

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**CONTINUATION SHEET**

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

**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

NRIS Reference Number: 06000525

Date Listed: 6/23/2006

Manzanita Lake Naturalist's  
Services Historic District  
Property Name

Shasta      CA  
County      State

Lassen Volcanic National Park 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.

  
Signature of the Keeper

6/23/06  
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

**Historic Function:**

The functions are amended to read: *Domestic/Institutional Housing; Education/Research facility; and Recreation/Museum, Outdoor Recreation.*

These clarifications were confirmed with the NPS FPO office.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

525

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

### 1. Name of Property

**historic name:** Manzanita Lake Naturalist's Services Historic District

**other name/site number:**

### 2. Location

**street & number:** 39489 Highway 44

**not for publication:** n/a

**vicinity:** Northwest Entrance, Lassen Volcanic National Park

**city/town:** Shingletown

**state:** California

**code:** CA

**county:** Shasta

**code:** 089

**zip code:** 96088

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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  nationally  statewide  locally. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

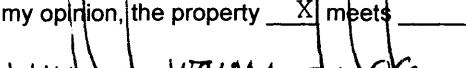
  
Signature of certifying official>Title

5-10-06

Date

**National Park Service**  
State or Federal agency or bureau

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

  
Signature of commenting or other official

22 JUN 2005

Date

CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

State or Federal agency and bureau

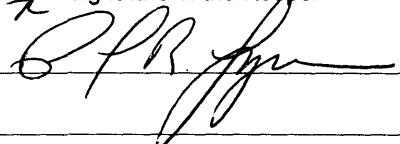
### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register  
 see continuation sheet

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action



6/23/06

determined eligible for the National Register  
 see continuation sheet

determined not eligible for the National Register  
 see continuation sheet

removed from the National Register  
 see continuation sheet

other (explain)

**Manzanita Lake Naturalist's Services Historic District**

Name of Property

**Lassen Volcanic National Park,  
Shasta County, California**

County and State

**5. Classification****Ownership of Property:** public-Federal**Category of Property:** District**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National****Register:** 1 (Loomis Museum and seismograph building counted as one building in the 1974 nomination)**Name of related multiple property listing:** Lassen Volcanic National Park Multiple Property Listing**Number of Resources within Property****Contributing****Noncontributing**

3	2	<b>building(s)</b>
5	1	sites
1	1	structures
9	3	objects
<b>Total</b>		

**6. Function or Use****Historic Functions:**

Interpretation; Recreation

**Current Function:**

Interpretation; Recreation

**7. Description****Architectural Classification:**

Other: Italian Renaissance; NPS Rustic

**MATERIALS:****foundation:** concrete; stone**walls:** wood, stone and concrete**roof:** wood, asphalt and concrete**other:** earth, stone; log**Narrative Description:****Summary**

Manzanita Lake is the first developed area encountered by visitors entering the park via the Northwest Entrance. The area's geological history, specifically its volcanic origin, is everywhere in evidence and the area has therefore, from the late 1920s to the present, served as the primary stage and backdrop for the park's interpretive program or "Naturalist's Services." To the south and east the area is bounded both physically and visually by Lassen Peak, often reflected in both Manzanita and Reflection lakes. The west edge of the Chaos Jumbles, a field of pink dacitic avalanche debris, extends through the north portion of the area, creating a hummocky surface. The south flank of Table Mountain, formed by andesitic and basaltic lava flows from ancient volcanic activity, bounds the site on its north side. To the west, the land slopes downward, creating an open horizon.

The Manzanita Lake area serves as the largest developed area in the park, serving not only as headquarters of the interpretive program but also containing a campground, general store, and NPS administrative offices. The complex, however, today contains only a fraction of the buildings formerly located there. During the Mission 66 planning period, the 1930s era campground and campfire circle were replaced with a newly configured campground with six large loops stemming from a single access road, and a modern amphitheater. In the 1970s, all elements of the concession-operated lodging facility, including the much-praised lodge, the cabin clusters, camp store and gas station were removed in response to the threat of rockslides from nearby Chaos Jumbles. Since then, concession and park service employee housing and maintenance areas have also been removed.

The park's interpretive program - the means by which natural (and, to a lesser degree, cultural) history was presented to the public – historically included a central museum; small publications or bulletins; talks or lectures; and guided walking tours. These resources were centered at Manzanita Lake which contained the Chief Naturalist's residence; the Manzanita Lake campfire circle (no longer extant); Loomis Museum, constructed by Benjamin Loomis in 1927 and donated to the National Park Service in 1929; and the Lily Pond, Reflection Lake, and Manzanita Lake trails, along which visitors were introduced to native flora and geological history (interpreted through views of Lassen Peak, Chaos Crags, and Chaos Jumbles). Although the larger Manzanita Lake Developed Area has been substantially altered by removal of

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**7. Narrative Description, continued**

the Manzanita Lake Lodge complex and extensive modification and relocation of the Manzanita campground, the infrastructure central to the integrated interpretive system of naturalist's services is largely intact. Only the Manzanita Lake Campfire Circle has been lost. The district, as defined to include only naturalist's services rather than the complete array of administrative and concession facilities that once characterized the area, therefore retains the physical and associative integrity demanded of National Register properties.

In accordance with the Major Developed Area property types and registration requirements (see associated Multiple Property cover form), the following descriptive information is presented in terms of the relevant designed-landscape characteristics and their associated features.

**Natural Systems and Features:**

Buildings and structures associated with the developed area are clustered on the level ground adjacent to Manzanita Creek, the creek that drains the northwest flank of Lassen Peak.

Manzanita Creek flows west through the heart of the developed area. Waters from this drainage are trapped and diverted to enlarge the area's two primary constructed water features, Manzanita Lake and Reflection Lake (the latter formerly known as Mud Lake). Both of these lakes represent naturally occurring features, which have been enhanced through various means to create their current configuration.

The area contains a diverse mix of plant communities, from the thinleaf alder thickets and cottonwood stands that grow adjacent to area lakes, to the coniferous forests that cover the hill slopes above Manzanita Lake. Historically, native vegetation included open stands of Jeffrey and ponderosa pine forest, expanses of montane shrub plant associations (consisting principally of greenleaf manzanita and tobacco brush), and a few areas of mixed coniferous forest (most notably in the vicinity of Reflection Lake). Fire suppression efforts of the past century have, however, resulted in a dense mid-level canopy of white fir within the formerly open pine forest; the Park Service is currently planning to thin the white fir and yellow pine within the campground area. The extensive stands of greenleaf manzanita, from which the area derives its name, remain abundant.

With the exception of the forest-stand structure (see above), the natural systems and associated features remain unchanged since the period of significance and contribute to the integrity of setting for the district.

**Constructed Water Features:**

There are two constructed water features located within the district, Manzanita Lake and Reflection Lake. Both of these features originated as shallow natural lakes, but have since been increased in volume through the use of man-made structures. Although the modifications to the lakes were made prior to the area's inclusion in the park boundary, the lakes were integrated into the park's interpretation and recreation planning process of the 1930s and 1940s. Both Manzanita and Reflection lakes are counted as contributing sites within the historic district.

At Manzanita Lake an earthen dam (about 10 feet high and 469 feet long) was constructed across its natural outlet, raising the capacity of the impounded reservoir to roughly 500 acre-feet. At maximum pool, the lake covers an area of roughly 175 acres. A concrete spillway, ten feet in width, is located at the north end of the reservoir. A cleared area with a beach made of imported sand is located at the south end of the lake and functions as a day-use picnic area.

Reflection Lake (formerly called Mud Lake) is located north of Manzanita Lake. It is separated from the latter by the Lassen Park Highway, which is constructed on a raised grade above both water features. Like Manzanita Lake, Reflection Lake represents a natural feature enhanced by channeling water from Manzanita Creek. A channel

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leads from the creek beneath the Lassen Park Highway to the east end of the lake. The lake receives water from both the channel and from underground seepage. The lake covers an area of roughly 35 acres.

**Buildings and Structures:**

The buildings and structures associated with this historic district represent two architectural styles: the Italian Renaissance style, elements of which are found on the Loomis Museum, and National Park Service Rustic, as developed by the National Park Service during the 1930s and 1940s and described in the associated Lassen Volcanic National Park Multiple Property Submission. One element common to most of the buildings is the prominent use of native stone on the exterior surfaces. All of the buildings are loosely clustered in the vicinity of the Loomis Museum. The museum, seismograph building, Loomis residence and garage, and a modern comfort station are located within the recently remodeled "plaza" south of the Lassen Volcanic National Park Highway. Improvements associated with this effort include paving the area between the new comfort station, museum and Loomis residence with scored, colored concrete, and low, stone walls that channel traffic away from remnant stands of vegetation. The naturalist's residence and its associated garage are located north of the highway, near the east end of Reflection Lake.

*Loomis Museum (HS-43, contributing building, previously listed):* The Loomis Museum is a one-story, stone masonry building constructed on a concrete foundation. The building has an inverted T-shaped plan and a vaulted roof with a stepped stone parapet. The exterior walls are random rubble except at the door and window openings and at the corners of the building, where the native stone has been dressed and laid in courses. The front of the building faces northeast and contains a central arched entryway with a pair of copper-clad glazed doors. A fixed fanlight is located above the entrance. A shallow, shed-roofed awning above the arch shelters the entrance. The overhang is supported by concrete brackets and is topped with half-rounds of formed concrete, making the roof of the overhang appear to be made of tile. Stamped cement tiles placed in the parapet above the overhang spell the word "museum." A bronze plaque with a dedication to the Loomis' daughter is affixed to the base of the wall adjacent to the north side of the entrance. Another plaque dedicated to Stephen T. Mather, is affixed to the wall on the south side of the entrance.

Italian Renaissance details include the masonry construction, wide eave overhang with brackets, vaulted roof, arched window and door openings, symmetrical floor plan, and symmetrical façade. Though introduced by architects prior to World War I, most often in the design of public spaces, the style proved most prevalent in the early decades of the 20th century when innovative masonry veneering techniques allowed easy construction of vernacular interpretations.<sup>2</sup>

The two side elevations each have an arched window opening at the north end of the wall. The openings contain four-over-one-light wood sash windows. Awnings similar to that over the front entrance run the length of the side elevations, marking the wall – parapet juncture. A second entrance with a flush metal door is located near the rear of the building in the northwest side elevation. The only architectural detail on the rear of the building is a bracketed awning at the wall – parapet juncture.

The museum is surrounded at the front and sides by a low stone wall (*contributing structure*). The wall consists of square rubble columns topped with concrete caps alternating with lower lengths of mortared stone. A stone-edged concrete sidewalk runs parallel to the outside edge of the wall on its northeast and northwest sides. An opening in the wall opposite the museum entrance provides access from the sidewalk to the museum.

<sup>2</sup> Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1988), p. 397-399.

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*Seismograph Building (HS-44, contributing building, previously listed):* This small, square mortared stone building is located northeast of the museum. It is similar to the museum in terms of its basic construction and in its architectural detailing, including the parapet roof and the awnings above doors and windows. One notable difference is that the exterior walls of this building are embedded with pieces of obsidian.

The front of the building faces south. An entrance with a wooden, five-panel door is offset in the left side of the wall. The entrance is protected by a concrete awning. An arched piece of concrete centered within the elevation below the parapet is stamped with the work "Seismograph." Each of the three remaining elevations has a one-light fixed window, through which visitors can watch the seismograph.

*Loomis Residence and Studio (HS-39, contributing building):* The Loomis residence is a one-story stone building with a rectangular plan constructed on a concrete foundation. The building is currently used for park service administrative purposes. The exterior walls are constructed of a locally available pink dacite. The foundation is enhanced with a stone veneer consisting of the same material. The hipped roof is covered with red asphalt shingles and has exposed pole rafter ends and an interior stone chimney with a metal hood. The window openings contain wooden sashes – creating unusually proportioned vertical lights - and have stone sills.

The asymmetrical front (northwest) elevation contains two entrances. The primary entrance is offset south of center and leads to the residence component of the building. This entrance is sheltered by an open gable roof porch, which in turn is supported by two battered stone columns. The gabled end of the porch roof exhibits half-timber detailing with concrete or stucco infill scored to look like stone. The entry beneath the porch contains a 10-light wooden door. The porch also shelters two window openings, one to the north of the door containing a pair of four-over-one-light windows, and one to the south of the door with a single four-over-one-light window. A five-over-one-light window is located in the wall to the south of the porch. A gable-roofed overhang supported by three log brackets is located at the north end of the elevation. This overhang shelters another doorway, leading to the studio/store and a six-over-one-light window.

The two side elevations each have two windows and an entrance offset east of center. Both side entrances contain wooden four-panel doors. On the north side, the window opening to the east of the door has a four-over-one-light window, while the opening to the west of the entrance has a larger six-over-one-light window. On the south side there is a small four-over-one-light window east of the door and a larger four-over-one-light window west of the door.

The rear elevation contains a series of window openings unevenly distributed along the wall. The openings contain four-over-one-light and three-over-one light windows arranged singly and in pairs.

*Manzanita Creek Footbridge (no number assigned, noncontributing structure):* This simple rustic footbridge, designed in 1951 and built soon thereafter, spans Manzanita Creek in the vicinity of the Museum. The bridge is constructed of log stringers secured to stone abutments. Gravel surfaces the milled-lumber decking. The railing is constructed of chopper-cut log posts and milled-lumber horizontal elements.

*Loomis Garage (HS-40, noncontributing building):* The Loomis garage (a.k.a park service shop), located directly west of the residence, is a one-story, rectangular frame building with a gable roof, built on a concrete foundation wall. The exterior walls are covered with drop-lap siding with narrow corner board trim. The roof has exposed 1x6 rafter ends and is covered with asphalt shingles. Eaves are supported at each end by three wooden brackets. The north elevation contains an overhead garage door. The west elevation contains a pedestrian entry with a flush solid-core door at the south edge of the wall. The south elevation has a bank of six, four-light fixed-sash windows offset east of center, and the east elevation has a pair of six-light casement windows at the south end of the wall. The

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garage, a modern building that used the design vocabulary of NPS rustic architecture, was designed by the Denver Service Center in 1995 to replace the Loomis Garage destroyed by snow during the winter of 1994-1995.

*Comfort Station (No HS number, noncontributing building):* The modern comfort station, built in 1998, is located within the newly designed plaza, south of the Loomis residence and garage. This is a simple frame building with a thin veneer of manufactured stone. The shallow gable roof is covered with fiberglass shingles. The front elevation contains separate entrances for men and women, located at opposite ends of the wall.

*Naturalist's Residence (HS-41, contributing building):* The naturalist's residence and associated garage are both located north of the Lassen Park Highway. The residence is a one-and-one-half-story frame building with an "L"-shaped plan, consisting of an east-west oriented component with a north-south oriented wing extending from the west side of its north elevation. The exterior walls of the first floor are finished with a locally available volcanic rock. The gable ends of the half-story are covered with vertical boards and battens, painted Wosky or "tobacco" brown. The steep, intersecting gable roof is covered with wooden shingles, and is painted green. Roof details include exposed 2x6-inch rafter ends and an interior brick chimney on the south slope of the east-west oriented component.

The front (south) elevation contains a central entrance flanked on both sides by large window openings filled with four, narrow, eight-light casement windows. A gable-roofed overhang resting on the massive stones of the front veneer protects the stone stairs that lead to the plank door. A shed-roofed dormer is centered in the roof above the entry, and contains three, evenly spaced window openings each with a six-light casement window.

The west side of the building contains a massive exterior stone fireplace centered in the elevation. Both the ground floor and the half story have narrow eight-light casement windows on either side of the chimney. The north-south oriented wing that extends from the north elevation of the front component, contains two window openings, each with a pair of eight-light casement windows.

On the east elevation, the ground floor of the front component contains two window openings, a large opening filled with three, six-light casement windows and a small opening with a single, six-light casement window. The gable end contains a bank of three, eight-light casement windows. The east elevation of the north-south wing contains two window openings, one with a single, six-light casement window and one with a pair of eight-light casement windows.

The rear (north) elevation of the north-south wing contains a single window opening in both the ground floor and half-story. The ground floor opening contains four eight-light casement windows and the half story opening, a pair of six light casement windows. The north elevation of the east-west wing contains an entrance with a modern flush wood door with one large light. This entrance is handicapped accessible.

*Naturalist's Garage/woodshed (HS-42, contributing building)* The naturalist's garage is located behind the residence. This is a one-story frame building constructed on a concrete foundation. The building has a steep gable roof. Lapped board siding, applied 10 inches to weather, covers the exterior walls and vertical board-on-board siding covers the gable ends. Wood shingles cover the roof, which features exposed rafter and purlin ends. The east elevation contains a pair of overhead sliding garage doors. The north and south side elevations each have two, six-light fixed windows. The rear (west) elevation has a vertical board pedestrian door at the south edge of the wall.

**Circulation:**

The Manzanita Lake Developed Area contains a variety of circulation features associated with the movement of both vehicular and pedestrian traffic through the area. The main circulation feature for the park, the Lassen Park Highway, bisects the historic district but is nominated separately. Other than this historic roadway, the remaining vehicular paths in the Manzanita Lake area do not reflect historical patterns of development. The system of

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interpretive/recreation trails does, however, retain integrity. The park naturalist used the Manzanita Lake and Reflection Lake trails for informal nature walks. Campers and lodge guests could stroll at their leisure, and find a quiet moment to contemplate the views of Lassen Peak or the Chaos Crags, often reflected in the calm surface of the lakes. The naturalist used the Lily Pond Trail for more formal presentations, providing information on the area's flora and geological features. The integrated trail system was completed in 1936 and resurfaced in 1946.

*Manzanita Lake Trail (Contributing site):* The Manzanita Lake Trail circles the perimeter of Manzanita Lake. For most of its length, the constructed trail is between 4-6 feet in width, consisting of a dirt path adjacent to the edge of the lake. Between the Loomis Museum and the Northwest entrance station, the trail is built on the hill slope above the lake. Several small sections of stone retaining wall are integrated into the tread in segment. On the west side of the lake, the trail runs along the top of the earthen Manzanita Lake Dam and across the lake's spillway. The latter crossing is achieved by board tread in the gap between the concrete walls of the spillway. Individual structural elements include a segment of dry-laid stone retaining wall in the vicinity of the North Entrance Station residence, and a stone stair that leads to the top of the dam at its north end. The trail is furnished with log seats, placed in areas where one can rest and enjoy a view over the lake towards Lassen Peak.

*Reflection Lake Trail (Contributing site):* The Reflection Lake Trail circles the perimeter of Reflection Lake, north of the Lassen Park Highway. From the north edge of the Lassen Park Highway, a steep segment of constructed tread leads to the east edge of the lake and the main trail. A stone retaining wall lines the up-hill side of the access path. From the head of the lake, the trail, which varies between 3 and 6 feet in width, follows the contour of the hillslope between 5 and 15 feet above the waterline. The first 300 feet of the trail are used as part of the Lily Pond Trail – a self-guided nature trail. The trail is less distinct towards the west end of the lake, and portions of the trail on the south side of the lake have been destroyed by the recent reconstruction and widening of the Lassen Park Highway. The northeast end of the lake affords views of the Chaos Crags and Lassen Peak, sometimes reflected in the surface of the lake.

*Lily Pond Trail (Contributing site):* The Lily Pond loop trail is a self-guided nature trail. Roughly a mile in length, the trail begins at the head of Reflection Lake, parallels the lake for about 300 feet, then loops to the northeast past the Lily Pond and through the most recent debris field associated with the Chaos Jumbles, and ends at the naturalist's residence (HS-41). This constructed trail varies between 4 and 6 feet in width, and contains features such as plank bridges through boggy areas, and dry-laid stone retaining walls where the trail is cut into the hillslope. Numbered stations along the trail correspond to the descriptions in a trail guide, available from a kiosk at the beginning of the trail.

**Manzanita Lake Naturalist's Services Historic District**

Name of Property

**Lassen Volcanic National Park,  
Shasta County, California**

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**(See Continuation Pages.)****8. Statement of Significance****Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:****Applicable National Register Criteria:** A, C**Criteria Considerations (Exceptions):** N/A**Significant Person(s):** N/A**Cultural Affiliation:** N/A**Areas of Significance:** Recreation; Science; Conservation; Architecture**Period(s) of Significance:** 1927-1936**Significant Dates:** 1927; 1933-1936**Architect/Builder:** Benjamin Loomis; National Park Service; Emergency Conservation Work; Civilian Conservation Corps**Narrative Statement of Significance**

**Summary:** The Manzanita Lake Naturalist's Services Historic District conforms to the Major Developed Area property type(context: NPS Administration and Development) detailed in the associated Lassen Volcanic National Park Multiple Property Cover Form: a natural or scenic area *conserved and developed* for public enjoyment and/or recreation and containing an integrated system of resources, including roads, trails, tourist accommodations, and administrative facilities. The Seismograph Building; and Loomis residence and studio – also conform to the Resources Associated with Volcanology Property Type (context: Geological Studies). Areas of significance include science, recreation, conservation, and architecture (NPS Rustic). The period of significance is defined as that period of active NPS administration and development, from the 1929 addition of the Manzanita/Reflection Lake area to park boundaries through the 1936 completion of the Manzanita Lake Trail, marking completion of that infrastructure central to the area's interpretive program.<sup>1</sup> Significant dates include 1933, when Emergency Conservation Work crews cleared the lakeshore as part of the park's first New Deal funding cycle; 1934, when the Naturalist's residence and garage and the Manzanita Lake Beach were constructed; and 1936, when the trail network was completed. (Components of this historic district – the Loomis Museum and Seismograph building – were listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1974. In 1976, the Naturalist's residence and garage/woodshed were determined eligible by the Keeper in 1976. The Loomis residence was determined to be eligible for listing through consensus with the California State Historic Preservation Office in 1995.)

Historically, tourist-related services within Lassen Volcanic National Park have been concentrated at Manzanita Lake, "the park's education headquarters," a site easily accessible and offering spectacular views, two large water bodies, dramatic evidence of volcanic activity, adequate level land for construction of visitor accommodations -- all of the essential building blocks for an education program. As charged by the NPS Education Committee, officials in the park, Region 4, and the Branch of Plans and Design proceeded to lay out the roads and trails necessary to access these "elements of principal interest and importance" and to develop those means by which the visitor might become "acquainted" with the more important natural phenomena.<sup>2</sup> By the 1930s, tourist facilities at Manzanita Lake included a concessionaire-operated lodge and cabin complex; the largest of the park's seven campgrounds with associated comfort stations, store, laundry, and campfire circle; a service station; the Loomis Museum (privately constructed and gifted to the park in 1929); the Loomis Residence and Studio; a seismographic station; miscellaneous employee housing; a Naturalist's residence and garage; and interpretive trails circling the Lily Ponds, Reflection Lake, and Manzanita Lake.

Of this integrated system of visitor services, only two historic campground comfort stations (individually nominated) and those non-concession resources associated with the park's Naturalist/Interpretive Program are extant. These include the Loomis Museum and Seismographic Station (previously listed in the National Register as a building; excluded from Resource Count); the Loomis residence and studio; the Naturalist's residence and garage; the Lily Pond Self-guided

<sup>1</sup> Subsequent modifications to the system appear to have been limited to the 1946 resurfacing and widening of the interpretive trails. This modification did not alter the trail alignment or the resources interpreted, does not represent a significant deviation from the initial interpretive-program design, and therefore has not been included within the period of significance attributed the district.

<sup>2</sup> Anonymous (NPS Education Committee), "Recommendations Regarding Development of an Educational Program at Mount Lassen Volcanic National Park," no date (ca. 1928), LAVO Collection, WACC, pp. 1-3. Note: No author or publication date are identified in the document on file at WACC. Historian William K. Medlin reports that the recommendations were written by the NPS Education Committee. See Medlin, *Fire Mountain*, pp. 90-94.

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Nature Trail; the Reflection Lake Trail; and the Manzanita Lake Trail, Dam, and Beach. Resources that have been removed or heavily modified (See Continuation Pages.)

**9. Major Bibliographic References****See Continuation Pages.****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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Location of Additional Data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other -- Specify Repository: National Park Service, DSC, WACC, and LAVO

**10. Geographical Data****Acreage of Property:** ~85 acres**UTM References:** See continuation pages**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary of the Manzanita Lake Naturalist's Services Historic District is defined by drawing a line beginning at the Lily Pond Trail (north), to the Manzanita Lake Trail (west), to the southern edge of the Manzanita Lake Trail (south), to the point where the trail crosses Manzanita Creek thence back to the point of beginning. See attached site map.

**Boundary Justification**

This boundary incorporates all extant NPS resources related to visitor education within the Manzanita Lake Developed Area and, where feasible, follows the course of the Manzanita Lake and Lily Pond trail, contributing structures. Despite dramatic changes to the larger Manzanita Lake Developed Area, this cluster of proximate and interconnected resources remains largely unchanged.

**11. Form Prepared By****name/title:** Ann Emmons/Historian; Janene Caywood/Cultural Landscape Specialist;**organization:** Historical Research Associates, Inc.      **date:** February 2004**street & number:** P.O. Box 7086      **telephone:** 406 721-1958**city or town:** Missoula      **state:** MT      **zip code:** 59807-7086**Additional Documentation****See continuation pages****Property Owner****name/title:** United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Lassen Volcanic National Park**street & number:** PO Box 100      **telephone:** (530) 595-4444**city or town:** Mineral      **state:** California      **zip code:** 96063

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**Manzanita Lake Naturalist's Services, Shasta County, California**

**8. Narrative Statement of Significance, continued**

historic resources directly associated with the park's Manzanita Lake interpretive program as developed during the historic period are limited to the Reflection Lake Picnic Ground, removed in the modern period, and the historic Manzanita Campground Campfire Lecture Circle, replaced with an amphitheater in the Mission 66 era. In 1976 the Naturalist's residence and garage/woodshed were determined eligible for listing in the National Register by the Keeper.

**Site History**

In the late 1930s, the Federal Arts Project of the Works Progress Administration (WPA), a program of public art and memory, memorialized the "Manzanita Lake Naturalist's Services" in the Lassen Volcanic National Park poster. Against a backdrop of Lassen Peak and Manzanita Lake read the words "Ranger Naturalist Service, Loomis Memorial at Manzanita Lake: Lectures, Hikes, Motor Caravans, Campfire Programs, Information" (see Additional Documentation). Those in the Federal Writers' Project expanded upon the description: "at EDUCATIONAL HEADQUARTERS are presented lectures on the park's flora and fauna, geology, and natural history."<sup>3</sup>

These services represented the culmination of an interpretive program first outlined by the NPS Education Committee in the 1920s:

It should ... be the function of the naturalist to bring together at some favorable locality, as in a museum, as nearly complete and simple a story of recent eruptions as can be prepared.

It should further be the function of the naturalist and his assistant to prepare in a museum exhibits of such a nature as to lead the visitor out to see the actualities of the park, and to interpret such phenomena in the simplest way.

It should further be the function of the naturalist to organize simple talks regarding the major features of the park which should be given when conditions make this possible, and to make plans for personally conducted walks or trips with parties not to exceed twenty-five persons, in the course of which the principal features of interest in the park would be discussed and explained.<sup>4</sup>

NPS historian Len Warner reports that the initial framework of this interpretive program was initiated in 1930-1931 when the park first hired a full-time ranger and a naturalist and when Park Superintendent Collins established the "School of Lassen" in neighboring towns to promote awareness of the park and its volcanic landscapes.<sup>5</sup> By 1936, the primary building blocks of the program were in place, largely through the efforts of park benefactors Benjamin and Estelle Loomis and of Emergency Conservation Work (ECW) and Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) crews funded under the National Industrial Recovery Act. (See associated Multiple Property Cover Form for an expanded discussion of the park's public works program.)

<sup>3</sup> Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration for the State of California, California. A Guide to the Golden State (New York: Hastings House, MCMXXXIX), p. 503.

<sup>4</sup> NPS Education Committee, "Recommendations Regarding Development of an Educational Program at Mounta Lassen Volcanic National Park," no date (ca. 1928), LAVO Collection, WACC, pp. 6-7. Note: No author is identified in the document on file at WACC. Historian William K. Medlin reports that it was written by the NPS Education Committee. See Medlin, *Fire Mountain*, pp. 90-94.

<sup>5</sup> Superintendent's Monthly Report, August 5, 1931, cited by Len Warner in correspondence with the author, February 2003.

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**Manzanita Lake Naturalist's Services, Shasta County, California**

**Museum**

The Mae Loomis Memorial Museum and Seismographic Station, constructed in 1927 by Benjamin and Estella Loomis in memory of their daughter Mae and bequeathed to the National Park Service in 1929, would serve as the central "favorable locality" for this comprehensive naturalist program. The NPS Education Committee reported "the building is well constructed and is built of carefully selected local stone. On the whole it is an effective and useful structure." Museum exhibits, developed by the National Park Service and frequently modified in accordance with the evolving interpretive plan, include those devoted to area flora and fauna, cultural history, and volcanology (including Loomis's spectacular photographs of Lassen Peak eruptions and the Hat Creek mud flow). The small seismographic station, constructed by Loomis yet operated by the United States Geological Survey, served as an additional reminder of the park's importance to the study of volcanology. Although no public access was available, visitors were promised a glimpse of "the delicate instruments" through the window. (The Seismograph Building, in company with the Loomis Residence and Studio, are historically significant not only for their association with NPS Administration and Development but also with Geological Studies. See the associated Multiple Property Cover Form.)<sup>6</sup>

Together the museum and seismograph station formed the foundation of the "Museum Area," an area also marked by a parking lot adjacent to the Lassen Park Highway, just beyond the Northwest Entrance Station. In 1935, the park service expanded this parking lot thereby increasing parking space while also more effectively directing visitors to the Museum. Construction of the 4,000 square foot lot required extensive filling of a tributary of Manzanita Creek, draining Reflection Lake, and installation of a metal culvert.<sup>7</sup>

Additional buildings within the Loomis complex included the Loomis Residence and Studio/Store, constructed in 1931 in consultation with park officials. Lassen photographs and photographic supplies were sold through the studio.<sup>8</sup> In 1953, upon Mrs. Loomis's death, the National Park Service assumed ownership and converted the building to administrative offices (see below).

**Trails**

In 1934, the NPS proposed construction of trails around Reflection Lake, Manzanita Lake, and to the Lily Ponds. These trails, they argued, would provide not only educational opportunities, in the form of "excellent nature walks from the museum" (Reflection Lake alone boasting ten different species of conifers on its shores) but also recreation opportunities, or "strolls." "All the projects mentioned are now covered by plans, maps and estimates," Park Superintendent Collins wrote in 1934, "and we could proceed with them upon receiving word that the money was

<sup>6</sup> Dorr Yeager, "National Parks in California," *A Sunset Travel Book* (Menlo Park California: Lane Book Company, 1964), p. 91.

<sup>7</sup> Noble Hoggson, "Report to the Deputy Chief Architect through the Superintendent of Lassen Volcanic National Park, June thru October, 1935," LAVO Collection, WACC, n.p. Landscape architects carefully protected the tourists' "approach" to the Loomis complex; of the 1935 proposal by the Manzanita Lake Lodge operator to construct a service station between the Lassen Park Highway and the Museum, landscape architect Noble Hoggson wrote: "it was to go right on the highway at the entrance of the Museum area, creating a definite traffic hazard and spoiling the approach to this group of buildings . . . . Permission was finally refused the operator to place his gas station in that location and a new site was tentatively agreed upon."

<sup>8</sup> Lassen Volcanic National Park Superintendent and Staff, "Lassen Volcanic National Park Development Outline, Manzanita Lake Area, revised January 1946, Drawing, 111/1003 Supplement 1G, NPS, Denver Service Center, Technical Information Center (TIC), Denver.

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**Manzanita Lake Naturalist's Services, Shasta County, California**

allotted.<sup>9</sup> This money was allocated in 1936, with numbered stakes on the self-guided Lily Pond Trail – keyed to a free leaflet distributed at the trail head, following soon thereafter<sup>10</sup> Though deemed generally adequate, and extremely popular, the trails were of low standard and park personnel reported that "people are obliged to pick their way in following the nature walks conducted by naturalists." A program to resurface and improve the footpaths was funded in 1946.<sup>11</sup>

By 1952 Park Naturalist Paul Schultz reported with pride on the long-established and popular "Nature Walk" held twice daily, several times a week: "It is a short walk – between one and two miles along any of several routes such as around Manzanita and Reflection Lake . . . Care is taken to avoid the Lily Pond route which is used by so many persons as a self-guided feature. This liesurely [sic] easy walk is designed to interpret the trailside for the visitor in a rather full and detailed, but informal manner."<sup>12</sup>

**Naturalist's Residence/Administrative Offices**

From 1929, the naturalist assigned primary responsibility for museum exhibits and visitor education in the park lived in "an ancient shack" built as a store prior to the addition of Manzanita and Reflection Lakes to the park. "Manzanita Lake, some 37 miles from park headquarters, is the educational headquarters of Lassen Volcanic National Park and it is highly desirable that the naturalist be quartered there during the summer months," Park Superintendent Collins wrote in support of construction funding for a new residence.<sup>13</sup> The residence, completed in October of 1934, was generally lauded by landscape architect Armin Doerner as a fine example of NPS Rustic Architecture: "It is of pleasing design and well constructed. The rockwork is particularly good and required little supervision to get it so. The roof would have been more in keeping with the rest of the building if heavy sawed shales could have been used rather than the shingles. In spite of this, I feel it is a building of which the park may well be proud."<sup>14</sup> A combination two-car garage and woodshed was constructed upon completion of the residence.

Through the historic period, the naturalist's residence and the Northwest Checking Station (listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a component of the Lassen Park Highway Historic District) served as the sole NPS administrative resources within the northwest corner of the park. However, in 1953 on the occasion of Estelle Loomis's death, the NPS assumed ownership of the Loomis residence and studio and placed the building in use as the park service's central Manzanita Lake administrative facility.<sup>15</sup> (The building had been incorporated within NPS plans for the area since at least 1942 when Park Superintendent Lloyd argued that "the Service rather than the Park

<sup>9</sup> L.W. Collins, Superintendent, "Public Works Projects, Narrative Report," January 3, 1934, LAVO Collection WACC, pp. 21-22.

<sup>10</sup> Noble Hoggson, E.C.W. Landscape Architect, "Report to the Deputy Chief Architect Through the Superintendent of Lassen Volcanic National Park, June Thru October 1935: Part II – Suggested Projects for 1936 Program," LAVO Collection, WACC, n.p..

<sup>11</sup> Lassen Volcanic National Park Superintendent and Staff, "Lassen Volcanic National Park Development Outline, Manzanita Lake Area, revised January 1946, Drawing, 111/1003 Supplement 1B, NPS, Denver Service Center, Technical Information Center (TIC), Denver.

<sup>12</sup> Paul E. Schulz, Park Naturalist, *Master Plan for Use and Development*, "Interpretation," March, 1952, p. 16 of 21.

<sup>13</sup> L.W. Collins, Superintendent, "Public Works Projects, Narrative Report," January 3, 1934, LAVO Collection WACC, p. 11.

<sup>14</sup> Armin M. Doerner, Associate Landscape Architect, "Report to the Chief Architect through the Superintendent of Lassen Volcanic National Park, Season of 1934, Public Works Administration," no date, p. 5.

<sup>15</sup> An associated garage, built in 1930, is no longer extant.

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Operator [concessioner] should have Mrs. Loomis' store for an administrative building when Mrs. Loomis passes on.")<sup>16</sup>

**Manzanita Lake Improvements**

Resources dedicated less specifically to administration and education, but conforming to park service goals to encourage outdoor recreation and spontaneous discovery, included the Manzanita Lake Dam and the Manzanita Lake Beach. The 500' long, 10' high dam had been constructed by H. H. Noble and the Northern California Power Company in 1911, as a means of generating hydro-electric power at a Viola plant.<sup>17</sup> The dam was retained by the National Park Service as a means of perpetuating a water body of sufficient size for water recreation and as a means of securing hydroelectric power for Manzanita Lake facilities.<sup>18</sup>

In 1933, after spending 43 days on reconstruction of the aging dam (cribbing and filling), ECW crews embarked on the "long tedious job" of felling and removing the snags of trees killed when the lake level was artificially raised. The results proved "gratifying," and the newly cleared lake visually marked the transition from Manzanita's historic industrial past to its new use as a centerpiece of Lassen's education and recreation programs.<sup>19</sup>

With the lake and shore cleared of debris, crews turned to creation of a swimming beach and picnic area at the south end of the lake. Brush was cleared, sand imported, and ten stoves and picnic tables placed in a willow grove directly adjacent to the new beach.<sup>20</sup> Although site furnishings and the layout within the picnic area have been modified and are modern, the man-made beach remains and is considered a contributing site within the historic district.

By the late 1930s, residents of the small community of Viola, located outside the park and downstream from Manzanita Lake, demanded a return of flow to the original Manzanita Creek channel, at the northwest corner of the lake (versus pipe drainage through the dam). Though protest ebbed during the war years, sufficient that in 1944 park superintendent Lloyd proposed cutting funding for the project until "local interest in it is again aroused," the outlet

<sup>16</sup> Anonymous, "Memorandum for Messrs. Davidson and DeLong," September 25, 1942, LAVO Collection WACC, p. 1.

<sup>17</sup> Strong, *Footprints in Time: A History of Lassen Volcanic National Park*, p. 30.

<sup>18</sup> L. W. Collins, Superintendent, "Public Works Projects, Narrative Report," January 3, 1934, LAVO Collection WACC, p. 11.

The Manzanita Lake Hydroelectric Plant, with two 25 kw generators, was completed in October 1934. NPS Architect Armin Doerner reported upon the plant's construction that "there was no landscape problem involved except in the location and construction of the two small buildings. These are of neat design and inconspicuous where located. The noise is unnoticeable" (Armin M. Doerner, "Report to the Chief Architect through the Superintendent of Lassen Volcanic National Park, Season of 1934, Public Works Administration," LAVO Collection, WACC, p. 4). The plant was removed in 1944 (James V. Lloyd, Superintendent, "Memorandum for the Regional Director, Region Four," April 22, 1944, LAVO Collection WACC, n. p.).

<sup>19</sup> P. J. Holloway, "Report to the Chief Architect through the Superintendent of Lassen Volcanic National Park: Emergency Conservation Work," November 1, 1933, LAVO Collection WACC.

<sup>20</sup> Noble Hoggson, E.C.W. Landscape Architect, "Report to the Deputy Chief Architect through the Superintendent of Lassen Volcanic National Park, June Thru October 1935," LAVO Collection, WACC, n.p. Hoggson wrote "the tables . . . were of the movable sawed lumber type while the stoves were of the new open grill, fire brick lined, flaring front type." All site furnishings at the picnic site are modern and do not contribute to the historic district.

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and associated spillway were ultimately constructed.<sup>21</sup> The outlet/spillway postdates the period of significance assigned the district and is defined as a noncontributing structure.

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<sup>21</sup> James V. Lloyd, Superintendent, "Memorandum for the Regional Director, Region Four," April 22, 1944, LAVO Collection WACC, n. p.

