

FEDERAL

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only received FEB 16 1982 date entered MAR 18 1982

1. Name

historic Rocky Mountain National Park Utility Area Historic District

and/or common Beaver Meadows Maintenance Area

2. Location

street & number Rocky Mountain National Park Beaver Meadows Entrance Rd. not for publication

city, town Estes Park vicinity of congressional district

state Colorado code 08 county Larimer code 069

3. Classification

Table with 4 columns: Category, Ownership, Status, Present Use. Includes options like district, public, occupied, agriculture, museum, etc.

4. Owner of Property

name National Park Service, Rocky Mountain Office

street & number 655 Parfet Street

city, town Denver vicinity of state Colorado 80225

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Subject site within boundaries of Rocky Mountain National Park, created from public lands by Act of Congress of January 26, 1915

city, town state Colorado

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title List of Classified Structures Inven has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1976 federal state county local

depository for survey records National Park Service, Rocky Mountain Regional Office

city, town Denver state Colorado

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Fourteen major buildings of similar architectural character and scale comprise the Rocky Mountain National Park Utility Area Historic District. Planned around a maintenance yard, which is open at the southwest end, the one-story buildings, except the concrete Machine Shop in the center of the complex, are uniformly of half-log, frame construction enclosed with vertical planks having, in several examples, interior batts over the joints. Typically, vertical logs form bays connected with quarter section sill logs, sill and header logs at the openings, and diagonal brace logs within the corner bays. Foundations, porches, stoops, steps, loading docks, and ramps are concrete, poured in place. Stained dark brown, the structures have timber framed service door openings typically hung with vertical board doors with batten panels. Board and batten entrance doors are generally hung within half-log bays. Light green painted muntined sash, single and variously grouped with mullions, fill the window openings.

Wood shingle roofs, with intervals of double shingled courses and stained green have extended rear eaves providing a "salt box" roof configuration. The roof structures typically are supported on log rafters, flattened on the upper surface, log ridge poles and wall plates. The log purlins supporting rear roof slope extensions are carried on log columns with diagonal bracing and are generally exposed in the unfinished interiors. Gravel and bituminous floors are common. In plan, the long rectangular shed structures typically have enclosed end bays, flanking the timber framed stall openings.

The northeast end of the quadrangle has three metal corrugated buildings with Bldg. #136-storage shed - built in 1949. The buildings are not architecturally significant but together with two recently constructed YCC buildings of compatible design to the historic scene they infill and define the maintenance quadrangle.

Concerning the maintenance buildings herein specifically cited for inclusion in the historic district:

- Building #24-Mess Hall-Dormitory ("The Annex"). Approximately 27' x 190', cook's Kitchen adjoined to dining room with gabled pantry addition, lounge, toilet room, shower room and bedroom in bunkhouse wing, rear two bedroom/bath suite behind lounge; no diagonal corner bracing, standard gabled roof form used as administration building annex prior to 1965; currently used for storage, meeting rooms, and seasonal housing. (Built 1938)
- Building #73-Equipment Storage Shed. Approximately 30' x 90', nine stalls, diagonal bracing of gable and purlins (Built 1939).
- Building #74-Storage Shed. Approximately 22' x 90' six stalls, no diagonal bracing (Built 1927).
- Building #75-Equipment Storage Shed. Approximately 30' x 120', nine stalls, diagonal bracing of gabled end purlins (Built 1927; "Machine Shop," 1935; remodeled 1939, and 1954 with installation of wood floors over gravel in two stalls).
- Building #76-Equipment Storage Shed. Approximately 24' x 160', thirteen stalls (Built 1938). Enclosed at end.
- Building #77-Equipment Storage Shed. Approximately 24' x 102', enclosed room at one end, seven stalls (Built 1934, PWA projects).
- Building #78-Equipment Storage Shed. Approximately 24' x 102', seven stalls (Built 1934, PWA project). Firehouse-radio shop at end.
- Building #79-Warehouse. Approximately 27' x 120', 1-1/2 stories, standard gabled roof, no diagonal bracing, loading dock, two storage rooms, attic storage space,

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- office (Built 1923; c. 1935 PWA addition doubled length).
- Building #80—Storage Shed. Approximately 24' x 80', five stalls (Built 1930; remodeled 1933; converted in 1959 to Operations Center, service doors enclosed to match original construction and window openings, rear eaves raised over new entrance doorways, interior partitioned and finished for offices).
- Building #81—Machine Shop. Approximately 45' x 100', machine shop, auto repair shop, carpentry shop, paint shop; reinforced concrete; standard gabled roof (Built 1934-35, PWA project).
- Building #82—Blacksmith Shop. Approximately 20' x 30', standard gabled roof, now paint shop, entrance ramp (Built 1931; moved to present site and lengthened 1936).
- Building #83—Oil Storage Shed. Approximately 12' x 20', standard gabled roof, no diagonal bracing (Built 1925; moved c. 1934).
- Building #84—Fire Truck Shed. Approximately 16' x 27', standard gabled roof (Built 1929; "Fire House," 1935; rear addition 1948).
- Building #87—Fire Tool Cache Building. Approximately 17' x 32', standard gabled roof (Built 1929; moved 1938). Wood storage bin is on south end. Approximately 6' x 6'.
- Adjacent to and Southwest of the utility area and of similar architectural character are:
- Building #97—Barn. Approximately 32' x 60'; three stalls, storage room, tack room, grain storage room; standard gabled roof with diagonal gable end bracing (Built 1923).
- Building #98—Stable. Approximately 12' x 30', four-horse stable, two open bays (Built 1929; moved from Bear Lake 1938).

Residential Area "B"; located northeast of the Utility Area and connected to it by two service roads which form a semi-circular drive, includes six individual residences which typify early Park Service-built houses. Typically the one-story, gabled roof structures on concrete foundations are of log frame construction infilled with shingled panels, and stained dark brown. Open gabled roof porches are supported on log columns. Extending beyond the gable ends, the log wall plates and ridge poles support green painted wood shingled roofs having doubled fifth courses. Single, double, and triple mullioned window openings have six-light casement sash and plain board trim, painted light green.

Comprising this section of the historic district are:

- Residence #3. Approximately 25' x 30'; L-plan; one bedroom (Built 1927; remodeled 1939).
- Residence #4. Approximately 25' x 30'; L-plan; one bedroom (Built 1927; remodeled 1939).
- Residence #5. Approximately 30' x 40'; L-plan; two bedrooms (Built 1927; remodeled 1939).
- Residence #6. Approximately 25' x 30'; L-plan; one bedroom (Built 1927; remodeled 1939).
- Residence #7. Approximately 25' x 40'; 1-1/2 stories; rectangular plan; three bedrooms; wood frame, shingled, log corner detailing (Built 1926; remodeled 1934).
- Residence #8. Approximately 25' x 45'; 1-1/2 stories; rectangular plan; wood frame, shingles; timber purlins; enclosed porches (Built 1930, plan on file at Denver Service Center; remodeled 1939).

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Three two-car garages (approximately 20' x 30') were constructed in 1930 and are an integral part of this residential development. Typically, the gabled roof garages are of shingled frame construction with individual stalls flanking central coal and wood storage rooms.

Included in the Historic District is Building #456, Northeast of Residential Area "B" Rectangular shape. Approximately 18' x 47' wood frame structure on stone and concrete foundation; horizontal log pucheon siding, wood shingle roof, and single and double hung, multi-pane windows. Remodeled 1958, Painted GSA tan.

Residential area "A" located west of the Utility area and connected to it by the loop road included five individual residences which typify early Park Service built houses. Four of the five residences are one or one and half stories, gabled roofed, wood frame structures on masonry foundations are of wood frame horizontally wood siding stained brown. The shingled roofs have double fifth courses and the single, board trim, painted light green. The fifth residence, Bldg. Number 34, is located to the north of the other four residences previously described. The one story wood frame structure is on a concrete foundation with brown stained wood shingled exterior. The shingled roof has double fifth course and the single, double, and triple mullioned window openings have six light casement sash and plain board trim painted light green.

Comprising this section of the historical district are:

- Residence #34. Approximately 16' x 42'; modified T plan, two bedrooms with single car attached garage. (Built 1931.)
- Residence #45. Approximately 32' x 32'; L plan, three bedrooms with attached single car garage. (Built 1939.)
- Residence #46. Approximately 37' x 40'; T plan, two bedrooms with double car basement garage. (Built 1939.)
- Residence #47. Approximately 30' x 49'; rectangular plan, 1-1/2 stories; three bedrooms, with double car basement garage. (Built 1938.)
- Residence #48. Approximately 30' x 45'; rectangular plan 1-1/2 stories, three bedrooms, with double car basement garage. (Built 1939.)

Southwest and northwest of the Utility Area are CCC camp buildings which were converted into residences and dormitories in the 1940's. Park Service built "Mission 66" housing completes the residential area. The CCC houses are not architecturally significant, but they do represent the CCC influence in the park.

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Comprising this section of the historic district are:

- Dorm. #117-Bunkhouse. L plan; Approximately 100' x 80'. Five room frame structure with horizontal wood siding, four light casement windows and an asphalt rolled roof. (Built ? .)
- Bldg. #118-Seasonal Housing. Rectangular shape. Approximately 18' x 26'. One story, one bedroom frame structure with horizontal beveled wood siding, single and double mullioned window openings have six light casement sash and plain board trim. Wood shingled roof. Remodeled, 1959.
- Bldg. #119-Wash and Bath House. Rectangular shape. Approximately 22' x 30'. One story, three rooms, wood frame structure on concrete foundations with horizontal beveled wood siding. The shingled fourth course roof and single window opening with two light awning sash and plain board trim. (Built 1950.)
- Bldg. #122-Seasonal Housing. Rectangular shape. Approximately 20' x 33'. One story, two bedroom wood frame structure on concrete block foundation. The horizontal log puncheon siding, asphalt shingled roof; the triple mullioned window openings have six light casement sash and plain board trim. Remodeled in 1959.
- Bldg. #124-Seasonal Housing. Rectangular shape. Approximately 22' x 32'. One story, two bedroom frame construction on concrete block foundation; the exterior has vertical tongue and groove siding; wood shingled roof and double hung 1/1 light window opening with wood sash and plain board trim. Remodeled 1959.
- Bldg. #126-Seasonal Housing. Rectangular shape. Approximately 22' x 33'. One story, two bedroom frame structure on concrete block foundation; the exterior has beveled wood siding and wood shingles; a wood shingled roof and double hung 1/1 light window openings with wood sash and plain board trim. Remodeled 1959.
- Bldg. #128-Seasonal Housing. Rectangular shape. Approximately 22' x 34'. One story, two bedroom frame construction on concrete block foundation; wood shingle exterior and wood shingle roof; multipane sash windows, both awning and casement. Remodeled 1959.
- Buildings 118, 122, 124, and 126 were built ca. 1930.

Also to be included as a contributing building is the Beaver Meadows Visitor Center north of the Maintenance area. The building, completed in October, 1966, was designed by Taliesin Associated Architects, LTD. The "Wrightian" design visitor center, 216' x 32', is a lineal plan, extending from a 29' square auditorium utilizing diagonal masonry walls. The two level building is set into the slope of the land with a daylight lower level. The exterior is characterized by Cor-ten steel using cast-in place stone masonry. The eaves of the low pitched built-up composition roof extends beyond the wall creating a definite "Wrightian" style with its cantilevered balcony on the upper floor and with the floor plan rotated 45° from the axis. Steel frame sliding and fixed sash windows extend the length of the lineal section.

The lower floor contains the auditorium, a large entry and offices. The upper floor contains the upper part of the auditorium, a large lobby, and offices and work rooms flanking the approximately 150' long corridor.

The interior features a combination of red oak wood paneled walls and movable rose beige walls with connecting gold anodized aluminum strips. The floors are of poured-in-place terrazzo and have the original pink carpeting.

Wrightian style globes and shades are used on the street lamps in the parking area in

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front of the Visitor Center. Pink aggregate curbing is used in the front parking area.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1923-1966 **Bullder/Architect** National Park Service

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

As one of the best preserved utility areas of a western park, that of Rocky Mountain National Park typifies the concern for blending the structures with a natural environment. The half-log and plank buildings, begun in 1923 at the Beaver Meadows Entrance, eight years after the establishment of the park, were substantially completed during the 1920's under government work projects. Continued construction, including the concrete Machine Shop in 1934-35, and alterations extended the maintenance functions of the buildings while preserving the character of the district. Respecting the maintenance yard plan, other structures, moved or erected on the site, while not important to the district, illustrate the continuum of development sustaining an active Park Service maintenance area. Adjacent to the Utility Area, six small frame residences of the late 1920's characterize the earliest service-built houses in the park.

The concern for blending the structure with a natural environment continued with the building of Beavers Meadows Visitor Center in 1966. The use of Cor-ten and native stone on the "Wrightian" design building was a deliberate attempt to accomplish the blending of the structure with its environment.

Though information is scant concerning the structures built prior to 1933, which were dated from the Park Service maintenance files, the Report on the Building Program from the Allotment of the Public Works Administration, 1933-1937, dates several construction projects and indicates costs. Describing a "Log frame building, shingle roof" it was observed that two equipment sheds (Building #77 and #78) were constructed at a total cost of \$3,503.83. Additions to the Warehouse (Building #79) and "Mess House" (Building #24) each cost \$1,800.00. A photograph of the Mess Hall indicated a log frame connected to it in 1939. Drawings of this central gabled addition, which enclosed a lounge, are among the few drawings for log framed Rocky Mountain National Park Utility Area buildings on microfilm file at the National Park Service's Denver Service Center, Graphics Division.

The most significant listing in the 1933-37 volume is the Machine Shop (Building #81). Estimated to cost \$22,500.00, the "Reinforced concrete walls, steel frame, concrete floor, asbestos cement roof" cost \$27,554.00 as of July 5, 1934. Nine sheets of drawings for the structure are on file at the Denver Service Center. Of particular importance to the construction, besides the design of pilasters separating the eight-bay, side elevations, was the spacing of horizontal form boards to achieve surface texture above the water table: "13 spaces at 11-1/2" = 12'-5 1/2". The concrete, stylized classical cornice and the window sills (set with steel sash) were cast in place. Construction of the Machine Shop necessitated moving the Blacksmith Shop (Building #82), which was, according to the drawing dated 1936, set on a new concrete foundation completed with brick forge, and increased in length with the construction of a "Horse Shoeing" room.

UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

9. Major Bibliographical References

National Park Service, Denver Service Center, Graphics Division.
Report on the Building Program from the Allotment of the Public Works
Administration, 1933-1937. Western Division, National Park Service.
T. C. Vint and Edward A. Nickel (bound carbon copy with mounted photographs).

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property Approximately 109
Quadrangle name Longs Peak

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	1 13	4 5 12 7 18 0	4 1 4 6 8 2 18 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1 13	4 5 12 0 0 0	4 1 4 6 7 8 4 0
E			
G			

B	1 13	4 5 12 11 6 0	4 4 6 8 5 0 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	1 13	4 5 12 7 6 0	4 4 6 7 7 8 0
F			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

The east boundary, following the park boundary, extends north to the Headquarter's Area Loop Road. The north boundary follows the Headquarter's Area Loop Road to the northwest 2100 feet to Point B. The west boundary extends from Point B 2100 feet south just west

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 Rodd L. Wheaton Historical Architect Revised: Date November 16, 1981
 by Mary Shivers Culpin

organization National Park Service date August 22, 1975

street & number 655 Parfet telephone (303) 234-2764

city or town Denver state Colorado 80225

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

FEDERAL PRESERVATION OFFICER'S SIGNATURE:

J. P. [Signature]

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Arthur C. [Signature]*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date Jan. 19, 1982

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

William H. [Signature] date 3.18.82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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National Park Service**

