

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 14000412

Date Listed: 7/18/2014

Sunrise High Sierra Camp  
Property Name


Mariposa  
County

CA  
State

Yosemite National Park MPS  
Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

7/18/2014  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

**Location:**

The Street Location is revised to read: *Along North bank of Long Meadow Creek, overlooking Long Meadow (southeast of Sunrise Lakes).*

**Bibliographical References:**

The property was not previously determined eligible by the Keeper of the National Register. [The determination was made by the NPS for compliance purposes only.]

These clarifications were confirmed with the NPS FPO office.

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DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Sunrise High Sierra Camp

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number N/A

N/A	not for publication
N/A	vicinity

city or town Yosemite National Park (YOSE)

state California code CA county Mariposa code 043 zip code 95389

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,  
I hereby certify that this  nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property  meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

Adam K. ... Signature of certifying official/Title June 4 / 2014 Date

National Park Service State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property  meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Carol Roland Nawi Signature of commenting official Carol Roland-Nawi, Ph.D. 7/19/2013 Date

California Office of Historic Preservation State Historic Preservation Officer Title California Office of Historic Preservation State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register  determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register  removed from the National Register

other (explain:)

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper

7/19/2014 Date of Action

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**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
 (Check as many boxes as apply.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

**Category of Property**  
 (Check only one box.)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
 (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
16	2	buildings
		sites
4		structures
		objects
20	2	<b>Total</b>

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
 (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Historic Resources of Yosemite National Park,  
 California

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/camp  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/camp  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: Rustic  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: concrete/stone/wood  
 walls: canvas/stone/wood  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 roof: canvas/shake/metal  
 other: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

#### Summary Paragraph

The Sunrise High Sierra Camp was established in 1961 and is located in the backcountry of Yosemite National Park in California. It is one of six camps that comprise a loop system and was the final one to open, marking the completion of the loop system through the High Sierras that had been planned some 50 years prior. Located on a topographic bench above an alpine meadow, the camp is only reachable by foot or saddle: it is five miles from the Sunrise trailhead on Tioga Road at the west end of Tenaya Lake, or ten miles northwest of Merced Lake High Sierra Camp and eight and a half miles southeast from May Lake High Sierra Camp along the High Sierra Loop Trail. Sunrise is also on the John Muir Trail, thirteen and a half miles from the trail head in Yosemite Valley. The 4.5 acres that make up the camp are set along a level expanse surrounded by steep granite cliffs to the north and east and an L shaped meadow to the south and east. The Sunrise High Sierra Camp provides beds in cement-floored canvas tents, eating facilities in a combination cook house/tent diner, hot showers, and composting toilets. Dormitory-type guest tent cabins hold four people, usually men and women separately, with special arrangements possible for family groups or couples. Open during the summer months, the camp consists of five permanent buildings (of which three are contributing) and 13 seasonal canvas buildings (of which all are contributing). The district maintains a high level of integrity in terms of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

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### Narrative Description

#### LOCATION & SETTING

The Sunrise High Sierra Camp Historic District is located in the Sierra Nevada mountain range just below tree line at an elevation of 9,400 feet. It is approximately five and a half miles southeast of the geographic center of the 1,200 square mile Yosemite National Park. Both the physical isolation of the camp and the rugged landscape that guards it result in relatively low visitation rate; well under one percent of total park visitors ever make it to this back country location. Once there, guests experience a mild summer climate that is cooler than the stifling 100 degree temperatures routinely encountered in Yosemite Valley. The Mediterranean climate is typified by snow in the winter months and little to no precipitation during the summer, although like the rest of the Sierras, weather is only loosely predictable. The camps are operational only during the summer months and opening day can vary by as much as two months from season to season based on rate of snow melt. The high elevation, aspect and tree cover generally make Sunrise the last of the High Sierra camps to open each year.

The camp is surrounded by designated wilderness. Long Meadow, the lush sward that distinguishes this site, lies at the foot of the topographic bench where the structures are located, providing open views to the south and east. Visible topographic features include Cathedral Peak, Tresidder Peak, Echo Peaks, Matthes Crest, and the Clark Range. Unnamed granite cliffs limit the views to the north and west. A spring above the camp to the west provides the water for the camp and feeds Long Meadow Creek, which runs through the backpacker's campground to the southwest and continues downhill and through Long Meadow, eventually joining the Cathedral Fork and Echo Creek before it is collected by the Merced River. Dense stands of lodgepole pines are sprinkled throughout the building complex and a large granite outcrop forms the southern boundary.

#### PROPERTY DESCRIPTION



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The High Sierra Camp idea was the product of National Park Service director Stephen Mather's desire to encourage park visitation out of Yosemite Valley and into the high country. Mather believed that the Park Service could better fulfill its responsibility to interpret the agency's conservation role if visitors experienced the Yosemite wilderness, and encouraged the park concessioner, the Desmond Park Service Company, to build backcountry destinations. Sunrise High Sierra Camp was the final camp in the loop of "mountain chalets" when it opened in 1961, and completed the vision that had been imagined 50 years earlier: creating an opportunity for visitors to experience wilderness without sacrificing basic comforts or enduring the physical requirements of carrying shelter and food. Prior to this camp opening, travelers of the High Sierra Camp circuit would need to pass roughly 18.5 miles between Merced Lake High Sierra Camp and May Lake High Sierra Camp. Sunrise was intentionally located between these two camps, making the travel distance no greater than 10 miles in a day. Although it is unclear why this camp opened so much later than the rest of the camps, the answer likely lies in the closure of the relatively nearby Tenaya Lake High Sierra Camp in 1938. Shortly thereafter, the US entered into World War II which likely dampened the urgency to replace the Tenaya Lake High Sierra Camp. It is known that the creation of Sunrise was financed and inspired by Mary Curry Tresidder, president of the Yosemite Park and Curry Co., who said in 1961 that the creation of "Sunrise Camp was long a dream of mine".<sup>1</sup>

The design of Sunrise High Sierra Camp reflects its remote backcountry location, the climate, and the geographic features of the area. The influence of the climate and location of the camp is most obvious in the choice of materials and design of buildings. Permanent structures were constructed to withstand heavy snow loads and were assembled from local materials that were easily available and required little transportation. In contrast, canvas sided buildings were designed to be disassembled and stored at the end of each season.

The topography of the area, specifically the narrow bench alongside Long Meadow, provided an ideal location to establish the complex. The relatively level landform was punctuated with a series of large granite outcrops and glacial erratics that restrict building sites. The complex was loosely organized, with guest tent cabins being located southwest and employee tent cabins and service oriented structures, including the dining tent/cookhouse, lantern and linen shed, and corral located northeast. The campfire circle in the southwest and the corral in the northeast marked the two extreme ends of the built environment. Guest tent cabins were arranged in two irregular rows; five were located along the toe of the slope to the north and four along the edge of the granite outcrop to the south. The bathhouse was historically sited at a central location, just off the John Muir Trail, which bisects the site. The dining tent is situated along the edge of the granite outcrop to take advantage of stunning vistas to the south overlooking Long's meadow towards the Clark Range. Employee tent cabins, one each for male, female and manager, are tucked into the toe of the slope northeast of guest quarters. Trails through the camp were informal social paths, rather than constructed paths, and created a maze that crisscrossed between buildings and denuded the fragile vegetation.

Arrival into camp is gained from the north, south or west. The southern approach is via the John Muir Trail, with its trailhead approximately thirteen and a half miles away at Happy Isles in Yosemite Valley. Access into camp via the southern route includes a winding ascent out of Long Meadow, over a granite outcrop, and through the backpacker camp southwest of the building complex. The northern approach, a segment of the John Muir Trail where it overlaps with the High Sierra Loop Trail, is a ten mile trek from Merced Lake High Sierra Camp. From the north, the trail climbs out of Long Meadow by way of a set of mortared stone steps built into a granite outcrop. Stock is not allowed on the stairs; accommodations for them are made on a separate trail north of the stairs. Both the north and south routes transect Long Meadow, and due to the topography and tree cover, the camp remains invisible for most of the approach. The western route descends down Sunrise Mountain via the High Sierra Loop Trail, and a careful observer is able to distinguish tent cabins before reaching camp.

With a few exceptions, the current layout is very similar to the historic one and physical changes to the camp since the end of the period of significance have been few. The corral, originally located north of the cook house was relocated approximately 420 yards to the southwest, well away from the camp facilities. The exact date of the move is unknown, but a map from 1975 shows the corral in its current location. Anecdotal evidence suggests that motivating factors for the move included the flies and smell associated with the pack animals; neither deemed an appealing attribute so close to the cook house. A hitching rack was installed at an unspecified date north of the dining tent, which provided a temporary

<sup>1</sup> Sargent, *Yosemite's High Sierra Camps*, 16.

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location for the mule trains that delivered supplies and removed garbage. A tack shed was also constructed in this area approximately 25 yards north of the dining tent, sometime after the close of the period of significance.

The historic bathhouse was replaced in a new location. The replacement building, a two story structure that houses both composting toilets and showers, took a few years to construct. The design was approved in 1993 and construction began in 1994, when the original bath house was removed. An exceptionally heavy snow year closed all the High Sierra Camps for the season of 1995 and no progress was made on the structure. The camp remained closed while construction continued in 1996 and it was reopened when it was completed in 1997. The new location is southwest of the original, built into the toe of the granite slope. To make room for the structure, a tent cabin was reoriented and moved approximately 25 feet south of its original location.

Concurrent with the new bathhouse, improvements were made to the water filtration and septic systems. The facilities related to the water intake – a small shed mounted with a solar panel, a concrete block collection tank, and a metal locker built onto a concrete block foundation - were located above and west of the camp's historic district, and invisible from below. The septic system originally included effluent ponds in the meadow, but these were removed in 1994 and the meadow restored. A septic tank, historically housed in a shed located along the stairs from the meadow, has also been abandoned, but the shed remains.

Beginning in 2004, camp employees formalized pathways by lining common routes with rocks gathered from around the site. Vegetation has filled in these untrammelled areas, further defining paths. Small, wooden footbridges cross creek beds, which are seasonally wet but typically dry up by mid-summer. The John Muir Trail forms the spine through camp, with arterials branching off to provide access to individual tent cabins and the bath house. Trails north of the cookhouse are less defined; this area is used for loading and unloading the mule trains that deliver both supplies and guests.

While the Sunrise High Sierra Camp district has undergone some changes and alterations since the period of significance, the district retains a high level of historic integrity in terms of setting, location, design, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association. The camp has retained its original function as a High Sierra Camp, providing food and accommodations to those who desire a wilderness experience while not completely foregoing the comforts of a hot meal and a bed. The camp remains in its original location next to Long Meadow. The camp retains integrity of feeling and association with its intact contributing historic features, natural landscape, and its association with the High Sierra Loop system. The arrangement of tent cabins, in two rows north and south of the John Muir Trail, and service facilities located to the northeast, has remained consistent over time. While modifications have been made to the district, including reconstructing the toilet and bathhouse facility and utilities, siting of new structures has been sensitive to the historic patterns and new construction has been compatible with existing historic features. Overall, the changes have had a minimal impact to the site's historic integrity and noncontributing resources do not detract from the historic character of the district.

A backpackers' campground, which is maintained by the National Park Service (NPS), is located southwest of Sunrise High Sierra Camp and outside the district boundary. The Sunrise High Sierra Camp and backpackers' campground are distinctly separate. Each has its own infrastructure, including bear boxes and campfire rings. The backpackers' campground has not been included within the historic district boundaries for a number of reasons described in the boundary description.

## **CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES**

### ***Cookhouse (Building, 1961)***

The cookhouse is located on the northeast end of the camp in the cluster of service buildings. This building is co-located with the Dining Tent. It is rectangular in plan with the longitudinal axis running roughly southwest to northeast. It is a one-story, log framed building with battered masonry gravity walls, and a concrete foundation. In deference to the other High Sierra Camps which were constructed much earlier, this 1961 building was designed in the rustic style, utilizing key character defining features such as the use of local and natural materials like stone and logs. The handcrafting is highlighted in the projecting log purlins, deeply raked mortar joints and the battered stone walls. The battered stone walls are constructed of uncoursed, flat stones with tight, deeply recessed mortar joints that create a 'pile of rocks' look, unifying the building with the landscape.

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There is one entryway located at the east end of the north elevation which features a decorative wood flat arch lintel above the door. A rubble-filled, masonry wall and incinerator are attached just west of the door and segregate the public area from the working zone. Two feet west of the incinerator wall is a wooden extension that holds a hot water heater for the cookhouse. The extension measures 3'4" x 3'7" and has a shed roof covered in wood shingles and unpainted wood shake siding. West of the extension is a hopper window with a decorative wood flat arch lintel above, directly under the eaves.

The east elevation has a shed roof –covered extension that contains the camp's propane tanks. The extension measures 9'3" long by 2'6" deep, with a poured concrete foundation, unpainted board-and-batten siding, and a corrugated metal roof. There are four wooden doors on the east elevation of the extension, each with two small screened openings. Large, unpeeled log purlins are visible under the low pitched gable which is covered by a barge rafter.

The south elevation contains two recessed awning windows, each with a decorative flat arch wooden lintel. The cookhouse is attached at gabled ends with the Dining Tent along the west elevation, which has one large entryway. The roof contains several layers including wood shakes, which cover corrugated metal, which covers 2"x4"s.

#### ***Dining Tent (Building, 1961)***

The dining tent is co-located with the cookhouse, attached at the gabled east end. It is a one-story, metal frame, rectangular, front gable canvas tent with a concrete foundation and canvas roof that measures 18'4" x 36'. An entryway is located along the west elevation, offset of center to the south. A granite and mortar landing, approximately 6 by 4 feet, sits beneath this entryway. The buildings south elevation has two wooden doors, each of which has a single granite step. The area between the doors on the south elevation is enclosed by only screens, permitting views to Long Meadow and the Clark Range. The same fenestration pattern is repeated along the north elevation, without the doors, allowing cross ventilation to naturally cool the building.

#### ***Linen and Lantern Storage Shed (Building, 1961)***

The linen and lantern storage shed is located on the northeast end of the camp in the cluster of service buildings. It is a one-story, wood frame, front gable building on a poured concrete foundation that measures 12'5" x 14'4". Two entryways are centered along the east and west elevations. It is clad in unpainted board and batten siding and the simple low-pitch gable roof is constructed of corrugated metal over plywood. Exposed purlins are braced by two inch thick boards. Historically, the building was used for linen storage and as a lantern shed with an internal wall that divided the space in Septic Tank Shed in two. The use of lanterns was abandoned sometime in the 1970s and the shed is now used exclusively for linen storage. The internal wall was removed at an unknown date. The original design called for a shingled roof. The corrugated metal was likely added after the period of significance, and in fact may cover the original roof material. It could easily be reversed and does not affect the integrity of the structure.

#### ***Septic Tank Shed (Building, 1961)***

The septic tank shed is located along the granite outcrop between Long Meadow and the topographic bench where the camp's facilities are located. The poured concrete foundation is surrounded on three sides by a mortared stone masonry retaining wall. It is a one-story, wood frame building with unpainted board and batten siding and a simple gable roof covered with wood shingles. There is an entryway on the west elevation, a window along the south elevation, and a low, screened opening along the north elevation.

#### ***Guest Tent Cabins 1-9 (9) (Buildings, 1961)***

Nine guest tent cabins are located at the southwest end of the camp, arranged in two rows. Cabins 1-5 are situated along the edge of the granite outcrop and cabins 6-9 are tucked into the toe of the slope to the north. Three employee tent cabins are situated along the toe of the slope east of the guest tent cabins. Cabins 7 and 8 have six beds and measure 12' x 28'. Cabin 4 has two beds and measures 12' x 14', the remainder of the cabins have four beds and also measure 12' x 14'. The front gable cabins are framed with metal poles, covered with white canvas on concrete platforms. Each has a wood screen door painted green with the cabin number stenciled on the front. The employee tents are plastic-coated "CDAI Flame-Resistant Fabric" not standard canvas like the camps dining tent. While the canvas must be replaced periodically due to its impermanent nature, the historic character in terms of use, organization, location, and design have remained consistent over time.

#### ***Employee Tent Cabins E8, E9, E10 (3) (Buildings, 1961)***



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The three employee tent cabins at Sunrise date to the camps inception in 1961. They are situated among the glacial erratics and vegetation along the camps northern periphery. These tent cabins were originally named based on their occupants: Women Employees Tent, Manager's Tent, and Men Employees Tent, moving west to east, although this naming convention is no longer current. They are identical to the guest tent cabins found at this and other High Sierra Camps: front gable, 12'x14' flame resistant canvas tents supported by metal poles on concrete foundations with painted green wood doors.

