANCHA
415

415
witness

SKUNKED
JESICA MAIESPIN
John Roach, Jr.
7776 7574-95
Jake the Mountain Man
Harold Jacobs
"Bety Damos"
73-74-75-76-78-81
COWBOY POWER
SHERM SIBLEY
DESICCATED SYMONS
Joanne + KENT LUSIGNANT
George Richardson
Bob Lewis John
8-3-12-72 Richardson
BILL GREEN
STEVE WALTER
SEPT 3 1966
ANY ETIENNE-AGE 12-YELLOWHAMMER-JULY 29-30, 1977
1ST TRIP
CHRIS HOLMAN
ZIN
ACE WARD
TRUCE LYNN DEEIERRE



SAY
YELLON HAMMER
FRED L. SHAMMER

LEE
PARRIS
AND
JUNIOR
SHAMMER

YOSHII

JULY





PLEASE
DO NOT
TALK
OR
VANDALIZE

Property of
THE UNITED STATES

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PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE





























UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Leighton Encampment
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: CALIFORNIA, Tuolumne

DATE RECEIVED: 2/22/13 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 3/21/13
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 4/05/13 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/10/13
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13000142

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: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 4.9.13 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS: **Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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.

**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
SACRAMENTO, CA 95816-7100
(916) 445-7000 Fax: (916) 445-7053
calshpo@parks.ca.gov
www.ohp.parks.ca.gov



January 17, 2013

Greg Greenaway
USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region
1323 Club Drive
Vallejo, CA 94592

RE: Leighton Encampment Nomination for the National Register of Historic Places

Dear Mr. Greenaway:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) nomination for Leighton Encampment. I concur that the properties identified and evaluated in the nomination are eligible for listing in the National Register. The nomination clearly associates the property with the historic contexts of conservation in California (Criterion A) and the role played by Fred Leighton (Criterion B.)

I have signed the application as commenting authority. If you have any questions, please contact William Burg of my staff at (916) 445-7004 or wburg@parks.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carol Roland-Nawi".

Carol Roland-Nawi, Ph.D.
State Historic Preservation Officer



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Pacific
Southwest
Region

Regional Office, R5
1323 Club Drive
Vallejo, CA 94592
(707) 562-8737 Voice
(707) 562-9240 Text (TDD)

File Code: 2360

Date: FEB 06 2013

FEB 22 2013

HISTORIC PLACES
SERVICE

Paul Loether, Chief
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1849 C Street, NW (2280)
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Loether:

The Forest Service is pleased to submit the Leighton Encampment nomination for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The Leighton Encampment is located in the Emigrant Wilderness on the Stanislaus National Forest in Tuolumne County, California. The Leighton Encampment is also known as Yellowhammer Camp (CA-Tuo-4021H).

The Leighton Encampment is eligible for inclusion on the NRHP under criterion A (conservation) and criterion B (association with Fred Leighton). Its period of significance is 1922 – 1958.

Enclosed are NRHP registration forms, site or feature sketch maps, site location map on an original 7.5-minute topographic sheet, color photographs, digital copies of photographs and the nomination forms (cd), and a copy of a letter supporting the nomination from the California State Historic Preservation Officer.

If you have any questions about our nomination, please contact me at (707) 562-8854, or ggreenway@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

GREG GREENWAY
Regional Heritage Program Manager
Enclosures

