

PH 0683809

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	SEP 7 1978
DATE ENTERED	DEC 14 1978

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Merced Grove Ranger Station

AND/OR COMMON

Building 6200

2 LOCATION (Merced Grove) *N of El Portal*

STREET & NUMBER

Not applicable

—NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Not applicable

VICINITY OF El Portal

Fourteenth 154

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

California

06

Mariposa

043

2 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED exterior	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED only	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: *(If applicable)*

National Park Service, Western Regional Office

STREET & NUMBER

450 Golden Gate Avenue, Box 36063

CITY, TOWN

STATE

San Francisco

— VICINITY OF

California 94102

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Administration Building, National Park Service

STREET & NUMBER

Box 577

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Yosemite Village, Yosemite National Park, California

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Merced Grove Ranger Station, Building 6200, is a log cabin, roughly 24 by 28 feet, which stands adjacent to an old dirt road through the Merced Grove of Giant Sequoia redwood trees (*Sequoiadendron Giganteum*). To the north, east and west, the land slopes upward into the Sierra Nevada Mountains; to the south is the road. The building has stone foundations and a stone porch at its southwest corner, on the left side of the front. The porch has no railing. The front door enters a living room which fills the southeast corner of the building, and is roughly 12 by 17 feet in dimensions. Immediately behind the porch is a kitchen, 10½ by 13½ feet, entered by a door on the west side of the living room and a door from a small back porch on the northeast corner of the building. A single bedroom, roughly 12 by 14, fills the northeast corner behind the living room, and the building has a bath, shower, and closet adjacent to the bedroom.

The exterior walls consist of peeled logs notched and overlapping at the six corners (two of which are created by the porch indentations). The ends of the logs are sawn, and are progressively battered or tapered inward towards the roof as they rise. Ridgepole and rafters are peeled logs with sawn ends. A stone chimney rises near the center of the shingled, gable roof. Rustic flower boxes adorn the walls beneath front and side windows. Windows in the structure are casement, 6 lites each. The building was originally stained, but virtually no trace of any protective finish remains on the logs.

A most unusual feature of the building is the manner in which the logs are seated. Each log has been adzed on the bottom to form a curved trough, which fits snugly into the curved upper surface of the log beneath it. Thus no chinking is needed and the walls are particularly tight for a log structure.

The bottom of the back door is badly damaged on the outside, appearing to have been partly chewed through by a persistent animal.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1934 - present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT National Park Service

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Merced Grove Ranger Station is of local significance in the category of architecture due to its "rustic" design, which is an unusual variation of the style not reflected in other buildings of rustic architectural significance in the Yosemite locality. It is a stylized version of the log cabins built in these foothills by early pioneers, designed by an architect to blend harmoniously with the natural scene.

The first ranger station in Merced Grove was a 1915 checking station on the Old Coulterville Road, now long gone. By the early 1930s, that road was no longer in use as a park entrance. In 1933, the National Park Service commenced construction of a rustic cabin in Merced Grove amid the Giant Sequoia Redwoods. The building was 95 per cent completed by October, 1934, and was finished in July, 1935. Basically a traditional log cabin, the structure had two unusual features: first, the log ends where they overlapped at the corners were not sawn square, but on a slight incline, so that the ends of the tiered logs were inclined inward or battered toward the roof; second, the bottom of each log was adzed or routed to form a curved trough which fit flush on the curved upper surface of the peeled log beneath it, each log in the walls thus seating tightly against those above and below it, no chinking of gaps thus being required.

For many years, the Merced Grove Cabin served as a summer retreat for Yosemite Park Superintendents, seeking to escape the endless interruptions characteristic of park headquarters and find a spot where they could catch up on pressing paperwork. Superintendent Carl Russell is believed to have done some work on a revised edition of his classic history of Yosemite National Park in this building.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Telephone interview with Richard Russell, Harpers' Ferry Center, 10/28/77, by Gordon Chappell.
 National Park Service Building Files, Western Regional Office, National Park Service, San Francisco (in Division of Cultural Resource Management).
 Superintendent's Monthly Narrative Reports, Yosemite National Park Library, California.
 William Tweed, Henry Law & Laura Soulliere, National Park Service Rustic Architecture, 1916-1942 (San Francisco: National Park Service, Western Regional Office, 1977).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .0296602

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	1
2	4
9	8
4	0

4	1
8	1
5	4
0	

 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B

 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary consists of a rectangle 34 by 38 feet centered on the building.

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

Gordon Chappell, Regional Historian

ORGANIZATION

National Park Service, Western Regional Office

DATE

October 28, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

450 Golden Gate Avenue, Box 36063

TELEPHONE

(415) 556-4165

CITY OR TOWN

San Francisco

STATE

California

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

JUN 30 1978

Kenneth M. Elton

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

J. P. Hollander

TITLE Asst. Director, Cultural Resources DATE 8/3/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Charles Atkins

DATE 12-14-78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *W. Fay Joyce*

DATE 12/12/78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER