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**FINAL**

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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MAR 8 1994

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

**NATIONAL  
REGISTER**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries. Use letter quality printers in 12 pitch. Use only 25% or greater cotton content bond paper.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name: Saddlehorn Caretaker's Residence and Garage  
other names/site number: Custodian's Residence and Garage; Rock House and Rock Garage

### 2. Location

street & number: Colorado National Monument (N/A) not for publication  
city, town: Grand Junction, Colorado (X) vicinity  
state: Colorado code: CO county: Mesa code: 077 zip code: 81521

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
( ) private	(X) building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
( ) public-local	( ) district	<u>2</u>	_____ buildings
( ) public-State	( ) site	_____	_____ sites
(X) public-Federal	( ) structure	_____	_____ structures
	( ) object	<u>2</u>	_____ objects
			_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Colorado National Monument MPS Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this (X) 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 X meets ( ) does not meet the National Register criteria. ( ) See continuation sheet.

Edw. Beards Signature of certifying official 3/8/94 Date  
State or Federal agency and Bureau \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property (X) meets ( ) does not meet the National Register criteria. ( ) See continuation sheet.

Ann Williams Hartman Signature of Commenting or Other Official March 26, 1993 Date  
State Historic Preservation Office State or Federal Agency and Bureau

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
(X) entered in the National Register. Bob Boland Signature of the Keeper 4/21/94 Date of Action  
( ) See continuation sheet  
( ) determined eligible for the National Register. ( ) See continuation sheet  
( ) determined not eligible for the National Register.  
( ) removed from the National Register.  
( ) other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

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**6. Functions or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwellingDOMESTIC: secondary structure

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: National Park Service Rustic

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation sandstone; concretewalls sandstoneroof: wood shingles, logother asphalt, concrete, stone

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

**Summary**

The Saddlehorn Caretaker's Residence and Garage are located at the intersection of Rim Rock Drive and Saddlehorn Loop Road, approximately 5 miles from the west entrance of Colorado National Monument. Both buildings are rectangular, one-story structures designed by the National Park Service and constructed of native red sandstone masonry by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1935 and 1936. The style exemplifies National Park Service Rustic Architecture. The buildings are in good condition and maintain integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association from the historic period.

**Setting**

The buildings are located at the junction of Saddlehorn Loop Road and Rim Rock Drive in the northwest portion of Colorado National Monument. The topography of the 32-square mile park includes the northern rim of the Uncompahgre Plateau with its deeply cut canyons and towering rock formations. Located at the entrance of the monument campground, the residence and garage are set back from the road and shielded by natural vegetation. The area in the vicinity of the residence and garage includes juniper and pinon pine trees, native brush vegetation, as well as natural sandstone cliffs. The area is named for the distinctive sandstone monolith nearby, "Ca-Roo-Nump-Ta-Chee" or "Saddlehorn". Stone curbing lines much of the driveway to the residence and is a contributing feature. The park's headquarters building and visitor center is located about 500 feet to the southwest of the residence and garage. No other buildings are in the immediate vicinity. The Saddlehorn Utilities Area is located about one-quarter mile to the west. (See attached Saddlehorn Headquarters/Campground site map.)

**Description**

**Caretaker's Residence (HS-1H):** This one-story building is constructed on a concrete foundation of native red sandstone masonry set in a coursed ashlar pattern. The plan is rectangular with small side wings. The two lower courses of the building are stepped. The entrance is located on the north elevation, a vertical plank wood door with 6-lights and a single light aluminum sash storm door. The entrance stoop is built of large stone blocks and the doorway is sheltered by a gabled roof supported by large rustic carved wood brackets and an undecorated barge board. The rear entrance door is modern with 3 lights and a storm door. All windows are wood casement type with aluminum storm sash. Windows on the north elevation include one triple divided 6-light, one double divided 6-light, and one 4-light; on the east elevation, one double divided 6-light, one 6-light, one 4-light at basement level; on the south elevation, one double divided 6-light, one 4-light, two double divided 4-light (one at basement level), and one 2-light. The recessed, chiseled stone window openings have stone sills and lintels.

(X) See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

FEB 28 1994

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

Section number 7 Page 2

The east-west oriented roof is gabled, of moderate rise, and is covered with cedar shingles. The main structure at the gable ends has weatherboard wood siding with exposed log purlin ends. Louvered vents are located under each gable. The residence has one off-center coursed ashlar sandstone chimney. The two small wings at either end of the building have gabled roofs. All wood trim is painted rust color. A detached stone garage (HS-2H) is located to the southwest and is associated with the residence. As a note, while the residence faces north, the original 1934 plans had the building facing south.

The interior of the residence includes a living room, 2 bedrooms, kitchen and bath with a central rear stairway leading to a 3/4 basement that is partitioned to include a bathroom, activity room, laundry, furnace room, coal bin and two closets. The main floor rooms have plastered walls. The bedrooms, living rooms, and hall have wood floors constructed of 1 x 3 fir. The kitchen and bath floors are linoleum. The kitchen and bath were remodeled and the basement was paneled in 1973-1974. While some of the other rooms retain their original configuration and appearance, the overall interior is not considered significant.

With exception of the installation of metal storm sash doors and windows in 1973-74 (replacing 1953 versions), the exterior of the residence has not been modified and retains a high degree of integrity from the historic period. The trim was at one-time painted red; it is not know if this was the original color. The building is in good condition. (See attached Drawing #3003A detail, dated July 1934.)

**Caretaker's Garage (HS-2H):** The garage for the caretaker's residence is located at the southwest corner of the property. This one-story nearly square structure was constructed in a similar manner as the residence. The foundation of the garage is concrete. The exterior walls are constructed of native sandstone blocks, which are set in a coursed ashlar pattern. The lower courses are stepped. Constructed from massive native red sandstone blocks on a concrete foundation, the opposing side walls of the structure are mirror images of one another, and the placement of blocks in the front and back walls are also symmetrical with reference to their respective centerlines. In a technique called "built by detail," not only were the walls' gross dimensions specified by the architect, but also each component block's shape, size and location.<sup>1</sup> The mirror image of laid stone makes this building distinct and a particularly excellent example of architectural design and building craftsmanship.

The north facade of the garage contains a double, wood paneled overhead door with 5-lights. The gabled roof is covered with cedar shingles with weatherboard siding used on each gable end. A louvered vent is located under each gable. The rafter tails and ridge beams are exposed. All trim is painted rust brown. The cornerstone on the left front exposure

(X) See continuation sheet

<sup>1</sup> The practice of erecting opposing walls that are mirror images of one another was called "built by detail", according to CCC project foreman Sidney W. Johnson as told to Chief Ranger Hank Schoch in the mid-1980s.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   7   Page   3  

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contains a small, informal time capsule. The interior of the garage is a nearly square open, 1-stall room with stone walls, exposed ceiling rafters, and a concrete floor.

Modifications to the garage resulted from the replacement of its doors. Originally, the garage had two wooden overhead doors, constructed of vertical wood planks with three 4-light windows on each door. A center support was located between the doors (See Drawing #3021 detail, dated January 1936). The center support was removed and these doors were replaced in 1964 with the double overhead door described above. Removal of a center support changed the interior from a 2-stall to 1-stall garage. The change of garage doors did not significantly impact the design and appearance of the building. It is in good condition and retains sufficient integrity from the historic period to meet National Register criteria.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 2

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The larger Saddlehorn area, which also included a utility area, campground and CCC camp, was built in response to the need for a permanent base camp for CCC workers, as they were employed in the construction of Rim Rock Drive and other park facilities. In addition, much of the road had been completed by 1938, making the area accessible to visitors and creating a demand for recreational facilities.<sup>1</sup> The garage and residence were the first permanent buildings to be constructed, followed by the campground Comfort Station (HS-3H) and utility area's Roads and Trails Shop (HS-4H) in 1937. A second building, the Oil House (HS-5H), was added to the utility area in 1938; another two buildings were completed in by 1941 (HS-6H and HS-7H).

The Caretaker's Residence/Garage and Saddlehorn Utility Area served to augment the main administrative area of CCC camp NM-2-C, located about one-half mile to the east. A number of CCC camps were established in or near the monument to support the crews working on Rim Rock Drive and other projects. Camp NM-2-C was temporarily established at Monument Canyon trailhead in March of 1933, but was disbanded and moved to Saddlehorn, when the permanent camp was established. (Additional information about the workforce is included in Section E of the Colorado National Monument Multiple Property Submission.)

The earliest plans for buildings to house workers of NM-2-C at Saddlehorn were first laid out by the National Park Service in November 1933. The location of the CCC camp buildings at Saddlehorn was to the east of the caretaker's residence, due south of the Saddlehorn. Up until the time it was built, there had not been a permanent administrative facility for the CCC. A Campground General Plan drawing of September 1934 shows a "Base Ball Field for CCC Camp" as well as a planned tennis court. The drawing also shows the proposed headquarters, utility area, and campgrounds. By June 1935 plans had also been finalized for a park headquarters area that included the CCC administrative and residential area, the caretaker's residence and garage, and a park administration building just north of the residence. (The proposed administration building was never constructed where sited.) The CCC buildings in this camp included an administration building, recreation hall, mess hall, latrine, and 5 barracks. In addition, the 1935 map shows the campground with a baseball field. Plans for the utility area had also been finalized by July 1935. The utility area, proposed on the June drawing to be constructed south of the custodian's residence, was actually built west of it as shown on the July drawing. (Copies of all four maps are attached as documentation. Design and construction drawing numbers are listed in Item 9.)

The CCC program was phased out at the start of World War II. As men were called to military duty, projects were abandoned and camps dispersed. Most work by the CCC within Colorado National Monument had ended by 1941, and the program was completely shut down in 1942. The exact fate of the buildings which the camp NM-2-C occupied has yet to be documented with regard to their dates and method of removal. According to Hank Schoch, the monument's Chief Ranger, at least one was burned as a fire training exercise. By the

(X) See continuation sheet

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<sup>1</sup> See Rim Rock Drive Historic District individual nomination, part of the Colorado National Monument multiple property submission.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   8   Page   3  

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early 1960s the only buildings in that area were the latrine/washhouse and several staff residences that may have been moved into the area. When new housing was constructed north of the utility area in the late 1950s and early 1960s as part of MISSION 66, all remaining buildings in the CCC camp area were removed. The CCC camp baseball field has since been turned into a campground parking area. There still remain some foundations and stone walkways that are evidence of the work camp. A large midden (most likely CCC camp related) also exists near the base of a nearby sandstone cliff. The grounds have not been inventoried for historic archeology thus the site's eligibility under criterion D has not been determined.

As the physical remains of CCC base camps are now primarily archeological, the permanent roads and buildings of Colorado National Monument are often the only tangible evidence to visitors that hundreds of men labored there during the Great Depression. The rustic style of architecture displays the history of the development of Colorado National Monument, and also reflects the craftsmanship of the CCC and the LEMs (local experienced men). Employed for various assignments, enrollees of the CCC were essential in the development of many parks and other government facilities. In Colorado National Monument, the CCC, LEMs, and workers from other relief agencies, not only supplied valuable labor in the construction of park facilities for administrative use but, with the construction of Rim Rock Drive, also opened up the park for thousands of visitors.

The Saddlehorn Caretaker's Residence and Garage are excellent examples of the design methodology of National Park Service Rustic Architecture, with its emphasis on the use of natural and native materials. The topography of Colorado National Monument is a spectacular display of carved sandstone monoliths and valleys amongst semi-desert terrain. In the construction of these buildings, architects, landscape architects, and the CCC manipulated native stone and wood supports to blend with the surrounding landscape. Earthtones are the predominant colors, with natural cream to red for the stone and brown and rust for the wood supports. The buildings were designed in such a way as to not intrude on the natural landscape, but to blend with the terrain and to be in harmony with their surroundings. The construction techniques of the CCC are also exemplified in these buildings. Through the use of native materials and stone masonry craftsmanship, the structures reflect the National Park Service's design philosophy of maintaining a sense of rusticity in construction. Unified in design and construction techniques, the Caretaker's Residence and Garage represent the lasting contribution made by public relief projects during the Great Depression, and the rustic architecture design philosophy that prevailed in the National Park Service in the 1930s.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Baume, Lawrence and Mildred Harris, National Register of Historic Places Draft Nomination, Colorado National Monument, National Park Service, Rocky Mountain Regional Office, Denver, 1987.

Good, Albert, Park Structures and Facilities, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Branch of Planning, Washington, D.C., 1935.

(X) See continuation sheet

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 # CO-74  
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:  
 State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other  
Specify Repository:  
Park files, COLM  
NPS, Rocky Mountain Regional Office

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A 1/2 6/9/6/0/4/0 4/3/3/0/2/8/0  
Zone Easting Northing

B / / / / / / / / / / /  
Zone Easting Northing

C / / / / / / / / / / /  
Zone Easting Northing

C / / / / / / / / / / /  
Zone Easting Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The Residence and Garage are located approximately 50 feet from Rim Rock Drive, off of the Saddlehorn Loop Road. The northern boundary line follows Saddlehorn Loop Road for 190 feet, to allow inclusion of the Residence's driveway and front landscape. The eastern boundary line extends 250 feet south, to meet with the southern boundary line. The south boundary repeats the 190 foot north boundary line. The west boundary measures 250 feet, to complete a symmetrical rectangle for the boundary.

( ) See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary encompasses the two historically associated buildings and their immediate setting. It excludes the park's headquarters/visitor center (constructed 1963), which is partially screened from view by vegetation.

( ) See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Kathy McKoy, Historian  
organization National Park Service, RMRO  
street & number 12795 W. Alameda Parkway  
city or town Denver

date December 28, 1992; rev.1/94  
telephone (303) 969-2878  
state CO zip code 80228



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   9   Page   2  

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Law, Henry, G., Laura E. Soulliere, William C. Tweed, National Park Service Rustic Architecture: 1916-1942, National Park Service, Western Regional Office, Division of Cultural Resource Management, 1977.

Newspaper Articles, Colorado National Monument 1935-1947, National Park Service, Rocky Mountain Region, Denver, CO.

Paige, John, C., The Civilian Conservation Corps and the National Park Service, 1933-1942: An Administrative History, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, 1985.

U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Denver Service Center Technical Information Center files: Drawing Nos. 3003 A and 3021; Topographical Maps Nos. 4948, 3006, 4963, 4970. Denver, CO.

Williams, Lance, List of Classified Structures survey forms, National Park Service, Rocky Mountain Region, Denver, CO, 1976.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number photographs Page 1

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**INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS**

The following information applies to photographs #1-4 listed below:

- 1) Property: Saddlehorn Historic District, Colorado National Monument
- 2) Location: Mesa County, Colorado
- 3) Photographers: Eunice Fedors
- 4) Date taken: November, 1989
- 5) Location of negatives: National Park Service, Rocky Mountain Regional Office,  
Denver, Colorado

The property, its location, and location of negatives is the same as above for photo #5, except photographer and date taken are as follows:

- 3) Photographer: Clayton B. Fraser
- 4) Date taken: September 1984

PHOTO NUMBER	DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION
1	Caretaker's Residence (HS-1H), view to S
2	Caretaker's Residence (HS-1H), view to SE
3	Caretaker's Garage (HS-2H), view to SW
4	Caretaker's Garage (HS-2H), view to S
5	Overall view of Caretaker's Residence and Garage, view to SE

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

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

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 94000306

Date Listed: 4/21/94

Saddlehorn Caretaker's House and Garage, Mesa  
Property Name County

CO  
State

Colorado National Monument MPS  
Multiple Name

-----  
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.

Beth Boland  
Signature of the Keeper

5/4/94  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

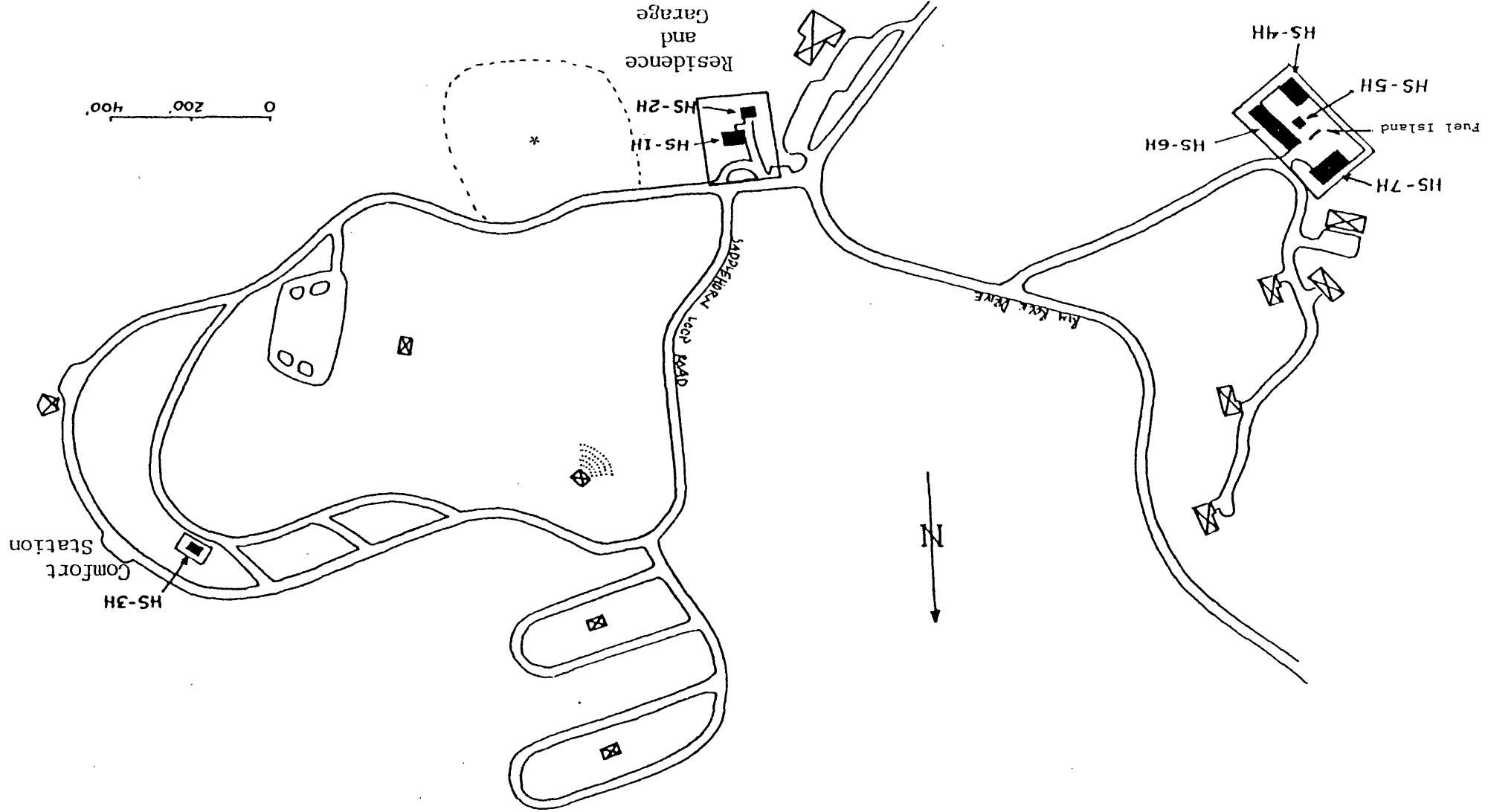
The period of significance is 1935-1942. This information was verified by Kathy McKoy, NPS RMRO.



DISTRIBUTION:

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


SADDLEHORN HEADQUARTERS & CAMPGROUND  
 COLORADO NATIONAL MONUMENT

Saddlehorn Utility Area  
 Historic District



 contributing  
 noncontributing

\*This area was the site  
 of CCC Camp NM-2-C.

