
National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory
2011



Pioneer Yosemite History Center
Yosemite National Park



Pioneer Yosemite History Center Yosemite National Park

Yosemite National Park 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: **Fair**

 4/25/11
Superintendent, Yosemite National Park Date

Please return to:

Vida Germano
Cultural Landscapes Inventory Coordinator
National Park Service
Pacific West Regional Office
1111 Jackson St., Suite 700
Oakland, CA 94607-4807

**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

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September 6, 2011

Reply In Reference To: NPS110510A

David Louter, PhD
Chief, Cultural Resource Programs
National Park Service - Pacific West Regional
909 First Avenue, Fifth Floor
Seattle, WA 98104-1060

RE: Consensus Determination of Eligibility, Pioneer Yosemite History Center Cultural Landscape Inventory, Yosemite National Park, California

Dear Dr. Louter:

I am writing in response to your letter dated May 9, 2011, that requested my review and concurrence with the findings of Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) documentation of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center at Yosemite National Park. The CLI serves as a Determination of Eligibility for listing the district on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Consensus agreement on eligibility between the National Park Service (NPS) and my office will result in the district being added to the national database of cultural landscapes managed by the NPS.

After reviewing the CLI and in accordance with 36 CFR 800.4(b) and (c), I concur that the Pioneer Yosemite History Center is eligible for listing on the NRHP under Criterion A. As indicated on the attached form, I also concur with the period of significance (1956-1964), the historic district boundary, the landscape characteristics identified in the CLI as contributors to the historic character of the district, and with the listed buildings and structures as contributors and non-contributors.

Thank you for seeking my comments and considering historic properties as part of your project planning. If you require further information, please contact Mark Beason, State Historian II, at phone 916-445-7047 or email mbeason@parks.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Susan H. Stratton for'.

Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA
State Historic Preservation Officer

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK
Pioneer Yosemite History Center

California SHPO Consensus Determination of Eligibility

Actions Requested:

1) SHPO concurrence that the Pioneer Yosemite History Center is locally significant under Criterion A, as a highly intact interpretive exhibit designed and implemented as part of the park's Mission 66 era master plan (see Statement of Significance):

I concur X, I do not concur _____ that the Pioneer Yosemite History Center meets Criteria A for local significance as described in the CLI.

2) SHPO concurrence that the period of significance, as identified in the CLI, is 1956-1964, which reflects the planning phase through the completion of the installation of the pioneer buildings (see Statement of Significance):

I concur X, I do not concur _____ with the period of significance of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center as described in the CLI.

3) SHPO concurrence that the landscape characteristics as identified in the CLI contribute to the historic character of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center (see the following landscape characteristic descriptions in the Analysis and Evaluation section of the CLI: Spatial Organization, Natural Systems and Features, Land Use, Buildings and Structures, Circulation, Views and Vistas, and Small-Scale Features):

I concur X, I do not concur _____ that the landscape characteristics as described in the CLI contribute to the historic character of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center.

4) SHPO concurrence with the list of contributing and non-contributing structures to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center. (See tables below and the associated landscape characteristic descriptions in the Analysis and Evaluation section of the CLI: Buildings and Structures, Circulation, and Small Scale Features):

Contributing Structures: Based on the information provided in the CLI, the following structures have been identified as contributing features of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center. (Buildings and structures that are already listed individually are marked with an asterisk):

Contributing Structure Name	Date Built/Moved to Site	Concur	Do not Concur
Wawona Grey Barn/ Washburn Barn	Constructed ca. 1900	X	
*Hodgdon Homestead Cabin/Homestead Cabin	Constructed 1879/ Moved 1960/ Individually listed in 1978	X	

* = listed individually on NRHP

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Pioneer Yosemite History Center

Contributing Structure Name	Date Built/Moved to Site	Concur	Do not Concur
*Yosemite Transportation Company Office/Wells Fargo Office	Constructed 1910/ Moved 1960/ Individually listed in 1978	X	
Wells Fargo Utility Building	Constructed 1912/ Moved 1960	X	
*Acting Superintendent's Headquarters/Army Cabin	Constructed 1904/ Moved 1958/ Individually listed in 1978	X	
Army Tack Room	Constructed 1917/ Moved 1960	X	
Crane Flat Ranger Cabin/Ranger Patrol Cabin	Constructed ca. 1900-1915/ Moved 1959	X	
Anderson Cabin/Mountaineer Cabin	Constructed 1876/ Moved 1961	X	
Jail/Powder House/Morgue	Constructed 1880/ Moved 1960	X	
*Chris Jorgenson Studio/Artist Cabin	Constructed 1904/ Moved 1959/ Individually listed in 1979	X	
Wagon Shelter/Wagon Shed	Constructed 1962	X	
*Wawona Covered Bridge	Constructed 1858/ Modified in 1875/ Individually listed in 2007	X	
Wawona Stables	Constructed 1932	X	
Chinese Laundry/Laundry/Carriage Shop	Constructed 1917	X	
Pioneer Yosemite History Center Signs (2)	Constructed by 1964	X	
Historic Circulation System (includes pedestrian paths, bridle trail, parking lots, and access roads)	Constructed 1956-1964	X	
Flagpoles (2)	Constructed 1956-1964	X	
Hitching Posts (2)	Constructed 1956-1964	X	
Retaining Walls	Constructed 1956-1964	X	
Stone Perimeters	Constructed 1956-1964	X	
Privy	Constructed 1956-1964	X	
Water Trough	Constructed by 1963	X	
Split Rail Perimeter Fences	Constructed 1956-1964	X	

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Non-contributing Structures Managed as Cultural Resources: Based on the information provided in the CLI, the following structures have been identified as non-contributing features of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center, but are managed as cultural resources by the park:

Non-contributing (but Managed as a Cultural Resource) Structure Name	Date Built/Moved to Site	Concur	Do Not Concur
Blacksmith Shop	Construction date unknown/ Moved 1963 and 1980	X	
Degnan's Bakery	Constructed 1898/ Moved 1981	X	
Replica of Historic Sign	Constructed post-1964	X	

Non-contributing Structures: Based on the information provided in the CLI, the following structures have been identified as non-contributing features of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center:

Non-contributing Structure Name	Date Built or Modified	Concur	Do Not Concur
Pit Toilet/Pioneer Yosemite History Center Comfort Station (4108)	Constructed 1952/ Moved 1960/ Rebuilt 1988	X	
Pit Toilet/Pioneer Yosemite History Center Comfort Station (4109)	Constructed 1952/ Moved 1960/ Rebuilt 1988	X	
Water Pump	Constructed post-1964	X	
Chicken Coop	Constructed post-1964	X	
Campfire Circles (2)	Constructed post-1964	X	
Farm equipment	Constructed post-1964	X	
Baffle	Rebuilt post-1964	X	
Interior Fencing	Constructed post-1964	X	
Gray Barn Corral	Constructed post-1964	X	

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK
Pioneer Yosemite History Center

Reasons/comments why any 'Do Not Concur' blocks were checked:

Susan F. Stratton for MW Donaldson *06 Sept. 21*
California State Historic Preservation Officer Date

Please return form to the attention of:

Vida Germano

Cultural Landscapes Inventory, Coordinator

Pacific West Regional Office

1111 Jackson St., Suite 700

Oakland, CA 94607-4807

510-817-1407, vida_germano@nps.gov

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Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan

Inventory Summary

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

CLI General Information:

Purpose and Goals of the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI), a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the national park system, is one of the most ambitious initiatives of the National Park Service (NPS) Park Cultural Landscapes Program. The CLI is an evaluated inventory of all landscapes having historical significance that are listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise managed as cultural resources through a public planning process and in which the NPS has or plans to acquire any legal interest. The CLI 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 CLIs when concurrence with the findings is obtained from the park superintendent and all required data fields are entered into a national database. In addition, for landscapes that are not currently listed on the National Register and/or do not have adequate documentation, concurrence is required from the State Historic Preservation Officer or the Keeper of the National Register.

The CLI, like the List of Classified Structures, assists the 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 (2006), 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 GPRA goals are associated with the CLI: bringing certified cultural landscapes into good condition (Goal 1a7) and increasing the number of CLI records that have complete, accurate, and reliable information (Goal 1b2B).

Scope of the CLI

The information contained within the CLI is gathered from existing secondary sources found in park libraries and archives and at NPS regional offices and centers, as well as through on-site reconnaissance of the existing landscape. The baseline information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in context of the site's overall significance. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features, and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's overall integrity and an assessment of the landscape's overall condition. The CLI also provides an illustrative site plan that indicates major features within the inventory unit. Unlike cultural landscape reports, the CLI does not provide management recommendations or treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape.

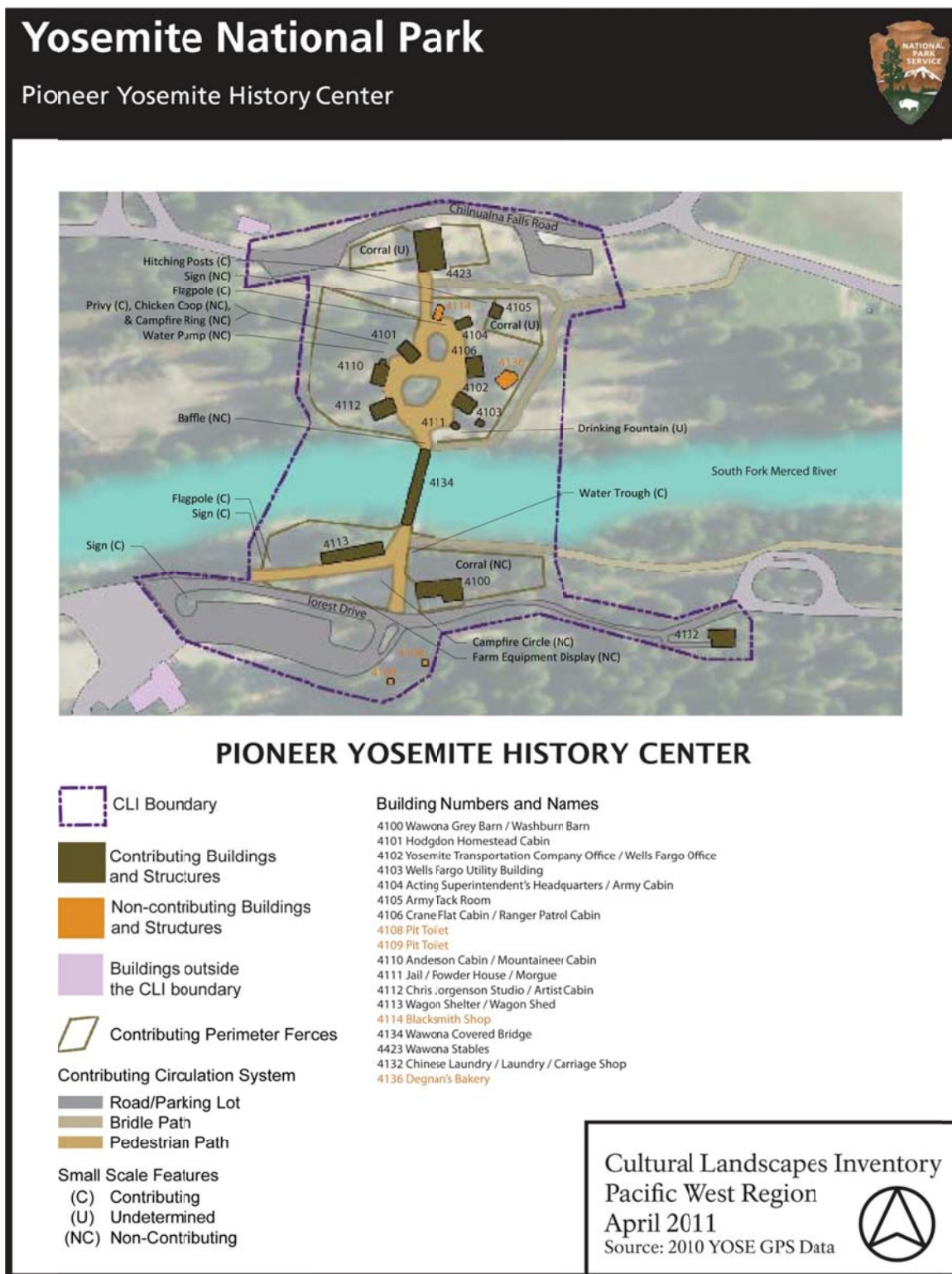
Inventory Unit Description:

The Pioneer Yosemite History Center is a component landscape of the parent Wawona Basin Historic District. The ten-acre site, located on the South Fork of the Merced River, is comprised primarily of a collection of historic buildings moved to the complex from various locations within and outside the park during the Mission-66 era to interpret the early pioneer history of Yosemite, but also includes a few buildings and structures that were sited there prior to Mission 66. The Pioneer Yosemite History Center is significant under the National Register Criterion A for its association with the development of tourism and outdoor recreation during Mission 66. The period of significance is 1956 to 1964, which reflects the planning phase through the completion of the installation of the pioneer buildings. The period begins with the year Chief Naturalist Douglass Hubbard initiated a proposal to acquire and relocate a collection of historic pioneer buildings from various locations within or near the park and ends with the dedication of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center, concurrent with the 100th anniversary of the Yosemite Land Grant.

Wawona was deemed by park planners to be an ideal location to interpret the Anglo-American history of Yosemite. The combination of the early Western architecture of the Wawona Hotel and a historic covered bridge that was originally constructed in 1868 by the area's original steward of the Yosemite Grant, Galen Clark, and later covered by the Washburn family in 1878, provided an atmosphere that was unique within the park. The location held additional appeal; situated in the southwest corner of the park and away from the Yosemite Valley, it created an opportunity to attract visitors out of the critically overcrowded area of the park.

The Pioneer Yosemite History Center features ten Pioneer-era buildings moved to the Wawona Basin during the period of significance and informally arranged in a circular cluster with the majority located on the north bank of the South Fork of the Merced River. Although most of the buildings and structures that make up the Pioneer Yosemite History Center are more than a century old, and some of them individually listed on the National Register, the district is significant for its planning and development during the Mission-66 era when many of the buildings were relocated to Wawona for interpretive purposes. The site retains historic integrity embodied in its location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The site's historic character continues to be conveyed through the following landscape characteristics: spatial organization, natural systems and features, land use, buildings and structures, views and vistas, small scale features and circulation.

Site Plan



See Supplemental Information for a 8.5x11-size map.

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name:	Pioneer Yosemite History Center
Property Level:	Component Landscape
CLI Identification Number:	975546
Parent Landscape:	725328

Park Information

Park Name and Alpha Code:	Yosemite National Park - YOSE
Park Organization Code:	8800
Park Administrative Unit:	Yosemite National Park

CLI Hierarchy Description

The Pioneer Yosemite History Center Historic District is a component landscape within the Wawona Basin Historic District parent landscape.

Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Complete

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

Preliminary field work for the Pioneer Yosemite History Center Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) was conducted in the summer of 2008 by Daniel Schaible, Sky Skach and Brian Chilcott. Additional field work was completed in the spring of 2010 by Amy Hoke as was the physical history section and the analysis and evaluation of the site.

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence: Yes

Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence: 4/25/2011

National Register Concurrence: Eligible -- SHPO Consensus
Determination

Date of Concurrence Determination: 09/06/2011

National Register Concurrence Narrative:

The SHPO concurred with the findings of the CLI on September 6, 2011.

Geographic Information & Location Map

Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

The Pioneer Yosemite History Center Historic District boundary is an irregular shape that encompasses the Mission 66 project and properties that pre-dated the Mission-66 era, but were incorporated into the project. The boundary loosely follows the edges of the fence lines along the west, from the southwest corner north of Forest Drive north (across the river) to the northwest corner of the paved parking lot on Chilnualna Falls Drive. The northern boundary is formed by Chilnualna Falls Drive from the northwest corner of the paved parking lot west of the Wawona Stables to northeast corner of the unpaved parking lot east of the Wawona Stables. The unpaved parking lot and bridle trail east of the ditch and earthen berm delineates the eastern boundary north of the river. South of the river, the eastern boundary is formed by the fence line of the Wawona Barn and then extends east along Forest Drive to include the Chinese Laundry building. The southern boundary extends from the south side of the Chinese Laundry building west, including the comfort stations and Pioneer Yosemite History Center paved parking lot on Forest Drive. (See Site Plan).

This boundary includes all the historic structures and associated landscape feature of the Pioneer Yosemite Historic District.

State and County:

State: California

County: Mariposa

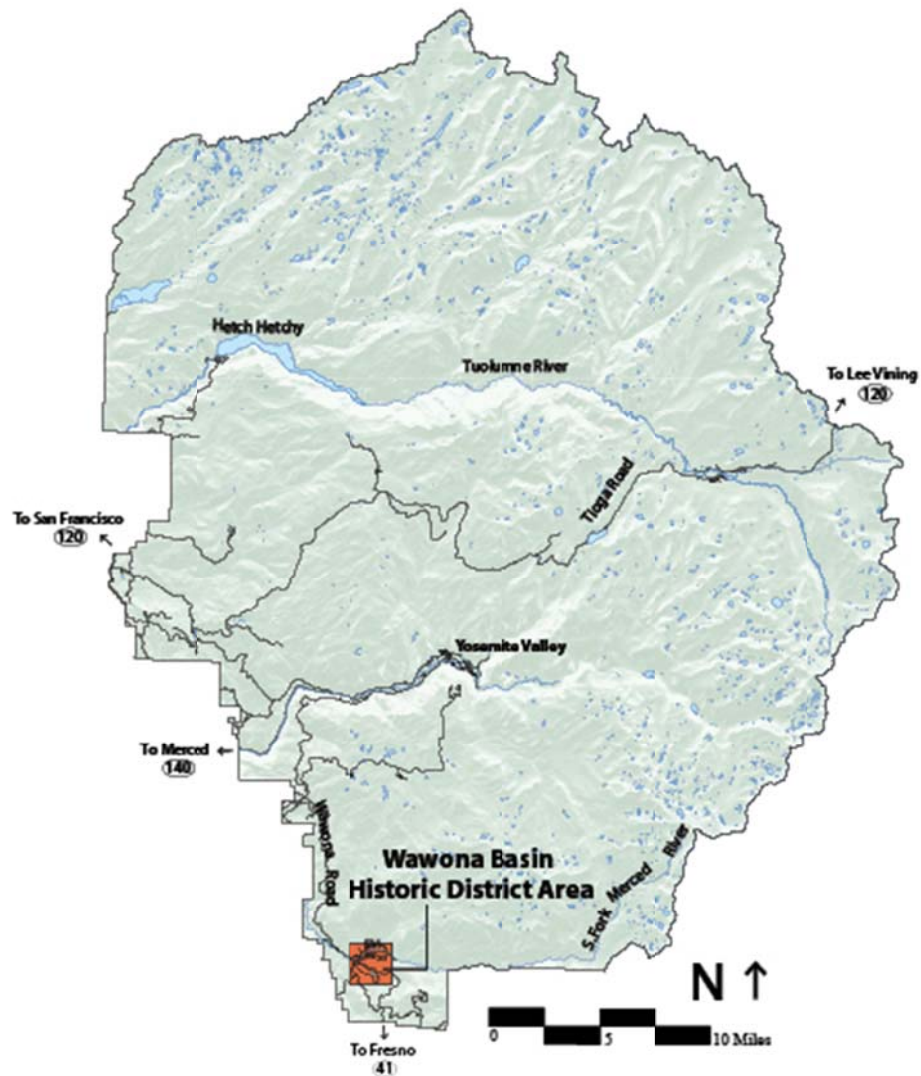
Size (Acres): 10.00

Boundary UTMS:

Source	Type	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	NAD 83	11N	265269	4157887
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	NAD 83	11N	265257	4158062
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	NAD 83	11N	265432	4158071
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	NAD 83	11N	265441	4158042
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	NAD 83	11N	265396	4157966
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	NAD 83	11N	265393	4157907
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	NAD 83	11N	265395	4157884
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	NAD 83	11N	265514	4157868

Source	Type	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	NAD 83	11N	265517	4157851
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	NAD 83	11N	265349	4157840
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	NAD 83	11N	265329	4157827
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	NAD 83	11N	527216	4157857

Location Map



Wawona Basin Historic District is located in the southwest corner of Yosemite National Park.

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: B: Should be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 4/25/2011

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

The Pioneer History Center meets the criteria for Management Category B (Should Be Preserved and Maintained) because it 1) meets National Register criteria as a significant interpretive installation associated with Mission 66; 2) the inventory unit is compatible with the park's legislated significance to protect natural and historic resources and 3) the inventory unit has a continuing purpose that is appropriate to its traditional use as it continues to be used as the interpretive exhibit envisioned and implemented during the Mission 66 era.

Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access

Management Agreement:

Type of Agreement: Concession Contract/Permit

NPS Legal Interest:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Public Access:

Type of Access: Unrestricted

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? No

National Register Information

Existing National Register Status

National Register Landscape Documentation:

Undocumented

National Register Explanatory Narrative:

There is no existing consensus determination of eligibility (DOE) for the Pioneer Yosemite History Center.

Existing NRIS Information:

Name in National Register: Acting Superintendent's Headquarters

NRIS Number: 78000362

Primary Certification Date: 6/9/1978

Name in National Register: Hodgdon Homestead Cabin

NRIS Number: 78000356

Primary Certification Date: 6/9/1978

Name in National Register: Yosemite Transportation Company Office

NRIS Number: 78000355

Primary Certification Date: 6/9/1978

Name in National Register: Jorgenson, Chris, Studio

NRIS Number: 79000280

Other Names: Chris Jorgenson Studio

Primary Certification Date: 4/13/79

Name in National Register: Wawona Covered Bridge

NRIS Number: 06001261

Primary Certification Date: 1/11/2007

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
Period of Significance:	1956 - 1964
Historic Context Theme:	Pre-History and History in the National Park and Landmark System
Subtheme:	Landscape Architecture
Facet:	NPS Mission 66
Historic Context Theme:	Pre-History and History in the National Park and Landmark System
Subtheme:	Social and Humanitarian Movements
Facet:	Historic Preservation Movement

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category:	Social History
Area of Significance Category:	Landscape Architecture
Area of Significance Category:	Politics/Government

Statement of Significance:

The Pioneer Yosemite History Center is locally significant under Criterion A as a highly intact interpretive exhibit designed and implemented as part of the park's Mission 66 era master plan. The period of significance proposed for the Pioneer Yosemite History Center spans from 1956 to 1964. The beginning date represents the year that park director Conrad Wirth introduced Mission 66 to President Eisenhower and Congress. That same year, a major restoration was also begun on Yosemite's historic covered bridge, the only one of its type in the western region of the park system. The successfully restored bridge became one of the key elements of Yosemite's Mission 66 program, the Pioneer Yosemite History Center, which relocated historically significant buildings from various locations within and just outside of Yosemite National Park to a new interpretive center located adjacent to the covered bridge. The ending date represents the completion and dedication of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center. Although the period of significance ends less than 50 years ago, the Pioneer Yosemite History Center is not required to meet Criterion Consideration G for exceptional significance because planning, design and construction of the center began over fifty years ago, and its completion overlaps the 50-year period by

only a few years as described in the National Register Bulletin, “How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation” (NPS, revised 1997).

Five National Register properties already exist within the Pioneer Yosemite History Center. These are the Chris Jorgenson Studio, listed on the National Register in 1979; the Acting Superintendent’s Headquarters, the Hodgdon Homestead Cabin, the Yosemite Transportation Company Office, all listed in 1978; and the Wawona Covered Bridge, listed in 2007. Additionally, the Wawona Covered Bridge was documented in the Historic American Engineering Record HAER CA-106. This CLI establishes the significance of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center as a historic landscape district with boundaries and a period of significance that are different from those established for these individual properties. Its purpose is to identify and evaluate the Mission 66 era landscape in which these individual National Register properties are located.

Criterion A

Significant under Criterion A, the Pioneer Yosemite History Center is associated with events that have made significant contributions to the broad national patterns of American history, specifically, with the NPS’s Mission 66 Program. The development took place during the Mission-66 era and reflects three broad historical contexts—*Tourism, Recreation and the Preservation Ethic; Architecture, Landscape Design, and the Construction of the Visitor Experience; and Federal Administration of Yosemite*— which were established in the Yosemite National Park Multiple Property Document. This document was prepared in 2004 by the Public History program at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas working in consultation with National Park Service historian David Louter, and received SHPO concurrence on August 23, 2004.

Mission 66 played a critical role in the modernization of the National Park Service, a program that sought to modernize and expand the National Park Service’s visitor services in preparation for its 50th anniversary in 1966. It brought massive increases of federal spending into the park service and spurred many new or deferred projects service-wide, including several signature projects at Yosemite. The program was meant to emulate the expansion and improvement of park facilities and visitor services in the CCC era, and correct deficiencies caused by low funding and manpower during World War II.

The focus of Mission 66 at Wawona was a new interpretive facility called the Pioneer Yosemite History Center. Unlike the majority of Mission 66 projects, which often demolished older, rustic facilities and replaced them with larger-capacity modern ones, the Pioneer Yosemite History Center project centered on the relocation, preservation, and interpretation of historic buildings. Even this project, however, had its origins in the pursuit of modernizing park facilities and presenting a contemporary experience to the visiting public. By creating the Pioneer Yosemite History Center, the park had a palatable means of removing historic structures from areas within Yosemite that park management wished to naturalize or modernize. Additionally, the History Center’s location encouraged visitors to move out of the increasingly crowded hub of activity in Yosemite Valley to explore other areas of the park via its modernized highways. And lastly, the Pioneer Yosemite History Center was originally interpreted in a contemporary manner; the buildings all had push buttons that, when triggered, would audibly narrate the historical background of that structure. The Pioneer Yosemite History Center’s significance lies in its being a signature Mission 66 development at Yosemite and as a reflection of Mission 66 interpretive philosophies.

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: Historic Designed Landscape

Current and Historic Use/Function:

Primary Historic Function: Recreation/Culture

Primary Current Use: Exhibit

Other Use/Function: Exhibit

Current and Historic Names

Name	Type of Name
Pioneer Yosemite History Center	Both Current and Historic

Ethnographic Information

Ethnographic Study Conducted: No Survey Conducted

Chronology:

Year	Event	Annotation
1856	Homesteaded	Galen Clark filed a claim for 160 acres for “agricultural and grazing purposes” at the northwestern edge of Wawona Meadow.
1856	Built	In August of this year, a toll horse trail from Mariposa to Yosemite Valley was built by the Mann brothers. This trail came into close proximity to Galen Clark's homestead.
1862	Purchased/Sold	Mariposa purchased the horse trail to Yosemite Valley from the Mann brothers. They declared the trail a “public highway” and eliminated the toll.
1864-1866	Established	The Yosemite Land Grant was created by Federal government. This grant included Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of giant sequoias. Galen Clark was appointed guardian of the Yosemite Land Grant.
1868	Built	Clark built a log bridge over the South Fork of the Merced River. This bridge was built to accommodate wagons along the recently completed horse trail.
1868-1869	Inhabited	Due to his increasing responsibilities as guardian of Yosemite, Galen spent much of his time in Yosemite Valley. In December, Clark sold half of his interest in his land, buildings and South Fork toll bridge to Edwin Moore for \$2000. The site became known as Clark and Moore's Station.
1875	Land Transfer	In January, Galen Clark and Edwin Moore sold their property to Henry Washburn and his partners.
1875	Altered	Circa 1875, Henry Washburn added a cover to the bridge over the South Fork
1890	Established	The Federal Government established Yosemite National Park. The new boundary for the park included 470 acres owned by the Wawona Hotel Company, which included the area that is now the Pioneer Yosemite History Center.
1917	Built	The Wagon Shop (former Chinese laundry and plumbing shop), Building No 4131 was built.

Year	Event	Annotation
1923	Built	The Shell Oil Company built a service station, a garage and a repair shop at Wawona in the old wagon shop (Grey Barn).
1932	Land Transfer	In August, Herbert Hoover authorized purchasing the Wawona Hotel Company's land (8,785 acres) and incorporated it into Yosemite National Park.
1933	Built	Circa 1933, the Wawona Grey Barn was rebuilt. This barn was designed by NPS Landscape Architect John Wosky and located near the covered bridge. Building No 4100 – listed as restored in 1959.
1937	Graded	CCC workers made repairs to the covered bridge and regraded the slope from the hotel down to the right-of-way.
1955	Begun	Mission 66, the 10-year program of development proposed by Park Service Director Conrad Wirth, was accepted and endorsed by President Eisenhower.
1955	Destroyed	Flooding impacted the Wawona area, including damage to the covered bridge.
1956	Restored	Restoration of the covered bridge was completed.
1957	Planned	November 2 Yosemite Pioneer History Visitor Center (working name) laid out on drawing 1122-D including an earth dike, Army Cabin, Hodgdon Cabin, and Blacksmith Shop. Not approved by director, "suspended" was written across the bottom.
1958	Moved	Work had begun on the Pioneer Yosemite History Center, moving historic buildings from various parts of the park to Wawona for inclusion in the Pioneer Yosemite History Center.
1958	Moved	Building 4104, Acting Superintendent's Headquarters, was moved from Yosemite Valley to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center.
1959	Moved	In February of this year, building 4102, the Wells Fargo Office, was moved from Yosemite Valley to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center.
1959	Moved	In February of this year, building 4105, Army Tack Room, was moved from Yosemite Valley to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center.

Year	Event	Annotation
1959	Altered	In April of this year, building 4100, Wawona Grey Barn, was restored by the NPS.
1959	Moved	In May of this year, building 4101, Hodgdon Homestead Cabin, was moved from Aspen Valley to Wawona.
1959	Built	In July of this year, a diversion dike was constructed upriver of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center and preliminary landscaping began.
1959	Moved	In September of this year, building 4107, Cuneo Cabin, was moved from Cuneo Ranch in Hodgdon's Meadow to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center.
1950-1959	Moved	In the 1950s, much of the old machinery from the Tioga Mine was moved to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center.
1959	Moved	In November of this year, building 4106, Crane Flat Ranger Cabin, was moved to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center.
1960	Moved	Building 4103 Wells Fargo Utility Building, was moved from Yosemite Valley to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center.
1960	Moved	Buildings 4108 and 4109, pit toilets, were moved from the Old Village in Yosemite Valley to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center.
1960	Planned	In October, the final plan for the Pioneer Yosemite History Center, Drawing 2211-G, was approved and signed by National Park Service Director Conrad Wirth on October 12, 1960
1961	Moved	Building 4110 Anderson Cabin was moved from Foresta to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center.
1960-1969	Moved	In the 1960s, building No 4111, Jail (former powder cache and morgue), was moved from the Old Village in Yosemite Valley to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center.
1961	Moved	Split-rail fencing from Near Ackerman Meadow was moved to the History Center where it was re-erected to define the geographic limits of the History Center.

