
National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

2009



Cabrillo National Monument Visitor Center Historic
District
Cabrillo National Monument



Cabrillo National Monument Visitor Center
Historic District
Cabrillo National Monument

Cabrillo National Monument concurs with the findings of the CLI, including the management category and condition assessment as identified below:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: **B: Should be preserved and maintained**

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: **Good**

Thomas Storkman

Superintendent, Cabrillo National Monument

2/4/09

Date

Please return to:

Vida Germano
Cultural Landscape Inventory Co-coordinator
National Park Service
Pacific West Regional Office
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Oakland, CA 94607-4807

STATE OF CALIFORNIA - THE RESOURCES AGENCY

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor

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October 22, 2008

Reply to: NPS050302A

Tom Workman, Superintendent
Cabrillo National Monument
1800 Cabrillo Memorial Drive
San Diego, CA 92106-3601

Re: Cabrillo National Monument Visitor Center Historic District DOE

Dear Mr. Workman:

Thank you for requesting my review and comment on the Determination of Eligibility (DOE) for the Cabrillo National Monument Visitor Center Historic District. This submission is in accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement between the Superintendent of Cabrillo National Monument and the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), dated January 13, 2006. This DOE will be followed by a separate submission from NPS to officially nominate the property to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The Cabrillo National Monument was placed on the National Register in 1966 as part of a blanket listing for National Monuments, and a Cabrillo National Monument Historic District was listed on the NRHP in 1998. This DOE and the forthcoming nomination submission would include the visitors' center that has achieved significance since the nomination of the district in 1998.

The National Park Service (NPS) has found that the Cabrillo National Monument Visitor Center Historic District is eligible for the NRHP. The visitor center was constructed in 1963-1967 as part of the National Park Service Mission 66 Program. The Visitor Center Historic District is a significant Mission 66 design that takes into account the views provided by the southern California coastal location. The landscape design, including the site layout, grading, circulation features, two overlooks, and parking design, was the work of the National Park Service Western Office of Design and Construction. The Visitor Center's three buildings were designed by noted California architect Frank L. Hope & Associates. The district continues to exhibit the design and planning intent of the Mission 66 era as applied to park infrastructure from 1963-1967, and retains integrity. Contributing buildings, structures, and objects are as follows:

Contributing Buildings:

View Building
Authorization and Exhibits Building
Administration Building

Contributing Structures:

Pergola
Visitor Center Walkways, Plazas, and Overlooks
Ballast View Overlook
Cabrillo Memorial Statue Overlook
Cabrillo Memorial Drive
Visitor Center Parking Lot

NPS 050302A
Page 2 of 2

Contributing Objects:

Park Entrance Sign

Flagpole

Visitor Center Sign

I concur in the National Park Service finding that the Cabrillo Monument Visitor Center Historic District is eligible for the NRHP, as outlined above, and I look forward to the submission of the official nomination. Thank you for your attention and care of this historic property. If you have any questions, you can contact Janice Calpo at (916) 653-9010 or via e-mail at jcalpo@parks.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Milford W. Donaldson for

Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA
State Historic Preservation Officer

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Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan

Inventory Summary

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

CLI General Information:

Cultural Landscapes Inventory – General Information

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) is a database containing information on the historically significant landscapes within the National Park System. This evaluated inventory identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, condition, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, as well as other valuable information useful to park management. Cultural landscapes become approved inventory records when all required data fields are entered, the park superintendent concurs with the information, and the landscape is determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places through a consultation process or is otherwise managed as a cultural resource through a public planning process.

The CLI, like the List of Classified Structures (LCS), assists the National Park Service (NPS) in its efforts to fulfill the identification and management requirements associated with Section 110(a) of the National Historic Preservation Act, National Park Service Management Policies (2001), and Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management. Since launching the CLI nationwide, the NPS, in response to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), is required to report information that respond to NPS strategic plan accomplishments. Two goals are associated with the CLI: 1) increasing the number of certified cultural landscapes (1b2B); and 2) bringing certified cultural landscapes into good condition (1a7). The CLI maintained by Park Historic Structures and Cultural Landscapes Program, WASO, is the official source of cultural landscape information.

Implementation of the CLI is coordinated and approved at the regional level. Each region annually updates a strategic plan that prioritizes work based on a variety of park and regional needs that include planning and construction projects or associated compliance requirements that lack cultural landscape documentation. When the inventory unit record is complete and concurrence with the findings is obtained from the superintendent and the State Historic Preservation Office, the regional CLI coordinator certifies the record and transmits it to the national CLI Coordinator for approval. Only records approved by the national CLI coordinator are included on the CLI for official reporting purposes.

Relationship between the CLI and a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR)

The CLI and the CLR are related efforts in the sense that both document the history,

significance, and integrity of park cultural landscapes. However, the scope of the CLI is limited by the need to achieve concurrence with the park superintendent resolve eligibility questions when a National Register nomination does not exist or the nomination inadequately addresses the eligibility of the landscape characteristics. Ideally, a park's CLI work (which many include multiple inventory units) precedes a CLR because the baseline information in the CLI not only assists with priority setting when more than one CLR is needed it also assists with determining more accurate scopes of work.

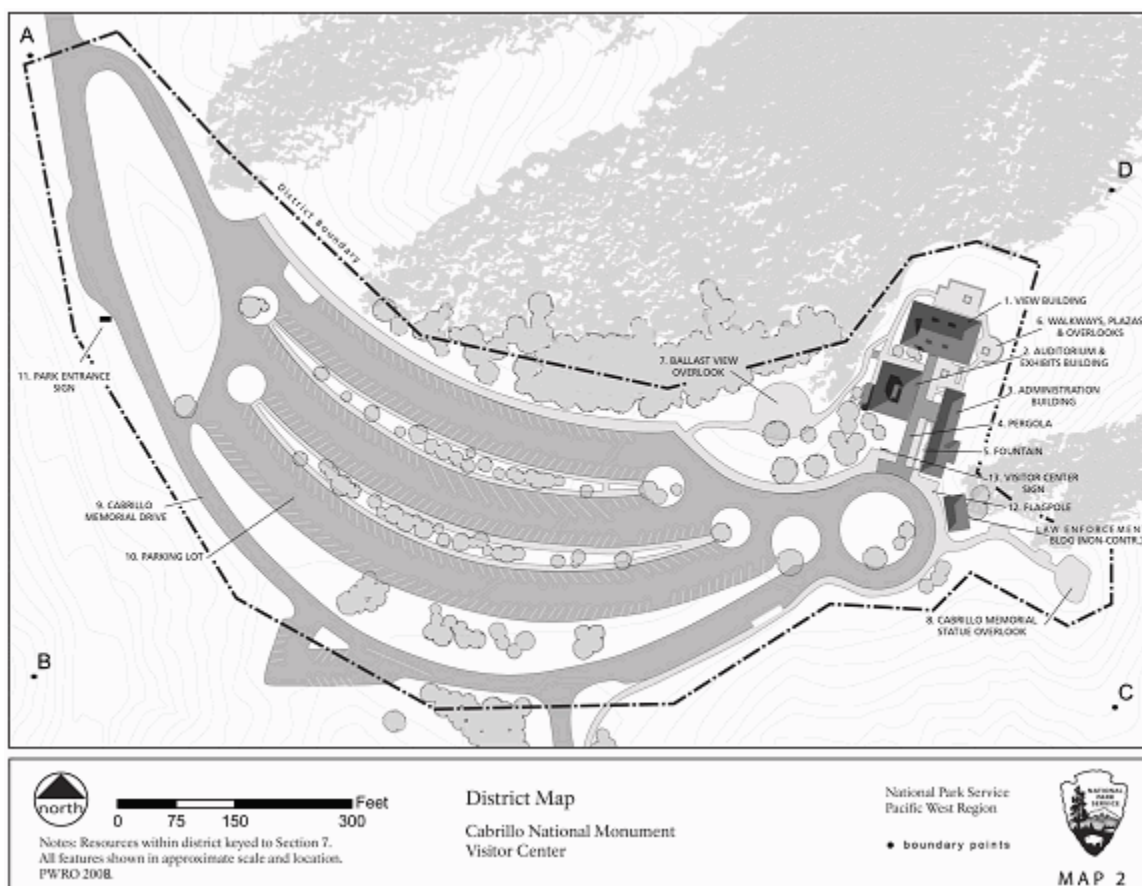
In contrast, the CLR is the primary treatment document for significant park landscapes. It, therefore, requires an additional level of research and documentation both to evaluate the historic and the existing condition of the landscape in order to recommend preservation treatment that meets the Secretary of Interior's Standards for the treatment of historic properties.

The scope of work for a CLR, when the CLI has not been done, should include production of the CLI record. Depending on its age and scope, existing CLR's are considered the primary source for the history, statement of significance, and descriptions of contributing resources that are necessary to complete a CLI record.

Inventory Unit Description:

The Cabrillo National Monument Visitor Center Historic District (Visitor Center Historic District) is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) at the local level under Criterion A and Criterion C with a period of significance of 1963-1967. Among all of the California Mission 66 visitor centers, the Cabrillo National Monument Visitor Center Historic District is the only one that provides an example of the Mission 66 program objectives within a southern California coastal context. Additionally, the property meets Criteria Consideration G: Properties That Have Achieved Significance Within the Last Fifty Years because of its exceptional significance as an outstanding example of the Mission 66 visitor center building type in southern California. Although the Visitor Center Historic District has changed its appearance somewhat, it retains its historical integrity and association with the period of significance.

Site Plan



*Cabrillo National Monument
Visitor Center District Map
NPS PWRO, 2008*

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name:	Cabrillo National Monument Visitor Center Historic District
Property Level:	Landscape
CLI Identification Number:	975450
Parent Landscape:	975450

Park Information

Park Name and Alpha Code:	Cabrillo National Monument -CABR
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Park Organization Code: 8110

Park Administrative Unit: Cabrillo National Monument

Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Complete

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

Fieldwork and National Register of Historic Places documentation was preformed by NPS regional staff from 2006 to 2008. Information was entered into the CLI database by Jason Biscombe in January 2008 and by Vida Germano in January 2009. The CLI will be considered complete once it has gone through review and has received SHPO and park concurrence.

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence: Yes
Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence: 02/04/2009
National Register Concurrence: Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Date of Concurrence Determination: 10/22/2008

National Register Concurrence Narrative:

The SHPO concurred that the Cabrillo National Monument Visitor Center Historic District is eligible for the National Register at the local level for its significant Mission 66 design between the period 1963-1967.

Geographic Information & Location Map

Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

The boundary includes all the development associated with the Cabrillo National Monument Visitor Center Historic District including the buildings, overlooks, realigned road, parking area, and trails. The boundary is set to incorporate all of the landscape features historically associated with the Visitor Center Complex. The additional parking lot is excluded from the boundary because it was constructed after the period of significance. The boundary includes all of the area within a line drawn along and between the following: outer edge of the sidewalk along the south side of Cabrillo Memorial Drive; to the outer edge of the Cabrillo Memorial Statue Overlook; to the outer edge of the visitor center buildings and associated overlooks; to the outer edge of the Ballast View Overlook; along the outer edge of the walkway on the north side of the parking lot; and along the outer (north side) of the parking lot to its connection with Cabrillo Memorial Drive. (See Boundary Represented on Site Map).

State and County:

State: CA
County: San Diego County

Size (Acres): 4.00

Boundary UTMS:

<u>Source</u>	<u>Type of Point</u>	<u>Datum</u>	<u>UTM Zone</u>	<u>UTM Easting</u>	<u>UTM Northing</u>
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Point	NAD 83	11	477,188	3,615,384
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Point	NAD 83	11	477,216	3,615,151
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Point	NAD 83	11	477,591	3,615,100
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Point	NAD 83	11	477,575	3,615,401

Location Map:



*Location Map #1:
Cabrillo National Monument Visitor Center
(Cabrillo National Monument, Park Website)*

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Should be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

Contributing landscape features located within the boundaries of the Cabrillo National Monument Visitor Center Historic District meet the management criteria under Category B: Should be Preserved and Maintained. The landscape meets the necessary requirements for management under this category as a result of its compatibility with Cabrillo National Monument's legislated significance and its continuing purpose or function that is appropriate to its traditional function or use.

NPS Legal Interest:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Other Agency or Organization: Cabrillo National Monument Visitor Center is located within the boundaries of Cabrillo National Monument.

Public Access:

Type of Access: Unrestricted

Explanatory Narrative:

The public has full access to Cabrillo National Monument Visitor Center.

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? No

Adjacent Lands Description:

All lands that contribute to the inventory are located within the park boundary.

National Register Information

Existing National Register Status

National Register Landscape Documentation:

Undocumented

National Register Explanatory Narrative:

The Cabrillo National Monument Visitor Center was placed on the National Register of Historic Places (NHRP) on October 15, 1966 as part of a blanket listing for National Monuments. No documentation was prepared as part of this listing (reference number 66000224).

A Cabrillo National Monument historic district was listed on the NRHP on September 18, 1998 based on the documentation provided in a Registration Form prepared by the National Park Service Western Regional Office. The boundaries for this historic district were the boundaries of the Cabrillo National Monument (monument). Contributing resources included: the Old Point Loma Lighthouse facilities, the various military coast defense installations features, and features constructed during the Depression as part of the restoration work for the lighthouse. These features were found to be significant under Criteria A and C in the areas of Exploration, Maritime History, Military, and Entertainment/Recreation. The periods of significance were 1852-1891 and 1913-1950. The Mission 66 visitor center and its associated features were listed as non-contributing features because the complex was not related to the historic contexts and periods of significance in the nomination. [1]

Endnotes

[1] National Park Service (NPS). "Cabrillo National Monument, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form," June 25, 1997.

National Register Eligibility

National Register Concurrence:	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Contributing/Individual:	Individual
National Register Classification:	District
Significance Level:	Local
Significance Criteria:	A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values
Criteria Considerations:	G -- A property less than 50 years of age

Period of Significance:

Time Period:	AD 1963 - 1967
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Architecture
Facet:	NPS Mission 66
Time Period:	AD 1963 - 1967
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Landscape Architecture
Facet:	NPS Mission 66--Landscape Architecture

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category	Area of Significance Subcategory
Architecture	None
Landscape Architecture	None

Statement of Significance:

The Cabrillo National Monument Visitor Center Historic District has been assessed by the NPS as being eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP):

- At the local level under Criterion A for its association with the National Park Service's Mission 66 program and this program's impacts on the development of the Cabrillo National Monument.
- At the local level under Criterion C as an example of a Mission 66 visitor center (both the buildings and landscape design) within a southern California coastal context.

The period of significance covers the years between 1963 with the first phase of construction that included grading, the realignment of the entrance road, and construction of the parking area and adjacent pedestrian pathways and 1967 when the final landscaping was accepted by the Park Service as complete (March 7, 1967). The three buildings in the Visitor Center Historic District were completed and occupied by March 1966, and the official dedication of the Visitor Center was in October 1966.

Additionally, because the property is less than 50 years old, it was evaluated under Criteria Consideration G: Properties That Have Achieved Significance Within the Last Fifty Years. As described below, the Cabrillo National Monument Visitor Center Historic District meets the requirements for exceptional significance for the Mission 66 visitor center building type as outlined by Sarah Allaback in Mission 66 Visitor Centers: The History of a Building Type.

CRITERION A

Under Criterion A, the Cabrillo National Monument Visitor Center Historic District complex is associated with events that have made significant contributions to the broad national patterns of American History. Specifically, the property is a physical embodiment of the National Park Service's Mission 66 program, which transformed the American national park system to meet post-war conditions. It is also associated with the impacts of the Mission 66 program in the development of the Cabrillo National Monument into a modern park.

Significance of the Mission 66 Program

Mission 66 was the last major period of intense activity and profoundly new ideas to find expression in a system-wide program of national park development. The end of World War II in 1945 brought unprecedented prosperity to middle-class Americans, who spent increasing amounts of time and money on leisure activities. This, combined with an explosion in the number of personal automobiles and the development of the nation's highway system, gave the country unprecedented mobility. National parks began experiencing visitation numbers that seriously taxed their aging infrastructure, leading to concerns for the impact these visitors were having on park resources. Roads and parking lots were choked with vehicles, causing accelerated wear and damage and encouraging drivers to drive off the roads. Developed areas and the services they provided were inadequate for the number of people using them. The large crowds, traffic, and condition of the parks in the early 1950s had significantly diminished the visitor experience.

In response, and in preparation for the 50th anniversary of the National Park Service in 1966, NPS administrators developed a plan to completely overhaul the park system's facilities, with an emphasis on improving roads and parking, visitor facilities, and administration, housing areas, and concessionaire areas. Conrad Wirth, NPS director during the Mission 66 era, believed that intensive development in contained areas would control public access and prevent deterioration of park resources, promoting a policy that some historians have called the "paradox of protection by development." [1] Planners modeled the program on national highway and urban renewal programs, believing the solution lay in the modernization of the infrastructure. Characterized by wider roads and larger parking lots, integrated visitor center complexes, a modernist architectural style, and extensive new construction, Mission 66 embraced the latest technologies, materials, and building styles, while moving away from the rustic style that had defined park development for nearly fifty years.

Mission 66 changed the form and appearance of the national park units. The modern architectural style, the extensive use of modern materials such as concrete, and the often intense development that was concentrated in front-country areas significantly altered what had been a well-established aesthetic of national parks. Similarly, the construction of visitor centers and the expansion and consolidation of visitor services in and around them fundamentally altered the way visitors experienced their national parks. Services such as museum displays, interpretive services, ranger stations, administrative offices, restrooms, and concessionaire services were centralized, often into single buildings or building clusters, with emphasis on convenience and access. Services that had previously been dispersed throughout park villages in separate buildings were consolidated into a centralized location where all visitor amenities were located. This new model could accommodate much larger numbers of visitors with

efficiency and minimal disturbance to park resources.

The scale of the Mission 66 effort was such that the majority of park units within the park system incorporated at least part of this new model. As the image of the national park changed to fit the Mission 66 model, its influence spread beyond the NPS. The major concepts of Mission 66, including the embrace of modern architecture, the establishment of multi-function visitor centers, and the concentration of convenient and efficient development were emulated in state parks around the country and in national parks of other countries. [2] Not since the Park Rustic movement of the 1920s and 1930s had a unified design philosophy had such a transforming effect on our national parks.

Significance of the Cabrillo Visitor Center as an Embodiment of the Mission 66 Program at the Cabrillo National Monument

The Cabrillo National Monument was one of the parks in the National Park System that would undergo extensive changes during Mission 66. The effect on the Cabrillo National Monument was critical in the development of the site into a modern and fully accessible park. Prior to Mission 66, the monument was not fully utilized as a commemorative site. Additionally, the small size of the monument (only half an acre) and the fact that it was surrounded by land controlled by the military were major impediments to any real development of the park. The Park Service used the Mission 66 program and its extensive funding as leverage to extend Cabrillo's boundaries in 1959. The expanded boundaries, which included 80 acres of land transferred from the military, provided the Park Service with more control over the development of the site.

Additionally, up until the Mission 66 program and its infusion of funding, the Cabrillo National Monument had been a second-tier site within the National Park System. Despite its large number of yearly visitors, the park's administration worked with local interested parties in order to gather support for more park amenities and services. All this changed during the Mission 66 program. The Mission 66 visitor center concept was the result of a thorough plan and funds which were not available to the Cabrillo National Monument before this period. Furthermore, as a result of the increased commitment and funding during Mission 66, new interpretation programs and scientific activities were developed that expanded the park's identity within the local community.

CRITERION C

Under NRHP Criterion C, the Cabrillo National Monument Visitor Center Historic District embodies the distinguishing characteristics of the Mission 66 visitor center property type and mid century modernist architecture and landscape design in the Park Service. It is also an example of site development (use of outdoor spaces, circulation, and landscape design) in the Mission 66 program that reflects concepts associated with modernism in landscape architecture expressed in a southern California coastal context.

Significance of the Mission 66 Visitor Center Building Type

Historian Sarah Allaback, in her historic context for the Mission 66 visitor center, [3] stated the Mission

Mission 66 visitor center is:

- The most architecturally significant expression of the planning and design practices developed by the Park Service during the Mission 66 era and
- The most complete and significant expression of the Park Service Modern style. [4]

In its form and content, the visitor center was designed to represent the Park Service's modern image. [5]

Mission 66 planners coined the term "visitor center" to describe a new building type they developed to serve the vastly increasing numbers of people (and their cars) that began visiting the national parks following World War II. The visitor center combined old and new building programs, and it was the centerpiece of a new era in planning for visitor services in American national parks. The influence of the visitor center idea was profound. New visitor centers (and the planning ideas behind them) were used in the development or redevelopment of scores of state parks in the United States, as well as nascent national park systems in Europe, Africa, and elsewhere. The original, finite group of Mission 66 visitor centers (built between 1956 and 1966), therefore became prototypes for a new approach to park planning all over the world.[6] Even today, the visitor center continues to be a core facility of park development programs (for parks of various sizes and in various contexts) all over the world. [7]

The construction of these buildings introduced modernism into the national parks and embodied a distinctive new architectural style that departed from the Rustic style developed by the Park Service in the 1920s and 1930s. The Park Service had established the Rustic style as an appropriate design idiom for architecture and designed landscapes in national (and state) parks all over the country; the development of a style and design approach based on mid-century modernist architecture, epitomized by the Mission 66 visitor center, established what was considered to be an appropriate approach to planning and design in the post-war era. The new style was an integral part of a broader effort at the Park Service to reinvent the agency, and the national park system. The new Park Service style was an adaptation of established elements of modern design within the context of contemporary park needs. The approach became widespread and was adopted by many different park and public land management agencies all over the country. [8]

The Mission 66 Program standardized visitor services in countless ways that we now take for granted, providing the basic information, visitor facilities, and interpretive programs that remain an essential part of all national parks. Today, our experience of national parks is determined, to a great extent, by the visitor services established around Mission 66 visitor centers. The visitor center is a part of our national culture, not only within the national park system, but within the U.S. Forest Service, in communities eager to attract tourism, and at private sites throughout the country. As a building type, the visitor center may be the National Park Service's most significant contribution to American architecture. [9]

The development of the Mission 66 visitor center did not end with the footprint of the buildings. Buildings were often sited around a central courtyard or utilized decks and terraces. These features

provided a connection between indoor and outdoor space and were used as part of the design of the movement of the visitor through the visitor center experience. Naturalistic planting was often used to partially screen buildings, utility areas, and parking, as well as to repair areas disturbed in construction. Outdoor spaces and site work (including parking lots, paths, and amphitheaters) were also incorporated into visitor center complexes. [10]

Cabrillo Visitor Center as a Locally Significant Example of a Mission 66 Visitor Center

The Cabrillo National Monument Visitor Center Historic District is one of seven Mission 66 visitor centers in California. The other visitor centers include one at both Death Valley National Park and Joshua Tree National Park and two each at Yosemite National Park and Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park. In 2000, the California SHPO concurred that the Joshua Tree Visitor Center was ineligible due to lack of significance and loss of integrity. Among all of the California Mission 66 visitor centers, the Cabrillo National Monument Visitor Center Historic District is the only one that provides an example of the Mission 66 program objectives within a southern California coastal context.

The buildings were designed by Frank L. Hope and Associates, which was one of San Diego's leading postwar architectural firms. Drawing upon regional influences, the firm used a California modern architectural vocabulary to create a one-story complex that is compatible with the Pacific Coast setting of the park. The landscape design developed by landscape architects in the Park Service Western Office of Design and Construction reflects the use of modernist forms and ideals that dominated landscape design in California during this period: a straightforward spatial organization, an empathy for the site (its views, topography, surroundings, plant materials), and a concern with functionalism. The original plant palette consisted of exotic species suitable to the southern California Mediterranean climate planted around the parking lots, walkways, and overlooks in a way that was meant to visually integrate the designed areas with the native setting. By the careful placement of raised planters, terraces, and the entrance pool and covered walkway, the designers effectively created an exterior space that served as an extension of the interior spaces that are compatible with the natural landscape. The Visitor Center Complex exhibits all of the characteristic components of the Mission 66 visitor center, as cited by Sarah Allaback in her study of the building type.

CRITERIA CONSIDERATION G: Properties That Have Achieved Significance Within the Past Fifty Years

The Cabrillo National Monument Visitor Center Historic District meets Criteria Consideration G: Properties That Have Achieved Significance Within the Past Fifty Years at the local level of significance based on the "Requirements for Exceptional Importance" for Mission 66 visitor centers, outlined by Sarah Allaback in *Mission 66 Visitor Centers: The History of a Building Type*.

Allaback identified three requirements that an individual visitor center must meet in order to be considered to meet the threshold of "exceptional importance" under Criteria Consideration G:

1. The visitor center should be one originally planned and built as part of the Mission 66 program

(1956-1966). [11]

The Cabrillo National Monument Visitor Center Historic District was built as part of the original Mission 66 program. The buildings were completed and occupied in March 1966, and the dedication ceremony took place in late October 1966. The grading, the realignment of the entrance road, and the construction of the parking area and adjacent pedestrian pathways were completed in 1963; however, the final landscaping underway during 1966 was completed with fiscal year 1967 funding and was not accepted by the Park Service as complete until March 1967.

2. The visitor center should possess substantial physical integrity to the period of significance, 1945-1966. Sufficient features should be intact to relate the property to the Modern movement in terms of massing, spatial relationships, proportion, pattern of windows, texture of materials, and ornamentation. Essential features that should be present for a property to represent its significance include the historic main facade and entry, important public spaces inside the visitor center, and other important interior spaces that define the particular building's historic character and use as a visitor center. [12]

As described in the discussion on "Integrity," the Cabrillo National Monument Visitor Center Historic District retains all seven aspects of its integrity.

3. The visitor center should possess exceptional importance in one or more of the following ways:

A) The visitor center should be an outstanding example of Park Service Modern, preferably one published in contemporary architectural journals or the recipient of design awards. The building may also be the subject of subsequent scholarly evaluations.

B) As the work of a regionally, nationally, or internationally recognized architect or architectural firm working for the National Park Service.

C) For its demonstration of distinctive programming, planning, or design features that affected the evolution of the visitor center as a building type nationally, regionally, or internationally.

D) As an essential part of an overall Mission 66 park development plan that had extraordinary importance in the history and development of an individual park.

E) For association with events and activities that have made an outstanding contribution to the history of local communities or native groups. [13]

The Cabrillo National Monument meets three of these requirements:

- In 1966, the Cabrillo National Monument Visitor Center Historic District received a Citation Award for recognition of superior achievement for design and professional excellence from the Society of American Registered Architects (SARA).

In 1970, the American Institute of Architect's Citation of an Organization honored the National Park Service's Mission 66 program. In an article which appeared in the January 1971 issue of the AIA Journal (Vol. 53 No.1), Cabrillo National Monument Visitor Center Historic District was singled out as one of seven Mission 66 visitor centers of particular merit; it was the only one of the seven set within a coastal environment.

- The final plans for the Cabrillo National Monument Visitor Center Historic District buildings were the work of Frank L. Hope and Associates, a regionally recognized architectural firm.

By the 1960s, when the firm received the contract for the Cabrillo Visitor Center, Frank L. Hope and Associates was one of San Diego's most active architectural firms, and Frank Hope designed many influential modernist buildings in San Diego. Hope had established his firm in 1928, and it remained in business until 1993.

Hope served as the San Diego Planning Commission director in 1955 and was president of both the local and the state chapters of the American Institute of Architects. In 1965, he received one of the AIA's highest national honors when he was named a fellow. Hope's many accomplishments led to his appointment by Governor Ronald Reagan to a four-year term on the State Board of Architectural Examiners, a group responsible for registering architects throughout California.

The firm continued for another 28 years following Hope's retirement in 1965, under the direction of his sons, Frank Hope Jr. and Charles, and later a grandson, Lee. The firm became one of the largest architectural companies on the West Coast, tackling projects as far ranging as the Middle East. The firm received the AIA National Honor Award in 1967 for its design for San Diego Stadium. The firm had offices in San Diego, San Francisco, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and a liaison office in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

- The Mission 66 program and the construction of the visitor center were critical components of the development of the Cabrillo National Monument.

As described above in the discussion of significance under Criterion A, the Cabrillo Visitor Center represented a watershed in Park Service thinking regarding the Cabrillo National Monument. It is reasonable to assume that without the funding allotted to the park as part of the first Mission 66 budget, the boundaries of the park may not have been expanded. The expansion provided the Park Service with control over the development of the monument and its surrounding setting. Certainly, there would have been no funds for the construction of the visitor center that became the centerpiece in the development of the park's modern interpretation and resource protection programs. The major commitment of planning and funding to create a full-scale park operation through the creation of a Mission 66 visitor center was a watershed which firmly established the presence of Cabrillo National Monument within the park system and within the local community.

HISTORIC CONTEXT: MISSION 66 PROGRAM

The Mission 66 Program, 1955-1966 [14]

The developed areas of the American national park system are mainly the result of two busy periods of modernization overseen by the National Park Service (established in 1916). While older parks, such as Yellowstone, Glacier, and Grand Canyon, boast hotels and other remnants from the earlier railroad era, the construction of the modern national park system really got underway in the mid-1920s, when Congress began making generous appropriations for the development of public facilities in national parks, particularly for park roads. This was the “rustic” era of park architecture, inspired by earlier resort hotels in the parks as well as contemporary Art & Crafts architecture. Park development of this type continued through the 1920s and accelerated through the halcyon years of New Deal funding.

The second principal era in National Park Service development began in the mid-1950s when, after an extended hiatus in park development due to war-time budgets, Congress again ratcheted up spending for the construction of park roads, lodges, campgrounds, and other facilities. This second era of development resulted mainly from a ten-year park expansion and construction program proposed in 1955 by Park Service director Conrad L. Wirth. Described by Wirth as “MISSION 66” the program was intended to modernize, enlarge, and even reinvent the park system by 1966, the fiftieth anniversary of the National Park Service.

From Idea to Funded Program

In his memoirs, National Park Service Director Conrad L. Wirth described the specific ideas and events that precipitated the rapid organization of his Mission 66 proposal. [15] According to Wirth (and agency historian, Appleman), one weekend, in February 1955, the director sat at his home in Maryland considering the reluctance of Congress to increase park appropriations since 1945. Congress had supported the Bureau of Public Roads, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the Army Corps with multi-year authorizations for hundreds of millions of dollars that allowed these agencies to efficiently plan and complete massive public works. Capital expenditures for national parks, however, were inadequate and fluctuated from year to year, making it difficult to plan large projects over extended periods. Wirth struggled with how to present the redevelopment of the national park system to Congress on the same terms, as a national priority requiring a long term, major commitment of funds rather than the minimal and uncertain appropriations that allowed only a “patch on patch” approach to modernizing park facilities. [16]

While asking himself what a member of Congress would “want to hear from the Park Service,” Wirth apparently experienced an epiphany: the modernization the national park system could indeed be presented in the same terms, as a ten-year program, requiring extensive coordination and planning nationwide, and achieved within one overall budget estimate. Wirth would present Congress with a total figure and a schedule for the entire job. He could argue that long term, coordinated planning was necessary—just as it was to build highways and dams—in order to let larger contracts, benefit from

economies of scale, and minimize the overall disturbance to parks and visitors by completing the work quickly. The alternative was to limp along with annual appropriations that allowed only incremental, endless repairs to facilities that were not worth the investment, because they would never be adequate for the numbers of people trying to use them.

This was the essence of what Wirth named, apparently that same weekend, “MISSION 66,” [17] a name he hoped captured the urgency of the situation and evoked the wartime zeal of a “mission.” Ten years was, he felt, the right balance between unacceptable short term planning, and going too far into the uncertainties of the future. Intensely aware of the tradition of his agency, Wirth also feared that under his administration the Park Service would fail to measure up to its own history. In the 1920s, Stephen Mather and Horace Albright, the first two Park Service directors, had forged a powerful identity for the agency while developing a national park system that was admired all over the world. Thirty years later, Wirth knew that his Park Service was faced with challenges—and opportunities—just as great. By timing Mission 66 to be completed in time for the fiftieth anniversary of the National Park Service in 1966, he reminded himself and everyone else that living up to that legacy would require dedication, hard work, and equally successful responses to the new generation of problems besetting the park system. [18]

From the moment he was taken with his idea, Wirth moved with single-minded alacrity. That Monday morning (February 8, 1955) he called the regular “squad meeting” of his assistant directors, division chiefs, and other principal advisors. He took the occasion to announce that business as usual would end immediately in the Washington office. A new working group would be formed that day and begin working on details and estimates for a ten-year program to modernize and expand the park system. He assembled key staff into special “working” and “steering” committees and instructed his park superintendents to begin preparing “prospectuses” of the work they needed done in their parks. Within eight months the scope of the Mission 66 program had been outlined, complete with preliminary budget estimates.

President Eisenhower personally endorsed Mission 66 after Wirth presented the program during a cabinet meeting in January 1956. That Spring, Congress indicated a willingness to go along with the \$700 million budget for the ten-year program by increasing the agency’s budget for fiscal year 1957 to \$68 million (up from \$32 million in 1955). Further increases led to annual budgets of over \$100 million by 1962. The planning and policy initiative of Mission 66 proved to be the most effective means of increasing Park Service appropriations since New Deal “emergency spending” legislation. [19]

By 1966, Congress had appropriated about \$1 billion that was spent on land acquisition, new staff and training, general operations, and all types of construction activity in national parks. [20] During the ten-year period, the number of “units” in the park system climbed from 194 to 254. The Park Service constructed or reconstructed thousands of miles of roads and hundreds of miles of trails. Many parks received adequate water, sewer, and electric service for the first time, and hundreds of park residences, administration buildings, comfort stations, and other buildings for public use and park administration were realized. Mission 66 expanded and professionalized Park Service staff and established new “training centers.” Over one hundred “visitor centers,” a new building type invented by the agency’s

planners and architects, which was at the center of revised park “master planning” were built during the Mission 66 program. A new identity for the National Park Service was forged during this period, represented by a new idiom of modern-style park architecture and by the “arrowhead” agency logo (1951) featured prominently on buildings, publications, and redesigned uniforms. [21] Although the development (or as was often the case, the redevelopment) of national parks at this scale was almost always beset by controversy,[22] in the end Mission 66 accomplished much of what Wirth intended: the reinvention of the national park system, the National Park Service—and to some extent the national park idea—to meet the exigencies of postwar American society.

Mission 66 Planning Principles and Strategies: A New Approach

From the very start, Wirth described Mission 66 as an initiative for developing completely revised park master plans that would respond to the social, technological, and geographical trends of the postwar American landscape. After World War II, an upsurge in automobile ownership, improved road conditions, and more roads were key components in the change in settlement patterns and the rhythms of everyday life. Like other earlier improvements to transportation, the automobile and its requisite landscape of roads, redefined the significance and perception of geographic distances and allowed an expansion of the spatial boundaries that people and goods could traverse in a day or an hour. It was now possible for more people to drive longer distances, in shorter periods of time, and in greater comfort. A day trip to one of the large western scenic parks was now possible for thousands, and the public in private vehicles were arriving in droves. New plans for national parks would have to consider “completely revamping park transportation systems,” particularly to increase the efficient use of buses. [23]

To achieve efficient vehicular transport through the parks, Mission 66 planners, landscape architects, and designers incorporated the automobile into their thinking and planning, to a greater degree than anytime in the past. Planners and designers during the Mission 66 era, were charged with upgrading outmoded park roads that had been “designed for another travel era” and “badly clogged with today’s automobiles,” and they were also charged to minimize the impact in precious areas. [24] Park roads were, in many instances, widened, resurfaced, re-graded, and realigned to accommodate the larger, faster, more numerous vehicles of the 1950s. The Mission 66 response to increases in vehicular traffic within the parks was not limited to road design. Arrival and departure by automobile were integrated into parking lot design, layout, and flow, and influenced building placement, spatial organization, and the design of some buildings, such as employee residences with attached carports.

