

PH0362832

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 17 1976
DATE ENTERED	MAR 8 1977

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

NAME

HISTORIC Smithsonian Institution Shelter

AND/OR COMMON

Mount Whitney Summit Shelter, Mount Whitney Shelter

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

W of Lone Pine rd

Not applicable (Summit or Mount Whitney)

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY/TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Not applicable (Saguaro NP)

S. corner of Lone Pine

Southern

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

California

06

Tulare

107

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER

AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS (if applicable)

National Park Service, Western Regional Office

STREET & NUMBER

450 Golden Gate Avenue, Box 36063

CITY/TOWN

STATE

San Francisco

California

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE

REGISTER OF DEEDS, ETC.

Tulare County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Mineral King and Mooney Blvd.

CITY/TOWN

STATE

Visalia

California

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY/TOWN

STATE

DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Mount Whitney Shelter stands on the summit plateau of the highest mountain in the 48 contiguous states. Being at an elevation of over 14,980 feet above sea level, the structure was built to withstand extreme weather conditions. The basic building was built of native granite with concrete mortar and includes three rooms. The outside length of the structure of 30 feet, 11 inches while the outside width is 11 feet. The interior consists of three rooms. The south room is the largest measuring approximately 9 by 10 feet. The middle room is 9 feet by 8 feet, 4 inches. Outside doors open to the east from the north and south rooms; each door is 2 feet, 6 inches wide and 6 feet, 6 inches tall. An interior doorway connects the south and middle rooms; this doorway is the same size as the exterior doors. The middle room has a small window opening to the east. There is also a window on each end of the building. The partition between the middle and north rooms has no opening. The north and south rooms include stone benches as a part of the interior design. The roof is of corrugated iron riveted to a steel truss frame. The north wall has a small opening for a stovepipe. The cabin was originally built with iron shutters over the windows and doors. These were renewed in 1953, but were detached again by the summer of 1972.

This cabin has undergone only minor alteration since its construction.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF INTEREST	
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHAEOLOGY PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> GEOLOGY
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHAEOLOGY HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMY
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> HISTORY
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY
		<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE

SPECIFIC DATES Built 1909

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built to house visiting scientific site for the study of solar radiation is a monument to the difficulty and prolonged human flight was in the field of science.

The construction of the Mount Whitney cabin was a collaboration between Dr. W. Lick Observatory, and Dr. C. G. Campbell was interested in observation of the mountain during the favorable September, 1909. In 1908 he visited Abbot contracted with the architect to build the simple structure out of stone. In 1909 the trail to the summit was closed to stock animals and the shelter was built in the summer. The cabin received sporadic use as a shelter, but soon fell into disuse. The National Park Service acquired the cabin in 1933 and enlarged to include Mount Whitney.

SIGNIFICANCE

CHECK ONE
 ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED CAIR

ARCHITECTURAL APPEARANCE

Summit plateau of the highest
 ing at an elevation of over
 a was built to withstand
 ilding was built of native
 three rooms. The outside length
 its the outside width is 11 feet.
 e south room is the largest
 e middle room is 9 feet by 8 feet,
 from the north and south rooms;
 feet, 6 inches tall. An interior
 s; this doorway is the same
 oom has a small window opening to
 end of the building. The partition
 opening. The north and south rooms
 interior design. The roof is of
 frame. The north wall has a small
 originally built with iron shutters
 renewed in 1951, but were detached again

ation since its construction.

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE - CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW					
PREHISTORIC	ARCHAEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION	SCIENCE	
1400-1499	ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCULPTURE		
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE		
1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	LIBRARIY	SCULPTURE		
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	SCULPTURE		
1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION-SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	SCULPTURE		
1900	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS-GOVERNMENT	SCULPTURE		
		INVENTION		SCULPTURE		

SPECIFIC DATES Built 1909 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Arch. Spalden and Spalden

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built to house visiting scientists using the summit of Mount Whitney as a site for the study of solar radiation, the Mount Whitney summit shelter is a monument to the difficulty of high altitude research in the period before prolonged human flight was possible. It is of regional significance in the field of science.

The construction of the Mount Whitney summit shelter came about as a result of a collaboration between Dr. W. W. Campbell of the University of California's Lick Observatory, and Dr. C. G. Abbot of the Smithsonian Institution. Dr. Campbell was interested in observing the spectrum of Mars from the summit of the mountain during the favorable period for observation in August and September, 1909. In 1908 he visited the summit of the peak with Dr. Abbot. Abbot contracted with the architectural firm of Spalden and Spalden who designed the simple structure out of stone, steel and glass. In the early summer of 1909 the trail to the summit was sufficiently improved to allow the passage of stock animals and the shelter was erected during the latter part of the summer. The cabin received sporadic use for a time as a scientific observation shelter, but soon fell into disuse. Since the completion of the modern trails to the summit of Mount Whitney in 1930, hikers have used the cabin as a shelter. The National Park Service acquired title to the shelter when Sequoia Park was enlarged to include Mount Whitney in 1926.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Alexander McAdie, "The Observatory on Mt. Whitney," Sierra Club Bulletin, Vol. VII, No. 3 (Jan., 1910).
2. Building Folder, Mount Whitney Shelter, Building 354, in files of Sequoia National Park.
3. Herbert L. Junep, "A Chronological History of the Sequoia National Park and Vicinity," in files of Sequoia National Park.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.11

UTM REFERENCES

A 11 18,415,001 N 08 27,300 B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 C D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point thirty-eight (38) feet south 38 degrees west of the southwest corner of the Smithsonian Institute Shelter proceed north sixty (60) feet; thence east eighty (80) feet, thence south sixty (60) feet; thence west eighty (80) feet to point of beginning.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE

William C. Tveed, Historian

(Revision of form submitted by
F. Ross Holland, January 14, 1972)

ORGANIZATION

National Park Service, Western Regional Office

DATE

September 17, 1975

STREET NUMBER

450 Golden Gate Avenue, Box 35063

TELEPHONE

415-556-4165

CITY/TOWN

San Francisco

STATE

California

CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

Arthur J. Rhodes
 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 30 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

TITLE

Smithsonian Institute Shelter

DATE NOV 11 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Donald W. Davis
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 3/8/77

ATTEND

MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 3/13/77