Year	Event	Annotation
1962	Moved	Building 4112, Jorgensen Studio, moved from old Yosemite Village to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center.
1962	Built	Building 4113, Wagon Shelter, was constructed by the NPS.
1962	Moved	Work on roads and parking areas near Wawona entailed relocating the Wawona Grey Barn 25 feet south and moving a section of Chilnualna Falls Road.
1963	Moved	Building 4114, Blacksmith Shop, was moved from Madera to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center.
1964	Installed	In August of this year, soil cement was installed on pathways
1964	Developed	In September of this year, the Pioneer Yosemite History Center was formally dedicated as part of the Yosemite's centennial celebration.
1971	Altered	The original push button talking labels were abandoned in favor of a living history program.
1981	Moved	Cuneo Cabin was removed from the Pioneer Yosemite History Center.
1981	Moved	Building 4136, Degnan's Bakery, was moved from Yosemite Valley to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center.
1981	Moved	Building 4114, Blacksmith Shop, was moved from a spot south of the covered bridge and west of the Wawona Grey Barn to its present location north of the river and west of the Acting Superintendent's Headquarters.
1996	Altered	The living history program gradually diminished to include only stage coach rides and blacksmith demonstrations.
2010	Altered	Buildings were re-roofed.

Physical History:

A significant portion of the following information is adapted and/or drawn directly from the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for Wawona Covered Bridge (2003) as well as from a draft Cultural Landscape Report for Wawona that was prepared by HRA in 2000 (the CLR was never completed). Information obtained from other sources will be cited parenthetically throughout the document.

Early Site History

Late in December 1955, more than seventeen inches of rain fell in the Sierra Mountain Range over a 48 hour period, creating the worst flood in Yosemite's recorded history. Flood damage included the park's covered bridge, which spanned the South Fork of the Merced River. The bridge was remarkable for a few reasons. At 87 years old, it was one of the oldest remaining structures in the park, originally built only a few years after President Lincoln signed the Yosemite Grant. It was originally constructed by the first Guardian of the Yosemite Grant, Galen Clark. And it was believed to be the only specimen of a covered bridge within the western region of the National Park Service. It was also to become the inspiration and the nucleus for the Pioneer Yosemite History Center.

Galen Clark was the first known settler to reside at Wawona year round, although the Southern Sierra Miwok had been using the Wawona Meadow as a seasonal camp for several thousand years. Clark filed a homestead claim for 160 acres of land near the South Fork of the Merced in the area now known as Wawona in 1856 and within a few years of his arrival, constructed a toll bridge and opened a modest hotel. Just five miles from the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias and less than fifteen miles from Yosemite Valley, Clark's Station was a well-situated destination for many travelers and Clark's bridge offered safe passage across the seasonally turbulent Merced for those traveling on to Yosemite Valley. Clark was more drawn to the duties of his government appointment than inn-keeping, and by 1875 he sold his fledgling hotel operation to Henry Washburn in order to concentrate more fully on his responsibilities as Yosemite's Guardian.

Washburn improved both the hotel operation and the bridge, expanding the former and covering the latter. Although there is speculation that Washburn covered the bridge out of nostalgia for his home state of Vermont, his decision was more likely a practical one, inspired out of a need to protect the deck from the drifts of seasonal snow accumulation. Whether the motivation was out of necessity or aesthetic preference, the covered bridge served a vital link for the local pioneer trade, carrying horses, stock and people on business in Wawona or Yosemite Valley, and also for tourists seeking the grandeur of Yosemite. By the late 1870s, stages regularly used the bridge; in 1914 the first automobile followed the same route and entered Yosemite Valley.

Automotive transportation became more prevalent, and the last of the Washburn stagecoaches made the trip between the hotel and the valley in 1916. Other changes heralded the automotive age as well. The bridge was retrofitted with running boards to better accommodate horseless carriages and by 1923 the Washburn Barn (or Wawona Grey Barn), constructed around the turn of the century just south of the bridge as a repair shop for wagons, was converted into a Shell gas station and automotive repair shop. The covered bridge and stage coach route provided the only vehicular connection between Yosemite Valley and Wawona until 1931 when a new road and bridge, designed to accommodate cars, was opened approximately 200 yards southwest from the original route. The covered bridge was still an important part of the Wawona visitor experience, however, and afforded a passageway for both pedestrians and equestrians between the Wawona Hotel and the stables (Sargent 1979, 75).

Following the flood of 1955, an inspection of the bridge by park engineers concluded the bridge was structurally compromised and recommended replacement. Recognizing the historic value and rarity of the structure, Yosemite's Superintendent John Preston along with the head of Park Service's Office of Design and Construction, chief landscape architect Thomas Vint, successfully campaigned to restore the structure. The restoration lead by Park Chief Naturalist Doug Hubbard and contractor Glenn Gordo began in 1956 and proved to be quite a heroic effort, involving the engineering of a system of rails, cables and pulleys that enabled workmen to pull the bridge onto the north shore of the river. Workmen replaced severely damaged timbers with focused attention paid to replicating wood species, dimensions and historical workmanship. Once the restoration was complete and pilings reinforced, the bridge was reinstated to its original location.

Mission 66 at Yosemite

Elsewhere in the National Park Service, repair efforts were underway to rescue what was perceived to be a crippled and failing agency. Following the close of World War II, the Park Service was inundated with visitors who were experiencing the freedom delivered through disposable income and automobile ownership. Visitation swelled from 17 million in 1940 to 56 million in 1955. The parks themselves had been financially neglected for the better part of a decade by a government focused on winning wars; first in Europe and then in Korea. By the early 1950s, crowded roads, jammed parking lots, inadequate visitor facilities, and poor maintenance were undermining almost every aspect of park visitors' experience (Karson 2007, ix-x).

In a *Los Angeles Times* article published in 1952 titled "Yosemite's Beauty Fast Disappearing," writer Martin Litton suggested that the natural beauty of the valley would altogether disappear within fifty years based on the increasing number of tourists. Although the dire prediction was delivered as a wakeup call, it was hardly a revelation. Concern over the overuse and automotive tourism had been raised by various groups of park "purists" since the 1930s. Public outrage over the poor conditions of the parks finally reached a fever pitch by 1955, fueled by journalists writing for such major magazines as *Harper's*, *Saturday Evening Post*, and *Reader's Digest*. The consensus by all but the strict environmentalists was that neither Park Service policy nor management was responsible for the failing, but rather the blame lay with Congress and their skimpy budget allocation (Carr 2007, 54-55). Eighteen new areas had been added to the system, increasing the holdings by several million acres, without any additional funding. Without intervention, important natural and cultural resources losses were inevitable.

National Park Service Director Conrad Wirth decided to retool the entire agency rather than mothball the parks, although this notion was sardonically proposed by historian Bernard DeVoto's 1953 essay published by *Harper's* entitled "Let's Close the National Parks." Inspired, no doubt, by the ten year \$101 billion highway program President Eisenhower submitted to Congress in 1955, Wirth concocted his own ten year plan to persuade Congress to increase Park Service budgets exponentially. By Wirth's design, the completion of the program would coincide with the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the National Park Service. Whether the politicians responded to their constituents, Wirth, or the journalists, the message was received. Congress increased the agency's budget from \$32 million in 1955 to \$68 million in 1957, to an annual budget in excess of \$100 million by 1962. This represented the largest program for park improvements ever initiated by the National Park Service and one of the most significant federal undertakings of the twentieth century (Carr 2007, 8-12 and 54).

Although money was allocated for improvement of facilities and constructing new ones, the budget increase was much more than a physical development program. Each park was charged with developing an individual prospectus to articulate their vision for physical improvements, but which also included

topics like land acquisition, interpretive programs, and new staff and training needs. Training was identified as a priority for Mission 66 and a new National Park Service Training Center operated in Yosemite Valley from 1957 until 1963, when the operation was moved to the Grand Canyon. Included among the many Mission 66 projects at Yosemite National Park was the expansion of Tioga Road, demolition of the Old Yosemite Village, and development of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center. Each project was outlined, ranked in priority (first, second or third) and assigned preliminary budget estimates within the prospectus.

Intentionally missing from the Yosemite National Park Mission 66 Prospectus was any mention of carrying capacity or limits on visitation. Wirth was firmly committed to the idea that public access should not be restricted and was convinced that the correct development plan would make it possible for millions to enjoy the landscape without destroying it. He asserted, "The principle that is guiding the Mission 66 Committee and Staff is that the parks belong to the people, and they have a right to use them." Furthering his hypothesis of preservation and protection through thoughtful development, Wirth maintained, "There is no surer way to destroy a landscape than to permit undisciplined use by man. Roads, trails, campgrounds and other developments are one means, perhaps the most important one, of localizing, limiting and channeling park use" (quoted in Carr et al. 2006, 78).

Two options were considered for preserving and protecting Yosemite Valley. Plan A called for continued expansion and reconstruction of existing development in the valley. Plan B called for a drastic reduction of overnight facilities in the valley; removing both administrative facilities and overnight accommodations, limiting the visitor options to tent sites and day use facilities. Plan B also specified a new Yosemite Lodge to be relocated to Wawona with a new park administrative center in either Wawona or Fresno. Although the clear logic supporting Plan B was appreciated by Yosemite's Advisory Board, perceived backlash from the public and concessioner prevailed and the east end of the Valley remained the lodging destination for almost all park visitors. The redevelopment of Yosemite Village did allow for the Park Service to demolish the Old Village, removing the disjointed collection of buildings that had accumulated along the Merced River (Carr 2007, 246-248). Not all the buildings from the Old Village were razed, however; eight structures were saved and relocated to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center.

Redirecting visitors to other regions of the park, particularly into the high country via the Tioga Road corridor, was a sustained goal of park planners, despite their decision to retain the majority of overnight lodging in the valley. Improving and realigning the route to accommodate modern transportation standards proved to be one of the most controversial of all Mission 66 projects and by most accounts, transformed the Sierra Club into a modern environmental advocacy group. The Park Service and the Sierra Club found themselves on opposite sides of the same argument. Park Service planners sought to protect Yosemite Valley by providing enhanced access to more remote (and, therefore, undeveloped) parts of the park located in the high country. For its part, the Sierra Club maintained that those remote areas should remain pristine and argued that primitive road conditions helped maintain wilderness by discouraging casual use. The Club believed that only those willing to make a special effort should be rewarded with access (Carr et al. 2006, 65). Despite the controversy, the Park Service went ahead with the improvements to Tioga Road. Machinery associated with the construction of the original stage route, the Great Sierra Wagon Road, as well as equipment recovered from the Tioga Mine was transferred to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center.

Exactly how the public would interact with park resources received specific attention from the Mission 66 planners. Director Wirth was committed to the notion that improved and increased interpretation would simultaneously enhance the visitor experience and create better Park Service stewards through raised awareness of park resources and the threats to them. (Carr et al. 2006, 40). Ronald Lee, chief of the

Division of Interpretation noted, “Two ‘twin’ initiatives, “equally essential to accomplish Mission 66,” therefore were necessary; “planned physical development and park interpretation for wise use” (quoted in Carr et al. 2006, 41). The execution of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center would demonstrate the embodiment of each of these efforts.

Pioneer Yosemite History Center Development

The water from the flood of December 1955 had barely receded into the banks of the Merced before plans were being made to develop the history center. A memorandum dated February 27, 1956 from Director Wirth states the following: “At Wawona we would propose the early establishment of an adequate visitor use program of a very high standard. We believe we should frankly aim at equaling the program in Yosemite Valley in quality and visitor service...” (quoted in Hubbard 1959, 2). Although it is not clear exactly what type of visitor program Wirth had in mind, it is clear that he recognized the potential for increasing visitation to Wawona by creating a destination compelling enough to draw visitors away from the congested Valley.

Developing and implementing the specifics of the visitor use program fell largely to the Interpretive Division headed by Chief Naturalist Douglass Hubbard. Hubbard recognized the opportunity created by both the reconstruction of the covered bridge and the slated removal of buildings from Yosemite Valley. Backed by his preservation minded Superintendent, John Preston, the project moved forward, although not without its detractors. Yosemite Park staff deridingly referred to the effort as “Doug’s Berry Farm” in reference to the Orange County theme park Knott’s Berry Farm where relocated structures were used to create the semblance of a western ghost town (Hubbard, personal communication, 2010).

Hubbard believed the Wawona area to be the ideal setting in which to fabricate a pioneer village. Strongly shaped and characterized by the presence of the covered bridge and the original toll road to the valley, the sparsely wooded glade was anchored by the old wagon shop on the south side of the river and the Wawona stables on the north side. The nearby Wawona Hotel, evocative of a late-Victorian era resort, also contributed to the sense of place. Hubbard noted, “With complete restoration of the old covered bridge it is desirable to augment the historical theme of the old Wawona Hotel area with other examples of early Yosemite history. It is agreed that the Wawona area is the ideal place to tell this story...” (Project Construction Program Proposal Form, June 10, 1958). Perhaps more critical to the location selection than the existing “historical theme” of Wawona was the fact that the site was not in the Valley and thus “would reduce visitor impact on the Valley floor” (Ibid).

Hubbard busied himself writing (and re-writing) the Pioneer Yosemite History Center Museum Prospectus. The first version was submitted to the Regional Office in 1957; the fourth and final version was submitted in October of 1959 and approved shortly thereafter. The report included the justification for development in order “...to tell the recent human history of Yosemite and its environs.” Hubbard continued, “The story of Yosemite’s pioneers and pioneer visitors and their way of life is an important one, of considerable visitor interest. This story has not been told because of lack of adequate facilities and cannot be told until facilities are provided. History of this kind is ephemeral and much of it has passed beyond recall in the century since white man first entered Yosemite Valley. What remains is worthy of preservation in an adequate visitor use center devoted to this subject.” Also highlighted in his justification was the often repeated objective, “to act as a major buffer in lessening visitor pressures on Yosemite Valley by attracting them elsewhere” (Hubbard 1959,1).

The report also included conceptual themes for the exhibit and ultimately informed which buildings were relocated to Wawona. Hubbard based the themes on important aspects of Yosemite pioneer history, but they were also shaped by buildings he knew were in danger of being demolished. His list of topics and

corresponding resources included: the Cavalry in Yosemite/Acting Superintendent's Cabin, How They Lived/Hodgdon Cabin, Yosemite's Guardians/Cuneo Cabin, National Park Ranger/Crane Flat Ranger Patrol Cabin, Yosemite's Artists/Jorgenson Cabin, Communication and Transportation/Wells Fargo Building, How They Came/Covered Bridge, wagons, stages, and Tioga machinery, and Rails to Yosemite/Shay geared locomotive (Hubbard 1959, 18-28). Each structure had a unique story to tell; in concert the full picture of the pioneer experience could be communicated (Hubbard, personal communication, 2010).

Multiple iterations of the Master Plan were also prepared before a final layout was approved. Variations between plans demonstrated changes in thinking regarding the intensity of visitor services to be provided. A submission from January 1959 illustrated a combination museum and history center alongside a depot, vehicle exhibit shelter, wagon shop, Tioga mine machinery, and unspecified outdoor exhibits on the south side of the bridge. Later iterations would reject the intense development along the south side of the river in favor of a lighter footprint there. Two constants appear in each plan; a "future" or "proposed" visitor center on the south side of the river and a realignment of Chilnualna Road, from the south side of the Wawona Stables to the north side. Although the Wawona visitor center was never realized, the road alignment project, which also involved moving the Wawona Stables twenty-five feet to the south, was adopted.

Most of the site and layout issues were resolved early in 1959, although the topic of a visitor center – where it would be and what architectural style it should take – continued to be discussed as did the location of parking. A memorandum dated December 23, 1957 to the Director chronicles the parking issue. Chief Landscape Architect Vint was in favor of creating a deliberate visitor experience which, as he understood it, necessitated parking on the south side of the covered bridge off Forest Drive. Local experience suggested that much traffic congestion created by those visitors accessing the Wawona stables north of the covered bridge could be alleviated by establishing a parking lot along Chilnualna Falls Road (Correspondences: Acting Superintendent, Yosemite to NPS Director, December 23, 1957). In the end, a compromise was reached, though Vint's proposal was heavily favored. The official Pioneer Yosemite History Center parking was located off Forest Drive, south of the bridge, an extension of the parking provided for the store and coffee shop. A much smaller lot was eventually approved along Chilnualna Falls Road fifty yards west of the stables, with the designation "employee parking."

The Superintendent's Annual Report from 1959 noted, "The revised prospectus for the Wawona Pioneer Village and Master Plan sheets were completed and forwarded. Site locations were made for the buildings which will form the village." The 'village' was beginning to take shape ahead of a final, approved plan. By February, three buildings had been relocated from the Valley and moved to their respective sites east of the original toll road that connected Wawona to the Valley. The Acting Superintendent's Cabin, the first buildings that work crews moved, had housed the park's army superintendent's office during the 1890-1906 period when park headquarters were located at Camp A. E. Wood. The building had actually been moved from there into Yosemite Valley in 1906 and was now brought back to the Wawona area. The Army Tack Room and the Wells Fargo Office were also in place. In April, stabilization repairs were made to the Grey Barn including a new roof to better protect the horse drawn vehicles located there. Salvaged Tioga machinery was relocated south-east of the Grey Barn and the Hodgdon cabin, moved from Aspen Valley in May, was relocated to a site west of the historic road bed. As they were reassembled, each building was "restored to their original condition and appearance" (1959 Annual Report).

Under the direction of Park Chief Naturalist Doug Hubbard and contractor Glenn Gordo, the restoration process was similar to the work performed on the covered bridge. Individual logs and rocks were marked and recorded, photographs were taken from all angles, and careful sketches and measurements were

made. Buildings were dismantled if they were too large to fit through the Wawona tunnel, and reassembled on site. “Preservative” treatment was performed during the reconstruction which included dipping logs in pentachlorophenol, installing new shakes under old, casting foundations, providing air circulation, and installing sprinkler systems. Hubbard noted a critical factor inherent in restoring to the correct period was “getting your team in the correct mood to not do best work” (emphasis in original internal memorandum by Hubbard, September 10, 1964).

An earthen berm was constructed in July just east of the building sites, upstream and uphill from the development in order to direct storm water away from the historic buildings and into the South Fork of the Merced River. The Cuneo Cabin was moved from Hodgdon’s Meadow in September, 1959 and relocated west of the road bed, adjacent Hodgdon Cabin. Until a decision could be reached regarding an official visitor center, Cuneo Cabin was equipped with a Selectroslide projector, rear-projection screen and synchronized with a master tape console “to provide a short orientation presentation to visitors at the History Center” (FY 1960 Completion Report). Although this was the only structure to feature a video, almost all the relocated structures and the covered bridge were equipped with visitor-activated push button “talking labels.” The Park Service institutionalized this technology while it was still rather new, and the Pioneer Yosemite History Center was among the first interpretive centers to rely on the automation of a self guided tour rather than personal interaction (Carr 2007, 189).

In addition to the push button interpretive devices, stagecoach rides were planned, using a historic wagon believed to be constructed by Galen Clark. The route began at the Wawona Grey Barn and traveled east along the river before crossing Forest Drive and traveling uphill behind the Chinese Laundry Building to the hotel grounds. After encircling the hotel fountain, visitors were hauled down the steep hillside that separated the hotel from the Pioneer Yosemite History Center, across the Covered Bridge, and through the buildings along the historic toll road. The Chinese Laundry Building, constructed in 1917 by the Washburns, became the designated repair shop for the wagons.

A memorandum from the Yosemite Superintendent to the Regional Director underscores the connection between the Wawona Hotel and the history center. “The Wawona Hotel buildings are an important part of the scene and they will be tied as closely as possible with the pioneer village...Yosemite Park and Curry Co. officials have shown enthusiasm for the project and have helped in many ways such as giving the Wells Fargo Building and several vehicles to the National Park Service. They plan to furnish a room of the hotel as it might have appeared in the early days of its use, as an exhibit for visitors. A footpath will lead from the village to the hotel” (Memorandum, June 23, 1959). There is no record of the furnished room ever coming to fruition. The footpath may have been also used by the stagecoach driver as part of the interpretive experience, but the exact route was never documented.

The Crane Flat Ranger Cabin was moved in November 1959, although without its original fireplace which was deemed “deteriorated beyond repair and necessitated the construction of a new one” (Project Completion Report, FY 1960). It was relocated to occupy the opening along the historic toll road between the Acting Superintendent’s Cabin and the Wells Fargo Building. This was the last of six buildings moved that year.

The project to relocate buildings resumed the following year, 1960, though at a much less ambitious pace. The Wells Fargo Utility Building was brought in from the Valley and placed southeast of larger Wells Fargo Building. Two pit toilets were also salvaged from the Old Village in Yosemite Valley and brought to Wawona where modern flush toilets were installed. These were sited away from the main development, south of Forest Drive. By this time, El Portal was identified as a more suitable location for the historic rail display that was initially programmed for the Pioneer Yosemite History Center.

The final plan, NP-YOS/2211-G, was signed by Director Wirth on October 12, 1960. Much of the building layout was already in place when the seventh version was approved, but there were some important deviations from previous plans that contributed significantly to the final development. Earlier drafts seemed to mimic urban subdivision designs popular following World War II and specified uniform spacing between buildings arranged with regular setbacks. In those plans, the historic toll road was re-designed as a boulevard, extending from the Wawona Hotel south of the Covered Bridge and terminating at the Wawona Stables. Within the history center, two arterial walkways were planned east and west of the main walkway, creating equally proportioned medians. In the final rendering of the plan, formality was eliminated in favor of a more rural design. This was articulated through a looser circulation pattern that formed an interior loop and allowed for variable spacing between buildings and irregular setbacks. Organically shaped planting islands replaced the geometric medians suggested earlier. Much less orderly than previous iterations, the final scheme captured the rustic nature of the subject matter.

With an approved plan in place, development continued in 1961. The Anderson Cabin was disassembled and transported from Foresta to Wawona where the components were submerged in wood preservative using a specially constructed vat, and reassembled. The building, home to George Anderson, the first man to summit Half Dome, was sited well west of the historic road, per the approved plan. The Jail was moved from the Old Village in Yosemite Valley in 1961. This field stone and lime mortar structure proved especially challenging, given its fragile condition and great weight. The wooden roof was removed and the building was divided into two pieces longitudinally, sandwiched between heavy planks and beams moved in two separate pieces. It was reassembled along the east side of the historic road, between the Wells Fargo Building and the Covered Bridge (Progress Report, 1961).

While transporting and reassembling the structures was the initial focus of the work at the Pioneer Yosemite Center, once buildings were successfully on site attention turned to interior restoration and furnishing. Interior restoration work began in 1961 with the Hodgdon Cabin and continued that year to include the Wells Fargo Building and Crane Flat Ranger Cabin. Additional restoration work was also performed on the Wawona Grey Barn, which required reinforcement at the top plate line on the side walls. Following examples of turn of the century structures found in the Mother Lode Country to the west of the Park, iron cables were installed parallel to the joists at several strategic points (Progress Report, 1961).

Each of the buildings was appointed with authentic pieces of furniture and everyday tools and equipment, thoroughly vetted by the interpretive staff. Hubbard wrote, "...much research is necessary to be sure that authenticity is carefully preserved and that each object going to the history center is documented. From this research a furnishing plan will be prepared. This will include reading of hundreds of pages of Army records and other documents, writing to sources of information and looking at thousands of historic photographs" (Pioneer Yosemite History Center Museum Prospectus 1964,18).

One of the final entries for the 1961 Progress Report details the acquisition of the fence. "Near Ackerman Meadow a quantity of abandoned split-rail fencing was found. This beautifully lichen-encrusted fence was carefully salvaged and transported to the History Center where it was re-erected to define the geographic limits of the History Center. The fence has added a great deal to the atmosphere of the Center and seems to help unify the various structures into an interpretive unit" (Progress Report, 1961). Photographs of the fence from this period reveal that the split rails were assembled six to eight rails high, typically with double angled supports wired together. Double vertical post supports were used sparingly. The fence was laid in a zigzag pattern, typical for split rail fencing. A baffle was installed at the north end of the Covered Bridge, presumably to prevent automobile traffic from entering the site. Vertical

posts were spaced to allow pedestrian access; by removing the horizontal rails, stagecoaches could also enter.

The Jorgensen Studio was dismantled and moved from the Old Village in Yosemite Valley in 1962. It was reassembled at its designated site west of the historic road bed, between the Covered Bridge and the Cuneo Cabin. It was refurbished as an art gallery to exhibit the work of famous artists and photographers who helped spread the fame of Yosemite and, guided by directional signage, was the first building visitors would encounter upon crossing the Covered Bridge. Almost directly south across the river from the Jorgensen Studio, a simple peeled pole open air structure was constructed to provide shelter for the historic wagon and stage coach collection. The Wagon Shelter's design and rustic use of materials was consistent with the character of the historic buildings and offered the vehicles protection from weather extremes.

Construction of roads, walks and parking areas was started on October 3, 1962 and received final inspection and approval November 14, 1962. Major components of the work included construction of a parking lot south of Forest Drive and grading and realignment of approximately 200 yards of Chilnualna Falls Road to avoid bisecting the Wawona Stables from the rest of the Pioneer Yosemite Center. The road realignment also resulted in the dismantling and reconstruction of the Wawona Stables approximately twenty-five feet south of its original site, along with a new corral fence.

The Completion Report for 1963 begins, "Planned work on reconstruction and rehabilitation of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center is now virtually complete." The report notes the addition of one final building, the Blacksmith Shop, donated from the Dalton Ranch outside of park boundaries near Madera, and relocated west of the Wagon Shop south of the river. Interior furnishings continued to be acquired and soil cement was installed on walkways. Additional landscaping projects included installation of a sprinkler system, "to assure the survival of grass and trees. A number of trees, some quite large for transplanting, were placed during this period" (Project Completion Report, 1963). Although no specific notations were made with respect to tree locations or species, a Giant Sequoia located directly east of the Jorgensen Studio was likely among those transplanted.

The Pioneer Yosemite History Center was officially dedicated on September 11, 1964 after six years of preparations and restorations and a century after Abraham Lincoln signed a bill granting Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove to the State of California. Local Congressmen were on hand for the dedication as was Regional Director, Edward Hummel. The history center represented a significant portion of the interpretive development at Yosemite programmed under Mission 66 and was lauded as a successful effort to illustrate nearly a hundred years of Yosemite pioneer history. The project was honored at the 23rd Annual Meeting of the American Association for State and Local History, with a national Award of Merit, a distinction given to recognize excellence in projects, individual achievement and organizational general excellence. The award reads, "To the Pioneer Yosemite History Center and its curator, Douglass Hubbard, for an outstanding example of inspiration, leadership and dedicated service in the creation of the center."

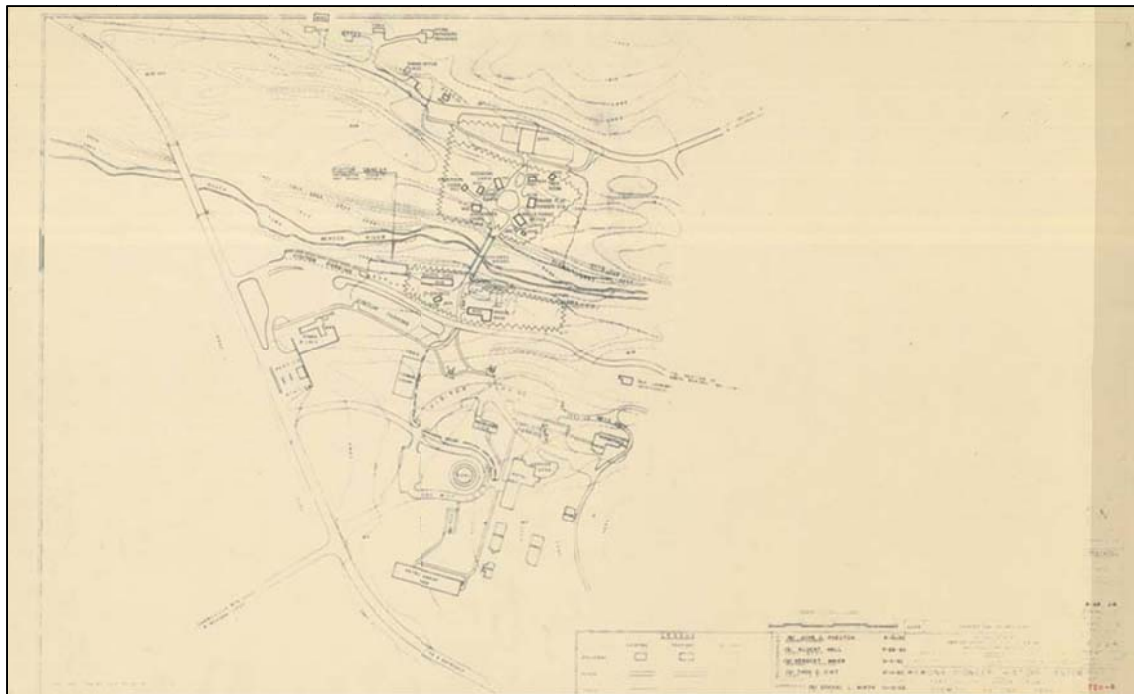
Recent Developments

The interpretation program has undergone considerable changes since the dedication. In 1971 the push button talking labels were abandoned in favor of a living history program. In addition to the stagecoach driver, docents staffed each structure, dressed in period costumes. They were available to interact with visitors, answering questions about pioneer life, giving guided tours and demonstrating daily chores specific to their building. This program has declined over the years, and since 1996 the Blacksmith Shop and the Wells Fargo Office are the only buildings consistently staffed by volunteers. Interpretive

stagecoach rides are still offered by the National Park's only wagon-driving ranger. In place of a full range of docents, a pamphlet is available to visitors for fifty cents, located in a box just south of the Covered Bridge. Signs are also located at each building, which provide brief historic overviews. An environmental living program, started in 1976, is conducted from April to June, that provides fourth and fifth grade students an introduction to the history of Yosemite National Park and the pioneer way of life without running water or electricity.

No significant physical changes occurred at the Pioneer Yosemite History Center until 1981. That year, Degnan's Bakery was moved from the Valley, where it was originally constructed in 1890, to the history center. The building was sited east of the historic toll road, between the Crane Flat Ranger Station and the Wells Fargo Office. That same year, the Cuneo Cabin was removed and the Blacksmith Shop was relocated from the south side of the river to just west of the Acting Superintendent's Office on the north side of the river. The Tioga Road and Mine exhibit, which was located along the south bank of the river, adjacent the Wawona Grey Barn, was removed and a corral was installed in that location. Historic farm equipment was installed north of Forest Drive, just south of the Wagon Shed.

The Pioneer Yosemite History Center remains an effective way for visitors to experience the history of the early settlement period that helped shape the park. As a collection, the buildings offer a perspective on changes in the park as well as an insight into Mission 66 planning ideals.



The final plan for the Pioneer Yosemite History Center, signed by Thomas Vint. (YOSE Archives) See the Supplemental Information section for an 11x17 version of this map.



Historic photo taken from north end of the covered bridge looking north. Workers are installing soil cement pathways. Transplanted trees in grass “islands” are visible behind them. 1962 (YOSE archives, Box 183, Press Release Folder)



Aerial photo taken just prior to the dedication of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center in 1964. The Wawona Stable is at the bottom of the photo, The Army Tack Room, Acting Superintendent's Headquarters, Ranger's Cabin, Wells Fargo Office and Covered Bridge are also visible. Buildings on the right side are obscured by trees.(YOSE Archives, Box 183, Press Release Folder)

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

The Pioneer Yosemite History Center is a ten-acre interpretive village located four miles from the south entrance of Yosemite National Park, within the Wawona Basin Historic District. Pioneer buildings and structures were relocated to Wawona to provide a destination outside of Yosemite Valley and, as a collection, represent the largest Mission 66 interpretive project in Yosemite National Park. This collection of historic buildings and structures assembled during Mission 66 reflects the planning and interpretive ideals of that period of modernization in the National Park Service. The Pioneer Yosemite History Center continues to convey its significance as an interpretive center, offering visitors a rare opportunity to encounter the pioneer history of the park. The analysis and evaluation of key landscape characteristics is based on historical research and documentation of existing conditions. Seven landscape characteristics help to convey the historic character of the district including spatial organization, natural systems and features, land use, buildings and structures, circulation, views and vistas, and small scale features.

The spatial organization of the interpretive center was influenced by the desire to create an interpretive pedestrian experience. The level river terrace enclosed by trees creates an environment that is relatively secluded and well suited to a historic interpretive center. The presence of a historic covered bridge as well as stables and a barn, provided a framework for the arrangement of the buildings informally, clustered around a historic road bed that facilitated pedestrian maneuverability. The historic alignment of the circulation system is intact, including a portion of the road that once provided the only access between Wawona and Yosemite Valley and the original pedestrian routes. Fourteen historic buildings and structures were incorporated into the history center. Views through the site are dominated by the buildings set among mature native trees. Small scale features, such as split rail fences, flag poles, a drinking fountain, hitching posts, and retaining walls, contribute to the rustic feeling of the interpretive center.

Integrity Discussion

Of the seven aspects of integrity defined by the National Register program, the Pioneer Yosemite History Center retains a high degree of location, design, setting, feeling, association, materials, and workmanship. Given the retention of these aspects, the Pioneer Yosemite History Center retains its integrity as a historic property.

The location of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center and its continued use as an interpretive center has remained fixed since 1964. Its association with the Mission 66 park master plan is apparent through its intact design that still reflects the original designs depicted in the plans. Significant elements such as the informal building arrangement and pedestrian circulation route are intact thus retaining integrity of design. The Pioneer Yosemite History Center's setting enclosed on the north and south by topography, surrounded by scattered trees, adjacent to the South Fork of the Merced River has remained constant since the period of significance. The Pioneer Yosemite History Center retains its historic feeling as a Mission 66 interpretive area that was intentionally located away from the crowds of Yosemite Valley and continues to be used as the primary interpretive resource for the pioneer history of the park. Sufficient physical characteristics and features survive from the historic period to sustain this association between the property and its historic design intent and use.

In general, the buildings, the vegetation, fence lines, and circulation routes retain historical materials and workmanship. Although repair work on the buildings and structures at the Pioneer Yosemite History

Center has involved some replacement of building materials, most have not impacted the integrity of the district as a whole (such as replacement of roofs and exterior stairs). Repairs to the Wawona Covered Bridge between 1972 and 2001 involved replacement of some rough hewn timbers with dimensional lumber, although the bridge still retained enough integrity to be individually listed on the National Register in 2007. Overall, these changes have not compromised the overall integrity of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center which still reflects its historic design and purpose as an interpretive center associated with the park's Mission 66 master plan.

Spatial Organization

Spatial organization is defined as the organization of physical forms and visual associations in the landscape. The Pioneer Yosemite History Center is characterized by the arrangement of buildings in close proximity to each other in an informal, circular pattern as well as to the trees intermingled throughout the building core. The structures are situated to face the historic road, which pre-dates the Yosemite Grant of 1864.

The Pioneer Yosemite History Center is located within the southwest corner of the park in the Wawona Basin. Its geographic remoteness from the most frequented attractions of the Yosemite Valley was deemed both a requirement and an asset during its inception in Mission 66, as encouraging visitors to explore areas away from the over-taxed resources was a primary goal. The interpretive center is located just 200 yards from Wawona Road, the southern entry road into Yosemite National Park and the most frequented one, yet it is concealed from the road by a stand of varied-aged conifers that dominate the landscape.

The Pioneer Yosemite History Center is set within a wooded, level river terrace that is interrupted by the South Fork of the Merced River. A historic covered bridge spans the river. A historic road bed, which once served as passage to Yosemite Valley from Wawona, provides the organizing element for the arrangement of the buildings on the north shore of the river. The buildings are arrayed in an informal, circular pattern that fronts the road bed and comprise the core of the installation. The loosely chronological arrangement specified by a directional sign, located at the north end of the bridge allows visitors to discover the changes in construction techniques over time, with the oldest buildings located along the western edge of the development progressing clockwise to the later construction along the eastern edge. The building types also demonstrate the varied uses of the park, from homesteads to a place of commerce.

The interpretive center was purposefully organized to create a primarily pedestrian experience, but also allows for occasional stagecoach or horse traffic. The buildings are sited in close proximity to each other and connected by narrow, packed dirt pathways, lined with both river rocks and split rail fences, encircle two native grass 'meadows' and create a pedestrian loop. Mature conifers dominate the site, intermingled among the pioneer buildings as well as within planted native 'meadows' west of the historic road bed. The buildings were sited very close to the trees, often five feet or less. The combination of the closeness of the buildings to each other, the tree trunks, the overhead canopy and the pedestrian paths creates a unique human scale that is rare in Yosemite National Park, a place known for the vastness of soaring granite peaks and Giant Sequoias.

A variety of building types were relocated to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center to interpret the lifestyles of earliest Anglo-American settlers in Yosemite. Homesteads, an artist studio, and army headquarters cabin, a ranger patrol cabin, a Wells Fargo building, a bakery, a blacksmith shop and a jail are all clustered around the remnants of a historic road in creation of the ersatz pioneer village. Although the site as a whole is fairly level, the army headquarters cabin and attendant flagpole occupy the highest topographic position, which seems to connote the importance of the organization's role in the early development of the park.

The Wawona Stables and corral sits just north of the main cluster of buildings, removed but still visible from the main area. Since its construction in 1932, it has functioned as a working stable for the concessioner lead horseback tours. The scale of this building is much larger than those within the core,

appropriate for its use. Like the covered bridge, this building pre-dates the installation of the Mission 66 project, and serves both as an anchor and as a defining edge of the physical boundary of the development. Across the river, south of the covered bridge, the physical layout is a less choreographed with neither chronological progression nor directional signs to inform the experience. The building composition is limited to the Wawona Grey Barn which pre-dates the Pioneer Yosemite History Center, and an open wagon barn built specifically for the Mission 66 project. Early farming machinery is displayed, just south of the open wagon barn. Both buildings are located along the historic road bed. The space is significantly more open with greater distances between buildings and fewer trees.

Set apart from the rest of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center is the stagecoach repair shop. Originally constructed for use as a laundry facility for the Wawona Hotel, it was appropriated by the Mission 66 park planners for repairing the historic wagons used to provide interpretive rides to visitors; a critical operational piece for maintaining this longstanding component of the center. The building establishes the south east boundary of the site, well removed from the primary facilities and largely out of view. Chilnualna Falls Road marks the north boundary of the site, just north of the Wawona Grey Barn. Two parking lots are located along this road; an unpaved parking lot just east of the barn, and a smaller, paved parking lot west of the barn. The site is bound on the south by Forest Drive, whose western terminus is formed at the intersection with Wawona Road. A paved parking lot is located along Forest Drive, directly across the street from the Pioneer Yosemite History Center. Two comfort stations are located at the eastern edge of this parking lot.

Few changes have occurred since the end of the period of significance. The blacksmith shop, relocated to a position south of the river in 1963, was moved across the river into its current location during the early 1980s. The Cuneo Cabin, which formerly occupied the space between Anderson's Cabin and Hodgdon Homestead Cabin, was removed from the park around 1980. Degnan's Bakery, constructed in Yosemite Valley in 1898, was moved to its current location in 1981. Tioga Road machinery was historically staged east of the Wawona Grey Barn, but was removed after the period of significance and early farming equipment was installed west of the Wawona Grey Barn. These modifications are not a departure from the historic patterns of development and the area retains its functional and spatial integrity from the period of significance. As a result, spatial organization is a landscape characteristic that continues to convey the historic character of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center as it was developed during Mission 66.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Artistic depiction of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center dated May, 1963. (Yosemite Archives Box 183-1, Press Release Folder)

Natural Systems and Features

Natural Systems and Features are defined as the natural conditions that have influenced or defined the development and resulting form of the cultural landscape. The development of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center was historically influenced by the area's topography, native vegetation, and the hydrology which significantly affected the physical layout and organization of the landscape and patterns of use. The flat, open ground plane along the South Fork of the Merced River enclosed by trees provided the physical framework and accommodated the development of an interpretive center. The natural systems and features continue to contribute to the character of the historic district as a whole.

Topography and Geomorphology

The Pioneer Yosemite History Center is located on a broadly flattened river terrace enclosed by steeply sloped and forested hillsides to the north and south. Although the interpretive center is just 300 yards north of the Wawona Hotel, it sits 40 feet lower and the two developments are completely obscured from one another by both the grade change and the forested slopes.

The relocated buildings sit on a river terrace that gradually slopes from east to west adjacent the South Fork of the Merced River. Typical of alluvial sediment, it is comprised of sandy soil. Given the relatively level ground plane, siting the buildings required only minor grading to establish level foundations. Pathways, many today delineated by smooth, river-washed stones gathered from across the site, gently undulate between buildings with the native topography left intact. By employing minimally invasive grading principles, which reduced the need for cut and fill, the rustic character of the buildings was matched by the landscape. A small stone-lined ditch and adjacent earthen berm was constructed along the eastern edge of the building core to direct storm water away from the historic buildings and into the South Fork of the Merced River.

Native Vegetation

The native forests and meadows surrounding this area also influenced the physical development of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center. Similar to other developments in the Wawona Basin Historic District, buildings of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center were set within the forested margin of a more open area, adjacent to the west. The dominant forest type in this area of the park is the Ponderosa pine Woodland Alliance. Ponderosa pine is the dominant tree; it occurs with co-dominant species including incense cedar, sugar pine, white fir and California black oak. Each of these species is represented at the Pioneer Yosemite History Center, where there is very little understory present, save a few naturally occurring Whiteleaf Manzanita. The lack of shrub layer allows clear visibility across the site that is irregularly interrupted by the varied aged stands of trees. The trees establish a visually permeable, but definitive border along the outer edges of the development, a buffer between the installation of pioneer era buildings and the more modern necessities of cars, parking lots and roadways. Within the interpretive core, buildings were sited in close proximity to mature trees; often with five feet or less between buildings and tree trunks, which creates an intimate relationship between the buildings and their setting.

Two distinctive grass islands punctuate the central core. Historic photographs show the preparation of one of these areas underway prior to planting and two others already completed. Two of these survive today. The native grass is watered via an irrigation system originally installed in 1963, but it is not routinely mowed and retains an aesthetic more comparable to a native meadow than clipped turf grass associated with modern domestic lawns. Naturally occurring grass covers most of the ground plane elsewhere throughout the interpretive center, save the compacted dirt pathways.

A few trees dot the internal “meadows”, of various size and species. A 1963 project completion report notes, “A number of trees, some quite large for transplanting, were placed during this period.” There is insufficient historic data to account for quantity, location or species of trees transplanted; however according to current maintenance staff, a trenching project in the 1980s destroyed the roots systems of unspecified quantities and species of trees within the core which were ultimately removed. Yosemite Park Forester Brian Matos has identified two Giant Sequoias, two white firs, and one sugar pine within the building core that are uncommon in this native plant community and may have been transplanted.

Hydrology

One element critical to the location selection of the interpretive center was the hydrology, more specifically, the proximity to South Fork of the Merced River. The river was the impetus for the construction of the bridge, which became, 100 years later, the nucleus for the complex of pioneer buildings. The bridge spans the approximately 120-foot channel, although this width varies as the water flows west to the Pacific Ocean. The hydrologic regime is dictated by the alpine climate of the upper basin of Merced River, which results in heavy snowfall from November to March. Characterized by snowmelt, the highest flows occur in spring and early summer, with moderate to low flows in winter, and lowest flows in late summer and fall. The river is protected by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act within the boundaries of the park.

The geomorphology, the native vegetation and the hydrology influenced how the Pioneer History Center was developed, specifically affecting the location and spatial organization. Natural Systems and Features exist relatively unchanged from the period of significance and help convey the significance of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Contemporary image depicting the historic character of natural systems and features that still remain: the almost complete absence of a shrub layer under the varied-aged stand of trees and the ground plane gently sloping from east to west allow for views of buildings among the trees (YOSE 2010).

Land Use

Land use is defined by the principal activities in the landscape that have influenced the landscape as a result of human activity. The Pioneer Yosemite History Center was conceived of as an essential aspect of the Mission 66 planning effort at Yosemite National Park. Service-wide, interpretation was established as the single most important programmatic aspect of the postwar development campaign. The Pioneer Yosemite History Center was created to establish a destination away from fragile natural resources and to reduce congestion in the popular Yosemite Valley, as well as to interpret the pioneer settlement history of the park. Establishing a collection of historic buildings in the Wawona Basin allowed park planners to remove buildings from the Old Village in Yosemite Valley to restore Sentinel Meadow, as well as create a unique attraction outside of the Valley.

Since the history center's dedication in 1964, it has been the hub of pioneer-era interpretation within the park. Visitors to the Pioneer History Center can take a self guided tour of the center using pamphlets provided in dispensers located at the south covered bridge entrance or can participate in an interpreted stagecoach tour of the Pioneer History Center and surrounding landscape.

When originally constructed, each of the buildings at the Pioneer Yosemite History Center were equipped with electronic buttons and audio-visual equipment that would narrate historic information pertinent to each building when pushed. This method of interpretation was abandoned in 1971 and replaced by interpretive personnel who would occupy the buildings and carry out period appropriate activities consistent with the time when they were constructed. Although not completely abandoned, the living history interpretive component of the history center has been reduced from dozens to two personnel: a blacksmith and a stagecoach driver.

Although the methods of delivery have changed since the close of the period of significance, the basic interpretative function of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center has remained constant. Therefore, the landscape characteristic Land Use helps convey the historic character of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Interpretive stagecoach rides are offered during the summer months. (YOSE 2010)

Buildings and Structures

Buildings are defined as elements primarily built for sheltering any form of human activity, whereas structures are functional elements constructed for purposes other than sheltering activity.

The Pioneer Yosemite History Center was developed at Wawona in accordance with the planning tenants of the National Park Service's Mission 66 initiative. The project created a center for historic interpretation by relocating almost a dozen old and historically significant buildings from around the park to Wawona. While the majority of buildings at the Pioneer Yosemite History Center were new additions to the landscape, two buildings and one structure predated the creation of the interpretive center and provided the foundation for which the other buildings were sited around. These three buildings are the Wawona Grey Barn, the Covered Bridge and the Wawona Stables. More removed from the core development is the Chinese Laundry building, which was re-purposed as a wagon repair shop. With the exception of Degan's Bakery (which was moved to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center 1981) all of the other buildings in the Pioneer Yosemite History Center were moved there during the period of significance, between 1955 and 1964. The Pioneer Yosemite History Center was officially dedicated on September 11, 1964, and this date marks the end of the period of significance for the Wawona Basin Historic District.

Three changes occurred to the organization of the Mission 66 building complex following the close of the period of significance. The Cuneo Homestead, which once housed audio-visual equipment as part of the original Mission 66 development, was removed. The Blacksmith Shop, which was initially sited on the south side of the river, was moved to its current location adjacent the Superintendent's headquarters in the early 1980s. Degan's Bakery was added to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center in 1981. All structures listed as contributing have been assessed and found to retain the majority of their original materials and character-defining features.

Contributing Buildings and Structures

Wawona Grey Barn/ Washburn Barn (Contributing)

LCS ID: 005796

Structure No: 4100

The Wawona Grey Barn's construction date is undetermined; however, it is certainly a historic building. The plaque in front of the barn states that the building was constructed in 1895, however, completion reports from the development of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center state that the barn was built in the early 1900s. In contrast, Linda Greene's Historic Resource Study and the park's building files state that the building was constructed in 1920. Oral testimony from Wawona Hartwig and Albert Gordon state that the building was originally used as a blacksmith shop that specialized in stagecoach repairs. Its location immediately adjacent to the Wawona Covered Bridge would support this assertion. In 1923, however, the building became used as a Shell gas station and automotive repair shop. In 1959, the building was retrofitted to be used as a barn and as the point of origin for wagon rides associated with the developing Pioneer Yosemite History Center. It is still used in this manner today.

The Wawona Grey Barn is a timber-framed structure that measures roughly 80 by 24 feet. The building has a lean-to addition with a shed roof along its southeast corner that is used for storing stage coaches. The building has large barn doors along its east and west façades. It has a wood foundation, dirt floors, and board-and-batten siding painted grey. The building has fixed divided-light windows and screens along the main floor and four-over-four double-hung windows at the gable ends. A wooden corral is attached to the building's north and east facades.

Hodgdon Homestead Cabin/Homestead Cabin (Contributing)

LCS ID: 005776

Structure No: 4101

The Hodgdon Homestead Cabin was constructed by Jeremiah Hodgdon in 1879. It was originally constructed as a homestead cabin for the Hodgdon family at Aspen Valley, although it also served as housing for laborers on the Great Sierra Wagon Road (1883), shelter for patrolling US Cavalry troops (1890s) and as a local curiosity for guests at the Aspen Valley resort (1920-1930s). In 1952, the cabin was acquired as part of a land purchase and in 1960 the building was moved to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center in Wawona where it remains today. The justification for the move was three-fold: it is the only two-story log cabin in the Yosemite region, it allowed for the interpretation of early settlers' life at the Pioneer Yosemite History Center and the building was slated to be demolished by the heirs of the Hodgdon homestead.

The Hodgdon homestead cabin is a two-story log structure with exterior dimensions of 22x30 feet. The building has a rear shed addition that gives the building the appearance of a saltbox. The main portion of the cabin is built of peeled logs laid in alternating rows and interlocked at the corners with a saddle notch joint. The horizontal spaces between the joints are chinked with split log wedges. The cabin features a large porch on the front and it originally had exterior stairs to the second floor on the south side; however, these stairs were removed in 2002 and replaced in-kind in 2008. Two double-hung six-over-six windows are on the front façade and flank a board-and-batten door. The shed addition is of frame construction and is sheathed in wood shingles.

In 1978, the Hodgdon homestead cabin was listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its local significance within the fields of architecture, conservation and exploration/settlement.

Yosemite Transportation Company Office/Wells Fargo Office (Contributing)

LCS ID: 005797

Structure No: 4102

The Yosemite transportation company office was constructed by the Yosemite Valley Railroad Company in 1910. It was originally constructed as a stagecoach transportation depot (which connected to the train station in El Portal) and as a telegraph and express office in Yosemite Valley's Old Village. In the 1930s the building was converted into an employee residence and in 1960 it was moved to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center in Wawona where it remains today. The justification for the move was two-fold. It is a rare example of early rustic architecture in the park. This type of early rustic building later influenced park designers who, according to Linda McClelland, developed the Park Rustic style at Yosemite. It was also slated for demolition as part of the park's Mission 66 program, which called for the restoration of the meadow at the Old Village site.

The Yosemite transportation company office is a 1.5-story frame structure with exterior dimensions of 21x23 feet. The building consists of an unpeeled-log frame, vertical posts and horizontal beams, with infill panels of natural cedar bark and thin, unpeeled logs arranged in decorative patterns (predominately herringbone). It has a steeply pitched overhanging roof of wood shingles supported on log rafters. A king post truss of peeled logs is used both functionally and decoratively in the front gable, which overhangs four feet. The building's casement windows have diamond-pane sash that are placed horizontally in the frames. Notably, an exterior mounted electric lamp over the front porch illustrates that this was one of Yosemite's first buildings to have electricity.

In 1978, the Yosemite Transportation Company office was listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its local significance in the fields of architecture and transportation.

Wells Fargo Utility Building (Contributing)
LCS ID: TBD
Structure No: 4103

The Wells Fargo Utility Building was constructed in Yosemite Valley in 1912. It was acquired by the park at no cost from the Yosemite Park and Curry Co. in 1959 when buildings in the Old Village area were razed. In 1960, the utility building was moved to Wawona and became a part of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center. This building is currently used as a storage space and it houses the Pioneer Yosemite History Center's fire suppression control box.

The Wells Fargo Utility Building has roughly 1-foot diameter, un-peeled, vertical log walls and a cast in place concrete foundation. The small, 12x12 foot structure has a simple gable roof with wood shake roofing. The building has a single panel door along its front façade and does not have any windows. The gable ends of the building are sheathed in wood shingles. This building is located behind the Yosemite Transportation Company office building and is not interpreted by park rangers as part of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center.

Acting Superintendent's Headquarters/Army Cabin (Contributing)
LCS ID: 005798
Structure No: 4104

The acting superintendent's headquarters was constructed in 1904 at the original US Cavalry headquarters at Camp A.E. Wood in Wawona. In 1906, the building was moved to Yosemite Valley (after Yosemite Valley was ceded from the Yosemite Commission to Yosemite National Park) and sometime thereafter it was converted into a residence. In 1958, the building was moved back to Wawona and became a part of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center. The justification for the move was two-fold: it is the sole remaining structure associated with the military tenure at Wawona and it allowed for the US Cavalry tenure at Yosemite National Park to be interpreted within the Pioneer Yosemite History Center.

The acting superintendent's office is a 1.5-story frame structure with exterior dimensions of 15x18 feet. The frame building is sheathed in board-and-batten and it has a steeply pitched gable roof. The redwood roof shingles and board-and-batten siding are stained dark brown. The front façade features a shed covered porch with wrap around stairs and peeled-log posts, a four panel door and a small 6-light casement window on the gable end. There are two casement windows on the north and south sides, each has 12 lights. Just outside the front of the building stands a wooden flagpole.

In 1978, the acting superintendent's office was listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its local significance in the field of conservation.

Army Tack Room (Contributing)
LCS ID: 005799
Structure No: 4105

The army tack room was constructed in Yosemite Valley in 1917. In 1960, the tack room was moved to Wawona and became a part of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center.

The army tack room is a frame building sheathed with wood shakes. The main portion of the building has a steeply pitched gable roof while the southern elevation has a lean-to addition with a shed roof. The lean-to portion of the building has screened walls and is exposed to the elements. The roof is sheathed in wood shingles. Two large double doors mark the main entry of the building. These double doors have a herringbone lath pattern composed of diagonal tongue-and-groove boards. The building is painted brown with brown trim. The rear of the building is connected to a wood post corral. Additionally, there is a watering trough attached to the rear of the building. Two 4-light awning windows mark the north façade of the building.

Crane Flat Ranger Cabin/Ranger Patrol Cabin (Contributing)
LCS ID: 005800
Structure No: 4106

The Crane Flat ranger cabin was constructed sometime between 1900 and 1915 at a cost of \$1,500. It was originally constructed as a ranger patrol cabin at Crane Flat. In 1959, this building was moved to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center where it is used to interpret the importance and sacrifice of early Yosemite park rangers.

The Crane Flat ranger cabin is a one-story log cabin. The building is largely rectangular in plan with a gable roof and its exterior measures approximately 26x33 feet. The eastern edge of the roofline extends farther than the west end and might represent a later addition to the building. The rear of the building has a small porch that is under the main roofline of the building. The log framing has saddle notched joints at the building's corners and has larger-diameter logs at the base of the building than at its top. The building has a gable roof that is sheathed in wood shakes. The building has a massive stone masonry exterior chimney along its north side. The front door is made of vertical wood planks and has ornamental iron hinges. The building has original 6-light casement windows throughout. The building rests on wooden blocks and has loose stones stacked along the perimeter of the foundation. The building has log rafters and a notched log that runs along the ridge of the roofline.

Anderson Cabin/Mountaineer Cabin (Contributing)
LCS ID: 005804
Structure No: 4110

The Anderson cabin was constructed by George Anderson in 1876 at Foresta, in what is now the western boundary of the park. This cabin is also known as the mountaineer cabin, in reference to George Anderson's proficiency as a rock climber. Today, George Anderson is largely remembered as the first person to climb Half Dome. In 1961, this building was moved from Foresta to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center where it is used to interpret the lifestyle of early Yosemite area pioneers and the significance of recreational mountaineering in Yosemite's history.

The Anderson cabin is a one-story log cabin. The building is rectangular in plan with a steeply pitched gable roof and its exterior measures roughly 16x23 feet. The ax-hewn log framing has saddle-notched joints at the building's interlocking corners and was constructed with larger diameter logs at the base of

the building than at its top. The building does not have a conventional foundation and was simply built up from the large diameter logs that comprise the base of the building. The building has a dirt floor and a short stone wall that runs along the perimeter of the building. Although the lower portion of the building is constructed of logs, the gables are frame construction and are finished with wood shakes. The roof has log rafters and it is sheathed in a double course of wood shakes. The building has one double-hung window and three divided-light fixed windows. The building has a massive stone masonry exterior chimney along the north side of the structure. The front door is made of vertical wood planks and has ornamental iron hinges.

Jail/Powder House/Morgue (Contributing)

LCS ID: 005802

Structure No: 4111

The jail was constructed by John Degnan in the Old Yosemite Village circa 1880. It is believed that the building was originally constructed as a powder house for explosives that were used during road and trail construction, but also served as a jail and as a morgue, as necessary. In 1960, this building was moved from Yosemite Village to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center. Unlike the majority of the other buildings at the Pioneer Yosemite History Center, visitors are encouraged to enter the building to experience what it would have been like to be imprisoned in this small structure.

The jail is a one-story stone masonry structure with a wood roof. The building is nearly square in plan with a hipped roof. Its exterior measures roughly 9.5x11 feet. The building was constructed of large-diameter mortared stones and has walls that are nearly 18 inches thick. These thick walls provided secure housing for explosives (and later prisoners). The wooden roof of the building was lined with 6 inches of sand to provide fire resistance in the case that any of the building's explosives were inadvertently detonated. The building's hipped roof is sheathed in wood shingles and each ridge is covered with a Boston hip. The building has one small horizontal window in the rear of the building that is outfitted with steel bars. The front façade of the building has a single door with strap hinges and is wrapped with sheet metal. The building has a concrete foundation and floor with horseshoes imbedded in the concrete floor that were used for chaining prisoners.

Chris Jorgenson Studio/Artist Cabin (Contributing)

LCS ID: 005803

Structure No: 4112

The Chris Jorgenson studio was constructed by landscape painter Chris Jorgenson in Yosemite Valley in 1904. The building was moved to Wawona in 1962 and became a part of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center. The move was deemed necessary in 1959 with the National Park Service "Mission 66" directive to raze the structures in and near the Old Village in order to return the meadow to a natural state. The studio is the remaining structure associated with this significant Yosemite artist and allows Yosemite interpretive staff an opportunity to demonstrate the prominence that early landscape artists held in Yosemite.

The Chris Jorgenson studio is a one-story, one-room log structure measuring 22x37 feet. It has a steeply pitched overhanging gable roof, covered with wood shingles. The front gable projects ten feet beyond the front wall of the cabin and covers the porch; it is supported by five log posts. The gable end is treated decoratively with infill logs placed in a vertical pattern. The structure is placed on a rubble granite foundation and is built of peeled logs in alternating tiers, interlocked at the corners with a V-notched

joint. The horizontal spaces between the logs are chinked with white cement. An exterior chimney is located on the south end of the building and is made of granite in an uncoursed rubble pattern. An original stained glass window, in a sunburst design, is located on the façade of the cabin. The front entrance is comprised of a Dutch door with vertical planks and large decorative strap hinges.

In 1979, the Chris Jorgenson studio was listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its local significance in the field of art.

Wagon Shelter/Wagon Shed (Contributing)

LCS ID: TBD

Structure No: 4113

The wagon shelter was constructed at the Pioneer Yosemite History Center in 1962. Unlike the majority of the other buildings at the Pioneer Yosemite History Center, the wagon shed was constructed on-site as a new building, rather than relocated. It was built to house and display a portion of the park's historic wagon and stage coach collection while providing minimal protection to them from the elements.

The wagon shelter is an open-air, peeled-log structure with a gable roof and exterior measurements of 19x104 feet. The wagon shed is primarily an open-air structure, with the exception of a small section in the southeast corner of the building that is walled in with horizontal peeled logs and used for storage. This building has log posts every 8 feet which support a wooden roof. The log posts are connected by a log railing that is roughly 3 feet off the ground. The wood roof is composed of exposed log trusses and log purlins and is sheathed with wood shingle roofing. The log posts rest on granite slabs and the building has a dirt floor. The lattice trim on the western façade of the structure is detachable and allows for wagons to exit the shelter and be stored indoors during the winter months. In 1963, only a year after the shelter was originally constructed, a 40-foot addition was added to the building to accommodate additional wagons.

Wawona Covered Bridge (Contributing)

LCS ID: 005838

Structure No: 4134

The Wawona covered bridge spans the South Fork of the Merced River at the Pioneer Yosemite History Center at Wawona. It is considered to be the only covered bridge within a US National. It was built by Galen Clark in 1858 as an open truss span and was covered by Henry Washburn in 1875. Although the bridge was constructed to accommodate stagecoaches and later automobiles, today the bridge is used primarily by pedestrians and occasionally by stagecoaches that originate from the Wawona Grey Barn at the Pioneer Yosemite History Center.

The structure is a modified queen-post truss constructed with native woods braced by steel tie rods. The structure measures 130 x 16 feet. A pair of longitudinal stringers span between the trusses. The trusses and stringers are supported by a system of seven transverse floor beams, or outriggers. The cover, added in 1875, has an internal frame with timber siding. The total height of the bridge is 30 feet, measured from the peak of the gable-roofed cover to the top of the transverse floor beams.

The principal truss members are made of hand-hewn ponderosa pine and the vertical and diagonal elements of the truss are made of plain-sawn Douglas fir. The internal frame covering structure is made of plain-sawn Douglas fir with a roof consisting of hand-split sugar pine shakes. The piers and abutments are

composed of concrete with stone facing. The structure was meticulously rehabilitated in 1956, reusing all salvageable materials and replacing deteriorated materials in-kind. In 1972, Yosemite Park crews replaced five transverse floor beams. Five transverse floor beams were replaced in 1978 as well, including three of the 1972 floor beams. In 1983, replaced elements included stringers, floor beams, several truss elements, knee braces and wood decking. In 2001, transverse floor beams were repaired with sistered wood bolted to the existing fabric. The replacements included dimensional lumber roughed up to appear hand hewn.

In 2007, the Wawona covered bridge was listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its state and local significance in the fields of exploration/settlement, entertainment/recreation and transportation.

