UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Glacier Point Trailside Museum

AND/OR COMMON
Glacier Point Lookout

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
N/A

CITY, TOWN
Yosemite National Park

VICINITY OF
Glacier Point

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Fifteenth

STATE
California

CODE
06

COUNTY
Mariposa

CODE
043

2 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT
BUILDING(S)
STRUCTURE
SITE
OBJECT

OWNERSHIP
PUBLIC
PRIVATE
BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION

STATUS
OCCUPIED
UNOCCUPIED
WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
YES: RESTRICTED
YES: UNRESTRICTED
NO

PRESENT USE
AGRICULTURE
COMMERCIAL
EDUCATIONAL
ENTERTAINMENT
GOVERNMENT
INDUSTRIAL
MILITARY
OTHER:

3 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)
National Park Service - Western Regional Office

STREET & NUMBER
450 Golden Gate Avenue - Box 36063

CITY, TOWN
San Francisco

STATE
California

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
National Park Service Building Files, Park Headquarters

STREET & NUMBER
Government Center - Yosemite Village - Box 577

CITY, TOWN
Yosemite National Park

STATE
California

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
None

DATE

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE
The Glacier Point "trailside museum" was built as part of the Yosemite Valley Museum in 1924. Both structures were designed by Herbert Maier and Ansel Hall.

The structure is a small observation pavilion with large segmental arched openings on the west, north, and east sides. The structure has an asymmetrical gable roof, supported on peeled logs with log infill in the gables, and covered with wood shingles. It has a semicircular walled terrace on the north side, which overlooks Yosemite Valley. The structure consists of rough-dressed granite laid on an uncoursed rubble bond, and the walls are slightly battered. The floor of the terrace is granite and concrete; the interior floor is wood. Inside the structure are three large wall plaques: engraved aluminum with embossed photographs that depict the various geological features seen from the observation deck.

The recommended level of preservation for this resource is routine maintenance. A new wooden floor was laid in 1975, and the geological exhibits were replaced in the late 1960s.
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As an integral component of the old Yosemite Museum, the Glacier Point "trailside museum" is of local significance in education. (The Museum, the first permanent teaching instrument of its kind in the National Park Service, is being nominated to the National Register as part of the Yosemite Village Historic District. The significant physical separation of the two facilities precluded adding the Glacier Point structure to the District nomination.) The building possesses architectural significance on the local level because it is exemplary of the Rustic style, as it developed in Yosemite. It was built with native natural materials, and was designed to blend into the surrounding environment. The building exhibits fine craftsmanship.

The geological importance of Yosemite National Park, and most significantly its glacier-carved Yosemite Valley, was a priority consideration in exhibit plans for the Yosemite Museum. There was to be a whole room devoted to geology; however the pioneering interpreters saw the importance of a museum "sub-station" located on the rim of the granite walls that would further enhance the visitor's knowledge of the forces that shaped Yosemite Valley. Glacier Point, 3200 ft. above the Valley floor and accessible by road and trail, was the ideal site. Funds were provided by the Yosemite Natural History Association. In 1925 the Glacier Point "branch" of the Yosemite Museum, the first trailside museum in the National Park system, opened to an immediate and steady stream of visitors. In the summer of 1927 over 15,000 visitors used the facility.

The Museum in Yosemite Valley was converted in part to office space in 1966 when the new Visitor Center, with an extensive geology exhibit, opened. The Glacier Point structure is still an interpretive facility with displays depicting points of interest that can be observed from the terrace, supplemented by ranger-naturalist lectures during the summer months.
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES
Russell, Carl P., One Hundred Years in Yosemite. (Yosemite: Yosemite Natural History Association, 1957.
Reports of the Chief Park Naturalist, Yosemite National Park.
Yosemite Museum file, Yosemite Research Library

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY

UTM REFERENCES

ZONE EASTING NORHTING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The building boundaries are defined by the outer limit of the walls.

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Leslie Starr Hart, Historian
Merrill Ann Wilson, Historical Architect

ORGANIZATION National Park Service - Denver Service Center

DATE August 1976

STREET & NUMBER 655 Parfet Street, P.O. Box 25287

TELEPHONE 234-4509 - Hart
303 234-5545 - Wilson

CITY OR TOWN Denver (Lakewood)

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE

DATE MOV 10 1977

CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES ☑ NO

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

DATE NOV 10 1977