

PH0507377

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY	DATA SHEET
RECEIVED	NOV 18 1977
DATE ENTERED	MAY 5 1978

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC PEAR LAKE SKI HUT

AND/OR COMMON Pear Lake Ranger Station, Building #204

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Not Applicable

CITY, TOWN Sequoia National Park VICINITY OF Lodgepole CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 17th

STATE California CODE 06 COUNTY Tulare CODE 107

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input 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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<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 San Francisco VICINITY OF STATE California

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Tulare County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER Mooney and Mineral King Boulevards

CITY, TOWN Visalia STATE California

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE List of Classified Structures

DATE 1975 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS National Park Service, Western Regional Office

CITY, TOWN San Francisco STATE California

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 Pear Lake Ski Hut (Sequoia National Park building #204) is a one-and-a-half-story stone masonry structure erected by the National Park Service in 1939-1941. It stands on a hillside site near timberline at an elevation of 9,200 feet. The immediate setting is overwhelmingly granitic with scattered groups of lodgepole pines and occasional small meadows. Barren alpine peaks surround the site.

The masonry structure, which measures 17 by 30 feet, seems to rise naturally out of bedrock. This appearance is achieved by battering the crude masonry. The steeply pitched gable roof is supported by a framework of log rafters and brackets and is covered with shakes. One of the gables shelters a second story balcony. The rear gable is filled with board and batten to the wall plate line. The interior is divided into two portions--a large room which comprises over three-quarters of the interior and serves for sleeping and cooking, and a narrow chamber at the rear which is further subdivided into a storage chamber and a chemical toilet closet. Windows open through all the walls except the front, where a door is present. A second door leads from the balcony to the loft, from which point access can be had to the downstairs interior.

The structure has not suffered significant alteration. Currently it is occupied by a park ranger in the summer and is open for the use of ski touring parties during the winter.

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 checked="" 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 1939-41

BUILDER/ARCHITECT National Park Service

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Pear Lake Ski Hut, Sequoia National Park, is of local significance in terms of architecture and historic social/humanitarian endeavor. These significances result from the rustic design of the structure and from its associations with the Civilian Conservation Corps program.

The recent publication National Park Service Rustic Architecture: 1916-1942 (see section 9 of this form) identified the Pear Lake Ski Hut as "one of the most environmentally successful alpine structures ever designed by the NPS." In this regard the structure stands representative of the culmination of the NPS rustic architecture tradition that flourished between 1920 and 1940. This tradition emphasized the relationship between a structure and its natural environment. In the case of the Pear Lake structure, these relationships are obvious. Nearly all of the exterior materials used in the structure are of natural origin. The masonry walls were constructed of irregular native granite and battered to increase the resemblance to nature. The roof rafters and brackets were constructed of pine logs cut in the immediate vicinity. The few exposed areas of milled lumber were purposely left unpainted so that they would take on the same weathered color as the log rafters. The roof was shingled.

Standing near timberline in a spectacular alpine setting, the shelter's design purposely avoided drawing attention to itself. Not only did the use of natural materials cause the building to harmonize well with its natural surroundings, but the design of the building made it appear considerably smaller than it actually was. Specifically, the oversized windows in the side walls created an optical illusion that reduced the apparent size of the structure. Hence both in its use of materials and in its design the structure is representative of the best of National Park Service rustic architecture.

The social/humanitarian significance apparent in the structure results from the fact that actual construction was achieved by enrollees from the Buckeye Civilian Conservation Corps Camp. Between 1933 and 1942 Sequoia National Park was intensively developed with the assistance of CCC enrollees. At times as many as 7 camps and 1,000 enrollees were active within the park. CCC projects were typified by the intensive utilization of hand labor, the high levels of handcraftsmanship. In both these regards the Pear Lake structure is typical. Although the CCC program was responsible for the construction of countless developments within the park, few are as substantial as the Pear Lake ski hut. For this reason it makes a particularly appropriate memorial to the program.

Significant values requiring management protection relate to the preservation of the exterior appearance of the building and to the preservation of the natural setting.