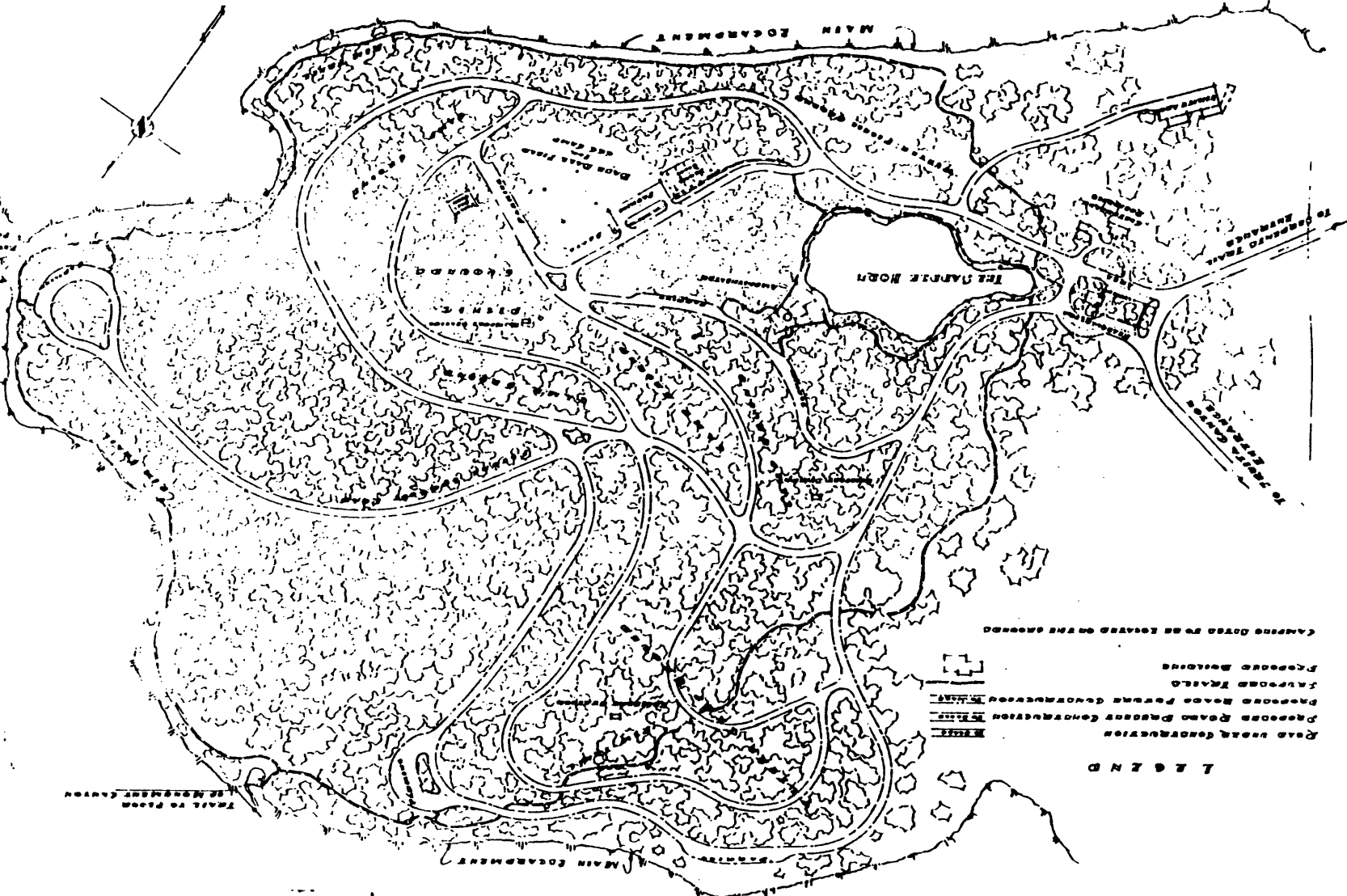
 rectangles surrounding  
 resources denote boundaries



Approved by: *[Signature]*  
 Checked by: *[Signature]*  
 Date: 11-1-50  
 CAMPBELL - GENERAL PLAN  
 DRAWN BY THE NATIONAL MORGAN

SCALE 1"=100'