Wawona Stables (Contributing)

LCS ID: TBD

Structure No: 4423

The Wawona Stables was constructed by the NPS in 1932 at a cost of \$3,200. This building was constructed to replace an earlier barn that was razed to make room for the realignment of the Wawona Road in the early 1930s. Much of the lumber from the earlier barn was salvaged, however, and used in the construction of this new barn. It was originally constructed for hay storage and to house cattle and horses. Today, the building is used as a stable for pack and riding horses; it is run by the park concessioner, which provides guided horseback trips that originate from these stables.

The timber frame building is rectangular in plan with a jerkinhead gable roof and its exterior measures roughly 47x71 feet. The roof is sheathed in wood shakes and is in poor condition as it is extremely weathered. The building has board-and-batten siding with a brownish/black stain. The building has a wooden post foundation that rests on concrete pier blocks and it has an unfinished dirt floor. The building has large corrals attached to its east and west facades that have concrete water troughs. The southwest corner of the buildings has an extended overhanging eave, which provides cover for a pack animal loading bay. The building has wide double doors centrally located on all four of its elevations and several additional Dutch doors. All of the doors have exterior cross bracing. The barn also has twelve 3 x 4 foot window openings with exterior shutters that are generally kept closed.

Chinese Laundry/Laundry/Carriage Shop (Contributing)

LCS ID: TBD

Structure No: 4132

The laundry building was constructed about 500 feet northeast of the hotel complex in 1917. This building became known as the Chinese laundry because it was largely staffed with Chinese immigrants. Today, the building is used as a storage facility and workshop for Pioneer History Center's stagecoaches. Originally, a detached boiler stood immediately south of the laundry, but this building was razed in 1934. The structure was specifically identified in the Mission 66 as a suitable location to repair the collection of wagons and stagecoaches assembled as part of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center's collection.

The 1.5-story building is rectangular in plan with a gable roof covered in wood shingles and its exterior measures roughly 28x40 feet. The western entry of the building has a wood porch covered by a lean-to shed roof. The building is sheathed in wood shingles that are painted brown. The building has many six-over-six double-hung windows and has hopper windows at the gable ends. A set of double doors on the western façade are likely not original and may have been added to allow for stagecoaches to be repaired

within the building. A hand painted sign that is attached to a post on the front porch reads “Carriage Shop.”

Pioneer Yosemite History Center Signs (2) (Contributing)

LCS ID: TBD

Structure No: NA

Three signs are located around the periphery of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center. Two date to the inception of the area and were constructed sometime before the dedication of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center in 1964. These signs are located near the wagon shed and near the Pioneer Yosemite History Center parking lot. A third sign is located near the stables and is of a similar design to these contributing signs, but it was not installed until the late 1980s.

The sign located near the wagon shed is mounted on tall wood posts and serves as an informal entrance to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center. This sign is composed of 3 planks of wood that are mounted together and has the inscription “PIONEER YOSEMITE HISTORY CENTER ... a place of pioneers who so profoundly influenced the birth and growth of the National Park Idea” routed into it. The carved lettering is painted white. This sign is 120 inches long, 28 inches tall and 3 inches thick. It is mounted to wooden posts.

The sign at the Pioneer Yosemite History Center parking lot is of a different design, but similar style. This sign is composed of 4 planks mounted together with engraved and painted letters that read: “PIONEER YOSEMITE HISTORY CENTER PARKING.” Affixed to the upper right portion of the sign is an NPS arrowhead. The sign sits atop a pile of stones that are loosely arranged around the base of the sign. A 1963 Completion Report for the area shows that the sign’s lowest plank originally read “WELCOME” rather than “PARKING” and was on a larger-diameter piece of lumber. It is unknown when the sign was altered.

Non-Contributing Buildings and Structures Managed as a Cultural Resource

Blacksmith Shop (Non-Contributing/Managed as a Cultural Resource)

LCS ID: 05805

Structure No: 4114

The blacksmith shop was moved from the Daulton Ranch in the town of Madera to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center in 1963. It is unknown what year this building was constructed. Unlike the other buildings at the history center, the blacksmith shop was brought into the Pioneer Yosemite History Center from outside of the park. The building was moved in the early 1980s from its original location on the south side of the river, directly west of the grey barn, to its current location near the Acting Superintendent’s Headquarters. The reason for the move is not known. Because it was moved after the period of significance, it is no longer considered a contributing building; however it is still compatible with the historic character and intent of the Mission 66 plan for the center. It was used during the period of significance as a blacksmith shop and continues to be used in this capacity today. This building is currently staffed during spring and summer months with volunteers who demonstrate the craft of traditional blacksmithing.

The blacksmith shop is a frame structure with a gable roof and a covered front porch with exterior measurements of 12x16 feet (or 12x24 feet including the covered front porch). The blacksmith shop has a gable roof that is sheathed with a double course of wood shingles. The building has vertical 1x12 plank walls and along its front façade it has a large covered porch, which provides an area for outdoor blacksmithing demonstrations. The building has screens on its south and east facades with exterior shutters. It has a dirt floor and a wood foundation that sits on concrete pier blocks at the building's corners. The building has a large stovepipe chimney that is guyed in place with cables.

Degnan's Bakery (Non-Contributing/Managed as a Cultural Resource)
LCS ID: 005784
Structure No: 4136

Degnan's Bakery was constructed at the Old Yosemite Village in 1898. The bakery was built by Irish immigrants named John and Bridget Degnan. The Degnan's arrived at Yosemite Valley in 1884. John Degnan worked as a laborer on roads and trails in the Yosemite Grant and kept a small dairy herd. Bridget baked homemade bread and cooked meals for tourists. By 1898, demand for Degnan's baked goods had grown and the family built a cabin in the Old Village with an attached commercial bakery. The bakery was moved to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center at Wawona in 1981 while the cabin was razed. Although the building does not contribute to the Mission 66 era, it is compatible with the historic intent of the Mission 66 plans for the Pioneer Yosemite History Center.

Degnan's Bakery is a one-story frame building measuring 26x38 feet. It is sheathed primarily with board and batten siding but has horizontal planks along the front façade. A large oven protrudes from the rear of the building made of stone and brick masonry. The oven has been reinforced with iron braces to prevent its collapse. The building has separate gables over the main part of the cabin and the oven. The roof is sheathed in wood shingles. The building has two 6-light windows and one 4-light window. A brick chimney with a metal stovepipe extends from the peak of the roofline. This building helps interpret the significance of park concessioner's in Yosemite's history.

In 1975, Degnan's Bakery was placed on the National Register for its association with the Degnan family and early concessionaires in Yosemite. In 1981, following the razing of the cabin and the relocation of the bakery to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center, this property was removed from the National Register.

Pioneer Yosemite History Center Sign (1) (Non-Contributing/Managed as a Cultural Resource)
Structure No: N/A

The sign is nearly identical to the historic sign located near the wagon shed. This sign, however, was not installed until the late 1980s. Like the sign near the wagon shed, it is composed of 3 planks of wood that are mounted together and has the inscription "PIONEER YOSEMITE HISTORY CENTER ... a place of pioneers who so profoundly influenced the birth and growth of the National Park Idea" routed into it. The carved lettering is painted white. This sign is 120 inches long, 28 inches tall and 3 inches thick. It is mounted to wooden posts.

Non-Contributing Buildings

Pit Toilet/Pioneer Yosemite History Center Comfort Station (Non-Contributing) Structure No: 4108

This 1952 pit toilet was salvaged from the Old Village in Yosemite Valley and brought to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center in 1960. Modern flush toilets were installed upon its arrival to Wawona. It was almost entirely rebuilt in 1988 and is no longer contributing. The original comfort station had board and batten siding, lattice gable ends and two windows while the current building has screen gable ends, no windows and plywood siding painted brown. This building is nearly identical to the other comfort station in the center (#4109), however this comfort station does not meet ADA accessibility standards.

Pit Toilet/Pioneer Yosemite History Center Comfort Station (Non-Contributing) Structure No: 4109

This 1952 pit toilet was salvaged from the Old Village in Yosemite Valley and brought to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center in 1960. Modern flush toilets were installed upon its arrival to Wawona. It was almost entirely rebuilt in 1988 and is no longer contributing. The original comfort station had board and batten siding, lattice gable ends and two windows while the current building has screen gable ends, no windows and plywood siding painted brown. This building is nearly identical to the other comfort station in the center (#4108), however this comfort station has a wider door and meets ADA accessibility standards.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



The covered bridge at the Pioneer Yosemite History Center. (YOSE 2010)



The Acting Superintendent's Headquarters in the foreground with the Army Tack Room visible in the rear. (YOSE 2010)



Chris Jorgenson Studio to the left and Hodgdon Homestead Cabin to the right. (YOSE 2010)



Pedestrian entrance into the Pioneer Yosemite History Center with Wagon Shelter/Wagon Shed in background. (YOSE 2010)

Circulation

Circulation is defined as spaces and features which constitute systems of movement within a landscape. The circulation patterns associated with the Pioneer Yosemite History Center consist of a variety of paths and walkways, roads, and parking lots.

The Pioneer Yosemite History Center is a designed pedestrian experience, with allowances for stagecoach and equestrian access. Bicycles and maintenance vehicles infrequently use the internal circulation systems; private automobiles and buses must adhere to the external roads and parking facilities. As such, a hierarchy of routes is associated with the history center made up of pedestrian, bridle and stage routes as well as automobile access and three parking lots: a paved lot south of Forest Drive (50 cars) as well as an unpaved and paved lot (14 cars) south of Chilnualna Falls Road. Very few changes have occurred to the circulation system since the end of the period of significance.

Historic Circulation System (Contributing)

The historic circulation system includes pedestrian paths, trails, parking areas, and road segments described below:

Pedestrian Paths

The access through the Pioneer Yosemite History Center is primarily pedestrian, although the historic road bed that serves as the foundation for the north/south spine was used by both wagons and automobiles until 1933. Pedestrian circulation is characterized by informal packed earth pathways that meander through the core of historic buildings. As imagined by the Mission 66 planners, the route begins south of Forest Drive and progresses under the sign, alongside the wagon shed, through the covered bridge and counterclockwise around the complex. A directional sign at the north end of the covered bridge articulates this intention. An east - west path bisects the site from the Wells Fargo office to the Anderson cabin. Pedestrians, horseback riders and a covered wagon share the north to south route that crosses the covered bridge which includes a pedestrian lane, segregated from the main travel lane by a large timber.

The designed trails are between three and ten feet wide, and edged with either stones or split rail fences. The stones are visible in photographs from the opening day of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center, and the fences were added at a later, unknown date. The informal nature of the paths creates an opportunity for visitors to encircle the individual structures, peering into windows from all sides, which results in wide areas of compacted bare earth around the buildings, very similar to the actual pathways. In areas where there is no stone or fence border it is hard to distinguish between bare earth and trail.

An additional pedestrian route was installed as part of the parking lot south of Forest Drive. A raised bituminous sidewalk traces the southern edge of the parking lot, providing a route to the pit toilets at the east end of the parking lot. The raised sidewalk is approximately five feet wide and 345 feet long.

Bridle Trail

Originating at the Wawona barn, the "two hour ride trail" bridle trail traces the eastern edge of the building complex headed south, toward the river. The trail splits at its intersection with the river, one leg heading east out of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center and one leg turning west toward the covered bridge. Crossing the bridge, riders can continue east along the south shore of the river, beyond the boundary of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center. The path is well worn packed earth and lined with stones.

Parking Areas

Two paved parking lots were constructed as part of the development of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center. The smaller of the two is just south of Chilnualna Falls Road, west of the Wawona stables. It is an asphalt surfaced lot striped for head-in parking with space for approximately 15 cars. Historically this lot was designated for employee parking, but no such designation exists currently.

The larger lot, south of Forest Drive, is an extension of the parking area for the coffee shop and store located at the junction of Forest Drive and Highway 140. The asphalt lot is striped to provide head-in parking for approximately sixty cars, as well as parking for up to six tour buses. A wooden sign, described in Buildings and Structures section directs traffic to this lot.

An unpaved lot is located just east of the Wawona stables, off Chilnualna Falls Road. It is delineated with large rounded boulders, most at least two feet tall. The packed earth lot holds approximately twenty cars. Although this lot was not formalized in any of the Mission 66 drawings, an argument for its inclusion was mounted early on by Yosemite staff, citing the crowded conditions along Chilnualna Falls Road due primarily to the popularity of the concession run horseback rides originating at the stables. It is unknown if this parking lot is historic or not.

Chilnualna Falls Road

Chilnualna Falls Road is an approximately 1.75-mile long road that provides access to residences located in Section 35, private lands located within the park boundary, as well as to a water treatment plant and maintenance yard. A short, 600-foot section of the road was re-routed in the 1962 as part of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center development, from south of the Wawona stables, to its current location north of the Wawona stables and is an important portion of the historic circulation system of the center. The 600-foot section within the cultural landscape boundary is a striped, two-way paved road approximately twenty-four feet wide. The entire length of the road will be described further in the Wawona Basin Historic District CLI.

Forest Drive

Forest Drive is an approximately 2-mile long road that provides access to the southern end of Pioneer Yosemite History Center and is an important piece of the historic circulation system. Approximately 600 feet of the road falls within the boundary of the cultural landscape from the west end of the parking area to the east side of the Chinese laundry building. This segment is a paved, un-striped, two-way road, approximately twenty feet wide. The entire length of the road will be described further in the Wawona Basin Historic District CLI.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



The bridle trail traces the eastern edge of the building complex headed south, toward the river, as it did historically. (YOSE 2010)

Views and Vistas

Views and vistas documents the views, either intentionally created or naturally existing, that are important to the overall character of the landscape. Vegetation and organization of the buildings work together to create views that are important to the character of the history center including: the framed view of the history center at the opening at the north end of the covered bridge; filtered views of buildings that are incrementally revealed with progression through the core; and the obscured view from the nearby Wawona Road that prevents clear visual access into the building core.

The most iconic view associated with the Pioneer Yosemite History Center is associated with the arrival sequence from the south across the river, through the covered bridge, and into the core complex of historic buildings. Patterns of light and shadow are created by the gaps in the siding while traveling through the covered bridge. The view is framed by the opening at the north end of the bridge that affords a narrow aperture and limited view shed, revealing only a few of the buildings and trees that make up village.

Once across the bridge, filtered interior views are created by the location of the core building complex within the margins of a forested area. The mature trees there obstruct the visual connectivity between the structures. Because the structures were sited with uneven setbacks from the main pedestrian path, the entire collection of buildings is not visually accessible from any one point, but instead is incrementally revealed with progression through the core. Views from the Pioneer Yosemite History Center to the surrounding landscape are characterized by the limited range of vision that is interrupted by the alignment of buildings as well as the concentration of trees.

Views are equally limited from the exterior into the Pioneer Yosemite History Center. The wooded setting prevents clear visual access into the building core and it is essentially invisible from the nearby Wawona Road, less than 300 yards to the west. Arriving from either Forest Drive to the south or Chilnualna Falls Road to the north, the complex is largely obscured by the varied age stand of conifers.

Inevitable changes have occurred since end of the period of significance. Vegetation, both transplanted and existing at the initial creation of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center, has grown and currently impinges views that were more open during the period of significance. Volunteer trees, established especially along the exterior fence lines, also limit views into and out of the core building area. Despite these changes, the landscape characteristic Views and Vistas retains its vital character and continues to reflect the historic setting of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



View through the covered bridge into the Pioneer Yosemite History Center. (YOSE 2010)

Small Scale Features

Small scale features are the elements that provide detail and diversity for both functional needs and aesthetic concerns in the landscape. Contributing small scale features within the Pioneer Yosemite History Center include features such as site fencing, flag poles, a drinking fountain, hitching posts, and retaining walls. The contributing small scale features within the Pioneer Yosemite History Center were designed to be rustic in nature and blend the built environment into its natural surroundings.