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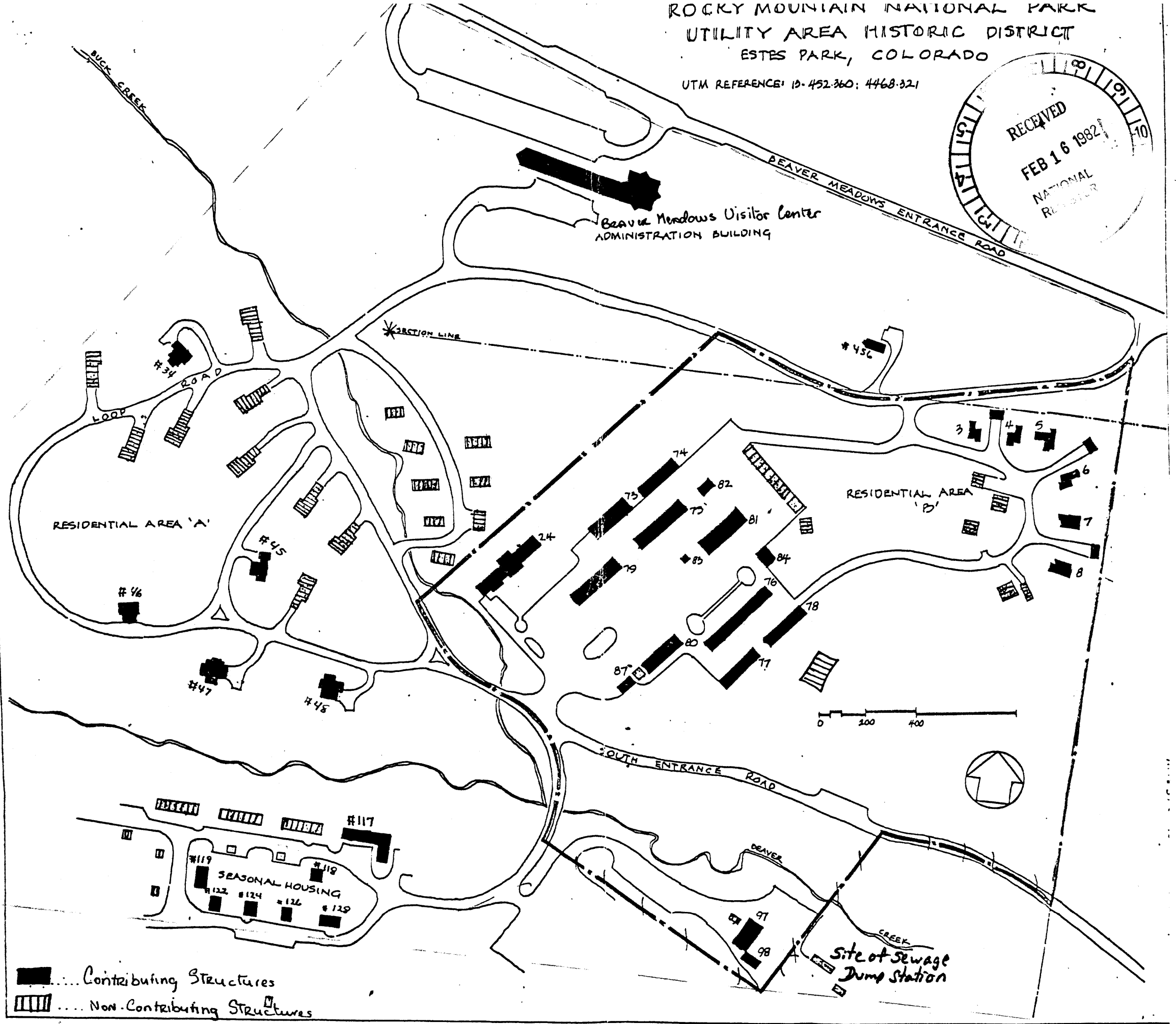
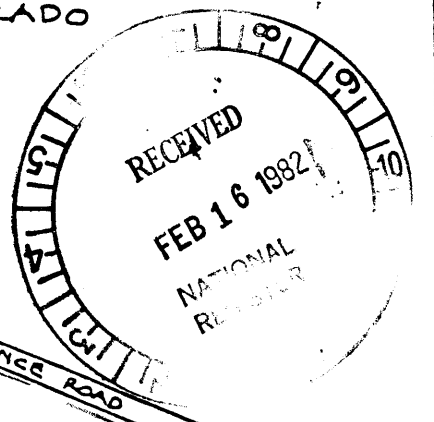
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of Residential Area A; the south boundary extends from Point C 600 feet eastwards to the county road then continues eastward following the county road 1900 feet to the park boundary (east). The east boundary follows the park boundary from Point D 1600 feet to Point A.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK
 UTILITY AREA HISTORIC DISTRICT
 ESTES PARK, COLORADO

UTM REFERENCE: 10-452360: 4468321



* Disregard the boundary drawn on this site plan.