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**Section Number 10 Page 11**

**Manzanita Lake Naturalist's Services, Shasta County, California**

**9. Major Bibliographic References (continued)**

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Lassen Volcanic National Park Superintendent and Staff. "Lassen Volcanic National Park Development Outline, Manzanita Lake Area, revised January 1946, Drawing, 111/1003 NPS, Denver Service Center, Technical Information Center (TIC), Denver.

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**10. Geographical Data (continued)**

<b>UTM References</b>	<b>Zone</b>	<b>Northing</b>	<b>Easting</b>
A	10	4,488,216	621,096
B	10	4,488,099	621,396
C	10	4,488,302	621,381
D	10	4,488,216	621,736
E	10	4,488,500	621,828
F	10	4,488,119	622,087
G	10	4,487,535	621,655
H	10	4,487,738	621,096
I	10	4,487,835	621,248

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**Additional Documentation: Current Condition Photographs (original photographs attached)**

The following information applies to all photographs presented below:

Manzanita Lake Naturalist's Services Historic District

Lassen Volcanic National Park

Shasta County, California

Photographer: Janene Caywood, Historical Research Associates, Inc.

Date of Photographs: June, 2002

Location of Negatives: Resource Division, Lassen Volcanic National Park Headquarters, Mineral, California.



Photo 1: Overview of Museum Area (view to SW). Note stone wall.

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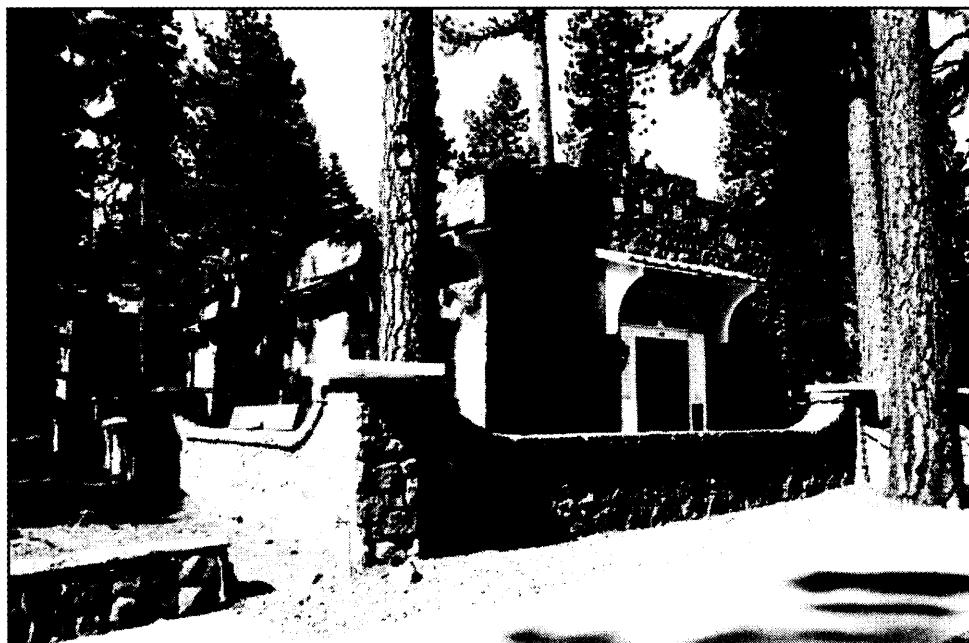


Photo 2: Loomis Museum- East and North Elevations

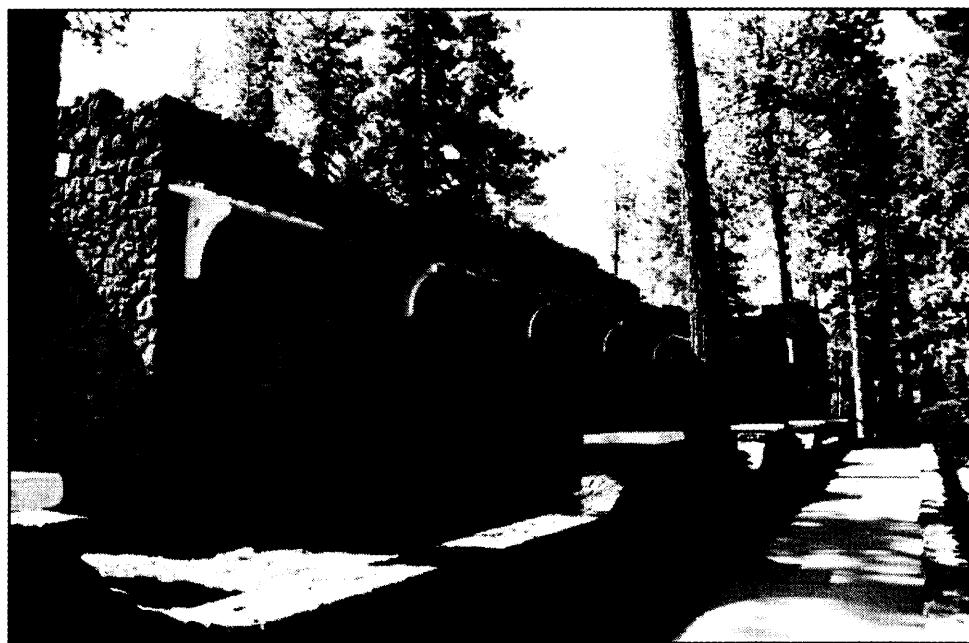


Photo 3: Loomis Museum- West and South Elevations

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**Additional Documentation Page 15 Manzanita Lake Naturalist's Services, Shasta County, California**

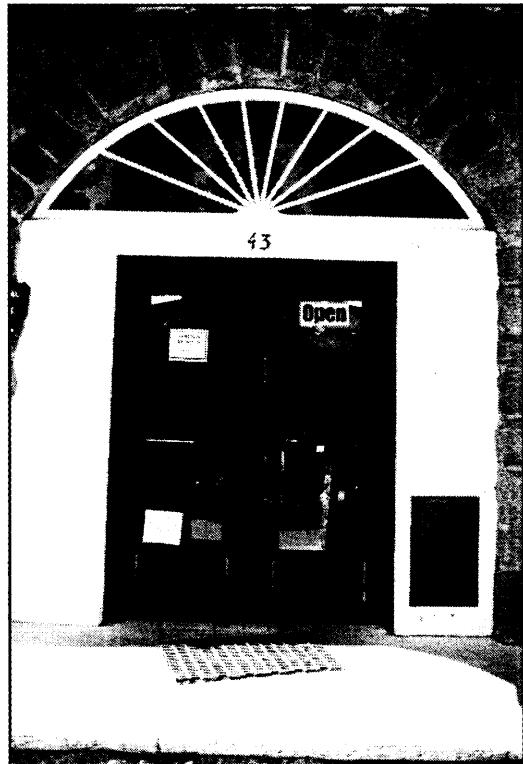


Photo 4: Loomis Museum- Detail Doors & Entrance – Copper Clad Door.



Photo 5: Seismograph Building – West and South Elevations

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National Park Service**

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Photo 6: Seismograph Building – East Elevation.



Photo 7: Loomis Residence and Studio, West Elevation

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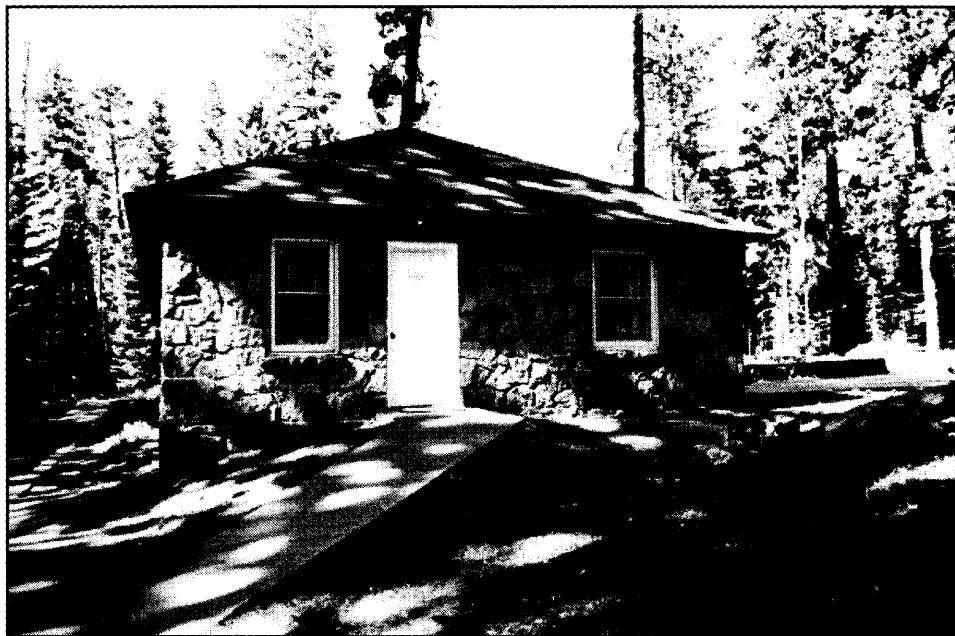


Photo 8: Loomis Residence and Studio, North Elevation.



Photo 9: Loomis Residence and Studio, South Elevation

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Photo 10: Naturalist's Residence, South (front) elevation.

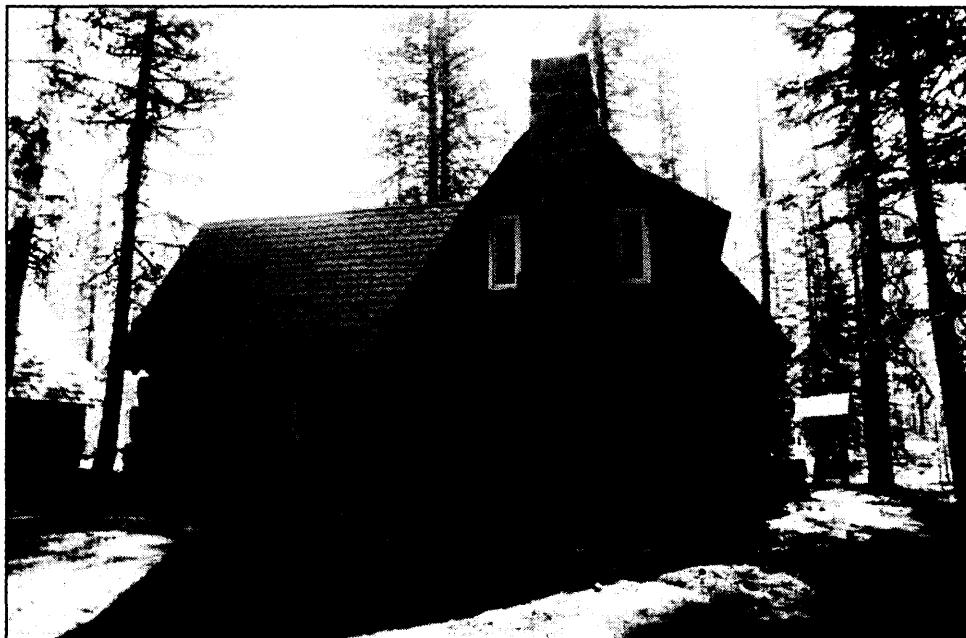


Photo 11: Naturalist's Residence, West (side) elevation.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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**Continuation Sheet**

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Photo 12: Naturalist's Residence, East and North elevations

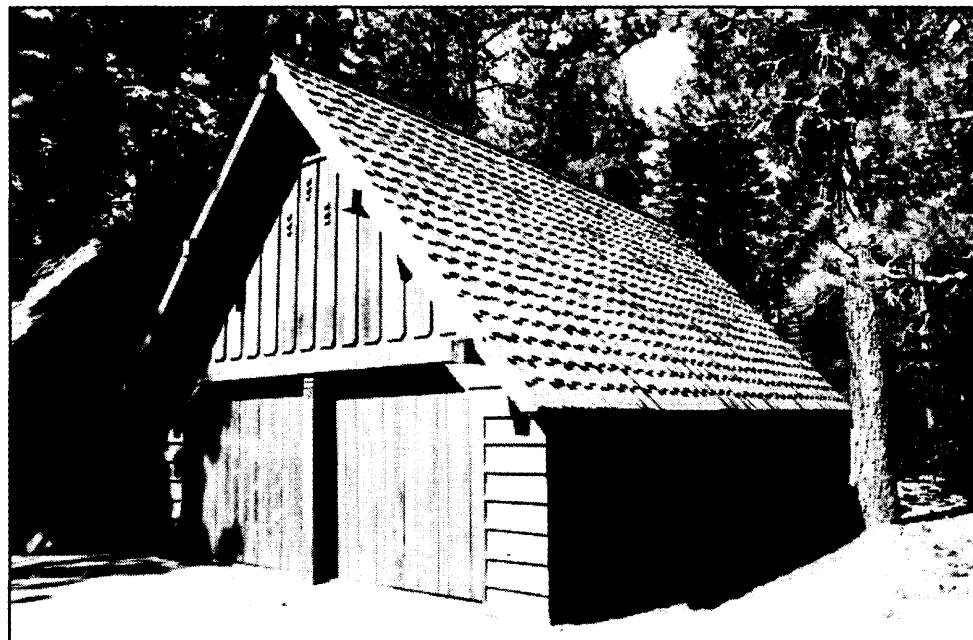


Photo 13: Naturalist's garage, South Elevation.

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Photo 14: Bridge over Manzanita Creek.



Photo 15: Manzanita Lake Outlet and Spillway.

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Photo 16: Manzanita Lake Dam.



Photo 17: Overview of Manzanita Lake Trail through rocky area.

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Photo 18: Overview of Manzanita Lake Trail tread.



Photo 19: Stone retaining wall at beginning of Lily Pond Trail.

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Photo 20: Lily Pond Trail Bridge

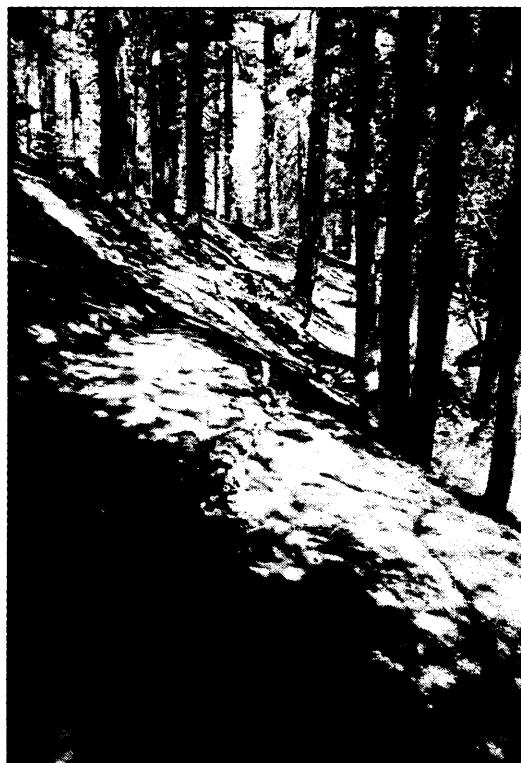


Photo 21: Constructed tread with stone retaining wall, Lily Pond Trail.

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Photo 22: Lily Pond Trail Tread.



Photo 23: Reflection Lake Trail.

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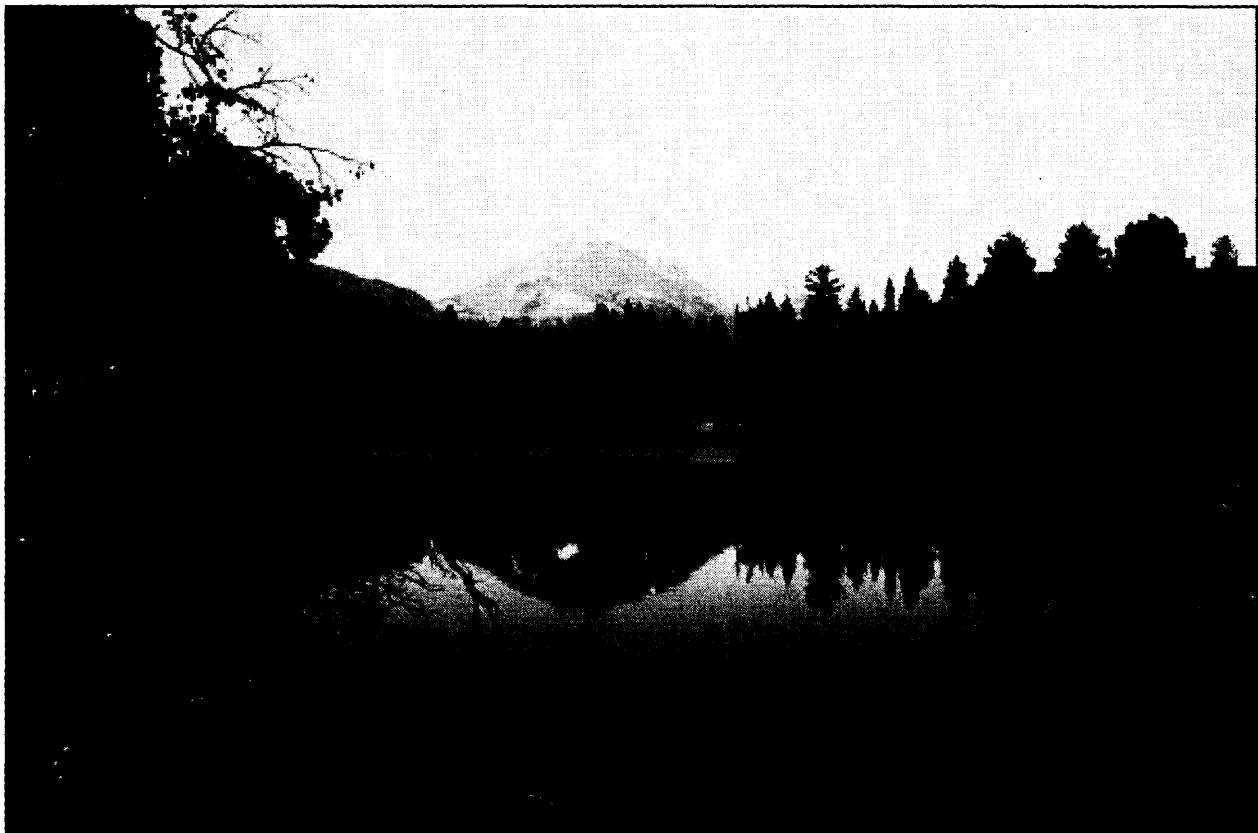


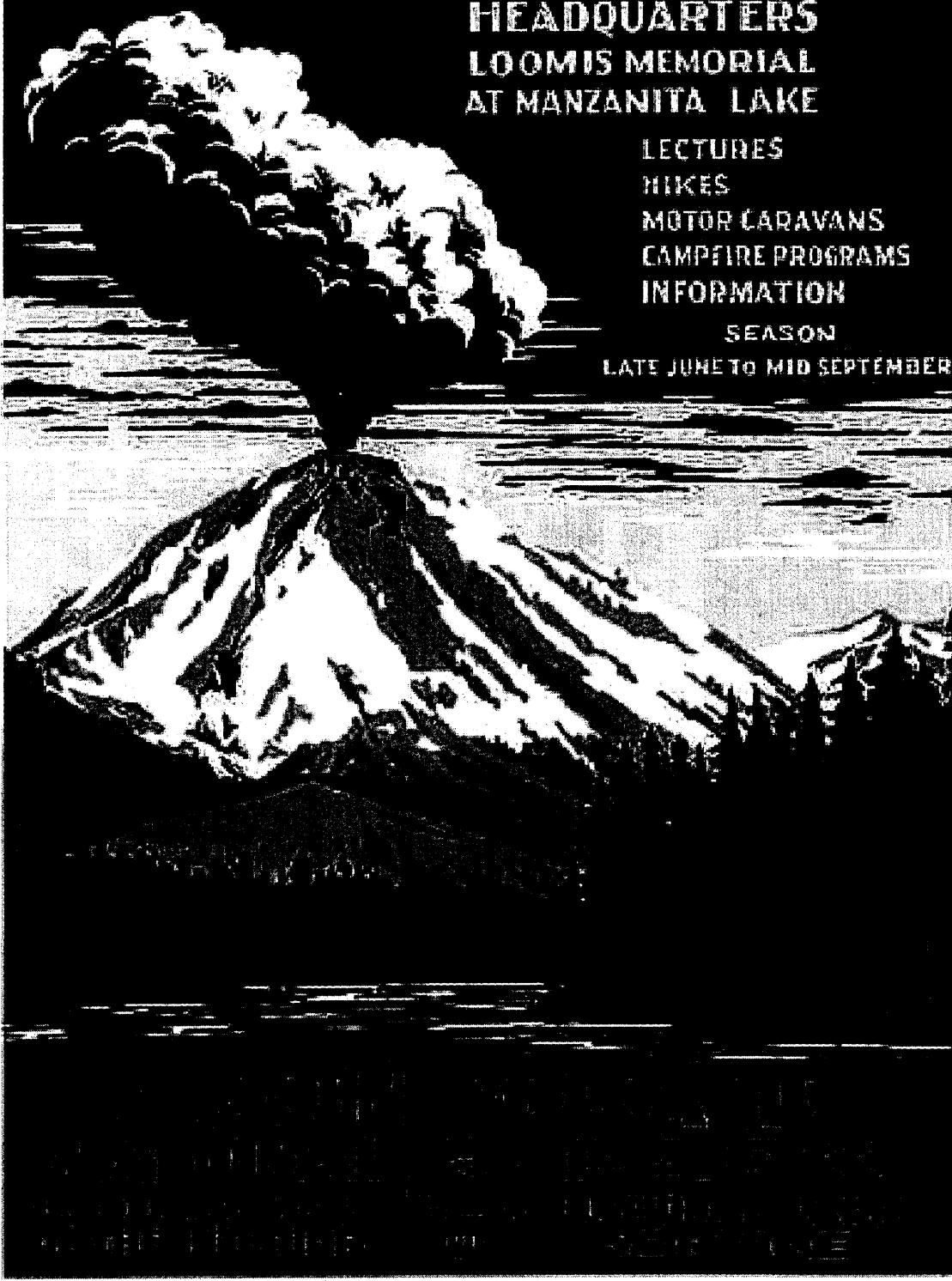
Photo 24: Lassen Peak in Reflection Lake.

# RANGER NATURALIST SERVICE

HEADQUARTERS  
LOOMIS MEMORIAL  
AT MANZANITA LAKE

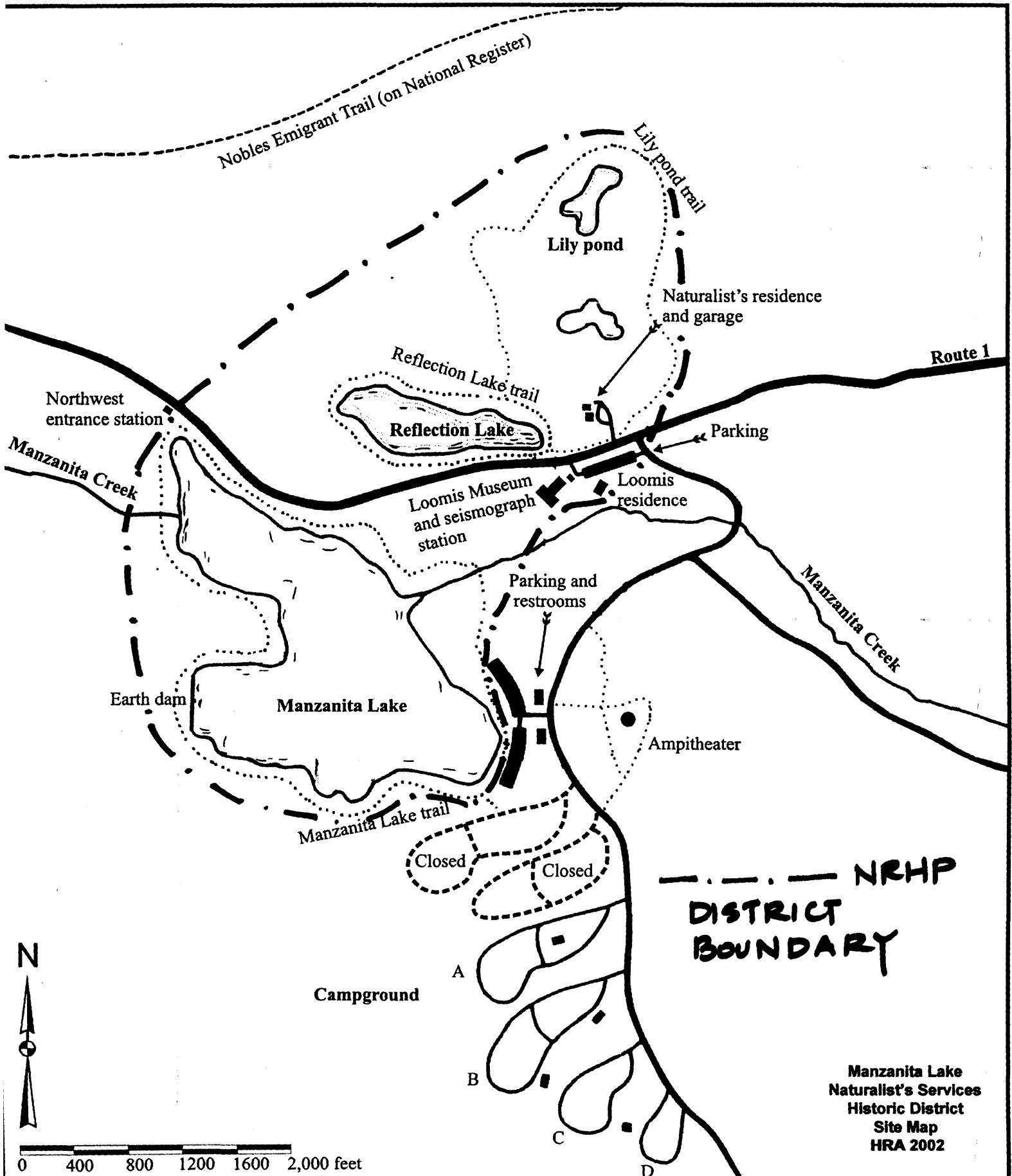
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CAMPFIRE PROGRAMS  
INFORMATION

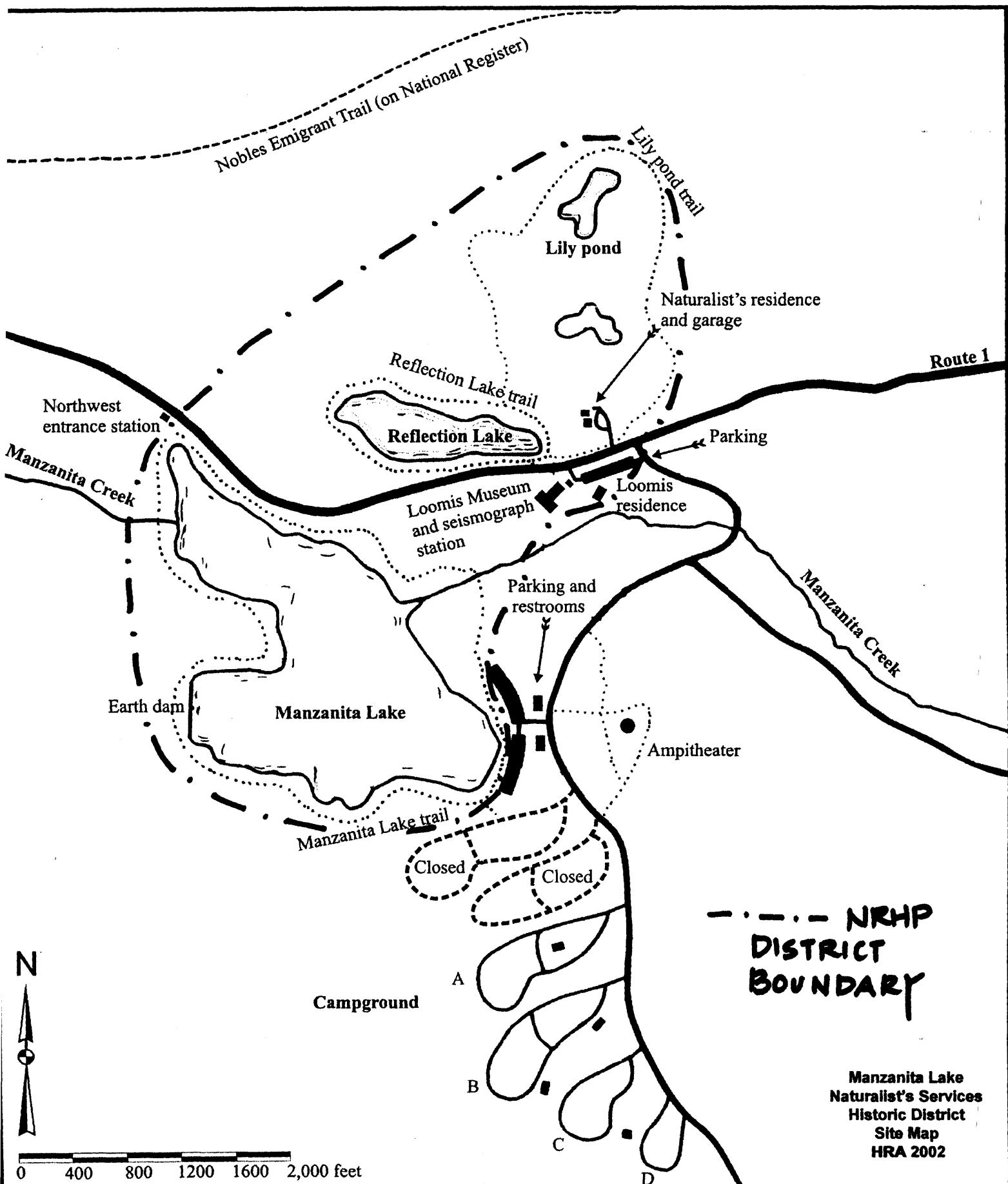
SEASON  
LATE JUNE TO MID SEPTEMBER

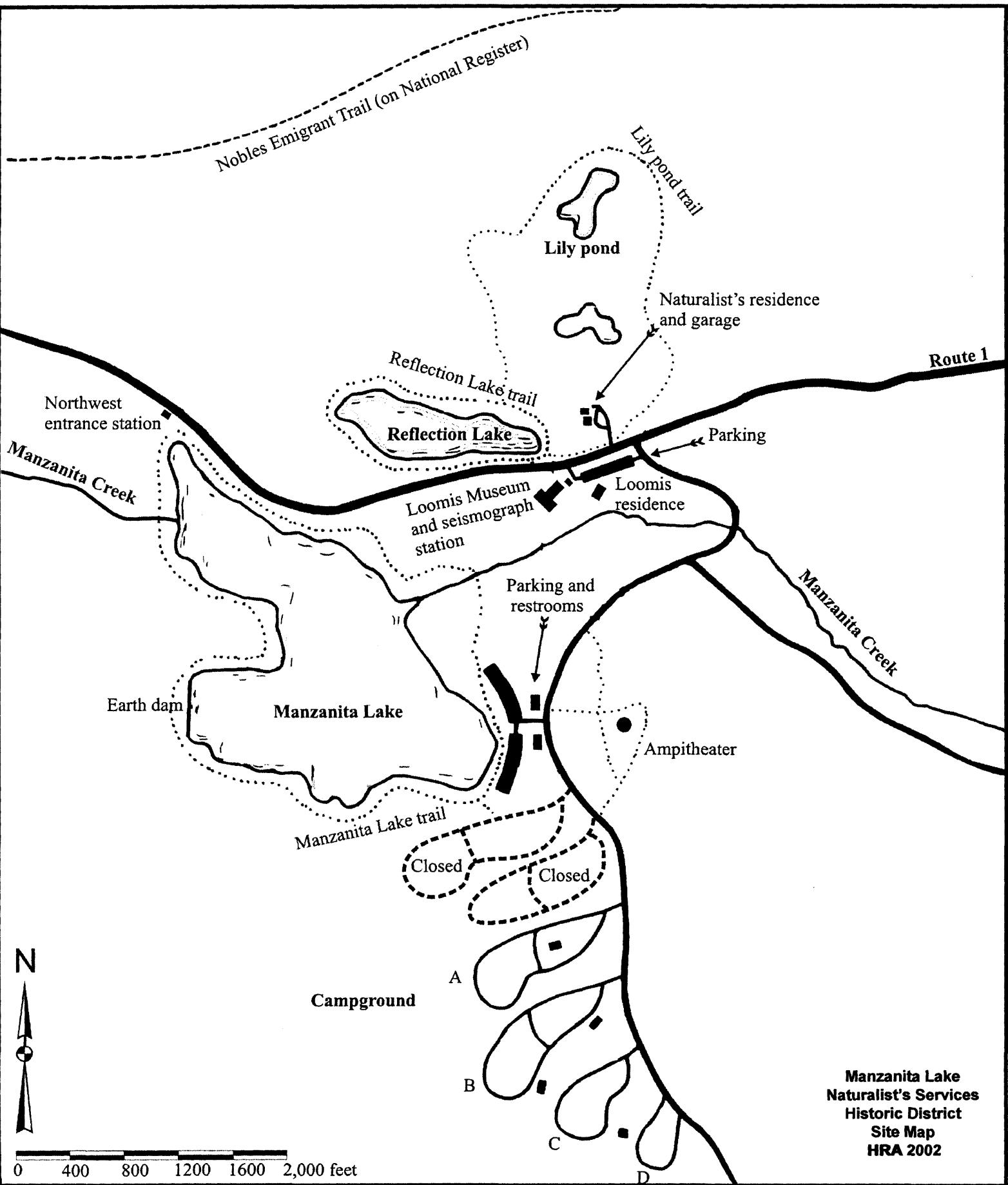


WPA Poster, Lassen Volcanic  
National Park

Ca. 1936

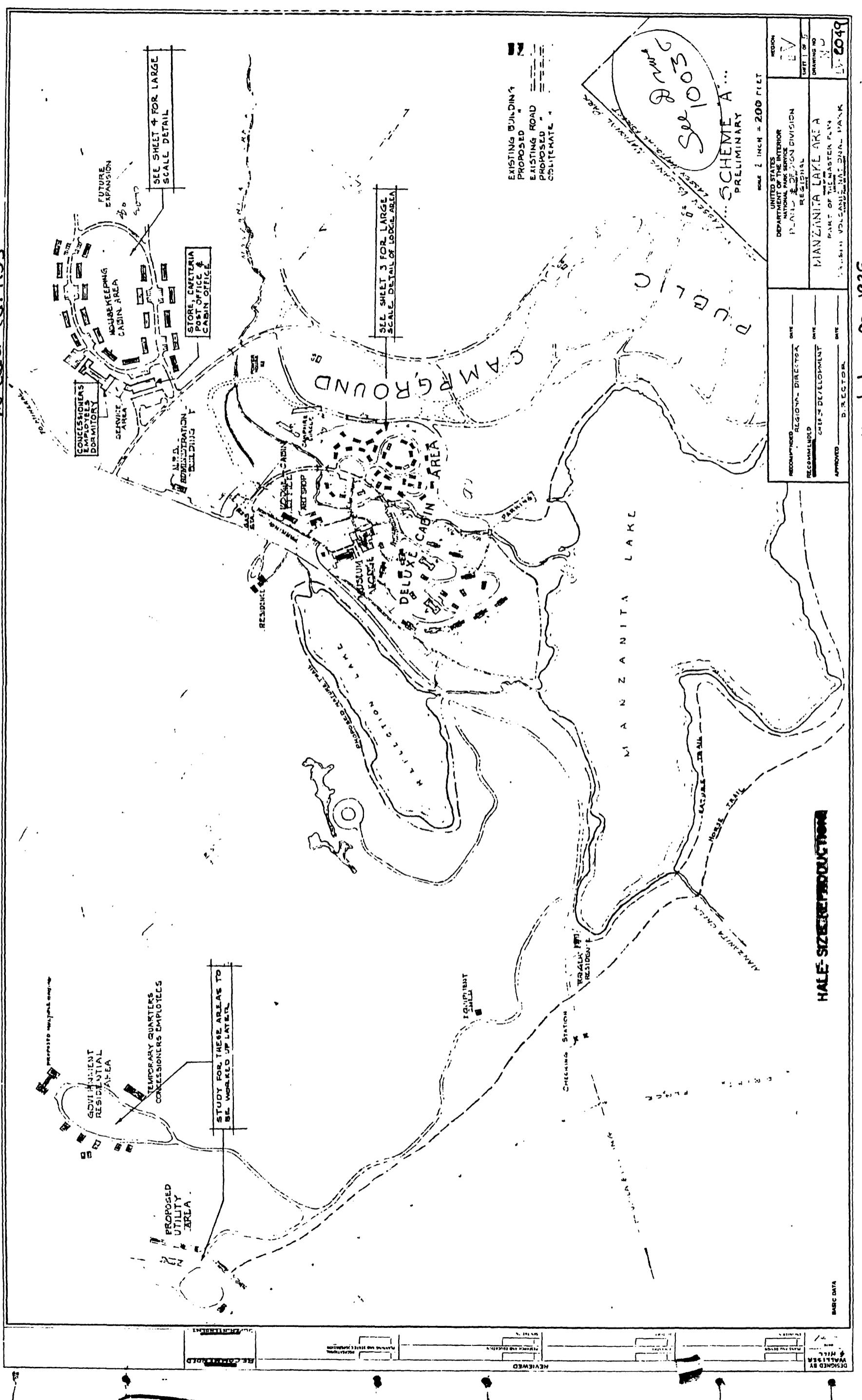






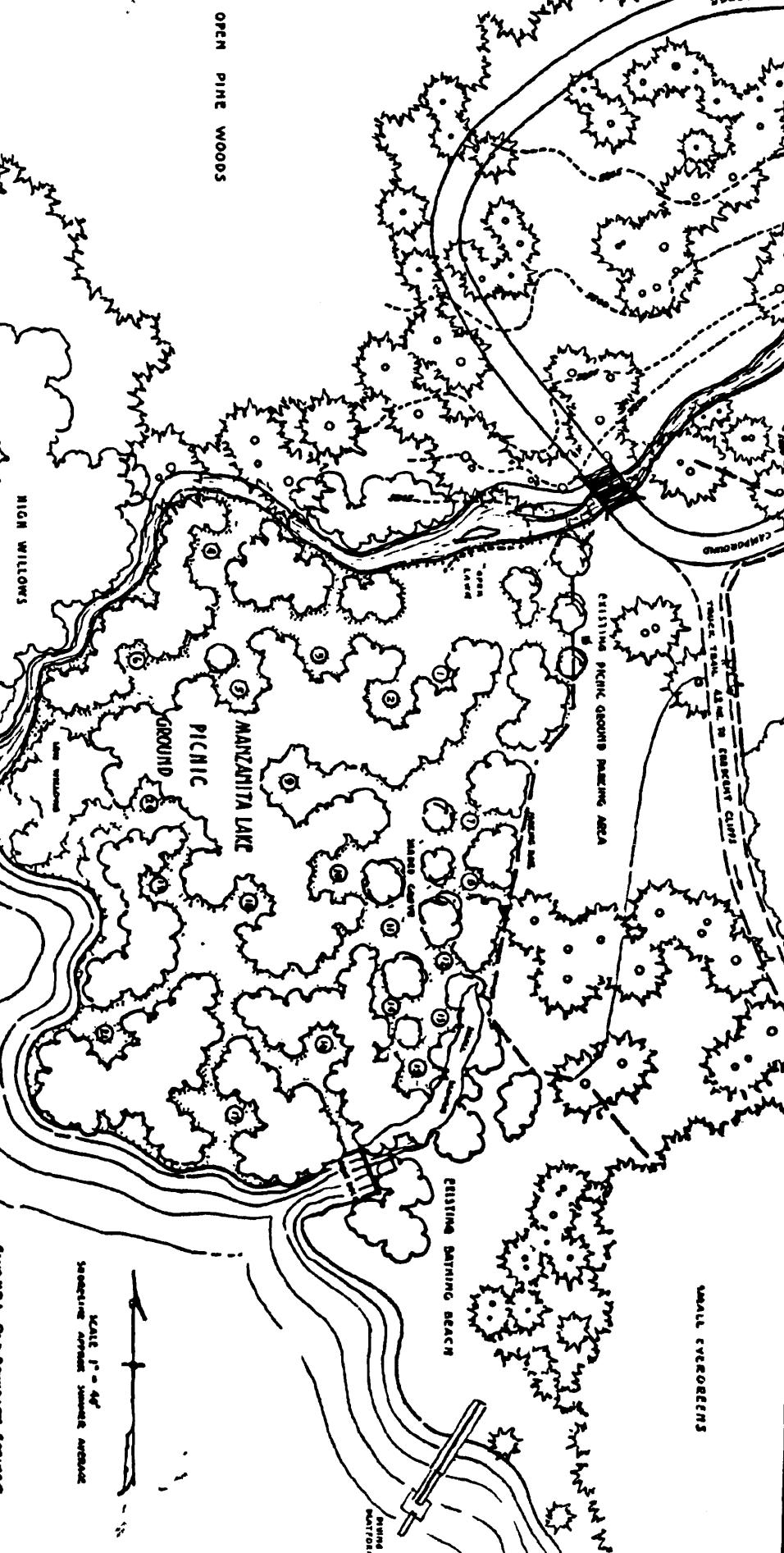


MOHAN CO. 1935



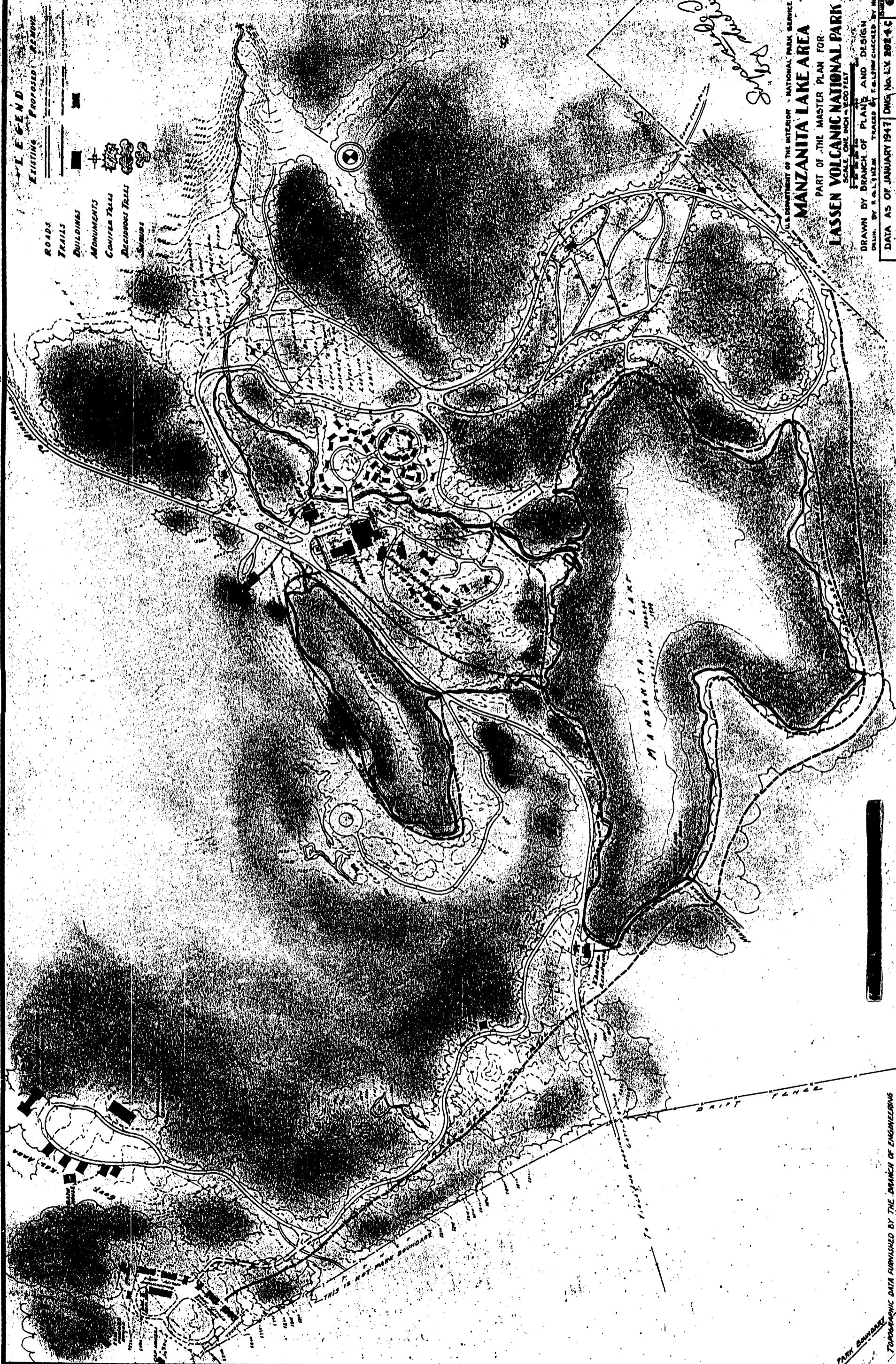
Dr by NH Checked by Record for Approval  
Tr by NH Des March 1935

### MANZANITA LAKE



Recommender: Dr. J. L. Gould	Date 6-22-35
Approved: Gen. Mgr. and Admin. Date 6-22-35	
Comments: <i>Approved</i> Date 6-22-35	
Approved: Director of Parks Date 6-22-35	