HALF-SIZE REPRODUCTION

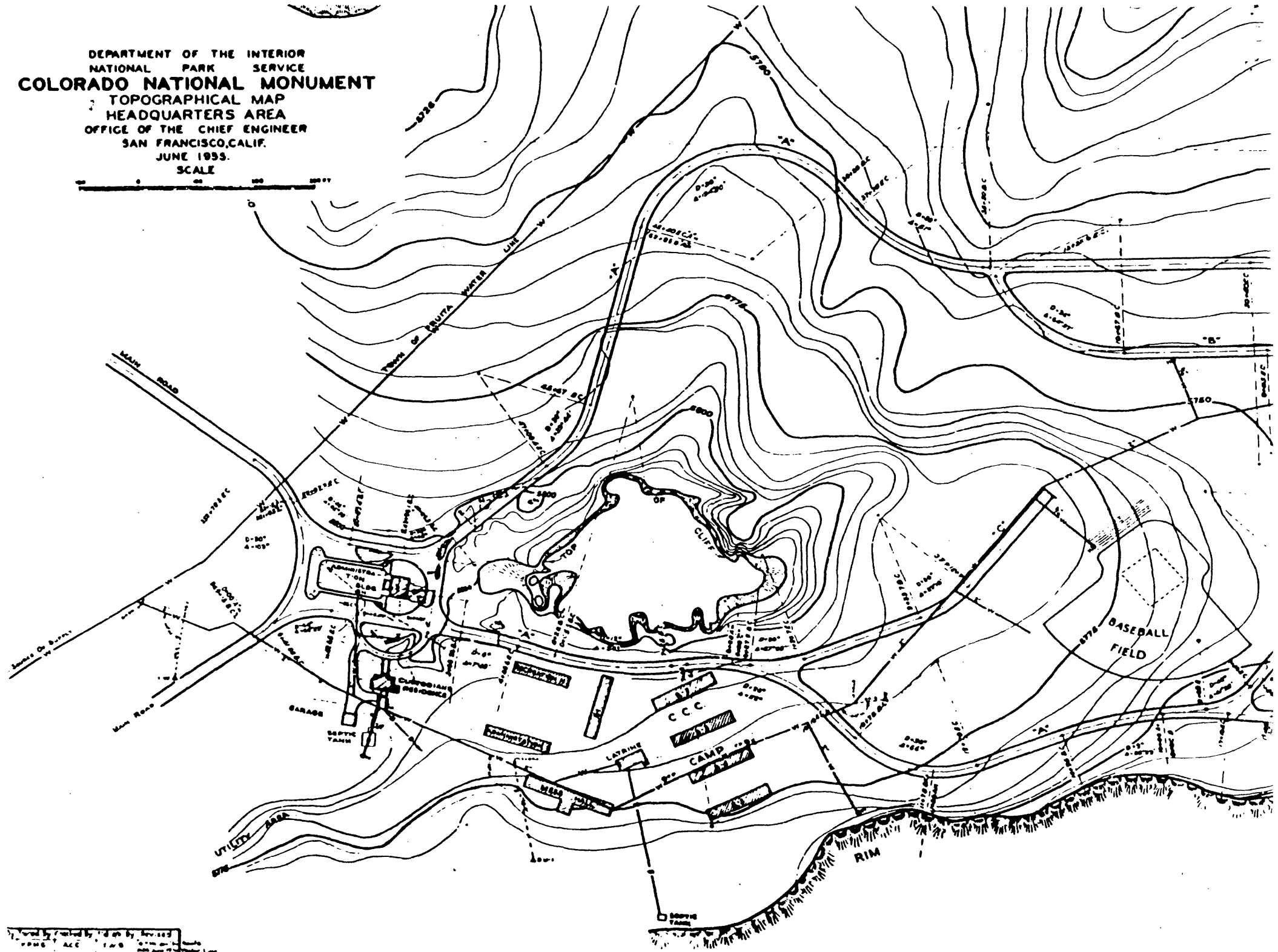
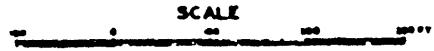


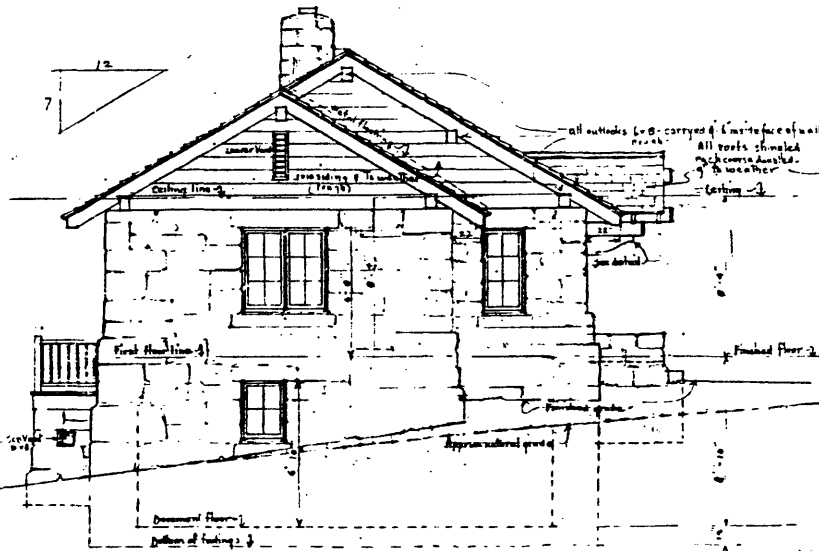
**LEGEND**  
 ROAD WITH CONCRETION  
 PAVED ROAD PAVED CONCRETE  
 PAVED ROAD PAVED CONCRETE IN PART  
 PAVED FIELD  
 PAVED BUILDING  
 CAMPING AREA TO BE LOCATED ON THE GROUND

