

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

P.H.0668737

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Knapp Cabin

AND/OR COMMON

Artist's Cabin

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

(not applicable)

*W of Cedar Grove in REEF*

CITY, TOWN

Kings Canyon N. P.

STATE

California

\* VICINITY OF

Cedar Grove

CODE  
06

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Seventeenth

COUNTY

Fresno

CODE

019 ✓

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

\_\_DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

\_\_STRUCTURE

\_\_SITE

\_\_OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

PUBLIC

\_\_PRIVATE

\_\_BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

\_\_IN PROCESS

\_\_BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

\_\_OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

\_\_WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**

\_\_YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

\_\_NO

**PRESENT USE**

\_\_AGRICULTURE

\_\_COMMERCIAL

\_\_EDUCATIONAL

\_\_ENTERTAINMENT

\_\_GOVERNMENT

\_\_INDUSTRIAL

\_\_MILITARY

\_\_MUSEUM

PARK

\_\_PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_RELIGIOUS

\_\_SCIENTIFIC

\_\_TRANSPORTATION

\_\_OTHER

**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (if applicable)

National Park Service, Western Regional Office

STREET & NUMBER

450 Golden Gate Avenue, Box 36063

CITY, TOWN

San Francisco

VICINITY OF

STATE

California

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Fresno County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

1100 Van Ness Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Fresno

STATE

California

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

NONE

DATE

\_\_FEDERAL \_\_STATE \_\_COUNTY \_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Knapp Cabin is a one-room frame and shake cabin standing in the valley of the South Fork of the Kings River in Kings Canyon National Park, California. The simple structure was built almost entirely of locally available materials. The frame consists of poles, some squared, cut in the surrounding pine and cedar forest. To this frame was attached on both walls and roof a layer of shakes probably cut from cedar near the site. The cabin has only one room which measures approximately 10 feet by 20 feet. On the north end of the building the gable roof has been extended three feet to form a small porch. The cabin has a door on each end, no windows, and a dirt floor. The structure rests on a dry morainal deposit left behind thousands of years ago by the ancient Kings River Glacier. The South Fork of the Kings River flows about 75 yards north and east of the cabin. West of the site is an extensive open flat covered with a thick growth of manzanita. The southern portion of the cabin is shaded by a thicket of small live oak trees. A highway runs about 50 yards south of the cabin. A screen of natural vegetation runs between the cabin and the road. The structure is unaltered except for a new shake roof added by the National Park Service about 1966. The structure should be maintained in an unaltered state, and every attempt should be made to prevent any further alteration to the natural setting which except for the roadway remains much as Knapp knew it.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1925

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

George Owen Knapp

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As one of the few tangible reminders of the recreational use of the Kings River canyons prior to the establishment of Kings Canyon National Park in 1940, the Knapp Cabin is of local significance in the fields of conservation and recreation.

Although the South Fork Canyon of the Kings River was first penetrated by white men during the 1860's, it remained relatively undeveloped well into the 20th century. Several small mines were opened in the area before 1900, but the region served mainly as a summer recreation ground. George Owen Knapp, an executive of the Union Carbide Corporation, was attracted to the region shortly after World War One. He erected several cabins on the upper reaches of Bubbs Creek, an eastern tributary of the South Fork. By 1925 Knapp's deteriorating health required that he limit his mountain activities to the lower elevations, so he had a cabin erected in the Cedar Grove area of the South Fork Canyon. The shake cabin was not designed for use as a residence; when Knapp and his friends visited the Canyon they camped outdoors along the cool riverbank near the cabin. The building was intended and used purely for storage of equipment and supplies. Knapp used the cabin for several summers, but by 1928 he had given up his trips to the mountains. During the next decade the cabin received intermittent use by parties visiting the Canyon. After Kings Canyon National Park was established in 1940 the cabin ceased to be used. Stories that it was used by an artist have no demonstrable basis. Since the 1950's the cabin has been managed by the National Park Service as a historic structure.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. A. Berle Clemensen, "Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks, History of the Parks, Maps, Evaluation of Historic Resources, Determination of Effect, DCP," in files of National Park Service, Western Regional Office, San Francisco, California.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .22

UTM REFERENCES

A 

11	354020	4071940
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B 

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

C 

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

D 

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point thirty (30) feet south of the southeast corner of the Knapp Cabin, proceed west sixty (60) feet; thence north one hundred (100) feet; thence east one hundred (100) feet; thence south one hundred (100) feet; thence west forty (40) feet to point of beginning.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Dr. William C. Tweed, Historian, Cultural Resource Management Division

ORGANIZATION

National Park Service, Western Regional Office

DATE

May 21, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

450 Golden Gate Avenue, Box 36063

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

San Francisco

STATE

California 94102

## 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

DEC 2 1976

*W. C. Tweed*

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is  National  State  Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

*William C. Tweed*

4/13/78

TITLE Deputy Assistant Secretary

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

*William C. Tweed*

DATE

12/20/78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

12/15/78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER