

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: California
COUNTY: Shasta
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE FEB 25 1975

1. NAME	
COMMON: Loomis Visitor Center Loomis Museum	Manzanita Lake Visitor Center Manzanita Lake Museum
AND/OR HISTORIC: Mae Loomis Memorial Museum	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Building 43			
CITY OR TOWN: Manzanita Lake, Lassen Volcanic National Park		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 2	
STATE: California	CODE 06	COUNTY: Shasta	CODE 089

3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____

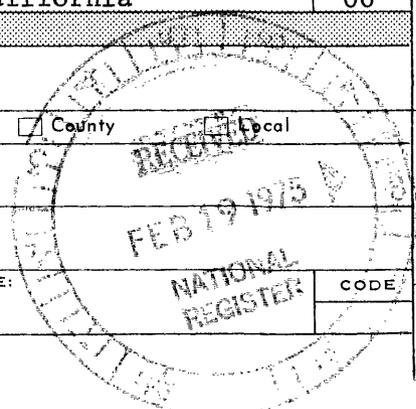
4. AGENCY			
Lassen Volcanic National Park, U.S. National Park Service			
REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable) Western Region		STREET AND NUMBER: 450 Golden Gate Avenue	
CITY OR TOWN: San Francisco		STATE: California	CODE 06

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Shasta County Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Redding		STATE: California	CODE 06

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY:			
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:	CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: CALIFORNIA
COUNTY: SHASTA
ENTRY NUMBER FEB 25 1975
DATE



FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Exterior

The Loomis Museum is a building of rustic appearance constructed of a gray, native volcanic rock with cut face random ashlar masonry. It is single storey and has walls topped by fortress-like crenelated parapets which are stepped in the center front and at the corners. The walls stand about fifteen feet high. The building measures 25 feet wide in front by 60 feet deep. At the rear there is a 10 by 12 foot projection on either side of the main structure which gives the building a "T" shape.

The main entrance is centered and is approached across a broad, extensive terrace that surrounds the front and both sides of the building. The terrace is confined by a low stone wall that matches the stonework of the building itself. A pair of fully glazed entrance doors have side lites on either side, and a handsome semicircular fanlight to complete the composition. Above this main entrance as well as along both sides of the building is a narrow shed roof supported on heavy wood brackets. The shed roof has a green tile finish. There are long scuppers located just above these bracketed roofs for drainage.

Interior

The interior is composed principally of a large museum room and a smaller audiovisual room. To the right as one enters the front door is an information desk. Exhibits of photographs, geological specimens from the Lassen eruptions, and artifacts of Indians of the area such as baskets as well as artifacts of white emigrants and pioneers comprise the collections on display.

About fifteen yards northeast of the Visitor Center stands a seismograph station built of the same materials and in the same design as the Loomis Museum, and considered for the purposes of this nomination a part of the museum, although it is in fact a separate building. This structure stands about ten feet square and twelve feet high.

Both buildings appear basically unchanged, except for the rear addition to the main museum building, added a year after it was completed.

The Loomis Museum, like the rest of the Manzanita Lake development at Lassen Volcanic National Park, stands on and near the edge of the Chaos Jumbles, a prehistoric rockfall-avalanche from an unstable cliff formation nearby known as the Chaos Crags. A geological study published in 1970 indicated that this is an area with high risk of another disastrous and completely unpredictable rockfall at some future date, one capable of wiping out some or all existing structures and any human or animal life present at the time of such occurrence. On April 26, 1974, the National Park Service announced that concession facilities at Manzanita Lake would not be reopened, and the Loomis Museum and other NPS visitor facilities likewise remain closed. The feasibility and suitability of preserving the Loomis Museum is vastly complicated by the public safety problem. Planning related to this problem is still in process.

Class VI land, 1 acre; Third Order of Significance; Condition, as described above, good; recommended treatment, preservation; cost uncertain due to planning problem cited above. Building No. 43.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1926-1974**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Benjamin Franklin Loomis was born in Mantaga, Illinois, on March 21, 1857. He accompanied his parents to California in a covered wagon while he was a child, and they settled in Colusa, later moving to Red Bluff. In 1874, at the age of 18, he came to Manzanita Lake near Mount Lassen, where he built a small cabin. Here he pursued the profession of making shakes for roofing, and worked as a farm laborer during winters in Battle Creek Bottoms. Loomis later built another small cabin on Manzanita Creek along the old emigrant road below the Manzanita Chutes. In 1886-1887 he spent a year as a student at the American Institute of Phrenology in New York City.

In 1891, Loomis homesteaded on the present site of Viola. In 1896 he built a store there which was patronized by the sawmill workers. The following year he married Estella Loomis, daughter of L.V. Loomis, an eminent pioneer of Shasta County. Loomis developed a business hauling freight to Viola and shakes from there to the Sacramento Valley, while his wife tended the store and operated the Viola post office. Later Loomis purchased a quantity of timberland and a Viola sawmill and began logging.

Loomis' hobby was photography, which proved fortuitous when on Saturday, May 30, 1914, the dormant volcano known as Mount Lassen began to erupt. Loomis did not see this initial eruption, but advised by telegram, on the following day he and other parties went to Manzanita Lake. Loomis thereafter photographed the eruptions and wrote up his experiences with the volcano for the Courier Free Press. Loomis was neither the first nor the only photographer of the Lassen eruptions, but he took many photographs, which have been of use to scientists ever since. Loomis obtained a particularly clear sequence of photographs of the June 14 eruption. On Saturday, May 22, 1915, Loomis obtained some interesting photographs of the aftermath of floods of hot water, hot rocks and hot mud which had come down Hat Creek and Lost Creek the day before; unfortunately he used up all of his glass plates on the flood debris, so that when later that day the greatest of the Lassen eruptions occurred, he was without means to photograph it.

Loomis was active in urging the creation of Lassen Volcanic National Park, and in addition to his own photographs, collected photographs of the eruptions from others. Upon creation of the national park in 1916, he urged location of park headquarters at Manzanita Lake, but the National Park Service chose Mineral instead. In 1926, however, Loomis and his wife commenced construction at Manzanita Lake of a museum to exhibit photographs, specimens from the eruption, and historic artifacts of the Indian tribes, emigrants, and pioneer white settlers in the area. The Mae Loomis Memorial Museum was dedicated on July 4, 1927, in the memory of the Loomis' only child, Luisa Mae, who had died on January 13, 1920. In 1929, Loomis deeded

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Douglas Hillman Strong, "These Happy Grounds; A History of the Lassen Region." Unpublished manuscript in headquarters, Lassen Volcanic National Park.

Loomis Family Papers, in Headquarters, Lassen Volcanic National Park.

B.F. Loomis, Pictorial History of the Lassen Volcano. Anderson, Calif.: B.F. Loomis, 1906. The "Third Revised Edition" actually the fourth edition, published by the Loomis Museum Association at Lassen V. N. P. in 1971 contains on pp. 93-94 a most useful biographical sketch of Loomis.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		40°	32'	10"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		121°	33'	44"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **One**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

NO 010
HL

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Gordon Chappell, Regional Historian, Western Region Office		DATE: Oct. 21, 1974
BUSINESS ADDRESS: Historic Preservation Team, National Park Service, Western Regional Office		
STREET AND NUMBER: 450 Golden Gate Avenue, Box 36063		PHONE: 415 556-4165
CITY OR TOWN: San Francisco	STATE: California	CODE: 06

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

Yes
 No
 None

[Signature]
 State Liaison Officer Signature

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

[Signature] FEB 18 1975
 Federal Representative Signature Date
 Deputy Assistant Secretary

Title

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 2/25/75

ATTEST:

[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 2-25-75

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE California	
COUNTY Shasta	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
FEB 25 1975	

(Number all entries)

8. Statement of Significance (continued)

the museum, the adjoining seismograph building, and forty acres of land on which they stand to the National Park Service, which subsequently used the Loomis Museum as a museum and visitor center. Loomis died on June 11, 1935, and his wife on December 27, 1953, and both were buried in the Ogburn Cemetery west of Shingletown, California.

The Loomis Museum has since 1927 served as the focal point for visitor information and entertainment in Lassen Volcanic National Park, and as the depository for the Loomis collection of photographs of the Lassen eruptions which have aided scientists in the study of Lassen, the structure is of local historical significance. The Loomis Museum (including the seismograph structure) qualifies for the National Register of Historic Places as of local historical significance, or significance of the Third Order.