The Mission 66 Park Prospectus: A New Type of Planning Document

The Mission 66 planning team developed a generalized procedure for how Mission 66 prospectuses would update and transform national park master plans:

The first task was to “determine and state the important park resources.”

Following this inventory, planners were told to “fix a road and trail system” that would allow visitors to “see, experience, and enjoy the values to be derived from” the “important park resources” described at the beginning of the document. (In the great majority of cases, such road and trail corridors already existed, but might require realignment, extension, or abbreviation.)

Then they should “determine what visitor facilities, other than roads and trails,” would be required in order to “provide a reasonable opportunity to enjoy the Park resources” and meet “administrative requirements . . . in terms of protecting [the park’s] resources and providing visitor services.”

Finally, they were to decide what land acquisition (boundary expansions or in-holdings) should be recommended. [25]

The very short prospectuses were to be based on an analysis of the park master plans that had preceded them, but the new documents were not restricted by those plans or the assumptions implicit in them.

The Mission 66 visitor center [26]

The Cabrillo National Monument Visitor Center Historic District is one of 110 visitor centers built by the National Park Service under the Mission 66 program. [27] The concept of the visitor center as a building type developed during Mission 66, as park administrators sought to re-conceptualize the form and function of outdated facilities from the 1930s in order to better serve and educate the public. The new "visitor center" provided spaces for interpretive programs, offices, and visitor services.

A New Building Type

The visitor center typically was a centralized facility that includes multiple visitor and administrative functions within a single architectural floor plan or compound. The use of the word "center" indicated the planners desire to centralize park interpretive and museum displays, new types of interpretive presentations, park administrative offices, restrooms, and various other visitor facilities. Like the contemporary "shopping center," the visitor center made it possible for people to park their cars at a central point, and from there have access to a range of services or attractions. [28]

The term "interpretation" replaced "education" at the Park Service in the late 1940s, and the new approach was extremely influential on the development of the floor plans, spatial processions, and functional spaces of Mission 66 visitor centers. Theater spaces for new slide shows and 16 mm films soon became standard requirements, as did space for interpretive displays which either replaced or complemented the more familiar exhibit cases of older park museums. The "information" desk (as opposed to interpretive or museum displays) became an essential and central feature of the new facility, and emphasized rapid and efficient dissemination of practical information related to park attractions,

visitor safety, and convenience. [29]

The procession (or sequence of spaces) through a visitor center was a particularly important aspect of its design. Increased numbers of visitors required this attention to circulation and visitor "flow," and contemporary modern architectural design also stressed procession as an aspect of planning new buildings. In Mission 66 visitor centers, the spatial procession through the facility often included wide entrances and exits, ramps and inclined planes, an open lobby, easy access to exhibit and auditorium areas, and significant views of natural features or historic sites (either from a terrace or through a window wall) to facilitate interpretive talks. [30]

Rest rooms often were designed as separate buildings adjacent to the visitor center, or at least with separate outdoor entrances. Nearby parking lots and site development were integral to the overall procession into and through the building. Ramps often replaced stairs into and out of the building, and window walls helped break down the division between site and interior space. Short interpretive trails ("nature trails") were often developed to provide an outdoor experience near the visitor center, and outdoor picnic and sitting areas were common as well. [31]

The siting of visitor centers was determined by new considerations in park master planning that involved the circulation of unprecedented numbers of peoples and cars. The visitor center was an integral part of a new approach to park planning. The new buildings were typically sited in relation to the overall circulation plan of the park, in order to efficiently intercept visitor flow at critical points. The criteria for siting Mission 66 visitor centers therefore differed from the criteria for siting and designing the park villages and museums of the pre-war era. In larger parks, new visitor centers were often sited at park entrances, or on park roads "en route" to major destinations in the park. [32]

The Park Service's use of modern architectural practices responded to all of these influences, and served an essential role in the Mission 66 program by utilizing efficient methods of construction (including inexpensive building materials) while providing a new, contemporary image for the visitor centers and other buildings. These buildings exploited the functional advantages offered by post-war architectural theory and construction techniques. [33]

The larger, more complex programming of the visitor center encouraged architects, especially Cecil Doty (at the NPS Western Office of Design and Construction) to take advantage of free plans (in which different functional spaces overlapped or were only partially divided), flat roofs (as well as other roof types), and other established elements of modern design in order to create spaces in which larger numbers of visitors could circulate easily and locate essential services efficiently. Such planning dictated the use of concrete construction and prefabricated components, and also often featured windows of unusual size, shape, and location. Unusual fenestration, in particular, was a hallmark of contemporary architecture and was often used with great effect in Mission 66 visitor centers to provide generous views of scenic or historic areas. [34] These aspects of contemporary modern architecture in the 1950s proved particularly suited to the new programmatic and technical requirements faced by park architects of the era. Many of the most recognizable features of modernism, including the tapered column, aluminum-framed window wall, and concrete block screen, were used by Park Service architects. However, in most cases, they felt obliged to temper such choices with traditional building

materials (using wood, stone, or brick with steel, concrete, and glass), often in deliberate attempts to establish continuity between existing Rustic structures and modern additions or as a way of following the Park Service tradition of "harmonizing" with the landscape. The result was a distinctive new style of park architecture that amounted to a Park Service adaptation of contemporary American modern architecture. [35]

The architectural elevations of modern style visitor centers were stripped of most overtly decorative or associative elements, and the architects typically employed textured concrete with panels of stone veneer, painted steel columns, and flat roofs with projecting overhangs, terraces, or covered walks. Textured concrete block, or slump block, was a favorite (and relatively inexpensive) material. These formal elements often allowed the sometimes large and complex visitor centers to maintain a low, horizontal profile that remained as unobtrusive as possible. Stone and textured concrete could also take on earth tones that reduced visual contrast with landscape settings. [36]

Standardization of Design

The new visitor centers also exhibited a consistency in appearance and quality that was the result of the strongly centralized Mission 66 planning program. In 1954, the Park Service reorganized the design and construction component of its four regional offices into two centralized facilities: the Eastern Office of Design and Construction (EODC) in Philadelphia and the Western Office (WODC) in San Francisco. The responsibilities of the respective offices included supervising the preparation of master plans and construction projects, conducting surveys and research, and preparing building plans and specifications. [37] While the visitor center plans were not standardized, they were the result of standard procedures and policies for design and construction. This consistency helped reinforce the strong sense of a national park "system," of which each park was a part. The Mission 66 visitor center became a recognizable point of reference for visitors, who knew what kind of services they could expect at such a facility, in order to begin their visit as pleasantly and efficiently as possible. [38]

The influx of design work from the Mission 66 program resulted in the Park Service hiring contract architects from the private sector. The two regional offices were granted "contract authority to negotiate with professional firms in private practice, of recognized ability." In most cases, the Park Service furnished the contract architects with preliminary drawings, which the consultants would then use as the basis to develop design. In some cases, consultants simply provided construction drawings for designs that had been fully developed in-house. Visitor centers were typically the most expensive new buildings in the parks, as well as high-profile commissions and, therefore, attractive to private consulting firms. In practice, the relationship with contract architects varied according to project, but it would usually involve some collaboration with Park Service colleagues. [39]

Key Components

Key components of the Mission 66 visitor center include the following:

Building design emphasizes plan organization (the design of the floor plans). Floor plan organization allowed segregation of public areas from administrative areas, and also emphasized efficient "visitor flow" through the building itself.

Building's program centralizes numerous park services, including information, interpretation, rest rooms, and administrative offices.

Building makes use of the formal vocabulary and materials of contemporary (1945-1972) modern architecture, including flat roofs (as well as other types of roofs), window walls (and other unorthodox fenestration), exposed steel supports, concrete and concrete block construction.

Integration of interior and exterior public spaces, often separated by windows, window walls, glass doors, or wooden doors with windows.

Entrances, exits, and other doorways often are wide, providing easy movement for crowds. Entrances often sheltered by porches, ramadas, arcades, and similar features. Rest rooms often nearby, with separate outdoor entrance.

Building emphasizes visitor's experience of spatial procession. This sequence of spaces often features ramps, as well as significant views of park landscapes either from terraces or through large windows.

Building's elevations create a mostly low-profile, horizontal effect.

Building "harmonizes" with its setting through horizontality of massing, color and texture of materials. Use of textured concrete, concrete block, and stone veneers in facades often give building generally rough exterior texture, often featuring earth toned colors.

Building footprint is often ell-shaped, rectangular around a central courtyard, or a variation of this.

Use of naturalistic planting to partially screen building, utility areas, and parking, as well as to repair areas disturbed in construction. Planter boxes often used to define entrances.

Outdoor spaces and site work, including parking lots, paths, amphitheaters, terraces, and patios often incorporated into visitor center complex. [40]

Utilizing these key components of the visitor center planning, each Mission 66 design visitor center complex focused on bringing visitor services together in a centralized location. The construction of these visitor centers introduced modernism into the national parks and embodied a distinctive new architectural style that departed from the Rustic style developed by the Park Service in the 1920s and 1930s. The new Park Service style was an adaptation of established elements of modern design within the context of contemporary park needs. The Mission 66 Program standardized visitor services in a variety of ways including providing the basic information, visitor facilities, and interpretive programs in

one location. Today, our experience of national parks is determined, to a great extent, by the visitor services established around Mission 66 visitor centers.

Endnotes

1. Sellars, Richard West, *Preserving Nature in the National Parks: A History*, 1997, p. 181.
2. Sarah Allaback, *Mission 66 Visitor Centers: The History of a Building Type*, 2000.
3. Sarah Allaback, *Mission 66 Visitor Centers: The History of a Building Type*, 2000.
4. Ibid, "Associated Architectural Style: Park Service Modern" in Appendix III: Registering Mission 66 Visitor Centers in the National Register of Historic Places.
5. Ibid, Introduction.
6. Ibid, "Associated Property Type: The Visitor Center" in Appendix III: Registering Mission 66 Visitor Centers in the National Register of Historic Places.
7. Ibid, Introduction.
8. Allaback 2000, "Introduction" and "Associated Architectural Style: Park Service Modern" in Appendix III: Registering Mission 66 Visitor Centers in the National Register of Historic Places.
9. Ibid, Conclusion.
10. Ibid, "Associated Architectural Style: Park Service Modern" in Appendix III: Registering Mission 66 Visitor Centers in the National Register of Historic Places.
11. Allaback 2000, "II. Requirements for Exceptional Importance" in Appendix III: Registering Mission 66 Visitor Centers in the National Register of Historic Places.
12. Allaback 2000, "II. Requirements for Exceptional Importance" in Appendix III: Registering Mission 66 Visitor Centers in the National Register of Historic Places.
13. Allaback 2000, "II. Requirements for Exceptional Importance" in Appendix III: Registering Mission 66 Visitor Centers in the National Register of Historic Places.
14. The following sections on the national context for the Mission 66 Program is excerpted from the draft Mission 66 Multiple Property Documentation underway by Ethan Carr, Elaine Jackson-Retondo, and Len Warner.

15. Wirth's own account of events is actually based on a history written in 1958 by agency historian Roy E. Appleman, which was based in large part on interviews with Wirth in 1956 as well as Appleman's personal experience. Roy E. Appleman, A History of the National Park Service Mission 66 Program, unpublished report (Washington, DC: Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1958). National Park Service, Denver Service Center, Technical Information Center. Appleman, who was a member of the team planning Mission 66, explained that his history was based almost entirely on written notes that he took continuously: "[I] kept an informal diary...[and] made notes at the time discussions were in progress and often took down literally verbatim the words spoken....Almost nothing presented herein is based on unsupported memory" (p. 10). Taking into account his obvious point of view, the account provides an excellent summary by a professional historian who was also a participant in the events described. Wirth relied heavily on Appleman's account when writing his memoirs.

16. Wirth, Parks, Politics, and the People, 237-239; Appleman, A History of the Mission 66 Program, 4-5.

17. "MISSION 66" was often written in all capitals in the contemporary references.

18. Wirth, Parks, Politics, and the People, 238-239.

19. Rettie, Our National Park System, 251-252. It is difficult to compare total expenditures on the national park system during the New Deal to the cost of Mission 66, but there is no question that New Deal programs represented a greater overall commitment. The Department of Labor's and the U.S. Army's adjusted costs of recruiting, housing, and feeding the Civilian Conservation Corps, for example, alone may have exceeded the Mission 66 total. Mission 66 also did not include the massive state park expansions overseen by the Park Service in the 1930s, nor was it complemented by other federal programs (such as the Public Works Administration, the Resettlement Administration, among others) that greatly augmented regular Park Service activity during the New Deal.

20. New parks authorized during Mission 66 included: the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park in Maryland and West Virginia; the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site in Washington, D.C.; Canyonlands National Park in Utah; and the Edison National Historic Site in New Jersey.

21. Wirth, Parks, Politics, and the People, 262-274. R. Bryce Workman, National Park Service Uniforms: The Developing Years, 1932-1970, (Harpers Ferry, West Virginia: National Park Service, Harpers Ferry Center, 1998), 31, 33-38.

22. From the beginning, the program was criticized for emphasizing capital construction as a one-dimensional solution to the complex social and environmental problems park managers were facing. Critics also noted that Mission 66 construction abandoned the architectural theory and building technology of the rustic era.

23. "Informational Memorandum No. 2, Mission 66- Policies and Procedures," March 17, 1955 (Box

A8213, National Park Service, Harpers Ferry Center Archive).

24. Our Heritage, n.p. (4).

25. Appleman, A History of the Mission 66 Program, 22.

26. The information in this section is excerpted from Sarah Allaback, Mission 66 Visitor Centers: The History of a Building Type (Washington, D.C.: NPS, 2000) and is cited throughout the nomination from the online source (http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/allaback).

27. It is difficult to arrive at the exact number or a definitive list of Mission 66 visitor centers, as explained by Allaback in her historic context. However, Allaback provided a list of 110 visitor centers (included in this number were those are no longer extant) and 16 visitor center "additions" (Allaback 2000, Appendix I).

28. Allaback 2000, "Associated Property Type: The Visitor Center" in Appendix III: Registering Mission 66 Visitor Centers in the National Register of Historic Places.

29. Ibid.

30. Ibid.

31. Ibid, "Associated Property Type: The Visitor Center" in Appendix III: Registering Mission 66 Visitor Centers in the National Register of Historic Places.

32. Allaback, 2000, "Associated Property Type: The Visitor Center" in Appendix III: Registering Mission 66 Visitor Centers in the National Register of Historic Places.

33. Ibid.

34. Ibid.

35. Ibid Chapter 6 and "Associated Architectural Style: Park Service Modern" in Appendix III: Registering Mission 66 Visitor Centers in the National Register of Historic Places.

36. Allaback, 2000, "Associated Architectural Style: Park Service Modern" in Appendix III: Registering Mission 66 Visitor Centers in the National Register of Historic Places.

37. Ibid, Chapter 6.

38. Ibid, "Associated Architectural Style: Park Service Modern" in Appendix III: Registering Mission 66 Visitor Centers in the National Register of Historic Places.

39. Allaback, 2000, Introduction and Chapter 6.

40. Allaback 2000, "I. Requirements for Registration" in Appendix III: Registering Mission 66 Visitor Centers in the National Register of Historic Places.

National Historic Landmark Information

National Historic Landmark Status: No

World Heritage Site Information

World Heritage Site Status: No

Chronology & Physical History

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type: Designed

Current and Historic Use/Function:

Primary Historic Function: Visitor Contact (Visitor Center)

Primary Current Use: Visitor Contact (Visitor Center)

Other Use/Function

Exhibit

Other Type of Use or Function

Both Current And Historic

Current and Historic Names:

Name

Cabrillo NM Visitor Center

Type of Name

Both Current And Historic

Ethnographic Study Conducted: No Survey Conducted

Chronology:

Year	Event	Annotation
AD 1913	Established	Cabrillo National Monument was established on October 14, 1913.
AD 1933	Land Transfer	The National Park Service received control of the monument on August 10, 1933.
AD 1934	Planned	NPS began planning visitor services within the monument.
AD 1934	Built	A state highway to the monument was constructed. It was completed on July 17, 1934.
AD 1941 - 1947	Military Operation	The monument was used by the military during and after World War II.
AD 1949	Built	A statue of Cabrillo was installed at the monument.
AD 1959 - 1958	Expanded	The monument boundaries were extended to include 80 acres from the original size of half an acre.
AD 1963	Designed	The visitor center plans were prepared by NPS architect Cecil Doty.
AD 1963	Built	First phase of construction (grading, the realignment of the entrance road, and construction of the parking area and adjacent pedestrian pathways) completed.
AD 1964	Designed	Final plans for the visitor center were prepared by Frank L. Hope and Associates, a San Diego architectural firm.
AD 1966	Built	Three buildings in the visitor center completed.
AD 1966 - 1967	Built	Final landscaping.
AD 1980 - 1989	Altered	The fountain located in the courtyard was filled with dirt to make a planting bed.

Cabrillo National Monument Visitor Center Historic District
Cabrillo National Monument

AD 1985	Altered	Skylights were added to the roof of the View Building.
AD 1986	Altered	An addition was added to the Administration Building.
AD 1988	Altered	The statue of Cabrillo was replaced with a replica.
AD 1991	Altered	A small addition was added to the Exhibits and Auditorium Building.
AD 1995 - 1999	Altered	Solar panels were added to the roof of the pergola.
AD 2007	Built	The Law Enforcement Building was constructed.

Physical History:

Establishment of the Monument (1913)

President Woodrow Wilson issued the proclamation establishing Cabrillo National Monument on October 14, 1913. This action came about as a result of a campaign orchestrated by the Order of Panama, a San Diego civic organization dedicated to commemorating California's Spanish heritage. The group was established in January 1912 as part of the enthusiasm for the Panama-California Exposition. The plan to erect a 150-foot-tall statue of the Portuguese explorer Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo at Point Loma was part of a larger scheme by the Order of Panama to draw attention to San Diego and its upcoming exposition. The exposition was planned to coincide with the completion of the Panama Canal; and it would call attention to San Diego's potential as a principal port in the new Atlantic-Pacific sea trade. Cabrillo led the first European expedition to explore what is now the west coast of the United States in 1542 and landed at San Diego Bay on September 28, 1542. The monument site was to be located on a half-acre plot on the tip of Point Loma, the narrow finger of land that formed the western boundary of San Diego's harbor. This site not only overlooked the supposed location of Cabrillo's landing but also provided an expansive view of the ocean and surrounding area.[2]

The Old Point Loma lighthouse was also located on the site for the proposed monument. Built in 1854, the lighthouse was deactivated in 1891 when a new lighthouse was built closer to the water at the tip of the Point Loma. [3] The unused structure became the property of the U.S. Army as part of the Point Loma Military Reservation and was still under the control of the Army when the Cabrillo National Monument was established. The Order of Panama proposed tearing down the lighthouse to make way for the 150-foot statue of Cabrillo. However, the plans for the statue memorial never were realized before the Order of Panama dissolved in 1915 after the close of the Panama-California Exposition. The Army turned the lighthouse into a signal station during World War I. From 1921 through 1935, Mrs. H. E. Cook, the wife of an army sergeant, was the caretaker of the building and sold postcards, refreshments and curios to visitors. In 1925, there was another brief period of interest to place a statue at the point to honor Cabrillo (this time by the Native Sons of the Golden West, a state-wide organization which had a chapter in San Diego), but the effort never progressed past the initial planning stage. When the National Park Service (NPS) was given jurisdiction over the area in 1933, the lighthouse still stood, and plans for the grandiose memorial had been largely forgotten. [4]

Initial Development of the Monument Following Its Transfer to the National Park Service

On June 10, 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order No. 6166 that reorganized the duties of the National Park Service. This order stated that: "All functions of administration of public buildings, reservations, national parks, national monuments and national cemeteries are consolidated in an Office of National Parks, Buildings and Reservations [a name which was later changed back to the National Park Service] in the Department of the Interior." With this Executive Order the National Park Service received control of the Cabrillo National Monument. The transfer for the monument was finalized on August 10, 1933. The National Park Service faced several challenges in administering the site. First, the Cabrillo National Monument memorialized an event that had taken place outside of its boundary. At the

same time, the only structure on the site (the Old Point Loma lighthouse) bore no relationship to the monument's reason for existence and was it was in poor condition. There was no separate budget for the monument; it was to be administered through Sequoia National Park. The half-acre monument site was surrounded by land that was controlled by the Army (later by the Navy), and the Park Service, by necessity, had to deal with the military establishment and bureaucracy. [5]

The initial NPS planning for Cabrillo National Monument began early in January 1934 when Colonel John R. White, the Superintendent of Sequoia National Park, arrived for his first visit to the monument on January 4. Upon arriving in the area, he contacted the San Diego Chamber of Commerce in the hopes that they could put him in touch with persons interested in the Monument. Instead, he reportedly found "an almost complete ignorance on the subject and the place." [6] Nonetheless, White felt that the monument could be an opportunity to acquaint the public with the Park Service. In a letter to the Director he wrote:

From a publicity point of view affecting the Park Service and the Department of the Interior, El Cabrillo National Monument is strategically located, because there is no National Monument or National Park anywhere in Southern California. San Diego is a great tourist center, and practically every visitor drives out to Point Loma. There is a real opportunity to place the Department of the Interior before the public in a prominent way at El Cabrillo. [7]

White continued to meet with local groups and tried to increase publicity and interest in the monument. He believed that increased visitation and public interest would help an effort to secure Park Service funding for improvements at the site. A new state highway up to the monument was built and dedicated on July 17, 1934. White believed the new highway would provide increased visitation to the monument, which would create the demand for some minimal level of visitor services. White met with the Director of the Park Service, A. B. Cammerer, during a trip to visit western parks, and secured \$38,000 in July. [8]

Park Service landscape architects inspected the site in February 1934 and reviewed suggestions that had been submitted by local groups. W. G. Carnes, Chief of the Western Division of Plans and Designs, had little regard for the elaborate development plans suggested by the local groups. Instead, he believed that the restoration of the lighthouse should be the top priority and suggested that "if the government would restore the building and improve the grounds, the citizens of San Diego could raise funds for a statue or commemorative tablet of some kind." Carnes conducted an inspection of the monument from September 11-15, and his resulting report contained an account of the deterioration of the lighthouse and specific plans for its rehabilitation. He arranged for detailed drawings to be prepared under the Historic American Buildings Survey. The restoration project for the lighthouse began in March 1935 and was completed by September 1935. All of the work was done by contractors from San Diego and Los Angeles under a foreman, C. A. Potter, who was chosen for the position because he had been superintendent on the restoration of several missions and other historical landmarks in Southern California. In addition to the work done on the lighthouse, a comfort station, a water system, a sewer system, walls, walks and steps, and landscaping were added to the monument site, and a commemorative plaque to Cabrillo was installed. A dedication ceremony took place

on September 28, 1935.[9] A garage, similar in design and construction to the comfort station, was built with Works Progress Administration funds in 1939. [10]

Superintendent White made several requests for funding for a more permanent addition to the monument without any results. In 1936, Clifton Rock, a newspaper reporter and publicist who had for reasons of health given up his job at a local newspaper, was given permission to operate a shop and tea room at the lighthouse in exchange for acting as unofficial caretaker without pay. All administrative duties at the monument were handled by Rock which included a monthly written report to Superintendent White. [11]

Military Use of Monument in World War II

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, on December 7, 1941, and the subsequent preparations for war along the west coast, the Army closed the monument, and it was integrated into the coast defenses on Point Loma for the duration of World War II. Gun batteries and submarine spotters were placed on Point Loma's strategic summit. The lighthouse was painted camouflage green and was used as a signal station shared with the Navy. [12]

Post War Years

In 1943, Superintendent White prepared a memo, for the Western Regional Office, cataloguing the damage to the monument from military activities. In this memo, he reported that the War Department might be reluctant to surrender control of the monument at the end of the War. The Western Regional Office, in San Francisco, seemed to view these circumstances as a fortuitous excuse to rid itself of a property that seemed more trouble than it was worth and made recommendations to this effect to Washington. The reasoning behind this recommendation was that: the area was more of a memorial than a national monument; there was no evidence that Cabrillo ever set foot on the property; the main feature of the area was a lighthouse which bore no relationship to Cabrillo's discovery of the area; and finally, since it was completely surrounded by War Department properties, the Army should be responsible for it. Herbert Kahler, Acting Supervisor of Historic Sites, concurred with this thinking and was blunt in his evaluation: "Because the area is memorial in character and has no outstanding historical significance, I recommend that it be disestablished as a national monument." Director A. E. Demaray interjected a note of caution. Though he had no serious objection to disestablishing the monument, he believed that it was not advantageous for the Park Service to initiate the action. "Doubtless the group interested in having Cabrillo established as a national monument will not be pleased and protest will be made to Congressman Izac representing San Diego County. My suggestion would be that we let nature take its course. If the War Department does not want to return it to the National Park Service after the war, let the Department initiate legislation transferring the area to, and as part of, Fort Rosecrans." And the matter appeared to be dropped until the war was over. [13]

In spite of a seeming consensus in Washington during the war that the Park Service would do well to rid itself of the monument, the stance softened somewhat by 1946. In a memo to the Director, Ronald F. Lee, Chief Historian, rendered his opinion that while disestablishment of this particular monument was not a bad idea in itself, it might set a dangerous precedent. Such an

action, he said, could "carry possible implications regarding the permanence of the arrangements under which other national monuments have been set aside and might at some future time weaken the position of the Service in defending boundaries of its areas." Additionally, there was considerable local pressure to reopen the popular tourist site to the public led by a campaign by the Chamber of Commerce, the San Diego Historical Society, and the local newspapers. California Senators William F. Knowland and Sheridan Downey became involved in the issue, and made inquiries directly to the Acting Secretary of War, John Sullivan. Sullivan responded to the Senators in November 1946: "The War Department which took over Cabrillo Park from the Interior Department's National Park Service under a temporary permit, has agreed to swing open the gates again provided the Navy offers no objection." The official re-opening occurred on November 11, 1946—Armistice Day. On January 28, 1947, the bureaucratic formalities were completed, and the Interior Department permit giving the Army control over the Cabrillo National Monument was officially revoked, thus returning jurisdiction to the National Park Service. [14]

Cabrillo Memorial Statue

In 1949, some 36 years after its establishment as a memorial to Juan Cabrillo, a statue of Cabrillo was finally installed at the monument. The statue had been commissioned by the Portuguese government in 1935 as a gift to the state of California and was to be exhibited in the Portuguese exhibit at the San Francisco Exposition of 1940. The work of Alvaro De Bree, a young Portuguese sculptor, the 14-foot-high, seven-ton statue was not exhibited at the fair as intended, but was instead stored in a private garage in San Francisco. Following a considerable amount of effort, the city of San Diego secured the statue, and it was installed at the Naval Training Center facing Ballast Point. The official dedication of the site took place on September 28, 1942, the 400th anniversary of Cabrillo's landing. In 1947, the San Diego Historical Society proposed that the statue be moved to the Cabrillo National Monument. The Chief of the Museum Bureau in Washington, after examining photographs judged the work to be "a satisfactory piece of memorial sculpture" and declared that it appeared suitable "from an artistic standpoint." The Park Service accepted the statue with the stipulation that the city fund the costs for a base for the statue and for moving it to the monument. The dedication ceremony took place on September 28, 1949. The Mayor of San Diego, Harley E. Knox, formally presented the statue to the National Park Service and Dr. Manuel Rocheta, chancellor of the Portuguese Embassy in Washington, D.C., delivered an address. [15]

Extension of Monument Boundaries

While the acquisition of the statue provided a focus for the symbolic meaning of Cabrillo National Monument, the size of the monument (only half an acre) surrounded by land controlled by the military was a major impediment to any real development of the site. Early in 1948, rumors abounded that the Army was about to declare the land of Fort Rosecrans surplus. The Chamber of Commerce believed that this would be an excellent opportunity for the Park Service to acquire the additional land. The Chamber enlisted the aid of local Representative Charles K. Fletcher in its efforts. After receiving correspondence from both Representative Fletcher and the Chamber of Commerce, Director Newton B. Drury informed the Regional Director in San Francisco that it was time for the Park Service to take a stand on Cabrillo:

"While the record shows that most of us have blown both hot and cold as to this monument, several members of the staff feel that, if enlarged, it might contribute significantly in telling the story of Portuguese discovery.... Perhaps we have in the past been too greatly concerned with current inadequacies and purely local aspects of the situation." It took another decade, but on February 2, 1959, over ten years after the first serious efforts began to expand Cabrillo's boundaries, President Eisenhower signed Proclamation 3273 that transferred "... approximately eighty acres of land contiguous to and completely surrounding the present site of the monument" from the Army to the Park Service. [16]

Mission 66 Program and the Development of the Monument

Although each park and monument in the National Park system would undergo extensive changes during Mission 66, the effect on the Cabrillo National Monument was critical in the development of the site into a modern park. The Park Service used the Mission 66 program and its extensive funding as leverage in the almost decade-old battle of expanding the Cabrillo National Monument's boundaries. Director Conrad Wirth informed California Representative Bob Wilson, in May 1956, that \$212,000 had been allocated to the monument for the purpose of refurbishing the lighthouse, establishing a trail system, and building a visitor's center northeast of the lighthouse. However, this allocation was contingent upon the Army and Navy reaching an agreement on the extension of the monument's boundaries. Although this extension had always been deemed important, the prospect of Mission 66 funding provided a new sense of urgency. In a letter sent to Representative Wilson, the Director of the San Diego Chamber of Commerce stated his concern that if a speedy solution to the land problem was not found, Cabrillo might well be deleted from the program. His fears were borne out when, in 1958, the Interior Department announced that the money designated for Cabrillo had been diverted to other projects and that the improvement program would be delayed for three years. With the presidential proclamation in 1959 extending Cabrillo's boundaries, however, planning for the project resumed. The next ten years brought about extensive changes at the monument – both physically and programmatically. [17]

In spite of its large number of yearly visitors, Cabrillo had been a second-tier site within the National Park System. The monument had to beg, cajole, and enlist local pressure and support for even the most minor of considerations. All this changed with the on set of the Mission 66 program. Now, however, it was ready to take its place as an equal member of the system and receive its fair share of funding and development through the Mission 66 program. The major commitment of planning and funding to create a full-scale park operation at the cutting edge of the new Mission 66 "visitor center" concept was a watershed which firmly established the presence of Cabrillo National Monument within the park system, and the park's most important Mission 66 project was the construction of the Visitor Center Complex. Additionally, as a result of the increased commitment and funding during Mission 66, new interpretation programs and scientific activities were developed that expanded the park's identity within the local community.

Initial Planning and Program for the Mission 66 Visitor Center Complex

The Old Point Loma Lighthouse served as the visitor center, museum, and bookstore (for the Cabrillo Historical Association, the non-profit organization that was set up in 1956 and was modeled after other cooperating organizations within the National Park Service). The lighthouse and its minimal facilities (a comfort station and parking lot) could not adequately accommodate the heavy visitation to the monument. By 1963, park visitation was over one million annually, and the park envisioned a visitor center as a place to tell the story of Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo and other early explorers. To tell this story, the park proposed a museum where the visitor would find exhibits on this subject so they could understand the true significance of this area. To further educate the visitor of this story, an auditorium was needed where audio/visual programs could be presented. An enclosed auditorium was determined necessary because of airplane noise (the monument was in the flight path of the nearby United States Naval Air Station), as well as the strong westerly winds prevalent across Point Loma which made outdoor programs uncomfortable to visitors.

The new building was planned to direct the visitor's movement in keeping with the characteristics associated with the new visitor center building type (the hallmark building in the Mission 66 program). The lobby of the new building would provide a central location for the key information sources at the park including, an information desk, the bookstore for the Cabrillo Historical Association, and exhibits telling the story of the monument's significance.

The 350-seat auditorium was to be located adjacent to and accessible from this central lobby.

The layout of the building was planned so that the visitor would go first to the exhibit area and then to the auditorium for interpretive programs. From the auditorium, the visitor would pass the bookstore before exiting the building. A ramp or stairs, located near the exit, would provide access to the observation platform on the top of the Visitor Center.

Additionally, the auditorium was to have an outside entrance that would permit visitors to enter without having to pass through the lobby and exhibit area. There was to be a large patio or terrace at this outside entrance to the auditorium to provide a visitor waiting area (during the times of year of heavy visitation) so that the lobby and exhibit area would not become congested with visitors waiting to see the audio/visual program.

The Visitor Center was envisioned as a multi-story building with a basement. The basement would provide a storage area for the monument's museum items and other interpretive supplies; an interpretive workshop; and a storage area for ranger material and supplies, as well as for administrative supplies. The main floor of the Visitor Center in addition to housing interpretive facilities would also contain visitor restrooms, the historian's office and library, and, off of the bookstore, a small room for the office and storeroom of the Cabrillo Historical Association. The second floor would house the administrative offices (the Superintendent's office, the administrative assistant's office and file room, and the chief ranger's office and ranger operating room) and would also contain the observation deck. [18]

From this program, the preliminary plans for the Visitor Center were prepared by staff at the Park Service Western Office of Design and Construction (WODC). In the final plans

prepared by architects Frank L. Hope and Associates, the multi-story aspects of the program were abandoned, but the concepts for visitor movement through the facility and the arrangement of the various uses or functions were still evident in the final design for the Visitor Center.

Preliminary Plans Prepared by NPS Architect Cecil Doty

The first plans for the new Visitor Center were prepared by WODC architect Cecil Doty. [19] Doty's project construction proposal, submitted in February 1963, called for a multi-story structure that would house a bookstore, interpretive facilities, a library and administrative offices. Space in an adjoining building was to be used for a museum and an auditorium. [20]

Doty designed a modernist facility with an observation deck that features a band of windows surrounded by concrete (similar in appearance to a control tower). Sarah Allaback, in her discussion of Cecil Doty's work on Mission 66 visitor centers, noted that the Cabrillo Visitor Center was designed as the Mission 66 program was entering its final years and was one of a group of visitor centers (that included the Canyon de Chelly and Cedar Breaks National Monument Visitor Centers) that demonstrated Doty's increasing comfort with the modern style. She noted that these designs did not have major changes in terms of plan or circulation but that there was a significant adjustment of aesthetics because the modernist style was no longer covered with a "rustic" veneer or tempered by natural wood details. In the Cabrillo design, the "mission tile color" clay grills provided one of the few concessions to this previous aesthetic. [21] According to park historian F. Ross Holland, Doty prepared the plans without ever having seen the site. The design showed two buildings on separate mounds of land connected by a passageway. However, in reality there was a large depression or valley between the two mounds that evidently was not shown on the maps Doty was working from and which made his design problematic. [22]

His plan ran into other problems as well. According to Superintendent Tom Tucker, the Under Secretary of the Interior, James Carr, and other park service officials had seen the drawings and felt the building's massive fort-like appearance completely inappropriate to the landscape of Point Loma. Sure the San Diego city officials would object to the design of the Visitor Center, he requested a meeting with the WODC and city and county officials to review the plans. A meeting held on December 11, 1963, in the city manager's office was attended by WODC chief architect Jerry Riddle, the city manager of San Diego, representatives of the mayor, the city planning department, county officials, and the chamber of commerce, as well as the city lobbyist in Sacramento and members of the press. The group was presented with a model of the proposed structure, and the officials voiced their concern with its massive appearance and the lack of reference to San Diego's Spanish heritage and mission architecture. The group agreed that "this appearance should not reflect radical changes in the buildings such as a tiled roof or small Spanish type windows but rather it should be brought out in softer angles and by coloration of exterior materials," and Doty's design was described as "very competent and an imaginative solution to a very difficult problem." [23]

Doty revised the plans for the Visitor Center in January 1964 (Revised Preliminary Drawing NM-CAB-3012-B) to reflect the comments and recommendations reached at the December 11, 1963 meeting with San Diego officials. The revised plans were approved by the Regional Director, Edward A. Hummel. These plans, however, did not reflect any changes to the architectural style or character of the building from the previous design that had been presented, and basically rejected, by local concerns at the December 11 meeting. Doty may have assumed that changes would be made by the contract architect during the development of the final drawings, specifications, and details. [24]

Final Plans Prepared by Frank L. Hope and Associates

In February 1964, Frank L. Hope and Associates [25], a San Diego architectural firm, was given the contract to provide final plans and specifications for the building. [26] This well-known and respected firm had over thirty years experience designing religious and institutional buildings throughout the greater San Diego area. Additionally, the firm had already designed some notable local modernist buildings. [27]

A list of Frank L. Hope and Associates' institutional projects in the San Diego area included the following:

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- Palomar Hospital, Escondido, 1953;
- Various buildings at the University of California, San Diego's Scripps Institute of Oceanography, beginning in 1954;
- The original building for Children's Hospital, Kearny Mesa, 1954;
- San Diego City College's first campus, mid-1950s;
- The Hope firm's five-story headquarters on Beech Street, 1957 (The largest single investment in downtown San Diego real estate since the Depression);
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- Mesa College, beginning in 1964;
- Timken Museum of Art in Balboa Park, 1965;
- Cabrillo National Monument Visitor Center Historic District, 1966;
- San Diego Stadium (1967), 2nd AIA National Honor Award for San Diego project.

Frank L. Hope and Associates prepared a new design, and Cecil Doty's original design scheme was totally scrapped. In Frank L. Hope and Associates' new design, the Visitor Center's functions were contained in a single complex that did not necessitate an elevated walkway. [28] These plans were presented on April 30, 1964 to a much smaller audience, than had been present at the original meeting to discuss Doty's initial plans. The new plans were presented as a solution to the city officials' comments (suggesting the importance of preserving the character of Point Loma and conveying the spirit of San Diego's Spanish colonial past). Architect Frank Hope pointed out that, although their plans were notably lacking in the Spanish arches and red tile roofs (that the local representatives may have envisioned), the use of stone on the building's facade and copper roofing would echo features already present in the monument area. Apparently satisfied with what Hope called the "Spanish Fort influence," the plans were approved by the local civic interests present. [29]

After realizing that the architect's estimate for the new Visitor Center Complex was considerably higher than the allotted budget, certain elements were ultimately cut from the design. The stone and copper details were eliminated to reduce the center's cost. (There was great concern from the park that this deletion would disappoint the local community because they approved the buildings largely because of its stone facades and Spanish influences.) Hope and Associates' preliminary plans (NM-CAB-3012D) were approved by the Park Service on March 31, 1965. [30] The modified plans (without stone and copper details) were reviewed again by local officials, and their responses were supportive and enthusiastic. [31]

As finally revealed to the public, the final Visitor Center consisted of three one-story buildings: the View Building, the Exhibit/Auditorium Building, and the Administration Building. The three buildings were sited around a central courtyard and were connected by covered walkways. The Visitor Center was sited to overlook (to the north) Point Guajarras, the site where Fort Guajarras, a Spanish fort, stood in 1792 (today this area is today called Ballast Point). [32] The Visitor Center's final design reflected Mission 66 building guidelines that the architects and Park Service staff interpreted through the lens of local political pressures and budget constraints.

Site Development and Landscape Design for the Mission 66 Visitor Center Complex

As with other visitor centers built as part of the Mission 66 program, the landscape design for the Cabrillo Visitor Center was considered a significant facet of the complex. Park Service architect Cecil Doty, speaking at a visitor center planning conference, noted that: "the parking area, walks, terraces, and everything in and around the building are part of the visitor center ensemble and are on exhibit as something constructed by the National Park Service." [33] Just as the design of the buildings for visitor centers reflected the Park Service's interpretation of Modernism in architecture, the circulation systems, parking areas, and selections of plant material were all important in conveying the ideals of the post-war Modern landscape design.

The site plan, grading plan, and planting plan for the parking lot and pedestrian circulation features were prepared by Landscape Architecture Division in the WODC in San Francisco in

October 1963. Ideas for the layout of the pathways, locations of seating areas, and general concepts for the landscape were developed in 1966 by WODC landscape architecture staff, [34] and the final planting plans for the View Building, entrance to the Visitor Center, and the areas around the two overlooks were prepared by Gerry Patten, WODC landscape architect in January 1967. [35] The design (as reflected by overall site design, parking and circulation, etc.) was indicative of the contemporary post-World War II trends in landscape architecture. The uses of the rectilinear grid forms offset with curvilinear elements (such as the circular overlook, rest area, and the irregularly shaped overlook), the blending of interior and exterior spaces, and plant materials suited for the California coastal conditions are all typical of the landscape design in California during this period.

The landscape design at the Cabrillo Visitor Center was typical of the approach to modernist design that developed after World War II in California and that became known as the "California school of landscape design." This approach to landscape design took the modernist forms and ideals and adapted them to California's Mediterranean climate and tradition of utilizing outdoor space. After World War II and until the mid-1960s, modernist's ideals and forms dominated California's landscape design. Modernism in the landscape was generally characterized by a straightforward spatial organization, an empathy for the site (its views, topography, surroundings, plant materials), and a concern with functionalism. Designers rejected the historical forms that had been the basis of Beaux-Arts design principles and generally favored abstract forms. What began as an approach to designing private gardens became an accepted approach to the design of outdoor spaces in the public landscape (i.e. in shopping centers, university campuses, suburban office complexes) during this period. The work of well-known landscape architects practicing in California during this period – such as Thomas Church, Garrett Eckbo, Robert Royston, and Lawrence Halprin – was widely publicized in both popular magazines and in professional journals. [36]

Ornamental plant materials were chosen that would flourish along the California coast. These plants included: Japanese black pine, Monterey and Torrey pines, cypress, mock orange, Australian tea tree, ice plant, and English ivy. [37] By the careful placement of the raised planters, terraces, pool and covered walkway, the designers effectively created a seemingly harmonious exterior space that served as an extension of the interior spaces. The landscape features further articulated the complex's regional design context: the pool referenced to the ocean; the posts and flat roof of the pergola reflected the rhythm and form of an ocean pier or dock; and the rough texture of the exposed aggregate paving recalled the cobblestone appearance of nearby Ballast Point.

Construction Process for the Mission 66 Visitor Center Complex

The construction process for the new Visitor Center Complex was undertaken in three phases over a four year period.

The first phase, completed in 1963, that included grading, the realignment of the entrance road, and construction of the parking area and adjacent pedestrian pathways. The level area for the

parking area and the Visitor Center was created from land fill that was supplied from the construction of a sewage plant on the ocean-side of the park. The new parking lot was designed to accommodate 300 automobiles and was consistent in design with other large-scale parking lots constructed during the Mission 66 Program. [38]

The second phase was the construction of the actual Visitor Center buildings, designed by Frank L. Hope and Associates, in 1965-1966. Superintendent Thomas Tucker announced in late May 1965 that bids for the construction of the buildings would be opened on June 17. The winning bid of \$250,550 was submitted by Gussa Construction of El Cajon, California. Groundbreaking ceremonies for the project were held on July 19, 1965, and the buildings were completed and official occupancy occurred on March 17, 1966. [39]

The final phase was the site development contract which included the overlook structures, pergola, grading, automatic irrigation system, walks, walls, steps, a pool, benches, paving, and plantings adjacent to the existing Visitor Center structures and surrounding areas (approximately 2 acres of ground area). The development of these areas was deferred until after the building complex was completed. Funding for the landscaping was cut to accommodate the higher than expected costs of the complex: \$128,200 was programmed from the fiscal year 1967 budget. [40] The actual cost of the site development was \$118,010. The site development was completed and accepted by the park on March 7, 1967.

Dedication of the Visitor Center

Originally, the dedication was scheduled to take place on August 25, 1966, to correspond to the National Park Service 50th anniversary. However, the landscaping for the site could not be completed by that date, and so the ceremonies were postponed until late October 1966 (although the site development work was not accepted as complete by the park until March 7, 1967). Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall served as keynote speaker at the dedication. Udall dedicated the Cabrillo National Monument Visitor Center Historic District "to the memory of Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo and those of all lands who will come here in search of history." In his remarks, the Secretary emphasized the "million dollar view." "And now," he said, "we have a splendid million-dollar visitor center to go with it." [41]

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*History #1: Cabrillo NM Parking Lot and Visitor Center Site
Pre-1966*

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- Cabrillo National Monument Visitor Center Historic District, 1966;
- San Diego Stadium (1967), 2nd AIA National Honor Award for San Diego project.

Frank L. Hope and Associates prepared a new design, and Cecil Doty's original design scheme was totally scrapped. In Frank L. Hope and Associates' new design, the Visitor Center's functions were contained in a single complex that did not necessitate an elevated walkway. [28] These plans were presented on April 30, 1964 to a much smaller audience, than had been present at the original meeting to discuss Doty's initial plans. The new plans were presented as a solution to the city officials' comments (suggesting the importance of preserving the character of Point Loma and conveying the spirit of San Diego's Spanish colonial past). Architect Frank Hope pointed out that, although their plans were notably lacking in the Spanish arches and red tile roofs (that the local representatives may have envisioned), the use of stone on the building's facade and copper roofing would echo features already present in the monument area. Apparently satisfied with what Hope called the "Spanish Fort influence," the plans were approved by the local civic interests present. [29]

After realizing that the architect's estimate for the new Visitor Center Complex was considerably higher than the allotted budget, certain elements were ultimately cut from the design. The stone and copper details were eliminated to reduce the center's cost. (There was great concern from the park that this deletion would disappoint the local community because they approved the buildings largely because of its stone facades and Spanish influences.) Hope and Associates' preliminary plans (NM-CAB-3012D) were approved by the Park Service on March 31, 1965. [30] The modified plans (without stone and copper details) were reviewed again by local officials, and their responses were supportive and enthusiastic. [31]

As finally revealed to the public, the final Visitor Center consisted of three one-story buildings: the View Building, the Exhibit/Auditorium Building, and the Administration Building. The three buildings were sited around a central courtyard and were connected by covered walkways. The Visitor Center was sited to overlook (to the north) Point Guijarros, the site where Fort Guijarros, a Spanish fort, stood in 1792 (today this area is today called Ballast Point). [32] The Visitor Center's final design reflected Mission 66 building guidelines that the architects and Park Service staff interpreted through the lens of local political pressures and budget constraints.

Site Development and Landscape Design for the Mission 66 Visitor Center Complex

As with other visitor centers built as part of the Mission 66 program, the landscape design for the Cabrillo Visitor Center was considered a significant facet of the complex. Park Service architect Cecil Doty, speaking at a visitor center planning conference, noted that: "the parking area, walks, terraces, and everything in and around the building are part of the visitor center ensemble and are on exhibit as something constructed by the National Park Service." [33] Just as the design of the buildings for visitor centers reflected the Park Service's interpretation of Modernism in architecture, the circulation systems, parking areas, and selections of plant material were all important in conveying the ideals of the post-war Modern landscape design.

The site plan, grading plan, and planting plan for the parking lot and pedestrian circulation features were prepared by Landscape Architecture Division in the WODC in San Francisco in October 1963. Ideas for the layout of the pathways, locations of seating areas, and general concepts for the landscape were developed in 1966 by WODC landscape architecture staff, [34] and the final planting plans for the View Building, entrance to the Visitor Center, and the areas around the two overlooks were prepared by Gerry Patten, WODC landscape architect in January 1967. [35] The design (as reflected by overall site design, parking and circulation, etc.) was indicative of the contemporary post-World War II trends in landscape architecture. The uses of the rectilinear grid forms offset with curvilinear elements (such as the circular overlook, rest area, and the irregularly shaped overlook), the blending of interior and exterior spaces, and plant materials suited for the California coastal conditions are all typical of the landscape design in California during this period.

The landscape design at the Cabrillo Visitor Center was typical of the approach to modernist design that developed after World War II in California and that became known as the "California school of landscape design." This approach to landscape design took the modernist forms and ideals and adapted them to California's Mediterranean climate and tradition of utilizing outdoor space. After World War II and until the mid-1960s, modernist's ideals and forms dominated California's landscape design. Modernism in the landscape was generally characterized by a straightforward spatial organization, an empathy for the site (its views, topography, surroundings, plant materials), and a concern with functionalism. Designers rejected the historical forms that had been the basis of Beaux-Arts design principles and generally favored abstract forms. What began as an approach to designing private gardens became an accepted approach to the design of outdoor spaces in the public landscape (i.e. in shopping centers, university campuses, suburban office complexes) during this period. The work of well-known landscape architects practicing in California during this period – such as Thomas Church, Garrett Eckbo, Robert Royston, and Lawrence Halprin – was widely

publicized in both popular magazines and in professional journals. [36]

Ornamental plant materials were chosen that would flourish along the California coast. These plants included: Japanese black pine, Monterey and Torrey pines, cypress, mock orange, Australian tea tree, ice plant, and English ivy. [37] By the careful placement of the raised planters, terraces, pool and covered walkway, the designers effectively created a seemingly harmonious exterior space that served as an extension of the interior spaces. The landscape features further articulated the complex's regional design context: the pool referenced to the ocean; the posts and flat roof of the pergola reflected the rhythm and form of an ocean pier or dock; and the rough texture of the exposed aggregate paving recalled the cobblestone appearance of nearby Ballast Point.

Construction Process for the Mission 66 Visitor Center Complex

The construction process for the new Visitor Center Complex was undertaken in three phases over a four year period.

The first phase, completed in 1963, that included grading, the realignment of the entrance road, and construction of the parking area and adjacent pedestrian pathways. The level area for the parking area and the Visitor Center was created from land fill that was supplied from the construction of a sewage plant on the ocean-side of the park. The new parking lot was designed to accommodate 300 automobiles and was consistent in design with other large-scale parking lots constructed during the Mission 66 Program. [38]

The second phase was the construction of the actual Visitor Center buildings, designed by Frank L. Hope and Associates, in 1965-1966. Superintendent Thomas Tucker announced in late May 1965 that bids for the construction of the buildings would be opened on June 17. The winning bid of \$250,550 was submitted by Gussa Construction of El Cajon, California. Groundbreaking ceremonies for the project were held on July 19, 1965, and the buildings were completed and official occupancy occurred on March 17, 1966. [39]

The final phase was the site development contract which included the overlook structures, pergola, grading, automatic irrigation system, walks, walls, steps, a pool, benches, paving, and plantings adjacent to the existing Visitor Center structures and surrounding areas (approximately 2 acres of ground area). The development of these areas was deferred until after the building complex was completed. Funding for the landscaping was cut to accommodate the higher than expected costs of the complex: \$128,200 was programmed from the fiscal year 1967 budget. [40] The actual cost of the site development was \$118,010. The site development was completed and accepted by the park on March 7, 1967.

Dedication of the Visitor Center

Originally, the dedication was scheduled to take place on August 25, 1966, to correspond to the National Park Service 50th anniversary. However, the landscaping for the site could not be completed by that date, and so the ceremonies were postponed until late October 1966 (although the site development work was not accepted as complete by the park until March 7,

1967). Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall served as keynote speaker at the dedication. Udall dedicated the Cabrillo National Monument Visitor Center Historic District "to the memory of Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo and those of all lands who will come here in search of history." In his remarks, the Secretary emphasized the "million dollar view." "And now," he said, "we have a splendid million-dollar visitor center to go with it." [41]



History #2: Cabrillo NM Visitor Center. View from south. 1968. Cabrillo NM Interpretation Division Photo Collection.



History #3: Cabrillo NM Visitor Center. View from southwest. 1968. Cabrillo NM Interpretation Division Photo Collection.



History #4: Cabrillo NM Visitor Center. View of courtyard and Exhibit/Auditorium Building. 1968. Cabrillo NM Interpretation Division Photo Collection.



*History #5: Cabrillo MN Visitor Center. View of Administration and View Building. 1968.
Cabrillo NM Interpretation Division Photo Collection.*



*History #6: Cabrillo NM Visitor Center. View Building. View from southwest. 1968.
Cabrillo NM Interpretation Division Photo Collection.*



*History #7: Cabrillo NM Visitor Center. Cabrillo Memorial Statue Overlook. 1967.
Cabrillo NM Interpretation Division Photo Collection.*



History #8: Cabrillo NM Visitor Center. View of pool from the south. 1983. Cabrillo NM Interpretation Division Photo Collection.

Endnotes

1. Information in the history is taken from Sarah Collins Lehmann, *An Embarrassment of Riches: The Administrative History of Cabrillo National Monument* (San Diego, CA: Cabrillo National Monument, 1987), and cited from online source (http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/cabr2).
2. Lehmann, 1987, Chapter II.
3. The Old Point Loma lighthouse had a 3rd order Fresnel lens which was visible for over 25 miles on a clear night. However, its location at the crest of the point (422 feet above sea level) proved to be a problem because fog and low clouds often obscured its light.
4. Lehmann 1987, Chapter III.
5. Lehmann 1987, Chapter IV.
6. Ibid.

7. Ibid.

8. NPS, "Cabrillo National Monument, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form," June 25, 1997.

9. Lehmann 1987, Chapter IV.

10. NPS 1997.

11. Lehmann 1987, Chapter V.

12. Ibid.

13. Lehmann 1987, Chapter V.

14. Ibid.

15. Lehman 1987, Chapter VI and NPS 1997. In 1965, the statue was moved to the overlook east of the new Mission 66 Visitor Center complex that was under construction.

16. Lehman 1987, Chapter VI.

17. Ibid, Chapter VII.

18. "Project Construction Proposal," September 26, 1963 (File D3415), Cabrillo National Monument cited in Lehmann 1987, Chapter VIII.

19. One of the most prolific designers in Park Service history, Cecil John Doty (1907-1990), is also one of the least known. Doty's absence in the annals of Park Service history reflects both the nature of architectural collaboration and the fact that he never entered the supervisory ranks of the Park Service. However, Doty worked with some of the Park Service's most famous designers and created many of the buildings park employees use every day. Doty grew up on a farm in May, Oklahoma and graduated from Oklahoma A & M (now Oklahoma State University) with a degree in architectural engineering in 1928. He began public service work during the Depression when he worked for the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in Oklahoma and transferred to the Park Service's San Francisco Regional Office in 1940. During the Mission 66 program, Doty designed visitor centers for a range of climates and locations, according to varying needs and anticipated visitation. His level of involvement also varied. In some cases, he never visited the site (as seems to have been the case at Cabrillo); in some he designed the building and then contract architects prepared the construction drawings (this was what was intended at Cabrillo); and in others, his involvement continued through the final working drawings. At the official conclusion of the Mission 66 program in 1966, Doty received the Department of the Interior's distinguished service award. He transferred to the Eastern Office of Design and Construction in 1966, where he spent the final two years of his career. (His main project during this time involved working with Skidmore, Owings and Merrill

on the fountains around the Mall.). Doty retired from the Park Service in 1968. He died in 1990 (Allaback 2000, Chapter 6).

20. Lehmann 1987, Chapter VIII.

21. Allaback 2000, Chapter 6.

22. Lehmann 1987, Chapter VIII.

23. Memorandum from Acting Regional Director, November 2, 1963 (File D3415 -Visitor Center Construction), Cabrillo National Monument files.

24. Memorandum from Regional Director, February 3, 1964 (File D3415 -Visitor Center Construction), Cabrillo National Monument files.

25. Frank L. Hope (1901-1994) was born in San Bernardino but moved to San Diego with his family in 1913. Hope quit San Diego High School as a sophomore to go to work in the naval shipyards during World War I, and it was during his service with the Navy that he became interested in architecture. After leaving the Navy, he attended the University of California at Berkeley where he studied architecture. After receiving his degree, Hope returned home with architectural ideals that reflected not only the Beaux Arts philosophy then popular in Berkeley, but a philosophy that was inspired by the Arts and Crafts movement which called for structures to be in harmony with their environment and constructed of indigenous natural materials. He worked with a number of firms before opening his own practice, Frank L. Hope and Associates, in 1928. By the 1960s, when his firm received the contract for the Cabrillo Visitor Center, Frank L. Hope and Associates was considered one of San Diego's most prominent and influential architectural firms, and Frank Hope was considered by colleagues to be the grandfather of architecture in San Diego.

Hope served as the San Diego Planning Commission director in 1955 and was president of the local and the state chapters of the American Institute of Architects. In 1965, he received one of the organization's highest national honors when he was named a Fellow. Hope's many accomplishments led to his appointment by Governor Ronald Reagan to a four-year term on the State Board of Architectural Examiners, a group responsible for registering architects throughout California. He continued to design projects into the late 1970s (San Diego Union Tribune, October 6, 1994 and Hope Engineering Web site).

After he retired, his sons Frank Hope Jr. and Charles, and later a grandson Lee, continued the practice (known under a variety of names, the Hope Consulting Group and the Hope Design Group) until 1993. Their work included San Diego Stadium, the Marriott Hotel and Marina on San Diego Bay, and the Union Tribune Publishing Company building in the Mission Hills district of San Diego. The firm became one of the largest architectural companies on the West Coast, tackling projects as far ranging as the Middle East. The firm had offices in San Diego, San Francisco, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and a liaison office in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Today, the Frank L. Hope's legacy is still evident in San Diego in the buildings that remain a part of the

city's fabric and in Hope Engineering, an engineering firm established in 1993 by his grandson Charles (Chuck) Hope Jr.

26. Frank L. Hope Jr. (?) was the project manager, and Jame [sic?] Pettaway was responsible for the architectural design (Personal communication with Frank L. Hope, Jr., February 14, 2000).

27. They designed a private residence in La Mesa, published in *San Diego & Point* (March 1959) that is credited as being the "first light-steel house in San Diego" (San Diego Modern Website).

28. According to personal communication with Thomas Tucker (former Cabrillo National Monument Superintendent) on February 16, 2000, Hope and Associates' final design was influenced by the buildings on the Cabrillo College campus in Aptos, California. Cabrillo College was completed in 1965 and designed by architect Ernest J. Kump, whom was noted for his campus and institutional buildings. Kump developed complexes that were characterized by a system of room-sized distinct interconnected units that enclosed interior/exterior space and were integrated into the surrounding landscape. At Cabrillo College, Kump used sloping, shingled roofs, and deep porches to recapture the feeling and look of early Spanish adobe buildings (Emanuel 1997, p. 547).

29. Meeting with Civic Representatives Concerning Cabrillo National Monument Visitor Center, (no date [ca. April 1964]), File D3415, Cabrillo National Monument.

30. Preliminary Drawings, Visitor Center, Cabrillo National Monument, March 26, 1965 (File D3415-Visitor Center Construction).

31. Review of the Visitor Center Plans by Local Officials, April 1, 1965 (File D3415-Visitor Center Construction). Hope's active involvement in community planning issues and his reputation as a leader within the architectural community may explain the positive reception his plan for the Cabrillo Visitor Center (even lacking the obvious references to Spanish revival architecture that had been requested) found with local interests who were involved in the review process.

32. The area is sometimes referred to as "Point Cobblestone" because of its shingle-like beach.

33. Allaback 2000, p. 22.

34. NPS, WODC, Site Development J (May 1966).

35. Ibid, Planting Plan, Visitor Center – Overlook Area; Planting Plan, Rest Area; Planting Plan, Visitor Center Entry Area; Planting Plan, Visitor Center – View Building (Drawing No. NM-CAB-3029-B, January 1967).

36. David C. Streatfield, *California Gardens: Creating A New Eden*, 1994, pp. 190, 195.

37. Preliminary Drawings, Site Development, Visitor Center, May 6, 1966 (File D3415-Visitor Center Construction).
38. NPS historian Robert Munson's personal communication with Howard Overton 2006.
39. Lehmann 1987, Chapter VIII.
40. Preliminary Drawings, Site Development, Visitor Center, May 6, 1966 (File D3415-Visitor Center Construction).
41. Lehmann 1987, Chapter VIII.
42. The following sections on the national context for the Mission 66 Program is excerpted from the draft Mission 66 Multiple Property Documentation underway by Ethan Carr, Elaine Jackson-Retondo, and Len Warner.

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

The Cabrillo National Monument Visitor Center Historic District (Visitor Center Historic District) was constructed in 1963-1967 as part of the National Park Service's Mission 66 Program. Located off of State Highway 209 (Cabrillo Memorial Drive), the District is sited 360 feet above the Pacific Ocean near the southern end of Point Loma, a narrow six -mile-long peninsula at the entrance to San Diego Bay within the Cabrillo National Monument. The Visitor Center Historic District is a significant Mission 66 design that takes into account the views provided by the southern California coastal location. The landscape design, including the site layout, grading, circulation features, two overlooks, and planting design, was the work of the National Park Service's Western Office of Design and Construction. The Visitor Center's three buildings were designed by noted California architect Frank L. Hope & Associates. The district has a high concentration of contributing resources that are in excellent condition. Although the property has undergone some alterations to the setting and buildings, these changes meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and do not diminish the overall integrity of the district. The District continues to exhibit the design and planning intent of the Mission 66 era as applied to park infrastructure from 1963-1967, and retains integrity of setting, location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

The major components of the Visitor Center Historic District include the three Visitor Center buildings and associated overlook terraces, the Cabrillo Memorial Statue Overlook, the Ballast Overlook, an entry drive and a large central parking lot, a series of pedestrian pathways that provide access to and connections between the other components, and plant materials that provide a transition between the designed and the natural landscape. The Visitor Center is orientated north to south on the site and consists of three separate buildings connected by covered breezeways and terraces. The northernmost building of the complex, the View Building, is a glass-walled pavilion offering commanding views of the San Diego coast. The Exhibits/Auditorium Building and Administration Building are opposite one another south of the View Building.

Contributing landscape characteristics include natural systems and features, spatial organization, small-scale features, circulation, topography, views and vistas, vegetation, and buildings and structures. Collectively, these landscape characteristics help convey the overall design and function of the visitor center.

Integrity

The Cabrillo National Monument Visitor Center Historic District retains integrity as an example of a Mission 66-era visitor center and is the only one that provides an example of the Mission 66 program objectives within a southern California coastal context. The Visitor Center Historic District retains all seven aspects of integrity. The district retains its location and setting including the vistas of the open coastal land that were integral to the design of the visitor center's layout, organization, and construction

while clustering all visitor services into a central location. Materials and workmanship are retained, despite minor additions and modifications to the buildings, walkways and structures since they were constructed. As a whole the building modifications are minor in scale and retain the design intent of serving the visitor by providing services and the site history through exhibit space and sweeping views of the sea in one central complex. The overall landscape character of the site, including the spatial organization, topography, and views have been retained. The Visitor Center Historic District retains its design, materials, and workmanship of its Mission 66 plan. These aspects of integrity are retained and convey the feeling and association of a Mission 66-era visitor center that combined modern design with the function of serving the park's visitors and providing a connection to the natural setting.

Landscape Characteristic:

Natural Systems and Features

The natural systems and features considered in this evaluation are those that have influenced the development and physical form of the historic district's landscape and contribute to the property's setting and historic character. The complex offers panoramic views of San Diego, its bay, and adjacent cities to the north, east, and south, Mexico to the far south, and the Pacific Ocean to the west.

The design of the Visitor Center Historic District responds to the dramatic natural features of Point Loma, offering spectacular views and a modern design that is compatible with the native landscape. The development lays across the rolling natural topography of the point, with the curving parking plaza following the natural curve of the land and the building cluster perched on the edge of a promontory overlooking the bay and city of San Diego. The horizontal lines, deep eaves, and stepped terraces emphasize outward views. This sensitivity to the natural setting of the Visitor Center is evident today in the spatial organization, topography, vegetation, and architectural style. The natural systems and features that influenced the design of the Visitor Center remain today much as they were when it was completed in 1966, contributing to the setting of the property.

Natural Topography

The Cabrillo National Monument occupies 160 acres at the tip of Point Loma, a narrow north-south peninsula that extends three miles at the north end of San Diego Bay. Within the monument, the peninsula is no more than a half mile wide and reaches an elevation of more than 400 feet. The peninsula is bordered to the west by the Pacific Ocean, on the east and south by San Diego Bay, and on the north by the urban environment of San Diego. The Visitor Center site is located near the tip of the point at about 300 feet above the ocean and is situated on rolling hilltops surrounded by steep slopes. The dramatic elevation and proximity of the water provides spectacular views of the ocean and of San Diego.

Native Vegetation

Native plants found in the Cabrillo National Monument are part of the coastal sage scrub community, an association of woody shrubs ranging in height from one to ten feet. Of the four

scrub communities found on Point Loma, the Visitor Center Historic District is surrounded by plants that primarily make up either the Southern Maritime Chaparral or the Coastal Sage and Succulent Scrub communities. (The other two communities include the Southern Coastal Bluff Scrub and the Southern Foredune Scrub communities.) The dominant shrubs include lemonadeberry (*Rhus integrifolia*), coast manzanita (*Arctostaphylos* sp.), toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), and scrub oak (*Quercus dumosa*). According to the 1961 Master Plan, "Seventy to eighty percent of the area is covered by coast chaparral, the dominate shrubs being lemonade berry, coast manzanita, and scrub oak." Typically, the plant community is two to five feet tall; although taller species, such as the lemonadeberry and toyon, can achieve the size of small trees if fire is kept out of the growth cycle (NPS, Cabrillo National Monument, Park Website, 2007). The coastal sage scrub species have adapted to an ecosystem that rarely freezes in the winter and only occasionally experiences temperatures over 90 degrees Fahrenheit during the dry California summer. Plants within this community are adapted to both drought and fire. This sage scrub plant community evolved within the Mediterranean climate typified by winter rains and dry warm summers with a fairly constant temperature (park website, 2007).

Southern California's coastline, once covered by coastal sage scrub, is now largely developed, and although originally the dominant ecosystem, the coastal sage scrub community now only exists in scattered pockets. One such pocket of this endangered habitat is the Point Loma Ecological Conservation Area, an area of 840 acres protected under the joint management of the U.S. Navy, the Cabrillo National Monument, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the City of San Diego Wastewater Treatment Plant. The Cabrillo National Monument occupies 157.8 acres within the Point Loma Ecological Conservation Area. Approximately 20 acres of the Cabrillo National Monument area are impacted by human development, and the Visitor Center Historic District occupies 17 of this 20 acres (park website, 2007).

Climate

The average annual temperature is 64 degrees Fahrenheit, and the Visitor Center site experiences moderate temperatures year-round due to its proximity to the ocean. The average annual rainfall is 9.5 inches and is concentrated in the winter, from November to April. The ceiling height for the cloud base is typically around 500 feet, and the Visitor Center is located at around 360 feet, well below this cover so that views (of the San Diego Harbor, the ocean, and the surrounding landscape) are generally available on most days of the year. With less than a tenth of an inch of rain during the summer months, the climate has also been a major factor in determining the plant communities which grow on Point Loma (park website, 2007).

Spatial Organization

Spatial Organization is the three-dimensional organization of physical forms and visual associations in the landscape, including the articulation of ground, vertical, and overhead planes that define and create spaces. The Visitor Center is notable for its clearly expressed design program, for its open, interconnected spaces characteristic of the Mission 66 model for Visitor Centers, and for the simple forms developed by the architecture firm of Frank L. Hope and Associates as a mid-century interpretation of local architectural influences.

The park is dedicated to the commemoration of Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, an explorer who claimed the California Coast for Spain in 1542, which influenced the spatial organization of the visitor center. The park preserves buildings, structures, and landscapes that are significant for their associations with early U.S. maritime history and World War II coastal defense. Characteristic of Mission 66 Visitor Centers, the Visitor Center at Cabrillo provides multiple visitor and administrative functions within a single complex, including interpretation of the voyage of the explorer Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, the park's military history and coastal defenses, and the Old Point Loma Lighthouse as well as the park's natural resources.

The layout of the Visitor Center reflects the modern design principles that characterized Mission 66 design. The buildings are oriented orthogonally to one another, with an open courtyard in the middle. This enclosed courtyard contrasts with the expansive views, which are controlled by the orientation of buildings and overlooks. A visitor within the courtyard would be offered glimpses of views framed by the building edges. Following these glimpses, the visitor would be led to observation terraces where the views open up to broad panoramas. The orientation of the buildings to the courtyard and to one another also create overlapping indoor and outdoor spaces with a certain ambiguity of transition boundaries. The use of overhead planes and changes in elevation emphasize these overlapping spaces, creating discernable yet transparent boundaries.

Circulation

The Visitor Center is located on the north side of the park on top of the coastal bluffs that provide unobstructed views of San Diego, its harbor, and the ocean beyond; these views were critical to the placement of circulation features and to the design for the complex (the views were also critical to the establishment of the National Monument in this location in 1913). The major components of the Visitor Center include the three buildings that make up the Visitor Center, the Cabrillo Memorial Statue Overlook (located a few hundred feet southeast of the Visitor Center), the Ballast Overlook (located approximately 120 feet southwest of the Visitor Center), the entry drive and a large central parking lot, and a series of pedestrian circulation features that provide access to and connections between the other components. This sequence emphasizes the significance of the View Building and its overlooks as the site's focal point.

The Visitor Center area is entered from the north via Cabrillo Memorial Drive. This road predates the Visitor Center Historic District but the portion of the road east of the drive to the lighthouse was built as part of the Mission 66 project so that it terminated in a loop in front of the Visitor Center. Entering the site, there is a pullout and an entrance sign. The road then continues up a knoll and along the south side of the parking area to a traffic circle located directly south of the entrance to the Visitor Center.

From the front pedestrian entrance to the Visitor Center, visitors can proceed south via a walkway that curves around the traffic circle and to a walkway leading east to the Cabrillo Memorial Statue Overlook. The statue is located at the center of the brick paved overlook. From this overlook visitors can view San Diego and the bay as well as the historic Point Loma Lighthouse.

The Ballast Overlook is located in a small valley on the west side of the Visitor Center and is connected to the Visitor Center and parking area by a concrete walkway. The overlook also serves as an alternative approach to the Visitor Center, leading visitors from the parking lot, along the west side of the Visitor Center, to the restroom facilities and the north overlook at the View Building.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Cabrillo Memorial Drive

Feature Identification Number: 127871

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Visitor Center Parking Lot

Feature Identification Number: 127873

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Circulation #1:

Parking lot, view looking northwest

Photo by Mark Luellen, NPS PGSO

November 28, 2000

Topography

The topography of the site was modified as a result of the design and construction of the Visitor Center Historic District. The Visitor Center Historic District was sited on top of a ridge that consists of a series of low knolls overlooking the bay and ocean. The final Mission 66 Visitor Center Historic District included a three-building Visitor Center and a large, centrally-located, parking lot that provides accommodations for 300 cars. To provide a large enough area to build the complex, the top of the ridges were cut and filled in 1963 to create a level terrace. Additional off-site fill, from the construction of the nearby sewage treatment plant, was brought to the site to create this level area. The new terrain was subsequently re-vegetated, primarily with ornamental plants to prevent erosion.

An area originally planned as an amphitheater in preliminary plans was graded to take advantage of the natural slope (facing San Diego and its bay) of the area north of the parking area. No seating (for an amphitheater) was ever incorporated into the slope, and the area, now referred to as the Ballast View seating area, consists of three seating areas trisected by concrete paths; these remain in place today.

The statue of Cabrillo, originally located near the Old Point Loma Lighthouse, was moved to a new location, east of the Visitor Center, as part of the Mission 66 Visitor Center project, and a new path was graded to this overlook.

Views and Vistas

The Visitor Center Historic District, located on the top of the coastal bluffs of Point Loma, provides unobstructed views of San Diego, its harbor, and the ocean beyond. These views were critical to the siting and design for the complex. Although views are available from various vantage points within the Visitor Center Historic District, three main opportunities for viewing were incorporated into the design for the complex: at the Visitor Center, at the Cabrillo Memorial Statue, and at the Ballast Overlook. The Visitor Center buildings are the most prominent built feature in the complex and are clearly visible from the parking lot (where visitors arrive). The complex was designed in a way that the views of the buildings lead visitors from the parking area into the Visitor Center, and the View Building and its overlooks are the Visitor Center's main focal point. There is an overlook located on both the east and north sides of the View Building; views are of San Diego Harbor, San Diego Harbor, the city, and the mountains. The Ballast View Overlook is located west of the Visitor Center Historic District; views are of the San Diego Harbor. The Cabrillo Memorial Statue Overlook is located south of the Visitor Center Historic District. The statue of Cabrillo is located at this overlook, and this area provides panoramic views of the ocean, North Island, San Diego Harbor, the city, and the mountains. Overall, the views that were designed to be part of the visitor experience remain largely intact. However, vegetation along the north side of the parking area currently obscures part of the view from this area.

Vegetation

The ornamental vegetation used in the design at the Cabrillo National Monument Visitor Center Historic District was intended to complement the architecture of the buildings by adhering to certain principles characteristic of modern landscape architectural design while fitting into the context of the California coastal scrub environment. In accordance with modern design principles, vegetation tended to be understated with a limited plant palette. Broad areas were covered with low, uniform groundcover, with low shrubs, foundation plantings, and specimen trees creating a tidy effect. Plantings around the Visitor Center were kept low and sparse to showcase the views and to not overpower the buildings' architecture. Plantings were arranged naturalistically, and despite being of ornamental varieties, were intended to respect the surrounding natural vegetation.

The 1961 Master Plan provided information on the vegetation features that were present at the site prior to construction of the Visitor Center Historic District: "Unusual species (i.e. non-native species) are those exotics introduced for erosion control and landscaping and are few in number. The primary introduced species are the Aleppo pine (*Pinus halepensis*) from North Africa, the Torrey pine (*Pinus torreyana*) and the Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*) from California, and Eucalyptus species introduced from Australia." [1] Iceplant (*Carpobrotus* spp.), a plant native to parts of Africa, Australia, and the west coast of North and South America that was commonly used along California's coastline for erosion control throughout the 20th century, also was noted as being present on the site. [2] All of the non-native species were adapted to the southern California coast's Mediterranean climate and were commonly in use during this period in ornamental landscapes in coastal California. [3]

Recommendations for vegetation at the proposed Visitor Center site in the 1961 Master Plan were related to practical concerns over erosion control and suitability of the plant materials for the site conditions and climate. The plan recommended that: "Trees, shrubs, and forbs used for landscaping or erosion control should be drought resistant and able to withstand the constant and drying wind as well as adapt to poor soil. The Monterey cypress should be given consideration for landscaping because of the similarity in the environment here and that found near its native habitat [the Monterey peninsula]." [4] The 1961 Master Plan also noted that: "The only erosion on monument land is on the coast line and is a natural process. Other erosion caused by rainfall run-off occurs at various places throughout the area and is being controlled by the planting of ice plant, coast chaparral, and trees." [5]

The entrance road and parking area were built during the first phase of construction for the Visitor Center Historic District that took place in 1963. Planting plans for this area (planting islands within the parking lot, bank on the south side of the parking lot, the area north of walkway on the north side of the parking lot) [6] were prepared in October 1963 by landscape architects in the National Park Service's Western Office of Design and Construction (WODC) landscape architect staff. The planting plan showed a variety of exotic species, including small trees, shrubs, and groundcovers commonly in use in California during the 1960s. [7] Although these plantings were of ornamental varieties, the irregular, naturalistic arrangement of the shrubs mimicked the surrounding natural chaparral of the point.

The planting plans for the View Building, Visitor Center entrance, the Cabrillo Statue Memorial Overlook, and the Ballast Overlook were designed by WODC landscape architect Garry Patten in January 1967. Patten's design followed the general layout established in the site development plan approved May 19, 1966. These plantings were decidedly more ornamental and manicured than those around the road and parking lot. Pines (*Pinus halepensis* and *P. thunbergiana*) that had a sculptural form were specified for the raised planters in the overlooks and plaza at the View Building. Low shrubs were used at the entrance in front of the Administration and Exhibits Buildings and as foundation plantings throughout the building cluster. A mix of non-native and native species were specified for shrubs (although most of these would grow to the size of a small tree under favorable conditions): pittosporum, ceanothus, lemonadeberry. Trees included: leptospermum, eucalyptus, and cypress.

As-built drawings for the landscape have not been located to establish how accurately the planting plans were implemented. However, some substitutions appear to have been made, such as the use of Monterey cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa*), a native to the Monterey peninsula, instead of Tecate cypress (*Cupressus forbesii*) which is native to San Diego County. Other species not referenced in the original planting plans also have been removed by park staff, and include acacia and African daisies.

Beginning in the 1980s, the park began replacing exotic ornamental vegetation with native varieties. Vegetation was replaced as it died or suffered from visitor traffic and to reduce the water requirements of the landscape. In 1992, the policy of replacing exotics with native species was formalized with a vegetation management program, which was based on guidance provided in the 1985 Addendum to the Natural and Cultural Resources Management for Cabrillo National Monument. Specific actions called for the replacement of exotics species surrounding the parking areas and trails with native species. As a result, most of the naturalistic ornamental plantings around the parking areas and the trail to the Cabrillo Statue have been removed by park staff and replaced with native coastal scrub species. Although the vegetation around the parking areas and trails can no longer be considered contributing, the low scrub plantings are compatible with the overall appearance of the complex (and with the original appearance of the original planting plan). However, larger native shrubs, such as lemonadeberry and toyon, have grown to such a height (some over 8 feet) that they are now blocking views from the parking area towards the Visitor Center Historic District and the San Diego Harbor.

The systematic replacement of the original ornamental vegetation primarily occurred in the areas around the trails, road, and parking area. The more formal plantings around the Visitor Center were replaced much less readily. As a result, the existing plantings around the buildings reflect much of the design aesthetic that characterized the original plantings. These include low shrubs and specimen trees planted in the beds and planters in and around the buildings, courtyard, and plaza overlooks. Some of the vegetation, such as the pine tree in front of the View Building, was part of the original landscape planting. Significant vegetation that has been

lost or altered include specimen pine trees in the square raised planters in the three overlook plazas around the View Building.

The substitution of native species--while desirable from the viewpoint of addressing natural resource concerns related to managing potentially invasive exotics in this rare coastal scrub environment--has altered the original plant palette of the Mission 66-era landscape. Much of this vegetation is growing taller than the original plants and has blocked views and altered the open character of the Visitor Center. Despite this, the location of vegetation and its use in the overall design of the Visitor Center Historic District to integrate the edges of the designed landscape within the broader natural landscape of Point Loma remains basically intact in the areas surrounding the Visitor Center.

Endnotes

1. 1961 Master Plan, Volume III, Section E: Protection, p. 2.
2. Ibid, Section G, p. 3.
3. In addition to the region surrounding the Mediterranean Sea, Mediterranean climate areas are found in four areas of the world: along the coast of California, in central Chile, in southern and western parts of coastal Australia, and in the western Cape Province of South Africa. Mediterranean climates typically have short, mild, rainy winters and long, warm-to-hot, dry summers. Most of the yearly rainfall occurs during the winter season with two to five months during the summer have no significant precipitation.
4. 1961 Master Plan, Volume 3, p. 4.
5. Ibid.
6. Planting plans for the areas south of the entrance road and on both sides of the road to the lighthouse were also included in the working drawing; however, these areas are outside of the Visitor Center historic district.
7. Only eight plants were listed on the planting plan. Trees included: Australian Tea Tree (*Leptospermum laevigatum*), Myoporum (*Myoporum laetum*), Karo, (*Pittosporum crassifolium*), New Zealand Christmas tree (*Metrosideros tomentosa*), and Pink Melaleuca (*Melaleuca nesophila*). Ground covers included: natal plum (*Carissa grandiflora* "Tuttle"), a variety of ceanothus called Carmel Creeper (*Ceanothus griseus horizontalis*), and a variety ice plant (*Cryophytum crystallinum*) (NPS, WODC, Working Drawing, Planting Plan, Headquarters Area, Cabrillo National Monument, California., October 1963).

Buildings and Structures

There are three contributing buildings in the Cabrillo National Monument Visitor Center Historic District: the View Building, the Exhibits and Auditorium Building, and the Administration Building. A new building was added in 2007 and is considered non-contributing.

View Building (Building No. 1, contributing)

The View Building is the largest Mission 66 designed structure within the Visitor Center building cluster, measuring approximately 45 feet by 80 feet. It is located at the north end of the Visitor Center Historic District, and its primary elevation faces south toward the courtyard and the pergola, with the pergola meeting the View Building at its center bay. The exterior of the View Building features glass walls between 12-inch diameter fir columns. Separated by a horizontal wood structural beam above the glass wall, smaller windows function as clerestories for ventilation. The doors are symmetrically aligned and positioned in the center of each elevation. The building sits on a concrete foundation that is exposed and faced with red brick on its north side. The expansive modified irimoya (hip and gable) roof dominates the building. It is hipped with gables at the ridgeline and overhangs on all sides. Three sets of metal-framed glass-double-doors on the north and south elevations provide access to the building. Brick steps on the north elevation lead to the viewing terrace (Plaza No. 1). Raised planters that contain shrubs flank the steps. The building is sited to be seen from all sides and provides the major viewing area within the Visitor Center.

The interior has a clear span and is open to the roof structure. The exposed wood roof structure is a character-defining feature of the View Building's interior. A stainless steel railing is located at waist level along parts of the glass wall. The floor is surfaced with its original tiles. Some details on the interior have been modified since the building's construction, most recently in 1996. The original glass display cases, reception desk, and canister lighting fixtures have been removed. The original sparse floor plan has been changed to accommodate the new reception desk, the Cabrillo National Monument Foundation bookstore that is made of freestanding book cases and tables, and interpretive displays. Skylights were added to the north and south sides of the roof in 1985.

Although there have been some limited alterations to the interior of the building, the View Building retains the majority of its original design and materials. The interior is divided with low furniture and bookshelves, instead of with partition walls, which maintain the open floor plan of the original design. The sparse quality of the interior floor plan is still evident. The exterior has changed minimally, and still represents the original design. The View Building is in excellent condition and is a key element of the Visitor Center that contributes to the historic district.

Exhibits and Auditorium Building (Building No. 2, contributing)

The Exhibits and Auditorium Building is located on the west side of the Visitor Center Historic District and is oriented perpendicular to the View Building with its main facade oriented to the east toward the courtyard. The windowless building measures 55 feet by 70 feet and houses the auditorium, exhibit room, restrooms, and the Cabrillo National Monument Foundation offices

and storage space. The pergola runs along the building's entire east elevation, sheltering the courtyard in front. The building features a modified hip roof, and separate doors on the east elevation provide access to the two major spaces, the auditorium and the exhibits room. The doors to the auditorium are the original wood-panel double doors. The doors to the exhibits area (on the east side of the building), however, were replaced with a metal-framed glass door to accommodate changes in the exhibits.

In 1991, an irregularly shaped, three-bay addition was constructed on the south end of the west side. The addition has a flat roof and is sided with redwood planks that match the side of the original building. Door openings on the west elevation of the original building were moved to accommodate the addition. The addition is small in relation to the rest of the building and does not significantly alter the building mass.

Two wooden enclosures were constructed adjacent to the building's south elevation. Constructed of the same materials as the building and not part of the original design, the structures enclose vending machines.

The building's interior contains three primary spaces: the exhibits room, an auditorium, and public restrooms. The spaces are not interconnected and are only accessible through exterior doors. The auditorium contains seating for approximately 200 people, a projection booth, and a storage room. The northwest corner of the building contains the restrooms. Adjacent (south) to the restrooms is a mechanical and boiler room. Changes to the interior include the replacement in 2002 of the original display cases in the exhibit room by a new exhibit on the Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo explorations. In 1972, changes were also made to the restroom facilities to enhance capacity and access.

Despite the addition to the west elevation and the replacement of the original doors on the primary (east) facade, the overall character for the Exhibits and Auditorium Building remains intact. The Exhibits and Auditorium Building is in excellent condition and retains sufficient integrity to be a contributing resource (building) to the Visitor Center historic district.

Administration Building (Building No. 3, contributing)

The Administration Building is located on the east side of the Visitor Center Historic District and measures approximately 20 feet by 120 feet. The building's front elevation faces west toward the courtyard and the pergola. Three narrow vertical windows perforate the otherwise windowless facade. The original horizontal jalousie windows have been replaced with slider windows.

In contrast to the building's closed west facade, the east elevation is dominated by large windows facing out to the ocean and the San Diego Harbor. The large fixed aluminum frame windows extend from 15 inches above the floor to ceiling wall plate. Flanking the windows are

narrow windows with fixed lower sections and sliders above. Small vertical panels of redwood-siding divide the asymmetrical window pattern.

The interior of the Administration Building is composed of a front reception area and several offices. The offices are arranged along the east side of the building and are accessed from a single loaded corridor that runs along the length of the building's west side. The floor is carpeted, and the ceiling is clad with acoustical tile and surface mounted fluorescent panel lighting. Some of the interior office spaces have been reconfigured to accommodate the addition on the east side of the building.

Additions to the exterior of the building include a 330-square-foot addition constructed in 1986 at the north end of the building to provide separate office space for the Cabrillo National Monument Foundation. This office is reached by an external door in the west façade because there is no internal connection with the original building. In 1996, the maintenance staff constructed a 385-square-foot addition on the east side of the building adjacent to the existing ranger office and library. Although these additions changed the footprint and roofline of the building, the changes are relatively minor, as they comprise less than a third of the total 2,400 square feet area of the building, which allows the building to maintain both the design intent and character of the building. Despite these additions, this building continues to reflect the design intent and materials of the Mission 66 period. The Administration Building is in excellent condition and retains integrity and is a contributing resource to the Visitor Center historic district.

Law Enforcement Building (non-contributing)

The Law Enforcement Building was built in 2007. This building is located to the southeast of the Visitor Center Historic District. The rectangular building is roughly two-thirds as small as the Administration Building and has a hip roof that is clad with composition shingles with a metal rain gutter and spout system. The building is clad with vertical wood panel siding with a narrow fascia board and has narrow vinyl sliding windows over one fixed-pane windows. The north façade has a hollow metal door with a transom and one nearby window. The west façade contains a pair of windows. The south façade contains one window. The east façade is open along its entirety and set back from the façade is a single hollow metal door. A wooden partition is attached to the northwest corner of the building and extends to the southeast corner of the Administration Building. The partition siding matches the siding of the Law Enforcement Building. The Law Enforcement Building is compatible with the Visitor Center Historic District in size, appearance, and materials but is less than 50 years of age and is therefore a non-contributing building. The building does not meet Criterion Consideration G because it is not exceptionally significant due to its modest design, materials, and is not associated with a significant historical trend.

STRUCTURES

The contributing structures in the Cabrillo National Monument Visitor Center Historic District include the pergola and fountain in the Visitor Center cluster, as well as a number of plazas, walkways, and overlooks that are integral to the site design of the Visitor Center.

Pergola (contributing)

The pergola, which is in excellent condition, was constructed as part of the Mission 66 plan. The main section of the pergola begins at the entrance to the plaza (at the south), extends along the west side of the plaza, and ends at the View Building. This section of the pergola provides a covered walkway to the Exhibits and Auditorium Building and the View Building (located at its north end). There is a section of the pergola, located perpendicular to the main section, which provides a covered walkway to the entrance of the Administration Building. The pergola has a flat wooden roof that is supported by large fir posts. In the late 1990s, a solar power generating array was installed on the top of the pergola roof, however, this addition does not diminish the integrity of the pergola, as the solar panels are minimal in size and are positioned in such a way that they do not affect the geometric design of the building and pergola cluster.

Fountain (non-contributing)

The brick fountain is located on the east side of the entrance plaza in front of the west elevation of the Administration Building. The fountain is a long rectangular pool, approximately ten feet wide and nearly seventy feet long, constructed of battered brick walls similar to the square planters located around the View Building. Originally, the pool was lined with small square blue and white tile and featured five fountain heads that sprayed water over the pool surface. In the 1980s, the pool was filled with dirt to create a planter. Current plans are to restore the structure as a fountain. While the original location and configuration of the pool structure remain intact, the design intent has been compromised by the functional change in use. For this reason, the fountain is a non-contributing element to the district. Should this feature be returned to its original use as a fountain, it would be a contributing element of the district. Overall, the fountain is in good condition.

