

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
 RECEIVED **MAY 31 1977**
 DATE ENTERED **JUN 9 1978**

**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

Yosemite Transportation Company Office

AND/OR COMMON

Wells Fargo Office

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

N. 10 Wawona on YNP

Pioneer Yosemite History Center

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Yosemite National Park VICINITY OF Wawona

15th

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

California

06

Mariposa

043

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER Interp. Prog.

4 AGENCY

National Park Service

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

Western Regional Office

STREET & NUMBER

450 Golden Gate Ave., Box 36063

CITY, TOWN

San Francisco

VICINITY OF

STATE

CA

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

National Park Service

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 577

CITY, TOWN

Yosemite National Park

STATE

CA

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic Structures Report/Inventory

DATE

1961

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

same as #5

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE <u>1960</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Yosemite Transportation Company Office was constructed in Yosemite Valley in 1910 and moved to Wawona in 1960. Originally housed in the building were a variety of transportation and communication facilities. It is a 1½ story frame structure 23' x 21'. The building consists of an unpeeled log frame, vertical posts, and horizontal beams, with infill panels of natural cedar bark and thin, unpeeled logs arranged in decorative patterns (predominantly herringbone). It has a steeply pitched overhanging roof of wood shingles, supported on log rafters, which measures over half of the height of the building. A king post truss of peeled logs is used both functionally and decoratively in the front gable, which overhangs four feet.

The casement windows have diamond-pane sash which are placed horizontally in the frames.

The building receives adequate preservation maintenance through its inclusion in the Pioneer Yosemite History Center. An historic structure preservation guide should be completed for this building.

The justification for moving the building is in paragraph two of the significance statement. The roof structure was removed to facilitate passage through the Wawona tunnel. It was replaced at the new site and the building was treated with wood preservative. An interior fire prevention sprinkler system was installed at this time.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1910 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Yosemite Valley Railroad Co.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Yosemite Transportation Company Office (Wells Fargo Office) is of local significance in the fields of architecture and transportation. These significances are based on the design of the structure and on its use for many years as a transportation facility for visitors to Yosemite Valley.

The building is an exceptional and rare example of the Rustic Style of architecture as it first developed in the Yosemite region. Characteristic of the style was the use of cedar bark strips applied in decorative patterns, as exterior sheathing material on wood frame buildings. Structures which are similar in design include the Yosemite Valley Railroad Station at El Portal (destroyed by fire, 1949) and four buildings extant in Yosemite Valley: the Curry Cabin, Tresidder Cabin, original Camp Curry Registration Office, and the Pohono Studio (all nominated to the National Register). These rustic structures represent an effort to design facilities which would not be intrusive or incompatible with the natural environment.

The transportation significance of the structure results from its function as a horse and motor stage terminal. The building was erected at the Old Village site, near the Sentinel Hotel, in 1910 with funds and design provided by the Yosemite Valley Railroad Company. The railroad had recently completed a line to El Portal on the western boundary of Yosemite National Park. Horse and later "auto-stages" connected the El Portal depot with Yosemite Valley. During the stagecoach years the building also served as a telegraph and express office and it was then that the name "Wells Fargo" became associated with it.

After the all-year highway was opened in 1927 the popularity of the Yosemite Valley railroad began to diminish in favor of private vehicles and commercial buses. The Yosemite Transportation Company shifted its transactions to the "front desk" at lodgings throughout the park. In the late 1930s the vacant Y.T.C. building was converted to an employee residence.

In 1959 the "Wells Fargo Office" was slated for demolition as part of the National Park Service's "Mission 66" program that dismantled the majority of buildings in the Old Village and restored the meadow to its natural state. Recognition of the building's unique design and local history led to the

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Yosemite Transportation
CONTINUATION SHEET Company Office ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

allocation of funds for removal rather than destruction. The building was acquired from Yosemite Park and Curry Company and moved to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center in Wawona. There the building was restored to a circa 1912 appearance and opened for interpretive use.

Because the building was moved from its historic location in 1959, the sole significant value requiring management protection is the physical integrity of the present structure.