

PH0507369

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	NOV 18 1977
DATE ENTERED	APR 21 1978

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC ASH MOUNTAIN ENTRANCE SIGN

AND/OR COMMON

"INDIAN HEAD"

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Ash Mountain Entrance

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Sequoia National Park

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Seventeenth

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 type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input checked="" 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)

Western Regional Office, National Park Service

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, California 93271

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE <u>1964</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Ash Mountain Entrance Sign (Sequoia National Park) stands along the General's Highway approximately one-quarter mile inside the western boundary of Sequoia National Park. The four-foot diameter sequoia trunk that forms the structural heart of this monument, which is fifteen feet tall, rises from the center of a two-tiered boulder masonry platform roughly ten feet square. Attached to the west side of the vertical sequoia trunk is a carved sequoia-wood sign measuring approximately 10 feet by four feet by one foot. This massive piece of wood bears the carved legend "SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK" in letters nearly a foot high. The left hand end of the sign is carved to represent the profile of the Cherokee Indian Sequoyah (1770? to 1843) for whom it is generally assumed the Sequoia trees are named. The carved signboard is attached to the sequoia trunk by means of wooden pegs and large steel brackets. The lower bracket takes the form of a gracefully curved "V" with its upper points supporting the base of the sign and the lower point secured to the trunk by a large metal pin.

The sign has been altered in several ways since its erection during the winter of 1935-1936. The most significant of these changes was that the sign was moved about 100 yards in 1964. The stone foundation was replaced at that time but in a similar style. Originally the sign was unpainted, but in the 1950's it was stained a redwood color and the face of the Indian was painted. This color scheme has been maintained. Probably at the time it was first painted the letters of the legend were slightly deepened and enlarged. As originally designed, the Indian head, which stands on the south shoulder of the road, was balanced by an unadorned log pylon which stood opposite on the northern shoulder. This pylon was destroyed when the Indian head was moved.

## 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" 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 1935

BUILDER/ARCHITECT George Muno/Harold Fowler

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ash Mountain Entrance Sign is of local significance in the fields of art, landscape architecture, and social humanitarian endeavor. These qualities of significance relate primarily to the design of the object and to the artistic skill present in its execution.

The idea of an Indianhead entrance sign for Sequoia National Park bearing the profile of the Cherokee Indian Sequoyah first surfaced in 1931 when National Park Service Landscape Architect Merel S. Sager designed a small carved redwood sign for the Ash Mountain Entrance. This sign, which measured less than one-third of the size of the present sign, was attached to an existing log pylon during the summer of 1931. It was adequate for the time, but the steadily increasing quality of workmanship present in park structures soon demanded improvement in the entrance marker.

By 1935 resident park landscape architect Harold G. Fowler had taken the existing thematic concept and refined it in a larger design. For execution of his design he turned to the enrollees of the Civilian Conservation Corps camps placed in Sequoia Park by the Roosevelt Administration. In particular Fowler noted a young enrollee who had displayed a talent for wood working. So Fowler asked enrollee George W. Muno (of CCC Company 915) if he was willing to try his hand at a large scale wood carving project. Muno consented and Fowler took him to the Giant Forest grove of the Big Trees where they picked a piece of fallen sequoia wood that was large enough for the project at hand. Then, Fowler took a piece of blue chalk and sketched the profile of an Indian, using the image on a nickle as a guide. Using chisels and hatchets it took Muno several months to sculpt the Indian head and rout the legend for the sign. While Muno carved in Giant Forest, the park machinist at the Ash Mountain headquarters prepared the metal bracket and CCC crews prepared the log pylon and masonry. During the winter of 1935-1936 the sign was assembled and erected. As the sign went up the enrollees inserted a note into the hollow pin that supported the bracket containing the names of those who had worked on the project.

The sign remained undisturbed until 1964 when it was moved about 100 yards to allow for the construction of a new park checking station.

The sign is of local significance in terms of art as an example of monumental wood sculpture. This sort of work was common to government work of the 1930's, especially that done by the CCC in the national parks and monuments. The association with the CCC gives the structure its social/humanitarian significance, for the CCC was the most concerted social program ever executed in the area in question, and the sign

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Historic Resource File, "Ash Mountain Entrance Sign," in Files of Division of Cultural Resource Management, Western Regional Office, National Park Service.
2. Tweed, Soulliere and Law, National Park Service Rustic Architecture, National Park Service, San Francisco, California, 1977.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .005

UTM REFERENCES

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B 

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D 

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

An area 15 feet square centered around the sign.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

William C. Tweed, Park Technician

ORGANIZATION

National Park Service, Sequoia National Park

DATE

April 7, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Ash Mountain Headquarters

TELEPHONE

(209) 565-3341

CITY OR TOWN

Three Rivers

STATE

California 93271

## 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

AUG 30 1977

*Lawrence Head*

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is \_\_\_ National \_\_\_ State  Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE *D. H. ...*

TITLE **Deputy Assistant Secretary**

DATE **NOV 10 1977**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

*4/27/78*

ATTEST:

*Lawrence Col...*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

*4-13-78*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

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is an excellent, surviving example of a CCC contribution to National Park Service structures. The significance in landscape architecture results from the sign's design, which falls within scope of National Park Service Rustic architecture as practiced in the 1930's. Its design by a resident landscape architect, and its use of natural materials, (especially stone and redwood) identify this as a rustic structure. Its relocation and minor alterations do not impair its significance or the historical continuity of its purpose.

Significant values requiring management protection relate mainly to the appearance of the sign and its immediate setting. Excepting required maintenance, no alterations should be allowed.