***Incinerator (Structure, 1961)***

The camp incinerator is located north of the cookhouse and is attached to the cookhouse by a rubble filled, battered, masonry wall. The wall is nine feet two inches long and five feet high and connects to the cookhouse's north elevation just west of the employee entrance to the kitchen. The wall measures 1'7" at the base and 1' at the top and is made of granite stones with deeply raked mortar joints. The masonry wall connects to the south corner of the incinerator, which is of similar construction; granite stones with deeply raked mortar joints. The incinerator is a pyramidal trapezoid that measures 6'6" square at the base and 3'6" square at the top with a stone foundation. It is approximately 10' tall. A rectangular metal door covers the firebox, located near the bottom of the east elevation. There is a metal grate attached to the flat top of the incinerator chimney. The incinerator is no longer used to burn garbage, but together the wall and the chimney create a work zone that is segregated from the landscape around the structure.

***Stone Stairs and Retaining Wall (Structure, 1961)***

A series of granite stairs and retaining walls provide access between Long Meadow and the topographic bench above. The stairs are incorporated into the granite outcrop, using naturally occurring ledges and stones mortared in place as risers and ramps. The stairs are between four and five feet wide and are composed of stones of a variety of sizes. Treads vary in depth and are surfaced either with decomposed granite or stone. Often a single stone serves as both tread and riser, which vary in height from eight to twelve inches. The mortar joints are deeply raked with gaps between stones less than three inches. The stairs are 33 yards long with a vertical change of twelve feet. The retaining wall is of identical construction and is incorporated into the stairs, extending south beyond the bottom riser for approximately 25 feet. The wall terminates in a series of bump outs and right angles, which form three sides of a rectangle, the base for the septic tank shed which sits above. The wall is approximately three and a half feet high, with four visible courses. The uncapped top is level and approximately eight inches thick.

***Campfire Ring (Structure, 1961)***

The campfire ring is located approximately 25 yards southwest of guest tent cabin 6 on the north side of the John Muir Trail. It is approximately 8 feet in diameter and constructed out of two courses of local granite stones collected on site. It is in good condition and functions as an integral part of the social interaction within the camp. Following a tradition that dates back to the earliest days of the camp, park rangers give fireside chats here.

***Hitching Rack (Structure, 1961)***

A 22 foot long, 3-foot 6-inch tall hitching rack is located north of the dining tent and runs roughly north to south. It is constructed of peeled logs, approximately 18 inches in diameter. The 3 foot high posts are set in concrete piers 4 feet on center that extend from 6 inches to 1 foot above the ground plane. The posts are saddle notched on top so the rail sits down into each post. The posts are also notched on opposite sides to create a flat surface for T straps, which are bolted to the rail and on either side of the posts.

**NONCONTRIBUTING RESOURCES**

***Storage Shed (Building, post-1961)***

The storage shed is located on the northeast end of the camp in the cluster of facility buildings that include the cookhouse, linen storage shed, and hitching posts used to unload stock mules. It is unknown when the building was constructed, but it first appears on a map in 2003. It sits northwest of the cookhouse and west of the linen storage building. The building is 1-story, wood frame, front gable shed measuring approximately 8' x 8' on a concrete pier block foundation. It is made of plywood wrapped with corrugated metal siding and roof, and is entirely painted brown. The shed is accessed from a wood door sheathed in corrugated metal on the northeast façade. There is brown plywood on each gable with barge rafters and exposed rafter tails. The building is currently used to store wood, extra mattresses, and other operational materials.



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***Bathhouse/Composting Toilet (Building, 1993)***

The bathhouse and composting toilet facility is located north of the guest tent cabins, along the toe of the slope that forms the edge of the campground. It is a two-story building, with a breezeway that separates four toilet stalls from four showers stalls, which are located on the top floor; the bottom floor contains the compost vault, service area, and crawlspace. Concrete stairs supported by walls clad with granite stones set in mortar provide access to the facilities. The building is 24' x 30' and has a simple gable roof with an offset gable projection, projecting eaves on the gabled ends and exposed purlins. It has composite shakes and board and batten siding with two small windows on the south elevation and a small window on the west elevation.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Conservation \_\_\_\_\_

Education \_\_\_\_\_

Entertainment/Recreation \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1961 \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1961 \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Yosemite Park and Curry Company \_\_\_\_\_

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The period of significance for Sunrise High Sierra Camp is 1961, the inaugural year for the camp and the year that the overwhelming majority of its facilities were constructed. With the construction of Sunrise High Sierra Camp in 1961, all of the Yosemite High Sierra Camps were constructed and the loop system currently enjoyed by High Sierra Camp visitors was realized.

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

Property Type: Resources Associated with Tourism, Recreation and the Preservation Ethic in Yosemite (1864-1973)  
Subtype: Camping, Hiking  
Period of Significance: 1961

Sunrise High Sierra Camp is significant under Criterion A at the local level for its role in recreation/entertainment, conservation, and education as one of the high country camps, whose origin dates back to the earliest days of the National Park Service (NPS). Director Stephen T. Mather believed that this type of public service in the Yosemite high country helped fulfill NPS's interpretive responsibility to educate visitors in the conservation role of the agency. The Yosemite camp system initially began in 1916 as an effort to attract people into the park's high country. Its purpose, as time went on, became closely tied to management problems: to relieve congestion in Yosemite Valley by enabling outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy the Yosemite wilderness with relative ease and some degree of comfort and to provide a compatible environment in which, through interpretive means, visitors could be instructed in the tenets of conservation and the objectives of NPS in that area. Through the use of organized parties guided by a Yosemite naturalist, NPS established a unique pattern of interpretive service in the high country of one of the most popular national parks, which helped acquaint the American public with the conservation objectives of the NPS.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

#### **HISTORIC CONTEXT: RECREATIONAL MOUNTAIN HUTS**

Recreational mountain huts (also known as alpine huts, mountain shelters, mountain hostels, wilderness huts, high huts, backcountry huts or hikers' camps) are found throughout the world, and are particularly abundant in Europe, and range from simple one-room shelters to more elaborate accommodations with multiple bedrooms, common rooms, indoor plumbing, and heat. Recreational mountain huts are built to shelter backcountry travelers such as hikers, mountaineers, climbers, and skiers.<sup>2</sup> It is probable that Donald and Mary Curry Tresidder, who were influential in growing the High Sierra Camps, were motivated to expand Yosemite's High Sierra Camps while traveling abroad and seeing their popularity of recreational mountain huts in Europe.<sup>3</sup>

In the United States, recreational mountain huts were first used in the northeast. One of the earliest and best-known recreational mountain hut systems was created by the New Hampshire Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC).<sup>4</sup> Each of the system's eight huts is spaced a day's hike apart (six to eight miles), covering a 56-mile stretch of the Appalachian Trail in the White Mountain National Forest.<sup>5</sup> AMC was founded in 1876 with the mission of preserving the White Mountains. In 1888 the club built the first of eight "high huts," Madison Spring Hut, which was modeled on Alpine shelters. Until destroyed by fire in 1940, the Madison Spring Hut was the oldest in the chain. The Mizpah Spring Hut, completed in 1964, was the eighth and the last AMC hut to be constructed. AMC huts hold 36 to 90 people and provide guests bunks; most huts are full service and include breakfast and dinner.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Louis Dawson, "Hut History," *10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division Hut Association*. 3 August 2010. <[www.huts.org/education/hut\\_history.html](http://www.huts.org/education/hut_history.html)>.

<sup>3</sup> Donald Tresidder was the first president of Yosemite's consolidated concessions operation, the Yosemite Park and Curry Company (YP&CCo.), and oversaw a remarkable expansion of park facilities. Mrs. Mary Curry Tresidder was the heir to the famous Camp Curry concession (founded in 1899) and remained integral to the concessions operations at Yosemite for decades, serving as the Chairman of the Board for YP&CCo. until the late 1960s.

<sup>4</sup> Madeleine Eno and Katharine Wroth, "Huts and Glory: AMC's Archives Offer a Wry Peek at Life on the High Peaks." *Appalachian Mountain Club*, 15 September 2010 <<http://www.outdoors.org/>>.

<sup>5</sup> Lisa McLaughlin, "Travel: Not Really Roughing It," *Time*, 15 September 2010. <<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1106327,00.html>>.

<sup>6</sup> *Appalachian Mountain Club*, 15 September 2010 <<http://www.outdoors.org/>>

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Another example of a recreational hut system is the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division Hut Association. It is the most extensive mountain hut system in the United States and includes 30 backcountry huts in the Colorado Rocky Mountains connected by 350 miles of backcountry trails.<sup>7</sup> The system was founded in the 1980s and named after the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division of the U.S. Army, who stayed in mountain huts while training. Not all of the structures were originally built as mountain huts: some were converted from sheep-herder shelters and Forest Service guard shacks.<sup>8</sup> The 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division Hut Association accommodates hikers, mountain bikers, and cross-country skiers.

Yosemite's High Sierra Camps are unusual in the context of recreational mountain huts. While most recreational mountain huts in Europe and the eastern United States were maintained by hiking associations, even if situated on public lands, the High Sierra Camps were built and maintained by a for-profit concessioner. Further, most recreational mountain huts were built with the primary purpose of providing year-round shelter, and their permanent buildings are used heavily by cross-country skiers. The High Sierra Camps are distinctive in their emphasis on interpretation programs and their seasonal, temporary nature of buildings.

Within the National Park system, there are other facilities that, like the High Sierra Camps, offer rustic accommodations and are accessible only by foot or pack animal, but differ in that they are primarily permanent buildings and are individual camps rather than a loop system. Some examples include backcountry lodging in Glacier National Park, Sequoia National Park, Grand Canyon National Park, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and Haleakala National Park.

The Sperry Chalet and the Granite Park Chalet are located in Glacier National Park and were built by the Glacier Park Hotel Company, a subsidiary of the Great Northern Railway. Construction on the Sperry Chalet began in 1913, and the complex soon consisted of a stone, one-story kitchen and dining room building and a stone, two-story dormitory. The Granite Park Chalet was built the next year, in 1914, and included a stone, one-story, dormitory building and a stone, two-story building housing a kitchen and dormitory. These developments slightly precede the construction of the earliest of the High Sierra Camps at Yosemite, which were built in 1916.

Sequoia National Park has a single backcountry camp that is very similar to the High Sierra Camps at Yosemite. It is called Bearpaw High Sierra Camp. Located along Sequoia's High Sierra Trail in the Kaweah River watershed, this High Sierra Camp opened for business in 1934. The camp complex includes a dining room/kitchen tent structure, a bathhouse, and, in a very similar fashion as Yosemite's High Sierra Camps, six tent cabins that sleep up to 18 visitors. Also, like the High Sierra Camps at Yosemite, Bearpaw is operated by a for-profit concessioner and offers meals to backpackers that are staying at a nearby backcountry campground.<sup>7</sup>

After the Fred Harvey Company was granted the concession to build a lodge in the Grand Canyon in 1922, the company hired noted architect Mary Jane Colter to design the buildings. Colter named the lodge the Phantom Ranch and designed a dining hall and guest cabins. Phantom Ranch is located at the bottom of the Grand Canyon, and is only accessed by foot, mule, or river raft. Additions were made over the decades, and the camp currently includes a combination of historic and nonhistoric buildings and provides guests accommodations, meals, and linens. Although the Phantom Ranch is comprised of permanent buildings and is not a part of a backcountry circuit, it is similar to Yosemite's High Sierra Camps in that it is a backcountry hostelry that is run by the parks concessioner.

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park has two lodges accessible only by hiking or horseback: Charit Creek and LeConte. Built as a hunting lodge in 1817, Charit Creek Lodge was converted to a youth hostel in 1987 and a full-service lodge in the 1990s. Sleeping space for 38 guests is provided in two cabins and two bunk rooms, and meal service is included. LeConte Lodge was built in 1926, and sleeping quarters for 50 guests are located in roughhewn cabins and dormitories.

<sup>7</sup> McLaughlin.

<sup>8</sup> Dawson.

<sup>9</sup> Tweed, *Uncertain Path: A Search for the Future of National Parks*. 168-170.



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Hiking trails in Haleakala National Park provide access to three small, permanent cabins built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s. The cabins are usually accessed from different trails and are not part of a loop system. Each cabin offers visitors a stove, kitchen facilities, and bunks, and guests prepare their own meals.

The lodging in National Parks described above is similar to the High Sierra Camps in that guests arrive by foot or pack animal, and simple sleeping accommodations are provided. However, there are important differences. First, the facilities described above primarily consist of permanent buildings. Secondly, the lodges and cabins are not part of loop systems. Thirdly, with the exception of the Phantom Ranch, most are a lodge building type, with at least some of the guests' sleeping quarters located in the main lodge.

#### ***HISTORIC CONTEXT: HIGH SIERRA CAMPS***<sup>10</sup>

An important and historically significant portion of the Yosemite National Park lies above the elevations normally approached by the casual tourist and sight-seer. The High Sierra Camps allow for exploration and enjoyment of this remote and seasonally accessed part of the park. A series of camps established for the enjoyment of the more adventuresome of visitors, the High Sierra Camps offer support and shelter on several of the trails that carry hikers, riders and backpackers through this rugged and challenging wilderness.

In 1916 the fledgling National Park Service asked its Yosemite concessionaire—the Desmond Park Service Company—to build mountain chalets at Tenaya Lake, Tuolumne Meadows, and Merced Lake. The Desmond Company owned the Sentinel and Glacier Point hotels and the Big Trees and Yosemite lodges in and around Yosemite Valley. Construction took place during that summer. Each camp contained a frame combination lounge, dining room, and kitchen building roofed with canvas. Guest tents provided sleeping accommodations, and the camp staff consisted of a manager, a cook, and a fisherman. The cost for dinner, bed, and breakfast the next day was minimal. The Desmond Company went bankrupt in 1917, and, as a result, the camps closed the following year. After reorganizing in 1920, the Desmond Company became the Yosemite National Park Company.

In 1920 the Park Service requested that the High Sierra camps be reopened. Superintendent Washington B. Lewis advocated their reestablishment to fill a need he saw for simple, inexpensive accommodations for the park visitor that could be provided at minimum expense to the operator. As a result, the camps at Tenaya Lake and Tuolumne Meadows were reopened as "Hikers' Camps." The first organized party to use them left Yosemite Valley on July 20, 1923, guided by a Park Service naturalist. Other nature-guided parties went out over the next two months and met with considerable success. As a result, Superintendent Lewis requested that the Yosemite National Park Company expand the system to include sites not accessible by roads. He sent Yosemite Park Naturalist Carl P. Russell on a pack trip into the Sierra to choose sites for five additional camps.

The trail-side campsites that seemed best suited to the High Sierra system were at Little Yosemite Valley, Merced Lake, Boothe Lake, the Lyell Fork of the Tuolumne River, Tuolumne Meadows, Glen Aulin, and Tenaya Lake. Russell selected these locations because of the beauty of their surroundings, their distance from other promising campsites, and the availability of water. In 1924 five of those sites were planned as "Hikers' Camps," built and operated by the Yosemite National Park Company. The Lyell Fork and Glen Aulin Camps intended for installation were omitted from that year's program of expansion. It was planned that all of the camps would consist of a mess and cook tent and dormitory tents for men and women. Attendants and cooks would staff each camp with equipment and supplies brought in by mules.

During a part of the winter of 1923-24, Naturalist Russell was in San Francisco on Yosemite Museum business. At the suggestion of Yosemite National Park Company officials, he took the opportunity to cultivate the acquaintance of some of the newspaper editors in San Francisco with the intent of releasing to them photographs, maps, and notes on the proposed Hikers' Camps. Writers for the *Call*, *Daily News*, *Examiner*, *Herald*, and the *Chronicle* seized upon the opportunity to use the material. The *Herald* for February 13, 1924, first publicized the camps, and other articles followed in quick succession. By February 17, 1924, the San Francisco office of the Yosemite National Park Company reported that it was somewhat overwhelmed with inquiries engendered by the publicity. The announcement made in the *Chronicle* of May

<sup>10</sup> This context is based largely on excerpts from the 8 March 2010 Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp National Register Nomination prepared by Andy Kirk, Richard Coop, and Charles Palmer.

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4, 1924 featured a full page of photographs of the camp sites. A 1924 article on the High Sierra camps by NPS Chief Naturalist Ansel F. Hall provided a description of the High Sierra Loop and the comfortable beds and wholesome meals, provided at a mere 75-cents each, that awaited backcountry travelers at day's end.

Meanwhile, the park prepared maps and colored posters announcing the expanded camp system and readied sets of hand-tinted lanternslides of "standard" size featuring the camps and the trails between camps. The Yosemite National Park Company met the expense involved in making those visual devices. During the travel season of 1924, the Hikers' Camps received a good deal of emphasis in evening talks, in a special printed bulletin, and on the pages of the mimeographed "Yosemite Nature Notes." On June 24, 1924, the first backcountry nature guide party, a group of ten, set out from Camp Curry for the Hikers' Camps. Thereafter, for the next six years, the six-day trips were offered throughout the summer at two-week intervals. Almost immediately, it became clear the camps drew people on horseback as well as hikers, and the name was changed from Hikers Camps to High Sierra Camps. Backcountry excursions were operated annually during the eight- to ten-week season during the summer when the snow pack had retreated sufficiently for the parties to access the trails.

By the mid-1920s, seven backcountry camps had been established: Little Yosemite Camp, Merced Lake Camp, Boothe Lake Camp, Mount Lyell Camp, Tuolumne Meadows Camp, Glen Aulin Camp, and Lake Tenaya Camp. The proposed Glen Aulin Camp began operating in 1927, but later moved slightly east of its original location because of a mosquito problem. A few years later the Boothe Lake Camp was abandoned in favor of a new camp, Vogelsang, first located near the junction of the Rafferty Creek and Lyell Fork trails and, in 1940, on the banks of Fletcher Creek. In 1938 the Tenaya Lake Camp was closed, and in its place another was established amidst the mountain hemlocks at May Lake under the ramparts of Mount Hoffmann. This left the Tuolumne Meadows Camp the only one on a road. Sunrise High Sierra Camp was not established until 1961.

The sheer size of and demand for access to this remote area of the park has required significant planning and coordination among the Park concessionaires, NPS, campers, and hikers. The following descriptions of the campsites and their physical relationships demonstrate the logistical dexterity necessary for the park to accommodate the tourists, maintain the integrity of the wilderness area in which these trails and camps exist, and protect the wildlife and scenic beauty indigenous to this region. In addition, the travelers must be protected from significant exposure to the dramatic elements that can change abruptly and without warning. What follows are the original 1924 descriptions of the sites selected for Merced Lake Camp, Tuolumne Meadows Camp, and Glen Aulin Camp:

[Merced Lake Camp:] Those who have climbed to Vogelsang Pass or have followed the Babcock and Emeric Lake Trail to Tuolumne Pass will remember the splendid park of Jeffrey pines that stands where the trail leaves the main Merced Canyon and branches up the McClure Fork. Here, a mile above Merced Lake stands Merced Lake Camp. The region is one of great beauty. The glaciated canyon cuts eastward deep into the heart of the mountains. Through it runs the singing Merced, now plunging over cascades, now flowing deep, now swift, and now loitering for a time in placid Washburn Lake. Not only here, but also in the McClure Fork, Babcock Lake, Bernice Lake, Emeric Lake, and other waters the trout abound. Merced Camp is a good base from which to ascend Florence Mountain or Mount Clark and its lofty neighbors. Within a long day's walk are Yosemite Valley and the hikers' camps at Lake Tenaya (via Clouds Rest), at Tuolumne Meadows (via Tuolumne Pass or Vogelsang Pass), and in Lyell Canyon (via Vogelsang Pass or Tuolumne Pass). A short day westward is the Little Yosemite Camp. A seven-mile climb on the scenic Babcock and Emeric Lake Trail, or on the even more spectacular Vogelsang Pass Trail, would take us to Boothe Lake Camp....

[Tuolumne Meadows Camp:] Of all the spots in the High Sierra, John Muir's favorite was the Tuolumne Meadows. So many are the attractive excursions that may be taken afoot from the camp near the junction of the Lyell Fork and Dana Fork that hikers will be tempted to prolong their stay here from days to weeks. Among the shorter walks are those to Lambert Dome, Dog Lake, Fairview Dome, Evelyn Lake, and Gaylor Lakes; a little longer are the trips to Young Lake, McCabe Lakes, Tioga Pass, Tioga Lake, Ellery Lake, Saddlebag Lake, and Old Tioga Mine; and then there are the ascents of Mount Dana, Mount Conness, Ragged Peak, the rugged summits of the Cathedral Group, and dozens of other unnamed vantage-points. Trails radiate in every direction. A few miles westward are the famous Waterwheel Falls, with Glen Aulin Camp conveniently located for hikers. A little to the south of west the Tioga Road leads to Tenaya Lake Camp, some eight miles distant. Southwest, a full day's walk

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by the Sunrise Trail lies Little Yosemite Camp. Southward one may climb in four or five hours up the Rafferty Creek Trail to Boothe Lake Camp. The Mount Lyell Camp is but two hours' walk southeastward up the canyon.

[Glen Aulin Camp:] From the highland plateau of Tuolumne Meadows one descends abruptly into the Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne, passing California Falls, Le Conte Falls, and many other spectacular but unnamed cascades. Suddenly one comes upon Glen Aulin, a tranquil little valley shut off from all the world by great sheer granite walls. Here, where the river pauses for a moment before resuming its tumultuous rush into its mile-deep canyon, is Glen Aulin Camp. Waterwheel Falls, the Tuolumne's unique expression of leaping power and spotless beauty, may be reached by a newly constructed trail that further descends the canyon. Within one day to the north of Glen Aulin are Cold Canyon, Alkali Canyon, Virginia Canyon, and Matterhorn Canyon. Four hours to the southward Tenaya Lake may be reached via the McGee Lake Trail; half a day eastward up the Canyon lies Tuolumne Meadows Camp....<sup>11</sup>

Since 1925 the High Sierra Camps have been operated by the primary park concessioner. The camps have not principally been money-making ventures: services have been provided generally at less than cost. Russell, later Chief Naturalist of the Park Service, stated once that the High Sierra Camps comprised one of the most important assets of the park. He believed that the resumption of interpretive work in the camps and on the trails between camps in 1923 was a sagacious move on the part of the government, because the backcountry was considered the best field in which to spread the word regarding NPS objectives in the preservation and conservation of natural resources. It was recognized early that the comparatively small numbers of visitors that initially took advantage of this service in the backcountry could not be the criterion for judging the effectiveness of the project. The great advantages of placing a competent naturalist—provided free of charge by the Yosemite Nature Guide Service—with the same individuals day after day amidst the superlative high country surroundings outweighed most of the arguments of would-be efficiency experts in the government bureaucracy. The greatest asset of these ranger-guided trips was that ranger-naturalists would be on hand at moments of greatest visitor receptiveness—while they were viewing magnificent natural wonders—to help them understand and more fully appreciate the innumerable treasures of the Yosemite high country and, on a broader scale, those of all natural areas within the National Park System.

During the 1930s the High Sierra Camps underwent some renovation, and stone cook house/dining structures replaced the old frame and canvas ones. By 1938 five High Sierra camps existed: two original ones at Merced Lake and Tuolumne Meadows, which had ice houses, and new ones at May Lake (replacing the Tenaya Lake Camp), Glen Aulin, and Vogelsang (replacing the Boothe Lake Camp). The company had discontinued the Tenaya Lake and Little Yosemite Valley Camps. Mary Curry Tresidder, president of the Curry Company, established the Sunrise High Sierra camp in 1961 and equipped it with a canvas dining tent and stone kitchen structure. It overlooks Long Meadow on the John Muir Trail a few miles from Cathedral Pass.

By the early 1960s, the popularity of these guided treks had risen to the point that horse-mounted trips left the stables in the Yosemite valley weekly and traversed the trails from camp to camp in a clockwise direction. Hiking parties generally started at the Tuolumne Meadows area and traveled in a counterclockwise direction. Demand for the lodging at the camps has remained high, and currently the available beds are reserved months in advance, although because of cancellations, some permits are available on a day-to-day basis.

Six High Sierra Camps exist today and comprise the High Sierra Loop, a seven-day backcountry experience that is unique within the National Park System and attracts hikers and other outdoor enthusiasts year after year. The camps are along well-marked, safe trails and are open from six to eight weeks a year, from mid-June or early July to Labor Day, weather permitting. Tuolumne Meadows Camp is located at the end of an access road, 1.5 miles west of its junction with the Tioga Road, and is the only High Sierra Camp directly accessible by automobile. It is also the largest unit with 66 tents. Glen Aulin has eight guest tents, May Lake seven, Vogelsang twelve, Merced Lake nineteen, and Sunrise nine. The combination of fresh bed linens, good meals, and the great outdoors presents a unique way for Yosemite visitors to go hiking or backpacking.

<sup>11</sup> Ansel F. Hall, "High Sierra Camps," *Sierra Club Bulletin* 12, no. 1 (1924) 39-42.



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The High Sierra Camps have been significant as an innovative interpretive concept luring more people into the Yosemite backcountry and representing a successful joint effort by the NPS and the Yosemite concessionaire to encourage travel beyond the roads and thus enhance visitor appreciation of wilderness areas. Their establishment also marked an early implementation of the Interior Department's policy of making remote areas of parks more accessible to the visiting public. Another aspect of the 1923 reopening of the camps involved Park Service Director Stephen Mather's strong desire to carry out what he believed were the agency's interpretive responsibilities in the high country. The park established a new pattern of interpretive service there, providing backcountry nature guide trips to the camps, which was unique within the National Park System and set precedents for similar programs in other units. None, however, developed along exactly the same lines as the High Sierra Camps. Despite the initially small number of visitors exposed to this service, Mather and park officials strongly believed that a naturalist talking to the same people day after day, amidst the magnificent peaks and meadows of the backcountry, could exert a stronger and longer-lasting influence on the formation of positive visitor attitudes toward national parks and conservation in general than could result from guided short walks on the valley floor, daily lectures at the museum, or single-day hikes to the valley rim. The High Sierra Loop is considered the highlight of the park's interpretive services to this day.



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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: Yosemite Research Library and Yosemite Archive, El Portal

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 4.5 acres  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A	<u>11N</u> Zone	<u>285675</u> Easting	<u>4185888</u> Northing	D	<u>11N</u> Zone	<u>285846</u> Easting	<u>4185816</u> Northing
B	<u>11N</u> Zone	<u>285803</u> Easting	<u>4185947</u> Northing	E	<u>11N</u> Zone	<u>285784</u> Easting	<u>4185831</u> Northing
C	<u>11N</u> Zone	<u>285846</u> Easting	<u>4185939</u> Northing	F	<u>11N</u> Zone	<u>285728</u> Easting	<u>4185812</u> Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Historic District boundary follows the Designated Wilderness Boundary on the district's northern, western, and southern perimeters. The district's eastern perimeter is formed by a straight north-south line that is 50 feet east of the historic cookhouse. See attached map.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary for Sunrise High Sierra Camp encompasses the buildings and immediate setting historically associated with the complex, including overnight accommodations and eating facilities. The Historic District Boundary is largely defined by the Designated Wilderness Boundary, with the exception of the eastern perimeter.

The backpackers' campground to the southwest has not been included within the boundaries for a number of reasons. The campground and the High Sierra Camp each have their own unique history of development, management, and purpose. While the High Sierra Camps have been operated by park concessioners throughout their history and have provided many amenities and comforts of more traditional lodging, the backpackers' campgrounds are maintained by the NPS and provide fewer amenities. The adjacent backpackers' campground and Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp have completely separate facilities (including bear lockers and fire rings) and do not share equipment or space. All existing built features associated with the campground appear to be modern.



Sunrise High Sierra Camp  
Name of Property

Mariposa, California  
County and State

**11. Form Prepared By**

Andy Kirk, Richard Coop, Charles Palmer

name/title Amy Hoke, Daniel Schaible, and Alison Swing

organization UNLV Public History/ date 03/08/04

Yosemite National Park date 12/01/11

street & number UNLV Public History/ telephone (702)895-3544/

5083 Foresta Road, Building 759 telephone 209-379-1425

city or town Las Vegas/ state NV/ zip code 89135-5020/

El Portal state CA zip code 95318

e-mail charles\_palmer@nps.gov

amy\_hoke@nps.gov, daniel\_schaible@nps.gov

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Sunrise High Sierra Camp District

City or Vicinity: Yosemite National Park

County: Mariposa State: California

Photographer: Alison Swing

Date Photographed: 08/06/2010

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- 1 of 24: Cookhouse, facing northwest.
- 2 of 24: Cookhouse, facing southwest.
- 3 of 24: Dining Tent, main entrance, facing northeast.

Sunrise High Sierra Camp  
Name of Property

Mariposa, California  
County and State

- 4 of 24: Dining Tent, screened fenestration pattern offering views to Long Meadow, facing north.
- 5 of 24: Linen and Lantern Storage Shed, facing west.
- 6 of 24: Linen and Lantern Storage Shed, facing southeast.
- 7 of 24: Septic Tank Shed and associated retaining wall, facing southwest.
- 8 of 24: Septic Tank Shed and associated retaining wall, facing north.
- 9 of 24: Tent Cabins #'s 1 and 2, showing their irregular layout, facing southwest.
- 10 of 24: Tent Cabin #'s 1 and 2, taken from atop a nearby granite outcropping, facing northeast.
- 11 of 24: Tent Cabin # 5, facing west.
- 12 of 24: Incinerator and associated masonry wall, facing south.
- 13 of 24: Incinerator and associated masonry wall, facing northeast.
- 14 of 24: Stone Stairs and Retaining Wall, facing west.
- 15 of 24: Stone Stairs and Retaining Wall, facing north.
- 16 of 24: Campfire Ring, facing south.
- 17 of 24: Campfire Ring, facing northeast.
- 18 of 24: Hitching Rack, facing south.
- 19 of 24: Hitching Rack T strap detail, facing east.
- 20 of 24: Storage Shed, facing west.
- 21 of 24: Bathhouse/Composting Toilet stairway and breezeway, facing north.
- 22 of 24: Bathhouse/Composting Toilet compost vault, facing west.
- 23 of 23: Bathhouse/Composting Toilet shower stall section, facing east.
- 24 of 24: View from Sunrise High Sierra Camp overlooking Long Meadow, facing south.

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**Property Owner:**

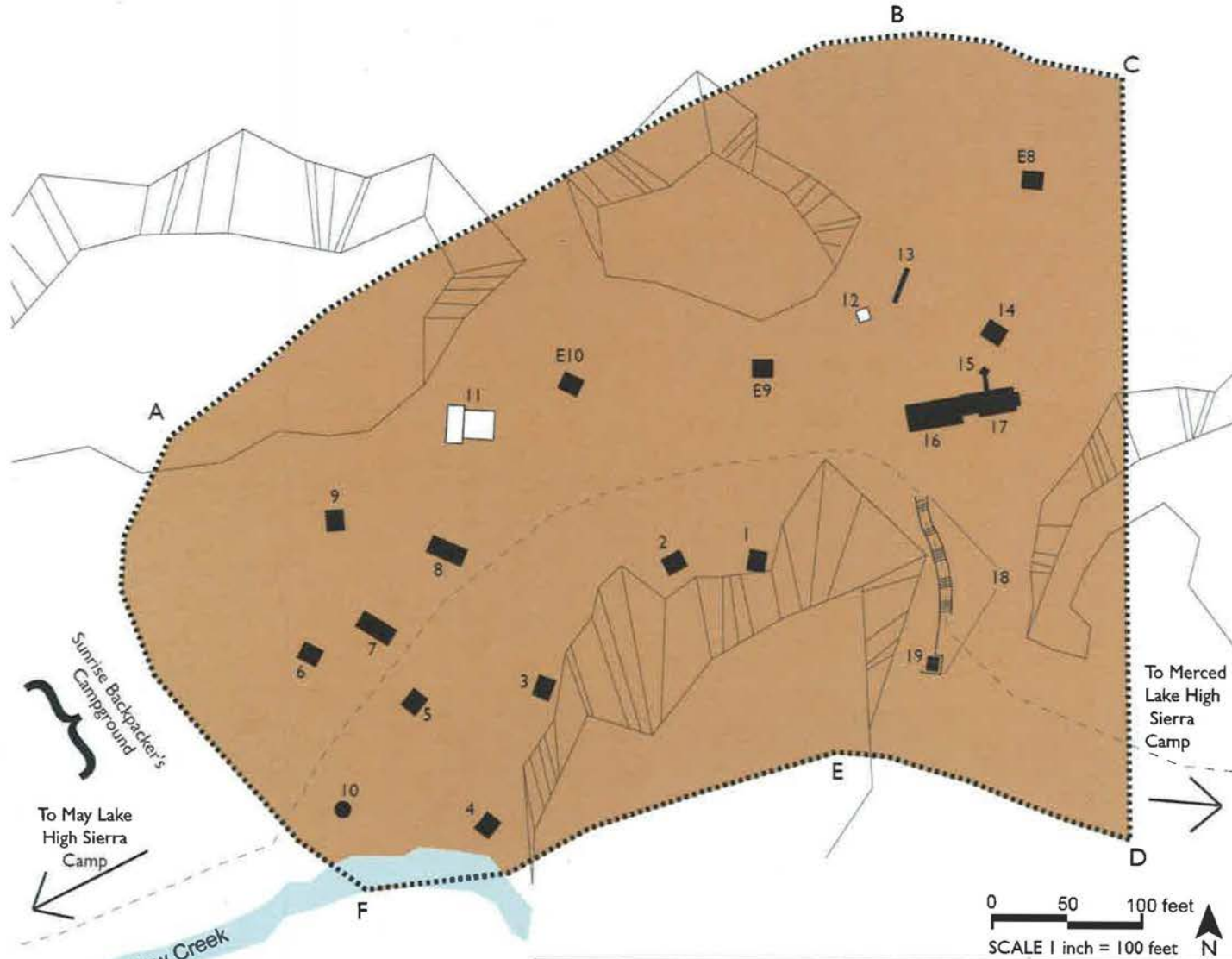
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).  
**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

**Sunrise High Sierra Camp**  
 Name of Property

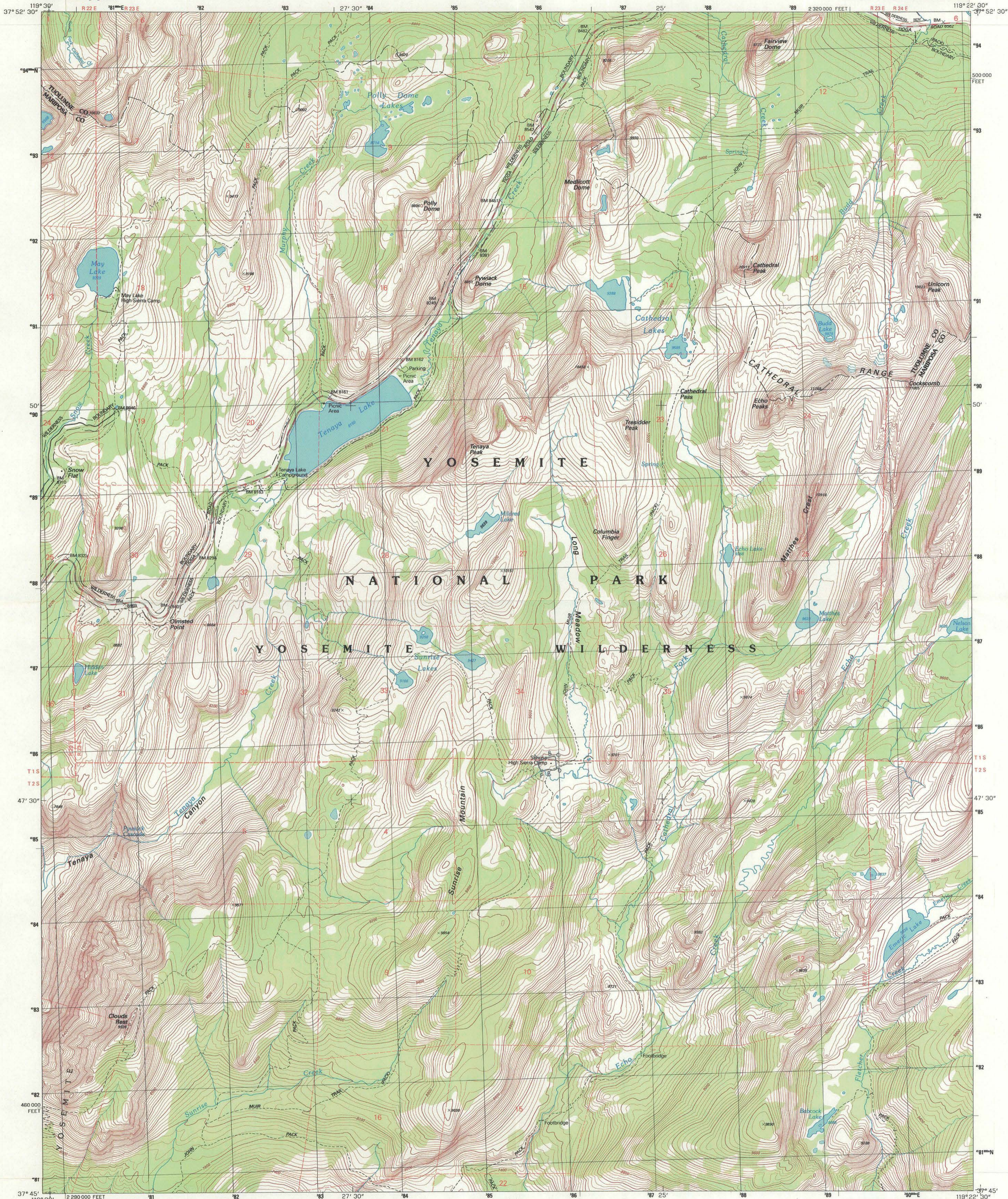
**Mariposa, California**  
 County and State



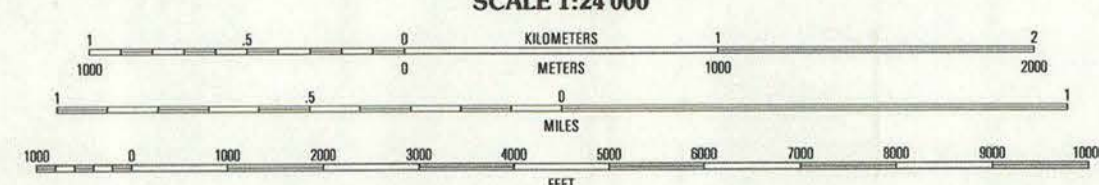
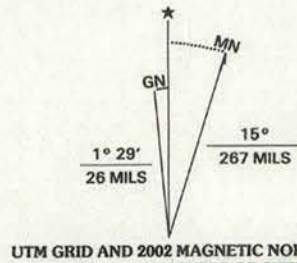
- |                            |                             |                               |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Historic District Boundary | 1-9 Guest Tent Cabins       | 14 Lantern Storage Shed       |
| Contributing Feature       | E8-E10 Employee Tent Cabins | 15 Incinerator                |
| Noncontributing Feature    | 10 Campfire Ring            | 16 Dining Tent                |
| A-F UTM Coordinates        | 11 Bathhouse/Toilet         | 17 Cookhouse                  |
|                            | 12 Storage Shed             | 18 Stairs and Retaining Walls |
|                            | 13 Hitching Rack            | 19 Septic Tank Shed           |

**Sunrise High Sierra Camp**





Produced by the United States Geological Survey  
Derived from imagery taken 1985 and other sources. Photoinspected using imagery taken 1997; no major culture or drainage changes observed. PLSS and survey control current as of 1986. Boundaries verified 2002.  
North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27). Projection and 1 000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 11 10 000-foot ticks: California Coordinate System of 1927 (zone 3).  
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software.  
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map. Where omitted, land lines have not been established.



SCALE 1:24 000  
CONTOUR INTERVAL 40 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
(TO CONVERT ELEVATIONS TO THE NORTH AMERICAN VERTICAL DATUM OF 1988, ADD 5 FEET)  
TO CONVERT FROM FEET TO METERS, MULTIPLY BY 0.3048



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

1	2	3	1 Ten Lakes
4	5	4	2 Falls Ridge
6	7	8	3 Tioga Pass
			4 Yosemite Falls
			5 High Sierra Camp
			6 Half Dome
			7 Merced Peak
			8 Mount Lyell

ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Primary highway  
hard surface .....  
Secondary highway  
hard surface .....  
Light-duty road, hard or  
improved surface .....  
Unimproved road .....

