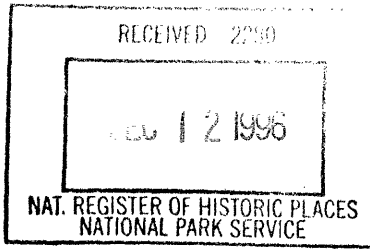


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Camp Lee Canyon

other names/site number 26Ck5419

2. Location

street & number State Route 156 not for publication

city or town Las Vegas (approximatley 50 northwest of) vicinity

state Nevada code NV county Clark code 003 zip code _____

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Gwan J. DeBlouis, FPO 11-26-96
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Forest Service
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Ronald M. Jones 11/4/96
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State Historic Preservation Office, Nevada
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

1-16-97

Camp Lee Canyon
Name of Property

Clark, Nevada
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
12	3	buildings
0	0	sites
2	2	structures
0	0	objects
14	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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: camp

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: camp

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: vernacular

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls WOOD: weatherboard

roof WOOD: shingle

other BRICK

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Camp Lee Canyon
Name of Property

Clark, Nevada
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

1937-1946

Significant Dates

1937

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Works Progress Administration

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Camp Lee Canyon

Clark, Nevada

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 17 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	11	6191100	4018780
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2	11	6191180	4018880

3	11	6192410	4018780
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4	11	6191180	4018780

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ana B. Koval, Architectural Historian and Dorothy Wright, Historian

organization Rainshadow Associates and Clark County Parks & Recreation date April 1996

street & number 2601 East Sunset Road telephone (702) 455-8242

city or town Las Vegas state NV zip code 89120

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

name U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Forest Service, Spring Mountains Natl Recreation Area

street & number 2881 S. Valley View #16 telephone

city or town Las Vegas state NV zip code 89102

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Site

The camp sits on approximately seventeen acres in a small narrow canyon and the site is heavily wooded with tall evergreen trees. The road which turns in from State Route 156 becomes the spine of the district with buildings set among the trees on both sides of the dirt road. According to the original plans the access road was to run along the eastern edge of the facility. Currently there are fifteen buildings and four structures within the proposed district. An original site map dating 1937 with revisions in 1938 and a current site map are attached to this nomination. The buildings have been numbered to match the numbers on the original site plan.

Buildings

seven Cabins (Buildings #1-6, 8)
Recreation Hall (Administrative Building, Building #10)
Dining Hall & Kitchen (Building #11)
Nurse's Quarters (original Bath House, Building #12)
Camp Manager's Quarters (Building #13)
Wood Shop & Quarters (originally a Cabin, Building #7)
Bath House (Building #14)
Camp Director's Quarters (Building #15)
Maintenance Garage & Quarters (Building #16)

Structures

Crafts Shelter (Structure #17)
Amphitheater (Structure #18)
Dance Floor (Structure #19)
Multi-purpose Courts (Structure #20)

Note that building #9, a cabin, was never built.

Nine of these buildings are original construction from 1937— six cabins (numbered 2 - 7), the dining hall, the original bath house, and the recreation hall. All of the original buildings are very similar in construction. Generally they are all one story, rectangular-in-plan, and wood framed on a concrete slab. The roofs are side facing steeply pitched gable roofs of wooden shingles. Most of the buildings are sided with random width, V-groove horizontal wooden boards. The windows are generally

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Section number 7 Page 2

four or six light, wood framed, hopper (hinged on the bottom) with plain wooden trim.

Cabins (six - 1937, one - 1940s) Buildings #1-6, 8 Photos #2 and #3

The cabins are identical with six of the seven being built by 1937. It appears that cabin #1 was built in the 1940s. The cabins are one story, rectangular-in-plan, wood framed buildings on concrete slabs. The buildings are covered by steeply pitched, side facing gable roofs of wood shingles. A centrally located brick chimney protrudes through the roof just in front of the ridge line. The roofs provide a small overhang and are finished with exposed rafter ends. The exterior walls are random width, horizontal V-groove wood siding pierced by six light hopper, wood framed windows with plain wood trim. All elevations are symmetrical with a central wooden door flanked by two windows on each side on the front elevation, five windows on the rear elevations and a centrally placed door on the side elevations.

The cabin interiors are also identical with concrete floors, plaster ceilings, and painted tongue & groove wood walls. The interior is one large space with a central painted brick chimney which originally vented the stoves. New heaters have been installed and the stoves removed. Originally the floors were wood placed on the concrete; these have been removed as they had deteriorated. The cabins retain a high degree of integrity with very few changes since they were constructed in 1937.

Recreation Hall, 1937 (Administrative Building #10) Photo #4

Originally serving as an administrative building including the functions of hospital, recreation hall, and staff quarters, the building is one story with an attic space for storage. The exterior features are identical to the rest of the original buildings as detailed above. The interior is divided into five bedrooms, a lounge, a large recreation room, a kitchen, and a bathroom. The recreation hall has a high gabled ceiling and a centrally located stone fireplace. The doors throughout the building are wood with five horizontal panels. The other rooms are the same as the cabins except they still have the original wood floors and have tongue-and-groove wooden ceilings. The interior is in near original condition with the following exceptions; the kitchen has been remodeled and one of the bedrooms appears to have originally been the first aid room.

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Dining Hall and Kitchen (1937, enlarged in 1959) #11 Photos #5 and #6

The dining hall is one story and irregular-in-plan with several additions to the original building. It appears that the original building was T-shaped-in-plan with two rectangles each approximately equal in size to the cabins. The front rectangle housed the dining room and the back housed the kitchen. The major roof is a cross gable with shed roofs covering the additions. The roof has been recovered from the original wood shingle with a painted metal to look like shingles. The exterior walls are eight inch wide horizontal boards. The windows are identical to the cabins - six light hopper, wood framed windows with plain wood trim and some are in triple arrangements. Two dominant features are the vertical board front door and the exterior concrete block chimney on the south side.

The building interior is divided into a large dining room divided by support posts, a commercial kitchen with walk-in freezer, and three bedrooms and one bathroom for the kitchen staff. The main dining areas have knotty pine vertical boards on walls and ceilings. The other spaces have plaster board walls and ceilings. The floors are either concrete or asphalt tile.

Nurse's Quarters, 1937 (originally the Bath House #12)

The current nurse's quarters was the original bath house. This building is very similar to the others built in 1937. The building is one-and-one-half stories with the upper floor originally used as sleeping quarters. The building was divided into a girl's bath and boy's bath and as such retains its two original front doorways. One door remains the original wooden with five horizontal panels and the other doorway has been covered with plywood. The windows are shorter than on the other buildings (reflecting the building's use); they are four light. The interior remains several different rooms but is now all accessible from one exterior door. It has painted concrete floors with drains, paneled walls, wooden trim, original knotty pine cabinets, interior painted chimneys, and fluorescent lights.

Camp Manager's Quarters, #13 (1940s) (Photos #1 and #7)

This building is similar to the other buildings constructed in 1937 but has undergone some alterations. A little more complex, this building is covered by a cross gable roof. The original wood shingle roof has been replaced with metal shingles identical to those used on the dining hall. Large, fixed and aluminum framed sliding windows have been added. This building is now one-and-one-half

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story with the addition of interior and exterior stairs and two additional rooms on the second story. Some of the interior has knotty pine walls and ceilings. The floors are covered with vinyl and carpet and a new bathroom has been installed.

Wood Shop and Quarters, #7 (1940s) (Photo #8)

This building sits on the site of cabin #7, it is likely that cabin #7 was enlarged to create the existing building. The wood shop is a one-and-one-half story, rectangular-in-plan building housing a four bay garage below and an one bedroom housing unit above. The steeply pitched, side facing, gable roof is of wood shingles with exposed rafter ends. The concrete block building has three large garage doors, a solid door, and a awning window on the first floor. The housing unit above has hopper and aluminum framed sliding windows in the gable ends and in the gable roofed dormer. There are interior stairs from the garage space up to the housing unit. The interior of the housing unit has drywall walls, some paneling, and carpeted floors.

New Bath House, #14 (1959)

Built in 1958-59, the new bath house is similar to the original construction in size, scale, and shape. It is one story, rectangular-in-plan, and with a side facing, steeply pitched gable roof. Different materials were used including concrete blocks for the structure and exterior walls and seamed metal for the roof. The gable ends are horizontal wooden boards. The doors are solid metal. The interior has recently been remodeled to meet ADA requirements; the building has new fixtures and fluorescent lights.

Camp Director's Quarters, #15 (1970s)

The camp director's quarters is a small, one story, rectangular-in-plan, portable building which was brought to the site in the 1970s. It is covered with a front facing gable roof, has T1-11 plywood siding, aluminum framed sliding windows, and a solid wood door.

Maintenance Garage & Quarters, #16 (1980s) Photo #9

The new garage is two story with the camp managers quarters occupying the second floor above the large five bay garage. The building is concrete block on the first story with board-and-battens on the second story pierced by aluminum framed sliding windows.

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Crafts Shelter, #17

The crafts shelter is an open air structure of six inch square posts and brackets supporting a steeply pitched gable roof of asphalt shingles and finished with vertical board gable ends.

Amphitheater, #18

The amphitheater has a plywood stage and log seats.

Dance Floor, #19 (1980s)

The dance floor was constructed in the 1980s by the School of the Arts. It has a plywood floor above a concrete slab and a log, post-and-beam structure supporting a canvas tarp.

Multi-purpose courts, #20

The multi-purpose courts are blacktop with chain-link fencing surrounding the hard surface.

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Summary

Camp Lee Canyon is significant as one of a handful of federal projects which dramatically changed the face of Clark County, Nevada in the 1930s. Built by the Works Progress Administration (WPA), the project was part of the "federal trigger" which helped southern Nevada through the Depression. (criterion A). Camp Lee Canyon, located 50 miles northwest of Las Vegas on Hwy. 156 on approximately sixty acres given to the U. S. Department of Agriculture in 1936, was constructed beginning in 1937. Owned by the U. S. Forest Service and operated first by the City of Las Vegas and then by Clark County, the Camp has served the children of Las Vegas from 1937 to the present as a summer camp.

Context

The largest and most dramatic example of the federal projects in Clark County and all of Nevada during the Depression was the Boulder Dam construction which revitalized southern Nevada and provided not only employment for thousands, but laid the groundwork for a new industry--tourism.

In addition during the 1930s the New Deal provided a significant economic boost for southern Nevada with various programs which provided much-needed facilities, such as the new grade school at Fifth and Bridger which was built by the Public Works Administration. Other projects included repaving more than 58 city blocks by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) and completing the City Park with trees, baseball fields and other recreational facilities.

The City was able to increase the tourism potential with the construction of a convention center in 1936. For several years civic leaders had been anticipating the transition to a tourist based economy when the dam construction was completed. The process began in 1934 with land donated by the City (now the site of the current City Hall) and with \$5,000 pledged from the American Legion, who agreed to build a War Memorial Building. The WPA was persuaded that the project met its guidelines as a "civic auditorium" and contributed \$80,000 worth of free labor and materials. Thus the town had its convention center.

Of the federally funded construction projects in Clark County from the 1930s, few still remain. Still standing are the Boulder Dam renamed to Hoover Dam; the Fifth Street School which is now leased from Clark County by the City of Las Vegas; the

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Lost City Museum in Overton, a Civilian Conservation Corps project; the U. S. Post Office located on Stewart Street; and Camp Lee Canyon.

Construction

In 1936, pioneer Las Vegas J. T. and Iona McWilliams donated forty acres in an area known as Lees Canyon to the U. S. Department of Agriculture to be used as a public recreation area. They later added another twenty acres to round out the parcel. Claude Mackey, the Las Vegas Manager of the Works Progress Administration, wrote to Henry Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture, urging that acceptance of the donation be expedited so that the WPA could build a camp for young people. The WPA had already built an oiled road to the area.

The camp at Lee Canyon was built under the auspices of the Works Progress Administration using local labor and materials. The original plan for the camp was drafted by Franz Pragnell in May 1937 and revised in October 1938 by landscape architect, H. L. Curtiss. By 1937 nine buildings, including six cabins, a kitchen/dining hall, bathhouse and large recreation hall had been completed at the camp. The recreation hall featured a large room for programs, three sleeping rooms, two offices, first aid room and bathroom. The cost of constructing the camp had been estimated at \$28,000. That first year two hundred children had been able to go to summer camp. An additional cabin, caretaker's building and workshop/storage areas were built sometime in the 1940s.

In the late 1950s the county made substantial improvements to the camp. In 1959 a new bathhouse was built, the dining hall enlarged and staff quarters added, and a paint storage building constructed, for a total expenditure of \$65,307. The old bathhouse became the nurse's quarters.

At that time, there was no formal Clark County Department of Parks and Recreation. Funding for the Lee Canyon Camp staff and operations expenditures was listed under "miscellaneous" in the annual County budget.

Use

In 1937 the first camp program was offered for the children of Las Vegas, for two weeks in August. Two hundred children were given a camp experience, in a program that was run by the WPA under Claude Mackey. There was disagreement

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Continuation Sheet**

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between the City and the WPA about who was to run the camp, but that was resolved and a partnership established.

The next year a full summer of camp programs were offered for children and teens, under the combined direction of the City Recreation Department, led by Recreation Supervisor E. F. Tandy, and the WPA. The WPA supplied maintenance staff and cooks, and the Recreation Department provided program staff. The fee for a week of camp was \$5.00 per child. The camp was also rented to such organizations as the Boy Scouts and various church groups, who provided their own staff. Later, longtime city Recreation Supervisor Kenneth Van Vorst was in charge of the camp.

By 1946, the camp was placed under the County Recreation Board, chaired by Reverend Harold Broughton, a Methodist minister. Reverend Broughton also ran several weeks of church camp programs. The County Commission provided the funding for the operation of the camp. During the early fifties the County Commission dissolved the Recreation Board and placed the camp under the County Fair and Recreation Board. During this time the County began to exercise more direct control of the running of the camp.

In 1963-64 the County Commission established a separate Department of Parks and Recreation, whose main function for the first few years was to run the camp. When the newly created County Parks and Recreation Department took over responsibility of the camp, it was primarily in the role of maintenance and caretaker, renting it to outside users and using it only minimally for its own programs.

During the 1970s and 1980s the primary users were the Nevada School of the Arts, which offered six weeks of music camp for almost ten years, and the YMCA which offered several weeks of a general recreation camp for children and young teens. The School of the Arts built the outdoor dance pavilion.

Today the County Parks and Recreation Department offers three weeks of camp for general populations of youth and teens, one week of therapeutic recreation, one week for economically disadvantaged, and it co-sponsors a teen leadership week with the Clark County School District. The rest of the weeks are rented to Cooperative Extension, 4-H, church groups and other special use organizations.

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Section number 9 Page 1

Bibliography

Las Vegas Review Journal, 8/19/36; 6/28/37; 4/25/38.

"McWilliams Outdoor Camp, Lee Canyon Unit Tract, Nevada National Forest"
map, dated March 1937, revised October 1938.

Moehring, Eugene. *Resort City in the Sunbelt: Las Vegas, 1930-1970*. Reno, NV:
University of Nevada Press, 1989.

U.S. Forest Service Records (permits and correspondence).

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Section number 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description

Lee Canyon Organization Camp in Section 10, T19S, R56E, MDB&M as shown on the attached map titled "Lee Canyon Youth Camp," dated 1/18/82.

Boundary Justification

The proposed boundaries follow the boundaries of the special use permit issued by the U. S. Forst Service to the Board of Commissioners of Clark County.

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Photo Log Sheet

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Camp Lee Canyon District
Clark County, Nevada
Photos 1 -9
Ana B. Koval, Photographer
March 1996
Original negatives: Ana B. Koval

Photos 10-13
Historic

Photo #1
Camp buildings looking northeast.

Photo #2
Cabins # 6 and #7 looking
northwest.

Photo #3
Cabin #5.

Photo #4
Recreation Hall.

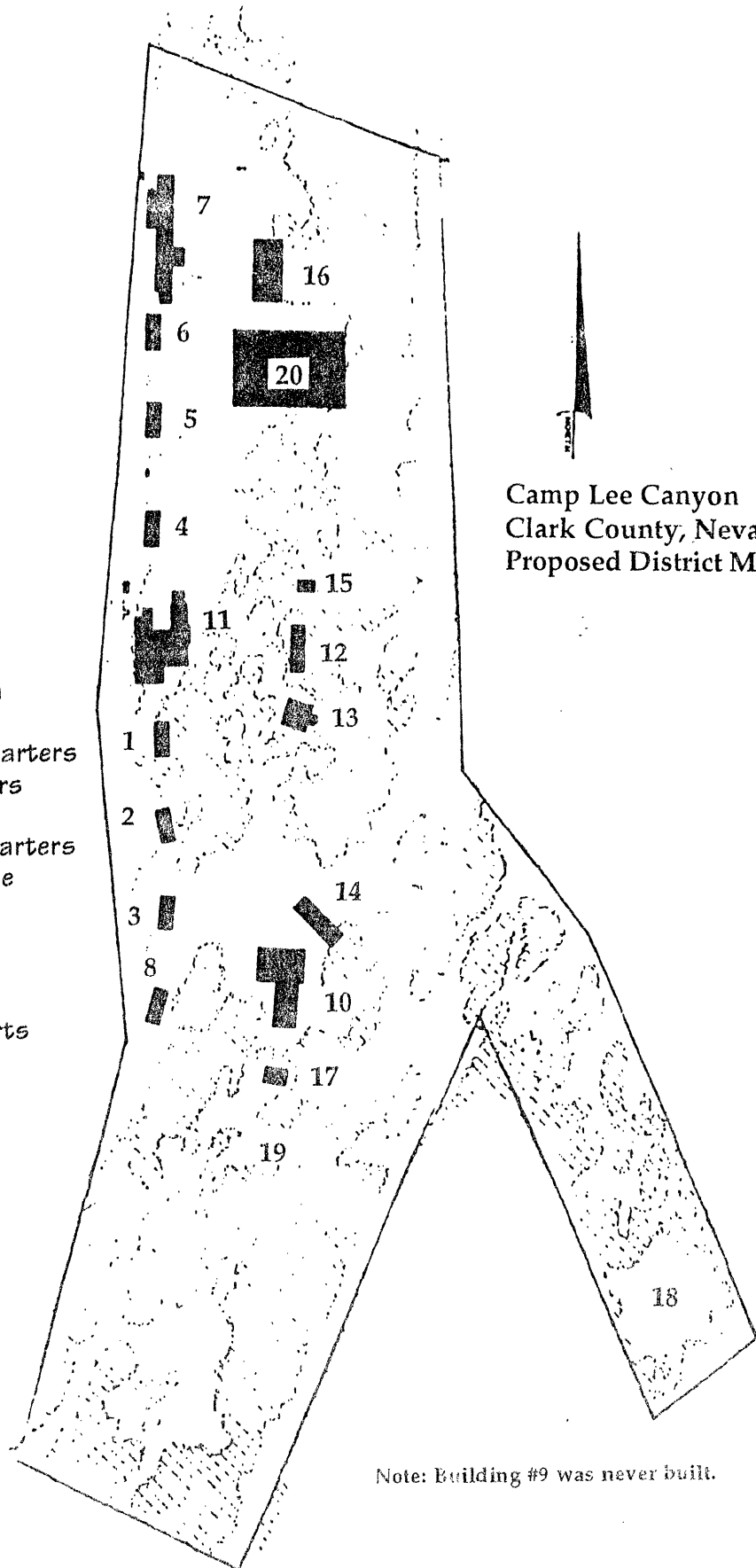
Photo #5
Dining Hall

Photo #6
Kitchen entrance of dining hall.

Photo #7
Camp Manager's Quarters.

Photo #8
Wood Shop & Quarters

Photo #9
Maintenance Garage & Quarters



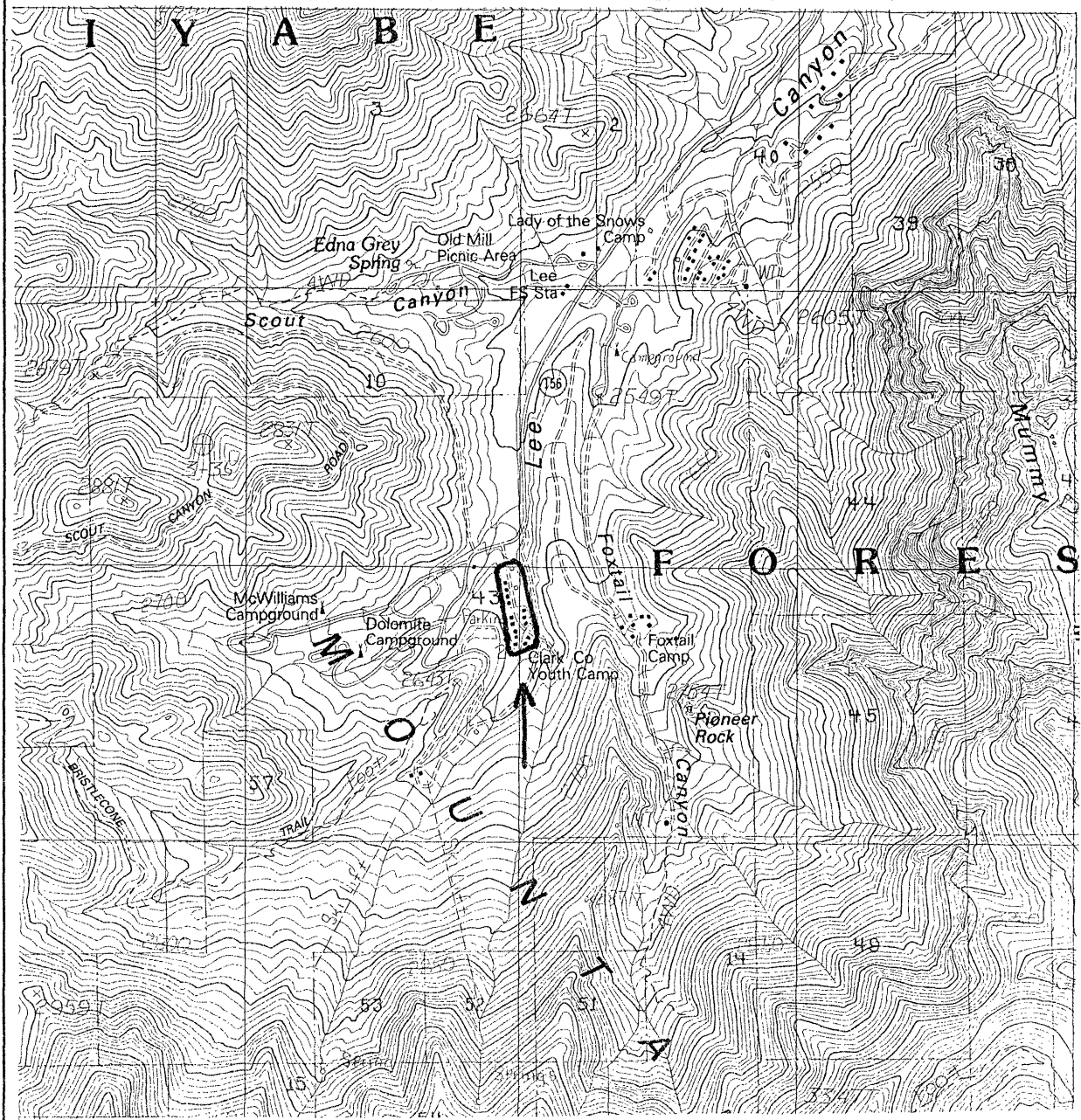
Camp Lee Canyon
Clark County, Nevada
Proposed District Map

- #1-6, 8 Cabins
- #10 Recreation Hall
- #11 Dining Hall & Kitchen
- #12 Nurse's Quarters
- #13 Camp Manager's Quarters
- #7 Wood Shop & Quarters
- #14 Bath House
- #15 Camp Director's Quarters
- #16 Maintenance Garage & Quarters
- #17 Crafts Shelter
- #18 Amphitheater
- #19 Dance Floor
- #20 Multi-purpose Courts

Note: Building #9 was never built.

Camp Lee Canyon

Site Number: 26Ck5419



LEGEND

USGS QUAD: Charleston Peak, Nevada
SCALE: 1:24,000
CONTOUR INTERVAL: 10 Meters

TOWNSHIP: 19S.
RANGE: 56E.