TRAIL TO ROOM OF MEASUREMENT EQUIPMENT

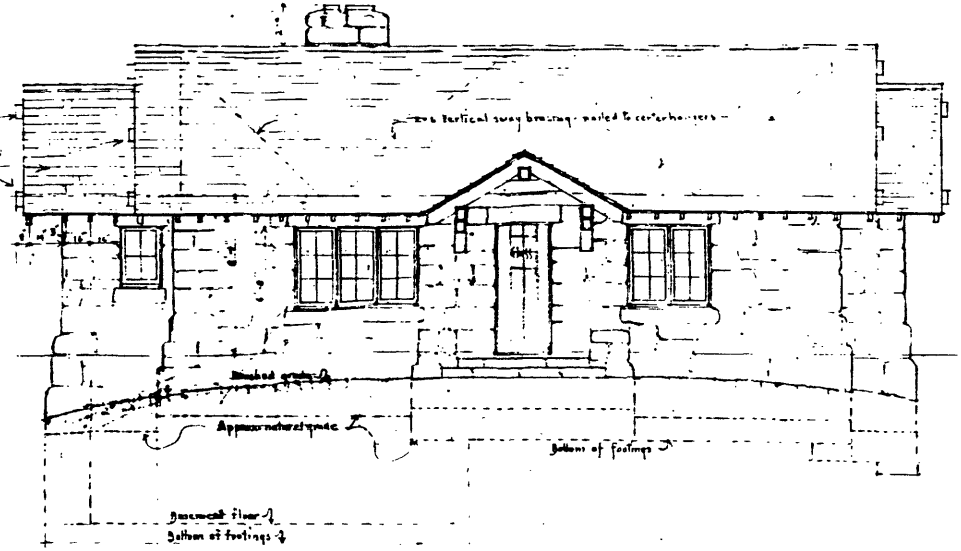
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
**COLORADO NATIONAL MONUMENT**

TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP  
HEADQUARTERS AREA  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.  
JUNE 1933.

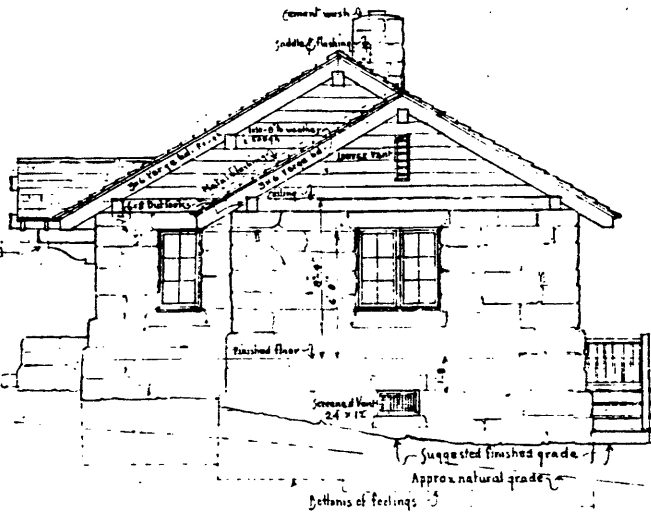
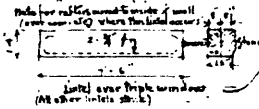




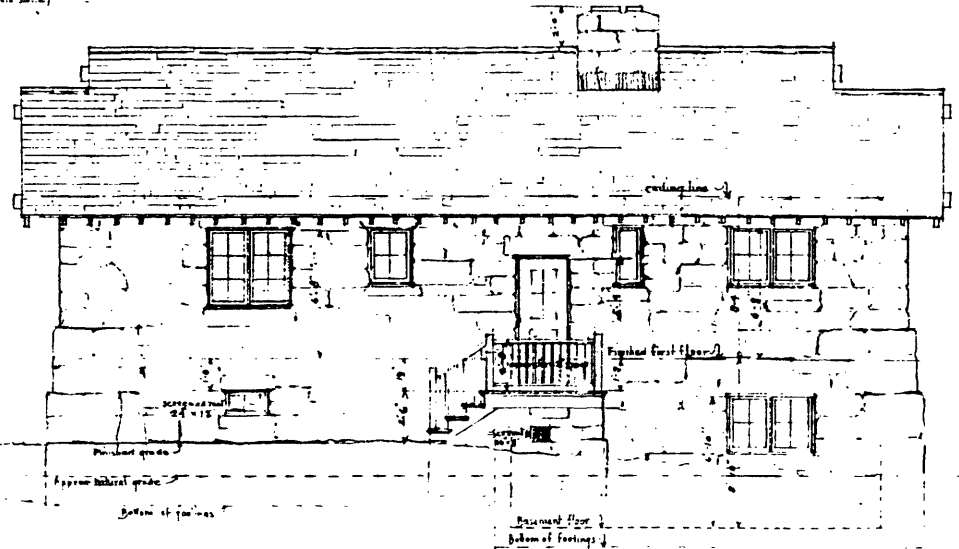
WEST ELEVATION  
Scale  $\frac{1}{4} = 1'$



