



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Regions 8, 9, 10 & 12
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REGIONAL OFFICE Memorandum

TRIP REPORT

DATE: Nov. 17, 2020
FROM: Kim Sykes, Regions 8, 9, 10 & 12 Architect
SUBJECT: Trip Report – LAVO November 10-11, 2020
TO: For the Record

ATTENDEES: Kim Sykes
Gary Mott

FINDINGS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

I completed a site visit to LAVO from Nov. 10-11. The purpose of the visit was to meet Gary Mott and gain knowledge of possible future projects. Below is a summary of the visit.

Arrived at the park Tuesday 11/10 afternoon. Gary Mott greeted me at the LAVO Administrative Area near Mineral, CA. We caught Stephen Farneth, Principal from ARG finishing his review of the historic cabins (Kevin Hoffman's Project PMIS 243902A). Gary also gave me a tour of the in-progress utility work which including trenching and locating transformer stub out locations. All of the electrical will be buried removing power polls and low wiring which will transform the historic administrative area.



After a thorough tour of the admin area and some interesting historic features (culverts, walls, residences, etc.), Gary had me follow him to the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center at the Southwest Entrance Station to the park. There was snow and ice on the road up to the Gate and a

car had run into a tree near just outside the park entrance. My rental car prevailed, and we arrived at the parking area. Gary showed me the Visitor Center interior, the campground, restrooms and a maintenance building. They intend to replace the restroom building. They will need to replace a large tank around which appears that the maintenance building walls were built. The idea is to lift off the roof to drop the new tank into the building. After thanking Gary for the tour and saying goodbye for the day, I attempted the walk to Sulphur Works and had a great view of Mount Diller and Lassen Peak, but I was running out of light and wanted to get down the mountain with some daylight to be sure I didn't hit any icy patches and so I missed out on the bubbly mud pools. The altitude effect was no joke.



Wednesday on the Veteran's holiday I explored the Manzanita Lake area, NW quadrant of the park. Gary had mentioned a stone parapet detail on the seismograph building that he wanted me to review for damage and safety and encouraged me to take in the postcard views within the park. I reviewed the detail at the seismograph building and the exposed rebar and missing concrete mortar to keep the stone in place is concerning. I suggested the park limit access to that side of the small building where visitors can see seismograph equipment through a window. I encouraged he create a PMIS to address the repair need and work with a historical architect to address the detail repair scope. The same detail is also extant at the Loomis Museum building where cracking and missing mortar was also observed. The thaw and freeze cycle is challenging for concrete mortar repair and a special mix is needed and work conditions need to be optimal.

Previous repairs on the eave details have failed. Cyclic funding (PMIS 131854 and PMIS 83322) funded 2 projects over 10 years ago. The stone and concrete details are failing again. Right photo below with red arrow shows missing mortar and exposed rebar with a lot of cracks in the mortar at future failure points. For safety, this needs to be addressed sooner than later to prevent the entire stone detail to fail and fall to the ground.



Seismograph Building – Right Photo - East Elevation Detail showing rebar exposure



Loomis Museum has nearly same detail



Loomis Museum – SW corner detail appears to have exposed rebar.
Other signs of cracking, missing mortar at other Museum roof locations.



The postcard view at Manzanita Lake – 11/11/2020

Kim Sykes, Architect
/s/ Kim Sykes
Architect

Cc: PWRO: David Kruse, Joanna Dixon, Kevin Hoffman, Christine Sterling
LAVO: Gary Mott, Ash Phillips, Kevin Clement