NPS Form 10-900a OMB No. 1024-0018

(8-86)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section _____ Page ___

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 14000406 **Date Listed: 7/18/2014**

Buck Camp Patrol Cabin	Madera	CA
Property Name	County	State

Yosemite National Park MPS
Multiple Name

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

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

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Amended Items in Nomination:

Classification:
The name of the related multiple property listing should read: *Yosemite National Park MPS.*

Significance:
The Period of Significance is revised to read: *1931—1940.*
[The revised period not only recognizes the initial construction of the cabin, but also its early historic use as a significant component of the Park's snow survey program, reflecting significance under both Criteria A and C.]

The Significant Dates that postdate the revised period of significance (*1984, 1998, 2007*) are deleted.
[All significant dates must fall within the identified period of significance.]

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

These clarifications were confirmed with the NPS FPO office.

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

NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018 (Expires 5/31/2012)

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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 **Buck Camp Patrol Cabin**

other names/site number **Buck Camp Snow Survey Shelter, Buck Camp Ranger Station, Yosemite National Park Building No. BC4800**

2. Location

street & number **Jct. of Buck Creek and Buck Camp Trail, Yosemite National Park (YOSE)** ☐ not for publication

city or town **Yosemite National Park** ☒ vicinity

state **California** code **CA** county **Madera** code **039** zip code **95389**

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local

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

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

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

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

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

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action 7/18/14

5. Classification

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

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

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

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	2	buildings
		district
		site
	3	structure
		object
1	5	**Total**

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

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

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

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

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: National Park Service Rustic style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: WOOD – log/ STONE – granite rubble
walls: WOOD - log
roof: WOOD - shingles

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 Buck Camp Patrol Cabin is located along a former snow survey route in the far southern region of Yosemite National Park in California. The route stemmed from the Glacier Point Road to Moraine Meadows following the Buck Camp Trail corridor. The boundary area, approximately fifteen and a half acres, encompasses all contributing and non-contributing resources, including a fenced grazing area within a large distinguishable meadow. The patrol cabin and several secondary structures – such as a tack shed, small corral, privy, and spring encasement – are nestled amongst a subalpine forest on the northeastern edge of the meadow. The Buck Camp Patrol Cabin is a single-story, log frame building constructed in the National Park Service Rustic style. The rustic style and use of local materials serves to visually harmonize the building with the surrounding landscape. The building is rectangular in plan, measuring approximately 14' by 29', with a small exterior porch extending from the south elevation. The exterior walls consist of a vertical log post structural façade, which is supported by substantial log sills. The building has a moderately pitched roof clad in single-course, sugar pine shingles and a slightly unusual pier foundation comprised of granite boulders and log rounds. The interior space of the patrol cabin consists of a modest kitchen and single bedroom. The Buck Camp Patrol Cabin is in good condition and retains all seven aspects of historic integrity, as defined by the National Register of Historic Places.

Narrative Description

Setting

The Buck Camp Patrol Cabin was constructed in the far southern region of Yosemite National Park to serve as an outlying shelter cabin. The building was initially utilized by the Merced Irrigation District during winter snow surveys and the National Park Service during the summer months. The Buck Camp property is located midway between Johnson Lake and Givens Creek just south of the Buck Camp Trail. As discussed further in Section 8, the location for the patrol cabin was a collaborative decision by the two agencies. The property affords ample natural resources such as a year-round water supply, large meadow, and available timber. It is unclear when the winter use was discontinued; however, it is known that by the mid-1940s, the snow survey route from Glacier Point Road to Moraine Meadows was discontinued. The building has continuously been used as an outlying field post associated with natural resource management activities by Yosemite National Park since its initial construction and continues to be maintained as a historic resource.

Access to the remote property is limited to foot or stock traffic from trailheads located along Glacier Point Road, approximately fourteen and a quarter miles by trail to the north, or from Chiquito Pass Trailhead, approximately five and a half miles by trail to the southeast. While the patrol cabin was being utilized for snow surveys (1931 until the 1940s), employees of the Merced Irrigation District conducted "out-and-back" cross-country ski trips from Glacier Point Road to snow courses at Johnson Lake and Moraine Meadows by way of the Buck Camp Trail.

The patrol cabin sits on gently sloping terrain roughly 300 feet from the Buck Camp Trail corridor. At an elevation of 8,200 feet, vegetation immediately surrounding the building is a moderately dense forest of Lodgepole pine and red fir. A large linear meadow, spanning roughly fifteen to twenty acres, lies to the west of the patrol cabin.

A property boundary of 15.7 acres for the Buck Camp Patrol Cabin has been determined by Yosemite National Park's Branch of History, Architecture and Landscapes for purposes of this nomination. This area encompasses all contributing and non-contributing resources associated with the historic and current operation of the property.

Several secondary resources were erected within the property boundaries of the Buck Camp Patrol Cabin to service the needs of park rangers traveling with pack stock – such as a small wooden tack shed, corral, hitch rails, and fenced pasture. The wooden tack shed and corral are located approximately 100 feet to the west-northwest of the patrol cabin. Log pole hitch rails are located approximately fifty feet to the northwest of the patrol cabin. A twelve acre portion of the meadow, to the west, has been fenced to establish grazing pasture for stock animals. Other resources associated with the property include a wooden privy located roughly 150 feet to the northwest of the patrol cabin and a concrete spring encasement located roughly 220 feet to the west-northwest of the patrol cabin. These resources will be discussed further in the subsequent section "Non-contributing Resources".

Buck Camp Patrol Cabin

The Buck Camp Patrol Cabin was constructed in 1931to building specifications produced by John Wosky, a Regional Landscape Architect for the National Park Service and Field Architect for Yosemite National Park. The patrol cabin was designed in the National Park Service Rustic style, with special attention to architectural detailing reminiscent of past homestead cabins common to the Yosemite region – such as the use of local timber, a gable roof, and modest size. The patrol cabin is a single-story log frame building, rectangular in plan with a small porch extending from the south elevation. Exterior walls are constructed of peeled, vertical log posts supported by substantial log sills. The building is capped by a moderately pitched gable roof clad in single-course, sugar pine shingles. The interior space is comprised of a modest kitchen and single bedroom. As discussed further in Section 8, this building was constructed simultaneously with the rehabilitation of an existing logging cabin at Deer Camp to be utilized during snow surveys. The Deer Camp cabin has since been destroyed; however, the Buck Camp Patrol Cabin has been used by the National Park Service as an outlying shelter cabin continuously since 1931.

Exterior

The footprint for the Buck Camp Patrol Cabin is 14'6" by 29'2". The building has a slightly unusual pier foundation comprised of granite boulders and large log rounds, ranging in diameter from sixteen inches to twenty six inches. The robust structural log framework of the building rests directly atop log rounds perched on granite fieldstones, or in certain locations outcropping granite boulders. The log rounds have had to be repaired and replaced over time, due to the moist soil conditions surrounding the building. The rounds were last replaced in 1998 by the Yosemite Historic Preservation Crew during routine preservation maintenance. The crew replaced only those which threatened the structural integrity of the building and used in-kind materials. The height of the of foundation piers adjusts to the natural contour of the surrounding land as it gently slopes southeast. The piers increase in height from roughly a foot at the northwest corner of the building to two feet at the southeast corner. A detached retaining wall of local granite rubble wraps the northwest corner of the building. The retaining wall was built in 1984 by a crew of Youth Conservation Corps to mitigate soil erosion along the west and north elevations of the building. Stones are dry-laid in irregular courses and back filled with dirt.

The porch structure, approximately 4' by 9', extends from the south façade of the building. It is constructed of rough sawn dimensional lumber stringers, four inch by six inch, and two inch thick deckboards of varying widths. The northern stringer abuts the log sill of the patrol cabin and has been toe-nailed in place. The southern stringer is supported by large log round piers. A stair, comprised of two risers, has been carved from a single log

round and placed at the western end of the porch. The porch configuration has changed multiple times throughout the history of the patrol cabin. The first known photographic documentation of the patrol cabin dates to 1949 and shows a much smaller elevated porch constructed of peeled logs and dimensional lumber deckboards. By 1964, a haphazard porch of log rounds and plywood was in place. From photographic documentation, it appears that the porch currently in place was constructed in 1986. Although the existing porch is not original to the building, it does possess rustic character and is in keeping with the overall style of the patrol cabin and uses comparable materials.

The patrol cabin's exterior walls are built of a structural façade of vertical log posts supported by substantial log sills. The sill logs average twenty two inches in diameter and have been planed on top to provide a flat surface for the vertical log posts. The sills extended approximately eighteen to twenty inches beyond the exterior walls of the building and have been joined by box notches. The vertical log posts of the exterior walls average ten to twelve inches in diameter and are toe-nailed directly to the sill logs. Corner log posts are slightly larger in diameter, measuring approximately fourteen inches. A diagonal support brace, of log construction, has been placed within each of the gable ends of the building. The west cross brace was installed during preservation maintenance work in 1998. It is unclear when the cross brace on the east elevation was installed; however, it is known to be in place by 1986. The log walls are not chinked as typically seen in log construction, but rather backed by rough sawn dimensional lumber boards, one inch by six inches, and shingle battens. All log material for the cabin was harvested from the surrounding landscape at the time of construction and treated with a clear preservative to expose the natural wood tones.

The patrol cabin has two exterior doors, one centrally located on the north elevation and a second asymmetrically located on the south elevation. From historical photographs, it appears that the south facing door has always served as the primary entrance. This door opens into the kitchen space and is accessed by the exterior porch. The north facing door is currently somewhat inaccessible given the height from grade to the door's threshold. Photographs from the 1980s document that a board plank was once in place to serve as a make shift walkway to the entryway, but has since been removed. Each entry door is constructed of vertical rough sawn planks, two inch by six inch, supported by an interior frame and set within a log door jamb. A modern screen door has been mounted within the south elevation door jamb sometime during the last few decades.

The north facing entryway is flanked by two large window openings. During the period of significance, the western window opening contained a pair of six-lite casement windows. The eastern window opening contained a single six-lite casement window. The historic windows have since been removed and replaced by a casement window constructed of a wood frame and translucent plastic or stainless steel screen mesh. The south elevation has a single window opening located to the east of the entryway. Although the historic window construction cannot be seen in photographs, it is assumed that they would be similar in design to those located on the north elevation. The windows on the south elevation have since been removed and been treated in similar fashion to those of the north elevation. All window openings have externally mounted security shutters of plywood boards covered with galvanized sheet metal. The patrol cabin originally had vertical board shutters secured by a small horizontal log brace that rested in two metal saddles. By 1964, the wooden shutters were covered with galvanized sheet metal then later replaced. The shutters currently in place were installed by the Yosemite Historic Preservation Crew in 2007 to match the existing in-kind. An additional exterior feature is exposed plumbing affixed to the south façade just east of the entryway. The plumbing first supplied an exterior basin sink installed sometime between 1949 and 1964; the sink has since been removed and the plumbing now supplies an outdoor shower spigot.

The gable roof of the building is oriented on a longitudinal axis roughly northwest to southeast and has a moderate pitch of twelve over twelve. The wide over-hanging eaves of the building feature exposed log rafter tails and are finished with a log verge board. The roof is clad in single-course sugar pine shingles (ten inch reveal) with a metal ridgecap. The building was last reroofed in 2007 by the Yosemite Historic Preservation Crew using in-kind materials. At this time the crew also replaced three log rafters along the north slope of the roof using in-kind materials.

The Buck Camp Patrol Cabin is in overall good condition and is being maintained as a significant historic resource for Yosemite National Park. Minimal fabric deterioration has resulted from exposure to extreme weather conditions and black bears. The present state of the building can be largely attributed to extensive stabilization and preservation efforts completed by the Yosemite Historic Preservation Crew in 1998 and 2007. Further description of the work completed during these projects can be found within the "Modifications" section below. Thoughtful construction of the Buck Camp Patrol Cabin exemplifies the National Park Service Rustic style and stays true to the style's fundamental principles. Architectural elements found on the building that are characteristic of the style include the predominant use of natural and local materials, wide overhanging eaves, exposed log framing, wood shingles, and an overall low profile. The use of local materials and natural elements are key components to the rustic style and serve to harmonize the building with the surrounding landscape.

Interior

The interior rectangular plan of the Buck Camp Patrol Cabin consists of a modest kitchen and a single bedroom. The space constitutes approximately 300 square feet and is divided by an interior log framed wall sixteen inches in width.

Flooring throughout the cabin is three inch wide, painted Douglas fir tongue and groove. Interior walls and ceilings are finished with twelve inch wide, rough sawn board panels and two and a half inch wide battens. A four inch wide trim molding has been used as a baseboard, crown molding, chair railing, and also wraps the entryways and window openings; the only exception is two and a half inch battens are used as the crown molding within the bedroom. The interior walls and ceiling of the kitchen are painted white, while the bedroom is left unpainted. Photographs from the 1980s document that the bedroom's interior walls were once clad in unfinished sugarpine shingles, with a fourteen inch reveal. This wall treatment was removed in 2007 during preservation maintenance work completed on the building by the Yosemite Historic Preservation crew. During the 1970s or 1980s, a wilderness patrol ranger had installed the shingles atop the original board and batten wall treatment. In 2007, the intact board paneling was discovered behind the shingles, but the wooden battens had been removed. The preservation crew installed battens to match the existing kitchen battens in-kind.

The patrol cabin contains only a single interior door, which separates the kitchen and bedroom spaces. The door is plank and frame style, constructed of twelve inch wide vertical board planks. A slender built-in cabinet, basin sink, and adjoined countertop are located along the west wall of the kitchen. The basin sink was last replaced by the Yosemite Historic Preservation Crew in 2007. It was unclear whether the basin sink in place at that time was original. The building's plumbing system is left exposed and affixed directly onto the board and batten walls. The system is supplied by a nearby spring and gravity fed the patrol cabin. The countertop was constructed during the 2007 maintenance work to provide a kitchen work space. An additional built-in kitchen hutch is located in the northwest corner of the building, affixed to the north wall. Both cabinet pieces are constructed of rough sawn dimensional lumber, suggesting that they are original to the patrol cabin. A wood stove and propane powered hot water tank are located along the east wall of the kitchen. The stove serves as the cabin's only heat source. The wood

stove was last replaced in 2007 by the Historic Preservation Crew. It is unclear when the hot water system was installed, but material evidence suggests that they are not original to the patrol cabin.

Furniture throughout the rest of the cabin consists of modest movable pieces such as wooden tables and chairs, metal framed beds, and metal storage cabinets. Camping lanterns currently provide the only source of artificial lighting within the cabin. The majority of hardware present throughout the cabin appears to be original to the construction of the building and is in good working condition.

Modifications

The Buck Camp Patrol Cabin maintains a high degree of historic integrity and has had very few modifications since its period of significance, 1931. The overall usage of space, layout, architectural design, and bulk of historic fabric has remained constant over time. In 1998 and 2007, the patrol cabin underwent preservation maintenance and stabilization from the Yosemite Historic Preservation Crew. All work adhered to the Secretary of the Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, and therefore did not diminish from the building historic integrity. All necessary fabric replacement was done using in-kind materials.

Exterior Changes

- Between 1950 and 1980s, the six-lite casement windows were replaced with framed screens and alternative window panes.
- Exterior plumbing was installed sometime between 1949 and 1964 to the east of the south facing entry. The plumbing initially supplied water to a basin sink and later a shower spigot.
- By 1964, shutters clad in galvanized sheet metal were installed within all window openings. The building originally had vertical wooden plank shutters.
- Diagonal log cross-brace was installed within the east gable end by the 1980s
- A ridgecap clad in painted sheet metal replaced the original dimensional lumber ridgecap at an unknown time.
- The porch along the south elevation has changed in design over the years. The original log porch is no longer in place.
- Preservation treatments completed in 1998:
    - South log sill and six vertical log posts were replaced
    - Log door jamb on north elevation was replaced
    - New diagonal log cross-brace was installed within the west gable end
    - Wooden piers (log rounds) were replaced as needed
- Preservation treatments completed in 2007:
    - Replacement of roofing material. Installed new metal ridge cap.
    - Both exterior doors restored to proper working condition.
    - Shutters replaced as needed with plywood panels clad in galvanized sheet metal
    - Replacement of vertical log posts along south elevation as needed
    - Three rafters along the north roof slope replaced

Interior Changes

- Hot water system installed sometime between the period of significance and the 1980s
- Shingle wall treatment installed within the bedroom sometime between the period of significance and the 1980s (later removed)
- Preservation treatments completed in 2007:

- Removed shingled wall treatment within the bedroom. Board and batten wall treatment restored.
- New wood stove installed
- Hardware cloth was installed behind all interior wall treatments and within the attic space to deter pests.
- Painted interior kitchen space to match existing.
- New double basin sink and adjoining countertop installed.

Non-contributing Resources

Non-contributing resources located within the property boundary of Buck Camp Patrol Cabin consists of a *tack shed, corral, privy, spring encasement, and fenced pasture.*

Several secondary resources were erected within the property boundaries of the Buck Camp Patrol Cabin to service the needs of park rangers traveling with pack stock, such as a small wooden tack shed, corral, and fenced pasture. The first known documentation of a tack shed and corral within the property boundaries dates to the 1950s. At this time the tack shed was constructed of log walls joined by saddle notches and capped by a gable roof clad in sugar pine shingles. The corral was originally delineated with post and rail log fencing. It appears that the existing tack shed and corral are in approximately the same location as the original structures; however, construction of each structure has changed significantly and does not portray an accurate representation to what was in place originally. The existing tack shed is of frame construction clad in single course, sugar pine shingles. The corral is now delineated with metal stakes and wire fencing. Due to the change of design and construction, the tack shed and corral are considered non-contributing.

The Buck Camp meadow, located to the west of the patrol cabin, has a long history of being utilized as a grazing area for livestock. The first known settlement of area occurred in the 19th century by Euro-American homesteaders. At this time, the meadow was utilized seasonally as a grazing area for cattle. The National Park Service has continued this traditional use and allows traveling pack stock to graze in the meadow. To secure the stock, a wire fence is installed around a twelve acre portion of the meadow during the summer months and taken down in the fall. Although the fenced pasture supports the present day operations of the patrol cabin and the meadow has a long history of being used as a grazing area, the existing fencing material and placement of fence posts has been significantly altered over time. The fencing does not hold substantial historic integrity and is therefore considered non-contributing.

The privy building located to the north-northwest of the patrol cabin is constructed of log framing and capped by a shed roof. The exterior walls and roofing structure are clad in single-course, sugar pine shingles. The privy was built in 1984 by a crew of Youth Conservation Corps and is non-historic.

A spring encasement is located to the northwest of the cabin. The structure is approximately two feet deep and is constructed of board-formed concrete walls and topped by a wooden lid. Above ground plumbing originating at the spring encasement supplies the patrol cabin with a year round water source. Although it is unclear when the spring encasement was constructed, material evidence suggests that the existing structure is of recent origin and is considered non-contributing.

8. Statement of Significance

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

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

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

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

CONSERVATION

SCIENCE

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1931

Significant Dates

1931 – The Buck Camp Patrol Cabin is designed and constructed by the National Park Service

c.1940s – The Merced Irrigation District discontinues utilizing the cabin for purposes associated with the acquisition of hydrologic data

1984 – Retaining wall constructed within the property by Youth Conservation Corps

1998 – Preservation maintenance completed on the cabin by the Yosemite Historic Preservation Crew

2007 – Preservation maintenance completed on the cabin by the Yosemite Historic Preservation Crew

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

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Architect: National Park Service Chief Landscape Architect, John Wosky

Builder: National Park Service personnel

Period of Significance (justification)

1931

The period of significance for the Buck Camp Patrol Cabin is 1931. This date corresponds to the construction of the building for functions associated with acquisition of hydrologic data within the Merced River drainage. Designs for the cabin were produced in 1931by the National Park Service Regional Branch of Plans and Designs. Construction of the patrol cabin commenced that same year and the building was ready for occupancy by January 1, 1932. The building was intended to be utilized by the Merced Irrigation District during winter snow surveys and National Park Service during the summer months as an outlying ranger patrol cabin. It is unclear when the cabin's winter use for snow surveys was discontinued; however, it is known that by the mid-1940s, the snow survey route from Glacier Point to Moraine Meadows was discontinued. The building continues to be owned, utilized, and maintained by the National Park Service as an outlying field station for natural resource management activities. The period of significance date both aligns with the architectural development of Buck Camp Patrol Cabin, for Criterion C, and beginning date from which the cabin was utilized as an outlying field station in associated with the collection of hydrologic data, for Criterion A.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Buck Camp Patrol Cabin is locally and regionally significant in the area of natural resource conservation under *Criterion A*. The building is associated with the development and deployment of the California Cooperative Snow Surveys program, as well as, the evolution of natural resource management within Yosemite National Park. The building was constructed in 1931 to serve as a summer field headquarters for National Park Service wilderness rangers and winter accommodations for snow surveyors collecting hydrologic data along the Merced River drainage. The period of significance for the Buck Camp Patrol Cabin is 1931. This date corresponds with the architectural development of the building and its usage as both a ranger station and snow survey shelter. The building was constructed in the National Park Service Rustic style, making it locally significant under *Criterion C*.

