Form No. 10-306 (Rev. 10-74)

PH0507407

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY NOV 1 8 1977 RECEIVED APR 27 1978 DATE ENTERED

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| regional Headqua National Park | RTERS: <i>(If applicable)</i> : Service, Western Re | gional Office | | |
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| DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS | National Park Servide | Western | Regional Office | |
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CONDITION

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CHECK ONE

_EXCELLENT X GOOD

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__DETERIORATED

__UNEXPOSED

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X ORIGINAL SITE

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DATE____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Cabin Creek ranger residence and dormitory stand in a dense conifer forest at an elevation of approximately 6,800 feet. The two buildings stand in a line facing east toward Cabin Creek, which is approximately 50 yards distant. Both structures are wood frame, resting on concrete foundations veneered with native granite. Structurally both buildings are exposed frame in design with rustic siding between the exposed timbers. The shingle roofs are supported by pole rafters and gable brackets. The gables are filled with vertical siding. The ranger residence (building #65) is a three-room house with one bath. Open front and rear porches stand within the 34 by 21 feet rectangle building plan. The dormitory structures measures approximately 23 by 45 feet and is divided into two halves. The southern half (building #66) is a two-room dormitory with bath. Like the adjoining ranger residence it includes front and rear porches under its rectangular roof. The northern half of the structure (building #319) is a two car garage. Both buildings 65 and 66 have stone chimneys.

Neither building has undergone significant alteration. The site also retains integrity, no other structures having been erected since the construction of these two buildings. (Several temporary quarters—house trailers—are moved into the vicinity each summer, however.) With the exception of the roofs, both buildings are in good condition. Both roofs need reshingling and the ends of many of the pole rafters are decayed.

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8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD | AR | EAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH | ECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | - |
|----------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| PREHISTORIC | ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | COMMUNITY PLANNING | LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | RELIGION |
| 1400-1499 | ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | CONSERVATION | LAW | SCIENCE |
| 1500-1599 | AGRICULTURE | ECONOMICS | LITERATURE | SCULPTURE |
| 1600-1699 | <u>X</u> ARCHITECTURE | EDUCATION | MILITARY | SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| 1700-1799 | ART | ENGINEERING | MUSIC | THEATER |
| 1800-1899 | COMMERCE | EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | PHILOSOPHY | TRANSPORTATION |
| <u>X</u> 1900- | COMMUNICATIONS | INDUSTRY | POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | OTHER (SPECIEV) |
| | | INVENTION | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

SPECIFIC DATES 1934-35

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

National Park Service

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cabin Creek ranger residence and dormitory are of local significance in terms of architecture. This significance results from the well-executed rustic design of the buildings in question.

The Cabin Creek ranger residence and dormitory are excellent examples of National Park Service rustic architecture. "NPS-rustic" was an architectural scheme developed by the NPS between 1916 and 1926, and practiced until World War II. Briefly, this type of park architecture emphasized the design relationship between a structure and its natural setting. Sensitive siting and landscaping as well as the use of native materials and natural colors and textures were a part of this effort. Cabin Creek buildings are a part of this tradition. Although they stand a short distance from the site of the Lost Grove Entrance Station, Sequoia National Park, for which they originally supplied personnel housing, they are hidden from the highway by dense forest. They make extensive use of natural colors and textures. For example, the foundations are veneered with native granite while the remainder of the exteriors are of wood. Substantial exposed framing and the use of natural pole rafters give the buildings a proportional relationship to the surrounding trees. This effect is heightened by the rustic siding used in the walls and the shingle (One of the "rules" of NPS-rustic architecture was to avoid smooth, clear surfaces; textured surfaces of the sort present in these buildings were much to be preferred.) The non-intrusive nature of the buildings was augmented by the choice of brown paint for the walls and green for the roofing. The closeness of the relationship between the two structures and their setting is demonstrated by the fact that a transfer of building location during the planning of the structures necessitated the redesigning of their exteriors.

The Cabin Creek ranger residence and dormitory were erected during the summers of 1934 and 1935 by Civilian Conservation Corps enrollees from the Red Fir stub camp of the Buckeye CGC Camp. Construction of the buildings was necessitated by the completion during the fall of 1934 of the Generals Highway between Sequoia and General Grant (now Kings Canyon) National Parks. The new highway opened a major new road entrance to Sequoia Park. The Cabin Creek buildings were erected to provide housing for entrance station rangers on this new route. Originally the two buildings were to be built at Lost Grove, immediately adjacent to the new entrance station, but when it became apparent that this would result in unnecessary congestion, the buildings were erected instead at nearby Cabin Creek. The first designs, which were for Lost Grove, called for Sequoia bark exterior paneling for the buildings, an effort to blend with the giant sequoias of Lost Grove. This design

| 9 | MA | OR | BIBLIOGRA | APHICAL | REFERENCES |
|---|----|----|-----------|---------|------------|

| 1. | Historic Re | source fi | le, "Cabin | Creek," | National | Park Se | ervice, | Western | Regional |
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| | Office, Cul | tural Res | ource Manag | gement Un | it, San l | Francis | co, Cali | fornia. | |

2. Tweed, Soulliere, and Law. <u>National Park Service Rustic Architecture: 1916-1942</u>, National Park Service, San Francisco, 1977.

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Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 1 8 1977

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE

feature was altered when the decision was made to locate the structures at Cabin Creek where there were no sequoias. The buildings were designed in the San Francisco office of the National Park Service Branch of Plans and Design, under the supervision of Thomas C. Vint. Design consultation, siting, and construction supervision were supplied by NPS Landscape Architect Harold G. Fowler and Emergency Conservation Work Landscape Architect Lloyd Fletcher.

Significant values requiring management protection on this site relate to the external appearance of the two structures and to their setting, including the historic brown and green paint scheme. Care should be exercised to prevent permanent damage to the setting as a result of temporary quarters emplacement or use. Preservation of the setting does not imply the preservation of individual trees but rather a healthy reproducing mixed conifer forest.