Intestate Route U.S. Route State Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

TENAYA LAKE, CA  
1997  
NIMA 2159 IV SW-SERIES V895











DANGER  
NO SMOKING  
PROPANE

BUDDY SPUDS  
CALIF





OFFICE

SORRY  
STORE  
CLOSED

Here  
Love  
Life

























Fire Pit & Charcoal

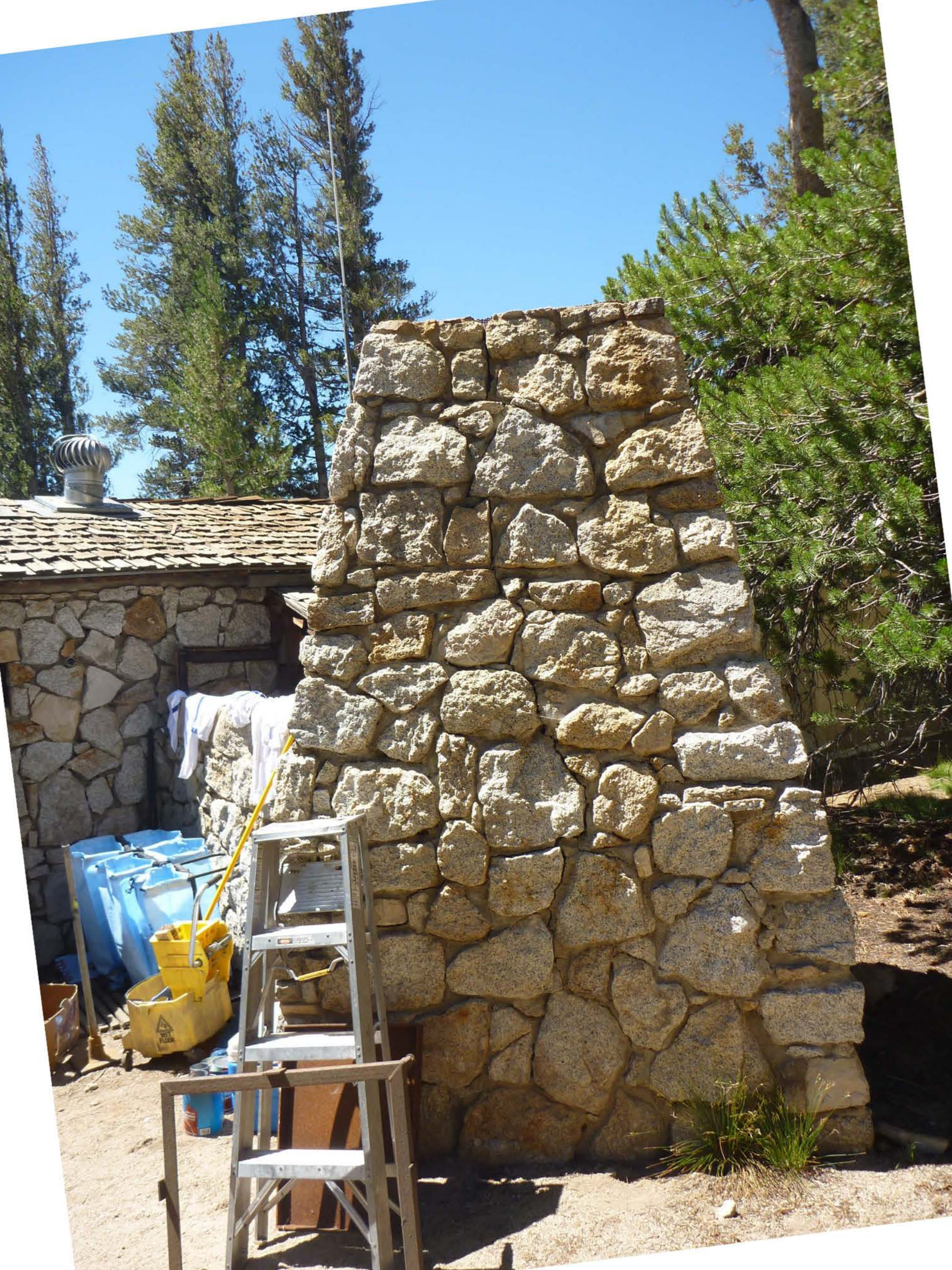












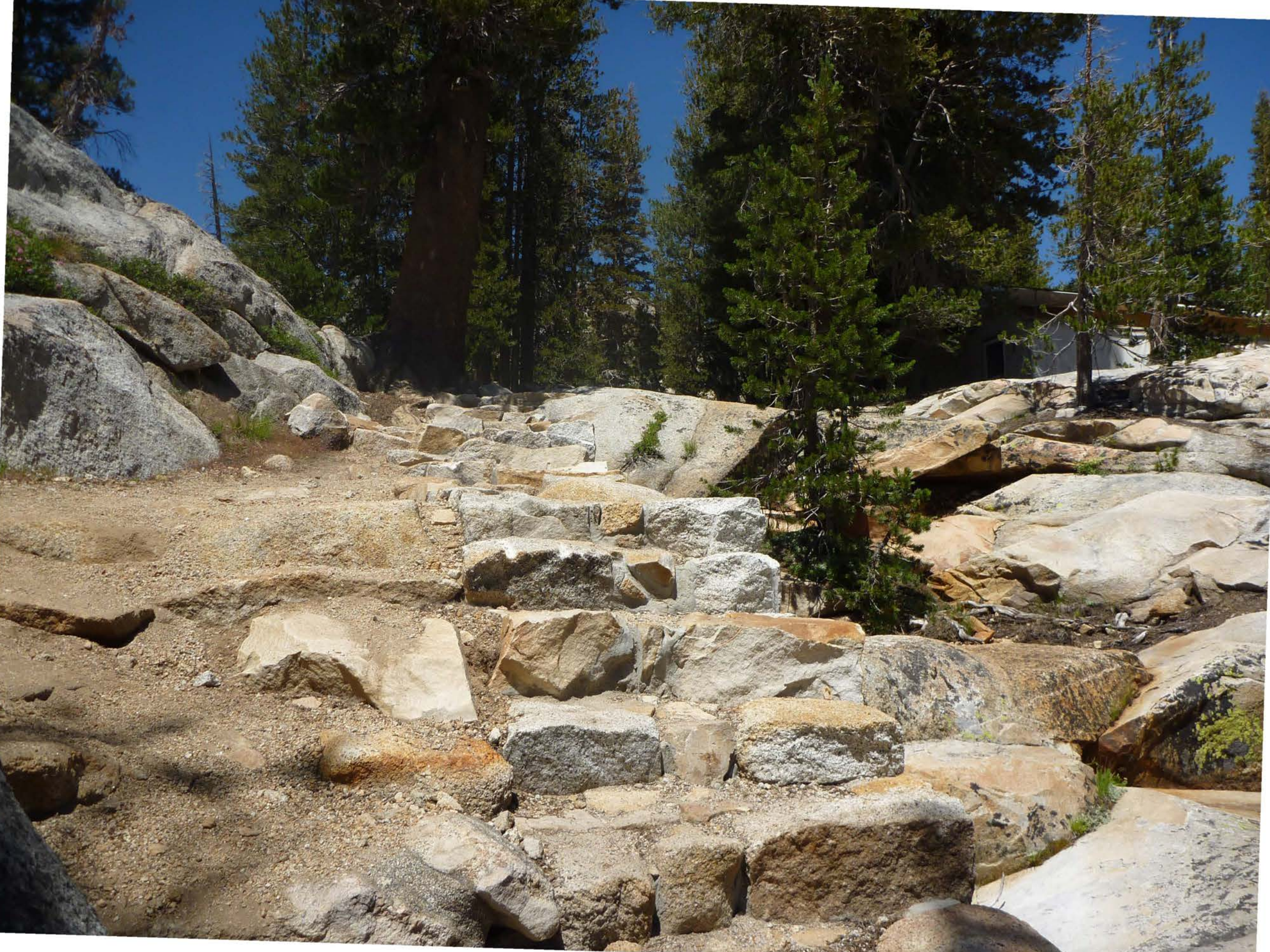


















































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Sunrise High Sierra Camp

MULTIPLE NAME: Yosemite National Park MPS

STATE & COUNTY: CALIFORNIA, Mariposa

DATE RECEIVED: 6/02/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/25/14  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/10/14 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/19/14  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14000412

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT \_\_\_\_\_ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**The Sunrise High Sierra Camp is locally significant under National Register Criterion A, in the areas of Conservation, Education, and Recreation/Entertainment. Intended as a means of getting Park visitors out beyond the congested Yosemite Valley and into the Sierra high country, the 1961 Sunrise Camp was the final component of the six site loop system established in Yosemite's high country during the early twentieth century. The seasonal camps combined permanent facilities with simple platform tent cabins designed consistent with the NPS' rustic aesthetics. Emphasizing varied interpretive programs, the camps were envisioned as not just additional recreational venues, but as educational tools by which the Park could introduce visitors to the vast landscapes of the National Park system and promote a better appreciation for the conservation objectives of the NPS. The property meets the registrations requirements set out in the Yosemite MPS.**

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept Criterion A

REVIEWER Paul R. Lusignan DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE 7/18/2014

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR  Y  N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.