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

Narrative Statement of Significance

Historical Context

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

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

Snow Survey in the Sierra Nevada

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

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

During the early phase of his research, Church immediately recognized the need to have overnight accommodations located near his high elevation experimental sites. The ability to stay overnight provided the opportunity to collect more thorough weather data and study the effects of the environment on snow conservation.

With the assistance of federal funds, Church and his coworkers erected the first snow survey shelter in the Sierra, the Summit Observatory, on Mount Rose in August 1906. Soon thereafter, Church developed the Mount Rose Snow Sampler and Scale, a patented device that measured the depth and water content of snow pack to determine snow density. Although scientific calculations have evolved during the last century of snow surveying, Church's sampling device has remained essentially unchanged and is still in use by snow surveyors today. In 1910, Church laid out the first official snow courses in the Sierra, within the Lake Tahoe and Truckee River basins. (The techniques of establishing and using snow courses will be described below.) The research findings derived from the courses allowed Church to predict seasonal water runoff within multiple watersheds and led to the management of Lake Tahoe's water level to avert seasonal flooding.

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

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

Snow Survey in Yosemite National Park

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

Yosemite rangers began conducting a limited number of high country snow surveys in 1912. The early surveys were far less scientific then the research being undertaken by Church and his coworkers on Mount Rose, but nonetheless marked the beginning of established snow courses within the Yosemite region. A system of fixed "snow poles," approximately ten to twelve feet in height, were set up at strategic sites (or "courses") throughout the park. The slender poles were constructed of wooden dimensional lumber posts, painted white with black incremental measurements and notched on top to shed snow. Park rangers were assigned to record the depth of winter snowpack using the snow poles while conducting routine patrols. Winter trips were conducted from Yosemite Valley to Tenaya Lake, Tuolumne Meadows, and Tioga Pass via the Tioga Road. The information collected during the snow surveys was then passed on to United States Geological Survey (USGS) and used by Yosemite administrators to predict seasonal openings of park infrastructure at the higher elevations.

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

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

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

During the 1930s, snow surveying within Yosemite National Park gained momentum with the creation of the California Cooperative Snow Survey Program. As mentioned previously, 1929 marked the beginning of a five-year drought for the western United States. Large state government appropriations and coordinated efforts were put forth for the determination of available water resources statewide. A multitude of snow courses were laid out and mapped throughout the Sierra Nevada under the direction of the Department of Water Resources (DWR). During this time, four separate snow survey routes were established along the headwaters of the Tuolumne and the Merced Rivers within Yosemite. The main route was a loop extending from Yosemite Valley to the eastern boundary of the park. The other routes consisted of "out-and-back" paths of travel to Moraine Meadows from Glacier Point Road, to Gin Flat from Yosemite Valley, and to Beehive Meadows from Hetch Hetchy Ranger Station. A Yosemite Nature Notes article issued in January 1953, described the manner in which snow courses were designed:

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

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

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

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

While the Buck Camp and Deer Camp cabins were still in use, the National Park Service also authorized the use of existing ranger stations in conjunction with ongoing snow survey activities. These included Tenaya Lake, Tuolumne Meadows, Tioga Pass, Chinquapin, Crane Flat, Mather, and Yosemite Creek. For varying reasons, only a limited number of buildings utilized during the 1930s snow surveys remain intact today – the Buck Camp Patrol Cabin and the Merced Lake, Chinquapin, and Tuolumne Ranger Stations.

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

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

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

The second phase of 1940s snow survey expansion in Yosemite National Park was initiated by the Division of Water Resources. In June 1946, the DWR issued a memorandum proposing additional snow survey infrastructure within the northern region of Yosemite National Park. This proposal was part of a larger plan to greatly expand the California Cooperative Snow Survey Program statewide. The expansion came about in response to a statewide population increase and heightened demand on water resources. The proposal for Yosemite National Park included the installation of six snow courses, four shelter cabins, and eight precipitation gauges in addition to the existing snow survey infrastructure. The proposal also incorporated architectural specifications and design

schematics for future shelter cabins: "The proposed shelter cabins would be twelve feet by fourteen feet in plan and depending upon accessibility and materials available at the site, would be constructed of sawed lumber, logs, or stone."[ii] Each shelter cabin would contain a set of double bunks, wood burning stove, and modest furniture pieces. The proposal stated that funding for the added infrastructure would be provided by the state and any other interested organizations or agencies, specifying that the development would be provided at no cost to the National Park Service. The estimated cost for each of the shelter cabins was between $800 and $1000. Yosemite administrators would provide guidance regarding the location of the new infrastructure to ensure it did not conflict with other natural resource management objectives.

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

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

Although snow survey shelters located throughout Yosemite were constructed at different times and by varying parties, the terms of agreement regarding each building were very similar. All snow survey shelters, snow

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

courses, and other snow survey infrastructure were erected under special use permits issued by the Department of the Interior. Funding for the installation of snow survey infrastructure was provided by the Merced Irrigation District, the California Division of Water Resources, or the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission. Snow surveyors working within Yosemite National Park consisted of hired employees from the National Park Service, National Forest Service, and the agencies listed above. The shelters, once constructed, were owned and maintained by the National Park Service. Authorization was given to the snow surveyors by Yosemite National Park to utilize the buildings during the winter months. During the summer season, the buildings were utilized by park personnel as outlying field stations for purposes associated with natural resource management.

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

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

Since the drought of the early 1930s, most of the American West has relied on federal and state snow survey programs to help guide the management of water supplies. Today in California, snow surveys are conducted within all of the main watersheds on the eastern and western sides of the Sierra Nevada – twenty-four in total. The development of backcountry snow shelters, in conjunction with snow courses, became an essential component of the program. As Dr. James E. Church discovered at the turn of the 20th century, these shelters facilitated surveyors'

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

Additional historic context information

Architectural Significance

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

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

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

The architectural plans for Buck Camp Patrol Cabin were prepared by John Wosky, Regional Landscape Architect for the National Park Service and Field Architect for Yosemite National Park, in 1931. The cabin was completed and ready for occupation by January 1, 1932.The building was intended to be utilized as an outlying shelter cabin within the Yosemite backcountry and was constructed to withstand the harsh winter conditions of the Sierra Nevada. The architectural design of the building embodies the philosophies and distinct characteristics

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

associated with the National Park Service Rustic style, while also intentionally being reminiscent of past homestead cabins of the Yosemite region. The use of natural finishes and local materials serve to harmonize the building with the surrounding landscape.