SOUTH ELEVATION  
Scale  $\frac{1}{4} = 1'$



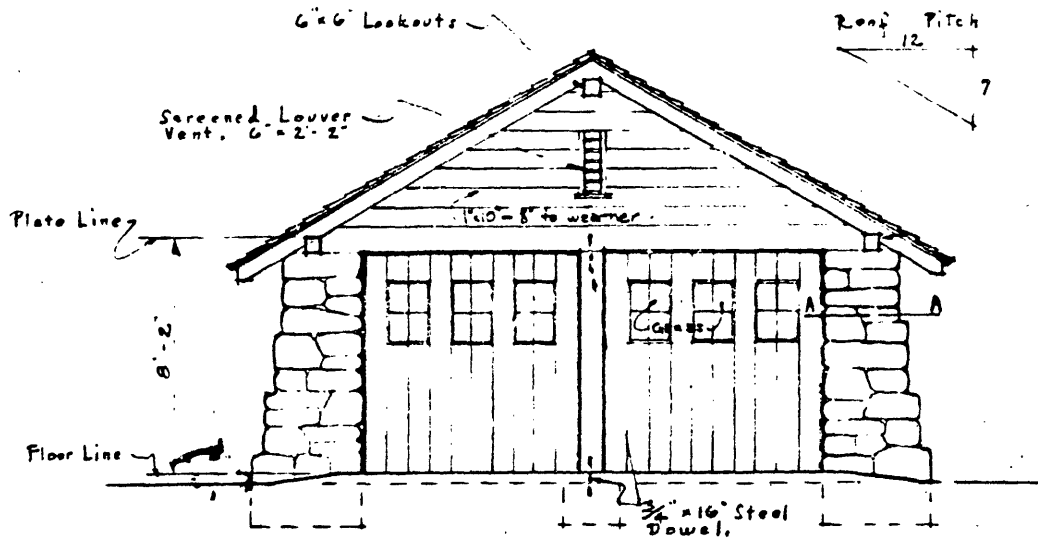
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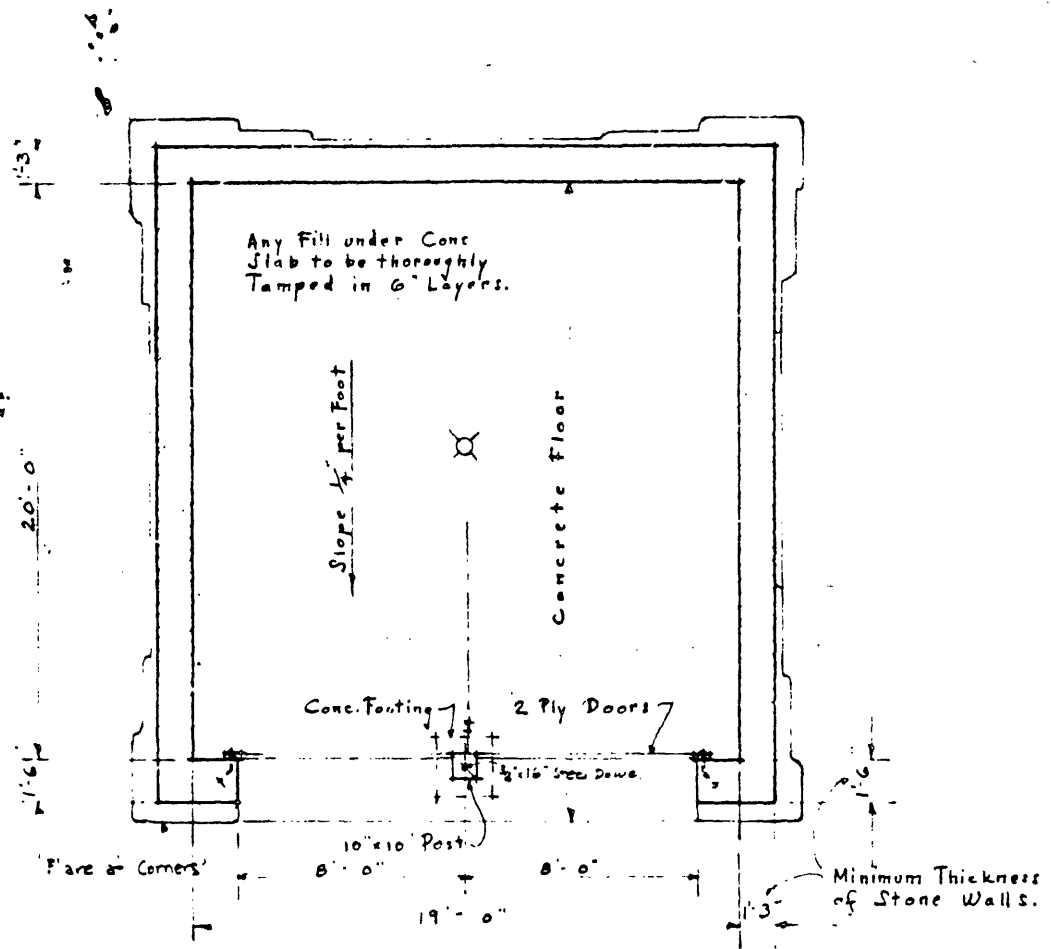
NORTH ELEVATION  
Scale  $\frac{1}{4} = 1'$

Checked by Structural Engineer  
 Checked by Architect  
 Checked by Contractor

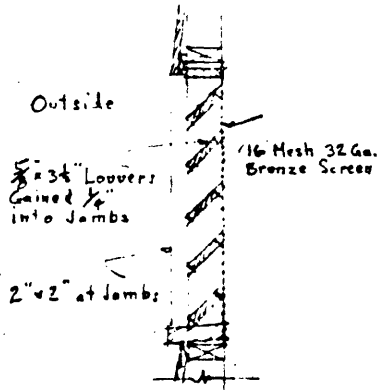




NORTH ELEVATION  
Scale 1/4" = 1'-0"



Scale P L A N 1/4" = 1'-0"



LOUVER DETAIL  
Scale 1" = 1'-0"

Prepared for Approval by  
 H. A. K. S. I. Inc. Structural Engineers  
 1000 W. 1st St. Kansas City, Mo.