Approved: Director of Forest Products Date 6-22-35	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Date 6-22-35	
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE Date 6-22-35	
LASSEN VOLCANIC NATIONAL PARK Date 6-22-35	
MANZANITA LAKE PICNIC GROUNDS	
Review or changes on plans and design	
LV 3036	

6/17/1935



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

MANZANITA LAKE AREA

PART OF THE MASTER PLAN FOR  
LASSEN VOLCANIC NATIONAL PARK

SCALE ONE INCH = 500 FEET

DRAWN BY BRANCH OF PLANE AND DESIGN  
TRACED & RECHECKED BY MILITARY

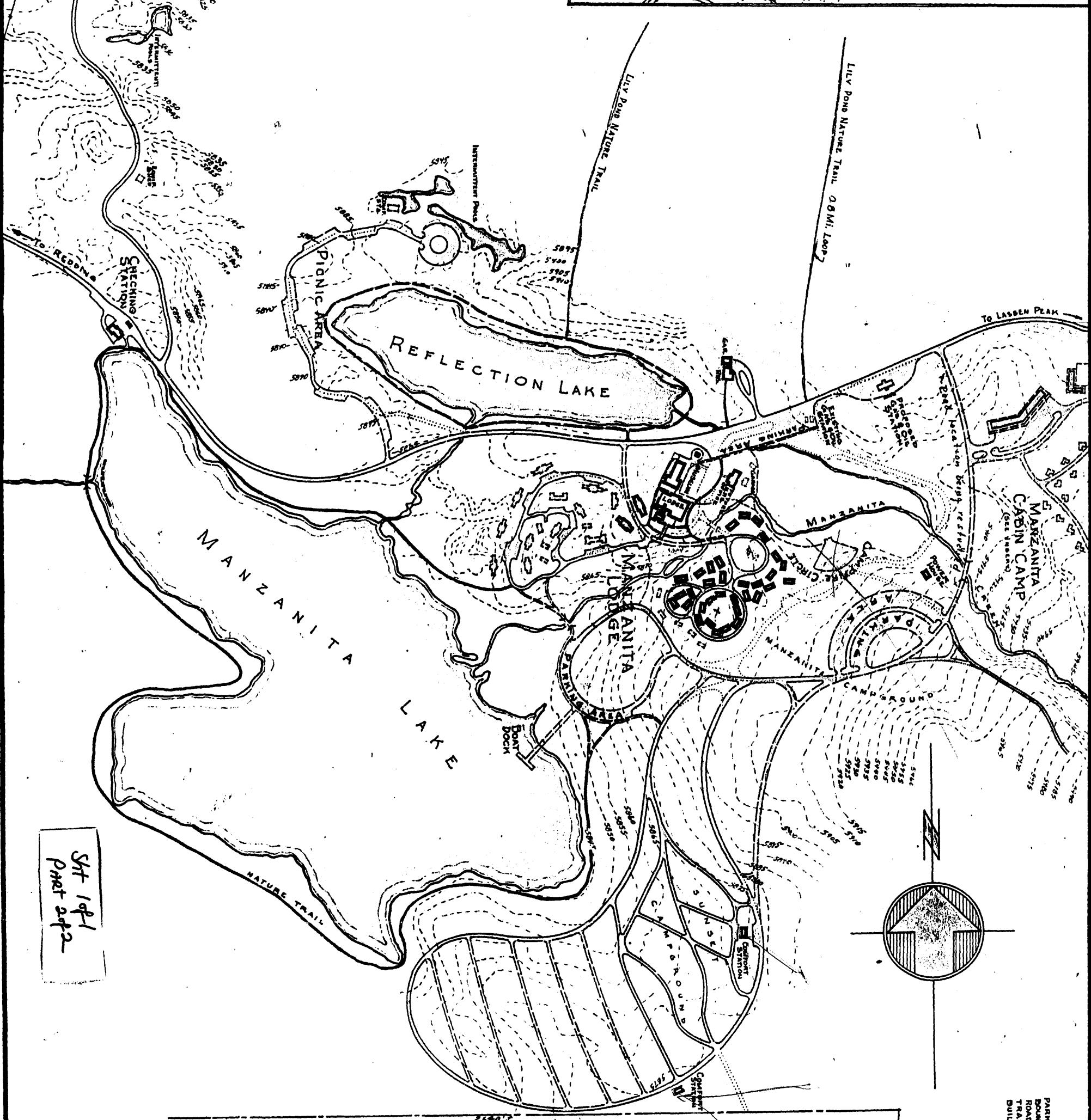
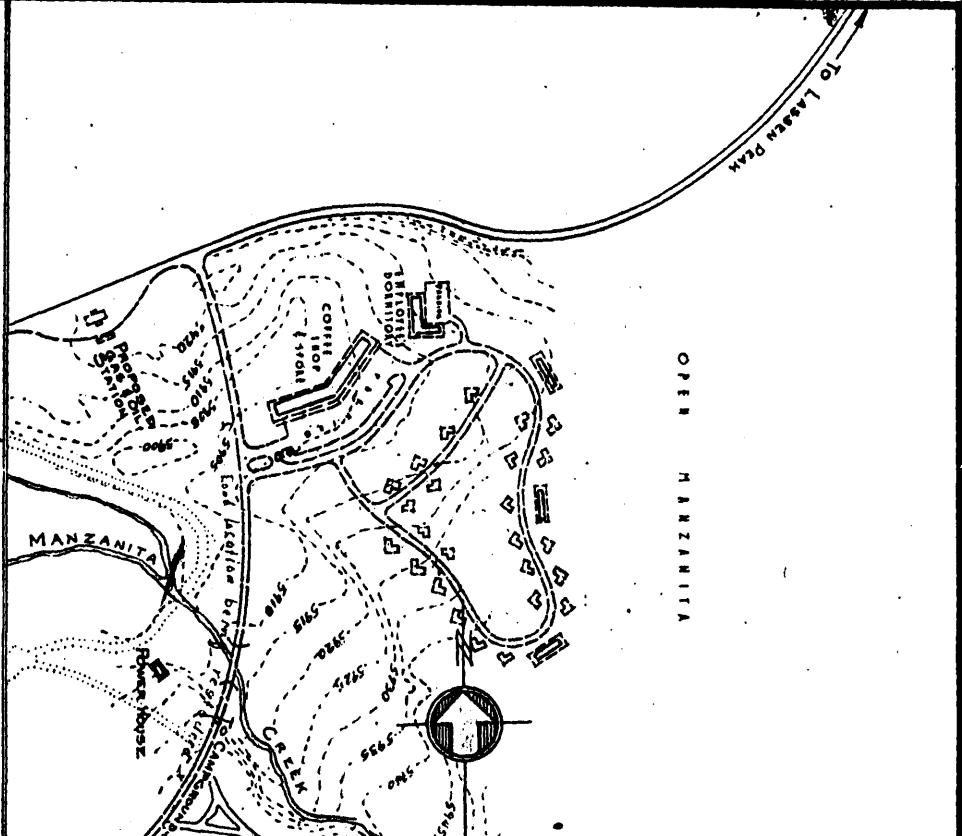
DATA AS OF JANUARY 1947 DNG No. 2124 CFS