Exterior character defining features include:

- Use of local materials (such as a Lodgepole pine logs and granite rubble)
- Horizontal emphasis
- Structural façade of vertical log posts
- Single-course, sugar pine roofing shingles
- Moderately pitched, gable roof
- Wide, over-hanging eaves with exposed log rafter tails
- Substantial sill logs, approximately sixteen inches in diameter, with a boxed notch joint

Interior character defining features:

- Rough sawn dimensional lumber
- Vertical plank doors
- Wide trim molding, approximately six to eight inches
- Three inch Douglas fir tongue and groove flooring
- Board and batten wall and ceiling finishes
- Door hardware dating to the period of significance

Historic Integrity

The Buck Camp Patrol Cabin retains all seven aspects of historic integrity as defined by the National Register of Historic Places' standards: ***location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, association, and feeling.***

The Buck Camp Patrol Cabin remains in its original ***location*** near the junction of the Buck Camp Trail and Buck Creek in the southern region of Yosemite National Park. This location was selected for its proximity along the historic snow survey route that stemmed from the Glacier Point Road to Moraine Meadow, as well as its access to fresh water and natural resources. The building was intended to serve as an outlying shelter cabin for the acquisition of hydrologic data and as a patrol cabin for National Park Service wilderness rangers. Today the building continues to serve as a patrol cabin and plays a substantial role in the natural resource management of Yosemite's backcountry. Because of the remote location, the ***setting*** has remained essentially untouched. The building is situated within a moderately dense forested area along the eastern edge of a meadow. Log pole fencing, hitch rails, and small wooden sheds have been added to the property following the period of significance; however, these secondary resources are in keeping with the natural materials used for the construction of the patrol cabin and do not detract from the overall interpretation of the historic building. In 1984, lands immediately surrounding the property boundary were designated wilderness by the National Park Service. This protection ensures that no new development will occur outside of the property boundary or within the viewshed of the patrol cabin.

The ***design*** for the Buck Camp Patrol Cabin is in keeping with the philosophies and distinct characteristics associated with the National Park Service Rustic style, while also intentionally being reminiscent of past homestead cabins of the Yosemite region. The building incorporates architectural details, including substantial log pole framing, intended to withstand the harsh winter conditions of the Sierra Nevada. The use of natural finishes and

local materials serve to harmonize the building with the surrounding landscape. The building has had only minor alteration over the years and still retains the majority of its original ***material*** including: vertical log posts, log pole roofing structure, in-kind sugar pine shingles, interior finishes and details, and vertical plank style doors with hardware dating to the period of significance. The building has been preserved intact; in part due to its remote setting and also to its continued use by the National Park Service as a backcountry patrol cabin for wilderness rangers. Present day maintenance work is conducted by the Yosemite Historic Preservation Crew, who adhered to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties. If and when materials need to be replaced, the crew does so with in-kind materials using historic techniques as to not diminish the integrity of the building. The building's ability to withstand the harsh winter conditions and heavy snow loads serves as a testament to the ***workmanship*** put forth during its construction. Great effort went into harvesting local materials for the buildings log walls and granite rubble foundation. All construction work was completed using only hand techniques by skilled log builders.

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

Previous Determination of Eligibility

The Buck Camp Patrol Cabin was first recognized for its historical significance during a historic resource study conducted by Yosemite National Park in 1980s. National Park Service Historian, Linda Green, recommended the property, among other significant cultural and historic resources throughout the park, to be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places in her 1987 multi-volume publication, Yosemite: the Park and its Resources. A Draft Multiple Property Document (MPD) was composed in 2004 by the University of Las Vegas' History Department. The Draft MPD used historic contexts from Greene's resource study and recognized twenty buildings, which included Buck Camp Patrol Cabin, for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The Draft MPD has yet to be finalized by Yosemite National Park staff; however, it has received concurrence from the California State Historic Preservation Office. (*See Continuation Sheet III*) The Buck Camp Patrol has been indentified for its historic significance and is said to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. The current nomination concurs that the property is significant under these criterions, but has removed three features from the non-contributing resource inventory of the initial draft nomination. The initial draft nomination recognized six non-contributing resources: the tack/storage shed, log pole privy, spring box, flagpole, outhouse, and rock retaining wall. The current nomination recognizes the tack shed, log pole privy, spring encasement, and pasture fencing as non-contributing. The remaining resources listed in the previous nomination are considered "minor" and have not been inventoried as "non-contributing resources".

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Yosemite National Park, Division of Facilities Management, Building Files, "Buck Camp Cabin."

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

____preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
____previously listed in the National Register
__X__previously determined eligible by the National Register
____designated a National Historic Landmark
____recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
____recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #_____
____recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #_____

Primary location of additional data:

____State Historic Preservation Office
____Other State agency
__X__Federal agency
____Local government
____University
____Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property **15.7 acres**
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	11S	280078	4160150	3	11S	2800010	4159826
2	11S	280157	4159898	4	11S	279802	4160052

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

The property encompasses fifteen and a half acres near the juncture of Buck Creek and the Buck Camp Trail in the far southern region of Yosemite National Park. This boundary designation has been determined by Yosemite National Park's Branch of History, Architecture, and Landscapes for purposes of this nomination.

Eastern boundary – The eastern boundary begins at coordinate 11S 280078 Easting, 4160150 Northing, which aligns with the Buck Camp Trail, and runs southeast for approximately 880 feet to a fence post located at coordinate 11S 280157 Easting, 4159898 Northing.

Southern boundary – The southern boundary begins at the said fence post and runs southwest along the fence for approximately 550 feet to the far southern fence post at coordinate 11S 2800010 Easting, 4159826 Northing.

Western boundary – The western boundary begins at said southern fence post and runs northwest for approximately 1010 feet to an arbitrary point near the northwest corner of the fenced meadow at coordinate 11S 279802 Easting, 4160052 Northing.

Northern boundary – The northern boundary begins at the said coordinate near the northwest corner of the fenced meadow and runs northeast for approximately 960 feet to connect with the origin coordinate.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The location for the Buck Camp Patrol Cabin was strategically selected by Yosemite National Park and the Merced Irrigation District along a snow survey route stemming from Glacier Point Road and continuing onto Moraine Meadows. The boundary designation contains all that is significant and contributing to the historic character of the property, as well as, more modern infrastructure (i.e. the existing stock pasture) associated with the current operation of the patrol cabin.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title **Jennifer Self, Architectural Historian**
organization **Yosemite National Park** date **August 30, 2011**
Division of Resources Management and Science
Branch of History, Architecture, and Landscapes
street & number **5083 Foresta Road** telephone **209.379.1222**
city or town **El Portal** state **CA** zip code **95318**
e-mail **Jennifer_Self@partner.nps.gov**

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

I. Location Map:
Sing Peak Quadrangle, California – Madera County, 7.5 Minute Series (topographic), United States Department of the Interior, Geological Survey, 1992.

II. Snow Survey Map
Reference map showing the locations of historic and present locations of snow survey shelters and snow courses in Yosemite National Park, as well as routes taken by snow surveyors.

III. Property Boundary Map:
Sketch map showing the Buck Camp Patrol Cabin's property boundary and associated features. Photos are keyed to this map.

IV. Concurrence Letter:
California State Historic Preservation Office, August 23, 2004. States properties identified within a draft Multiple Property Document for Yosemite National Park, including the "Buck Creek Cabin Building", are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

V. Historic Photographs

Photographs:

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

Name of Property: Buck Camp Patrol Cabin
City or Vicinity: Yosemite National Park
County: Madera
State: CA
Name of Photographer: Jennifer Self
Date of Photographs: August 2009
Location of original digital files: 5083 Foresta Rd., Building 759, El Portal, CA 95318

Photo #1 (CA_Madera County_Buck Camp Patrol Cabin_0001)
North elevation (right) and west elevation (left) corner, camera facing east.

Photo #2 (CA_Madera County_Buck Camp Patrol Cabin_0002.)
South elevation (right) and east elevation (left), camera facing west.

Photo #3 (CA_Madera County_Buck Camp Patrol Cabin_0003.)
Interior view of kitchen and front entry, camera facing roughly east-southeast.

Location of original digital files:
Yosemite National Park
Division of Resources Management and Science
Branch of History, Architecture and Landscapes
El Portal, CA

Property Owner:

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

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

street & number **5083 Foresta Road** telephone

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

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.

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

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

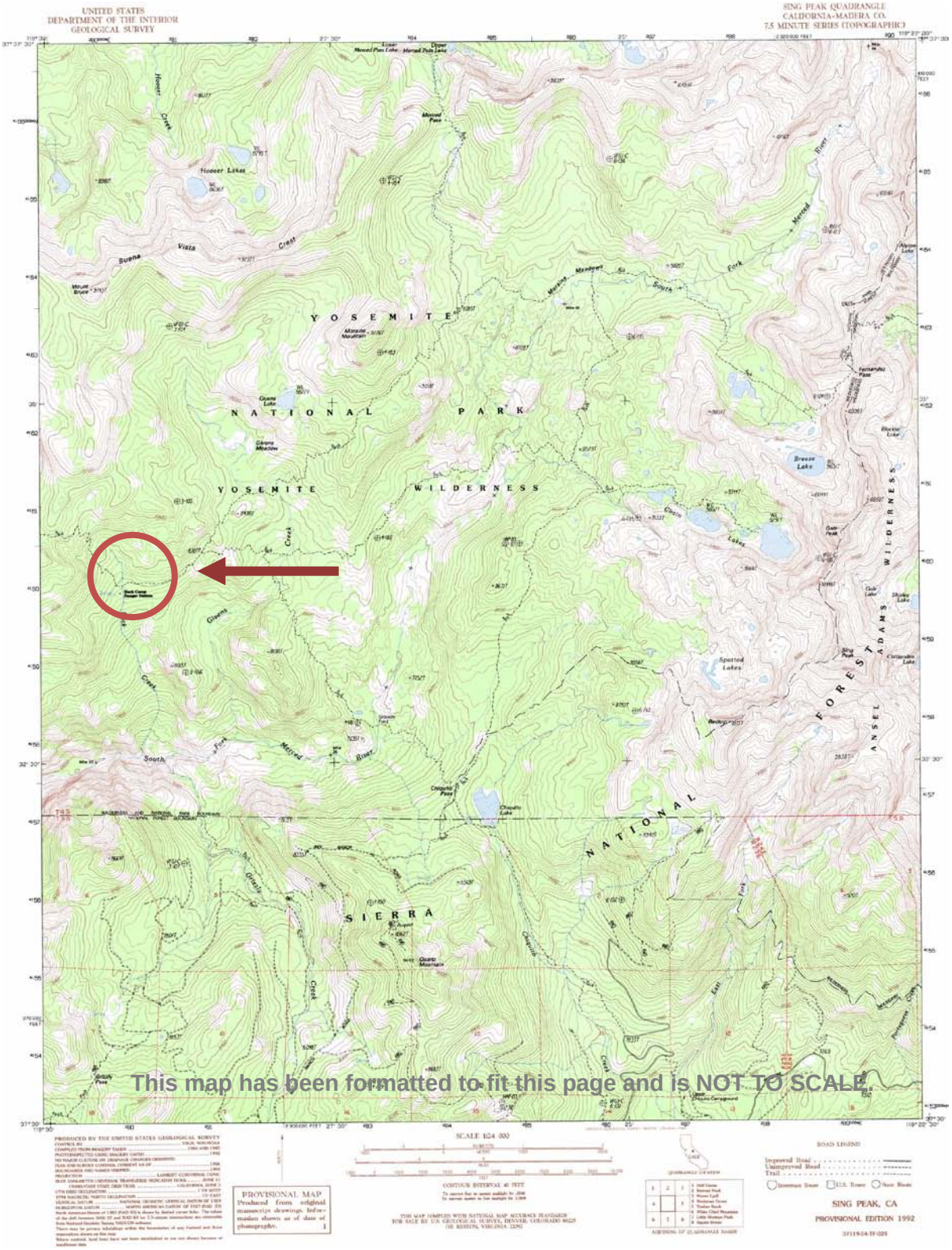
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Buck Camp Patrol Cabin
Name of Property
Madera County, CA
County and State
n/a
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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

Location Map



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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

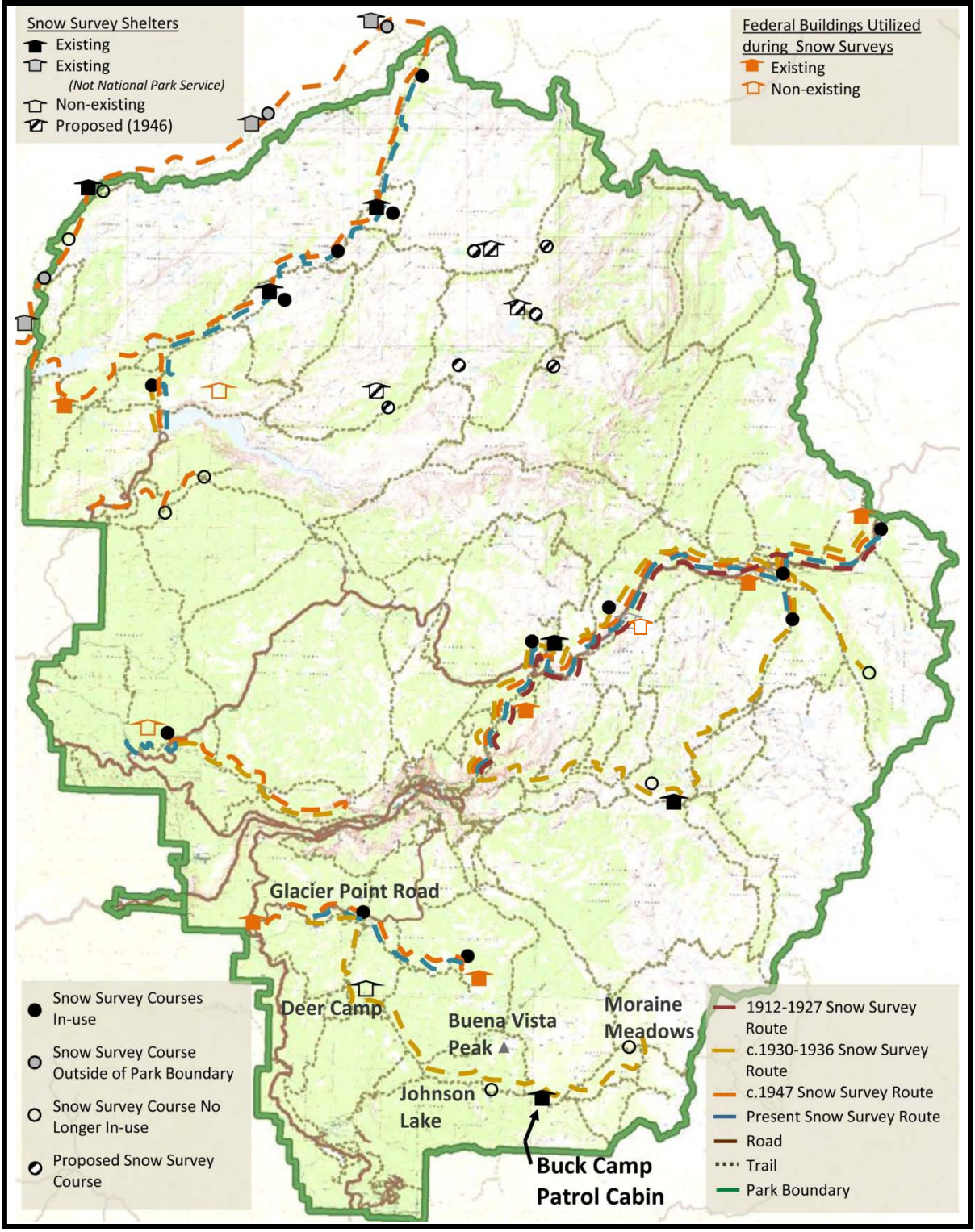
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Buck Camp Patrol Cabin
Name of Property
Madera County, CA
County and State
n/a
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number **Additional Documentation** Page **2**

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK
Snow Survey Infrastructure & Routes
Buck Camp Patrol Cabin and Associated Features

Map is intended for references purposes and is NOT TO SCALE



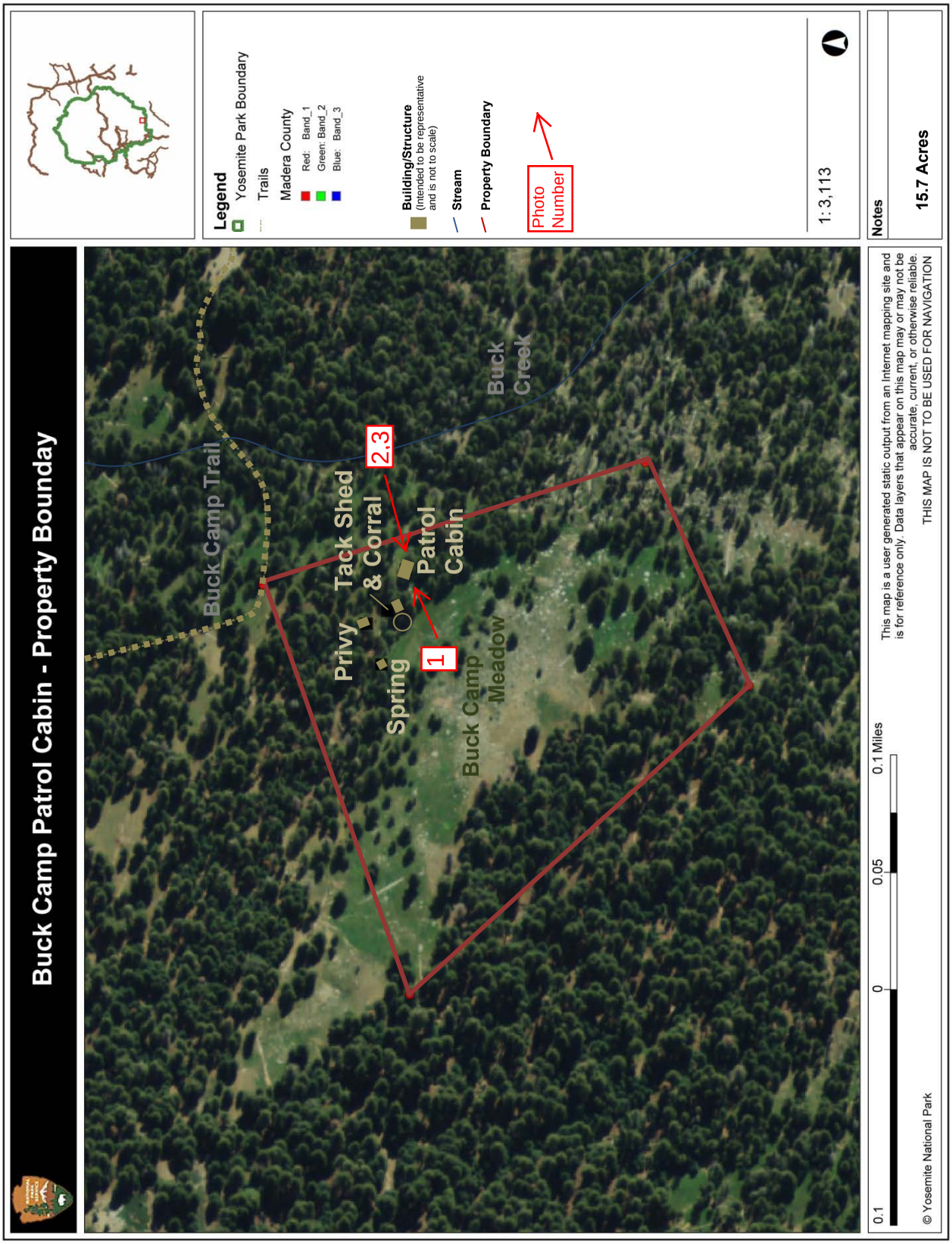
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Buck Camp Patrol Cabin
Name of Property
Madera County, CA
County and State
n/a
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number **Additional Documentation** Page **3**

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



Concurrence Letter

STATE OF CALIFORNIA - THE RESOURCES AGENCY ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor

OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
P O BOX 942896
SACRAMENTO, CA 94296-0001
(916) 653-6624 Fax: (916) 653-9824
calshpo@ohp.parks.ca.gov
www.ohp.parks.ca.gov

August 23, 2004

Dr. Stephanie Toothman
National Park Service
Pacific West Region
909 First Street
Seattle, Washington 98104-4159

Dear Dr. Toothman:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the National Register Multiple Property nomination for Yosemite National Park. I concur that the properties identified and evaluated n the nomination do constitute a coherent group of geographically dispersed resources that are eligible for listing in the National Register. The nomination does an excellent job of defining separate, but related contexts that make clear the significance of the individual resources, as well as the reasons that they collectively constitute a multiple property. The inclusion of a number of the park's less elaborate, high altitude resources is particularly noteworthy. The context statements synthesize a large amount of historic documentation in a clear and concise manner and the descriptive material that is provided for the individual resources or resource groupings is excellent.

We concur in all of your findings regarding the resources enumerated in the multiple property nomination. We agree that the following properties are eligible for the National Register as a part of a multiple property.

Lake Vernon Cabin Building #2450
May Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District
Hetch Hetchy Comfort Station Building #2104
Henness Ridge Fire Lookout Building #5300
The Golden Crown Mine
Glen Aulin Sierra Camp Historic District
Chinquapin Historic District
Buck Creek Cabin Building #4800
Snow Flat Cabin #Building #3501
Snow Creek Cabin Building #3450
Sachse Springs Cabin Building #2452
Ostrander Ski Hut Building #5110
Old Big Oak Flat Road
New Big Oak Flat Road
Merced Lake Ranger Station Building #3400
Merced Lake High Sierra Camp Historic District

Concurrence Letter, continued.

Wawona Tunnel
Vogelsang High Sierra Camp Historic District
Tuolumne Meadows High Sierra Camp Historic District

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

Sincerely,

Milford Wayne Donaldson
State Historic Preservation Officer

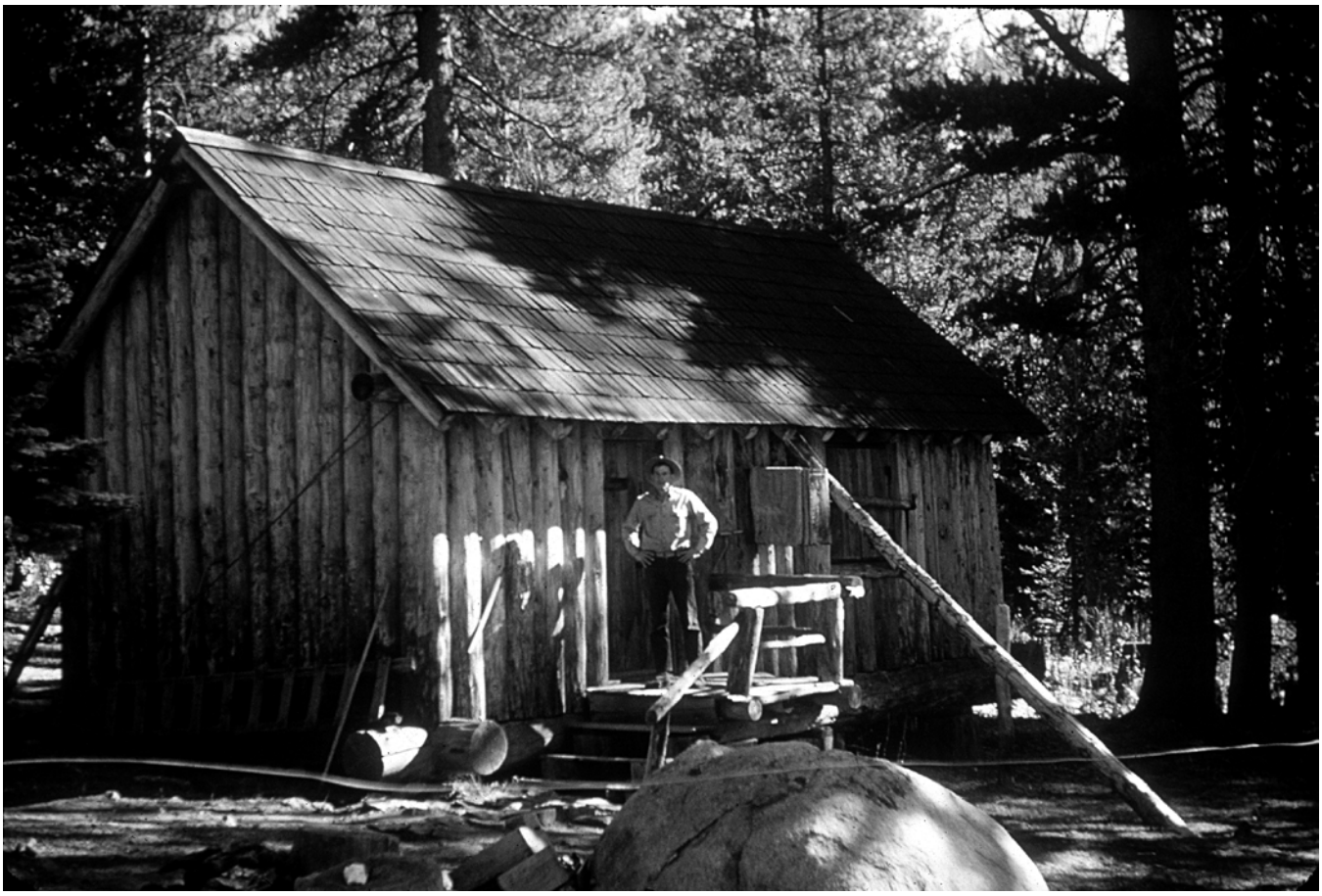
Cc: Kimball Koch

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Buck Camp Patrol Cabin
Name of Property
Madera County, CA
County and State
n/a
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Historic Photo



"Ashley at Buck Camp Oct 5 1949"
Photographer: unknown
Yosemite National Park Archives Slide Collection, History 102 - Sights & Structures,
Folder #27 Backcountry cabins.
El Portal, CA

USGS science for a changing world

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

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

SING PEAK QUADRANGLE
CALIFORNIA-MADERA CO.
7.5-MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

Produced by the United States Geological Survey 1992
Revision by USDA Forest Service 2004

Topography compiled 1984. Planimetry derived from imagery taken 1998 and other sources. Public Land Survey System and survey control current as of 2005. Boundaries current as of 2005

North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83). Projection and 1 000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 11
10 000-foot ticks: California Coordinate System (zone III)

North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27) is shown by dashed corner ticks
The values of the shift between NAD 83 and NAD 27 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

Protracted Blocks (PB) are unsurveyed land of uncertain acreage

UTM GRID AND 2006 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SCALE 1:24 000

CONTOUR INTERVAL 40 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
TO CONVERT FROM FEET TO METERS, MULTIPLY BY 0.3048

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

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ADJOINING 7.5' QUADRANGLES

1	2	3
4		5
6	7	8

1 Half Dome
2 Merced Peak
3 Mount Lyell
4 Mariposa Grove
5 Timber Knob
6 White Chief Mountain
7 Little Shuteye Peak
8 Piyau Dome

HIGHWAYS AND ROADS

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

SING PEAK, CA
2004
37119-E4-TF-024
NGA 2159 III SW-SERIES V895

ISBN 1-411-30468-3

INTERIOR - GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA - 2007

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Buck Camp Patrol Cabin

MULTIPLE NAME: Yosemite National Park MPS

STATE & COUNTY: CALIFORNIA, Madera

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

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14000406

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT _____DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The Buck Camp Patrol Cabin is locally significant under National Register Criteria A and C, in the areas of Architecture, Conservation, and Science. Completed in 1931, the cabin was established as an important component of the dispersed system of snow survey cabins built to aid in the scientific study of regional hydrology. Severe droughts in the late 1920s and early 1930s, highlighted the importance of water conservation in the areas served by the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Remote cabin sites such as this provided important shelter to winter survey crews and provided the Park with vital seasonal backcountry area shelters and field stations. The property meets the registrations requirements set out in the Yosemite MPS.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept Criteria A+C

REVIEWER Paul R. Lusignan DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE _____ DATE 7/18/14

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.