Visitor Center Walkway, Plaza, and Overlook System (contributing)

This structure consists of the central plaza courtyard between the Exhibits and Administration buildings, the three overlook plazas around the View Building, and all associated walkways, stairs, walls and planters immediately surrounding the Visitor Center buildings. Because of their unity in materials and design and the integral function as outdoor circulation and gathering spaces around the Visitor Center buildings, this system of walkways, plazas, and overlooks

immediately surrounding the buildings has been assessed as a single structure.

Characteristic of the Visitor Center's modern design, these exterior rooms provide circulation to and around the buildings and provide visitors with places to congregate and to appreciate the dramatic views. The two larger overlook areas, the Ballast View Overlook and the Cabrillo Memorial Statue Overlook, are distinct from the Visitor Center building cluster and will be treated as separate structures (below).

A visitor enters the building cluster from the vehicular drop-off area via the long narrow courtyard plaza between the Exhibits Building and the Administration Building. This space is partially covered along its west side by the pergola. The long brick fountain, which is currently used as a planter, runs along much of the length of this area on the east side. The plaza is paved with exposed aggregate concrete edged with brick, an original material in the design for the plaza.

Beyond the first two buildings, the courtyard opens up into a small, roughly square terrace in front of the View Building. This is the first of a series of three terraces that wrap around the View Building on the south, east, and north. All three terraces are paved with brick and enclosed with low, poured-in-place exposed aggregate concrete battered bench walls, original design features. At the North and East overlooks these bench walls separate the overlooks from the natural areas below. A raised square planter containing shrubs is located in the center area of each terrace. These planters are constructed of concrete faced with corbelled red brick.

Between these plazas a system of sidewalks and steps provides pedestrian circulation. The sidewalks are constructed of exposed aggregate concrete with red brick edging; and the steps are constructed of red brick. Metal post and tube railings are located in areas with steps connecting to the various plazas and paths.

Some alterations have been made to the Visitor Center plaza system, primarily to provide ADA accessibility. A new sidewalk was added on the west side of the View Building to provide ADA access to the overlooks. This new sidewalk was constructed with materials (plain concrete with red brick edging) that are compatible to the original Mission 66-era sidewalks (exposed aggregate concrete with red brick edging).

Planting beds surround all sides of the View Building. The various plant materials (specimen trees, shrubs, and other small plants) are similar in character to the original plantings, and some, including the pine tree near the View Building, is original.

Overall, the Visitor Center Historic District's walkways, plaza, and overlook system is in excellent condition and retains integrity of setting, feeling, design, association, workmanship, and location so that it contributes to the Mission 66 character of the historic district. The material changes that have occurred over time have been done with compatible materials, so that this

change does not diminish the integrity of the entire system.

Ballast View Overlook (contributing)

The Ballast View Overlook is located in a small valley approximately 120 feet west of the Visitor Center. This area is connected to the Visitor Center and parking area by concrete walkways thus making it an alternative approach to the Visitor Center from the parking lot (see Circulation). This structure includes the circular overlook area and the walkways between the parking lot and the overlook and the overlook and the Visitor Center.

The overlook is circular with a central wye-shaped concrete walkway that divides it into three semi-circular brick-paved areas. Each of these areas has benches and planting beds.

The bench locations are original, but the wood planking for the benches has recently been replaced with a contemporary plastic wood product that does not match the original wood in dimension or color.

Many of the planting beds have been filled in with brick to match the historic red brick laid in a running bond pattern; this treatment is reversible. Most of the original ornamental plant species have been replaced by native plants; although some original tree and shrub species remain in place.

The view of the harbor from the overlook remains intact (see Views and Vistas). The overlook is in excellent condition.

Cabrillo Memorial Statue Overlook (contributing)

The Cabrillo Memorial Statue Overlook is located a little over 200 feet southeast of the Visitor Center. This structure includes the roughly circular overlook and a walkway from the parking lot (see sketch map).

The statue of Cabrillo is located at this overlook. The statue sits on a concrete pedestal in an unpaved area that is bordered with a low rope and a wood-post fence. In 1949, when the statue was brought to the monument, it was located north of the Old Point Loma Lighthouse. As part of the Mission 66 Visitor Center project, the statue was moved to this overlook. Over the years, the porous, stratified limestone of the original statue deteriorated due to exposure to the elements and developed serious fractures. In the 1980s, Portuguese sculptor Joas Chartes Almeida carved an exact duplicate of the original statue. In 1988, the original statue was replaced with a reproduction. When the reproduction was put in place, it was put in a slightly different location within the overlook area. The reproduction is a non-contributing object in the historic district.

A kiosk (part of the Mission 66 project) was removed at the time the statue was replaced. A memorial plaque about Cabrillo was also added at this time. Carved on the front of the statue is the inscription “Joas Rodrigues Cabrillo, Dascobridor California 1542.” and the name of the original sculptor, “Alvaro DeBree, 1939, Lisboa.”

The overlook is accessed by an exposed aggregate concrete walkway that is edged with red bricks. A low wooden split-rail fence borders portions of the walkway. Adjacent to the walkway are areas paved with red bricks that contain benches. Beginning in the early 1990s, the original ornamental shrubs and ground cover in the area adjacent to the walkway were replaced with native species. Seating areas are located along the edge of the pathway and consist of wood plank benches fastened to concrete bases surrounded by red brick pavers. Concrete bike racks are incorporated into the concrete walkway near the Visitor Center.

The irregular-shaped Cabrillo Memorial Statue Overlook is enclosed by a low exposed aggregate concrete bench-wall. The wall is interrupted by two small breaks that contain posts, which are the only remains of the Mission 66-era kiosk that was part of the overlook's original design; this kiosk was removed in 1988. The plaza at the overlook was repaved with brick in 1988, similar to the original brick paving to accommodate the relocation of the replacement statue and the creation of a planting area in front of it. The red brick is laid in a herringbone pattern and is compatible with the original pavement.

Views of the ocean, North Island, San Diego Harbor, the city, and the mountains remain intact (see Views and Vistas).

Although there have been changes to components of the overlook, the Cabrillo Memorial Overlook is in excellent condition and retains its integrity of location, setting, design, feeling, and association to be a contributing resource to the Visitor Center historic district. Changes to the overlook include: 1) the replacement of the original statue with a reproduction; 2) slightly moving the statue's location within the overlook; and 3) repaving the plaza with brick that is compatible with the Mission-66 development. Additions to this area include: 1) native plant materials and 2) a telescope viewing bay added to the first bench seating area, located on the south side of the path leading to the statue (see sketch map). These changes affect the material and workmanship integrity, but these changes do not affect the other aspects of integrity.

Vehicular Circulation (contributing). The vehicular circulation system for the Mission 66 Visitor Center includes two components: the entrance road, Cabrillo Memorial Drive, and the parking lot. Some alterations have occurred in these features, as described below, but the overall vehicular circulation system (entry road and parking lot) for the Mission 66 Visitor Center, retains sufficient integrity to be a contributing resource (structure) to the Visitor Center historic district.

Cabrillo Memorial Drive (contributing)

The 1961 Master Plan noted that “the entrance road, Catalina Boulevard, terminates in a double loop and around and beyond the historic lighthouse, creating a confusing traffic pattern resembling a figure “8.” Present parking capacity is approximately 175 automobiles.” The plan went on to state that “The entrance road will be [re]designed to terminate in a loop in front of the proposed Visitor Center. A slight realignment of the existing road at the proposed intersection of the road to the Visitor Center has been designed to make the road to the lighthouse a secondary route.” The Mission-66 design implemented these recommendations and Cabrillo Memorial Drive, formerly Catalina Boulevard, was improved as part of the Mission 66 Visitor Center construction project. Entering the site, there is a pullout and an entrance sign, both constructed as part of the Mission 66 project. The road continues up a knoll and then along the south side of the parking lot. At the easternmost end of the parking lot, directly across from the Visitor Center, there is a landscaped traffic circle that allows passengers to unload before vehicles are parked.

The short section of concrete sidewalk located west of the Cabrillo National Monument entrance sign appears to have been constructed during the original Mission 66 program. However, the section of concrete sidewalk east of this entrance sign was built in the 1970s. Originally, there was an asphalt-paved walkway located along the south side of the pre-Mission 66 era alignment of Cabrillo Memorial Drive. In the 1970s, the asphalt walkway was removed, and a concrete sidewalk was built using brushed concrete, a compatible material to the Mission 66 era features. The portion of the walkway along Cabrillo Memorial Drive between the traffic circle and the road to the lighthouse was built as part of the Mission 66 Visitor Center project. This sidewalk is paved with concrete.

The Cabrillo Memorial Drive is in excellent condition and contributes to the historic district because it is a major design element of the Visitor Center which retains its Mission 66 era period design.. Material modifications to sidewalks have not diminished the integrity of this feature because the work is compatible with the historic period features.

Parking Lot (contributing)

The 1961 Master Plan noted that “Due to heavy visitation during the summer and on week-ends and holidays during the remainder of the year, and the limited useable area because of the terrain, adequate parking is always apt to be a crucial problem.” A major component of the Mission-66 development addressed the site circulation system in the Visitor Center parking lot. The parking lot gently curves to fit within the large-scale topography of the site and can accommodate up to 300 cars. The parking lot is paved with asphalt. A new entrance at the southwest corner of the parking area has been added since the end of the period of significance.

Two traffic islands divide the parking lot into three parking areas. The traffic islands are crescent-shaped with circular ends. A large planting bed extends the length of the parking area on its south side and separates it from the entrance road. All of these planting beds have beige-colored concrete curbing similar to, if not, the original curbing. The two center islands in the parking lot and the north edge of the parking area (facing the bay) all have sidewalks dating to the period of significance. Minor changes have been made to accommodate ADA accessible access points across the islands and at bus parking stops. In most instances, careful attention was paid to matching the texture and color of the original beige-colored concrete, but in a few areas, this was not done. After the period of significance, a 30-foot-long concrete staircase was built connecting the south bay of the parking lot to a pedestrian cross-walk on Cabrillo Memorial Drive. A round, concrete-slab plaza and connecting sidewalks was inserted in the traffic island in front of the Visitor Center to accommodate activities related to the annual Cabrillo Festival.

The original vegetation (a variety of non-native plants) in the planted areas around the parking lot has been replaced with native, drought-tolerant shrubs from the coastal scrub plant community.

The parking lot is in excellent condition and has retained its historical integrity as its design, materials, and setting have changed minimally from its original construction. The parking lot is a main feature of the Mission 66 design and adds to the association of the visitor center, buildings designed specifically for visitors arriving by car, who could find all of their needs within one centralized cluster of services.

Character-defining Features:

Feature:	View Building
Feature Identification Number:	127851
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	Auditorium and Exhibits Building
Feature Identification Number:	127853
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	Administration Building
Feature Identification Number:	127855
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	Pergola
Feature Identification Number:	127857
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing

Feature: Fountain

Feature Identification Number: 127859

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Visitor Center Walkways, Plazas, and Overlooks

Feature Identification Number: 127861

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Ballast View Overlook

Feature Identification Number: 127865

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Cabrillo Memorial Statue Overlook

Feature Identification Number: 127867

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Law Enforcement Building

Feature Identification Number: 127869

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



*Buildings and Structures #1:
Visitor center entrance and pergola, view looking northeast
Photo by Jason M. Richards, NPS CABR
July 31, 2008*



*Buildings and Structures #2:
Fountain, view looking south
Photo by Jason M. Richards, NPS CABR
July 31, 2008*



*Buildings and Structures #3:
Interior courtyard area, view looking southeast
Photo by Jason M. Richards, NPS CABR
July 31, 2008*



*Buildings and Structures #4:
Administration Building, view looking northwest
Photo by Jason M. Richards, NPS CABR
July 31, 2008*



*Buildings and Structures #5:
Ballast View Overlook, view looking east
Photo by Jason M. Richards, NPS CABR
July 31, 2008*



Buildings and Structures #6:

Visitor center from the Cabrillo Memorial Statue Overlook, view looking northwest

Photo by Jason M. Richards, NPS CABR

July 31, 2008

Small Scale Features

Park Entrance Sign (contributing)

The Cabrillo National Monument entrance sign situated in the pullout along Cabrillo Memorial Drive is part of the Mission 66 project. This sign is the original sign and is in excellent condition and is considered a contributing element of the District.

Flagpole (contributing)

Historic photos indicate that the flagpole, located in the front of the Visitor Center and configured as a nautical cross tree assembly, was a part of the Mission 66 project. The flagpole is in excellent condition, original, and is managed as a contributing object to the Visitor Center historic district.

Visitor Center Sign (contributing)

The Visitor Center entrance sign located in front of the complex consists of wood posts that are faced with planks that support the sign with the park name and logo. This sign is part of the Mission 66 project. The Visitor Center sign is original and in excellent condition.

Other historic small-scale features include the hand rails, the benches, and bicycle racks at the entrance to the Visitor Center. The planking on many of the benches has been replaced with a grey-wood/plastic material. Supports have been added where the new materials are not strong enough to support visitors. Two benches remain that provide examples of the historic planking used: an example of a typical bench remains on the north side of the View Building and a unique curved bench made with bent boards is on the east side of the View Building. Because of the material modifications, the benches are non-contributing, however they are in the same location as the original design and are of a similar design so that they are compatible and they can be returned to their original appearance. The other small-scale features are non-contributing and are so minimal in scale that they are compatible with the original design. These non-contributing features include trash receptacles, informational signs, kiosks, parking bollards, drinking fountains, pathway lighting fixtures, and memorial plaques. The landscape as a whole retains its association and feeling of a Mission 66 design.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Park Entrance Sign

Feature Identification Number: 127875

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Flagpole

Feature Identification Number: 127877

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Visitor Center Sign

Feature Identification Number: 127879

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Reproduction of the Cabrillo Memorial Statue

Feature Identification Number: 127881

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

IDLCS Number: 58562

LCS Structure Name: Statue of Cabrillo

Cabrillo National Monument Visitor Center Historic District
Cabrillo National Monument

LCS Structure Number: 8

Feature: Stephen Mather plaque

Feature Identification Number: 127883

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

IDLCS Number: 56600

LCS Structure Name: Mather Plaque

LCS Structure Number: 9

Feature: Memorial plaque at the Cabrillo Memorial Statue Overlook

Feature Identification Number: 127885

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: All contemporary plastic wood-product replacement benches.

Feature Identification Number: 127887

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Trash receptacles.

Feature Identification Number: 127889

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Both movable and set posts-and-cable that control visitor access

Feature Identification Number: 127891

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Wayside exhibit panels

Feature Identification Number: 127893

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Parking bollards

Feature Identification Number: 127895

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Traffic and visitor information signs

Feature Identification Number: 127897

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Vending machines and the kiosks

Feature Identification Number: 127899

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Telescope mounts

Feature Identification Number: 127901

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Audio stations

Feature Identification Number: 127903

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Drinking fountains

Feature Identification Number: 127905

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: CMU (concrete masonry unit) wall and fee collection booth pad

Feature Identification Number: 127907

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Pathway lighting fixtures

Feature Identification Number: 127909

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Weather recording station

Feature Identification Number: 127911

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



*Small Scale Features #1:
Visitor center sign, view looking north
Photo by Mark Luellen, NPS PGSO
November 28, 2000*



Small Scale Features #2:

Entrance sign

Photo by Mark Luellen, NPS PGSO

November 28, 2000

Condition

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 01/14/2009

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Through analysis and evaluation of the landscape characteristics and features, it has been determined that the Cabrillo National Monument Visitor Center Historic District is in "good" condition. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. Other than the administration building's termite issue, no immediate corrective action is required to maintain the district's current condition.

Stabilization Measures:

The following stabilization measures has been identified:

1. Address the termite issue for each affected building.
2. Historic landscape materials dating from the period should be stabilized, preserved where possible, and maintained until a cultural landscape report is completed that would provided a coordinated treatment response to the landscape as a whole.

Impacts

Type of Impact: Exposure To Elements

External or Internal: Both Internal and External

Impact Description: Deterioration has occurred due to the marine environment.

Type of Impact: Structural Deterioration

External or Internal: Both Internal and External

Impact Description: The surface of the aggregate walkways is degrading under the pergolas.

Type of Impact: Pests/Diseases

External or Internal: Both Internal and External

Impact Description: Subterranean termites have been observed on the south wall of the auditorium. Drywood termites have been observed on the

south wall of the administration building.

Type of Impact:	Vegetation/Invasive Plants
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	Portions of the sidewalk pavement along the parking lot are being gradually uplifted by the roots of adjacent plants.
Type of Impact:	Inappropriate Maintenance
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	Benches have been replaced with incompatible materials.
Type of Impact:	Deferred Maintenance
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	Views are being impacted by overgrown native vegetation.
Type of Impact:	Inappropriate Maintenance
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	Ongoing removal of historic vegetation is adversely affecting the integrity of the district.

Treatment

Treatment

Approved Treatment: Undetermined

Approved Treatment Document Explanatory Narrative:

A cultural landscape report should be prepared in order to address an appropriate maintenance and treatment approach consistent with the Secretary's Standards for features within the historic district. What is left of the historic materials and features, including the original material of the benches, should be preserved until an treatment consistent with the Secretary's Standards can be developed. Further removal and replacement of historic vegetation in and around the core visitor center area should be halted until a cultural landscape report can be prepared which would detail appropriate treatment of the area. Additionally, the removal of soil and plants from the fountain/pool in association with the repair of the fountain in the visitor center complex would enhance the integrity of the patio area.

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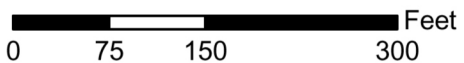
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Supplemental Information

- Title:** Cabrillo National Monument Visitor Center Historic District boundary map.
- Description:** Contact the park's cultural resources staff or regional CLI coordinator for a copy of the district map.



Notes: Resources within district keyed to Section 7.
All features shown in approximate scale and location.
PWRO 2008.

District Map

Cabrillo National Monument

Visitor Center

National Park Service
Pacific West Region