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PROPOSED 1947

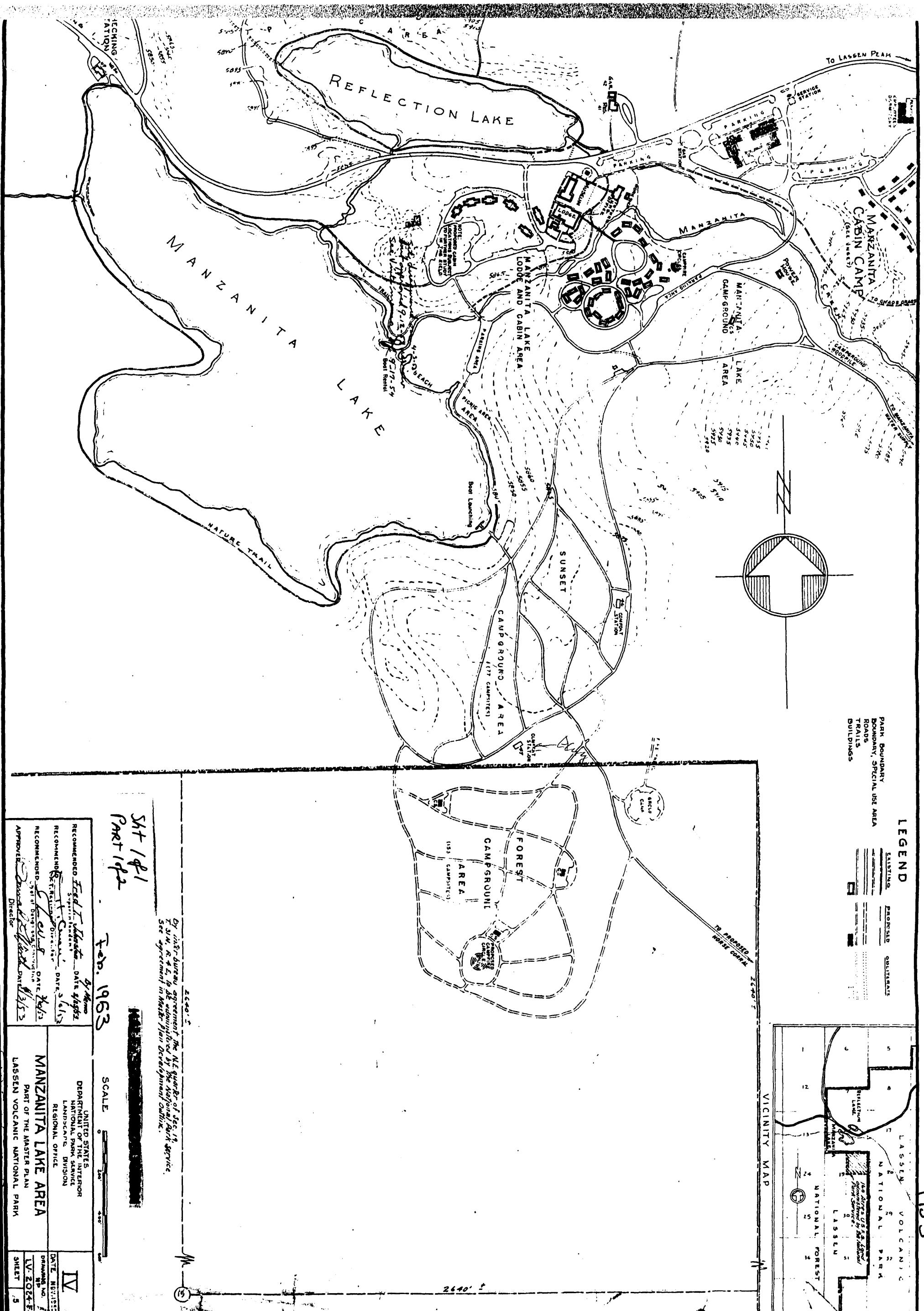
DESIGNED BY	REVIEWED Dth - General Development Plan				
DEVELOPMENT	FORESTRY	NATURAL HISTORY	LANDS		
CHECKED BY July 9/12	HISTORY	PUBLIC SERVICES			
			U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE		

MANZANITA CABIN CAMP

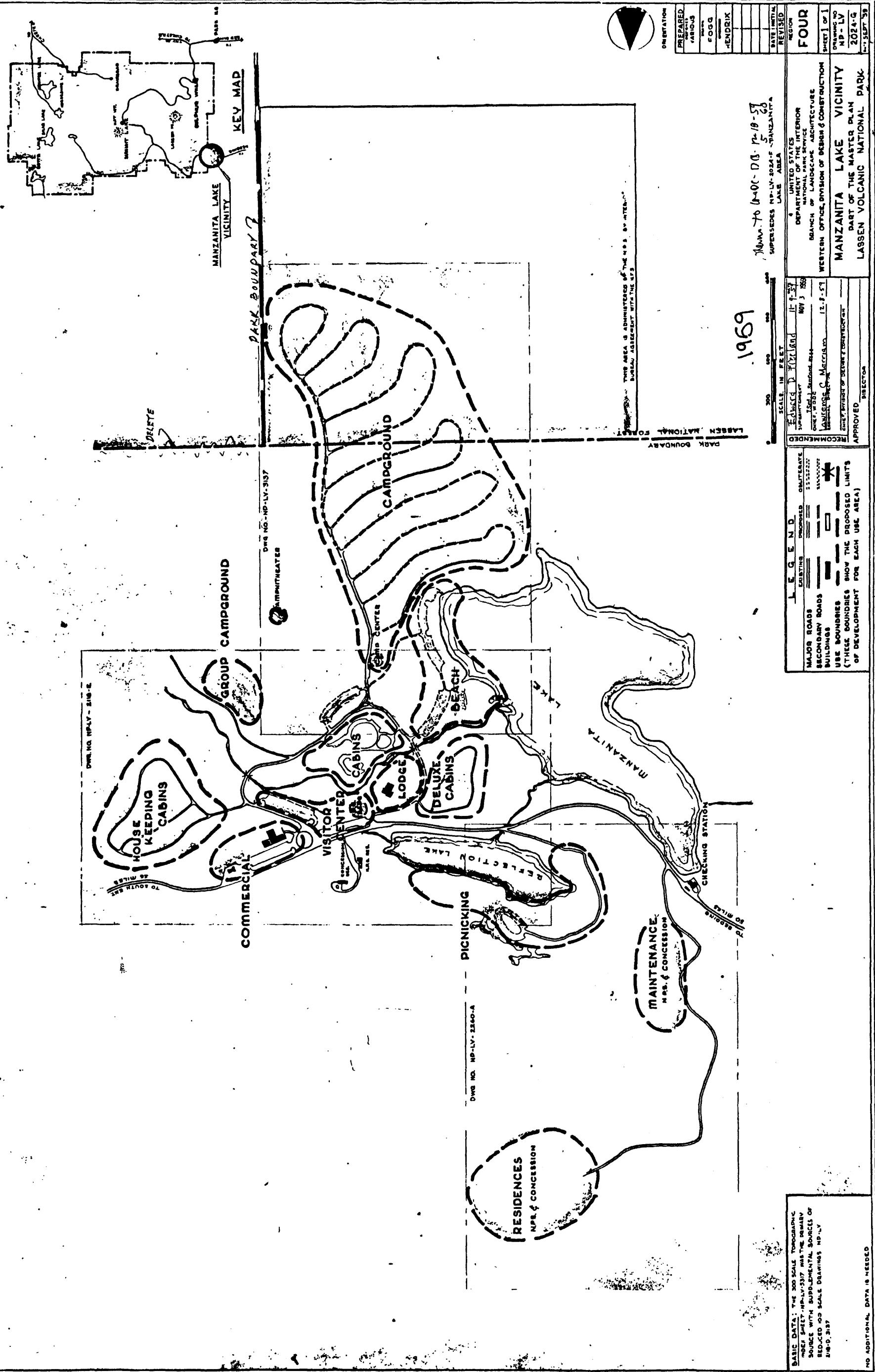


Sht 1 of 1  
Part 2 of 2

1952  
PARK BOUNDARY,  
ROADS,  
TRAILS,  
BUILDINGS



1959

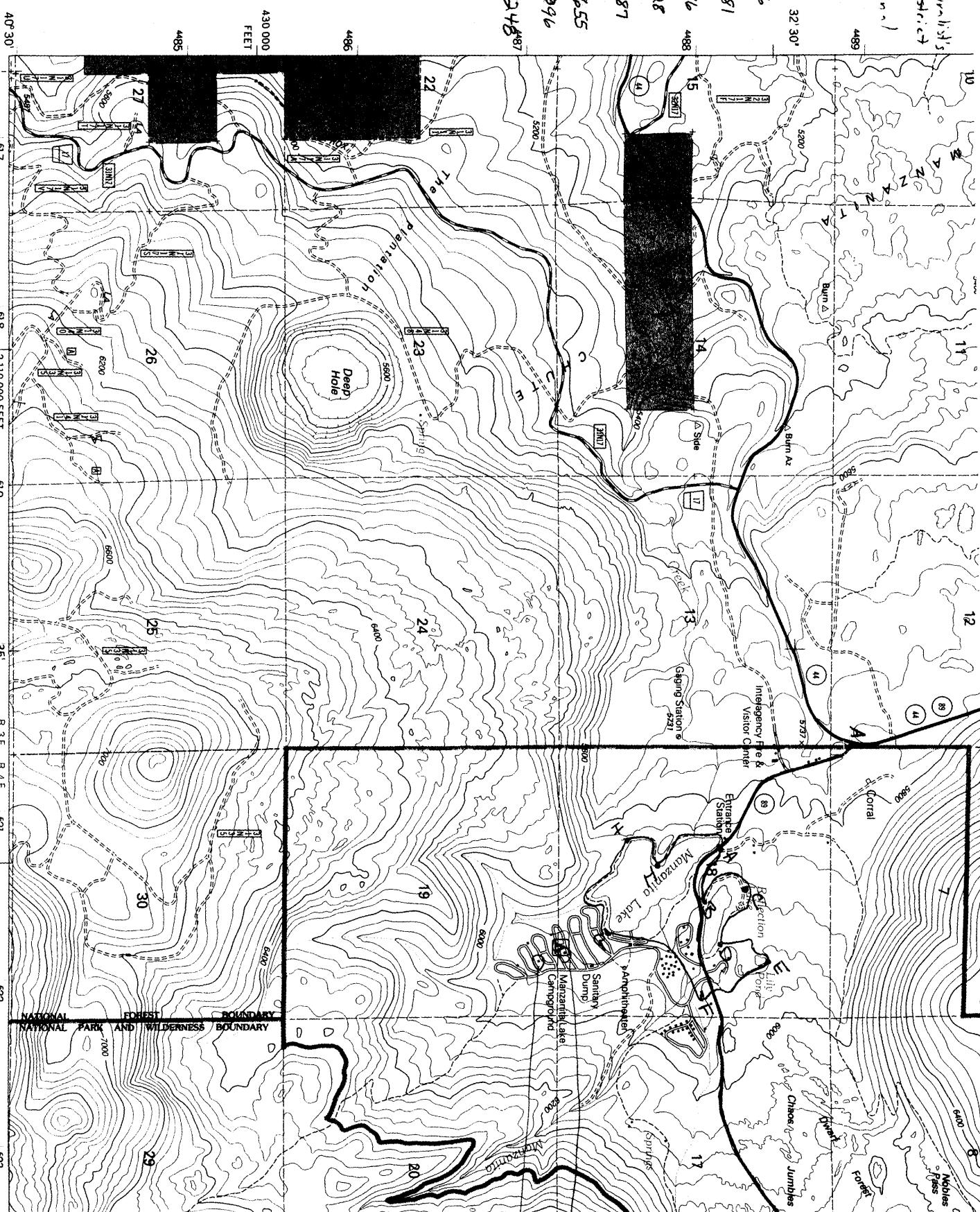


Manzanita Lake Natural History  
Services Historic District  
Lassen Volcanic National Park

Lassen Volcanic National Park

UTM References:

- A. 10/4488216/6210916 321 30°  
B. 10/4488099/6213916  
C. 10/4488302/621381  
D. 10/4488216/6211736  
E. 10/4488509/621828  
F. 10/4488119/622087  
G. 10/4487535/621655  
H. 10/4487738/621096  
I. 10/4487835/62124887



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Control by USGS and NOS/NSSA

Compiled from aerial photographs taken 1980. Revised from imagery dated 1991 and 1993. Partial field check by U.S. Forest Service 1995

North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27). Projection and 10 000-foot ticks:  
California north-south datum used in northern portion of map