There are many non-contributing small scale features in the Pioneer Yosemite History Center such as signs, garbage cans, and picnic tables. This CLI did not inventory every non-contributing feature.

Flagpoles (Contributing)

Two flagpoles exist at the Pioneer Yosemite History Center. Outside the front door of acting superintendent's office, an unpainted wooden flagpole made of a 20-foot tall peeled log is buttressed on two sides by 6x6 timbers approximately 2 feet tall. A second flagpole is located adjacent the south-west entry sign. The unpainted wooden flagpole is approximately 25 feet high. Both flagpoles are equipped with a rope and pulley system for raising and lowering flags.

Hitching Posts (Contributing)

Two hitching posts are located at the Pioneer Yosemite History Center. Adjacent the Wawona Stable is a dark green painted metal hitching post that is constructed of three inch diameter posts and rails running east to west. It is approximately three and a half feet tall and ninety six feet long, with posts every eight feet.

A second hitching post is located just north of the army tack room. It is four and a half feet high by eight feet long, constructed of unpainted metal rectangular posts (one by three inch) capped with a three inch diameter rail. Two horseshoes are attached to the horizontal rail.

Retaining Walls (Contributing)

Small retaining walls were constructed at three different locations within the history center: east of Crane Flat Ranger Cabin, east of Hodgdon Cabin and south of Jorgensen Studio. Each is composed of rounded stones, no more than twelve inches in diameter. Walls range between one and three stones high and are set directly into the soil with a varying degree of batter. Walls are located four to five feet from the associated building foundations and vary in length from twenty five to forty feet.

Stone Perimeters (Contributing)

Locally collected stones are used to delineate pathways and areas around building foundations. Stones are rounded and range in color and in size from softball to watermelon. The practice of using locally harvested stones (or boulders in some cases) to delineate edges of roadways, paths or parking areas is common throughout Yosemite National Park.

Privy (Contributing)

A wooden outhouse, approximately five feet square and eight feet tall, is located behind the Hodgdon cabin. It is constructed of rough hewn planks, has a single pitched roof, and a single door that is fitted with a latch and keyed padlock. The structure was a part of the original installation, but was never operational.

Water Trough (Contributing)

Located near the Grey Barn, this water trough is constructed of a large, hollowed-out log, approximately six feet long and 2 feet high. The structure appears in the May 1963 artistic depiction of the Pioneer

Yosemite History Center (see Spatial Organization). Since 1964, a corral has been constructed around the Grey Barn that incorporated the water trough, but the trough itself appears to be in the same location and minimally altered.

Drinking Fountain (Undetermined)

There is one fountain in the Pioneer Yosemite History Center, located just east of the jail. A chrome-plated spigot and concrete bowl are set into a rectangular column approximately three feet high by two feet wide, constructed of concrete and faced with granite. It is assumed to be historic based on recollections of long time Pioneer Yosemite History Center volunteers although there is no record of its construction during the period of significance.

Water Pump (Non-contributing)

A red metal water pump is mounted to a wooden platform west of and between the Jorgenson and Hodgdon Cabins. It was installed after the period of significance to facilitate the living history component of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center.

Chicken Coop (Non-contributing)

A wooden chicken coop with a fenced in yard is located to the rear of the Hodgdon cabin. This feature was not part of the original installation, added after the period of significance to facilitate the living history component of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center.

Campfire Circles (Non-contributing)

Two campfire circles, one west of the grey barn and one east of the Hodgdon cabin, have been added since the close of the period of significance.

Farm equipment (Non-contributing)

Historic farm equipment, located along the fence line north of Forest Drive, was installed after the period of significance. The interpretive display is compatible with the character of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center.

FENCES

Split Rail Perimeter Fences (Contributing)

Split rail perimeter fences are the most pervasive small scale feature found at Pioneer Yosemite History Center, constructed to define the edges of the interpretive area. Three split rail typologies are present; stacked without support, stacked with double angled support and stacked with double vertical posts. They are constructed from peeled and untreated, three-sided members. Rails are between eight and twelve feet long, stacked six to eight rails high, and are supported by posts between three and five feet long. A zigzag pattern delineates the physical boundary of the history center, installed during the period of significance.

Baffle (Non-contributing)

One baffle was constructed at the north end of the covered bridge, presumably used to control or discourage vehicular traffic. The current configuration is an acute triangle; the south facing point supports a directional sign that encourages visitors to move around the village in a counter clockwise direction. Like the fences, rails are peeled and untreated three-sided members, two sides are approximately ten feet long and one side is approximately five feet long. The five rails are supported by double vertical supports, approximately five feet tall. The untreated wood has rotted over the years and

replacements have resulted in slight variations to both typology and alignment, but the historic character has been retained and is still compatible with the historic character of the district..

Interior Fencing (Non-contributing)

Interior fencing was installed during the 1980s to assist in pedestrian traffic control. Although it is compatible with the historic character, it is not a contributing feature.

CORRALS

Wawona Stable Corral (Undetermined)

The corral fence is attached to the Wawona Stable on the east and west sides of the building. A total of four green painted metal gates, two north and two south, connect the fence and the building. The fence itself is constructed of treated, dimensional lumber, and is, on average, five feet high. Round posts are set into the ground, with approximately five feet above ground. Four eight-foot rails are nailed to the exterior side of the posts leaving ten to twelve inch gaps. The rails are made from dimensional 2x4 lumber and the top rail is capped with a 2x4 nailed to the top of the post, with its edge flush with the face of the rail. The corral is believed to be historic based on plans for the Pioneer Yosemite History Center, but the date of its installation has not been confirmed.

Army Tack Room Corral (Undetermined)

The corral fence at the Army tack Room is between four and five feet high; two posts are set vertically into the ground with horizontal rails stacked between them. The posts are wired together within six inches of the top. Two wooden gates are located along the fence line; one on the north side and one on the west side. The corral is believed to be historic based on plans for the Pioneer Yosemite History Center, but the date of its construction cannot be confirmed.

Gray Barn Corral (Non-contributing)

The corral at the Grey Barn was built after the period of significance and is not a contributing feature, but it is compatible with the historic character. Like the Wawona Stable corral, the Grey Barn corral is constructed of dimensional, treated lumber with four rails nailed to posts that are approximately five feet high. A number of metal gates provide access to the corral. A partially hollowed out log, visible in this location from the earliest photographs of the Pioneer Yosemite History Center, is incorporated into the north-west edge of the corral fence line.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



The zigzag fence line with the Wells Fargo utility building to the left. (YOSE 2010)



An example of split rail fence with double vertical supports. (YOSE 2010)



Rounded stones are used to delineate pathways and indicate “keep off grass” areas. (YOSE 2010)



Hitching post at the Army Tack room and stacked split rail fence without support. (YOSE 2010)

Condition

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 04/25/2011

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Through the analysis and evaluation of landscape characteristics and features, it has been determined that the Pioneer Yosemite History Center is in “Fair” condition. The landscape shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration the landscape characteristics will cause the inventory unit to degrade to poor condition. In particular, most of the contributing buildings are in fair condition showing signs of deterioration and need to be monitored and maintained regularly to prevent deterioration and conifer encroachment threatens to destroy the perimeter fence.

Stabilization Measures:

The following stabilization measures have been identified for the Pioneer Yosemite History Center:

Buildings

- Sustain cyclical maintenance in order to prevent future damage.

Vegetation

- Develop a vegetation management plan to retain historic character of the landscape, specifically the open space within the history center and the historic fence.

Impacts

Type of Impact:	Deferred Maintenance
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	Many of the historic buildings and structures, including fences have suffered from deferred maintenance, wood rot, and roof damage. The buildings received new roofs and waterproofing stain in 2010, which should help mitigate future damages, however, additional work on the fences is still required
Type of Impact:	Vegetation/Invasive Plants
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	A large number of conifer saplings have established throughout the district, but especially along the perimeter fence lines. If allowed to reach maturity, the historic fence will be destroyed and the interior open space will become forested. Tree growth will impact historic views within the center, as well as alter the setting of the buildings.

Treatment

Approved Landscape Treatment: Preservation

Approved Treatment Document: General Management Plan

Document Date: 09/01/1980

Explanatory Narrative:

“Preserve, restore, or protect significant cultural resources (historic and prehistoric).

Identify, evaluate, and determine the significance of cultural resources, encompassing buildings, structures, sites and objects.

Provide for the preservation, restoration, or protection of these significant cultural resources.

Permit only those uses that are compatible with the preservation of significant cultural resources.”

(Management Objectives from the 1980 Yosemite National Park General Management Plan)

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Supplemental Information

Title: Site Plan, Pioneer Yosemite History Center Proposed Historic District

Description: An 8.5x11 version of the site plan is available as a pdf from the regional CLI coordinator or the park's cultural resource manager.

Title: Historic Plan for the Pioneer Yosemite History Center, 1959 (Revised 1960 & 1964)

Description: An 8.5x11 version of the historic plan for the Pioneer Yosemite History Center. Scan of original, located in the YOSE archives.

Title: Additional Photos, Pioneer Yosemite History Center Proposed Historic District

Description: PDF file with additional photos of all contributing and non-contributing photos, taken by YOSE staff in 2010.

Yosemite National Park

Pioneer Yosemite History Center



PIONEER YOSEMITE HISTORY CENTER



CLI Boundary



Contributing Buildings and Structures



Non-contributing Buildings and Structures



Buildings outside the CLI boundary



Contributing Perimeter Fences

Contributing Circulation System



Road/Parking Lot



Bridle Path



Pedestrian Path

Small Scale Features

(C) Contributing

(U) Undetermined

(NC) Non-Contributing

Building Numbers and Names

4100 Wawona Grey Barn / Washburn Barn
 4101 Hodgdon Homestead Cabin
 4102 Yosemite Transportation Company Office / Wells Fargo Office
 4103 Wells Fargo Utility Building
 4104 Acting Superintendent's Headquarters / Army Cabin
 4105 Army Tack Room
 4106 Crane Flat Cabin / Ranger Patrol Cabin
 4108 Pit Toilet
 4109 Pit Toilet
 4110 Anderson Cabin / Mountaineer Cabin
 4111 Jail / Powder House / Morgue
 4112 Chris Jorgenson Studio / Artist Cabin
 4113 Wagon Shelter / Wagon Shed
 4114 Blacksmith Shop
 4134 Wawona Covered Bridge
 4423 Wawona Stables
 4132 Chinese Laundry / Laundry / Carriage Shop
 4136 Degnan's Bakery

Cultural Landscapes Inventory
 Pacific West Region

April 2011

Source: 2010 YOSE GPS Data





Historic Plan for the Pioneer Yosemite History Center, Yosemite National Park 1959 (Revised 1960 and 1964).

Supplemental Photos
Pioneer Yosemite History Center
Cultural Landscape Inventory

Contributing Features



Wawona Grey Barn/ Washburn Barn (Contributing)
LCS ID: 005796
Structure No: 4100



Wells Fargo Utility Building (Contributing)
LCS ID: TBD
Structure No: 4103



Hodgdon Homestead Cabin/Homestead Cabin
(Contributing)
LCS ID: 005776
Structure No: 4101



Acting Superintendent's Headquarters/Army Cabin
(Contributing)
LCS ID: 005798
Structure No: 4104



Yosemite Transportation Company Office/Wells
Fargo Office (Contributing)
LCS ID: 005797
Structure No: 4102



Army Tack Room (Contributing)
LCS ID: 005799
Structure No: 4105

Supplemental Photos
Pioneer Yosemite History Center
Cultural Landscape Inventory



Crane Flat Ranger Cabin/Ranger Patrol Cabin
(Contributing)
LCS ID: 005800
Structure No: 4106



Chris Jorgenson Studio/Artist Cabin (Contributing)
LCS ID: 005803
Structure No: 4112



Anderson Cabin/Mountaineer Cabin (Contributing)
LCS ID: 005804
Structure No: 4110



Wagon Shelter/Wagon Shed (Contributing)
LCS ID: TBD
Structure No: 4113



Jail/Powder House/Morgue (Contributing)
LCS ID: 005802
Structure No: 4111



Wawona Covered Bridge (Contributing)
LCS ID: 005838
Structure No: 4134

Supplemental Photos
Pioneer Yosemite History Center
Cultural Landscape Inventory



Wawona Stables (Contributing)
LCS ID: TBD
Structure No: 4423



Pioneer Yosemite History Center Signs (2 of 2)
(Contributing)
LCS ID: TBD



Chinese Laundry/Laundry/Carriage Shop
(Contributing)
LCS ID: TBD
Structure No: 4132



Historic Circulation System (Contributing): Including pedestrian paths, bridle trail, parking areas, and access roads. (Photo 1 of 4)



Pioneer Yosemite History Center Signs (1 of 2)
(Contributing)
LCS ID: TBD



Historic Circulation System (Contributing): Including pedestrian paths, bridle trail, parking areas, and access roads. (Photo 2 of 4)

Supplemental Photos
Pioneer Yosemite History Center
Cultural Landscape Inventory



Historic Circulation System (Contributing): Including pedestrian paths, bridle trail, parking areas, and access roads. (Photo 3 of 4)



Flagpoles (2 of 2) (Contributing)



Historic Circulation System (Contributing): Including pedestrian paths, bridle trail, parking areas, and access roads. (Photo 4 of 4)



Hitching Posts (1 of 2) (Contributing)



Flagpoles (1 of 2) (Contributing) Showing flagpole base



Hitching Posts (2 of 2) (Contributing)

Supplemental Photos
Pioneer Yosemite History Center
Cultural Landscape Inventory



Retaining Walls (1 of 3) (Contributing)



Stone Perimeters (Contributing)



Retaining Walls (2 of 3) (Contributing)



Privy (Contributing)



Retaining Walls (3 of 3) (Contributing)



Split Rail Perimeter Fences (Contributing)

Supplemental Photos
Pioneer Yosemite History Center
Cultural Landscape Inventory



Water Trough (Contributing)

Supplemental Photos
Pioneer Yosemite History Center
Cultural Landscape Inventory

Undetermined Features



Drinking Fountain (Undetermined)



Wawona Stable Corral (Undetermined)



Army Tack Room Corral (Undetermined)

**Non-Contributing Buildings and Structures
Managed as a Cultural Resource**



Blacksmith Shop (Non-Contributing/Managed as a Cultural Resource)
LCS ID: 05805
Structure No: 4114



Pioneer Yosemite History Center Sign (1) (Non-Contributing/Managed as a Cultural Resource)



Degnan's Bakery (Non-Contributing/Managed as a Cultural Resource)
LCS ID: 005784
Structure No: 4136

Supplemental Photos
Pioneer Yosemite History Center
Cultural Landscape Inventory

Non-Contributing Buildings



Pit Toilet/Pioneer Yosemite History Center Comfort Station (Non-Contributing)
Structure No: 4108



Chicken Coop (Non-contributing)



Pit Toilet/Pioneer Yosemite History Center Comfort Station (Non-Contributing)
Structure No: 4109



Campfire Circles (1 of 2) (Non-contributing)



Water Pump (Non-contributing)



Campfire Circles (2 of 2) (Non-contributing)

Supplemental Photos
Pioneer Yosemite History Center
Cultural Landscape Inventory



Farm equipment (Non-contributing)



Grey Barn Corral (Non-contributing)



Baffle (Non-contributing)



Interior Fencing (Non-contributing)